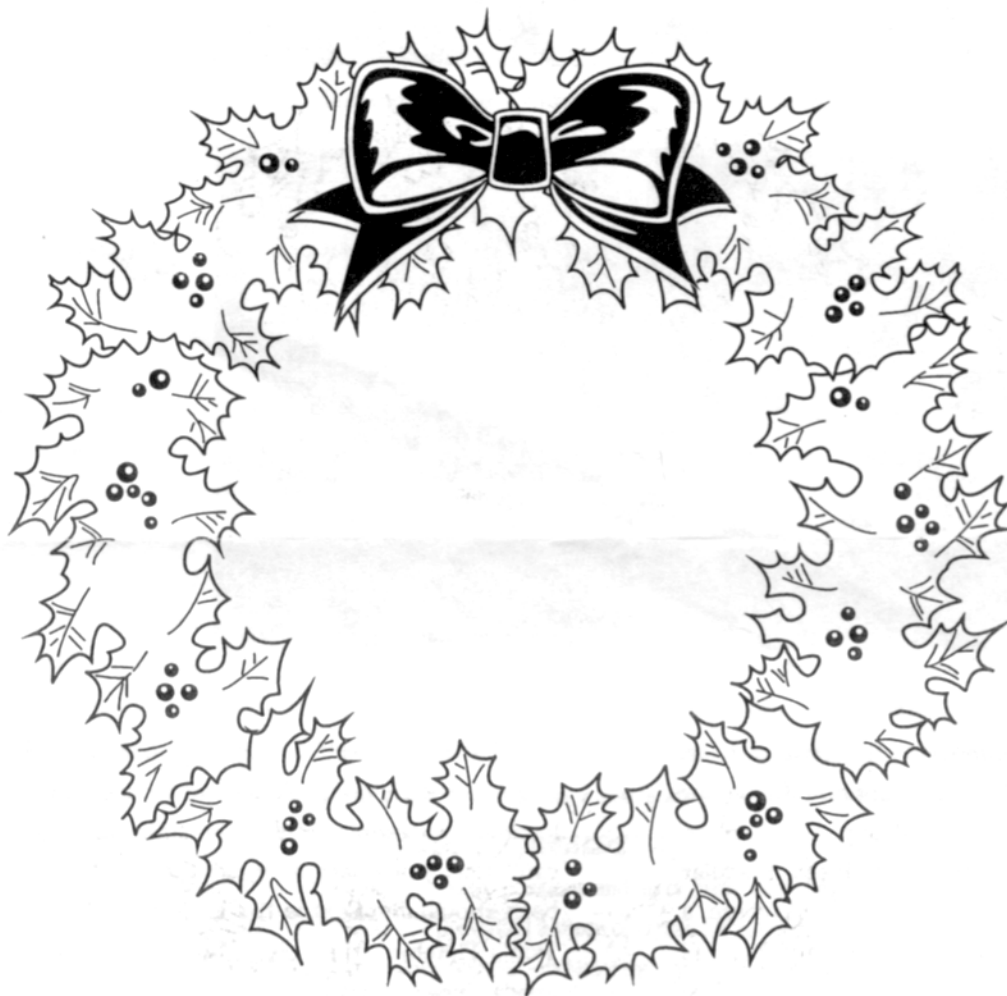




783rd Latrine O Gram

DECEMBER 2003

Fifteenth Air Force
55th Bombardment Wing



Peace on Earth





KULCZYK FAMILY

Front Row Mary Kulczyk; Geni Ott; Jean Andrix; Karen Wren; Mary Scherer; Joyce Urban & Dave Kulczyk
Back Row Gene Kulczyk & Wayne Ott



MIKE & SARAH
MAGAZZINE

On our return to 'Alamoville' the first reunion inquiry call was received from Johnny Knuas our original Squadron & later Group Bombardier. Today Johnny suffers from advanced Macular Degeneration preventing his traveling where a change of planes is involved. Following his call an hour or so later Burt Andrus the original CO & father of the 783rd was on the line. Health reasons have grounded his future travel. Both were interested in various details of our gathering. Revealing almost 100 were in attendance left them in disbelief. After their calls our minds went back to earlier reunions and how Alex 'The Baron' Baronoski with his bent and crippled body caused when 'scragged' on the 7-7-44 Blechammer raid would always be seated in the lobby to greet even the early arrivals. And-how could we not remember how our Radio Operator-Gunner Jim McCloskey returned home

and dedicated himself to locating more Lost Souls than any other individual. Today we wonder if the many he located remember and appreciate his efforts? We can't help but guess at what the reaction might have been should Jim Sexton the 1st Sgt walked in? Or, had 'Pop' Fleming the ole Mess Sgt had made an appearance? There would have been quite a stir if 'Pop' Blum the original Line Chief was still with us and put in an appearance. Or, if Emsco (sic) and little 'Arkie' the Oil Truck operator been there with their guitars to sing and entertain as they did for us so many nites. Wouldn't it have been great if the ever popular John Walker the Operations Sgt ramrod now laid low with Macular degeneration could have joined with us?. All those trapped in the rear of the bomb dump the day it blew up would have been more than pleased if Luther Carter, who jumped on the tug with the bomb trailer and drove back picking them up carrying them to safety, all the time with bombs exploding all around them. cont'd

was still with us and could have been there. Dwight Reid, who was so involved with the first gathering in Colorado Springs would have been pleased to see such a large attendance. Among the happiest would have been Doc Kimball who was so proud of his service with the 783rd and such a booster of the Association. On second thought if Jack the Butcher, who armed with one of his butcher knives ran Jim Sexton all through the Squadron area that day threatening to chop a hunk out of his behind, had put in an appearance there would have been quite a stir. It would have been great if 'Big Swede' the Crew Chief was present. It goes without saying Iris Payne would have sentenced Charlie to sleeping in the bath tub had Vernon Leggett his ole side kick shown to lead him astray. Art Tennille KIA would have been proud

to see how successful Tom the son he never had the opportunity to know. If Paul Smith our Intel Officer was among us still you can bet he would have shown and found some way to slip the needle in and harass Johnny Knaus. All the good ladies in attendance would probably have returned home in a permanent swoon had Salty Tarantino still been alive to attend and quote poetry to them as only he could. Don Kay would probably still be talking to himself if Tommy Greenwood were still among us and been there to rip him for stealing our tent. This looking back could go on and on for it still remains a mystery how Burt Andrus could have assembled such a collection of unforgettable characters. And-retained his sanity dealing with some of the stunts they pulled. While looking back the saddest part was not locating so many deserving Lost Souls.

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2 nd GENERATION FLITE

So many more of you than we ever anticipated joined with us at Savannah that you were issued an invitation to become a permanent part of this outfit and carry on our efforts and legacy. The by laws were even changed so you could hold office and help run our affairs. With the selection of Nancy Young the daughter of Weyland & Maggie Feely chosen to be our new Treasurer we broke new ground. To our knowledge no other WW II Unit has taken this step. At our next reunion we hope even more of you will not only join with us but some of you will accept Officer positions. Likewise, an invitation was extended for you guys to participate in the selection of a name for YOUR NEW SECTION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT DIRECTORY. The above name was meant only to be a temporary selection with your choice being the final one. Not having received any response we hope once again those lazy 'Ole Drafted Recruits' failed to advise you. As soon as time permits this message will be forwarded to all we have E Mail addresses. We want each of you to become a participating member. Send your choice of a section name to us at the address on the LOG. You darned 'Drafted Recruits' advise & encourage your children so they can participate immediately if not sooner.

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SERVICE AWARDS

MIKE MAGAZZINE-the 'Ole Line Mech' having served in so many elective positions and all of these many years preparing the Squadron Directories not to mention the mailing labels for each mailing of the LOG was presented a piece of crystal for his faithful and dedicated service to the Squadron. BOBBY WILLS-having completed 8 years of service as your 'money counter' and now moving up to VP also received a piece of crystal for his long & dedicated service.

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783rd WEB PAGE ON INTERNET

Allow us to direct your attention to the great web page **783rd.org** Cheryl Amhof the daughter of Harry & Lola Fike created with the assistance of Rob Wills the son of Bob and so graciously being sponsored by Susan Kinney the daughter of Bob Wills. You will discover a great presentation of 783rd history and facts receiving many daily hits & already attracting world wide response. This entire undertaking is truly a 783rd family operation that should be appreciated by each & every 783rder.



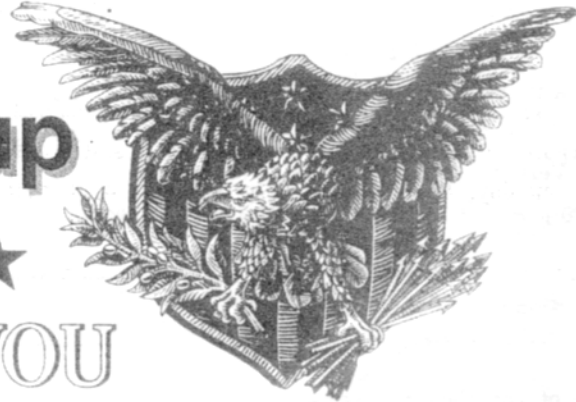
**LIFE IS FULL OF MIRACLES, BUT THEY ARE
NOT ALWAYS THE ONES WE PRAY FOR.**



OUR HONOR ROLL

465th Bomb Group

★ ★ ★ ★
WE SALUTE YOU



For outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy. During the intensive aerial campaign against the Axis oil and communications centers, the 465th Bombardment Group was ordered to attack and destroy the Florisdorf Oil Refinery and Marshalling Yards at Vienna, Austria. A successful completion of this important mission would deprive the enemy of vitally needed gas and oil supplies for her mechanized ground forces and her air force at a most critical period in the war. Although sustained operations to targets deep in enemy territory had grounded many of the Group's aircraft, the ground crews labored tirelessly and efficiently throughout the night prior to the attack, to insure that their aircraft were in the best possible mechanical condition for the operation.

On 8 July 1944, twenty-two (22) B-24 type aircraft, heavily loaded with maximum tonnage, were airborne and set course for their destination. Mechanical difficulties forced eight (8) of the bombers to return to base thus seriously weakening the defensive formation. Undaunted by the seemingly overwhelming odds, molding the remaining ships into a tight formation, the gallant crews continued on course.

Approaching the target, the formation encountered an extremely heavy anti-aircraft barrage which in-

flicted severe damage on the Group before it reached the objective. Heedless of the intense and heavy enemy fire, displaying superior coordination, and outstanding professional skill, the courageous crews brought their aircraft through for a highly successful bombing run, inflicting damage to vital enemy installations and supplies.

Leaving the objective, their formation was aggressively attacked by approximately twenty-five (25) enemy fighters. In the ensuing fierce aerial battle, maintaining a perfect formation to enhance the effective defensive fire, the gallant gunners of the Group accounted for seven (7) enemy aircraft destroyed and three (3) damaged, with their own losses held to a minimum of one (1) bomber.

Later reconnaissance revealed that the Florisdorf area was rendered inoperational at a time when the war was approaching a critical stage. By the outstanding gallantry, airmanship, and grim determination of the combat crews, together with the outstanding technical skill and devotion to duty of the ground personnel, **the 465th Bombardment Group has reflected great credit upon itself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America.**

By command of Major General Twining

In our 5 individual trips to Ploesti; 5 to Vienna; multiple trips to such as Blechammer; Munich; Friedrichshafen and some other goodies such as Lins etc each time on the turn at the IP and the sight of the ring of AA fire awaiting your entry would produce a serious series of sphincter muscle puckers. On 8 July 44 when we approached the IP with the never before heard of only 14 planes in 2 boxes determined to attack such a heavily defended target of importance each air crew member knew full well the flak would be heavy, intense and accurate. Likewise, each knew full well the Jerry fighters would be awaiting their departure and make determined attacks. Don't allow anyone on that mission to tell you there wasn't a serious double & triple double clutching of their sphincter muscles. The 'BIG SKY PILOT' truly had his protective hand on the 465th that day. The damage inflicted on the target and the loss of only one plane & crew was a miracle.



TAPS

IN MEMORY OF OUR EAGLES NEST FLITE MEMBERS

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE KNOWING THEY ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

CLARA MCGILL-the widow of Sam McGill Engineer on the Charlie Ellis Crew passed away 9-3-03. It will be remembered Sam was located in time for him to plan attending the Dayton Reunion in 1985. On a Saturday purchasing a new suit as part of his preparations he suffered a fatal heart attack the following day leaving Clara the responsibility of raising their four children and holding together his business the McGill Public Scales. Many thought her amazing having the ability to handle her work duties & chores; work on bicycles; make a prom dress and organize & direct 4 kids all in the same day. She was the loving mother of 4 : Pat Harris; Leigh Anne McGill; Cindy McGill & Sam McGill. **WE HAVE LOST ANOTHER GREAT LADY!**

KEN RUSSELL-the Bombardier on the Jim Cox Crew passed on 7-1-03. In the later part of April he underwent by-pass surgery followed by complications from which he fought back enough to travel to Colorado for his grand daughters wedding. Among his survivors are a grand daughter Sue Kraus. **WE HAVE LOST ANOTHER OF THE BEST!**

JOSEPHINE ESTELLE CRENSHAW-will be remembered as the wife of Leroy Crenshaw a 50 mission Gunner on the Duckworth crew departed life 11-12-03. She & Leroy were high school sweethearts and married 1-31-42. During both WW II & the Korean conflict when he was recalled Josephine remained and kept the home fires burning while being a loving mother to Sandra Ann Crenshaw Hayman born while Leroy was flying missions on the "Hill" and later Leonard James Crenshaw. In addition she is survived by Sandra's & Leonard's spouses plus 6 grandchildren and 5 great grand children. In addition to being a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother she gave great support & care to Leroy in later years after his eyesight failed him and he was so dependent on her guidance. **WE HAVE LOST ANOTHER GREAT LADY!**



FLOYD GREGORY-a 50 mission Gunner on the Heim Crew; the author of our great History Book; and later the conductor of this 'rag sheet' was laid low by the 'punies' preventing his attending the Savannah round up. He went in for repair of his 'monkey gland' and was laid low by pneumonia before the butchers could attack their victim. After his initial recovery the 'butchers' completed their work and he encountered pneumonia a second time. All of this combined with his feet & leg circulation problems has slowed our 'ole' friend down to the point

he & Jean had to delay their annual departure for their 'snow bird' pilgrimage to their Albuquerque digs until January 10 of the new year. **GET WELL 'OLE FRIEND!** And-may the warm New Mexico sun ease your aching bones.

GEORGE JOSTEN-a replacement Crew Commander has been laid low with a heart problem-pulmonary fibrosis. George will be remembered as one thru the years lending a helping hand to Jack Meyers in their joint work with Squadron affairs & duties. Allow us to poll parrot our cardiologist-diet & exercise-diet & exercise. In other words starve & walk. Walk & starve. **MAY YOU HAVE A GOOD RECOVERY!**

HILL WALKER-the wife of Operations Honcho John Walker had to yield to the years of tolerating that 'rascalt' and accept using a walker. With John's macular degeneration vision problems they have the help of a live in lady to assist them in the chores of life. This may not be the most satisfactory way but it beats the alternative. Hang in there good folks!



Dear Squadron Members,

At this special time of year, Lola and I wish you all a Blessed and Happy Holiday. This Christmas season, as we thank the Lord for all of His blessings, we also ask Him to bless our troops all over the world who are serving and dying to protect our freedom as we did in WWII.

As I start my third term as president, I reiterate what I said at the Farewell Buffet in Savannah, we are all victims of habit and as such, returning to Davenport (or more accurately the Quad Cities) for our Mini Reunion in 2004, should be no problem at all – since most of you have been here twice before. We will be happy to host it as we have in the past; however, Sam tells me that a number of you expressed a desire to have the mini at a different location. If any of you would like to host the event in your home town or would consider it, give me a call. The Mini Reunion by tradition is more about getting together than about doing things and doesn't last quite as long (Thursday through Saturday). Yes, it is work but this is a chance for you to show off your city. No decision has been made and we are exploring various options. If you have some thoughts either way, call or drop me a line or send an e-mail (hdfike@cs.com).

I want to express my appreciation to Karen Wnek, daughter of Gene and Mary Kulczyk, for the comprehensive package promoting Niagara Falls as our reunion site for 2005. In Savannah she gave me a full package including a video tape covering this great area. This is the first serious package that I have received since taking office four years ago. Thank you so much Karen. We may not select Niagara but it will not be for lack of information. If you have a nomination for our 2005 reunion, get with the Convention and Visitor's Bureau and send me a proposal package.

One quick comment on the PX. We ordered watches twice this year and have four men's left. A check for \$17.00 (which includes shipping) payable to the 783rd Bomb Squadron will get you a Christmas "stocking stuffer." Also, don't forget Bob Will's CD of Pantanella life, bomb runs, personnel, Omaha reunion and many more. He donated them to the squadron. They are only \$10 and I have them ready to ship. It makes a great gift.

Best wishes for joy and good health in 2004.

Harry



SAVANNAH 2003 GOLF RESULTS

- 1 ST PLACE-Floyd Coffield, Carl Milburn, Paul Tobin
- 2 ND PLACE-Bob Wills, Clarence Young, Roger Amhof, Sam Marie
- 3 RD PLACE-Murv & Kay Huston & Del & Irene Forsberg
- 4 TH PLACE-Harry & Lola Fike & Wally & June Volkman
- 'TAIL END CHARLIE' & others-REQUESTED ANONYMITY



- WOMENS LONG DRIVE-Irene Forsberg
- MENS LONG DRIVE-Clarence Young
- Women-Closest to Pin-Irene Forsberg
- Men-Closest to Pin-Floyd Coffield
- Door Prizes-June Volkman & Del Forsberg

COACH BOLINSKI PLACED ON PROBATION

In a surprising development the members of Coach Bolinski's team voted to place him on probation for poor planning & lack of leadership. Their failure couldn't possibly have been due their collective poor play & easily nticeable declining abilities?



THE OLDER YOU GET, THE STRONGER THE WIND GETS---AND IT'S ALWAYS IN YOUR FACE. *Jack Nicklaus*

IT ISN'T WHERE YOU CAME FROM; IT'S WHERE YOU ARE GOING THAT COUNTS. *Ella Fitzgerald*



BOOKS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

MISSING IN ACTION by *GENE F. MOXLEY* many of you are acquainted with Gene who thru the years has put much work and effort in researching the history of the 465th Bomb Group. In this endeavor beginning with the first to be 'scragged' & each Group loss there after he has a narrative written by either one or more of the Crew Members or an eye witness. With it having been reported all aboard the Shoener aircraft were KIA that crashed making an emergency landing on Vis following their 20 January 1944 run to Linz it turns out Bob Arnold survived and Gene printed a copy of the letter he wrote Art Tennille's wife later which is a good example of the research and accuracy contained. *Send \$25.50 to Gene Moxley; 606 Lincoln Court; Warrenton, MO 63383-2819 Phone 636-456-0921 for your copy*

FORTRESS PLOESTI by *JAY A. STOUT* is a detailed and well researched study of that Rumanian village that struck such fear in the heart of every airman that had a mission to it. Of my 5 missions the first where the group made the mistake of flying down that damned railroad track lined with the flak cars is still etched in our mind. Jay is a retired Marine Lt Colonel and when we talked with him was an Airline pilot. You can read more about this book filled with not only facts but charts & tables at www.casematepublishing.com. It is also available at Amazon.com. For an autographed copy you can contact jaystout@usa.net The price is \$32.95.



LINDSEY FIKE HARTMAN-will be remembered as that beautiful grand daughter of Harry & Lola Fike with the golden throat who sang for us at the last 'Davenpookyville' round up. The reason great grandpa Harry is popping the buttons on his bvds and great grandma Lola is in full strut Lindsey just delivered **BIG JAKE HARTMAN** into the world last week. At the next round up we expect grandpa Roger Amhof the Squadron bar tender to be handing out no less than four bit stogies with each manhattan he delivers. If that little guy can grows up to sing like his mother he will have all the gals in the county swooning.



SERIOUS APPEAL FOR HELP

There was a time on the 'Hill' when all a person had to do was ask for help and he would be overwhelmed. Today it seems many of you can't get your lazy behind out of the recliner and your heads out of the boob tube. Once again we are pleading for you folks to cooperate by sending news to keep this rag sheet going. In the last issue we appealed to the fleeing 'Snow Birds' to make mail arrangements. Already we have several returned marked-**TEMPORARILY AWAY**. You can bet you hats & asses there will be many more with this issue and the first snows. Take time and lend us a hand. What you send is what we shovel. Many desire hearing from some of you folks that haven't reported in for years. Begin the New Year by taking time to send poop from group. **HELP MAKE YOUR NEWSLETTER THE BEST!**



OUR APOLOGIES & THANKS

Delivery of our Banquet talk left us mentally exhausted. We were so taken by surprise when Harry presented the beautiful piece of crystal without thinking we just stood up and said thanks. With the Greenwood Crew having risked their lives to take us on 30 plus missions and the balance of the 51 missions completed with the Petranek Crew all of whom hung their behinds out to provide us a good bombing platform those guys were the most deserving and should have been acknowledged co recipients which I regret very much. Likewise, all of the guys down on the line that performed their duties so magnificently plus all the ground support members from the Orderly Room; Squadron Operations; the Medics; the Motor Pool; Mess Section and thru each and every other section down to that one guy in the Post Office all were equally deserving. What work we do for the Squadron is small repayment for each of your support. Please accept our apologies for our serious omission as well as our thanks for your support then and now. Again--special thanks for the crystal. You made an 'Ole Has Been' very proud.

MERRY XMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE & ALL! MAY 2004 BE THE BEST EVER FOR YOU & YOURS!

QUID FIT!
SAM



783 BOMB SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

SAM MARIE

13306 LOBELIA

SAN ANTONIO, TX 78232

(RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED)



LEO MEYER LIFE-MEMBER
407 S. WINDMILL TRAIL
GREENWOOD, IN 46142

REPORT ADDRESS & PHONE CHANGES TO

MIKE MAGAZZINE

24023 E. OAKLAND RD

BAY VILLAGE, OH 44140

440-871-3203



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William Mitchel; PO Box 3262; Boardman, OH 44513-3262

Lansing Jones; 725 Lee Cir Apt M57; Johnson City, NY 13790

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AC CHANGES

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