

86TH FIGHTER-BOMBER GROUP ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2006 NEWSLETTER



HAPPINESS IS... having a big turnout for OKCity

IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK!

As this is written, less than two months remain before our Oklahoma City reunion kicks off; and by the time you receive this Newsletter, it will be closer to one month.

Reservations have been dribbling in, but the total is far short of the number we hope and anticipate will be coming. We all tend to be procrastinators, so let this serve as a RED ALERT to all you *old faithfuls*, *once-in-a-whiles*, and especially the newest additions to the Active Roster.

Get on the horn to the Biltmore Hotel (1-800-522-6620) and make your reservations. Be sure to identify yourself as part of the 86th Fighter-Bomber Group Association in order to secure the special \$62.00 (plus tax) rate. Then, fill out your Activities Reservation Form (ARF), and send it with your check (payable to the **86th FBG Assn**) to the Secretary. Don't put it off, please, or you might forget. We all know about walking into a room, stopping, and asking ourselves, "What did I come in here for?"



Let's have a great turnout. Prez MARGERUM and his Board of Directors have lined up an entertaining program; host Jesse FITZPATRICK has arranged fine accommodations, and the price is right. What more could you ask for?

Memories of
past
reunions



Gathering in
San Antonio
1989

86th Fighter-Bomber Group Association

NEWSLETTER

Editor – Sidney B. Howard
Publisher – Martha M. Plowden

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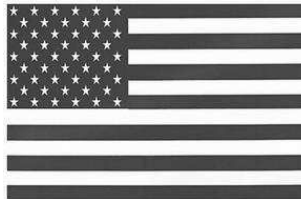
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Two-year term – Audrey Brown, Sid Howard, Glen Margerum
One-year term – Don Collins, Ed Hill, and John Senneff

Website: www.86fighterbombergroup.com

27th FIGHTER-BOMBER GROUP ASSN TO HOLD FINAL REUNION

My copy of “Bulldog” SMITH’S Newsletter reports that the week before we assemble in Oklahoma City, our “sister” Group will be meeting in the neighboring state of Kansas. Location is Wichita and dates are October 20 to 22. Let’s make sure that WE have a great turnout to ensure that Oklahoma City is NOT our final reunion.

ONE-TIME SPECIAL OFFER

We have reproduced, and assembled in spiral coil folders, all of the Newsletters written by the Squadron and GHQ Secretaries over the years and will have single copies at the Oklahoma City reunion for inspection.

Anyone interested in buying one of these folders may do so by sending a check to the Secretary, payable to the **86th FBG Assn.** Cost (including postage) depends on the number of pages, as follows:

525 th – 325 pages for \$32.00	526 th – 185 pages for \$21.00
527 th – 295 pages for \$30.00	GHQ – 123 pages for \$16.00
Group (May 1996 to present) – 220 pages for \$24.00	

I also have a few extra copies of group pictures of the 1982 Oklahoma City, 1983 Dayton I, 2004 Branson, and 2005 Minneapolis/St. Paul II reunions, available on a first-come, first-served basis. In addition, this deal covers pictures available of 1942 Meridian 527th Pilots.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

This nice thank-you note was received from Thelma KASTNER: “Dear 86th, Thank you for sending the lovely flowers when Tink died. Tink loved his garden, and flowers were a perfect remembrance. They were a comfort to us all. Thank you also for your kind words in the May Newsletter. The Association meant so much to him. It’s hard to lose the patriarch of our family—our “pilot”—but we are getting along pretty well. Family and friends, like you are, keep us going. With Gratitude, Thelma V. KASTNER.”

Harold HILL (526) writes, in part, “Sid, you sure did a fantastic job, putting all those rosters together. Several of those I have wondered about for years. Now I know why I never heard from them. I was in the 86th since Oct. ’42 back in Meridian. I can find only a handful that I knew from back then. I guess our days are numbered; I’ll be 86 next month.” (I replied that he was a “callow youth,” that I’d be 88 on VJ Day.)

Allen HANSEN (526), responding to my plea to return to the Active Roster (refer to Roster Maintenance), wrote, among other things, “I was assigned to the 526 Squadron and, on Feb. 8, 1944, my A-36 was hit by flak. I bailed out, was captured, and spent the rest of the war in Stalag Luft #1.” The squadron War Diary confirms that he was seen to bail out successfully near the west coast of Lake Bracciano, Italy, and was reported as missing in action. I find no subsequent entry changing his status to POW.

Robert MYERS (GHQ) recently sent me a picture and clipping from the *Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette* reporting on the annual Army Corps of Engineers ceremony honoring Johnson County veterans for their military service during WW II. Among those receiving framed certificates and having their names etched into a granite monument next to the Veterans Trail at Coralville Lake was our own Marion (Ferd) GREEN (525th Pilot).



Marion (Ferd) GREEN (525th Pilot with the full “beaver”) is second from the left.

Dick and Martha PLOWDEN have sent me their remaining supply of the handsome *Circle of Unity* placards that were part of the souvenir package at the Tucson reunion. The *Circle*, as shown in the upper right hand corner of our Newsletters, is in color, 8 by 11 inches, on card stock, and suitable for framing. They will be on sale at the reunion for \$2.00 or by mail for \$3.00, including mailer and postage.

FLY-BOY

From January 1947 until October 1950, Ed JUNG (527th) edited and produced a newsletter that he titled *Fly-Boy*, which did a fantastic job of reporting the goings on of the 527th, (and a few 525th and 526th) guys in the immediate post war years. It also carried a number of their recollections of combat missions, like the following from the July 1949 issue, written by Carl HEFNER (527 - 13 reunions):

“July 17, 1949

“Hi Ed, Got my copy of *Fly-Boy* yesterday with mixed emotions regarding the lack of letters, my own included. I guess we are procrastinating somewhat but with the remainder of this issue, I trust that it will jog some of the rest of us as it has me.

“My second mission was with Hill, Chambers, Dungan, Jones, Dog Kerr, Hastie, Leventhal and myself. I can't locate my little book for the exact date, but if my memory serves me correctly it was Dec. 2, 1944. It wasn't a bad sort of day, cold but the sun was shining. After briefing, we went to the line (armed recon northern Italy). I was flying George Dungan's wing as I remember it, we joined up, went to sea and came in between La Spezia and Genoa. That stupid gunner in La Spezia opened up with the 20mm with the little puffs about 4000 ft. below us. No aircraft in sight, no transport moving on the ground, plum [*sic*] uneventful—Kept looking and going further north, went to the right of Turin and turned west. My map of western Germany doesn't give it, but south and west of Lake Garda there is the little town Lodi. They had a truck or two moving around and also a bus. There were about fifteen freight cars in the yards. Chambers shook us into an echelon and we bombed the marshalling yards. We began making a ground gunnery pattern of the bus and trucks which were in different parts of the town. I must have gotten out of position or something. At any rate I pulled up off of the bus to about 1400' and there was a black twin-engined job just tooling along as if it were going for a joy ride. About that time I saw the swastika on the fuselage and their tail gun woke up and started shooting. I got on the air about having a Jerry in my sights. George Hill answered and said for me to go ahead, that he was with me.

“The JU88 started for the deck with George and me on his tail. The tail gunner had it and the pilot was really racking her around.. Violent skids, flying down the bed of a dry creek, short turns, all at full throttle for him I guess, although we had to throttle back a little to keep from over running him (about 300 mph, or maybe it was 375). I fired at his right engine every time I got a chance. It would catch fire and then go out. My guns got too hot so I told George that I would pull out and he could have a go at him.

“He set the right engine afire, but the same deal—darn thing went out. Meanwhile we were still turning so darned low that we had our wings in the saplings once in a while. George pulled out and I fired one burst and was out of ammunition. He got in again, and he too ran out of ammunition. However, by this time the engine was smoking to beat the dickens—no fire though. George said ‘Well, I'll just make him auger in then.’ He pulled up alongside of the JU88 and out to the right, dropped his left wing and dished out to the left just over the cockpit of those boys.

“I was to the right and rear and could plainly see the two pilots looking up as he almost crashed into them. (Doggone good pilot, that George.) They did darn near auger in, instinctively shoved the stick forward. I guess props threw twigs off the saplings in the creek bed, but they recovered and pulled up a little. George did it again from their left with the same results, then he dropped in the trail of them and about that time the whole right engine disintegrated back into his lap.

(Fly-Boy continued from page 4)

“The JU88 half rolled at about 20 feet, augered in and turned into a ball of fire. George pulled the stick back and gave her full throttle. He had a severed oil line and was loused up generally, so he was getting altitude fast. Being new, that caught me off guard and he got away from me. He called Chambers and told him he was getting as high and as close to home as he could before bailing out. I put on more throttle but he had her wound up and then I lost him in the haze.

“The whole flight was going to Blackball after George. I don’t think we were in any semblance of a formation until we got nearly to La Spezia. Allan Leventhal caught sight of him and put the water to it.. Joined up with him over Leghorn and took him in and landed him since he couldn’t see a darned thing out front because of oil. I didn’t know until I got on the truck to go in for interrogation that none of the rest of the flight knew we had a JU88 until I told them. George was so excited, elated and happy and a mixture of other emotions that he could hardly talk. That was the first EA the 86th had gotten in about 9 months.”

SAD NEWS



DEPARTMENT

DEKA, Frank L. (526 CC-Engrg) – He died 07/27/06 per Prez Glen Margerum, who received a nice note and obituary from the family that said, “We want to thank you for making his life happy in the past.”

FITZPATRICK, Modene (526) – Our Oklahoma City reunion host, Jesse FITZPATRICK, advises that his wife died early on 08/21/06. She had been hospitalized for months with Alzheimer’s, had been in a coma recently, and just gradually passed away. Flowers will be sent to the funeral in the Association’s name when arrangements are known.

HEFNER, Carl E. (527 P-47 Pilot LM7046) – On 08/29/2006 Carl passed away at the Parkway Health Center in Little Rock where he had been since he fell and broke his hip in January 2005. Carl’s son, Mike, reports that Carl’s home was sold in June, and his passing was not unexpected. Mike is looking forward to reading the **Fly-Boy** article about his Dad in this Newsletter (Editor’s Note: Interestingly, insertion of the **Fly-Boy** article preceded the news of Carl’s death.)

KELLER, Fred (526 Line Chief) – He passed away peacefully on 07/01/06 at age 95, according to his daughter Kathleen Keller Passanisi. She writes: “Even though he spent his last six years in a long term care facility, he was a tough old guy to the end. Dad had a beautiful service topped off by a military funeral at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis. He was accorded an honor guard, gun salute, the playing of taps, and a beautiful flag that was presented to our family. It was a very dignified service befitting this wonderful man who served his country for so many years and was awarded a bronze star with five oak leaf clusters. So this is my final letter to you. It has been my pleasure to help Dad and Mom stay in contact with you over the years. You truly are The Greatest Generation.” He attended 9 reunions.

MARINO, Dorothy (525) – Ray’s widow passed away 04/19/05, according to information from John SENNEFF, who had talked with the Marino’s daughter.

WILLIAMSON, Amon C. (527 Mess Hall) – Deceased 06/24/06 per 1st Sarge “Hoolie” PARKER. Amon never attended a reunion, but he was a Lifetime Member of the Association.

With regret, we report the deaths (according to the Social Security Death Index) of the following comrades recorded on our Inactive Roster:

NAME	DECEASED
BEAN, James E. (527 Pilot)	01/04/06
BOONE, James D. (527)	06/01/05 attended 2 reunions.
BRESLAUER, Norman S. (527 Ordnance)	05/28/06 at age 81, as reported by his wife, Louella. He had been in poor health for several years with heart trouble.
COGGINS, Fred W. (527)	Circa 1990 as reported by his daughter.
COLLINS, Austin J. (GHQ)	05/29/05
GEURIAN, Thomas G. (527 Mess Hall)	05/29/06 as reported by his wife Lucille and daughter Hope.
HAYNES, Stanley B. (525 Armament)	08/29/05
HUDZINSKI, Sylvester (526)	08/02/06 after a year-long battle with pancreatic cancer per his nephew. Retired from the Air Force as a Master Sergeant after a 22-year career.
IRELAND, Alfred E (526 Pilot)	11/08/05 attended 1 reunion.
IRELAND, Kenneth E. (527 Armament Ofcr)	06/24/05
JACKSON, Loren H. (525 Engr. Spec.)	08/21/93
LANGFORD, John P. (527 Oper.)	03/25/94
SCHUYLER, Dean H. (525 Pilot)	12/11/05
SILVER, Richard D. (527 P-47 Pilot)	06/27/06 per Donald "Swede" JOHNSON as a result of colon cancer and emphysema.
TUCKER, Merrill (GHQ)	06/28/05 as advised by his wife of 60 years. He attended 5 reunions.

The following comrades recorded on our Not Located List have also been identified as deceased according to the Social Security Death Index:

NAME	DECEASED
BUGOSH, Phillip E. (526 Acft. Mech.)	05/16/06
CANTWELL, Robert E. (525 Commun.)	07/15/02
DRISKILL, Earnest (525 Maint.)	08/01/73
DUPIN, Robert E., Jr. (525 Commun.)	12/29/72
EYER, Willard J., M.D. (526 Pilot)	02/11/06 His widow, Helen, was pleased to be contacted. Their son, Greg, has served with the Air Force in Iraq and would like to attend the upcoming reunion. (Refer to Roster Maintenance.)
HENSLEY, Homer L. (526 Armament)	10/06/02

NAME	DECEASED
HODGES, Billy (526 Acft. Mech.)	10/13/92
HUNT, Arson W. (526 Transp.)	06/12/04
JENKINS, Carroll R. (525 Refueling)	02/10/96
JORDANEK, Anthony J. (526 Commun.)	11/26/00
KANOFF Jr., George W. (526 Pilot)	01/29/01
KOGUT Sr., Rudolph (526 Armament)	12/07/05
LEEP, William C. (526 Pilot)	10/27/05
McCALLIE, Jack E. (525 Commun.)	05/23/99
McPHILLIPS, Edward (526 Commun.)	04/03/02
MORANCY, Charles A. (525 Armament)	01/22/91
PYCIAK, Stanley J. (525 Ordnance)	08/13/05
SMALL, Herbert W. (525 Armament)	08/15/98
SUNLEY, John J. (525 Intelligence)	03/06/93
THEODORE, Stephen G. (525 Commun.)	04/23/96
WALLINGFORD, Marion S. (525 Orderly Room)	06/08/89
WINN, Herbert W. (525 Mess Hall)	07/26/91

ROSTER MAINTENANCE

Information in this section is intentionally omitted.

Information in ROSTER MAINTENANCE is intentionally omitted.



*Glad to see the following
comrades back to the Active
fold from the Inactive*

Information in ROSTER MAINTENANCE is intentionally omitted.

Information in ROSTER MAINTENANCE is intentionally omitted.



SICK CALL



In an early March message to Prez Margerum, Bob DeLOZIER's wife, Marie, advised that he was slowly recovering from cancer surgery.

In her letter dated 06/29/06, Bennie MAZUREK's (527 Commun.) wife, Mary, writes that his health has been failing and that he is in a nursing home in his home town of West Hartford, CT. She indicated that the enclosed dues check might be the last one he writes.

In an early August conversation with "Hoolie" PARKER (527 First Sarge), he indicated that he probably would not be able to make the Oklahoma City reunion due to a nerve condition of the feet that makes walking very difficult. His doctor is holding out hope for a treatment that will improve the situation. "Hoolie" has always been a great one for maintaining contact with his wartime "charges," so how about all his many friends doing the same with him now.

Donald "Swede" JOHNSON reports that Joe DELL is legally blind, and requests that friends not send him cards or letters, which he cannot read. Everything is "hazy" to him. He didn't say anything about calls, though, so let's all make an effort to talk with this nice man.

HUMOR ON THE SIDE

From Jayne's 7/26/86 Newsletter following the Tulsa reunion.

"There was an upbeat, smiling, friendly 86th Senior Citizen everywhere you looked. They were in the Lobby - in the Dining Room - in the Elevators - around the Pool - in the Piano Bar - everywhere. Many had their 'Better Halves' present and I'm amazed when I contemplate (that means STARE AT) the GORGEOUS women our lads came home and married. I mean, sure, the old Invaders all look pretty good 46 years later, with bald spots, weight problems, false teeth, and hearing aids. Most take medicine every four hours - but the women these guys came home and married - WOW!"

FINANCIAL REPORT FIRST TWO QUARTERS 2006

BALANCE AT CLOSE OF PREVIOUS YEAR (123105)		\$8,688.63
Receipts for Two Quarters		
Annual Dues (7 @ \$10.00)	\$70.00	
Voluntary Contributions	\$320.00	
Minneapolis/St. Paul II Reunion Surplus	\$396.35	
Bank Interest	<u>\$33.80</u>	
	\$820.15	\$9,508.78
Disbursements for Two Quarters		
Phone (12 months)	\$59.24	
Printing and Postage	\$585.60	
Bulk Mail Permit	\$160.00	
Computer Supplies	\$176.64	
Office Supplies	\$132.67	
Funeral Flowers	\$144.34	
OKCity Reunion Bus Deposit	<u>\$200.00</u>	
	\$1,458.49	
BALANCE AT CLOSE OF SECOND QUARTER (063006)		<u>\$8,050.29</u>

FOOTNOTES TO FINANCIAL REPORT

1. \$10 Annual Dues, \$100 Lifetime (Cumulative).
2. Make checks payable to **86th FBG Assn.**
3. Dues payers since last Newsletter:
 Louis & Angie DeLUCA – VC (in memory of Modene FITZPATRICK), Irl GUARD (526) dues, Allen HANSEN (526) dues, Ernest HICKS (526) dues, Bennie MAZUREK (527) dues, Edward MOORE (527) dues, Robert MYERS (GHQ) dues, John RICE (527) dues, Christina SHARP (GHQ) dues
4. VC = Voluntary Contribution.

Die Howard

MORE JAYNE'S HUMOR

(From a post-Omaha reunion Newsletter - 8/27/91)

“For all you Group HQ’S people, be advised that my old squadron, the 527th, has a beautiful **LAST MAN BOTTLE** in a Carrying Case and the **LAST MAN WINNER** is committed to go to the North Rim of Mt. Vesuvius, take a mighty Swig and jump into the volcano singing ‘**I LAST SAW LILLY MARLENE ON THE VIA ROMA - AND SHE WINKED AT ME.**”



HURT'S COMMENTS

Some of you who knew Gil and read his Newsletter jottings might not think he had a way with words. To disabuse you of this idea, look at what he had to say in his 11/05/84 post-Colorado Springs reunion write-up:

“Let me stop here to tell you the first thing I learned in Colorado and that is this Why we here in Tennessee are called Hill Billies and incidentally, I still appreciate the fact that Sid Howard refers to me as ‘his Hill William friend.’ I think he is wanting to show a little respect but don’t tell him I said this. Back to the Hill Billies Pike’s Peak is more than twice as high as our highest peak in the Great Smoky Mountains. Y’all just think our little ole Smokies are hills and that may be. However, let me tell you sumpum You haven’t lived until you’ve seen the Smokies in the Spring covered with the lush green, the colorful mountain laurel and rhododendron, punctuated by cold, sparkling, crystal clear mountain streams and rivers.

And then in the Fall, as it is right now, comes the real parade of colors the rich browns, golden yellows, bright reds, purples, indigos, amber and a whole rainbow of colors that are almost beyond description some are bashful, some are bold and some are effervescent and will not take a back seat to anything you have ever seen. So plan now to come see for yourself.”

(Editor’s Note: Mark Twain couldn’t have “writ” it more eloquently.)

SIGNS OF THE TIME



Better check this out before you get in a hurry.



No matter—you know what it means.



Rare find; won't see this on the Colonel's menu.



At Kennedy Space Center, rocket scientists aren't paid to spell.