

20TH FIGHTER WING ASSOCIATION



HOLIDAY

EDITION

NEWSLETTER



Happy Holidays from 2020/2021 Board Members

Al Aman – President

Bill Benn – Vice President

Ron Obernier – Secretary Jerry Fetter – Treasurer

Art Sevigny – Historian Wayne Abbott – Chaplain

Bob Gregory - 2021 Reunion Chairman

Missi Zender-Sakach – 2023 Reunion Chairwoman



THE PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION

To preserve the military history and foster esprit de corps of past and present members of the 20th Fighter Wing and all previous and subsequent military iterations of that organization. Membership in the Association will be open to past and present members of the 20th Fighter Wing, their spouses and such other persons who have an interest in the affairs of the Association.

Greetings and Salutations From Your President

Valerie and I are so grateful the election is over, and there appears to be a vaccine coming soon for the virus. We have been careful enough to avoid it so far. Cut way back on arguments to save our strength! Ha! Unfortunately, Montana is on top of the infection rate list. Got a German Shorthair puppy for Val's birthday in September so we've had a big activity uptick in our household! Glad our two older shorthairs help keep the puppy occupied. Halloween was a bust in our neighborhood. Not one trick or treat! Started to eat the candy myself before I finally took it over to the gym child care center. Had a foot of snow a couple of weeks ago and another skiff 2 days ago. It's starting to look like winter here. Still a lot of leaves in the trees so it may be a mess in Spring. The snow on the lawn makes everything so bright; a beautiful lead into the Fall/Winter Holiday Season. It's a great opportunity for a Holiday



Newsletter to cheer each other on for a Merry Christmas. On behalf of the 20th FWA Board Members I wish each of you and your families The Best of Happiness, Joy, Health, and Love over the Holidays and throughout the New Year!!

With that in mind, I must tell you again how grateful I am for our Board Members! They have been working hard to make your New Year even better with, what is looking like, the best reunion ever. Bob Gregory, your Reunion Chairman, and his wife Kathy have put together a wonderful event. Details will be listed on our web site, www.20fwa.org, as they develop. Jerry Fetter, your Treasurer, has taken the initiative to invite members from other Wings. So far the responses seem favorable. Ron Obernier, your Secretary, has been doing an excellent job keeping us informed, and working on improving our web site and membership rosters. Bill, Bud, Art, Missi, and Dave have been in on the discussions, tweaking and approving ideas. What a great team effort!! If any of you, like me, were assigned to several F-111 Wings and still have friends that are not members or familiar with our 20th FWA, I ask each of you to reach out to them, invite them, send them a copy of this newsletter, and have them check us out at www.20fwa.org. With the past few months of distancing, quarantining, and mourning lost loved ones, I think we all have developed a greater appreciation for the privilege of coming together and renewing remaining friendships. Organizational longevity is also a benefit! "So round 'em up and let's party!"

Our association was able to process the Aerial Achievement Award this year. We did not receive an input from the 20th FW for the Force Multiplier Award. Hopefully, they won't be burdened with so many operational priorities next year when we start the process all over again for 2021.

*Now that we are within the year (planning time-frame) for the 2021 Reunion, I give our Board Members my Heartfelt Thanks for the excellent teamwork in bringing this together smoothly! I hope our outreach efforts bring great results and we have a great 20th FWA Reunion in September. **DON'T FORGET GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BOARD ELECTIONS.** We need to share these wonderful bonding experiences!!! In the interim, stay safe, healthy, and sign up for the reunion. God Bless!! Al*

RECENT NEW MEMBERS

JOHN AND MARGIE WALTERS

JACK AND ANNE THOMPSON

JOHN AND MARCIA MYERS





2021 Reunion Update



*Reunion to be held in Colorado Springs
9-11 September 2021
Bob (Reunion Chairman) and Kathy Gregory*

Planning Assumptions for the 2021 Reunion in Colorado Springs

With the Planning Assumptions listed below, the 20 FWA Board has approved to continue planning efforts to hold the 2021 Reunion in Colorado Springs, Colorado, on 9-11 September 2021. The final go/no-go decisions to either hold or postpone the reunion is expected to be made by the 20FWA Board by March at the earliest.

- 1. A viable COVID-19 vaccine should be available and all attendees are highly encouraged to complete their vaccinations prior to the reunion.*
- 2. Any member who contracts COVID-19 within two weeks of the reunion start date can cancel their attendance at the reunion and will receive a full refund for all money paid to date.*
- 3. If the 2021 reunion is cancelled for any reason, the reunion will be held the following year in Colorado Springs, with the date to be approved by the 20 FWA Board.*
- 4. As approved by the 20th FWA general membership at the 2019 reunion in Nashville, Tennessee, the 2023 reunion is scheduled to be held in Dayton, Ohio.*



Hotel Details.

The 2021 Reunion will be held at the Hotel Elegante Conference and Event Center, 2886 South Circle Drive, Colorado Springs CO 80906.



The hotel phone number is (719) 576-5900 and their Website is <http://www.hotelelegante.com/>.

Room Rates. The room rate for a standard-size room (one king bed or two queen beds) is \$131.20 total (\$119 plus \$12.20 tax). The hotel will offer this same rate for up to three nights before and/or after the reunion dates. There is no additional charge for overnight parking and the hotel provides free WiFi access. The hotel also provides free airport shuttle service to/from the Colorado Springs Airport.

Hotel Reservations. *The hotel reservation link is open now, and the cutoff for hotel reservations is Monday, 9 August 2021. After that date reservations at the hotel can be made at the regular room rate. The hotel Link for 20 FWA Reunion Reservations is:*

<https://www.reseze.net/servlet/SendPage?hotelid=1410&skipfirstpage=true&page=2639971>

Individuals can also make their own reservations by calling 1-800-981-4012 or (719) 576-5900. Cancellations must occur no later than 24 hours prior to arrival date to avoid a cancellation fee of first night's room and tax. Credit cards will not be charged until departure. Please note that the hotel has blocked a maximum of 75 rooms per night for the reunion, so make your reservations today!

Reunion Events.

Scheduled events for all reunion guests include:

- 1. Thursday, 9 September. Registration
Thursday Evening - Informal Welcome Dinner at the hotel.*
- 2. Friday, 10 September. Unit (squadron or wing) dinners. Times and locations to be determined*
- 3. Saturday, 11 September. Golf Outing (tentative)
Saturday, General membership meeting for all 20th FWA members.
Saturday, Formal banquet at the hotel. Dress is formal (coat and tie for the men). Guest speaker is to be determined.*

Hospitably Room open throughout reunion.

Note: Event details (time, location, menu options, costs, etc.) for all scheduled events will be included on the Reunion Registration Form, to be posted on the 20 FWA website early in 2021.



SCHEDULED (OPTIONAL) EVENTS

To be included on the Reunion Registration Form.

1. **FRIDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER. VISIT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WWII AVIATION AND WESTPAC RESTORATIONS IN COLORADO SPRINGS. PRIVATE GROUP TOURS OF 20 OR MORE MAY BE SCHEDULED SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF STAFF. THE MUSEUM'S EXPERT DOCENTS WILL GUIDE THE GROUP THROUGH THE STORY OF WORLD WAR II AVIATION AND AN EXCLUSIVE TOUR THROUGH THE WESTPAC RESTORATION FACILITY. GROUP TOUR COST WILL BE AROUND \$12 PER PERSON AND WILL LAST APPROXIMATELY 1 HOUR AND 45 MINUTES. SEE MUSEUMS WEBSITE WORLDWARIIAVIATION.ORG OR PHONE (719)637-7559 FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS.**

2. **FRIDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER. TOUR OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY IN COLORADO SPRINGS. THE TOUR WILL BE FREE. AS NEEDED, BUS TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE ACADEMY MAY ALSO BE SCHEDULED. THE TOUR MAY INCLUDE A FILM AT THE NEW PLANETARIUM THEATER; HOWEVER, THE CHAPEL IS UNDERGOING MAJOR RENOVATIONS AND ENTRY WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE.**

3. **SATURDAY MORNING, 11 SEPTEMBER. GOLF TOURNAMENT AT THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY GOLF COURSE. TIMES AND COST TO BE DETERMINED.**

4. **SATURDAY AFTERNOON, 11 SEPTEMBER. AIR FORCE ACADEMY FOOTBALL GAME, TO INCLUDE PRE-GAME TAILGATE WITH AN AIR FORCE ACADEMY CADET SQUADRON. THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY IS SCHEDULED TO PLAY THE FLORIDA ATLANTIC OWLS. WE WILL BE WORKING WITH THE ACADEMY TICKET OFFICE TO PURCHASE BLOCK SEATS IN THE MEZZANINE SECTION FOR THE GAME. GROUP TICKET PRICES ARE EXPECTED TO BE AROUND \$25 PER PERSON; HOWEVER, EXACT PRICES WILL NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL THE MID-MAY TIME FRAME. THE REUNION CHAIRMAN IS ALSO COORDINATING WITH THE ACADEMY AND IT LOOKS PROMISING THAT REUNION GUESTS WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN WITH AN AIR FORCE ACADEMY CADET SQUADRON AT THEIR PRE-GAME TAILGATE PARTY. AS NEEDED, BUS TRANSPORTATION TO/FROM THE GAME WILL BE ARRANGED. ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON GAME TICKET PRICES, TAILGATE OPTIONS, AND BUS TRANSPORTATION WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE REUNION REGISTRATION FORM.**

Other optional attractions in Colorado Springs area.

(Not to be included on Registration Form.)

1. U.S. Olympic Museum, 200 S. Sierra Madre St, Colorado Springs CO. Open Sun-Fri 10AM-5PM and Sat 9AM-6PM. Cost \$19.95 for Seniors and Active/Retired Military. Contact Website usopm.org or phone (719) 497-1234.

2. U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Training Center, 1 Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs. Contact Website teamusa.org, Phone (719) 866-4618, or Email: csotc.visitorcenter@usopc.org.

3. Cripple Creek Mining Town, located 48 miles (1 hour and 10 minutes by car) west of Colorado Springs. This is an historic mining town with several gambling casinos in the Rocky Mountains.

4. Manitou and Pikes Peak Cog Railway. Highest cog railway in the world ascends to Pikes Peak summit of 14,110 feet. Located at 515 Ruxton Avenue, Manitou Springs. For

reservations go online or call (719) 685-5401. *Notes: (1) the railway is currently undergoing major renovations and may not be open during the reunion, and (2) if open, reservations are highly recommended.*

5. Pikes Peak Highway Toll Road. West of town off U.S. Highway 24. This is a 19-mile scenic drive that ascends to Pikes Peak summit of 14,110 feet. Open 9 AM to 3 PM daily. Cost is \$10 per car passenger. Contact Website pikes-peak.com or phone (719) 385-7325.

6. Garden of the Gods Park, west side of Colorado Springs. Free entry to 1,368-acre park with red sandstone formations (some as high as 300'). Visitor Center hours 8AM-7PM.

7. Cave of the Winds Mountain Park, located near Manitou Springs (five miles west of Colorado Springs). Contacts: Website caveofthewinds.com or phone (719) 685-5444.

8. Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, located south side of Colorado Springs. Open 9AM-5PM daily. Contact Website cmzoo.org or phone (719) 633-9925. *Note: Reservations highly recommended.*

9. Royal Gorge Bridge and Park, located 58 miles (1 hour and 15 minutes by car) south of Colorado Springs. Park opens 7AM-dusk. Contacts Website royalgorgebridge.com, or phone (719) 275-7507.

Weather. The historical average temperature in Colorado Springs for the month of September is 75 degrees Fahrenheit. In the last 20 years the city has had one snow storm by mid-September. However, this freak snow storm occurred in 2020, so plan accordingly.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.

WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO

1. HELP WITH REUNION REGISTRATION,
2. COORDINATE/ARRANGE THE UNIT (SQUADRON OR WING) DINNERS ON FRIDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER.
3. COORDINATE THE GOLF TOURNAMENT ON SATURDAY MORNING.

IF INTERESTED IN HELPING OUT, PLEASE CONTACT THE 20TH FWA SECRETARY, RON OBERNIER (EMAIL: [BALOO1000@YAHOO.COM](mailto:baloo1000@yahoo.com), OR PHONE 618-540-9014), OR THE REUNION CHAIRMAN, BOB GREGORY (EMAIL: ROBERTNKATHY@LIVE.COM, OR PHONE 719-726-4762 OR 719-232-4908). YOU MAY ALSO CONTACT BOB GREGORY IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE UPCOMING REUNION. WE HOPE YOU STAY SAFE AND THAT WE WILL SEE YOU IN COLORADO SPRINGS.

HELP GET THE WORD OUT. TO HELP MAKE THE 2021 REUNION A SUCCESS, THE 20TH FWA BOARD REQUESTS YOUR HELP TO PERSONALLY CONTACT YOUR FRIENDS FROM THE 20TH TFW, THE 474TH TFW, AND/OR THE 366TH TFW AND SUGGEST THEY JOIN US IN COLORADO SPRINGS. IF YOUR FRIENDS ARE NOT ALREADY 20 FWA MEMBERS AND ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING, THEY CAN CONTACT RON OBERNIER, 20 FWA SECRETARY.



New Commander 20th Fighter Wing

Colonel Lawrence T. Sullivan
Commander, 20th Fighter Wing
517 Lance Avenue, Suite 128
Shaw Air Force Base, SC



Dear Colonel Sullivan,

On behalf of the 20th Fighter Wing Association, **CONGRATULATIONS** on being selected to command the 20th Fighter Wing! You have joined a special group of airman to lead one of the best organizations in the US Military. Our Association has preserved the Wing History and fosters esprit de corps among past and present members since our formation in 1993.

The Association remains organized through our biennial reunions. The next one will be held in Colorado Springs, CO, 9–11 September 2021. We would be thrilled if you and some active duty members could join us. Details are on our website, 20fwa.org, and are still being worked out. But I believe an Academy Football Game is on the venue.

The Association also sponsors two awards which are presented annually to members of the 20th Fighter Wing. The **Aerial Achievement Award** goes to a pilot who has made outstanding contributions to the Wing during the past year. And the **Force Multiplier Award** is for an enlisted member who made outstanding contributions to the wing during the past year. With each award is a traveling trophy, individual award's plaques, and a \$500 cash award to the recipient's unit fund. SrA Razal has the current procedure files and is doing a great job assisting us. SSgt Linkous did a stellar job for us last year and knows the entire cycle for the awards.

Feel free to call/text me at 406-207-5118 or al_aman@charter.net if you have any questions or concerns. We wish you continued career success as Commander of the 20th Fighter Wing!

Best Regards

Al Aman, LtCol, USAF (Retired)

20th Fighter Wing Association President



Biography



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL LAWRENCE T. SULLIVAN

Col. Lawrence T. Sullivan is the Commander of the 20th Fighter Wing, Shaw Air Force Base, SC. He is responsible for the mission readiness of the wing's 79 aircraft, 17 wing staff agencies, stewardship of Shaw, and the health and welfare of 6,576 active duty Airmen and civilians and more than 8,000 family members. Further, he supervises the support of the 31,000 local military retirees and 29 geographically separated units across nine states.

Colonel Sullivan graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1999. He has served as an F-16 Weapons Officer, Director of Operations, Squadron Commander and Vice Wing Commander during flying assignments at Osan AB, Korea, Eielson AFB, AK, Misawa AB, Japan, Nellis AFB, NV, and Kunsan AB, Korea.

He was selected as the top F-16 Weapons School Graduate for 2006, was named outstanding F-16 Weapons School Instructor, and conducted a strike mission to Afghanistan that received the Mackay Trophy.

While at Nellis AFB he was the Weapons School's primary Mission Commander and Integration instructor across 17 Squadrons and 30+ weapons systems, and also the SEAD flight commander for the F-16 division.

He attended the Naval War College followed by the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies. In 2016 he was a Service Chief Fellow at DARPA, and in 2017 graduated from the Eisenhower School at National Defense University. While on the Joint Staff he served as Chief of the Special Projects and Innovation Division, J39, Pentagon. He was responsible for sensitive compartmented planning, inter-agency coordination, and project Data hub, an initiative to deliver improved strategic intelligence using remote sensing, data analytics, machine learning and artificial intelligence.

Colonel Sullivan is a command pilot with 2,000+ flying hours, including 200+ combat hours, primarily in the F-16CJ.





20TH FIGHTER WING ASSOCIATION AERIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR 2020

Captain Shaun “Hose” Lovett
55th Fighter Squadron/20th Operations Group
438 Killian Avenue
Bldg. 710 Suite 122
Shaw AFB, SC 29152

20 July 2020

Dear Captain Lovett,

CONGRATULATIONS on being selected as the winner of the **20TH FIGHTER WING ASSOCIATION’S AERIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR 2020!**

We are proud to recognize and honor you for your outstanding effort and results as 55th FS Chief of Scheduling, and exemplary performance in Operations INHERENT RESOLVE, RED FLAG, and NOBLE EAGLE. The Association is proud to present you with your plaque, cash award for your unit, and to have your name placed on the traveling trophy.

We invite you and your spouse to join us at our biannual 20th Fighter Wing Association Reunion at Colorado Springs, CO in September of 2021. Check out our website, www.20fwa.org, for event details, registration, and reservation procedures. The Association will reimburse you up to \$500 travel expenses, pay for 2 nights accommodations at the reunion hotel, plus host you for a free Saturday evening banquet dinner where you will be honored as our 2020 Aerial Achievement Award winner. We look forward to a great reunion and to seeing you in Colorado Springs.

The association membership would be thrilled to meet and honor you there!

(*signed*)

Alroy A. Aman, LTCOL, USAF (Retired)
20th Fighter Wing Association, President

From the Commander
55th Fighter Squadron



Thank you note from the 55FS CC for the recognition of Capt Lovett and the \$500 cash award to the unit.



Mr. Fetter,

Thanks for the generous cash award in recognition of Capt Lovett's accomplishments. This money will provide us a welcome morale boost during a long year. Thanks again to the 20FWA and the members for your generosity.

Roll 'Em! *Seth Taylor*
Lt Col Sgt "HEMI" Taylor
55 FS/CC

Shooters Roll - Long and Strong

WETHERSFIELD AIRFIELD MUSEUM

IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, WE HAD SEEN VISITOR NUMBERS RISE FROM 140 IN 2017 TO OVER 600 IN



2019 AND WE WERE ANTICIPATING AN EVEN BUSIER YEAR FOR 2021 WITH A COUPLE OF REUNIONS PLANNED. A KEY COMPONENT OF OUR VISITOR NUMBERS HAS BEEN REGULAR VISITS BY FORMER RAF WETHERSFIELD BASED 20TH TACTICAL FIGHTER WING SERVICEMEN FROM THE 1950 AND 1960's. RAF WETHERSFIELD HAD AN ACTIVE LIFE OF SOME 46 YEARS UNTIL CLOSURE IN 1990 AND IT HAS BEEN INSPIRING TO SEE HOW IMPORTANT 'THE PATCH' IS TO PERSONNEL, THEIR DESCENDANTS AND BRITISH CIVILIANS ASSOCIATED WITH THE BASE.

THE MUSEUM IS LOCATED IN THE FORMER 'BILLETING' BUILDING AT MDP WETHERSFIELD AND IT IS CRAMMED FULL OF MEMORABILIA, AIRCRAFT MODELS, DIORAMAS AND OTHER ARTIFACTS. DONATIONS OF ITEMS FROM VISITORS HAS MEANT WE HAVE LITERALLY FILLED THE BUILDING. OUR HOPE IS THAT WITH THE



Volunteers and family members

PLANNED VACATION OF THE BASE BY THE MOD POLICE BY 2025, APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO THE CREATION OF AN RAF WETHERSFIELD HERITAGE CENTRE. THIS WOULD ENABLE US TO EXPAND OUR OPERATION AND PROVIDE A VISITOR ATTRACTION THAT BEFITS A BASE WITH SUCH A DIVERSE HISTORY, ESPECIALLY THE ROLE UNDERTAKEN BY THE 20TH TFW DURING THE 'COLD WAR'.

AT PRESENT, THE MUSEUM IS DIVIDED INTO 3 DISTINCT SECTIONS: WORLD WAR 2 (WITH BOTH USAAF AND RAF IN RESIDENCE AT DIFFERENT TIMES), THE 20TH FBW/TFW COLD WAR ERA (1952-1970) AND THE 819TH CIVIL ENGINEERING SQUADRON (1979-1990). UPON ARRIVAL AT THE MUSEUM, VISITORS ARE SHOWN A 10 MINUTE VIDEO ENTITLED 'THE HISTORY OF RAF WETHERSFIELD' WHICH YOU CAN VIEW ON YOU TUBE. IN ADDITION TO VISITING THE MUSEUM, WE TRY, WHERE POSSIBLE, TO INCLUDE A TOUR OF THE BASE. HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE A DRIVE DOWN THE MAIN RUNWAY AND VISITS TO THE VICTOR ALERT BARN, BOMB DUMP AND CHAPEL. WHILST WE DO NOT CURRENTLY HAVE A MUSEUM WEBSITE, WE DO HAVE A WETHERSFIELD AIRFIELD MUSEUM FACEBOOK PAGE. DO CHECK IT OUT.

IF YOU GET THE CHANCE TO COME TO THE UK ONCE COVID IS UNDER CONTROL, PLEASE PAY US A VISIT. PRE-BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL AS WE ARE IN AN ACTIVE MOD FACILITY. BOOKINGS CAN BE MADE BY E MAILING WETHERSFIELD.MUSEUM@GMAIL.COM

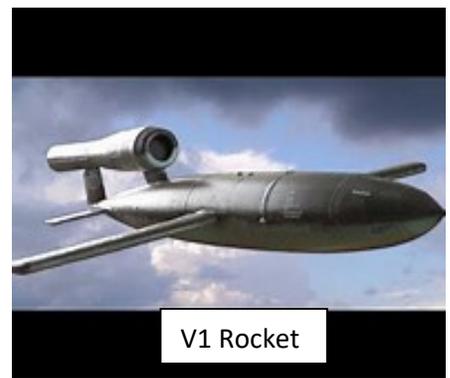
Memories from Long Ago

by Len Deighton

ACCLAIMED BRITISH AUTHOR OF COOKERY BOOKS, HISTORY AND MILITARY HISTORY, BUT HE IS BEST KNOWN FOR HIS SPY NOVELS. LEN IS ALSO A LONG TIME HONORARY MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION

Most wars seem to have ended in muddle and confusion. Certainly the war in Europe did in 1945; even the official announcement about VE Day had the date changed. Although fighting on the Russian front continued with ferocity, if not to say barbarity, there were local cease-fires everywhere and many German soldiers tossed away their guns and began walking home. There were several different agreements, signed by different generals in different places. It was only when the historians wrote their books that inconvenient facts were bent, failures hidden and the victors defined as faultless.

First on the scene were the teams of Allied experts and scientists who examined the laboratories and testing grounds to measure, and often copy, the most recent German weaponry. The V1 cruise missiles and V2



stratosphere-piercing rockets were among the most conspicuous booty while the 'nerve gases' were less publicized.

Many Messerschmitt Me 262 twin-engined jets were taken intact.



German pilots who welcomed a change of scene were given USAAF uniforms while they flew to Cherbourg, France from where a ship took men and machines to the USA. This top secret operation was rendered less secret when one pilot landed in Guernsey (a small island near Cherbourg) before being redirected.

The German warships at sea received radio signals telling them to sail to Allied ports. U-Boats were to surface, radio their position and be directed to a nearby port.

In that eventful period I was a teenage Air Training Corps sergeant. I was spending three weeks at Henstridge (officially named HMS Dipper) a Royal Navy Air Station in Dorset near the south coast of England. With extensive workshops and experienced RN technicians, it took fighter planes - Corsairs, Seafires, Typhoons, Wildcats and Hellcats - from aircraft carriers approaching England from operations in the Atlantic. One of the runways was marked to the dimensions of a carrier deck and came complete with an arrester wire mechanism for training. But most of the pilots liked to show that they could land within the markings. Among the aircraft stationed at Henstridge there were a



couple of Stinson Reliants: high-wing single-engined four-seat aircraft built especially for the RN. They were used as communication runabouts for local use.

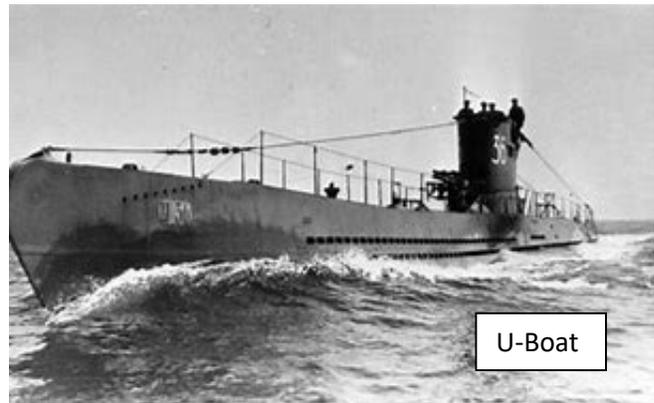
On this particular day one of the Reliants was due for an air-test and the pilot invited me to go along for the ride. As soon as

we were airborne he turned to me and in a frivolous gesture, said 'Where would you like to go?'

It was a rhetorical question - he was a senior officer and I was a nobody - but I answered it. I told him that the BBC radio had that morning announced the instruction to the German submarines. 'We could look for them' I said.

And that's what we did.

There was a Pacific war to be fought and more grief for the families of fighting men but that day the U-Boats were a comforting sight as they headed along the English Channel towards their 'designated ports'. Until next time - Len



Awards Created and Sponsored by 20th FWA

AERIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD THIS WAS CREATED IN 1997 TO RECOGNIZE NOTEWORTHY AIRMANSHIP BY A 20TH FW PILOT DURING THE PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR. THE TYPE AND CHARACTER OF AIRMANSHIP SHALL BE THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE 20TH FW COMMANDER. THE AWARD CONSISTS OF A TROPHY, INSCRIBED WITH THE NAME AND UNIT OF THE WINNING PILOT, A PLAQUE SIMILARLY INSCRIBED, AND A \$500 CASH AWARD FROM THE 20TH FWA PROVIDED TO THE UNIT FUND TO SUPPORT UNIT ACTIVITIES. TO DATE, 23 PILOTS HAVE RECEIVED THE AWARD.

THE FORCE MULTIPLIER AWARD WAS CREATED IN 2008 AFTER BOARD DISCUSSION AT THE 2007 DENVER REUNION. THE IDEA WAS PRESENTED TO COL. JAMES POST, 20TH FW COMMANDER, WHO GAVE HIS APPROVAL. CRITERIA FOR THE AWARD SHALL BE A NOTEWORTHY CONTRIBUTION TO THE MISSION OF THE 20TH FW BY AN ENLISTED MEMBER OF THE 20TH FW DURING THE PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR. THE TYPE AND CHARACTER OF THIS CONTRIBUTION SHALL BE AT THE SOLE DISCRETION

OF THE 20TH FW COMMANDER. THE COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT WILL ALSO BE INVOLVED IN THE SELECTION PROCESS. THE AWARD CONSISTS OF A TROPHY, INSCRIBED WITH THE NAME AND UNIT OF THE WINNING ENLISTED PERSON, A PLAQUE SIMILARLY INSCRIBED FOR THE INDIVIDUAL AND A \$500 CASH AWARD FROM THE 20TH FWA PROVIDED TO THE UNIT FUND TO SUPPORT UNIT ACTIVITIES. IN ADDITION, EACH AWARD WINNER IS INVITED TO A 20TH FWA REUNION. A MAXIMUM OF \$500 TRAVEL MONEY, TWO HOTEL NIGHTS, AND THE BANQUET DINNER IS PROVIDED FOR AWARD WINNER AND SPOUSE. TO DATE, 11 ENLISTED PERSONNEL HAVE RECEIVED THE AWARD.



Force Multiplier Award

Aerial Achievement Award

History From Art

Excerpts from "The 55th Mess Hall" and a Christmas Tradition

by Royal Frey

Historian's Note: Royal Fry was a pilot in the 55th Fighter Squadron during WWII. Initially the squadron was based at nearby Wittering RAF Station, as the 20th's base at King's Cliffe could not accommodate three squadrons.

Being assigned to the RAF Officers' Mess, we officers adopted the RAF custom of not eating at noon on Christmas Day, but serving our enlisted personnel their Christmas dinner without any recognition of rank. So, on 25 December [1943], all of us went over to our EM mess to wait tables, a day the memory of which still brings a smile to this tired old face whenever I think of it. It so happened that down on the flight line in a hangar used by the 55th was a little fellow in his mid-20s who hated to say "Sir" to me, a 19-year old kid. I don't recall his name, but believe it was Italian. He was about 5'6", had dark hair and a heavy beard, and was dark complexioned. He was a hard worker, liked to joke, and actually a likeable guy. But, try as I did, I couldn't establish a rapport with him. I finally rationalized that I couldn't do anything about being an officer, because all I had wanted to be was a fighter pilot, and being an officer simply came with the territory. Had I only wanted to have been an officer, I would have tried the shorter and much easier route, going through OCS and becoming a 90-day Wonder with one hell of a longer life expectancy. So, I had already decided to avoid this fellow as much as possible so he would not have to hiss "Yes sir" and "No sir" to me.

Well, on the 25th of December, I think he was able to get it out of his system, because he ran my fanny off. I believe he had decided to stuff himself to force me to do at least a couple of hours of good hard work during WWII. I hauled mashed potatoes, cranberries, sliced turkey, etc., to him more times than I could recall counting. And then came dessert. Three times he yelled at me, "Hey, you, bring me some pie", and I delivered with a smile on my face.

From that day, he was a changed person. Apparently because I had taken what he had thrown at me, he figured I must not be such a bad guy after all, and whenever I ran into him in the hangar or on the line, we would shoot the bull with each other as friends.

A couple of weeks before I was shot down, I had a right engine shot out over Frankfurt, requiring an engine change. I went down to the hangar to see how Louis Brenton, my crew chief, was getting along with the job, and there was my new friend helping out, as pleasant as he could be.

Christmases Past



55th Pursuit SQ
Mather Fld, Cal 1931



55th Pursuit SQ Moffett Fld, Cal. 1939



55th TFS, Upper Heyford Christmas
Orphanage Visit 1974



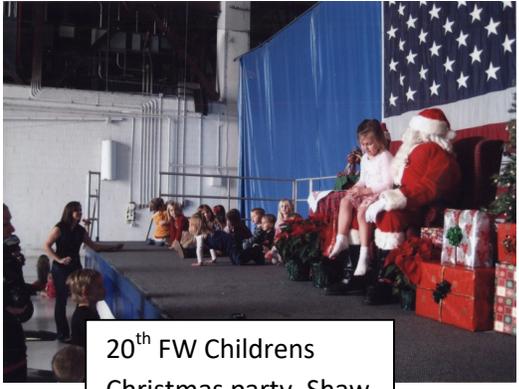
77 FS Paine Fld, OR 1942



77 TFS Upper Heyford 1979



79 FS Operation New
Dawn, SW Asia, undisclosed
location 2011



20th FW Childrens
Christmas party, Shaw
AFB, SC, 2012



Desert Storm's Cold Wind From the North Part VIII

By Major Jeff Guinn

MEANWHILE, BACK AT UPPER HEYFORD, COL LAWRENCE E. STELLMON, 20 TFW COMMANDER, AND LT COL HAROLD H. BARTON, JR., 77 TFS COMMANDER, AND HIS "GAMBLERS" WERE PUTTING THE NEW TACTICS TO THE TEST AT WEAPONS RANGES IN ENGLAND. THEY FOUND THE F-111E, WITH ITS ANCIENT, WELL-WORN, HAND-TOOLED WEAPONS DELIVERY SYSTEM WAS PUTTING HALF THE BOMBS WITHIN 500 FEET OF THE TARGET. THAT NUMBER, WHILE NOT HUGE, HARDLY MIMICKED THE PRECISION VIDEO DISPLAYED ON CNN. HOWEVER, IT ALSO FAILS TO TELL THE WHOLE STORY. THE TEST DELIVERIES RELEASED ONLY ONE BOMB, WHILE IN COMBAT THE F-111E WAS CARRYING FOURTEEN 500-POUND BOMBS, OR PUT ANOTHER WAY, ONE BOMB EVERY HUNDRED FEET OVER NEARLY A QUARTER MILE.

ANOTHER FACTOR TO BE WEIGHED IS TARGET SELECTION. FOR POINT TARGETS, THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR PRECISION WEAPONS. BUT IF THE TARGET HAPPENS TO BE THE IRAQI MILITARY'S TEST AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER AT AL TAJI, A LARGE AND DENSELY PACKED AREA TARGET JUST NORTH OF BAGHDAD, THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR TONNAGE.

WHILE DEFEATING THE AAA THROUGH THE SIMPLE EXPEDIENT OF FLYING OVER IT WAS A RELIEF TO EVERYONE, AND BOMBING ACCURACY WAS STILL GRATIFYINGLY, AMAZINGLY GOOD, THE NEW TACTIC PRESENTED ONE ADDITIONAL BIG PROBLEM.

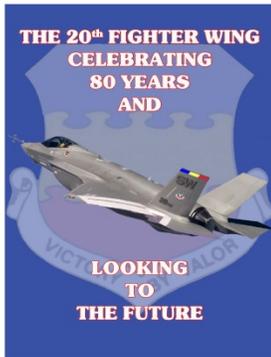
WHEN FLYING LOW, THE F-111S KEPT FROM HITTING EACH OTHER BY ENSURING THAT THEIR FLIGHT PATHS DIDN'T CROSS, OR IF THEY DID, TIME SEPARATED THE AIRPLANES. SINCE THE AARDVARKS REPRESENTED NEARLY HALF THE AIRPLANES CROSSING THE BORDER, THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE HIGH-ALTITUDE AIRSPACE LEFT OVER FOR THE SUPPORT ASSETS. HOWEVER, AS THE 20TH'S AIR WAR WENT INTO THE HIGH-ALTITUDE PHASE, THE MISSION PLANNERS, ALL OF WHOM WERE FROM THE 20 TFW, HAD TO BE PARTICULARLY VIGILANT TO PUT THE VARIOUS PLAYERS IN THE ALTITUDE BANDS THAT SUITED THEIR AIRCRAFT AND MISSION BEST. CAPT KEN "BIRDMAN" BYRD BECAME THE FULL TIME DECONFLICTION EXPERT, CHARGED WITH KEEPING FROM 50 UP TO NEARLY 100 AIRCRAFT SEPARATED BY TIME AND ALTITUDE, INBOUND--OVER THE TARGET--OUTBOUND--AND DURING RECOVERY.

FOR THE F-111 CREWS, THIS MEANT FLYING TO THE TARGET AT THE ENVELOPE'S EDGE. THE 'VARK WAS CONCEIVED AS A VERY FAST, LOW ALTITUDE, FIGHTER; ITS AERODYNAMIC CHARACTERISTICS SIMPLY AREN'T TUNED FOR THE MEDIUM ALTITUDE ARENA. INBOUND TO THE TARGET WAS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT, AS THE AIRPLANES HAD NOT ONLY NEARLY FULL FUEL TANKS TO ACCOUNT FOR, BUT ALSO THE BOMBS' ADDITIONAL DRAG AND WEIGHT.

A TYPICAL MISSION PLAN NOW CONSISTED OF THREE WAVES, EACH OF FOUR F-111S, CROSSING IRAQ'S BORDER ON A BROAD FRONT TOWARDS THREE DIFFERENT TARGETS. THEN EACH WAVE WOULD SPLIT IN TWO, SO EACH TARGET COULD BE ATTACKED FROM DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS SIMULTANEOUSLY. BECAUSE THE BOMB RANGE FROM 25,000 FEET WAS OVER 5 MILES, THEY COULD BE AS MUCH AS 10 MILES APART AT WEAPON RELEASE. HOWEVER, THE F-111 ISN'T A PARTICULARLY SVELTE MACHINE UP IN THAT RAREFIED AIR. ONE FIGHTING 55TH PILOT, MAJOR TOM GILL, LIKENED IT TO "GETTING A DRUNKEN ELEPHANT ON ICE SKATES TO DANCE." THEREFORE, THE MISSION PLANNERS WERE CONTINUOUSLY FACED WITH THE UNDERSTANDABLE PREFERENCE FOR TURNING THE CREWS IN THE SHORTEST DIRECTION FOR FRIENDLY TERRITORY, WHILE NOT RUNNING INTO EACH OTHER COURTESY OF BLOATED TURN RADII.

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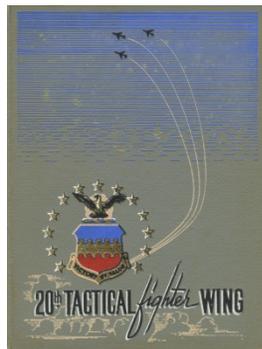
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20th Fighter Wing/Group History (2007)

This book covers the history of both the 20th Fighter Wing and 20th Operations Group. Major events in the 20th's history are covered including photos of commanders. The book also includes tables for the wing, group and flying squadrons covering: assignments, bases, designations, aircraft, commanders and awards.

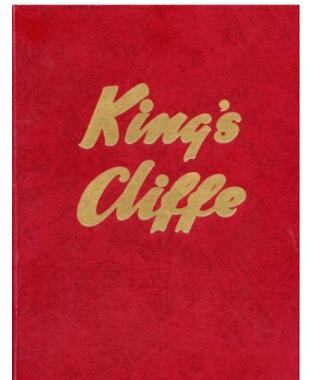
20thFBW (1953) & 20thTFW (1959) Yearbook Reprints



These are typical yearbooks with photos of all Airmen assigned to the 20th by squadron with additional photos of life in the 20th at RAF Wethersfield and RAF Woodbridge.

King's Cliffe

This book details the WW II history of the 20th Fighter Group stationed at King's Cliffe England 1943-1945. The book was written by the members of the 20th during the summer of 1945. Included in the book are detailed information and photos of all assigned Officers of the 20th and listings and photos of all enlisted men assigned to the 20th. Also covered are details of all missions flown by the 20th and descriptions of all units assigned.



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20th Fighter Wing Past & Present

