

THE 457TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

811 NORTHWEST "B" STREET

BENTONVILLE, ARKANSAS 72712

DECEMBER 1975

Dear Fireballers:

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR !

It is time to get our 1976 reunion on the ball and start it rolling. I think we have had good response in the last 3 months.

LOCATION OF REUNION: Bentonville is 7 miles South of Missouri State line on Hwy 71 - and about 30 miles East of Oklahoma, in the Northwest corner of Arkansas. Homer and Lourrene (Mickey) welcomes one and all. Men and families are welcome at our home. Phone (501) 273-3908, address 811 Southwest "B" St, Bentonville, Arkansas 72712.

CHANGE OF LOCATION OF REUNION: NOW at Bentonville Holiday Inn Motel: We learned that Lost Bridge resort has changed management and cannot accommodate all of us for the reunion. We have Holiday Inn, Hwy 71 North, 3 or 4 blocks from Homer's home. To obtain the whole complete Motel, and be assured of Bentonville, YOU - I repeat, YOU must reserve by March '76. However, if Bentonville fills; later reservations can be made in Rogers Holiday Inn, 7 miles South. If you want a block of rooms together for your crew or friends ask for adjoining rooms when you reserve. Your local Holiday Inn Motel will make the reservations and give prices. Please, also notify us when you have your reservations, we can confirm them in June. Holiday Inn has private bar for their own; we are a dry county, however; Mo State Line is 7 miles. Campers can camp at Beaver Lake, which is about 8 miles East from Bentonville.

3 RD REUNION: Wives, friends, children - all are included: July 3rd - 8th, 1976

July 3rd Saturday	arriving - registration - 6:30 PM Social
July 4th Sunday	Welcome Breakfast - afternoon - Springdale Bicentennial Parade as a group, Barbecue - Rodeo - evening
July 5th Monday	Bentonville, B-17 dedication (if we obtain one) Water mellon feast, tour Civil War Cave - get together
July 6th Tuesday	Committee Meetings till noon. Films, England, Airforce films
July 7th Wednesday	Business meeting, picture taking, Social, banquet & dancing
July 8th Thursday	Bus Tour Pea Ridge Nat'l Battle Field, sack lunch Eureka Springs, shopping, Christ of Ozarks Statue "Passion Play" evening performance - live performances

Any suggestions for the program, or change, please write at once so we can do this. Remember - this is YOUR REUNION.

FUTURE REUNIONS: Many possible places have written--wanting to take it. If you wish this information, write, also if you have information or requests--write, so it can be sent to the men who will head up that committee.

COMMITTEES FOR REUNION: NOW, Today is the time to contact us telling what committee you prefer, if no one contacts, then some appointments will be made by Feb 1st. All suggestions should be sent to us, so the committees can be working on them and bring them to the reunion for a vote.

WHAT TO BRING: (if married) bring WIFE AND KIDS -- MUST BRING YOURSELF, MUST BRING mementoes of 457th, we have lots of pictures, letters, Please---attach your name to each one and gather up before you leave. Also, note if you want anything left with the historian. We'll be ther -- (Briggs family, Jerry 18, Robert 16, Lee 13, David 12, three daughters and families - part time).

C.L. EGTVEDT DIES, FATHER OF B-17 SEATTLE, Oct 21, 1975 (UPI)

Claire L. Egtvedt, known as the father of the B-17 Flying Fortress of World War II, died at his home Sunday night. He was 83 years old. Mr. Egtvedt, retired chairman of the Boeing Co., was directly responsible for the decision to develop the B-17 in the 1930's.

"THE FIREBALL OUTFIT" written by one of our own - Ken Blakebrough - In our travel to England we found at least 7 different cities, many men in each, all owners of the Fireball Outfit book, as well as the Mighty Eighth Air Force book. All were so interested in history of both, Homer was thoroughly questioned on all accounts, and in return learned much. Homer had the honor of autographing each and everyone's book, one just under Jimmy Stewart (actor) signature, who had visited Memorial Day. These men are very interested in meeting and/or writing to all men, and asked that anyone visiting to contact them when in England. They have met a few 457th men - enjoyed all. (addresses elsewhere in newsletter). To order book: The Fireball Outfit (ISBN-0-8168-9754-9) Aero Publishers, Inc, 329 Aviation Road, Fallbrook, Ca. 92028 Include check or money order for \$3.95

RINGS: We have Airforce rings order book address, write if interested.

MINIATURE B-17: If interested in Pewter B-17 Tie Tacks, place order before June 1st, 1976. We gave Gordon Townsend one in England and he was very pleased.

CURRENT ROSTER: 461 current addresses, sent hundred of inquiries with old addresses, not all 461 have joined. NOTE: With over 450 men, and hundreds of new inquiries, this is a lot of work and easy to overlook some part of it. PLEASE - if you attended the past 2 reunions and/or paid 7.50 you are entitled to a membership card and Ballot to vote. If you have not received yours please write immediately and Mickey will send.

CARTOONIST: A cartoonist is interested in hearing from the group and if we have a way, he would like to draw cartoons for our newsletter, however, I have no way at the present to do this. He is Monsieur Guy Jacquemin, Rue Devant Wacht, 6, 6770, Saint-Leger Province de luxembourg Belgium

INTERESTED HISTORIANS: These men have written that they would welcome information on our group -- Mr. Don Olds (new address) 1403 Highland, Rolla, Mo 65041 --- Mr. Eric Rhodes, 31, Kent Road, Margate, Kent, CT 9-3 SE England, (researching historian)

VICE PRESIDENT: Howard Larsen has been hospitalized--still on the mend. Cards to him would be great, slow progress for Howard, prayers and thoughts go to him.

NOTICE LOS ANGELES TIMES 1975: L.H. Watson, retired Army Maj General, dies at 81 yrs, former Beverly Hills city councilman and Mayor. He was the father of 457th Col Leroy H. Watson, jr, deceased. Maj Gen Watson wrote Homer: "My son was very proud to have been a member of the 457th. I have written for a copy of the 'Fireball Outfit' book. Enclosed is a \$25.00 donation in memory of my son".

MEMBERSHIP & REUNION ADVERTISING: We have been in several newspapers, Reserve Officers Assoc, Air Force Assoc, Air Force Times, Mississippi Papers, Baltimore, Washington Star, Glen Bernie, Maryland Gazette, Maine State American Legion Paper, Maryland State American Legion Paper, Legion magazine, Disabled magazine, Aviation Week, Space Technology, Aerospace Historian, Moose Paper, Elks Paper, Arkansas Papers. Do you have your State papers notified? Do so today.

CURRENT ADDRESSES: In keeping an up-to-date file to be handed to future Secry/Treas we need your questionnaires filled in - whether you join or not. If you do not have the questionnaire please write for one. If you move please send change of address. This is the only way we can keep you on our mailing list.

VISITORS: Paul and Ronda Birchen, Minn, visited on their way to New Orleans. Met and visited with David Callaghan, Mass, while he was in England. Many calls and letters from the many men and their wives. Dan and Norma Graham visited Peterborough this past May - June, William and Ericka Morris and several others also visited the area.

HISTORIAN: Mickey made and presented a special decopage plaque of the High Flight Poem to four English historians in Peterborough. They were given on behalf of the 457th Group and the Briggs family. Mickey has 15 books of papers, pictures, maps, several large sheets of pictures, a decoupage plaque of "Charter Members" to be on display at all reunions. Also Mickey has prepared a permanent scroll of the Memorial list of men. Each reunion the latest names will be added in a special service. We have obtained a new version of the "High Flight" poem for the attendees. Copies of the Bylaws have been made for the attendees of reunion, also.

ENGLAND: The 457th Charter Flight to England was canceled. Some went on their own at different times. As many of you know, Homer, Mickey, and their 4 boys went to England. Left home Aug 15, 1975, returned Sept 12th. Visited Dee Owsley and Oscar Koirtzmann and their wives, near St Louis. Talked by phone with Joe Turney in Chi, before taking off from Chicago, Aug 18th for London. Went directly to Peterborough where we met Gordon and Joan Townsend, and daughters. They gave us their friendship and guidance thru their England that we will always cherish. They in turn had us meet their three fellow 457th historians. We all exchanged our information and pictures. These men all want to correspond with 457th men, Gordon is a Fire Officer in the city of Peterborough and collects anything pertaining to Fireman's gear, recent or old. . buttons to medals - to models of firetrucks. If any Fireman has something you would like to bring to the reunion, Gordon plans to attend.

Gordon E. Townsend (son of George)
17 Avon Court
Gunthorpe, Peterborough
PE 4 6 England

Bernard Pains
29 Western Ave
Peterborough
PEL 4 HS England

John Walker
4, Farring Don Close
Burford Estate
Peterborough, England

Eric Brumby
82 Bluebell Ave
Peterborough PE 13 x H
Cams, England

George Townsend, caretaker of the memorial for many years. These 4 men are now helping him. These men placed four poppy crosses on the memorial on Armistice Day.

It is their hope to come to our July '76 reunion to be with us. They recently, in a Military Display in October 1975 at Peterborough, had a display of 457th gathered pictures, data, reconstructed base, etc. These four men are known as "The 457th Glatton Historical Group, Peterborough" within the "Soke Military Historical Society" of Peterborough, England. They presented Homer with a tie with their emblem, and asked him to be their first HONORARY member. They in turn would be honored to become an Associate Member of our group, if we should vote to have Associate Members. These men visited recently the sight of crash of 'Miss Ida' and found some interesting pieces.

THE STONE AMERICAN MONUMENT: Many who have visited the monument know that it is deteriorating again, and some said the grounds weren't kept at that time. We now have these other men helping George Townsend, while he was not able to be on his legs. We also inquired many places for help to restore the monument with a more lasting material.