



783RD LATRINE-O-GRAM

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

JUNE 1984

GREETINGS TO THE GOOD LADIES & 'OLD RASCALS' OF THE 783rd!

LOST SOUL SEARCH--BOX SCORE RESULTS

MCNAMEE, JOHN F. (Evelyn)
659 San Roy Drive South
Dunedin, FA 33528
813-734-7672
LOCATED BY: Billy Mitchell 4-23-84

CONTE, JOE
1256 Patton St
Wilkinsburg, PA 15221
412-242-2703
LOCATED BY: Jim McCloskey 5-5-84

GROH, EDWARD A. (DECEASED)
LOCATED BY: Woody Browning 5-8-84

TEWES, RICHARD J. (DECEASED)
LOCATED BY: Leonard Clutts 5-6-84

SPELLBRINK, ROBERT D. (Betty)
3250 Rockacres Court
Cincinnati, OH 45239
513-923-4969
LOCATED BY: Al Honey & Sam Marie
SLAUGHTER, JOHN H.
2308 Bry-Mar Dr
Atlanta, GA 30345
404-634-5647
LOCATED BY: Lee Gillespie 5-7-84

CHASE, WALTER L.
1314 4th Ave
LaGrange, GA
LOCATED BY: Lee Gillespie 5-7-84

PAYNE, CHARLES (Evelyn)
3396 Campbell Rd
Smyrna, GA 30080
404-436-1602
LOCATED BY: Lee Gillespie 5-7-84
WELCOME BACK -FELLOWS!

FEW, JOE C. (Shirley)
P. O. Box 3041
Madison, GA 30650
404-342-0551
LOCATED BY: Lee Gillespie 5-9-84
PUTNAM, JACOB M.
519 East 11th St
Casper, WY 82601
LOCATED BY: Sam Marie 5-20-84

MCELYEA, RALPH W.
34715 Bouquet Canyon Rd
Saugus, CA 91350
805-252-1388
LOCATED BY: Jim McCloskey 5-21-84

EINECKER, JOSEPH L. (Doris)
Rt 4 Box 59
Sparta, TN 38583
615-738-5302
LOCATED BY: Floyd Coffield

LUCEY, DANIEL S. (Rena)
1922 24th Ave
San Francisco, CA 94116
415-664-6729
LOCATED BY: Al Honey 5-9-84

ZEIGLER, WILLIAM J.
735 Shepherd Court
Gurnee, IL 60031
312-546-8215
LOCATED BY: Joe Few 5-18-84

LEGGETT, VERNON J. (Gene)
Rt 1 Box 124
Angleton, TX 77515
409-849-7542
LOCATED BY: Charlie Payne & Sam Marie 6-5-84

GI DOG FACES have located 20 to 4 for OFFICERS & GENTLEMEN BY ACT OF CONGRESS IN SEARCH FOR Lost Souls. Now we know who kept the Squadron flying! And-- the Snobs from Knob Hill--getting one helluva 'skunking'.

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE TO EXPEDITE LOST SOUL SEARCH--being in the oil exploration business much of my time is spent searching for royalty and mineral owners scattered from hell to breakfast. Consequently, I was negligent in assuming everyone else was as familiar with procedures. Try the following. The public libraries in the larger cities usually have the current telephone directories for almost every city and town in their state. Many will even have criss-cross for many towns. Usually, the librarians will lend a helping hand as well as offer some good suggestions. You will be amazed at what can be accomplished in an hours time. Contributing one hour of your time can make some old Lost Soul very happy and appreciative. DON'T FORGET SAME LAST NAMES MAY BE RELATIVES THAT WILL BE HAPPY TO ASSIST.

LOST SOUL SEARCH COMMITTEE--your name was selected at random. Had someone not taken the time and effort to locate you--your name would not have been available for this important assignment. For those--WHO HAVE GOOD INTENTIONS--but haven't gotten started--DO IT TODAY! Those--WHO HAVE NO INTENTIONS OF HELPING--please drop us a note so we can get a replacement. You can show your support of the squadron by letting us know. Anyone--I repeat anyone--who wants to help--dive in and get going. We need all the help we can get. OUR GOAL IS TO LOCATE EVERY MOTHERS SON WHO SERVED IN THE 783rd!

FINANCIAL REPORT OF YOUR ASSOCIATION & REQUEST FOR SUPPORT--there was no Latrine-O-Gram for May. Why? To continue the enthusiasm and momentum generated at CS's it was decided publication of periodical bulletins and a Mailing Roster was our best means. Acceptance was so great that a Search List was added that has resulted in 25 Lost Souls being located with more continuing to come in. It was a fore-gone conclusion the cost of a monthly bulletin was prohibitive with our limited funds. Initially, it was intended to throttle back to an 'Every Three Month' publication. However, acceptance has been so great that many have written and called to say, "they wanted it on a more frequent basis and would send a donation if necessary".

On May 9, 1984 Dwight Reid your Treasurer reported there was \$2494.61 in the pot. The anticipated income from the sales of an additional History Books would give us a figure of \$3000 for budgetary consideration. With our Mailing List soon to pass the 225 mark we are faced with a cost of \$200 to cover the printing and postage for each issue of the Latrine-O-Gram and the postage and printing to satisfy the many inquiries.

Your Board of Directors composed of Burt Andrus, Doc Kimball, Stan Pace, John Walker and John Warnack were confronted with the following choices:

OPTION I: Make an appeal of \$10 per member--AND--IF RESPONSE SATISFACTORY--issue Latrine-O-Gram on 'Every Other Month' distribution. Assuming 150 members responded to appeal--this would be \$1500 plus \$3000 equaling \$4500. Deducting 8 issues at a cost of \$1600 would mean a balance of \$2900 to go into Dayton 85' reunion. This route would leave your Association in good financial position.

OPTION II: Change to 'Every Third Month' publication. With \$3000 less cost of \$1000 for 5 issues this would leave a balance of \$2000. Considering there will be additional expenses not addressed--we would go into Dayton 85'--'Stretched Financially Thin'--or--as we say in this neck of the woods, "our pocket book would be flatter than a tortilla".

Your Board voted to try Option I and make the appeal for a contribution of \$10 from each member. So, if you have enjoyed and wish to continue the Latrine-O-Gram on an "Every Other Month' basis--MAKE YOUR CHECKS OUT TO: 783rd Bomb Squadron and mail to Dwight Reid, 111 Ivanhoe, Denver, CO 80220.

OLD F/O's TWO CENTS WORTH ON THIS MATTER--every cent of your money spent to date has been stretched as far as possible. Yes, it does take a great amount of time an effort to put out each issue; plus that required to mail packets of info to each Lost Soul being located; and to answer the many inquiries etc. Also, you should know I have never charged for any of the many long distance calls in an effort to hold expenses down. The enthusiasm and kind words recieved from so many has made every dollar contributed more than worth while not to mention making this the most rewarding experience a person could have in a life time. You 'Fellas' put the funds in the Pot and this 'Texas Bull Shipper' will keep 'Shipping'.

ADDITIONAL HELP NEEDED BY YOUR ASSOCIATION!--out there among that large group of brain power there must be one of you who has the professional expertise and know how to do the paper work and expedite having YOUR ASSOCIATION declared a NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION. Or, work in a company with some individual who has the know how and will give us a helping hand. This would enable us to qualify for a bulk mail rate very beneficial. Whoever that knowledgeable soul is PLEASE get in touch with us immediately so we can get the ball rolling.

FIRST 783rd LATRINE-O-GRAM--with all the heavy stuff needed to keep your Association solvent and solid lets get on to the intended purpose of this rag sheet--fun and enjoyment. It would be an honor to say I wrote the first issue. However, to do so would be anything but candid. The first issue was actually written in Oct 1945 by our legendary Intelligence Officer Paul 'Smitty' Smith. Unfortunately, he made one of his famous pit stops at some bar and it never went to press. And worse--Page 2 of the earth shaking revelations was lost in the intervening years. But here are Page 1 & 3 exactly as written--hang on to your chairs:

CIVILIAN HEADQUARTERS
783RD BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)

7 PAUL J. SMITH
231 N. Second St.,
Harrisburg, Penna.

October 1945

Dear Gang,

Here goes on the first edition of the 783rd Squadron News Letter so we'll start off in the usual 783rd fashion and stop right here and now and take a drink of the hard stuff to the success of this venture and may it result in a reunion of the gang from Snob Hill, but quick. I'm sitting here now in the dusty Foggia Valley sweating out my redeployment orders and not too sure that they won't be here before I finish this first edition but I'm going to try to make it because I want to answer some of the questions you asked in the many replies I received from the Post Card.

First and most important problem is I have a letter from Lt. Melvin G. Roberts mother asking if we have any definite information on Melvin. I'm struck because I don't have access to the Squadron records but if my memory serves me he was with Pilegard and was on a mixed crew that had just been made up. Mrs. Roberts says the target was Prion, Germany, the date Oct. 20, 1944. The ship turned out of the formation at the head of the Adriatic and headed for Yugo. One reports says that ten chutes were seen and another says that when last seen the ship was in a good flying attitude. If any of you have any information at all about Roberts write direct to Mrs. Roberts (Mrs. H. M. Roberts, Route 2, Box 276, Meridan, Miss.) and also drop me a line so I can tell the rest of the gang. If any of you receiving this letter have access to the Squadron records please check them for additional data and forward that to me too.

A letter from Woodrow Browning states he was liberated on April 29th 1945 by General Patton's army and arrived in New York on May 29, 1945 to start a 60 day leave and is now at Midland Texas taking a refresher course. He plans to stay in the army, at least for the present. Liberated with him were Joe Coote, Chief Elliott, Bill Teller, Royce Ward, Ivan "The Terrible" Kubanis, Moon Mullins, Fay Bailey, Sanford, Mitchell, Hartman, Bill Vorhies, Owen Livesay, Charley Conlin. Brownings address is 4119 Emory St. Houston, Texas, or 6120 Tulsa Ave., Shreveport, La.

Dick Winston says he and all of Bonds crew got home safe and sound in June. He was at Stalag Luft 1 along with Stan Pace, Allen, Tommy Greenwood, Goplen, Danny Bolinski, Bill Bitterman (how are the twins Bill) Rinard and Duckworth. Dick you asked about some of the boys, well here goes on those you asked about plus a few more that I can think of.

Burt Andrus:

Perhaps at Dayton 85° we can furnish him a half gallon of his favorite hard stuff and get his memory recall going and learn at least a portion of what was on Page 2.

Page 3

Ed Roth hasn't been heard from in two months but at that time a bartender in Naples gave me a lead on him leading to a bar in Verona and then to another bar but I gave up the chase at the point. He is in Vienna now with Bob Schutt the S-2 from the 782nd and they are making a study of the German records from 8 to 5 daily and after that it's your guess but I'm sure old Ed will come back clean. Ed left the 783rd about November 1944 and was in the Escape section of the 15th A.F. until the war ended.

Jim Sexton, the Old First Sgt. went to Trinidad with the Squadron and writes from there on Sept. 4th that he is leaving for the states to be discharged. Good luck Jim, and your last official order is "BE AT THE REUNION".

Doc Kimball went to Puerto Rico from Naples and is now trying to catch up on his sleep after a riotous week in Naples with the OLD ROCK Lundberg. Doc says that Theobald, Otis Hite, Van Horn, Major Bigelow, Bill Ellett and several others went up there with him. While he was writing Van Horn dropped in to say good bye to him as he was leaving to fly for the ATC on the Vegetable run from West Palm Beach to Ashland Cal. I sure was surprised Doc when I got that Post Card today written to me from me but the next mail explained it all because there was a mountain of letters in it from all the gang. You and Van Horn and the others really went right out after the project and thanks to you and the others it looks like it's really off to a start.

Had a letter from Bib John Warnack written before V.J. day and he said he was at a central instructors school and planned on joining forces with Col. Josh Foster down at McDill Field. John said he had a jar of the amber fluid at his side while writing the letter and that life was sweet at that point.

I have many requests for Joe Rothwell's address but I have three different locations on him now and I think to avoid confusion I better wait till Joe writes in himself. He is probably back home with Marge by this time in Philadelphia and I'm anxious to hear from him because he and I and Van Horn must get together soon in Pennsylvania to work out the details of the future of this letter.

Rock Lundberg is now C.O. of the 783rd and will be until its deactivated. I couldn't think of a better way to put the fiddle in the box than to have the Old Rock steer the good ship over the falls to a crashing finish. Dick Marsh is still with the Squadron but probably will be home before he gets this letter.

Well, Gang, I think it's about time to wind up the first edition and go out and try to steal a mimeograph machine to start the second phase. As soon as I get home I will try to arrange for a Post Office Box but in the meantime use 231 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg, Pa. and don't spare the paper. In the next letter we will try to get a little information together on what took place in the way of transfers of personnel in the latter days of the war so that those of you who were shot down or finished your missions early will have a chance to learn about guys like Ed Hinchliff the last C.O. and many others. If you have any suggestions as to how this can be done in a better way be sure to let us know. Thanks again for the cooperation shown so far and now lets KEEP IT ROLLING. Good luck to all of you, Smitty.

Well folks--how about those apples? The first 783rd Latrine-O-Gram ever. Would gladly give my interest in hell to know the contents on Page 2. The writer became well acquainted with 'Smitty' on the journey from McCook via Topeka, Kansas; Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia; Oran, Africa; Naples, Italy; to Panatella traveling on Troop Trains, Liberty Ships, Navy Transports, Cattle Cars, donkeys, camels and what have you. The wrecked health of 'Chuck' Harding and myself are examples of what association in 'Sin Holes' along the way with that 'Sly Devil' can result in. If the truth were known his 'Ole Running Mate', Ed Roth--because of his association is probably in an Alcoholic Treatment Center suffering from too much brain damage to correspond. All joking aside--'Smitty' was and is one of those 'Folks' that makes the old trip thru life worth while. And--the above news letter proves you have employed the wrong 'Joker'. Can 'You All' think of anyone better to take the reins next?

HELP NEEDED--EMERGENCY!--Don Kay states, "my last mission was to Vienna on 12 March 1945". A letter written to my folks that nite says, "it was a fairly new crew but considered very good". "I would like to know with whom I flew my last mission"? If any of you guys out there can help this poor lost soul out--drop him a line and refresh his memory. How anyone can forget the details of Number 50 is beyond belief. I'll never forget 28 August 1944 going to Szony, Hungary with 'Cap' Petranek and his 'Misfits'.

PHOTO REQUEST--Orbin Rutledge would like a good shot of his old bird, Dragan Ass that can be enlarged to 8 x 10". Help this Gent out if you can.

BATES CREW REUNION--during August 6-13 all on the original crew and those flying the day they blew up over Blechammer will gather at North Myrtle Beach, SC at the Mar Vista Motel, 605 South Ocean Blvd, Ocean Drive Section. All 783rds residing that vicinity or others are invited to drop in and spin a tale or two. Can guarantee you it is worth a 500 mile drive to watch Baronoski and Yatkaukas perform. They will prove the Theory of Evolution beyond a shadow of a doubt.

DULITZ CREW REUNION--will have a 'Get Together' in Chicago, September 22-23 at the Airport Ramada. All 783rds in that area or else where are invited to drop by and join in the festivities. The flak is guaranteed to be verbal and harmless. Old war stories are guaranteed to be only knee deep.

MINI REUNION--Sunday, June 10th, 'Chief' Elliott was paroled from BAMC Hospital at Ft Sam here in San Antonio for the afternoon and evening. Along with Woody & Cathy Browning my bride and I shared some real old fashioned 783rd fellowship. A Bar-B-Q'd chicken dinner with all the trimmings was thrown in for good measure. Only 70 or 80 missions were flown and not more than 40 or 50 incidents reviewed and enlarged upon. This is what YOUR ASSOCIATION is all about. It enabled a South Carolina boy a long way from home with a nagging health problem to spend an enjoyable respite. YOUR ASSOCIATION ROSTER makes possible a 'Get Together' just about any place you might travel in this good ole U S of A. It was a pleasure to have 'Chief' in our home even if for a short visit. The gate is always open.

WORLD WAR II BOMBARDIERS REUNION--will be held August 15-19, 1984 in Nashville, Tenn. The Executive Inn will be the reunion headquarters. Costs: are \$10 for a 2 year membership; \$5 registration fee; room rates are \$40 single & \$46 double occupancy. For additional information write Mrs B. Burmester, 485 Lincoln Ave, Mount Vernon, NY 10552 or call 914-699-4196. In a LD conversation with Mrs Burmester she advised the Association was founded by her late husband--a good ole Texas Boy from Childress. And--that all 783rd 'Toggle Jockeys' were most welcomed to join up and attend. Don't you know there will be some tall tales spun at this gathering? Can just hear Don Kay telling them how he hit the first milk can on the railroad station platform at Maribu.

AWARDS--at ceremonies recently held at Randolph Field AFB the 783rds own Maj Woodrow Browning USAF Ret now a civilian employed on the World Wide Officers Promotion Board was awarded a Certificate and Pen for 40 years of Federal Service. CONGRATULATIONS! "SUGAR DUMPLING"

NEXT ISSUE--if you enjoyed 'Smittys' first Latrine-O-Gram above wait till the next issue. Have even a greater surprise in store for you. Guaranteed to take you on an unbelievable trip down memory lane.

NEWS OF LOST SOULS LOCATED:

JIM STEEN--Bombardier and 50 mission man on Charlie Ellis crew. Living in Vicksburg, MS and retired from the Corps of Engineers. Spends a large amount of his time Travel Trailing visiting children and grand children.

GENE GFRERER--Ball Gunner on Max Johnson crew. A retired self employed photographer residing in Philipsburg, PA.

JIM HARP--a 26 mission Tail Gunner. Industrial Photographer living in Livermore, CA.

Gene & Jim bring your cameras to Dayton 85'. Can save us some expense.

BOB SPELLBRINK--Gunner & 50 mission man on Petraneks crew. Now retired from floor covering business living in Cincinnati, OH. Marking days until Dayton 85' "Pops" may be the oldest surviving combat crew member being 73 years young. Having flown with the 'Old Rascal'--take my word--he was a good one.

On the subject of age--if there are any of you out there over 73 drop us a line. Likewise, who is the youngest? Know that Fran Goplen just passed the Big six O. Since I am 39 and holding will remain neutral in these contests. Just want to be the last name added to the Eagles Nest Flite Section. Hope the obituary reads--shot at the age of 90 years by the jealous husband of a beautiful 18 year old filly. He died with a smile on his ugly face.

CHARLES CARSON--a 50 mission Tail Gunner on Floyd Coffields crew. Now retired from Metal Plating Business living in Pittsburgh, PA.

CHARLES PAYNE--one of the originals who survived the trip over on the Walter E. Ranger Liberty Ship. Gave us many a exciting ride back and forth to the flite line in his GI 6 x 6 not to mention our 'Moon Light Requisition' runs. Retired Dental Supply Salesman living in Smyrna, GA. His hobby is driving a Tour Bus around the good ole U S of A.

VERNON LEGGETT--an outstanding individual who was driving a truck for us the day we 'acquired' the concrete blocks from the Italian Irrigation Project to floor our tents with. If I live to be a 100 will never forget how he placed a GI shoe in the seat of the britches of the Italian Guard who took a dim view of our 'requisition'. Tom Landry the Dallas Cowboys Coach would have signed him immediately as his new place kicker. Now a retired Texas Entrepreneur living in Angleton, TX.

JAKE PUTNAM--Gunner on Jim Cox crew. Following WW II returned home to college. To make ends meet signed up for ROTC to get a few extra chips each month. Following graduation received a commission as 2nd Lt in the Artillery. When Korea came along he received his greetings from Uncle Sugar. Afterwards remained on duty choosing to be a career man. With Korea and 'Nam' under his belt retired as a 'Bull Colonel'. How about this for a success story--from Tail Gunner to Eagles. Having recovered from open heart surgery recently is retired in Casper, WY anxiously awaiting Dayton 85'

MORE ABOUT HAS BEENS NEXT ISSUE

PURCHASE ITEMS STILL AVAILABLE--make checks payable to 783rd Bomb Squadron Ass and send to Dwight Reid, 111 Ivanhoe, Denver, CO 80220:

LAPEL PINS--Squadron Insignia--beautifully done at \$7.50 each
HISTORY BOOKS--\$25 for 1st copy--\$20 for each additional copy. 16 copies still available. He who hesitates is lost--have tried to warn you they would soon be Collectors Items.

SQUADRON CAPS--\$6.50 each plus \$1 for handling & postage. Blue & Gold with scrambled eggs on bill. Without one you will be out of uniform in Dayton 85' and look like some misfit from the 464th.

Well 'Old Has Beens' & Good Ladies of the 783 this about wraps up another wad for the comode. Want to apologize for all the heavy stuff that took up so much space at the beginning. Feel strongly that to have a good and solid organization it is our duty to keep each and everyone of you informed. Would much rather use the space to print news and happenings of each of you. To accomplish this goal depends on you sending some 'Poop to Group'. Drop us a line today. Until the next issue--FIND A LOST SOUL--makes you feel better than a double pop of Jim Beam.

QUID FIT!

Sam

THE GOOD LORD WILLING AND THE CREEK DOESN'T RISE--SEE YOU IN DAYTON 85'