

THE ASHEVILLE A C K A C K !

NUMBER 1

82ND FIGHTER GROUP REUNION NEWS

SEPT. 19-23, 1990

MARCH AFB SUES 82nd FOR LARSONY

JUST KIDDING, OF COURSE. THE COPY OF AN ITEM TAKEN FROM THE AUGUST ISSUE OF THE AIR FORCE MAGAZINE WILL SHOW OUR AUGUST ISSUE OF THE 82ND'S NEWSLETTER WAS IN ERROR IN STATING THAT BOB HOPE'S VISIT TO THE 96TH SQUADRON IN GLENDALE DURING THE SUMMER OF '42 WAS HIS FIRST SUCH.

STEVE BLAKE, THE 82ND ASSOCIATION'S HISTORIAN, CAUGHT THE ITEM THE SAME DAY HE RECEIVED OUR NEWSLETTER.

WE HAVE SENT A COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER, ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADMISSION OF ERROR, TO MR. HOPE.

* * *

THE NAME TAGS

Chuck Luke, 97th pilot from Bellevue, Washington, put the Reunion name tags together with the Erector Set his dad gave him for Christmas, 1943! Not kidding this time.

Actually, he did each one by hand with the crayons he saved from kiddiegarten.

Well anyway, he DID use one of his childhood (second) toys to furnish us with the uniquely excellent name tags you see pinned on 82nd Alumni who (also in their second childhood) play with other assorted toys.

(cont. on page 3)

WELCOME To Our Town

Ginny, I and the rest of our family wish to extend the warmest of welcomes to our 82nd friends. We are proud of our home country here in Western North Carolina and are also proud to have all of you as our guests.

In planning the activities and programs we have tried to consider all of your needs and desires and to properly fulfill our responsibilities as Reunion Hosts and we trust that no unseen problems will arise to spoil any happy times.

This is not a cop-out, but we are human and fully aware of the sneaky power of Murphy's Law - so, if something breaks, comes apart or gets lost, please don't hesitate to locate one of us and ask for help.

One more thing, Ginny and I have our kids helping us here in Asheville and I don't want to hear anything from the "loud mouth" from the west!

* * *

CHARLIE

* * * * *
* The Charlton's daughter-in-
* law
* S A N D I hand-
* lettered the Name Tags.
* * * * *

CHARLIE'S ORDERS FOR THE DAYS

SQUADRON PICTURES

Squadron pictures, in color, will be taken in front of the Biltmore House immediately upon leaving the bus. To facilitate the picture taking, it is recommended that the 95th get on the first bus, the 96th the second - and so on (HQ may ride on the first bus and, as they will also be included in our pictures, ladies and other guests may ride with their favorite squadrons.

X X X X X

AT THE BILTMORE HOUSE

As you enter the Biltmore House, and present your ticket, you will be given a small brochure that briefly (and very briefly) highlights the house tour. From our experience it is recommended you purchase the colorful magazine that has a picture of each room and lists its contents.

The Biltmore House has an elevator between the first and second floors - but not to the basement or to the recently opened third floor.

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REUNION SOUVENIRS

A Reunion Souvenir will be furnished to each person who has paid the registration fee. Extras are available at cost (\$4).

X * X * X * X * X * X

At The Deerpark Lunch

An announcement will be made that a bus will take members, who don't wish to make the winery visit, directly back to the hotel.

X X X X X

CRADLE OF FORESTRY

Because of the time limitations on the buses, the Cradle of Forestry Tour will not stop at the Folk Art Center.

The Registration Desk will be glad to take names of members for a Saturday Visit of the Folk Art Center. Also, maps are available to drivers of private autos who would be willing to take members with them.

The Folk Art Center is less than 20 minutes from the hotel.

Jo Ann Lingenfelter was there about ten years ago and might answer some questions - and, then again, she might not!

X X X X X

BETTER

Wear comfortable walking shoes for the Biltmore Estate Tour.

READ

Please Please Please Please
Please Please Please Please
p L E S E

Present all tickets at scheduled events!!!

YOU WON'T HAVE TIME TO RUN BACK TO YOUR ROOM FOR THEM!

Charlie Huan Sing Lo Say: "No Tickee, No Bussie, No Eatee!"

MY

LIPS

!!!

ver And Out

Since the mailing of the last Newsletter we have had three deaths in the 82nd Family. Presently, we have no details other than what you read below:

THOMAS DONOHOO

Tommy, a 96th pilot from Ozark, Alabama, fell about a month ago and broke a hip. The word we received was that the injury required surgery and it was feared such was dangerous because of Tommy's emphysema. At first it appeared things were going well following the surgery but about a week later we learned of Tommy's death.

Ruth and Tommy have been faithful attendees to almost all of our Reunions and we got to know Tommy as a friendly guy who was always smiling despite physical discomforts.

Many of you out there have been the recipients of "get well" cards from Ruth & Tommy as they have learned of your hurts and illnesses from the newsletters and other sources.

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with Bill prior to the Dayton Reunion (he lived just outside Dayton) and he said, "I'm not interested in the past; I'm only interested in the future."

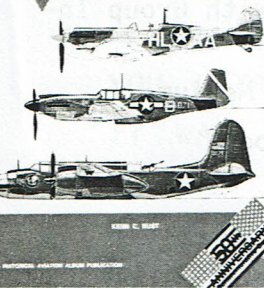
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Jack Duncan & I (Ol' Dick) chatted about the dearth of information we're still lacking about the fate of so many of our guys that stormed back to the States in '45 and resumed new lives. Browsing through the 97th's '44 Roster that Jack sent me recently, I came across the name of John Batie (a pilot) of Nampa, Idaho. I consulted my phone book and found a Batie listed. A niece of John's told me John died about 12 years ago in Placerville, California.

This plea stands repeating over and over again: "Please, if you learn of illness injury or death of any of your former comrades, please notify your Squadron Rep or an Association officer."

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TWELFTH AIR FORCE STORY



12th & 15th Air Force Story Published

This book, by Kenn Rust, presents a detailed historic overview in both text and photographs of the respective Air Force to include coverage of the men, units, and aircraft involved. Missions are highlighted and detailed aircraft group markings, nose art and insignia are portrayed. Text is very detailed. This book was originally published in the '70s and received international critical acclaim. Due to public demand and to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of WWII, this book has just been republished in the original format. A 50th Anniversary Commemorative logo has been added to the lower right front cover. Full color softbound cover, 8 1/2" x 11", 64 pages, 100+ photos, maps, charts, listings. Comprehensive. Only \$15.95 plus \$2.50 shipping. Specify which Air Force book. Order from SunShine House, Inc., P.O. Box 2065, Terre Haute, IN 47802 or call 1-800-999-0141 with VISA or MC.

FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE STORY



HAROLD B. PHILLIPS

We have no particulars. Jack Duncan received the news from Cal Wilson. Harold hadn't been to any of our reunions but has been a supporter of the Association with dues through the years.

*

WILLIAM T. VANTREASE

Again, we have no particulars. The information came to us from Charlton. Bill was one of the original S/Sgt. pilots and was in the 96th.

The 96th Victory Board shows three swastikas alongside Vantrease's name. I had a chat

(more Chuckles)

When we interviewed Chuck while preparing for this piece he said, "I owe all my success in life, including college, an exacting career in nuclear physics, convincing my beautiful wife to keep me around, and other accomplishments of considerable note, to the matchless guidance and discipline I received while trapped in that little blue airplane located in the run-down building at the north end of Foggia 11's landing strip."

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AVIATION CADET ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Harry C. Bradshaw, RFD 1, Newmarket, NH 03857
Robert C. White, 54 Seton Trail, Ormond Beach, FL 32176

The non-profit, no-dues Aviation Cadet Alumni Association was created to provide ex-cadets the current addresses of former classmates. Former pilot cadets are invited to submit their Flight Class and Primary, Basic and Advance schools to either Harry Bradshaw or Bob White. Both retired officers maintain identical files. A printout of members thus far located is available by flight class to those who include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

PAUL KIMMEL

Walter Heck keeps track of Paul which is how come we know Paul has had some rough health problems (mostly of the plumbing variety). Paul is now on the mend but he said not enough to allow him to travel to Charltonland. When we asked him about Denver he said "Absolutely".

We lost track of Paul because he didn't let us know he had moved from Sebring, FL to Ironton, MO.

* * *

On The Way To Bremerton A Funny Thing Happened

I drove right by Joe Stanovich's RV Park

We were on our way north on I-5 from Portland to visit daughter Mary north of Seattle and decided to take the long cut around the west side of Puget Sound to see if we could find Bob Randall in Bremerton. We did and had a long five minute talk with him between patients at his Vision Clinic. That was pleasant. He said he'd had a visit from Ray Neameyer (also a former 97th pilot from North Dakota (our only member from that state) only the week before.

On the way back to Boise we drove through the gorgeous North Cascades National Park and came out at the little town of Twisp on the east side of those towering mountains. I stopped and asked someone where Greg Stanovich lived and a few minutes

later I found out I had driven right by Joe's RV Park, just off of I-5 in Longview, WA.

Now they tell me!

* * *

Jackets & T-Shirts

JACKETS

Gold: 1 Medium, 1 Large, 3 Ex Large

These are plain with Group Insignia on the back

Blue (95th) 2 Small, 3 Medium

Green (96th) None in stock

Red (97th) 1 Small

T-SHIRTS

95th - 1 Small, 96th - none

97th - 1 Small, 2 Medium

Prices: Jackets - \$16 ea.
T-Shirts - \$7 ea.

Reprints Of Newsletter Cover (82nd Insignia)

We have about 100 of these which the printer made extra for us. They will be \$2 ea. (if you think that's too high, make it \$1.95). Proceeds will go into the history fund.

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A JUNE 28TH, 1984 LETTER TO RALPH EMBREY
FROM JOHN T. UPTON, 78-30 81ST STREET, GLENDALE, NY 11385

DEAR RALPH,

YOU DON'T KNOW ME, OR DO I KNOW YOU, BUT I'M SURE WE MUST HAVE SEEN EACH OTHER'S PLANES OVER NORTH AFRICA OR ITALY.

I WAS A BOMARDIER ON A B-17 FROM THE 301ST BOMB GROUP - 32ND SQUADRON. I JOINED THE GROUP IN MOROCCO AND LEFT IT NEAR FOGGIA 47 MISSIONS LATER AFTER A DIP IN THE ADRIATIC.

IN THE MAY ISSUE OF "SORTIE", THE 15TH AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION'S PUBLICATION, THERE IS A RUN-DOWN OF YOUR 82ND GROUP'S RAID ON FOGGIA. IT WAS GREAT!

WE HAD BOMBED FOGGIA A FEW TIMES AND, WHILE WE KNOCKED OUT THE MARSHALLING YARDS, WE DIDN'T DO MUCH TO WEAKEN THEIR AIRFIELDS OR PLANES.

WHEN WE HEARD ABOUT THE JOB YOU PEASHOOTERS DID ON FOGGIA EVERY ONE IN MY SQUADRON TALKED ABOUT IT FOR DAYS AND HOW GREAT A JOB YOU GUYS DID. OF COURSE THE LANDING AT SALERNO BENEFITTED FROM IT A GREAT DEAL AND I'M SURE THE GUYS FROM THE 3RD INFANTRY DIVISION WOULD HAVE THANKED YOU FOR THAT GREAT, MOST IMPORTANT JOB.

AND EVEN THOUGH IT'S 41 YEARS TOO LATE, I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU LITTLE BROTHERS FOR THE MANY TIMES WE HAD YOU AS AN ESCORT. IT WAS ALWAYS GREAT TO HEAR AT A BRIEFING THAT WE GOT A P-38 ESCORT. EITHER YOUR GROUP, THE 1ST FIGHTER OR THE 14TH. SOMETIMES WE WERE TOLD WE WOULDN'T HAVE ANY ESCORT AS WE WERE ASSIGNED THE 99TH BOMB GROUP. THEY NEVER SHOWED UP AND WE DIDN'T EXPECT THEM TO.

PRACTICALLY ALL OF OUR PILOTS AND CREWS WISHED THEY WERE FIGHTER PILOTS AND OUR HEARTS AND GOOD WISHES WERE ALWAYS WITH YOU GUYS. ONE THING - WE NEVER HAD TO WORRY IF A P-38 WAS A BOGIE OR A BANDIT. ANYONE COULD IDENTIFY A P-38 -- EXCEPT FOR THE TIME AN ITALIAN MAJOR - FLYING A CAPTURED P-38 - JOINED A B-17 GROUP AND DID SOME DAMAGE BEFORE HE WAS SHOT DOWN.

WE ALWAYS FELT LIKE BIG BROTHERS WHEN A 38 WITH AN ENGINE OUT - OR OTHER BATTLE DAMAGE - WOULD JOIN OUR FORMATION FOR PROTECTION AND THEN WAGGLE ITS WINGS WHEN IT SPLIT FOR HOME.

MY AFFECTION WILL ALWAYS BE WITH OUR LITTLE BROTHERS AND THEIR PEA SHOOTERS!

John T. Upton