



# 315<sup>TH</sup> NEWSLETTER

WORLD WAR II 315th TROOP CARRIER GROUP ASSOCIATION

February 1983

Dear Friend:

I can't begin to tell you how great the Chicago reunion was...how wonderful to see so many 315th men and their wives again...and how thrilling to see the men who were attending their first reunion. Everything worked out just as we had hoped, including the weather, which was very pleasant. The thing that made this reunion so great was the number of men who attended; our "official" count of attendees was 162---over half accompanied by their wives. If it's true, as someone once said, that a party is no better than the people who come, we had a super three day party because everyone who came to Chicago came with the idea they were going to enjoy themselves and they most certainly did that!

Though the "official" reunion was scheduled for September 23, 24, 25, many members of the 310th Squadron checked into the Radisson a day or two earlier for their "mini" reunion on the 22nd, and from all reports, they had a fine time. And speaking of 310th men, I want to tell you what two of them--John Stewart and John Dieterle, did to help make the reunion such a success. They volunteered to set up and man the official 315th Hospitality Suite on the 20th floor of the hotel and did they ever do a super job! To hold down expenses, they hauled in liquid refreshments of every imaginable type, ice, glasses, napkins, snacks---you name it, they had it. I know that everyone who got to the Hospitality Suite enjoyed and appreciated their fine work. John told me he came out a little ahead on expenses and that the "profit" was turned over to Joe Lemberg, our Association Treasurer. I can't say enough to thank those two men for their work and the long hours they put in just being there to say "hello" to anyone dropping in.

The 315th check-in table was located on the second floor of the Radisson, just at the top of the "Up" escalator, so those of us working the reception table had a first look at everyone as they came up. There was a lot of whooping and hollering as old comrades spotted each other for the first time, but other hotel guests and the management didn't seem to mind. In fact, I think everyone got a kick out of the obvious fun we were having. Many people stopped at the check-in table to ask about the 315th Group...its missions, where we served, etc. In fact, two ladies---I'd guess in their middle 50s---stopped to say "hello" and wish us a happy reunion after remarking that they were both ex-army nurses who had served in the ETO during WWII.

The Chicago reunion followed the same pattern as previous ones in that visiting was the order of the day (and night). We had a cocktail party each of the three evenings in the Camelot Room of the hotel and the place was jammed each evening. Since the first reunion in Savannah in 1977, I've been the self-appointed 315th photographer at each succeeding reunion and have shot pictures which were used in the pictorial review (more about that later) we publish after each reunion. This year, I had a lot of welcome help from Bob and Mary Bremerkamp who did a great job of helping arrange and shoot the squadron pictures as well as many of the Saturday evening dinner table pictures.

(over, please)

BOARD MEETING FRIDAY AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 25

On Friday afternoon, Officers and Directors of the 315th Association gathered in the Camelot Room to discuss various matters of concern to the Association---two of the most important being the selection of the site for the 1984 Reunion and the approval of a slate of officers and directors which would be presented to the Association members at the Saturday morning business meeting. President Coggins said that though our Articles of Association require that the reunion site should be selected and publicized by the Board of Directors at least 180 days in advance, he had asked for 1984 Reunion site recommendations from the Directors in order that it could be announced at the business meeting. SAN FRANCISCO was the choice of the Directors for 1984 and Coggins announced that a committee of 6 men, led by Bob Cloer would be handling all the details.

While on this subject, it was the concensus of the Directors that when a recommendation for a reunion site was made by a member (who would be the Reunion Chairman if his proposal was accepted) that the proposer should have at least two or three other Association members from the area who would work as the Reunion Committee. Carl Fittkau suggested that this requirement (Chairman and two or three members to act as the Reunion Committee) be made known to all members for future reference. **CONSIDER YOURSELF INFORMED!**

The nominating committee appointed by President Coggins reported its proposed slate of officers and directors: Carl Fittkau, Vice President, would automatically succeed Coggins as Association President; Joe Kryszakowski was proposed as Vice President and the remaining officers---Bob Cloer (Recording Secretary) Ed Papp (Corresponding Secretary) and Joe Lemberg and Marty Dean (Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, respectively) had agreed to stand for re-election. Two new Directors---James N. Drummey and Harold Liddle were proposed to replace retiring Directors Bill Brinson and Solly Grasmick.

PROPOSED 315th MEMORIAL AT SPANHOE

Bill Brinson, following a request made during the 1980 Business Meeting at New Orleans, has done a lot of work and traveling in connection with a Memorial to the 315th Troop Carrier Group which would be erected near Spanhoe, our last base in England. Bill reported that he had (a) obtained permission from the land owner to erect a memorial at a location near the entrance to the airfield; (b) had gathered cost estimates from the stone mason who would do the work, and (c) had contacted the County Council for appropriate planning permission---a requisite for this kind of thing in England. Bill showed a sketch of the proposed monument and photographs of the site on which it would be placed. It was decided that Bill should report on the project to the Association members at the Saturday morning Business Meeting and ask for approval by a show of hands. Also, the Corresponding Secretary was instructed to circulate a description of the monument and include an appeal for funds if the members agreed to the idea when it was brought up at the business meeting.

Another subject introduced by Bob Cloer was the invitation of the Arnhem Veterans Club to the 315th Troop Carrier Group to attend the Annual Commemoration of the Battle of Arnhem on the 16th of September, 1983. (Details of this invitation and a projected Tour are enclosed with this NEWSLETTER).

The meeting was adjourned by President Coggins at approximately 4:30 P.M.

FRIDAY MORNING BUS TOUR

Marty Dean had laid on an interesting sight-seeing tour for the Friday morning and had sold enough tickets to fill 3 coaches. As a matter of fact, the tour was over-sold and the seats normally occupied by the tour guide in each coach were given to some of our people. From all reports, everyone had a good time. They had a good look at Chicago's Michigan Avenue and Lake Shore Drive (the nicer parts of town we always show visitors) and the hour-long stop at the Museum of Science and Industry on Chicago's south side where the Tiffany exhibit was on show was a big hit with everyone. The coaches got back to the hotel around noon, completing the scheduled 3 hour trip right on time.

SATURDAY MORNING BUSINESS MEETING

The Business Meeting, beginning at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday morning was very well attended. At a guess, 95% of the reunion registrants were in the King Arthur Room when President Coggins called the meeting to order. He began by introducing each Association Officer and Director, pointing out which offices were up for re-election at the meeting. He mentioned past Reunion chairmen and their contribution to getting the 315th Association off to a good start. In particular, he singled Duncan McRae out as one of the men most responsible for bringing the Group together once again.

Bill Brinson gave a detailed report on the proposed 315th Memorial to be erected at Spanhoe. He showed a sketch of the monument (very nicely done by Mrs. Alice Brinson) and provided the information that the estimated cost of the completed monument would be in the neighborhood of \$5000. A show of hands of all the men who favored the Spanhoe Memorial produced 98% approval and it was decided to proceed with soliciting contributions from Association members so the project could be put in hand and completed in reasonable time.

Next, Coggins explained the procedure which must be followed in choosing the next reunion site and outlined the requirements thereof. As there were no site locations presented from the floor, the reunion site for 1984--SAN FRANCISCO--which had been chosen by the Board of Directors, was approved by acclamation.

Bob Cloer reported on the proposed 1983 European Battlefield Tour and the invitation of the Arnhem Veterans Club to join with them in their annual observance of the battle. A show of hands indicated quite a few members were interested in the tour and Joe Kryszakowski volunteered to be the project officer. (His memorandum regarding the Tour enclosed).

Election of Officers and Directors was the next order of business. Coggins read the nominating committee's report and opened the nominations to the membership. There being no further nominations for any of the offices from the floor, the following Officers and Directors were elected by acclamation:

HOLD-OVER DIRECTORS

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Carl R. Fittkau.....President*           | John M. Reading (Until 1986)     |
| Joseph E. Kryszakowski...Vice President* | Jack D. Alexander (Until 1986)   |
| Robert L. Cloer.....Recording Secretary  | H.B.Lyon (Until 1984)            |
| Edward M. Papp.....Corresponding Sec'y.  | Aubrey L. Ross (Until 1984)      |
| Joseph Lemberg.....Treasurer             | Bernard Coggins (Past President) |
| Marty Dean.....Ass't. Treasurer          |                                  |
| Harold D. Liddle.....Director            |                                  |
| James N. Drummey.....Director            |                                  |

\*Also serve as Directors

(over, please)

Bob Cloer gave a short report on the project Dale M. Titler, an Air Force Historian, is involved in on a personal basis: the seemingly mysterious disappearance and death of Glenn Miller. (See notices elsewhere in this issue from Dale Titler). Cloer also reminded us that as time passes, we are losing track of information about squadrons, personnel, etc. and asked for volunteers from each of the squadrons who would receive and preserve copies of old orders, rosters and other information that might be sent to them by Association members. Please make a note that the following men from each squadron have volunteered for this important task:

<u>34th Squadron</u>	<u>43rd Squadron</u>	<u>309th Squadron</u>	<u>310th Squadron</u>
Robert L. Cloer 1417 Valley View Drive Yuba City CA 95991	John E. Burroughs 26185 Orchid Drive Highland CA 92346	Harold D. Liddle General Delivery Wever IA 52658	John C. Stewart 1208 E. Green St. Urbana IL 61801
	and Robert M. Davis 367 Mt. Airy Road Basking Ridge, NJ 07920	and Chuck Petsinger 117 N. Maple Bloomingdale IL 60108	and John E. Dieterle 1452 Magnolia Ave. Frankfort IN 46041

Send copies of all orders, rosters, etc. which you may have to the appropriate man from your squadron. He will see that the material reaches the Archives being set up for the 315th Association.

President Coggins commended John Stewart and John Dieterle for the fine job they were doing with the 315th Hospitality Suite and the men received a standing ovation.

Treasurer Joe Lemberg gave his report and stated that at the end of the 1982 Reunion, the Association's bank balance was close to \$4100.

There being no further business, President Coggins adjourned the meeting at 10:50 A.M.

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DID YOU NOTICE the envelope the NEWSLETTER arrived in? This was our first mailing under the "Non-Profit Organization" status we now enjoy. It's going to save the Association a heap of money by reducing our postage costs. Notice that we put the line "ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED" on the envelope because some of our men don't tell us when they move. Now, when the Postal Service can get a new address, we're notified here in Chicago. We'll pay 20¢ for each new address we're supplied, but that's a bargain. Once we find an old comrade, we don't want to lose him!

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THERE WILL BE A PICTORIAL REVIEW BOOK ON THE CHICAGO REUNION! Yes, the book is in work and we hope to get it to the printer in early March so you will have your copy toward the end of that month. The way it's shaping up, it will be at least 24 pages and very possibly 28 or 32. We have a lot of pictures we want to include. Along with the Reunion book, we will send an updated copy of the complete Roster to every one on the list. The Roster now contains about 700 names and mailing addresses.

FROM JOHN STEWART.....NEWS OF A PLANNED 310th MINI-REUNION -- DAYTON, OHIO --1983

To those of you that attended the reunion in Chicago, it was good seeing you. If you couldn't make the reunion--too bad--you really missed the best reunion of all.

As many of you know, a group of 310th men have decided to get together in 1983 in Dayton, Ohio. One day will be set aside to tour the Air Force Museum which, I understand, is worth seeing. Dates have been suggested: September 22, 23 and 24, with Friday the 23rd being set aside for those who wish to spend the day at the museum. The only other planned activities will be a cocktail party and dinner on Saturday night.

Since the 310th has no treasury or officers to handle the promotion of this mini-reunion, I will take care of the mailings until someone else wants to take over. Our former Engineering Officer, Charles Terhune, will handle details in Dayton.

Please decide now to attend this get-together and let me know as quickly as possible. The next letter will provide information on hotel rates, airlines that serve Dayton and other details you need to know. Please let me know immediately if you plan on being in Dayton.

Thanks to all of you for the phone calls, letters and cards since the Chicago reunion. I also appreciate the pictures that many of you sent me.

A special thanks to Dave Stilwell and Russ Lane for their contributions that make our 310th mailings possible.

We are in the process of assembling information for a Squadron History. We need a list of those who received awards for "D" Day and the Rhine Invasion. If you have any of the above, please send me a copy. If you have any information that will help write a history, please send it.

Thanks to John Dieterle, we now have a few colored copies of the 310th Emblem. Ray Baker of the 309th sent the information to Dieterle.

THINK DAYTON!!! Let me know immediately. Till next time.....

John C. Stewart  
1208 East Green Street  
Urbana IL 61801  
Phone: 217 328-4099

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TWO URGENT REQUESTS FROM DALE TITLER:

Would like to contact any pilot of the 315th who knows anything about a C-47 named "DAISY". Supposed to have had some form of identification that was, in part "NY5032". Dale Titler, P.O. Box 7361, Courthouse Road Station, Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

AUTHOR/HISTORIAN/MILITARY RESEARCHER desires to contact any former pilots of the 315th Troop Carrier Group who are knowledgeable about flight of the Glenn Miller Band to Paris on or about 18 December 1944. Also need information on whereabouts of Col. Harold (Pappy) Paulin, former CO of 314th Transport Squadron at Chartres, France, December 1944. Write Dale Titler, P.O. Box 7361, Courthouse Road Station, Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

Any information or help you can give Dale would be sincerely appreciated.

From Bob Cloer....

We have located about 700 of our former members who are still alive. There are probably that many more still to be located. It's getting harder all the time to locate old buddies and we need the help of you all. After the war, I'm sure that most of you sent Christmas cards for a few years to some of your good friends in the old outfit. As time went on, this dropped by the wayside. If you could find that old address book, send me their names, home town, what Squadron they were in, and I will try to locate them for you. Incidentally, most of your guys probably don't write any more legibly than I do, so please type or print the information you send me.

To all of you who were at the Chicago Reunion...you are special people...good friends who went through an experience together that can never be re-lived. I look forward to these reunions every two years as one of the high points of my year. To our members who have never made one of the reunions, you don't know what you're missing and I hope you will, right now, start planning for San Francisco in the fall of 1984.

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From Joe Bryan (dated September 25, 1982)

Just found out about the 315th Association recently in AIR FORCE magazine. I called Bob Cloer and he notified you and you sent me the newsletters and booklets which I was overjoyed to get. I've already called a couple of the fellows who were listed on the Roster.

I've sent my dues to Joe Lemberg and will attend the next get-together. I missed the 1982 reunion in Chicago because of being on my annual two week's active duty here at Patrick Air Force Base.

By the way, Ed, I'd like to throw out a friendly challenge to the rest of the fellows to see if anyone can match or beat my record:

- Active duty, Air Force.....March 1943 to October 1951
- Active Air Force Reserve.....November 1951 until now.
- (Due to retire in August, 1983)

So, you might say I have been in uniform either in an active duty or reserve status since World War II.

Ed: How about it, men? Anyone beat Joe's time?

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Steve Carrig (someday I'll tell you the fantastic story of Steve's career in the service after leaving the 315th in England to volunteer for the Infantry) writes to tell me of a mini-reunion a few men from the 43rd Squadron had in Bedford, Virginia early last December. Twelve men, including the 43rd Squadrons Top Kick, Joe E. King, got together for the 3 day event and had a wonderful time. In addition to Steve, who arranged and stage-managed the whole thing, the following men attended: Ken Ebersole, Perry Holmes, Joe K. King, O.G.King, George McAbee, Bill Pennington, Elwood Savage, Harry Sturgeon, George Timney, Bill Walsh, Art Wissman and Tom Conroy. Wish I could have been there!

Bob Tynan handed me this "ODE TO A C-47" and I'd like to share it with you. Though it isn't distinguished for its meter, rhyming or elegance, it expresses a feeling that many of us had at one time or another.

ODE TO A C-47

You can talk about the "Forts"  
And the "Peashooters" deadly sports  
Of their shooting down the "Junkers"  
by the score  
But when it comes to serving  
The Transports are deserving  
Of a little praise and credit  
In this bloody war  
For when the fightin's getting thicker  
And mens' hopes begin to flicker  
When they're surrounded by a foe twice  
their size  
It must be pretty damned inspiring  
To know they can keep right on firing  
'Cause we're dropping ammo from the skies  
We can't hope to live forever  
Someday our contacts here will sever  
And we'll take off into the eternal blue  
There we'll meet the other boys  
Who have left behind the noise  
And we'll try to be of service up there too  
They will buzz the Pearly Gates  
In their Lockheed 38s  
And thrill the pretty angels  
With their stunts  
St. Peter will come a-running when  
He hears the bombers coming  
And he'll spread the welcome mat  
With heavy grunts  
But when I land in heaven in my Douglas "47"  
And taxi up to swing the cargo door  
The angels will come a-dashing  
To take off my load of rations  
And will probably send me  
Flying back for more.

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The next issue of the NEWSLETTER will have a column by Hal Liddle who has been circulating his special newsletter to all 309th men on the Roster. We decided that news about 309th men would be interesting to everyone in the Association, so we'll be reading Hal's columns in the future.