

THE 82ND FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Sept. 1994

BOISE, IDAHO

No. 31

NORMANDY R e v i s i t e d by Ralph Embrey

You mentioned in your last newsletter that you thought Meredith and I had gone to the D-Day + 50 Celebration and you were right. We went with the 474th Fighter Group (P-38s) Association (*Ed's note: Ralph joined the 474th Group after finishing his 50 with the 82nd -- becoming a Squadron C.O. and then Group Ops*). We had gone over in June of '84 and visited all the bases we had flown from in '44 & '45 and we made the same trip in June of '94.

The people were equally as hospitable in '94 as they were in '84. We were welcomed, thanked and were showered with gifts at every stop.

At the first town (where we had had an airstrip) the entire village turned out to meet us as they had in '84. When I got off the bus a little six year old boy asked me for my autograph. When I signed his card he got hold of my tie, pulled me over and kissed me on both cheeks. I was disappointed that we didn't get a picture of him as that was representative of the way we were treated at each stop.

I think there was a greater effort to welcome the veterans this time than in 84. We had much better seating arrangements - particularly for those who had participated on D-Day. We had special badges which were given special attention by the security people. Reagan gave a much better speech than did Clinton.

We started out in London and ended up in Berlin with stops in Paris, Brussels, Cologne, Frankfurt, Munich, Erfurt and several villages at which we had had air strips. East Berlin is bustling with activity to make it equal to West Berlin and we stayed in a beautiful hotel in East Berlin on Alexander Platz which was *T H E* place before the war. We stopped in Erfurt, to visit one of the bases - Langensalza.

We had the opportunity to visit with a couple of Luftwaffe pilots that had flown F-109s during the war. They were our age and were very cordial and complimentary of the way America had helped Germany after the war. One of the pilots, Gerhard Hanf, had shot down a P-38 and -- *t h e n* -- had been shot down by a P-38 over Sardinia -- perhaps by an 82nd pilot. We invited them to have dinner with us and had a conversation with them for about three hours. *Quite interesting!*



WOODY IS LEAVING SEATTLE ON SEPT. 21 FOR GAY PAREE

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PREXY'S SPOT -- VIA MA BELL

George called mostly to just touch base and to find out how he could help. We discussed minuscule matters that pertain mostly to administrative items which aren't exactly hot news.

He did come up with something that will be of interest to **MOST** of our members and this is what he said, "Tell our people that Hank Phillips (96th pilot) has invited our Association to Ft. Walton Beach, Florida for our 1995 Reunion and he has already secured the first week in October in the event that no one comes up with a better proposal at our business meeting in San Angelo.

"I'm excited about this one, Dick," he said.

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OL' DICK'S TWO CENTS

This Newsletter was initially intended to give moral support to 1) Monty Bardwell (remember him) and 2) to those of our members who have become confused and discouraged regarding certain aspects of our visit to San Angelo.

We hope the revue and the enclosed simplified form will make things easier for you. If you still have questions please call us at (208) 344-7742. Don't call Monty unless you are desperate - he's busy wrestling a mess of alligators.

Regarding our Poet Laureate -- please know we twisted his arm about printing "February Twenty Seventh". We just happened to think it is super!

Martin Collis told us of G.T. Lewis's loss of his wife Jackie this past July. She had been G.T.'s childhood sweetheart and they had been married for 51 years. Don Correa (96th pilot) told us that Fred Klotzer had died of a heart attack.

For all of you who assisted with the purchase of Heinz's printer, please know we're gradually learning its vicissitudes.

Finally, please know we are awfully proud of being an 82nder!

LATE NEWS FROM THE REUNION ROOM

REGISTRATION:

We have been getting some flak from some unhappy campers regarding registration procedures at San Angelo's H O L I D A Y I N N. To see if we can get a little order out of some chaos we called the hotel this afternoon (August 29) and tried to get some what fors. Here is what we learned:

1. Anjanette is the hotel's new Registration Manager and has been on the job for only ten days. She was under the impression that the group coming in on Oct. 5 was the 82nd Fire Squadron!! She now knows better.

2. We told Anjanette that a number of our members had successfully registered at her hotel but a sizable number of others were confused and displeased with the service they had received when they had tried to register. We told her they need to know perzackly what to do because they all want to get to the hotel so they can tell more lies to more of their old buddies. (We actually didn't try to throw that old bull around -- but she now knows how we feel)

3. Anjanette told us that:

- a. When our members call the hotel's number (915) 658-2828 they will get the front desk and they should ask the desk clerk for Anjanette or for Elma -- or if neither answers the member should leave a message on her answering machine by mentioning the 82nd and leaving a phone #.
- b. She promised she would call back if you couldn't reach her. Call us (Dickie) if you can't get through to her.

Listen to old Dickie and don't try to use the Holiday Inn's 800 number. You will only be told that the San Angelo Holiday Inn is booked up and it won't do any good for you to identify yourself as an 82nd person. How do we know this? We tried it. Incidentally, seeins how we are a bit nosey, we checked around for comparables and the \$62.15 per day for the room is more than fair. It includes tax and we usually have that added on in most of the places we've stayed. We asked if they would install a special elevator which would have a "*kickable door*", but they demured.

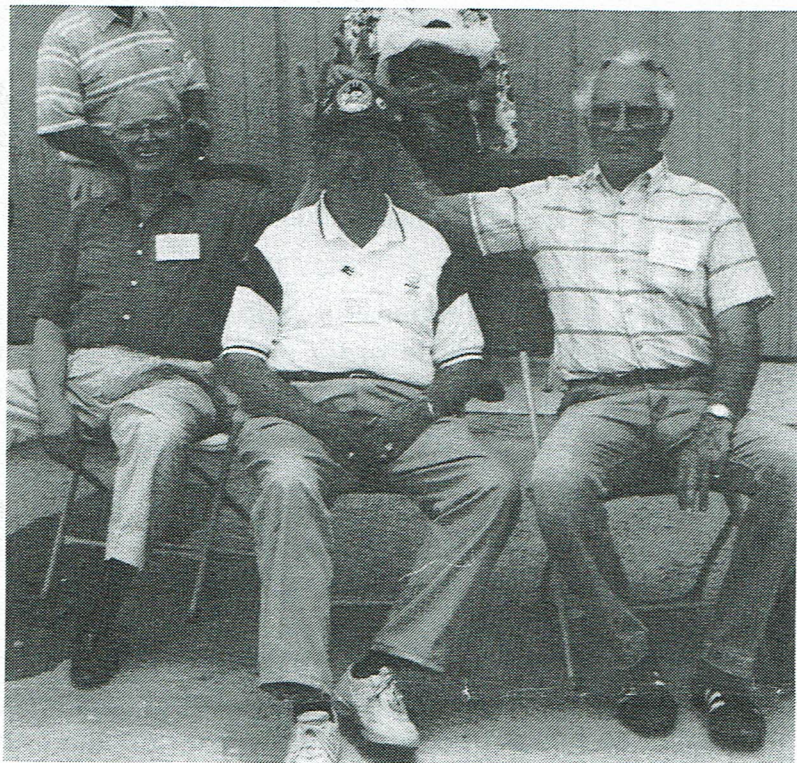
THERE IS LOTS OF ROOM IN THE INN YET

(And remember this -- If you don't go to San Angelo we'll be plenty ticked)!

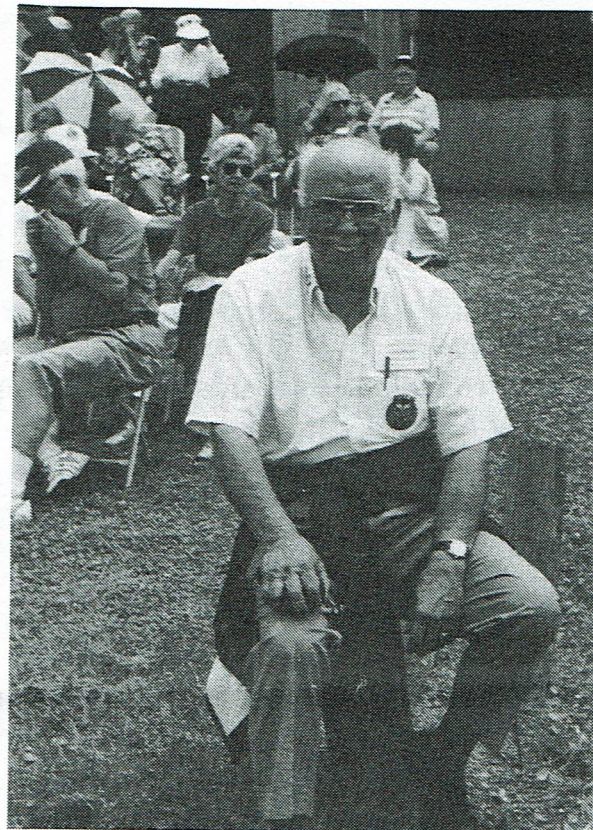
A FEW MORE BRILLIANT LITTLE TIPS:

Monty says that the \$50 Registration Fee is per person! Monty also says that if you have a refund coming he will take it out of Betty's purse!! He's a pretty slick guy.

(Continued on Page 6)



Ralph Embrey at the Lone Star Museum of Flight with his two henchmen, "Slick" Morgan (97th) on the left & "Bugsy" Sidwell (95) on the right.



Our Prexy, George Marvin (waiting for Lefty's "White Lightning" at the Museum of Flight in Galveston, Texas.



Oscar (97th) and Ruth Poindexter at home in North Carolina. Oscar was an operator at the 82nd's homer station (Backgear).



Millard and Ollie Stroope (Jo Ann L. is at the left) at home in Riverside, Calif. Millard was a pilot in the 96th & was shot down on his 11th mission in Yugo.

THE "WOODY" HOWARD STORY -- In Case you Haven't Heard

To be perfectly frank with you, we're not exactly sure how or where to plug you into this amazing story. How about an item by item synopsis for starters? O.K?

1. We received a letter late last year from Serge Blandin of Lyon, France asking if we had any record of a pilot by the name of "Howard" who was shot down on the August 13 mission over Southern France.

2. We first looked in our copy of "ADORIMINI" and, sure enough, we found the story of Elwood Howard's misfortune on page 203. He got caught by a piece of flak and bailed out -- but not before he had been seriously burned. He was rescued and hidden by the French Maquis (an underground resistant group), was treated by a French physician and was returned to us two weeks later.

3. We wrote to Serge and filed the story in the Nove.'93 Newsletter. Bob Hildebrandt replied that Elwood was one of his pals and that he and some other friends of Woody's went to the Army Hospital in Bari and found Woody not too sprightly (see page 16 of the Mar. '94 Newsletter). Bob mentioned that Woody had lived in La Grange, Maine before the war.

4. We soon received a phone call from Charlie Horne (97th) of Milo, Maine (which is a few miles from La Grange. "Dick," Charlie said, "I know Elwood's kinfolk and I think he lives out west somewhere and as soon as I can get ahold of one of the, I'll get you his exact location.

5. This turned out to be Yakima, Washington where we found him, talked to him on the phone and found he'd be interested to visit the folks who had rescued him. However, he indicated he couldn't afford to spring for his air fare. "Woody," we said, "Would you mind if our 82nd guys helped?" His answer was tentative but he agreed. Now you are up to speed.

We next harkened back to our "Lightning Lady" & "Adorimini " fund raising days and hurriedly conjured up a \$ pleading letter and mailed it to a list of 150 82nd members selected at Random (we could have selected them at Joe's Corner Bar, you know). We asked only for \$5 from each mailee -- reasoning that if all responded we would then have enough for Woody's round trip air fare. The response has been most encouraging with many respondees saying that they appreciated having been included in this grandiose and exciting adventure for Woody (not leaving out, of course, the folks in France who want to see him). We therefore certainly do not wish to exclude those of you who did not receive our "Pleading Letter." If you would wish your name to be included along with those who have responded to the letter, please feel free to send us \$5 (no more-no less) and address it to Ol' Dick, P.O. Box 5541, BOISE, ID 83705.

(Continued on next page)

Something Woody would like to do for the folks who have invited him to visit and who are planning to fete him royally, is to bring some sort of presentation to give them that would be appropriate for the occasion. We have given this some thought and some ideas include: 1) Copies of Adorimini, 2) A nice, quality picture of a P-38, 3) A table model of a P-38 and 4) Any other P-38 items such as caps, pins, etc. Funds (minimal) for the purchase of these items would be furnished by monies (if any) left in the "Woody Fund" in excess of the air fare costs. Responses to date indicate that there will be an excess.,

Now, my friends, why all the fuss??? Woody is not only "Woody" but he is all of us who could have been Woody in his situation but for the fateful toss of a coin. Ol' Dick could have been the P-38 pilot that day and Woody could have been the crabby old Up-Chuck Operator. But it was Woody who took the rap and was the stand-in for all the rest of us. And again, the Maquis could have said, "Oh, let the Krauts have him." Instead they put their own lives on the line in rescuing him, hiding him, tending his wounds and then returning him to us.

Finally, all of us will be flying across the drink, with Woody, and meeting old heroes in Paris for an exciting and dramatic reenactment of an old remembrance. There have been many notes included with donations to the "Woody Fund" which say, in effect, "God Speed, Woody, and have a good trip.

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Monty also wants to make it clear that all other prices quoted will include tax and tip and are PER PERSON! Monty also said that the Pinsons and the Ostroniks -- with their supervisory instincts --(WOW) -- will be assisting during the Reunion.

Monty wanted to be sure that the golfer's \$50 green fee also includes a cart.

We hope that with this little dissertation, "*The lost and noble art of Reunion Attending*" can again be revived -- in force -- by the Cats, The Rabbits and dem Bones -- in Old San Angelo!

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IN MEMORIAM

Jackie Lewis, Wife of G.T. Lewis (July 29, 1994)

Fred Klotzer, 96th Pilot (Sometime in 1993)

SOME 82nd ONE LINERS FROM HERE & YON

Those of us who are close to the inner working of the 82nd's heirarchy now and then receive info regarding the Association's financial health. It is our privilege, therefore to advise you that your august group is \$16,517.19 worth of healthy. We also have 468 members. Pretty cool, n'est ce pas?

Somebody out thar questioned our use of the term "bobbed wire", "It should be "barbed wire", he said. Well y'all, we worked for a number of yars out in the boonies for the Forst Sarviss and the Sol Conservation Sarviss and we got plumb tuckered out of climmen through or over those there cussed bobbed wire fences. So we'all asked we'all's selves, "Selves," we said, "Is we all tarred of those consarned bobbed wire fences?" We answered, "We shore is, buddy," so we went out and bought ourselves a dadburned old typewriter. You know, podner, some of us never can get thangs wright!

Through the good offices of Woody Howard we were able to find former 95th Pilot John Girling and wrote to him as directed by Robert Hildebrandt. We have had no response regarding his interest in the Association.

Have had some nice correspondence from Martin Collis. He has paid up his dues and purchased some copies of "ADORMINI" so apparently he's found a new source of energy. Do you suppose it could be a new plastic heart valve?

We received a nice note from John and Lee Urech (96th & H.Q.) They are struggling with the viscissitudes of the aging process and it has hit them a lot harder than it has the rest of us..

The Ted Lattas (Dorothy, daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter) picked up and left their good old palace on the shores of the blissful St. Clair River for the more healthful climes of Columbus, Indiana. Since the air polutants in Michigan were exacerbating an already acute asthma condition suffered by the family it was necessary to find a location that would have clean air. Ted says they already feel better.

We receive many (really) questions about the state of health of several of our comrades. One of these is Jerry Loewenberg and it our good fortune to have a pretty good pipeline to Jerry. Yesterday (August 27) -- while feeling sort of low -- we took advantage of said line and called. Sure enough, during the process of inquiring about his situation, we began to feel better. Jerry hurts but one would not guess such because he seems to us to be the same Jerry we met ten years ago in Denver. Jerry calls Harley almost daily and yesterday was one of these. He said Harley sounds cheerful and upbeat but is now back in the hospital in Corpus Chrisiti. There's not much more to be said. Tom Kelly is home as there is nothing more that can be done with his brain tumor. He is semi-conscious. Jerry, of course, is worried about his Pat. She has vertigo which sharply limits her activities. The doctors can't find a cause or a treatment. This is as good a place as any to print the following (a retypeof a V-Mail letter that Jerry sent to his wife Pat): *(See back page)*

SOME TWO LINERS: Some more items regarding this NL -- There are many things that have been left out. Your excellent and newsy letters - for example. They will just have to wait until the November Newsletter. The "THE BAND AID DEPARTMENT" is another. We know there are aches and pains out there and we hear of some -- but there's so many other things that consume valuable time. We keep asking for someone to keep track of "Aches & Pains" for us (could someone volunteer?) You should know that Francis Chapman (96th Rep) was elected Pres. of the California Chapter of the Air Force Association. Let's hear a HUZZA! We have also learned that Lefty Gardner is folding his wings after the Reno Air Races. He will park (we think) "White Lightning" in Palm Springs.

FEBRUARY TWENTY SEVENTH 1944

BY JEROME L. LOWENBERG

The 82nd Fighter Group's Poet Laureate

*This, Patsy is your birthday, and I'm far at sea,
Not knowing when you'll get this note, nor where I then shall be,
But know this, dear: My thoughts will be, then, as they are now,
On you, and Bruce, and of our home. On this I take a vow.*

*'Tis not that I would come back home before this job is done.
I'd rather never see you both, than have this war unwon
By men who feel with all their hearts that righteousness is might,
And not contrariwise - 'gainst whom we fight,*

*This won't be any picnic, but the high price we pay
We'll gladly give to thus assure the coming of the day
When rightful victory is ours, and oppression is supplanted
By blessings which in peacetime we always took for granted.*

*Though oft I've written you before, it's never been in rhyme,
But today is so propitious - why wait another time?
So please give Bruce a kiss for me, and know that till the Dove
Of Peace shall freely fly again, you'll both have all my love.*

Jerry

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We have received a request from Col. R. Neher, HQ 12th AF (ACC), DAVIS-MONTHAN AFB. Col. Neher is looking for any kind of memento that would relate to the 82nd's Tour with the Twelfth that the current possessor would be willing to donate to the 12th AF Museum. His address is: H.Q. Twelfth Air Force, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ.

We recently received an invitation to subscribe to "THE STARS and STRIPES". It is a weekly newspaper in much the same format which we loved so much. I don't know if it would still have Willy & Joe or not but it is a creditable publication. The price is \$19 per year and you can send your check to John Carroll, Editor, at P.O. Box 1803, Washington, DC 20013. Mention you read about it in the 82nd FG Association Newsletter.

Olen - That's a good story. I'll try to use it in 2002 NL. Olen - I'm trying to cut back if I can. This issue has driven me to the wall. ~~There all is well. Dick~~