

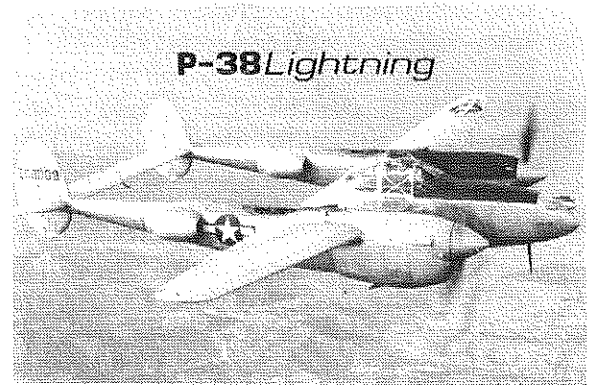
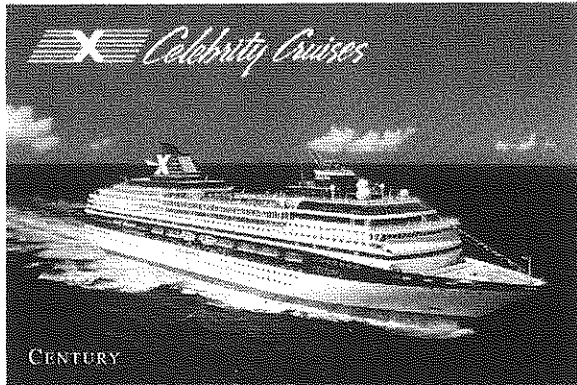
475th FIGHTER GROUP



5th Air Force
Satan's Angels

NEWSLETTER

January 1997



The 475th 1996 Reunion Cruise

In October 65 members of the 475th Ftr. Gp. sailed away from Ft. Lauderdale for a week of cruising and reuniting aboard the Celebrity Line ship "Century". The ship was something to behold. It was 800 feet long with a displacement of 70,000 ton. It held thousands of passengers and seemed to be pretty close to being full. The people were housed on 9 of its 12 decks. It was so large it was 4 days before we felt confident enough to walk out of our cabins without a map.

The ship was really amazing with all the latest technical advances. Stabilizers made sure you barely felt any rolling. It appeared to have 3 bow thrusters and 2 stern ones. This made it able to turn 180 degrees in its own length. In Nassau we turned around and backed into the pier. In Ft. Lauderdale it pulled up alongside the pier but about 30' out from it. It then moved sideways against the pier. Truly a marvel of modern technology.

Our travel agent, Bruce, did an outstanding job for us and is to be commended. Not only did he get an exceptionally good price for us, with automatic up-upgrades, but every cabin got a bottle of champagne and he threw a cocktail party for us. On top of that he made sizable contributions to our museum fund. The group is beholden to him.

The accommodations were great. The rooms were spacious especially when compared to other ship's cabins. They were kept immaculate with an unending supply of clean towels and other amenities. The stewards were very quick to respond to any request and very helpful.

The two level dining room was a sight to behold. Our group was seated together on the upper level. A good thing we were because the ship was so huge with so many people we rarely bumped into each other except at

our scheduled meetings and dinner. The food in the dining room was excellent, AAA would give it at least 4 stars. The service was nothing short of superb. We must have used at least 8 plates and 14 pieces of silver for every dinner. The waiters and bus boys really knew their jobs. However to expedite things many of us grabbed our breakfast and lunch in their cafeteria, Islands Cafe, where besides serving these 2 meals coffee and tea were available almost all the time. At lunch time there was also a hotdog/hamburger bar by the pool.

The cruise itself was a typical Caribbean cruise only more so because of the size of the ship. We visited San Juan, St. Thomas & St. Johns, St. Martens and Nassau. There were tours sold for every port in which we stopped. There were activities going on all over the ship almost non-stop. You were never more than a few feet from a bar as there were 8 of them. If you stopped for 30 seconds someone was there trying to sell you a drink. There was a casino for those who wanted to try their luck. No one seems to have broken the bank. There were at least a dozen shops selling "duty free" merchandise. The ship was actually a tremendous floating hotel/resort.

Unfortunately there were hundreds of Frenchmen aboard. Naturally they only understood English when it was to their advantage. They always had trouble finding the rear end of a line. They acted like typical Frenchmen and made life uncomfortable for those who tried to be polite.

Most afternoons we gathered in the Hemisphere Lounge forward on the 12th deck. Here we could chat and reminisce. The stories flew thick and fast. As usual the wives wondered how we ever won the war. They talked about the time John Babel almost got his tail in a crack for taking off to go gold mining in New Guinea. He found some too. PJ had a few of his wild tales. Often it seemed like it was the old game, "Can You Top This". The fact the Carl King had kept a diary which was recently published was brought out. The diary will be in the museum for those who are interested.

Just before the Captain's Dinner we gathered in the lobby which was a 3 story atrium of shops and had our group picture taken. As it was a gala affair we were all in our best bib and tucker. It was probably the best attended meeting we had. And now it is history.

Comments from the group are on another page. Editorial license was taken so they fit.

1996 Business Meeting

On one Thursday afternoon part of the get together was used for the regular business meeting, presided over by PJ as usual. The first item was a contribution from Bruce for over \$3,000. It was voted to give this to the museum. Then it was announced that the reunion in 1997 would be at the Riverside Inn 16-19 October 1997. Dale & Barbara Thisted would handle this (see article on reunion in this letter). Then Jim Guttry proposed that the reunion after Riverside be held at the Ambassador Hotel in Amarillo, TX in the summer of 1998. There was some discussion and he handed out literature. It was said that this would be considered and voted on at the Riverside reunion. That concluded the business part of the trip.

Did you know Dale Badgette?

A relative of Dale Badgette is looking for more information about him and pictures of him in New Guinea. Can you help? Dale went down while testing a plane on 8 February 1944. His last radio contact was with Jack Fisk and Austin Neely. If anyone knew him or can shed any light on him please contact: Capt. James "Cole" Winter, 110A Atlas, Sheppard AFB, TX 76311, Tel. 817-851-8261.

KEEP CURRENT

It is vital that our address list be kept up to date. And you are the only one who can make it happen. If you don't we are liable to lose you and we don't want that to happen. So be sure to include us in the ones notified when you move. Just drop a post card to P.O. Box 498, Intervale, NH 03845-0498. It is much easier if the change is in writing because there is less chance of a mistake. If you don't tell us then Uncle Sam does but he charges us an extra \$.50. Please save money and aggravation, see that we have your address.

A Note From the Editor

It has come to my attention that many of you are not aware of a tremendous program aimed at our generation, namely ELDERHOSTEL. This is for people 55+ and is a great, inexpensive way to travel and learn. It has programs in almost every state in the Union and in 70 foreign countries. To learn more about it all you have to do is go to the nearest public library which will have their catalogs. If you prefer your own copy just contact the ELDERHOSTEL, P. O. Box 1959, Wakefield, MA 01880-5959. There are no initiation fees nor annual dues, membership is FREE!! I like them, I recommend them. I've been to 32 including China and Russia. Try it you'll like it.

PROGRESS REPORT

Those who were on the cruise know that Pepper Martin and his wife, Edythe, started out with us but didn't finish the course. The first day aboard she fell and broke some bones in her shoulder. The ship's personnel kept her sedated and as comfortable as possible until we reach San Juan, Puerto Rico, our first port of call. There she was taken ashore and was able to be air lifted back to Charlotte, NC. It was decided to immobilize the shoulder rather than operate. The treatment seems to have worked and with Pepper's TLC she has recovered nicely. We all wish her well.

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Hades

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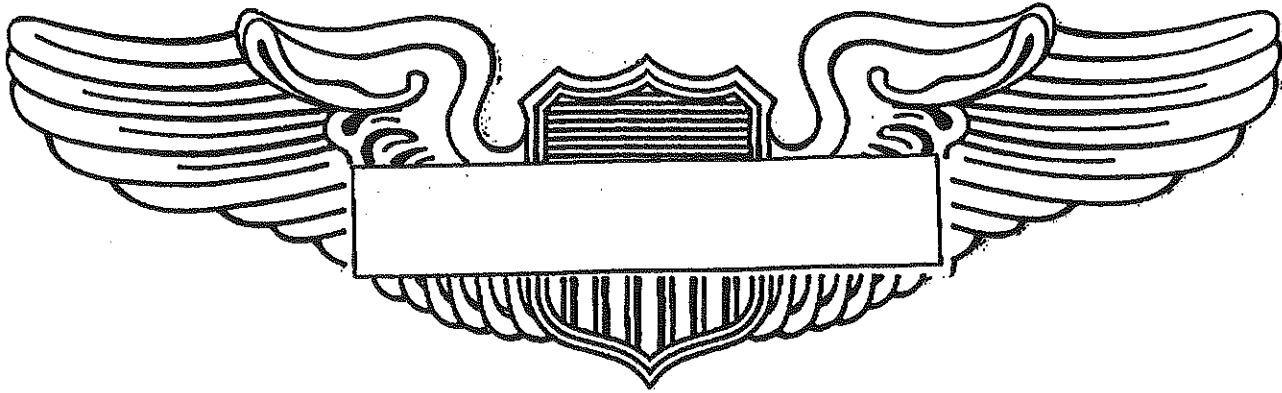


Clover

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Possum



WINGS OF HONOR

Above is a picture of the wings which will be displayed on the Wings of Honor Wall in our museum. This is only about 3/4 size. The actual wings are white plastic with black accent lines. They are about 8.5" across and just over 2" high. You can have one displayed with your name or the name of someone whom you want to honor for the donation of \$100 or more for each pair of wings.

The name you designate will be in black in the blank space in the middle. So send in your donation along with the name you want to appear!! Send it off to "Johnnie" Peregoy, 416 Avenida de Jose, Redondo Beach, CA 90277. It is a great way to let people know you are part of the 475th or to honor a relative or comrade. Remember all donations to the 475th Museum are tax deductible!!

BIG PLANS !!!!!

Mark October 16th through 19th on your calendars now, for one of the big fun events of this year - our 1997 Group Reunion.

As you know, in 1995 the Group voted to reconvene in Riverside, CA in '97 in order to see our completed museum. Some of us have had the pleasure of seeing the building and are moved with pride and deeply honored with what has been accomplished. It is a MUST for everyone to see and be a part of. Please read the article in this newsletter entitled, "M_SE_M".

Many enjoyable things are being planned- including lots of time for visiting with others in the Group. You won't want to miss the fun and "the laugh of the year" at the Group talent show on Friday Evening, hosted by Warren Lewis. Warren is looking for hidden talents, so please plan on joining in the fun by offering to sing, dance, tell stories or read poetry- or whatever!! Please drop a card to Warren and let him know that you are willing to participate. His address is: 10610 Morado Circle #3103, Austin, TX 78759. His phone is (512) 345-1381.

This year the display area and the Hospitality Room will be adjoining suites that open onto the patio area. It will be very conducive for easy mingling and visiting. A special luncheon is planned for the ladies on Saturday, as well as other surprises. More information about schedules, costs and registration will be mailed to you late spring or early summer.

This is Dale Thisted signing off with the hope that I'll be seeing you in Riverside in October.

THE CRUISE--PATS & PANS

Everything Great thanks to Dahl & Max- But please no more French !

... it's nicer to have a reunion and have more time to spend with the members and their wives. Good food & employees.

475th Cruise Terrific-in all ways- Bruce Harris company did a super job

It's a beautiful ship. A great cruise. The company is of course outstanding. Thanks to you Bruce and to our dear Ruthie & Howard. It has been super.

A great trip! Everything done to perfection. A dream come true.

Enjoying very much. Howard you have done a fine job.

What a great idea- Great food. Great company. Great accommodation - Everything really, really GREAT!! What more can I say!

7 Days of Heaven & a wonderful group of people

EXCELLENT CRUISE--BEST SHIP I EVER SAW

TV off for 4 days! Great food. Excellent table service. Some shore excursions left much to be desired. Port/Starboard should be designated at each elevator. Also arrows designating Forward & Aft. wonderful, clean well arranged ship.

A wonderful ship & the food was great. Thanks for making our reunion a real pleasure.

Sorry I can't be more complimentary but we never had the closeness on this large ship. Plus the help didn't understand most of the time and gave wrong directions, wrong times etc. The food was great-prices were fine except for wines etc.

Group meetings the best. Individual talks with members. Bad relations with the French

Excellent planning. Excellent control. Superior cruise. Food was outstanding and fattening. It was nice to sail on a relatively new ship.

No negative comments, only positive. Great job of organizing and executing.

Beautiful ship- had a great time! Ruth & Max wonderful host and hostess.

Ship-beautiful. Service fantastic. In particular in Grand Restaurant-our waiter and busboy and cabin steward. shows-very good only complaint -Sound. Entirely too loud!!

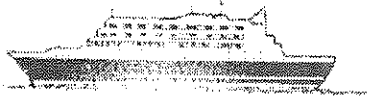
Service-Superb. ship - immaculate. Food-Excellent. Great ship & great week.

Absolutely the greatest. Can't say enough about the Century & its crew.

The trip was well planned. Attention to details has been most evident. Can't imagine how anything more could have been done. good food- Only one complaint- volume too high in night shows. Thanks for a job well done

We are now on our one and only cruise and we love it. It gave us a chance to get together with the 475th Ftr. Gp.

Everything fine. Good cooperation from crew & staff.



BRUCE TRAVEL & CRUISE CENTERS

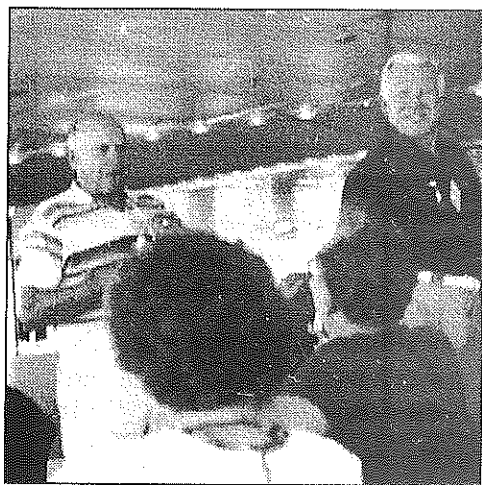
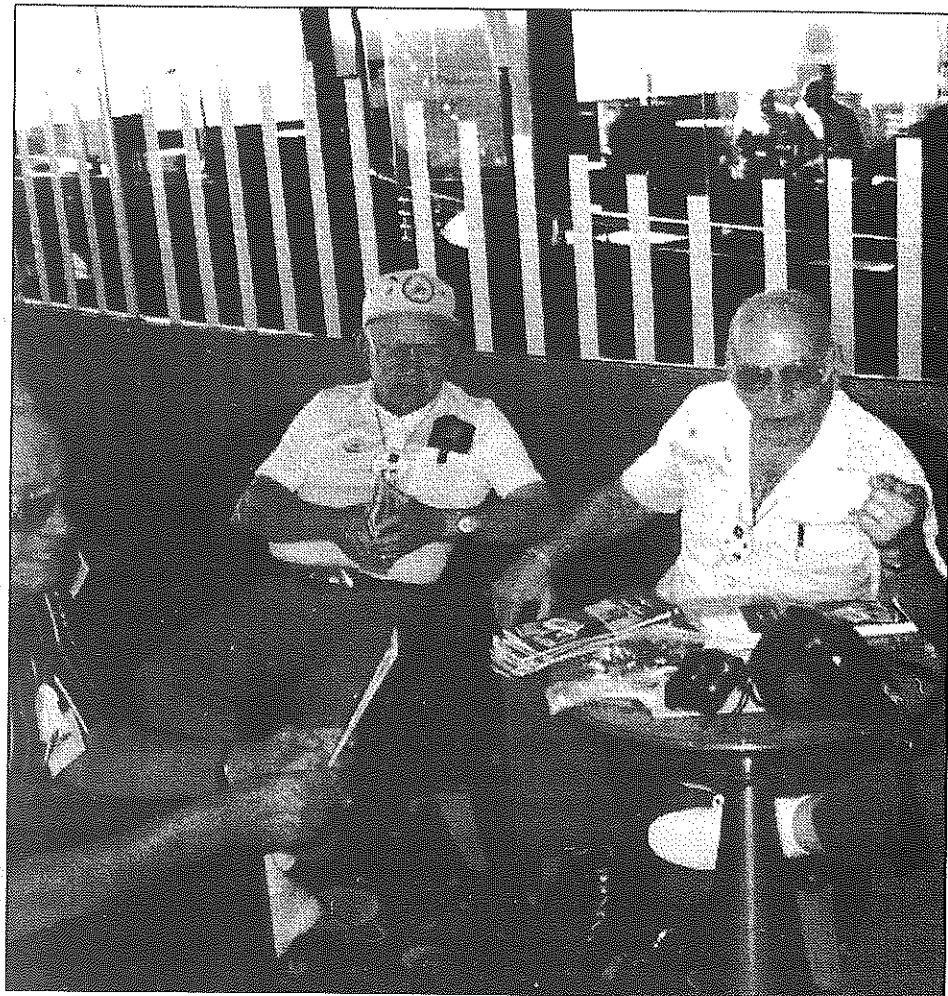
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CELEBRITY CRUISES

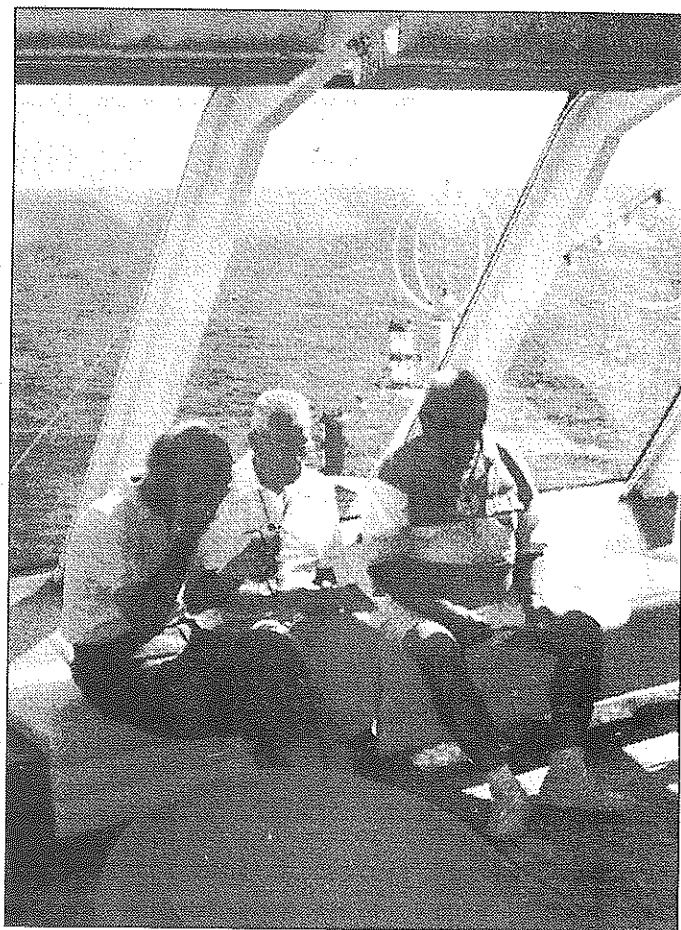
WELCOMES

475th FIGHTER GROUP

"Satan's Angels"



**1996
REUNION**





A Gallant Foe

The 475th Ftr. Gp and its Museum have been honored by a donation and a visit from a former foe. Lt. Gen Masaji Takahashi (Ret) was a Japanese pilot during WWII and fought against the 475th Ftr. Gp. over the skies of Manila 52 years ago. Following the War Takahashi remained in service and in 1956 served as defense attache at Japan's Embassy in the U.S.A. He retired from the military in 1972 as a Lt. Gen. He then went on to become a corporate executive.

In the past few years he has renewed contacts with our group only on a friendlier basis. He has exchanged visits with some of our members both here and in Japan. Last year he wanted to honor his former enemies and donated to the 475th Museum. In December of 1996 he was able to accompany Pete Madison on a tour of the facility.

A STORY WITH A MORAL

Our own Gladstone Mortimer was tooling along a Florida highway, slightly below Mach 1 when a Smokey invited him to pull over so they could have a discussion. Expecting the worst he did as requested. Refusing a blindfold he awaited his fate.

When the Officer noticed the 475th license frame and the fact the Gladstone was wearing a 475th Tee shirt he said, "You must have thought you were flying a fighter plane". He was then told he could forget the ticket but he was to remember he was on the highway not in the wild blue yonder. Figuring that the ticket would have cost him at least \$100 he sent same as a contribution to the museum in recognition of what belonging to 475th had done for him.

The moral; always keep a 475th frame on your plate. These can be obtained from Lee Northrop at 1432 Bassett Way, Anaheim, CA 92805. A contribution to the museum would be appreciated.

If two men always agree one of them is unnecessary-B. Franklin

When was the last time you tried to find a 475th buddy whom you haven't heard from in 50 years? Try the Internet and/or the national telephone directory. It might surprise you, and him.

"MUSEUM"

Just as the word "museum" is not complete without the letter "u", our 475th museum will not be complete without the person "you"!! For the museum to be a true representation of our group, we need a little biography of each member who was attached to the Group during its history. It need not be long and detailed, but should include such things as when you joined the Group and how long you were with it, any comments that you would like to add and a brief overview of your life until now.

Please send your biography and any pictures (past or present) that you would like to have included, to Dale Thisted who will assist Lee Northrop, Museum Director, in compiling these. Dale's address is: 3214 W. Grandview Ave, Spokane, WA 99224 (note slight change in ZIP from old roster). We would like as many as possible gathered before October so that they will be available at the museum when you come for the reunion.

PLEASE, do not make this request one of those "good idea, I'll do it sometime" thing. Go immediately to your desk or computer and start writing! Every one in the Group is waiting to hear from you. As the Nike ad says, "JUST DO IT!"- and generations to come will thank you.



33036-3315 02

FIRST CLASS

COL. PERRY DAHL
103 VALENCIA DR.
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Forward & address correction requested.

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