

## **ML.74.The Flying Finn**

One of the officers in the 55th (2nd ACCS) when I was Wing/CO, a navigator, was of Finnish Heritage and a West Point grad. He was fluent in Finnish and Korean, small, stocky, blond-headed and a very dedicated, disciplined runner who also had a bad hearing problem.

We had daily 55th 'stand-up' briefings at Wing HQ in the motor pool building at Offutt at 1500 hrs. Each squadron sent a rep to review the previous flying schedule results and the next day's plan. The Wing/CC, Vice, DM and DO sat on elevated tables looking at the screen projections on the opposite wall. The unit reps also viewing the screen sat at tables below, responded to the Wing/CC' questions, and were offered the chance to speak following the completion of the briefing.

The 'Flying Finn,' as he was known, sat at the table next to Harry Moore, who represented the 38th. When I asked Harry's table for comments and moved on to the 'Finn's' table and asked several times for comments he sat there unmoved and unresponsive. After several more requests and no response Harry looked up at me and said, "Sir, he's tuned to local radio station KFAB."

We all had a great laugh and moved on. Harry came through again in his unique, inimitable way. But then you know all about Harry and his ways!

- Reg Urschler



Another time:

At some point both Harry and Mackey were in the 343rd where their friendly jousting continued. Harry dubbed him Wacky Mackey and Bill called him Recon Breath, based on some other epithets Harry threw about, borrowed from the Johnny Carson show.

When fitness was really emphasized, Mackey challenged everyone to long runs, with some sort of incentives. One such challenge was from the squadron to Southroads and back. The squadron assembled a relay team v. Mackey, but of course he outran them all.

And yet another:

While Bill was TDY in the UK he wrote his Korean wife often. On one occasion, he wrote a four-page missive in Korean, and inadvertently mailed it in a Brit mail box. Disgusted with himself, he rewrote the same letter and put it in the US APO mail box. The Brit one got to his wife faster.

- VO, Max