

The RP-63, (a later version of the P-39), was employed in a most unusual way during the war. Its skin and cockpit windows were reinforced so that frangible ammunition could be used for live gunnery practice. Whenever hits were scored a red light would flash at the wing tip like a pin ball machine, thus it acquired the name "Ping-Pong". With this innovation it was now possible to train gunners to shoot at attacking fighters with a higher degree of accuracy. Gunners don't miss seeing this special aircraft.

### MEMORABILIA INVITED

Members and guests are urged to bring albums, documents, slides and film to share at the squadron dinners. Rare slides and home movies taken during training and overseas should be converted to VHS two hour mode video tape for ease of showing and protection of the original material. An 8MM movie projector and a slide projector will be available on a stand by basis. Please advise us early of what special material you plan to bring to the reunion.

### REUNION HINTS

The weather in November is generally quite pleasant, with night time temperatures dropping slightly. Guests are reminded to bring jackets and sweaters for the evening riverwalk stroll. A few pieces of summer clothes should be packed to enjoy the sunny days also. Remember to bring cameras and plenty of film.

### BANQUET SEATING PLAN

We liked the seating plan that was used at the 15th Air Force Reunion and will adopt it for this year's reunion. A large bulletin board will be placed near the registration area displaying a diagram of the numbered tables. Members and Guests can then write their preference inside the table circle. This accommodates friends who want to sit together. Each table will seat 10.

For the benefit of early risers, coffee and danish pastries will be provided in the hospitality suite Thursday and Friday mornings.



P-47D on display at Lackland AFB. The P-47 was based on the popular Seversky P-35 of pre-war days. The P-43 Lancer, a later version with a bottom mounted super charger that was already obsolete by European standards, was enlarged to hold the 2000HP Pratt & Whitney engine, and 8 wing mounted Cal 50 machine guns. As the P-47 now it weighed twice as much as contemporary fighters with a corresponding high fuel consumption. Many a fighter pilot saved his life by diving away from his adversary as no other fighter in the sky could catch him. The P-47 saw service with the 325th, and 332nd Fighter Groups of the 15th Air Force. Clark Ecton photo 825 Sq.

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

**Thursday, November 13, 1986**  
10AM to 4PM,  
 Registration second floor.  
10AM to 4PM, Displays  
 and Videos in hospitality suite  
**Friday, November 14, 1986**  
10AM to 4PM,  
 Registration, second  
 floor  
10AM to 4PM, Displays  
 and Videos in hospitality suite  
4PM to 5:30PM Annual  
 Meeting  
7PM to 10PM Squadron  
 Dinners  
**Saturday, November 15, 1986**  
9AM Bus tour to air bases  
 open 10AM to 12PM Displays  
 hotel 5:30Pm Bus tour returns to  
 second floor 6PM to 7PM Reception  
 lobby  
7PM to 11:30PM, Grand  
 Banquet, speeches, dancing  
**Sunday, November 16, 1986**  
9AM to 12PM, Memorial  
 Service and Brunch  
 End of meeting



### GET YOUR CREW MEMBERS TO ATTEND

At one reunion, a man who served at Torretta approached the registration desk somewhat disgruntled for some unknown reason and proceeded to give one of our ladies at the registration table a bad time. Someone from the back of the line who was waiting to register called out his name. He turned to face the caller and slowly a expression of recognition crossed his face until it was replaced by a broad grin. They rushed to each other to embrace for a long moment before he returned to the desk and threw down his wallet and said, "Take what you want, I just met an old buddy and I'm having the time of my life."

Why not experience the same feeling with your own crew, tent mates, or buddies. Write them or call them to-day, and make arrangements to meet at the **MAX EFFORT** reunion in San Antonio.