

The Secret Life of Waldo F. Dumbsquat

By Don Hall '76

C/4C Waldo F. Dumbsquat sat at his metal desk and stared out the dorm room window. The Rampart Range cast long shadows as the sun went down. Waldo's roommates, "Regs" Buch and Wags Hisasov, worked to put the finishing touches on their SAMI beds.

Somewhere a Terrazzo Falcon cried.

"You better speed out, Waldo, if you want to be ready for tomorrow's triple threat!" said Regs.

"No problem," the doolie assured them. "I can bounce a nickel off my bed."

Wags frowned. "You have to bounce a quarter this semester."

"What?"

Wags shrugged. "Inflation."

"I bet it's part of this go-round buck up," mused Regs, "they can make it tougher, but they can't make it longer."

"I don't know about that," noted Wags with grin. "Have you heard of R Flight?"

Waldo picked up his low quarter shoes and a candy bar.

"I just have to polish my shoes. It will take me a while... I always have trouble buffing the almond out."

"Don't forget to clean your rifle and mark your underwear, Waldo," Regs urged.

There was a knock at the door.

The CQ burst from the alcove into the room. Keys jangled at his waist.

The freshmen jumped to attention, elbows tucked in and 37 chins quivering.

"You two—" the three smoke pointed at Wags and Regs, "organize the trunkroom. Be sure it's mopped out."

"Yes, Sir!"

That left Waldo.

"And I want you, dumb smack, to wax the SAR floor. No buffer rodeo though."

"Sir, may I make a statement?"

"What is it?"

"Sir, it's *Dumbsquat*," Waldo informed the cadet.

"So you're a real wad, eh? OK, give me Checkpoints, Cadets at the Table, Wing Staff, and 20 squat thrusts!"

Waldo "duly" complied.

"One more question before you get to work... how many days until the Class of 1976 50th Reunion?"

"Sir, may I ask a question?"

"What is it?"

"Sir, what is a reunion?"

"It's like Parents' Weekend only for *grandparents*."

Waldo shuddered.

Thanks to the author and his editor, the three smoke remembered there is a Spirit of '76 Reunion website!

"Okay Dumbsquat, check out the website at usafa.org/76-reunion and report back to me."

"Yes, Sir!"

To Be Continued