



80th FIGHTER SQUADRON

HEADHUNTER HEADLINES



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Vol. VIII, No. 28

"AUDENTES FORTUNA JUVAT"

February 1, 1998

Greetings, Fellow **HEADHUNTERS!**

Bonnie & I hope this Newsletter finds all of you in the very best of health and happiness!

HEADHUNTER ACE FINAL TAKEOFF

Col (Ret) Cornelius M. "Corky" Smith, Jr., the fifth highest scoring Ace of the 80th with 11 confirmed aerial victories during WWII, made his final takeoff on 4 December 1997. His obituary reads as follows: "COLUMBIA—Services for Col. Cornelius M. "Corky" Smith,

Capt Corky Smith with his P-38 "Corky IV" showing his 11 victories. After more than 18 months in combat, he returned home in May 1944.

USAF (retired), 79, will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at Dunbar Funeral Home, Devine Street Chapel. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to a charity of choice.

Col Smith died Thursday, Dec. 4th, 1997. Born in Baltimore, he was the son of the late Cornelius Marcellus and Helen Gray Davis Smith. He was a career officer in the U.S. Air Force and one of America's leading fighter aces. While serving as a fighter pilot in New Guinea 1942-1944, he was officially credited with destroying 11 Japanese aircraft in aerial combat. Combat decorations include the



Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal with five Clusters and the Distinguished Unit Citation with three Clusters. He participated in six major battle campaigns in the southwest Pacific, amassing 169 combat missions and more than 500 combat hours. His victories were attained in the Lockheed Lightning P-38 twin engine fighter.

A graduate of Roanoke College, Salem, VA., in 1940, he entered the service as an aviation cadet in the Army Air Corps in December 1941 and was retired for medical reasons in December 1968. His post World War II military service was distinguished by numerous high level staff assignments with HQ USAF, the Strategic Air Command, Central Intelligence Agency, Air Defense Command, Air Training Command, and with General Westmoreland's headquarters in Saigon, Vietnam, during 1966-67. He was a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the USAF Command and General Staff School. His non-combat military decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Air Force Commendation Medal with three Clusters, and the Republic of Vietnam Distinguished Service Medal and Staff Service Medal.

Col. Smith was a member of the American Fighter Aces Association, Retired Officers' Association, and Fort Jackson Golf Club. Surviving are his wife, Dorothy Harman Smith of Columbia; daughters, Sharon Watson of Columbia and Candace Griffin of Yorktown, VA.; and four grandsons."

Col Smith was also one of our earliest LifeTime Members. We'll miss you, Corky.

When friends meet, hearts warm.

“VIVA LAS VEGAS” REUNION REGISTRATION!!

Okay, this is it—this is what we’ve all been waiting for!! Enclosed are the **Reunion Reservation Form** and the **Hotel Reservation Information** for our reunion **26 - 29 MARCH in Las Vegas!** Please fill out this **Reunion Reservation** the total made out to back to: Lt Col & Mrs. Fountain Springs Dr; Hen- **For hotel Reservations, at 1-800-HARRAHS, or code number is SN380.** for all reservations to get rate is **\$89 per night,** plus occupancy. Larger rooms and after the reunion are union rate. Check with the **Expect to check in after**



Don't you think you're rushing your March Headhunter reunion just a little—it's only February!!

tion:
ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE: McCarran International Airport arrivals/departures: Take local taxis or Bell transports to Harrah's. Taxis run 24 hours a day. Those providing their own transportation can use the attached map to locate Harrah's entrance and parking garage. **GOLFING:** Individuals will be responsible for their own transportation to and from these functions. **Attention: All Las Vegas Headhunters/Juvats --** We will need your help on golfer transportation. Any other transportation/tee time requests can be handled by the Concierge @ 1-800-392-9002. Ask for the Concierge. **Show reservations, tours** (Grand Canyon, Hoover Dam, etc.), can be set up with the Bell Captain at (702) 369-5172.

Please fill out the enclosed **“Viva Las Vegas” Reunion Registration Form,** and **return, with your check, to JJ & Anita Cummins, not later than 25 February.**

Please call the **Harrah’s Las Vegas Hotel Registration desk at 1-800-HARRAHS, not later than 25 February. Use Group Code Number SN380 to ensure our group rate.** This date is required to make the hotel and reunion planning deadlines! Hotel reservations may be canceled up to 72 hours prior for full refund. Please **DO NOT** send Hotel reservations to JJ! It’s going to be a great reunion—



SEE YOU THERE!!!

MASTER ROSTER CHANGE #1!

Enclosed is your Master Roster Change #1. Please note this is only a **change**, and not a complete new roster! Only information that has changed since the last (1 November) newsletter is included. If you have any additions/corrections to any of the information, please send to me for updating. **Thanks.**

HEADHUNTER STORE

These items are now available in our “**HEADHUNTER STORE.**” Get them now, and be ready for the reunion, or pick them up at the reunion!! Unless purchased at a reunion, a small fee of **\$3 should be added** for postage to all orders:

Blazer Emblem (men’s or ladies)	\$35	Golf Shirt (specify size)	\$25
Squadron Unique Tie	\$30	T Shirt (specify size)	\$12
Ladies Floppy Bow (matches tie)	\$30	Squadron Print	\$20
Squadron “Nickel” Coin	\$ 4	White Hat	\$10
* <u>Personalized</u> Sq coffee mug	\$17	Black Hat	\$ 5
* <u>Personalized</u> Sq beer stein	\$20	Squadron Memorial Plaque	\$10
*Mug & Stein set as above	\$35	Korean-era Sq Patch	\$ 5
Current Squadron Patch	\$ 5		

* Please include **name and/or rank** desired on your mug/stein (up to 20 letters), and **right/left** handed with your order. **Unless otherwise stated**, the Squadron logo & your first name in Old English will be on the front (handle left for right-handed drinker), and an F-16 will be on the back.

Please send check to “**The Headhunters**”; **905 Arapaho Ct; Columbus, GA 31904-1242.**

HEADHUNTER WEDDING RECEPTION AT REUNION!

Well fellow **HEADHUNTERS**, after a two year engagement, Jeff “Probe” King and JJ Brennan (“Juvat Chick Lead”) are finally going to tie the knot. They met at Kunsan during the 93-94 time-frame, and have kept the long distance relationship going since then through numerous flights and phone calls between Oklahoma City and San Antonio. The wedding will be a small family affair, but they would like to celebrate this happy occasion with all of their fellow **Headhunters/Juvats** and have decided what better place to celebrate than the **HEADHUNTER** Las Vegas Reunion in March. All are cordially invited to attend the reception at Harrah’s on 28 March in the Tahoe Room from 1200-1400, heavy hors d’oeuvres and open bar, casual attire. If you are planning on attending the reception **please RSVP on your Reunion Reservation Form** (enclosed), so we can plan accordingly.

**HOTEL & REUNION
REGISTRATIONS
DUE NLT 25 FEB!**

e-mail listing CHANGES!

Here is an alphabetical list of **headhunter** e-mail address **additions/changes** since the last full list of 1 November. Please note this is only a **change**, and not a complete list. A “complete” listing will be published periodically. Thanks!

<u>Name</u>	<u>E-Mail Address</u>
Atkinson, Gene	atknsone@neonramp.com
Butz, William J.	butzfam5@rocketmail.com
Caldwell, Archie	archnmag@oro.net
Carson, Walter E.	CARSONWALL@aol.com
Clemons, Mark L.	mclemons@hotmail.com
Cook, James L., Jr.	JLC68@aol.com
Corrigan, Jim	luckyvpr@cpis.net
Culbertson, Cary N.	Pistolf16@aol.com
Duckworth, Richard L.	DuckF16@aol.com
Fee, Jeff	Jfee@panamacity.com
Gray, Darren P.	darren@inet.att.co.kr
Hickey, Steve	stick@msw0.attnet.or.jp
Jones, John	JCJJones@aol.com
King, Jeffrey	kingj@rndgate1.aetc.af.mil
Lesman, Mike F.	BamaF16@aol.com
Logglett, Don & Lynn	DLOGSLETT@worldnet.att.net
Loveless, Phil	kcrlty@worldnet.att.net
Magidson, Dan	jetwash@bigfoot.com
Mask, James M.	JMM1403@aol.com
Minto, Dave	Dminto@cpis.net
Neubauer, Kurt	nubesf16@bellatlantic.net
New, Terry	hubba@SilynNet.de
Osborne, Ozzy	ozzy.osborne@usa.net
Pedersen, Dave & Cynthia	Dave_Pedersen@yahoo.com
Pelletier, Gerard	GPelleti22@aol.com
Reinhard, Scott	ScotRein69@aol.com
Roach, Bill A.	bam@centuryinter.net
Rook, Richard D.	rrook@cvn.net
Rosson, Ken	railer@idir.net
Seely, Richard R.	RSEELY@FTC-I.NET
Sheehan, Howard “Pete”	widwid@pacbell.net
Siers, William R.	DHCTIONS@worldnet.att.net
Snoy, Joe A.	jsnoy@concentric.net
Steadman, Mike	mjsteadman@fedex.com
Tanner, William F.	gtanner@trinity.edu
Tapia, Richard G.	RTapia3150@aol.com
Walden, Russell K.	WaldoF16@aol.com
Weed, Jeff	BartWeed@aol.com
Williams, Paul	sluggocindyfm@sprintmail.com
Wynne, John	Dukeboyf16@aol.com

Check out our **HEADHUNTER Web Site**, complements of our LTM, Jeff Collins, at:

<http://www.mindspring.com/~jaybirdone/headhunters>

...and **listen** to Arnold answer the question, “*What is Good?*”

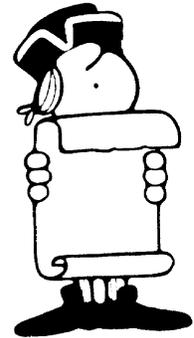
WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

It gives us great pleasure to welcome these **20 new members** to our ranks for the **first time** (in the order of "signing up" since 1 November). **Equally rewarding** are the **many** members who have **rejoined** after 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or even 6 years absence! **Welcome back to all!** As of this date, we have 390 yearly members plus 334 LifeTime Members—**724 Total!!**

Here is the roll call of our **new** members:

Col Robert E. Haney
Capt Ozzy Osborne
Capt Mike F. Lesman
Maj Richard H. Turner
Lt Col Clifton A. Birchman
Col Walter E. Carson, II
Lt Col David D. Rines
Lt Col Brian T. Bishop
James M. Hertz
MSgt David L. Carlton

Col John L. O'Donnell, Jr.
CDR Mark W. Danielson
Bill A. Roach
Richard G. Tapia
E. West Ficken, D.D.S.
Archie D. Caldwell
1Lt Darren P. Gray
Lt Col Richard R. Seely
Larry Brown
1Lt John P. Doran



Friends of yours? You bet!! Look 'em up in your new Master Roster Change #1 (enclosed), give 'em a call, write 'em a letter, or beam an e-mail message over to them. Or better yet, ask them to meet you **next month** at the **reunion—in Las Vegas 26-29 March!** Great to have you **all** back in formation—and what a **great** one it is!! **Welcome!** Do you have **Headhunter** friends that aren't members? If so, please let me have their addresses, and I'll send them a "Please Join Us" letter. **How about all the Juvats in our active Squadron in Korea----come on, Y'all, "Cleared to rejoin with us!!" Thank you!**

THE MAIL BAG

Frank Cicerello sent an 11 November letter to us to update his information for the Master Roster. He also wrote: "I guess there are only a few of us left who joined the 80th when it was organized in late 1941 and who sailed on the *Mau* in February 1942, so I like to hear about them." He continued, "I have fond memories of the Squadron and was with them until we returned to Mareeba for rest in 1943. As I graduated from the Radio Operator and Mechanic School at Scott Field, Illinois, I helped maintain the radios on our fighters. However, when I left the 80th, I joined the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron of the 5th Air Force and later was assigned to Group HQ, and I became the flight Radio Operator for General MacArthur and his chief of staff, General Sutherland until I returned to the States in late 1944. So I really have fond memories of two great outfits." Frank, thanks for this very interesting piece of your memoirs!



One of our new members, Dick Tapia, sent this message to us in response to an e-mail message we sent 22 November to remember our Medal of Honor recipient, Maj Charles J. Loring of the 80th Fighter-Bomber Squadron, who gave his life to save others on 22 November 1952:

Dear JayBird,

My first "Headhunter News" is on my [computer] screen after just last week joining your organization, and what do I read but the account of Chuck Loring giving his life for his country. Just a month before his last flight, he was saying good-bye to me and J.O. Johnson, 51-H classmate, having completed our 100th mission. I remember him telling us, "Now I want you two young squirts to go back to the States and apply for regular, 'cause you could have a bright future ahead of you." Needless to say, I didn't follow his advice for the sole reason that at that time, if you "bought the farm," a reservist left more for his family in the way of benefits, and I wasn't sure I was going to stay past my commitment of five years. Anyway, a month later I heard of his death, and each time I went through Loring Air Force Base [Maine] on a High Flight Mission to Europe, I use to think of the guy for which they named the base and always felt extra special for having known him....

Thanks for the personal story, Dick, it's an important part of our history.

We received this e-mail message from Bob "Boozer" Alexander on 3 December:

I'm now a navigator stationed at Kadena AB, Okinawa. I had been in country for all of 2 weeks when we typhoon evac'd the jets to Yakota. While we were there, we (my squadron-mates and me) had a few free days and decided to embark upon an adventure. The adventure we chose was to climb Mt. Fuji. This is quite a mountain, about 13,000 ft, and it is a Japanese custom to climb it before you die, so we did. Since it was my 30th birthday and I was feeling a bit OLD I hoofed it and made it to the summit in 3:54. At this point I sat down for about 20 minutes whilst I waited for my head to cease pounding. About an hour later a good portion of the rest of the group (whom I might add were a bit younger than me) finally arrived. We got ourselves some Kirin beer (which is quite a bit more potent at 13,000 ft) and some curry rice and sat on the wall overlooking the poor souls who had not yet made it to the top.

As we sat there enjoying the sunshine and view I heard a faint, but pleasantly familiar, sound of an F-16. I looked slightly down and to my 3 o'clock and saw a two-ship of Vipers come flying around the mountain. The dudes were close enough for me to ID the Juvat tail flash with my binoculars. Well, my new comrades must have thought me suffering from altitude sickness as I jumped up onto the stone wall jumping up and down giving the Juvat "snakes" [both arms up head high, bent as if showing your muscles, with hands forming fists] A few helpful hands grasped at the back of my sweatshirt and probably kept me from falling down the summit. The guys came around the mountain several times in response. The Japanese climbing up the mountain halted their climb and watched the action. When the Vipers finished and were on their way I looked around and saw the Japanese folks around me giving "snakes" and everyone applauded and cheered.

The next day while mission planning at Yakota, I noticed two Juvat planes on the ramp. I scribbled a quick thank you note with a brief recounting of my observations and left it at the desk. About a week later I received a letter in the mail. As unlikely as I thought it would be the flight lead was a fellow Juvat punk who lived down the hall from me in the Punk Hooch.

You know I still identify those 18 months I spent in the Juvats as one of the best times of my life. My squadron-mates were a great bunch of folks. Hell, they were the finest folks with whom I have ever served. What a great welcome back to the Pacific. What an awesome birthday present!

What can I say? We are a great bunch of folks—and this is what it's all about! Thanks, Boozer!

HURTIN' HEADHUNTERS



Dale Walker is recouping after very successful prostate surgery on 6 November. He entered the Veterans Hospital in Iowa City, Iowa on the 5th and returned home the 9th with a clean bill of health. We're all happy for you, Dale—looking forward to seeing you and Sally at the reunion!

The gift of happiness belongs to those who unwrap it.

head headhunter corner



Many thanks to those of you who passed additions/corrections to the Master Roster to me. Many were new addresses for people who had never joined. Some have joined now after “Please Join Us” letters were sent to them!! Any more out there that you know of? Please let me know!

HEADHUNTERS GETTIN' HITCHED!



Darrell R. “Doc” Lambert, one of our Juvat LTM’s, just tied the knot with the former Debbi M. Briggs on 21 December 1997. They were married in Fort Worth, TX, at the old Carswell AFB, which is now called NAS Fort Worth JRB. Doc added in his e-mail message, “Debbi was an Air Force brat [Her father, USAF Col Frank Briggs, was KIA in SEA flying an OV-10] and knows us fighter pilots well. We have our airline reservations for LSV and are looking forward to the reunion.”

All the best to you both, Doc & Debbi, and we’ll see you at the reunion! **Congratulations!!**

THE STORK CORNER!



We take great pride in _____ announcing the birth of
the world's youngest **HEADHUNTERS!**

Paul “Sluggo” & Cindy Williams are very proud to announce the birth of their two wing-men! Heather Williams, whose Dad was not on-line to announce her arrival 16 months ago, was born 28 July 1996 at 1015—32 hours of labor leading up to a C-section. She

weighed in at 7lb 3oz for her 21 inches. Sluggo states in his e-mail message, "She is now 21lbs and 35½ inches tall and a wonderful little girl and big sister." That's right, she's big sister to Wesley Lawrence Williams, who is named after two of the great men in his life—both grandfathers. Sluggo concluded, "Ordnance was delivered 9 December 1997. TOT was 1337—after a one hour holding delay (doctor busy with a different surgery). Payload was 9lb 2oz!!!! Wing-span 22 inches. Wes was welcomed home by big sister, Heather." Congratulations to Paul & Cindy on their two new flight members! **Congratulations!!**

Congratulations to all new Moms, Dads, & "Wingmen"!!!!
All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today.

HEADHUNTERS AT REST

Last, but certainly not least, we would like to take this opportunity to pass on to all members the names of those **HEADHUNTERS**, who we know of, that have made their last takeoff in this lifetime since our last newsletter.

Russell L. Bergman	WWII/LTM	14 Jul 1997
Harvey E. Rhoades	WWII/LTM	11 Oct 1997
Cornelius M. "Corky" Smith, Jr.	WWII/Ace/LTM	4 Dec 1997

We would like to pass on our sincere condolences to Frank Cicerello, one of our original WWII members, on the loss of his wife last year. We'll all miss her. Frank is one of our LifeTime Members who went overseas with the Squadron on the *Mau* in February 1942.

Cathy Sheehan, daughter of Russell & Helen Bergman, sent us this e-mail message on 19 December:

"I am writing on behalf of my Mother, Helen Bergman, to inform you of the death of my father, Russell L. Bergman, on July 14, 1997. Dad was diagnosed with a stage IV glioblastoma brain tumor in late January of this year after having had a seizure while driving the car. Even with radiation treatment he was given only 6-9 months and, as you can see, he only lasted six months. But he did die at home with the help of hospice and all of our family attending him. He and Mom were honored with a special celebration on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary in 5/96. Besides his wife, he left two daughters and five granddaughters.

Dad was very proud to have been a member of the 80th Fighter Squadron, and both he and Mom truly enjoyed their annual reunions. Over the years, we became very well acquainted with all his stories about his three years in the Pacific, from the young native boy in New Guinea who would shimmy up the coconut trees in exchange for cigarettes, to the fighter pilot who didn't trust Dad's ability to properly repair a P-38! Of course, Dad agreed to go up in the plane with him as a show of confidence. Many may also remember him (perhaps not too fondly for some) as the fellow who endlessly played the harmonica. Dad was my best friend and before he became ill, he had mentioned to me that when he died, he wanted to be buried in his Army uniform, and we were pleased to accommodate his wishes. The uniform fit him as well as it did all those years ago—not many of us could say that!

I would ask that you pass this information on so that Dad's friends might be informed of his death. We are sad that Dad left us for a better life, but he also left us rich in his legacy and in our memories of his caring ways."

Thank you, Cathy, for your letter. You can truly be proud of your Dad's accomplishments.

Alice Rhoades sent us this letter: "This is to notify you of the death of my husband, Harvey Rhoades on Oct 11, 1997. Enclosed is a picture showing the Headhunter insignia we had engraved on his stone. It really came out very well considering the engraver had only the cloth patch from Harvey's WWII jacket as a sample. The stone has created much attention. He had planned to attend one of your reunions but somehow we never made it. Sorry." So are we, Alice; however, you are always welcome to join us—we're family!



I was personally very sad to hear of the passing of "Corky" Smith on 4 December. Although I never had the honor of meeting him face-to-face, I was fortunate enough to talk with him on the phone a few times as well as correspond by mail. He was the one member of our Squadron I still most wanted to meet. I missed it this lifetime, but we'll all have another chance later on. Rest in peace, Corky. You're an important part of our History, and we'll never forget you. JayBird

On behalf of the entire Squadron, we wish to officially pass on to these families our deepest sympathies and sincere gratitude for the outstanding contribution each of these individuals made to the Squadron and our Country. May they rest in peace and forever soar with the eagles.

May God bless and keep them in His Flight forever.



The next **HEADHUNTER HEADLINES** will be dated 1 May 1998.



Valentine's Day - 14 Feb



President's Day - 16 Feb



St. Patrick's Day - 17 Mar



Easter - 12 Apr

SEE Y'ALL AT THE REUNION—IN ONLY 8 WEEKS!!

✓6,

Col Jay E. "JayBird" Riedel, USAF (Ret)
The "Head Hunter"



**HOTEL & REUNION
REGISTRATIONS
DUE NLT 25 FEB!**



80th Fighter Squadron
"HEADHUNTERS"
905 Arapaho Ct
Columbus, GA 31904

**ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED**

FIRST CLASS

“VIVA LAS VEGAS” REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

(PLEASE FILL OUT CAREFULLY FOR THOSE ACTIVITIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO)

NAMES: _____
(TO APPEAR ON NAME TAGS)

NUMBER X COST = TOTAL

ALL: REGISTRATION “LANDING FEE” _____ X \$15 = _____
(Mandatory fee for all reunion attendees. Pays for speaker’s meal, Hospitality Room, snacks, and incidentals. All drinks will be on a pay-as-you go basis, including soft drinks.)

STAYING AT THIS HOTEL? _____ IF YES, HOW MANY? _____

THU PM: REUNION REGISTRATION & HOSPITALITY ROOM
HOTEL CHECK-IN (after 3:00pm)

FRI AM: GOLF: “**HEADHUNTER OPEN**” _____ X \$60 = _____
0730-1100 (Nellis AFB Golf, cart, prizes, gifts) (“**Soft spikes**”/sneakers **mandatory** for all courses)
HANDICAP INDEX (WITH DECIMAL POINT): _____
AVERAGE SCORE FOR 18 HOLES: _____ SEX: _____ OVER 70? _____

PM: NELLIS AFB LUNCHEON & BASE TOUR _____ X \$10 = _____
1100-1500 (Golfers can join at O-Club for lunch & tour!)
(Nellis AFB is “The Home of the Fighter Pilot”)
(On-Base transportation provided)

1100-1500 ROUND TRIP BUS TO/FROM NELLIS _____ X \$7 = _____
(If enough people sign up)

SAT PM: JEFF & JJ KING WEDDING RECEPTION _____ X N/C
1200-1400 (Fellow Headhunters! Heavy hors d'oeuvres and open bar, casual attire. **Need to know how many!**)

1830- BANQUET (COAT & TIE)
* Classic Breast of Chicken _____ X \$26 = _____
(Sautéed with Madagascar Peppercorn Sauce)
OR
* Las Vegas “Strip” 12oz. Prime Strip Steak _____ X \$39 = _____
(With stuffed twice potato & mushroom)

Both meals served with salad, bread service, fresh seasonal vegetables, beverage and dessert selection. (Hotel Rule tax & 17% gratuity included.)

SUN AM: REUNION FAREWELL COFFEE _____ X \$5 = _____
0800-1000 (Fruit, coffee, Danish, juices, etc.)

FULL COLOR REUNION SOUVENIR BOOK... _____ X \$20 = _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM **NLT 25 FEB** WITH YOUR CHECK MADE OUT TO:

**HEADHUNTER REUNION
2145 FOUNTAIN SPRINGS DRIVE
HENDERSON, NV 89014-1514**