



783RD LATRINE-O-GRAM

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

MARCH 1984

To serve as President of the 783rd Association was accepted as both a honor, a privilege and with much humility. The following lines explain why it is so important and appreciated. As many of you know-THANKS-to MY HIGHER POWER, I was the surviving member of one of the original crews. Being the 11th person in the squadron to complete 50, I was rotated back to the States early in the game. Assignments took me to a number of units comprised mostly of combat returnees. Many individuals in these units were excellent soldiers. However, collectively they couldn't match up with you guys of the 783rd. The same sentiment was shared with me before Tommy Greenwood gave his life in line of duty. Woody Browning and "Bo" Bolinski feel the same. Remember, these 3 guys were all career soldiers having enlisted well before WW II and afterward serving with units all over the world until their retirement. To have been a part and shared in the history of the 783rd is something that each of us should be very proud of. The outstanding turnout at Colorado Springs is further proof. To help continue this tradition of "togetherness," we need the help of each and everyone-and wife-in the following:

TO: Participate and take an active part in Association affairs.

HOW: Report newsworthy happenings-promotions, retirements, changes of address, marriages, births of grandchildren, illnesses, deaths, etc. Your squadron mates enjoy hearing about ALL INDIVIDUALS-not just a few. It only takes a few minutes to drop us a note about some event or happening.

SUGGESTIONS: If you have an idea on how to improve YOUR Association affairs, take the time to drop us a line so it can be incorporated.

1st OBJECTIVE: To make a coordinated effort in locating every person who served in the 783rd so they will have the opportunity to participate in Association affairs. To accomplish this task, find attached a SEARCH LIST AND OTHER INFORMATION.

DELAYED ACKNOWLEDGEMENT--Maj. Gen. & Mrs. George Acheson, our 55th Wing Commander, made a substantial financial contribution to our reunion at Colorado Springs which was so greatly appreciated. On 22 May, a visit was made to the quarters of Gen. & Mrs. Acheson who reside here in San Antonio at Air Force Village and the squadron's appreciation expressed. The Gen. was presented a 783rd History Book and cap. Although he has encountered some physical problems, he is still the fiesty and salty individual that made him the best Wing Commander in the 15th Air Force. He recalled several interesting combat experiences regarding some of his missions.

LOCATED--BILL VORHIES--the first crew commander to go down. The loss of this crew left such an indelible impression on all squadron members at the time. He resides at 8110 Redlands, Apt. 202, Playa Del Rey, CA 90293, phone 213-827-1427. WELCOME BACK BILL!

TAPS--DAVID COHEN--It has just been learned the ball gunner on Bob Petranek's crew passed away peacefully in his sleep a few years ago. Some 10 or more missions was flown with this crew and you always knew the belly turret was in good hands. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Harriet Cohen, 121 Marine Drive, North Tanawanda, NY 14120. All the 783rd join in extending sympathy on a loss of one of our comrades to Mrs. Cohen.

AWARDS--Those of you attending the reunion know that Charlie Conlin was awarded a Purple Heart for wounds received the day he was "scragged" and so deserved. With the planes going down and crew members scattered in various prison camps plus the confusion of being released and discharge snafus, there could be many more deserving awards. Example, it was not until the reunion that it was learned Cecil Bates gave his life attempting to save Weiser Wilson. Today, the paperwork is being completed to give him a posthumous award he is so deserving of. Should there be other incidents you witnessed, please advise. Also, of great importance is

is the fact to secure these awards they have to be documented by persons who were present. If you receive-or have received-a request for this documentation--DO YOUR PART--and cooperate by completing the documents and returning. This effort should be of great satisfaction to all involved. All correspondence should be forwarded to Col. Burton Andrus USAR Ret., 505 Hidden Valley Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80919.

VIDEO TAPES--Repeating the announcement carried in Kay's Bulletin last month--the Video Tapes are ready for distribution. Make your checks in the amount of \$40.00 payable to Bob Wills, 8380 Phendara, Clarkston, Michigan 48016. BE SURE TO SPECIFY BETA or VHS. Allow 4-6 weeks for preparation and shipping. Considering the quality of some of the film he had to work with, a super job was done. The tape at the reunion was excellent in subjects captured and presented. There is some 2 hours and 35 minutes of unbelievable viewing pleasure. The narration and background music was a work of art. No matter how many times it is viewed, a long forgotten face or incident is recalled. While being viewed in my home in the presence of Burt Andrus, Fran Goplen, Bill Bitterman and Woody Browning, they were witnessed laughing one minute and reaching for handkerchiefs to dry tears the next minute which should tell you something. When you view his handiwork, all will agree he is deserving of an Academy Award. The many hours he has put into this project and the countless ones it will take to complete is unbelievable. Our thanks to Bob on a job well done.

HISTORY BOOKS--Burt Andrus, the Andrus Family, Amy Reid and the others that helped on this project deserve a 5 Gold Star Award. It captures the spirit and tells the story of the Fighting and Loving 783rd. It will be a keepsake treasured by family members when each of us are long gone. Only 135 were printed. This week 99 will be distributed by mail filling previous orders. The remaining 36 copies will be sold on a first order received basis. The price is \$25.00 for the first copy and \$20.00 for each additional copy. Send your orders and checks to Dwight Reid, 111 Ivanhoe, Denver, CO 80220. If you fail to get a copy of this great book, you will kick your rearends for years to come.

SICK CALL--DWIGHT REID--had a serious scare from the "Old Man's Affliction." Prompt medical attention had him on the road to recovery quickly. However, he has now contracted a serious case of "Puppy Love" for a good looking Denver model that appears to be approaching the terminal stage. Maybe Doc Kimball has a magic pill in his bag to cure this sickness.

SQUADRON PHOTOS--The many photos sent in by different individuals were forwarded here for returning. The package was damaged and the contents scrambled beyond belief while in shipment. Those with identifiable owners will be mailed in the next 10 days. REMEMBER--those that were used in the History Book have not been returned from the publisher at this date. They will be returned upon receipt. Those that do not have identifiable owners will be held and brought to Dayton for reclaiming. We are sorry this tragedy occurred, but it was beyond our control.

MINI REUNIONS--Thanks to a free ride on a corporate jet, Super Bowl weekend was spent in Orlando enjoying the company of Bo Bolinski and the gracious hospitality of his lovely bride, Ann. This is a great guy and gal all of you should get to know.

FLOYD COFFIELD'S CREW--Will hold a reunion in Topeka, Kansas sometime this summer. The exact time and place to be announced in a later bulletin. Floyd keep us posted so it can be announced. Members of the squadron who live in the area may want to drop in and say hello and fly a mission or two.

CECIL BATE'S CREW--Survivors of his original crew and those who went down over Blechammer will hold a reunion in Myrtle Beach, SC this summer. The time and place will be announced later so members residing in that area can drop by to say hello and spin a yarn or two.

TOMMY GREENWOOD'S CREW--On the weekend of March 16-18, Fran & Edith Goplen drove to San Antonio from Zumbrota, Minn.; Bill & Audrey Bitterman drove over from Houston; Burt Andrus jetted in from Colorado Springs; and Woody & Cathy Browning all assembled at my home for a weekend of festivities long to be remembered. An 18 wheeler couldn't have loaded and hauled the friendship that was shared. Friday noon a luncheon was held at the Petroleum Club where we were joined by Lt. Gen. Pete Crow, Maj. Gen. Don Bolton, Brig. Gen. "Rip" Collins, classmates of Burt's at the Academy, and my old sidekick, the famous Col. David Lee "Tex" Hill, legendary leader of the famed Flying Tigers. A tremendous time was enjoyed by all. With all the rank in attendance, timeout was called to conduct official business. Acting as an Official Review Board, I pleaded the case of Don Kay for promotion to permanent Corporal. It is my sad duty to inform Don he was passed over. They were

totally unforgiving for him stealing my "Golden Took" and waiting 40 years to confess. Friday afternoon was spent enjoying the Video Tape and reliving the days at Panatella. Friday night a Mexican Fajita dinner was enjoyed by all topped off by a scrumptious cake prepared by Cathy Browning. Saturday morning, after breakfast, all went down to the River Walk for sightseeing and lunch while Gop and I went to the golf course for a death struggle in "Cow Pasture Pool" officiated by Gen. Collins. Our Minnesota friend found out that a Bulls Eye Putter in the hands of an "Old Toggle Jockey" can be as deadly a weapon as a Norden Bomb Sight. That Minnesota money sure spends good in Texas. Saturday evening, Texas Steaks were enjoyed by all at the Barn Door. During dinner we were entertained with a duet by Burt Andrus and Bill Bitterman of Oh! Lord! It is Hard to be Humble that would have made John Denver and Tennessee Ernie Ford shed tears of professional jealousy. After breakfast Sunday morning, sad farewells were said ending a never to be forgotten weekend. The only thing that could have made it better was for all of you to have been here and shared.

CORRECTIONS FOR YOUR MAILING ROSTER--CAPUTO, EUGENE G., NOT Canto; TOM CLARK's street name MIRAMIR not Miramar; COBURN, Wm. wife (JAN); Add DUSSAULT, LOUIS V. wife (PAULINE), 61 Hayes Ave., Lowell, Mass. 01854; ELLIOTT, WILBERT not Elliott; FIKE, HARRY street name VOLSQUARDSEN AVE. not Volq Vardsen; HUSAK, RAY not Husack; HENSON, RUDOLPH C. not Henshaw; HINCKLEY, PARNELL KING not Panel K.; LAWSON, ROBT.-should be Rt. 2 not Rt. 1; LONG, LYLE W 13 Mile Rd.-not 13 Mile; MAIN, CARL-wife's name (PATRICIA); MAY, JAMES-AC is 602 not 601; MILLBURN, CARL-street should be E. Pleasant Lake Rd.-not Lakes; RACHFORD, CLIFFORD street should be Southdale Dr.-not S. Dale; REBOTTARO, LOUIS not Rebottari; SHAW, R. DICK state should be MO not MD; ADD-STEMLER, MARTIN P., 153 S. Lawrence, Buffalo, NY 14216, 716-877-4900; ADD-STEWART, R. W., Box 707, St. Francis, KS 67756, 913-332-2396; ADD-THURSTON, LAWRENCE B., Scotland Rd., Winchester, NH 03470; ADD-VORHIES, WILLIAM L.-wife (ELLA), 8110 Redlands, Playa Del Rey, CA 90293, 213-827-1427; WILLS, ROBT. F. not J.; WEBER, GROVER J. wife (HELEN); show WINTERS, HAROLD wife (HELEN), 1171 Maetzel Dr., Columbus, Ohio 43227, 614-861-6785; EAGLE NEST FLITE SECTION add COHEN, DAVID J., Mrs. Harriet Cohen (Widow), 121 Marina Dr., North Tonawanda, NY 14120, 716-691-5424. Under Honored Associate Members-Add Maj. Gen. George Acheson, USAF Ret., 4917 Ravenswood, Apt. 1760, San Antonio, TX 78227.

IF THERE ARE ANY ADDITIONAL CORRECTIONS, PLEASE ADVISE IMMEDIATELY. Thanks to Fran Goplen one of the "Big Honchos" in research with IBM he is going to computerize and update our mailing roster. THANKS A MILLION-GOP!

NEXT MONTH'S BULLETIN--Will carry portions of many letters, notes and cards received that we think you folks will find of interest.

DAYTON REUNION IN '85--As soon as the weather settles down, Burt Andrus and I will meet in Dayton for a meeting with our Ohio Members who will be handling arrangements for our next get together. Ample advance notice will be given so we can join and start planning for a larger and better reunion. Please send in any suggestions or ideas. Details such as date, hotel, etc. will be published as soon as possible.

NEW FORMAT--The first structure bearing any resemblance of a permanent nature at Panatella was a latrine overlooking a magnificent green wheat field dotted with red poppies and other colorful wild flowers. When two or more souls frequented this structure, one was sure to dethrone and authoritatively report the next day's mission would be Berlin. Or, the squadron would soon be pulling out for India. These tales were soon termed "Latrine-O-Grams." Unless a better format is suggested or someone finds it offensive, it has been accepted as our Squadron Bulletin Logo. Many will say it is appropriate for the "Poop" carried in this bulletin. To this charge--we plead it is no better than our sources.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS--DAYTON, OHIO '85

QUID FIT

HUMOR FOR THE MONTH--"Tex" Hill when asked if he would like a drink? Certainly--I've never refused one unless I misunderstood the question.