

82ND FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 22, 2003

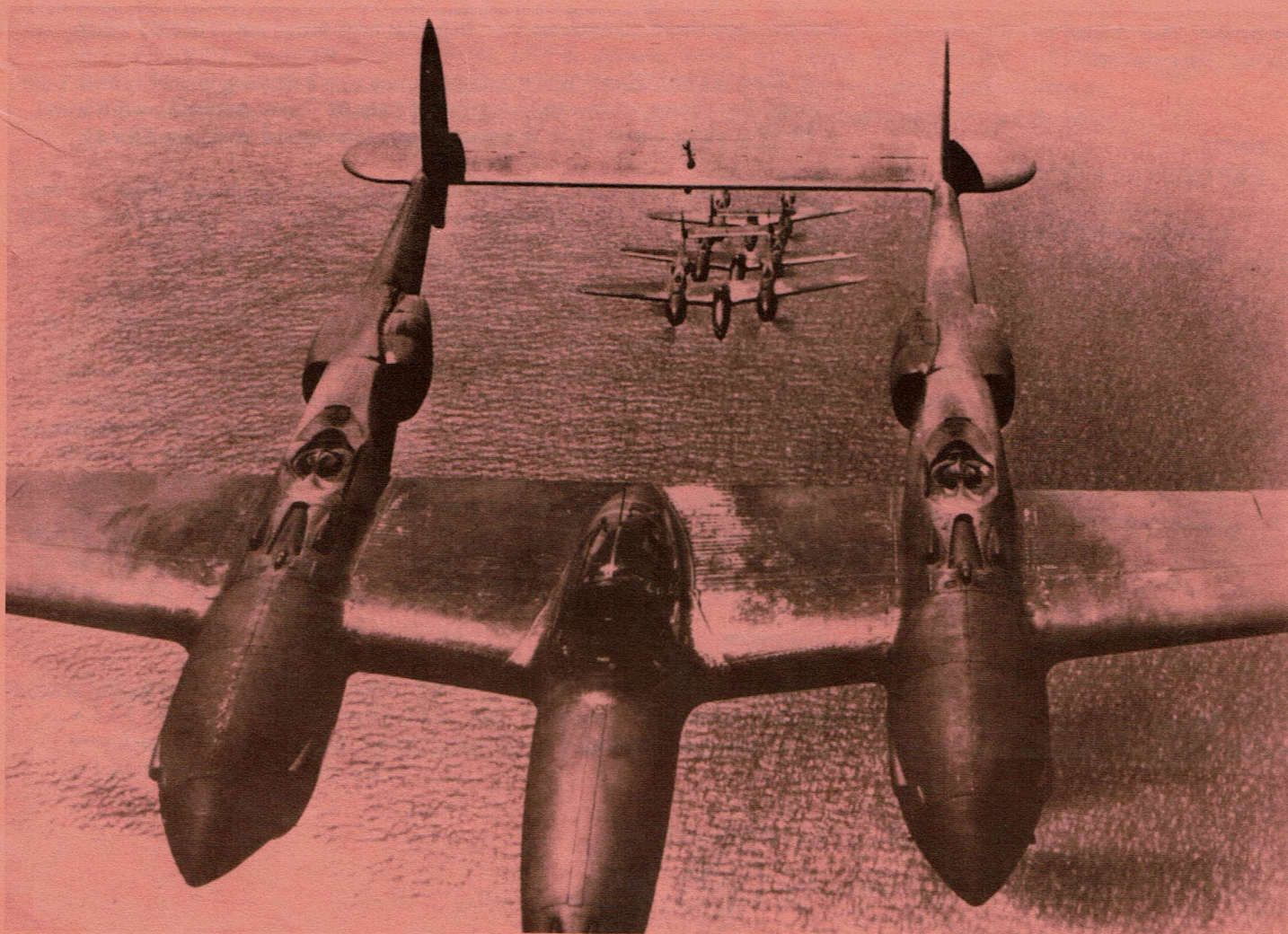
ISSUE 58

SPECIAL IN THIS ISSUE:

Registration For Hartford, 2003 Reunion (Sept 18 - 21, 2003)

82nd FG Website Introduction and Information

82nd Fighter Group Mission No. 718 -- Almasfuzito, Hungary



82ND FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION



THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

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NEWSLETTER
Hank Phillips

Greetings to all 82nd Fighter Group Association members and friends,

HARTFORD, CT. REUNION 2003: Phil Taback with Marsha and Steve Taback have excellent arrangements and schedule and are eager to provide an outstanding time for us September 17-21, 2003. If you still need a room, phone the hotel directly at #860-688-6400 before cut off date Sept 3rd and ask for "82nd rate". We'll see you there!

As to REUNION 2004 and following:

Sylvia and Dick Ostronik have signed the hotel contract for SAN DIEGO, CA on Sept 22-26, 2004 and they are working out arrangements now.

Barb and Bert Luetzow are working for September, 7-10, 2005 at Oshkosh, WI. Reunion sites at Branson, MO, Tampa, FL and Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX could work well.

2003 is our CENTENNIAL OF FLIGHT and there are many special times and places that offer us a chance to celebrate and I hope you have shared this WRIGHT TIME!

Our 82nd WEBSITE at WWW.82ndfightergroup.com is amazing in only its First Year! You will find photos, articles and references of many 82nd parts and places with a world of HELP available directly from Webmaster Terry Massick and his family. TRY IT!

Our 82nd Group Association of WW2 veterans and friends is likely one of few who have each of our numbered units now active as the 82nd Training Wing [Sheppard AFB, TX], 95th Fighter Squadron [Tyndall AFB, FL], 96th Fighter Training Squadron [Laughlin, AFB] and 97th Fighter Training Squadron [Sheppard AFB, TX]. Each of these presently active units flies our WW 2 insignia and honors their heritage during and since 1942. I hope to have their vital records in our next roster and each of the Commanding Officers has been encouraged to come or send representatives to our 82nd Assn. Reunion at Hartford, CT. Col. Tony ROCK sent his regrets from Germany where he is busy with the Iraq situation. Tony wears Ben Mason's 55-year old silver eagles with pride and his letter will be read at the Hartford Reunion. Ben and Bill Mason have officially represented our 82nd Assn. at All FOUR units and we thank them both.

Roy Norris, 82nd Secy. & Treas., has been telling us of net balances in our treasury dropping due to increased costs and lack of folks paying yearly dues at suggested \$15./yr. Possibly those of us who paid LIFETIME DUES many years ago could send a check to help Roy keep the balances up. Roy's report will be at our Hartford CT general meeting.

Best wishes,

"MONTY"
Ralph M. Powers, JR
82nd Group Assn. President

August 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

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Quick finance balance June 30, 2003.

Checking \$ 4478.29

Cert. Dep. 7574.41

Total \$ 12,052.70

Renewing Certificate Deposit for \$5,000.00.

Transferring to Checking \$2,574.41.

Note the yearly decline of total funds ! !

Respectfully Submitted,

Roy E. Norris

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Finance Observations

The finances of the 82nd Fighter Group Association in reference to the available funds for correspondence, newsletters, reunions and rosters has been on the decline. Revenue from voluntary sustaining and LIFE dues are on the decline. Interest from banking accounts has been on the constant decrease. While cost for publishing three newsletters per year and one roster per year have been on the increase.

To be more specific voluntary sustaining dues have been unpaid each year in the amount of approximately \$1,300.00. The reunions are not always profitable finance wise but the comradeship is over whelming! The annual cost of auditing the fiscal year accounting records is not to expensive but could be discontinued. Monthly reports to the Executive Board members are informative of deceased members, new members and address changes. These could be reduced to everyother month or even quarterly.

The newsletter is the informational instrument concerning regular member's ill health and the deceased. Also, information regarding planning and financing the reunions. All regular, Honorary and Associate members receive the newsletter three times a year and one roster which is current only the day it is published.

The association has been very fortunate in having members willing to participate in the organizing reunions, keeping members informed and the status of funds to accomplish association activities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roy E. Norris

EMAIL MEMBERS

(82nd Fighter Group Assn)

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David Bloxam	95A
	temp. removed
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Robert Randall	97th

[temp removed]

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Fred Wolfe	96th
Fjp38wolfe@prodigy.net	
Rich Wolfe	96H
Rich@altairmicrowave.com	

Changes since the last newsletter

Bloxam	temp. removed	95A
Bowers	new member	95th
Carhart	removed [perm.]	97th
Evans	temp. removed	95A
Gadbury	address change	97th
Gongos	new member	96th
Heller	temp. removed	97th
Morgan, Fern	removed [temp.]	97H
Norris	address change	96th
Rounds	new member	97 th

Note:

* Ltr.A after Sqn denotes post-war member.

Members wishing to add their names to the above,
notify Hank Phillips or Chuck Luke
{ E-mail preferred }

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**Don't Forget to bring your
NAME TAGS
To Hartford**

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Greetings to everyone of the 82nd Fighter Group,

The 2003 Hartford REUNION is just around the corner and the 82nd FG website is just over, 8 months old.

To this date, the website has had: 19,766 visitors from 42 countries. All the US Military, US Government, and US Educational locations, are not known, but, they are numerous.

July is the NEW #1 month with: 3486 visitors

March & June are #2 with: 3230 visitors each

April is #3 with: 3177 visitors

July 28th is the NEW # 1 day with: 215 visitors

To all members attending the REUNION, please bring your items: photos, reports, travel orders, rosters, log books, mechanic reports, diaries, letters, etc. so they can be scanned and copied, for the website. Put the items in a 'carry-on' bag, so they remain in your possession.

To 'ALL' 82nd FG members that don't have computers. Your information and participation is greatly needed, welcomed, and requested. It is vitally important to the continued success of the website. Photos, reports, travel orders, rosters, log books, mechanic reports, diaries, letters, etc. It is very easy to view the website. Just ask a family member, friend, neighbor to show you the website on their computer. Or stop at your local library and have a librarian assist you. They will be happy to help you. To find the 82nd FG website, tell them the address is: www.82ndFighterGroup.com. Please contact me by, phone or US mail, to make arrangements for scanning and copying of your information submissions.

The following 'family members' are seeking, information and communication, from any 82nd FG member(s) that served with their family member:

William W. Dana (97) - Great Nephew; Warren L. Singer (95) - Daughter & Grandson; Rudell Coursey (96) - Grandson; James O. Nuckols (96) - Son; Richard L. Hattendorf (95) - Granddaughter; Robert Gongos (96) - Daughter; Carl Hendrix; Ernest K. Osher (95) - Grandson; Howell B. Coates (96) - Nephew; Benjamin R. Liss (95) - Nephew; Wilburn Brookman (95) - Niece; Ernest L. Anderson (95) - Sisters & Great Niece; Thomas D. Hodgson (95) - Daughter; Ed Tinker (97) - Son.

Please contact me directly for, family member, contact information.

Numerous, 2nd generation, 82nd FG family members, have been located since the last NEWSLETTER. Some have become 'Honorary Members' of the 82nd FG Assn.

Cindy and I are looking forward to seeing everyone at the REUNION. As well as, hearing from, ALL, 82nd FG members, at anytime. Don't be shy. We're just ordinary - everyday, Iowa farm folks.

Terry Massick (95th - H), Webmaster, 82ndFighterGroup.com

We just got a message, from another 'new', 2nd generation family member, Donn Lord, seeking info, about his Uncle, 1st Lt. Clifford V. Lord (95) MIA-4/6/44.

Will be adding a 'NEW' section to the, 82nd FG - MISC. section, tonight....."INFORMATION WANTED"

Talk with you later...

As Always, T.M.

LETTERS from the MEMBERS

(Sometimes abridged)

From Michael Tinker to Chuck Luke (97th)

> My name is Michael David Tinker. I am the 5th of 6 children born to Edward E. Tinker, P-38 pilot/82nd Fighter Group/97th Squadron/ From Sept 6th, 1943 to late 1944. My father passed away Fri. July 25th, 2003 from complications due to diabetes. I'm trying to find anyone who might have known my dad and could share some stories. My entire family is understandably sad from his passing and could find great comfort in these tales. Other than his companions in prison camp, he would not discuss his time in the war. Anything you could share would be appreciated.

>
> Michael Tinker
> mtinker@iwon.com
> (505)877-7832

During a bomber escort to Athens on December 14 Lt. Bob Miller of the 95th lost an engine. Then on the way home his P-38 caught fire and he was forced to bail out into the sea. Fortunately, he was picked up by an Allied Italian rescue seaplane after spending 2 1/2 hours in the water, none the worse physically for his ordeal. This was Miller's first mission!

The following day brought a B-24 escort to Northern Italy. On the way home four Me 109s made a quick, diving pass at the rearmost P-38 element, which belonged to the 97th Sq. The only damage on either side was to Lt. John McLendon's aircraft; an enemy shell blew its canopy "to pieces" and wounded the pilot slightly.

The group returned to Sofia with the Liberators on December 20, and once again stiff aerial opposition was encountered. Twenty-five to thirty enemy fighters attacked the American formation over the target and, according to the mission report, their pilots were "definitely first-class." The enemy's tactics were both effective and frustrating, and the P-38 pilots were forced to fight a gruelling, forty-minute defensive battle. The report described what happened:

"Their tactics against our fighters seemed to be keep pecking away at our formation, holding them in the target area as long as possible after the bombers had withdrawn. They seemed to be highly-trained, competent, and aggressive pilots, because they dove down from

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Lts. McGrath (left) and Thompson after their early morning weather recon to Sofia on December 10. (Thompson)

upstairs singly or in pairs, while others circled around above waiting for some P-38s to follow them down. They would often attack from above and behind, in twos, breaking away to each side, diving down when our pilots turned into them and immediately using their great diving speed to zoom back up for another try."

The result was that three 82nd Lightnings were lost. The missing pilots were Lt. George Mitchell of the 96th Sq. and Lts. McLendon and Tinker from the 97th. Mitchell, who was the #4 man in Major Perry's flight, was last seen with his left engine on fire and half-rolling toward the ground. He had gotten out of position when his element leader, Lt. Larkin, turned into some enemy fighters. A parachute was subsequently seen in that vicinity.

Another P-38 exploded in mid-air and the third (probably Tinker's) was also on fire when its pilot was seen to bail out in the target area. McLendon was a spare on this mission and had replaced one of the ten early returns. He was not identified over the target, however, and his position in the formation was unknown. Surprisingly, all

immediately and turned over to the local policeman, who turned me over to the Army."

Tinker, McLendon and Mitchell, together with hundreds of other Allied POWs, were liberated in September, 1944 when the Russian Army overran Bulgaria.

Other 82nd pilots managed to claim an Fw 190 and two Me 109s destroyed plus four 109s damaged in this fight. Lt. Don Foley, who was Tinker's wingman, got one of the confirmed 109s; it was behind Lt. Tinker when he nailed it. Two Bulgarian pilots were reportedly killed that day.

On the 23rd the group celebrated the anniversary of its first combat operation, the mass flight from England to North Africa. General Ridenour was at Lecco that day to present some awards. Among the recipients were Sgt. Maxie Pelletier, who received his Soldier's Medal, and Major (Dr.) Haw, who was awarded the Purple Heart.

On Christmas Day, during a B-24 escort to the marshalling yards at Udine, Italy, disaster struck the

From Chuck Luke to Michael Tinker

Hi Michael,

Thanks for your e-mail. The story of your father's mission, where he became a prisoner-of-war, is included as attachments on this page. These are from our book 'Adorimini a History of the 82nd Fighter Group in WWII'.

I am also sending a copy of the 97th FS Devilcat insignia. I am forwarding a copy of this e-mail to Don Foley, who was your father's wingman on that mission. I am sure he

can give you further information on your father. There is a lot of information available about the 82nd Fighter Group and the 97th Fighter Squadron in our Web Page at <http://82ndfightergroup.com/index2.htm#>. You and your family members are eligible to become members of the 82nd FG Association. You can find out about this on the Web Page.

We all send to you send your family our condolences upon the death of your father.

Chuck Luke
THINK PEACE.

From Howard Warne 97th

Hi Hank,,

Please change my address from California to the following:
2315 Stoney Lane,
Grafton, WI 53024
Telephone-- 262-375-0942..

Ps:
My wife, Peggy is slowly recovering from her stroke of last September.
Thanks.
Howard L. Warne,
97th Fighter Squadron.

three men survived to become POWs. Ed Tinker, who was shot down by a Bulgarian Me 109, remembered vividly that most eventful day in his life:

"After being hit I put my plane through some pretty wild gyrations and ended up in a fairly steep dive. I was just starting to pull out of the dive when the cockpit burst into flame. I vacated the premises at about the same time that the plane blew up. I was burned around the eyes and on the neck, but they healed OK. My nickname in POW camp was 'Chief Raccoon,' because of my Indian heritage and because the healing burns around my eyes looked like a domino mask.

"After bailing out I opened my parachute immediately because I was not sure of my altitude above ground. When it opened I was traveling at about 400 mph, so it was a tremendous jolt. I was really sore for about three days. My chute harness stretched so much that my chest strap was over my head, but everything held together. The natives were waiting for me, so I was taken prisoner

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From Dorothy Latta

96H

WILLIAM ELVIN (BILL) MOSELEY PASSED AWAY JULY 7, 2003 IN CALHOUN, GEORGIA WHERE HE HAD BEEN WITH HIS DAUGHTER AND HER HUSBAND SINCE THE BEGINNING OF MAY. HE HAD RECENTLY RETIRED AGAIN, AT AGE 85, AFTER WORKING FOR CHATTOGA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS FOR 14 YEARS. PRIOR TO THAT, HE WORKED FOR RIEGEL TEXTILE FOR 36 YEARS. HE WAS THE LAST SURVIVING SON OF A FAMILY OF EIGHT BROTHERS AND SISTERS. HIS TWIN BROTHER, JAMES ALVIN, WAS IN ITALY WITH BILL DURING WORLD WAR II. HIS YOUNGER BROTHER, SAMUEL, DIED IN THE KOREAN WAR. BILL WAS STATIONED IN FOGGIA, ITALY DURING THE WAR, AND WORKED ON THE FAMOUS P-38 AIRPLANES, IN WHICH HE DEVELOPED A LIFELONG INTEREST. HE IS SURVIVED BY HIS ONLY CHILD, DEBORAH, AND HER HUSBAND, A SISTER, BETTY HAMILTON, AND A HOST OF NIECES, NEPHEWS, AND FRIENDS WHO WILL MISS HIM ENORMOUSLY.

From Dick Ostronik

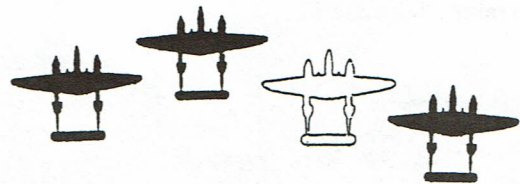
96th



This is my 100 pound Halibut. My biggest fish.
Does older mean better?



FLY BY of HONOR



Missing plane formation for recently departed heroes of the 82nd

**	**	**	**	**	**	*
Mary. Miller				-- Jan.,01		95h
Mitzi Mauch	[Thayne]]			01 Aug.,01		95th
Shirley Selle				14 Dec,02		96H
Gizelle Gongs	[Robert]			19 June,02		96th
Irma Jorda	[Wayne]			03 Sep.,02		96H
Danny Sharp				20 Mar.,03		95th
William Moseley				07 July,03		96th
Ed Tinker				25 July,03		97th

DANIEL F. "DAN" SHARP

Daniel F. "Dan" Sharp, Col. Retired USAF, age 85, passed away March 20, 2003. A Memorial Service was held at Pauline Chapel on March 22, 2003, Rev. John Auer presiding.



Mr. Sharp

He was born in Lewistown, MT., on March 29, 1917. One of seven children, he attended Los Angeles City College in 1941, and joined the Army Air Corp. He received flight training Thunderbird, Minter & Luke, commissioned a 2nd Lt. in 1942. He served in ETO, and North Africa during World War II in fighter aircraft. He served in FEAF during Japanese occupation and the third tour in the Korean War. Stateside service in fighters and completed five years at Air Proving Ground Command in operational suitability testing. A Tour in England as D.M., Also tours in

Air Defense and NORAD commands in material. He retired August 31, 1970.

He received Legion of Merit with Second Cluster, DFC with two clusters, Air Medal with 15 clusters.

Com m e n d a t i o n
Ribbons and Foreign
Theater Awards.

After retiring, he earned a BS in Industrial Arts and obtained a Colorado Teaching Certificate. He taught 17 years as a substitute teacher in the area.

He enjoyed fishing, hunting and working in an Elk Camp. He also was seen on Eisenhower Golf Course frequently. He also enjoyed skiing with family and friends. He was married to Nellie for 59 years. They have a daughter, Sandy. His sister, June Miller, also survives.



My son ,Sam and myself with salmon.
Sam is holding his 42 pound King Salmon.

82nd Fishermen;

Dick made me promise not to divulge the name of the place where he catches these beauties. He didn't mention coordinates, however, so punch in Lat. 58° 24.3'N Long.134° 46.6'W on your GPS and send me your photos.

hp

Letters [Cont.]

From Lorraine (Neilson) Clift

July 20, 2003

Dear 82nd Fighter Group Assn,

I just recently discovered your existence through a former P-38 pilot, I bought the book, "Admiral" and have received the roster. I'll be excited to learn if any knew my late husband, Douglas Neilson. He graduated from Williams Field, Ky. 430. He was in the 95th F.S. and was based in Tunisia, Sicily, and Italy (San Pancrazio, Lecce and Foggia #11 (Clenburg). His first combat mission was Sept. 19, '43 and 50th was April 4, '44. He then ferried aircraft until he returned to the states May 19, 1944. He was an instructor on the West Coast until his discharge in October 1945, at which time he began flying for Northwest Airlines until his death in 1956.

I raised our three children and was 20 years a widow until I remarried in 1976 to Jim Clift. We plan to attend the reunion. During the war years I kept a large scrapbook of Doug's training, overseas experiences, etc., until his discharge. A couple of years ago the scrapbook happened to be seen by a writer. Since then there have been hours of interviewing me, tapes made and a lot of research. And a book is now in progress. New surprises keep surfacing. The past month we located the son of the couple who sheltered Doug (a gas dregs during his escape as he walked 2 1/2 wks. through the mountains in Italy) who have just returned from a great time with him in Charlottesville, Va.

My husband, Jim is very interested and plans are that we go to Italy to trace some of his escape route & the one still living who hid Doug.

I have all the pages of The War Diary of the 95th F.S. from September 1943 to April 1944. So I have a record of all his missions as I compared the War Diary with his log book. I'd love to hear from any of you who knew Doug.

Also, I'm looking forward to seeing some of you in Hartford, Ct..

Still thinking of you guys as we were then,

Lorraine (Neilson) Clift (Jim)

5346 McKinnis Ave. So.

Minneapolis, Mn. 55417

612-729-6917

Lorraine asks that any 82nd pilot who was with Doug Neilson over Foggia on the 18 Sept., 1943 Mission, please contact her. hp



95th
Fighter
Squadron



From Del Ryland

95th

May 28, 2003

Dear Hank,

Enclosed is a photo. There has been an annual get-together of some of us 82nd'ers, held in Mesa. Five attended this time in Feb., plus two women. This may not warrant space in the Newsletter---unless you need a "filler"!

As a followup to the March Newsletter item re my response to the internet inquiry about Lt. Ernest L. Anderson, who was killed in action in Northern Italy: I was his wing man when he was shot down in 1945. Recently in mid-May as we returned to Scottsdale, AZ, from Minnesota, we stopped in Ankeny, IA, to visit Anderson's grand-niece, who had initiated the inquiry by internet. We had a very pleasant time looking over medals, photos, etc. It was good to meet this young woman, Dawn Habhab, so interested in the sad experience of her great-uncle. She is even considering joining us in Hartford.

See you in Hartford.

Del

Del Ryland

{ See photo on Page ____ }

Unpaid voluntary Dues 2003

A 2	H 7	O 1	V 1
B 6	I 0	P 4	W 7
C 10	J 3	Q 0	X 0
D 5	K 4	R 5	Y 0
E 2	L 3	S 13	Z 2
F 3	M 7	T 1	
G 5	N 1	U 1	

Total of 92 @ \$15.00 each equals \$ 1,380.00

LIFE paid prior to 2000.

A 3	H 18	O 9	V 1
B 9	I 1	P 7	W 9
C 12	J 3	Q 0	X 0
D 6	K 5	R 7	Y 1
E 2	L 8	S 5	Z 2
F 1	M 5	T 8	
G 5	N 0		

Total of 141 paid prior to 2000.

Secretary/Treasurer

Reg Morris

Letters [Cont.]

From Dr. T.K. Oliver

xxa

Hank: Thanks for sending me the 82nd Newsletter. You Will recall I am the B-24 pilot who was saved by a couple of P-83 pilots on a Ploesti run I never did find out for sure who they were. However I did hear from Jack Tatum of the 37th Fighter Squadron who escorted some B-24s on that same mission. It is possible he may be one of my two. Anyhow I have had fun trying.

Best wishes,
Tom Oliver.

From Lorraine (Neilson) Clift

Dear Hank,

My letter for the newsletter is probably too long, but you will know best what to delete.

Since I got in touch with Gene Chatfield things really got rolling. I've talked with several P-38 pilots, even some in other Fighter Groups. But I haven't found one as yet who knew Borg. Perhaps I will at the reunion.

Thank you for adding me and my husband, Linn to the membership to receive the Newsletter & for the email addresses. I was with Borg through his training on the West coast and when he returned from his missions & was an instructor, so I feel a closeness to any P-38 pilot.

*Sincerely,
Lorraine*



Mesa, Arizona 10, February, 2003

Del Ryland George Rivest Bill Lancaster Al Durell Al Schneider



**Dad's Evening Flight in Eric's Stearman
Bill Mason, Ben Mason, Eric Baldwin**

**Don't Forget to bring your
NAME TAGS
To Hartford**
#####

COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR

First, I will thank the many members who have who sent articles for publication, but whose offerings have yet to appear in this newsletter. In almost every case, this was not because of being unsuitable or inappropriate, but for economic reasons -- limited finance, to be more exact. A quick perusal of Roy Norris' financial reports tell the whole story:

His Treasurers Report for 8/12/97 showed a grand total of \$20,927.08 with his comment:

"The Association is very solvent !!"

Roy's latest Report shows \$12,055.⁰³. You can read his comments on Pg 2 of this issue.

The largest expense item is, of course, the printing of this newsletter, accompanied by hefty and continuous postal increases. To illustrate: My 16-page Issue 43, (Aug.,97), cost the organization \$949.88; the Aug.,02 Issue 57 (10-pages only) cost \$ 1014.86.

Please don't interpret above figures to mean that your articles for publication are to be discouraged; by all means continue the fine responses that you've given me in the past. The 82nd FG Association is still far from broke and no reduction in quality or quantity of this newsletter is being considered. The trend is, of course obvious.... Eventually the dues paying members will die off, while the reduction in circulation will be at a much slower rate. Presently this problem is foremost in the minds of Roy Norris and the Executive Committee. **Lets wish them success and support their decisions. !!**

hp

IT'S HARTFORD IN 2003 !!

**The Taback Family with Marsha at the helm extends :
A NEW ENGLAND WELCOME to the ENTIRE 82nd FG.**



Hotel

THE HILTON GARDEN INN

Spacious guest rooms full of thoughtful amenities complimented by friendly service and a relaxed atmosphere. 157 guest rooms, 59 with balconies. Full service Great American Grill for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Fitness center with treadmill, stairstepper and stationary bike, indoor pool plus whirlpool, individual climate control, refrigerator, microwave and coffee maker in each room and other amenities, too many to mention. Ask for 82nd Ftr, Gp rate of \$94.00/night plus tax. [Includes Full American Buffet Breakfast]

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 Request]

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.

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS 82nd FIGHTER GROUP Office of the Intelligence Officer

July 3 1944.

MISSION NO. 718 95th, 96th, 97th Squadrons

Almasfuzito, Hungary

NARRATIVE REPORT

1. MISSION AND TARGET: To provide penetration, target, and withdrawal cover for B-17's of the 5th Wing attacking Almasfuzito Oil Refinery, Hungary.

2. AIRCRAFT AND CHRONOLOGY: 42 P-38's took off at 0830 hours; 5 returned early, (4 mechanical and 1 escort); 37 escorted in target area at 1056 hours; 37 down at base by 1355 hours.

	TOOK OFF	EARLY RETURNS	OVER TARGET	DOWN
95 th	13	2	11	11
96 th	17	2	15	15
97 th	12	1	11	11
	42	5	37	37

3. ROUTE: Base to rendezvous 10 miles SE of Vukovar, 320 miles; to Czegled, 140 miles; to Negykata, 16 miles; to Aszod, 20 miles; to Esztergom, 35 miles; to target, 23 miles; to base, 455 miles. Total mileage 1009 miles not allowing for circling to protect bombers or for fight.

4. RENDEZVOUS, FORMATION AND ASSAULT: P-38's made rendezvous at 1000 hours as briefed at 18,000 feet. Escort formation was a shallow V formation with the 97th Squadron leading, the 95th on the left, and the 96th on the right at 24,000 - 26,000 feet above the bombers to the target area where the 95th continued on with the bombers and the 96th and 97th engaged E/A. Entire escort rejoined the bombers again near Lake Balaton, and left bomber formation at 1130 hours at 15,000 feet 60 miles south of Lake Balaton.

5. RESULTS OF BOMBING: Large fires and smoke from Budapest. Smoke from target area seen from below the cloud layer.

6. STRAFING: None.

7. ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY: Approximately 10 minutes before target 30 ME 110's, 210's and 410's were seen coming from the direction of Vienna at about the same altitude as the escort and out of range to the right. As the bombers made the turn at the IP the 97th and 96th Squadrons dropped tanks and turned into the E/A, spiraling down after them through a break in the overcast where the 97th destroyed one ME 110 that lagged behind. The haze at lower altitude made visibility very poor and the remainder of the E/A disappeared to the Northwest still in good formation. Bombers were heard calling for protection and P-38's climbed back up. A lone B-17 was seen being attacked by 4 S/E aircraft which were driven off. From 12 - 15 S/E, both ME 109's and FW 190's made individual diving attacks at intermittent intervals on P-38's climbing up. These were all engaged by the P-38's in a skirmish lasting from 10 miles north to 30 miles south of Lake Balaton. Six S/E and one ME 110 were destroyed without loss and no damage from E/A was seen to B-17's. T/E aircraft, which were probably looking for unescorted bombers, were flying a good formation which they held while running away from the escort. S/E fighters were aggressive against the P-38's that were climbing up from below but they did not generally stay to fight.

About 40 miles N of Lake Balaton, a single ME 210 crossed directly in front of the 96th Squadron and split "S" down, an obvious decoy.

Roughly 10 miles S of Poszony, 40 - 50 T/E A/C, consisting of ME 110's and 210/410's, were seen well ahead and about 4,000 feet above, flying box formation, and passing our own formation on the same course. This veritable phalanx of E/A made a left turn and came in from the NW for a diving attack on the middle formation of bombers.

First two ME 410's made a pass at the 96th Squadron and were met head-on with one being destroyed and one damaged.

Then the main formation of twin-engined fighters came down at the bombers with small groups of 3 - 5 aircraft in rough trail. The 95th and 97th Squadrons intercepted the E/A head-on before they reached the bombers and fired all the way through the formation. The 96th Squadron turned right and down after the E/A which had passed through the other two Squadrons and gone down under the bombers. Several E/A swung in behind the bombers to take shots. The 95th and 97th Squadrons made a rapid 180° turn back down on the main body of E/A which had started to pull up toward the B-24's again. The E/A spread out and attempted to evade the P-38's by diving for the deck. P-38's followed down, easily overtaking and out-turning the E/A. One of the main bunch of E/A had already been destroyed at altitude and at least four damaged. In a 20 minute battle on the deck, twelve more were destroyed and five damaged.

It is thought that this large formation of twin-engine enemy fighters may possibly have come from the Budapest area. They were undoubtedly encouraged in their initial attack on our formation by the fact that they outnumbered the P-38's almost two for one.

The 2 ME 109's destroyed probably had come down to protect the twin-engine fighters.

Some T/E A/C had gray camouflage with yellow stripes or checkers around fuselage. Several T/E A/C jettisoned rockets while P-38's were attacking them.

8. FLAK: SAH from Sopron area and from Hazmasker (4708-1802).

9. SIGNIFICANT OBSERVATIONS: (a) One B-24 with right inboard engine feathered was being followed closely by a twin-engine fighter. The E/A was driven off and the bomber was escorted back to Sisak on return. Several other B-24's were overtaken and escorted part way back.

(b) Many RR cars at Savar (4720-1658) and at Komarno (4750-1807).

(c) At 0725 a bomber was seen to go in off Pianosa Island.

10. WEATHER: CAVU.

11. AIR SEA RESCUE: None.

12. RADIO SECURITY: Satisfactory.

13. FRIENDLY A/C IN TROUBLE: None except B-24 being attacked - see paragraph 9 - This bomber was under control when the escort left it.

14. ENEMY A/C DESTROYED BY OTHER GROUPS: None.

15. VICTORIES AND LOSSES:

Victories: 14 - 0 - 9

Destroyed:

1 ME 410 - Major Philips
2 ME 110 - Major Gardner
1 ME 110 - Lt. Holloway
2 ME 410 - Lt. Holloway
1 ME 110 - Lt. Adams
1 ME 109 - Lt. Mass
1 ME 410 - Lt. Mass
1 ME 109 - Lt. Gangel
1 ME 410 - Lt. Cardimona
1 ME 410 - Lt. Bodine
1 ME 410 - Lt. Griffith
1 ME 410 - Credit to Lt. Hanson withheld [ending development of gun camera film.

Totals:

8 ME 410
4 ME 110
2 ME 109

3.

Damaged:

6 ME 410 - Major Phillips
1 ME 110 - Major Gardner
2 ME 410 - Lt. Griffith

Totals:

8 ME 410
1 ME 110

Losses: Lt. Allen, and Lt. Wisner (95th) were last seen in the dogfight 30 miles ESE of Vienna at (4800-1720). One P-38 was thought by Lt. Mass to have crashed straight in during the fight, and Lt. Allen was heard to call that he was short of gas and could not draw gas from wingtip tanks, after the fight.

Damage to our Planes: 5 P-38's suffered slight damage from E/A fire as follows:

Major Phillips -- .50 cal in right coolant radiator and right tail boom.
Lt. Harman -- 20 mm in front windshield, 20 mm through side window
Slightly injuring the pilot, three .50 cal in center section of wings.
Lt. Stefani -- two .50 cal struck leading edge of wing.
Lt. Willsie -- 20 mm in elevator, and one 20 mm in landing light.
Lt. Gangel -- 20 mm in right inboard coolant radiator.

16. SORTIES: Twenty-six (26) double effective sorties, including two MIA.

17. FORMATION AND FLIGHT LEADERS: 95th: Major Phillips (formation leader), Lt. Holloway, Lt. Allen. 96th: Lt. Willsie, Lt. Gangel, Lt. Bodine. 97th: Lt. Hanson, Lt. McKean.

18. COMMENTS: None.

19. CORRECTIONS TO TELEPHONIC REPORT: None.

DAVID WELD
Major, Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

HEC/DW/g