



## 783RD LATRINE-O-GRAM

September Edition, 1990

Picayune, Ms.

Folks, lets make this a September TA remember. The ole Tale gunner has many tales to tell you so best we get cranked up.

Mike Maggazine has reported to me that about 25 % of us have paid our dues for 1990. The poor man is crying all the way to the bank so wont you please make out your checks for \$15.00 to the 783rd. Bomb Sqdn. Assn. and fire them off to Mike. Mercy me, 91 is just around the corner so if you care to and can afford to, you may just want to include your 91 dues while your at it, nuff said.

Sam Marie put me in touch with Ned Humphries, an ole Bombardier. Ned formed an outfit called Bombardiers Inc. and he publishes a very interesting news letter called Crosshairs. Ned may not have your name if you were a Bombardier so I will give you his address if you are interested. Frankly, I believe there is something of interest to all of us in his letter. I swap him a copy of the Latine-O-Gram for Crosshairs and have really enjoyed it. The annual dues are \$15.00 and I might add are Tax deductible since he is non-profit. Write to the following, Bombardiers Inc. 200 Van Buren St. No. 2109 Daphne, Al. 36526.

Some of you may not be aware of the fact that Stan Pace and Mickey Duckworth both flew All American, hooray for the 783rd. Incidentally, I saw Stan Pace on the network news recently at a launching shindig. I believe the name of the Submarine is Kentuckey so they smashed a bottle of Bourbon rather than Champagne on her nose.

August 15th. the ole Bomb Aimer Sam Marie turned thirty something a couple of times. Belated "B" day wishes from all of us.

Heres a change of address for you to include in your Roster. Harriet E. Cohen 970 Hopkins Rd. # 1 Buffalo, N.Y. 14221.

Harry and Lola Fike have reported that P. X. sales have been going well thanks in part to Harry and Marge Harvey. It seems they ordered a case or two of the 783rd. glasses, now thats just for prune juice on the rocks. I must tell you another interesting about Harry. One of old buddies from the 783rd. just happened to be in the library and came accross an Idaho phone book. He looked in it and sho nuff found Harry. His name is Casimir Bidas from New York. I dont have his address as of this moment but will advise you later, what a way to go, a lost soul finding himself. One more thing, Harry and Marge just celebrated their third wedding anniversary, aint that great ?

Now on to more News from Harry and Lola Fike. They are out of coffee mugs but here is a list as of items they have left.

PRICE LIST OF SQUADRON PX ITEMS

Send orders to Harry D. Fike, 2817 Volquardsen, Davenport, IA 52804  
(Make checks payable to the 783rd Bomb Sqdn. Assn.)

14 oz Glasses	\$3.00	(emblem on one side and B-24 on the other)		
Caps	7.00	(med blue w/gold trim, Sqdn name and a B-24)		
Squadron Patch	6.00			
SQUADRON T SHIRTS (Navy w/gold emblem)				
Large	\$11.00	X Large	\$11.00	XXLg \$12.00

SQUADRON PAPER PRODUCTS

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

SQUADRON EMBLEMS - Souvenir of Las Vegas 1987

Self stick Emblems	\$1.00	Tie Clips	\$3.00
Stick Pins	3.00		

4 INCH GOLF TAG - Souvenir of Dayton Reunion 1985

Wright Patterson AFB Tags w/ chain \$1.00

15TH AIR FORCE PIN - Souvenir of Atlanta Reunion 1989

15th Air Force Lapel Pins \$3.00

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.

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I talked to Floyd Gregory the other day and you made him real happy with your comments in the L.O.G. He spent years trying to get information from members for the history and now members are after him to get a copy before they are out of print. You guys are good examples of 783rd spirit.

Must close and get more letters out. Lola just mailed out T-shirts to LeRoy Crenshaw, William T. Hall, Walter Witt, and William Zeigler. Thought you would like to know the shirts are selling well.

SICK CALL

Joe Montgomery had bypass surgery that was successful however developed an infection and has had a rough time with it.

Harry Greene seems to be on the RALLY and at last report sounded fine.

As predicted, our First Lady Helen has been out on the cow pasture giving our president a few lessons, you see, I told she would.

Ada Walton, wife of Harold Walton passed away from cancer in February. Harold was a tail gunner on Cellas crew. This information forwarded from George Bevington via Mike Maggazine.

Mitchell Guziejka; After a long battle finally passed away July 30th. He is survived by his wife Evelyn, his Daughter Marie, two sons, Mitchell Jr. and Mark and seven grandchildren. Mitch was nose gunner Toggelier on my crew. He and I were very close, like brothers. Apparently I was not the only one however. Evelyn told me that at the wake people were lined up out the door and down the sidewalk. I can tell you he enriched the lives of many of us. They celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary April 20th. and Mitch would have been 72 on the 29th. of September.

The 783rd. joins with me in offering condolences, bless you all.

**Allen A. Honey**  
Chairman

**Advisors**

Lt. Col. David Osborne  
Mrs. Betty Karle  
Archivist

M/Sgt. Orbin E. Rutledge  
15th Air Force Research

Ruza Pilicharski  
Serbian History

Stevan Kakarigi  
Chetnik Affairs

Vukosav Kljajic  
Chetnik Affairs

Lt. Col. James Inks  
Chetnik Affairs

Norman L. Reid  
R.C.A.F.

**Committee Members**

James Althoff  
Russell W. Aughinbaugh  
Harry C. Bartels  
T.R. Bradshaw R.C.A.F.

W.F. Bruce  
Joseph Buchler  
Mrs. Dorothy Carrico  
Donald Clark  
Sandy DeLucia  
Clyde Driggers

Lt. Col. John Graybill  
Harry Greene  
James T. Harp

Lt. Col. Arthur Hoodcheck  
Lt. Col. James Inks  
Betty Karle

John Melosovich  
Lt. Col. Thomas Oliver M.D  
Anthony Orsini  
Lt. Col. David Osborne  
Leland Porter

Norman Reid R.C.A.F.  
M/Sgt. Orbin Rutledge  
Lt. Col. John Scroggs  
Richard Snow  
Charles Stevenson  
Alexander Wylie  
Mike Zacharias

**Committee of American and Allied Airmen  
To Honor the Memory of General Drazza Mihailovich**

329 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, CA 94606  
(415) 835-2485



PART OF A LETTER OF TRIBUTE

"The loss of every Allied plane shot down over Europe was a tragedy - every crew member of a crew that was found and saved and sent back to us brought joy to all his comrades. To everyone who joined in this great work and to each member of his family and to all who shared, in those days, his risks and dangers I send assurances of my deep and lasting gratitude."

Sincerely,  
*Dwight D. Eisenhower*

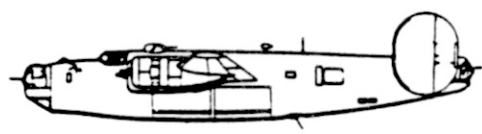
DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

As I suspect, many of you are aware of the fact that Al is Chairman for the Committee Of American And Allied Airmen. He formed this organization to honor General Drazza Mihailovich. I am on the board of directors although did nothing, but was honored to attend the services. Orbin Rutledge was active as were many more. However, Al Honey almost single handidly put this historic event together. He took advantage of Anna Marie's talent however. She did a crosstich of the Legion of Merit, I would say about 24" by 48" and had it framed. It will be hung in a New Church the Serbians are going to build. I cant say enough about the fine job Al did and only wish that all of you could have been there. I wont go into anymore detail as I think the two newspaper articles will tell you better than I could.

Those of you that attended the Dayton Reunion will no doubt remember the Strawberry Bitch. Dave Burton was the Pilot of her and did an excellent job as emcee.

There were folks from the R.C.A.F. the R.A.F. as well as a few of us. I can tell you folks, I rubbed elbows with some mighty fine folks.

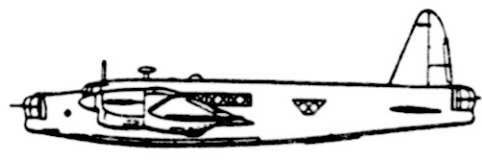
Norman Reid came down from Canada. He was a Lancaster Pilot Stationed at Foggia, as you recall not far from Canosa. He was active at the services and a delightful man.



B-24J Consolidated Liberator



Boeing B-17F Fortress



Vickers Wellington II



World War II veterans salute the memory of Gen. Draza Mihailovich during a Colma ceremony Sunday.

## Veterans unveil plaque in honor of Yugoslav hero

Ceremony pays tribute to rescuer of Allied airmen

By Don Martinez  
OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

COLMA — Richard Felman and a group of other World War II veterans gathered at a cemetery here to pay tribute to an unsung hero who was executed after saving their lives.

Though Felman's dramatic rescue took place more than 46 years ago, the 69-year-old retired Air Force major had a vivid recollection Sunday of the soldier who saved him, Yugoslavian Gen. Draza Mihailovich, as he spoke at an emotional reunion at the Serbian Eastern Orthodox Cemetery. A plaque was unveiled in memory of Mihailovich, whose actions saved Felman and nearly 700 other American and Allied servicemen who were shot down over Yugoslavia during the dark days of the war.

"He saved my life, I'll never forget him," Felman said, his voice cracking with emotion and with anger.

"I have mixed feelings today," said Felman, of Tucson, Ariz. "This is the first tangible tribute in this country to this great man who did so much for our servicemen during the war... and it just makes me sick we had to wait this long."

As president of the Committee of American Airmen Rescued by Gen. Draza Mihailovich, Felman has been trying for more than 40

years to erect a statue in the general's honor in Washington.

Sunday's colorful ceremony, attended by more than 200 veterans and their wives, was organized by the Committee of American and Allied Airmen to Honor General Mihailovich, a similar group supporting plans for a national monument to the fallen hero.

Allen Honey, chairman of the second group, said Colma's Serbian cemetery was an appropriate site for the Mihailovich plaque.

"Serbia is the largest state in Yugoslavia and many Serbians were among the general's troops," said Honey, an Oakland resident who as an Air Force sergeant flew numerous missions over Yugoslavia.

"We all slept better knowing the general was below during the missions" in the event planes were shot down, Honey said.

Both he and Felman were equally concerned about the lack of a national tribute.

"I think there has been a conspiracy among our government officials over the years to block our efforts because they don't want to anger Communist leaders who have carried out a well-organized campaign to malign this great man who was anti-Communist when Russia fought with us during World War II," Felman said.

Even as a 20-year-old navigator aboard a B-17 bomber in 1944, Felman was warned against Mihailovich, who was then regarded as the commander-in-chief of Yugoslavia's 300,000 "Chetniks," the underground freedom-fighters.

"I was told that if I ever was shot down over that country to watch out for him because he would cut my ears off," Felman recalled. "We were told he had turned and was collaborating with the Germans... it was a well-organized smear campaign by the Communists." A few days after the warning, Felman's plane was shot out of the sky by German fighters.

"All but one of our 11-member crew managed to get out of the aircraft," he said. "We parachuted from about 20,000 feet and landed about 10 miles apart."

Hitting a corn field hard on a leg that was already wounded, Felman said he was immediately approached by members of Mihailovich's forces.

"I remember thinking, 'Well, there goes my ears,'" he said. "But they took care of me. They didn't have any medication so they treated my wounds with plum brandy."

Other members of Felman's crew were reunited and hidden in small villages less than three miles from German forces.

"We learned that there were 276 other American fliers scattered in an area of about 30 miles," Felman said. "They were all being cared for by Mihailovich, who was trying to contact Allied forces to get us out."

Six weeks later, in a daring daylight escape aboard C-47 transports that were covered by 50 P-51 fighters, Felman and the others were finally flown to an Allied air base in Italy.

"Throughout the war, Mihailovich saved about 500 American servicemen and nearly 200 Allied airmen as well who would have surely been captured without his help," Felman said.

But the heroic general, known as "Uncle" to his countrymen, met a tragic end, Felman said.

"He was tried as a war criminal by Marshal Tito after the war," he said. "He was executed in 1946 and his body was dismembered so it couldn't be properly buried."

Added Felman: "Two years after he died, President Truman awarded him the Legion of Merit, the highest combat ribbon that can be presented by our government to a foreign national. I think it's just a damn shame that we haven't got a statue in his memory by now in our nation's capital."

Felman, Honey and their groups are lobbying on behalf of two bills under consideration by Congress that would authorize a fitting tribute to, as Felman said, "this great man who did more for this country than most people will ever know."

# One war hero honors another

## Man who saved Yugoslav airmen pays tribute to counterpart

By John VanLandingham  
Staff writer

DUBLIN — Forty-six years ago, then Air Force Lt. David C. Burton refused to abandon the Yugoslavian crew of a crippled B-24 Liberator bomber over Austria.

When they were safely back at their base in Italy, the Yugoslavs hailed Burton, now a Dublin resident, as a hero and made him an honorary member of the Royal Yugoslavian Air Force.

On Sunday, Burton will emcee ceremonies in Colma honoring a

Yugoslavian who rescued hundreds of Allied fliers only to be abandoned by the Allies and executed in 1946 by Marshal Josip Tito.

The ceremonies honoring Gen. Draza Mihailovich will be conducted at the Serbian Cemetery Chapel.

Mihailovich, Time's Man of the Year in 1941, was responsible for saving more than 800 Allied fliers from being captured by Nazi forces during World War II.

So well-known were Mihailovich and his Royal Chetnik forces, that bomb crews flying over Yugoslavia

to attack the oil fields in Romania were told in advance where to bail out or ditch their planes to be rescued by the Chetniks.

Allen Honey of Oakland is chairman of the Committee of American and Allied Air Men to Honor the Memory of General Draza Mihailovich, which is sponsoring Sunday's ceremony.

"Those of us flying missions into Polesti (Romania) were told about certain areas in Yugoslavia under

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## Burton

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the control of Mihailovich," Honey said.

"Some members of our squadron had bailed out and showed up two or three weeks later. (The Chetniks) had a regular underground. They would make a small airstrip in a clearing at night, and the U.S. Air Force would send in a DC-3 bringing the Chetniks supplies and taking out the rescued airmen," he said.

Toward the close of the war, however, the Allies shifted their support away from Mihailovich to Tito, claiming Mihailovich and his forces were not fighting the Germans, but cooperating with them.

British and American fliers rescued by Mihailovich were denied by Tito the opportunity to testify at the general's treason trial where he was convicted and later executed.

The Serbian Democratic Forum, a magazine published by the Serbian National Committee, published in 1975 a collection of articles and radio dispatches to show the Allies abandoned Mihailovich in a deal with Stalin toward the close of the war.

The act for which Burton was honored took place in April 1944, when he was leading a raid into Wiener Neustadt, Austria, to bomb a Messerschmitt aircraft factory. Accompanying him was one B-24 manned by members of the Royal Yugoslavian Air Force.

After the raid, Burton started checking to see how many losses his group suffered.

The Yugoslav leader, Capt. Voya Skakich, told Burton "We're hit

bad. One man is dead, another two or three badly wounded... One engine gone and the flight controls hit," he said.

Skakich said he couldn't steer the plane and was under attack. He said the crew would have to bail out even though they risked being shot by the Germans or Tito's communists with whom they also were fighting.

Burton ordered Skakich to hang

on while he got the formation to surround the Yugoslavs' plane. In the meantime, he told Skakich to put the plane on automatic pilot.

It worked; the other bombers surrounded the crippled Yugoslav plane and escorted it safely home.

On the ground, Skakich emotionally informed Burton that "in Yugoslavia men joined the armed forces to die for their country if necessary and the wounded are left in the field

to fend for themselves."

"Your willingness to risk the safety of the formation and the extra effort you went to in order to bring us home was something we have never experienced before nor did we expect it," Skakich said as he pinned his pilot's wings on Burton.

Later, King Peter of Yugoslavia made Burton an honorary member of the royal air force for saving Skakich and his crew.



Times/Norbert von der Groeben

**DAVE BURTON** of Dublin wears his American wings above the Royal Yugoslavian Air Force wings he earned for bravery 46 years ago. He holds a photograph of his plane.

Heres another change of address. Fred Robinson 1895  
Green Meadow, Walled Lake Mich. 48390.

Tune into the December Latine-0-Gram, we will have a balot  
to vote on the next reunion site and hopefully a secret to  
tell you. I dont want to expound on it yet but it will be  
good news.

Take care, find a lost soul and all that stuff;

Quid Fit;