

Fifteenth Air Force
55th Bombardment Wing

December 1999

465th Bomb Group



783RD LATRINE-O-GRAM

*You Good Ladies & Drafted Recruits of the 783rd had best grab your hip boots and flee for high ground.
Here comes the first load from the Texas Bull Shipper!*

NEW SQUADRON OFFICERS

PRESIDENT-HARRY FIKE was chosen to be your new leader. His past Squadron contributions prove your affairs are in good and capable hands. With his ever present Lola by his side a good two years are guaranteed.

VICE PRESIDENT-CHARLIE PAYNE has been with the Squadron from 'womb to tomb' having been one of the original cadre and the 'Big Hook & Bull' of the Motor Pool. In addition to attending our many reunions he has been the Quid Fit representative at many Air Force unit gatherings. Always Mr Congenial and Glad Hander we can count on his wife Iris to do a great job when it comes to actual work while Charlie takes the credit.

TREASURER-BOB WILLS you only need be reminded that we departed Dayton bankrupt and owing. Two years later when we departed Las Vegas Bob handed the new Treasurer over \$4 000 after all bills had been paid. 'Widow Chasing' may consume the 'Little Rooster' but while recuperating from orgies our money will receive special attention.

SECRETARY-SAM MARIE reminds you folks worked poor Ole Floyd Gregory to the point he had to surrender and his health wouldn't permit his attending our recent 'round up'. Punishment time is now upon each and everyone of you. For having to ATTEMPT LEARNING to operate this damned 'Devils Box' in order to prepare your quarterly poop and scoop you are about to learn the pen is mightier than the sword. Past and present personal secretes are subject to becoming a matter of public record. Vengeance is mine sayeth the 'Ole F/O'.

BOARD MEMBER-DICK ROGERS your outgoing President moved up to the board of Directors. The past two years that he served as president his health failed him badly. Yet, he never failed to give the members his all. 'Ole Grouch' can be expected to fulfill his new duties in the same manner.

THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE BY OUTGOING OFFICERS

PRESIDENT-DICK ROGERS during his two year term of office 'Tricky Dick' suffered a debilitating illness that left him wheel chair confined on oxygen full time. There were many months during the early stages of his illness we would have bet our interest in hell he would never make it to Kansas City. To complicate matters in the early stages of his problem his wife Dot fell breaking her hip while caring for him. While he was in one hospital struggling for survival she was in another on the opposite side of the Medical Center under going rehab. At all times his every thought was directed to fulfilling his duties to the Squadron totally disregarding his physical condition. In true Quid Fit tradition he didn't surrender his duties until KC when he told Harry Fike, "you are now in charge". All of us owe 'Ole Grouch' and poor Dot, who had to tolerate his ill temper, a deep debt of gratitude for their outstanding service.

VICE PRESIDENT-JOE FORBES during all of the melee described above Joe pitched in to lend a helping hand wherever needed from helping make hotel arrangements in KC to traveling to Fredericksburg to insure the Texas Reunion went off on schedule. He and Shirley attended all functions at both the KC and Fredericksburg gatherings lending support whenever needed. Anyone spending a little time visiting with Joe and observing his deteriorating eye problem have no problem understanding why he chose not to assume the Presidency. He is owed a Big Thanks for his unselfish services. And-we know all the Squadron members join in hoping the medics come up with a solution to his physical problem.

TREASURER-JACK MEYERS served multiple terms of office. As guard dog of the Squadrons money funds as Squadron Treasurer he saw to them being invested in a safe and conservative Fund yielding a fair return for the times. Earlier he had served as Squadron Secretary. Although suffering ill health most of his last term of office and confined to a wheel chair on oxygen full time he answered the call when the bugle blew at KC surrounded by the loving members of his family. If our failing memory serves us correctly he has attended every Reunion always ready to serve in any assignment. Each and every Squadron member owe him a Big Thanks for 'jobs' well done and hope the medics find a solution to his health problems.

SECRETARY-FLOYD GREGORY one of our 50 mission Gunners has been your word smith for the Squadron the past two terms of office. During his last term he has struggled with multiple health problems while attempting to deliver an interesting and informative news letter. Making the move from Urbana, IL to Albuquerque, NM where he and Jean could be closer to their son had to make his labors more difficult. **SPECIAL MENTION MUST BE GIVEN** Floyd for his dedication and superior and outstanding job in compiling the Squadron History. At KC we witnessed time and time again various groups huddled around the History Book. Long after all of us have made 'the Big Trip' our grandchildren and great grandchildren will speak Floyd's name with appreciation for what he left them. We all owe this **SPECIAL GUY** a Big Thanks for his devoted and dedicated service to the Squadron.

SPECIAL THANKS

Having attempted to thank our officers ,who have served us so well, we felt it important to remind the members of the dedicated work needed to keep the Squadron functioning and make our gatherings such a success. This has been done by some dedicated individuals who deserve a special thanks!

MIKE & SARAH MAGAZZINE-our reliable and faithful 'volunteers'. Mike has served as an officer; on the Board of Directors; volunteered and worked behind the scenes keeping the personnel roster; printing the mailing labels for each issue of the LOG; accepting individuals payments for Reunion activities and any other job no other member would accept. He has served in more different positions longer than any other individual. And-always his ever present Sarah has been by his side lending her support. Each and every member owes this **GREAT GUY & LADY** A Big Thank You!

HARRY & LOLA FIKE-our reliable and faithful 'Goods Merchants'. All need to think back to the many Reunions where this wonderful couple have spent time and effort selecting and purchasing goods for your enjoyment.; driving to Reunions with their car over flowing; while you were out touring they remained in the hospitality room serving members. They even showed up at the Texas Mini Reunion with a great selection for the attendees. Each time you put on a Squadron Cap; Shirt; use a Note Pad; open the 'frige' with a B-24 Magnet stuck on the door; check the time on your Squadron Watch and the many other items they made possible you owe this LOYAL COUPLE a Big Thank You.

JOE & DORIS EINECKER-our reliable and faithful Golf Scramble Directors. Think back to the many Reunions where in advance they have spent time; personal money on LD calls etc searching out courses and making arrangements for our Reunion Scrambles. Not to be forgotten is how Joe has called on banks, merchants etc and put the arm on them to donate items for the 'Goodie Bags' given the players. Anyone with thin skins could not have survived the 'needle jabs'; accusations thrown at them; and the much 'pithing and moaning' over team selection they have endured. Again-we owe this GRAND COUPLE a Big Thank You.(even if they and the Farages continue to attempt hustling the championship).

JOE FORBES & JOHN KNAUS-with Dick Rogers suffering from the 'punies' when reunion planning time rolled around the above should be complimented for taking up the slack and selecting and handling the bulk of the Hotel and other plans and negotiations. Without their help and efforts we could have possibly experienced a disaster rather than such an enjoyable time. I hope all will forgive me for the following. With both Joe and Johnny suffering severe eye problems if our great friend Paul Smith was still with us I can just hear him say," it was the blind the leading the blind". How he loved to slip the needle to John at every opportunity.

1999 KANSAS CITY REUNION PEOPLE & HAPPENINGS

You 'stay at home' folks missed the time of your lives. The rooms, halls, even the rest rooms of the Double Tree Hotel were filled with laughter; joy of old friendships being renewed; tears of sadness at the mention of departed members; and not to mention the relating of an occasional 'war story'. Dick Rogers in his wheel chair with his ever present oxygen bottle surrounded by his wife, two sisters, two sons, two daughters and a niece presided over what the majority said was perhaps one of our better gatherings.

As usual at all round ups of the Squadron whether they be a mini or regular Reunion *Gene & Mary Kulczyk* were early arrivals. The Squadron has no better supporters than those two. It should be noted they celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary during the Reunion. We have it from a reliable source it was Gene that went in the bathroom and had a big cry on this occasion while attempting to blame his failings on his POWVILLE stay.

It was good to see 'Arkie Bonds, Guy Carter and Dick Winston from the Shack Queen Crew, who had their tail feathers pulled out over Munich, paling around together once again.

Bo Bolinski as usual enjoyed himself with his Pollock humor and stories. Once again he proved to be a winning golf coach with his team taking home the championship trophy.

Jack Meyers in his wheel chair supported by his wife *Ruth* and his son and daughter -in-law *Leo & Becky Meyers* along with granddaughter and husband *Julie & Patrick Moran* were a grand family proving ahealth problem couldn't keep them home.

Weyland Feely another 50 mission Gunner, who suffered a crippling stroke only a few short months back, made good on his promise, he would recover and walk into the Reunion. He might not win any foot races but with the aide of a walking cane he shuffled through the door. Although his golf was limited to putting with great determination he participated in the Golf Scramble. He made a birdie putt on the 8th hole that ultimately gave his team the championship. His daughter and husband, *Nancy & Clarence Young*, along with his wife *Maggie* have provided him great support throughout his recovery. He proves you can't keep a Quid Fitter down.

It was good to see *Nyme & June Farage* once again. *Nyme* was popping the buttons on his shirt with great pride and rightfully so. Their son *Mike* now wears the star of a Brigadier General and commands Lackland Air Force Base here in Alamoville.

After missing the last Reunion it was good to see *Jim Spradley* return for another Round Up. He is a good Texas boy that never forgot his roots.

Gop & Edith Goplen put in their appearance after an absence. Better yet, it was good to see the great recovery *Gop* has made after suffering a stroke some years back. Again, you can't keep a Norwegian Quid Fitter down.

Alex & Alice Piwonka Lost Souls learned of the Association and joined with us at the Fredericksburg mini Reunion. Curiosity must have motivated them to see how a large group of Quid Fitters behaved.

The above are but a few of our recollections. There were so many we will be recalling them for some time to come. Never the less we still miss *Jim McCloskey, Doc Kimball, Paul Smith, Dwight Reid, Tommy Greenwood, Billy Powell, Pop Green, Cap Petranek, Dave Cohen, Joe Montgomery, Art Tennille, Vernon Leggett, The Baron, even Jim Sexton* and so many others we considered so special.

HONORARY BOARD-*JOHN KNAUS* was honored by being selected as an Honorary Director. John was our original Squadron Bombardier and member of the original cadre. Later he was promoted to Group Bombardier. After WW II he remained in the service and attended college to complete his law degree. He was transferred to the Judge Advocate section serving at numerous bases before retiring as a Bull Colonel. In Japan he was in charge of all major claims being decorated by the Emperor for his professional and humanitarian efforts. The doting grandfather and lovely bride *Helen* reside in Kansas City near their daughter and grandchildren. One of his sons is a prominent Chicago Gynecologist having authored many publications in his specialty and lectures around the world. Most of the Squadron 'Toggle Jockeys' were fortunate to have a leader like John Knaus.

BANQUET SPEAKER HITS HOME RUN

JACK ROGERS-with proud father *Dick* looking on and popping the buttons on his 'GI skivies' delivered what everyone agreed was an outstanding and inspiring talk. Ronald Reagan may have been known as the great communicator but son *Jack* showed he would give Reagan a run for his money. It could only be described as a grand motivational talk. Following the conclusion we were besieged with demands to reprint it in the LOG. This will be done upon receipt. The gist of his talk gave his observations of our generation and contributions made to man kind compared to his generation and that of his son. It proved Ole *Dick* whelped a good Pup and raised him rite. It should be noted one of *Dick's* daughters cam corded the event. You might twist a copy from a Proud Papa.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PAST PRESIDENT

To Board Members
Officers 783rd Squadron
Members 783rd Squadron

"As your past President I want to thank all who gave me such great support during my tenure as President. To have been chosen was indeed a great honor for me and my wife Dot. We are only sorry my health did not permit me to do more.

To my Board Members, thank you for your support and communications during my tenure. Your support was greatly appreciated.

To my Officers a great big Thank You. Joe Forbes your help was indispensable. Thank you again.

I could not end this note without adding one more that was at my side in good and bad days, Sam Marie. Without his help I don't think I could have made the end of my term. Thank you again for being there when I needed you.

Dot and I hope to see each of you at the next Reunion wherever it might be held. And we wish Harry and Lola every success as our new President."

Quid Fit,

Dick Rogers

783RD INTERNET DIRECTORY

GUY CARTER	GUYN 1 BYE@aol.com
JOE EINECKER ✓	daddyjoe@blomand.net
NYME FARAGE ✓	nfarage@tansi.com
HARRY FIKE	hdfike@netins.net cs.com
PEGGY FRIAR	gfindmsf@msn.com
MURV HUSTON ✓	mhuston@tir.com
C. O. MAFFEY	COMAFFEY@juno.com
SAM MARIE ✓	POP POP783@aol.com
JACK MEYERS <i>died Jan 00</i>	jakrut@webtv.net
CHARLIE PAYNE ✓	cpayne5@prodigy.net
JOHN PLARR	jplarr@netcarrier.com
DICK ROGERS ✓	RKR1@fredb.com
BOB WILLS ✓	rfwills@ix.com
DICK WINSTON	RCWINSTON@worldnet.ATT.net

The above were copied as best we could interpret from what the individuals scribbled at KC. Some of you folks lettering look like a Monkey with a running, drizzling case of diarrhea. We will be glad to report any corrections sent that are legible.

ANY THAT WISH YOURS TO BE INCLUDED PLEASE FORWARD FOR THE NEXT LOG.

SICK CALL

WEYLAND FEELY-we just received word he has suffered another stroke and underwent emergency surgery. This time it affected his right side. He is reported as doing well but very weak and has been transferred to a rehab center. You can bet this ole 'Stud Hoss' will put up one helluva fight. GET WELL TIGER!

BURKE(RED) & HELEN(BIG MAMA) HUBER-we just learned your former President and wife have feathered three engines and are running on fumes on the fourth. It was necessary for them to close their home in Huntsville and move to New Braunfels, TX to be near their son, Burke, Jr. Red had undergone heart bypass surgery well before the Colorado Springs Reunion. Since that time he has undergone shunt implants and about everything else the Houston Heart Institute could think of to experiment with. If there is a way to 'jawbone' his way out of the trap you can bet he will find it. As for 'Big Mama', she is tougher than a 'Junk Yard Dog' and Big C made the mistake of attacking the wrong gal. You can bet your hat and spurs she will give it one helluva fight. Find their new address and phone number elsewhere.

Red
JIM CADY-dropped his flaps and lowered his landing gear making a safe arrival into a care center. He is fighting multiple health problems with great determination.

It should be noted the three above on SICK CALL along with Floyd Gregory all started out on the original Heim Crew. When they were left high and dry it necessitated getting in their missions where openings on any crew existed. The fact that they persisted and completed their missions documents they will put up a good battle. HANG IN THERE TIGERS!



TAPS

JOHN WILBY-who flew as a Gunner on the Bates Crew and was 'scragged' with them when they had their tail feathers flamed August 7th over Blehammer lost his long and valiant battle with lung cancer July 13th. Many years back he underwent heart surgery making a great recovery. John and his Mary were two of our most supportive Association members. Without fail at each Reunion they would be among the first to arrive. In their quite and unassuming way they would be present at almost every activity. How well we remember their visit to 'Alamoville' one winter when they were dinner guests making it a memorable evening. John with his friendly grin and ever present drink and Mary at his elbow are indelible memories. With his passing the Squadron lost another 'Good Un'.

AUDREY GAIENNE BITTERMAN-the wife of Bill Bitterman, who flew as Navigator on the Greenwood Crew, passed away with all of her family at her bedside August 10th. She was born and raised in a prominent south Louisiana family where strong family values and church were traditional teachings not to be forgotten. As a loving mother she instilled these values in her six daughters, Gail Bitterman, Betty McComas, Charlotte Coonce, Nancy Norwood, Joan Rao and Nancy Bitterman along with four son-in-laws; eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Audrey brought love and joy to all who knew her. At her funeral it was evident this love had not only passed along to her daughters but her son-in-laws and grandchildren as well. With her various services being held at St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church one of the larger in Houston and conducted by Monsignor Jamail there was little standing room remaining for all of her services attesting to the admiration so many folks held for this dear lady.

If what is written above is considered preferential we plead guilty in the first degree. It must be remembered that Bill and I flew on the same crew until he was 'scragged' and went to 'Powville'. We were first acquainted with Audrey at Davis Monthan Field before Mc Cook and joining the 783rd. Thru the years our families have enjoyed a close friendship. We think of her daughters as our own. Some may remember Bill receiving the telegram advising his twin daughters Betty and Gail had been born one evening and his being 'scragged' the following morning. Like so many others I and the other surviving members of the Greenwood Crew lost a dear and special friend.

EDITORIAL PLEA

We ask that each and every member reading this message take the time to pause and think a moment. Like all the other Squadrons created during the 'Big One' the 783rd was done so at random. Thus, there were individuals from every walk of life assembled. Some were college graduates while others could hardly read or write. Yet, history records you guys bonded and came together as a very special team. A team that can only be described as over achievers. Once on 'the hill' you were the first to 'moon lite' requisition a generator and enjoy the luxury of electric lights while the other three Squadron down below were still operating by candle light. You were the first to build and operate messes out of permanent buildings that served as our Enlisted and O clubs. Pause and remember how other Squadron visitors would depart with envy. You magnificent members of the ground echelon were something else. From the bunch of you that worked on 'the hill' to you that labored so hard on the flight line you were outstanding in every effort. Planes would be returned with battle damage that casual observers would estimate taking a week to repair. You guys would have them ready the next morning after laboring all nite. Union workers today would suffer a paralyzing 'strike seizure' if asked to work around the clock seven days a week like you did. The records of the Combat Crews are well remembered. Without hesitation you went up against over whelming enemy opposition time and time again. Your record of achievements in this area is recorded in history. Even in the field of 'entertainment' the 783rd achieved. This is documented by the 783rd having the highest VD rate in the 15th Air Force. And-when the you guys reunited at Colorado Springs in 1983 you have since proven once again to be a special collection of 'misfits'. Reunion after reunion have seen an unbelievable number of members journeying across USA to the various Reunion sites. The well endowed Squadron Treasury the envy of others is documentation of your continued accomplishments.

At our Colorado Springs Reunion it was our beloved Doc Kimball who advocated and insisted the quality of a periodic new letter would insure organizing and keeping the Squadron reunited. Always the gentlemen initially he was horrified by the selection of our news letter name-LATRINE O GRAM. But as time passed he reluctantly accepted it. Likewise, if you will reflect back to those initial publications you will recall how correct Doc's advise was when so many 'Lost Souls' were located contributing so greatly to the growth of our Association. At the end of his life in one of our last phone conversations when he was dying from Lou Gherig's disease he solicited a promise that we would keep the LOG going during our life time. Keeping this promise depends a great deal on your help and cooperation.

A good farmer needs four things to have a successful crop—help from the almighty above—suitable land—ample fertilizer—and good seeds. The same can be compared to providing you a good LOG each time—help from the almighty above—this damned 'Devils Box can serve as suitable land—our proven record to shovel and spread 'Bull Poop'—and the help of each of you to keep us supplied in good seeds(NEWS EVENTS IN EACH OF YOU & YOUR FAMILY'S LIVES). THE HELP OF EACH OF YOU AND EVERY WIFE AND CHILD IS NEEDED TO SEND INFO. WRITE—USE E MAIL OR CALL BUT DO SO. THE FUTURE OF THE LOG DEPENDS ON YOUR COOPERATION AND HELP!

**MERRY XMAS & A HAPPY MILLENNIUM
TO ALL 783rd PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES**

**QUID FIT
SAM**

783RD BOMB SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

**SAM MARIE
13306 LOBELIA
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78232**

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San Antonio, TX
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ADDRESS UPDATES

Floyd Gregory(Winter) 10913 Malaguena Lane NE Albuquerque,NM 87111 AC505-291-1573
Burke Huber 43 Royal Crest New Braunfels, TX 78130 AC 830-606-1628
Joe Forbes 74 Summitt Pointe Ct St Charles, MO 63301 AC 636-931-4528
Robert F. Wills(summer) 8380 Thendara Clarkston, MI 48348 AC 248-394-0029
(Winter) 4120 Cockroach Bay Rd #807 Ruskin, FL 33570 AC813-645-1980
Bill Bitterman 17426 Big Oaks Grove Richmond, TX 77469 AC 281-277 8198

783RD OFFICERS

HARRY FIKE President
CHARLES PAYNE V P
BOB WILLS Treasurer
SAM MARIE SECRETARY

NEWLY DISCOVERED LOST SOULS

Loran V. Ward 205 Gene Wilson Blvd #2 Louisa, KY 41230
James L. Ward (ASM) 137 Eastfield Dr Madison, AL 35758 AC 205-430-4777

DIRECTORS

B. C. ANDRUS, JR
ROBERT S. ANDERSON
FRANCIS A. GOPLEN
BURKE HUBER
DONALD KAY
MIKE MAGAZZINE
STANLEY C. PACE
DICK ROGERS

TELEPHONE UPDATES

Burton C. Andrus, JR AC 719-481-3750
Guy M. Carter AC 770-942-8445
Roger L. Kraft AC 931-455-3805
Mike Magazzine AC 440 871-3203
Sarkis Samargian AC 718-278-3001
Walter P. wilson AC 561-335-5698

ADDRESS OR PHONE CHANGES REPORT TO:

MIKE MAGAZZINE PHONE AC 440-871-3203
24023 E. OAKLAND RD
BAY VILLAGE, OH 44140