



783RD LATRINE-O-GRAM

VOLUME 2 MARCH 1988 SPRING ISSUE

NORTH CANTON, OHIO

BIRDS ARE SINGING,
BUDS ARE BURSTING,
SPRING IS NEAR!

RESULTS-LOST SOUL SEARCH

Joe Gardner reported to Mike Magazine that in OUR LIST OF LOST SOULS, we have a listing for "STOWE, CHARLES-Chester, S.C." Joe was in the service with a CHARLES C. STONE, Rt 1 Box 54-A, Chester, SC 29706 and believes that Charlie Stone is the person we should have listed. Charlie Stone was an armorer. Charlie and Joe were at McCook when the group was formed and were together in Italy. Charlie stayed with the 465th Bomb Group until it was broke up and he was sent home. Joe and his family visited with Charlie Stone and his wife until Charlie died about 20 years ago (1968?). Charlie's wife, Ella, died a few years later. They had no children.

LEE C. BILLINGS, 37311 N. 47th St. E. Sp-28, Palmdale, CA 93550
Telephone home # (805-947-3631) Office # (805-947-5455)
Lee was an engineer. He was flying Colonel Lokker with Milton Duckworth's crew when they were shot down on mission to Blechhammer, Germany on November 20, 1944. Colonel Lokker and Sgt. Paul Flynn Jr. were KIA and the balance of the crew including Lee were POW'S.
Located by: Jim Althoff of the 781st. Jim reported information to Jim McCloskey.

DALE V. REEVES, BOX 10, KELSO, MO 63758 TELEPHONE # (NONE LISTED)
783RD DUTY: Ground Crew (Spec. 747) with M/Sgt W.E.Spradler on planes:
"PERRY AND THE PIRATES and later BLUE U"
Located by: Glenn C. Cunningham.

MATT STANTON, Florida. Matt was located by Al Wylie with the assistance of Mitch Guziejka about 18 months ago, but through some mix up the information was never reported. (Al and Mitch please accept our apologies) Matt had lived in Hudson, MA and Houston, TX prior to WWII. He was employed by Shell Oil Company in Houston, Texas to teach golf to the Exec's. Matt migrated to Florida about 10 or 11 years ago and died from Cancer shortly thereafter. He was a golf pro at a country club in Florida at the time of his death.

WELCOME BACK TO THE ILLUSTRIOUS 783RD!

THE SEARCH FOR LOST SOULS STILL VERY SLOW.

We still have quite a number of former Squadron members listed on the LOST SOULS LIST. I know that our finder of Lost Souls the GI "Genuine Italian" Mike Magazzino will accept all the help he can get finding LOST SOULS. Please look at the LOST SOULS SEARCH LIST that was attached to our DECEMBER 1987 LATRINE-O-GRAM and try to locate just one. If you're successful contact Mike and he will do the rest. MIKE MAGAZZINE'S address is:

24023 E. OAKLAND RD.
BAY VILLAGE, OHIO 44140
TELEPHONE # (216-871-3203)

SICK CALL

Our Comrade in Arms JOHN STEWART, 606 8TH AVE. NORTH, JACKSONVILLE, AL 36265 suffered a stroke Sunday night December 13th. We understand from his wife Trudy, that the stroke left him temporarily paralyzed on his left side and his speech is slurred, but can be understood. We also understand that his Doctor and therapist promise that he will walk again-just not climb hills.

Doris Marshall, wife of ex-radio operator John Marshall, is back in the hospital with a brain tumor. Many of you will remember that Doris has been fighting cancer for the past several years. She is indeed a very fine lady. This information reported February 2, 1988 by the ole Tail Gunner Al Wylie.

Colonel and Mrs. Andrus' daughter, Marney is still battling Leukemia. She was to have a bone marrow transplant operation in an effort to bring the Leukemia into remission. I was unable to contact the Colonel to varify Marney's current situation.

Please remember John, Doris and Marney in your thoughts and pray for them to get well soon.

TAPS:

PHILIP N. LARIMORE, 65, of 5410 44th Street, Lubbock, TX 79414. "Phil" as he was known to his friends, passed away Saturday, December 19, 1987 after a massive heart attack. Phil worked in Tech Supply while with the 783rd. He is survived by his wife of over 40 years, Patti Gilbert Larimore of the home; three sons, Philip E. of Lewisville, John L. of Lubbock and Stephen L. of Wichita Falls; a brother, E. Neil of Olney; a sister, Marilyn Hannah of San Antonio; and four grandchildren.

We lost another true friend and comrade in arms with the passing of Phil.

CHARLES C. STONE, Rt 1 Box 54-A, Chester, SC 29706. Armorer for the group. Died about 20 years ago (1968?). (See details in the RESULTS-LOST SOULS SEARCH section.)

MATT STANTON, Florida. Died about 10 years ago.(See details in the RESULTS-LOST SOULS SEARCH section.)

JERRY W. HOWARD, 6 GRANDVIEW CIRCLE, STORRS, CT 06268, one of the original members of the 783rd who finished his 50 missions, passed away Aug 30, 1987. (This information from Hubert Johnson of Harper, Kentucky, no other details.)

NEWS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN!

1-ORBIN E. RUTLEDGE, 3202 Heather Lane, Denton, TX 76201 (817-387-7256) who FOLLOWS UP ON MEMBERS NOT RESPONDING has worked with Charlie Ellis and Mike Magazzino trying to get members to respond.

2-CHARLES ELLIS, 3316 Noe Way Apt. G-28, Louisville, KY 40220 (502-454-0656). Committee Chairman for the 1989 Reunion. Charlie's Committee has reported that they have selected three (3) Cities any of which will be suitable for our 1989 reunion site. The three cities are ATLANTA, COLORADO SPRINGS and ST. LOUIS. We need your input as to which one of the three (3) you would prefer. Please cast your vote by filling in the form on page 7. Your vote must be returned by May 31, 1988 to count.

3-HARRY FIKE, 2817 Volquardsen Ave., Davenport, IA 52804 (319-391-2807). Your PX OFFICER advised the following items can be purchased:

PRICE LIST OF 783RD SQUADRON PX ITEMS

14 ounce Glasses	\$3.00ea.	Cups (microwave safe)	\$3.50ea.
Squadron Patch	6.00ea.	(medium or dark blue	
Caps (one size fits all)	7.00ea.		

(Glasses and cups (mugs) have emblem on one side and B-24 on the other. The cups can be ordered in medium or dark blue. Specify color wanted)

PRICE LIST OF SQUADRON EMBLEMS-Las Vegas 1987

Self Stick Emblems	\$1.00ea.	Tie Clips	\$3.00ea.
Stick Pins	3.00ea.	Bracelet Charms	3.00ea.
Snap Pins (Lapel or tie tack)	\$3.00ea.		

Order any of the above items from Harry at the prices listed. The prices do not include shipping costs, so add \$1.00 or \$2.00 to the total of your check to cover shipping. If that's not enough Harry can drop you a note.

4-FLOYD GROGERY, Squadron Historian, of 2014 S. Anderson, Urbana, IL 61801, has not reported but, I'm confident that he is still working quite diligently on the "783rd History, The Men, and Their Stories. Floyd Coffield did some reminiscing by writing a short story he called: I REMEMBER WHEN-HOW-WHY-WHO. I thought you would enjoy reading it. So look for it on page 4. If you have not yet contributed your own personal War story/essay to Floyd. Then why not take time and do it now. There must be a lot of wonderful stories which have not been put on paper. Stories that will make for very interesting reading and would improve the value of "personal history" to our children and our grandchildren.

5-PRESIDENT JAMES McCLOSKEY had a request from A former POW. His name is:

LEONARD E. ROSE
8103 E. 50TH ST.
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46226

Jim said Leonard Rose has done an exceptional job of organizing and cataloguing members of Stalag Luft's 4-6 for Reunion and convention purposes. Leonard requested that any former POW's from these prison camps please contact him so he can put your name on his roster.

INFO ABOUT MEMBERS

Many of you know about the prowess of THE OLE F/O PRESIDENT EMERITUS SWEET SAM MARIE on the golf course. But did you know that in December, 1987 he scored one of just three EAGLES reported for the course at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas. Sam used a driver, 4 wood and putt to score an eagle (3) on the Salado #12 hole. Congratulations Sam, but remember you have to give strokes at the next outing.

BILL BEERMAN, Top Turret Gunner with Pappy Brown's crew and veteran of fifty one missions with the illustrious 783rd. Bill now lives in Yakima, Washington, and writes, he is getting too old to ride the Caterpillar Tractor digging for

gold at the mine he operates in Alaska each summer. So this year should be his last at the mine and next year he hopes to get together with old friends and attend the reunion.

FRANK GOPLEN, Treasurer of the 783rd asked me to put this note in the LOG:

"One of the nicest things that has happened to me is the many friendly and warm notes you guys have included with your dues payments. Somehow they really warm up the days and make it something very special to open the envelopes and find expressions of thanks and appreciation, well wishes and news from old comrades. I haven't taken the time to answer each one of them individually but hope this will express my thanks to each of you and say keep it up, it is appreciated."

Signed-Frank Goplen (The Bear)

FLOYD COFFIELD was the pilot and aircraft commander of one of the original flight crews assigned to the 783rd. Floyd bored with +the 85% temperature while sipping on his cocktail at his winter home in Punta Gorda, Florida put together the following story:

I REMEMBER WHEN-HOW-WHY-WHO
by Floyd Coffield

We left Lincoln, Nebraska at 12 degrees below zero, with long underwear, OD's, Winter Flying suits and upon arriving at Morrison Field, Florida the temperature was 75 degrees. Sure didn't take long to get into summer uniform. Changed uniforms right under the wing of the plane.

That 500 pounds of mail they loaded into each plane.

How short that runway was at Behlem, Brazil.

How nice and warm it was at Forteleza, Brazil. What a contrast to McCook.

What a long flight over the Atlantic and that noisy runway at Dakar.

How cold it got at night at Tindouif. No wonder the C-47 crews slept in their planes.

Tunis: Many new things to see and learn. This is where the Squadron and Group really prepared for combat. How fortunate we were to have had this extra time to train.

What a crude place Pantanella was and how soon it was made to be quite nice and livable.

The first mission to Polesti is one I will never forget. Flak thick enough to walk on. Had a fire in #3 engine, but made it back on the other three (3). This time I didn't catch hell for taxiing with #3 engine feathered.

May 29 was a day for all of us to remember. The day we lost Vorhies's crew. Man for Man as good as any crew. A very sad day for all of us.

On any given day we knew how many missions we had in and how many to go.

How much it meant to me to have had that motorcycle just for something to do on our days off.

Who or What taught more Airmen to pray? Chaplain Bolch or that dam flak.

July 12 on a mission to Nimes, France, I was flying #5 on Bates' right wing. We were hit by a couple 109's and Swanzy, who was flying #2 went down. I then moved up to #2 just before we took a real hard dose of flak. Bates in #4 took the most and had to land at Corsica. His plane had 167 holes in the right wing. Had I not moved up to #2, I doubt it we would have returned from that mission.

How you sweat it out on those last few missions and if you were fortunate enough, what a relief to have finished #50. Mine was #51 and I took along 2 1/2 quarts of whiskey which I was fortunate enough to bring back. The

same was consumed in a very short time by treating anyone and everyone. What a day? Too bad more crews couldn't have to same luck.

No Matter Who-What-Why-Where or How. It was an experience of a lifetime. The last war this country had a good reason to fight. I would not have wanted to miss it nor would I want to do it again.

Thanks Floyd, that brought back a lot of memories.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

BILL BITTERMAN celebrated his 17th anniversary of his 50th birthday in December.

FRANK GOPLEN (Treasurer) celebrated his 25th anniversary of his 39th birthday in January.

Happy Birthday Bill and Frank. May you have many, many more.

Belated happy birthday greetings to all others we failed to mentioned.

TOURS AND REUNION INFORMATION

PANTANELLA TOUR THE 465TH Bomb Group (H) 21 days 6 May 1988 _ 26 May 1988
Tour price: \$1599.00 per person, double occupancy. Add \$135.00 single occupancy. Anyone interested should immediately contact either:

Genny Travel 118 Jarvis Street Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada L2A 5M6	-or- William F. Bruce, Jr. 1683 Eggert Road Buffalo, NY 14226 (Phone 716-834-8144)
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The 465TH Bomb Group (H) will meet in San Antonio, Texas September 14-18, 1988. THE 465th Bomb Group (H) will meet at the Menger Hotel, Alamo Plaza, San Antonio, Texas 78295. All Bomb Squadrons of the 465th Bomb Group (H) will be there except our Illustrious 783rd. If any members of the 783rd Squadron can find time to make the Reunion, I am quite certain the members of the 780th, 781st and 782nd Squadrons would make you welcome. If you want to attend Group Reunion. Contact one of the following:

780th Bomb Squadron Association c/o Wanda J. Dannelly 7404 W. Northwest Highway #8 Dallas, Texas 75225	-or- 781st Bomb Squadron Association c/o James C. Althoff 2 Mt. Vernon Lane Atherton, California 94025
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-or-

782nd Bomb Squadron Association
c/o William F. Bruce, Jr.
1683 Eggert Rd.
Buffalo, New York 14226

B-24 LIBERATOR 50th ANNIVERSARY REUNION 17-21 May 1989 FORTH WORTH, TEXAS
Bob Vickers, 6424 Torreon Drive NE., Albuquerque, NM 87109 is National Project Director for this Reunion. It appears extremely doubtful that the 783rd will attend as a unit. This Reunion should be a packed with fun filled days. Members may wish to mark their calendars in anticipation of the event.

ROSTER CHANGES! A considerable number of changes and additions have been made to The 783rd BOMB SQUADRON (H) ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP ROSTER since the May 28, 1987 printing. These changes have been listed on page 6.

TO VOTE FOR 1989 REUNION--ALONG THE DOUBLE LINE AND RETURN VOTE TO SECRETARY.
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1989 REUNION VOTE (NOTE: ONLY VOTES RECEIVED BY MAY 31, 1988 WILL BE COUNTED)

MY CHOICE FOR CITY WHERE 1989 BI-ANNUAL 783RD BOMB SQUADRON REUNION SHOULD BE HELD IS (PLEASE MARK OR CIRCLE ONE OF THE CITIES LISTED BELOW)

1- ATLANTA, GEORGIA _____

2- COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO _____

3- ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI _____

DO YOU PLAN TO ATTEND TO REUNION IN 1989? _____ (PLEASE ANSWER YES OR NO.)

ALSO WHAT CITY WOULD YOU LIKE THE NEXT COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER FOR THE REUNION TO BE HELD IN 1991? _____

FILL IN THE CITY AND STATE ON THE LINE ABOVE.

COMMENTS: _____

YOUR NAME

PLEASE RETURN YOUR VOTE TO: 783RD BOMB SQUADRON ASSOCIATION
C/O WILLIAM C. POWELL, SECRETARY
330 CHAPPLE HILL DRIVE N.E.
NORTH CANTON, OHIO 44720

(RETURN PROMPTLY ONLY VOTES RECEIVED BEFORE MAY 31, 1988 WILL COUNT)

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IN YOU HAVE NOT FILLED OUT THE SQUADRON INFORMATION FORM PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM LISTED BELOW AND RETURN IT TO SECRETARY.

LAST NAME FIRST NAME INITIAL WIFE'S NAME

STREET ADDRESS OR P.O. BOX NO. CITY STATE ZIP CODE

TELEPHONE NUMBER INCLUDING AREA CODE

783RD DUTY:

IF FLIGHT CREW MEMBER: WHO WAS CREW COMMANDER? HOW MANY MISSION DID YOU FLY?

IF SHOT DOWN: WHAT MISSION NUMBER, NAME OF CITY AND DATE OF MISSION?

CIVILIAN OCCUPATION: IF RETIRED WHAT YEAR DID YOU RETIRE?

CHILDREN: _____, GRANDCHILDREN _____, HOBBIES _____

BIRTHDAY (MONTH AND DAY ONLY)

COMMENTS:

RETURN TO: 783RD BOMB SQUADRON (H) ASSOCIATION
c/o WILLIAM C. POWELL SECRETARY
330 CHAPPLE HILL DRIVE N.E.
NORTH CANTON, OHIO 44720

QUID FITTERS CONTINUE PUTTING FISH IN BARREL:

On noon Monday February 22 Frank & Edith Goplen escaping the harsh winter snows of Minnesota landed at the lake home of the 'Ole F/O' to spend the remainder of the winter 'Snow Birding'. On their arrival they were greeted by a balmy 72's and bright sunshine. Having been cooped up like a chicken all winter Gop took one look at the sparkling waters of the lake and made a grab for his rod & reel to begin fishing. Being an accepted and well know 'Hosses Rear End' the 'Ole F/O' side tracked his efforts by sitting him down to lunch and then riding him around all afternoon showing him the local Golf Course, the dam and other points of interest in the local Texas Hill country. Following dinner that evening Gop was like a caged Lion eager to get his bait in the water. But, the 'Ole F/O' living up to his well earned reputation continued to stall him off until after the ten o'clock news. At that time they went down on the fishing dock with lights. Thirty minutes later they returned to the house and announced, "God had put women on earth to serve men and accordingly the girls could go down on the fishing dock the next morning and clean the fish (shown on the right) in the fish basket for dinner the next nite". Edith not being acquainted with the fishing skills of the 'Ole F/O' and thinking with them only being gone such a short time there wasn't any readily agreed to take on the task. When all arrived on the fishing dock the next morning and the fish basket was removed from the water and seeing the task she had agreed to, she exclaimed, "Frank these aren't little fish like you catch at home". Having had his fish stories punctured by his 'Leaky Lipped' wife one and all can easily guess as to the conversation that followed. One final note. That evening the fish were southern fried in corn meal. None of that Yankee beer batter was permitted..



L-R SAM MARIE & FRANK GOPLEN

TWO 783RDRS GO DOWN IN FLAMES AT SAUGUS, CALIFORNIA:

Bobby Wills is spending the winter 'Snow Birding' with his daughter in Pasadena, CA. One recent day he drove up to Saugus, CA for a visit with Ralph Mc Elyea the 'Ole Drafted Recruit' who flew as Engineer on Cap Petranek's crew. It was reported they ended up on the local golf course swigging on of all things a bottle of Peach Brandy. We understand that at the end of nine holes the Pro suggested that in view of their present condition there was no way they could complete the back nine. With their egos being deflated they told him in no uncertain terms he could take his golf course and stick it where the sun doesn't shine. By the time they returned to Mac's house the bottle of Peach Brandy was a 'Dead Soldier'. Always being known for their 'smarts' they proceeded to break out a bottle of Rum. Our informer reported that by 5 in the afternoon Bobby was in no condition to attempt the run back to Pasadena. And, it wasn't long afterwards that it became necessary to steer two tottering 'Ole Airmen' puking, falling down drunk to beds where they could sleep off the days activities. Our informer, who called to report these happenings, assured us there were corpses in the local funeral home that looked much better than our two 'Ole Buddies'. Like Sgt Homer T. Green always said, "the higher the monkey climbs the pole the more he shows his behind". From all reports these two Quid Fitters not only reached the top of the pole but did an outstanding job of pole sitting that would have brought tears of joy to all the ole 783RD gang.

QUID FIT!

