



783RD LATRINE-O-GRAM

June 18, 1999

To all members 783rd Squadron
Subject 1999 Reunion, Kansas City, MO.

I would, at this time, like to give you the details that have been put together for your pleasure in being together again. Hope what has been arranged will meet with your approval as it has been done to try to make your visits as pleasant as possible.

The reunion will be **7 through 9 October 1999**.
The golf date is 10 October.

We will be at the Double Tree Hotel at 1301 Wyandotte Street in down town Kansas City, Mo. The Hotel phone number is 816-474-6664. TO MAKE Reservations you can use 1-800-222-8733, **be sure to ask for the 783rd bomb squadron rate which is \$59.00 per night plus tax.** You may arrive a day or two early or stay a couple of days over at the same rate, but be sure to let the hotel know your plans. If you have a problem my phone number is 830-997-4524 and I am here most of the time. We are planning an ice breaker for Thursday night. There are no planned tours, majority requested slower pace for more visitation opportunities. If you want to arrange to visit some areas that will

be listed farther down in this letter, you can make arrangements at the hotel.

Saturday will be used for Squadron business with a business meeting for the board at 9:00 A.M. and a general meeting at 10:00 A.M.. Remember our wives have a vote in what we do, so please bring them along to the general meeting.

Saturday evening banquet will start at 6:30 P. M. and should be over by 10:00 P.M. We will introduce your new officers at that time. Also we will have a guest speaker to give us a talk. I might point out we welcome all family members of deceased or living members to our general meeting and our formal get together.

Sunday our good friend Joe Einecker takes charge of the golf program and will in his regal form manage to make all the arrangements. If you want to play in the tournament, please contact Joe. You can make your own teams or Joe can fit you in. There will be a fairway dinner for all who want to attend. It is always interesting to see the way the losers try to upgrade their team standings, but right will prevail as it did in our battle in St. Louis.

I am listing some points of interest in and around Kansas City MO for your pleasure.

The Harry Truman Library and Museum is located 20 minutes from the hotel and transportation can be made at the hotel.

Harry Truman National Historic site is located in Independence. This area served as the Summer White house.

Clark Point covers both the Kansas and Missouri rivers and marks the beginning of the Lewis & Clark expedition.

Pioneer Point, located in Historic Westport area honors thousands of pioneers heading west in the early 1800's. Visit Kelly Westport Inn, the oldest building, in Kansas City.

I should point out that gambling is available and arrangements can be made for a trip to the boat and buffet at the hotel desk.

Our hospitality room will be open 24 hours a day for your convenience. We will endeavor to have soft drinks, beer, and what ever else seems to be desired.

Joe Einecker has completed the golf package. Your tee time is 10:00 A. M. so you will be through early enough to take your shower and begin to prepare for your Monday morning departure.

We will have our farewell dinner and Joe's explanation of what went wrong with his game at this time, not to mention several other stories.

DICK ROGERS

"For those who haven't heard, on March 31st my Weyland suffered a severe stroke leaving his left side completely paralyzed. After hospitalization he was transferred to a Rehab Center where it was hoped he might be helped to recover sufficiently to partially care for his minimum needs.

Having attended school with him from the 3rd grade thru high school and on June 19th, 1999 being married for 51 years, I had come to know this man from cover to cover. I knew if God was agreeable that hard headed Irishman would recover sufficiently to walk out of the Rehab Center on his own power. His family's prayers were answered when on May 20th with the help of a walker, Weyland walked out of the Rehab Center. Granted he had lost some of his strut, but his exit was accomplished under his own power and determination. He continues to return as an out patient with continued progress.

Weyland and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone for their calls, cards and prayers extended in his dire time of need. It meant so much to him, his family and myself. Without a doubt it was a contributing force to his great recovery.

From the above crisis a hopeful thought occurred when it was observed how the many letters, cards and calls were such a contributing factor. Why couldn't the members and wives of the Quid Fit Gang take time and adopt a 'Buddy' to send a note, card etc when they learn a member is ill or become a shut in? Even if he wasn't a close friend while on 'The Hill', he might well have made a contribution to your welfare; not to mention if he was an air crew member, possibly having saved your 'bacon' on some mission when his fire drove off a fighter.

Adopting a 'Buddy' or 'Buddy's Wife' could be a wonderful program and contribution for our members to consider participating in, while offering support to someone who might well be most appreciative. At the next reunion you might enjoy a great feeling when seeing this person face to face.

Let me know if there is someone you might think needs a 'Buddy'. Hopefully, there will be sufficient interest to start this program. What do you think? We are ready to adopt a buddy!!!!

MAGGIE FEELY

HEADQUARTERS 465TH BOMBARDMENT
GROUP (H)

APO 520

U.S. ARMY

1 September 1944

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report

TO: Commanding Officer, 55th Bombard-
ment Wing (H)

1. Twenty-eight a/c of 28 were scheduled and took off in two attack units at 0736B on 1 September 1944 to attack the Szolnok RR Bridge in Hungary. The first attack unit was led by Colonel C. A. Clark, Jr., and the second was led by Captain Joseph F. Mulqueen.
2. The group assembled at Andria at 0810B at 6000 ft. and the Wing rendezvous was accomplished over Spinnazola at 6000 ft. Due to delay in take-off this group was not fully assembled at the rendezvous point but was completely assembled when they crossed the Italian coast. P-51 escort intercepted the bombers at the I.P. at 1058B and left at 1207B approximately 100 miles before the bombers reached the coast of Yugoslavia.
3. There were no early returns.
4. Flak at the target was scant, inaccurate and heavy. No other flak was observed enroute.
5. Twenty-seven a/c went over the target at 1102 B at 19,500 ft. and all 11 a/c dropped 27^{1/2} tons of 1000 lb RDX bombs (.1 nose and non-delay tail fusing). 16 a/c dropped 40 tons of bombs on a Railroad Bridge at the town of Mexo Tur, the I.P. at 1058B. The lead and deputy lead a/c in B box had defective bombsights and had notified number 3 a/c to take over. Number 3 a/c bombardier was under the impression that he was to fly as navigator and did not take the

target charts with him. When the formation approached the I.P. the #3 a/c mistook this for the primary target and sighted on the Railroad bridge and dropped his bombs. The six other a/c in this box dropped on number 3 a/c. The lead bombardier in E box said that he knew that the formation had not yet reached the primary target but since the bomb bay doors had been opened for some time he thought that the leader had decided to bomb the target of opportunity and he sighted and dropped in the Mexo Tur Railroad bridge. Five other a/c in this box dropped on the leader and three a/c from D box also dropped.

Results: At the primary target the pattern is just slightly southwest of the bridge with a few possible direct hits on the northwest approach. At the Mexo Tur bridge (I.P.) the main concentration fell in a residential area northwest of the bridge. About 15 bombs fell about two miles from the bridge. One or two hit on a main highway to Szolnok. Bombing was visually with A-5 auto-pilots.

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Tons dropped on Primary target | 27 ^{1/2} |
| Tons dropped on I.P. | <u>40</u> |
| Total tons | 67 ^{1/2} |

6. Weather: Scattered cirrus enroute above 25,000 ft. A few scattered alto-stratus and cirrus just north of target. Visibility at the target 12 to 15 miles in haze.
7. The following observations were noted:
 - a. M/Y at Somber at 1137B three-fourths full.
 - b. M/Y at Sobotica at 1130B, about 500 wagons, very active.
 - c. Ecka A/D, 10 miles SE of Petrovgrad, at 1010B, 25 JU 88's 4 single engine fighters and 4 four engine a/c.
 - d. Szolnok A/D at 1100B, 10 SEF and 25 TEF's.

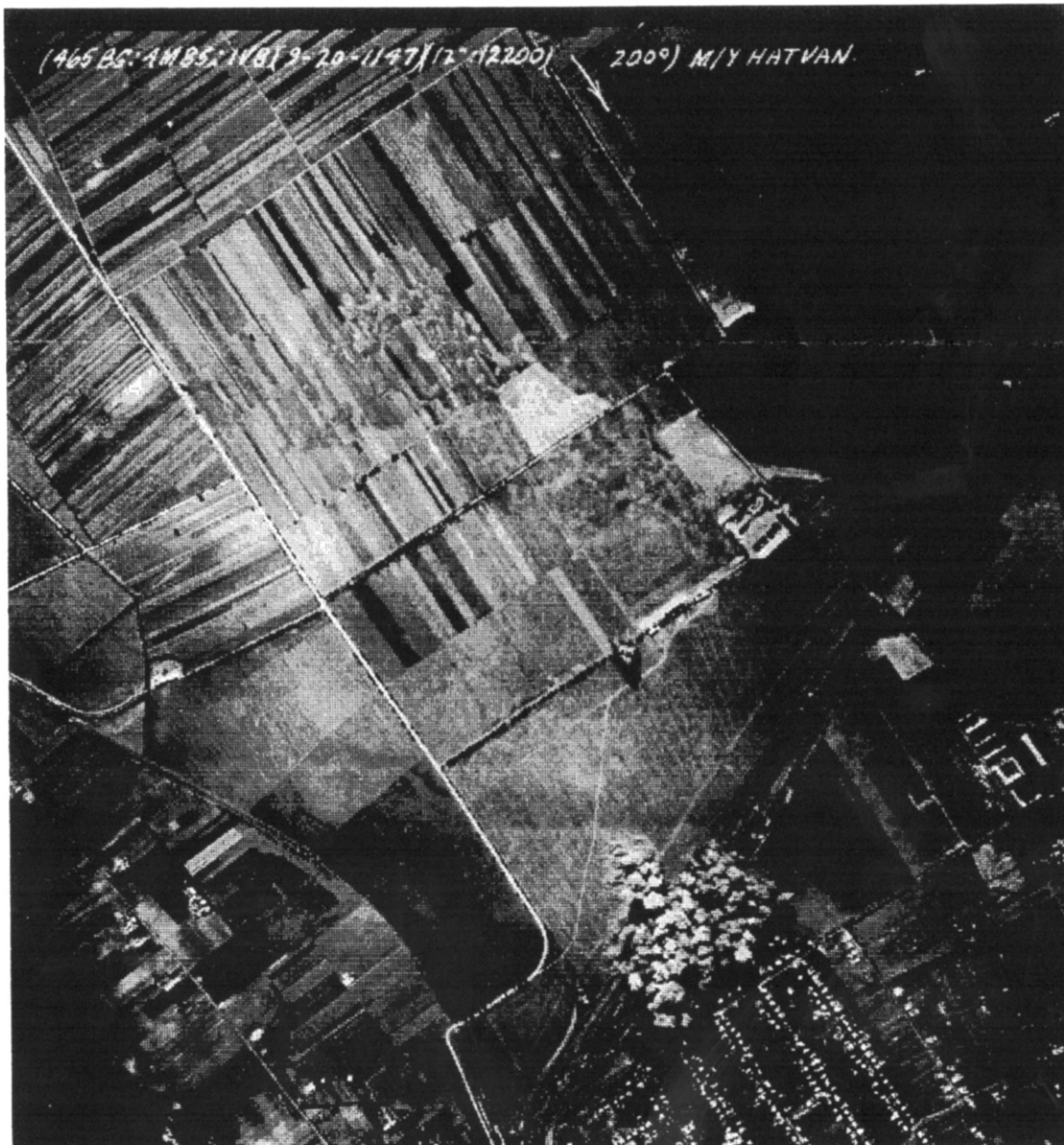
e. Kecskemet A/D at 1113B, 6 a/c SEF and TEF's.

8. Twenty-Seven a/c landed at 1352B. One a/c crashed shortly after take-off. All ten crew members were killed.

9. Eight a/c attempted photos.

10. The route was flown as briefed.

NOTE: Even though the bombs dropped on the mission described on the previous page missed the primary target, most primary targets were hit as shown in the following picture.



Health and Welfare:

We certainly would like to be informed of any of our 783rd Squadron member's illness, hospitalizations or deaths. We would appreciate an obituary be submitted to the Secretary for our Latrine-O-Gram, that we may honor and pay tribute to our deceased members. Our numbers are diminishing.

Mrs. Bernadine Kinslow informed Treasurer Jack Meyer of the passing of her husband, Endrick, last fall and "wishes to continue receiving the Latrine-O-Gram".

Our latest deceased 783rd Squadron member is Herbert Parkinson of Liberal, Missouri. Pilot Parkison's B-24 was shot down in a raid over Vienna, Austria, September 10, 1944 and he became a POW.



PAUL J. SMITH died February 5, 1999 in HealthSouth, Renova Center, Lower Allen Twp, Harrisburg, PA. He was 84. 1st Lt Paul J. Smith was assigned to the 783rd Bomb Squadron on Burton C. Andrus staff as intelligence officer.

Surviving are his wife, Helen E. Burke Smith; two daughters, Ann Smith Gregoire of New Cumberland and Marguerite Smith Rossi of Westport, Conn; a brother Robert E. of Hummelstown; and three grandchildren.



ALEXANDER WYLIE, 73 of Picayune, La died February 18, 1999 at Slidell Memorial Hospital. Al was a Gunner on Buddy Cramer and Norman Lund's crew.

Survivors include his wife, Geneva Forbs Wylie of Picayune; six children, Jeff A. Wylie of Abita Springs, La, Jay M. Wylie of Pearl River, La, Patricia Wylie Thomas of Gulfport, Timothy E. Dillon of Varnado, La, Eddie A. Dillon of Folsom, La and Anita R. Dillon of Covington, La: one Brother, David G. Wylie Racine, Wisconsin; and nine grandchildren.

Many thanks to Jack Coote for sending the obituary and letter on his brother Joe Coote, Navigator on Stan Pace's crew. Joe taught navigation to West Point Cadets before entering civilian life and graduating from St. Peter's College in Jersey City, NJ. He continued on with a brilliant business career, directing multi-million dollar fund raising campaigns for eastern colleges, hospitals and social agencies, notably Kennedy Cultural Center, Eisenhower Library, New York Military Academy and the National League Football Hall of Fame. On the August 3 1944 mission over Friedrichshafen, when Stan Pace and his crew flying 'Lil Brown Jug' were shot down, Joe became a POW at Stalag Luft III block 109 along with crew mate Bombardier Bill Teller and 6 other RAF airmen. Jack Coote also served in the Ninth Air Force.



JOSEPH J. COOTE, 80 of TINTON FALLS, died 12/17/98 at home. He retired in 1970 as vice president of industrial advancement at Monmouth College, now Monmouth University, West Long Branch. He was a World War II Army Air Corps veteran. He navigated 42 missions and was shot down on the 42nd mission and was a prisoner of war in Germany. He was awarded the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Purple Heart, a Unit Citation and the Victory Medal. He was a graduate of St. Peter's College, Jersey City. Born in Jersey City, he lived there before moving to Tinton Falls in 1956.

His wife, Emma McGovern Coote, died in 1986. Surviving are two sons, Richard, Little Rock, Ark and Christian, Tinton Falls; a daughter, Joanne Powell, Tinton Falls; a brother, Jack, Riverdale; two sisters, Patricia Regan, Whiting, Manchester, and Cathy Payne, Ferndale, NY; four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

783rd Ground Personnel

The Following personnel were assigned to the 783rd Squadron prior to 1 November 1943. To all of them and the many to be assigned later, we who were on the flight crews owe each and everyone a great debt of gratitude for the many jobs they were required to do. Each put in many hours each day to keep the planes in the air, and all of the other tasks required to keep the Squadron running smoothly. Thanks for the great jobs!!!

1st Sgt James M. Sexton
M/Sgt Homer T. Green
M/Sgt Melvin G. Davis
M/Sgt Harry R. Riley
M/Sgt Mack C. Whitaker
M/Sgt Luther H. Yingling
T/Sgt William P. Ewaski
T/Sgt Bradford M. Gordon
T/Sgt John U. Walker
T/Sgt John W. Gosmey
T/Sgt Joseph Fleming
T/Sgt Murdock E. Lennon
S/Sgt Petro Botch
S/Sgt Charles L. Cain
S/Sgt Leonard D. Cluts
S/Sgt Frank A. Circelli
S/Sgt Aldur Fargerlund
S/Sgt Millis L. Fleener
S/Sgt Herman T. Feind
S/Sgt Angelo P. Gianino
S/Sgt Thomas B. Kile
S/Sgt Arthur W. McDermott
S/Sgt Harold B. Moore
S/Sgt Silas E. Snelling
S/Sgt William C. Tedder
S/Sgt Willis B. Whitener
Sgt Earl C. Aardal
Sgt Henry A. Belval
Sgt Raymond A. Benson
Sgt James T. Christiansen
Sgt Baltazar O. Estrada
Sgt Jewell C. Shelnut

Sgt Kenneth K. Grapengater
Sgt William C. Kelley
Sgt Charles P. Payne
Sgt John F. Roberts
Sgt Clarence A. Casanova
Sgt Amien A. Elian
Sgt Archie O. Gadbois
Sgt Robert W. Hendeen
Sgt Kenneth A. Marohn
Sgt Gerald P. Pinten
Sgt Lester E. Schwartz
Sgt Harold R. Zoberst
Sgt Theodore Shpakovsky
Sgt Martin P. Stemler
Sgt Dennis L. Spencer
Sgt William J. Wightman
Sgt Rex Yeadon
Cpl Frank Harder
Cpl William M. Mawyer
Cpl Herbert L. Wilkes
Cpl Albert Young
Cpl Edmon A. Ayers
Cpl Steve J. Paschke
Cpl William J. Peters
Cpl Leo A. Wozniak
Pfc Alexander J. Borris
Pfc Robert F. Lavalleur
Pfc Michael Magoch
Pfc Joseph E. Natoli
Pfc Andy C. Wilhelm
Pfc Mario A. Digregorio Jr.
Pfc Russell Aughinbaugh
Pfc Burfin L. LeJeune
Pfc Dominic A. Maulucci
Pfc Roy W. Talvensaari
Pvt James P. Gossett
Pvt William D. Rose
Pvt James B. Clinton
Pvt Walter B. Parker
Pvt William R. Wade

ADDRESS UPDATES

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6135 East Miramar Dr
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Connie Maffey
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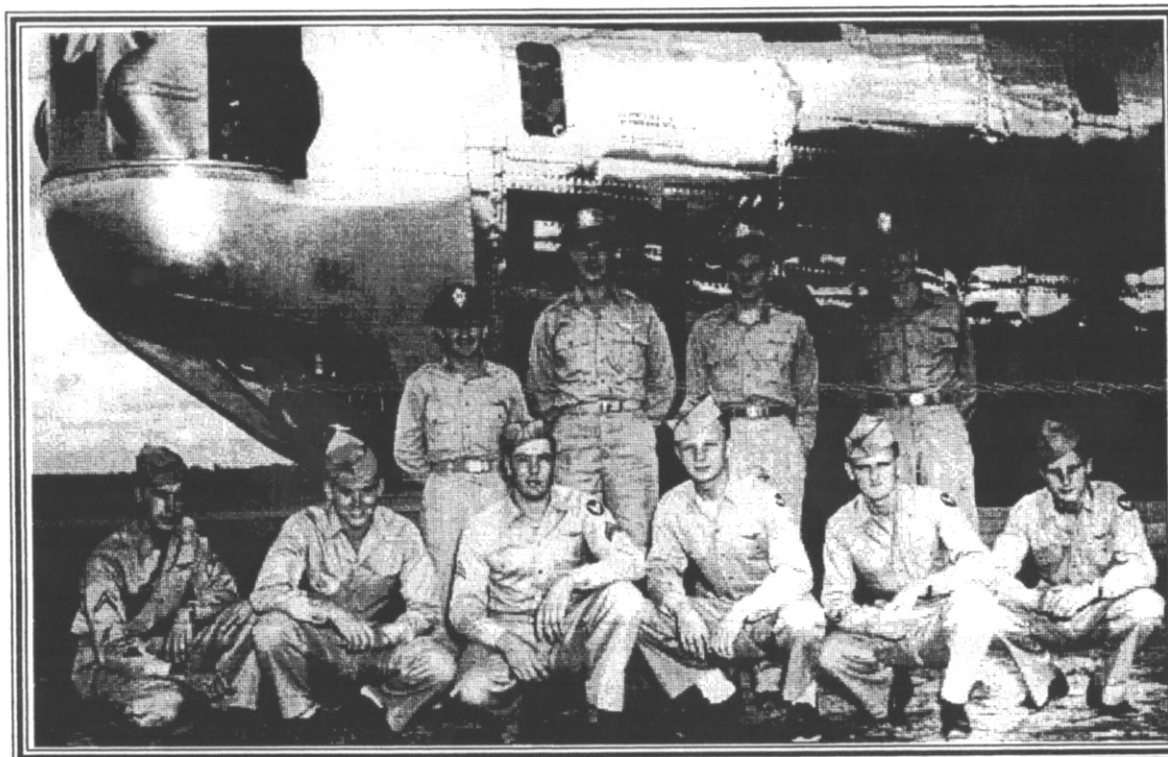
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PH# 636-456-0921

Gilbert Theiler
3103 Edgewater Dr
Austin, TX 78733



Back Row L. to R.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|--|
| 2 nd Lt. Sam Bier | Bombardier | Austin, TX |
| 2 nd Lt. Allen Fischback | Pilot-KIA | Palm Beach, FL |
| 2 nd Lt. William Biddle | Co-Pilot | Seattle, WA |
| 2 nd Lt. Sam Levison | Navigator | Transferred to 8 th Air Force |

Front Row L. to R.

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Don Ruffalo | 2 nd Radio Operator/Gunner | Ohio-California |
| Joe Harrison (Dec.) | 2 nd Engineer/Gunner | Alabama-Florida |
| Orval Griffin | Engineer/Gunner | Oklahoma |
| Mike Miosky (KIA) | 1 st Radio Operator/Gunner | |
| Bill Coburn | Armorer/Gunner | West Virginia |
| Robert Arnold (KIA) | Tail Gunner | Missouri |

783RD BOMB SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

**FLOYD E. GREGORY
906 E. COLORADO #A
URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801**

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Forwarding and Address
Correction Requested

TELEPHONE AREA CODE UPDATES:

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Curtis A. Wilkins Orland, CA
(530)-865-5857
Dale V. Reeves Kelso, MO
(573)-264-4658

Please Note! ! If any changes to your telephone number has been made, write or call Mike Magazzine, 24023 East Oakland Rd. Bay Village. OH 44140. Or to update squadron roster. Phone no. (440)-871-3203

783rd Officers for 1997 thru 1999

President: Dick Rogers
 114 Ridgewood Dr.
 Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Vice President: Joe C. Forbes
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Secretary: Floyd E. Gregory
 906 E. Colorado #A
 Urbana IL 61801

Treasurer
(Dues Acceptor): Jack Meyer
 5503 Shorewood Drive
 Indianapolis, IN 46220

PX Officer: Harry Fike
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783rd Bomb Squadron Assoc. Board of

Directors

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Paul J. Smith Robert S. Anderson
Donald P. Kay E. Burk Huber
Stanley C. Pace Ralph J. Smith
Francis A. Goplen Mike Magazzine

Should will change