



## 783RD LATRINE-O-GRAM

June Edition, 1991

Picayune, Ms.

Well Gang, October isn't far off, I hope you have all made your plans to attend. I shall kick things off with some poop from Red Huber.

Helen and I want to take this opportunity to invite the members of the 783rd and their wives to Texas. We guarantee everyone will thoroughly enjoy themselves.

Sam Marie and Burt Andrus put together an entertainment package of events that tops any previous reunion! Also, in my estimation, Sam picked the best bargain in town when he chose the Airport Holiday Inn. It's an 11-story complex with top quality rooms. Sam must have been pointing his prize six-shooter when he got us the \$53.00 rate (that's 40% off their normal rate).

Helen and I enjoyed a 24-hour visit at the reunion hotel before going on to Kerrville to visit our son and family. I met with the sales director, catering manager and the assistant general manager of the hotel. I signed the booking contract after inspecting the ballroom facilities and reviewing the menus Sam had selected. I asked if Room 639 (our room) was typical of their guest rooms. It was very comfortable.

The hospitality room will be the best accommodation that we have had. Jim and Peg McCloskey have agreed to head up the Hospitality Committee. They will have two San Antonio couples, Bob and Rosie Anderson and Paul and Kay Hooze to assist them. And of course, Sam and Lynn Marie can be counted on too! The VCR will be kept busy with the many video tapes we will have on hand of past reunions, our 783rd Italian base during the war and combat bombing missions. Bob Anderson promises good refreshments (just like at the movie house) + a keg of beer!

Sam mentioned the two large shopping malls across Loop 410 from the hotel. The hotel has agreed to furnish courtesy transportation to and from the malls. When you finish shopping--find a phone and call the hotel to pick you up. Also, those arriving by plane--there is a Holiday Inn phone in the baggage claim area to secure the courtesy transportation.

The annual fiesta was in full swing while we were in San Antonio. We guessed it to be equal to the New Orleans Marti Gras. San Antonio was really jumping!

Al, if you haven't been back to San Antonio since WWII days, you're in for a big shock. It's grown (6th largest city in the USA) but it is still easy to navigate if driving or a twenty-minute bus ride to downtown. San Antonio, while growing, didn't lose any of its beauty--to the contrary, every effort has been made to enhance its attractiveness to the tourist. San Antonio is a city of contrasts and character; e.g., the Spanish's Governor's Palace was built in 1749. The reunion agenda will insure us a good opportunity to see many of the City's highlights.

Since you and Geneva will be driving--you might want to extend your visit a couple of days and visit the "Hill Country" of Texas. If you were a Lyndon Johnson fan--Fredericksburg and Johnson City are close-by interesting towns, and Austin (University of Texas) has the beautiful Lyndon Johnson Library (Helen went back the 2nd day). Or you might detour down the coast on the way home--Corpus Christi is a beautiful city.

Helen and I are looking forward to seeing you and Geneva again and all the 783rd gang and their wives. We're all going to have a great time!

I lifted the following from Jim Althoff's 781st April newsletter:

At various times this century's wars become the topic of discussion. Recently I came across some statistics that will help settle some arguments.

	WWI	WWII	KOREA	VIETNAM
Captured and Interned	4,120	130,201	7,140	826
Died while POW	147	14,072	2,701	101
Returned to U.S. Control	3,973	116,129	4,418	735
Missing and unaccounted	3,350	78,751	8,177	2,489
Battle Deaths	53,402	291,557	33,629	47,318
Wounded	204,002	670,846	103,284	153,303
Number Serving	4,734,991	16,112,566	5,720,000	8,744,000

I don't think anyone will disagree that we were in the **BIG ONE**.

Winston Churchill gave the Air Force credit for winning the war. But, according to Gen. Doolittle, we paid a heavy price. He commented that on our most dangerous missions, a quarter of our bombers failed to return. Six hours on oxygen, intensive cold, deafening noise, constant vibration and a one-in-three chance of completing their tour were the average prospects of our crews.

Over 50,000 U.S. airmen were lost in the air campaigns against Germany--the 783rd didn't lose its share--because we were the best--our pilots flew tight formations and our crews were crack shots. But we couldn't have reached the target and we couldn't have made it home if our planes had not been in top condition. Our flight line maintenance people were tops. Folks like Mike Magazine worked all night to get our shot-up planes back into mint condition. They had to plug away night-after-night--we got a day or two off after each mission. Since watching the flight line activities during Desert Storm, I have tried to acquire old training films to show at our reunion. No luck so far--but Floyd Gregory is now working on it--if they are available, Floyd will find them--when he retired he headed up the Jet Maint. Training Program for the entire Air Force.

Our Desert Storm victory made this old airman feel proud! But it was a "piece of cake" compared to our 783rd action. We were part of our country's most victorious period in history--the destruction of the

world's largest war machine, its Air Force, manufacturing facilities, oil fields and refineries, and its transportation and supply capabilities.

The 783rd was one of the best bomb squadrons in the Air Force--maybe the best ! Remarkable, considering that we were just a bunch of 20 year old kids!

See you in San Antonio--Ole!

*Red*

More news of interest on the next page for those of you that intend to fly.

# △ DELTA AIR LINES, INC.

783RD BOMB SQUADRON REUNION  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS  
OCTOBER 7-10, 1991

Delta Air Lines has been selected as the official airline for our *REUNION*. They are offering special rates which afford a 5% discount off any Delta published round-trip fare within the Continental U.S. For those passengers age 62 and older (plus one travelling companion) a 10% discount will apply. This includes Supersaver and other promotional air fares. All applicable restrictions must be met and all penalties apply.

What if you don't qualify for a discounted fare?

For those passengers not qualifying for any published discounts, a 40% discount will be offered on Delta's domestic flights or a 35% discount on Delta Connection Carriers (Atlantic Southeast, Business Express, Comair, and Sky West), for travel to the reunion. This discount will be based on the full non-discounted round-trip coach rates, and must be booked and ticketed at least 7 days in advance.

To take advantage of these discounts:

1. Call Delta at 1-800-221-1212.
2. Ask for a Special Meetings Booking Agent.
3. Refer to your file number H12690.  
(Travel inclusive dates are October 4-13, 1991)

The booking agent will work with you to determine the lowest possible rate for your travel dates. You may purchase your tickets from Delta or your travel agent.

Weyland B. Feely finally received his D.F.C. in Nov. 90 after waiting 46 years. He asked me to thank those of you that helped him, they are as follows. O.J. Heim, Frank J. Alois, Floyd Gregory, Leroy Crenshaw, Woody Browning and Sam Marie. Thats a long time to wait for anything and we all congratulate you Weyland.

Harry Fike has advised me that he has nine tapes of the Atlanta reunion left. So friends the first nine of you that send him \$20.00 will get yours, this includes S&H. Make your checks out to the 783rd. Bomb Sqdn Assn. and Mail them to Harry Fike, 2817 Volquardsen Ave. Davenport, Ia. 52804. It is a fine tape and Im sure you wont be disapointed that you ordered it. Harry and Lola will have the usual P.X. items in San Antonio plus a few surprises. They really have done a wonderful job, and we need to thank them. As a courtesy to me and a favor to yourself, wont you please offer a little praise. I can assure you one thing for certain, we couldnt afford to hire folks of this caliber.

Golden Jones has been doing some searching and I will share with you what he has advised, Re; Alfred S. Kowal. He has found his brother, Stanley Kowal Jr. who lives at 200 Davis Pl. New Hartford N.Y. 13413. More on the following page.

His son Fred Kowal lives at 1097 Sperswaker Lane, Sarasota, Fl. 33582. It is Goldens impression that Alfreds widow is still alive and he will continue to search for her. We will keep you posted.

TAP'S

Virginia Ferrell has advised that her husband Robert "Bob" Ferrell passed away April, 7, 91. Bob was 68 and his heart simply gave out. He entered the Air Force on Sept 25th.39 and retired in July 31, 60. He was in Pearl Harbor Dec. 7th. when the Japs hit us. He made his way down to Australia where he completed his missions and returned to the States. He later joined the 783rd. and flew a number of missions before being shot down and becoming a P.O.W. Thats what I would have to describe as a noble effort for anyone to have. We join with you Virginia in your sorrow and hope you will see fit to join us in San Antonio for the reunion.

Tail Twistin time is upon us again. Our 91 due's are now half worn out and Mike needs the money for the Poke. I know some of us simply forget. We still must keep them at a minimum of \$15.00. Make your checks out to the 783rd. Bomb Sqdn. Assn. and fire em off to, Mike Maggazine, his address is as follows, 24023 E. Oakland Road, Bay Village, Oh. 44140.

I might add some to the fire, if you havent made your reservations for San Antonio you might just include them with your dues.

Cas Bidas mailed Mike the following photo's which may be of interest to you. After the printer is finished I will return them to Cas, thanks a million.



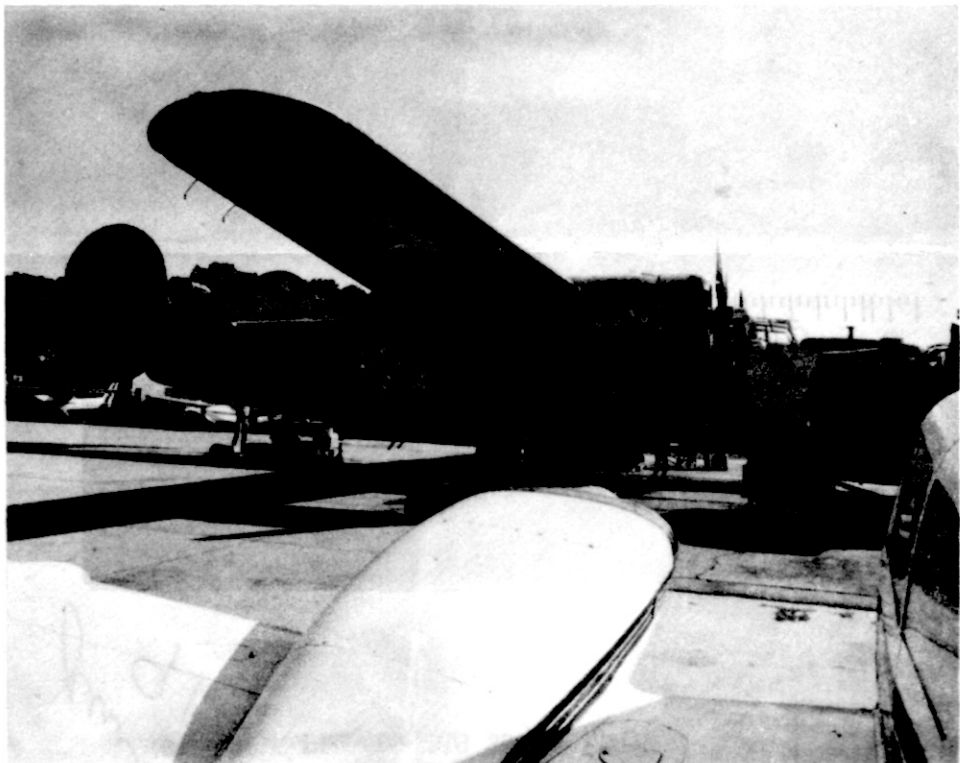
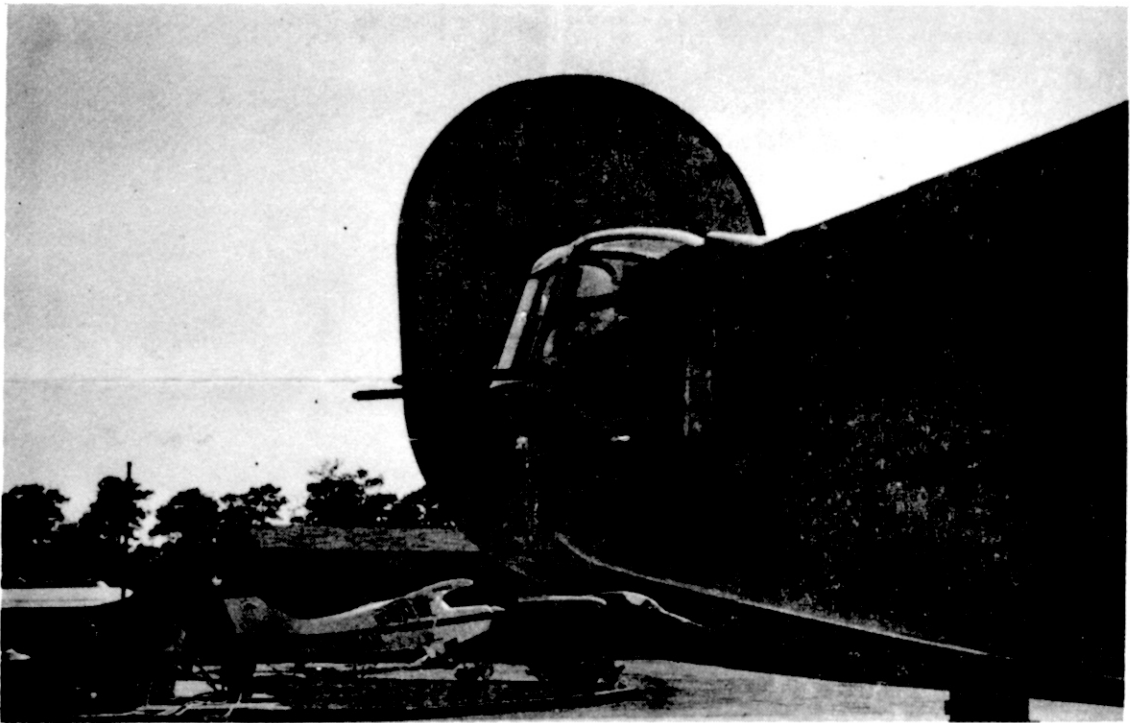
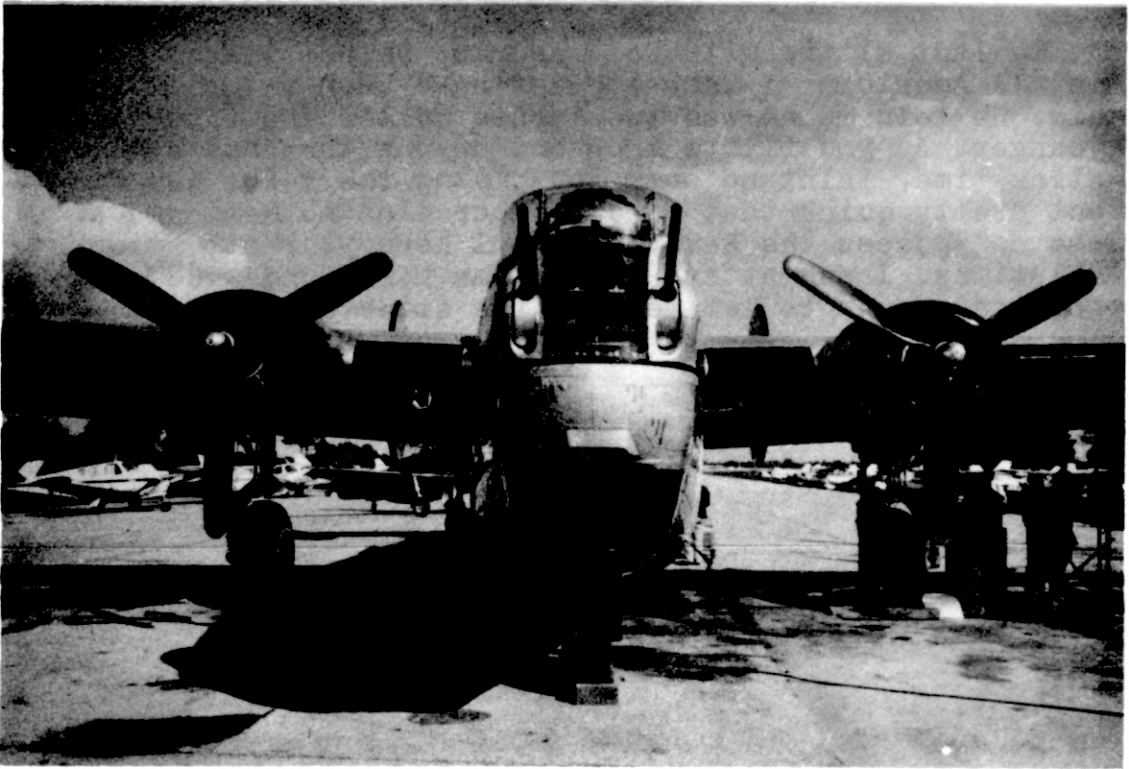
Left to right  
Wil Collins  
C.J. Bidas  
April 45



Left to right  
Cas Bidas, Paul Tobin  
Grover Collins



ROAD TO CHAPEL & MOVIE



NO. 10  
BY 30428  
LVID  
MAY 1948  
RECEIVED

At my last sittin with Col. Andrus, he had taken his hop in All American. I know it must have been a thrill for him. He told me he was two inches taller and five years younger. As you Pilots know and anyone that had some stick time, taint no easy job flying the B-24, you find out pretty quick that manual labor aint no Mexican. No one can possess the B-24, she will keep your attention at all times. I can attest to this as Norm Lund used to be foolish enough to let me have the stick at times.

Quid F. T.  
AL