

the Hof Connection newsletter

January 2012

HRA Celebrates Tenth Anniversary Reunion in TITLETOWN

The 10th Anniversary reunion of the HRA was held September 5th thru 10th at the Hotel Sierra in Green Bay, WI.

Many thanks go to Kari Moody, Mike Jubert and their staff for attending to the needs and requests of the 191 “Hofers” who attended the reunion, they made it an enjoyable experience; almost like home except you didn’t have to dry the dishes or mow the lawn.



The Titledown Brewery

Front row, L-R: Edie Ward, Hanna Hörath, Helga Lange, Anna Müller, Hilde Middendorf and Ilse Hamill
Second row, L-R: Bill Ward, Jo Murray, Jerry Middendorf, Karin Natalie and Mel Hamill
Hiding in back: Dave Natalie.

The executive board meeting was held at 5:00pm on Monday, 5 September. The 2010 minutes were reviewed and approved, as was the treasurer’s report. The nomination committee presented their nominees for office and Claude Niebuhr was introduced as the 2nd V.P. nominee. It was proposed to make a

contribution of \$2000 to the AF Enlisted Village foundation, with the membership approval.

Robert Hörath gave an update on reunion plans for 2012 in Hof. Bill Ward presented the sites to be voted on for the 2013 Reunion. The meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.

After a hearty, complementary breakfast, Tuesday morning attendees gathered at the registration kiosk next to the hospitality room to receive their reunion packages including tour tickets, meal tickets and area information. After getting their packets and picking up shirts and hats and dropping off auction and raffle items, attendees gathered in the adjacent hospitality room for fellowship, snacks, and refreshments.

The General Membership meeting was held on Tuesday from 4:05pm to 5:25pm. The membership was greeted and welcomed by Jennifer Pollit of the Green Bay Mayor’s Office who apologized for the absence of Mayor Schmidt who had a prior commitment.



The executive board and incoming president Jim Riggin was introduced to the general membership. Bill Ward moves up to 1st VP, Greg Krcma moves to Executive board advisor, Claude Niebuhr elected to 2nd VP. All other incumbent officers were re-elected to their present positions.

Tour schedule changes due to NFL activities were reviewed and every one was thanked for their patience and understanding.

Robert Hörath and Jim Riggin presented the tentative plans and schedule for the 2012 reunion to be held at the Quality Hotel on Hof, Germany.

Tuesday evening members broke into groups for the group dinners at local eateries.

Members also discovered the “Pub” and the associated discount “Green Card” for food and libations - many really enjoyed this surprise perk.

Wednesday morning the group loaded on buses for the tour of Lambeau Field and the Hall of Fame, and all got the opportunity to enter the stadium through the Tunnel to the sound of cheers of Packer Fans. 12:30 found us back at the Sierra Hotel for the Tail Gate Buffet lunch complete with burgers and those fantastic brats. The entertainment was provided by the Ken Krueger band, and door prizes and auction items were awarded.

On Thursday, the Hotel served breakfast 1/2 hour earlier so all those going on tours wouldn't be rushed. The buses were loaded at 7:30 and it was off to Algoma to tour Renard's Cheese Factory, the von Stiehl Winery, and visit Winkies Country Store. At 12:30 we had a super buffet lunch at River's Bend Restaurant. Then for those continuing on tours, it was off to the Railroad Museum and the Green Bay Botanical Gardens. Thursday night, members were treated to opening game NFL festivities and many watched the Packers vs. Saints Game in the Pub's sporty atmosphere.

Friday was free until the Banquet Friday evening. Activities began with the singing of the USA and German National Anthems by Traudl Rigglin. Chaplin



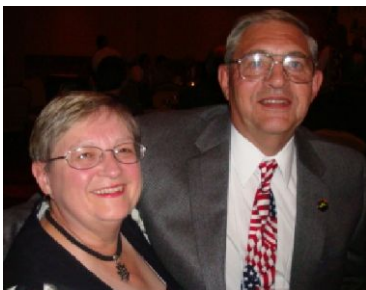
Francis Fukumoto conducted the memorial service and invocation with the assistance Joey Trujillo, Terry Sweeney, and Phil and Jo Murray

Joann and Francis Fukumoto

After the introduction of guests an excellent meal was served followed by the 50/50 drawing, Music for dancing by the Tyroler Musikanten Band.

Saturday Morning folks gathered for breakfast, met in the hospitality room and said their good byes 'til next year in Hof.

I would like to thank all the executive board members and spouses for your support and assistance and to all those members who helped to make this 10th Anniversary Reunion a success.



Sandy and Greg Kréma

DOOR PRIZE REPORT - Jerry Middendorf

The Green Bay 2011 reunion luncheon, silent and live auction and door prizes occurred on Wednesday, September 7, 2011. One-Hundred and Thirteen donated door prizes were collected by the Door Prize Committee consisting of Jerry Middendorf and Phil Murray on Tuesday, during registration and were placed on display giving everyone a chance to view them. For the second year we deviated a little from the auction/door prize format with a few "cash donation" door prizes (silent auction). If someone really wanted a donated door prize that was not going to be an auction item, the person or persons made a "suggested" cash donation for the item and the highest bid won.

Tom Mikloiche, our 2010 Ogden, Utah Reunion



President and 2011 HRA Advisor, graciously volunteered to be the auctioneer, and did a superb job of it. The goal this year was to get the door prizes and auction items out to the winners and recipients in a timely manner so not to take away from

the socializing and dancing at the luncheon. Getting the auction/silent auction and door prizes to the winners and recipients got a little hectic, but success was achieved.



The door prize committee of Jerry Middendorf and Phil Murray extends a heartfelt "thank you" to everyone that provided crafts and other gift donations for the live/silent auction and door prizes. It goes without saying that our members are very talented and generous people. Again, thanks for all your commitment and donations. We collected an amazing amount from the live auction and cash donations. The auction was lively and bidding was fast and furious, and after the dust settled the HRA netted \$1,335.00 to bolster our treasury.

REMEMBER THOSE DAYS ...

Ahh ... the smell of Broadwärscht is in the air ... and it's Hofer Broadwärscht ... maybe find a Pils to go with it ... Life just can't get much better than that.



It is time for another tour of Hof. YES! we are going back to Hof, this year. It has been six years since our last reunion in Hof, but for some, it may be closer to 40 - 50 years since you were in Hof, so set aside September 16 thru 22 to make it happen - it is time to return.

A lot of Hof and the area have undergone some changes and modernization. Those that have been back every so often may not be surprised by the differences, as the changes have been seen in small increments, but if it's been 40 - 50 years you'll be impressed. The Rathaus and Theresienstein are still there but the changes downtown alone will impress you - it's freshly painted, Ludwigstraße in the Altstadt (that's where the Kaufhof is) is a Fußgänger zone - no auto traffic allowed, except for the buses, and a lot of shopping venue is provided for recreation. With all the changes, several things have remained the same - you can still get a good Hofer Broadwärscht (that's Bratwurst for the ausländers and a real honest-to-goodness Hofer Broadwärscht is one of the real wonders of the World), then a good Bier to settle it. And if you persist, you'll be able to find a Schaschlik or a Currywurst. Unfortunately Karl's Schnitzelbrot isn't available as the "Blick" is no longer in business; the building is still there but it is now a restaurant. There's some new stuff too, with Fernweh Park being one of the most notable, and you might also notice more cars. Regardless, it will bring

back some great memories of the past and you'll create new ones for the future.

Even with all the changes, it will be a great time. Hof is still a city with a lot of heart, a place where a lot of us grew up, a place where we went in as wild teenagers and left with a little more maturity, and many of us, with our new wives that were born and raised in Hof or within a few kilometers of Hof.

This Hofer reunion is going to be a great one. Our "boots on the ground" troops in Hof, Robert and Hanna Hörath, have set up a great program that will appeal to most everyone. They'll be readily available for consultation and recommendations for whatever you want to undertake on your own. From Robert and Hanna Hörath and Alois and Rosi Dietz, a "**Serzliche Willkommen**" and have a safe trip. The Höraths and Dietzs will be waiting to see you.

The Association has set up scheduled tours to:

- Naila Bürgerbräu Brauerei
- Hüttner Kaserne, Döbraberg, Fernweh Park
- Erzgebirge and Göltzschthalbrücke (Brick Bridge)
- Bamberg

No overnight tours this time. Everyone knows about a Brewery tour, they serve finger food and some small sandwiches, along with lots of Bier - all the Bier you can drink - free. The tour to Erzgebirge is to a Christmas Village where Christmas ornaments and toys are made and sold, and you will have some time to do a little shopping. In Bamberg, we will take a boat tour and a tour of the city of Bamberg. Bamberg is also famous for its smoked Bier. Then on Friday evening we will have our Banquet and end with an **Aufwiedersehen** Breakfast on Saturday morning in the Quality Hotel. For several people it will be off to Munich and the **Oktoberfest**. We had great reunions in Hof in 2002 and 2006, and we are sure to have another great reunion this time - it is up to you to make it happen.

We have managed to reduce the registration cost for this reunion to less than it was in 2006. The Hotel



Jim and Traudl Riggins,
President and Überpräsident

cost is 60 € for a double room that includes Breakfast, everyone from 2002 and 2006 can remember breakfast at the Quality in Hof. We hope to see you all in Hof in 2012.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR THE HOFER REUNION **16 Sep thru 22 Sep 2012**

Sunday – 16 Sep – HRA Registration in Quality Hotel from 1 PM to 5 PM, and Executive Board Meeting at 5 PM.

Monday – 17 Sep – Visit Hofer Rathaus and Oberbürgermeister in the morning, and Tour to the Naila Brewery in the afternoon.

Tuesday – 18 Sep – Tour to Seiffen in Erzgebirge.

Wednesday – 19 Sep – Tour to Döbraberg, Kaserne, and Fernweh Park during the day. General Membership Meeting at 5 PM at Quality Hotel, followed by the Buffet Group Dinners in the evening at various locations.

Thursday – 20 Sep – Tour to Bamberg and Bamberg Boat Cruise.

Friday – 21 Sep – Day to relax, or visit before the evening HRA Banquet Dinner Program at Bürgergesellschaft or Theresienstein.

Saturday – 22 Sep – Aufwiedersehen Breakfast at Quality Hotel.

FLYING INTO FRANKFURT FOR THE 2012 REUNION?

Here's some current info provided by Don Riverkamp concerning air travel. If you are flying into Frankfurt for the 2012 Hof Reunion, and wish to fly into Hof instead of taking the train or renting a car; then Cirrus Airlines is currently the only airline providing service between Frankfurt and Hof-Plauen.

Cirrus only flies Monday through Friday and there are presently only limited flights each way, per day. Flights from Frankfurt to Hof-Plauen depart Monday thru Friday, depending upon which day, at either 7:45am or 7:55am for the morning flight, and 8:30pm for the evening flight. Flights from Hof-Plauen to Frankfurt depart Monday thru Friday, depending upon which day, at either 6:00am, 6:05am, or 6:15am for the morning flight, and 6:30pm for the evening flight. The duration of the flight is one hour.

Members and/or guests must check with Cirrus Airlines for the daily flight schedule for September 2012 if they wish to fly into Hof-Plauen Airport. Cirrus Airlines website: <http://www.cirrusairlines.de>

CAR RENTALS

Some good general rules from Tom Mikloiche for locating the best deal on rentacars.

There are several good websites to go to for Rental Cars in Germany. Prices vary wildly depending on which airport you are flying into, but it is always cheaper to rent off the airport, especially in Germany, where there is a 19% VAT, plus another 19% airport tax, plus more additional taxes than you can imagine,

which run the rental costs up - there is often more spent in taxes than the actual cost of the car rental. Not only that, you also have to figure the conversion rate whether you're paying over there or paying here in advance. Manual transmissions are also about 1/2 the price of Automatics, so consider that too.

If you are an AARP Member go to:

<http://discounts.aarp.org/savings/aarp-travel/car-rentals/uSource/MTTCO/categoryId/401/subCategoryId/403>

Check every one of the offers to see which one is best for you.

<http://www.priceline.com> - where you can BID on a car - I suggest you look all the other offers over and bid 1/2 of the weekly rate they charge.

<http://www.hotwire.com>

<http://www.travelocity.com>

<http://www.onetravel.com>

<http://www.expedia.com>

<http://www.orbitz.com>

<http://www.europcar.de>

Remember, prices fluctuate, so check often and when you find something cheaper, take it, because you can always cancel the first reservation. However, that's not true on Priceline bids - THERE ARE NO REFUNDS on cars you get for a bid on Priceline.

Jerry Middendorf contributes this info. Of all the vehicle vendors, i.e., Thrifty, Auto Europe, etc. I have rented cars from Europcar on my last three trips to Hof and have received the best rates. My point of contact with Europcar has been Henry Turowski in Hof. Telephone number from the U.S. is 011-49-9281-64041, fax is 011-49-9281-61166, and the email is: de.st.hof@mail.europcar.com.

Henry speaks very good English and when I asked him about a “Seniors” discount, he has provided what he calls a 30% military discounted rate off the base price of the vehicle. Of course, the total cost is dependent on the type of vehicle rented.

The Europcar address is Osseckerstraße #179, 95030 Hof, Tel. +49 9281 64041, Fax +49 9281 61166. It is located off Kulmbacherstraße, just past the German Army Base (Hüttner Kaserne), next to McDonald's. The rental car can be picked up at the Europcar office in Hof, the Hof-Plauen Airport, or any other place in Europe that has a Europcar office.

Regardless from whom you rent a vehicle in Germany you should check the vehicle for small scratches, chips and dents near the trunk, front of vehicle, and along the sides where car doors may bump the vehicle before you drive away, noting any damage or inoperable features on your contract. Check with the rental agency to make sure which countries you are allowed to drive in - they all have restrictions. Verify with your credit card provider the period of time they provide insurance for your rental, and if you need the car longer than the period offered, whether 15 or 30 days, turn the car in and get a new contract on the same vehicle, or perhaps another one, but you'll probably have to do this at the rental agency that initiated the contract.

GOT PASSPORT?

If you're planning on making it to the Hofer reunion, make sure you have a passport and it is up to date – better check, because the date for the reunion is closer than you think. Here are some hints from Jerry Middendorf.



There are more than 9,000 United States passport offices where U.S. citizens can submit an application for a new passport or renew an existing one. Passport application acceptance facilities can be found at post offices, clerks of court, public libraries and other state, county, township, and municipal government offices. To find the nearest office, check online at <http://iafdb.travel.state.gov/> or call 1 877 487 2778. To apply for a new passport you will need Form DS-11, and to renew an existing passport you will need a Form DS-82. These forms can be picked up from your local application office, or call and have them

mailed, or download the form(s) online. The main website for this is:

http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html It will list all the requirements you are expected to meet and there are links to print any form you will need, not to mention various tidbits of info concerning travel abroad.

When applying for a new passport at an application acceptance facility, you should take the completed, unsigned application Form DS-11 and supporting documents. Regular processing is currently taking 4-6 weeks. Requesting expedited service will cut that time in half. In an emergency (departure date within 14 days), arrange an appointment at the nearest regional passport agency or rush the application through a professional express passport service.

US Passport renewals are easier to obtain than new passports since you are not required to appear at an application acceptance facility but can apply by mail. Of course, you have to meet all the requirements and urgent travel plans may require you appear in person to expedite the process.

The time it takes to process the renewal application form will depend on the how and where you apply. Applying to get your passport renewed by mail takes up to six weeks or more. If you need your travel document in less than two weeks, you can personally visit a regional agency or authorize a qualified expediting service to get an Expedited Passport Renewal for you.

SITE SELECTION FOR 2013 REUNION

Well here it is, time to select the site for the 2013 Reunion. This year we have three areas selected on which to vote. Those areas are – a drum roll please - Cocoa Beach, FL, Tampa Bay Area, FL and the Washington DC Area. These designated location areas are just that – we'll get as close to the target city as possible, but we will endeavor, as always, to get the best bang for the buck!

Accompanying this newsletter is the official ballot and all the information you will need to cast your vote. As always your vote counts, but even if your selection doesn't win, we urge you support the HRA by attending the Reunion.



Bill and Edie Ward

Following is a brief rundown about each Site.

COCOA BEACH

Cocoa Beach is located on a barrier island between the Atlantic Ocean and the Banana River, part of Florida's Space Coast, best known as the home of America's NASA space program; close to Orlando and next to Port Canaveral, which offers some pretty nice cruises.

- The Kennedy Space Center brings you face to face with the past, present and future of space exploration. You can tour launch areas, watch the IMAX films, experience spaceflight simulators, view rocket launches (if the timing is right) and even shake hands and have lunch with a veteran astronaut!
- Tour Knight's Armament, a military museum that is privately owned and not open to the general public. This museum has one of the world's most impressive collections of weapons, tanks and uniforms. (Some of the weapons on display are the original production models.) This museum will open for special groups.
- The Valiant Air Command will give you a tour of the history of military aviation from WWI to Desert Storm. You will recognize, and may have even flown on one of the dozens of vintage warbirds; see the Tico Belle, a C-47 Skytrain that flew on D-Day and was involved in the Berlin airlift; the F-14A Tomcat, the F-4F Wildcat; the F-101B Voodoo; and the F-9F Panther.

The Cocoa Beach area offers many diverse attractions. Unique museums, including the Police Hall of Fame, a Surf Museum, a Dinosaur Museum (your grandkids will love a souvenir), and a one-of-a-kind zoo (the only zoo in the U.S. where you can kayak around the animals. In addition, you can visit our protected wildlife refuge, take an airboat ride into the Cypress Swamp, or take an eco-tour on the Banana River to see manatees, gators, dolphins and birds. It is also known as the surfing capital of the East Coast.

Cocoa Beach has maintained its small beach town charm; it's populated with laidback, friendly locals eager to show off their personal piece of paradise. We hope to see you in 2012. For more input visit our website at www.space-coast.com

TAMPA BAY AREA

The Tampa Bay area includes St. Pete Beach and Clearwater – this whole area has attraction after

attraction, some activities are cultural, other ones are down to earth, but all are enjoyable, especially if it involves the beaches.

This area advertises a lot of sunshine; averaging in excess of 350 days per year, thus a major attraction for golfers, surfers, boaters, para-sailers, and sport fishing – almost any activity that is outdoors and benefits from fresh air and sunshine.

Being on the Gulf side of Florida, the waters are warmer and gentler than the Atlantic side, which works out great with the miles and miles of the great beaches they offer – some of the best in the world.

There are many worthwhile cultural attractions; art museums featuring Dali, Cezanne and many other masters, botanical gardens, zoos and aquariums, featuring a wide variety of wild life, and also some enjoyable theme parks. They have great restaurants too - from top-notch cuisine to grab and go specialties, and the nightlife is hard to beat. Visit their website at:

<http://www.tampascene.com/>

WASHINGTON D.C. AREA

All of us probably have a list of things we'd like to see in D.C. and it's probably a long list; Things such as the White House, the Capitol Building, the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial the Smithsonian Museum(s), Arlington National Cemetery, the Vietnam Memorial Wall - the list goes on and on.

Needless to say that if the D.C. area is selected as the reunion site we would not be staying in the Capitol Rotunda nor camping out on the White House lawn. We would be in an area outside the district, in Maryland or Virginia, where our dollars would stretch the furthest.

Every larger city in Virginia, and Maryland provides excellent transportation in and out of D.C.. Then, once you get into D.C., the transportation and tour guides are also excellent and readily available, so if you need tours other than those the association offers, you'll be able to arrange it easily – all you need is the time (the Smithsonian would only require an additional week or so). And for those that would stay longer, there are many historical sites and attractions in the general area that make it a worthwhile trip without even going into D.C. itself.

ADJUTANT REPORT



From Melvin & Ilse Hamill – We hope your holidays were enjoyable, bountiful, and your loved ones healthy and safe.

There's a new form in town, the Membership Renewal Form. Well, not a new form, it just looks different, in color, with some changes. After research and evaluation, the old form was retired. The new form is enclosed. At times, it is attached to the Hof Weekly Update early in the year. If a copy is needed or you need to know if you have paid dues or have question, please phone or email Melvin Hamill, (302) 698-1835 or melvinhamill@comcast.net. When requesting the form, it will be mailed or emailed. The email will have two files. The computer version is both in Microsoft Word format and Adobe Reader format. When using Microsoft Word format, print and fill in by hand. When using Adobe Reader format, fill in requested information, tab to next block, complete and print.

Changes are:

- “Hof Duty Information” section has been removed and is no longer used. If you have a question about a duty location, trick, or sport a person worked or was involved in, please contact me by email or telephone.
- The blocks for “New Membership”, “Change of Information” and “Membership Renewal” are deleted. With the Master Roster, I can determine your status.
- A new section has been added, “Optional Information”. This section is just that, Optional; Member's Birthday, Spouse/Friend's Birthday, Wedding Anniversary and Special Event. Birthday and Anniversary are published in the HRA Weekly Update.

Added to the form under “Membership Information” section, dues can be paid for one year or up to 5 years. At member's request, a donation block was added. Membership dues are due January 1 of each year, with a 90-day grace period. The membership will become in arrears March 31 of each calendar year and rights and privileges suspended. If there is a problem with dues, please email or call.

Also, enclosed is the 2013 Site Voting Ballot. Last year, 2011, the voting response was great, 208 members voted. Members voted by mail and email.

This year voting will be by mail, email or telephone. Vote for only one location. Voting deadline is April 2, 2012. I look forward to going to any of these great locations. The selected reunion locations are:

- Cocoa Beach, Florida
- Tampa Bay area, Florida
- Washington, DC area

One more, 2012 Hof Reunion Registration Form, enclosed. It has two pages; page one is Hof Reunion registration and page two is 2012 reunion shirt orders. HRA shirts will only be available at the Hof Reunion. At times the registration form will be attached to the Hof Weekly Update in both Microsoft Word and Adobe Reader format. Registration deadline for the 2012 Hof Reunion is August 16, 2012. Be the first, send the form now. The registration is divided into 5 sections:

- Attendee(s) (Guests are invited)
- Banquet Menu (Guests are invited)
- Registration Information
- Tour Information
- Hotel Information

Our president, Jim Riggin and German Representative, Robert Hörath are the planners for the 2012 Hof Reunion. They have been busy as reflected by the super events planned for the Hof Reunion, see registration form. Thanks Jim and Robert. The reunion starts with the appointment of the site selection committee 30 months prior to the reunion. Example: 2012 Hof Reunion planning started April 2010. I would like to thank the planners of our reunions for all their hard work. Ilse and I could not be more pleased and look forward to the next and the next and the next. See you there.

HRA SECRETARY REPORT

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our HRA Members and spouses for keeping me informed whenever there was a change of address, phone number or email address. These past six months have been one of the best ever for members keeping me (us) informed of changes to their data for the HRA Master Roster. Along with the mailing of the Hof Connection Newsletters in January and July, we email around 450 Hof Weekly Updates to our current active members with Internet Service. Having the proper mailing and email addresses makes sure that the Hof Reunion Association keeps our members informed on a timely basis with information. We mailed our 2011 January and July Hof Connection Newsletters First Class Mail, and that worked out great. Our members got them much

faster, and we will continue to mail them First Class Mail via the US Post Office. Keep up the excellent notifications when moving, changing for summer/winter home addresses, and email address changes, and it will make my (our) job much, much easier.

I would also like to thank everyone that has provided me (us) with some stories, information, and/or photos that appear in weekly updates, and encourage all members that wish to share stories with our members to please continue to email the information to me. Thanks to all for making the Hof Reunion Association the best military association in existence.

HRA Master Roster is updated weekly on Sunday, and if you ever wish the latest electronic copy, all you have to do is email me, and I will email it to you immediately. Some people renew for future years, and therefore do not get an electronic copy unless they ask me, since I might just have forgotten. For those renewing yearly, I will email you a copy the



week after your membership renewal forms reach the adjutant's office in Dover, Delaware. Due to mailing and printing costs, only new members, without Internet service, receive a hard copy of the roster at the time of their initial membership to the Hof Reunion Association.
Don Riverkamp

TREASURER REPORT

It has been a great pleasure working with the Executive Board and members of the Hof Reunion Association this past year in my first complete year as your Treasurer. The HRA's Executive Board goal is to provide all members of the HRA the best services for their money and donations.

The reunion in Green Bay was considered a very joyous and successful reunion by all in attendance. The bills relating to the Green Bay Reunion have been paid and our bank balance as of November 30, 2011 is \$36,806.25. The HRA's finances are in excellent condition. However, we are confronted with the expenses of the upcoming reunion in Hof, Germany and the January 2012 Hof Connection Newsletter. The greatest single cost to the HRA is the printing and postage of the Hof Connection semi-annual Newsletter. The officers of the HRA Executive Board consistently work diligently to reduce the HRA expenses. The HRA Treasurer Books will be Available in Hof Germany for fiscal

year 2012 for inspection by any member with a desire to review them.

The membership voted in Green Bay to donate \$2,000.00 to the Air Force Enlisted Village (AFEF). See attached letter from CMSAF James C. Binnicker thanking the HRA for our continued support and 2011 donation to the AFEF. The Hof Reunion Association has made a donation annually to the Air Force Enlisted Village since 2003.



October 21, 2011

Jerry Middenhorf, Treasurer
HOF Reunion Assoc
232 Greenview Dr
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Association Members,

On behalf of the Air Force Enlisted Village, I'd like to express our appreciation for the generous contribution of \$2000.00. We're deeply grateful for your support and generosity.

It's through the support of organizations like yours that we're able to continue our mission "To Provide a Home" for retired enlisted spouses.

Again, thank you for making this mission a reality.

Sincerely,

James C. Binnicker, CMSAF #9
President and CEO

Thank so much for
your CONTINUED support!!



92 Sunset Lane • Shalimar, FL 32579-1000 • (850) 651-3766 • FAX (850) 651-4461 • www.afef.us

The AFEF provides surviving spouses, requiring financial assistance, a place to live among peers, sharing memories of the Air Force life without the stigma normally associated with subsidized housing. If you are aware of a surviving spouse requiring financial assistance give that person the following phone number (1-800-258-1413) to contact the AFEF. You may visit the AFEF website at: www.afenlistedwidows.org and read more about the benefits of the AFEF. An AFEF information brochure was provided with the registration packet in Green Bay.

The HRA operates on a fiscal year that runs from January 1 to December 31 of each calendar. This is a reminder that all paid membership in the association expires on December 31, 2011 and the 90-day grace period ends on March 31, 2012. To keep your membership current, please make sure your checks

are payable to "Hof Reunion Association" and mailed to Hof Reunion Association, 232 Greenview Drive, Dover, Delaware 19901 at your earliest convenience.

The Tax season is fast approaching and this just a reminder that the HRA is recognized as a nonprofit, tax exempt, charitable organization under Internal Revenue Code, Section 501 (c) (19). If the \$15.00 annual membership fee will create a financial hardship for any person meeting HRA membership criteria (provide the Adjutant with a brief summation with your renewal), the Executive Board may grant a FREE confidential membership based on the individual request.

As always, members are our greatest source of income and without you we would not have an HRA. You are the Ambassadors of the HRA. So keep in touch with the friends you made in that little town of Hof and surrounding area and let's all meet in Hof in 2012.



Hilde and Jerry Middendorf

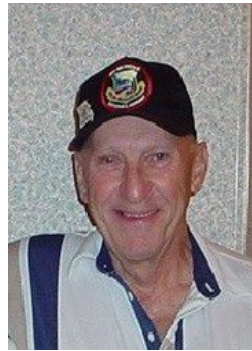
MEMBERSHIP SLEUTHING REPORT

Fellow Hofers,

No long, involved, detective story this past six months, so you get what you see.

The search for our missing continues. A few missing happened upon our web site and contacted our Adjutant or me; others meandered into our Chat Room, and Don Riverkamp, who checks it regularly, forwarded their input to me. Sometimes, when contacting a new find, they give me names and last-known locations for their former work-mates; although, in some cases, they only recall a name and nothing else. If it is a non-common name, I can usually pinpoint it in a search, guesstimating their age based on rank in Hof. If I find an address, but no phone number, there is one data base I use, where I can plug-in a neighbor's house number; and, I will call their number, if listed, and ask if our fellow Hofer is still their neighbor.

Since the July 2011 Newsletter, I have made 27 new contacts, and determined several former Hofers are deceased.



I can always use any help that you can offer about any of our missing, such as last-known location, home State, names of siblings or parents they might have mentioned in Hof. I need absolute help on quite common names in the roster, such as Brown, Davis, Evans, Green, Hall, Harris, Hill, Jackson, James, Johnson, Jones, Martin, McDonald, Miller, Mitchell, Nelson, Phillips, Reed, Roberts, Robinson, Smith, Taylor, Thompson, Walker, and Williams. Surely you must have worked everyday with Hofers of such names. They must have mentioned where they were from. If you don't know who is missing and you don't have a roster, our Adjutant, Don Riverkamp will be more than happy to e-mail you a full roster; or, if you don't have a computer, he will send you one via snail mail. You can contact Don at don.hofsecretary@sbcglobal.net or phone him at 512-258-4894.

Phil Ruth
Membership Chairman
301-573-8212 (cell phone)
301-733-2809 (home phone)
afnsagdret@myactv.net

FLUGPLATZ HISTORY

In the old days, after you got a little familiar with Hof, do you remember any of the locals referring to the 6915th's "Site" as the "Flugplatz?" Myself, I thought it strange when they did because there weren't any airplanes there - with the exception of a Zlin 226 Trener that touched down in a plowed field early one morning in '62 - just a couple of old AF vehicles that didn't run very well. Not only that, I wasn't aware that area was referred to as Hohensaas. But as time moved on it became obvious I was missing out on some historical information.



Jerry Mangas, our Webmeister, has been rooting around and came up with some interesting local Hofer history.

In response to several questions about the Hohensaas Flugplatz: this from a sample page of a German book on Google e-Books, called "By plane, in the provinces" by Rolf

Wurster; this site has pictures showing some prewar or wartime activity shown below. It was pure luck finding it!

Check: <http://tinyurl.com/cjaadsc>

Most of the story centers around the modern move from Hohensaas, back away from the old Zonal border to Pirk, and why, and includes today's general flight activity.

The Luftverkehrsführer in 1931 described the Flughafen in Hof at Hohensaas as an airstrip of the second order. The data: Hohensaas lies at an altitude of 573m and is 2.5 km west of the city of Hof. The Flughafen has an radio operation, a weather site and has scheduled connecting flights

In wartime the Flugplatz was also used by the Luftwaffe.



This shot was taken by a Life magazine photographer and the location wasn't identified, but doesn't the background look awfully familiar?



And there's more here, from the Stadt Hof website: http://www.hof.de/hof/hof_deu/leben/g-fliegerei.html of course, it's in German. This one includes the picture that I had on the old bulletin board before it was hacked and the data lost.

History of aviation in Hof:

As to the question, when was Hof connected to the scheduled network, hardly anyone would believe that 2 May 1927 is the correct answer, but there was great enthusiasm for aviation in Hof at an early stage. Back in November 1919 the Town Council spoke out for the construction of an airfield. This project was realized only after various "Flugbegeisterte Hofer" founded the "Club for new technical design" and difficult negotiations on the land acquisition were completed: 1925 for leased land from the Hospital Foundation. Finally an airfield was opened on Hohensaas. There was an aircraft hangar next to the runway. The airline was located in the restaurant, with tables and benches in the area inviting you to stay during the often-organized Flight Days.

And more on wartime on Hohensaas and in Hof...

The lead paragraph from a Frankenost article: <http://www.frankenpost.de/lokal/hofrehau/hof-land/art2438,1454689>



In der Kriegszeit wird der Flugplatz Hof-Hohe Saß auch von Flugzeugen der Luftwaffe benutzt.



In the top picture the aircraft on the left looks like an FW-190 and the bi-plane on the right doesn't have enough detail for me to ID. The Luftwaffe had 11 different types of biplanes in use early on. The bottom picture is a Junkers-Ju88 medium bomber, if rusty memory still serves. For the curious, here's a good source for identification of Luftwaffe aircraft: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_World_War_II_military_aircraft_of_Germany

Marlesreuth/Hannover - "In Hof the air-raid sirens are howling. Command of the airfield on Hohensaas was transferred in the spring of 1945 to a severely wounded Luftwaffe officer from Hof, where he commanded a 20-strong group of flying students with 17 trainer aircraft and some scattered Luftwaffe soldiers. The Captain of the flight crews, in talking with the head of the nearby Flakbatterie, says: 'Don't shoot! I don't think that the Americans intend to bomb Hof. You'll pull them off their course to the Skoda-Werke in Pilsen.'"

"The response of the Chief of the Flak-battery: '**Quatsch!**, we must fire!'"

"So, in the great attack on the Hofer Hauptbahnhof, on 8 April 1945, at which time the introductory radio communications in the paragraph above, between the Luftwaffe commander and the Flak battery commander took place. The Commander of the anti-aircraft guns was justified in that conversation: from the 800 Allied bombers who dropped their deadly cargo on German cities on this day, 100 had Hof as their target. Flak shot down two of them; the rest reached their goal."

"In the air raid on 'White Sunday' in 1945, the worst in the history of the Hof, (there was also one in Feb and several in the area afterwards) 300 Hofer lose their lives, about one-tenth of the apartments in the city were damaged or destroyed."

The paragraphs above came from the book "The bombing of Northeast Bavaria - A forgotten chapter of our history", published recently in the Späthling-Verlag. Written Dr. Harald G. Dill and Karlheinz Hetz. The latter comes from Lichtenfels and deals with what was happening above the heads of Oberfrankeners in the Second World War for many years. The author of the second article, Harald G. Dill, was born in Marlesreuth and lived in Hannover for 30 years. As a geologist he has traveled around the world, but he has never lost interest in his homeland.

The history of the Eighth Air Force has a detailed listing of the numbers and types of aircraft involved in those raids.

MINI REUNIONS

For the last several years we've been reporting on mini-reunions popping up here and there, and this year is no exception. They are a good example that we don't have to wait around to get together only once a year – we can create our own occasions or "piggyback" on existing occasions that help us get a

bunch of our volks together to chat, hang out, and remember the good old days.

FORT MEADE **Oktoberfest**

The Fort Meade Oktoberfest is a regular event and would probably survive without our attendance, but using it as a focal point and capitalizing on it's theme, it's looking like some Hofers are having good fun and making it a regular event too. Ray Szyperki reports that on 23 September a pretty good contingent of Hofers made it another "Mini-Reunion," and attending an event like this seems to get everyone in the spirit.



The roster went something like this - Chuck and Renate Mattice, Roy and Claudia Tiller, Phil Ruth, Ray and Mary Szyperki, Bob and Marilyn Jarboe, Harry and Jerri Rupperecht, and Jim (Hawk) Crutchfield attended the mini-reunion on Friday evening. Also there, but not in photo - Kiva Fecteau, David and Bill Szyperki (children of Ray and Mary Szyperki), and Frank, Barbara and Fran Dever (friends of Ray and Mary Szyperki). All told, this was a pretty good turnout and they had a good time with German food, drinks and music mixed with the chat and war stories.

And a note from Bob & Marilyn Jarboe about Fort Meade Oktoberfest: Heavy road traffic in the area and adverse weather put a "damper" on those expecting to attend, outside activities didn't fair well either, and overall attendance and local involvement was low. But, those who made it did some revisiting with fellow Hofers and others, listening to the Bavarian music, watching the entertainment, and having a few mugs of bier or sodas to chase down the wursts and sauerkraut, which were readily available. A good time was had by all. Until we meet again. - Bob and Marilyn Jarboe

FALLBROOK

For the first time, in Fallbrook, CA, we hear of an event happening in early October. With a small group getting together for lunch and refreshments.



From L-R: Carol Scanny, Mary Campbell, Jo Murray, Phil Murray, Shirley Murch, Dan Scanny, Walt Murch. Jay Campbell was hiding behind the camera.

Rumor has this was a trial run for planning purposes, with a larger scale event to be held at a future date at an undisclosed location. We'll have to follow up on this.

NEW BRAUNFELS WURSTFEST

Every year since 1961, the city of New Braunfels, TX, hosts a Wurstfest - It's 10 days of a "Salute to Sausage." This year it ran from 4 Nov to the 13th. And, as they have done for several years, a bunch of our association members met there to sample the wurst. In as much as a lot of them were "cops" they may have even had a Bier or two (do ya think?).

Those that admit being in attendance were: Harold "Ray" and Alameda Adams (TX), Jim and Susan Alexander (TX), Ken and Briana Juergens (MO), Bob and Christa Brock (TX), Dave and Karen Dickson (MI), Ken and Gay Kielbania (FL), Jim McGovern (MA), Tom and Inga Mikloiche (CT), Dave and Karin Natalie (MI), Rosie Queen (DE), Don Riverkamp (TX), Danny and Brigitte Sandifer (TX), Joey Trujillo (NM), Stu and Marcey Sturdevant (TX) along with their son, daughter, son-in-law and grandson, and a few military friends of Stu and Marcey from San Antonio and Kerrville, Texas.

This event has been attracting a good size portion of our group for the last several years and it looks like the idea is growing.

RECOGNITION OF LONG DISTANCE TRAVELERS

We all complain about having to travel halfway across the states for the reunions, but we would like to acknowledge several members that have annually been making the trek from Deutschland to join us, to brighten up our festivities, and they aren't whining about it.



Hanna and Robert Hörath

They were in on the ground floor of the association's creation and have been serving as our "German Representatives," since then, responsible for arranging all of the reunions held in Hof.



Rosi and Alois Dietz

They have been attending all the reunions since the Biloxi reunion in 2004, adding a lot of our festivities.



Helga Lange and Anna Müller

They have been attending the reunions for the last couple of years, bringing a lot of enthusiasm and we really enjoy their company (they know most of the real words to most of the songs we sing).

RECOGNITION AND THANKS



It's a thankless job but somebody has to do it. That old adage applies to our publisher, David Sallinger.

Since 2006, David has been providing an exceptional printing capability that has allowed us to include photos and other graphics in the newsletters, - it has added color and a lot to the content. We can now attach faces to names, we can show facilities that we'll visit or have visited, scenes from the areas or events we have attended and even copies of documents we have received. This has added a lot of interest to what used to be a pretty boring newsletter.

David is also the one that has gotten our mail delivery organized and done in a prompt fashion. He's one of those people that kinda understands how the Post Office works (I worry about him because of that), and how to organize things to achieve timely mail service. It makes you think he might have done this before.

So, if you're happy with the appearance of the newsletter and the quick delivery, David is the guy to blame. Thanks Dave, we appreciate it.

MEMBERS LOST SINCE THE 2010 REUNION IN OGDEN

Each year we are sadly notified of more and more of our old comrades and their spouses that have passed on. This listing is from September 2010 through December 2011.

FLYBY LIST:

Gregory Asbee Jr., Galen "Ash" Ashton, Paul D. Baldridge, Howard 'Donald' Banitt, Frederick Bashaw, Don Billingslea, Silas Brewer, Nathan 'Cameron' Britt, John C. Camp III, James E. Cook, Clarence 'Duvall' Cooper, Thomas E. Davare, Carl F. Davino, Wesley E. DeWoody, O.D. Domino, Albert R. Drummond, Thomas Emerson, Roger E. Evans, Herman Lee Everett Sr., Nicholas H. Fedder, David L. Gilliam, Lt Col Ralph R. Glover, Richard 'Rich' Morris Goding, Richard H. Greene (Army), J.D. Head, Harley R. Jordan, Curtis L. June, Wesley C. Linton, Keith B. Martin, Glenwood McDowell, Philip B. Meixner, Brian J. Moynihan, Richard Neuman,

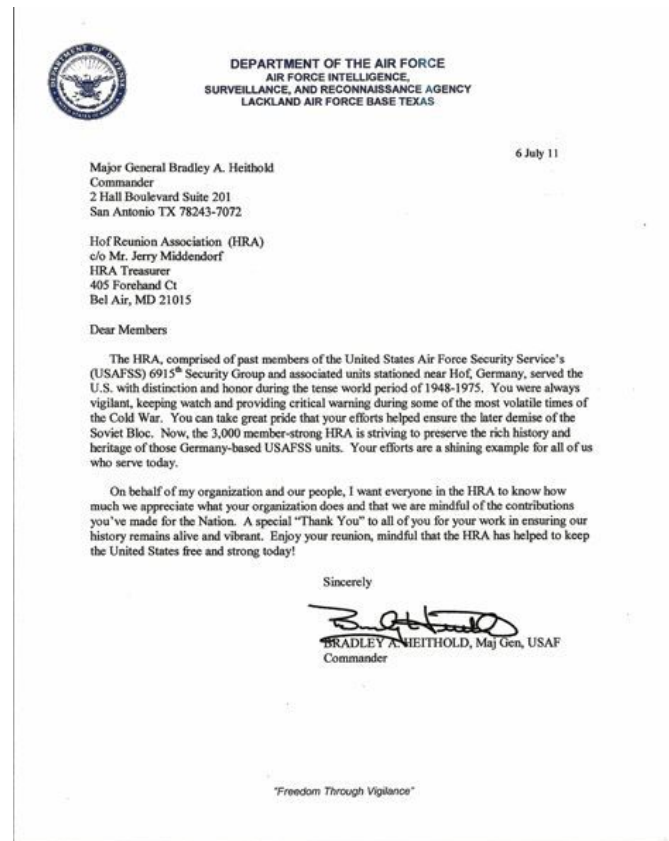
Alexander Pettice, John 'Jack' Picha, Ronald J. Pike, Kenneth Poss, Roger L. Preslar, Kenneth L. Putman, Andrew Quisenberry, Eulis "Wayne" Rose, Carl "Bill" Schunk, James D. Shepp, Murl L. (Bob) Spears, Howard E. Stewart Jr., Colonel Henry D. Stringer, George D. Swank, Robert J. Szabo. Litvin L. Veillon, and Michael C. Wallace.

LADIES SERVING IN HEAVEN:

Gerda 'Heimrath' Ackerman, Betty Ashton, Gloria J. Brown, Sue (Claire) Coker, Regina 'Plattner' Cunningham, Lt. Colonel Rita Flanigan, Karin L. Flannery, Barbara Lee Jack, Frieda 'Wagner' Johnson, Judy C. Jones, Anne Lambrecht, Liesel 'Schemm' Mack, Herta 'Heiber' Noe, Elizabeth 'Tucker' Pettice, Rosalie Ruth, Brigitte "Matthes" Schunk, Susan R. Simpson, and Joan Smith.

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

It doesn't happen every day, but once in a while, one of the groups will get a letter of recognition, here is a letter from the Air Force Intelligence Agency recognizing the cold war era efforts of the 6915th. If anyone would like an email copy of it, contact Jerry Middendorf at j.middendorf@comcast.com.



Controversy surrounding the Wärschtlamo



Herr Kein Trinkwasser?" We didn't let him forget that.

But, REALLY! ... who is the Wärschtlamo?

From a 1995 article in the [Frankenpost](#) there was a story that stated it was originally believed to have

First the anecdotal portion - how he got his name (for a few of us).

In the early 60's a new guy arrived, after going downtown the first time, he was curious about a statue he had seen. There was a small, aged, bronze plaque just below the statue, between the two fountain spouts, that he thought was the identity of the person that was statued. So, he asked us old-timers "Who is this

been a statue of a Hoferin, and the statue was made by her grandfather. Then it was said that it was not a Wärschtlafraa, but was a statue of her father, a Wärschtlamo.

Well, this is contradicted in both cases by Hans Hoerl, of Nürnberg, who authored an article in the Hofer(zeitung). In the article, he wrote he was the husband of a former office clerk in the city building authority in Hof that oversaw the monuments. In his effort to clarify this issue somewhat, he said the City Council decided from the onset that it would not have any resemblance to anyone; it would not be a real person. Hoerl assured the authority that no one posed for the statue, and no documentation or photos had been requested nor provided to make the Wärschtlamo figure.

Well, that settles that! Maybe it is Herr Kein Trinkwasser after all.

But, the often-asked question of just who was the first Wärschtlamo in Hof is clearly seen in a reference to the commercial register of the Municipal Archives. The answer is the entry: John Albert Sandner, sausage dealer, Hof, on September 1, 1871.



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