

82ND FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION



Lightning Strikes NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 8

AUGUST 1987

"THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER"

When it is time to sit down and compose the message for the Newsletter, I try to think of what our membership needs to improve our Association. We seem to be doing something right because our roster continues to grow even though a few of our members leave each year by taking their "last flight". If any of you have some ideas which will help improve the Association, send them to us.

Our reunion this September in Boise is on track. The Governor of Idaho and the Mayor of Boise have laid out the welcome mat for us and Dick Lingenfelter is there to greet us with a fine program. One of the highlights of the Reunion will be the presentation of awards to an enlisted person from the current active duty 95th squadron, and one from the 82nd FTW which consists of the 96th and 97th squadrons.

All we need now is for everyone to make a great effort to get there. See you in Boise.

HARLEY VAUGHN

* * * * *

"1987 BOISE REUNION"

By the time you receive this Newsletter you should have received Dick Lingenfelter's fine package of material on the Boise Reunion. The schedule of events shows that Dick has been hard at work preparing for one of the best reunions yet. The schedule reflects that there will be something for everyone. Dick reports that there will be in the neighborhood of 300 attendees.

Everyone who plans to attend the Reunion is encouraged to let Dick know that you are coming by sending him the REUNION REGISTRATION FORM that was in the package; and don't forget your check.

"ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP ROSTER"

A new, completely updated, Association Membership Roster is scheduled to be distributed about September 1, 1987 to all members on the roster. There will be no charge to the members for this one copy of the Roster; however, if you desire more than one copy please send Paul Jorgensen \$1.00 for each additional copy desired.

If you have any personal data changes to be included in the new Roster please send them to Paul as soon as possible.

If you know of any former 82nd FG veterans who are not on our Roster, please, please, let us know. We have discovered that there were some of our "lost" folks at the P-38 convention in Los Angeles, but that their names have never been passed on to us for inclusion in our Roster. Therefore, they have not been receiving the Newsletter, Reunion notices, and the Roster itself. In the past, because of the limited distribution of our Roster, it was understandable that many of our members were not aware of who was "lost" or who was "found". Now that the Roster is sent to all members on the Roster, this problem has been solved.

* * * * *

"NEW BOOK"

PETER THREE EIGHT-THE PILOTS STORY by John Stanaway, 8 1/2 x 11 format, 140 pages, over 250 photos, softbound. Pictorial Histories Publishing Company, 713 South Third West, Missoula, MT 59801. \$9.95 plus \$1.50 postage.



-OFFICERS-

HARLEY C. VAUGHN
President
4702 Congressional Dr.
Corpus Christi, TX 78413
(512) 854-3552

RALPH C. EMBREY
Vice President
7865 E. Mississippi #1203W
Denver, CO 80231
(303) 355-3325

JERRY LOEWENBERG
Secretary/Treasurer
4917 Ravenswood Dr. #1719
San Antonio, TX 78227
(512) 674-1555

-EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-

GAYLE HASENPLAUGH-95th Ftr.Sq.
200 N. Ladera Vista
Fullerton, CA 92631
(714) 525-5376

B. A. STROZIER-96TH Ftr.Sq.
1237 Barkley Avenue
Norman, OK 73071
(405) 364-1949

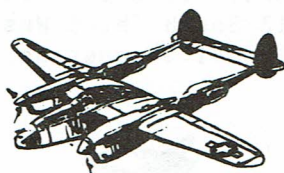
JACK DUNCAN-97th Ftr.Sq.
309 Pecan Drive
Schertz, TX 78154
(512) 658-6007

-NEWSLETTER EDITOR-

PAUL "JORGIE" JORGENSEN
5100 John D. Ryan Blvd. #644
San Antonio, TX 78245
(512) 677-8564

-1987 REUNION CHAIRMAN-

DICK LINGENFELTER
P.O. Box 5541
Boise, ID 83705
(208) 344-7742



Harley Vaughn in his message on page 1 has asked what the membership needs to do to improve the Association and further mentions that "we seem to be doing something right because our roster continues to grow . . ."

Let me mention some of the things that I think have contributed to the growth of the Association and what, in my opinion, lies ahead.

How did we get to where we are today?

1. There should be no doubt in anybody's mind that the nationwide publicity surrounding the search for and the finding of the "Lightning Lady" was the primary force contributing to the growth of the Association in 1986. Many of our "lost" members found us and contributed to our growth. This had nothing to do with any programs or initiatives of the Association, but was due to the efforts of a very, very few members of the Association. To these few we are indebted.

2. The life-blood of any organization is communication with and between its members. I honestly believe that the Newsletter has served the former and that the Roster being sent to all members has served the latter. These two publications must continue to be distributed to all members. There is a multitude of evidence in support of the fore-going.

3. Jerry Loewenberg's complete devotion to the Secretary's job, in communicating with current and prospective members, has been outstanding. Jerry has spent untold hours writing personal letters welcoming folks to the Association and explaining the workings of the Association.

4. And finally, there have been the reunions. The efforts of Ralph Embrey in Denver, Tom Kelly in San Antonio, Will Hattendorf in Atlanta, and the others who sponsored reunions in the past have contributed immensely to the cohesion and growth of the Association. The Boise reunion this year, sponsored by Dick Lingenfelter, is another example of unselfish devotion found in a few of our members.

Where do we go from here and what are some of the things we can do to improve the Association?

1. Suggestions have already been made to update the Association's By-Laws, primarily to reflect actual current practices, and to make other changes desired by the membership. This should be a high priority item at the Boise Business Meeting.

2. Financially the Association is very healthy. We could use some of our funds to sponsor scholarships for worthy recipients. The staff at the Community College of the Air Force at Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, Alabama or other organizations could be solicited for ideas.

"JORGIE"

"ASSOCIATION DUES"

Association dues are strictly voluntary; however, we do solicit your contribution of any amount if you feel it is worthwhile to support the Association. A contribution of \$15.00 or more each year earns you the rank of "Sustaining Member". There is a membership class called "Sustaining Member for Life" and requires a contribution of \$100 (with credit towards the \$100 given for prior contributions for 1987 and future years).

The mailing label on this Newsletter reflects the year, according to the Secretary's records, that your Sustaining Member dues are paid through. Our dues year is the calendar year, i.e. January through December. For example, if this year you paid for one year, the year "1987" will appear to the right of your city address on the label. If you have paid for two years, the year "1988" will appear, and if you have paid for three years, the year "1989" will appear, etc. If the last year you paid dues was 1986 then the year "1986" will appear. If you are a "Sustaining Member for Life" the word "Life" will appear on the label instead of a date. If, according to the Secretary's records, you are not a Sustaining or Life Member, then "0" will appear.

The same information regarding dues status is also reflected in a column in the Association's Membership Roster.

* * * * *

"ODDS AND ENDS"

The life-blood of any publication such as this Newsletter is input from the readers. In the past we have received material from a few of the members for which we are grateful, but frankly, the Editor is running out of material. Out of almost 500 folks out there you must have something we can use. Dig into those old foot lockers and shoe boxes and send us something of interest to the membership.

In the March 1986 issue of the Newsletter we printed a picture taken in Italy of the 82nd FG scoreboard "KRAUT EXTERMINATORS". The picture was not very good and we have heard that there is a possibility that there are better pictures out there somewhere. If you have a picture, how about loaning to us for reproduction? We guarantee to return it to you.

And finally:

There are those who make things happen,
Those who watch things happen,
and those who wonder what happened.

"AN ESCORT OF P-38S"

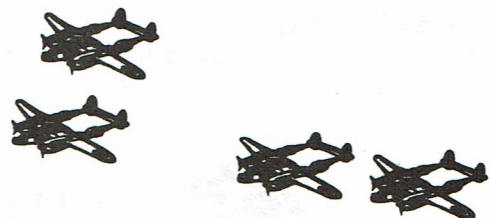
(The following was written by Tech. Sgt. Robert H. Bryson a B-17 gunner in North Africa and originally appeared in the "Stars and Stripes" in 1943. It was a fitting tribute to one of the greatest fighter planes of World War II).

Oh, Hedy Lamarr is a beautiful gal
And Madeline Carroll is, too!
But you'll find if you query, a different theory
Amongst any bomber crew.
For the loveliest thing of which one could sing
(This side of the Heavenly Gates)
Is no blonde or brunette of the Hollywood set -
But an escort of P-38's.

Yes, in the days that have passed, when the
tables were massed
With glasses of scotch and champagne,
It's quite true that the sight was a thing to
delight
Us, intent upon feeling no pain.
But no longer the same, nowadays, in this game,
When we head north from Messina Straits,
Take the sparkling wine-every time just make
mine
An escort of P-38s.

Byron, Shelley and Keats ran a dozen dead heats
Describing the view from the hills,
Of the valleys in May when the winds gently sway
An army of bright daffodils.
Take the daffodils, Byron-the wild flowers,
Shelley -
Yours is the myrtle, Friend Keats,
Just reserve me those cuties-American Beauties-
An escort of P-38's.

Sure, we're braver than hell, on the ground all
is swell,
In the air it's a different story.
We sweat out our track through the fighters and
flak,
We're willing to split up the glory.
Well, they wouldn't reject us, so Heaven protect
us,
And, until all this shooting abates,
Give us the courage to fight 'em-and one other
small item -
An escort of P-38's!



"LETTERS FROM THE MEMBERS"

From STAN KUPCINSKAS, 14 Dell Avenue, Worcester, MA 01604:

Hi Paul,

Just a short note and best wishes to both of you. Enjoy your Newsletter very much; inclosed is an newspaper article, thought maybe you could use in your next edition.

Had snow yesterday, but is melting fast today. Can't make Calif. (P-38 Nat. Convention) but working on Idaho for sure.

From HARRY TERRY, 4202 Hillgate, Memphis, TN 38118:

Hi Paul & Betty,

It seems like we never take time to thank folks for a job well done. We just take things for granted and go our way. Thanks for the job you two have done with the Newsletter. It means a lot to each and every one of us.

I hope you have a good trip to California for the P-38 Convention. We would like to have gone to both L.A. & Boise but . . . we are making preparations for the Boise Reunion already. We should get the By-Laws changed at this meeting. You have my vote.

Best wishes to you & Betty. Hope to see you in Boise.

From JAMES BAKER, 669 Peach, Novato, CA 94947:

Dear Paul,

Having just finished reading your very well done Newsletter for the second time, figured I had better answer your question . . . Betty & I will be attending the (P-38) convention.

Have been spending my spare time on keeping up the restorations on my '29 model A coupe, '31 model pickup, and '55 chev which I just repainted, with a complete body redoing . . .

From HUGH "LEE" THOMPSON, 1519 E. San Miguel, Phoenix, AZ 83014:

Dear Paul,

A note to say that I enjoy and deeply appreciate the 82nd FGA Newsletter. You have done an outstanding job re-uniting old friends . . . bringing back memories of what was maybe the high-light of most of our lives. See you in North Hollywood in May.

Again thanks for the outstanding job as Editor of the Newsletter.

From CHARLES "CHUCK" ADAMS, 4490 W. Redrock Dr., Larkspur, CO 80118:

Dear Paul,

Dot & I plan to attend the P-38 Convention in Los Angeles in May. Hope to see a lot of our 82nd group there. The Newsletter is "great" - glad to hear you plan to continue it.

From OSCAR B. POINDEXTER, P.O. Box 112, Clemmons, NC 27012:

Jorgie,

Things continue to improve healthwise and maybe I can make one of the reunions in the future.

I look forward to the Newsletter and believe me I read every word. My brother brought some letters by that I had written while in service and I was surprised when I found two of the envelopes had been passed by Uncle Wally Ryeerson. Perhaps you can use them in the Newsletter.

I have quite a few pictures stored away somewhere . . . When I run across them I'll make copies.

From TED LATTA, 29021 Brittany Ct., Roseville, MI 48066:

Dear Paul,

. . . . We have heard from so many of our 82nd friends lately, it keeps me busy trying to keep up on all the correspondence. Dorothy and I both feel that the friendships we have built up over the last five years with members of the 82nd and their wives has been one of the nicest things that have happened in our lives. It sort of makes all the rough times of W.W. II worth it all.

. . . . I have told Dick Lingenfelter that 50 years ago in 1937, when just out of High School, I joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and was sent to Idaho from Missouri. So this year will be the Golden Anniversary of my introduction to Idaho. . . .

From FEDELE SACCOMANO, 21609 Geyserville Ave., Geyserville, CA 95441:

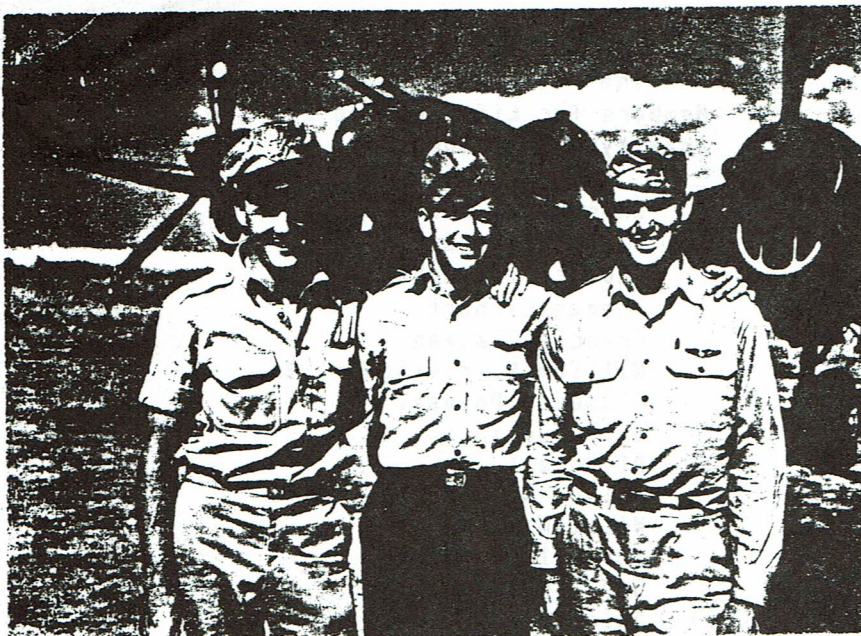
Dear Jerry,

Received the Newsletter - sure enjoyed the news of all the boys. Glad you found Ruble Winters in Miss. I'm looking forward to seeing him in Boise. Here's my dues for the year. Keep up the good work. See you in Boise.



BOISE — BOISE





(1) WHO ARE THEY?



John Bosshard



Al Schneider



(2) WHO ARE THEY?



(4) WHO IS HE?



(3) WHO ARE THEY?

"NEW ASSOCIATION MEMBERS"

| | |
|--|------|
| William F. Barr (Audrey) 1415 Borah Moscow, ID 83843 (208) 882-2886 | 95th |
| Walter J. Blair (Mary) 506 Rosarita Drive Fullerton, CA 92635 (714) 992-0041 | 95th |
| John R. Brooks (Virginia) 4488 S.W. 44th Court Ocala, FL 32674 (904) 237-8793 | 96th |
| Lucien J. Chadwick (Mary Ann) 11010 Oakhurst Road Largo, FL 34644 (813) 596-0480 | 96th |
| Samuel V. Conway 524 E. Maude #32 Sunnyvale, CA 94086 (408) 736-1454 | 95th |
| Richard P. Curran (Diane) 1212 S. Crockett Sherman, TX 75090 (214) 893-7000 | Hon. |
| Cornelius M. Di Lauro (Ellen) 104 Molasses Hill Road Lebanon, NJ 08833 (201) 730-6118 | 95th |
| Joe Fasula 234 Dittmer Pueblo, CO 81004 | ? |
| Michael A. Focareto (Helen) 24630 Hartland Road Euclid, OH 44123 (216) 731-0246 | 96th |
| William H. Hancock 359 S. Third Street Williamsburg, OH 45176 | 97th |
| Fred Klotzer 9327 Patton Street Detroit, MI 48228 | 95th |
| Wayne G. Mayotte (Fusako) 11813 Dorothy Street Los Angeles, CA 90049 (213) 820-5006 | 97th |

"LIFE MEMBERS"

The following members are now "Sustaining Members for Life" having met the requirement for that type of membership.

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Charles E. Adams, Jr. | 95th |
| John Bosshard | 97th |
| Robert F. Campbell | 96th |
| Thomas Carhart | 97th |
| Francis Chapman | 96th |
| William E. Covington, Jr. | HQ |
| Clarence Dolezal | HQ |
| Jack Duncan | 97th |
| Al Durell | 97th |
| Roland W. Graham | 95th |
| William P. Haney | 96th |
| Roswell S. Harding | 97th |
| Gayle W. Hasenplaugh | 95th |
| Jules J. Hymel | 95th |
| Bruce Ireland | 96th |
| Paul F. Jorgensen | 97th |
| Lester Koch | 97th |
| Phillip R. Lauria | 97th |
| Charles E. Lortz | 95th |
| Albert E. Luetzow | 96th |
| Ben A. Mason | HQ |
| Glendor D. Mc Adams | 97th |
| Maurice S. Olson | 95th |
| Charles Pinson | 96th |
| Ralph M. Powers, Jr. | 95th |
| Harlan W. Raymond | 95th |
| Wallace E. Reyerson | 97th |
| Fred Ritter | 97th |
| Robert J. Roper | 95th |
| Ellis P. Roy | 96th |
| William J. Schildt | 95th |
| T. O. Spence | 96th |
| Delbert W. Thompson | 97th |
| L.C. "Lute" Thompson | 96th |
| Russell A. Weller, Jr. | 96th |
| Curtis S. Williams | 95th |
| Richard Willsie | 96th |

* * * * *

(MORE NEW MEMBERS)

| | |
|---|------|
| Leo C. Press (Rhe) 815 Norway Lane Los Angeles, CA 90049 (213) 472-5742 | 97th |
| John C. Reid (Andree) 4225 W. Franklin Avenue Fullerton, CA 92633 (714) 521-8942 | 97th |
| George L. Rivest (Connie) 3923 Mallard Place Sierra Vista, AZ 85635 (602) 458-3350 | 97th |



"TAPS"

The following member of the 82nd FGA has made his "last flight"- put out his hand, and touched the face of God. The family of this member has the heart felt sympathy of all the members of the Association.

James A. Mosely - 96th June 3, 1986

"MISS ME - BUT LET ME GO"

When I come to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me,
I want no rites in a gloom filled room
Why cry for a soul set free.

Miss me a little - But not too long
And not with your head bowed low,
Remember the love that we once shared
Miss Me - But Let Me Go.

For this is a journey that we must all take
And each must go alone,
It's all a part of the Master's plan
A step on the road to home.

When you are lonely and sick of heart
Go to the friends we know,
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds,
Miss Me - But Let Me Go.

* * * * *

(MORE NEW MEMBERS)

Mel Roalsvig 97th
N 130 Carroll Pt Rd.
Lilliwaup, WA 98555

Charles J. Sadek (Joanne) 97th
709 Willard Street, W.
Stillwater, MN 55082
(612) 439-5083

John W. Sognier (Loretto) 96th
5675 Lake Island Dr., NW
Atlanta, GA 30327
(404) 255-1731

Russell A. Weller, Jr. (Eleen) 96th
1117 Magnolia
Brownwood, TX 76801
(915) 646-0369

"P-38 AY-MY BABY"

(This article was submitted by Steve Blake and was copied verbatim from the microfilmed records of the 82nd Fighter Group. It may have been written as a press release).

The P-38 airplane, AY, was flown across the U.S. from the Lockheed plant on November 4, 1942. It was disassembled and crated at an east coast port, from where it was shipped to Liverpool, England for reassembly. A pilot of the 78th Group flew it down to Africa, turning it over to a Service Group at Casablanca in February. There it was test-hopped, and then flown to Telergma, where it was accepted by the 82nd Fighter Group and assigned to the 95th Fighter Squadron.

Since joining the 95th Fighter Squadron, AY or "My Baby" as Lt. Wilbur S. Hattendorf of Evanston, Illinois, affectionately calls her, has flown on 60 combat missions. She participated in the Tunisian Campaign, has fought over Sardinia, Sicily and the Italian mainland, and has 4 victories to her credit. She dive-bombed Pantelleria Island six times, getting her only wound, a flak hole in the left engine nacelle. Lt. Hattendorf has good reason to enjoy "My Baby's" company - she carried him safely out and home on 38 of his 50 combat sorties, with never a scratch.

On 22 March 1943, while escorting B-26s on a counter-shipping sweep, the bomber attacked a convoy just off Bizerta harbor, blowing up one freighter, setting another on fire, and sinking another ship. During this action, enemy fighters in large numbers had come out from land to engage our formation. A savage dogfight took place, in which Lt. Hattendorf probably destroyed one ME 109, damaged several others, and then, with empty guns, warded off attacks on one of our fighters that had one engine shot out, and escorted him home.

Again, on 5 April, while escorting B-25s over Bo Rizzo A/D, Sicily, AY carried Lt. Hattendorf safely through a 30 minute running dogfight and shot down one ME 109.

On a fighter sweep on 11 April, Lt. Hattendorf was flying "My Baby" when a large formation of JU 52s escorted by JU 88s, ME 110s, and ME 109s was sighted off the Gulf of Tunis. While other planes went in after the easy JU 52s, AY went to work on the fighter escort, neatly dispatching one JU 88 and one ME 110, while helping with several others. In this encounter, all the JU 52s were destroyed (20 in all) and all the escort but one lone ME 109. Our total was 27 victories.

She is a grand old plane and has much to glorify her in her old age and retirement.

"P-38 NATIONAL CONVENTION"

(From "THE LOCKHEED STAR", Official Publication of the Lockheed California Company-May 21,1987).

Most of them were gray-haired and bespectacled men in their 60s in somewhat less than trim shape. They came from places like Sebastian, Fla., and Seahurst, Wash., and Minden, Nev., and Sunapee, N.H. - as well as the big cities.

But they remembered vividly the days of some 45 years ago when they were in their late teens and early 20s and were sharp-eyed and in top condition and when they risked their lives in the skies over places like Berlin, Tokyo, Italy, Normandy, New Guinea, Tunis, Leyte, Bremen, and Sicily.

They were the pilots of the hottest twin-engine fighter aircraft of World War II - the 400 mph-plus Lockheed P-38 Lightning.

They were among the more than 850 aficionados, from throughout the U.S. who met last week (May 13-16) at the Sheraton Universal Hotel in the San Fernando Valley for the first P-38 National Convention. They also went to the Planes of Fame Museum and airfield at Chino to once again see displays and a flight of the World War II Lightning. For many, it was the first reunion since the end of World War II in 1945.

Although the majority were former P-38 pilots (among them seven retired Air Force generals), the group also included one-time U.S. Army Air Force ground crew members, people who helped design and build the Lightning, and other enthusiasts of the famed twin-boomed fighter.

Some pilots had flown more than 100 P-38 missions. Included in this group were six aces, pilots who had downed five or more enemy aircraft.

At the convention was Rex Barber of Portland, Ore., who was one of the two American P-38 pilots receiving credit for shooting down the Japanese bomber carrying Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto, commander-in-chief of the combined Japanese fleet and believed to be a key planner of the Pearl Harbor attack.

And there was P-38 pilot Art Cole of Tarzana, who with other Allied airmen escaped from a Nazi prison train and whose story was the basis of a book and the motion picture "Ryan's Express", only to be recaptured three weeks later.

Meeting once again were Dick Andrews of Blue River, Ore., and Dick Willsie of Huntington Beach, Calif. In the 1944 raid over the Ploesti oil fields in Romania, Willsie's P-38 was hit and made a belly landing. Fellow P-38 pilot Andrews quickly landed, Willsie squeezed into the cockpit with Andrews after they discarded their parachutes to make room, and flew to safety two hours away to the Russian lines at Poltava in the Ukraine.

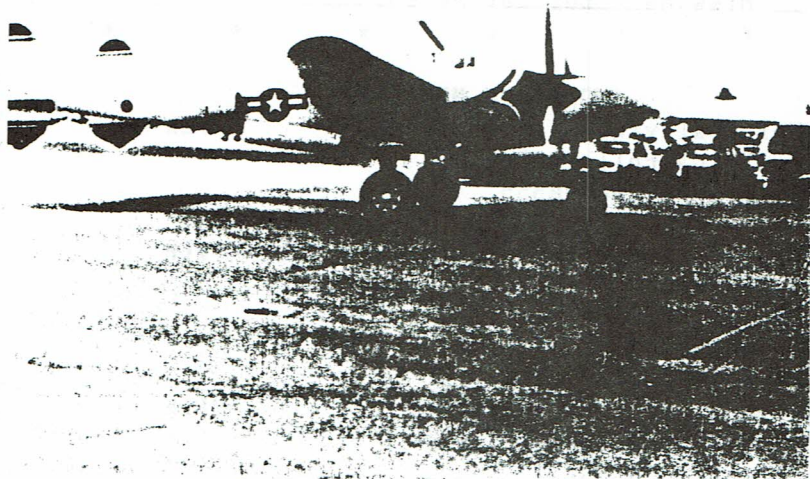
At the May 15 banquet, P-38 Convention President Gil Cefaratt introduced Marge Bong Drucker, widow of Richard Bong, the P-38 pilot who was America's top ace with 40 enemy aircraft kills in the South Pacific. Cefaratt also rode "piggy-back" when Lefty Gardner flew a Confederate Air Force P-38 at Chino on May 14.

For Cefaratt the flight in his favorite aircraft climaxed a year and a half of planning for the P-38 convention - since November 1983 when he asked the Lockheed Star to run an article requesting volunteers. A long-time Lightning fan, Cefaratt worked on the P-38 production line at Lockheed during World War II and has since been a technical representative for various Lockheed aircraft.

At last week's convention, Lockheed people who helped develop the P-38 told of many of its feats. On the panel were test pilots Tony LeVier and Jim White, design engineers Ward Beman and Dick DeGrey, and flight test engineer George Toumanoff.

Lockheed's Joe Kuhn was elected first president of the newly organized National P-38 Lightning Association. Other officers named were Vice President Millard Coffman, Secretary Claude Murray, and Treasurer Lloyd Levine. All were World War II P-38 pilots.

The P-38 get-together and flight received coverage from the newspapers and five of the seven local (Los Angeles) television channels plus national exposure on the NBC "Today" show.



CHINO CALIFORNIA AIRPORT MAY 14, 1987

SGT. OSCAR B. POINDEXTER 14068980
97TH FIGHTER SQDN. 82ND F.G.P.
APO. 520 C/O POSTMASTER,
NEW YORK, N.Y.

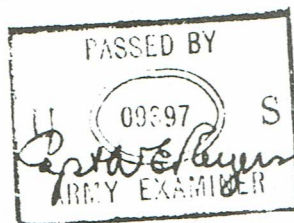


MRS. MATTIE POINDEXTER

ADVANCE

NORTH CAROLINA .

U.S.A.



Envelope addressed by Oscar Poindexter to his mother in 1943.
Passed by Capt. W. E. Reyerson



"OVER THERE YOU LEARN TO RESPECT YOUR PLANE"

(From "Hanger Flying for P-38 Pilots -
Published by Lockheed Aircraft Corporation 1943-1944)