



NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 10

MARCH 1988

LOOK OUT, DAYTON!

P-38's at 12 O'Clock High

DIXIE HAS A GREAT PROGRAM PLANNED FOR YOU IN DAYTON!

The principal focus of this the 12th 82nd Reunion will revolve around Thursday activities at the AIR FORCE MUSEUM. It will therefore be most important for you to make your travel plans so that you will arrive in Dayton on Wednesday, Sept. 14, in time enough to complete registration. The reason for this is that our busses will be leaving early Thursday AM to take us on the all-day excursion to the Air Force Museum. One of the day's events will be a Memorial Service at the site of the 82nd Association's Memorial Plaque (see page 10 of Newsletter # 9, Dec. '87).

Dixie advises that each of you will receive a letter explaining the reservation system used by the Stouffer Dayton Plaza Hotel. Please make a special note that members should not use the 1-800-HOTEL number. Instead, call the 1-513-224-0800 number collect in order to obtain the special rate for 82nd Association members. This rate is \$55.00 per room per night plus 12% room and sales taxes which equals \$61.60. Reservation deadline is Sept. 2 but please make reservations A S A P !

Note: The hotel will furnish transportation from the airport to the hotel and free parking for cars, vans and RVs in the hotel's multi-level garage.

Golfers will leave the hotel on Friday at 8 AM in order to make the 10 AM tee time.

Also on Friday, the "Aviation Trail Tour" busses will leave the hotel at 9 AM. The tour includes lunch and, if the schedule is kept, the busses will return to the hotel by 3:30 PM

On Saturday morning, during the Business Meeting, a ladies "Shop Until You Drop" bus excursion will depart at 10 AM and return at 3 PM. The traditional Sat. Night Banquet will be at the hotel and dancing will follow. Also, plan on the Sunday AM Brunch at the hotel.

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* * *

-OFFICIAL PIN-UP GIRL-

Jackie Brundage Gardner

The PREXY

I think we all should give Dick a big hand for his first 82nd Association Newsletter. It covered everything, was informative as well as entertaining. Great job!

We're still gaining new members and it's really a wonderful feeling to be reunited with our old friends. The stories get better and better each time we get to tell them.

I'm looking forward to our Dayton Reunion because I've got a surprise up my sleeve which will hopefully come to pass and which we all will love.

See you in Dayton.

Harley



VAUGHN
BEING DECORATED.
SOUK EL ARBA
TUNISIA
JUNE 1943.

Sec./Treas.

The Sec./Treas. has the responsibility for the maintenance and publication of our Roster. In this task he is helped by the able, volunteered assistance of Ralph Embrey who programs the ever changing data into his computer. It is Ralph who furnished Dick with the mailing labels for this issue of the Newsletter, and who will furnish such labels to Dixie Sloan for Reunion correspondence.

But it is YOU - the membership - who are responsible for the accuracy of the Roster. We would like it to be completely accurate.

So - PLEASE - notify the Sec./Treas. of address changes and corrections and of all missing data such as telephone numbers, squadron affiliations, names of wives, etc. If even one digit of your zip is wrong or if your wife wants her listing changed from Dorothy to Dotty - let 'ol Jerry know. A post card will do.

We plan to make a distribution of an updated roster to all members in August -so you'll have it before our Sept. Reunion. We will have a small supply of extra copies at the Reunion for those who wish extra or replacement copies at a buck a piece.

— Jerry

* * *

MEMBERSHIP

We hope you have noticed that your Association has been making a vigorous effort to maintain accurate and up-to-date membership data.

Last year, as you may recall, we made an attempt to find out how many of the names on the roster were viable since, for many years, nothing had been heard from dozens upon dozens of folks.

As a result of the survey a relatively large number of names were dropped from the roster. On the face of it, it seems foolish to keep sending newsletter and other

mailings to people who are either disinterested or who are simply no longer at the address we have for them.

There has been some complaint that some names have been dropped that shouldn't have and if proper info is furnished we will most certainly reinstate any name.

It should be emphasized that the paying of the annual dues IS NOT a condition for the keeping of a name on the roster.

In August of this year an up-to-date roster will be mailed to every person listed on the roster. We ask your cooperation in furnishing the Sec./Treas. with any corrections and/or additions you feel should be made.

If you have lost track of someone but have some sketchy information of some places where he might have lived or worked we have ways to locate people if we just have a sliver of a lead. So please communicate. We know there are more old comrades out there some place and if we don't make an effort to find them we can't really justify our existence.

As of today, Mar. 12, '88, we have 456 names on our membership roster plus 22 friends and/or honoraries.

Here are the names of new Life Members - those whose names have not yet been published as such:

1. Tom Donohoo (96th)
2. Ken Herrick (96th)
3. Harold Houston (96th)
4. Jim Humphries (96th)
5. Joe Malejki (96th)

Here are the names of New Members - whose names have not yet been published as such?

1. Al Campbell (96th)
2. C.W. "Gus" Gustafson (96th)
3. Wm H. Hancock (97th)
4. Pren Hollingsworth (97th)
5. Joe Malejki (96th)
6. Roy Norris (96th)
7. Orson Osborne (95th)
8. Warren Thompson (?)
9. Irving Swenson (96th)
10. Ed. T. Waters (96th)
11. Lee Widbalm (97th)

* * *

Obits

MARGIE BROWN

Margie, wife of Norman Brown (97th), passed away 9 May '87. Margie had had a triple by-pass right after the Corpus Christi Reunion and never fully recovered.

WILLIAM E. COVINGTON

Col. Covington was the first official C.O. of the 82nd Fighter Group and led it successfully from June 17, 1942 to May 4, 1943.

The details of his death are unknown at this time but it is known that he had been in ill health for a number of years prior to his death.

MILDRED HAW

Mildred was the wife of Marvin Haw of Headquarters.

Marvin and Mildred were at the San Antonio. Details of Mildred's death are unknown.

Marvin and Mildred were at the San Antonio Reunion. The details of Mildred's death are unknown

MARGARET REYERSON

"Aunt Margaret", beloved wife of "Uncle Wally" Reyerson, died Dec. 6, 1987. They had been married for 67 years.

Wallace E. Reyerson is the former (and much loved) Executive Officer of the 97th Squadron and has been an avid supporter of the 82nd FG Association since its formation.

HAROLD M. SWANSON

Harold died on Feb. 10, 1988 at home on Lopez Island, Washington. Harold had been to our last two reunions. For the time he was in the 96th he was assigned to the motor pool.

Harold retired from the Washington State Highway Department in 1977 and then moved into the house he built on Lopez Island for his wife, Hope and himself. He had five children, 15 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Hope said, "He loved his reunions and visiting with his buddies. She also said she intended to keep in touch with "those who we really learned to know."

Our thoughts and concerns go out to the spouses and immediate families of Margie, Bill, Mildred, Aunt Margaret and Harold.

NOW WHERE WAS I?

I'm not used to my arthritis,
With my hearing, I'm resigned,
I can manage my bifocals,
But, oh God, I miss my mind!

Sometimes I can't remember
When I stand upon the stairs,
If I'm going up for something
Or I've just come down from there.

And often at the Frigidaire
My mind is filled with doubt,
Have I just been putting food away
Or come to take some out?

If it's my time to write you,
There's no need for getting sore,
I might think I've already written
And I don't want to be a bore.

Just remember that I miss you
And I wish that you were near
But since it's nearly mail time
I'll say "Au revoir", my dear.

— from Jack Sattler

* * *

- source unknown

A PX Yet?

As you may recall, in the last newsletter, we invited you to send in orders for certain mementos provided at the Boise Reunion. As seen from this corner the results of this invitation have been somewhat startling.

Fifty of you guys have responded with orders for over \$1,250 worth of items such as 57 jackets, almost six dozen goblets, 45 P-38 pins and ten squadron pictures. We hope that everything arrived in good condition and that the items were as good or better than you expected them to be. Please don't keep a complaint to yourselves if there is one.

We regret there was some misunderstanding as to where to send your orders. Hereafter, it's always a safe bet to send inquiries to ye old newsletter editor. Also, please make your checks or money orders out to the Association.

We still have the following sized jackets on hand: Small (95th - 1, 96th - 1); Medium (95th - 1, 96th - 7, 97th - 11); Large (95th - 2); Extra large (HQ - 3, 97th - 4). We also have 6 doz. goblets on hand and will bring them to Dayton to be sold on a first come - first serve basis. If you wish to reserve (2, 4 or 6) send in some bucks to hold.

The Association really doesn't wish to get into the merchandizing of mementos for several reasons -- not the least of which is that it is a lot of work. We are, however, obligated to extend reasonable services to our members and we will either furnish you with an item if we have it or help you find it if we don't. Such item should relate to the P-38 and/or the business of the Association.

* * *

EXPLANATION

THE CAPTION "THE MESS HALL" IS SUPPOSED TO SUGGEST "EVERY THING BUT THE KITCHEN SINK." THIS IS AN EDITORIAL ATTEMPT TO PREPARE YOU FOR "ALMOST" ANYTHING YOU MIGHT HEAR IN THE MESS HALL - RL.

The Mess Hall

Another Reunion Note: Because of time constraints we were unable to get this in on the front page story) According to Dixie we will be having Squadron Dinners in the Stouffer Hotel on Friday Night, Sept. 16.

Sorry guys -- we're unable to bring Bogus Basin to Dayton! However, for the benefit of Bev T., Monty B. & Curly I. we are bringing a piece of the road to the Reunion with us!

* * *

The Nov. '87 Newsletter: We have a few extras in case any of you either didn't receive yours or would like one (or more to give to a friend -- just ask and you shall receive. This goes for our special friends also.

Likewise for other previous numbers of the 82nd Newsletter. We will copy each back issue for you for \$1.00 or all eight for \$5.00 (includes postage).

* * *

"The Slugging Desert Jackrabbit": 118 pages of 96th pictures, escapades, nonsense and memories. All 96th guys should have the three booklets but we do have some extras. We're not giving them away or selling them -- but any donation will do. Use your judgment. We really don't want to deprive anyone of some quality literature!

* * *

We really believe a General Court Martial is in order for Jerry Loewenberg! The charge: Lack of due care in minding the health and welfare of the the Association's Sec./Treas. and Adjutant. It seems that in January the culprit, while returning to the U.S. from Cuernavaca, Mayhico, lost control of his car on a steep, wet section of the road and spun into a truck. The resulting collision totalled his vehicle.

It's really not a thing to joke about because, as Jerry put it, "It just about totalled Pat and me, too!"

* * *

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

To the members of the 95th Fighter Squadron:

Betty and I are still thrilled by the great time we had at the 1987 Boise Reunion and thanks to the 82nd Association for making it possible. Words cannot tell the deep feeling I had when meeting again so many combat friends after 42 years!! We were "First Timers" who shared the hospitality provided by Dick and gloried in the renewal of old friendships. Boise was a First Class effort and we hope to attend all future reunions.

When we departed Foggia in 1945 I confiscated a big pile of V-DISKS (78 RPM records from Special Services) that were in the Officer's Club of the 95th. I carried them home in my duffle bag and will bring them to the Dayton Reunion because they still recall vivid memories we all can share!

George Bowers claims his ping pong game is as sharp now as in 1945!! I hope we can organize some competition in Dayton -- are you ready? -- it's fair to practice if you wish.

If you have never been to an 82nd Reunion -- DO IT IN 1988!! Remember, all our members are at least 63 years old, so come to meet your old buddies now --- don't wait!!!

If you have attended a reunion before, you know that Dixie will provide an outstanding meeting --- so plan now for September 1988 in Dayton!

Ralph M. Powers
95th Rep, 82nd FG Association
Executive Committee

(Ed's note: This is a good example of how unit reps can communicate with their troops through the good offices of the Newsletter. Hopefully, you other reps can take Monty's cue and we can move this sheet closer to the guys in the foxholes. By the way, Monty, are you on Dixie's payroll?)

A T T E N T I O N

(IN OTHER WORDS -- WAKE UP!)

IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR "STATEMENT OF INTEREST" FORM ON PAGE 15 IT SAYS,
"--- ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH BEAVER TRAVEL BUREAU, INC." TO HANDLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR AIR TRANSPORTATION.

IF YOU NEED SUCH CALL MARY LEE OR SHARON AT 1-800-227-6156.

YOU MAY NOW GO BACK TO SLEEP.

Z Z Z Z Z

ROUGH AIR from the "LINK"



One of the neat things about being a newsletter editor (maybe the only one) is the "fascination quotient" of the mail box. Everytime I go to the neighborhood P.O. (only 1.2 miles from the pad so I can ride my bike -if I'm not lazy or in a hurry) and I reach up to put the key in the lock I wonder, "What bit of interesting info will there be from the troops today?"

Would you believe that my letter file since Jan. is a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick already? Didn't think so but it does bring a focus on the theme of the "Rough Air".

As much as we would like to have it other-wise, there is a size limit for the newsletter and so we must take a realistic look at content.

There are three musts: 1) News that is deemed of interest to the general readership; 2) Association matters of concern; and 3) Letters (or excerpts thereof) to the editor that the latter feels are important or of interest to the members of the Association.

All other material that comes in must be looked at objectively otherwise we could wash the Association's treasury right down the tubes. So please don't feel dejected if something you send in is rejected.

Some day, perhaps, the Hierarchy of the Association can be talked into floating a magazine type publication similar to the 96th's "Slugging Desert Jackrabbit."

Seriously, though, criticism of the 82nd Association Newsletter will always be dealt with and changes made if warranted and if not - proper reasons given.

* * *

DON'T BE TAIL-END CHARLIE!

DIXIE SAYS HIS CUT-OFF POINT IN THE REGISTRATION LINE WILL BE AT THE 400TH "WARM ONE"! SAYS HE CAN'T REMEMBER MORE THAN THAT MANY NAMES!

LAW! -- WHAT A GATHERIN' IT'S GOIN' TA BE!

M A I L B A G

FROM STEVE BLAKE:

Thanks for sending the 82nd Association Newsletter. I'm sorrier now than I was before that I was unable to attend the Boise Reunion. This is because of your story about Orson Osborne's introduction to the Association. It just so happens that I've been trying to locate Orson for the past few years.

I had become acquainted with a WWII Hungarian fighter pilot by the name of Charlie Faludi who was probably shot down by Osborne in the summer of '44 so we are anxious to contact Orson to find out if he was the guy. (ed's note: He was!)

Charlie (who lives in Long Beach) is very personable and has made friends with a lot of WWII AAF veterans. I think it would be a good idea to invite him to the '89 Reunion on the Queen Mary (ed's note: I agree, Steve, but the Association's policy is that somebody has to pay -- otherwise it could get out of hand. Anyone who wishes to attend an 82nd Fighter Group Reunion is warmly welcomed. Perhaps Faludi would also like to meet with us in Dayton).

* * *

FROM MERV CHRISTENSEN

Sorry I missed the 87 Reunion but will be in Dayton.

You're doing a great job with the paper. It's worth the wait to see who is doing what.

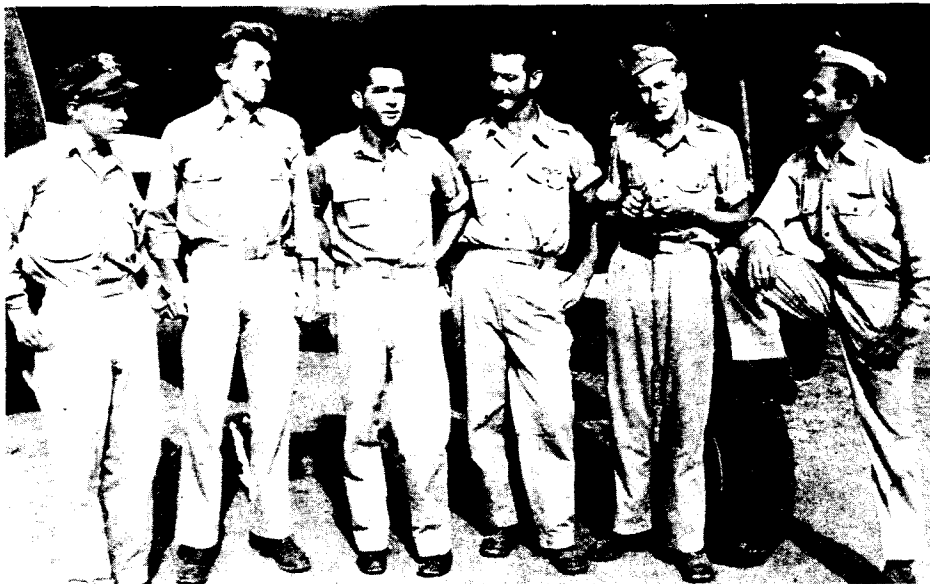
I was the M/Sgt in Group Operations and I've met some folks at reunions but some others I've forgotten. Jud Hallock was my leader.

* * *

FROM JACK DUNCAN

Great Reunion, Richard.

Mert and I had a great trip. Covered over 6,000 miles in 18 days and saw some beautiful country.



SECOND FROM RIGHT -- OUR
STALWART AIRIAL GLADIATOR
AND GRACIOUS DAYTON HOST.

(Photo courtesy of
Combat Pilot's Assoc. via
Steve Blake)

*Six aces of the 82nd Fighter Group, North Africa,
July 1943. L to R: Lt. Ward A. Kuentzel (96th Sq.
- 7 victories), Flight Officer Frank D. Hurlbut
(96th Sq. - 9 victories), Lt. Ray Crawford (97th
Sq. - 6 victories), Lt. Lawrence P. Liebers (96th
Sq. - 7 victories), Lt. William J. Sloan (96th Sq. -
12 victories) and Lt. Louis E. Curdes (95th Sq. - 8
victories). USAF photo.*

FROM BILL GLOWACKI (via Jerry L.)

Enclosed is my check for Life Membership
(which I hope will be for a hundred years).

Very sorry I missed the Boise Reunion
and especially the dinner with the 95th.

* * *

FROM ART GRAHAM (via Jerry L.)

(Ed's note: This is a real nice, long letter
from Art but which, in the interest of space,
has to be excerpted)

Yes, Jerry, the San Raphael Military Acad-
my is still there, after all these years,
and still has an excellent record.

Novato has grown to 49,500 and is now
too big for my wife Jeanne and me. Hamilton
Field (inactive) has gone through some trauma-
tic changes. 600 acres of it were sold to
the City of Novato on which they plan to
build homes and a shopping center, etc.

Gayle Hasenplaugh had by-pass surgery
in November and is coming along fine. I
understand from some old buddies that the
Boise Reunion must have been a ball! Congra-
tulations.

* * *

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO CHINA?

I HAVEN'T EITHER.

SEE YOU IN DAYTON!

FROM HOMER L. HEGGEM

I appreciate receiving the August newslet-
ter and membership roster. Am proud to have
been with the 82nd for some time at least
— but ended my tour in Photo Recon (15th
Combat Squadron out of Bari, Italy HQ).

Enclosed is my \$15 dues for '88 so I can
keep in touch with those I knew in the 97th
Squadron. Thank you. (Ed's note: Ed Tinker
referred Heggem's name to us)

* * *

LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF BOISE
(via the Editor of the Statesman)

Boise's beauty impresses

Recently we attended the 82nd Fighter
Group Reunion at the Red Lion Motor
Inn-Riverside.

We wanted the city of Boise and its citi-
zens to know that we were impressed with
the cleanliness and beauty of your city.
We walked the streets and parkways and
noticed the absence of litter, the beautiful
grass and trees and the many types of
blossoming plants.

The spontaneous greetings of the people
on the streets made us feel that we were
among friendly, caring people.

BILL AND SYLVIA HOOPER
Luling, Texas

(Ed's note: I appears to me that what happened here was a sort of mutual love affair. In addition to Bill and Sylvia's nice compliment I understand (from Ted Latta) that Gerry and Marian Ladd were considering pulling up their New York stakes and moving - kit and kaboodle - to Boise. If any of you would like to make it a party my daughter Sally works for a local real estate broker.

The other side of the coin is that Boise appreciated the 82nd's mission to its environs also. I walked into Stewart's Gem Shop with my windbreaker on and a clerk said, "Hey, here's one of those guys that came in here and bought eleventy thousand \$s worth of opals, garnets, jasper and alexandrite!"

Gib Hochstrasser told us his band had never played for a more appreciative audience and the people in Boise's Visitors Bureau reported that they had received many glowing comments about you g uys and gals.

* * *

FROM JOHN KOSTYO

I was especially glad to hear that the Chadwicks are OK after that accident they had.

I won't forget the day Andrews and Chapman met again (after 43 years). I was "dying" for a smoke and couldn't find an ash tray so I stepped outside for my smoke. I stood on the right side of the porch as you go out and Andrews was on the left side. I nodded to Andrews as I lit my cigarette and we both stood there for a couple of minutes. Then a man came to the foot of the steps and stopped (it was Campbell). Andrews and Campbell eye-balled each other for a couple of moments and then Campbell slowly came up the steps while Andrews slowly walked toward him.

Andrews and Campbell met on the porch and embraced and both started to sob. From my side of the porch I sobbed, too, because I knew then that two old friends had met.

Your story on Dixie Sloan (flying Cowtail Baker Sloan into Dayton X) was a lulu -- and if you don't believe it just ask some of the young pilots from Tyndall or Tyrone McGee from Williams. One night, in the hospitality room, Dixie had them all listening in "awe" as Dixie reenacted his victories.

I can also remember when a replacement pilot, fresh from stateside, was giving one of the mechanics all kinds of hell for not calling him "Sir". Dixie came by, saw what was happening, and gave the new louie whatfor -- telling him he would be called by his nickname by the EMs if he had one.

Do you remember Doleski (sorry John but "no") who used to loan money to the pilots who lost while playing poker with QO Hunter, Benny Richards and Bobby Schrock? His only requirement: "Don't get shot down so you can pay back by the 1st of the month."

* * *

FROM BILL HOLEMAN

On 27 Dec. I had a nice visit with my former 96th tentmate Louis Pape and I talked him and his wife Virginia into staying over night. Louis and I hadn't seen each other since Sept. of '43 when he was shot down over Naples on his 48th mission.

His visit gave me the opportunity to return to him a parachute bag (stenciled with his name and serial number in bold black print) which I had borrowed for 44 years! He lit up like my Christmas tree when I presented it to him.

Thanks again for the newsletter and my belated thanks to you for the work you did on the Boise Reunion and my appreciation for your unselfish efforts in support of the 82nd.

(Ed's note: I confess I do not handle compliments well. Most that have come in with letters such as Bill's have been deleted because they take up space and they really aren't news. But they do move me (sometimes to tears) and I deeply appreciate them -- but -- there are extenuating circumstances which may sound maudlin.

Five years ago Jo Ann and I were traveling from Napoli to Roma on a train and, as it approached the "Eternal City", it went along side a U.S. Military Cemetary -- there were thousands upon thousands of white crosses. By the luck of the draw -- none were mine.

Thousands upon thousands of white crosses
and I'm sitting here at an electronic type-
writer enjoying life to its absolute full-
est.

One of my roommates in Lindley Hall (a dormitory at the University of Idaho) was killed in the Battle of the Bulge. DeLos Wilson and I were twins, born on the same day, lived across the street from each other, played in the Jr. High band and then planned on a career in forestry together.

Another roommate was a navigator on a B-17 that was shot down over Germany early in the war and it was barbedwiresville for him for three years.

Lee Ragland was a Lindley Hall pal of mine. We laughed a lot together and shared common interests - but not girls. A piece of flak? (it's not known) cut short Lee's life on Sept. 4, '43 in the Bay of Naples. Lee was a pilot in the 95th Fighter Squadron.

These are not isolated or unique situations. I'm sure that each of you can recount somewhat similar experiences which have led you to wonder about the heavy debt that we who live and revel in this freedom owe to the white crosses which have names like "Wilson", "Ragland", "Crichton", "Muse", "Champion" and "MacNicol" printed on them.

So, Bill Holeman, I don't look at it (my involvement with the 82nd FG Assoc.) as unselfishness - nor even a duty, but as a desire, a need and a way to say, "Thanks," to all those white crosses.

And please tell me -- where is there a better place to say it? Thanks, Bill, anyhow.

FROM JOE MALEJKI (via Jerry L.)

Please enlist/enroll me in the Assoc. for life!

I flew with the 96th from Aug. '44 to Feb. '45, first under Maj. Ike, then Dick Willsie and then C.P. Hardy.

Heard about the reunions about 2 years ago from Flip Lauria (97th) but have been unable to attend but am working on it.

FROM TED LATTA (via Jerry L.)

Just a note to let you know I received my Life Membership card and thanks.

You said in your note that you are planning on a certificate that would be suitable for framing. I'll give you a tip. Alex Martin (96th pilot) is really good at the art of calligraphy. He has inspired Dorothy to take a course in calligraphy and he told me that he had done lettering on diplomas when he was in the Service.

Alex still works for GM in Engineering and Design and it occurs to me that there is a lot of hidden talent in the 82nd FG Association in addition to Alex and Art Smedley.

(Ed's note: It is our understanding that, as a result of Ted's letter, Alex Martin has volunteered to do the Life Member Certificates)

FROM OLEN MEDLEY

Dear Dick and Jo Ann,

Am finally getting around to mailing out a few pictures from our Boise meeting and thought you would like to have some copies.

I guess more importantly than the pictures is to send you my personal thanks for the great job you did for us up there. Betty and I are still enjoying the memories and telling our friends down here about it (over & over & over).

(Ed's note: I'm including Olen's comments not just because they are ego stroking (very necessary) but because they say so much about the kind of people we have in the 82nd Fighter Group Association.

The MAIL CALL section is supposed to provide members with the opportunity to complain as well as compliment the Association and/or the Reunion. (After some news items of course)

How can this editor make it interesting for you guys if you don't complain a little. At least some of you could have written to complain about the dumb frisbies)

FROM ROY NORRIS (via Jerry L.)

Received the newsletter about the Reunion. It was very interesting. It came Monday, 12/14 and Tuesday, the 15th, my wife and I went to Dayton to meet with Dixie. He had not yet received his newsletter.

Dixie has a tremendous program planned for next year's reunion. I'm to be bookkeeper and Treasurer and I need certain financial information from you.

I must tell you that this is a real beginning for me as for years I hunted for some information of this organization. Apparently I wasn't very observant but now I'm on the track. Dixie is very excited about the Association and it has rubbed off on me.

* * *

FROM BOB RANDALL

How I would have loved to have been in on that 82nd Reunion but, as I mentioned on the phone, about the time you were getting together in Boise I was standing on what used to be our runway in Foggia.

I have a couple of questions: 1) Did the blond fellow who flew bombardier in the droop snoot show up at the Reunion? 2) Does anyone remember the name of the 97th mess sgt. from New York?

Your name came from Bob Pflueger, my tent-mate in the 97th. I was with the Group in Foggia from Sept. '44 until April '45.

I have just returned from Foggia (October '87) where I walked the old air strip. It's a lovely olive grove now.

In the area I met a gray-haired Italian gentleman who happened to have been our cook during that time.

* * *

FROM EARL SCHOEDLER

Enclosed is a check for a pin and a jacket. My writing isn't too good so excuse it if you can. I'm going to be 73 this February.

I was with the 97th for almost four years and we changed more engines than you can shake a stick at. I still have the T.M. books.

The newsletter is just great - but I almost forgot I was with the 97th.

* * *

LETTER FROM CAPT. TOM SCHIESS
95th FITS, Tyndall AFB, FL

We're still talking about the great time we had in Boise. Thanks again!

We recently had a change in command. Our new CO is LCol Bill Yantiss and he is extremely enthusiastic about the Squadron and its history — I'm sure he'll have the boys up in Dayton and hopefully with a 4-ship flight of F-15s.

We're in a transition phase now. We've sent all but 9 T-33s to the Boneyard in Arizona, and currently have 6 F-15s on station. All the old T-33 drivers are gone or soon on their way. Of our guys that were in Boise Brian Vankouwenberg & LCol Brennen are going to F-15s; I'm going to an F-16; George Benefield is going to an A-10; Pat Freeman will fly the F-4 and Gooch Whittemore is hoping to go into the Guard.

I will be leaving for my next assignment the middle of March. LCol Brennen will still be working on base and flying the F-15 here. I'm telling you Dick, if you ever get to Tyndall you need to come by the Squadron and check it over.

Sincerely, Thomas R. Scheiss, Capt, USAF

FROM BUDDY STROZIER

I've looked for but can't find the source of this information but I know I've seen it someplace: The 1st Fighter Group Association will be meeting at Wright-Patterson AFB at about the same time as ours at Dayton.

As you know the 82nd was pretty well formed with people from the old 1st Pursuit Group. I know there will be others - like me - who will want to see some of our old compadres. Unfortunately, I don't have the name and address of the reunion "Honcho" but I'll try to find out and make contact.

About the middle of March we plan on flying to Boise for a visit with our grandkids (and their folks too). I'll get in touch with you and see if we can have a golf game.

* * *

LETTER FROM CLAYTON TILLAPPAUGH

Hi Dick,

H A A A A P Y New Year!!

Hope this next reunion is not as expensive as the Boise one. However, this was partly by our choice in driving all the way out and sight-seeing: The South Dakota Badlands, Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial, Yellowstone National Park, the Tetons, Devil's Tower, the Shoshone Ice Caves, Boise, then up to Orofino, Idaho and environs for a week, back to Boise, back north to New Meadows, back (again) to Boise, then Salt Lake City for the Mormon Tabernacle and an organ concert and then on east to home.

Lots of car problems: three water hoses blew (one at a time) and then the timing chain gear went (\$195 plus \$82 for towing).

Bev's purse fell out of the car when we stopped in New Meadows, Idaho for picture taking and we didn't miss it until we were gassing up in Boise. Bev had all the credit cards, her driver's license and a whole lot of cash in that purse.

We drove back (116 miles) and searched the area (no luck) and then contacted the State Police (to no avail). All the way home I kept referring to Bev as the "Unidentified Bimbo" which she appreciated less and less each time.

A week after we got home we received a package in the mail — Bev's handbag. All the cash was gone except three one dollar bills, some nickles and dimes and eight pennies.

We drove 6,000 miles at a cost of \$2,500 (including Bimbo's bit) — much more than we expected. Oh well, it doesn't happen more than once a year.

* * *

ANNOUNCING THE "BIMBO" AWARD

In honor of Bimbo Tillapaugh's performance the Association will create a "BIMBO AWARD" to recognize those members who have a predilection for emulating ostriches. The Awards will be presented at the Annual Reunions as appropriate.

No decision has been made regarding the nature of said award. Recommendations will be enthusiastically received.

Nominations for recipients of the BIMBO AWARD will also be welcomed. Perhaps Koiv would like to recommend Marie.

* * *

LETTER FROM BOB WHITE (via Jorgie)

The Aviation Cadet Alumni Assoc. (now has 10,000 members) is a non-profit, non dues org. to assist you in locating former classmates.

All former pilots who read this are urged to send their Flight class, primary, basic and advanced school to Bob White, 54 Seton Trail, Ormond Beach, FL 32074. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

For many of us, those early flying days represent a golden period in our lives and this is an opportunity to recapture a bit of that nostalgia. Donations will be accepted.

* * *

FROM LEE F. WIDHALM (via Jerry L.)

I sure was glad to hear from the 82nd. I was with the forming of the 82nd and was in the 97th Squadron and was a crew chief.

I left the outfit in Africa with other personnel to form the 449th in China where I was at until the end of the war.

I just really didn't know what happened to most of the fellows I went overseas with after I left the outfit. John Watkins and I were close and he is the only one for whom I know the whereabouts.

(Ed's note: It was John Watkins who sent us Lee's address)

* * *

FROM DICK WILLISIE

Here is the latest story to be printed on the Piggy Back Rescue. Thought you might be interested.

(Ed's note: I am I am. The article referred to appeared in the Nov. 5 Issue of the "Lockheed Star" and is very well done. Right now the 82nd NL is short of space and time but if any of you out there wish a copy we'll be glad to send one to you)

* * *



COURTESY COMBAT PILOTS ASSOCIATION

Hollywood welcomes back some flying heroes! Ray and two other survivors of the North African Campaign visit the 20th Century Fox Studios in late 1943. L to R; unknown (82nd F.G. pilot); unknown (actress); Lt. John Caputo, who flew with Ray in the 97th F.S.; Ray and actor William Bendix.

BOB & IRV

Bob Hildebrandt (95th) and Irv Styer (27th) have been friends since Jr. High days in Los Angeles.

* * *

82ND HISTORY

Steve Blake reports that he and John Stanaway plan a late 1989 publication of the 82nd Fighter Group History.

"John has practically completed his portion," Steve said, "while I have some work yet to do on my end." John is handling the front half of the 82nd's WWII record while Steve is writing our Italian story.

We have had the privilege of reviewing Steve's draft of his Chapter 13 and it appears to me that WWII Air War history buffs who buy the book are in for a treat.

My immediate reaction is that it is good, straight-forward, easy reading. The action moves, is accurate and still brings the reader into battles almost as a participant — and that is good history.

Late '89 can't come too soon for me.

— RL

* * *

LATE NOTE FROM THE MAIL BAG

Dear Dick,

Sorry I was not able to get to Boise but maybe we can make it to Wright-Pat. It's a long way from Rio de Janeiro to Boise.

In January, Bryan Cook, Gordon Fuqua and I (all 97th types) and our wives got together for dinner in Ft. Worth. It was great fun since we had all flown together quite a bit during Fighter Training and Foggia as well.

Anyway, B.J. Cook was sporting his new 97th Squadron windbreaker and I must have one — so here is my order for a Medium.

Sincerely,

Glendor D. Adams

* * *

*Hey Guyz!!
Be sure and keep
Dixie informed!!!*

More

&

As you will note in Bud Strozier's letter there is the suggestion that the 1st Fighter Group might be meeting in Dayton the same week as the 82nd!

Well it's true.

I've had a phone chat with Irv Styer, Ukiah, Calif., and he informed me that the 1st Fighter will arrive in Dayton on Sept. 15 and will disband on Sunday the 18th.

Styer, who was in the last class of S/Sgt. pilots, is his association's newsletter editor and has been corresponding with Jorgie and Jerry.

At the present time there are no plans afoot to have any sort of a link-up between the two organizations. It is our guess that each respective host has his hands full of the myriad of details that need constant attention.

Irv also told me that his group will be having a dedication ceremony at Wright - Pat for its memorial plaque.

-- RL

* * *

Got 'im!

Roy Norris (96th) discovered the 82nd Association too late to make arrangements to get to Boise. Several circumstances have been working together, however, to get Roy involved in the Dayton Reunion clear up to the bottom of his ear drums.

First, he lives 40 miles down the road in Cincinnati; second, somehow Dixie found out about him; third, he happens to have a penchant for dealing in \$s & øs - having been a comptroller for Proctor and Gamble for 111 years; and fourth, it appears he has great enthusiasm for the 82nd Association and for assisting Dixie with the production of a successful reunion.

We don't know whether or not Roy has an official title -- let's just say he is "Adjutant Host for Financial Logistics, 82nd FG Association - Dayton Reunion."

-- RL

* * *

More Mess Items

Plans for the QUEEN MARY REUNION are shaping up in beautiful, suburban Hawthorne, Calif. where resides John Hendrix. He indicated that definite plans have not yet been nailed down but he expects to give us some hard news in time for the August Newsletter.

John and Phyllis just returned from a 28-day trip to the south seas - visiting Tahiti, the Philipines and Australia among other places.

* * *

AN INTERESTING LETTER

Came in from Mrs. David Gaitskill of Mt. Sterling, Kentucky.

She wrote, "My brother, Graham E. Jones, was a P-38 pilot in North Africa with the 82nd Fighter Group." If any of you remember Graham Jones, it would be kind of nice to drop Mrs. Gaitskill a note. Her address is: 211 Holt Ave., Mt. Sterling, KY 40353.

Mrs. Gaitskill said her husband was a gunner in the 351st Bomb Group (B-17s) out of England and was shot down over Berlin on his 24th mission.

They go to both the 351st and the POW reunions and hope to go the 82nd's in Dayton.

She will receive this newsletter before she gets the back issues of our newsletters she ordered.

* * *

THIS NEXT ITEM IS THE LAST

Nail to be pounded into this newsletter.

Putting out a newsletter is like playing the horses. You place all your bets (in this case it means typing up all the copy) after studying the racing sheets (in this case reading through a lot of wonderful mail, helping ma bell keep afloat by making numerous phone calls to Corpus, San Anton, LA, Dayton, O and Lhasa, Tibet and wetting the index fanger in order to see which way the wind blows) and then sit in the stands and cover your eyes (in this case you just sweat out another landing).

HOPE YOU ALL ENJOY!

* * *

HMM \$\$\$???

So - Ma Bell: (512) 854-3552 -- ring ring.

"Hello, this is Harley Vaughn, President, Major Domo and otherwise Head Snort of the 82nd Fighter Group Association. How can I help you?"

"Whoops, I think I have the wrong number."

"For whom were you looking?"

"The Bank of England."

"How much money do you want now, Lingenfelter?"

"A thousand buckeroos!"

"Good Lord, what in the *#@!% for?"

"Well, I thought I'd like to fly down to Vegas, fight the one-armed bandits, play a bit of Keno, watch the dancing girls and otherwise play around a bit."

"Oh! Well that sounds OK -- I thought you wanted to put out another one of those crumby newsletters!"

* * *

cut along this line

THINK DAYTON

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

TWELFTH REUNION + + + 82ND FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION

DAYTON, OHIO

SEPT. 14, 15, 16, 17 & 18, 1988

Your name Alan Medley (we have your address on the back) Ph # (405) 751 - 4929

I plan to attend ✓ with spouse ✓ and/or guests (no.) _____

I will ✓ will not _____ stay at the Stouffer Dayton Plaza Hotel

My arrival date and time will be Sept 13th, 1988 Departure Sept 17, 1988

My probability of attending is: A) Almost certain ✓; B) 50/50 _____; and C) There may be some unavoidable circumstances _____. It is highly important for us to know your hard plans because we must make certain financial commitments so please if there are changes in your plans by Sept. 1, let me (Dixie) know right away.

For those of you who do not drive, arrangements have been made with the Beaver Travel Bureau, Inc. using Delta Airlines as far as possible. For those of you that are not served by Delta, Beaver will obtain the best rate possible for you. Contact Beaver Travel Bureau agents Mary Lee Huffman or Sharon Stebbins at 1-800-227-6156.

All Reunion Chairmen come up short of volunteers so please indicate here how you would like to help us run the smoothest reunion yet: Bar _____, Registration _____, Message Center _____, Memento Room _____, Auto errands _____, Pickup errands _____, Body Guard for Harley _____, Other _____.

Send this, without delay, to DIXIE SLOAN, 3301 US 35 East, XENIA, OH 45384.

82ND FG ASSOCIATION
BY-LAWS

You may not be aware of it but we have a very fine set of By-Laws, copies of which should be in the possession of every red-blooded, American 82nd FG Assoc. member.

These By-Laws were prepared by Ralph Embrey and are available upon request from the miserable office of the Newsletter Editor. Be ye therefore, loyal troopers, sufficiently advised.

-- RL

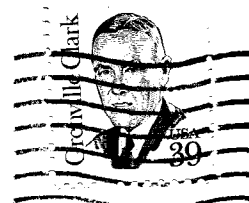
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More



82ND FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
P.O. Box 5541, Boise, ID 83705

FIRST CLASS



OLEN MEDLEY
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OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73120

