

82ND FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

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VOLUME 1.

FEBRUARY 1985

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

To have been selected as a member of the 82nd Fighter Group as it was being activated, and to have gone through the growing pains and development of one of the best fighting units of World War II, gives me a great feeling of pride. Each member of the 82nd should share the same feeling because each of us made our contribution. Each had a job to do and did it with the result of the 82nd becoming one of the most decorated units of WW II. These facts are well documented in Air Force history and in the minds of each of us that lived through the trials and tribulations of that period.

Our reunions give us the opportunity to relive these past experiences with our buddies, renew old friendships, make new ones, and above all are able to bring our wives, who sacrificed so much, into the real action of "Hanger Flying".

The 82nd Fighter Group Association has grown from a gathering of a few guys and gals in the '70s to our present number of nearly 500 members, and is still growing.

We are looking forward to our 1985 Reunion in San Antonio, Texas as our biggest and best ever. Put the dates of September 19-22, 1985 on your calendar and plan to be there to resume some "Hanger Flying".



Harley C. Vaughn

82ND FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
tor and Publisher: Paul F. Jorgensen, 849 E. Andover Drive, Burbank, CA. 91504

COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR

Well you asked for it and here it is, the first issue of the 82nd FG Association Newsletter! At the reunion in Denver in Sept. 1984, somebody suggested that we should have a newsletter. Because I like newsletters, when Harley Vaughn asked if there was a volunteer, I naturally couldn't resist. After I got home and gave it a second thought, I kind of had the same sort of feeling that I had on my first take - off in a P-38 at Muroc in 1943.

One of the big jobs in publishing any newsletter is the proof reading of the finished (?) text, the folding of the printed pages, and of course putting the postage stamps and labels on over 450 pieces. My helper in this endeavor was my wife Betty. But then, she was with me from the beginning at Santa Ana, Muroc, Riverside, and Glendale and has always been a big helper.

The present plan is to publish the newsletter 2 or 3 times a year. The next issue is scheduled for around the first part of June 1985. Please let me have any comments or suggestions that you may have.

By the way, if you are interested in an up to date Association roster, just send \$1.25 to Harley Vaughn.

* * * * *

WE NEED YOUR HELP

As you can see from this first issue of the 82nd FG Association Newsletter, there is not much news from the members! I urge all of you to please dig back in your archives and send the Editor whatever interesting photos, stories or anecdotes you have. Photos should be black and white, and probably are from that era. All material will be returned to the sender if so requested. The Editor will try to use all material submitted, but will reserve the prerogative of using the most interesting material and in some cases editing the material as I deem necessary to make it fit into the space available.

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

(Only kidding), but seriously, with the workers scattered between Texas and California, it is important that the right person be contacted regarding the subject you are interested in.

To make it easier for you, please contact the following individuals for the subject listed:

Harley C. Vaughn (Association President), 4702 Congressional Drive, Corpus Christi, TX. 78413, (512) 854-3552 for general Association business.

Jerome (Jerry) Loewenberg (Secretary - Treasurer), 4917 Ravenswood Dr., San Antonio, TX. 78227, (512) 674-1555 for paying your dues (voluntary), change of address, or news of a deceased member, etc.

Paul Jorgensen, (Newsletter Editor), 849 E. Andover Dr., Burbank, CA. 91504, (818) 842-6505, for any business regarding the Association Newsletter.

Thomas C. (Tom) Kelly, 132 Sharon Dr., San Antonio, TX. 78216, (512) 826-3146 for any business relative to the 1985 Reunion.

In order to receive a relatively prompt reply to your questions, or whatever, it would be helpful if you would contact the folks listed above only on the subjects listed after their names!

* * * * *

ASSOCIATION DUES

The Association Bylaws provide that dues of \$15 per year are voluntary. However, quite a few of the members have been paying. Each member who does pay dues will be sent a Sustaining Membership card. Proceeds are used for printing and postage, our Group Memorial at the Air Force Museum at Wright - Patterson AFB, Dayton, OH, and to reduce reunion expenses.

You are invited to send your dues to Jerry Loewenberg, Secretary/Treasurer. Make checks payable to the 82nd Fighter Group Association.

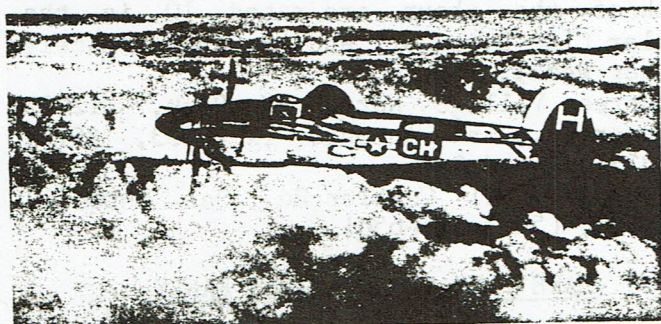
HISTORY OF THE 82ND FG

Steve Blake, Publisher/Editor of "Fighter Pilots in Aerial Combat", along with John Stanway, is working on the history of the 82nd FG and expects to publish it sometime late in 1985. The following letter was received from Steve:

"As you can imagine, such a history is quite an ambitious project, especially as we want to make it a detailed account with plenty of documentation, appendices, etc. We have most of the documentation, mainly in the form of microfilm. The material pertaining to the 82nd Group is contained on six different roles, of which we have four in our possession and two more on order. These include the diaries/histories of the Group and each squadron plus the mission reports and various other documents. We believe these to be quite complete, and will know for sure when the last two rolls arrive. Our greatest need is for input from all you 82nd FG veterans in the form of personal experiences/observations and photographs. Obviously, without such input any group history would necessarily be rather dry and somewhat boring. More than just accurate and detailed, we want our 82nd FG history to live, and only by the participation of the veterans can that goal be met. Many of you have already contributed valuable material but much more is needed.

We hope to hear from many more of you 82nd Group vets before our book goes to press, hopefully before the end of 1985. So, please write in or call, share with us - and ultimately many others - your personal experiences, comments and photographs. As to photos, if you don't have extra copies which we can keep, we can easily have copy negatives made from them. We can in that case return them to you quite promptly".

(Steve can be reached through Blake Publishing, 26596 Dolorosa, Mission Viejo, CA 92691. His telephone is (714) 831-6055).



AMBUSH OVER HUNGARY

The Fall 1984 issue of Fighter Pilots in Aerial Combat, a bimonthly magazine, featured a story of the July 7, 1944 mission of the 82nd FG over Hungary.

Steve Blake, the Publisher/Editor, who wrote the article, obtained most of his information and its pictures from a Hungarian Me 109 pilot, Senior Corporal Karoly Faludi, who shot down a P-38 from the 95th Squadron, the Groups only loss that day.

After the war the Hungarian migrated to the U.S. where he worked for the Northrup Corporation. He tried, unsuccessfully, to locate the 95th pilot. But, after writing the story, Steve Blake, through an ingenious investigation, located the 95th pilot, Lt. Charles C. Walker, and brought the two pilots together.

Incidentally, the cover of that issue has a beautiful color painting of the action between the P-38 and the Me 109 over Hungary.

Anyone desiring that issue can obtain a copy by sending \$3.95 (includes postage) to Blake Publishing, 26596 Dolorosa, Mission Viejo, CA. 92691. A one year subscription for six issues is \$22 which includes 1st class postage to addresses in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

GOOD NEWS

IF YOU PLAN TO FLY TO REUNION '85

After negotiations with quite a few nationwide airlines, and a study of their system maps, we entered into a unique agreement, whereby two airlines, United and Delta, consented to act as co-official airlines of the Reunion.

This means that discounts of 40% from the normal coach fares will be available to those who use either of these airlines. We attempted to assure that direct flights to San Antonio from all parts of the country would be available.

In ample time each member of the Association will be furnished toll-free telephone numbers of the two airlines, and special code numbers to be used to order tickets. Full instructions will be distributed at a later date. Tickets will then be obtainable either from the airlines or from your local travel agent. The savings will be substantial!

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CAMELOT CT.

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VE SEPTEMBERS

The end of the Sicilian Campaign on August 16, 1943, meant no let-up in the 82nd Group Operations. The work of crippling Axis air power, shipping and transportation facilities continued on a rising scale. By then the power of the P-38 as a weapon of war was beyond all doubt. Its devastating, concentrated fire power, high speed and long range plus ability to turn up, to the enemy, in the damndest spots, had earned for it the Axis nickname of the "Fork-Tailed Devil". Flying dive-bombing, escort, weather reconnaissance, and fighter mission sweeps, 82nd P-38's streaked deep into the heart of Axis defenses and ripped them wide open.

Ground crews in the squadrons, made up of American kids with ambitions to know what made an airplane tick, whipped themselves into a tightly organized team of veteran aircraft mechanics who gave the Group one of the outstanding maintenance records in the Theatre.

Together, the 82nd GI's and pilots now went on to make aerial history. Commanding officer of the Group at this time was a tall Tennessee flyer, Lt. Col. George M. MacNichol, under whose leadership the 82nd carried out new pioneering raids, and won the first two of its three Distinguished Unit Citations. Lt. Col. MacNichol's brilliant combat career, subsequently cut short by his death in a crash over England, marked him as an outstanding pilot and leader.

Led by Lt. Col. MacNichol, the 82nd spearheaded the mass long range strafing attack on the Foggia airfields, first operation of its kind, destroying or damaging 150 enemy bombers and miscellaneous aircraft. As a result of this body blow, German air strength was perceptibly weakened before the Allied landings at Salerno.

For this brilliantly executed raid, Lt. Col. MacNichol won himself a "spot" award of the Distinguished Flying Cross, presented to

This week World War II grinds into its fifth year. A vast, vital difference sets this September apart from the four preceding Septembers. For the United Nations it is the difference between defeat and victory. Men no longer ask: Where will the Axis strike? Now the question is: Where will the Allies strike?

The pre-invasion pattern was sharpest in the Mediterranean. Allied planes, sweeping up by day & night from North African and Sicilian bases, ripped Italy's communications below the Naples-Foggia line.

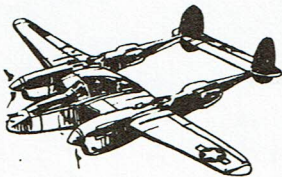
Most daring was a raid against the Foggia air, rail, and road junction on Italy's Adriatic flank. Reconnaissance had shown that the Luftwaffe had dispersed a fleet of Junkers 88s across Foggia's main drome and ten satellite fields. A carefully coached armada of more than 100 Lightnings raced across the Mediterranean and the Italian boot, roared across the dusty plain around Foggia, at hedgehopping altitude, caught the Germans by surprise. Their strafing fire raked at least 100 Ju-88s.

Back at their base, the Lightnings were met by Lieut. General Carl Spaatz, Northwest African Air Force chief. Cried he: "Where's MacNichol? I want to give him the D.F.C." On the disheveled tunic of the raid commander, Lieut. Colonel George M. MacNichol, the general pinned a Distinguished Flying Cross.

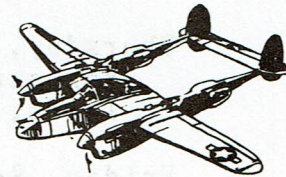
By week's end southern Italy's traffic arteries appeared paralyzed. Luftwaffe opposition was dwindling. Round One in the pre-invasion battle belonged to the Allies. (The above news article appeared in the September 6, 1943 issue of TIME Magazine.)

REUNION RV FACILITIES

Alamo KOA, 602 Gembler Rd., San Antonio, TX 78219. (512) 224-9296.



82ND FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION REUNION



Your Reunion Committee has contracted with the Hilton Palacios Del Rio Hotel, San Antonio, Texas, as the site of the 1985 Reunion on September 19-22, 1985. Granted that the previous Reunions are tough acts to follow, this should be the best ever. San Antonio is a fantastically good reunion site with the downtown hotels booked for reunions past the turn of the century.

The Hilton is on the San Antonio River Walk in the very heart of the city. There are more attractions within easy walking distance than you will ever be able to take in during our planned time block, and we are already getting inquiries from folks who want to come early and stay late.

The ladies will be especially pleased to know that when they get tired of "war stories" there are many attractions within three blocks of the hotel. Some of these attractions are as follows: Joske's Department Store (diagonally across the street from the hotel) which is probably the only department store built around an 18th century church and with a major archaeological dig presently ongoing in its parking lot; a block beyond is the Alamo, THE historic shrine of Texas. A short block up the River Walk in the opposite direction is La Villita, a collection of unusual arts and crafts in historic buildings and in the open; Commerce street immediately adjacent to the hotel has all kinds of modern Mexican import stores.

The Tower of the Americas is just across the Hemisphere Plaza grounds and is a fantastic place to go to wine, dine, or just look while the City of San Antonio rotates around it. Next to it is the Institute of Texas Cultures with a very modern presentation of Texas history. Only five minutes away on the 10 cent downtown trolley looking bus is El Mercado, the Mexican market with bargains often better than can be obtained in the border towns, and with two outstanding Mexican restaurants, favorites of both natives and tourists; and the River Walk is always interesting with numerous shopping, wineing and dining places.

Bus tours are available in profusion and at very reasonable rates to such places as the San Antonio Zoo, the Witte Museum, the McNay Art Museum, the San Antonio Art Museum (connected by the one surviving street car to the Pearl Brewery and free beer), the Sunken Gardens, the Alamo's four sister missions, and a tour of the well preserved Historic Houses, etc, etc.

(Continued on the next page)

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Thursday, September 19th:

Registration 9 AM to 5 PM. Hospitality Rooms open.
Tours, sightseeing, etc.

Friday, September 20th:

Tours, Golf Tournament, Hospitality Rooms open.
6 PM - Bus tour to Lackland AFB parade ground, look over the WW II aircraft. We hope to have a flying P-38 on this tour.
7 PM - Dine and dance at the Lackland AFB Officers Club. (Return to the Hilton 10-11 PM).

Saturday, September 21st:

10 AM - Association business meeting.
Golf tournament, tours, shopping, etc.
Hospitality Rooms (war rooms?).
7 PM - Banquet at the Hilton. The Skyliners provide the great music of the 40's and 50's.

Sunday, September 22nd:

9 AM - Farewell breakfast at the Hilton.

TENATIVE COSTS

Registration: \$15 for each member, \$5.00 for each lady. ✓

Hotel rooms: \$60 (\$70 overlooking River Walk), single or double. These rates represent a 40% discount and cannot be beat downtown.

Bus to Lackland AFB: \$7 per person, round trip. (Friday). ✓

Dinner at Lackland AFB: \$12 per person. (Friday). ✓

Banquet at the Hilton: \$20 per person. (Saturday). ✓

Farewell Breakfast at the Hilton: \$10 per person. (Sunday). ✓

Hospitality Rooms: No charge. (Who besides George Marvin can make a Marguerita?).

Wide variety of tours: \$10 to \$15.

Airfare: 40% discount on Delta and United Airlines.

Start planning now. The above costs are maximum, and some may be reduced with increased attendance.

Please fill out the form on the next page, indicating your intentions and interests so we can make final plans. Return the form to Tom Kelly, 132 Sharon Drive, San Antonio, TX 78216 as soon as possible.

THE REUNION COMMITTEE

Tom Kelly-Chairman, Jack Duncan, Bill Hooper, Jack Keller, Jerry Loewenberg, Art Smedley, and Harley Vaughn.

Your name: C. J. McQuay Telephone: 418-751-4809
Address: 13001 MARVEL RD. FAIRBURY, IA 52125
I plan to attend 1 with 1 guests. Name of guests: Dr. & Mrs. H. L. McQuay

Arrival date, time: 9-18-85 3:00 PM Depart date, time: 9-22-84 1:00 PM

Friday 20th: I will ~~will not~~ take the bus to Lackland AFB.

Saturday 21st: I will ☒ will not ☐ attend Banquet at the Hilton.

Sunday 22nd: I will ☒ will not ☐ attend the farewell breakfast.

TOUR 1: Witte Museum, San Antonio Zoo, Sunken Gardens (all in the Brackenridge Park which also has a municipal golf course), San Antonio Museum of Art, then via the last operating trolley car to the Pearl Brewery, shopping and dining in the El Mercado Mexican Market. (Prices are often cheaper than in the border towns).

TOUR 2: The King William Historic Home area, San Fernando Cathedral, Spanish Governors Palace, Lonestar Brewery with the famous Buckhorn Bar and Hall of Horns, shopping and dining in the El Mercado.

TOUR 3: This is a 8 to 9 hour tour throgh the Texas Hill Country including entrance fees and lunch at the Sunday Haus in Fredricksburg, Nimitz Museum, historic homes, antiques, LBJ Ranch. (requires 40 passengers). \$25 per person.

Am interested in Tour 1 _____ Tour 2 1 Tour 3 _____ Other tours _____.

Make suggestions: _____

My choice of dates and times: Catland on Tues.

Easiest with small groups and free. Tower of Americas, Institute of Texas Culture, La Villita arts/crafts center, dine on barge or justbride along the San Antonio River Walk, paddlewheel bicycle type floats, dozens of shops and fancy or plain eating places. Hertzberg Circus collection, Transportation Museum, etc. San Antonio is a great tourist town. For best planning and to get the most for the least, we will be asking you to send in registration fees and fees for you choice of activities over six weeks in advance. Feed that piggy bank now!

Return this form ASAP to Tom Kelly, 132 Sharon Drive, San Antonio, TX 78216

REUNION ACTIVITIES

Thursday, September 19th:

Registration 9 AM to 5 PM on the 22nd floor of the hotel. After 5 PM, registration for latecomers will be in the hospitality suite on the 21st floor of the hotel.

Hospitality suite will be open at 11 AM.

Tours and sightseeing.

Friday, September 20th:

Registration for latecomers will be in the hospitality room on the 21st floor of the hotel. Open at 11 AM.

Tours, Golf Tournament, sightseeing, etc.

6:30 PM - Depart by bus to Lackland Air Force Base parade ground for look at WW II aircraft and a chance of a P-38 fly by (with possible ground inspection at Kelly Air Force Base). The bus transportation for this event is Tour No. 3 on the Local Arrangements, Inc. tour reservation form. It is strongly recommended that you use the bus even if you have your own car.

Dine at the Lackland Officers Club, dance to the Jim Lawrence Combo, cash bar.

10:30 PM - Return by bus to the hotel.

Saturday, September 21st:

10:00 AM - Association member's business meeting in the Ballroom, Hotel Mezzanine floor.

Hospitality room open at 11:00 AM.

Tours, Golf Tournament, sightseeing, etc.

7:00 PM - Banquet. Dine and dance in the Ballroom, Hotel Mezzanine floor. Nostalgic music by the Skyliners for dancing and listening. Floor arranged for maximum table hopping room, ten people per table, no head table, no speeches, cash bar.

Sunday, September 22nd:

9:00 AM - Farewell breakfast in the Ballroom.

TRANSPORTATION FROM AIRPORT TO HOTEL

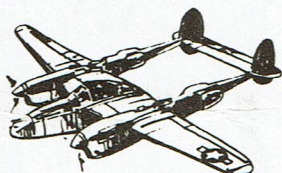
Cabs are \$10.00 between airport and the Hilton Palacio Del Rio Hotel; Limo service, \$5.00 per head. Travel time about 10 minutes.



"REUNION GOLF TOURNAMENT"

The Reunion Golf Tournament this year will be at Lackland AFB and will again be run by that steadfast volunteer Pincus Taback.

Players intending to play will have to submit their handicaps or what they usually shoot for eighteen holes. Foursomes will be formed after categorizing all the players (A,B,C,D). We will play a Nassau, (front, back, and total). The winning foursome will win prizes. Then we will have (at the same time) a "Scat Game". A lone "Birdie" or "Eagle" will pay off. All "Holes in One" will pay off. Aside from this, we intend giving prizes to the best scratch and best handicap players. If there is enough to give away, we will have 2nd and 3rd place prizes in each division. If there are women in the tournament, you can be sure we will take good care of them and make them very happy with prizes.



"ANYBODY GOT A P-38?"

We have been hoping to have a P-38 available at the reunion, both as a static exhibit and for a flyover.

The P-38 belongs to the Confederate Air Force, which has designated one of its Colonels (every member is a Colonel) as a project officer to put the plane in flying shape. Jerry Loewenberg has been in contact with the P-38 jockey, who lives in New Braunfels, Texas. The aircraft is at San Marcos, Texas. As of this date it needs a gun nose cone and some fuel cells. AOC! So what else is new? But there are not any P-38's to cannibalize. When asked what the chances were of having the aircraft in flying condition by September 19th, the project officer replied 50-50. We offered the assistance of some of our crew chiefs, but they are not in short supply in the Confederate Air Force.

"IF YOU PLAN TO FLY TO REUNION '85"

United Airlines and Delta Air Lines have consented to act as co-official airlines of the Reunion. Their reduced rate plans are slightly different. You may first wish to determine which of these airlines has the most direct flights from your area to San Antonio, and then compare rates.

UNITED AIRLINES

United offers a 40% discount from the applicable standard coach fare, or a 20% discount off it's Easy Saver (BE 70) fare - whichever is less for you. The Easy Saver fare merely involves staying over a Saturday night. Just follow these steps:

1. Either you or your travel agent call the toll-free number 1-800-521-4041, Monday through Friday between 8:30 AM and 8:00 PM EST. You must use that telephone number.
2. Immediately refer to the 82nd special account number: 559M.
3. United specialists will provide information and make reservations under the 82nd's special fares.
4. United will mail the tickets to you, or you may purchase them from your local travel agent.
5. All travel must be performed between September 15 and September 29, 1985 inclusive, and reservations must be made through the toll free number and the 82nd's special account number 559M.

DELTA AIR LINES

Delta offers a 40% or 35% discount on round-trip travel to our Reunion for flights departing for San Antonio between September 14 and 21, 1985 with a maximum stay of 15 days (no minimum). Just follow these rules:

1. Leave for San Antonio between September 14-21, 1985.
2. Stay no longer than 15 days.
3. Date of ticket purchase will determine percentage of discount. 45 days prior to departure = 40% discount; 7 days prior to departure = 35% discount.
4. Call Delta's toll free number 1-800-241-6760 for reservations between 8:30 AM and 8:00 PM EST daily.
5. Refer to the 82nd's file number: P 0121 (discounts are available only through this file number).
6. Travel only within the Continental U.S. and San Juan.

You can use your local travel agent, but you or your travel agent must use the toll-free number and file number. Check with Delta for the best discount applicable to your itinerary.

"REUNION RV FACILITIES"

Alamo KOA, 602 Gembler Rd., San Antonio, TX 78219, (512) 224-9296.

Travelers World, 2617 Roosevelt Ave., San Antonio, TX 78214, (512) 532-6061.

(Both of the above are rated 10 in the Trailer Life Directory and are approximately \$70 per week).

Greentree Village North RV Park, 12015 O'Connor Rd., San Antonio, TX 78223, (512) 655-3331. (Rated 8).

Dixie Park, 1011 Gembler Rd., San Antonio, TX 78233, (512) 337-6501.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY

HILTON PALACIO DEL RIO HOTEL
200 South Alamo
San Antonio, TX 78205
(512) 222-1400



"82ND FIGHTER GROUP MEMORIAL"

At the 1984 reunion business meeting in Denver, the membership voted to erect a memorial to the members of the 82nd Fighter Group in Memorial Park at the USAF Museum, Wright-Patterson AF Base, Dayton, Ohio.

The memorial tree has been planted. The Museum will provide a reinforced concrete pad approaching the tree. On this pad there will be placed a granite marker which has been ordered. Attached to this marker will be a metal plaque containing an appropriate inscription and an embossed P-38. Art Smedley is designing the plaque and he is carving in wood a half model of a P-38. This will be used to form the mold in which the plaque will be cast. The work may be completed by the time this Newsletter is published. In any event, we expect to have photographs of the completed work at the San Antonio reunion.