

# 82ND FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION



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**NEWSLETTER**

**March 29, 2003**

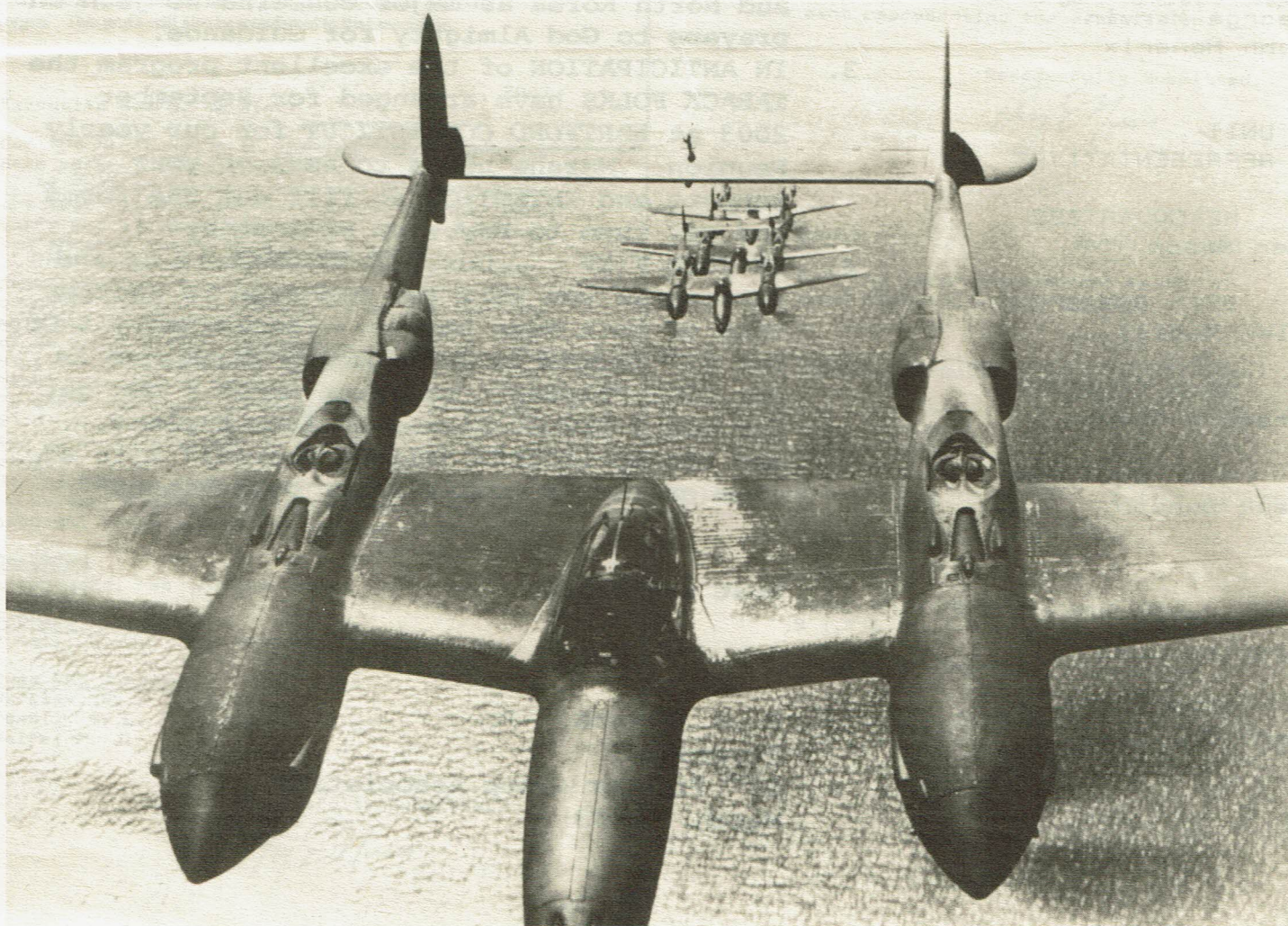
**ISSUE 57**

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## **SPECIAL IN THIS ISSUE:**

**STATEMENT of INTEREST for the 82<sup>nd</sup> Ftr. Gp.'s  
22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Reunion in Hartford, Connecticut  
17 -- 21 September, 2003**

**82<sup>nd</sup> Ftr Gp Mission to Mielec Airdrome, Poland.  
[ 25 July, 1944 ]**





# 82ND FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION



## EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Ralph M. Powers Jr.

### VICE PRESIDENT

Donald T. Foley

### SECRETARY/TREASURER

Roy E. Norris

### PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Harley C. Vaughn

### PAST PRESIDENTS

Will Hattendorf

George Marvin

John Hendrix

### UNIT

### REPRESENTATIVES

#### HEADQUARTERS

Ben Mason

#### 95th SQUADRON

Olen Medley

#### 96th SQUADRON

Francis Chapman

#### 97th SQUADRON

Jack Duncan

### ROSTER

Charles Luke

### NEWSLETTER

Hank Phillips

## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

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Dear Friends in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Association,

1. IN MEMORIAM . . As we hear of Slick's death and as we watched the loss of Columbia Spaceship & Crew and as we hear of the deaths of other 82<sup>nd</sup> members we are saddened. But, we already knew how fragile Life is and how gracious we need to be toward one another. All honor to their names.
2. Now, with 9-11 fresh in our minds and Iraq and North Korea as major concerns we join in prayers to God Almighty for Guidance.
3. IN ANTICIPATION of the excellent program the TABACK FOLKS have arranged for September, 2003 at HARTFORD CONNECTICUT for our yearly Reunion. .Marsha needs to hear of your support and INTENTION so fill out the forms and get them to Roy..you will enjoy! !
4. IN FULL VIEW . . Our 82<sup>nd</sup> WEBSITE is up and running as you will see reported in another item of this News Letter. .thanks Terry & Co.
5. Our 82<sup>nd</sup> Record is prominently displayed in Jan.2003 "FlyPast" magazine which I can get for you @ \$12.00 airmailed from England. . and the April 2003 "Flight Journal" with an item called "A turkey shoot over Vienna"

Most sincerely,

R. M. Powers, Jr.  
President,  
82<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group Association  
March, 2003



**\$\$\$ 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

**REUNION 2002**

**INCOME** 82nd FTR. GRP. ASSN. SEED MONEY \$ 1,000.00  
 ROBES (DONATION BEN MASON) 90.00  
 REGISTRATION 14,000.00  
 SALE OF WINE GLASSES 100.00  
 UNKNOWN SOURCE 48.10  
**TOTAL INCOME \$ 15,240.20**

**EXPENSES**  
 CAL EVENT - TOUR BUSES \$ 3,428.00  
 CHARGE FOR CHECKS 9.00  
 COPY PLUS 46.54  
 CREATIVE ARTS - WINE GLASSES 616.68  
 DOUBLETREE - BANQUET 4,127.54  
 HOSPITALITY ROOM 222.30  
 POCKET EXPENSE 66.00  
 REGISTRATION INSERTS 598.84  
 ROSES 89.43  
 SKINNER - LADIES HOUR 75.00  
 SKINNER BAND 895.00  
 TOSCANO WINERY TOUR 2,000.00  
 US POSTOFFICE 19.42  
**TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 12,193.75**

**REFUNDS \$ 1,331.20**

**TOTAL EXPENSES & REFUNDS \$ 13,524.95**

**NET BALANCE**  
 INCOME LESS EXPENSES & REFUNDS \$ 1,715.25

The 82nd FTR. GRP. ASSN. Reunion, 2002 seed money of \$1,000.00 will be returned to the association. The net balance of \$1,715.25, less The returned seed money will leave a profit of \$715.25 for the reunion. A very fine accomplishment for the Chairpersons, Claude and Fern Morgan. This profit will also be transferred to the association.

Executive Board, Et Als:

Jan. 31, 2003

For the first month of the year 2003 there has been several accomplishments:

1. An English aviation magazine FLYPAST, January 2003 issue, featured the 82nd Fighter Group story and pictures of members. Monte Powers has ordered copies at \$12.00 a piece.
2. The remaining 82nd History books have been purchased from Dick Lingenfelter through his daughter Barbara Oldenberg. Dick has been unable to continue as agent for the books. Cost of 28 books @ \$25.00 each equals \$700.00. Shipping in three publisher's boxes total \$30.42. Total cost equals \$730.42 (per book cost \$26.09). To send individual purchased books: envelopes \$1.01 plus postage \$2.17 equals \$29.27. Rounding up to an even \$30.00 for book sale and shipping.
3. The Reunion 2003, Hartford, CT. Chairmanned by Marscha Taback, has made deposits for the banquet, buses and tours. We are on our way! !

**Deceased**

Loewenberg, Pat 1/05/03 HQH

**Address Changes**

Powell, G. L. Zip 84124-4771 Eileen 97

**Dues and Donation**

Burgess, W. H. 02/03/04  
 Powell, G. L. 03/Don.  
 Wolfe, F. J. 03

Respectfully Submitted,

*Roy E Norris*

March 1, 2003

Executive Board, Et Als:

Currently have 24 'ADORIMINI' books on hand. Priced at \$30.00 (Book plus ship/handling).

Election for Executive Board members will be accomplished at the September Reunion 2003. The By-Laws, Article 4, Officers and their election, sets forth the procedures. The nominating committee is to be Will Hattendorf and John Hendrix.

The March newsletter will contain the intent forms for attending the reunion 2003 and personal choices of activities. As Secretary/Treasurer for the Assn. I will record the intent form choices and send a copy of the record to Marscha Taback.

**Deceased**

Morgan, Claude E. 2/6/03 97  
 Neameyer, Raymond 12/31/02 97 Inactive roster.

**Address Changes**

Solko, J. C. Lanham Seabrook, MD 95

**New Member**

Morgan, Fern 6222 Eastmont Ct. Carmichael, CA  
 95608 (916) 481-6910 97H

In reference to Claude Morgan, Funeral Flowers were sent representing the association.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Roy E Norris*

Hank:

March 1, 2003

For the March newsletter as to unpaid 2002 voluntary dues.

**UNPAID VOLUNTARY DUES (ALPHABETICAL)**

A 2	H 6	O 1	V 0
B 4	I 0	P 4	W 7
C 7	J 3	Q 0	X 0
D 5	K 4	R 4	Y 0
E 2	L 3	S 11	Z 1
F 3	M 5	T 1	
G 6	N 1	U 1	

Total of 81 @ \$15.00 each equals \$1,215.00.

Secretary/ Treasurer

*Roy E Norris*



# Letters from the members (Sometimes abridged)

From Bruce Loewenberg

HqH

Dear Hank,  
Soddy I must inform you of the passing of my mother Sore (Pat) Loewenberg on Jan 5, 2003. She was interned with my father at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery. She lived a full life and at the end there was no quality of life. She enjoyed her association with all of you of the 82nd. I look forward to all of your mailings, and wish all the best to all members.

Sincerely,  
Bruce

From Tony Massick [ 95H ] to Dick Ostronik

96th

Hi Ya Dick & Sylvia,

Hope this message finds you both well and fine.

Hank called me this evening about a couple of other items and then, mentioned, that your name wasn't on the 96th roster. I said, yes it is....Hank said, no it's not, better look again.....Which I did, and, found out, I had forgot to list it !!!!!!!

I couldn't believe I had done that !!!!!!!.....So, please accept my, sincere apology, for this oversight !!!!!!!

As I told Hank and other members of the 82nd FG, When it's just me doing all the typing, I do miss things !!!! and, when you guys see my, boo-boos, please call me, so I can correct them.....Don't be shy, give me a call or an email message.....I'm sure there's other items that might need correcting, I just haven't found them yet....

Which reminds me.....I need your, rank....

Like I tell everyone, "Sometimes I can't see the forest for the trees" !!!!!!!

As of today, the website has had over 4,500 visitors from 24 countries !!!!!!!.....HOLY COWS !!!!!!!

Just a reminder, if you have any photos, reports, diaries, letters, etc. ANYTHING, that can be used for the website, we need it.....We are really short on items for the 96th.....Hopefully, we'll get some response from the next issue of the NEWSLETTER.....

I'm heading out tomorrow, for Mexico. We race at Monterrey Mar. 23rd. I should be back home around Mar. 26th.....If you do happen to email me, my wife Cindy, forwards all my emails and if I get any phone calls, she also makes sure that I get that information, as well.

Well SIR, I'll let you go for now. And, again, I sure am sorry, for overlooking your name !!!!!

Talk to you later,

As Always,

Terry

From Dawn Habhab

Dear Sirs:

My name is Dawn Habhab and I am the Great Niece of 1st Lt. Ernest Anderson. I was blessed to have inherited my Great Uncle's belongings from W.W.II. I have his pictures, letters, and medals from the war. I also have a brief history of his tour although I would love to know more.

From what I understand his plane was shot down 50 yards off the coast of Italy on April 22, 1945. I would love to know if anyone remembers my great uncle or if anyone would be interested in copies of the letters and pictures that I have. I am in hopes of putting together as much information about him as possible for my great Aunts (2), Emie's sisters. My two Great Aunt's cherished him but were never able to find out if Emie was ever recovered, memorialized anywhere or laid to rest. I would love to be able to put the pieces together for them before it is too late.

Any information you might have would be greatly appreciated. If there is anything I can do for you, please let me know.

Thanking you in advance,  
Dawn Habhab

From Del Ryland

95th

Subject: 1st Lt. Ernest L. Anderson

Reply to Dawn Habhab:

What a surprise to read your E-mail to Terry Massick! You may not believe this, but I was flying Andy's wing on 4-22-45, when he was shot down! We were strafing trains and convoys in the Po Valley in Northern Italy. The German ground fire was very heavy. We could see the tracers coming all around us. My plane was hit in the center nacell just ahead of the pilot compartment. I radioed Andy that I was hit and suggested that we leave the area. He radioed back that he would make one more pass at the target. On that pass he was hit and went into the Mediterranean Sea at an altitude of about 500 feet. No one saw him attempt to leave the plane. There was no time or altitude for bailout. It may be a comfort to know that he was entombed in his plane at sea. Other pilots saw this sudden episode and the crash into the Mediterranean Sea.

It is interesting that in 1952 I met one of the pilots on the same mission—in Hackensack, NJ. He (Lewis Geresi) was a teacher, and I was working for Ford Motor Co. Lew recognized me going into a store on Main St. I. We played bridge together and often reviewed our last mission of WWII. There was an unwritten rule that a pilot should never go back for a second pass at the same target because the enemy would be ready for you. This is unfortunately what happened to this good pilot, Andy, on his second pass. The element of surprise gave us the advantage on the first pass at the target. We were flying in very low (just above treetop) so the enemy was not expecting us.

Andy and I were quite good friends, since he was from Lake Mills, IA, and I had attended Albert Lea, MN, Junior College, prior to transferring to St. Olaf College. I knew Andy was from a large family, and his mother was so proud of him! After 57 years it is hard to remember details.

I have told my wife several times that I was sorry that I never went to Lake Mills to visit Andy's mother when I came back from WWII. Now after all these years I hear there are two of Andy's sisters, whom I would have met! I was a Ford dealer in Duluth, MN, for 33 years. At a dealer convention I met someone who knew Andy's mother. I could be wrong, but I believe it was Robert Bliss, who is the Ford dealer in Faribault, MN.

Actually, I claimed Northfield as my hometown during WWII. Again, it was interesting that three young men from Northfield were pilots in the 82nd Fighter Group—95th Squadron. The other two were killed in action in similar missions that took Andy down. Some say it was luck to come home alive, but if you were in the wrong place at the wrong time, you were a casualty.

Each pilot had an autographed picture of himself on the wall of the Officers' Club at Foggia, Italy. If he were killed, his best friend kept the photo. I have the picture of Andy and would be honored to send it to you or to whomever you choose. Please send me an address.

After 33 years as a Ford dealer in Duluth, we retired to Scottsdale, AZ. We have a son still in Minnesota, in Rochester.

It is a pleasure to recall Andy's friendship. These days of E-mail have surely enabled everyone to check into WWII history!

Sincerely,  
Del Ryland

From Fern Morgan

97H

Dear Hank —

February 23, 03

I want to thank the 82nd Fighter Group for the most beautiful arrangement of flowers. Shick would have loved them too. He used to say to me when I was watering all my flowers he knew I was giving them love & talking to them because they were always so beautiful. Now I include him in my talking to them as well.

He was my knight in shining armor. We did everything together. It is a difficult time in my life but I must keep on going as he would want me to.

He touched so many people's lives. I didn't realize how many until his memorial service. There were around 200 friends there. After the service I had a reception & then to cemetery to have a military service with Honor Guard and a real bugler and presentation of the flag to me.

Shick loved the P-38 Fighter Group and now know he has joined the others before him.

Thank you again

Love,  
Fern Morgan



\*\*\*\*\*  
From Heber Butler

97<sup>th</sup>

Charles W. Luke  
11414 SE 65<sup>th</sup> St  
Bellevue, Washington  
98006

6 Dec 2002  
Garland, Utah

Dear Chuck,

Just a note from one who witnessed the design and coloring of the 97<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron Insignia.

The Patch/Insignia was initially drawn up designed and colored by F.O. Urban Francis Stahl in the tent shared by Stahl, myself, my brother Richard M. Butler, and other 97<sup>th</sup> pilots while we were in North Africa.. He Called it "the Devil Cat".

I sincerely hope you will give credit for the design in Stahl's memory. Stahl was killed in a P-38 crash in Hawaii after he had completed his combat tour with the 97<sup>th</sup> Squadron 82<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group. F.O. Stahl was from Scranton, PA

I have sent the original of the attached letter to the current commander of the 97<sup>th</sup> FTS at Sheppard AFB Wichita Falls, Texas, and a copy of it and this note to Hank Phillips .

Sincerely,

Heber M. Butler  
13600 North 5920 West  
Garland Utah 84312



Dear Hank,

Thank you for your help with this. I felt that I owed it to the memory of Stahl, as he was a very good friend and a fine fighter pilot.

I hope you and your family had a good Thanksgiving, and that you all have a great Christmas and New Year.

*Heber M. Butler*  
Heber M. Butler

\*\*\*\*\*  
From Heber Butler

97<sup>th</sup>

Lt Col Wolfgang Asmus  
Commanding officer  
97<sup>th</sup> FTS  
Sheppard Air Force Base  
Wichita Falls, Texas

Dear Colonel Wolfgang Asmus,

The insignia of the 97<sup>th</sup> fighter squadron patch shown in the 27 November issue of the 82<sup>nd</sup> fighter Group Association news letter, is fairly accurate and coincides with the original drawn up and colored by the originator. The design was made by Flight Officer Urban Francis Stahl of the 97<sup>th</sup> squadron 82<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group.

Stahl graduated from flying school as a S/Sgt Pilot, and was promoted to F.O. in England before we were transferred to North Africa. Together with other pilots in our tent in North Africa, I watched Stahl as he worked on the design. Among other pilots in our tent who also observed his design work, were my brother Flight officer Richard M. Butler, Major USAF (ret) deceased.

F.O. Stahl was from Scranton PA and died in a P-38 crash in Hawaii where he was assigned after his combat tour in North Africa and other areas of the Mediterranean was completed in 1943.

F.O. Stahl was a good friend of mine, and I hope that his name might be remembered as the originator of the 97<sup>th</sup> squadron insignia.

Sincerely,

Heber M. Butler  
Lt. Col. USAF (ret)  
13600 North 5920 West  
Garland, Utah 84312  
(435) 275 7837

PS: I too am a former S/Sgt pilot & F.O. & flew my combat tour in the 97<sup>th</sup> Squadron with F.O. Stahl.

\*\*\*\*\*  
From Clayton 'Tillie' Tillapaugh

96<sup>th</sup>

29 January, 2003

Hi Hank,

It's always a pleasure to receive the 82<sup>nd</sup> NL. When it arrives, I read it immediately as I did with the most recent one -- 27 Nov. 2002, Sacramento Reunion.

I counted 124 attendees, excluding the Active Duty Military Guests. The breakdown as accurately as I could determine was: 43 members of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Ftr Gp, 25 wives and 56 guests. 43 members!! Astounding! Certainly there is not much that can be done to inhibit the ailments of advancing age.

However, it is gratifying to see the big increase in the number of guests, the 'children' (offspring or whatever) of the "old foggy" veterans. It is great that they attend and visit with the "guys who were there". By doing this they can hear stories from various members other than just from Pop. Of course, some of Pop's stories may get tarnished by the actual truths provided by eye witnesses. It's too bad they missed Jerry Loewenberg's reminiscences--even I miss them.

It is also too bad that some of our members living in Calif. missed the Reunion -- only a day's drive away. I am really glad that the next reunion will be on the East Coast -- only about 3 hours from my farm in New York, which now has over 5 feet of snow on the lawn.

Bev's problem with her broken leg prohibits long flights with hours of sitting in one seat. The possibilities of any exercise while en route are virtually non-existent.

Hope you and Marlene are in the best of health and are enjoying reasonably good temperatures; it was 14 deg F here yesterday morning. An "ole" P-38 pilot,

Tillie

Ps. We have been in good health the past year, except for a case of Flu for Bev the week after Christmas. T.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**GREAT MOMENTS IN NAVAL COMMUNICATION**  
\*\* \*\* \*\* \*\* \*\*

**U.S. SHIP:** Please divert your course 0.5 degrees to south avoid a collision.

**CANADIAN REPLY:** Recommend you divert your course 15 degrees to the south to avoid a collision.

**U.S. SHIP:** This is the Captain of a U.S. Navy ship. I say again, divert your course.

**CANADIAN REPLY:** No, I say again divert your course.

**U.S SHIP:** THIS IS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS CORAL SEA, WE ARE A LARGE WARSHIP OF THE U.S. NAVY --DIVERT YOUR COURSE -- NOW!!

**CANADIAN REPLY:** This is a lighthouse -- your call.

The scariest part is that these fellows are supposed to be on our side.  
hp





Fern

Claude

#### J. Wayne Jorda

Lt. Col. U.S. Air Force retired, J. Wayne Jorda, age 83, of Niceville, Fla., passed away Nov. 19, 2002.

Wayne was preceded in death by his dear wife and soul-mate of 61 years, Erma Longhurst Jorda; and his parents, Emile Frances and Deseree Valton Jorda. He was born in New Orleans and attended Jesuits High School. Wayne enlisted in the Army Air Corps in September 1940. Upon graduation from flight training as a flying technical sergeant.

He was assigned to the 96th Pursuit Squadron of the 82nd Pursuit Group, Glendale, Calif. In the European theatre Wayne became a fighter ace with air-to-air victories of six confirmed, two probable, and four damaged enemy aircraft of Rommel's desert forces in North Africa. In the Pacific theatre he was chief of flight testing at the Guam Air Depot in the Marianas, and during the Berlin Airlift, Wayne served as liaison to the British government for the newly formed United States Air Force in 1947. His next assignment was Eglin Air Force Base, where he negotiated with the Navy the restricted air space above Eglin, Hurlburt, and NAS Pensacola. His final overseas assignment was deputy chief advisor to the Republic of Vietnam Air Force 1956-1958.

Wayne retired from the Air Force in 1960 as Special Assistant to the Deputy for Material, Headquarters USAF, Washington, DC. Upon returning to New Orleans he started his furniture brokerage firm, "J. Wayne Jorda contract brokers."

His other accomplishments were: president of the American Fighter Aces Association in 1980; past president of American Legion Post 23 Callender-Fleming in New Orleans; first president of the Flying Sergeants Association; and a member of the Fort Walton Beach Order of Daedalians, Seagull Flight 61.

He leaves two loving sons, Michael and Victor of Valparaiso, Fla.; sister, Lucile Bouzon and husband Nicholas of Metairie, La.; brother-in-law, Bill Longhurst and wife Zenna of Iona, Idaho; along with many nieces and nephews. He also leaves behind grandsons, Mark, Scott, Bryce, Greg, Pat and Matt; granddaughter, Samantha (Sam); and two great-granddaughters, Lexi and Alysia.

Lt. Colonel J. Wayne Jorda, United States Air Force, a native of New Orleans, Louisiana, retired in 1960 after 20 years active duty.

Enlisting in the United States Army in September 1940, Colonel Jorda entered aviation training in August of the following year. After receiving his aeronautical rating, he flew as a Staff Sergeant Pilot for seven months and was commissioned Second Lieutenant, United States Army Air Corps, September 1942.

While serving in the European Theater of Operations 1942-43, he flew 181 combat hours in the P-38 Lightning in England and North Africa. Colonel Jorda claimed 8 aerial victories while flying with the 96th Fighter Sqdn. of the 82nd Fighter Group.

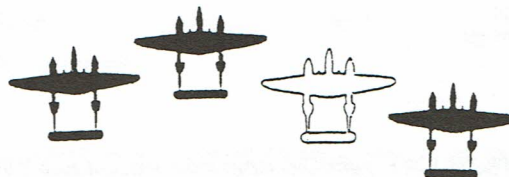
During the period of 1944-45 in the Far Eastern Theater, Colonel Jorda was Chief-of-Flight Test of the Guam Air Depot, Marianna Islands.

**Aerial Combat:** On 15 January 1943, Wayne Jorda survived his third North African combat mission over Gabes, Tunisia where his P-38 was so severely damaged by ME 109's it never flew again. On 5 April, when American flyers pounced on a huge fighter-escorted armada of German Junker 52 Transports over the Sicilian Straits, 18 Nazi air transports and 13 other planes were shot down. Lt. Jorda was credited with two JU 52 transports and one FW 190 fighter-escort.

**Tally Record:** 6 confirmed, 2 probables, 4 damaged. All air.

His awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal.

## FLY BY of HONOR



Missing plane formation for recently departed heros of the 82nd

**	**	**	**	**	**	*
Arthur W. Dawson				unk		96 <sup>th</sup>
H. Ben Dickie				25 Apr., 02		95 <sup>th</sup>
J. Wayne Jorda				19 Nov., 02		96 <sup>th</sup>
Al Martin				02 Dec., 02		96 <sup>th</sup>
Hugh Thompson				18 Dec., 02		95 <sup>th</sup>
Watson E. Holley				28 Dec., 02		96 <sup>th</sup>
Ray Neameyer*				01 Jan., 03		97 <sup>th</sup>
Pat Loewenberg {Jerry}				05 Jan., 03		HqH
E. Claude 'Slick' Morgan				06 Feb., 03		97 <sup>th</sup>

\* denotes inactive Member.



LT. COLONEL J. WAYNE JORDA, USAF

#### MORGAN, EMORY CLAUDE

Born in Kerns, TX on December 7, 1920, Emory Claude Morgan died with his family at his home in Carmichael. He travelled quite a path before his death on February 6, 2003 at the age of 82. The oldest child in a Texas farming family, at the age of 15 he enlisted in the Texas National Guard. After high school graduation when he was 18, Claude transferred into the Army Air Corps, beginning a 29-year Air Force career and retiring with the rank of Colonel. He flew P-38s in North Africa during WWII, along with various other fighter aircraft. After the war, he attended University of Southern California and received his BS Degree in Business Administration. Then as an Air Force Captain, Claude and his wife and family were stationed in Pretoria, South Africa. He returned to the states and flew B-47 aircraft for three years. Then in 1957 transferred to B52s in California, completing his career at Beale AFB in SR71 aircraft. After retiring from the Air Force, Claude was a Certified Financial Planner for several years and then started a business with an Air Force buddy importing nautical antiques. He sold the business to spend more time sailing and traveling with his lovely wife, Fern. Together, and sometimes with friends or family, they have sailed from Florida to Montreal, from Lake Michigan to Houston, and from San Diego to Sitka, Alaska. Claude also sailed to Hawaii and up and down the West coast a couple of times. In addition to his many wonderful friends, Claude is survived by his wife Fern; daughter Lynda; son Michael; brother Ray; and grandchildren Justin, Jered, Anne and David. A celebration of his life will be held at 11:00 A.M. on February 11 at the Carmichael Presbyterian Church in Carmichael. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made in Mr. Morgan's name to the American Cancer Society.



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[temp. removed]

[temp removed ]

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Statement of Interest  
82<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group Reunion, Sept. 17-21, 2003  
Hartford, Connecticut

Hilton Garden Inn, 555 Corporate Drive, Windsor, CT 06095

For Hotel Reservation: Phone 1(860) 688-6400

(Ask for 82<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group Association Reunion group rate of \$94.00 plus tax – Rate includes a full American Buffet Style Breakfast)

Special Rates apply 2 days before and after the Reunion.

NAME: OLEN MEDLEY

I plan to attend ☒ with spouse ☒ and \_\_\_\_\_ (#) guests.

I/we plan to stay at the Hilton Garden Inn ☒ Other location \_\_\_\_\_.

Arrival Date: 9-16-03 Departure Date: 9-21-03

Travel will be by Air ☒ Auto \_\_\_\_\_ RV \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Activities of Interest to me/us:

Golf (Thursday) \_\_\_\_\_ New England Air Museum & Lunch (Friday) ☒

Banquet Dinner & Dancing (Friday night) ☒

Mark Twain Cruises on Connecticut River & Lunch (Saturday) ☒

Casual, Farewell Pizza Night (Saturday night) ☒

I volunteer to help with: Registration \_\_\_\_\_ Hospitality \_\_\_\_\_ Bartending \_\_\_\_\_

Save top copy and mail bottom copy to:

Roy Norris, 6636 Plantation Way, Cincinnati, OH 45224

82<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group Reunion, Sept. 17-21, 2003  
Hartford, Connecticut

Hilton Garden Inn, 555 Corporate Drive, Windsor, CT 06095

For Hotel Reservation: Phone 1(860) 688-6400

(Ask for 82<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group Association Reunion group rate of \$94.00 plus tax – Rate includes a full American Buffet Style Breakfast)

Special Rates apply 2 days before and after the Reunion.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to attend \_\_\_\_\_ with spouse \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (#) guests.

I/we plan to stay at the Hilton Garden Inn \_\_\_\_\_ Other location \_\_\_\_\_.

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Travel will be by Air \_\_\_\_\_ Auto \_\_\_\_\_ RV \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Activities of Interest to me/us:

Golf (Thursday) \_\_\_\_\_ New England Air Museum & Lunch (Friday) \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet Dinner & Dancing (Friday night) \_\_\_\_\_

Mark Twain Cruises on Connecticut River & Lunch (Saturday) \_\_\_\_\_

Casual, Farewell Pizza Night (Saturday night) \_\_\_\_\_

I volunteer to help with: Registration \_\_\_\_\_ Hospitality \_\_\_\_\_ Bartending \_\_\_\_\_

If possible, please send to Roy  
By 30 April!



# 82<sup>ND</sup> FIGHTER GROUP

MISSION NO.

25 July, 1944

## NARRATIVE REPORT

### MIELEC Airdrome, POLAND

1. MISSION: To strafe Mielec A/D together with 16 P-38's of the 14<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group; 36 P-51's of the 31<sup>st</sup> fighter Group to act as top cover.

2. A/C- CHRONOLOGY: 21 P-38'S took off from Poltava at 1010; 2 returned early (both pilot illness); 19 over target at 1320 hrs; 19 down at base at 1630 hours.

<u>T.O.</u>	<u>E.R.</u>	<u>O.T.</u>	<u>DOWN</u>
95 8	1	7	7
96 5	1	4	4
97 8	0	8	8
Total 21	2	19	19

3. ROUTE: Base to Piryatin - 100 miles; to Krasnystaw - 410 miles; to Vistula River fork - 60 miles; to Target - 33 miles; rally 10 miles beyond target; to Piryatin - 490 miles; to base - 100 miles. Total mileage 1203 miles.

4. RENDEZVOUS, FORMATION AND ASSAULT: 82<sup>nd</sup> made rendezvous with 14<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group and P-51's over Piryatin at 6,000 feet at 0950 hours. 97<sup>th</sup> led, with 96<sup>th</sup> behind and 95<sup>th</sup> on left. Flight out was made at average of 3,000 feet. At IP, 97<sup>th</sup> echeloned right, with 96<sup>th</sup> to its right also echeloned right. 95<sup>th</sup> was to left of 97<sup>th</sup>, echeloned left. Strafing attack was made in company front. 82<sup>nd</sup> Group P-38's made their strafing run just too far west of Mielec A/D to permit strafing A/C on airdrome. However, the 14<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, guided on left of 95<sup>th</sup> Squadron, passed over airdrome and smoke columns were seen from A/C set on fire by them.

5. RESULTS OF BOMBING: None

6. RESULTS OF STRAFING:

Lt. Hildebrand - 1 truck damaged  
Major Gardner)  
Lt. Elberty ) - 1 locomotive riddled

7. ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY:

- 1 JU-88 seen just before target headed NE on the deck. It had probably just taken off from Mielec A/D.
- 2 HE-111's encountered headed WNW on the deck just south of target. Both were shot down. 11 men were seen to escape from the wreck of one and 3 men from the wreck of the other.
- 1 JU-87 encountered south of target at low altitude and destroyed.



8. FLAK: SIH from behind front line. No flak noted from west side of Mielec, although men seen running from one gun emplacement.

9. SIGNIFICANT OBSERVATIONS:

- a. Extremely heavy motor convoy, tank, and refugee movement westwards, observed west of Krasnystaw. All roads crowded.
- b. 50 truck convoy east of Tarnow headed west.
- c. Brief exchange of fire between P-38's and 2 Yaks which made pass at P-38's near front line on return. No damage. P-38's easily outturned Russian fighters. 8 to 10 Russian P-39's flew by formation almost immediately afterwards.

10. WEATHER: 7/10 O/C from base to Kiev at 3,000 ft. Clear from Kiev to Rowne. 8/10 O/C at 3,000 ft. thereafter including target area. Some haze in vicinity of target. O/C forced formation to fly at average height of 2,500 ft.

11. AIR SEA RESCUE: None

12. RADIO SECURITY: satisfactory except for chatter of 14<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group spare trying to catch formation evidently with his own receiver out.

13. FRIENDLY A/C IN TROUBLE: None

14. E/A DESTROYED BY OTHER GROUPS: None seen

15. VICTORIES AND LOSSES:

Lt. Harman - 1 JU-87

Lt. Wells - HE-111

Lt. Elberty - 1 JU-52

16. SORTIES: 19 EFFECTIVES SORTIES

17. FORMATION AND FLIGHT LEADERS:

97<sup>th</sup> - Lt. Col. Mason (formation leader), Lt. Biggs,

95<sup>th</sup> - Major Gardner, Lt. Harman

96<sup>th</sup> - Lt. Willsie

18. COMMENTS: First AAF fighters strafing mission carried out from Russian bases. Target only 50 miles (or less) beyond front lines. Base at Poltava 500 miles from front line.

19. CORRECTION TOP TELEPHONE REPORT: None

DAVID WELD  
Major, Air Corps  
Intelligence Office



# IT'S HARTFORD IN 2003 !!

## **The Taback Family with Marsha at the helm announces:**

**"I call upon all Members, Associates and Honorary, to rise to the occasion in the traditional manner of the finest Fighter Group in WWII, by firmly deciding to: Suspend all previous commitments for the dates, 17 through 21 Sept., 2003, hold their advancing age in abeyance, practice their favorite and the latest dance steps, promote reunion attendance [counseling firmness and resolve to fellow members who waver and suffer indecision]"**

**The 82<sup>nd</sup> FG President confides that: War Stories will be sharpened and honed to the ultimate in suspense, excitement and credibility. The 82<sup>nd</sup> FG Spouse is requested and required to demonstrate her traditional forbearance and restraint when even the most animated account of how the air battle was won is thrust upon her. The President further confides that she will interrupt her mate's narrative only when called upon to confirm the veracity of her hero's battle reports when challenged by skeptics.** hp

\*\*\*\*\*  
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### **Golf**

Steve Taback has selected the private **Ellington Ridge Country Club** for the reunion golf tourney. Team Captain for the event will be either Steve or Pincus Taback.

### **Hospitality Room**

The large, spacious Hospitality Room is located a short distance from the Hotel Lobby. Lute Thompson will again be our chief bartender. [He will have to sleep in his own room this time -- hp] Hours will be as posted from Wed.-- Sun.

### **Transportation**

Free shuttle service to and from the Bradley International Airport. Ample parking for both private autos and RV's. Car rentals available at the Airport.

### **Handicapped Members**

Twelve rooms are equipped for the comfort of handicapped guests. [Please include on Registration Requests]

## **Schedule of Events**

### **Wednesday, 17 Sept.**

Early bird check-in and registration. Golfers should arrive this date for Team Captain's briefing, plus preparation for an early departure for golf on Thursday. Dinner on your own.

### **Thursday, 18 Sept.**

Golf tournament; Guest registration; Hospitality Room open, Dinner on your own.

### **Friday, 19 Sept.**

New England Air Museum and Lunch. Banquet Dinner and Dance.

### **Saturday, 20 Sept.**

Business meeting, Mark Twain Cruise on the Connecticut River and Lunch, Casual Farewell Pizza Night.

### **Sunday, 21 Sept.**

Farewells and departures.