



783RD LATRINE-O-GRAM

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

July, 1995

As I was preparing this for what is very likely the last L-O-G to be published before the reunion, I looked over the April issue (actually mailed June 1) and was taken aback! It seems I had identified the 449th Bomb Group as a B-52 outfit in Italy. Mea culpa? Well, my copy of the message - as well as my computer - shows B-24. So maybe I haven't quite lost it yet. Typos are understandable.

The latest report of registrations was as of May 26, and we had 17 for the banquet. Meaningless numbers - but I do urge you get going with your responses. The cut-off date is shown as August 25, and that is less than two months away. If August 25 comes and goes, and you decide you want to attend, please contact us. I don't know what we can do, but we will try.

One thing we have found is that the buses - for the tours - do not have lifts for wheel chairs, so if anyone is wheelchair bound, we will have to work out some alternate means to get you to the Grand Ole Opry and the General Jackson Riverboat - possibly someone who drives to Nashville can help. Bring it to our attention.

Jack will be including in this L-O-G two proposals for changes to our Constitution. Please read them and be prepared to vote on them at our Reunion Business Meeting. The proposal for disposition of funds upon disbandment offers some choices. Other choices may come forth at the meeting. We would like to settle this at the meeting on September 30.

We remind you that Airport Express Shuttle runs to ClubHouse Inn from the airport every 15 minutes. Catch it on the ground level right outside the door of the airport. Fare is \$8.50 per person one way and \$14.00 round trip. The March issue of the Latrine-O-Gram carried this and other information on ClubHouse Inn and Nashville.

The response to my expressed need for volunteers in the April issue was so overwhelming that we are contemplating reinstating the draft. Not to worry. No panic, Jack - as Salty used to say.

If you hear from us before Nashville, it will be because we have something special to pass along. So this is the last regular L-O-G until "after". I have enjoyed doing this each quarter for the past two years.

See you in Nashville. Quid Fit!

Ralph J. Smith
(July 1, 1995)

From George Josten (our Co-Secretary)

Rec'd 7/6/95

50th anniversary reunion of the B-24 Liberator will take place in the Willow Run (Michigan) Bomber plant area. It is to be held on August 12, 1995. The organizing group will have the Glen Miller band, a buffet dinner, lots of festivities and planes to see. Contact Colonel R. J. Blodgett at 1-919-834-8303 very soon. If any of the squadron does go, please give us a feed back on the event. George Josten, L-O-G staff.

To Jack Meyer, 783rd Secretary over the past year. And as such, the editor of our Latrine-O-Gram. Jack has given the newsletter a new and lively look, a readability and interest that is unique and pleasing. He is contributing much to the future success of our Squadron Association.

Joe Bastin has had back surgery and is aiming himself to other body parts in the future. At the rate he is going, he is not going to get any older, just 'better'. He is recuperating at home now so that he can get to Nashville for the reunion. He did NOT promise to square or line dance while there.

We've got a 'little' reunion for the crew planned while in Nashville. And we will have some of the widows there also. I encourage you to also get your own 'mini' reunion started, time is flying.

He said, "I was in the 15th". I said I was in the 15th. He said, "I was based at Pantanella". I said I flew out of Pantanella. He said, "I was in the 465th Bomb Group". I said I was in the 465th Bomb Group. He said, "I was in the 781st squadron". I said that I was in the 783rd squadron. And so he and I shared the rest of the evening talking about missions we shared and remembered. We were at the final dinner at Fort Benjamin Harrison here in Indianapolis, marking the closing of the base. But you know, I made another memory, another friend to share with. It was a memorable evening.

The Veterans Administration has a form (boy, do they have forms!) that some of you may be interested in. "Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker for installation in a Private or State Veterans Cemetery", VA form 40-1330, Apr. 1992(R). It is the way to get your loved one remembered in case you want to do so. Contact your local VA office for more details and copies of the form.

I have two (2) jacket patches etched and of leather available for sale. They are accurate copies of the original ones we had in Italy. I will have them in Nashville or you can contact me at my home, 1-317-861-5764. They cost me \$25.00 each. Who will be first and second?

Red Huber recalls - - - - -

We had some great parties. I was the social chairman. One party I remember well. We trucked in 25 nurses from a British hospital near Foggia. The head nurse came along to chaperone her girls — in that she outranked Burt we had to invite the group commander to our party. Doc Kimball made a big batch of punch with 100-proof alcohol. That "kick-a-boo" juice was potent! The "best party ever" came to an abrupt end when the stuffy old maid realized that her girls were engaged in extracurricular activities outside of the club — she announced — "I'm taking my girls home!" I wrecked Burt's jeep on the way back after taking my nurse (who had made all the arrangements) home. The next morning I went to Stan Pace for advice on how to break the news to Burt. He suggested that I wait until Burt went to the latrine. I waited until he was seated and started to tell him —but he kept saying, "What a party —What a party!" Finally I blurted out, "I wrecked your jeep." He said, "Where is it?" I answered — "I've got it hidden out down at the flight line." He said — "Good."

A few days later I overheard a conversation in his office. The group adjutant wanted to court martial me. (He was unhappy because some of the boys had wrecked the ambulance a few night previously.) I heard Burt say, "Huber's accident was in the line of duty." The adjutant replied — "At 2 o'clock in the morning — 40 miles from base?" Burt continued — "He is our social chairman. The reason we are the best SQD in the 15th Air force is our motto —we can fight hard because we play hard!" The adjutant left in a huff!

We all knew the statistical *ODDS* of any of us finishing our missions. We were losing crews every mission —We all knew that *today* might be our last at Pantanella! Yes, we were a bunch of rascals. I carried a spare rotor and "acquired" a jeep at the Naval Club in Naples and took it to the flight line for a new paint job and new phony AF serial numbers. According to Fealy, the enlisted men acquired motorcycles. Yes, we were just a bunch of 20-year-old kids that reached manhood in a matter of a few months time.

But, we were good. Our pilots flew *TIGHT* formations —our bombardiers hit their targets with precision accuracy. The crews got more than their share of fighters. Our engineers made inflight repairs. (I owe my life to Floyd Gregory on a number of occasions.) The ground crews would work day and night to patch up our riddled planes. The only breaks they took were to see us off and welcome us back home. Was the quality of their work good? Tops! I was never aboard a plane that "aborted" due to mechanical or electrical malfunction! Every plane that I climbed up into —took off —went to the target and returned to base. Thanks to a good flight crew and ground crew.

We had some "milk runs" but we had a number of "hairy" experiences. I was *one of the few* original crew members that was fortunate to complete my 50 mission tour and return to the USA in Sept. 1944!

Helen and I are looking forward to Nashville —health permitting! Helen is almost a basket case due to spinal stinosis (two surgeries). I got a pacemaker two months after the San Antonio reunion. I've been in congestive heart failure for two years —pump works only 33% of capacity. But, our doctors tell us we can live a long time if we adhere to our medicinal agendas. I still play golf three times a week and feel great. With the Good Lord's help we will see you in Nashville!

Red (RED HUBER)

783rd Bomb Squadron Association

Life Member Honor Roll

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A. JOSEPH BASTIN	CADIZ, KY	WILLIAM BITTERMAN	HOUSTON, TX
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GUY M. CARTER	DOUGLASVILLE, GA	JOSEPH CASADEVALL	WHIPPANY, NJ
JESSE CASAUS	ALBUQUERQUE, NM	PAUL A. CELLA	EAST HAMPTON, CT
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CECIL J. CROSS	CHATTANOOGA, TN	GLENN C. CUNNINGHAM	SAN ANGELO, TX
WILFORD D. DAVIS	NEW BOSTON, MO	LARRY G. DECROW	MEMPHIS, TN
SANDY DeLUCIA	DUMFRIES, VA	WILLIAM DOUGLAS	MEDWAY, MA
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NYME FARAGE	CROSSVILLE, TN	JOSEPH C. FEW	STATHAM, GA
HARRY D. FIKE	DAVENPORT, IA	WILLIAM L. FISK	EAST CANTON, OH
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DOYLE MAYO	FORGAN, MO	JAMES W. McCLOSKEY	PITTSBURGH, PA
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JOHN F. McNAMEE	DUNEDIN, FL	DONALD H. MERCIER	CLAREMONT, NH
JOHN W. MEYER	INDIANAPOLIS, IN	CARL L. MILBURN	TEQUESTA, FL
WILLIAM MITCHELL	YOUNGSTOWN, OH	KENNETH O. MONGE	HUTCHINSON, MN
JOSEPH B. MONTGOMERY	SACRAMENTO, CA	TOMMY MOORE	NASHVILLE, TN
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783rd Bomb Squadron Association

Life Member Honor Roll

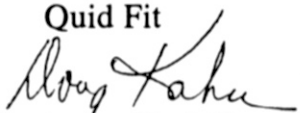
EDMUND S. PEREIRA	PROVIDENCE, RI	DWIGHT PERKINS	MT. VERNON, OH
KENNETH R. PETERS	OMAHA, NE	JOHN L. PLARR	ALLENTOWN, PA
MELVIN J. RADEBAUGH	JEANNETTE, PA	LOUIS A. REBOTTARO	TECUMSEH, MI
FRED J. ROBINSON	WALLED LAKE, MI	NICK RODAK	ROCHESTER, NY
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RICHARD L. SNOW	BELLINGHAM, WA	ANDREW E. SNYDER	MIDLAND, TX
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ROBERT C. WINSTON	THORNWOOD, NY	HAROLD WINTERS	COLUMBUS, OH
WALTER W. WITT	APPLETON, WI	ALEXANDER WYLIE	PICAYUNE, MS
ALBERT J. YATKAUSKAS	LITTLE RIVER, SC	WILLIAM J. ZEIGLER	BIG PINE KEY, FL

 ** TOTAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP IS 147 **
 ** TOTAL MEMBERSHIP IS 403 **

Dudley L. Kahn
 150 Village Post Road
 Danvers, MA 01923

Dear Mike, June 23, 1995
 I've enjoyed the Latrine-O-Grams very much. Something has developed that will keep me from the Nashville Reunion.
 I'm about to become a Great-Grandfather. The baby is due the end of September and since I'm making an "antique" styled cradle, I must be here when the baby arrives - my first Great Grand Child.
 So give my best to all the boys of the 783rd - especially Golden Jones, Don Kay, Harry Ogden, and particularly to Doc and the Colonel.
 My best to Sarah. Keep well and keep in touch.

Quid Fit



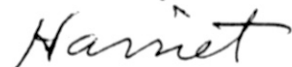
I was the navigator on Fred Kowal's crew and eventually flew lead with the Colonel.

Joe Bastin
 6800 Blue Spring Rd.
 Cadiz, KY 42211

6/14/95

Dear Joe,
 Enclosed is my check for 1995 dues. Sorry I'm so late in sending this, but time just seems to get away from me.
 I've really enjoyed the Reunions I have been able to attend and look forward to being with dear friends in Nashville.
 Meeting so many wonderful people has been a highlight in my life - I know Dave would have loved every minute of it!
 My address should read 970-I Hopkins, not 1.

Sincerely,



HARRIET E. COHEN
 970-I Hopkins
 Williamsville, NY 14221

THIS PROPOSAL IS TO BE considered at the Squadron business meeting at our Nashville, Tennessee Reunion September 28-October 1, 1995.

All Officers Of The 783rd

At our last reunion I was asked to prepare a proposal for changing our constitution and bylaws to include members wives or surviving spouses as full voting members of our association. My proposal is to delete the current membership qualifications section of our constitution (Article IV) and replace it with the new proposal. I will offer this as a motion at our convention business meeting.

Current ARTICLE IV

- (a) All personnel that were members of the 783rd Bomb Squadron (465th Bomb Group) and served at Pantanella Air Base, Italy, during World War II.
- (b) All personnel now on active duty, or now retired from the Armed Services who were former members of the 783rd Bomb Squadron (465th Bomb Group) from September, 1943 until July 1945 and served at Pantanella Air Base, Italy.
- (c) Spouses of all of the above to be considered associate members (without voting privileges) but not subject to payment of dues.

The above paragraphs to be replaced by the following:

- (a) There are two (2) types of memberships, voting and non-voting.

Qualifications for voting membership;

- (b) All living personnel that were members of the 783rd Bomb Squadron 465th Bomb Group and served at Pantanella Air Base, Italy during World War II and have paid the prescribed dues.
- (c) Spouses of members qualified under above section (b) with full voting rights but not subject to payment of dues.
- (d) Surviving spouses of all deceased members who qualified under paragraph (b) with full voting rights and subject to dues payment.

Qualifications for non-voting membership;

- (e) Anyone other than the above with an interest in the 783rd Bomb Squadron who pays dues will receive the log and may attend reunion functions but will not have voting rights.

See you in Nashville
Quid Fit



Frank Goplen

THE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL is to be considered at the Squadron business meeting at our Nashville, Tennessee Reunion September 28-October 1, 1995.

July 2, 1995

PROPOSAL

Article VIII - DISBANDMENT, of the 783rd Bomb Squadron Association Constitution currently reads:

"The property of this association is irrevocably dedicated to civic league or social welfare purpose and no part of the net income or assets of this association shall even inure to the benefit of any officer or member thereof or to the benefit of any private person. Upon the dissolution or winding up of the association, its assets remaining after payment, of all debts and liabilities of this association shall be distributed to a nonprofit fund, foundation or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for civic league or social welfare purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under Section 501 (c) (4) of the Internal Revenue Code."

We propose to amend the first sentence by deleting the 29th word (even) and substituting therefore the word ever. (It is believed that this was a typographical error in the original.)

We further propose to designate Article VIII as it reads, to be Article VIII (a), and add the following section (b).

(b) The Association has designated that such funds described in Article VIII section (a) shall be distributed to (One of the following):

Air Force Aid Society (official charity of the US Air Force) or

USO or

Air Force Library or

Such other agency as decided by the membership.

Francis A. Goplen
1225 S. Main St.
Zumbrota, MN 55992
February 11, 1995

Jack Meyer
5603 Shorewood Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46220

Dear Jack,

In response to your request for something in the L-O-G, I must put in two disclaimers. (1) This may not be accurate due to 50 years of memory enhancements or degradation. (2) I kept no diary or other written record to refresh my memory. So dear friends of the 783rd forgive me if any of this doesn't jive with your memory or facts.

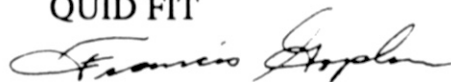
By way of some personal history. In 1942 at the age of 18 I left a home in southeastern Minnesota and joined the U.S. Army Air Corps as a buck private @ \$21.00 per month. While awaiting assignment as an aviation cadet I was sent to that dust and mud hole known as Sheppard Field, Wichita Falls, Texas. Days were spent at close order drill, pt and special duty such as guard duty, k.p. and fire extinguisher recharging.

Went thru the Gulf Coast Training Command for Pilot Training at Coleman, Texas, Sherman Field, and Ellington Field. Graduating in July of 1943. Went to B-24 Transition School at Liberal, Kansas then on to crew assignment and Phase training at Tucson, Arizona then to McCook, Nebraska, assigned to the 781st Squadron. Due to a bombing error by the Squadron Bombardier (which he tried to pin on our crew, ask Sam Marie if you want to hear an earful) we convinced the Squadron Commander that it would be best if we were assigned to another squadron. Then to the 783rd and the best bunch in the Air Corps. Squadron Commander Burt Andrus, Ops Officer Tom Clark, Flight Surgeon Dr. Kimball, First Sergeant Pexton, Tac Officer Captain Schwartz and Flight Leader Stan Pace. Instead of flying overseas our crew was given the privilege of accompanying ground crews on a boat, 21 days from Hampton Roads, Virginia to Oran, Africa. Only our Bombardier Sam Marie completed his 50 missions and was sent home for a very strenuous bond selling tour complete with Hollywood starlets. What tough duty? The rest of the crew with Dan Bolinski as his sub were flying a mission to Munich where we took three hits from flak over the target, lost the two inboard engines, our fuel transfer system, etc. We made it almost to Switzerland before we ran out of gas and had to hit the silk.

All ten of the crew were captured and spent the rest of the war as "guests of the Third Reich". On our flight away from the target we were escorted by a P-38, none of us had the presence of mind to note the markings on it, it would have been fun to be able to contact that pilot after the war. Since returning to the U.S.A. our crew has held two crew reunions plus I've attended every squadron reunion and a golfing weekend at Davenport, Iowa. In prison camp at Barth, Germany there were three other 783rd Squadron members in the same room with me, Russ Christianson, Dan Bolinski, William Sheridan and myself. Next door was Tom Clark.

Haven't meet any 783rd member I don't like and feel a strong comradeship towards. We were all a group of young men dedicated to doing a job that needed doing. May the good Lord rest the souls of our many fallen comrades. They all contributed their part in the elimination of a terrible cancer in our world.

See you in Nashville
QUID FIT



"GOP"

783RD BOMB SQUADRON
ASSOCIATION



JACK MEYER
5503 SHOREWOOD DRIVE
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
46220



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52804-1342 74



783rd Bomb Squadron Association Board of Directors

B.C. Andrus, Jr. Col USAF RET.
Charles D. Kimball, M.D.
James W. McCloskey, Past President
Stanley C. Pace
John U. Walker

Francis A. Goplen
Robert S. Anderson, Past President
E. Burke Huber, Past President
Paul J. Smith

All members should be considering nominations for the Board for the election in 1995 at Nashville.
Send your ideas (recommendations) to Mike Magazzine.

783rd Officers for 1993 thru 1995

- President - Ralph Smith, 83 King St., Scarborough, ME 04074
- Vice President - Mike Magazzine, 24023 E. Oakland Rd., Bay Village, OH 44140
- Secretary - Jack Meyer, 5503 Shorewood Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46220
- Co-Secretary - George Josten, 3064 Pleasant Dr., Greenfield, IN 46140
- Treasurer (Dues Acceptor) - Joe Bastin, 6800 Blue Spring Rd., Cadiz, KY 42211
- PX Officer - Harry Fike, 2817 Volquardsen St., Davenport, IA 52804

Make checks payable to 783rd Bomb Squadron Association.

(DUES are \$15.00 per year OR \$50.00 Lifetime (effective 1993 and forward).

PLEASE send items of interest to any officer for use in our L.O.G.

We want YOUR input so we have an excellent bulletin!!!

!!!! ENJOY !!!!

REMINDER

Our 783rd Bomb Squadron Reunion is September 28 - October 1, 1995 in Nashville, TN.