



## 783RD LATRINE-O-GRAM

March Edition, 1990

Picayune, Ms.

For starters, may I say just a tad bit more about the Atlanta Re-Union. Sam Marie did an excellent job in the December L. O. G., however if you will, I believe some accolades are due.

Charlie Ellis is no fool and must be complimented on the fine job he did, of course he enlisted folks like Charlie Payne. With his ever present smile, how could he miss. Jim and Peg McCloskey arrived two days ahead of time to finalize events and worked tirelessly through out the reunion.

Harry Fike; Heck, Harry's no dummy, he married Lola. Some might think being the P. X. Officer is a piece of cake, wrong. Lola spent beaucoup hours toiling behind that desk trying to keep records and coins straight while the rest of us were playing. I'm happy to report to you that gross receipts from P. X. sales were \$1439.70.

If I have left anyone out of the above list of super stars, it isn't intentional. We owe a debt of gratitude to you all.

I have heard from many folks during and since then and I can truthfully say, everyone had nothing but praise. Each of the reunion's has been unique in its own way I suspect, however, Atlanta stood out in my mind to have some camaraderie thicker than Cajun Gumbo, not just between the men either. Several of the Ladies expressed their views as well.

Festivities finally got kicked off and as usual, chaired by Col. Andrus with his usual class and dignity. If I may cop a phrase from the honorable Paul Smith, where would we be without Andrus to command us, thank you Paul.

Jim McCloskey dressed in his Sunday Best, went on to M. C. events and did a superb job. As a matter of fact, although it may have looked like money under the table. Three of us at my table received door prizes.

Sam Marie was busy with his camcorder but on occasion would turn it over to Frank Goplen and go back to the Podium and entertain us with his Platinum Texican Tongue. Back to the camcorder he would go and at one point discovered he had no film in it. For some reason however the tricky rascal came us with a great tape, far better than the one we purchased in Vegas by the so called Pro. At this point and time I have no word on who might reproduce it but will let you know where to get it as soon as I know, it's a bargain.

Carl Lind, Navigator, 1st Lt., - my favorite. A couple of years ago though he isn't great at writing letters managed to muster the effort. With his innate ability he must have known something about my destiny and said, and I quote, "I have just pulled rank on you and have reduced you to, Tale Gunner". This is the first time in low these forty odd years that he has ever done so. Lo and behold who would have ever thought that one day I would be writing all this Poop from the Group. As I write these tales from the ole tail gunner I do hope and pray that you will all bear with me, if not, get on Carl's case, he is the culprit.

## **Sick Call**

Hubert: Our first Lady Helen had extensive back surgery shortly after our Atlanta Reunion. I spoke to her a short time after she returned home and she sounded fine but being feisty, she was angry with her progress. I suspect however with her attitude she will be out on the links before long giving our President a few basic lessons in golf.

Guziejka: Mitch discovered in June of '89 that he had a rare blood condition passed down from his mother. I can't recall the name, however, he has a lack of white blood cells and has been in and out of the hospital. Mitch lost 35 pounds initially and has had his ups and downs ever since, we wish you well Pal.

John Stewart: According to John Walker and the article he mailed me, John suffered a stroke, 12-13-87. It has left him partly paralyzed but the Ole Quid Fitter hasn't quit. His wife Trudy sees to it that he does his rehab excersizes and he has improved and is able to maintain his sense of humor. Bring your cane to the next reunion John, we would love to see you.

Mike George: According to Izzy Gerstner is ill. Izzy traveled around a bit after Atlanta and visited with him but gave no explanation of his problems. We would like to know and would appreciate it if someone could tell us. At any rate Mike, we hope you are on the mend and all of us wish you well.

McElyea: Ralph has informed me that Louise is still on oxygen due to emphyzema otherwise they would have made the scene in Atlanta. Hang in there Gal, we are all in your corner.

Perhaps a card or note from some of us would make the spirits a little brighter for these fine folks.

If I have left anyone out of the above list it is simply because I haven't been advised.

Al Honey didn't make the last roundup because of a prior commitment. Al was with the Forestry Commission way back there. Originally there was six, called Smoke Jumpers. Their mission was to make sixty experimental parachute jumps into remote areas of Washington. Of the six, only two have survived, the other man was not able to attend their 50th anniversary at about the time we had our Atlanta Reunion. Well, they erected a monument and had a great time where, incidentally, Al was the guest of honor, including a bout on T.V. Upon Al's return to Oakland, he stopped in Seattle and had a nice visit with our very own Doc Kimball, Doc had seen him on T.V.

Now that 1989 has come and gone, it means among other things, that our 1989 dues are worn slap out. Mike doesn't want our account to get rusty or dusty so if you haven't yet done so, please make out your checks for \$15.00, payable to the 783rd Bomb Sqdn. Assn. and fire them off to:

Mike Maggazine  
24023 E. Oakland Rd.  
Bay Village, OH 44240

*Here I am doing the tail twisting and haven't sent mine.*

It was indeed a pleasure to meet Tom Butt and his lovely wife which incidentally lead to Jim McCloskey's ability to locate a few of his Dad's crew. I mailed them a welcome letter and have heard from the following:

Clarence Thyberg  
35 Glen Avenue  
Lynn, Mass 01905

He was a Bombardier/Navigator on Butts' crew. Spouses name is Shirley, they have three children and four grand babies. In civilian life he was a manufacturing engineer.

Neil MacIntyre  
49 Ramblewood Avenue  
Staten Island, N.Y. 10308

Another member of Butts' crew, he served as gunner. His spouses name is Marilyn Jane. They have eight children and three grand babies. In civilian life he taught school for the N. Y. City Board of Education and retired in 2-89. He isn't finished up yet however, he has opened a store featuring arts and crafts from around the country.

Frankly, I would like to have more of our children in attendance at the 1991 reunion. I'm working on mine and encourage you all to do the same.

Some of our folks have never been to our reunion's and some have been A.W.O.L. from one two and some three. Won't you regulars give me a helping hand, look at your Roster, if there happens to be one near you, get on their case. There is no reason other than health problems that we can't make 91 the biggest reunion yet, if we start now. As little as you might think, the next reunion is a mere 18 months away from now, thank you.

Norma Powell has mailed me bits of info from Bill's files as well as 63 stamps for L.O.G.s. Every now and again I get just a wee bit more. However, I must relate another amusing thing that happened one night. The phone rang, Geneva answered and I could soon tell from this end of the conversation, it had to do with the 783rd. Geneva finally hung up and needless to say, I asked what was all that about? She replied, Oh, that was Norma. I said what did she want? Oh nothing but then gave me instructions as to what the call was about. I must admit for about 5 seconds, I had the Rodney Dangerfield syndrome. Then I felt a smile come across my ugly face and thought, gee, this is great. Let me tell you Ladies, we fellas have no exclusive on the proverbial soap box if you will. We encourage each and everyone to get involved, we need you and we love you all. Keep up the good work gals, write to me, Norma or Geneva or to whom ever you choose, I promise no one will kiss and tell. Incidentally, Norma has made me a promise to be at the next reunion.

Received another letter from Vic Cohen who just happens to have been on the same crew as Bill Powell. He paid a nice tribute to Bill, "as yet, I have never met a finer man. I couldn't agree with him more. Vic was fortunate enough to attend the 50th anniversary of the b-24 celebration in Ft. Worth. There was about ten thousand there and he met a few tired ole 783rd folks as well. The plane from Kissimmee, the one from the confederate Air Force as well as an LB 30, the Navy version with the single tail were there. He also included three photos, however, two of them are surrounded by people, the last one is the two B 24s making a low level pass. Vic claims he would have taken more photos but was too busy watching.

I truly appreciate all the letters everyone has mailed me. It sure would be easier to just copy them and put together a L.O.G. that way but as you might suspect, it is cost prohibitive. Space permitting, I will try and include some photos prior to going to press.

At some point in the near future we will have to come up with a new roster since I already have some changes of address and phone numbers as well. In the meantime, I hope you will all scribble in your last roster the changes I am about to mention.

First of all and certainly not last, the phone rang the other day and it was Bill Zeigler. He is the last name on your roster and his name is misspelled, it shows Ziegler which is in-correct. Secondly, he defected to Florida from Round Lake, ILL. and his new address is as follows:

Wm. J. Zeigler  
Rt. 5 Box #875 ✓  
Big Pine Key, FLA 33043  
Area Code 305-872-2357

He has never attended a reunion and yet in spite of it is paid up through 91 and promised to make the 91 reunion one of his priorities.

Owrie Brown has escaped the California smog and defected to 1036 W. ✓  
Park Mountain, Littleton, CO 80127. Area code 303-933-3457.

Don Kay was mentioned in the Christmas L.O.G. but had not been able to get ✓  
a phone at press time, so make a note as follows: Donald & Doris Kay, ✓  
60673 Teton Court, Bend, Oregon 97702. Area code 503-388-2927

Curtis A. Wilkens, same address, Rt. 3 Box #3637, Orland, CA -----New ✓  
phone: 916-865-8314.

On another note, one which I had rather not make is Taps. If you haven't been in combat together you can not understand the close knit that we share. Eulogy has to be the toughest thing for anyone to do unless you are well equipped, which I am not. I will list the following and offer condolences from the 783rd. Enmase to the surviving spouses and children of these fine folks we endeared so much.

Maybelle Adair, Widow of Pop Adair, Tom Bonds crew ✓

Charles Carson, widow Jane, Cofields crew ✓

John Harness ✓

Gene Gfrerer

John Knous, widow, Fay

Woodrow Walsh

Don Kay has advised me that he flew his last mission on 3/12/45, "Vienna" He doesn't recall which crew he was with that day. At any rate, if he happened to be on your crew, please drop him a line.

Belated birthday wishes to all, I have three which may be of interest since these gentlemen must have come from e Pedigree stock. They are all over thirty nine at lease once. Al Honey, 1/10; Paul Smith, 2/15; Doc Kimball, 10/14.

Age is a matter of mind, if you don't mind, it doesn't matter.

Harry and Lola Fike are in route to Kenya for a camera safari, however, prior to leaving mailed me his list of P. X. items in stock.

Here is the list of PX items still available. I use this list in response to inquiries I receive on items available.

#### **PRICE LIST OF SQUADRON PX ITEMS**

Glasses and cups (mugs) have emblem on one side and B-24 on the other

14 oz Glasses	\$3.00	Cups (microwave safe)	\$3.50
Squadron Patch	6.00	(medium or dark blue)	
Caps	7.00		

#### **SQUADRON T SHIRTS (Navy w/gold emblem)**

Large \$11.00	X Large \$11.00	XX Large \$12.00
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#### **SQUADRON PAPER PRODUCTS**

Squadron Paper Decal (approx 3 1/2 x 4)	\$0.10
Squadron Colored Emblem (8x10)	.10

#### **SQUADRON EMBLEMS - Souvenir of Las Vegas 1987**

Self stick Emblems \$1.00	Tie Clips \$3.00	Stick Pins \$3.00
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#### **4 INCH GOLF TAG - Souvenir of Dayton Reunion 1985**

Wright Patterson AFB Tags w/chain	\$1.00
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Above prices do not include shipping costs. Please include \$1 to \$3 shipping. Some items are in short supply and there is no plan to reorder. Orders are filled as received.

I must apologize, I thought I had finished this load for the March Edition of the L.O.G. but have been advised that I am not so here goes.

**"The Addendum"**

**"AMERETTO"  
BY  
Geneva**

2 Cups of Vodka  
2 Cups of Sugar  
1 3/4 Cups of Water  
4 Tsp. Almond Extract  
2 Tsp. Vanilla Extract  
1 Tsp. Chocolate Extract  
1 lemon Peel

Put the sugar and lemon in a pot of water and cook at high temperature for 10 minutes, (constantly stir the brew) Remove the peel, take the pot off the burner and add all the ingredients and stir well. Allow to cool and it is ready to drink.

Use inexpensive Vodka, the finished product is just as good with whatever brand you may choose to use.

If you get caught 'bootleggin' this stuff, forget where you received the above. If you make a killin', send Geneva 10% off the top, 10% to the 783rd and keep the rest.