



Est. July 1971 ▶ Bentonville, AR

February 2017 ▶ Vol. 47 Issue 85



▶ Special Report

2017 State-Side Reunion Mesa, Arizona

October 11 - October 15, 2017

*It's time to visit with old friends....and
make some new friends!*

Join us in October for the upcoming 2017 State-side Reunion at the Hilton Phoenix/Mesa in Mesa, AZ. The Reunion will kick off on October 11 with a Welcome Reception.

Visit the Pima Air and Space Museum where we will visit two WWII hangers, the 390th Bomb Group Memorial Museum and take a tram tour of the airplane boneyard.

Tour the Arizona Commemorative Air Force Museum. Step inside the B-17, Sentimental Journey and take a few photos. It still flies, so it may be possible to buy a flight, if the plane isn't in maintenance when we're there. The cost of a flight ranges from \$425-\$825.

Accommodations will be at the Hilton Phoenix/Mesa. The hotel features oversized rooms, a bar, specialty coffee bar, room service, business and fitness center, heated pool, whirlpool spa, Wi-Fi, and a restaurant offering dining with a majestic mountain view. A variety of restaurants are located within walking distance. The hotel is located 15 minutes from Phoenix-Sky Harbor International Airport. Our group rate is \$119 per night and includes complimentary buffet breakfast for two. **Reservation Deadline for this rate is September 11, 2017.**

To make reservations call 1.480.833.5555 (use group code 457), or online by going to our group specific reservation page at <http://tinyurl.com/h6srnzx>

The link will be also be available on our facebook page and our web page.

Additional details concerning the agenda and 457 Bomb Group Reunion Registration forms will be available in the fall edition of the Fireball newsletter.

Updates will also be posted on Facebook and at www.457thbombgroupassoc.org.

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▶ Arizona Commemorative Air Force Museum

► President's Review

Dear Members,

2017! Wow! Best wishes members, friends and families of the 457th Bomb Group Association.

The 2016 Reunion took place last June in Washington D.C. We were honored to have this wonderful and successful event hosted by Nancy Archuleta and family. Thank you for your dedication to the 457th and for your many hours of labor before and during the reunion.

For me, 2017 marks 20 years of participation in and support of our great organization. It seems only last week we were in Savannah in 1997, shortly after the Mighty 8th Museum opened. President Craig Harris of North Carolina showed 300 of us the meaning of support and how to enjoy historic Savannah. I met some wonderful people at my 1st reunion: Bernie and Sadie

Bains, John Pearson, Jim Bass, Lee Zimmerman, and many others. In the last 20 years, I've stopped many times to visit the museum and to work on projects for the 457th.

Announcing two important upcoming events:

- 1) A monument project at Rollright, England was finished by our English friends. Tim and Angie Newell of Conington and Erwin Demooj will attend the dedication.
- 2) The 2017 Arizona Reunion will be in October, hosted by Trisha and Gregg Robertson. It will be a great event. Hotel details can be found on the first page of this newsletter. Event registration forms will follow in our summer newsletter.

Continue to send in your stories and memories so we can continue the legacy of the 457th.

Best wishes and good health to all!
Will Fluman Jr, President

► We Like You

Like us on facebook!

Do it for Justina Sechrist.

Thank you everyone who follows us on facebook.

Justina started the facebook page in October 2011. Since then we've acquired 1325 followers! It has become a hot spot for posts and pictures, and a forum for our 457th family and friends to gather, share stories, and ask questions.

If you haven't already - **like us today!**



Like us on facebook!

<http://tinyurl.com/qxvw9kw>

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
3110 Graystone Ln, Apt. 2105, Albany, GA 31721

check applicable:

- New membership
 Renewal Address Change

► Donations

Your Contributions Count!

The 457th Bomb Group Association continues to undertake new projects, as well as maintain those that have been completed over the years.

Please consider a donation to support our ongoing Projects Fund.

Contributions should be 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: _____

► Highlights

Heinrich Recognized

71 Years Later

by James L. Bass

On March 19, 2016 history, was recalled with the remembrance of The World War II Crew of Flying Fortress 812 and the honoring of Staff Sergeant Clifford Heinrich, the sole survivor, with the presentation of medals.

Before a packed auditorium, composed of school children, relatives of the crew, friends, and Clifford Heinrich, the past was relived. The crew was remembered for their sacrifice for the cause of freedom and Clifford Heinrich received his long overdue medals; the Purple Heart, EAME Campaign Medal with Bronze Star, American Campaign Medal, WWII Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal and WWII Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal and WWII Lapel Button. After the program ended, tapping the lapel of his jacket Clifford said "These medals were all for my crew"!

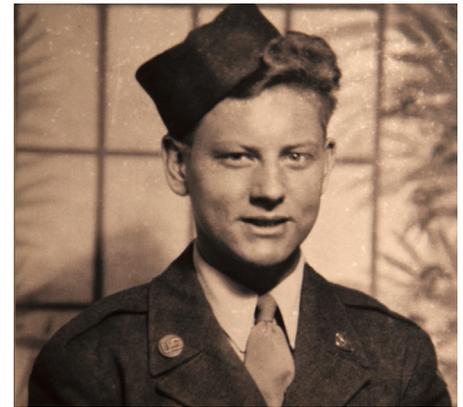
Mission No. 161 of the 457th Bomb Group ended for Flying Fortress 812 in a field near Oxford, England on the foggy afternoon of December 23, 1944. The Flying Fortress had taken off earlier

from a Royal Air Force Base in Southwest England on a flight to its home base when it plunged into the ground.

Lt. Megan Lewis serving in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service was home on Holiday Leave. Hearing the unmistakable sound of a crash, she rushed to the scene and, without regard for her own safety, entered the hazardous wreckage and pulled Heinrich and two others from the plane. For her acts of bravery a commendation was ordered by King George VI and signed by Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Diane Gomersall, daughter of Lt. Lewis attended the service.

Clifford Heinrich and the other two survivors were transported to a nearby hospital where the other two succumbed to their injuries the next day. Clifford suffered a concussion, a broken leg and ankle and multiple cuts and bruises. He was transferred to an American Army Field Hospital, where he was stabilized and later returned to the States for a prolonged period of hospitalization and recuperation, all of which lasted fourteen months. He was discharged from the military at Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

The first contact Clifford Heinrich had with any of the families of the crew was at the ceremony.



► Special Report

In Search of: Douglas Simonis

by Debbi

I'm looking for anyone who would know anything about my dad's time in the service. His name was Douglas Simonis, he was from Wisconsin, and he served in Glatton England with the 457th. Dad was a redhead with glasses and had many friends in Peterborough. Maybe you've seen his picture in your dad's or grandpa's things?

I also posted an inquiry on the WWII 457th Bomb Group facebook page. If you recognize him, please post it to facebook and I will contact you!



► These photos are ready to go on the Wall of the Missing next May. Larger photos will be placed in front of the grave markers.

► Special Report

In Search of: Faces of Cambridge

by Teresa Hirsch

Teresa Hirsch is a volunteer helping the Cambridge (England) WWII Cemetery with their upcoming 'Faces of Cambridge' tribute. The event will take place on Memorial Day weekend 2017. As part of the event, photos will be posted beside the names on the wall of the missing or beside the grave markers.

Teresa has been searching for a photo of Lt Stempler of the 748th squadron. If you or someone you know can help her please contact Teresa at teresahirsch@yahoo.com or contact the cemetery directly at cambridge@abmc.gov

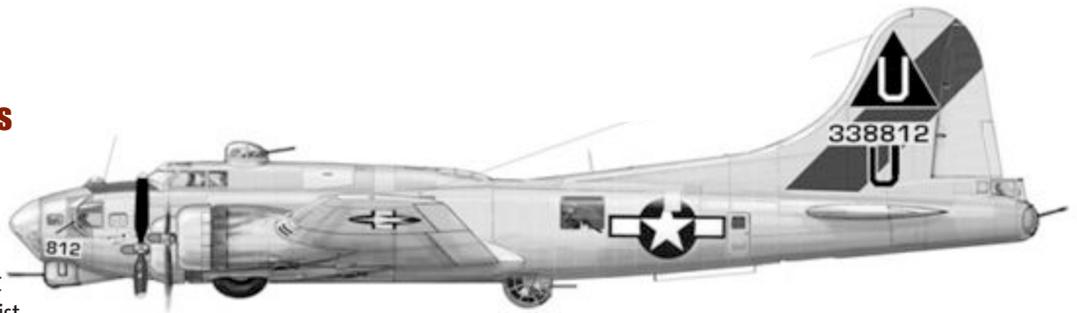
Follow photo submissions on our facebook page; Faces of Cambridge

► Special Report

B-17G Flying Fortress Crashes

Great Rollright, Oxfordshire

by James Tobin

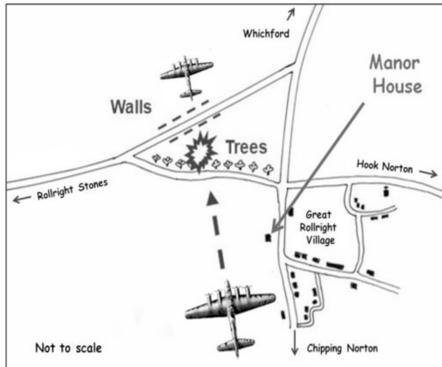


On December 23rd 1944, as the folks of Great Rollright village Oxfordshire prepared for Christmas, a tragedy occurred. At 6:15pm, that day the peace was shattered by the sound, of an American Boeing B-17 Bomber crashing near the village.

Earlier that day the aircraft, a Boeing B-17G Flying Fortress serial number 43-38812 ('812') of the 749th Bomb Squadron, 457th Bomb Group, had taken off from RAF Portreath in Cornwall and was heading for its home base at RAF Glatton, near Peterborough.

The bomber (artist's impression above) had, on December 19th, been diverted to Portreath after a bombing mission to Germany.

After taking off for home on at approximately 4:30pm on December 23rd, '812' seemingly got lost on the way and eventually crashed into the trees near the Triangle at Great Rollright village at 6:15pm, as shown on the map below.



► A map of the crash location

Alerted by the sound of the crash, emergency services were called and villagers rushed the scene. Among them was Nursing Sister Elmed Megan Lewis of Queen Alexandra's Nursing Service at nearby Chipping Norton, who was staying at Rollright Manor. At the scene she did what

she could for the crew of '812' by administering morphine, and Frank Tanner and Catherine Day also assisted in trying to rescue the men. Sister Lewis was later decorated by General Doolittle for her brave conduct having actually crawled inside the bomber to get to the injured, not knowing if there were live bombs on board!

From evidence found, it is known that approaching from the South (see map below), the aircraft flew into trees alongside the road before skidding across a field, crashing through walls bordering another road before finally stopping in a field. The nearby contour on an O/S map reads 225 metres (738 feet) above sea level, showing this to be one of the highest hills in the area.

The crash was to claim the lives of the following aircrew;

Pilot.	Lt.	Clifford Hendrickson.	Jasper, Indiana.
Co Pilot.	Lt.	Walter B. Graves.	Seymour, Tennessee.
Navigator.	F/O.	Joseph L. Kilmer.	Mexico, New York.
Bombardier/Gunner.	F/O.	David E. Williams.	South Orange, New Jersey.
Engineer/Gunner.	T/Sgt.	George H. Bruer.	Saint Augustine, Florida.
Radio Operator.	Sgt.	Robert H. Riedel.	Cleveland, Ohio.
Ball Gunner.	Sgt.	Edmund T. Fitzgerald.	Taunton, Massachusetts.
Waist Gunner.	Sgt.	George B. Hawley.	Pine Lawn, Missouri.

There would be only one survivor of the crash, the Tail Gunner Sgt Clifford A. Heinrich.

The subsequent accident report shows that the accident was "attributed to the fact that the pilot was lost and let down in an area 500 feet more above sea level than the field of intended landing." The report attributed "75% responsibility to pilot error and the remaining 25% to the weather". 43-38812 was declared as 'salvage' on

December 26th meaning it had been scrapped. The normal routine was that an 8th Air Force team would remove any re-usable items and then supervise the removal of the remaining wreckage to a site of disposal where it would be melted down. In the case of '812' it was most likely taken to nearby Metals Recovery unit at Cowley near Oxford.

In 2012, a team surveyed the crash site and confirmed the direction of flight and impact points of the bomber. Today, a trained eye can still make out the spot where the 43-38812 clipped the line of trees at the end of her final flight (pictured below). A monument, dedicated to the eight airmen who lost their lives, will be erected in the garden next to the village Hall, and near the site of the crash. The unveiling is scheduled for April 30, 2017.



► The gap in the trees can still be seen today

► Hendrickson Crew



► In Memory

Frank A. Kravetz

August 7, 2015

Born on Oct. 25, 1923, in East Pittsburgh to George and Susan Kravetz, Frank Kravetz graduated from East Pittsburgh High School in PA. Before enlisting, Frank met Anne Cerjanic at a neighborhood party. The two married in 1946.

During WWII his B-17 was shot from the sky on one harrowing day in November 1944. Frank Kravetz parachuted to safety with a wound in his thigh from the cannons of a Focke-Wulf 190 and over a hundred pieces of shrapnel embedded in his legs. He spent the rest of the war as a prisoner in Germany, withering from 170 lbs to 120 by his liberation by Patton's Third Army in April 1945. He carried the shrapnel in his legs for the rest of his life, a reminder of what he had endured.

Frank Kravetz's WWII experience, like so many other veterans, was the focal point of his life and he never went a day without recalling the ordeal or what it meant. "We were a generation that did things that had to be done or none of us would be here today," he said in 2004 at a celebration honoring WWII veterans in Washington, D.C.

At 91, Frank A. Kravetz folded his wings on August 7, 2015, the last living crew member of his original B-17 crew. He and Anne were married 68 years, before her death in March, 2015. Dad lived an amazing, dedicated, selfless life - always giving back, always proud of his service, his family and his country - and always a God honoring faith-filled man. We miss him terribly, but are thankful for his wonderful life.

-Submitted by Cheryl Werle, Daughter

Richard Walter Cooke

July 19, 2016

Richard Cooke passed away on July 19, 2016 at the age of 94. Born October 31, 1921 in Olean, NY to Evelyn Davis and Loren Cook, he joined the US Army Air Corps in 1941, received his commission and wings in 1943 and married Glenna Mae Ford in December 1943 after a whirlwind, wartime courtship. A Purple Heart recipient, he served in WWII as a bombardier with the Eighth Air Force, 457th Bomb Group. Shot down over southern Germany during The Big Week of February 1944, he was one of five surviving crew members and was incarcerated as a POW in Stalag Luft 1, Barth, Germany for the remainder of the war. After a brief stint as a civilian, he rejoined the US Air Force, serving as Navigator on the B-29 Super Fortress and weapons officer on the F-89 Scorpion, and F-101 Voodoo fighter interceptors.

He retired to Colorado Springs in 1969 and later moved to Barksdale AFB in Shreveport, LA, working for nearly 20 years. In 1998 he and his wife moved to Denver to be near his family. His calm sensibility, wonderful sense of humor and love of family will be sorely missed. He was buried with his beloved Glenna, with full military honors, at Fort Logan National Cemetery. Surviving are his sons, Gregory and Jerry, a brother Robert Hakes, 3 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

-Submitted by Gregory Cooke, Son

Walter "Walt" A. Divan

March 9, 2016

Walter "Walt" A. Divan, 91, of Beloit, WI, died Wednesday, March 9, 2016, at Beloit Memorial Hospital surrounded by family. He was born May 5, 1924, in Peoria, IL, the son of Albert and Gertrude Divan. Walt was a 1941 graduate of Freeport High School in Illinois. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps during WWII, where he flew 23 bombing missions in the European Theatre as a B-17 crew member. Walt attended the University of Illinois, where he met his future wife, June Buffo. They were married on August 28, 1948. He was a 1949 graduate of the University of IL, with a degree in Industrial Engineering. The family moved to Beloit in 1965, where he worked at Fairbanks Morse, Beloit Corporation, and Ohio Medical Company. He was an active community member and a proud Papa. He is survived by his beloved wife of 67 years, June; children, Richard (Sue) Divan of Princeton, WI, Debra Divan Norris of St. Charles, IL, and Cindy (Michael) Clemens of Racine, WI; grandchildren, Jill (Stuart Shave) Divan, Jeffrey Divan, Allan Divan, Nicole (Eric) Morton, Cory Norris, and Sarah and Caroline Clemens; brother, Herbert Divan.

Oliver "Bud" Kolstoe

April 22, 2015

Born in Canton, S.D., on Feb. 28, 1920, Bud Kolstoe passed away on April 22, 2015 in CA at 95 years young. Growing up in Valley City, ND, Bud began his love for education there when he entered WWII. He was a veteran of the 8th Air Force, earned 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, 3 Battle Stars on the European Theater Ribbon and for valor and services, and the Distinguished Flying Cross for the 33 successful bombing missions. After the war, Bud continued his academic pursuits at the University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University; finishing his educational-teaching career at UNC.

Bud and Betty moved to Laguna Woods Village, CA, after retiring, where Bud's passion for golf was fulfilled. Bud was especially proud of our

family. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Lois, and oldest son, Lee Paul Kolstoe. Besides his wife, Betty; he leaves four children, Kathleen, Brad, Jan and Nancy, their spouses, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

He will be lovingly missed, fondly remembered, and daily thought of.

-Submitted by his loving wife, Betty Kolstoe

William C. Girard

May 16, 2010

William C. Girard was born in Jacksonville, Florida on October 11, 1922. He passed away on May 16, 2010 with his two daughters, Debbie and Vickie, by his side.

William was a retired Air Force Colonel and a pilot. During WWII he flew 30 combat missions for the 457th Bomb Group, 751 Squadron. He flew B-17's and helicopters during his 31 years in the Air Force and received many medals. He retired in 1974.

William enjoyed attending the 457th Bomb Group Reunions and socializing with other members of the group. He was preceded in death by his wife Mary, and son William.

-Submitted by his daughter, Vickie

Willard Roy Hedge

December 2, 2016

Willard Roy Hedge, 91, of Doctor's Inlet, FL, died at home on Friday, December 2, 2016. He was born on December 9, 1924, in Selden, KS to James Roy Hedge and Bessie Fern Farber. Willard is survived by his wife of 70 years, Irene (Hemman) Hedge. He worked for the U. S. Postal Service, retiring in 1980 after 35 years. He was a veteran of WWII, having served as a Staff Sergeant in the 457th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force from December 1944 to April 1945 and flew 35 missions as a ball turret gunner on B-17s. He was awarded 3 bronze stars.

Willard was preceded in death by an infant son, Gary Hedge; and sisters Lorraine Locke and Donna Sterkin. He is survived by his twin sister, Wilda Selbe, of Kansas City, KS; daughter Jeanne Allison (Richard) of Tampa, FL; daughter Jan Mills (Scott) of Nashville, IN; son Jerry Hedge (Carole) of Holly Hill, SC; daughter Judy Fuzzell (Douglas) of Fleming Island, FL; 8 Grandchildren; and 18 great grandchildren.

Willard was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather; always a gentleman; full of kindness, humility and quiet strength. He will be greatly missed.

-Submitted by his loving wife, Irene Hedge

► In Memory (cont.)

Mildred and Leslie Peterson

Remembering Husband and Wife

A letter from their loving son;

Mildred; December 27, 2014: Mom enlisted in the Women's Army Air Corps shortly after my father was drafted. She served about the same time he did; 1943 -1945. She was a photographic lab technician in the service, and after the war, went to school, along with my father, got a degree and became a teacher and later a librarian with media specialist credentials. She retired in 1980. Mom spent the last two years in Ormond Beach with my wife and me. After suffering a stroke she was confined to a nursing home for the final few months, and celebrated her 95th birthday while in the home.

Leslie; 1995: My father, Leslie Peterson, served in the 750th Squadron (Ralph Evans, pilot), 457th Bomb Group. He was a charter member of the Florida Chapter of the 8th Air Force Historical Society, and a member of the National Parent Association. He was also a longtime member of the 457th Bomb Group Association. He passed away in 1995.

Mom and dad attended several reunions, state-side and in Glatton. My brother and I joined them in Glatton in 1992, and my wife and children in 1994. I attended the Colorado Springs Reunion. A few of the old-timers and even a handful of the youngsters will remember her, and possibly dad. They are interned together across from their son, also a vet, near Jamestown NY.

-Submitted by Rodney Peterson



William Siler, Lt. Col., Ret.

October 3, 2016

Born June 23, 1916 in Macon County, NC, William Siler spent most of his childhood and his early schooling in Mexico, MI. He attended Westminster College in Fulton, MI. Bill began his military career with the Royal Canadian Air Force, before enlisting in the Army Air Corp and making the Air Force his career. Sadly, Bill Siler passed away on October 3, 2016, three months after his 100th birthday.

The following comments are a testament to the sentiments felt by his friends of the 457th.

James Bass: "Bill Siler was my friend. Our friendship resulted because we were both involved in

a common cause more than 70 years ago. We were assigned to the same military unit, same squadron and our service overlapped; however, it was nearly 50 years later at a meeting of the 'Old Timers' that we met and our friendship blossomed. Bill, who was a little senior in age to many of us and in the early 1940's, as the war clouds began to loom, decided to go north and enlist his service with the Royal Canadian Air Force. To my knowledge he is the only person assigned to the 457th who also served in the RCAF. After our entry in the conflict Bill came back and ultimately was assigned to the 457th.

After he finished his tour he volunteered to fly with a reconnaissance group and stayed in England flying reconnaissance missions. His service did not end with the conclusion of WWII. He saw service in the Korean conflict and later in Vietnam and in between flew the Berlin Air Lift. Unknown to many was his role in the Cuban Missile Crisis. Bill held a top security clearance and at the height of the crisis was holed up in a windowless room at an undisclosed military installation.

From and after our first meeting we maintained an ongoing contact. Bill continued at an energetic pace almost to the end. My son, David and I had Sunday Dinner with Bill in August and he was upbeat as usual. I asked him if he planned to go to England next year. His answer was "If I feel as good then as I do now".

After he returned to Morro Bay I had a final email from him, which indicated he had just about finished his tour. *Happy Trails and Blue Skies, Bill!*

Sheila Goodfellow Vester: An amazing tribute to an amazing man. I see now why he lived so long. He had a lot to accomplish! I often wish I could have made him sit still long enough to tell me more stories. Hats off to you Bill...

Eric Brumby: Dear Bill... I had many a long chat with him in person and via email. God Bless you, Bill. Thank you for your Friendship; your chirpy chatter and your wonderful sense of humor. What a wonderful human being our friend Bill was. His great letters used to make me smile. His antics at times caused a few eyebrows to raise, Ha! ...As I age I tend not to go to Peterborough, but yesterday I braved the cold and took the missus into Town. We strolled and then she said, "What about a Coffee?" And there in front of us was the "BULL HOTEL"! So in we go and I head right for the assembly area - all the memories came back of the wonderful 457 brotherhood. I sat in the comfy old English Armchair; smiled to my wife; she said, "What are you smiling about?" I said, "This is the chair I sat in the last time Bill and I were together! And you are sitting in Francis Angier's chair. This is the actual spot were we all sat laughing and joking." With that, we ordered our drinks and I, in a silent gesture, raised my glass and said a silent prayer and gave a mental salute to all those of the Group who's friendships I will long remember. It was a nice trip into town; it gave me the chance

to raise my glass to the men of the 457th, past and present. God Bless You....Off you go into The Wide Blue Yonder. Chocks Away.... You, like all the others who have gone before will be sadly missed ...R I P...Fait Accompli.

Michael Angier: Very touching, Eric. And so well-written. I was so glad to have met Bill.

WWII 457th Bomb Group: Beautifully written! Hopefully we will be in the UK next year and we can all raise our glasses and honor those who are still with us and those who have left us!

Jane Pobgee: So sorry to hear of Bill's death. He was a lovely man and great fun to be with. We shall miss him dearly.

Patrick Connelly: Will miss them both RIP

Chris Goodwin: Comrades forever. RIP fella's.

Tom Hayman: Fine gentleman one and all R.I.P.

Murry Williams: RIP

Carl, Cameron and Chris Sechrist: We are truly saddened at the news of Bill's passing. We, like many, have wonderful memories of this mighty soul. May the angels sing a joyful welcome to you, Bill.

Duane Zemper

July 17, 2016

Duane "Zemp" Leroy Zemper, age 96, longtime Howell resident, passed away Sunday, July 17, 2016. He was born Nov. 4, 1919 in Bay City, MI, the son of Julius and Hazel Zemper. Husband of the late Tilly, loving father of Eric (Mary) Zemper, Steve Zemper, Gail Zemper and Daniel (Kristen) Zemper, and the late Martha, and proud grandfather of 14 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. Duane was a graduate of Michigan Normal College and he was a WW II Army Air Corp veteran having served with the 457th Bomb Group as an intelligence photographer. He was the owner and operator of Zemper Photography Studio in Howell, the oldest continually operated photography studio in the country. Duane was a noted Howell historian who donated countless hours at the Howell Carnegie Library Archives. His family remembers him as a great father and friend to everyone he met.

I am grateful to have had a chance to meet Duane in Washington, DC in 2016, his first and only reunion. I like to think the men of the 457th photo lab: Duane Zemper, Johnny Joyce, Dick Wyman, and Bill Mach are working on one last big project for the 457th! We are indebted to their service and the work that created the images of their spirit; their love of the air corps and the heroes of WWII. Those images will live on forever for all the world to see, both on the 457 bomb group website and at the Mighty 8th Museum.

-Submitted by Will Fluman, Jr.

► In Memory (cont.)

Kenneth Blakebrough

December 31, 2015

Kenneth Blakebrough, age 92, passed away peacefully on December 31, 2015 in Mission Viejo, CA. He was born April 3rd, 1923 in Detroit, MI, to Herbert and Emma Blakebrough. He served proudly in the U.S.A.A.F during W.W. II as a co-pilot in the 457th Bombardment Group, flying B-17s out of the airbase near Glatton, England. Kenneth authored two books based on his war years, "The Fireball Outfit" and "A Co-Pilot Remembers." After the war he attended the University of Southern California, and remained a faithful alumnus the rest of his life. After graduating from USC, he married Grace Waytas, with whom he had a son, David. Many years later he married Arden Black, his wife of 40 years. He is survived by his wife, Arden, his son David, daughter-in-law Theresa, and three stepchildren.

Submitted by a dear friend, Ernestine Latimer

George H. Conover

October 30, 2014

George H. Conover, 92 of Williston, passed away at Trinity Med. Center in Minot on Oct. 30, 2014.

Unfortunately, I was unable to gather more information. Thank you Mr. William Morse for submitting the following letter to me regarding his friend:

My name is William Morse, Charter Member of the 457th Bomb Group Association. I have received a letter from Mrs. George Conover from Williston, ND that her husband, George had died in October 2014. George was also a charter member of the 457th Association. He was a mechanic with the 749th. We kept in contact all these years. My wife, who was well known in the 457th, died two years ago. She was from Berlin Germany and survived the war and bombing.

-Submitted by Bill Morse, 749 Crew Chief Engr.

► Travel Fund

Travel Fund

Our sincerest appreciation to all of you who have contributed to the Travel Fund in the past. You have helped the Association cover a portion of our English Historians' expenses when they join us in the U.S. The Travel Fund is an open account with our Treasurer and your contributions are welcome at any time. Contributions should be marked "Travel Fund" and mailed to:

Lori Barnett, Treasurer
457th Bomb Group Association
3110 Graystone Lane, Apt. 2105
Albany, GA 31721

► Officers & Appointments

Will Fluman, Jr. President	MR-SHORT-CUT@hotmail.com 132 Ore Bank Road, Dillsburg, PA 17019	P: 570. 971. 5757
Joe De Luccia Vice-President	jaadeeluu@aol.com 214 Cambridge Ave., Saddle Brook, NJ 07663	P: 201. 797. 9245
Trisha Mach Robertson Secretary	kai967@yahoo.com 437 Kailua Rd #6103, Kailua, HI 96734	P: 808.799.8854
Lori Barnett Treasurer	Lpbarnett223@aol.com 3110 Graystone Lane, Apt. 2105, Albany, GA 31721	P: 662.418.8563
Kathy Collins Director - 2 year	Kcollins18@cox.net Seville Dr, Pensacola, FL 32503	P: 850.206.6670
Director - 4 year		P:
Nancy Archuleta Director - 6 year	narchuleta@chm611.com 611 Holmes Avenue NE Huntsville, AL 35801	P: 256.425.1674
Immed. Past Pres.		P:
James Bass Legal Advisor	jlbass@bassandbass.com P.O. Box 500, Carthage, TN 37030-0500	P: 615. 735. 1122 F: 615. 735. 3149
Curt Musheno Website Technician	webmaster@457thbombgroupassoc.org 2001 Heim Hill Road, Montoursville, PA 17754	P: 570. 974. 1940
Chris Sechrist Newsletter Editor	fireballnews@outlook.com 36 Shank Road, Carlisle, PA 17015	P: 717. 776. 5313
Erwin de Mooij Webmaster/Facebook Admin.	webmaster457thbombgroup@outlook.com	P:

► English Historians

John Walker	29 Chancery Lane, Eye, Peterborough, England PE6 7FY	P: 44 1733 222994
Tim Newell	tim.newell@ymail.com Cemetery Chapel, Stoke Doyle Road, Oundle, Northants, England PE8 5TR	P: 44 1487 830450
Chris Cronin	chris_cronin@live.co.uk	

► Past Presidents

1973-75: William Willborn	2001-03: Will Fluman (d)	2005-07: James Bass
1976: Howard Larsen (d)	1988-89: Donald Sellon	2007-09: George Grau (d)
1977-79: Bill Siler (d)	1990-91: John Welch	2009-11: Joe Toth
1980-81: Edward Reppa (d)	1992-93: Roland Byers(d)	2011-13: John Pearson
1982-83: Daniel Graham (d)	1993-97: Billy Hightower (d)	2013-15: William W. Siler (d)
1984: William Good (d)	1997-99: Lee Zimmerman	2015-17:
1985: David Summerville (d)	1999-01: Craig Harris (d)	
1986-87: Clayton Bejot	2003-05: Don Nielsen	



Visit the website today at www.457thbombgroupassoc.org

▶ 2017-2018 Calendar of Events

▶ May 29, 2017

Memorial Day celebration at Cambridge American Cemetery

▶ July 10, 2017

Fall newsletter article deadline

▶ August, 2017

Fall newsletter

▶ October 11-15, 2017

State-Side Reunion in Masa, AZ

▶ February, 2018

Spring newsletter

▶ 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 but we are always looking for ways to conserve funds. If you would like to be notified by email when a new **FIREBALL** issue is available, **in lieu of a printed version** please contact Trisha Mach Robertson at kai967@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 since the previous State-Side Reunion. Please let us know if your dear

Veteran has passed away, by contacting:

Trisha Mach Robertson

1862 Halekoa Dr., Honolulu, HI 96821

or by emailing Trisha at kai967@yahoo.com

She will add the name to a list of those who will be honored at the 2016 Washington DC State-Side Reunion.

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
fireballnews@outlook.com

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www.457thbombgroupassoc.org