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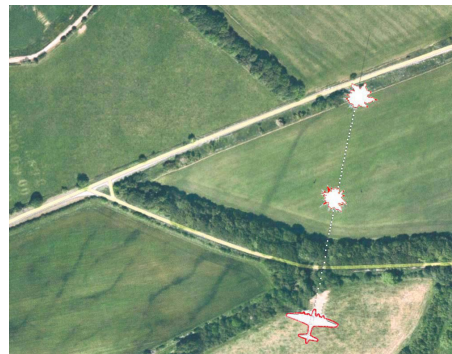


► Highlights

The Forgotten Fortress - A Christmas Catastrophe

As told by Michael Rainsberry

On December 23, 1944, the villagers of Great Rollright, Oxfordshire experienced the most devastating event of their entire war. At 6:15 in the evening, just before Christmas Eve, the peace of this tiny community was shattered by the sound of an American bomber crashing just outside their village. Earlier that day the aircraft, a B-17 G Flying Fortress #43-38812, had taken off from Royal Air



► *The fatal crash path of the 812 which was finally proved by the debris trail, broken perspex, live .50 cal ammunition and hundreds of pieces of metal and aluminum found by our metal detectors. By 6.15 pm on December 23, 1944, we know that the 812 was no longer heading for Glatton, thanks to the key revelation of the late Will Fluman, that their home base had been declared closed, yet again. The course of the 812 was no longer on a bearing for Glatton, but rather an alternative airfield north of here. The height of Great Rollright is 738 ft above sea level and I believe that the 812 was preparing to land. It descended through thick hill fog in the dark before impact. Glatton Control would have advised the 812 to land at a specific airbase that was clear of fog. The 812, with it's rookie crew, was the last of the 457th planes still airborne. Mystery shrouds the airfield destination.*

Force (RAF) Portreath in Cornwall and was heading for its base at RAF Glatton near Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. It was from the 749th Squadron of the 457th Bombardment Group.

On board the 812 was Aircraft Engineer & Top Turret Tech, Sgt. George H. Bruer (married) of St. Augustine, FL; Radio Operator Tech, Sgt. Robert H. Riedel of Cleveland, OH; Ball Turret Gunner, Sgt. George B. Hawley of Pine Lawn, MO; Waist Gunner, Staff Sgt. Edmund T. Fitzgerald of Taunton, MA; Tail Gunner, Sgt. Clifford A. Heinrich of Chicago, IL; Pilot, 2nd Lt. Walter B. Graves of Seymour, TN; Navigator, Flying Officer Joseph L. Kilmer (married with daughter) of Mexico, NY; Bombardier & Chin Turret Gunner, Flying Officer David E. Williams of South Orange, NJ.

A few days earlier, on December 19, the bomber had been diverted to RAF Portreath, due to bad weather at their home base, after a chaff-dropping mission to Gemund, Germany.

The Germans were well aware that the forecast of heavy snowfall and freezing conditions in the Ardennes region would render allied air supremacy impotent. On December 16, they launched their major offensive, which came to be known as the Battle of the Bulge.

The Gemund raid of December 19 was the first time the allies had been able to get any planes in the air for four crucial days, during which time the Americans in particular were taking a beating in the Ardennes Forests. The December 19th raid was important even though the Eighth Air Force only managed to commit 350 bombers. After December 19 the Germans could no longer rely on surprise and zero air cover from the bombers, ground attack Thunderbolts and Mustangs. Gemund was an important railway centre and the

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Visit the website today
www.457thbombgroupassoc.org

► Book Review

Fear No Evil

by Charles D. Hamlin, Hi Publishing
 150 pages, ISBN: 0615513654, 9780615513652

Charles D. Hamlin recently wrote "Fear No Evil", a documentation of his combat experiences with the US Army Eighth Air Corps during WWII. Hamlin was a Ball Turret Gunner, flying for the 385th between 1943 and 1944.

"Fear No Evil; True Stories of the Mighty Eighth" gives a first-hand account of what it was like

to be a crewmember on a B-17 Flying Fortress, flying missions through flak, miles above the earth. The book is available in many museums, including The Smithsonian and The National Air Force Museum in Ohio. "Fear No Evil" is also available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and by going to charlesdhamlin.com.



► Highlights

Carl Gooch Crew to be Memorialized

On September 15, 2012 citizens of the village of Lisse, The Netherlands, unveiled a monument dedicated to the Lt. Carl A. Gooch Crew. On September 26, 1944, while returning from a mission to bomb the Osnabruck railroad marshalling yards near Munster, Germany, the crew encountered deadly flak and was shot down over Lisse. The Association was represented at the dedication by Bill Siler, James Hanley and Bill Henson.

A complete article of personal accounts will be represented in the next Fireball newsletter. - Stay tuned!

457th Bomb Group Association: Membership Dues & Subscription Form

► Dues

Annual Dues: \$25 per person (2 years)
Life Dues:

Age	Cost
under 60	\$110
61 - 65	\$90
60 - 70	\$75
71 +	\$60

► Mail form, check payable to:
Lori Barnett, Treasurer
 457th Bomb Group Association
 304 Old West Point Road, Starkville, MS 39759

check applicable:

- New membership
 Renewal Address Change

► Travel Fund

English Travel Fund

Our sincerest appreciation to those who have contributed to the English Travel Fund in the past. Your current contribution will help the Association cover a portion of our English Historians' expenses as they join us in Dayton, Ohio. Contributions should be marked "English Travel Fund" and mailed to Lori Barnett, Treasurer.

Name _____	Nickname _____	Spouse _____
Address _____	City _____	State _____ Zip (+4) _____
Phone _____	email _____	

Are you a (check one):

- Fireballer Relative of Fireballer Other: _____

If you are a relative:

Name of Veteran _____	Relationship to you _____
Birth Date of Veteran _____	Squadron # _____ Rank _____
Dates Assigned _____	Duties _____
Plane Name _____	Plane # _____ Pilot's Name _____
Plane Name _____	Plane # _____ Pilot's Name _____

POW? / Evadee? _____ Captured Date: _____ Escape/Release Date: _____

Retired Military? _____ Rank: _____

Comments: _____

► 2013 Dayton, Ohio

State-side Reunion



[Click here for a panoramic view of the Wright Patterson Air Force Base.](#)

For Room Reservations:

Hope Hotel & Conference Center

937-879-2695

Make reservations directly with the hotel via phone. The guaranteed rate of 87.00/night (includes breakfast and parking) will not be honored if reservations are made via the website.

Reservations must be made no later than May 19th, 2013.

Events Reservations:

All-inclusive registration fee

\$150.00 per person

Complete the insert registration form. Include each member in your party.

Please make checks payable to:

457th BGA Reunion 2013

Mail to:

Lori Barnett
304 Old West Point Road
Starkville, MS 39759

457th Bomb Group Association State-side Reunion

June 19 - 24, 2013

Dayton, Ohio

Hope Hotel & Conference Center

Wright Patterson Air Force Base

Agenda:

Wednesday: June 19th

Early Registration at Hotel

Thursday: June 20th

Registration

Board Meeting

Reception

Friday: June 21st

Visit to National Museum of U.S. Air Force
(Lunch on your own at museum café)

Saturday: June 22nd

Visit to Champaign County Airport
Aviation Museum
(Lunch included)

Sunday: June 23rd

Memorial Service

General Meeting

Board Meeting

Closing Banquet

Monday: June 24th

Breakfast and Farewells

► 2013 Dayton, Ohio
Events Registration



Total Enclosed: _____

Check Number: _____

457th Bomb Group Association **State-side Reunion** June 19 - 24, 2013 Dayton, Ohio

All-inclusive events registration fee

\$150.00 per person

Complete this form. Include each member in your party.

Please make checks payable to: **457th BGA Reunion 2013**

Mail to: **Lori Barnett**

304 Old West Point Road, Starkville, MS 39759

Copy Registration Form as needed.

Registration Form:

First Name

Last Name

Squadron

check applicable:

Veteran

Relative/Friend of: _____

Address

City

State

Zip + 4

Phone #

email address

First Name

Last Name

Squadron

check applicable:

Veteran

Relative/Friend of: _____

Address

City

State

Zip + 4

Phone #

email address

(continued from page 1)

The Forgotten Fortress

means by which the German offensive maintained supplies and reinforcements.

After the raid, all Eighth Air Force planes had to navigate back to airbases all over southwest England because their home bases in East Anglia and Cambridgeshire were frozen in and closed.

Veteran Will Fluman of the 457th, also on his first mission, described how B-17's descended on RAF Portreath in Cornwall where planes were parked and crammed into every available space. The Operations Record Book for RAF Portreath mentions hundreds of B-17s coming in to land. US airmen took every seat in the mess, drank gallons of tea, ate tons of food, and cleaned out the locality of cigarettes during their four day weather internment at Portreath. The Officers Mess was overcrowded and the bar bill must have been huge. The airmen stayed on the base, as they could not walk to the nearby town. It was impossible to walk in the heavy insulated flying boots that were their only footwear and they had no access to note paper to write home.

The Royal Air Force took good care of their unexpected guests and put on entertainment for them. We know that Santa Claus arrived in a light aircraft to distribute presents at the children's party held at the base. There was also a dance band – Eddie Farge, an American, was booked by ENSA and large numbers of young ladies were brought to RAF Portreath from the surrounding towns including Truro. There were two showings of *The Fighting Sullivan's* on Friday night, December 22, the tragic true story of five brothers all killed in action during the war in the Pacific. We believe this is how the crew of the 812 spent their last evening.

The 812, with it's completely rookie crew, was led by Clark Gable look-alike, 1st Lt Clifford Hendrickson. On December 23 a window opened in the weather and all aircraft were summoned back to their respective bases, mainly in East Anglia. For security reasons, none of the crews were ever told what was scheduled for the following day in terms of missions. On December 24, 1944, the 8th AAF launched the largest raid to Germany of WWII, committing over 2,500 aircraft in a massive Gotterdammerung demonstration of overwhelming air power. It was designed to buckle the knees of the German offensive and open up the advance to the Rhine.

continued in next issue



At Lands End

457th Bomb Group - Dec. 19-26, 1944

by Willmore Fluman

You asked if I could share some information about the time we spent at Lands End waiting for the weather to clear. Before I comment on my recollections of that time, let me review some of the circumstances relating to flying a typical combat mission. Each crew member was briefed and equipped to carry out his assignment for that specific day. There was no consideration about "tomorrow". When you took off, you hoped to be back at the base in 8 to 10 hours. You did not carry an "overnight bag" and no food, except for one candy bar. Most men who wore electrically heated socks in their flying boots would also carry their "G I shoes" with them. The socks and flying boots were not made for walking.

So when we landed at Portreath on December 19, all we had with us was what we were wearing. We were provided quarters at the base, ate at the mess hall and spent an awful lot of time at the Officers Club. Each day we hoped for clearance to take off and Glatton was only a couple of hours away. I never left the base except to walk out to the edge of the cliffs and look out over the sea. It was cold and windy but there was no snow. We never knew there was a town nearby and of course we had no transportation.

The RAF officers at the base were very polite and offered to help in any way they could. I'm not sure how they put up with the "yanks" sitting in every chair and drinking all the tea that was put out in the club room each afternoon. Although there was plenty of time to write letters, I doubt if anyone had any paper to write on. Many bomb groups had been diverted to Southwest England. At the time, my impression was that there were more than 457th men at the base. The field was very crowded with planes parked nose to tail on the taxi strips. When the weather finally cleared a little on the 23rd, the order of takeoff was determined by where your plane was parked. As I recall, we took off mid-afternoon. By the time we reached Glatton, the weather had closed in again and the field was closed. We were diverted to an open field at a B-17 base and trucked back to Glatton, arriving after dark. If the Hendrickson/Graves crew crashed at 18:00, they must have taken off about 16:30.

You asked about the narrative for the December 19 mission to Gemond. The only one that I'm aware of is that published in James Bass '*Fait Accompli*'. You have likely already seen this. The 16 planes you mention being at Portreath matches the numbers in '*Fait Accompli*'. 36 planes were committed to the mission, 14 failed to take off and, on return, 6 were able to land at Glatton. This would validate 16 planes at Portreath. The only other related info I have is from my personal notes. We were later told that the Eighth Air Force was only able to get 350 B-17's in the air that day and we had no fighter protection. I don't know how many were briefed to fly but 350 is a pretty small number.

Regular crews assigned to fly were not alerted until the evening before the mission, although lead crews had a little more planning time. When we left Portreath, we had absolutely no info on the plans for the mission of December 24. That was my second mission and the first for my entire crew. The weather continued to be poor and takeoffs were delayed until late morning. The seventh plane crashed on takeoff and the field was closed. Those of us still on the ground took off early afternoon. After formation assembly and some further delay, we were notified to proceed to the designated bomb drop area in the channel and jettison our bombs. Weather again closed the field at Glatton and we were diverted to the 95th bomb group field at Horham. We spent Christmas day there and returned home on December 26.

Yes, there was a Christmas party at Glatton for local children. At the time, I was not aware of the party and, of course, was not even on the base. There are some photos of this party available.

I hope this info is of some value as you try to piece together details of events which happened over 67 years ago. If you have further questions that I may be able to help with, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Will Fluman (February 20, 2012)

Willmore Fluman provided this valuable bit of information to Michael Rainsberry on February 20, 2012, three days before he died. We are forever grateful for his report of the events that unfolded, as seen through his eyes. It is now a piece of history captured immemorial.

James Bass has also given an account. His story will appear in a future FIREBALL newsletter.

► Highlights

Return to Glatton - 2012

by Candy Fluman

The 457th Bomb Group convened its semi-annual Mini-Reunion at the Bull Hotel in Peterborough May, 2012. The event began early Sunday at Flying Club Conington, where a new sign honoring the 457th had been installed. The day at Conington also included a memorial service in Conington Church and wreath laying at the Stone Airman, lunch sponsored by the Sawtry Branch of the Royal British Legion, a brief service with wreath laying at the Memorial Monument, and afternoon tea hosted by Angela and Tim Newell.



► Reflecting pool at Madingley American Cemetery.

Monday's plans included attendance at the annual Memorial Day Service in Cambridge and a visit to the Admiral Wells Pub in Conington for lunch and viewing of their photograph collection.

Tuesday provided options for free time and local sightseeing, a day to York, organized by David Bass, and a trip to Rochester and the Bridge Trust for veterans and board members, who were treated to lunch, a brief historical walking tour of the city, and background on the Trust's interest in the 457th Bomb Group. The day and the event concluded with the closing banquet at the hotel,



► James Bass, Bill Siler, Fayette Dennison, Don Osborne, and James Hanley stand in front of the new signage at the Conington Airfield.

with the participation of all attendees and representatives of the Rochester Bridge Trust.

The reunion was attended by approximately 30 participants which included veterans, family, and friends. Attending veterans were James Bass, Fayette Dennison, James Hanley, Don Osborne, and Bill Siler.

Iris Falcone, widow of Joseph Falcone, continued her involvement with the association.



► Will Fluman stands at the entrance to the Admiral Wells.

Veterans had the opportunity to participate in several activities involving continued research and documentation of the time the 457th was stationed at Glatton.

Martin Phillis of Definition Media produced a UK public broadcasting documentary on the 8th Air Force, using filmed interview content provided by some reunion participants. "The American Invasion" was broadcast in October.

Stephan Naef and Markus Koller have been involved with the excavation of a B-17 crash site in Switzerland, and shared current photographs and updates on their work.



► Iris Falcone enjoys a chat at the Flying Club.

Michael Rainsberry has been involved in a project attempting to locate the crash site of the "Forgotten Fortress" and spoke with many attendees searching for additional information.

John Walker filmed the 2004 reunion at the time of the dedication of the Memorial Monument. Attending for the second time, he filmed many reunion activities, producing a dvd for the 457th.

The success of this event relied heavily on the interest, graciousness, and good will of the following: Angela and Tim Newell; Erin and Richard Pobjee; Rochester Bridge Trust; Sawtry Branch, Royal British Legion, who assumed responsibility for all things "military" for our day in Conington; the Bull Hotel, Peterborough; and the Flying Club Conington.



► Don Osborne



► Bill Siler



► Fayette Dennison (Kathy)



► James Bass



► James Hanley

► In Memory

Mickey Briggs

The death of Mickey Briggs on September 24, 2012 brought an end to the era of the Old Guard of the Association. Homer and Mickey Briggs were among the handful of founders of the Association. Mickey was the first secretary-treasurer, solicitor of membership and editor of the Newsletter in addition to being the corresponding secretary and Association liaison with other units of the Eighth Air Force Association. She was in charge of registration at all meetings and together with Homer hosted the first and third Association meetings.

Mickey became the encyclopedia of the Association developing a huge inventory of facts and figures on the 457th and its personnel. She always had time to answer the questions of a member or respond to the inquiry of anyone seeking information concerning the 457th.

Upon her retirement the offices of secretary and treasurer were divided (and later the editor of the Newsletter), the Association realizing the duties were too demanding for one person. Her service and devotion to the Association and its ongoing vitality were recognized by the naming of the Memorabilia Room, the Mickey Briggs Memorabilia Room.

I had many occasions to work with Mickey. Her knowledge of the bomb group and the members of the Association was incredible.

submitted by James L. Bass

Edgar J. O'Donnell

Edgar O'Donnell was a beloved husband of the late Viola (nee Costa). He was a devoted father, a loving grandfather and proud great-grandfather.

My father passed away on November 17, 2012 at the age of 92. He was always very proud to have served in WW II as part of the 457th Bomb Group in England as part of their armament team. He lived most of his life in Atlantic City and Pleasantville, New Jersey.

He passed away peacefully from natural causes. The VA was kind to him during his lifetime and helped him thru his final years financially.

submitted by Michael O'Donnell

Clifford Benjamin Digre

Clifford Digre passed away at his home in Prior Lake, Minneapolis, Minnesota on November 25, 2012 with his wife and children at his side.

Cliff was born on May 26, 1923 in Hendricks Minnesota to Peder and Carrie Digre. He served as a ball-turret gunner and radio-operator in World War II in England. After the war he met the love of his life, E. Bernice Hoversten and they were married in 1947.

He founded Minneapolis Speaker Company (MISCO) and has 3 patents. After semi-retirement from MISCO, he wrote his memories of World War II: "Into Life's School; My World War II memories." Cliff was a 50 year member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church and of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

He was proud of his service and made several post war visits to Glatton, England and regularly attended the 457th Bomb Group stateside reunions. Cliff was 89.

submitted by Dan Digre

Reverend John Ward

John "Zeke" Ward passed away on October 11, 2012 at the Oxford Veterans Home in Oxford NY.

Born in Rochester on April 10, 1923, Zeke was the son of DeWitt C. and Edith Ward. He served with the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, completing his service as a Staff Sergeant and serving as a waist gunman on a B-17 aircraft. During his service, Zeke earned the Air Medal with Gold Leaf Cluster, the Good Conduct Medal and the Purple Heart.

In 1949, Zeke graduated from Denison University in Granville, OH, earning his Master of Divinity degree from Berkeley Baptist Divinity School in Berkeley, CA and another master's degree in Educational Counseling from the University of Nevada at Reno while serving as a minister at the Stewart Indian School in Carson City, NV.

John Ward proudly took part in the 457th Monument Dedication Ceremony in 2004.

submitted by Jon Ward

Fayette Dennison

Fayette "Faye" Dennison, 90, of Pensacola, went to Heaven and joined his Angel (Jewell) on December 25, 2012. A CPA by profession, he was born in Bowling Green, KY and was a proud veteran. He was a WWII Bombardier in the 751st Squadron of the 457th Bomb Group. After WWII, he graduated from the University of FL in 1948, with a B.S. in Business Administration and was licensed to practice as a Certified Public Accountant. He returned to military service in 1950, during the Korean War, and was stationed at Eglin AFB. He then started a local CPA firm and continued practicing until the time of his passing.

Fayette devoted his life to honoring the memory of his beloved wife of 66 years, who died in 2009, through committed service to the Methodist Home Board, Gadsden Street UMC and Haven of Our Lady of Peace. Throughout his life, Fayette was known for his strong work ethic and sense of humor. Those who joined Fayette and his daughter, Kathy, at the 2012 Return to Glatton reunion were witness to his wonderful sense of humor.

submitted for Kathy Collins

Walter R. Sprankle

I received the Fireball newsletter in the mail yesterday and wanted to notify you of my Father Walter R. Sprankle's passing on August 8, 2012. He enjoyed the newsletter for many years and many times shared stories of the war and the terrific group of men he spent time with.

I will put this last newsletter with my Dad's things as a reminder of the 457th Bomb Group.

submitted by Sharon VanderLende

Donald E. Polen

Donald Polen, waist gunner in the 457th Bomb Group (Wolf Pak) passed away on May 20, 2012 in Noth Canton, Ohio. Don would have been 89 in July. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Beverly Polen, two daughters, Donna Mathias, Debbie Fitz, and son Dennis Polen, three grandchildren and five great-grandsons. Don loved the reunions. He is grealty missed by his family.

submitted by Beverly Polen

► In Memory (continued)

James R. "Bob" Day

James R. "Bob" Day, 89 years old, passed away on Monday May 21, 2012 at the Carlyle Health Care Center in Carlyle. He was born on February 3, 1923 in Sandoval, Illinois. He married Marjorie Jane De Lay on October 21, 1945 in Keyesport, Illinois and she survives him.

Bob enlisted in the Army Air Corp in 1942 where he was a staff sergeant flying combat missions in a B-17 as a radar operator. Bob continued his service after the war in the United States Air Force until 1948. He was in the lead plane of 1400 bombers in February 1945 when the Industrial target of Munich Germany was bombed. Bob received four Unit Bronze Stars, a Three Oak-leaf cluster, and the Air Medal for his military service. He will be missed.

submitted by John Day

Richard J. McDonald

Richard J. McDonald, member of the 457th Bomb Group Association, died of prostate cancer on January 11, 2011. He served at Glatton as a gunnery officer. "Dix" was proud of serving his country and elected to stay in the Reserves and retired as Lt. Col. in the Air Force Reserves.

We returned to Glatton for the 457th Bomb Group Reunion in May 2006.

submitted by Mrs. R.J. McDonald

► Highlights

B-17 Excavation Site

Individuals who attended the 2012 Glatton Reunion had the pleasure of sharing the events with Stefan Naef and Markus Koller. Our two Swiss friends have been excavating and reconstructing a B-17 that went down in Switzerland during WWII. They have agreed to share their experience in an upcoming newsletter.

Swiss National TV recently created a documentary about the crash. Although the footage is not in English, online readers can see Stefan and Markus as they reconstruct the B-17.

Swiss National TV Video: Bomber-Museum.

<http://www.srf.ch/player/tv/schweiz-aktuell/video/bomber-museum?id=b6e80056-cdb2-4eb9-a3d3-0938a03fa8ab>

► Officers & Appointments

John Pearson President	jonpearson@cavtel.net 1900 Lauderdale Drive C-315, Richmond, VA 23238	P: 804. 740. 2635
Joe De Luccia Vice-President	jaadeeluu@aol.com 214 Cambridge Ave., Saddle Brook, NJ 07663	P: 201. 797. 9245
Trisha Mach Secretary	secretary.457thbombgroupassoc@yahoo.com 1862 Halekoa Dr., Honolulu, HI 96821	P: 808.799.8854
Lori Barnett Treasurer	Lpbarnett223@aim.com 304 Old West Point Road, Starkville, MS 39759	P: 662. 418. 8563
Vacant Director - 2 year		
James Hanley Director - 4 year	hanley25@hotmail.com 2552 Thorn Oak Drive, #80, Medford, OR 97501	P: 541. 840. 1301
Will Fluman, Jr. Director - 6 year	MR-SHORT-CUT@hotmail.com 132 Ore Bank Road, Dillsburg, PA 17019	P: 570. 971. 5757
Joe Toth Immed. Past Pres.	jandjtoth@comcast.net 449 Sunset Lane, Pueblo, CO 81005	P: 719. 566. 1714
James Bass Legal Advisor	jlbass@bassandbass.com P.O. Box 500, Carthage, TN 37030-0500	P: 615. 735. 1122 F: 615. 735. 3149
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► English Historians

John Walker	29 Chancery Lane, Eye, Peterborough, England PE6 7FY	P: 44 1733 222994
Tim Newell	tim.newell@ymail.com Virginia Cottage Church Lane, Conington, Peterborough, England PE7 3QA	P: 44 1487 830450
Richard Pobgee	richardpobgee@hotmail.com 42 New Road, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire, England PE7 1SU	P: 44 1733 701872
Chris Cronin	chris_cronin@live.co.uk	

► Past Presidents

1973-75: William Willborn	1986-87: Clayton Bejot	2001-03: Will Fluman (d)
1976: Howard Larsen (d)	1988-89: Donald Sellon	2003-05: Don Nielsen
1977-79: Bill Siler	1990-91: John Welch	2005-07: James Bass
1980-81: Edward Reppa (d)	1992-93: Roland Byers(d)	2007-09: George Grau
1982-83: Daniel Graham (d)	1993-97: Billy Hightower (d)	2009-11: Joe Toth
1984: William Good (d)	1997-99: Lee Zimmerman	2011-13:
1985: David Summerville (d)	1999-01: Craig Harris (d)	2013-15:



Visit the website today at www.457thbombgroupassoc.org

► 2013-2014 Calendar of Events

► **February, 2013**
Winter Newsletter

► **June 19-24, 2013**
State-side reunion,
[Wright Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio](#)

► **June 30, 2013**
Summer newsletter article deadline

► **August, 2013**
Summer Newsletter

► **November 30, 2013**
Winter newsletter article deadline

► Editors Report

Newsletter by mail or online?

I hope you have had an opportunity to see the full color **FIREBALL** newsletter online.
www.457thbombgroupassoc.org

We will continue to print and mail a black & white version of the newsletter, however, if you would like to be notified by email when a new **FIREBALL** issue is available please contact Trisha Mach at secretary.457thbombgroupassoc@yahoo.com. She will send you a link that will take you directly to the latest newsletter.

Chris Sechrist, *editor*

Our Departed Veterans

During each of our State-side reunions a ceremony is held to honor those veterans who have passed away during that year. Please let us know if your dear Veteran has passed away, by contacting:

Trisha Mach

3101 Woodbridge Drive, Bedford, TX 76021
or by emailing Trisha at:
secretary.457thbombgroupassoc@yahoo.com

She will add the name to a list of those who will be honored at the Dayton Reunion, June 19-24.

Additionally, if you desire, we will recognize your loved one in the **FIREBALL** newsletter. Feel free to submit obituaries, memoirs, & family stories... past or present to Chris Sechrist. I will place your article in a future newsletter.

Contact

- **mail:**
Chris Sechrist
36 Shank Road, Carlisle, PA 17015
- **email:**
Chris Sechrist
nephoto@embarqmail.com

Visit the website today at
www.457thbombgroupassoc.org