

STRAFER



498th SQUADRON

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345th Bomb Group Reunion Association

August 1987

MAKE A NOTE

The reunion starts on Thursday, Sept. 8, 1988. Activities begin on the 8th. If you choose to arrive Tuesday or Wednesday, or earlier, please do. Be aware, though, activities for the group do not begin until Thursday. There was some confusion on this at previous reunions. Thanks to those who returned the sur-

vey to help plan the reunion. If you haven't sent yours in yet, please do so as soon as possible. We'll publish the results for you in the next issue of *The Strafer*.

A note on dues: If you haven't paid your 1987 dues, there's still time. These dues help put out *The Strafer*, as well as

other activities for the group. Annual dues are \$15.

Also, the staff putting together *The Strafer* wishes to express her deepest appreciation for all the response received from those of you with address changes, summer/winter addresses, etc. You're a great group! Thanks again.

499th Squadron Report

Word was received L.J. Clevenger is in Okinawa, assigned to the Okinawa Area Exchange. He missed the reunion in San Antonio and will also miss the one in Norfolk as he will not return to the states until January 1989, at which time he will retire.



Dale Rapp
Vice President

Julian Baird had hip surgery in December 1986 and is recovering as well as can be expected. He said he played several games of golf and walked the full 18 holes.

If you fellows haven't gotten your questionnaire in, do so as soon as possible and start making plans for a great reunion in Norfolk.

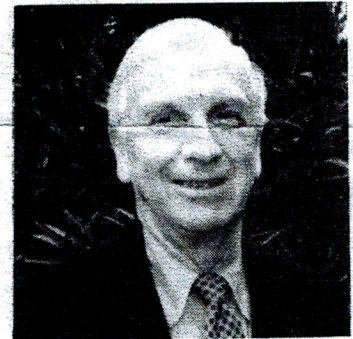
Dale Rapp

President's Message

When this issue of *The Strafer* reaches you, the 1988 reunion will be just about a year away. Early returns from the members of the questionnaire sent out by the committee indicate the Norfolk affair will be another memorable gathering of the Air Apaches.

The weather in the Norfolk area should be at its best the time we meet there, and with so many unusual and varied attractions to be enjoyed, the time will be more than filled with things to see and to do.

If you haven't returned the questionnaire to Security Travel in Columbus, OH, we ask you do so to guide the committee in making necessary arrangements for those attractions selected by the majority of the members. Your reply is not a binding reservation, but merely an indication of which events you will be interested in attending. From your



Maury Eppstein
President

responses, the final program will be decided and scheduled. Please send in your personal preferences.

In mid-August, Bud McGowan (501) and I will be up in northern Canada, almost in the Yukon Territory, fishing for big rainbow trout, Arctic grayling, Dolly Varden char, lake trout and white fish. Perhaps we'll have some interesting snapshots for a future issue of *The Strafer*.

Hope you're having a pleasant summer and enjoying all this great season has to offer!

Maury Eppstein

"Lost Sheep"

During the three years of its existence, 1942-45, more than 4300 men were members of the 345th Bomb Group, some briefly, some for the entire period. Our present files contain addresses for some 1500 of these former Air Apaches. We would like to locate more of them who are still out there, unaware of our reunions. Your assistance in this endeavor will be greatly appreciated. Send addresses of newly located men to: Sheila Batt, c/o *The Strafer*, 1906 Fontenay Court, Columbus, OH 43220, or to your Squadron VP. Help track down some of our "Lost Sheep". You and they will enjoy our reunions even more.

The slow, easy days of summer are once again upon us. A time for spending as much time outdoors in leisure as possible: golfing, swimming, fishing, tennis, baseball, picnics, traveling, lawn mowing or just plain sitting in the shade with a cool drink. Whatever your preference, we wish you well in your

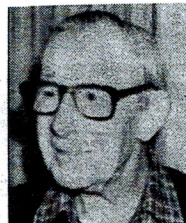
Headquarters Report

endeavor. Have a safe and most enjoyable summer.

At this time, it is the duty of the V.P. to be the bearer of sad news to you all.

Clyde Carter (500) passed away in May. To all of you who knew him, and to all of us, we have truly lost a "Friend."

I was informed of his passing by **Cliff Hanna**. Through all these many years, Cliff has kept in close touch with Clyde, and



Charles O. Metzger
HDQ V.P.

had spoken with him on the telephone just days before his passing.
I have a picture of myself painting one of the original Indian Heads on the rudder of a B-25, as an example of how they were to look. I am on a scaffold and Clyde is handing up the colors to me. Even being a painter's helper was not beneath Clyde. Before the war, Clyde worked as a reporter on the oldest newspaper in the United States. He was truly "A Gentleman and a Scholar."
So Mote It Be — God Bless.

Charles O. Metzger

IN MEMORIAM

Treasured Seasons

For everything there is
an appointed season.
And a time for everything
under heaven —
A time for sharing,
a time for caring,
A time for loving,
a time for giving,
A time for remembering,
a time for parting.
You have made everything
beautiful in its time,
For everything You do
remains forever.

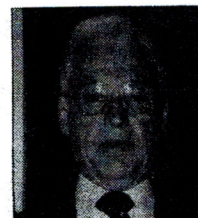
Malvern W. Baker (500)
Clyde Carter (500)
George Hurt, Jr. (500)
W. H. Kenneth Kemmerling (499)

Middletown, PA (4/27/87)
Santa Rosa, CA (5/20/87)
Newport News, VA (3/10/87)
Tarkio, MO (9/17/86)



Clyde Carter and Charles Metzger readying a B-25 for battle.
(Poem courtesy of Mrs. Malvern Baker.)

498th Squadron Report



Henry J. Reynolds
Vice President

Our latest letter to the Squadron has prompted many replies of various forms. More information is coming in from the members for our files, lost members found and also suggestions for the future

We have lost track of two members recently:

James Adams 4586 Roswell Rd. Atlanta, GA 30342	James Rodgers 1526 W. Ashby Place San Antonio, TX 78201
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(Last Known Addresses)

If anyone has any information on the above, please contact us at the 498th.

Suggestion Received: How about having regional meetings (reunions) on the odd year between our National Reunions? Divide the USA into four or five regions. Could be a stimulant for the National Reunion in many ways! Write us your thought whatever they may be or write to our President.

Received a card from **George and Yolanda Davison**, who are visiting the Philippines and finding the area has certainly changed, but the people are very friendly. They send their regards to all. We want to thank those who have moved for sending us your address changes and also thanks to those who have updated information for us regarding your deceased members. Have a good summer!

Henry J. Reynolds

PHOTO QUIZ!

Answers on page 4.



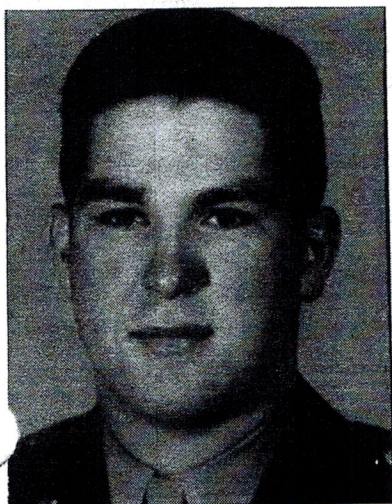
What a party! Recognize any of the rowdies? (Photo E)



Formerly a member of the 498th, he now resides in Pickerington, OH! (Photo A)



The year is 1943. Do you remember the port? (Photo D)



His crew's mascot was "Flaps."
(Photo B)



What do you suppose these fellas are up to?
(Photo C)

REUNION UPDATE

Unlike previous reunions, the hotel reservations will be handled by Security Travel. At this time, Security Travel has booked the entire hotel for the 1988 reunion. At previous reunions, some of the hotels were overbooked and some members were left without accommodations. Under this new arrangement, your reservation will be guaranteed only if you make the reservations through Security Travel. If you call Holiday Inn Waterside, they will only refer you to Security Travel. This should make arrangements much easier for everyone and cut down on mistakes.

PHOTO QUIZ ANSWERS

Photo A: Dick Fuecht, 498th

Photo B: Ken McClure, 499th

Photo C: Jim Stevens and Worford Kilpatrick, 499th

Photo D: Port Moresby

Photo E: 501st NCO Club, New Guinea

Care To Share Yours?

A G.I. from Old Virginny
Was fat, but soon became skinny,
Losing weight, poop and more
From the rigors of war
With the 345th in New Guinea.

Newly Elected Officers

Association Officers:

PRES – Maury Eppstein, 800 Mountain Home Rd, Woodside, CA 94062
VP – Shuler Gamble, 2011 Stebbins Drive, Houston, TX 77043
TREAS – Ken McClure, 5581 Chowning Way, Columbus, OH 43213
SEC – Elbert Bosworth, 839 W 21st St, San Bernardino, CA 92405

Reunion Committee Vice Presidents:

498th – Henry Reyns, Box 281 Beattie Road, Rock Tavern, NY 12575
499th – Dale Rapp, Route 1 Box 552R, Pottsboro, TX 75076
500th – Fred Moore, 4952 Vivaldi Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89102
501st – Ed Bina, 628 North Deresch, Antigo, WI 54409
HDQ – Charles Metzler, 1019 8-Mile Road, Cincinnati, OH 45230

REUNION
Sept. 8-11, 1988

345th B. G. Reunion Committee
2770 E. Main St.
Columbus, Ohio 43209

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Norfolk, Virginia

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1:85 SI 43

Edward L. Bina
628 North Deresch
Antigo WI 54409