

DEDICATION CEREMONY
The United States Air Force Academy
40th GROUP PLAQUE ON
CEMETERY MEMORIAL WALL
4 AUGUST 1989

40th BOMB GROUP (VH)
1941 - 1946

3 UNIT CITATIONS

DEDICATED TO THE MEMBERS OF THE 40th BOMB GROUP WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY DURING WORLD WAR II THE 40th BOMB GROUP SERVED WITH DISTINCTION IN PUERTO RICO; PANAMA; GUATEMALA; ECUADOR; THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS; PRATT, KANSAS; INDIA; CHINA AND THE ISLAND OF TINIAN.

THEIR BODIES ARE PEACEFULLY LAID AWAY, BUT THEIR NAMES LIVE ON AND ON.

SIR. 44:14



DEDICATED AUGUST 4, 1989

Donated to the USAF Academy
by members of
THE 40th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION
Composed of those who served in the
organization from 1941 to 1946

THE USAF ACADEMY CEMETERY MEMORIAL WALL

The United States Air Force Academy Cemetery Memorial Wall is a USAF Academy Memorial Board approved program intended to allow air-related units to remember those of their comrades who died as a result of combat. Plaques of bronze are limited to 13 inches by 13 inches in size and must be approved by the Academy Memorial Board. The wall will consist of several sections of gray marble units. Each section is comprised of several marble pieces, each one 3½ feet high by 5½ feet long set upon an 8 inch marble base. It is located at the north end of the Academy Cemetery flag pole just forward of the memorial section. Individual memorials are discouraged. Air-related units wishing to memorialize their combat casualties may write to: Chief, Gifts and Memorials: USAF Academy, CO 80840 for details concerning qualifications for this program.

40th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

The association was organized at their first reunion in 1979 and adopted a unified memorial service conducted for all members of the organization of the Jewish, Protestant, and Catholic faiths. It has been used at all subsequent reunions.

A concerted effort was initiated to locate all members who had served with the Group from 1941 to 1946. Widows and member's children may also belong to the association. The Group was activated in 1941 at Borinquen Field, Puerto Rico. It became the Pioneer 8-29 Group when it moved to Pratt, Kansas in June 1943 for training in the new super-bomber just out of the experimental stage.

The 40th Group with other groups of the Pioneer 58th Bomb Wing moved to India and initiated the first B-29 Mission of WW II on June 5, 1944 when the rail yard at Bangkok, Thailand was bombed. The 40th Group participated in the first B-29 mission to the Japanese Islands on June 15, 1944 and on August 10, 1944 participated in the longest aerial warfare mission of WW II to Palembang, Sumatra from the Island of Ceylon. The Group moved to Tinian Island in April 1945 and participated in missions which hastened the end of the war. In October the Group returned to the USA by way of Hawaii, concluding an around the world tour of duty.

The Group flew 70 combat missions with 1,764 airplanes airborne, flying almost 43,000 hours. 9,218 tons of bombs were dropped and 132 enemy fighters were damaged or destroyed. The cost in American lives was 173 men killed and missing in action and 42 wounded.

The Group Insignia represents Bombs on the Target.

PROGRAM

40th Bombardment Group (VH)

USAF Academy Cemetery Wall Dedication Ceremony

United States Air Force Academy Cemetery

4 August 1989 at 1000 hrs.

- 0930 Depart to Cemetery from Officer's Club
- 0955 Assembly of Participants & Guests at Cemetery
Project Directors, Denver Memorial Committee
- 1000 Welcome by USAF Academy Representative
Invocation. 40th Group Chaplain
Father Bartholomew Adler
- Remarks by Father Bartholomew Adler
- Unveiling of Dedicatory Plaque
- Acceptance by USAF Academy Representative
- Closing Prayer. Air Academy Chaplain
- Minute of Silence (Taps)
- Ceremony Concluded