

Donald P. Kay, P.E. 2000 SCOTT LANE, LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA 94022 415 969-2827

February 10, 1983

QUID FIT!

Don't you think it's about time the best damn Bomb Squadron in the 15th Air Force finally had a reunion? A get-together of the old 783rd is long overdue. Read recently that the 780th is having their 20th reunion in Las Vegas this summer in conjunction with the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the 465th Bomb Group. I attended one of theirs in San Francisco in 1966 and it was great. If they can do it, so can we!

As of this date, the undersigned has been in contact with Burt Andrus, Stan Pace, "Doc" Kimball, Harry Bartels, Tom Bell, Jack Meyer and Bill Mitchell. Burt has reached "Rock" Lundberg and Dwight Reid and all the reactions have been positive. Our tentative goal is mid-September 1983 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Burt Andrus, our first Squadron Commander, retired some years ago as a "full bird" and a SAC Wing Commander. He lives in Colorado Springs and assures us of a great tour of the Air Force Academy plus use of their golf courses - when we aren't "hangar flying" and consuming "Gin & Juice" or "Scragg Specials".

Our records are quite out of date so we need all the help we can get. Even if you can't attend, please send us any names and addresses of 783rd personnel with whom you've kept in touch. Most Combat Crews have one or two people that have corresponded - at least Christmas cards. Our ground crews may be a little tougher to find, but we want everyone included! Please pitch in and help make this a success. We should give this our best shot while most of us are still active enough to enjoy recalling our "misspent youth" as a group. Tom Clark, our first Squadron Ops Officer, has serious medical problems but has promised Burt he'll attend even if he has to crawl from Arizona!!

Please contact the undersigned or:

Colonel Burton C. Andrus, Jr. (USAF, Ret.)
505 Hidden Valley Road
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80919
Telephone: (303) 593-9988

See you in Colorado Springs in September!!

Donald P. Kay
Bombardier
(Fred Johnson's Crew)

P.S. If you can spare a few dollars to pay for typing, postage, phone calls, etc., it would help. Make checks payable to: "783rd Bomb Sqd. Reunion"

Since last week when I had the first page finished and ready for mailing, our Colorado Springs team of Andrus, Lundberg, and Reid have made fantastic progress and have "nailed down" a schedule. Thus this second page:

Schedule for 783rd Reunion

Sept. 23 - 26 at Colorado Springs, Colo.

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|----|---------------|---|
| 1. | Friday 9/23 | Check-in at Falcon Inn (across from A. F. Academy)
Buffet and mixer in evening at Falcon Inn. |
| 2. | Saturday 9/24 | Morning: Tour of Air Force Academy
Afternoon: Football Game - Air Force vs. BYU
(We have block of seats at \$4.00 Sr. Citizens Rate!)
Evening: Formal Dinner Dance at Air Force Academy OFFICER'S CLUB |
| 3. | Sunday 9/25 | Morning: Memorial Service for our comrades killed in action
Afternoon: Golf at Academy or Broadmoor Golf Courses
Non-golfers visit the historic town of Cripple Creek
Evening: Bar-B-Q and mixer |
| 4. | Monday 9/26 | Those of you who can stay over will visit the NORAD Command Center - Heart of the North American Air Defense System. |

We will require some "up-front" money to reserve motel, football tickets, golf, etc. Please send \$25/person for general needs and golfers send additional \$20. All money to be credited toward final package.

Burt has arranged with a local publisher for a reunion brochure at a terrific price if we can guarantee 100 copies at 32 pages. It will include a directory, old photos and pictures at reunion. If you have any old pictures from Pantanella or McCook, please send to Burt. He will take good care of them and will return them promptly. We want all we can get!

We would like to leave a memorial at the Academy chapel, a Squadron Window, plaque, etc., so please send the names of anyone you know who was killed in action. We know a lot of MIA's but not who didn't make it home. If you know of any widows, please let me know for we'd like to invite them, too.

We also need words and music to old "war songs", i.e., "I Wanted Wings," "O'Reilly's Daughter," "As Flak Goes By," etc. Bring them along!

More to come!

Schedule for 783rd Reunion

September 23 - 26, 1983
Colorado Springs, Colorado

*Included in Registration Fee

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|----|----------------|------------|--|
| 1. | Friday, 9/23 | Afternoon: | Check-in at Falcon Inn, Monument, Colorado (about 8 miles north of Air Force Academy) |
| | | Evening: | *Buffet and mixer at Falcon Inn. |
| 2. | Saturday, 9/24 | Morning: | Command briefing and tour of Air Force Academy. Attend Cadet pre-game parade |
| | | Afternoon: | *Tailgate Lunch at Game |
| | | | *Football Game - Air Force vs. BYU |
| | | Evening: | *Formal Dinner Party at Air Force Academy Officer's Club |
| 3. | Sunday, 9/25 | Morning: | Memorial Service at Air Force Academy Chapel for our comrades killed in action and those subsequently deceased. |
| | | Afternoon: | *Brunch at Woodmoor Golf Club - across from Falcon Inn. Golfers then play golf and others may visit the historic town of "Cripple Creek" |
| | | Evening: | Open. On your own to relax or party as you wish. |
| 4. | Monday, 9/26 | | Those of you who can stay over will have the opportunity to visit Cheyenne Mountain - the NORAD Command Center - Heart of the North American Air Defense System. |

Naturally any hardy souls still around Monday night will finish their war stories and discuss plans for our next reunion!

Please notice the change of address on the registration form. Dwight Reid has agreed to handle the money at the Colorado end of the line. It's much more efficient to work close to the reunion site. You'll still get another update or two from me before September. Try to send in the registration forms as soon as possible so we can nail down the rooms, get football tickets, finalize banquet details, etc. Don't forget to deduct the \$25/each already sent in when you mail registration form.

We still need more names so rack your brains for addresses of people like Duckworth, Hockman, Kowal, Dick Shaw, Golden Nathan Jones, Ops. Sgt. Walker and 1st Sgt. Sexton, etc. Send to me. Also keep photos coming!

See you in September!

Donald P. Kay, P.E. 2000 SCOTT LANE, LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA 94022 415 969-2827

April 5, 1983

QUID FIT!

Since our initial letter in mid-February we've really made progress with personal contacts and our plans for the reunion are nearly solidified. As of this date, we've found 125 former Squadron members and have phone numbers and addresses for all of them. Hopefully, as our notices show up in the "AFA" and "Retired Officer's Association" magazines, etc. we'll gather many more. A number of contacts have been made with other 15th AF units and they are more than happy to assist us.

As you can see by the enclosed forms, we are asking you to make your own hotel reservations at the Falcon Inn. Don't be confused by the address as the Inn is only a few minutes north of the Air Force Academy. Room rates are \$32/night for a double occupancy and \$28/night for singles. Both rates include a breakfast. We have a block of 50 rooms reserved now, but could get a few more if they receive the reservations immediately. Those of you that may come in RVs will have no trouble finding a place to park within minutes of the Inn.

Due to a previously scheduled Inter-Collegiate Golf Tournament, it will be impossible to use the Air Force Academy Golf Courses. In spite of both Rock Lundberg and myself knowing the Pro at Broadmoor, we have a problem. They have a hard and fast rule of allowing only guests at the Broadmoor and local members to play the course. If you want to spend over \$150 to stay there and play golf, that's your option. Burt has arranged with the Pro at Woodmoor Golf Club - across the street from the Falcon Inn - to set up a tournament, including prizes, for us. It can be mixed foursomes or men/women separately.

Burt has made superb progress on the Reunion Brochure. He and his wife Kay edited the one for his 40th West Point reunion and ours will be patterned after that one. It will include a directory; list of KIAs; deceased comrades; color photos of reunion - banquet, golf, group photo, etc.; photos of crews and planes at Pantanella and McCook. We need to sell 150 copies to get them for \$25/each. Many non-attendees will no doubt want them, so please advise Burt of your interest as soon as possible. Any profit we make on this or any other function will be used for the memorial to be left at the Air Force Academy Chapel.

Our working fund so far is around \$500 for expenses. Stamps and phone calls have been the only items of real cost. Luckily a lot of calls have been made from my office. To keep your costs down, we've made a number of items optional.

Here's the schedule with items included in registration fee marked with an asterisk. With most all the meals included and refreshments provided in the hospitality room there shouldn't be much more to spend money on except drinks at the banquet.

Donald P. Kay, P.E. 2000 SCOTT LANE, LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA 94022 415 969-2827
July 5, 1983

QUID FIT!

Since my last letter we've really made a lot of new contacts - especially some of the original crews. As of this date we have over 120 people confirmed!! We had our notices in the AFA and Retired Officers magazines and Ex-POW Bulletin. Burt has gotten quite a bit of material for the Reunion Brochure and received promises of much more. We'd rather have too much than not enough so send him whatever you have available. Don't forget to put your name and address on all items so they can be safely returned.

Our Saturday night banquet speaker will be General James P. Mullins, Commander of the Air Force Logistics Command. He's a four-star active duty type out of Wright-Patterson AFB and an old friend of Burt's. In addition to this excellent speaker we've lined up a few surprises as a bonus. Even I don't know a couple of them, so it should be a gala party!

A Bombardier from the 460th Bomb Group has written me from Iowa that he's having a book published this summer which he wrote - called "Target Ploesti." He asked us to offer copies for sale at the reunion at a discount rate and with no "up-front money" on our part. Enclosed is a flyer. I read the book, and, believe me, it took me back to 1944. All profits will go to the Memorial Fund. Send orders to me and they will be ready at Reunion time. Non-attendees will get their copies by mail.

Keep the names and addresses coming in for we want as many of our old friends there as possible!

ONE PROBLEM AREA! Please get your registration in as soon as possible. In my last letter, I mentioned that we have 50 rooms blocked out for us at the Falcon Inn and a promise of more if needed - now 70. They do need to know ASAP how many rooms we really want. I know it's nearly 3 months away, but there's still a lot of details to nail down. The last thing we want is to have to round up a number of rooms at some other place. We want us all at one location. A number of you have sent up-front money" so please send the rest. There are quite a few people who have never acknowledged either letter. Even if you are not interested in the reunion please affix a 20¢ stamp to the enclosed self-addressed envelope and let us know your feelings. As long as we have your name and address it will be included in the brochure. Thanks.

Donations for mail and phone calls have been quite generous, but we really need financial help for the memorial plaque at the Cadet Chapel. It will be in the finest tradition of the Air Force. Burt has the approval of the Academy to use our "QUID FIT" emblem with the following inscription:

IN MEMORIAM

"AT THIS HALLOWED SPOT, WHERE OUR FUTURE BROTHER AIRMEN ARE PLEDGED, WE, THE SURVIVING MEMBERS OF THE 783RD BOMB SQUADRON (H) OF THE 465TH BOMB GROUP, 15TH AIR FORCE, CONSECRATE THIS MOMENT: 1100 HOURS 25 SEPTEMBER 1983 TO THOSE BRAVE AND DEDICATED MEMBERS OF OUR UNIQUE FRATERNITY WHO FLEW THEIR FINAL MISSION AGAINST THE ENEMY FROM PANTANELLA AIR BASE, ITALY, DURING WORLD WAR II.

MAY THEIR HEROIC SACRIFICE CONTINUE TO INSPIRE THOSE WHO CARRY ON THE MISSION OF
PEACE IN DEFENSE OF THE SKIES THAT CANOPY FREE NATIONS."

This should be from us all, so please help.

See you in September at the Springs!

Donald P. Kay

SAM MARIE
13306 LOBELIA
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78232

DECEMBER 1983

Greetings to All the Good Folks of the 783rd!

Attached is a Roster made up with information supplied by Burt Andrus, Don Kay and Dwight Reid via long distance. This method means there are some errors. However, since the majority are reasonably correct, we wanted to get it out so old friends would use it to exchange Xmas greetings. In the words of our old comrade "Salty" Tarantino, "No Panic, Jack - Keep a cool stool." Just pick up pen or pencil and send corrections or additions to the address above and they will be made. Of paramount importance are the wife's names we are lacking. If you guys are too lazy, you ladies help out.

Following the Reunion, "Flash Lite" John Walker, who worked in Operations, sent a tremendous and welcomed file of names. Unfortunately, the addresses dated back to our days at Pantanella. A list of these will be sent next. It is hoped each of you will take the time to try and locate anyone shown in your area and ask them to contact us at the above address so they can be placed on the mailing list. Your help and cooperation in this effort can save a large amount of money in long distance calls and postage. Our goal is to locate everybody who served in the 783rd.

To those of you who were not fortunate enough to make the Colorado Springs Reunion - you missed a super experience. It can best be summed up in the following words of our beloved flight surgeon, Doc Kinball, taken from a letter received after the Reunion:

"The Reunion was tremendous. It made a most significant and happy contribution to the memory bank of everyone's wartime experience. Since returning from Colorado Springs, I have felt much of the same nostalgia I had after the war - only this time it was not depressing. Somehow the sadness is replaced by spirit de corps, mutual affection and gratitude to the Almighty. There is no doubt that the Reunion had a positive therapeutic effect on the 'psyche' of everyone present."

All in attendance will agree they share his above sentiments 100%. The planning and beautiful services, ceremonies and functions made possible by the handiwork of Don Kay, Burt Andrus, Dwight Reid, Bob Willis, "Rock" Lundberg and others, as well as the hospitality of the Air Force Academy defy description.

Lynne and I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and everyone a MERRY XMAS, HAPPY NEW YEAR and may 1984 be the best ever for "you all."