



783rd Latrine O Gram

December 2004
JUNE 2003

Fifteenth Air Force
55th Bombardment Wing

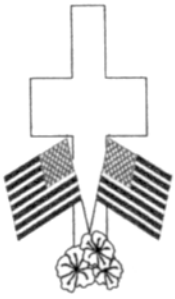


MERRY CHRISTMAS



HAPPY NEW YEAR





TAPS
IN MEMORY OF OUR EAGLES NEST FLITE MEMBERS
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE KNOWING THEY ARE NOT
FORGOTTEN

RUSSELL AUGHINBAUGH-born September 10, 1922 slipped away in is sleep October 13, 2004 at his residence in Napa, CA. He had been a victim of dementia for a number of years. Following service on the hill with the 782nd he returned to his home state of California and for the next 37 years was employed at Mare Island Naval Shipyard as an Electronic Technician. He is survived by his widow Yolanda known as 'Cappy' by her family and friends; 3 daughters; a sister; five grandchildren & two great grandchildren. He was a member of the Napa Valley Country Club, Vallejo Moose Lodge, Ball Room Dancers & "T" Bird Club. Although serving with the 782nd he had a number of close friends in the 783rd. Having served with the rest he chose to join up with the best becoming a life member of the 783rd Association. 'Cappy' advised he enjoyed and looked forward to receiving the Latrine O Gram. Mike Magazzine in particular remembered having become acquainted with him during the Group's return trip back to Pantanella. WE HAVE LOST ANOTHER OF THE BEST !



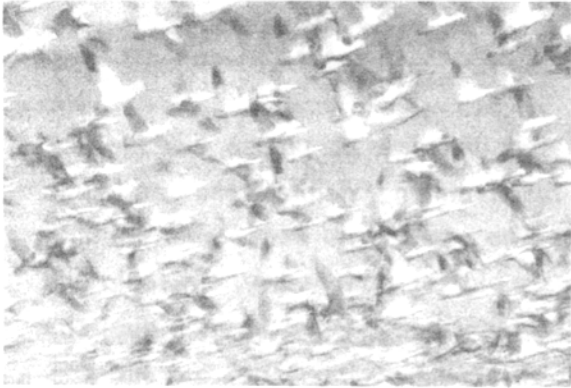
LOLA FIKE-wife of your present Association President is once again regaining her strut after undergoing some serious surgery. Hopefully, all the hard work of food preparation & serving it; along with the many other duties heaped on her at the recent Mini Reunion plus all the hard work of running the PX at the many Reunions played a contributing part to her problems. All join in wishing her a great recovery !

KAY SMITH-wife of your ex President & 'Toggle Jockey' on the Swanzy Crew that were 'scragged' on the 12 July 1944 raid to Nimes, France has suffered the 'punies' on several occasions. The Medics are experiencing difficulty determining the cause or causes. All join in wishing her a great recovery !

The only difference between a tax man and a taxidermist is that the taxidermist leaves the skin.. Mark Twain

Don't skinny dip with snapping turtles.

The best sermons are lived, not preached.



SNOW BIRDS ESCAPE SOUTH

In their anxiety to escape their uninhabitable environment 'Yankee Snow Birds' continue their habit of packing one clean pair of underwear and one five dollar bill and fleeing south for the winter with every intention of not changing either one--much less consider arranging for their mail to be forwarded. Already a returned stack is piling up for them and those suffering 'Oldsheimers' moving and not sending change of addresses. This proves we are becoming a society where the majority expects 'Big Brother' to care for them from womb to tomb.



LATRINE O GRAMS RECEIVED FROM 3RD STOOL DOWN

Dr HANNE JENSEN-the dear friend of our beloved Doc Kimball called on Veterans' Day to express her remembrance of Doc and give her thanks for all of you 'Drafted Recruits' efforts & contributions during the 'Big One'. In return our thanks to Hanne for the unselfish love & care she provided 'Our Doc'.

BO BOLINSKI-for those who are not aware-back in July 1944 knowing the Greenwood crew was one of the better and learning we were being sent to Rome for a 3 day R & R he ran down to the Operations tent and begged John Walker & Art Tennille to be scheduled as our replacement. Not being satisfied with completing one double mission with them--- 2 days later he joined them for a second mission which turned out to be another double this time to Munich where he joined the 'Pampers Brigade' to POWville--and after 60 years still continues to blame us. It is our sad duty to report 'Our Buddy' still hasn't learned not to volunteer for tough duty. Being a hard headed 'Pollock' he voluntarily stayed and guarded his residence for not one but all three of the hurricanes that paid his area a visit. Now that he has a new roof on his home he has admitted having seen the light---when they announce the next hurricane he is long gone.

BOBBY WILLS-your Association VP is guaranteed to be remembered in the sick call portion of the next LOG. We have learned Jo Fox his dear reunion companion after joining him in Michigan they are headed south. After a visit to her Tennessee childhood home they will head on down to his 'Varicoseville Snow Bird' pad for winter hibernation. The Emergency Room of the local Ruskin, FL hospital located just off Cockroach Bay is guaranteed of at least 2 if not more visits from your VP.

JOHN WALKER-a recent LD chat with John brought back many memories of that long 22 day 'pleasure cruise' aboard the Liberty Ship Walter Ranger ; our stay in Oran where we laid M/Sgt Homer T. 'Pop' Green 28 years good time 3 years bad time to rest; those first days on the hill before receiving tents; cots; starting combat flying ops; our first loss of the Vorhries Crew in Moby Dick and how badly he would be received at 3 in the morning when coming around to wake the crews flying that day. Today with severe macular degeneration posing a severe handicap and his Miss Hill having to use a walker life has dictated their employing a full time living assistant. Yet, he remains upbeat and jovial as always maintaining a continued interest in Squadron affairs.

LOOKING AHEAD AFTER A LOOK BACK

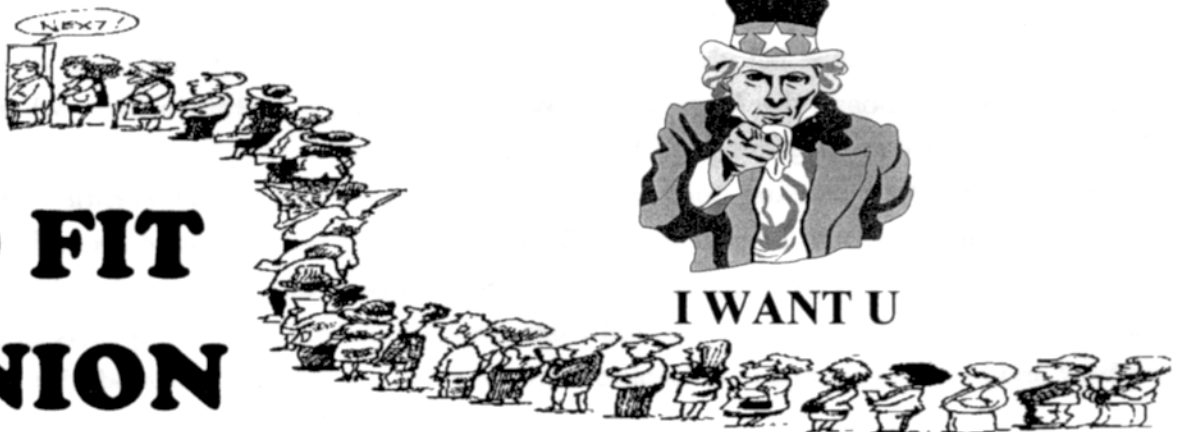
Some 61 years ago there were many activities around the clock at the Mc Cook, AFB out on the plains of Nebraska. Training flights both day and nights were routine. Simulated bombing runs were being made on various targets such as marshaling yards in distant cities. We well remember at 12:00 New Years nite of 1993 making a run over Amarillo, Texas. On our return and landing it had become 1944. In between flights the members of the Squadron's 17 Combat Crews were attending ground schools of various nature. Likewise the Ground Echelon were attending various ground schools when not working down on the line. All members of both the ground echelon and the flight crews would spend time out on the range firing rifles, pistols and shot guns over on the skeet range. Quite often the guys would detour from the skeet range to the adjoining farms and hunt pheasants. Attempting to down a pheasant with skeet loads took some fancy shooting. If successful most often it would be a lucky shot at very close range with it taking at least 2 or more shots. Consequently, the bird if cooked by one of the wives in town would not be what one would call gourmet dining. In spite of all the well intended training it wasn't until the Squadron commenced actual combat missions the real lessons of survival were learned in battle. Now Brothers & Sisters the first time one turned at the IP and flew thru an

800 gun flak barrage at places like Ploesti, Munich, Blechammer, Vienna etc at that moment it was realized no state side training could prepare one for such reality. Or, could one imagine the fear that gripped an individual the first time on seeing a plane shot out his box. At that time any sane person came to realize how fragile and what a cheap price tag was on an individual participant's life.

That was a long time ago. Today, those of us still around have much to be thankful for. Some of us more so. Not only did we survive 51 missions but with our heart having stopped and restarted on 5 different occasions we can't help but wonder why the 'Big Sky Pilot' has been so generous. Likewise, most of us did far better in our professional pursuits than ever dreamed. Not to mention raising children and seeing them complete their schooling and make their marks in the professional world.

Much water has flowed under the bridge since that beginning at Mc Cook. It is hoped all reading this will give thanks for still being around and make a resolution to once again join with their 'Ole Friends' that shared such great experiences a long time back---PLAN NOW to attend the reunion to be announced in the next LOG. IT MAY BE YOUR FINAL OPPORTUNITY!

2005 QUID FIT REUNION



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

This year has not been one without controversy. When we look back at the recent elections, the situation in Iraq, and whether to hold a third mini reunion in the Quad Cities, we still live in the best country in the world. And for that, we must all be thankful.

Since the September LOG came out, I have not received any mail or telephone calls recommending sites for the 2005 reunion. Sam may have some suggestions and he plans to put them in the LOG. I have thought about Buffalo (I have a good package on this city), Orlando (Fantasy of Flight Museum) Pueblo (Pueblo Air Museum), Tucson, San Diego, and many other cities. Although we are all very busy during this Christmas season, it would be helpful if you gave me your ideas. Please include a specific attraction that we might enjoy visiting (such as the SAC Museum in Omaha and the 8th Air Force Museum in Savannah).

As we get ready to put up our Christmas decorations, let us not get caught up in the frenzy of decorating, shopping and forget what the celebration is all about – the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Lola and I want to wish all of you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Harry Fike



REUNION SITE RECOMMENDATIONS RECEIVED

The following are the suggested locations to consider sent by our members:

<u>CITY</u>	<u>NO. OF RECOMDATNS</u>
Atlanta	3
Charlotte	1
Colorado Springs	2
Orlando	2
New Orleans	1

Anyone having additional thoughts should forward their suggestions immediately so they can be considered in time for the final selection to be made before the March 2005 LOG goes to the printer. Remember! This is your final opportunity for input. All it will cost you is a 37 cent stamp and some elbow grease. They will be forwarded to the 'Powers To Be'!



**HERE'S WISHING EACH & EVERY MEMBER A
MERRY XMAS & HAPPY NEW YEARS
MAY ONLY GOOD THINGS COME YOUR WAY IN 2005**

SAM



783 BOMB SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

SAM MARIE

13306 LOBELIA

SAN ANTONIO, TX 78232

(RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED)



REPORT ADDRESS & PHONE CHANGES TO

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

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS & ADDITIONS

Thomas L. Bracey; 1520 Belmont St; Dearborn, MI 48128

Larry G. Decrow; 370 N Walnut Bend Rd; Cordova, TN 38018

PHONE CHANGES CORRECTIONS & ADDITIONS

AREA CODE CHANGES

783RD OFFICERS

HARRY FIKE-PRESIDENT

BOB WILLS-VICE PRESIDENT

NANCY YOUNG-TREASURER

SAM MARIE-SECRETARY



DIRECTORS

COLONEL ROB'T ANDERSON

HARRY FIKE

FRANCIS A. GOPLEN

DONALD KAY

MIKE MAGAZZINE

STAN PACE

RALPH SMITH