



783rd Latrine O Gram

SEPTEMBER 2002

Fifteenth Air Force
55th Bombardment Wing

DAVENPORT REUNION REPORT

FIKES' THROW MEMORABLE PARTY

They arrived from all points on the compass of this great country. Shouts of joy filled the hospitality room as old friends greeted one another once again. Yes, tears were seen running down the cheeks of many when the names of Eagle Nest Flite members were mentioned. These were not ordinary citizens. Imagine if you will their ages began at 80 years upward. During their youth some 58 years earlier they had been the bravest of the brave going deep into Germany against a numerically superior Luftwaffe time and time again putting the hurt on that SOB Hitler and his group of murderous thugs. Upon commencing combat operations the Commander of the 15th Air Force told them straight forward the average expectancy of an Airman was 7 missions. Completing any beyond that number was a bonus and pure gravy. This had only made them more determined. Some among them had made 35-40 missions before being 'scragged'. On this day one could not tell by looking that the majority had been shot down becoming POWs. Nor, could you tell that during that long, freezing, cold winter of 1944-45 they had been taken from their Prison Camps and marched up and down the roads of Germany day after day in the freezing cold. At night they were herded into barns and sheltered with the livestock. Most of the time receiving only a few potatoes or rutabagas 'scrounged' from the German farmer whose barn they were incarcerated in for the night. Once the war ended with their liberation they returned home. One became a Commercial Flower Grower; another became an Inspector for Ford Motor; another stayed in the service becoming a Career Soldier serving all over the world Korea, Japan, France, North Africa etc. Those more fortunate to complete their missions and return became an Accountant; one a Sporting Goods Salesman; another a early day Computer Operator; another a Geologist etc. Most interesting was the large number of children & grandchildren in attendance.

All of this was long ago. Today marked the beginning of a 3 day renewal of a friendship party that only Harry & Lola Fike along

with their Daughter & Son In Law Cheri & Roger Amhof and a number of their grandchildren were capable of pulling off sparing 'no hosses'—'letting the hide go with the tallow'. As usual Roger was pouring his famous Manhattan concoction guaranteed to make a old man jump out of his wheel chair; do a jig; chase a young 18 year old girl; blowing his mind into making a commitment that no way his 85 year old arthritic body could possibly fulfill. In addition there was a tub of cold beer and a tub of cold drinks for those of us having surrendered and living at the foot of the cross. Nuts, chips etc adorned the tables.

The high lite of the first evening was the unbelievable gourmet buffet prepared by Lola and Cheri and brought to the Signature Inn and served. What a treat and delight. The menu was so far reaching this humble writer will not attempt describing the long list of items offered. We will say the two offered and served a better feed then Jack & Charlie did at their famous 21 Club in New York during their hay day in the 1950s. The best testimony was Bo Bolinski took time out from his usual walking, talking entertaining to be seen making several trips around the serving table. Bo was approaching the 40 mission mark when he volunteered to fly with the Greenwood Crew 'scragged' on the 19 July 44 raid on Munich earning him R & R up at the Stalag Luft at Barth, Germany. Likewise, Floyd Coffield a 50 mission Crew commander was seen circling the table in a similar manner when he would circle the strip attempting to get his 'bird' down. When the photos are received and printed they will show the 'Ole POW' Cleo Jackson chowed down to the point of having to unbutton his britches and get a pair of suspenders. It should be noted his bride Susanne was kept busy refilling his plate numerous times. No wonder she is so slim and trim waiting on and serving the 'Ole Nose Gunner' that got his trip to POWville in the 'Friedrichshafen Slaughter' aerial battle 8-3-44. When the 'Ole Kriege' Gene Kulczyk & wife Mary made their entry

CONTRIBUTIONS OF WW II MOTHERS

Imagine if possible the sacrifices some Mothers endured while their sons were in foreign lands fighting. Picture if possible an immigrant Mother widowed with eleven children living in the Chicago area barely conversant in English. It is difficult to conceive the turmoil and heartache that must have gripped this dear lady when she was notified on 6 August 1944 her son Pvt Joseph Knaus had been Killed In Action while fighting in France. Following receipt of the above notification 3 days later received notification another son Captain John Knaus had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for Gallantry In Action over Germany. Making it more confusing to this lady was knowing John was flying missions over her native Yugoslavia and sometimes bombing targets in it's various cities. Ladies like Mrs Magdalena Knaus made contributions as great as our fighting men and were truly Gold Star Mothers. One can only imagine how proud this Mother would have been had she lived to see her son John retire as a Colonel from the United States Air Force having been decorated by the Emperor of Japan.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
RECORDS ADMINISTRATION CENTER
ST. LOUIS 30, MISSOURI

IN REPLY
REFER TO

AGRS-DC-S 201 Knaus, Joseph
(1 Nov 47)

16 January 1948

Mrs. Magdalena V. Knaus
9002 Hackinsaw Avenue
Chicago 17, Illinois

Dear Mrs. Knaus:

I have received your request for information concerning the circumstances surrounding the death of your son, Private Joseph Knaus.

The records show that Joseph Knaus, Army serial number 36 770 311, while serving as a private, Company E, 115th Infantry Regiment, and participating in battle at La Robinière, France, was seriously wounded in action by enemy small arms fire, receiving penetrating wounds of the right chest and abdomen, and right thigh, on 5 August 1944. He was evacuated from the battle area and taken to 128th Evacuation Hospital, where he died the following day, 6 August 1944, as the result of hemothorax secondary to penetrating wound of the right chest.

Allow me to express my sympathy in the loss of your son.

Sincerely yours,

Charles D. Carle
CHARLES D. CARLE
Colonel, AGD
Commanding

It should be noted that Captain John Knaus at the time 783rd Squadron Bombardier never divulged the loss of his Brother Joseph explaining why he was so admired by his 'Toggle Jockeys'.

2003 REUNION SELECTION SITE PRESENTLY UNDER STUDY

The 2003 Reunion site is presently being considered by the powers to be headed up by your President Harry Fike and his henchmen. If you have info on a recommended site fire your shot. REMEMBER! Just naming a town nearby so you don't have to travel far won't cut the mustard. It takes facts & prices on hotels; tourist attractions etc to get consideration. Above all keep those traveling from California, the East Coast etc in mind. It should be understood we have no say so don't waste a call or letter. To a disbeliever on this fact think back to how those 'Carpet Baggers' came down and stole our Texas Mini Reunion taking it to the midwest making us travel so far to attend.

In shoveling the last of this load of 'Hoss Apples' keep two things in mind. First, help by sending news of both yourself and other members. Second, even if they did 'scam' our Texas Mini Reunion and take it north they received their punishment by all the hard work and effort they put into showing all attendees a great time. For that once again we all owe a deep debt of gratitude to Harry & Lola and the Fike family members for a great reunion.

QUID FIT!

SAM



TAPS

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED EAGLES NEST FLITE MEMBERS

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE KNOWING THEY ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

CHARLES S. ELLIS, JR--will be remembered as one of the 17 original Crew Commanders. On June 1, 2002 at age 83 he completed his final flite to Eagles Nest after waging a determined battle with health problems. Born in Talladega, AL. He was attending the University of Miami and employed by one of the Bell Telephone companies when he enlisted receiving his wings with Class 43-D. After completing his 50 missions & returning back to the states he became a B-24 Instructor and later B-29s. He served the Squadron Association as both an Officer and Board Member. When failing health prevented his attending the Reunions he would call almost weekly endeavoring to keep abreast of Squadron affairs. This continued until moved to the Care Center portion of the Retirement Home. Following his WW II service he returned to employment with the Bells in Miami; New Orleans and Louisville. After 40 years of service he retired as a Division Manager with South Central Bell. He was a lifetime member of the Telephone Pioneers of America; a life member of Pilot Class 43-D; a Kentucky Colonel; and for 25 years served as Board of Director on the Kentucky Telco Federal Credit Union. He is survived by his widow Evelyn Ellis. *WE HAVE LOST ANOTHER OF THE BEST!*



JULIUS N. BAUER--passed away 11-22-01 after waging a determined battle with stomach cancer. He will be remembered as a 51 mission Navigator on the 'Pappy' Brown Crew one of the original 17. Julie no doubt waged his final struggle the same way he completed his missions--quite, unassuming and with grim determination always doing a little better and more than asked of him. He and his Bombardier Billy Powell were a great pair and inseparable friends who would have been a welcome addition to any combat crew. Following his release from the service he enrolled at Pratt Institute and received a degree in Chemical Engineering. During a successful career in his chosen field he worked for Chemo Puro, Inc, Washine Chemical and Mallinkrodt, Inc. In 1978 Jarchem Industries was formed with two partners that is still operating. He retired as Partner and Vice President. His 55 year marriage to his beloved Hildreth (Hilly) Duvette resulted in his being the devoted father of Joan Zuckerman (Jay); Amy Brinkworth; Lynn DiPierro (Tom); and son Scott(Margaret). These children in turn gave JULIE & HILLY 5 grandchildren--David, Maureen, Jared, Max and Anya. The following quotes lifted from an article in the Carol Place, NY Fog Horn local paper best describes Julie. " Effective people make success happen without the tools, without the road map no matter what the obstacle, effective people figure it out. Julie was a founding father of this post-war community. He led by example, without fanfare, without flare, but with resolve to earn the very best for his children and family".

WE HAVE LOST ANOTHER OF THE BEST!

Minds are like parachutes--they only work if open.
To ask Capitol Hill to vote for campaign finance reform, you may as well poll death row on capitol punishment.
The fellow who says he sleeps like a baby--never had one.

SICK CALL



DOE EINECKER-the wife of our Reunion Golf Director is once again waging a war against the return of Big C. Based on her past health battles she has proven to put up a tougher fight than a 'Junk Yard Guard Dog'. Hip surgery; cancer battles; you name it. She has stubbornly conquered a long list of ailments in the past victoriously. You can bet your boots & spurs this 'Ole Sister' will exhibit determination above and beyond that will make all of you 'Ole Roosters' envious.

BOB 'ANDY' ANDERSON- a former Crew Commander & past President of this outfit suffered a series of strokes that resulted in his undergoing all the fancy surgery and procedures available today. Initially, a wheel chair was his mode of transportation required for a journey of any distance. Residing at Air Force Village II Retirement Center his quarters were temporarily relocated to the Care Center where he underwent extensive rehab. He is giving this his best shot in hopes of receiving permission to return to driving once again. On departing from a visit we had a good laugh. Like all of us having undergone extensive rehab he is learned that 98 pound Rehab Lady Persons are born without hearts and can make the toughest PT Instructors or First Sgt's look like 'Little Orphan Annies'.

KATHY SCHWARTZ-the wife of Mickey one of Quid Fit former 'Throttle Jockeys' learned the hard way at our age she couldn't be a full time Care Provider to her invalid mother confined to a Rest Home while attempting to carry the load of her own household. The physical over load resulted in her hospital confinement. At last report she was regrouping and expected to make a satisfactory recovery.

FLOYD GREGORY-who authored the Squadron History Book and wrote the LOG for a number of years has surrendered to his feet circulation problem. He and Jean have sold their Urban Condo and relocating to a Retirement home in Milwaukee to be closer to their son. His new address & phone number will be printed upon receipt.

LEONARD CLUTTS-the Engineer-Gunner on the Greenwood Crew a retired widower, Heavy Equipment Operator paid the price of formerly being a heavy beer drinker and cigarette smokier earning a trip to the hospital with a life threatening case of pneumonia. After extensive hospitalization he was allowed to return home on full time oxygen. Another former POW out in California will pop his jollies on reading this report. While in POWville Clutts acquired some smokes and didn't share them. This left his California Buddy with a long time resentment. Instead of being resentful he should be thankful-it might have saved him making the trip to the

HARRIET COHEN-the widow of Dave Cohen better known as 'Madam Queen' the 'Den Mother' attends the 'round ups' and gathers our innocent daughters leading them astray has recovered from plastic surgery. Her cover story is she tripped over a bowling ball and skinned her leg in a fall. Failing to heal properly resulted in the above described surgical procedure. All believing this concoction contact me immediately-I have a multi million dollar gold mine available for a cheap price. She may well have tripped. If the truth be known it in all probability occurred while in pursuit of some fleeing widower. Bless her loveable heart we must reward her with a 5 star rating for originality. All the daughters and members wish their 'Den Mother' a speedy recovery.

BOB ROGERS AKA RUBIN ZUBOFSKY-was preped for spinal surgery with an intravenous shunt installed and moved from his room to a holding area in the surgical area. After a lengthy delay one of the 'Butchers' approached and announced they couldn't come to an agreement on how to proceed with the procedure and needed more x rays; cat scans etc. After returning home the next morning he came down with a galloping case of the shingles requiring emergency hospitalization and further delay of the intended spinal surgery. Who says fright can't cause serious problems? After his recovery from the above problems on Wednesday August 21st the 'Butchers' after getting sufficient prep work completed satisfactory surgical repairs to Bob's spine and he is now doing well and on the fast road to recovery. .

*Prescribing viagra for an old man is like putting a new flag pole on a old and dilapidated building
Did you hear they are using lawyers for medical testing now? Seems they are capable of things that even rats won't do.*

Show me a Liberal who won the state lottery and I'll show you a guy now a Conservative!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOLKS



78 YEARS

PAUL HOOGE

79 YEARS

GLENN CUNNINGHAM

CARL LIND

SAM MARIE

CARL MILBURN

DALE REEVES

80 YEARS

MAGGIE FEELY

HARRY FIKE

GOLDEN JONES

GEORGE JOSTEN

DEL FOSBERG

81 YEARS

CLEO JACKSON

82 YEARS

GENE KULCZYK

83 YEARS

LEE GILLESPIE

85 YEARS

BURT ANDRUS

86 YEARS

JOE BURGESS

MAY EACH ENJOY MANY, MANY MORE!



LATRINE O GRAMS-3RD STOOL DOWN

CLEO JACKSON-goes out to the local airport and shells out \$14 American for him and Susanne to board and inspect the Dragons Tail B-24 touring the country. They enter thru the rear escape hatch and proceeded forward to the bomb bays. Naturally, Susanne being the petite one slithers down the cat walk up to the flite deck with no problems. When 'Our Hero' attempts to follow he immediately gets stuck in the rear racks. Following quite a struggle he finally frees himself. Recognizing his con-

tinuing down the cat walk was a hopeless situation he concluded exiting out thru the bombay seemed to be the most logical solution to his problems. When this maneuver was attempted his recent knee replacement buckled under the over load with him crashing and falling on his back banging his head on the pavement. Salvoing a bomb or load on the hard stand still continues to attract the attention of all near by. Consequently, the ground crew rushed to his aid. Once he had recovered sufficiently a trip to the hospital and a cat scan showed only his pride had been damaged. Considering that on the August 3, 1944 'Friedrichshafen Slaughter' he had to depart a B-24 via a silk elevator with his tail feathers in flames and now with this recent episode he should learn that the name 'Consolidated Time Bombs' were well earned by those old birds.

BOB HAEFNER-Co Pilot on the Frank Kara Crew one of the original 17; the first to complete 50 missions; and the only one of the 17 to return all 10 crew members back to the states has been living the good life at a golf resort community at Lake San Marcos, CA. Having been a widower for some years he has recognized like so many of us that he must relocate to Surprise, AZ so as to be closer to one of his children. However, he should be most comfortable for his new chosen retirement community has a golf course and other amenities for retired living. Enjoy your new digs **BOBBY BOY-YOU EARNED THEM! BE ALERT & WATCH THOSE WIDOWS!** Check out his new address on back cover.

COLONEL BURT ANDRUS-who activated and commanded this outfit thru stateside training; the trip over seas; thru the majority of it's many missions before transferring to the 484th Bomb Group as Deputy CO spent September 24-30 here in 'Alamoville' as our house guest attending the Reunion of the 96th Bomb Wing he commanded during the Cold War with the 'Rooskies'. It was our pleasure to be an invited guest to this gathering and have the opportunity to learn *cont'd*

the important role this unit played in being the 'Policemen' that made 'Ivan' behave. Few people realized their mission. Although based in Abilene, TX they kept planes in Britain & Spain with a continuous rotation of crews over & back. All were on the alert 24 hours a day armed with nuclear weapons with preassigned targets ready to go in when flashed the word. Most interesting was to learn was they were assigned to go in at 50 feet to be under the radar. This means if the delayed fuses on the 'nukes' didn't work properly they wouldn't have had time to escape being 'nuked' to a crisp. It was interesting to note there was a mix of older WW II guys with a large percent of younger that later saw action in B-52s over Viet Nam. Most interesting was learning when the Colonel took command this wing was at the bottom of the barrel of the 30 plus other SAC Wings during previous ORIs(Operational Inspection Readiness) drills. Following his arrival in the next ORI they jumped to first place of all SAC B-47 Wings and continued for the next 3 quarters. In addition General LeMay awarded them the best ever USCM Award (Unit Simulated Combat Mission). Phil Goplen the older brother of our Frank Goplen, who had flown as a Bombardier with the 8th in England when we were in Italy, flew in this unit as a Offensive System Officer receiving his Oak Leaf as a Major. Considering the Russians recognized these guys could put the big hurt on them and chose to behave each of us owe this group of individuals a big thank you for their dedicated and unselfish service.

DALE REEVES-reported in from the metropolis of Kelso, MO where he is semi retired as a Commercial Paint Contractor specializing in Churches; Office buildings; Motels etc. He will be remembered as one of the guys working down on the line that did such a magnificent job of patching up those old shot up birds we brought back and dumped on them. It looks like we must detail a Squad to haul him and his friend Ernie Webb to a reunion where they can be properly acknowledged for having contributed so much to the Squadron success. In their day they were 'can do' guys never thinking of making excuses. Perhaps with Big Pat Spradley barking at their heels made a difference.

AVAILABLE CD ROM DISC

PRICE \$10 POSTAGE PAID

Thru the years Bobby Wills has compiled a large collection of over seas & reunion photos from various individuals and placed them on a CD ROM Disc that met with great acceptance at the Mini Reunion where many were sold after being viewed. Many purchased two or more. They make great historical keep sakes for your children & grandchildren. It should be noted that Bobby has made & donated them with the money going to the Squadron Treasury. You can order your copy by mailing a check for \$10 to:

HARRY FIKE; 1132 W 53RD ST D-2; DAVENPORT, IA 52806

*** * * * ***

SNOW BIRD DEPARTURE ALERT

You 'Misfit Yankees' have chosen to reside in such miserable environments making it necessary you flee during the harsh winter. PLEASE! TAKE THE TIME EXITING TO MAKE PROPER ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR MAIL. It is enough work shoveling this load of 'Bull Poop' out to you without experiencing the ordeal of having it returned and dealing with it once again. We know it is a chore packing that one pair of underwear & one \$5 bill and the terrible concern you have worrying how not to change either one during your stay. But arranging proper disposition of your mail during your absence might relieve some of your anxieties. Thanks for your cooperation.

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OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
RECORDS ADMINISTRATION CENTER
21. 1500 30. WASHINGTON

IN REPLY
REFER TO

AGRS-DC-S 201 Ensur, Joseph
(1 Nov 47)

16 January 1948

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9002 MacKinnaw Avenue
Chicago 17, Illinois

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783RD BOMB SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

SAM MARIE

13306 Lobelia

San Antonio, Texas 78232

(Return Service Requested)



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

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Robert Haefner; 1720 W. Sabrina Dr; Surprise, AZ 85374
Floyd Gregory; Alexian Village; 9301 N 76th St; Milwaukee, WI 53223

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