

82ND FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 31, 2011

ISSUE 81

SPECIAL IN THIS ISSUE:

PALM SPRINGS REUNION preview - Sept 28 - 02 Oct
Palm Springs, Calif.

2011 REUNION LETTER OF INTENT FORM

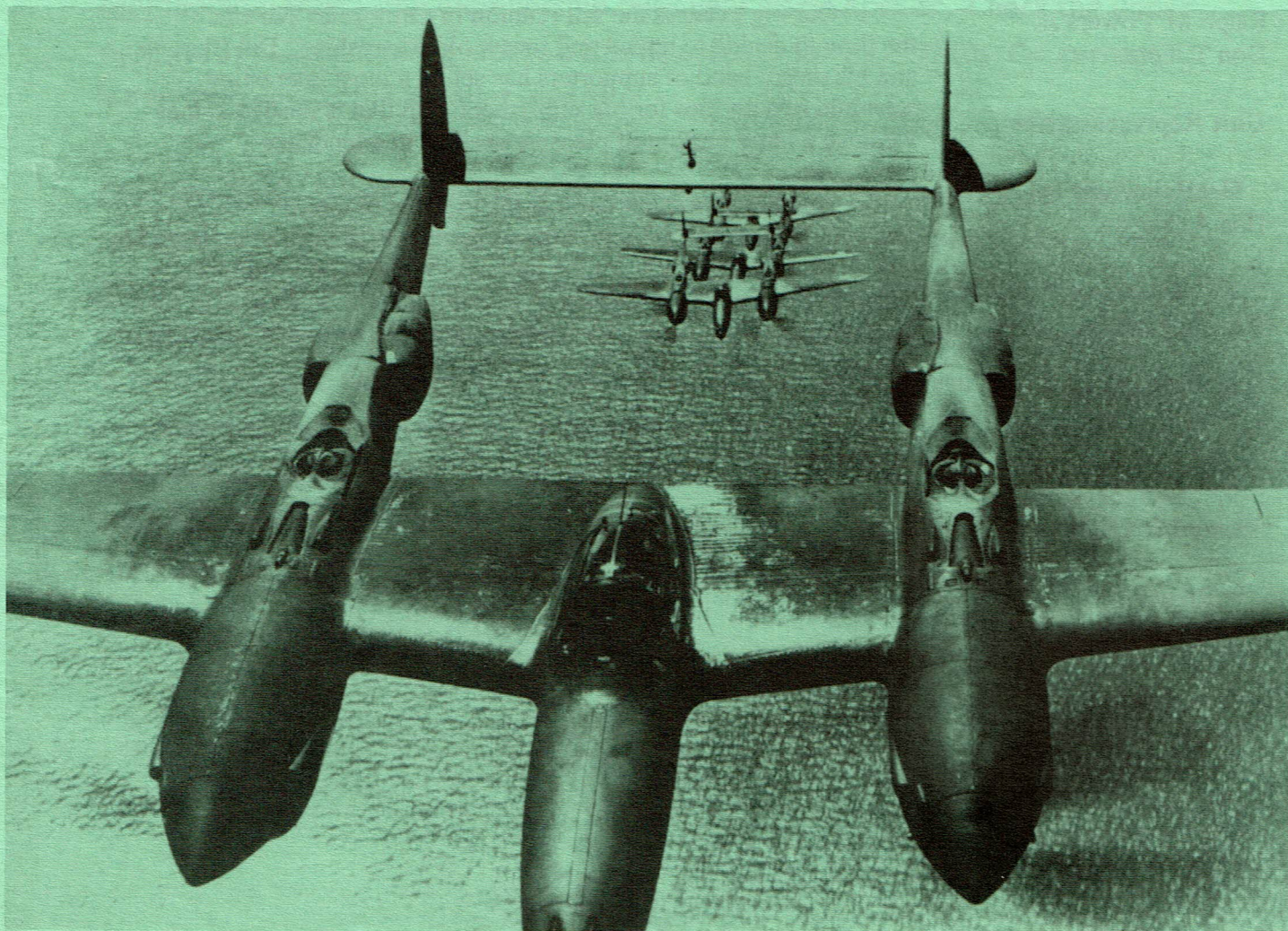
Eighty Second's famous Ace, Frank Hurlbut

**Al Luetzow's official report of the 82nd FG's "unique"
Droopsnoot accident.**

Social History of the Eighty Second Fighter Group Association.



*82nd FG President and 1st Lady
John and Frances Kane*



82ND FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION



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Terry W. Massick Sr.

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

A warm HELLO to all members of the 82nd Fighter Group Association,

Glaciers are receding in New Hampshire, crocus plants are blooming and several squadrons of birds are checking out the area. My best guess is that spring has arrived. We hope you are ready for some blue skies and pleasant weather. We also hope that you are able to set aside some time to think about upcoming events for the Group.

Our big event is the fall reunion in California. Now is the time to decide to attend and renew old friendships. Bill Blurock and his merry band of supporters has set up a most interesting schedule of activities for our enjoyment. All that is needed is that we have a large turnout of pleasure seekers in attendance.

Another important event is the election of a new association president. Your current president will have completed his tour of duty and is ready for the pasture. We will be looking for nominations and/or volunteers. A committee will be formed to seek out candidates and their job will be made easier if a volunteer will step forward.

As always, we hope that everyone is happy, well and proud of who they are.

John Kane

Treasurer's Report

Financial: Bank account balances as of 2/28/2011 are **Operating** (\$5,642.58), **Reunion** (\$2,495.58) and **Memorial** (\$944.00).

Memorial Update: The committee is chaired by **Leo Fisher** who will be in the March Field area this summer working on the project. **Dick Ostronik** is contacting other Military Service organizations that have memorials for ideas and suggestions. I contacted the curator of the AF Museum at Edwards AFB and our request is filed at Edwards where we are awaiting further directions. The curator has been invited to our reunion. 82nd FGA members who have information about sculptors or memorial design or ideas for the memorial are asked to contact Leo (520-825-7872) or Dick (626-289-7520 or email him at richsyl38@dslextre.me.com). Donations are tax deductible. Please write checks to **82nd FGA Memorial Fund**. You will receive an acknowledgement of your donation.

Membership Dues: The membership dues year starts April 1st. Check the upper right corner of the mailing label on this newsletter for your status. **C = current, D = due** followed by the amount paid/due.

Reunion 2011: Other than the hotel and registration, costs are not yet fixed and will be communicated in the June Newsletter with the registration form. **Early Registration** will be \$50. \$60 after August 31st. The **Intent Form** is very important. It helps us gauge the interest and in some instances helps set the prices. So please complete it and send it in. It does not obligate you to attend.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Netzer Parlman, 95F
Treasurer

2011 REUNION - PALM SPRINGS, CA
SEPTEMBER 28TH – OCTOBER 2ND

HOTEL: Hyatt Regency Palm Springs
Address: 285 No. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92262
Telephone: (760) 322-9000

The hotel is located on the main street with many shopping and dining areas. All the rooms in the hotel are suites. The rooms look out onto a five-story modern atrium.
The **hospitality room** is very nice with adjacent space for our memorabilia display. There is a balcony and a separate adjoining private room.

Room rate is \$99 and includes free breakfast and parking.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

TUESDAY, September 27, 2011 (The hospitality room opens in the afternoon for early travelers.)

WEDNESDAY, September 28, 2011 (Registration is all day.)
The Golf Outing will be in the morning. Clubs and carts may be rented..
Contact John Parlman, Will Hattendorf, Leo Fisher or Dick Ostronik

THURSDAY, September 29, 2011
9:00 AM free shuttle to **Palm Springs Air Museum**. Program and tour of museum with lunch served in the hangar. Return to the hotel for a little R&R. Thursday evening the street closes down and becomes a festive walking, dining and shopping area.

FRIDAY, September 30, 2011
We will be bussed to **March Air Force Museum** and tour the museum and the P-38 hangar.
Lunch will be at an off-site BBQ restaurant. We will be back at the hotel early afternoon.
At 6:00 PM we will gather at the hotel for the annual **pizza party**.

SATURDAY, October 1, 2011
Board the bus at 8:00 AM for the **Chino Air Museum**. We will be special guests of "Planes of Fame", the Museum's monthly program, and provide guest speakers for a roundtable Q&A. A formal tour of the many restored WW11 planes and the special P-38 hangar will be included. We are hoping to have a dual P-38 "fly-by".
Return to the hotel for a little R&R.
6:30-7:00 PM is a no host bar.
7:00 is our **Reunion Banquet** with music and dancing.

SUNDAY, October 2, 2011
8:00 AM is our Board Meeting
9:00 AM is our Membership Meeting

For those who do not wish to join a specific program, we will provide alternate options such as a Celebrity Tour, Shopping or Historical Tour.

BEHOLD!! Class of 44C photos of USAAF Aviation Cadets who became fighter pilots in the 82nd FG:

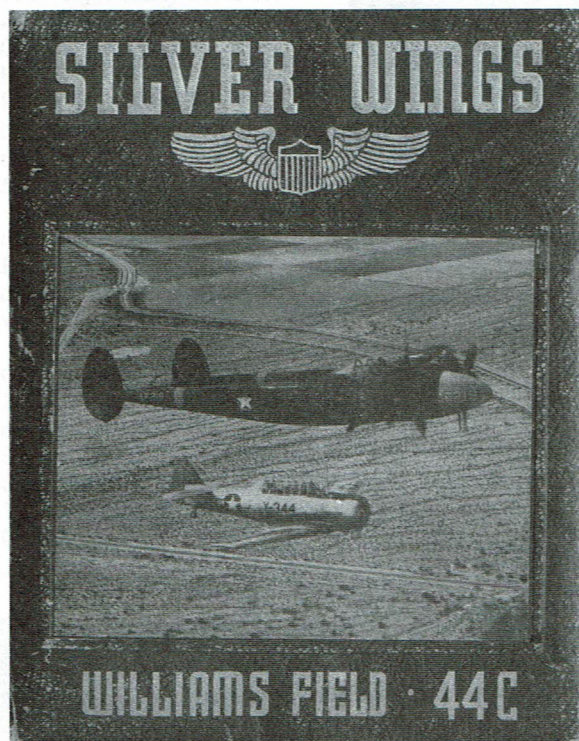
While some are no longer with us, try your best to identify as many as you can before going to page 7 for their names.

How many did you identify without using page 7? *If enough members respond, their results could be published in the next newsletter.*

Fighter Pilot Class 44-C from Williams Field, Arizona was well represented in the 82ndFG. Earmarked for P-38 training, this Class was assigned to Williams Field which had been using outdated "38's," but had switched to AT-6's in early 1944. The above pilots went on to complete stateside RTU training in P-38's at such bases as Ontario and Santa Rosa. This consisted of extensive, rigorous training in navigation, instruments, night flying, gunnery, skip & dive bombing, rigid close & combat formation before assigned to the 82nd. Many of our RTU Instructors were ex-members of the 82nd, who had faced the *Luftwaffe* at the height of its power in 1942/43.

They worked us hard and taught us well. They had and still have our highest respect!

hp



Dallas, Texas



Northfield, Minn.

Del Ryland



Tacoma, Wash.



Ness City, Kansas



Jonesville, Mich.

Monte Powers



Hebron, Neb.



Cheney, Wash.



Quanah, Texas



Moscow, Idaho



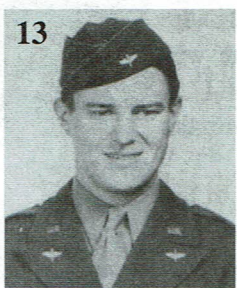
Bessemer, Mich.



Oskaloosa, Iowa



Stamford, Texas



Coeur d'Alene, Idaho



Riverside, Calif.



Coeur d'Alene, Idaho



Fallon, Nev.



Los Angeles, Calif.

P-38 FIGHTER PILOT

PSAM Docent was an Ace in WWII with 9 victories

by Frank Castner

After a distinguished career in the Air Force and as a senior technical engineer with Kodak, Frank D. Hurlbut retired to the desert and became a member and Volunteer Docent at the Palm Springs Air Museum shortly after it opened in 1996. He is recognized as the second ranking ace in the 82nd Fighter Group and 3rd in all of Africa as well as having earned the



Distinguished Flying Cross and 18 Air Medals. He is one of only a few enlisted pilots who flew in combat in WWII. As a member of the American Fighter Aces Association, Dadalions and the P-47 Thunderbolt Association he has remained active in memorializing the achievements of "the Greatest Generation." In 2004, he helped inaugurate the "Personal Courage Wing" at the Seattle Museum of Flight, the home of the American Fighter Aces Association.

Frank D. Hurlbut is one of small group of enlisted men who were encouraged to enlist in pilot's training to become fighter pilots shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor. His first school was in Hemet, California and had civilian instructors. After eight hours in a Ryan PT-22 he soloed and was sent to Minter Field in Bakersfield, CA for basic flight training in a BT-13. He completed his training in the AT-6 Texan at Luke Field near Phoenix, Arizona.

After 213 hours in the air, Frank was awarded his wings and became a "Flying Staff Sergeant." His first overseas assignment was in Oran, North Africa as one of 50 staff sergeants and 17 new 2nd lieutenants. They eagerly reported for duty, but no one seemed to be expecting them and there were no aircraft for them to fly. Unwanted and unassigned, they designated themselves the "67 Sad Sacks" and devised a hand-painted patch based on the comic character.

Two weeks after arriving in Oran a group of five C-47 transports landed to take them to Casablanca and on 1 February 1943 Frank was assigned to the Fighter Training and Replacement Center, Barchid, Morocco under the command of Colonel Stone. He flew the P-39 and P-40 first and then checked out in the P-38 Lightning. In April he joined the 82nd Fighter Group, 96th Fighter Squadron where he flew a P-38 named "Hell's Angel."

Eventually this 20-year-old flying sergeant would complete 50 missions escorting B-25 bombers on long-range missions to Italy, Sicily, and Sardinia. When not supporting the bombers, he would fly dive-bombing missions against enemy gun positions and marshalling and rail yards.

Following is a list of his victories:

11 April 1943 – Frank scored his first victory when his flight intercepted 25 Ju-52s who were evacuating personnel from North Africa. He shot one down and damaged another, but was badly hit and had to return to base, surviving a crash landing.

20 May 1943 – while escorting B-25s, Frank destroyed an FW-190 and damaged an ME-109

18 June 1943 – over Sardinia he shot down his second ME-109 and an Italian RE 2001. He also was credited with a probable ME-109.

10 July 1943 – while covering the invasion of Sicily he was credited with the destruction of three FW-190s becoming an Ace just 10 days short of his 21st birthday.

4 August 1943 – Frank was credited with the downing of an FW-190 that he drove directly into the ocean during a very aggressive dog fight.

2 September 1943 – his ninth and last victory came while escorting 72 B-25 bombers to the Italian mainland when he downed an ME-109 during a wild 80-mile battle. During that battle, 10 P-38s were lost and the Germans lost 24 aircraft with five other probables. The 82nd Fighter Group earned a Presidential Unit Citation for that mission and all B-25s returned safely.

A week after this last mission, Frank came down with malaria and was sent to a field hospital in Tunisia. His group commander, Lt. Col. MacNicol recommended him for promotion to 2nd Lt. but the paperwork failed to make it back to his unit before he was rotated home on 18 September 1943.

He continued to battle the effects of malaria, but in February 1944 he was assigned as an instructor to the P-38 Fighter Training Center in Van Nuys, CA. Later he became a P-61 Black Widow instructor and was a member of the Fighter Standardization Board. He remained in the Air Corps after the war and retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1964 with the rank of Lt. Col.

When you come to the Museum stop by and chat with Frank in the European Hangar. He will share with you his experience.



Frank Hurlbut in front of a painting of his P-38 in the invasion of Sicily.

Lola Breiner Daniels Giertz

Lola Breiner Daniels Giertz, 96, of Chanute, Kan., died Tuesday January 18, 2011, at the Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center in Chanute, Kan.

A mass of Christian burial was held at 10 a.m. Thursday, January 20, 2011, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Chanute, Kan. Burial followed in St. Patrick's Catholic Cemetery in Chanute, Kan., under the direction of Penwell-Gabel Johnson Chapel.

A rosary was recited at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 19, 2011, at the church and was followed by visitation until 8:30 p.m.

Lola was born in Chanute, Kan., on June 29, 1914, the daughter of Henry and Ida (Friedrich) Breiner. She graduated from Chanute High School in 1932 and also attended Chanute Junior College.



Lola Dean

She was married to Bill Daniels on June 3, 1935, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Chanute. He preceded her in death on November 5, 1967. She married Bob Giertz on March 7, 1970, in Wichita, Kan. He preceded her in death on October 19, 1988.

Lola worked in business management and sales. She managed the Bella Hess store and worked at the Chanute Stockyards.

She was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, the Ladies Alter Society, the American Legion Post 170 Ladies Auxiliary and Cecil J. Meeker V.F.W. Post 1654 Ladies Auxiliary.

Survivors include her son, Dean Daniels and his wife Babs of Cleveland; stepson Bob Giertz Jr. and his wife Barbara of Blue Springs, Mo.:

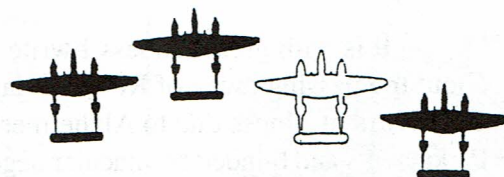
VERLE M. TILLEY

Verle M. Tilley, 90, of Le Sueur, MN, died at his home on Saturday, July 3, 2010. Visitation was Tuesday, July 6 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Kolden Funeral Home in Le Sueur. A family service and burial was July 7 at 12:15 at Fort Snelling National Cemetery, Minneapolis.

Verle was born on November 3, 1919 to Leavitt and Clara (Helvick) Tilley in Spencer, S.D. He lived at Spencer on the Tilley homestead, graduated from Farmer High School in 1937, and attended Brookings State College before enlisting in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1940.

A decorated P-38 fighter pilot, Verle served in the North African, Sicilian and Italian Campaigns during World War II. He married Vivian Vinz on April 3, 1944, and was based at Ontario, California before the couple returned to Spencer, S.D. where they farmed until they moved to Le Sueur in 1950. Verle worked as a technician for the Minnesota Valley Breeders Association for 16 years and enjoyed a long career as a farmer and dairyman, retiring in 1982. He was a charter member of the Le Sueur Flying Club and was a member of the American Legion for over 60 years.

FLY BY of HONOR



Missing plane formation for recently departed Heroes and Courageous Ladies of the 82nd.

**	**	**	**	**	**
Cecil N. Archer	(Lois)	—Aug.,10	95 th		
Veryl Anderson	(Maxine)	27.Feb.,10	96 th		
Mary Kingsley		no date	95 th		
Lola Giertz	(Robert)	18 Jan.,11	95/96 th		
Verle Tilley		03 Jul.,10	97 th		
Edwin J. Tafelski		30 Jan.,11	95 th		
Robert Adams		22 Feb.,11	95 th		
Terry Hollingsworth	(Pren)	16 Mar.,11	95 th		

Mr. Phillips.

Thank you for your call and efforts to obtain Mom's obituary.

She enjoyed your groups gathering very much and continued to talk about the "reunions" even when her health denied her attending.

Sincerely

Dean Daniels

Dear Hank,

We're writing to let you know that our father/husband died in July 2010. And to ask if you would please include this information in an upcoming issue of the newsletter.

He enjoyed receiving & reading the newsletters when they arrived.

We have always felt so proud of his role as a P-38 pilot in WW II. We miss him dearly.

Thank you,

Vivian Tilley (wife)

Julie Tilley (daughter)

Regarding Robert Adams
2-2-1923 to 2-5-2011

It is with great sadness I write about the passing away of Robert Adams after years of illness due to Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and blinded by macular degeneration.

We enjoyed attending the reunions and he was always eager to discuss his time in the Air Force, 82nd Fighter Group, 95th Squadron.

He was a caring, quiet man and made the family proud of him. He is truly missed by his wife, Vysta; daughter, Becky McMahon; son, Ken; and many other family members and friends.

2-22-11

Dear Mr. Parlman,

I am enclosing a notice about the loss of one of the members of the 82nd Fighter Group, 95th Squadron.

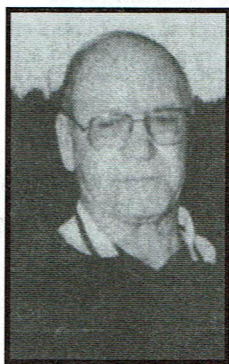
Thank you for publishing it in the next newsletter.

Sincerely,

Vysta Adams

EDWIN J. TAFELSKI

Edwin J. Tafelski was welcomed to his eternal home on Sunday, January 30, 2011. Born on August 14, 1921, in Mellen, Wis., he was the son of the late Walter Clarenz Tafelski and Rose (Rein) Tafelski.



On October 6, 1945, he married Elean (Bette) Johns in Park Falls, Wis. He and Bette moved to Ironwood, Mich. in 1959 where they resided until moving to Menominee in 1987. Ed served in the United States Army Air Corps 15th Air Force, 82nd Fighter Group, 95th

Squadron in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy in the Atlantic Theater. He had been a past commander of the Dirrigle-Sawales American Legion Post in Park Falls, Wis. For 33 years he worked as a lineman for the Lake Superior District Power Company in Park Falls, Wis. and in Ironwood, Mich. After his retirement, he and Bette enjoyed many wonderful vacations, traveling throughout the United States.

BEHOLD!! By name and number **The "Cream of" Class 44C:**

Nr 1---Sanders	Nr 10--Gustafson
Nr 2---Ryland	Nr 11--Baas
Nr 3---Roalsvig	Nr 12--Fuqua
Nr 4---Mauch	Nr 13--Phillips
Nr 5---Powers	Nr 14--Wright
Nr 6---Powell	Nr 15--Chase
Nr 7---Peplinski	Nr 16--Chapman
Nr 8---McAdams	Nr 17--Blurock
Nr 9---Luke	

Dear Mr. Phillips

My dad, Edwin J. Tafelski, passed away January 30, 2011. He was a member of the 82nd Fighter Group and proudly received and voraciously read the newsletter. He loved sharing it with me also.

Please assist me in getting his obituary published (edited in any way you see fit) in the newsletter. If you have any questions, please call me at 906-864-2237 or email me at mpackmayer@eagleherald.com.

I truly appreciate your assistance.
Sincerely,
Marilyn C. Packmayer

PILOTS STATEMENT

January 21, 1945, at 0955 hours, I took off on a regularly scheduled combat mission in a P-38 J 20 modified for high-level bombing, load of one (1) belly tank and four (4) five hundred pound G/P. bombs, with 1st Lt. Roy L. Andersen as bombardier. Upon reaching an altitude of approximately 600 feet, I heard a sound similar to a cap pistol, or champagne bottle cork, over the engine noise. Immediately a bright white-red flame with no noticeable smoke poured out from behind the top left portion of the instrument panel. Several seconds later it also developed a very intense flame from behind the lower left side of instrument panel and I observed flaming molt dropping to floor. One of these pieces fell on my left boot. (english heavy leather). Feeling a sharp pain, I jerked my foot and it rolled off. Second degree burns have subsequently developed. I then dumped my canopy with intentions of being sucked out by pulling my chute in air stream, but then remembered I had a bombardier who couldn't possibly get out at that altitude. I called him on interphone and said, "Andy, ship is on fire, salvo the tank and bombs I'm taking her in". I reached over and pulled the throttle full-off. The pain from the burns was intense as I jammed the stick forward putting the plane into a very steep glide to get down as quickly as possible. Upon seeing the ground through the flame, I pulled the stick back hard, causing high speed stall and mushed in. The ship hit hard and bounded once. I then released my safety belt because I was afraid I would pass out from the pain. I was thrown through the left side window, which cut my head in several places, and landed on leading edge of outer wing. I then ran around to the nose. The plexi-glass was broken and the bombardier was just unfastening his safety belt and appeared to be O.K. I hollered, "Let's get the hell out of here", then ran about ten (10) yards where I stopped to see if he was coming. Just as he joined me, there was a small explosion from the cockpit. We ran again for about thirty (30) yards, then walked to a safe distance where we examined each other for serious injuries. We waited there for the arrival of ambulance and crash truck. Lt. Andersen was not injured. I received second and third degree burns of left foot, left leg, right leg, neck, face and left hand.

There was no damage to civilian property. During the entire flight all instruments were indicating normally and engines functioned smoothly.

ALBERT E. LUETZOW,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Pilot.

ALBERT LUETZOW'S P-38

During the Second World War the P-38 that Albert Luetzow flew was called the "Droopsnoot". The "Droopsnoot" was a P-38 with the guns and ammo trays removed and a bombardier's compartment fashioned in the nose section of the plane, just in front of the cockpit. The new nose section was all Plexiglas with a hatch opening into the top of the compartment. The bombardier entered by a stepladder placed next to the nose.

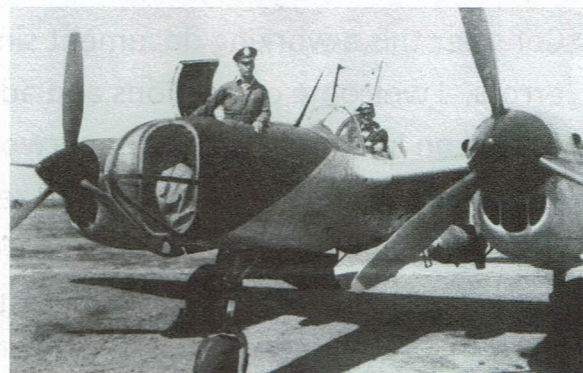
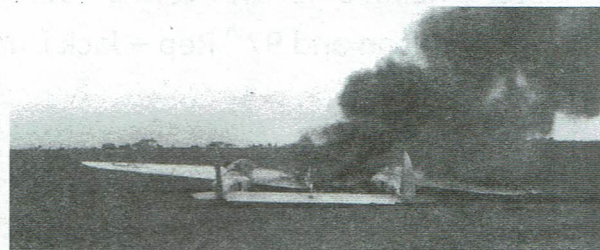
Inside was a seat mounted to the floor and there were radio and oxygen connections and a base for the Norden Bombsight.

The idea was that the "Droopsnoot" would lead the squadron and after sighting in on a Target the bombardier would give the signal for all the planes to drop their bombs.

Apparently the Germans wanted this plane out of service and paid someone to put the Bomb in Albert's cockpit.



**A Day in the life of
Al Luetzow & Ronnie
Andersen!!** (Whata day!!)



82nd FGA Social History

The Beginning

At the annual meeting in San Antonio in 2010 my husband, John, discussed researching the social history of the 82nd and publishing it in the newsletter to help remember our roots and to connect new members to the Association. Since I was appointed Secretary at that meeting, the job became mine. This is the first installment.

Will Hattendorf recalls that a "bunch of folks from Texas" were instrumental in the first gathering of a small group of the 82nd that met in 1978 in Corpus Christi. Pincus Taback, Harley Vaughn, Jerry Lowenberg and Wayne Jorda were among the original founders. There was another 'unofficial' gathering in New Orleans in 1979 and one at a Colorado ski resort, possibly Crested Butte, in 1980. These were probably both hosted by Jorda. The first official reunion was in Orlando, FL in 1982 hosted by George Simpson and attended by 200-250.

Harley Vaughn was elected president of this fledgling organization at the Corpus Christi reunion in 1983. I am assuming that the by-laws were drafted the year before. From our archives, it appears that the first board was also comprised of the following: Vice President - Will Hattendorf, Secretary/Treasurer - Jerry Lowenberg, Newsletter Editor - Paul Jorgensen, Roster - Ralph Embrey, HQ Rep - Jerry Lowenberg, 95th Rep - Monty Powers, 96th Rep - Walter Carlson and 97th Rep - Jack Duncan.

Two more reunions followed - Denver, in 1984, host unknown, and San Antonio in 1985 hosted by Tom Kelly. Word soon spread and in 1986, 352 people traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, to reunite with fellow WWII vets and their families. Will Hattendorf, the host, remarked at how amazing it was to observe three busloads of people being transported from the hotel to tour the Lockheed facility.

Consider this a working document since memories wear thin with time and there may be errors. I welcome corrections and additional information. For instance there is a Hooper copied on initial association paperwork. Is that William Hooper, 96th, and if so, what office did he hold? I would love to hear your recollections of the development of the organization and of past reunions, and will fold this information into future newsletters. Thanks to Will, John Kane and Hank Phillips for their assistance on this piece.

My best to everyone.

Judy Parlman, 95F
Secretary

German and Italian Aircraft (*partial list*) fallen before the guns of the 82nd FG



Messerschmitt Bf 109



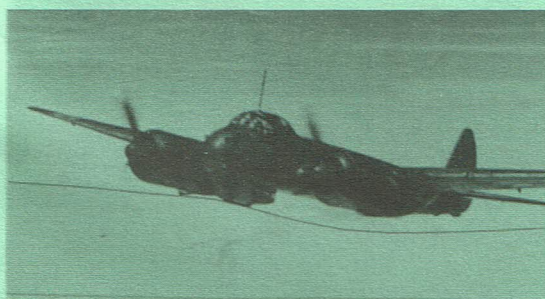
Focke-Wulf Fw 190



Junkers Ju 52



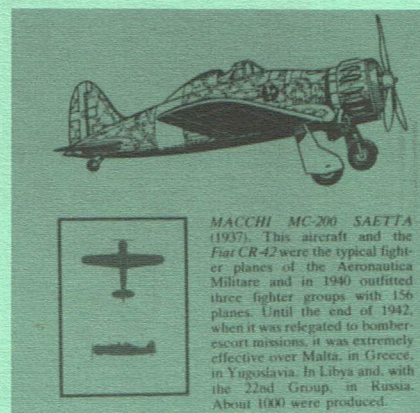
Dornier Do 217



Junkers JU 88

82nd. Fighter Group Aces

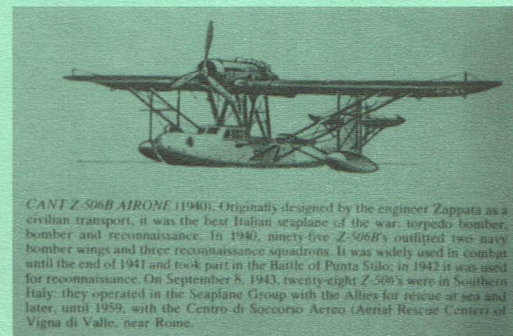
Name	Victories confirmed
Lt. William J. Sloan (96)	12
Lt. Frank D. Hurlbut (96)	9
Lt. Louise E. Curdes (95)	8
Lt. Walter Carroll Jr. (96)	7
Lt. Claude R. Kinsey (96)	7
Lt. Ward A. Kuentzel (96)	7
Lt. Lawrence P. Liebers (96)	7
Major Harley C. Vaughn (96)	7
Lt. Edward T. Waters (96)	7
Lt. Charles E. Adams Jr. (95)	6
Lt. Ray Crawford (97)	6
Lt. James D. Holloway (95)	6
Lt. William Schildt (95)	6
Lt. Thomas A. White (97)	6
Lt. Charles J. Zubarik (96)	6
Lt. Leslie E. Andersen (96)	5
Major Claud E. Ford (95/97)	5
Major Warner F. Gardner (95)	5
Lt. Robert C. Griffith (97)	5
Capt. T.H. McArthur (95)	5
Major Ernest K. Osher (95)	5
Lt. Gerald L. Rounds (97)	5
Capt. Herman W. Visscher (97)	5
Capt. Jack G. Walker (97)	5



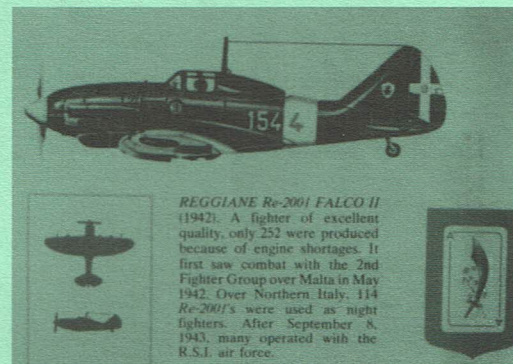
Macchi MC-200



Macchi MC-202



Cant Z-506



Reggiane-2001