



THE FIREBALL

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New Association By-Laws and Operating Procedures Adopted at 2023 Annual Meeting

During this past year the Board of Directors has been working on updating the governing documents for our Association. The Association has been operating under by-laws that were first adopted at the inception of the organization in 1971, and a review by Legal Advisor David Bass and President Eric Zemper indicated a need for a number of changes to bring the by-laws up-to-date and modernize the operation of the Association.

Bass and Zemper presented the Board with proposed changes to the by-laws covering the structure and general operation of the Association, and proposed a separate set of operating procedures that were more flexible, to govern the day-to-day operations of the Association. The Board unanimously approved the proposals and, following the requirements of the existing by-laws, presented them to the membership for a vote at the recent annual general business meeting in Ontario, California. As required, the membership was informed of the proposed changes by publication in the newsletter via email and surface mail, and on our website, with a vote in favor of approval needed by at least two-thirds of all members present and voting at the annual meeting. That vote was unanimous. These documents are available on our website.

Note Regarding This Issue of the Newsletter
Because the position of Newsletter Editor is still vacant, this issue has been put together by the Association President, Eric D. Zemper. As a result, it may not be quite the quality and scope or coverage of previous issues.
Anyone interested in volunteering to be our Newsletter Editor for this twice a year publication, please contact Zemper at zemper@msu.edu.



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GLATTON, UK TOUR

August 16-21, 2023

During this past August, seventeen 457th BGA members and family members enjoyed a great tour of London, East Anglia, Cambridge and, of course, the site of the Glatton airbase, home of the 457th BG during WWII. Ralph Bennett of Tours-International did an excellent job of organizing the tour, including hotels, meals, ground transportation and admissions to several museums.

Following two days of seeing the sights in London, including St. Paul's Cathedral and Churchill's War Rooms, the group was bused to East Anglia where the main attractions were a visit to the Royal Air Force Museum and Bletchley Park, where the British code breakers worked to crack the German Enigma code. The fourth day was spent in Peterborough and the Glatton airbase area, including a visit to the Conington Castle property and the adjoining church. Late that afternoon we were hosted for tea at the home of Mark and Caroline Braid, owners of the Conington Castle property. The final full day of the tour took the group to the American Cemetery at Madingley, the Imperial War Museum and USAAF Museum at Duxford, and finally a walking tour of Cambridge.

Below and on the following pages are some scenes from the tour:



Left: St. Paul's Cathedral.

Below: David Bass enjoys lunch in a hotel in Whitehall that on the top floor housed the training center for Special Operatives during WWII.



Left: A display room in the RAF Museum.

Right: The B-17G on display in the RAF Museum.



2023 UK / Glatton Tour (cont.)



Bletchley Manor, the headquarters during WWII for the British code breakers who broke the German Enigma code



The Peterborough Cathedral



Left: Association president Eric Zemper lays a wreath at the 457th BG memorial at the entrance to the Glatton airfield area.

Below: Three WWII vehicles brought by local 457th BG enthusiasts. L-R: Jeep, 1 ½ ton truck, command car.



Kurt Gunderson gets a ride in the Command Car, driven by UK member Clive Dodson

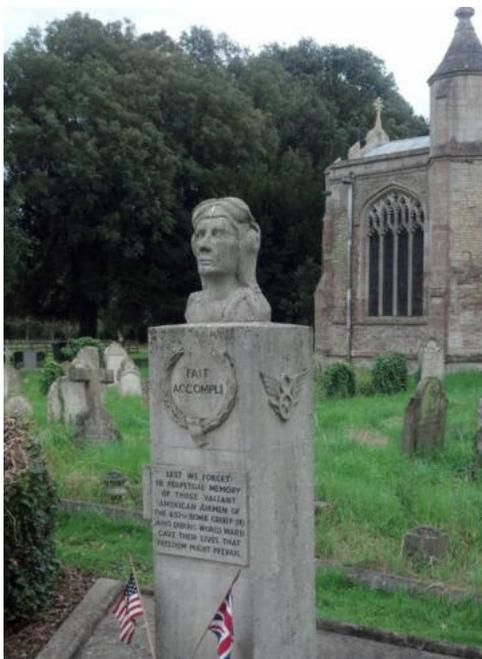


The group gets a tour inside the church at Conington Castle



Left: The church adjacent to the Conington Castle property and just south of the Glatton airfield.

Below: The group visited the Stone Airman Memorial in the churchyard. If you look closely you can see where the bushes are kept trimmed down in front of the Stone Airman, so he has a clear view of the Glatton airfield.



The Stone Airman memorial



L-R: Paul Thomas and Chris Cotter talk with Mark Braid, owner of the Conington Castle property. Mark and his wife Caroline invited the group into their home for afternoon tea.





The American Military Cemetery at Madingley. On the right is the Wall of the Missing. Along the wall are five statues representing the five US services: Army, Army Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard. The Air Force statue is shown on the right. The wall has inscribed on it the name of every service man who was missing in action in the European and Atlantic theaters of WWII. Every year on the British Memorial Day there is a well-attended memorial service held here.



The American Air Museum, a part of the Imperial War Museum at Duxford.

The interior of the American Air Museum.

Left: Our Cambridge tour guide, Tony Rodgers on the right, telling us about this unusual clock, the 'Corpus Clock' or the 'Grasshopper Clock' near Corpus Christi College, one of 31 colleges in the University of Cambridge.



Right: The Eagle Inn, with the RAF Bar, where on February 28th, 1953, Francis Crick and James Watson announced 'We have discovered the secret of life' after they had worked out the double helix structure of DNA (with the help of X-ray diffraction images from Ros Franklin).



2023 Annual Meeting in Ontario, California

The Association's annual meeting was held on October 18-22 in Ontario, California, in conjunction with the meetings of the 8th Air Force Historical Society. As decided by our Board of Directors last year, in the future the Association will have annual meetings with the 8th AFHS, and tours to Glattton every third or fourth year. The primary business for this year's annual membership meeting was consideration of proposed new By-Laws and Operating Procedures, as noted on the first page of this newsletter. Members took advantage of three sets of tours arranged by the 8th AFHS over three days, which included three local air museums and a trip to Hollywood. There also were dinners on three of the evenings. Our Association had a hospitality suite, which hosted a number of visitors to view a display of photographs and films of the 457th BG and Glattton airbase. *Mark your calendars for the next annual meeting: September 25-29, 2024 in New Orleans.*



The B-17G 'Starduster' on display at March Field Museum.



L-R: John and Max Lewis, and Paul Thomas at March Field.



During lunch at the March Field Air Museum, we were entertained by a group playing big band music from WWII.



B-17 cockpit display at Planes of Fame Museum in Chino, CA.



Lunch at Palm Springs Air Museum



One of the evening dinners at the meeting hotel.

President's Message November 2023

It's been a busy summer and fall with regard to 457th BGA activities. We had a board meeting (by zoom) in early August, where we finalized plans for the Glatton/UK tour and for the stateside meeting in October in conjunction with the 8th Air Force Historical Society. The main focus in planning for the October meeting was on following the requirements of the old by-laws with regard to amending them, starting with making sure the membership had timely access for reviewing the proposed changes. This was done through publication on the website, on our Face Book page, and in the May newsletter that was emailed and surface mailed to all members for whom we had valid contact information. As noted on the front page of this newsletter, the Board of Directors unanimously recommended approval of the changes, and they were unanimously approved at the October general business meeting. So we now have an updated and more workable set of documents for guiding the operation of our Association in the future.

The Glatton tour in August went very well, with seventeen members and family members taking part. Everyone seemed very pleased with the arrangements made by Ralph Bennett of Tours International, with assistance from Tim and Angie Newell, and the consensus was that this is the way we should arrange for these tours to Glatton in the future. The October meetings in Ontario, California, went well, although there were some problems with setting up the zoom call so those not attending the 8th AFHS meeting could still participate in our general business meeting. Participation in this important meeting by electronic means is something I recommended to the Board, and they agreed. Last spring, at the recommendation of myself and David Bass, our legal advisor, the ability to participate by electronic means is now built into our by-laws and operating procedures for both our Board meetings and our annual general meetings. However, I would like to encourage more on-site participation in our annual meetings. Next year's meeting will be on September 25-29 in New Orleans, Louisiana, with the host hotel selected by the 8th AFHS being across the street from the National WWII Museum, which is an excellent museum. In 2025 the meetings will be in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and in 2026 in Savannah, Georgia, at the Mighty 8th Air Force Museum. Please plan to join us.

Finally, please take a moment on Saturday, November 11, to remember our veterans, past and present.

Eric D. Zemper, PhD
President, 457th BG Association



IN MEMORIAM



Dr. Richard P. Barnes April 19, 2023 (98 years old)
Bountiful, Utah

SGT Barnes was a flight engineer and top turret gunner in the 749th Bomber Squadron. After the war he earned two doctorates, in education and in divinity. A lifelong teacher, he touched many lives over his career, retiring in 1987. In his final months his caregivers were his son, Richard, and daughter-in-law Brenda Barnes.



After years of anticipation, it appears **Masters of the Air** is finally going to make it to your TV screen. The story of the Eighth Air Force during WWII. Among the producers are Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg. All the scuttlebutt indicates it's an excellent production. Check it out, starting January 26 on Apple+.



CELEBRATING THE GROUND CREWS

Last month I had the pleasure of meeting Billy Morse of Traverse City, Michigan, who had just turned 101 years old in early September. Billy was the ground crew chief for A/C42-31706 "Slow But Sure" of the 749th Bomber Squadron. While the pilots and air crews tend to get much of the attention, the ground crews were the ones working through the night after each mission to ensure the aircraft were ready to fly the next day. Their job was literally to "Keep 'em flying". Billy and his crew appear to have done a great job; "Slow But Sure" made it through the war and was flown back to the States afterward. Thanks to Billy and all the 457th BG ground crews!

Eric D. Zemper
President, 457th BGA



Left: Billy Morse

Near right: "Slow But Sure" ground crew –
Front row: Billy Morse, Ken Kinyon;
Back row: Dave Ryder, Ambrose Cease.

Far right: "Slow But Sure"



Bulletin Board

OFFICERS

President Eric D. Zemper	zemper@msu.edu P.O. Box 130537 Ann Arbor, MI 48113	C: 734-276-2758
Vice-President Robert Parker	Rparker115@hotmail.com	C: 254-824-0237
Treasurer Adele Gilmore	Pickwickantiques122@gmail.com 3070 37 th Ave. S. St. Petersburg, FL 33712	727-433-2550
Secretary Lynda Thomas	thomas@peak.org	C: 541-961-2455
Past-President Nancy Archuleta	narchuleta@chm611.com 160 Mistee Dr. Brownsboro, AL 35741	C: 256-656-9155

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cleo Giachino	jimcleo@jps.net 141 N. Ventura St. Willows, CA 98988	530-570-1561
Kurt Gunderson	kgunderson@brighthouse.com	661-835-0787
Gregg Roberson	greggrobertaon@brighthouse.com	806-721-5389
Chris Sechrist	chsechrist457@gmail.com nephoto@kuhncom.net	717-609-5772

(EX OFFICIO)

David Bass Legal Advisor	dbass@bassandbass.com BASS AND BASS Attorneys at Law P.O. Box 500 226 Main St. North Carthage, TN 37030	615-735-1122 fax: 615-735-3149
Erwin de Mooij Webmaster	Mondriaaniaan 31, 2172 DG Sassenheim The Netherlands webmaster457thbombgroup@outlook.com	003 1612972293
Newsletter Editor	(vacant)	

GROUP HISTORIANS

Will Fluman, Jr. USA	mr-short-cut@hotmail.com 132 Ore Band Rd. Dillsburg, PA 17019	590-971*5757
Tim & Angela Newell Europe	Cemetery Chapel, Stoke Doyle Rd. Oundle, Northants, England PE8 5TR tim.newell@ymail.com and.newell@ymail.com	44 1487 830450
Erwin de Mooij Europe	Mondriaaniaan 31, 2172 DG Sassenheim The Netherlands B17research@hotmail.com	003 1612972293

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1977-79 Bill Sier	1992-93 Roland Byers	2009-11 Joe Toth
1980-81 Edward Reppa	1993-97 Billy Hightower	2011-13 John Pearson
1982*83 Daniel Graham	1997-99 Lee Zimmerman	2013-15 William W. Siler
1984 William Good	1999-2001 Craig Harris	2015-19 Will Fluman, Jr.
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1986-87 Clayton Bejot	2003-05 Don Nielsen	

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This is a hotspot for posts, pictures, and a forum for our 457th family and friends to gather, share stories, and ask questions.

Find us at:

www.facebook.com/groups/457bombgroup

Newsletter by mail or online?

We hope you have had an opportunity to view the full color **FIREBALL** newsletter online at www.457thb9mbgroupassoc.org

We will continue to print and mail a black and white version, 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, contact us by email at: the457thbgnewsletter@yahoo.com

Positions Available

The 457th Bomb Group Association is looking to fill the following position. If you are interested in volunteering for this position, please contact Eric Zemper at zemper@msu.edu

Newsletter Editor

Member in good standing
Soliciting content, writing and editing content, and ensuring electronic or hard copy distribution to the membership at least twice per year.
Knowledge of word format and publishing applications necessary.



457th Bomb Group Association

c/o Eric D. Zemper
P.O. Box 130537
Ann Arbor, MI 48113

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Visit the website today at www.457thb9mbgroupassoc.org to subscribe online for membership, or, fill in the form below and mail in your subscription and dues to Adele Gilmore, Treasurer.

457th Bomb Group Association: Membership Dues & Subscription Form

► Dues

Annual Dues: \$25 per person (per Year)

Note About Lifetime Memberships:

Per the Association and Board meeting held in October of 2019, this is the only membership category available. Life memberships are honored and all WWII Veterans are granted honorary lifetime membership.

► Mail form, check payable to:

457th Bomb Group Association

Attention: Adele Gilmore, Treasurer
3070 37th Avenue S.
St. Petersburg, FL 33712

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

Adele Gilmore, Treasurer
3070 37th Avenue S, St. Petersburg
Florida, 33712

Name	Nickname	Spouse
Address	City	State Zip (+4)
Phone	E-mail address (Please print clearly)	

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: _____

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