

SECOND TOUR OF DUTY TO NORTH AFRICA Aug 23, 1956 - Oct 4, 1956

In August 1956, the 308th Bombardment Wing departed for temporary duty in North Africa. I was happy to be able to make this trip again because in six months, I would be released from active duty. If I was ever going to be able to visit the homeland of my parents, it would have to be on this tour.

Our bomb squadron was under the command of a new commanding officer, Major Myron H. Rowe. He appeared to be the understanding kind of leader. He acquired the C.O. position approximately two weeks prior to leaving the States; the morale rate was rising.

I'm always trying to figure out a way to make money and I happened to notice that there were a lot of service men going to the base theater. Food was not served in the theater so I got the idea of putting a hamburger stand outside the theater to catch them as they left the movies. I talked to the Master Sergeant and he thought it was a good idea so we became partners. He would get the supplies from the commissary and I did the cooking in a converted 50 gallon drum and had food cooking so everyone could smell it as they left the theater. After just a week in business, we were ordered to stop this unapproved business because of health concerns. In just that week, we made \$600 and split it 50/50. If I ever make it to Sicily, this sure would help.

Three weeks after normal operations at Sidi Slimane AFB, flight lists were posted on the bulletin board outside of the orderly room. The flights listed were for both England and Germany. I couldn't understand why there were no flights to Italy. There were rumors that another squadron had openings for a flight to Rome. But it was not a rumor after all, because the flight was scheduled to leave the following weekend. I had to act fast! There must have been a mistake because my squadron should have had at least one opening for the flight to Rome.

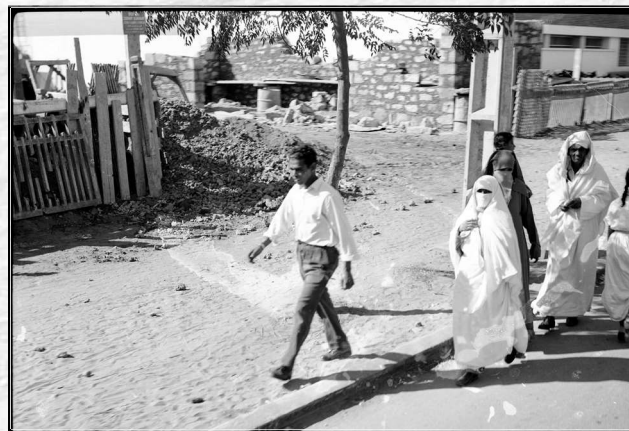
In a letter to my wife Irene dated September 6th, I told her that I was trying to get to Italy again, hopefully Sicily. I told her that I had talked to our engineering officer about it and asked for a five day pass or leave. I pulled on any emotional strings that I could by telling him about all these relatives that I've never met and how my dad has not seen any of them in 45 years and he really wants me to go. I then asked Irene to pray that I get to go because I want to go so bad. My desire to go is mostly for my father because I know how happy it would make him.

Girls on the Beach in Morrocco North Africa - First time Pete ever saw girls in bikinies.



Pete never talked to any of these girls but they were happy to let him take pictures, especially the one standing. She liked posing for him. Petes buddy John Romero developed and printed these photos for him. Irene hated the picture of the girl standing and I believe she referred to her as the Black Dalia.

Photos of the locals in town and some rural huts taken while Peter was on a transport vehicle.







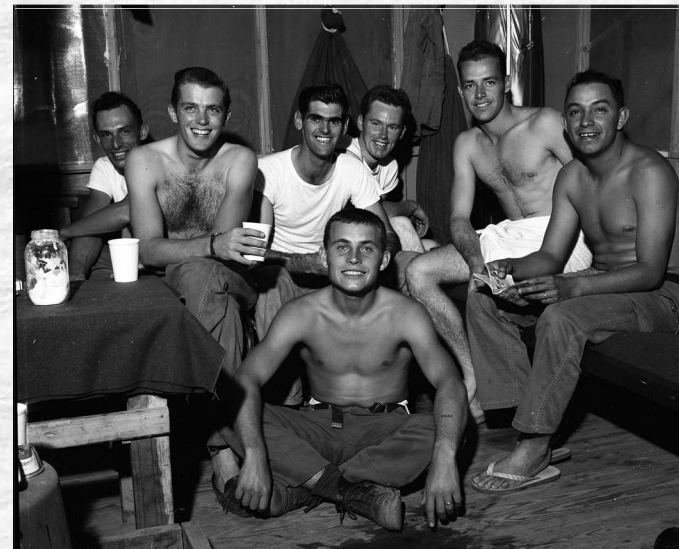
Peter flew this aircraft from the US to North Africa. It is a Constellation and the seats faced backwards.



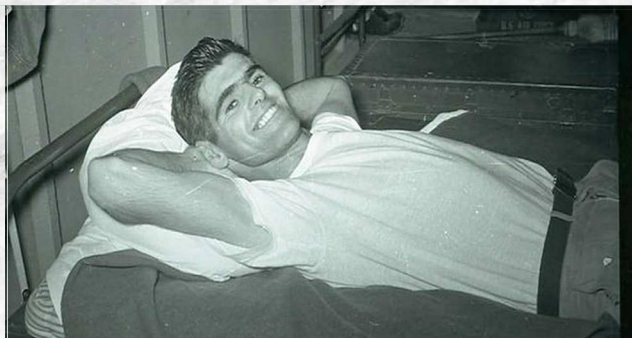
Bill Lutman lying on floor, Luteritz left of Peter who has his arm across his knee, behind the laundry standing is Chuck Kiessel. John Romaro making a funny face on the right with W.A. Smith "Smitty" behind him.



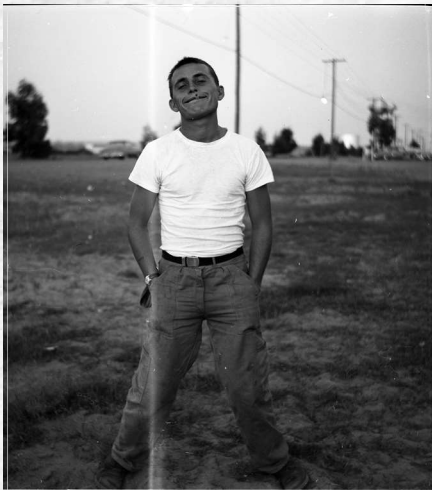
Pete Pulizzi front left holding up four fingers



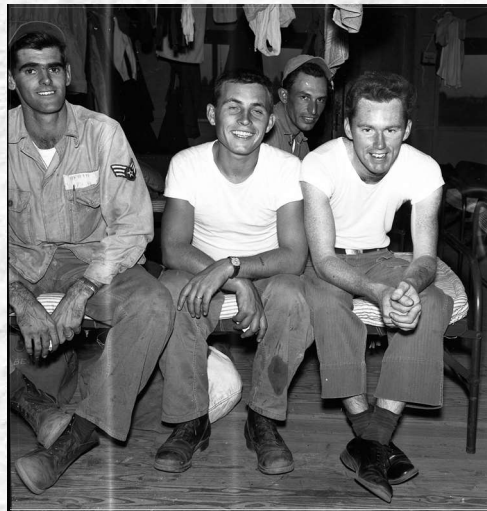
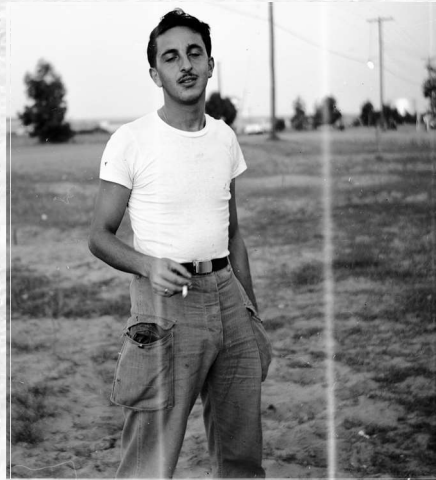
Bill Lutman center, Smitty 2nd from right, Barrio behind Bill, and next to Tom Barrio is Chuck Kiessel.



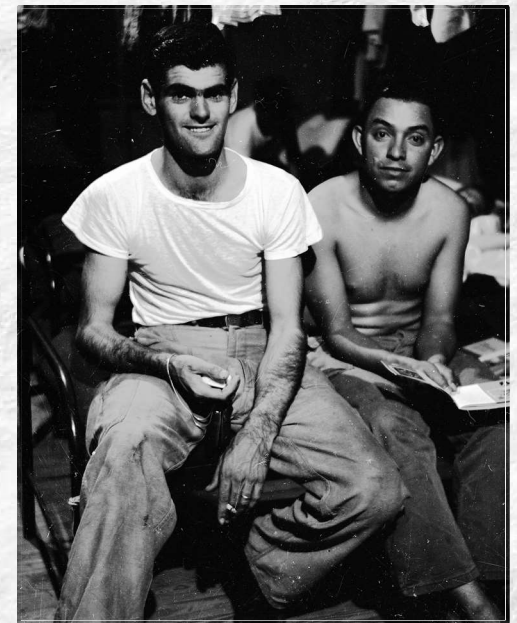
Phil Raia - took Arthur Murry dance lessons for the USO



Bill Lutman



Tom Barrio on left, Bill Lutman middle and Luteritz on right



Tom Barrio left and Romaro on the right



Tom Barrio and Peter Pulizzi sitting on left, W.A. Smith "Smitty" back center, then Bill Lutman front right and behind him is John Romaro.

