

the **HOF CONNECTION** newsletter

June 2005

Pack up the truck Martha, we're goin' to town! ... **DESTINATION NASHVILLE**

How-dee loyal Members;

With the selection of Nashville, TN, as our site for the 2005 Reunion, our desires were to present the membership with an interesting and informative program, of interest to all members, memorable to all who attend, and financially feasible, so all can attend.

Our trip to evaluate the prospective accommodations was enlightening and informative. We found that Nashville is a large, modern town, with major changes completed and many more still in progress. The major highways and local streets are improved and construction continues, improving Highways and thoroughfares to help move traffic more smoothly to the attractions.

Arriving at the Airport we found the facility has been greatly improved over the last 20 years; enlarged and updated, with more and better accommodations for the traveler. Transportation has also improved with the major rent-a-car companies represented, access to public transportation for hotels and attractions was convenient, and best of all, it's only about a 7 minute shuttle ride to our hotel with shuttles available every 15 minutes or so.

All the hotels we surveyed have updated in the past year but the Holiday Inn seemed to have done the best job; having a better lay out, very clean and well decorated, offering a great place to relax and get together without having to run all over the place trying to figure out where you are. The Southern Hospitality was also evident as the folks were real nice to us and answered all the questions that we brought up.

We were also chauffeured around downtown Nashville to see what was available for entertainment. There is an abundance of history in this town, from the early settlements to the major music studios of today. There is a local Memorial Park where the history of Tennessee is presented, the Country Western Museum, the Ryman Auditorium, the area with the Honky Tonks where a lot of great stars got "discovered" and propelled into stardom, and many other sights. Downtown is interesting! And then there's "Opryland, only five minutes from the hotel; the gigantic Opryland Hotel, its surroundings, the Opryland Mall, with all its shops and eating places; I guess you could spend all day there. There is also the paddle wheel cruise boat, "the General Jackson," which makes for an interesting and entertaining trip down the Cumberland River to the Downtown area and back while entertaining you with music, food and beverage all the way.

"FOOD," did I say "FOOD"? I found the cuisine to be excellent, with a variety that will cater to anyone's desires, the prices were within reason, you just have to decide on the high road or just plain good fixins'.

So, the Holiday Inn is where we'll be; we chose it for the "homey" atmosphere, the bright, well decorated furnishings and where all events are "right there," with plenty of room to meet your "Buds" and be relaxed. We are looking forward to visiting with y'all in Nashville and having a great time with our Reunion comrades.

Dick Obidinski, President

For some seasoned perspective, here are some comments from **Tom Nickerson** and **Tom Bryson** of the Executive Committee. Tom Nickerson mentions that every year, for the past six years, we have been getting together to meet with friends out of the past and rehash the events of those days. Each year we have grown in numbers and those attending for the first time, have been amazed and totally elated after becoming reacquainted with the old gang. We

owe a debt of gratitude to all of the people involved in setting up these annual programs, who make these events as memorable as they are. So once again, it's time to meet with friends from the "Hof Era" and rekindle the friendships we have made over the years. Even if you have not attended before, this is the year to bring new stories and share them.

Tom Bryson reminds us of the "mortality" that's breathing down our necks and this is the time to do the things we think we're gonna do tomorrow – today's the day, make that commitment to be there. We've always thought that we're going to see ole what's-his-name but if one of you pass, the chance may be lost forever. We are all a piece of a jigsaw puzzle and id takes us all to be there to see the big picture. And for those East of the Mississippi, it's and easy drive that will be well worth it.

So, what's the first item on the Association agenda? Find the Hospitality Suite! This is where you register and pick up your reunion packages with your nametags and tickets. This is where you'll probably find Tom Nickerson, Dick Obidinski, Jim Riggins, Don Riverkamp, Chuck Wilson and a bunch of "volunteers," not to mention a bunch of other people that you've probably met before. This is also where you drag your albums and put them out for display, have a cup of coffee, a doughnut, a Bier, or whatever else is available. This is usually the best place to be – at the hub of activity.

With Nashville located in the "Volunteer State" of Tennessee, **Don Riverkamp**, Vice President, has this announcement to make:

To All Hof Association Members and Fellow Hofers - If you don't know already, let me enlighten you to how important ALL members are to making our Hof reunion a successful one. It takes many volunteers to make our yearly reunion the success that it has been, and will continue to be in the future. So, with that said, please consider volunteering for a couple of hours on one day of the reunion week. The duties and/or tasks are not physically demanding, and I promise you will have fun meeting fellow members whom share many of the same experiences you had while stationed at Hof. We would love to have you help with handing out the registration packages, helping set up the snacks and drinks, chatting with ole and new friends, and remember you are not only helping out the association, but there having fun, and reliving old tales of the past and what's new in the future. Ohh, and the dress code is whatever you are comfortable wearing – NO TIES while volunteering in the Hospitality Suite. THANKS A MILLION!!

Here's the Official Schedule of Events: (It's rigorous, but we're tough)

- | | | |
|-------------|------|---|
| September 5 | 1100 | Registration – Reunion Packages (Name Tags, Tickets, Show list, and Special Instructions) |
| | 1100 | Hospitality Suite open. (Bring you photo albums and memorabilia) |
| | 1200 | Group Leaders post Group Dinner signup Forms – Hospitality Suite |
| | 1600 | Association Meeting – Election of Officers/Selection of 2006 Reunion Date |
| | | Evening Dinner on your own |
| September 6 | 0900 | Hospitality Suite Open – Coffee, rolls & War Stories |
| | 1300 | Casual Reception – Social Buffet Luncheon. (Name Tags worn for admission) |
| | | Another great program by Jim & Traudl Riggins and Tanya. Five minute talks by selected speakers, Singing & Fun (Cash Bar) |
| | 1830 | Grand Old Opry Reserved tickets only |
| September 7 | 0800 | Hospitality Suite Open – Coffee & War Stories. Tours (see sign up form at the end of the newsletter. |
| | | Evening Group Dinners – Nashville at Night |
| September 8 | 0800 | Tours -Times and costs to be announced |
| | 1730 | Banquet Room open (name tags worn & dinner tickets shown for admission) |
| | | Dress: Men: Sport coat of nice shirt Ladies: Dress or dressy pants suit |
| | 1800 | Posting of Colors by Honor Guard (Our dinner guests) |
| | 1810 | Memorial Services by Francis Fukumoto & assistants to be named. |

1830 Five minute talks by selected speakers.
1900 Invocation – To be announced
1905 Dinner Served – Dinner tickets prominently displayed to assist Servers.
2000 – 2300 Dance music – “In negotiation”

September 9 0830 – 1000 Auf Wiedersehen Breakfast

If it's Nashville, it's entertainment time and who better than Vice President, **Jim Riggin**, to speak of the entertainment.

Our theme for this year's program is "Simply Country". We will have a variety of old and new “country” songs and music prepared, and we will be bringing Tanja to Nashville too, as we've had several requests for us to bring her back.

We are also looking for talent for the Tuesday Afternoon Social. If you can sing, play a musical instrument, dance or are a comedian, we would love to hear from you. Any group, like the Hofer Top Hats would be welcomed. For those that would need musical backup, we will need a copy of your music no later than 1 August so we can get it “burned” on a CD – or bring your own CD to Nashville. There will also be a need for “speakers” of tales or Hofer history to fill in during an intermission break. The talks will be limited to 3 – 4 minutes (which will be monitored).

We want this to be an entertaining event and would like as many people as possible to contribute to the success we hope it to be. So, If you can perform, please let us know by 1 August, contact Jim Riggin jmriggin@yahoo.com so we can put a program together.

Jim and Traudl Riggin

Our Sergeants at Arms, **Bob Alekson & Tony Donofrio**, would like to mention a few things from the operational standpoint:

Another year has just flown by – Dad told me this would happen! We're looking forward to seeing everyone again in Nashville. Just remember the first step is stopping in the Hospitality Suite to register and pick up your reunion packages, these contain your Nametags and tickets for the reunion functions. In the process you'll probably run into a stranger from out of the past – but don't let this sidetrack you, stay focused and make sure you get your reunion package. Then you can talk to strangers and show them the albums from Hof you remembered to bring.

In the past we have had exceptional cooperation from all the members wearing their nametags – it really helps to control the crowd and also helps some of the old comrades in arms who remember the face but can't remember your name. And a note about one of the problems from last year's business meeting: due to seating constraints and general keeping of the peace, the Board requests that only one member per family attend the Business Meeting. The crowds are getting larger and it's getting harder to count the votes.

Now let's check the finances, where do we stand and how does it look for the future?

Our goal is to provide all members of the Hof Reunion Association the best service for their money. The association operates on a fiscal year that runs from October 1, to September 30, of each calendar year. This is a reminder that all paid membership in the association expired on September 30, 2004 and the 90-day grace period ended December 31, 2004. To keep your membership current, please mail in your renewal check at your earliest convenience. If the \$15 a year annual membership fee will create a financial hardship for any person meeting Association membership criteria, the Board of Directors may grant a FREE membership upon request by the individual.

The Association's finances are in excellent condition with a balance of \$19,499.77 in our Association bank account as of April 30, 2005. However, the large amount reflects the registration fee for the Nashville, Tennessee Reunion, already sent in by over 100 association members. The association books will be available in Nashville for the current Fiscal Year for inspection by any member with a desire to review them.

Nathan Sparks, Association Treasurer

Bobby “Stu” Sturdevant, 3rd V.P. has some great ideas for the “off season”

Maintaining Contact with our Friends: Okay, you attended the reunion in Biloxi and had a great time. You met some old friends that you spent a couple years with in Hof (a very memorable time of your life and service career). So what's next, do you forget them until Nashville? The answer a very emphatic "NO". You have their names, addresses, phone numbers and in most cases their email address. This is what the Security Police attendees are doing. We are in constant contact with all are known friends passing emails back and forth, especially if another of our friends has been located by one you or by Super Sleuth, C.A. Russell. We send recent photos thru email or snail mail. At the past reunion, I cut an outline of our Security Police Shield out of wood and put a small battery powered clock in it and gave one to each of my friends; another of our members, Rees Dews, had an address book that you can carry in your billfold or purse that had USAF Hof 2004 Reunion 2004, Biloxi, MS so we could collect our friends name, address, etc. This did not cost much but you can rest assured that in each instance when our friends look at my clock or Rees address book in brings back memories of our time at Hof and Biloxi. So I challenge everyone to think about you can jog our friends' memories and motivate them to join us in Nashville. Remember they don't know how much their friendship means to you unless you tell them and sometimes it takes some remedial training by telling them more than once a year!!! Ya All Come Ya Hear!!!

Association Status from the Secretary, **Jerry Mangas**, giving us a report on our health.

The Hof Reunion Association as it now stands has approximately 800 or so very active members on email and many, many more than that listed in the Master Hof Roster, which contains approx 3800 names to date. We have about 300 names on the "Final Flyby" roster and there are still approximately 1500 or so listed as missing. These are people we have not yet contacted or located and we have found no addresses or phone numbers to do so. Our on-staff head- hunters are excellent at finding people. But they can always use a little help from our friends. We are rapidly becoming one of the LARGEST military reunion groups in the country thru the efforts of our membership committee! Any help or leads or names you can offer them along these lines is most appreciated!

The wonderful result of all of this is that old friends and neighbors are re-united and great new friends are made, both electronically and in real time at the reunions. Until you attend a reunion you have NO idea of the feeling of “Family” that goes on. You know everybody, whether you have actually met or not! The faces have changed a little, the bodies have changed a lot, as well as the hair color, but the voices (and the Hofer accents) remain the same. And the grins are totally genuine!

We also invite you to personally contribute to the newsletters, the weekly updates and the reunions. We always need and appreciate input of almost any kind to our printed matter and input to the various forums and sections on the www.hofreunion.com website. You are the sources of our developing history effort. If you have done some research on the web you know that very little information other than the various reunion efforts is all that is available in many cases.

What we find is that the more people contribute, the more people remember and then they contribute and it forms a never-ending information flow. Our active members date themselves from the 1940's thru the 1970's and include all facets of the various organizations that have been stationed at Hof Kaserne through the years. The range and breadth of the memories is wonderful as is the continuing Unit interaction, which seemed to be missing when we were there. I personally know far more now about Hof and the people and history of our Kaserne than I ever did while I actually lived there.

One of the most interesting aspects of our Reunion effort is that you never know what will trip somebody's trigger and prompt a response or a new contribution to the Group. Or who you will run into in person or via email. The recent run of pictures of the "GLR-1" and the articles on Ernie Curtis have prompted a good deal of response, as has almost any article on "Bier", or “Jakes” or the “Schönblick.”

Input comes from everybody: Wives, Retirees, Hofer's, Army, Döbra-ites, Day-ladies and Trick-trash, Officers and Enlisted, even the now 40 year old rug-rats we used to complain about in the snack bar. It is all incredibly satisfying!

Join in! Get involved and somebody will make you smile! Or better... You'll make somebody else smile!

Membership Chairman, **C.A. Russell**,

I think all of you will agree, with the help of many Association members, we have produced a marvelous Master Hof Roster that is a very useful tool for locating former Hof Colleagues and renewing dormant friendships. Even the "Final Flyby List" serves a useful purpose. We thank all of you that have made a contribution to this effort. We are again asking the entire Association Membership to become involved in the search effort to find former Hof Colleagues. We recommend you use the following tools when conducting your search for missing friends. After you find him or her, please send the information to:

russca@bellsouth.net or hofreunion@fast.net

The following websites are very useful for finding where a missing friend may be living today. We do not recommend buying search information from any of the following sites.

Just type one of the following search engines into your Internet Browser and give it a try.

1. <http://www.zabasearch.com/>
2. <http://www.ussearch.com/>
3. <http://find.intelius.com/search-name.php>
4. <http://www.privateeye.com/>

The following search engines are useful for obtaining current telephone and address info.

1. <http://www.switchboard.com>
2. <http://www.langenberg.com/> (Conduct any search listed in the left margin)

Our Webmaster, **Barry Springsteen**, mentions there have been several changes made to the Association Web Site (<http://www.hofreunion.com>) over the last year. They have all been the result of suggestions or comments made by our members.

The first change was to the MEMORIAL PAGE. When our site first came online the MEMORIAL PAGE listed our members alphabetical by first name. The format seemed sound at the time but proved to be difficult to navigate. It has now been changed to list our members by last name.

The second change that has been completed was on the ROSTER PAGE. In addition to providing the names and related information of active association members, we now include the names of those people that we have not been able to find and those that are inactive in the association. Since the web site servers as a beacon on the Internet it is our hope this will help find and attract more active members.

Over the summer the Association Web Site will receive an update in the software that is used to create, maintain and load our site. Hopefully, this will be completely transparent to all members. If it becomes less than transparent please let me extend my apologies now.

Future plans are centered on being able to perform on-line sorts of the ROSTER and MEMORIAL PAGE information. Hopefully, we will be able to present the information sorted by NAME, YEAR or ORGANIZATION.

As always, comments about the Association Web Site, suggestions for improvements or the description of a new feature can be E-Mailed to hofreunion@comcast.net. *Please note the change from att.net to comcast.net*

Chuck Wilson has been in seclusion for the last couple of months reviewing the Constitution and By-laws. Like all things, they need to change with the times and Chuck has some amendments ready to go. So get out your copy of the Constitution and By-laws and check this out, there's going to be a test at the business meeting – you're gonna have to vote

In accordance with Article X, para 2 of the Constitution, the following proposed amendments to the Association Constitution and By-laws will be presented to the membership at the Nashville Reunion General Membership meeting.

PROPOSED CHANGE TO CONSTITUTION:

Article IV – ELECTED OFFICERS

- Para 1 - Sub-paragraph d. Remove 3rd Vice President. Replace with Adjutant.
- Add Sub paragraph h. Web Master
- Para 3 - Delete the sentence: In addition, the Executive Committee will include Past Presidents.

Article VII – Fiscal Year

Change to read: The Fiscal Year shall run from January 1 to December 31 of the Calendar Year.

Article IX - APPOINTED POSITIONS BY THE PRESIDENT

- Para 2 - Remove Membership Chairman. Replace with: Reunion Site Committee Chairman

PROPOSED CHANGE TO BY-LAWS:

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP

- Para 2 - Delete (PM) from sentence.
- Para 3 - Replace October 1 with January 1. In second sentence, change January 1 to March 1.

ARTICLE II - DUES & DONATIONS

Para 1, sub para a. – Change October 1 to September 31 to read: January 1 to December 31.

ARTICLE III - REUNIONS AND MEETINGS

Change Para 1 to read: The annual reunion location will be selected by the Association membership.
The ballot will contain a minimum of two and a maximum of four cities selected by the Reunion Site Committee.
The ballot will be provided to the membership with the July, Hof Connection Newsletter. Selection Ballots and vote results will be tallied at the Annual General Membership Meeting.

ARTICLE IV - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Change Para 1, sub para d. – delete 3rd Vice President and add Adjutant. Add sub para h. Web Master
Change Para 6 to read: The out going President will serve as Advisor to the Board of Directors for one year or until the next reunion.

ARTICLE V - DUTIES OF ELECTED OFFICERS

- Para 4 – Delete 3rd Vice President Add Adjutant.
- Change Para 4, sub para a., and b., to read:
 - a. - Receive and distribute all Association mail to the appropriate office.
 - b. - Maintain records of all receipts and distribute to the Treasurer.
 - c. - Shall keep an organized list known as “Master Hof Roster.”
 - d. - Assist the President and Secretary in the performance of their duties.
 - e. - Is the Vice Treasurer
 - f. - Is the sixth ranking officer and in the absence of the other five shall perform their duties.
- Para 5, delete sub para a., e., and g.:
- Change sub para b to read a:
- Change sub para c. to read b.:
- Change sub para d. to read c.
- Change sub para j. to read d.
- After making these changes, add the following sub paragraphs:
 - e. - Serve as the Association Control Center for all reunion activity.
 - f. - Maintain the Association Internet address book.
 - g. - Provide a weekly Internet update to members with an Internet service.
- Add Para 8 – Web Master
 - a. - Is Master of and maintains the Association Internet Web Site.
- Coordinates activity with the Secretary and Adjutant

ARTICLE VI - APPOINTED COMMITTEES

Para 1, sub para a. Delete the sentence: A pamphlet called the reunion guide is available from the Secretary.

History 101 – KINGSLEY KASERNE: Why we called it that.

By **Garrett Dempsey**, Association Historian.

Hof Base, Kingsley Barracks, Kingsley Kaserne, Hof Air Station: our familiar old home away from home in our military days has had a few different names. This is the story of who “Kingsley” was, and why the base bore his name.

It goes back to World War II and Italy, not Germany, would you believe it? It seems that there was this young man from Spokane, Washington, who had wanted to be a pilot at the beginning of the war. He actually took flying lessons, but for some reason—maybe because at that time early in the war we needed real sharp pilots to counter the good ones flying for Hitler—or for some other reason, he didn’t quite make the cut, as they say.

So, rather than lose its entire investment of time and money, the Army Air Corps said that he’d still be a flier, but that he’d sit in the very front of the plane and drop bombs on the bad guys below.

And that’s how come our brave airman came to find himself assigned to the 15th Air Force at a base in Amendola, Italy. He was assigned to the 341st Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) of the 97th Bombardment Group (Heavy), beginning around the early part of April, 1944. He flew nineteen missions with the 341st, before the mission to the oil refineries at Ploesti, Romania on June 23, 1944. He had been to Ploesti before—it was one of those targets where the top commanders all said, “If we can knock this one out, it will shorten the war a lot.” And so it was, but it was taking a lot of brave airmen’s lives to do it. Not an easy target at all. The more we hit it, it seemed, the more the Germans tried to protect it.

And it was on this June 23rd mission that Lieutenant David Kingsley performed the deed that earned him the Medal of Honor—and cost him his life. The official MOH citation tells the story well:

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty, 23 June 1944 near Ploesti, Rumania, while flying as bombardier of a B17 type aircraft. On the bomb run 2d Lt. Kingsley’s aircraft was severely damaged by intense flak and forced to drop out of formation but the pilot proceeded over the target and 2d Lt. Kingsley successfully dropped his bombs, causing severe damage to vital installations. The damaged aircraft, forced to lose altitude and to lag behind the formation, was aggressively attacked by 3 ME-109 aircraft, causing more damage to the aircraft and severely wounding the tail gunner in the upper arm. The radio operator and engineer notified 2d Lt. Kingsley that the tail gunner had been wounded and that assistance was needed to check the bleeding. 2d Lt. Kingsley made his way back to the radio room, skillfully applied first aid to the wound, and succeeded in checking the bleeding. The tail gunner’s parachute harness and heavy clothes were removed and he was covered with blankets, making him as comfortable as possible. Eight ME-109 aircraft again aggressively attacked 2d Lt. Kingsley’s aircraft and the ball turret gunner was wounded by 20 mm shell fragments. He went forward to the radio room to have 2d Lt. Kingsley administer first aid. A few minutes later when the pilot gave the order to prepare to bail out, 2d Lt. Kingsley immediately began to assist the wounded gunners in putting on their parachute harness. In the confusion the tail gunner’s harness, believed to have been damaged, could not be located in the bundle of blankets and flying clothes which had been removed from the wounded men. With utter disregard for his own means of escape, 2d Lt. Kingsley unhesitatingly removed his parachute harness and adjusted it to the wounded tail gunner. Due to the extensive damage caused by the accurate and concentrated 20mm fire by the enemy aircraft the pilot gave the order to bail out, as it appeared that the aircraft would disintegrate at any moment. 2d Lt. Kingsley aided the wounded men in bailing out and when last seen by the crewmembers he was standing on the bomb bay catwalk. The aircraft continued to fly on automatic pilot for a short distance, then crashed and burned. His body was later found in the wreckage. 2d Lt. Kingsley by his gallant heroic action was directly responsible for saving the life of the wounded gunner.”

And so, that’s why, by General Order #51, HQ European Command, the former Hof Kaserne was renamed Kingsley Barracks (later Kingsley Kaserne) on 2 June 1949.

“This is Our Quest” from our Chaplain, **Francis Fukumoto**

Some time ago I stumbled across a quotation by Jim Goodwin, "The Impossible Is Often The Untried." Take a moment and ponder this, "The Impossible Is Often The Untried." From the musical play, "Man Of La Mancha," the song "The Impossible Dream," lyric by Joe Darion runs in parallel with the quotation by Jim Goodwin. Hear the words of "The Impossible Dream."

To dream the impossible dream,
To fight the unbeatable foe,
To bear with unbearable sorrow,
To run where the brave dare not go.

To right the unrightable wrong,
To love pure and chaste from afar,
To try when your arms are too weary,
To reach the unreachable star!

This is my quest, to follow that star,
No matter how hopeless, no matter how far;
To fight for the right without question or pause,
To be willing to march into hell for a heavenly cause!

And I know, if I'll only be true,
To this glorious quest,
That my heart will lie peaceful and calm,
When I'm laid to my rest.

And the world will be better for this;
That one man, scorned and covered with scars,
Still strove with his last ounce of courage,
To reach the unreachable stars.

Many life experiences fit-in with "The Impossible Is Often The Untried" and "The Impossible Dream." Our hope is that we take the challenge. There are many names to be searched and to expand our Hof Reunion community. Let us continue our search for a stronger Hof Reunion Association and for our future celebrations.

WIEDER ZU BEWUSSTSEIN KOMMEN NASHVILLE FÜR WUNDERBAR FESTSPIEL:

Hof, and the surrounding Bavarian towns, cities, and countryside were part of our lives which brought us together as acquaintances, friends, family, and part of a lifetime experience that remains with us today. If you are contemplating whether or not to make the trip to Nashville this September for the Hof Association Reunion, think no more, make that decision, and come on down.

I have only been a member of the Hof Association since 2001 when Chuck Wilson found me living in Austin, Texas. It was too late to make the reunion in Colorado that year, and I missed the Hof, Germany reunion due to the death of my mother in October 2002. However, the reunions in Vegas in 2003, and Biloxi in 2004 were fantastic, and I know that this year's in Nashville, and 2006 in Hof, Germany will match and/or exceed those wonderful reunions. This reunion is a fabulous time to meet, reunite, and get together with old and new friends that were part of making us what we are today. It is an experience that will remain in your memories, and hearts for a lifetime.

Come, join us in a trip down memory lane, and your future will be brighter and full of memories and friendships. I sure hope to see you all in Nashville in September 2005.

Remember – You may bring friends, family members, and anyone you want to accompany you for this great event.

Don Riverkamp

The Editorial Page by Editor, **Phil Murray**,

There are many out there whose only Association contact is the semi-annual newsletter. Although it is a fairly large document, it has a narrow scope. There are also those out there that have a computer without Internet access. Here's where I'm going. Our secretary, Jerry Mangas puts out an excellent weekly update. It's hard to describe it as it covers all fronts: it's got history, it's got gossip, it's got tall tales from the past, it's got pictures, it has links to interesting websites, it's got the "latest" Hof news and it comes to your email inbox. Barry Springsteen has put together a pretty nifty website. It's clear, simple and it works. It's got photos, it's got history, it's got links to a variety of places, it's got a chat room too. Both of these guys have done this with the help of others; they are receiving input from people all over the globe that have become interested. If you take the time to check your inbox or log on to the Hof Reunion website, you will find some fun and interesting times. If you have a computer and you

don't have Internet access, consider signing up with an internet service provider, you can get it for less than \$10 a month. And if you don't have a computer, consider getting one and then consider signing up with an internet service provider. I didn't think I'd ever recommend anyone buying a computer nor even signing up with an internet service provider, but these two guys have just about made it worthwhile. And then, when you got it all going, get involved, send Jerry and Barry your bits of news, your hints for improvements and anything else you want to get off your chest.

And my parting comment is it would be great to get more female involvement in the Association. We need the ladies to speak up about what's wrong with everything and I'm sure they have easy ways of improving the situation. You're part of it and should be an active part – we need some “curtains on the windows.”

NOTE

If you have an Internet Provider and are not receiving the Association weekly email Update, we probably don't have your current email address. Please contact <HofReunion@fast.net> to see what the problem may be. Please provide your name and correct email address. Your attention to this matter will assure that you receive all the weekly email updates.



**TO
2ND LT DAVID R. KINGSLEY USAAF
MEDAL OF HONOR. 21 JUNE 1944
NAMESAKE OF KINGSLEY KASERNE, HOF/SAALE, BAVARIA 1948-1985**

**AND TO THE 910 MEN AND WOMEN CURRENTLY LISTED ON
THEIR FINAL FLYBY
IN THE HOF MASTER ROSTER**

MEMORIAL DAY, 2005

THANK YOU!

Hof Reunion Association
P.O. Box 276883
Sacramento, CA 95827-6883
916-366-1811 email: hofreunion@fast.net

All association work is accomplished by volunteers. No salary or wages are paid to any member.

The Hof Reunion Association operates on a fiscal year that runs from 1 October to 31 September of the following year.

The Hof Connection Newsletter is mailed to members in good standing 2 times each year (January and July).

The hardcopy of the Master Roster & Constitution is mailed immediately upon receipt of a new membership application and at the end of the quarter in which a membership is renewal is received.

There is a provision in the Association Constitution and By-laws that allow the Executive Board to grant a FREE membership in situations where the \$15 membership dues will create a financial hardship. Free membership must be requested.

Free membership is provided to widows (widowers) of previous members in good standing and they are entitled to all the privileges of membership except the paying of dues, voting and holding office. We ask that Widows complete and return the Membership Renewal form for the purpose of maintaining records and to assure a new Master Hof Roster is mailed to you. Failure to return the form could result in your name being removed from the roster.

If your spouse is from Hof/Saale or Oberfranken, please include maiden name. This information will assist the ladies from Kreis Hof in their quest to locate former friends.

PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN THE FOLLOWING FORM & RETURN TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS

----- cut along line -----

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL for FISCAL YEAR 2006

Last Name: _____ First: _____

Spouse: _____

Email Address: _____

(You may use the email address of a relative or friend)

Street Address: _____ Tel. No.: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

(Nine-Digit Zip Code Please)

Years stationed at Hof: 19____ to 19____ Organization: _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

____ Enclosed is a check for \$15.00 made out to: Hof Reunion Association. I understand the Association operates on a FY, which is from October 1 thru September 30 of the following year.

____ I am a widow (widower) of a previous member in good standing and want to continue my membership in the Association.

____ I am no longer interested in the Hof Reunion Association. Please remove my name from the email and US Postal listing.

Hof Reunion Association
P.O. Box 276883
Sacramento, CA 95827-6883
916-366-1811 email: hofreunion@fast.net

Nashville Reunion Registration – September 5 – 9, 2005

The 2005 Nashville registration fee is \$87.50 per person. The registration fee is to cover the cost of the Sep 6 reception Buffet, the Sep 8 Banquet Dinner, Dance Music, Special Awards, Door Prizes, Nametags, Hospitality Suite, Reunion Packages and other administrative cost.

FIRST & LAST NAME: *[as you want it to appear on your name tag(s) & banquet ticket(s)]*

Member: _____ Spouse/Friend: _____

Guest: _____ Guest: _____

BANQUET DINNER MENU

NOTE: All Entrees include Chef’s choices of Fresh Seasonal Vegetables and their Potato, Rice or Pasta Creation that best compliments the entrée selection. Freshly baked rolls, coffee decaf or tea. A Cash bar will be available.

Dinner 1 – Grilled London Broil w/wild mushroom sauce

Dinner 2 – Pan seared Chicken

Dinner 3 – Char-Grilled Salmon with Horseradish Mashed Potatoes

Dinner 4 – Vegetarian

I choose Dinner # ____ Spouse/Friend # ____ Guest if Applicable # ____ # ____

Please find ____ X \$87.50 for a total of \$ _____ Registration fees.

Make Checks payable to: **Hof Reunion Association**

Hotel reservation information: **Holiday Inn Select Opryland/Airport**
2200 Elm Hill Place
Nashville, TN 37214
(800 633 4427 of (615) 883 9770

The room rates are \$72.00 per night plus applicable taxes (15%); no charge for triple or quadruple occupancy, and a complimentary “Egg to Order” Breakfast Buffet is included. For this rate, you must use the reservation code of “HRA” when making reservations. This rate is available up to three days before and up to three days after the reunion.

There is more information available on the Hof Reunion Association web site <http://www.hofreunion.com>.

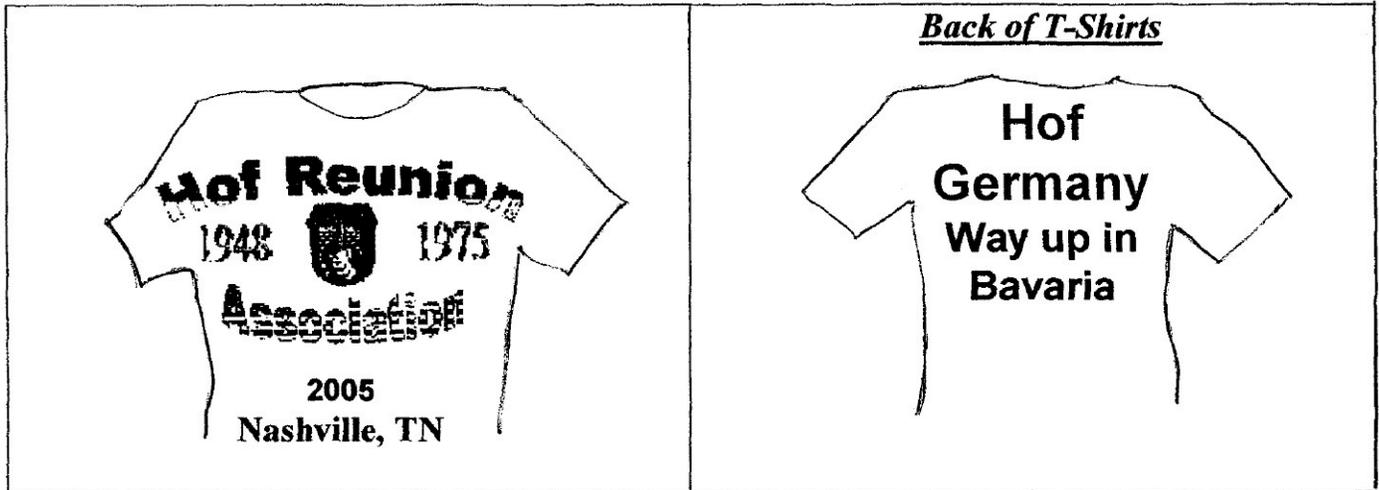
NASHVILLE REUNION T-SHIRTS

T-Shirts are Fruit of the Loom, 100% Preshrunk Cotton.

White with 5 color Front & 2 Color Back

Size: S,M,L = \$9.50 Size: XL, XXL, XXXL = \$10.50

T-Shirt order must be received by August 5. Delivery t Holiday Inn Registration



NASHVILLE REUNION T-SHIRT ORDER FORM

Order and Payment must be received by August 5, 2005

Make Check Payable to: Hof Reunion Association

Name: _____				Number Ordered
Size at \$9.50	Small _____	Medium _____	Large _____	_____
Size at \$10.50	XL _____	XXL _____	XXXL _____	_____
				Total _____

Nashville tour choices and prices will be forthcoming as soon as available

The Hof Reunion Association
P.O. Box 276883
Sacramento, CA 95827-6883
Telephone: (916) 366-1811

Hof Reunion Association Officers and Staff:

Executive Board Advisors: **Tom Bryson**
Tom Nickerson
Jim Patterson
German Affairs Repr: **Robert Hörath**

Executive Board:
President **Dick Obidinski**
1st V.P. **Jim Riffin**
2nd V.P. **Don Riverkamp**
3rd V.P. **Bobby Sturdevant**
Treasurer **Nathan Sparks**
Secretary **Jerry Mangas**
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Web Photo Master **Jerry Mangas**
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Tony Donofrio