



August 2002

Dear Friends,

As many of you already know, Betty and I suffered the devastating loss of our son Patrick on July 29th. Pat was our youngest child ... he was 42. He had never married nor left home, he was the constant in our lives. He did most of the physical labor in our flag business and on July 5th he had arranged for the repair of a 70' flag pole in Port Charlotte, about 40 miles north of our home. Since there was a great deal of planning involved ... the rental of a crane, a bucket for the crane and someone to get in the bucket to do the work, Patrick felt he had to be there. He was not well and I told him I'd drive him up there to supervise the work. He agreed ... we finished the job and all Pat wanted was to get home. He had Betty try to get an appointment for him to see his doctor but he was out of town until Monday the 8th ... it was made for that day. However, when Pat got up on Saturday morning, the 6th, he felt he had to go to the ER ... he was so sick. He was so weak that I had to put a stool in the shower for him as he couldn't stand for very long. We got him to the ER at about 11:00 A.M. ... before he left the ER they knew he had leukemia. He was admitted to a room in the oncology unit about 4:00 P.M. and an oncologist came in to see him immediately to explain the disease and to let him know that they would do a bone marrow test the next day .. Sunday, to determine which type of leukemia he had. The results came back on Tuesday the 9th ... he had AML Acute Myloid Leukemia and they now knew the best treatment. He started chemotherapy on the 10th and had it for 7 days .. 24 hours a day. On the 17th they did another bone marrow test and on the 18th he was told he was cancer free. We all walked on air for a few days ... then Pat developed a sore throat and antibiotics were pumped into him to help him fight the infection. His own immune system was wiped out with the chemotherapy ... in only a day or two he developed pneumonia .... in the end, his heart just couldn't take the stress. He passed away at 7:38 P.M. July 29th. Betty and I and our daughter Susan were with him up until minutes before his death ... we had been sent to the Family Room while the nurses changed his bed and bathed him. In the short span of 23 days our lives were forever changed ... our son went into the hospital and never came home again. We cannot recover.

On Friday, July 5th, I was to have returned a signed contract to a hotel in the Cincinnati area for our reunion this October. I am grateful that the contract wasn't sent as I had to agree to a \$5,000.00 penalty if I signed and then cancelled the reunion. I'm sorry to have disappointed those who rely on me to plan the reunions and promise I will try to put one together for sometime this coming spring. Possibly in my area ... not easy for me to get away now as Patrick was always here to care for our pets. We don't know what we'll do now. But, we want you to know we're doing our best .... And, for the many friends who called, sent cards, made donations, and kept us all in their prayers, we are forever grateful.

We have had some messages on the desk for quite some time and this may be a good time to include them in a letter.

The first is from "Elzie" Eltzroth, 85th, X25 and concerns an 85th mission. Part of the letter from Eltzroth follows.

On a mission at first light 14 June 1944 our flight destroyed 3 fast motor boats off the mouth of the Arno that we thought were German E boats (PT type boats). For reasons I won't go into here, I've tried for years to establish whose boats they were. The French, Germans and U.S. Navy all denied losing any boats of that type at that time. But now I believe the mystery is solved. I found a WWII researcher who just came up with: "In the war diary of the Vice-Admiral commanding the German Naval Command in Italy, an entry of 14 June 1944 is translated as follows: In a fighter - bomber attack off the mouth of the Arno River, three Italian Storm (or assault) boats were sunk. These had been Italian vessels which were taken over by the Germans. So you can now be at ease. They were German crewmen, not Americans, Brits or French."

I don't know who the other 11 guys on that mission were or if any of them ever wondered about those boats. I sure feel a lot better about it but still have sympathy for the casualties. You're welcome to run a note about this in the Falcon Newsletter. Maybe if any of the guys have thought about this incident, it might make them feel better too.

And, this request from Al Mavis, 87th.

"Who is the photographer who might have a picture of the Italian bomber that was rebuilt in Sicily, and flown to Crotona, Italy? I was a passenger on that flight and I would like to find a photo of the ship."

And, this most recent email from Art Palmer, 85th. We have only had Art in our files for less than a year ... he found us. He was with the 79th briefly ... shot down on an early mission with the Group. This is his request:

"I wonder if your Roster information would indicate if there are any pilots around who flew for the 85th Fighter Squadron in September 1944. I know I was flying with Maxwell that day but his son Michael advised me that he had died a few years ago and I'm trying to see if I can locate someone else who flew with us that day." Can anyone help?

We have lost so many friends since our last newsletter ... we'll try to include the names in the next letter.

*Edwin P. Newbould*  
Edwin and Betty Newbould