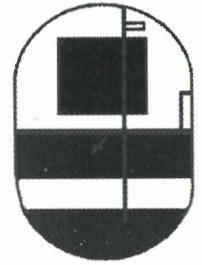




PANTANELLA NEWS



October 2003

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NUMBER 73

Bomb Squadron goes forward with new people at the helm OGDEN TAKES OVER PILOT'S SEAT

HOUSTON LAYS OUT WELCOME MAT

Contrary to statements made at recent reunions, the spirit of the 781st Bomb Squadron Association is alive and well--

To paraphrase Mark Twain.

"The report of our demise has been greatly exaggerated"

This year's Reunion got off to a great start with Betty Ambrose and Connie Ogden at the Registration Table which was set up in the Holiday Inn NASA lobby. All but two parties were registered Sunday afternoon.

Meanwhile, in the Hospitality Room, muscle men Ken Kill, Frank Ambrose and John Ogden moved the supplies, obtained ice and set up the facilities. The room was opened by 3:00 P.M. and soon became the hub of activity. For every afternoon and evening thereafter the members congregated to socialize, enjoy and avail of themselves the amenities the room had to offer.

Monday began with a visit to Space Center Houston. Numerous displays of Astronaut equipment and memorabilia and an I-Max theatre featuring 2 films on Space Activities were on the agenda. A tram tour of the NASA campus

featured stops at the Old Mission Control Center (MCC), now a "National Historic Landmark", 'Hanger X', which contained hands on displays of experimental spacecraft. Also on the tour was a stop at 'Building 8' which was of great interest since it was filled with various Space and Shuttle mock-ups in which the Astronauts train.

Getting up to the original Mission Control Center Observation Room proved to be an ordeal. The Observation Room overlooks the Control Center and is normally serviced by an elevator. However this day the elevator was inoperative. With all the technology that NASA possesses it lacked the means of repairing it. Accessing the Observation Room now required a climb of 87 steps. All but two of our members climbed and then finally crawled the 87 steps to see the display. The climb was worth it and com-

Cont. on Pg. 2





Wednesday afternoon was comprised of an impressive Memorial Service put on by Ken Kill. The local VFW Post 6378 color guard led by Cunnie Tracy, Commandant and Jerry Anselmo, Chaplain assisted in the ceremonies. The VFW Post Bugler played TAPS. The assembly sang the Air Corps Song ending the service.

Early arrivers stop to pose in front of Astranauts Jet at NASA Space Center

ing down was a breeze! Way to go, guys!

The Group boarded buses on Tuesday morning for a trip to Moody Gardens in Galveston. This facility features an Aquarium, a Rain Forest, and an I-Max theater. Also featured a Discovery Display (bugs) and a 'Mississippi River type Paddle Wheel Boat'. Many of our members took advantage of the leisurely trip around Offats Bayou. A buffet Lunch was

served in the Garden Restaurant overlooking the water.

The Business Meeting began promptly at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday (Minutes of the meeting are included in this issue).

The Association Constitution and Bylaws were reviewed and discussed article by article, revised and adopted unanimously. Soon after the specified annual election of officers was held (see the new masthead). The new President then appointed committees for 'Reunion 2004', a committee on 'Asset Management and a committee on Audit'.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 12:00 noon.



John Connolly explains impact point

781st Bomb Squadron Association
3728 Evergreen Drive
Dickinson, TX 77539-6108
(281) 337-3494
email: johnoco@hal-pc.org

Officers

John W. Ogden, President
Barney Russell, Vice President
John W. Ogden, Sec/Treasurer
Historian: Harry Carl
Chaplain: Loren W. Foote
Editor: Frank Ambrose

Board of Directors

James C. Althoff, President Emeritis
John W. Ogden
Barney Russell
Ken Kill

781st BOMB SQUADRON (H)

Part of the 465th Bomb Gp. 15th AF
Italy 1944-1945
Flew 191 Missions over Southern Europe
dropping thousands of tons of
death and destruction to the enemy.
Shot down 25 enemy aircraft
Received Two
Presidential Unit Citations



It's been close to 60 Years and it's still, "Hurry UP and Wait!"
Squadron members waiting to board NASA Tour Tram



Front Row Sitting L to R:
Bernard Badler- Leonard Goldstein- Kenneth Kopp- Dale Keiser- James Altoff- Walter Clausen- Albert LaBlanc- Kenneth Kill-Barney Russell- John Ogden
Back Row Standing L to R:
Frank Ambrose - Earl Leinart- Albert Tompson- Frank Wassenaar- Paul Mallette- Oren Lee- William Rachow- Bonnie Rowe- Herbert Sshlossin- Warren Beeson- Paul Durckle

The banquet Wednesday evening began with an open bar. The wine served during the meal was through the courtesy of Frank Piteo, (FW 12-12-02). The meal was superbly prepared and served by the Holiday Inn NASA staff.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. John Connolly, of the NASA Astronaut Office. His subject was 'The Shuttle Columbia Investigation', with which he was intimately involved. Mr. Connolly was in charge of a debris recovery team of the ill-fated Columbia Mission. He was also involved in investigating the probable causes and remedies of the accident.

His presentation consisted of actual photographs of the recovery effort and video footage of the suspected cause of the disaster. With the aid of a large model he was able to pinpoint the exact locations of the damage. Utilizing the model and shifting from still photos to video and back he kept the audience's rapt attention for the entire presentation. As a

memento, Connolly presented each attendee with a 'Columbia Memorial' lapel pin.

Following the presentation cameras began clicking and flashing all over the place as small groups and individuals were posing and photographing each other.

Many of the group retired to the hospitality room after saying their "Good-Byes" to the early leavers. Lively discussions took place to well after the 11:00 P.M. curfew. The reunion ended on a very upbeat note.



Members of VFW Post 6378
Color Guard

Thursday morning found the Hotel Lobby bustling with many of the members checking out, waiting for the Air Taxi or packing their cars for the return journey home. Arrivederci and ciao!
As Bob Hope so often noted,
"Thanks for the memories"

ENJOYING HOUSTON

Having a good time-
Wish you were here!

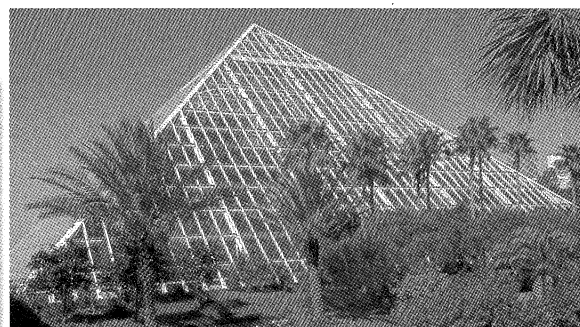
Left: Group aboard Tram at NASA
space Center



Jim Altoff speeding along in a 'Wheel-O-Mobile' at Space Center



Enjoying the Bus Ride to Galveston to visit the
Moody Gardens



Left:
Barney Russell
uses the scope to
scan the Galveston
Bay Area -
Is it a Bird
or is it a Plane?



Re-gaining their sea-legs, this group stopped to pose for the camera



**781st Bomb Squadron Association
Business Meeting Minutes,
Holiday Inn NASA, Houston, TX
September 17, 2003**

The meeting was called to order at 10 A.M., September 17, 2003. John W. Ogden, Treasurer acted as presiding officer in the absence of the President, Harry Carl, Vice-President, Walter Longacre and Secretary, Ben Donahue. It was requested that Connie Ogden act as Recording Secretary pro tem.

Presiding officer, John W. Ogden called the roll of the 781st veterans, who signified presence by responding "Aye". A quorum was deemed present.

No minutes for the previous meeting were submitted.

Treasurers Report as of September 17, 2003 was submitted by Treasurer John Ogden:

Association checking
account:- \$ 5,062.24
Reunion checking account :-
\$ 2,516.42

With a banquet balance
and refunds still
outstanding Savings
Account:- \$32,119.77
Total \$39,698.43

OLD BUSINESS

Copies of the Constitution and Bylaws were distributed to all present. "As our Constitution and Bylaws had never been formally approved and accepted by the membership" a reading and discussion of each Article/Section in the Constitution and By-Laws was called for by the chair.

As to the CONSTITUTION

Article I. Accepted as written.

Article II. Accepted as written.

Article III. (a), (b), (c), (d) accepted as written. (e) Changed to engage in charitable efforts related to Veterans Associations". Approved by voice vote. (f) deleted,

(g) now becomes (f) Accepted as written.

Article IV. Accepted as written.

Article V. (a), (b), (c), accepted as written. Earl Leinhart made a motion to strike (d) as

redundant.

Motion Carried.

Article VI.. (a), (b) accepted as written. (c) After considerable discussion Earl Leinhart made a motion that a quorum will consist of 50% of those members registered for the reunion and present at the business meeting. Motion carried. (d) and (e) accepted as written.

Article VII.. Accepted as written.

Bernie Badler made a motion to approve the Constitution as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Ballots distributed by Ken Kill. Carole Lee and Connie Ogden to tally and record ballots.

Results of written ballots (excluding hanging chads) were read by John W. Ogden as follows:

President Emeritus and Honorary Board Member: James C. Altoff

By acclamation.

For President:

John W. Ogden 21 Votes

For Vice-President:

Barney Russell, Sr. 11 votes

For Secretary/Treasurer:



As to BYLAWS

Article I, Article II accepted as written

Article III, 1,2,3,4,5 accepted as written. a new Section 6 was inserted. "The Pantanella News will be issued quarterly in support of

Article III of the Constitution". Old Section 6 becomes Section 7. After considerable discussion, Section 7 "Civic league or social welfare purposes" was changed to "Veterans Association". Accepted as amended.

Old Section 7 becomes new Section 8 "the organization receiving these funds will be studied and evaluated by the current Assets Management Committee. Recommendations will go forward to the Board of Directors for action. Any matters pertaining to assets allocation will be the province of the Board of Directors."

Articles IV and V accepted as written.

Article VI changed to read "The Constitution and By-Laws and subsequent amendments hereto shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

A motion to accept the Bylaws as amended was made by Bernie Badler. Motion carried.

John W. Ogden 12 Votes

For Member of the Board:

Ken Kill 18 votes

Should we plan a reunion for 2004?

Yes 17

Where?:-

Cruise? 5

Columbia, S.C.? 4

South Dakota ? 7

President Ogden appointed the following committees:-

Reunion 2004 Committee: Marcel Snyder, Orren Lee, Earl Leinart

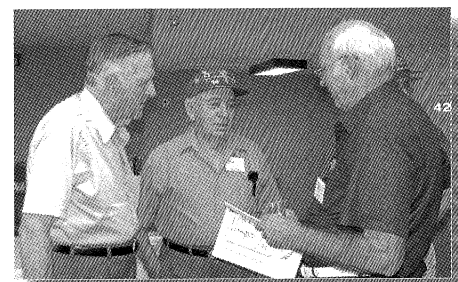
Audit Committee: Ken Kill, Orren Lee, Barney Russell, Asset Management Committee: Bernie Badler, Earl Leinart, Frank Ambrose. There being no further new business, the chair called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn by Bonnie Rowe. Motion carried at 12:10 PM

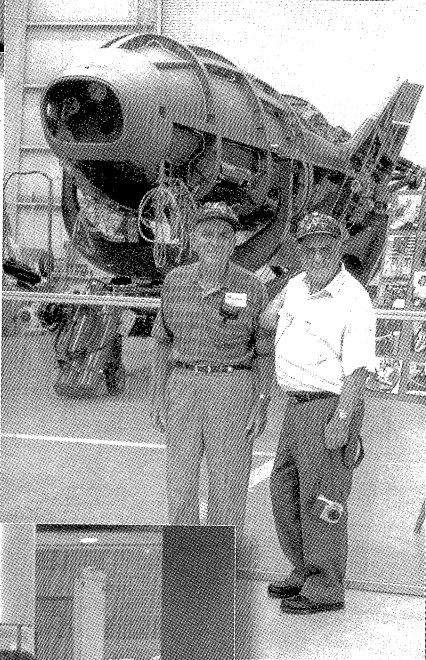
Respectfully submitted by
Connie Ogden,



**VII. NEW BUSINESS
Election of Officers**



KODAK MOMENTS



Party Time-



CONSTITUTION OF THE
781st BOMB SQUADRON ASSOCIATION
465th BOMB GROUP
Amended September 17, 2003

ARTICLE I - NAME

The organization created by this constitution shall be known as the 781st Bomb Squadron Association (465th Bomb Group)

ARTICLE II- LOCATION

The association reunions will be held annually anywhere in the United States voted upon by the members during such national meetings.

ARTICLE III- PURPOSE

- a) This association is a nonprofit benefit association and is not organized for the private gain of any person, it is not organized under the Nonprofit Public Benefit Association Law for public purposes.
- b) The objective of this association shall be to promote close social relations among its members and their families.
- c) To preserve the friendship, memories and incidents of the Association as members of the 781st Bomb Squadron (465th Bomb Group) during World War II.
- d) To hold and participate in national reunions held by the Association members.
- e) To engage in charitable efforts related to the members of Veterans Organizations.
- f) Notwithstanding any of the above statements of purposes and powers, this Association shall not engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the specific purpose of this Association.

ARTICLE IV-MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

- a) All personnel that were members of the 781st Bomb Squadron(465th Bomb Group) and served at Pantanella Air Base, Italy during World War II.
- b) Spouses of all of the above are considered honorary members, not subject to paying dues.
- c) Widows of members can, by payment of dues, continue as honorary members. (Non voting)

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

- a) The elective officers of this Association shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary and/or Treasurer.
- b) The appointive officers of this Association shall be Committee Chairmen, as appointed by the President.
- c) Nomination for the various offices



Warren Beeson and son Jeff ardently scan the proposed ByLaws for possible modification

shall be made by the membership, but not more than four (4) members may be nominated for any one office.

ARTICLE VI- MEETINGS AND QUORUMS

- a) Regular meetings of the Association shall be called at any time desirable, at dates times and places determined by the elected officers of the Association.
- b) Special meetings may be called by the President or upon request of 15 Association members.
- c) A quorum shall consist of 50% of those members registered for the reunion and present at the business

meeting.

- d) Each member shall be entitled to have an equal vote. There shall be no distinction relative to grade or rank held by any member while in the military service, of the Association, or order of business. One session at any reunion shall be devoted to the business of the Association. At such a session the following will be the order of business of the Association.
- (e) At such a session, the following will be the order of business
 - 1) Meeting called to order by the President.
 - 2) Roll call of personnel that have registered.
 - 3) Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.
 - 4) Committee reports.
 - 5) Old business.
 - 6) New business.
 - 7) Nomination of officers.
 - 8) Election of officers.
 - 9) Installation of officers.
 - 10) Adjournment

ARTICLE VII - COMMITTEES

There shall be 3 standing committees whose duties shall be as follows:

- 1) Membership. Shall be responsible for contacting inactive members, to determine if they wish to become active.
- 2) Reunion. Shall be responsible for selecting a site and for planning the reunion activities.
- 3) Historian. Responsible for researching the history of the 781st Bomb Squadron (465th Bomb Group) and preparing a booklet of the history for association members. b) Other Committee Chairmen. The President shall appoint other committee chairmen as deemed necessary.



L to R:-Frank Wassenaar-Dorothy Wassenaar-Grace Leinart-Earl Leinart and B.C. Russell Engage in discussion of ByLaws during the counting of the ballots

**781st BOMB SQUADRON
ASSOCIATION
465th BOMB GROUP
BYLAWS**

AMENDED SEPTEMBER 17, 2003

**ARTICLE I - DUTIES OF THE
OFFICERS**

1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the association. He shall appoint the chairman and members of all committees and specify (to them) their functions and duties. The President will also perform all other duties pertaining to this office.
2. The Vice President shall perform all duties pertaining to the office of the President in his absence. In case of vacancy, he shall succeed to that office.
3. The Treasurer shall be charged with the custody of the funds, including all dues and shall keep accounts for and make a report thereon at each regular meeting. His accounts shall be audited annually by a committee of 3 members appointed by the President. He shall pay all bills.
4. The Secretary shall keep in permanent form the minutes of all meetings, record the correct names and addresses of all members and perform all other duties pertaining to his office.

**ARTICLE II ELECTION OF
OFFICERS**

1. The officers of this association, shall be elected by a written ballot of those members present and a majority vote shall be required to constitute a valid election. If at any time a candidate for offices does not receive a majority vote on a ballot count, the two candidates having the most votes cast for them will be considered as candidates for revote.
2. Those officers elected will assume office upon completion of business during each national reunion election.
3. Any member may nominate another member as a candidate for any office at the time of election of officers.
4. Should an officer resign before the next national election, the senior elected officer shall appoint a member in good standing to temporarily assume the office. He shall then direct the secretary to send notice to the membership of the appointment prior to the next business meeting at which time the vacancy shall be filled.

5. Terms of office shall terminate at each national reunion or until their successors are installed or appointed.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

1. There shall be an annual fee of \$10.00 hereinafter called annual dues, payable in advance, on or before the end January; the association year to run concurrent with the calendar year from January to December 31.
2. Life membership, currently not available, can be reinstituted by the direction of the Board of Directors, and will make a member paid up for life, by the payment of a fee as directed by the board.
3. Such payment of annual dues constitutes the payee a member of the 781st Squadron Association (465th Bomb Group).
4. Membership annual dues may be raised or lowered from time to time if deemed necessary by the president and approved by a majority vote of the members at the annual meeting.
5. A registration fee may be required to take care of incidental expenses of any meeting called by officers of the association. Such expenses will be reviewed and approved and the officers are hereby authorized to see that all just debts of the association are paid.
6. The Pantanella News will be issued quarterly in support of Article III of the Constitution.
7. In the event it becomes advisable or necessary to disband this association, the property of this association is irrevocably dedicated to Veterans Association purposes and no part of the net income or assets of this association shall ever inure to the benefit of any officer or members thereof or to the benefit of any private person. Upon the dissolution or winding down

of the association, its assets remaining after payment of all debts and liabilities of this association shall be distributed to a nonprofit fund, foundation or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for veterans welfare purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under Section (cX4) of the Internal Revenue Code.

8. The organization receiving these funds will be studied and evaluated by the current Assets Management Committee. Recommendations will go forward to the Board of Directors for action. Any matters pertaining to assets allocation will be the province of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV - COMMITTEES

1. The President shall appoint such committees as he considers necessary at any time, or as directed on the majority vote of the members present at any business meeting. He shall appoint such committees as they direct.

ARTICLE V-AMENDMENTS

1. In order to change the Bylaws, the membership must be notified by mail in sufficient time to vote on such change or changes in the Bylaws at the Annual Reunion Meeting.
2. Any change or changes voted upon and approved by the membership will be incorporated into the association bylaws and become effective immediately.

ARTICLE VI ADOPTION

1. The Constitution and Bylaws and subsequent amendments hereto shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

ARTICLE VII.

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

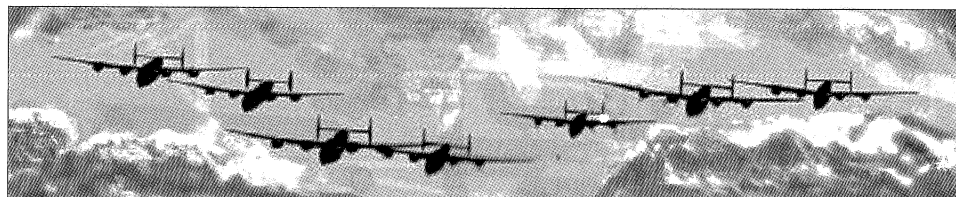
1. Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Procedure shall be the authority on matters not covered by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association.



All those voting in favor adopting the Constitution and Bylaws as presented and modified signify by the raising of hands-

The Saga of the "LADY BE GOOD"

Information courtesy of the USAF Museum



At 2:50 p.m. on Apr. 4, 1943, 25 B-24Ds of the 376th Bomb Group took off from their AAF base at Soluch, Libya, for a high-altitude bombing attack against harbor facilities at Naples, Italy. All planes but one returned safely to Allied territory that night--the one which was missing was the **Lady Be Good**.

Almost 16 years later on Nov. 9th, 1958, several British geologists were flying over the desolate, sun-baked Libyan Desert. At approximately 400 miles south of Soluch, they spotted an aircraft on the sand. A ground party which reached the site in March 1959 discovered the plane to be a B-24D. The "Lady Be Good" had been found.

Evidence at the site indicated that the crew had become lost in the dark on return from Naples and had flown over their base and southward into the desert. As their fuel supply became depleted, the nine men aboard had bailed out but had disappeared while attempting to walk northward to civilization.

Intensive searches were made for clues as to the fate of the crew and in 1960 the remains of eight were found, one near the plane and the other seven far to the north. Five had trekked 78 miles across the tortuous sand before perishing and one had gone an amazing 109 miles. In addition, they had lived eight days rather than only two expected of men in this area with little or no water. The body of the ninth man was never found.

Numerous parts from the "Lady Be Good" were returned to the U.S. for technical study. Also, some of the parts were installed in other planes, aircraft which then experienced unexpected difficulties. A C-54 in which several autosyn transmitters were installed had propeller trouble and made a safe landing only by throwing cargo overboard. A C-47 in which a radio receiver was

installed ditched in the Mediterranean, and a U.S. Army "Otter" airplane in which a "Lady Be Good" seat armrest was installed crashed in the Gulf of Sidra with 10 men aboard. No trace was ever found of any of them; one of the few pieces washed ashore was the armrest of the "Lady Be Good."

The window in the foyer of Chapel 2, Wright-Patterson AFB, is a replica of the stained glass window from the Chapel at Wheelus AFB, Libya commemorating the courage of the crew of the B-24 Lady Be Good who perished in the desert in 1943. Funds for the design and manufacture of the window in 1960 were donated by USAF personnel of the 72nd Air Base Wing stationed at Wheelus AFB.

The ill-fated crew of the Lady Be Good were:-
1st Lt. W. J. Hatton, Pilot;
2d Lt. R. F. Toner, Copilot;
2d Lt. D.P. Hays, Navigator;
2d Lt. J.S. Woravka, Bombardier;
T/Sgt. H.J. Ripslinger, Engineer;
T/Sgt. R.E LaMotte, Radio Operator;
S/Sgt. G.E. Shelly, Gunner;
S/Sgt. V.L. Moore, Gunner;
S/Sgt. S.E. Adams, Gunner.

EDITOR NOTE:

Letters, articles and general Info to be submitted to this NewsLetter has never been easier.

Just email anything you would like to share with others via the internet.

You can also send your photos for inclusion as well.

If you are unsure as to how to send your photos email me and I will attempt to walk you through it.

Send your items via Email to:

frank@frankambrose.com

FOLDED WINGS

John Baum, Radar Maintainance.
FW 6/19/03
Reported by Marcel Snyder

Milt Levinson, Nose Gunner, Dahl Crew. FW 7/1/03 died in his sleep .
Reported by his wife, Teddy.

E.W. Richardson FW date unknown, reported by Paul Durckel.

Calder M. Lamprey Tail Gunner, Hurd Crew. FW date unknown.
Reported by Jack VanSlyke

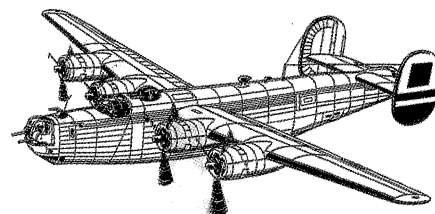
From Betty Wall:-
Zeb Wall, Armament Section
50 Smokerise Drive,
Marion, SC 28752
Passed away March 29, 2003

Bob Shetterly, Pilot. FW 8/5/03.

Our thoughts and
prayers are with all
our fallen comrades
who have found
everlasting peace.
You have served
your country well.
We will remember
you
forever.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Albert W. Nagel
130 South Barranca Ave. # 312
West Covina, CA 91791



LETTERS

From Walter Longacre-Frank-

Hopefully you will print this in the next newsletter:-

I wish to thank Jim Altoff for getting our squadron together enabling us to have so many great reunions with our comrades. I have enjoyed working with him at the reunions.

My thanks also to Agnes working with him in so many ways and helping at our reunions.

I enjoyed locating a great many of our comrades and it was rewarding to see so many enjoying the reunions.

Thanks again, Jim and Agnes.

May God Bless you and reward you for a job well done.

Walter Longacre

Date: Wed, 22 Jan 2003 22:54:59 -0500
Subject: Hello

From: <MoonGlow02@aol.com>

To: <frank@frankambrose.com>

Hi,

I am Jesse Schreiner Melchor. My grandpa was Edward J. Schreiner, The ballturret gunner on Les Wheelers crew. I wasn't able to go this year to the reunion because I was just beginning 11th grade in NY.

So I just want to know if that was the last of the reunions or is there going to be another one. Do you know if regular civilians like me can visit the Air Force Academy in Colorado? Because my grandpa was so excited when u guys said that it was being held there. But he became sick and has now gone and we weren't able to make it. He wasn't going to go but he really wanted me to see the base. He said it is absolutely beautiful there, and to tell the truth I looked forward to it myself. I told my teachers about and my friends.

I loved going to the reunions for the 781st Bomb group. I have been to three already. In Ohio, California, and Alabama. If you want you might remember me as the little girl that had to be rushed to the base hospital in ohio because I got a peppermint stuck in my throat. Well anyway thanks for taking the time to read this. So if you could it would really mean alot if you wrote me back.

Bye! ~*~Jesse~*

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I need to tell all of you that I am humbled by being the second president of our organization, and I am very aware of the organizational work done by Jim Althoff, Harry Carl, Walt Longacre and all of the other officers and members of the Board of Directors, who have labored so diligently to establish and maintain this highly successful Association. These men provide a tough act to follow!

I am also aware that the organization, as currently constituted is not going to grow larger. I shall do everything that I know how to keep all of the active members interested and involved, so that we do not grow smaller any faster than we must. Your participation, involvement and suggestions will be gratefully accepted.

Involvement of the second generation should be seriously pondered. Also, those members that have let membership slip are encouraged to rejoin and support this renewed effort.

Come on Guys! Lets show that we are proud of our organization and proud of the work that we did both as individuals and as an organization during W.W.II and during the time since.

We are the 781st Bomb Squadron Association!

Thanks,

John W. Ogden, President

WHERE OH WHERE IN 2004?

**GOING HERE-
GOING THERE-
WHEN
THE
COMMITTEE
DECIDES-
WE WILL
BE THERE!**



TREASURER'S CORNER

As of September 28, 2003 the following bank accounts belonging to the Association exist:

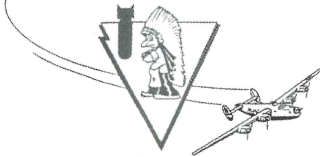
781st B S Association Checking Account:	\$5,062.24
Reunion Checking :	\$2,598.32
Association Savings:	\$32,119.77
Grand Total:	\$39,780.33

There are no obligations outstanding against any of these accounts



781st Squadron members wave goodbye as they embark on the USS Asa Gray 22 Feb. 1944

**781st BOMB SQUADRON
ASSOCIATION**
3728 Evergreen Drive
Dickinson, TX 77539-6108



January 01, 2004
ORREN J. LEE
2312 BRAEMAR DR.
SOUIX FALLS, SD 57105

Return Service Requested