

February 20, 1984

QUID FIT

It's hard to realize that it has been over four months since we had our fantastic reunion. This letter is long overdue, but it has been difficult to come down from "Cloud 9" and put my thoughts together after such an event. From all of the letters and notes received since September it was really worth all the effort put in by the committee - and then some!

First, I'd like to thank each of the attendees for voting me that super pewter model B-24 on the walnut stand for organizing the reunion. It is on display in my home for all to see! Doris is so gung-ho on the Squadron that she wears her "Quid Fit" pin on her nurse's uniform at work! The "Colorado Committee" of Burt and Kay Andrus, Dwight and Amy Reid and "Rock" Lundberg was something else. Special thanks to Bob Wills for his tireless efforts with the financial end during and after registration. Many thanks to Sam Marie for his "taxi service" to and from the airport plus getting the video taping project off the ground. The whole affair was a cooperative effort from day one. It was an experience long to be remembered and hopefully those of you who didn't make it this time will be able to experience it at the next one.

We've had a somewhat disappointing response to our question, "How often do we want a reunion?" So far I've had 46 responses with 31 votes for every 2 years, 8 votes for annually and 7 votes for 3 years. Based on these results we'll start planning for 1985 at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio. We've had offers of help from our Ohio members so let's "Come Alive in '85!" Dick Snow has already sent a donation towards expenses for the next reunion!

Since we are now, in reality, an association not just a reunion group, a slate of officers has been put together plus a Board of Directors. All have agreed to serve the Squadron until the next reunion when we can have a business meeting and an election. Selection was made from volunteers who have expressed an interest in working on future reunions and a desire to keep the Squadron alive.

Here's the slate:

President:	E. Sam Marie	San Antonio, Texas
Vice-President:	John U. Walker	Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Secretary:	Donald P. Kay	Los Altos, California
Treasurer:	Dwight Reid	Denver, Colorado
Directors:	Burt Andrus	Colorado Springs, Colorado
	John Warnack	Baton Rouge, Louisiana
	Charles Kimball, M.D.	Seattle, Washington
	Sam Marie	San Antonio, Texas
	Stan Pace	Shaker Heights, Ohio
	Paul Smith	New Cumberland, Pa.
	John Walker	Tuscaloosa, Alabama

This is your Squadron. We solicit your suggestions and comments so that we may make our Squadron Association a viable and continuing success.

Bob Wills has the video tapes of the reunion ready for sale and distribution. They are \$40 each and are worth every cent of it. Those of you not at the reunion are in for a great treat. Bob has put together 2 hours of film - half taken at the reunion and half of actual combat film taken by him in 1944-45, and shown at the reunion in the hospitality suite. That portion from Italy includes many shots in

the Squadron area so you can show your family what a "beautiful" place you lived in. Joe Hoffman found us after the reunion and we've included some of his film from Italy into our presentation. Through the efforts of Sam Marie, Stan Pace, Bill Bitterman, Frank Goplen and Charles Conlin these tapes were made possible, so their tapes will be "gratis" as they picked up the original tab. Thanks again, fellows! Be sure to specify either Beta or VHS when you order from Bob.

Burt will have the reunion books available in about 4 weeks. He has been able to include many more color photos than originally planned. He has quite a few extra copies available so if you haven't ordered one you can still do so and if you want an extra copy for friends or relatives they'll be available. The first copy is \$25 and \$20 for any additional ones.

Burt has all the pictures and other "goodies" you sent for the reunion book. Everything you sent me was forwarded to him. Check with him if you are concerned about their return; also, if you want additional Squadron caps and enameled pins. We didn't get "T-shirts" but had the emblem made into pins. The detail is excellent and they cost \$8 each. Better include an extra \$1 for the cap postage so the caps are \$6.50 each.

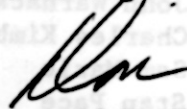
Check your next address list for new people we've found. Recently Sam Marie found Bill Vorhies, the A/C of the first crew to be shot down - some honor!! Bill lives in Southern California. As Sam mentioned in his letter, Burt and I went to March AFB in November for the 15th Air Force 40th reunion. While registering I ran into Harry Frame - a retired Chief Master Sgt. - who'd been one of Sgt. Sexton's orderly room troops in Italy. Please let us know of anyone else you can find.

Enclosed is a membership form for the 15th Air Force Association. It's really worth the few dollars it costs per year as the quarterly newsletters have photos, articles, reunion notices and letters to the editors. A good place to find old friends.

From all reports our ailing comrades seem to be on the mend. Nyme Farage says he's fine and raring to go, Woody Browning had positive grades on his recent trip to the hospital, Tom Clark is cheerful and thinking positive as ever in spite of being blind and dependent upon a dialysis machine. Hang in there gang, we're all rooting for you.

Don't forget Dayton in '85.

Best regards,



Donald P. Kay, Secretary  
783rd Bomb Squadron Association

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR ORDERING 783rd HISTORY BOOK & VIDEO TAPES:**

783rd HISTORY BOOK-Price \$25.00 for first copy, \$20.00 each additional copy. Copies will be mailed to those who paid earlier. Those having not ordered copies or desiring additional copies, make checks payable to 783rd Bomb Squadron Association and mail to Dwight Reid, 111 Ivanhoe, Denver, CO 80220. Allow 4 to 6 weeks for packaging and shipping.

VIDEO TAPES-\$40.00 per copy. Make checks payable to Robert F. Wills and send to him at 8380 Phendara, Clarkston, MI 48016. BE SURE AND SPECIFY V.H.S. or BETA. Allow 4 to 6 weeks shipping time.

If you ordered Caps or Pins (Tee-Shirts) and haven't received them, contact Dwight Reid at above address.