

82ND FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 31, 1995

ISSUE 33

WELCOME TO SANDESTIN RESORT

Oct. 4 thru 8, 1995

(Hank & Marlene Phillips, Host & Hostess)

Hank says about THE INN -- "I have looked at the rooms and found them First Rate (\$64/ night) and the Hospitality Room will be on the 1st Floor overlooking the water's edge of Choctowhatchee Bay and the adjacent patio, gazebo and swimming pool.

Marlene says about golf -- "Hank picked out a neat golf course right adjacent to the Resort so no van rides guys & gals. Too bad, hunh?"

Hank says about Friday -- "I had a talk with Lt. Col. Bob Edmonds (95th FTS C.O.) and, with the usual 95th hospitality, we will have an interesting afternoon at Tyndall AFB on Friday with a barbeque (or maybe a steak fry) in the evening.

Marlene says about to-dos -- "There are zillions of fascinating things to do with your leisure time -- like museums in Pensacola, a "Climatic Hangar" at Eglin, and an Indian Mound. Shuttle buses will be running around all over the place.

Hank says about transportation -- "An Amtrak stop is only 25 miles away and, with proper notice, the Inn will come and fetch you. (Note: John Kostyo has already contacted me about this and perhaps others will want to look into it) Flyers should consider booking your flights to Eglin/Okaloosa County Airport (25 minutes from the Inn). Car rentals are available. Motor homes must be parked some distance from the Inn.

Quoth Both Marlene & Hank -- "We will do our best to get out a firm schedule in plenty of time to be of use to our members for their 1995 plans.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

GEORGE MARVIN
P.O. Box 45
Sedgwick, ME 04676

VICE PRESIDENT

CHARLIE CHARLTON
3225 Debbie Dr.
Hendersonville, NC 28739

SECRETARY/TREASURER

ROY E. NORRIS
6636 Plantation Way
Cincinnati, OH 45224

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

HARLEY C. VAUGHN

- - -

HEADQUARTERS

JERRY LOEWENBERG
4917 Ravenswood Dr. #1719
San Antonio, TX 78227

95th SQUADRON

OLEN MEDLEY
12001 Camelot Ct.
Oklahoma City, OK 73130

96th SQUADRON

FRANCIS CHAPMAN
529 Archer St.
Monterey, CA 93940

97th SQUADRON

JACK DUNCAN
309 Pecan Dr.
Schertz, TX 78154

- - -

ROSTER

CHUCK LUKE
4600 118 S' E'
Bellevue, WA 98006

MISSING IN ACTION, LT. RAY ALLEN, 95TH FTR. SQ.

On June 26, 1944, Lt. Ray Allen of the 95th lifted off the Vincenzo #11 airfield of the 82nd FTR. GRP. for his 48th mission. This was to be an escort of heavy bombers to Vienna, Austria. Some thirty miles east-southeast of the target some 40 Luftwaffe aircraft intercepted the P-38 escorts and an air battle ensued for about 20 minutes. Two P-38s did not rejoin the escort squadron. One of the missing pilots believed to be Lt. Ray Allen, radioed he was having low fuel problems. No more was heard from him. The other missing pilot, Lt. Allen Wisner, became a POW.

A Czechoslovakian resident heard a plane overhead, then saw a plane hit power lines and plummet nose first into a marsh just outside of the town of Svaty Jur. The airplane was buried deep in the muck. The German occupation forces told the local residents to leave the plane there, the pilot was obviously dead.

In 1990 the residents of Svaty Jur began to dig at the crash site due to an historic investigation based on documents from the U.S. National Archive which indicated research was being conducted on WW II aerial battles. These documents indicated the pilot was Lt. Ray Allen. Several human bone fragments were recovered and forwarded identified as Lt. Ray Allen to the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii. Aircraft parts, portions of the uniform, flight plan papers and other artifacts were placed on display in the Slovak National Museum. A memorial to Lt. Ray Allen was begun in Svaty Jur.

The family of Ray Allen had no idea of his actual cause of death or what ever. In February 1992 the Mayor of Girard, IL, received a letter from Dr. Jozef Maly, a historian club member in Bratislava, attempting to locate Ray Allen's family. The Mayor called Russell Allen, the known brother of Ray Allen, who then resided in Springfield, IL. Russell then called the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava, the officials were of the impression the family had already been notified.

The Allen family was invited to attend dedication of a memorial for Ray Allen. Russell and seven family members attended the dedication held in Slovakia. After many months had passed the U.S. Army notified the Allen family officially that the human remains found at the crash site were Ray Allen's. There was much correspondence between the Allen family and the Pentagon regarding identification and notifying the family of the crash site pilot's identity.

Lt. Ray Allen's remains were buried Jan. 21, 1995, in Girard, IL. The state of Illinois flew the United States flags at half mast. The U.S. Army furnished a Color Guard, Pall Bearers, and a Firing Squad. At 1:05PM a flight of three Air Force jet fighters flew over the grave site in the missing man formation. The 82nd was represented by Olen Medley, Bruce Loewenberg, Allen Wisner and Roy Norris. Allen Wisner was the other 95th pilot to be shot down with Ray Allen, he became a P.O.W.

Lt. Ray Allen continued

The Mayor of Svaty Jur, Ivan Ebringer, and an attorney Dr. Josef Maly from Bratislava were in attendance as well as the Mayor of Girard. A Mrs. Helen Cherry sat down next to my wife Jo Ann while we were eating lunch after the funeral. She began to tell Jo Ann her story. Her first husband was a pilot in the 82nd. Lt. Edgar L. Weddle. He was shot down into the Mediterranean in May of 1943.

The History Inc. donated books to Russell Allen, his sister, Mrs. Helen Cherry and Ivan Ebringer. Several people requested to purchase the books but not having any more at hand, the books were mailed after returning home.

Olen Medley had received video copies of the recovery of Ray Allen's remains and the aircraft. The video will be shown at Sandestin.

The Girard cemetery was a small town size. It was filled with friends, relatives and representatives from the many veterans organizations from the surrounding communities.

The recognition and ceremony was a tremendous demonstration for the return of the WW II veteran Lt. Ray Allen!

- - -

THE MILITARY ESCORT

Major Thomas Cunningham, C A O
Captain Adam Grijalva, Escort Officer
Captain Marsha Hansen, Flag Presenter

SPC Jeffry A. Scott	Funeral Detail
SSG Johnny D. Jones	" "
SSG Laura Roper	" "
SPC Wendell W. Benjamin	" "
SPC Michael C. Deblasi	" "
SPC Alexander Rodriguez	" "
PFC Ricky D. Morgan	" "
SGT Edwin E. Bowen Jr.	" "
SGT Joey W. Ellis	Bugler
SGT Rex Ramsey	Funeral Detail
SGT Reginald A. Rolle	" "

NEW MEMBERS

Burgess, William H. (Eleanor) 96
1300 S' AlA #218 (407) 746-9398
Jupiter, FL 33477

FitzGibbons, George T. (Harriet) 96
2934 NY RT 26 (607) 862-3809
Olen Aubrey, NY 13777

Wisner, Allen (Marian) 95
3775 Ashley (616) 897-6145
Lowell, MI 48331

Arndt, David 97
14019 Cleobrook
Houston, TX 77070

Van Camp, Jack Assoc.
14 Elysium Dr.
Ely, NV 89301

IN MEMORIAM

Brown, Harold	1/ /95	95
Haw, Marvin T. Jr.		HQ
Holm, Art O.	10/18/94	96
Jackson, Charles D.		96
Jaske, Joe		ASSOC.
Klotzer, Fred	/93	96
Latta, Ted	1/ 1/95	96
Plume, Howard R.	8/ /94	97
Rizzo, Albert		97

IN MEMORIAM SPOUSES

Henderson, Betty (Dexter)	95
Lewis, Jackie (G. T.)	97
Roy, Jeanne (Ellis)	96
Valliere, Claire (Paul)	96
Thompson, Jane (Hugh)	95

— — —

The history of the expeditions that attempted and with final success to recover a P-38F from the Greenland glacier is available in a hard back book. Titled "The Lost Squadron" by David Hayes. Contact Bob Cardin, Project Manager, P38F Lightning Restoration, PO Box 776, Middlesboro, KY 40965. Ccst \$40 plus \$4.50 handling and shipping.

SPECIAL NOTES

Lingenfelter

Gardners P-38 White Lightning

Lingenfelter was informed by Mrs. Willsie that Dick was at March Field to find a place to park Lefty Gardners White P-38. The Lightning cannot be parked in the military hanger if it has fuel in the tanks. The P-38 Association is attempting to procure a spot to erect their own hanger.

— — —

Roy Norris

March 23, 1995

The Air Force Museum, Dayton, Ohio, sponsors special lectures during the year. Our 82nd member Col. Travis Hoover who was the pilot of #2 plane and a Mr. Thomas C. Griffin who was navigator on plane #9 were quest speakers discussed "The Doolittle Toyko Raid". The auditorium was filled to overflowing. The speakers were tremendous! Charlie Charlton and myself attended.

— — —

Lingenfelter

Art Johnson, 97th, noted from a newspaper clipping, that Art Kidder, 96th, had found his P-38 that he had crash landed on an Aleutian Island in February 1945.

— — —

President George Marvin

There has been concern about the association finances. Proposals for an increase of the sustaining dues and an assesment for LIFE dues have been made. The general meeting at the Sandestin, FL reunion will entertain motions in regard to the dues increases.

The 82nd FTR. GRP. Assoc. 1996 reunion will be held in Boston, MA! Chairman George Marvin.!!

SUSTAINING AND LIFE DUES

Regular members: 466

1995 - 39

1996 - 5

1997 - 1

1998 - 1

LIFE - 174

Honorary members: 45

LIFE - 10

Associate members: 30

1995 - 2

LIFE - 1

— — —

CURRENT FINANCES

March 1995, \$ 14,126.34

A number of members have paid \$25 for the annual sustaining dues. Also, a number of LIFE members have paid varying amounts. These members have responded to Lingenfelters last newsletter. I personally thank each one!!

— — —

Roy Norris

The San Angelo mission had not been heard from since the notice of a reunion return of the seed money would be \$800 to \$900. A phone call from George Marvin informed me that Monte Bardwell was in the Intensive Care Unit at a hospital in San Angelo.

Well, on March 8th I could not wait any longer, I called. Monte answered, he had just come home that morning. After Christmas season he began to have speech problems and just generally did not feel well. He progressively felt worse untill his doctor had him hospitalized and placed in the ICU. Diagnosis, approaching a stroke!

Monte is feeling much better but not fully recovered. He said to say Hi! to everyone!

REMEMBER... BRING YOUR NAME TAGS !!

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

1. AIR FORCE ARMAMENT MUSEUM.

Located just outside the west gate of Eglin AFB and 25 miles from Sandestin. Exhibits consist of guns, bombs, rockets and missiles that have been used by US aircraft from WW-1 until modern times. Many of these exhibits were developed and tested at Eglin AFB. The museum has an extensive collection of WW-2 and later aircraft on display (sorry, no P-38 but the Link Trainer will reward 82nd. pilots with cherished memories). They will rejoice upon recalling the pleasant hours spent in this machine while solving the facinating problems emanating from the fertile mind of Dick Lingenfelter. The museum's prize exhibit is the Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird. The only foreign aircraft is a Russian Mig-21.

2. GULFARIUM.

Located 17 miles west of Sandestin on Hwy 98. Features clever performances by trained porpoises; sea lion shows and other marine life exhibits. The Gulfarium's " Living Sea" presents a panorama of undersea life viewed through safety-glass windows.

3. INDIAN TEMPLE MOUND MUSEUM.

In Ft. Walton Beach. A huge mound constucted centuries ago by Indians for religious and ceremonial purposes. It is estimated that at least 500,000 basket loads of earth were carried to build it. The adjacent building contains over 4000 Indian artifacts as well as historic items from the Exploration Period.

4. NAVAL AIR MUSEUM.

Located on the Pensacola Naval Air Station and 80 minutes by auto from Sandestin. Features US Naval Aircraft from the Wright Brothers era to modern times. This is the home of: The Curtiss NC-4 (first aircraft to cross the Atlantic); "Truculent Turtle" (the Lockheed Neptune which made the 11,000 mile flight non-stop from Perth Australia to Dayton Ohio shortly after WW-2). Geo. Bush's primary trainer (also his log book) and a Japanese Zero. The tours are conducted by ex-Navy Pilots and are among the best that I have encountered at any museum.

5. FISHING.

October is " Fishing Rodeo Month " in the Destin area. This is of nationwide interest and many fishermen book one year in advance for the event. This means that most, Charter Boats will be booked solid well before our arrival in the area. Members who plan on fishing, should notify me ASAP. Current charter rates are: (1 to 6 passengers) 4 Hrs \$275/300, 8 Hrs \$550/575, 12 Hrs \$800.

This space was reserved for Lt. Allen Wisner and his story of being shot down, taken prisoner and treated in a military hospital for the burns he received from the combat. At the time of having this newsletter printed the detailed information was not available. Wisner was the other pilot missing on the mission that Lt Ray Allen was killed!

— — —

Golfers take note! Tee time will be at 8:00AM. Check in the nite before.

— — —

RV travelers take note! The RV parking location will require taking the shuttle which will be provided to travel between Hotel and RV parking.

— — —

SAVE YOUR MONEY! The 95th Squadron at Tyndal AFB, has the image of Mr. Bones on the floor tile!! Woe be it to the person who steps on Mr. Bones. Drinks must be bought for all hands present! And thats CASH too!!

ATTENTION

ATTENTION

ATTENTION

Lt. Col. Bob Edmonds and all of his BONEHEADS have invited us for a SPECIAL BASH at the 95th Sqdn. on the afternoon & evening of 6, Oct. Activities will include F-15 static display on the flight line; visit to the F-15 flight simulator; speeches (probably telling how the 95th won the war... don't ask which one); plenty of refreshments and a barbecue or steak dinner. I've attended several 95th parties in the past and those "boneheads" can really make you feel at home; just be prepared for a lot of bragging. I urge all of you to FOLLOW ME TO TYNDALL. Busses are available and the cost should be minimal.... Hank Phillips

— — —

PLEASE SEND YOUR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST TO:

Hank Phillips, 3 Idlewild Circle NW, Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547

I recommend that air travelers book to Ft. Walton Beach (Okaloosa County Airport/Eglin AFB). This is only a 25 minute ride to Sandestin as compared to 50 min. and 80 min. from Panama City and Pensacola. Those of you with no favorite travel agency would do well to call TRAVEL WORLD; (800) 768-4772. Ask for Read Mc Clary and refer to the 82nd Reunion.... HE KNOWS THIS AREA....

Price per night for 2 at THE INN will be \$69.12 (incl. tax). The rooms all have kitchenettes and are with either bay view or golf course view. Suites are \$96.00 per night. Be sure to register early if you have a preference. While I am on the subject!!!

PULEEZE return the Statement of Intent sheet A S A P and no later than 20 April....

Being no politician, I'm not comfortable at conjuring up "facts" out of thin air and promising what can't be delivered. Your plans may change later, But that's preferable to no information at all.

SEE Y'ALL AT SANDESTIN.....

Hank!

6

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

***** 82nd. Ftr. Gp. Assn. Reunion 4 - 8 Oct, 95, Sandestin Inn, Destin, Fl. *****

KEEP THIS FOR RECORD!

Name _____

I plan to attend _____ with spouse _____ plus _____ guest / guests (how many?)
I / we plan on staying at the SANDESTIN INN _____ At an RV park _____ Other _____.

My / our arrival date will be _____ Departure date _____.
Travel will be by Air _____ Auto _____ RV (*) _____ Bus _____ Rail _____
Other (boat, motorcycle, thumb etc.) _____.

The following activities interest me: 95th.Ftr.Sqdn. "Fete" at Tyndall AFB _____
Golf _____ Fishing (**) _____ Tennis _____ Biking _____ Shopping _____ Armament &
Aircraft Museum _____ Naval Air Museum (Pensacola NAS) _____ Gulfarium _____
Indian Mound Museum _____ Spa _____ Relax & enjoy the scenery _____.

I volunteer to help with Registration _____ Bar tending _____ Auto errands _____
Memento display _____ Message / bulletin board _____ Group photo "roundup" _____
Anything that's legal _____.

(*) The Resort has remote parking for RVs.

(**) See para. 5 (Fishing) under "Local Attractions". (white sheet)

SEND TO: Hank Phillips, 3 Idlewild Circle N'W', Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

***** 82nd. Ftr. Gp. Assn. Reunion 4 - 8 Oct, 95, Sandestin Inn, Destin, Fl. *****

Name _____

I plan to attend _____ with spouse _____ plus _____ guest / guests (how many?)
I / we plan on staying at the SANDESTIN INN _____ At an RV park _____ Other _____.

My / our arrival date will be _____ Departure date _____.
Travel will be by Air _____ Auto _____ RV (*) _____ Bus _____ Rail _____
Other (boat, motorcycle, thumb etc.) _____.

The following activities interest me: 95th.Ftr.Sqdn. "Fete" at Tyndall AFB _____
Golf _____ Fishing (**) _____ Tennis _____ Biking _____ Shopping _____ Armament &
Aircraft Museum _____ Naval Air Museum (Pensacola NAS) _____ Gulfarium _____
Indian Mound Museum _____ Spa _____ Relax & enjoy the scenery _____.

I volunteer to help with Registration _____ Bar tending _____ Auto errands _____
Memento display _____ Message / bulletin board _____ Group photo "roundup" _____
Anything that's legal _____.

(*) The Resort has remote parking for RVs.

(**) See para. 5 (Fishing) under "Local Attractions". (white sheet)