



▶ 2021 State-Side And Glatton Reunion Currently Postponed

IMPORTANT: Both reunions scheduled for 2021 are currently postponed due to ongoing uncertainties of COVID-19. Adele Gilmore and Will Fluman, Reunion Chairs will let us know as soon as more information is available. The links for registration for other Bomb Group Association meetings and events may be found online located at www.8thafhs.org

▶ Anniversary Issue



The Pub: Many an Association Started Here



The original "Stone American" Memorial Monument was sculpted, built and dedicated on May 31, 1945 by **Cpl. Lester Fried**, a 457th Bomb Group service member, commemorating those heroes who would never return home again.

▶ Future Notifications

Information and updates will be emailed. If you haven't yet received email notifications, please email your Name; Veteran or Relationship to the Veteran; and Squadron or unit affiliation. We will add you to the e-mail roster and send emails as they occur.

457thReunion@gmail.com

Find Updates Here:

Website: www.457thbombgroupassoc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/1408261252566363

8th AF: www.8thafhs.org



Rose Farm: A Potato Field Became an Air Base

It stands about 6 feet tall in the Conington Churchyard in England. It has a sculptured head of a helmeted American airman, and faces the runways as if to be waiting for the return of the men and their planes. It also has a wreath with the group motto of "**Fait Accompli**" - (mission accomplished).

86 planes never returned, along with 807 flyers who were killed, missing, POW's, interned, or escaped and evaded. The following photo is of Cpl. Lester Fried with the monument just after the unveiling in 1945.

This Issue:

- ▶ Update on 2021 Reunions
- ▶ On This Day in 1945
- ▶ 50 Remembrances for 50 Years of Service.
- ▶ In Memoriam.....
- ▶ "Miss Ida 44-8152" Memorial

On This Day — Continued

In May of 1981, after decades of erosion, and many, many repairs, the monument was newly rebuilt and unveiled in the Conington Churchyard in England. The column is carved out of Portland Stone resting on paving slabs set in a concrete base.

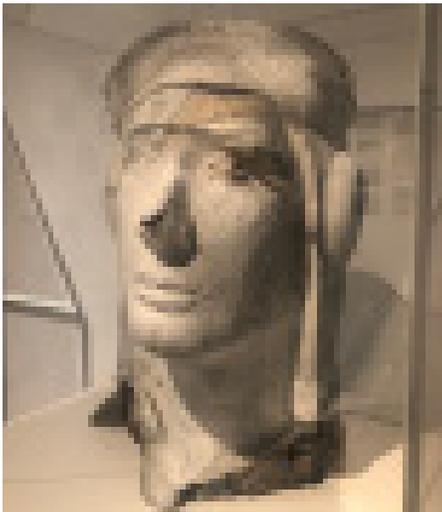
Portland Stone was chosen because of its high-quality limestone, hard texture, greyish color, and it being maintenance free. A newly carved head, also made using Portland Stone, yet, still using Cpl. Les Fried's original sculpture as a model, is resting on top. Below is a photo from 1983.

By this time, several plaques and artwork had been added: The plaque in front just under the wreath reads: "Lest We Forget in perpetual memory of those valiant American Airmen of the 457th Bomb Group (H) who during World War II gave their lives that freedom might prevail." Also placed around the monument, you'll see an Eighth Air Force logo, a B-17, a triangle U, and 457th Bombardment Group mention.

The original sculpture of the Stone American head was replaced with the Portland Stone, and taken by our association's Historian in the UK Bernie Baines, for safe keeping in his home in Mildenhall.

Later, arrangements were made to have it flown back to the USA to Barksdale Air Force Base, and it is on display today at the Barksdale Global Power museum in Louisiana. In May 2000, just after his death, another plaque was added to the monument in memory of Bernard Baines - Historian and Friend of the 457th.

It is unknown as to who, or how, the name "Stone American" came about as the sculptor Cpl. Les Fried never named it. However, as time passed by, it has since been shortened to the "Stone Airman" monument.



Happy 50th Anniversary 457th Bomb Group Association

1971 - 2021

2021 marks 50 years since our 1st 457th Bomb Group Association meeting / reunion was held in Bentonville, Arkansas.

On a chance meeting in 1971, two former 749th Squadron buddies from WWII, happened to meet in Bentonville, Arkansas.

These two buddies were Homer Briggs of AR, and Ken Rurode of MO. After catching up on their lives outside the war, they started to renew a great friendship, and this led them to think it would be great to see



other old buddies, and perhaps even start a Reunion Group. Homer's wife began helping immediately, and started searching for other 457th Bomb Group members of WWII.

One contact in particular, Mr. Ken Blakeborough, author of "Fireball Outfit", was able to provide almost 200 names and addresses. Soon, after more contacts were made, the 1st Formal Reunion was held in Bentonville, AR, co-hosted by the Brigg's, Rurode's, and Teagues' with the theme of "To Fight the War All Over Again."

With John Treadway as Master of Ceremonies, thirty-nine men and their families were in attendance to honor the memories of all officers and men of the 457th Bomb Group who gave their lives for our country in WWII. This same group also established Bentonville, AR would be the permanent home and headquarters of the 457th Bomb Group Association. This was to be the first step, first meeting, first reunion, of many.

As time passes, the reunions become more meaningful to our veterans, who served our country in it's time of need. As more years pass, each and all reunions will become more significant, in history, and to our surviving veterans, families and friends. Also, at this first meeting, Dan Graham, of IN, upon traveling to England several times, suggested a new plaque to be added to the Stone American Monument at Conington Churchyard in England.

The Stone American is a monument built and dedicated to our fallen heroes of the 457th Bomb Group, who never returned home again. Several reunion members helped donate funds, and with the help of Bill Siler, of CA, and Dan's

England friends, the plaque entitled "Lest We Forget" was placed.

A Memorial Service was held and each name of our deceased veterans is listed on a scroll, to which more names will be added as they become known. With only one officer, Homer Briggs, serving as Secretary / Treasurer, (with his wife Mickey, being the main secretary), it was agreed upon by members in attendance, to have the next reunion in Topeka, KS and further reunions every 3 years.

During the second reunion in 1973, in Topeka, KS, with an increase of 60 members and their families, it was decided to elect more officers to the board. Bill Willborn of Tulsa, OK was elected our very first President of the 457th Bomb Group Association, to preside from 1973 - 1976.. Homer Briggs was unanimously elected Secretary / Treasurer, and his wife Mickey Briggs was our first honorary member.

Throughout the years, willing hearts and strong determination continue to keep this elite association active, and we strive to hold our reunions / meetings on a regular basis. Fortunately, we've since had our meetings / reunions all across the beautiful USA, and across the pond in the UK. Places from Bentonville, AR, to Omaha, NE, Colorado Springs, CO, Houston, TX, San Diego, CA, Savannah, GA, Washington, D.C., and New Orleans, LA just to name a few in the States, as well as Glatton, England. Our last reunion



/ meeting in 2019, we had 2 veterans, 70 members, family, and friends in attendance and it was held in New Orleans, LA. We've had to cancel our future meetings for now, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but we will resume as time allows.

Since the first 457th Bomb Group Association meeting, we've had many Board Officers and Directors in the past to lead us up to our current Board, which consists of Nancy Archuleta, AL as President, Mr. Robert Parker, TX as Vice-President, Sheila Vester, NY as Secretary, Four Directors - Kathy Collins, FL; Trisha Mach Robertson, HI; Mr. Kurt Gunderson, CA; and Mr.

Gregg Robertson, HI; our Legal Advisor and Recording Secretary, Mr. David Bass, TN; and, our Treasurer Adele Gilmore, FL.

Currently, we have an amazing group of members of the 457th Bomb Group Association that are very dedicated and passionate to keep honoring the memories of each and every one of our veterans that gave their ultimate sacrifice so that we may live free.



Veterans, family members, and friends, still, and will continue to, meet for reunions to honor and pay our respects to all of our heroes of the 457th Bomb Group of World War II

50 years strong and growing, honoring our veterans of the 457th Bomb Group!

"Fait Accompli" - mission accomplished.

50 Remembrances in 50 Years



From Fireballers:

1. "As we head into Memorial Day 2021, I would like to remind everyone that it is on this special day we remember and honor those men and women of our armed forces who, like Waist Gunner Sgt. Robert V. Grunhurd, lost to flak over Munich on 25 February 1945, did not make it home. It is also a day to remember and honor those who served that have since passed." --- George E. Parker, 1LT, Co-Pilot, 748th Sqd, 457th BG(H).

2. "We owe a great deal of gratitude to those men who had the vision to establish the 457th Bombardment Group (H) Association 50 years ago. This was no easy task in the days of printed phone books. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity this association provided to myself and others to reconnect and gather once again with fellow crew members and other members of the group. Thanks to this Association I was able to rekindle relationships and friendships lost for over 30 years as the group dispersed across the globe after our last missions. The reunions and gatherings allowed us to meet, reminisce about our time together, and create new friendships with others with whom we shared a common bond. Many thanks to those men who started this great organization and to those who continue to serve the 457th Bomb Group Association." ----- George E. Parker, 1LT, Co-Pilot, 748th Sqd, 457th BG(H)

3. 2019 - New Orleans, LA - a female Cabaret singer singing to Mr. Parker. The smile on his face said it all.



4. From James L Bass, Jr - remembering his most memorable Christmas was in 1944 in Peterborough, England. It was dark and cold, and he didn't know if there would be a mission that night, or not, yet he felt his greatest sense of accomplishment because he sensed he had served a bigger part of the picture of American life today.

5. TSgt William H. Goodfellow Jr shared a memory of heading out to the pubs during air raids, since no one was there to stop them. And, he wasn't even a drinker!

From Family Members of Fireballers:

6. "In 2011, I went to our local airport to view a B-17. I was able to walk around and under it and take pictures. As I headed back towards my car I noticed a man under a canopy selling books. I walked over and saw he was wearing a blue cap with 457th on it. I knew my Dad was with the 457th so I had to ask the obvious. The gentleman was a 457th veteran and I learned from him about the association reunion later that year in Savannah. I attended it and the rest is history." --- Mr. Kurt Gunderson, son.

7. "It was a chance meeting in England, on Homeday, a celebration of things that happened in the 1940's. We had gone to visit the 457th Memorial at the Water Tower and Mr. and Mrs. Tim Newell saw us there, and a lifelong friendship was formed." --- President Nancy Archuleta, daughter of Antonio H. Enriquez



8. From President Nancy Archuleta, 2021 - "Once we learned of the 457th Bomb Group Association, my father SSGT Antonio Enriquez could talk about nothing else. He wanted everyone in the family to go to the reunions. The reunions ultimately became an opportunity for members of our family to reunite and make new memories as well. In my dad's last years, the reunions and his memories of the 457th Bomb Group became happy memories, as opposed to the war time and losing so many of his friends and fellow airmen."

9. "Grandpa was very proud of his service to our country. He was also very proud of his family member's service, each and every one of them. I remember when Grandpa called us before leaving to Savannah to ask if Taona would wear her uniform at the reunion. When we arrived, Grandpa asked Taona if she had brought her uniform. She of course did, and he wore a smile on his face from ear to ear. We'll never forget the pride in his eyes when he saw her in her uniform. We will always cherish that moment. Grandpa loved the uniform and everything it stood for." -- Rick Enriquez, grandson of Antonio H. Enriquez

10. "Uncle Don told me a couple days before he passed away that everyone wanted to sit beside him when they would have their debrief

after a mission. He didn't drink and they gave everyone a straight shot, so, he would trade his for Hershey Chocolates, his favorite chocolate until the end. He also told everyone when he would tell his story of being shot down and landing with his parachute in a pasture, when he woke up a cow with big eyes was looking down at him. He also said there were a lot of the men that really needed his shot of whiskey and cigarettes and he was always happy to get his chocolate in trade. His faith in God kept him strong and grounded and he knew his life was in God's hands. Miss you Uncle Don, until we see each other again." -- nephew

11. A visit to Conington Church in England located near the Stone Airman. Our 2021 457th Bomb Group Association President Nancy Archuleta's grandsons in the photo. Tim and Angie Newell are such great hosts.



12. Creating long and lasting friendships between Americans and English Historians.

13. "Fond memories of visiting the Duxford Air Show, the vintage planes, and displays at the largest air museum in England." -- grandson of Antonio H. Enriquez, Gerardo Morgan.



14. Great new recipe for real English scones. -- Sheila Goodfellow, daughter of TSgt William H. Goodfellow Jr.

From Various Sources:

15. 1971 - We remember Mickey Briggs (wife of Homer Briggs) -- after all, behind every good boss, is a great secretary.

16. At its second meeting of July 21, 1973, Topeka, KS,, the Association had \$129.00 cash on hand.

17. 1973 Topeka, KS - our 1st President of the Association elected was Bill Willborn of Tulsa, OK.

18. In 1973, Ken Blakebrough's book, "The Fireball Outfit" was available for purchase at \$3.95

19. In July of 1976, the dues were established at \$5.00

20. October 7, in St. Louis, MO, Bill Siler volunteered to go to Mesa, AZ to find a B-17. (No reason available).

21. July 13, 1979 - Bill Siler is President of the Association, and reports on the cost to obtain a B-17. There is no discussion. However, there is a lot of discussion on the restoration of the Stone American in Conington, England.

22. Sept. 27, 1981 - Colorado Springs, CO - Ed Peppas is the President. Most of the discussion is about the Stone American Monument. Lots of excitement.

23. March 15, 1982 - Homer Briggs, Secretary, reports that the by-laws have been amended in compliance with the IRS rules and the Association gains tax exempt status.

24. Houston, TX - President is Dan Graham. Discussion about combining reunions with the 8th Air Force Historical Society.

25. Savannah, GA - Celebration of Bill Siler's 100 birthday

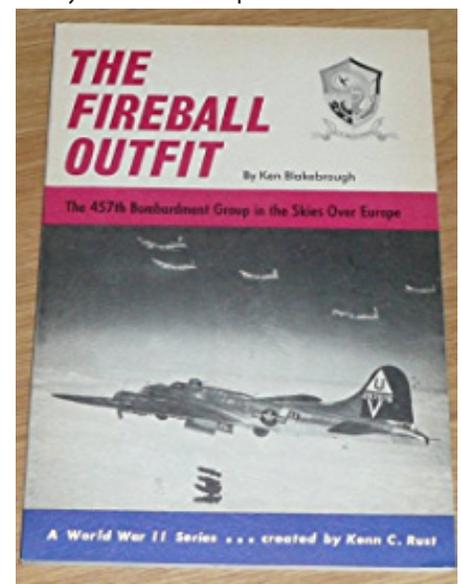
26. 2016 Washington, D. C. - Meeting Senator Dole in front of the National WWII Memorial Monument as he greeted guests.

27. Thrill of a lifetime visiting and touring the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and paying respects to those lost at Ground Zero.

28. 2016 Washington, D.C. - Extremely memorable and solemn visit to the National World War II Memorial

29. 2016 Arlington, VA - an emotionally moving visit to Arlington National Cemetery, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and the beautiful Memorial Amphitheater.

30. September 19, 1985 - Board meeting in Rapid City, SD, Homer Briggs made a motion to recommend to membership that the 457th and 8th Air Force Historical Society work more closely with mutual cooperation. There was



a second by Walt McGibbon, and it was voted and approved.

31. September 21, 1985 - at the business meeting in Rapid City, SD, the following was discussed: "Tom Goff talked on 8th Air Force Historical Society. We need to join and support the 8th AFHS. Pay dues, receive an enjoyable newsletter. The clearing house finds men for us all the time. If we declare a Mini-reunion and advertise we are refunding \$9 for each member attending." Bill Siler added, "The 8th AFHS

should not only be used as a social meeting, but far above to organize. A perpetual future needs goals of interest to the world. The members choose goals and support them. Not to let the future generations forget what the 8th Air Force stands for and fought for, what would have happened if they had not been."

32. In the 1990's, our newsletters were sometimes 60 page magazines. Imagine mailing all of those through USPS.

33. Oct. 18, 1997 - To the Board of Directors of the 457th Bomb Group Association: After the board of directors meeting Wednesday afternoon a query was made as to the appropriateness of the Chairman voting, creating a tie and causing the motion on the floor to fail. In order to clarify, I have attached Section 44 (in part) of Robert's Rules of Order which I believe controls and have highlighted certain aspects of the language. The Savannah meeting was a good meeting and in my opinion a success not only to the good attendance but also for the enthusiasm displayed and the overall spirit of harmony



---- JLB

34. In a letter addressed to Mary Beth Barnard, (seen in the photo below), on Jan 17, 1997 - presentation to the 8th AF Heritage Museum of microfiche set of 457th BG Association Newsletter issues from its initiation in 1971 through 1995.

35. Colorado Springs, CO Reunion in the Fall of 2001 - Overshadowed by the unspeakable tragedy in NY, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania, getting to the reunion wasn't easy for many members. But, according to one "Fireballer", "we never ran away from trouble yet, and we're not starting now". Nearly 280 veterans, wives, family members, and friends gathered to celebrate the reunion tradition that started 30 yrs ago.

36. Invitation for the memorial in memory of the Lt. Carl Gooch crew on Sept 7, 2019

37. On September 26, 1944, the gentleman sitting down was 9yrs old, and actually saw the airplane of Lt. Carl Gooch and crew go down in front of the Church.

38. September 24, 1987 Burlington, VT - President Clayton Bejot announced Don Sellon and committee had seen "Miss Ida" painting placed in Arnold Hall at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO.

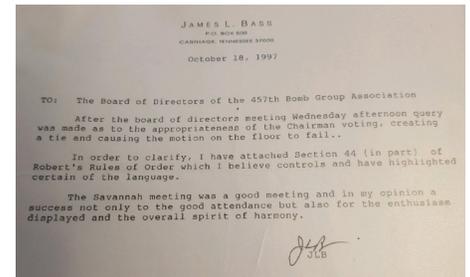
39. November 3, 1989 - President Sellon suggested we authorize Frank Martin to construct a plaque of appreciation for presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Bains. Motion was seconded and passed.

40. November 3, 1989 - Rewrite Article III of the Bylaws entitled "Membership" to specify that Descendants of those who were members of the 457th Bomb Group Association are encouraged to become Members, and they are eligible to voting privileges and to hold office in the Association.

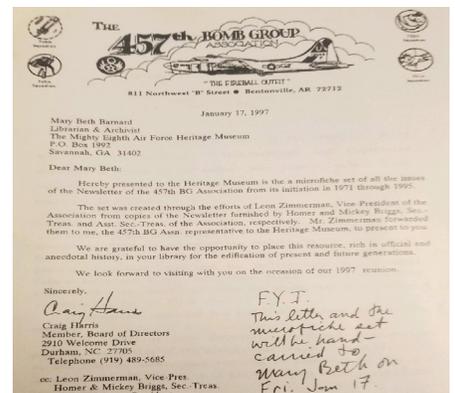
41. November 3, 1989 San Diego, CA - President Sellon asked James Bass to speak about the resolution: Whereas, Dave Summerville has served as Chairman of the Arrangements Committee for this 1989 reunion of the 457th Association; has spent much time and effort in arranging details for an enjoyable and successful meeting, and Whereas, additionally he has made his computer available for us in Association affairs; has devoted time and talent in preparing the membership roster and aiding in the preparation of the NEWSLETTER, all

of which have contributed in assisting the Association in achieving its objectives and purposes. Therefore, be it resolved that this Association express its warm appreciation to Dave Summerville for his efforts and dedication to the affairs and the ongoing efforts to perpetuate the contributions and the continued history of the 457th.

42. November 2, 1991 Gulf Shores, AL - Dave Summerville presented the following resolutions: Whereas, Homer & Mickey Briggs have been such a great inspiration to the 457th Bomb Group, and Whereas, they have devoted their life, their time, and goodwill for the advancement of the 457th, and Whereas They have suffered severe family medical and associated problems which have placed a great financial burden upon them, and Whereas, The 1992 457th Reunion will be held in Peterborough, England in May of that year. Therefore move: That the 457th Bomb Group make every attempt possible,



through donations from it's members, to raise enough funds to purchase their airline fare from Bentonville, AR (or nearest commute city) to London, England with return trip; and to furnish rail transportation from Heathrow Airport to Peterborough and return, at no cost to the Briggs. If donations should exceed transportation costs, excess funds will be used for hotel costs. Should donations exceed the



two above costs, the balance shall be placed in the fote fund. This is a one-time obligation - does not interfere with our bylaws - and shall terminate in June 1992. The motion was seconded and UNANIMOUSLY adopted.

43. October 19, 1993 - President Roland G. Byers had a meeting in which discussion ensued concerning the repository for the memorabilia of the Association. Altus, Oklahoma Air Force Base, home base of the 457th Operations Group was mentioned. Barksdale Field, LA, home base of the 8th Air Force Base, and the new proposed 8th Air Force Heritage Center at Savannah, GA was mentioned. Homer Briggs said there was a possibility at the University of Arkansas. No final decision made.



44. November 12, 1995 in Reno, NV - President Billy Hightower held a meeting recommending that the new board of directors give immediate attention to the repositories for the Association's Memorabilia upon which it was seconded and approved.



45. Wright-Patterson AFB Museum in Dayton, OH on August 17, 1994 - The 457th Bomb Group Association will dedicate a marble Memorial Bench at the USAF Museum. The Group flew more than 200 combat missions over Germany during WWII in the B-17 four engine bomber called the "Flying Fortress". Officers, Directors, Historians, and the Founder of the 457th Bomb Group Association Homer Briggs, and his indispensable wife Mickey Briggs will be in attendance. President Billy Hightower will be in charge of the dedication. 96 veterans were also in attendance.- from October 1995 Newsletter.

46. In October 1995 Newsletter - Many Flying Fortresses survive today, but they cost as much as \$2000 an hour to fly.

47. The B-17 wasn't the best, nor fastest U.S. heavy bomber of the air war in Europe, but it was the favorite, and popular among pilots, for its ability to absorb punishment.

48. During the "Big Week", the front of a B-17 exploded and disappeared. Tail Gunner James Raley of Henderson, KY, was left alone in a tail section that glided from 19,000 feet to the ground. At ground level, Raley was in a straight glide, perfectly balanced, the tail surface acting as a wing. Raley landed without harm. The other nine crew members were never heard from again. - from the December 1994 Newsletter.

49. Some B-17's were captured intact by the Germans, and then piloted by Germans to join in the B-17 formations and radio information to attacking Luftwaffe fighters.

50. From the December 1994 Newsletter - a letter of THANKS from Johnnie, Museum Curator of the USAF Museum in Scotland for the "Famed 457th Bomb Group" patches, which are framed and on display.



Miss Ida 44-8152 Memorial



On April 5th 2021 approximately 40 people gathered on a hill top to the west of Station 130, Glatton.

We were there to remember the crew of an aircraft that took off 76 years earlier, Miss Ida, 44-8152. The crew of ten men were to lead a bombing raid on Ingolstadt in Germany, this was mission 224 for the 457th bomb group, little did these men know that in only a few minutes after take off disaster would strike.

Whilst thundering down the runway Major Dozier contacted the tower, his number 2 engine was on fire, this was confirmed and now a decision had to be made. He decided to drop his bird into a field about half a mile from the end of the runway, wheels up and with full flaps onto a ploughed field on a hill, this he did, however the aircraft struck a haystack, spun around and flipped over.

The collision with the haystack severed a wing spilling fuel, suddenly a fire erupted, the fuel vapours and bomb load exploded and 9 men perished.



I first discovered the fate of Miss Ida about 9 years and was given my first part of the aircraft, it was one of the port wing spas, I later went on to find many more remains of the plane on the field, these parts are safely stored and occasionally displayed at local events however one piece was awkward and heavy to move around.

After a chat with the land owner Paul Williams (His father was one of the first on the scene after the crash) we decided that one of the main parts that kept the crew up in the air should support them forever, the idea was born.

The wing spa now supports the lads once again, Fait Accompli.

The greatest of thanks to Paul Williams who owns the land on which Miss Ida came to rest, Rob Roan Engineering for the construction of the memorial and Clive Dodson Thatchers for being an integral part of the project.



Beware of the Luftwaffe

By Brad Bunker - 749th Navigator

July 13, 1993

We were on an early summer of 1944 mission to either Leipzig or Munich and we were flying rather high to get over at least a 9/10 cloud cover. Dale Jeffers was still pilot of our crew, flying in the #4 position in the 749th Sqdn. Our right wing plane had aborted over the channel.

On getting well into Germany, I was trying to get a ground location through a small break in the clouds, when to my surprise a battered old B-17 with strange markings, slid into the open slot off our right wing. I brought this to Dale's attention and suggested that we challenge him with the code of the day with my signal light. Dale thought it was a good idea so I proceeded to do so, by aiming at the Navigator's position. There was no response. So, after a few minutes had passed Dale asked me to try again. This time I aimed at a point between the Navigator and the Pilot so they could both receive the signal. A couple more minutes elapsed and no response. Dale ordered all guns to bear on the plane. On seeing the guns, the plane veered off sharply to the right and disappeared.

Apparently, the Germans had patched up one of our old "downed" and were using it as a spotter plane to get our altitude, direction and speed in order to relay information to their anti-aircraft guns and fighter planes.

(Ed. note: I too can assure you that this sort of thing happened.)

► Bulletin Board

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 contact us by e-mail.

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:

Sheila Vester, Association Secretary at # 716.864.9150

She will add the name to a list of those who will be honored during the next State-Side Reunion.

Notes from the Editor:

We would appreciate it if all members (including Board members) would check their electronic and mailing addresses for accuracy.

If anyone has information about deceased members or obituaries, please forward those to us for the next Stateside Memorial Service.

Our thanks to Dorothy Enriques and Gabriel Nieto for putting the newsletter together.

Visit the website today at
www.457thbombgroupassoc.org

► Officers & Appointments

| | | |
|--|--|------------------|
| Nancy Archuleta President | narchuleta@chm611.com 611 Holmes Ave NE, Huntsville, AL 35801 | M. 256.656.9155 |
| Robert Parker Vice-President | rparker15@hotmail.com 509 Pioneer Trail, Harker Heights, Tx 76548 | M.254.824.0237 |
| Adele Gilmore Treasurer | pickwickantique@gmail.com | M. 727.433.2550 |
| Sheila Vester Secretary | adksheilav@yahoo.com 5001 Transit Road Apt 313, Depew, NY 14043 | P: 716.864.9150 |
| Eric D. Zemper Director | P.O. Box 130537, Ann Arbor, MI 48113-0537 | |
| Kathy Collins Director - 2 year | Kcollins18@cox.net Seville Dr, Pensacola, FL 32503 | P: 850.206.6670 |
| Gregg Robertson Director - 4 year | greggwrobertson@aol.com 437 Kailua Rd. Apt. 6103, Kailua, HI 96734 | P: 808.721.5389 |
| Kurt Gunderson Director - 4 year | kgunderson@briighthouse.com 5701 Burke Way, Bakersfield, CA 93309 | P: 661.835.0787 |
| Trisha Mach Robertson Director | ka1967@yahoo.com 1302A Kamahale Street, Kailua, HI 96734 | M.898.799.8854 |
| Cleo Giachino Director | jimdeo@jps.net | H.530.570.1561 |
| Vacant Legal Advisor | | |
| Curt Musheno Website Technician | webmaster@457thbombgroupassoc.org 2001 Heim Hill Road, Montoursville, PA 17754 | P: 570. 974.1940 |
| Gerardo Morgan Newsletter Editor | panforte09@gmail.com 5707 Bent Tree Ct, Colleyville, TX 76034 | M.817.374.0599 |
| Erwin de Moolj Webmaster/Facebook Admin. | webmaster457thbombgroup@outlook.com Mondriaaniaan 31, Sassenheim, 2172 DG Netherlands | P: 0031612972293 |

► European Historians

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Tim Newell Angela Newell | tim.newell@gmail.com Cemetary Chapel, Stoke Doyle Road, Oundle, Northants, England PE8 5TR | P: 44 1487 830450 |
| Erwin de Moolj | b17research@gotmail.com Mondriaaniaan 31, Sassenheim, 2172 DG Netherlands | P: 0031612972293 |

► Past Presidents

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1973-75: William Willborn | 2001-03: Will Fluman (d) | 2005-07: James Bass |
| 1976: Howard Larsen (d) | 1988-89: Donald Sellon (d) | 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 | 2015-19: Will Fluman, Jr. |
| 1985: David Summerville (d) | 1999-01: Craig Harris (d) | |
| 1986-87: Clayton Bejot | 2003-05: Don Nielsen | |

► In Memory

Gordon E. Townsend



TOWNSEND Gordon Edward Of Kings Ripton, sadly passed away on January 19, 2021, aged 87 years.

Gordon Townsend was one of the 457th Bomb Group Association English Historians. He and his father attended to the Stone American Monument, kept it clean and cut the grass. Later, Gordon would help with the UK reunions. He will be greatly missed. He will be deeply missed by his loving wife Ros, his daughters Linda and Wendy, all his family, as well as the many friends he made during his very active life. The funeral service took place at St Peter's Church, Kings Ripton on February 10, 2021, followed by cremation.

If desired, donations made payable to Fire Fighters Charity or The Royal Air Force Benevolent fund may be sent c/o: William Peacock & Son, Castle Hill Lodge, Castle Moat Road, Huntingdon, Cambs PE29 3PG
Tel : 01480 453 882

A memorial service will be held when restrictions allow.

Published in Peterborough Telegraph on Jan. 28, 2021

Eric Brumby



October 17, 2020

Eric Brumby belonged to the group of English Historians who started it all. We owe him a lot and we will miss him and the stories he had about the men of the 457th Bomb Group. Eric Brumby passed away on October 17, 2020.

Eric Brumby says: Bernard Bains and I worked for Perkins Engines in Peterborough. Bernard was a member of the local military society, I was not. . . I loved airplanes and visited the local library to find aviation books to borrow. It was there that I first saw The Book FLAK DODGER so I borrowed it ..and was enthralled.

Having read the book and its poignant chapter about the Stone American at The Church I was sad that the monument was neglected and in disrepair so on my day off from work I made a visit and found the Memorial. I cut the grass and put some flowers there. I thought about all those very young men who never went home which struck a chord with me because my own Father had served in the War and never came home, he too had no known grave so in a way it comforted me to know that these poor boys

parents/offspring were in the same situation as I.

After the first visit I returned once a week to keep the monument tidy and put flowers out. So at work one day I saw Bernard Bains and as a military man we had a conversation which oddly enough came around to "Yanks"! It was then that we came to the local bomb group. Bernard knew about them and told me about the group and the monument. It was THEN that he said SOMEONE! is looking after the Stone American to which I replied "IT'S ME"! Well, that was a surprise to him I tell you, he then told me all he could about forming English Historians. So, of course, I joined him and we also had John Wilson and Johnny Walker that made 4 of us.

I know there are many guys who say that they did this and that and the old local gent who had by then become ill also. There are inevitably mixed stories of course but we 4 were the basis of the English Historians.

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Bernard was our Anchor, we never ever saw Wilson, Johnny Walker was the real Historian and there was nothing he did not know about the 457th as for me well I just got along with whatever I was asked to do. I was more interested in Public Relations etc. One of my Star Events was getting the Mayors Parlour Gig set up where we used to go and meet the Mayor in his Parlour and have coffee and a guided tour of the Civic side of things.

I think all in all we did a great job for the boys and Families who we greeted back in the UK, and finally, it gave me somewhere to mourn my Dear Dad who also had no known grave.

Lt. Edwin S. Jackson



Aug 1, 1922 - July 24, 2020

JACKSON, Edwin Standard

Just one week shy of his 98th Birthday, we lost our loving and devoted "Big Ed", Edwin S. Jackson. He was one of the few remaining WWII Vets and members of "The Greatest Generation". He passed away on July 24, 2020 after a literal lifetime of service and dedication to his country, family and clients. Ed was born on August 1, 1922 in Carrollton, GA as the only child of Celestia and W.C. Jackson and moved to Atlanta as a young boy.

After the loss of his parents by age 12, he lived with various aunts and uncles in numerous homes throughout the Atlanta area. He grew up in a very modest and humble environment.

He graduated from Boy's High and after his first year at Ga. State Univ. he enlisted in the Army Air Corps hoping to achieve the status of a Navigator. Instead, he surpassed his goal and became a B-17 Pilot. He was particularly inspired by his favorite actor, Jimmy Stewart, who had enlisted the year before and made video recruitment ads.

Ed received his Orders to Report to Active Duty in January 1943 and shared a room with then future Governor Ernest Vandiver. Two months later he was transported to a training base at Millikin Univ. in Decatur, IL where he fell in love at first sight with his future wife, Roberta Siekmann, at an Open House for the cadets held at her Sorority House. After 7 weeks of Basic Training at Millikin Univ., he was transferred out West for Advanced Flight Training and earned his "Silver Wings".

He then flew a B-17 Bomber named Elizabeth Ann from the U.S. to Glatton, England where he became part of the 457th Bombardment Group (H), part of The U.S. Army Eighth Air Force. He remained there throughout the War, flying 22 Missions and grew in the ranks to become a 1st LT, Squadron Leader and Air Commander. Lt. Jackson safely returned his plane and all his crew members back to base after every bombing mission despite encountering heavy flak, enemy missiles and rocket jet attacks. He remained on base after the War to fly additional Missions into Austria to transport POWs back to their home countries. He then returned the Elizabeth Ann to the U.S.

After the War, Ed became a CPA by working as an Assistant to a CPA and going to night school to earn his Degree. He was a sole proprietor for the majority of his career, was Treasurer of the Buckhead Rotary Club, and later finished the final decades of his career at the Offices of Jones & Kolb in Buckhead.

He finally retired last year at the age of 97. His work ethic was exemplary; after office hours, he worked at home 7 days/week in

his recliner with his lapboard, trusty jar of peanuts beside him, and his beloved Atlanta Braves on TV. The final two years of his career, as his mental acuity began to dim, he waived his professional fees for the majority of his clients out of his sense of honor and dedication.

As he explained it, he could no longer determine a fair hourly rate given his growing loss of efficiency.

He was an incredibly generous and frugal man, and money was never an incentive in his life. He and his wife, Roberta, were faithful members of Peachtree Presbyterian Church after moving to their final home of 50 years in Sandy Springs.

Ed was a member of the Cherokee Town & Country Club for over 60 years where he enjoyed his regular Saturday morning golf round with friends. He was a talented Bridge player. He read and collected everything related to the "Flying Fortress", "The Mighty Eighth", and "B-17 Bombers".

Ed was among the humblest of men. He neither wanted nor accepted any recognition for his many gifts or achievements. His response would only be "Phooey".



Col. Thomas J. Tredici



August 27, 1922 - April 28, 2021

He was born in PA in 1922. In 1942, at the age of 19 yrs old he enlisted into the United States Army Air Force and was selected for pilot training. He piloted a B-17 Superfortress Bomber with it's crew of 10 for the 457th Bomb Group out of Glatton, England during WWII. Col. Tredici and his crew flew 18 combat missions over Germany between Nov. 1944 - Jun 1945.

After the war, in 1949, he continued his education where he received his B. A., Magna Cum Laude, graduated Phi Beta Kappa, and then entered medical school at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Dr. Tredici remained with the USAF, and in 1965, as an ophthalmic surgeon, served in Vietnam and at Clark AFB, Philippines. He also served in several capacities including Chief of Ophthalmology at the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine. He developed the USAF policy on glaucoma for aviators saving millions in training costs. He worked with astronauts and NASA developing the gold visors used by the American astronauts during the moon exploration protecting them from ultraviolet light-induced eye injuries. He also instructed flight surgeons, and established a training program for ophthalmology technicians - a Department of Defense first.

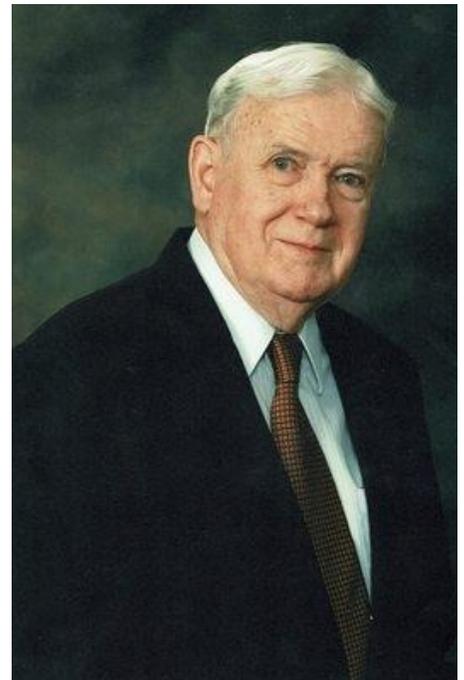
In 1987, Col. Tredici retired at age 65 from the military with 39 years of active military service. At this time, he became the last WWII pilot to retire from active duty in the Air Force and was awarded a second Legion of Merit.

He still continued to work as a Senior Scientist with the Aerospace Ophthalmology Branch until 2011 having served the USAF for 70 years. Throughout his lifetime, Dr. Tredici continued to be honored by the USAF receiving 17 military awards and decorations, the Academy of Opht

thalmology Senior Honor Award, just to name a few. He was the founding commissioner for the Joint Commission for Allied Health Professionals in Ophthalmology. In 2015 in San Antonio, TX, Dr. Tredici was honored with the inaugural Lifetime Achievement award by the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Texas Health Science Center. He also continued to work as a USAF Emeritus Scientist and Consultant until his passing in April 2021.

Col. Tredici was a loving family man, had a great sense of humor, was a master storyteller, but most of all, he was a patriot and loved America.

James L. Bass, Jr



June 7, 1921 - May 21, 2020

(Please note the corrected date, we apologize for the incorrect dates posted in our last newsletter.)

► A Message From The Secretary

Hello! Becoming a member is very easy and well worth the minimal charge! \$25 yearly dues will get you on the list for the 457th newsletter, which is more interesting than the NY Times. Being a member also gives you access to information about our reunions. Just click MEMBERSHIP on our website www.457thbombgroupassoc.org, and print up the membership form. Membership forms and dues should go directly to Adele Gilmore at 3070 37th Avenue South, St Petersburg Florida 33712.

For those of us who lack perfect computer skills (baby boomers?) feel free to email me, Sheila Goodfellow at 'adksheilav@yahoo.com' and I will be more than happy to mail you a membership form. Happy reading!!
Sheila



► From The President



CELEBRATE! Memorial Day is a day of bittersweet emotions. We celebrate the lives we have lost who have served their country, the world, and above all humanity. This is a day where we think of our own loved ones that have gone to serve on the battlefield with God, and those that are left behind to continue the struggle of freedom.

The memories of our loved ones serve to remind us that freedom is not free. Please continue to join us in the 457th Bomb Group Association to carry the vanguard to be models to honor our fathers and our mothers who sacrificed so much for us. Let's join together in a prayer for our country, our families, and our world!

I hope to see all of you very soon. I still keep the Fall open for a possible reunion. Hope this will be a fait accompli.

Nancy Archuleta



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, Florida 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 _____ 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: _____

Send my Fireball newsletter by: mail email