



783rd Latrine O Gram

DECEMBER 2007

Fifteenth Air Force
55th Bombardment Wing



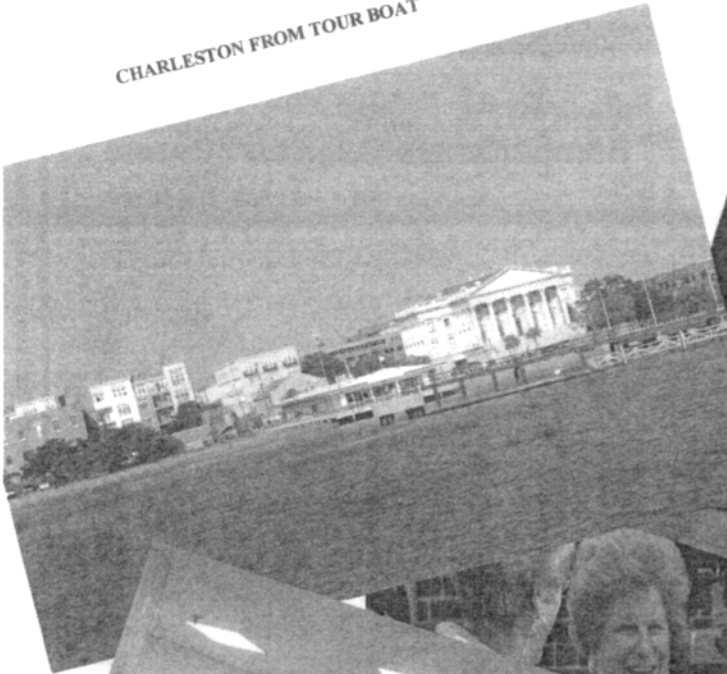
Merry Christmas



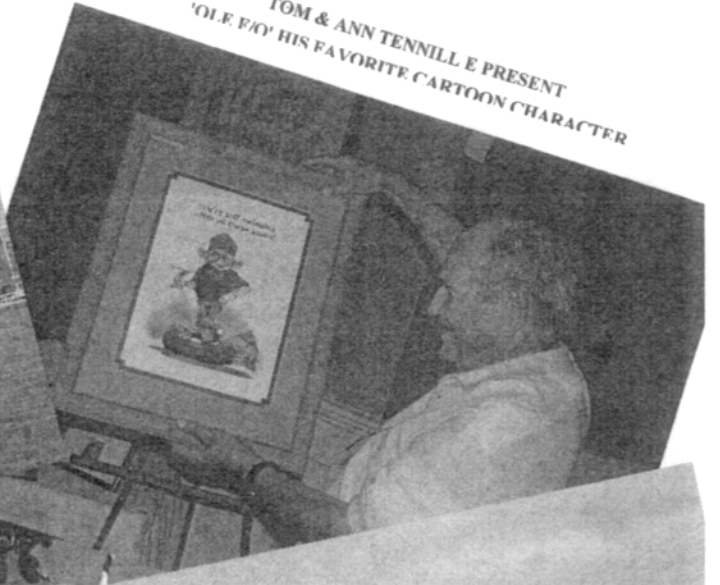
Happy New Year

CHARLESTON 2007 FLASH BACKS

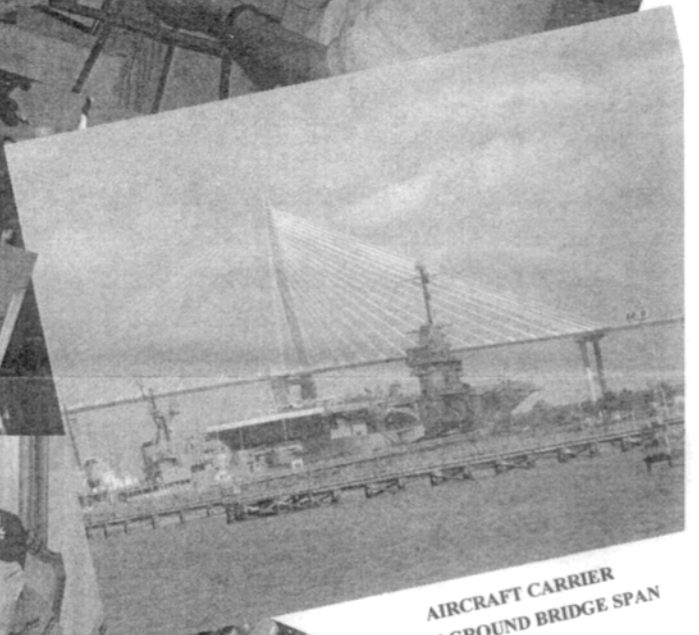
CHARLESTON FROM TOUR BOAT



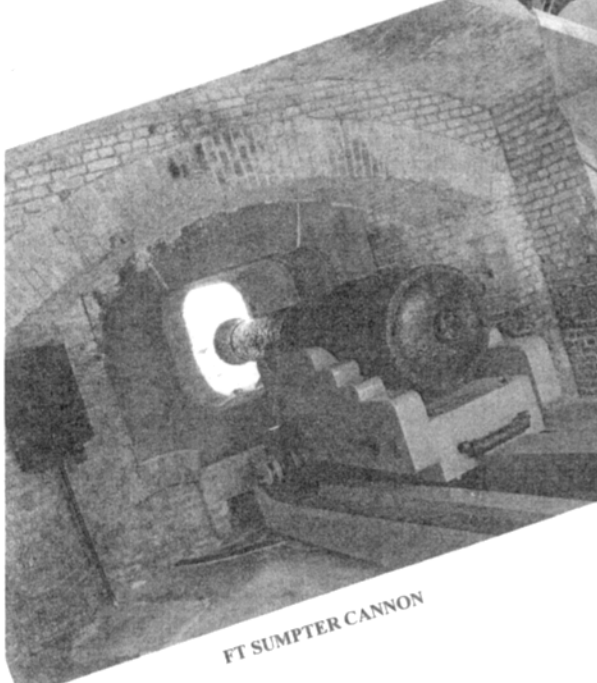
TOM & ANN TENNILLE PRESENT
'OLE F/O' HIS FAVORITE CARTOON CHARACTER



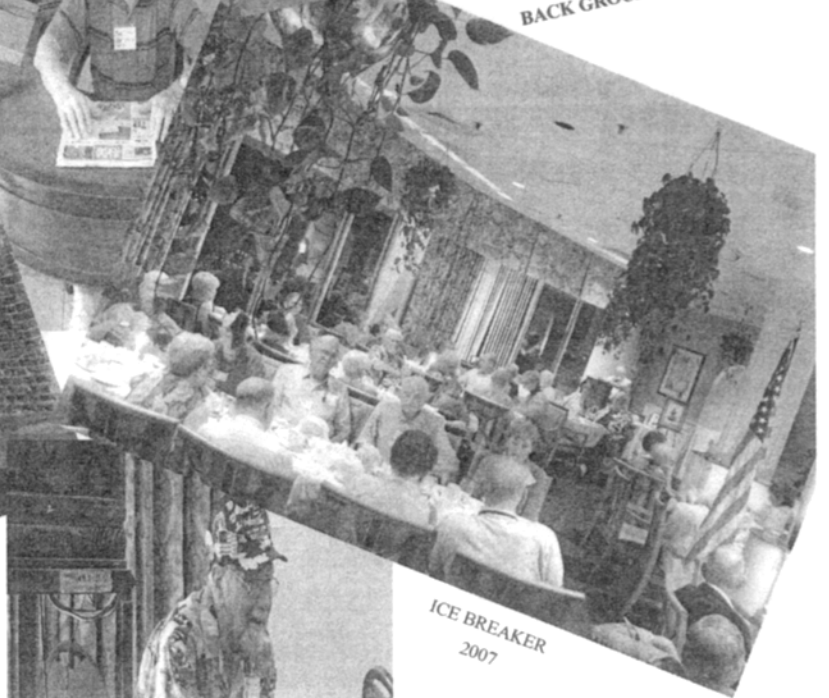
HOSPITALITY ROOM
ACTION



AIRCRAFT CARRIER
BACK GROUND BRIDGE SPAN



FT SUMPTER CANNON



ICE BREAKER
2007

OCTOBER 20, 1944 A BAD DAY

3 783RD PLANES LOST ON MUNICH RAID

On that dreaded day the Harvey Wright, Dean Evans & Del Forsberg Crews failed to return from a raid on Munich a muchly feared target because of the heavy AA fire always encountered--making 30 men 'scragged' !

The account of the Forsberg Crew was printed in an earlier LOG. To our knowledge no info was ever received for the Evans Crew other than they had all become POWs.

Thru the years William Mitchell, (John McNamee, William Rutan & Louie Rebottaro-deceased) on the Wright crew have attended reunions & described their versions of that bad day. Rebottaro attended the Savannah Reunion and shortly thereafter passed on without any family member so much as making

the effort to advise the Association.

Recently, Jakob Mayer of Innsbruck, Austria made a long hike to the remote mountainous crash site and forwarded the pictures shown along with the info Harvey's body was located nearby the crash site with an unopened parachute. It must be remembered with some 63 years having past many others have climbed to the crash site and combed over the wreckage. Also, the crash caused the debris to be scattered over a large area.. It seems strange that once adversaries today are taking the time and effort to honor our members who made the greatest sacrifice a soldier can make--giving their lives for their country ! Our thanks to Jakob Mayer.



WHITE CAP STORY



In 1983 at Colorado Springs our first reunion when Colonel Andrus ordered the first caps he naturally chose the traditional Air Force Blue to be their color. Initially, this proved to be a most popular color. In later years when Harry & Lola were running the large stock of items in their PX selection they added some white & red colored ones. At one of the reunions when the Fikes were having a close out sale your writer purchased several of each color. Playing golf 3 times per week the different colors afforded a welcomed change. With the time for Charleston fast approaching a wave of generosity over came the 'Ole F/O' and the thought of his donating a 783rd cap to each attendee entered his brain barrel. On calling around 'Alamoville' the various cap peddlers laughed at a 3 dozen size order plus the short time required for delivery. Being told such an order was impossible we remembered Joan Bitterman Rao the daughter of Bill Bitterman and her husband Paul had operated a very successful business for many years where they specialized in the sale of advertising items such as caps, pens, pencils etc. Many will remember Bill Bitterman as the Navigator on the Greenwood Crew one of the original 17 who were 'scragged' on the July 19, 1944 raid on the Allach Motor works at Munich. On giving Joan a call she confirmed we had fiddled while Rome burned time wise but advised give her a little time to see what she could come up with. To make a long story short in a day or so we received a call back requesting delivery instructions. The time frame for the caps to reach Charleston in time dictated the manufacturer shipping them to Lynda Marie Taylor in Ft Worth with their arriving one afternoon and she meeting and passing them off to Nancy & Clarence Young the following morning out on I-20 who were driving from their home in Midland, TX. In short Joan had literally accomplished pulling a rabbit out of the cap trick having them made and insuring their timely arrival in Charleston. When Sam expressed his appreciation for Joan's outstanding efforts and requested a statement for payment he was told the caps were a donation. All arguments by Sam fell on deaf ears with Joan insisting they be her donation to the Squadron members. Now—for the rest of the story needing documentation. As stated earlier Bill Bitterman and your writer dated back to 1943 at Davis Monthan Field where they both

became members of the Tommy Greenwood Crew the 17th and final Crew assigned to the 783rd before departing for Combat. During their training at both Tucson and later McCook a bond of life time friendship developed between both Bill, his wife Audrey and Sam. After arriving overseas and while flying some 35 or more combat missions late in the evening before his fateful flite to Munich in July 1944 Bill was to receive a telegram from Audrey advising he was the father of twin daughters, Betty & Gail Bitterman. Sam having been on R & R in Rome on returning late that nite and learning he had lost his crew that day—his first act with the permission of Colonel Andrus was to write Audrey and advise her Bill had been 'scragged'—with her receiving same before being advised by the War Department. Following the War both Bill & Sam were to end up working in Houston and their friendship grew to include their families with Bill & Audrey having 6 daughters with Sam having Lynda and son Bob. Bill returned to the employment of the Bettis Corp where he was to climb the corporate ladder to President. It was Bill's efforts that resulted in Bettis becoming a world wide leader in the manufacturing & sales of the mechanical valve actuators made not only in their USA plant but also their England & Italy facilities as well. Today Bettis actuators are employed not only on the Alaskan North Slope pipeline; the huge Russian gas pipe line to Germany but world wide in a multitude of industrial uses. Bill was a hands on leader traveling the world to insure proper utilization of his products. Unlike most CEOs, who can't locate their behinds with both hands even with the help of 3 or more VPs, when a product problem arose he would attack it personally until it was solved. Many years back when a design problem arose he placed a piece of steel stock in a lathe and while turning out a part received a piece of steel in his eye that resulted in a total vision loss. Thru the following years he made every effort to conceal the fact of his being blind in one eye. Likewise, few people were privy to the fact that on July 19, 1944 when 'scragged' on the Munich raid he received a multitude of flak fragments he would carry in his body to the grave. During his lifetime he refused to accept the Purple Heart which the Air Force offered him on multiple occasions. When forced to accept mandatory retirement by Bettis *CONTINUED*

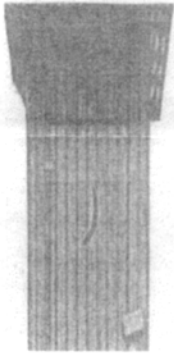
FIRST SGT ADAGE PROVEN CORRECT ONCE AGAIN "HIGHER THE MONKEY CLIMBS THE POLE-MORE THEY SHOW THEIR BEHINDS"

The uneducated 'Tree Huggers' running around with a bottle of little more than expensive local city tap water that has been placed in a plastic bottle have paid for two proven facts. First--they paid more per gallon for regular tap water merely run thru a filter than the price of a gallon of gasoline refined from oil that may have been transported from distant Saudi Arabia or Kuwait and undergone an expensive transportation & refining process.

The Earth Policy Institute recently reported, " it takes 1.5 million barrels of oil annually--enough to fuel 100,000 cars for a year--to make the bottles that quenches the 'Tree Huggers' thirst for water. It then takes 1,000 years for the empty bottles discarded to biodegrade in landfills, because that is where most of them end up". Second--an earlier large regional testing Lab reported of the many

brands of bottled water tested the filtration systems in only one brand possessed the capabilities of removing the fluoride introduced by most large cities. Thus, with this information above having been reported & available to any & all over a long period of time any individual with a 5th grade reading comprehension should have familiarized his or herself with same. This is but one more proof of our educational system expending millions annually to teach kids how to be bored even with available TVs, computers, computerized gadgets etc of every description but incapable of thinking or making simple decisions requiring good decision making skills--the members of Congress elected by products of this educational system & group are positive proof .

LATRINE 0 GRAMS FROM 5TH STOOL DOWN



BILL MITCHELL--remembered as the Co Pilot with Harvey Wright 'scragged' on the October 20, 1944 raid to Munich and & became a guest at POWville reports he has slipped down the slippery slope of life somewhat but still attempting to keep up as best as he can . He was interested to receive the report that Jakob Mayer of Innsbruck, Austria had climbed to the wreckage of his old plane and was anxious to see the photos of the remaining wreckage after some 63 years.

MUCHLY APPRECIATED THANK YOU NOTE RECEIVED FROM AFRA MAFFEY

Having originated and written the newsletter while serving the Squadron in many other capacities and activities it was always with the thoughts it was the least I could offer to repay the members of the Greenwood & Petranek Crews for getting me thru our combat missions. Plus, repayment to all the other Squadron members for the privilege of our having

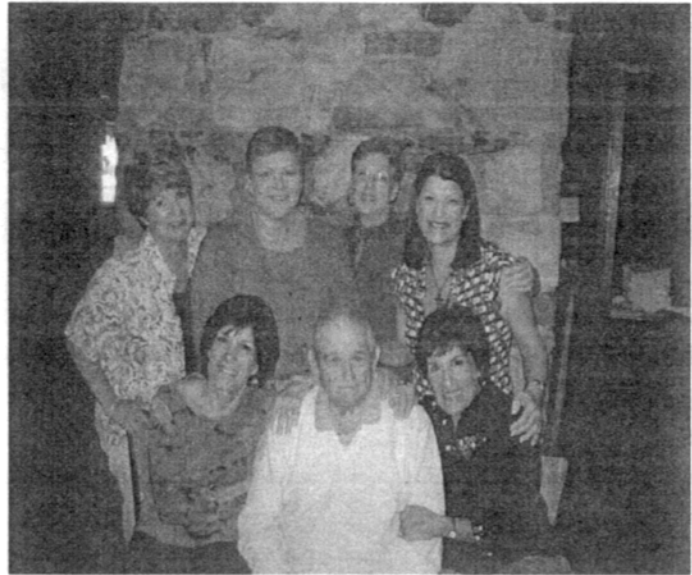
the honor of serving with them. In addition to the great friendships enjoyed there have been many other rewards. But none have been equal to the wonderful note full of muchly appreciated expressions as that received from Afra Maffey the wife of Connie Maffey following our return home from Charleston. THANKS SO MUCH !

FUTURE REUNION INFORMATION

The Charleston Reunion attendees having entered the slippery slope of life as a majority voted for the next two Reunions to be Annual ones with 2008 to be held in Buffalo, NY ---the Kulczyk Family members giving an 'Oklahoma Guarantee', Buffalo & Niagra Falls would be an outstanding location.. And--believe it or not the Group voted for Midland, TX based on the Confederate Air Force being located there as the location for the 2009 location.. Btothers & Sisters put that in your pipes & smoke it since the majority rules. Please remember--we only report the happenings & facts . You should have been present to voice your opinion .

the large French firm Bernard Controls specializing in electrical valve actuators on learning of his forced retirement immediately recruited & employed Bill as President world wide. When the medics sentenced Bill with terminal cancer Etienne Bernard in honor of Bill's outstanding professional reputation stepped down as Chairman of the Board appointing him as a replacement in recognition of his professional service both to Bernard Controls and to the entire industry. At his death his body still contained numerous pieces of shrapnel received when 'scragged'. Yet, he would never accept the Purple Heart offered numerous times. And-refused to apply for POW compensation. On Bill's passing we had the honor to give his eulogy. Today we are proud to visit with his daughters on every occasion possible pictured on the right. As Paul Harvey says, "now you know the rest of the White Cap story". God indeed works in mysterious ways considering why today your writer is the only living survivor from the Petranek Crew and only Frank Goplen & Bill Douglas along with him are the only Greenwood Crew survivors.

JOAN! THE CAPS WERE SO APPRECIATED BY ALL



Stdg L-R Nancy Bitterman; Mary B. Norwood; Charlotte B. Coonce & Joan B. Rao

Seated L-R Gail Bitterman-Carey; 'Ole F/O' & Betty B. McComas

OVER HAUL, REPAIR , USED & BROKEN PARTS SECTION



BIG JOHN WALKER
WITH LAST TOMATO CROP

JOHN WALKER-the 783rd Operations Sgt & everyone's favorite has so many physical ailments he has become like an 'ole war weary' plane converted to a Vino Ship-too weary for combat-but not so useless as to be discarded or junked completely. As of this writing he has just been released from rehab where they attempted to restore his strut to allow his return to the Retirement home. In a recent phone call he remains optimistic of a good recovery. No one is more deserving than John when one considers the thankless job of scheduling crews for the various missions that carried such a load of responsibilities. It is well remembered the countless hours he and his side kick Captain Art Tennille and how those two would sit on opposites of a desk weighing the various crews capabilities they were selecting for the following day. And the load they carried-like when on Oct 20, 1944 3 crews-30 individuals failed to return. Few if any other individual served the Squadron from womb to tomb with more dedication

HAVE A GOOD RECOVERY BIG GUY!



MIKE MAGAZZINE-one of that dedicated group that worked down on the line having never received the huge recognition due and owing them is reported to have just returned home from yet another hospital visit for urgent treatment . He is bedridden slowly slipping down the slippery slope of life that is a part of life's cycle. You can bet your boots, saddle, bridle & spurs he is waging one determined effort while his faithful Sarah is heaping generous love & special care on her 'pison'. Just as he gave his all to the Pat Spradley crew while on 'the Hill' he did the same working for the Association. Few realize and recognize the countless hours Mike devoted while holding & performing more different positions all the way up to President. Along with Jim McCloskey; Dick Rogers; Floyd Gregory etc and so many others they proved the 783rd was fortunate to have the best of GIs. **HANG TOUGH PISON !**

MAXINE'S LIVING WILL



passes and I fail to ask for at least one of the following:

- Glass of wine
- chocolate
- Margarita
- Martini straight up
- Cold Beer
- scotch on the rocks
- Chicken fried steak
- cream gravy
- chocolate
- Mexican food
- chocolate
- French fries
- chocolate
- Pizza
- chocolate
- ice cream
- cup of tea
- chocolate
- Chocolate
- Sex
- Chocolate

I, MAXINE, being of sound mind and body, do not wish to be kept alive indefinitely by artificial means. Under no circumstances should my fate be put in the hands of pinhead politicians who couldn't pass ninth-grade biology if their lives depended on it, or lawyers / doctors interested in simply running up the bills. If a reasonable amount of time

It should be presumed that I won't ever get better. When such a determination is reached, I hereby instruct my appointed person and attending physicians to pull the plug, reel in the tubes, let the "fat lady sing". . . and call it a day!

DO YOU READERS AGREE WITH MAXINE THIS WILL BE THE APPROPRIATE TIME FOR THE FAT LADY TO SING THE PARTY IS OVER ?

AS WE SAY ADIOS TO 2007 SOME THOUGHTS

At Charleston the Quid Fit 'Umbriagos' broke new ground being the first unit of our kind to saddle our children with the responsibility of filling all of the elective offices running this outfit. In doing so we collectively loaded their wagons with a heavy load of responsibility. Don't think for a mini second the other 'me too outfits' won't be sitting back to judge the results before sticking their toes in the water. It goes without saying many of you have contributed little if any effort in keeping this train on the tracks. If you 'dead beats' think your writer is going to sit

back and remain silent allowing the kids to come up on the short end of the stick because of your lack of support—think again. 'Loafers' and 'Do Nothings' will get the surprise of their lives when named for their lack of effort & support. Over the years you have ignored our pleadings for help with news articles forcing us to scratch around & make do. The help and support of each and every member is needed. It is too late in the day to fall into being like some of the other outfits where their members allowed them to fold like a cheap knife. **CONTRIBUTE !**

Latrine O Gram Editor

Sam Marie :

**News Stories & Obits
Needed & Solicited**

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IMPORTANT REMINDER

The printing and mailing of your newsletter is now being handled by Dr Gary Forsberg, MD son of Del Forsberg at the address shown on the cover.

'Ole F/O' continues to write and be responsible for news content. Don't forget to send news articles ! **TODAY !**

QUID FIT !

SAM

MAY 2008 BE YOUR BEST EVER !

KILROY WAS HERE

783 BOMB SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

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2600 CHERRY HILL

SIERRA VISTA, AZ 85635

(RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED)



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AREA CODE CHANGES

PHONE CHANGES CORRECTIONS & ADDITIONS

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