

82ND FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

March 18, 2002

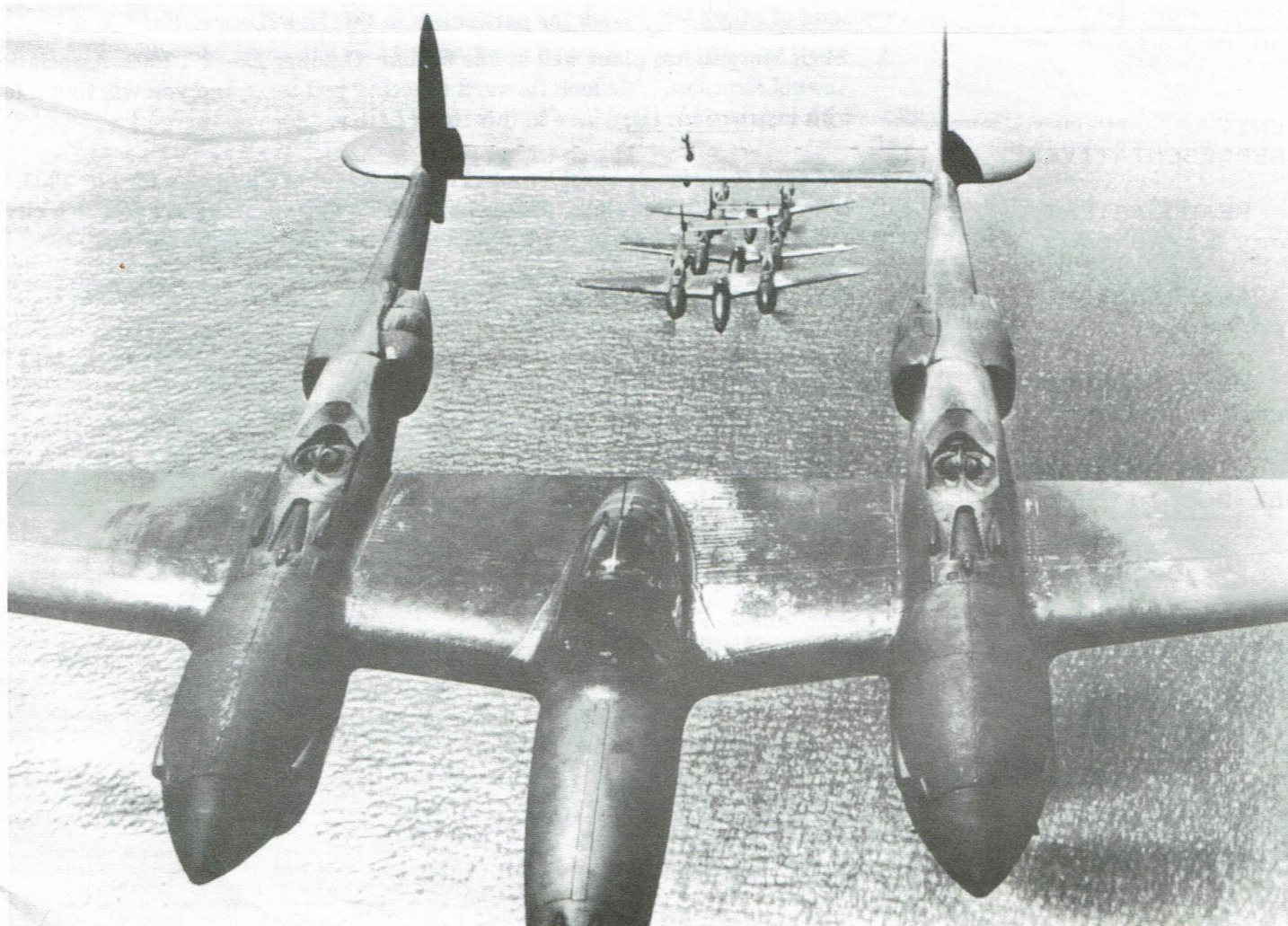
ISSUE 54

SPECIAL IN THIS ISSUE:

Statement of Interest for the 82nd's 21st Reunion at Sacramento

Inserts for the 95th's Reunion #60 at Tyndall AFB

82nd FG Mission No. 657, -- Brasov, Romania



82ND FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION



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96th SQUADRON

Francis Chapman

97th SQUADRON

Jack Duncan

ROSTER

Charles Luke

NEWSLETTER

Hank Phillips

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

To : Friends of the 82nd Association,

1. I suspect that Ben Mason echoed all of our feelings the other day when he remarked that the more that Time goes by the more near and dear it seems we are to each other. Jerry Loewenberg was one fine friend to us all and we already miss his counsel and quick wit. . .all honor to his name.
2. All of us who have attended a "Bonehead Reunion" at Tyndall A.F.Base, FL plan to return if at all possible to the next one! ! ! Please accept the kind invitation of those fine F 15 warriors and send in your acceptance to the reunion there the weekend of May3 - 5. Look for particulars in this NewsLetter. See you there !
3. Slick Morgan has plans well in line for our October 23 - 27, 2002 Association Annual Reunion. . .we look forward to seeing you there and you will find a form with instructions elsewhere in this News Letter. See you there ! !
4. We need to seriously consider a SITE and Reunion Chairman for our 2003, 2004 and 2005 Reunions. Please be thinking and speaking about which city and about which part of the U.S.A. and about who would be our host.

Best wishes and God Bless

Monty Powers

February, 2002

\$\$\$ DUES ARE DELINQUENT AFTER 31 MARCH OF THE CURRENT YEAR \$\$\$
SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

[Newsletter is free to all Sustaining, Honorary and Life Members]

Current Sustaining dues -- \$15 per year, Life membership is \$100, Associate Members -- \$10 voluntary (incl. newsletter).

Send checks to: Roy Norris, Sec/Treas., 82nd Ftr. Gp. Assn., 6636 Plantation Way, Cincinnati, OH 45224

FINANCIAL REPORT

1 JULY 2001 -- 31 DECEMBER 2001

82nd REUNION 2001
October 11-14
Tucson, AZ

BEGINNING BALANCE

CERTIFICATE DEPOSIT	\$10,004.02	
"	3,275.75	
CHECKING	1,104.78	
TOTAL BEGINNING BALANCE		\$14,384.55

INCOME

DONATIONS	\$ 1,918.00	
DUES - LIFE	200.00	
- SUSTAINING	710.00	
INTEREST	200.05	
NEWSLETTER - ASSOCIATES	20.00	
REUNION 2001 SEED RETURN	1,000.00	
REUNION 2001 PROFIT	2,551.65	
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 6,599.70

EXPENDITURES

AUDIT	\$ 100.00	
BANK CHARGE	18.50	
GET WELL CARDS	14.72	
MEMBERSHIP CARDS	51.94	
NEWSLETTER (Aug./NOV.)	1,888.29	
POSTAGE	127.38	
REUNION 2001 SEED	1,000.00	
ROSTER	1,127.14	
SUPPLIES	48.84	
TELEPHONE	18.10	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$ 4,394.91

ENDING BALANCE

CERTIFICATE DEPOSIT	\$10,000.00	
CHECKING	6,589.34	
TOTAL ENDING BALANCE		\$16,589.34

Respectfully Submitted,

Roy E. Norris

Jan. 4, 2002

Executive Committee, Et Als:

The month of December is always a month of exasperation, yet Christmas Day enjoyment wipes the slate clean. It must be my old age showing !!

Responded to a Mr. Terry Massick as to membership in the 82nd. Mr. Massick is arranging for an E-Mail address for the 82nd. Mr. Massick has a relative who was in the 82nd, 95th Sqdn. Lt. Francis M. Molloy, MIA. Therefore he is entitled to be an Honorary Member. Sent a copy of the By-Laws and the November newsletter to him. E-Mail: twmcdm@harenet.net

A Mr. Marko Jeras, a historian located in Zagreb Croatia, has requested information from Hank Phillips on a Lt John J. Baas. It so happened that Baas was one of my shack mates along with C. Gustafson and A. Grover. I also have pictures of Baas, so I have mailed him a copy and responded. E-Mail: marko.jeras@zg.hinet.hr

Enclosed is the Financial Report, 1 July / 31 December 2001. The Tucson reunion, chairmaned by Jim Moynhan, has really boosted the balance. A copy of his finance report is enclosed. Donations to the 82nd should be noted from members and relation.

February 2, 2002

Executive Committee, Et Als:

The month of January in the year 2002 was an exceptionally quite one for the 82nd with one very sad occasion! On January 31, in the morning hours, Jerry Loewenberg passed away!

INCOME

82nd Seed Money	\$ 1,000.00
Hospitality - Donation	120.00
" - Returns	214.58
" - Sales	29.41
Interest Checking	9.80
Registration	15,103.00
Souvenir Sales	10.00
Total Receipts	\$16,486.79

EXPENDITURES

Banquet	\$ 3,223.93
Hidden Valley Inn	1,437.00
Hospitality Supplies	636.38
Insurance	53.00
Mickey Grego - Music	755.00
Mtn. View Tours	1,732.50
Pictures- Sylvia Ostronik	16.49
Pima Air & Space Museum	1,905.00
PNC Bank Chg.	9.00
Refunds- Registration	1,558.00
Reunion Tucson Mailing	317.08
Sabino Canyon	717.00
Souvenir Tile	385.50
Supplies	4.84
Telephone	185.80
Total Expenditures	\$12,936.52

GROSS PROFIT

Income less Expenditures	\$ 3,550.27
82nd Seed Money	1,000.00

NET PROFIT **\$ 2,550.27**

Respectfully Submitted,

Roy E. Norris

March 1, 2002

Executive Committee, Et Als:

Enclosed is a copy of the correspondence from the Air Force Village Foundation for the 82nd Association donation in the Memory of Jerry Loewenberg. I ask Hank Phillips to include it in the March newsletter.

There is the special announcement concerning the 95th Fighter Squadron CBS documentary training film, March 29, 2002, Friday 8:00PM to 9:00PM EST.

The 95th Fighter Squadron reunion May 3-5, 2002 at Tyndall AFB, FL. All 82nd members are invited.

Dues/Donation

Foley, D T	Don.	Mark, M	LIFE
Brown, G. P.	01/02	Sorensen, N. e.	N/L
Cavanaugh, G. F.	02/Don	Weltman, J. W.	01/02/03
Heller, J. D.	01/02	Chalupnik, Ed F.	02
Norris, Roy E.	02		

Deceased - See page 3
Address Changes - See page 3 and 7

Respectfully Submitted,

Roy E. Norris

Strayed "Dogies"

(Addresses below are the last known.)

Joanne Abberger 97H
20 Lane 200 Lake Charles N
Angola, IN 46703
Arthur W. Dawson 96th
322 N. 7th Ave.
Wasau, WI 54476
Julia Ewing 97H
HCR 38, PO Box 868
Las Vegas, NV 89124
Madelyn Houston 96H
4609 Hilltop #97
Omaha, NE 68133
Charles D. Jackson 96th
4629 Alger Street
Los Angeles, CA 90039
Margaret Kaufman 96H
1032 International Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94606-3730
Aldona Kupcinkas 96H
44480 S. El Macero Dr.
Worcester, MA 01604
C.A. Maunce Hq
PO Box 3955
Sonora, CA 95370
Sollis J. Schub Hq
2400 Johnson Ave. #9K
Riverdale, NY 10463
Mabel Simpson 97H
PO Box 1601
Winter Park, FL 32790
Mary Wilson 97H
MVH 600 N. Main
Mt. Vernon, MO 65712
Adelbert Yager 97th
270 W. Wentworth St.
Englewood, FL 34223

Newsletters and Rosters to the above have been returned by the Post Office for unknown addresses. If any member has a proven address for any of the above, notify Chuck Luke, Roy Norris or Hank Phillips. hp

Address changes of Members.

William H. Burgess (96th)
18590 SE Woodhaven Ln., Lakewood E
Tequesta, FL 33469
Tel. (561) 745-5378
James Charlton (97H)
4001 Little River Rd
Hendersonville, NC 28739
Ruth Donohoo (96H)
186 Glenwood Lane
Ozark, AL 36360-0516
Tel (972) 420-7077
Donald C. Gaither (95th)
811 Virgil Ave.
Eugene, OR 97404-2731
Tel. (541) 607-5644
Marjorie Hoelzel (HqH)
800 College Pkwy., Apt 2148
Lewisville, TX 75077-3501 Tel. (unk)
Mary McDaniel (97H)
6606 West Ave., #428
Quartz Hill, CA 93636 Tel. (unk)
John Sebring (xxa)
No change in address
Tel. (336) 768-6887
* * * * *

New Members

David Bloxson 7 Tallwood Trail,
Palmyra, VA 22963
Tel. (434) 589-6979 Sally 95A
Pat Loewenberg 4917 Ravenswood Dr.
HCC 4, San Antonio, TX 78227
Tel. (210) 674-1555 HqH
Terry Massick Sr 979 Jewell Dr.
Knoxville, IA 50138
Tel. (641) 842-7451. Cindy 95H

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

(82nd FG Members)

Changes since the last newsletter.

New additions:

Meredith Embrey 95H
membrey@ecentral.com
Roy Norris 96th
Bcnorris@worldnet.att.net
Bette and Charley Pinson 96th
BandCPinson@aol.com
Dick Willsie 96th
P-38@webtv.net

Address change:

Bob Kennedy 96th
allen_k2@juno.com
G.T. Lewis 97th
ruslew1@aol.com
Chuck Luke 97th
Ekul9782@attbi.com
Dick Ostronik 96th
richsylv38@dslextrime.com
Jack Sides 96th
Jsides18@cox.net
Judy Sides 96th
judysides@cox.net
Ed and Theresa Orr 95th
Orrle@netzero.net

Temporarily removed:

Al Ellison 97th
Bob Randall 97th

Members wishing to add their names to the 82ndFG E-mail list, please notify Hank Phillips or Chuck Luke.

{E-mail preferred}

* * * * *
Members needing the complete E-Mail list, please notify me and it will be sent.
hp

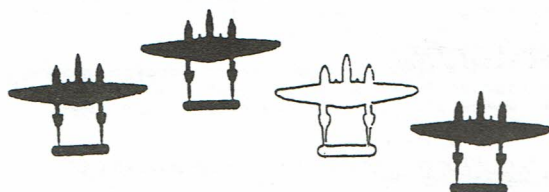
Salute to a very valuable Member of the 82nd FG.

* * * * *
L.C. Lute Thompson (96th) has volunteered to help at the bar for every Reunion since I can remember. He assisted me at my 'ill-fated reunion' at Sandestin in '1995'. He has ran or helped every year since 1997 in Scottsdale, with the exception of Houston in '98' which he could not attend.



Photo shows Lute (in the loud shirt) at Tucson with 3 of his many admirers:
(l - r) Marlene Phillips, Dick and Sylvia Ostronik

FLY BY of HONOR



Missing plane formation for recently departed heros of the 82nd

** ** ** ** **
James T. Gordon -- -- ,68 97th
Terry O'Grady 09 Apr.,01 97th
Arthur Graham 12 July.01 95th
Rueben Koivuniemi 26 Jan.,02 96th
Jerry Loewenberg 31 Jan.,02 Hq

Letters from the Members

(Sometimes abridged)

From Joe Stanovich

95th

Hank,
Thanks for sending me the newsletter. If it happens again, just send it regular mail -- save the \$. I always look forward to each one. I have not been to any Reunion yet, but I am going to try to make the next one.
Thanks again.

Joe.

(The newsletter was originally sent to his former address and returned to me. I re-packaged it and sent it Priority Mail as is my usual practice in such cases. Joe is a Life Member and I know all members will be glad welcome him at Sacramento. hp)

From David Koivuniemi

96H

Mr. Phillips -

2/4/02

I regret to inform you that my father - Reuben Koivuniemi - passed away - January 26, 2002 - at the age of 89 - he would have been 90 Feb. 14, 2002.

My father was extremely proud of his service with the 82nd and used to attend all of the reunions until his health prevented him from traveling.

He is survived by my mother - Marie and his 4 sons - Carl, Paul, David and Peter.

Sincerely
David G. Koivuniemi
David G. Koivuniemi

From Marko Jeras

xxa

Dear Mr. Hank Phillips,

I have received your e-mail address from Steve Blake, author of 'Adorimini' book on 82nd FG. I am researching aviation history related to Croatia in WWII. Mr. Blake told me you are 82nd FG Associations' newsletter editor and that you might help me. I am looking for 96th FS pilot, 1st Lt. Ernest F. Benkoski, s/n O-715444, whose wife, Mrs. Florence M. Benkoski had war-time address at: Concord Road, Westford, Massachusetts. I believe that they are no longer on that address. I do not know if he is still alive, but I would like to establish contact with him, or his family. Can you help me?

ANYONE

I hope to hear from you soon. Best regards and friendly greetings,

Marko Jeras
Zagreb, Croatia

4.

From Pincus Taback

97th

Hi,

This is a picture of "Moe". We found him on the Mojave Desert and made him the 97th. Believe it or not, one of the enlisted men took him overseas with us. He was kept well hidden. After 75 years I don't remember what happened to him. Maybe someone might remember if asked? Just a story that might bring back memories to us old timers.
Pincus P.



(Anyone having knowledge of what happened to Moe; contact me and I'll mention it in the next newsletter. hp)

From Sylvia and Dick Ostronik

96th

Milton-Freewater, Oregon, 16 Nov., 01

Hello Marlene and Hank,

Here are some photos from Tucson.

We are still in Oregon and plan to leave after Thanksgiving. We spent a week in Victoria on Shawnigan Lake with Canadian friends and had a super time. Had a fun visit with Mel and Lois Roalsvig at their Washington (water front) home. Mel picked oysters and cooked them on the barbecue. Fantastic!

Dick is busy getting the "other" Motorhome ready for our return. Will E-mail you from home.

Happy Thanksgiving

Love,

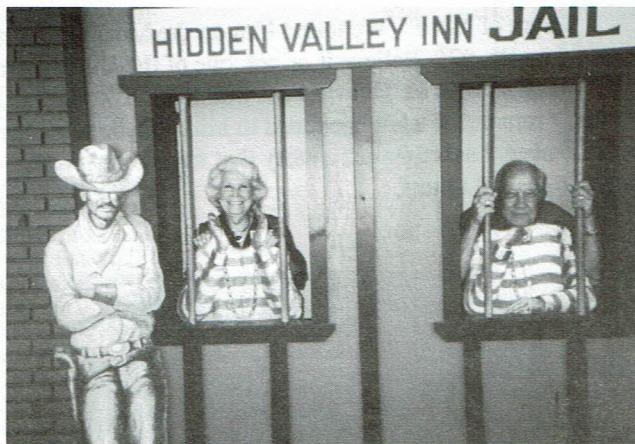
Sylvia and Dick

Marko's street address is:

Z Rogosa 7,
10000 Zagreb, Croatia Europe

hp

E-mail → <marko.jeras@zg.hinet.hr>



BUSTED !

A tough case for the jury -- one looks innocent, the other guilty. Any 'takers' out there on the verdict? I'll print them in the March newsletter.

hp

{ No anonymous entries accepted. }

82nd Newsletter Readers respond: What's The Verdict?

I stated "no anonymous entries" in NL53, page 7 but some entered anyway (Probably faked their initials too). Oh well -- I'll relent and print them.

hp

* * * * *

That winning smile doesn't fool me; they're both guilty -- **give'em a fair trial and hang the critters!**

{ B.C. -- TX }

[But the envelope was postmarked FL]

hp }

* * * * *

She looks so sweet and innocent, she couldn't be married to a scoundrel -- I'm sure the verdict will be **NOT GUILTY**.

{ T.O. -- 95th }

* * * * *

I'm thinking of bribing the Judge to put her under 'house arrest'.

(My house, that is), while he serves the sentence. { J.M. -- 96th }

* * * * *

If requested, I'll send them the name of my lawyer -- he once got a 6-month sentence reduced to 10-days for me.

{ J.S. }

[The smudged postmark read either AK, AL, AZ, or AR]

hp

* * * * *

The one on the left is innocent - because she's purty. The hombre on the right should get five to ten in Woolworth. { W. -- 97th. CA }

* * * * *

Change the name of the Inn. If a picture of the inn appears in the 82ndFG newsletter _ it aint **hidden** no more!

(G. -- 95th,)

* * * * *

Hold on Sheriff! Those two folks are preachers, They are in our town to talk agin demon rum.

(M.A. -- AZ)

* * * * *

Notice anything unusual about those prisoners, Sheriff? They got little fence posts for legs.

(V.T. -- 97th)

* * * * *

You had better get that jail swamped out, Sheriff. That aint no riff-raff you got in thar. Them's 82nd Fighter Group folks!

(O. -- 95th, TX)

* * * * *

Dear Sheriff, This packge don't have no saw or file in it. It's only grits and collards for the nice Georgia couple. You western folks don't eat right.

(J.H. -- 96th).

* * * * *

The "In Gratitude" Presentation

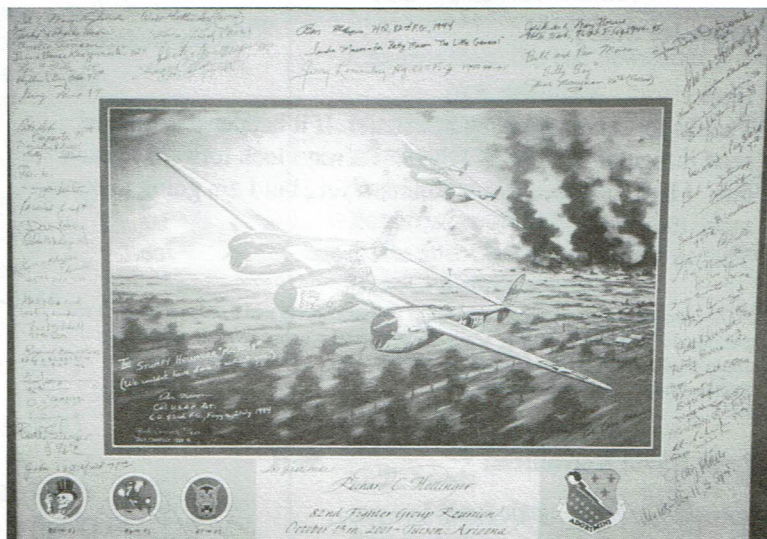


Photo is of a painting by the Aviation Artist, Jack Connally and presented to his good friend, **Colonel Ben Mason**.

It depicts **Ben** flying his P-38 'Billy Boy' departing **Ploesti** after the devastating raid on 10 June, 1944.

Ben and other members of the 82nd Fighter Group Assn. decided to frame the painting for presentation to the much beloved **Richard C. Hollinger**, Lockheed Aircraft's Technical Representative with the 82nd FG during WWII. Those attending the Tucson Reunion signed their names in the space surrounding the painting.



Ben Mason explains the presentation, while visiting the **Hollingers** at their home in Northglenn, Colorado **Richard** admires the plaque, while his wife, **Virginia** looks happily over his shoulder

(Letters Cont.)

From Clayton 'Tillie' Tillapaugh

96th

30 Jan., 02

Hi Hank,

Hey! We are having temperatures in the 70's here !! These are your temps; we're supposed to be having snow. We had 3-4 inches around New Years, at the time when Buffalo, N.Y. got 82 inches in about 4 days of continuous snowfall. Our snow melted in 3 or 4 days. I got thinking --- a dangerous thing to do --- back in August or September, 2001 I wrote a letter to Dale Piper about his uncle, 1st Lieut. --- (old abbreviation, remember?) John Schlener*. Dale's mother is very interested in having her brother's fortune, or lack thereof. (My thoughts) In August, 1943 we were having a lot of pilots jumping ship and going back to the States. The 96th had more aircraft than we had pilots, so we had to "borrow" pilots from the 97th and 95th in order to get up 6 or 7 flights. Maybe John was one of the borrowed pilots; thus, I did not know him or his Flying capabilities. Would you please insert a note in the next 82nd Newsletter or the following one, pending available space, asking if anyone in the 97th or 95th Squadrons remembered him, circa July or August, 1943. He was about 6 ft. tall and thin. He had to have been a tentmate of some of the guys

Late entry--new addresses:

Lawrence J. Pfau, (95th) 317 North Park Le
Alpharetta. GA 30004

I called my good buddy, Johnny Cappel the other night on his birthday. He has a helicopter kit now that he and his son will assemble. He also has an Ultra-Light on floats. While attending the EPA** gathering at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Johnny joined the growing list of volunteers who would like to fly the Glacier Girl. His chances are probably slim like the rest of us. My last P-38 flight was in August, 1945;-- 56½ years

ago. I might be a bit rusty -- probably couldn't climb up the ladder onto the wing.

Is Marlene still playing tennis? I hope you two are in the best of health.

Your friends

Tillie and Bev.

* See page 9, NL 52 (Aug., 01)

** I assume that stands for Enlisted Pilots Association.

hp

Norris Report (Cont. from page 2)

Address Changes

Forrester, Nanette	1808 A W Easton Pl, Tulsa, OK	
	74127 (918) 838-0451	95H
Kerme, William J.	21600 SW 109th TH, Tualatin, OR	
	97062-6013	95
Ladd, Marion	106 Camelot St. Washington, NC	
	27887-9620 Gerald	96H
Rogers, Derril M.	1065 Jenel Pl NE, Albuquerque, NM	
	87123-1884	95
Shaw, Linda	3108 Roberts Dr. #3, Woodridge, IL	
	60517-1534	97H

Respectfully Submitted,

For E. Norris

**LOEWENBERG**

Colonel Jerome L. Loewenberg, USAF (Ret), passed away January 30, 2002, in San Antonio, TX. He was born March 19, 1907 in Brooklyn, NY and spent his boyhood in Sea Cliff, NY. He graduated from Cornell University with a Degree in Law, and was a Municipal Judge in Sea Cliff, NY before World War II. He was a member of the Army Reserve and went on active duty at the beginning of World War II, was Executive Officer of the 82nd Fighter Group in Foggia, Italy. He received the Bronze Star, and was awarded the Croix De Guerre with Palm by French Government. He later became a Judge Advocate in the regular Air Force and served in Korea during the Korean War, upon his retirement he was the Director of Civil Defense for Nassau County, NY, and upon completing his duties as Civil Defense Director, he and his wife Grace E. (Pat) traveled extensively throughout the world, and they settled in San Antonio, Texas where they resided at Air Force Village I. He is survived by his wife, Grace E. Loewenberg of San Antonio, TX; son, Bruce J. Loewenberg of St. Charles, MO; and step-daughter Lois Otterstedt of Anacortes, WA.; a brother Stanley Loewenberg, was lost in the Pacific during World War II on a mission over New Guinea.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE
TUESDAY**

FEBRUARY 19, 2002
2:00 P.M.

**AIR FORCE VILLAGE I
MAIN CHAPEL**

Chaplain Gerry Grace officiating. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Air Force Village Foundation Health Care Center, 5100 John D. Ryan Blvd, San Antonio, Texas 78245. Arrangements with

**PORTER LORING
MORTUARIES**

1101 McCULLOUGH 227-8221
www.porterloring.com

We rarely see Jim (1991 Reunion -Denver), but that's understandable. He left the 95th at Muroc in Sept., 42 having been reassigned to the 347th Gp, 339th Sqn.-- seeing duty in New Caledonia, New Hebrides, Guadalcanal and New Georgia. He flew with the 339th on the mission that shot down Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto on 18 April, 1943.

A tribute to Jerry Loewenberg from Roy Norris

I for one have always said that the newsletter was the spirit of the 82nd, but in reality, Jerry Loewenberg always had the spirit and enthusiasm for the 82nd. Missing a reunion was a lost time never to be regained, but with determination and physical help, he attended the 2001 82nd reunion held in Tucson. It was a personal pleasure for the Norris Clan to have Jerry join out table for the reunion banquet. It can't get any better then that!! He was my mentor!

February 14, 2002

**AIR FORCE
VILLAGE II****ALZHEIMER'S
CARE and
RESEARCH
CENTER
FOUNDATION
FREEDOM HOUSE**

82nd Fighter Group Association
C/O Roy E. Norris
6636 Plantation Way
Cincinnati, OH 45224

Dear Mr. Norris,

Thank you very much for your recent donation of \$200.00.
Your gift has been placed in the
AFV I Health Care Center Memorial Fund

in memory of

Jerome L. Loewenberg

We will notify the family of your gift.

Sincerely,

Harry C. McMillin
Harry C. McMillin
Colonel, USAF (Retired)
President and CEO



Photo by Foley

Vice Pres., Don Foley (97th) gets the respective merits and comparison between the Focke-Wulf 190D [long-nosed] and the ME109 [far left] from Luftwaffe Ace, Georg Fuereder (xxa). Scottsdale Reunion, 1997

Reuben W. Koivuniemi, 89, of St. Ignace, died early Saturday, January 26, at the Mackinac Straits Hospital Long Term Care Facility following a short illness.

He was born in Calumet February 16, 1912, to John and Anna (nee Wickstrom) Koivuniemi. He was graduated from Calumet High

School in 1929 and played semi-professional hockey on a team which won the MacNaughton Cup in 1932-33 and again in 1935-36.

Proud of his Finnish heritage and his true Upper Peninsula upbringing during the Depression, he refereed hockey at the college level and played into his late 60s. He was also an avid golfer who had two hole-in-one awards and won the Twilight League Championship with sons Paul, David, and Peder in 1973. He was on another winning team in the same league in a later season.

Mr. Koivuniemi was a supporter of all high school sports in St. Ignace and served two terms on the school board, a total of eight years. He was active in the rebuilding of the McCann Street football field.

He was graduated from Michigan Technological University in 1949 and was an active alumni. He used his engineering ability to help the community while he worked as an engineer for the Michigan Highway

Department until his retirement in 1977, working on nearly every road in the Eastern Upper Peninsula, including I-75 between St. Ignace and Sault Ste. Marie, the paving of M-185 around Mackinac Island, and construction of the I-75 approach to the Mackinac Bridge.

Mr. Koivuniemi was active in the Zion Lutheran Church and held many church offices. He used his engineering skills to assist in the building of the church on South State Street. He was a member of the American Legion and served on the City of St. Ignace Planning Commission.

On the day after Pearl Harbor, December 8, 1941, he volunteered for the Army and served with the 82nd Fighter Squadron of the Army Air Corps in North Africa and Italy, becoming a Staff Sergeant. The 82nd was a famous P-38 squadron and Mr. Koivuniemi took part in many reunions of the organization.

He kept a daily diary of his activities throughout his life and each page is a memory cherished by his family.

Mr. Koivuniemi married Marie Koski 55 years ago on December 23, 1946, in South Range and they moved to St. Ignace in 1952.

In addition to Mrs. Koivuniemi, he is survived by four sons and their families, Carl of New York City; Paul and Linda of Indianapolis, Indiana, David and Rhonda (nee Lundborg) of Juneau, Alaska, and Peder and Jacque of Laguna Niguna, California; six grandchildren, Stephenie, Brad, Victoria, Kyle, Antti, and Mark, and two great-grandchildren, Bianca, and Jeremiah.

One of seven children, he was the last survivor among his siblings, being preceded in death by Enis, Eva, Dolly, Bill, Fred, and George.

Visitation was at Dodson Funeral Home in St. Ignace Tuesday, January 29, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Services were Wednesday, January 30, at 11 a.m. at Zion Lutheran Church with Pastor Teri Stage-Harvey officiating.

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
82nd FIGHTER GROUP
APO 520

16 April 1944.

MISSION NO. 657
NARRATIVE REPORT

95th, 96th, 97th Squadrons

Brasov, Romania

1. MISSION: To provide route cover on withdrawal for B-24's of 47th, 304th and 49th Wings and B-17's of the 5th Wing.

2. TARGETS: Brasov M/V, A/D, and A/C Factory.

3. AIRCRAFT AND CHRONOLOGY: 69 P-38's took off at 0835 hours; 16 returned early (of these early returns, 5 escorted others with mechanical difficulty and 6 receive sorties); 1 crashed just after takeoff - the pilot is safe and the plane is salvageable; 52 were in rendezvous area from 1115 until 1145 hours between 23,000 and 27,000 feet; 52 P-38's down at base by 1422 hours.

	<u>Took Off</u>	<u>Early Returns</u>	<u>Rendezvous Area</u>	<u>Down</u>
95 th	27	9	18	18
96 th	22	4*	17	17
97 th	<u>20</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>17</u>
	69	16 **	52	52

* 1 crashed just after takeoff

** includes 5 escorting for those with mechanical difficulty.

4. ESCORT FORMATION AND ASSAULT: The P-38s reached a point approximately 40 miles south of Copaceni at 1115 hours at 23,000 to 27,000 feet and made one 360° turn when they heard the bombers say they were 50 miles from target and were being attacked by enemy fighters. The P-38's then circled up to the mountains to the north and heard the bombers calling that they were 70 miles from target. Our P-38's continued to search without success until eventually the bombers stated their position as 120 miles due west of target. The P-38's then started on the course toward base. One group of 15 B-24's was seen to the north on the return course NS East of the Danube River on return. These bombers were not being attacked and were on course home. Most P-38's returned to base very short of gas.

5. RESULTS OF BOMBING: 12 B-17's believed to have bombed Kragujevac with fair results, observed en route to rendezvous. Bombing of primary not observed.

6. STRAFING: Two flights of P-38's strafed boats and barges on Danube River, passing over too fast to observe results. One large boat being towed by a tug was hit. Location was a few miles south of Turnul Severin. Train and locomotives were strafed East of Turnul Severin approximately 20 miles. Two locomotives were blown up and one was damaged.

7. ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY: 1 HE 111 was seen at 12,000 feet headed in the direction of Brasov and destroyed at approximately 1200 hours about 30 miles east of Turnul Severin. A number of P-38's made passes at E/A which was several thousand feet below formation and it crashed in flames in a small town. 4 S/E unidentified aircraft were seen to the East of the rendezvous point as the formation turned toward base.

8. FLAK: Moderate, fairly accurate, heavy flak from 15 guns at Kragujevac at 12,000 feet on return route. Scant to moderate, accurate, heavy flak from Turnul Severin. Two P-38's holed.

9. ENEMY NAVAL AND SHIPPING ACTIVITY: A tugboat towing a large river boat and several large river barges strafed on the Danube below Turnul Severin.

10. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY: None.

11. ENEMY A/D AND A/C ON GROUND: None.

12. ROUTE: As briefed: The P-38's were approximately 40 miles south of rendezvous at 1115 hours and were at approximately rendezvous point at 1125 hours. Base to rendezvous, 61^ for 520 miles; in rendezvous area for 30 minutes; return to base, 241^ for 520 miles. Total mileage: 1140 miles, including 100 miles allowance for circling at rendezvous

13. WEATHER: Heavy haze with thin stratus at 8,000 feet over the mountains, rising to 15,000 feet over the Danube valley. Lateral visibility poor.

14. RADIO: Satisfactory.

15. COMMENTS: (a) All planes were short of gas. Distance covered believed to be too far for P-38's.

(b) Lt. John R. C. Griffin, 97th Squadron, completed 50th mission

16. AIR SEA RESCUE: None.

17. FLIGHT LEADERS: 95TH: Capt. Hattendorf (formation leader), Lt. Johnson, Lt. Hodson, Lt. Osborne, Lt. Collins, Lt. League, Lt. DiLauro. 96th: Capt. Isaacson, Lt. Scott, Lt. Dean, Lt. Pinson, Lt. Farnham. 97th: Lt. Tate, Lt. Batis, Lt. Phillips, Lt. Engh, Lt. Griffith.

18. SORTIES: fifty-nine (59) non-effective sorties.

19. ENEMY LOSSES: 1 HE 111 destroyed – Capt. Force.

20. OUR LOSSES: None.

21. ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGE TO OUR PLANES: Two holed by flak. Damage slight and easily repairable.