THE 457TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

"THE FIREBALL OUTFIT"

THE 457th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION NEWS
ESTABLISHED JULY 1971

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JANUARY-FEBRUARY  1999

GETTYSBURG '99

OCTOBER 10-14

REUNION
"Sez the Prez"

The year has moved so quickly. It doesn't seem that long ago that Craig & Bobbie Harris commanded a Savannah Reunion that set, or equaled, the record for attendance. In May, Will & Phyllis Fluman piloted a mission that set, or equaled, the record for number of attendees at the Mini-Reunion in Peterborough. These two records were established in spite of a declining Group population. It has been a great year!

Board Member Dale Jeffers gave birth to an idea in Savannah to involve children, grandchildren and friends of the 457th that could prolong the life of our Bomb Group Association. The young people that were contacted responded with enthusiasm beyond our best expectations. You need only to look at the list of new members in this issue to see what has happened. They voted, with money for new life memberships, and for two-year memberships. In addition, many have offered to help in any way that they can, to keep the spirit of our Group alive. Next year your Board will discuss approving someone of the "young set" to the Board. These young new members are so impressed with your contribution to their good life that they want to be a part of our great heritage. These new memberships reflect their tremendous pride in your accomplishments. So, we grieve for the year's losses, but rejoice for the year's gains.

Just a short year from now we will be in Gettysburg for another outstanding Reunion. It won't be the same without you, so start making your plans to see old friends and make new acquaintances. We will call it, "THE GETTYSBURG EXPERIENCE", and because it will be a memorable reunion we want everyone of you, who can possibly attend, to be there. I have received some confirmations of attendance even this early. Jack and Jean Van Ingen, our reunion coordinators, are making wonderful plans for your visit.

Finally, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and may God Bless You and your Families.

Leon Zimmerman.

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457th Vice President Craig Harris has been elected to the Board of Directors of the 8th Air Force Historical Society. Way to go, Craig!

The plans are going well for your 1999 Gettysburg Reunion. We all know what the English Historians have added to the 457th, and how great it is to have them at our Reunions. The joy of meeting these dedicated people adds a very special depth to our organization. I have received calls from many of you, indicating that you would like to assist in providing funds to make certain that our English friends will attend. Now is that time; checks should be made to English Travel Fund, and sent to Homer Briggs, 811 NW "B" Street, Bentonville, AR 72712. Please do this promptly. This is my, and their, thanks in advance for your generosity.

Leon Zimmerman.

Fait Accompli II. In a sequel to Fait Accompli, James Bass has presented a wonderful tribute to every member of the 457th. This photo journalism coverage of your group is a "must" for every 457th family. Were we ever that young? The book is very well done, and will vividly recall our days in England, and will give credence to those stories that you have been telling your children and grandchildren all of these years. The USA beginning, The Base at Glatton, England, The Planes, The Missions, the Crashes, The Formations, and The P.O.W. Camps, are pictured in a new review of your former life (no girls). The best $33.00 investment you will make, and that includes shipping. James Bass, P.O. Box 500, Carthage, TN 37030 Fax 1-615-735-3149
OUR ASSOCIATION MUST LIVE BEYOND US

Earlier this year I wrote to President Zimmerman about a plan to give life to our Association beyond our own. He agreed, and has made some efforts along that line, as you will note in the President’s Column in this Newsletter. He also asked me to write my proposal for this edition.

In order to extend the life of our Association indefinitely, we must secure the membership of younger people with a reason to care about the 457th. There are three separate groups we must consider:

1. Our children and grandchildren. We have seen some at our reunions, and at our Memorial Bench Dedication, who were very interested in our history. President Zimmerman has written to some of these, and he is very encouraged by their response. I am asking every single member to talk to their sons and daughters and grandchildren about becoming members, and expressing willingness to assume leadership positions in the near future. I ask you to plan for their attendance at our 1999 Reunion in Gettysburg, where we will introduce them individually to the entire membership and we will get to know them.

2. The former members of the 457th Composite Wing. We met many of them at our Bench Dedication, and they were included in our panoramic photograph under the B-17. Their leader, Colonel Keith Osborne, was the featured speaker at our 1993 San Antonio reunion. These fine young men have an interest in the perpetuation of our and their legend, and we should diligently pursue efforts to contact them and to persuade them to take a permanent interest in our organization. Several of them are members, and I hope some will read this and answer our call.

3. Professional historians. Ideally, a professor at University, with a keen interest in the history of WW II, who might be delighted to find our store of memorabilia, that of each of us as individuals, that of Mickey and Homer for the Association, and that of our English Historians. I propose that a form letter, sent to several University history departments, outlining what we have of historical interest, and how we could work with them. We would hope to have one or more of them working with us before our next reunion, and to attend at Gettysburg.

As to these younger persons, we must ask them to assume the leadership positions in our Association, as trustees and officers. We must plan for an orderly changing of the guard.

Dale Jeffers

NEW LIFE MEMBERS
Since last Newsletter

Bennet, Alexander
Byrd, Richard (son of John)
Conover, George
DeRose, August
Fluman, Willmore, Jr (son of Will, Sr)
Forney, Richard Sr
Gravell, Donald
Hale, Ramsey
Hoffman, Art (son of Art, Sr)
Lewis, John
Marx, Larry (son of Shirley)
McCall, Wm (son of Wm Sr)
McClelland, Ben
Moore, A. L.
Rogner, Edward Jr. (son of Ed. Sr)
Thompson, George
Woods, Kenneth

E-mail addresses
Dale Jeffers roseteal@aol.com
Kenneth Nail cotbooks@interloc.com
Leon Zimmerman zim@acd.net
Beam, Nat (found new address)
170 Pershing Bld
La Vallette, NJ 08735

Bell, Alpheus W
10005 Florida
Walker, La 70785

Brockway, Glen L
6305 E Palm St
Mesa, AZ 85215

Brown, Jacque (Daughter-Ayers)
588 Spyglass Dr
Eugene, Or 97401

Byrd, Richard W (son of John)
PO Box 30575, UNT Station
Denton, TX 76203

Claxton, Richard (fm inactive)
3614 Midland
Norman, Ok 73072

Dollar, Herbeart E
5480 Via Verana
Yorba Linda, Ca 92887

Wm Dee
Z Fran Whitman
1031 Wren Av
Miami Springs, Fl 33166

Fluman, Will Jr (son of Sr Will)
132 Orebank Rd
Dillsburg, Pa 17019

Freudeman, Walter E
1601 SE 8th Lot 369
Crystal River, Fl 34429

Hollowbrush, Robert G
27 Conrad Rd
Fleetwood, Pa 19522

Klienfelter, Walt
939 Tuck St
Lebanon, Pa 17042

Marx, Larry (Shirley's son)
1725 Rollett Lane
Evansville, In 47712

McCall, Bill (Wm son)
406 Crestwater Trail
Houston, Tx 44082

Marzone, Anthony (son of Sr)
366 Seagrape Rd
Venice, Fl 34293

McCarthy, Patrick (nephew J F Tomascik)
106 Fobes St
Whitman AFB, Mo 65305

Monroe, Greg
11902 East Ash
Othello, La 99344

Morris, Judy (Ayers daughter)
2404 E Maine St
Medford, Or 97544

Nelson, Thomas D
1470 Westwood
Mound, Mn 55364

Perry, Robert (son of Wendell)
5522 Fawn Brook Ln
Dublin Oh 43017

Shaffer, Joseph Jr (son of Sr)
1144 SE 55th Ave
Portland, Or 97215

Snelling James
701 St Louis Ave
Excelsior Springs,
Mo. 64024

Terral, Virgil
918 Terral ST
Jena, La 71342 -9536

Thoman, Alfred (Tex)
515 Buckland Ave
San Carlas, Ca 94070

Walhied, John B
116 E. Coventry Ln
Peoria, Il 61614

Leath, C E
119 Princess Dr
Monroe, La 71203

One little smile can fill the room with sunshine
EXPLANATION!
Delay of 457th business by
Mickey, Editor:

Our year was over powering at times. First, we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary on March 15, 1998. We renewed our marriage vows in the same Fayetteville, Ar. Methodist Chapel (remodeled). Our seven children & their families made all the arrangements. We had all the trimmings—we never had the first time. Mickey wrote a book about our lives—from back in Europe to the present—for each son & daughter & gave it to them at the dinner.
A surprise visit by 457th Clifford & Bernice Digre. We received hundreds of cards, flowers & gifts from our family & friends. Thank you so much!
We received news of many 457th couples having their 50th Anniversary last & this year. A rare-happening these years. Many surprised at a 50th year marriage.

CORONATION OF ALL!!!
APOLOGIES!!

To all, not answering all the mail (extra heavy), dues cards, delay of the Nov NL.
Since last NL, (You know our reputation—if it happens it will happen to the Briggs) We visited our new grandson in Panama City, Fl. just in time to be in "Hurricane Earl." They live about a mile from the Gulf. Just a bit uneasy, a bit wet & wiser on how to prepare for Hurricanes.
Next we flew to Houston, Tx & was in the tail of the next "Hurricane", Motel was 25 miles away. Next day Homer's Dr appointment over—hurried back to airport. No time for lunch.
A short version of the next 12 hrs —when I checked the flight & asked for a wheelchair for Homer to board, she said—Dallas has asked no passengers who need assistance. They are having electrical storms. He agreed to walk on. We did, then the fun began... Pretzels galore, that is it...we are grounded. The tower after 2 hours, lets us deplane. Before we get seated, we hear a call to board again. The next 8 hrs we stay on the plane. The pilot apologizes for all the conflicting orders. We have to pull away from the door, as incoming planes coming in. All Dallas flights were rerouting to Houston. Making at least 13 flights coming in. With everyone staying on board. Midnight comes and they ground everyone. All extra help gone home and nothing to eat (they were closed). Finally after several lines and several floors, we get a motel —yes miles away, raining big time.
Next morning brings us a green sky, nearby tornados, downpour rain.
We eat a meal & at the airport—make friends with the flight crew from NY. Airplanes in common and Sam Walton helps us on making friends. They helped us on board their plane—the first to leave to Dallas, showing our original ticket. We found out that since we were not on the original flight, our name was removed from the computer for Fayetteville. Another hassle took place. I suppose we walk back? They finally offered a bribe for two tickets, which let us board and finally arrive home.
Oct, Homer near pneumonia—several trips to Little Rock, also Fayetteville Vets Hospital. Mickey has the flu, then Clinical pneumonia.
Oct 27, after a clean bill of health, I trip over electrical cords on floor & fall face down & pulled right arm out of socket, breaking the bone from the
top to about half way to elbow & tore some muscles. Three months down & two to go. Still with therapy, mobility not back all the way. What really hurts, we discover Christmas Eve that some one took a Bronze WWI Grave marker Stone from my father's grave.

I have begun to take care of the NL with the help of Pres: Leon Zimmerman & VPres: Craig Harris. One of my sons & one daughter. A big thanks to all of them. I never got to send Christmas Cards, Thanks to those that sent to us. Happy New Years to all. Many think we have paid workers but alas! we are volunteers.

I am trying to bring the correspondence up to date. Due checks have been recorded & banked. Trying to catch up on the dues cards. Some letters may not be in this newsletter. Jog my attention and they will be in the May issue. Also if I haven't answered a request or question - please repeat it to me. Thanks for waiting so long for your newsletter, I worried along with you. I have been writing & sending NLs to the 457th, since 1972 & never so far behind.

Mickey Briggs

ASSOCIATES!! INTERESTED OTHERS!! BECOME A REGULAR MEMBER. PAY YOUR DUES!

The following is extracted from the Bylaws of the 457th BG Assn:

"The Association will have Regular Members, Life Members and Associate Members. The membership shall be composed of those persons abiding by the objectives of the Association. Except as may herein be provided, there shall be no other restrictions placed on becoming a member of the Association. REGULAR MEMBERS WILL PAY DUES AS ARE FROM TIME TO TIME ESTABLISHED AND SHALL BE ENTITLED TO ALL RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS may attend meetings and other activities of the association. They SHALL PAY NOT DUES, HOWEVER: .... SHALL HAVE NO RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO VOTING, NOR RECEIVE ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS...."

Put simply what this means is:

1. ANYONE WHO ABIDES BY THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION, AND PAYS DUES, WILL BE A REGULAR MEMBER WITH ALL PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP, INCLUDING ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS.

2. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS (THOSE NOT PAYING DUES) WILL NOT RECEIVE ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS. NEITHER WILL REGULAR MEMBERS WHOSE DUES ARE NOT PAID.

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MEMBERSHIP CARDS:
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A membership card is issued only when you first pay dues. Upon request for a new card, or you pay Life dues, another card will be sent to you. Your canceled check is your receipt. Usually your card should be received within ten days, unless unforeseen delay due to illness or out of town. Contact Homer Briggs 811 NW B Bentonville, AR 72712-- if you are concerned.
WWII vets honored with French Liberation Medals

BY TOM MARSHALL
Daily Record Staff

BENTONVILLE — Ninety-six World War II
veterans from Benton County — all brimming
with pride — accepted French Liberation Medals
Saturday morning.

The group was honored during a ceremony
held at the Clarion Inn in Bentonville. It featured
performances by Bella Vista Big Band, the
Bentonville High School band, a military flyover
and a visit by the Arkansas Adjutant General.

Several local dignitaries, including Sheriff Andy Lee and
Bentonville Mayor Terry
Coberly addressed the crowd.

Retired Lt. Col. Roger
Gibson, a Vietnam veteran,
served as keynote speaker in
place of U.S. Rep. Asa
Hutchinson (R-Ark.) who was
unable to attend.

"I look before me and I am
awed," he told the gathering of
veterans and their families.

"We honor the heroes whose
valor is responsible for the liber-
ation of France.

We are here today because
you were there yesterday.

"We are beyond proud to
applaud you. We are forever in
your debt."

The French government
issued the medals in 1994 in
recognition of the 50th anniver-
sary of the Normandy Invasion.

The event was organized by
the Benton County Sheriff's
office and was headed by Major
Nelson Erdmann.

Erdmann has said he was
inspired to take on the project
after watching a television
report of a similar ceremony.
All of the 457th men are entitled to this medal! Homer was not aware of this until he received his.

To obtain your Medal Contact:

Federation of French War Veterans, Inc
141 E 44th St. Suite 604, New York, NY 10017
Tel: (212) 697-0866 Fax: (718) 591-3481
(They will request a copy of your discharge)

1999 dues are due now
Date: __________________________
Name: __________________________
Wife: __________________________
Address: ________________________
WWII Job: ________________________
POW: __________________________
Sqd: ____________________________
Rank: __________________________
Civilian work: __________________
Tel: ____________________________

2 yrs... $25.00
Life Dues: 50-60yr $110.00
61-65yr $90.00
66-70yr $75.00
Over 71 $60.00

Dues pd thru yr is behind your name, on address label

457th BG ASSOCIATION
811 NW B St
BENTONVILLE, AR 72712

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Parkview residents served in military
Barbara Wilson, Doyle Carter and Daniel Graham, residents of Community Parkview Care Center, are three of the many Elwood residents who served in the military.

Dan Graham sent above clipping. His address is Parkview Care Center, 19th St. Elwood, In 46036
They sold their home. Norma is also very ill and moved closer to Dr. and Hospital for treatment. She has an apartment, not far from Dan. Her address is Park Place E. 2304 Parkview Ln. Elwood, In 46036.
GETTYSBURG --- REUNION 1999 --- GETTYSBURG
October 10-14

Arrive Sunday --- Leave Thursday morning

The last 457th Bomb Group Reunion of the 20th Century and a great place and area to visit with old friends.

Y'all come!! We will probably be the only occupants of the Eisenhower Conference Center 3 miles south of town. See crew members, group friends, maybe other friends or relatives on the was to/from - and even your congressman as long as you're near Washington.

Rooms are $82 with social and meeting rooms including TV rooms (with WW II videos), exercise room, swimming pool, walking trails, FREE PARKING, continental breakfast and right next door an amusement park with games and rides for adults, children (and young-at-heart) including go-carts, etc. to delight all ages.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Sunday, 10 Oct.: Arrive, registration, informal reception, social visits, etc.
2:30 PM Board of Directors meeting

Monday, 11 Oct.: 8:30 AM - Tour Gettysburg battlefield
12:00 N Lunch at the Historic 1776 Dobbin House with the
     Mayor of Gettysburg.
1:15 PM Explore Gettysburg, Eisenhower home and farm,
     antique shops, museums including the Soldiers National Museum,
     the Confederate Armory and Museum, Presidents and First Ladies Museum, etc. Ride the Lincoln
     Train, of talk, watch videos, nap, walk, exercise, relax or swim at the Inn.
     4:00 - 5:00 PM Group photos will be taken.
     7:00 - 8:00 PM ABRAHAM LINCOLN will be with us to reflect on the
     battle of Gettysburg and other concerns.
     8:15 - 9:30 PM Memorial Service.

Tuesday, 12 Oct.: Tour busses to Washington, DC. (75 miles)
     Tour Washington sites such as White House, Arlington Cemetery, Vietnam Wall, Lincoln,
     Jefferson, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Washington Memorials, Washington national Cathedral, Holo-
     caust Museum, etc., with 2+ hours at the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum or nearby.

     The bus will make lunch and dinner stops, as this will be a 10-12 hour trip. You may be
     assured that the busses will be air-conditioned or heated (as needed) and have an on-board restroom.
     It should be fun and interesting.

     If you should choose NOT to tour DC, you have the entire day to explore the many museums
     and sites of Gettysburg (many listed above) and the nearby communities. Harrisburg and Hershey,
     PA are about 50 miles away and Baltimore is 60 miles. Apple orchards, museum, canning plants and
     cider mills, craft shops, Amish country, etc. etc. are all nearby.
Wednesday, 13 Oct:
9:00 - 11:00 AM  457th BG Assn Business Meeting.
               Squadron meetings to follow.
2:00 - 4:00 PM  Board of Directors meeting
6:00 - 8:30 PM  Social hour, followed by Banquet, with your crew (where possible) and quiet music.
8:30 - 10:30 PM Small band playing music for dancing and quiet conversation.

Thursday morning, 14 Oct.:
8:30 - 9:30 AM  Farewell breakfast with surprise guest
10:00 --  Checkout and departure.

GETTYSBURG: is an historic place with much to see and experience (beside ourselves). There are tours and trips by train, bus, trolley, horse, video tape and even bicycle. The Battlefield Tours starts at the Diorama and Cyclorama with an overview of the three days’ battle. In addition to the battlefield, there are many antique shops, the Gettysburg Cemetery, and Gettysburg College, a Lutheran Seminary (as in Seminary Ridge battle site), and on and on. You might think about extending your stay by arriving early or staying longer. The room rate will remain the same for as long as you choose if you let them know ahead of time.

TRANSPORTATION: We certainly hope to see most of you in Gettysburg (remember 32% live within 500 miles of Washington, DC). 23 states have cities within 750 miles of Washington. As for air fare, senior citizen tickets (e.g. 4 for $579 at US Airways) are another possibility if you do not drive your car. Will Fluman lives about 40 miles north of Gettysburg and says Dulles Airport is their choice for flights as it is on Route 15, which passes through Gettysburg.

PERSONALLY SPEAKING: I (John) taught at Gettysburg College about 40 years ago. If I had not been offered a job teaching instrument flying to ANG pilots at Ellington AFB, TX, we would still be in Gettysburg for retirement. It is beautiful country, good climate, friendly people, close to DC, Baltimore, Raleigh, Philadelphia, Norfolk, New York City, etc.

We think you will enjoy visiting there, especially with our great 457th Group. We can’t do everything, so we will send you a brochure describing more of this interesting historic area.

John & Jean Van Ingen
Box 391
Skyline Dr
Morrisville, NY 13408

SEE YOU IN GETTYSBURG !!!

MAY 1999
Next NL for all info on GETTYSBURG

PLEASE DIRECT ALL QUESTIONS ABOUT REUNION TO JOHN VAN INGEN.
Mickey has no answers on the reunion except the REGISTRATION!
Forms will be sent in the May NL.

Camp Grounds are available
Hotel reservations cards in next NL.
In Memoriam

Agers, Edward E. 749 4/11/98
   Kennesaw, GA
Ayres, Aaron J. 748 1/15/98
   Medford, OR
Ayres, Violet, widow of Aaron 6/5/98
Baskette, O.B., Jr. 749 6/11/98
   Decatur, GA
Bisagno, Robert D. 748 9/98
   Augusta, KS – by Dick Wyman
Brown, George S. 749 3/13/98
   Greenberg, PA
Clements, John T. 750 no other info
Conway, Raymond 749 6/12/98
   Frankfort, KY – by Andy Brown
Delaney, John P. no other info
Diehl, Maurice A. 749 12/5/98
   Rockford, IL – by Bill Morse
Dressler, Jerry C. 750 5/28/98
   Sugar Land, TX – by Al Tiedemann
Fay, John W. 751 1/18/97
   Aurora, CO – by James Bass
Fitch, Arthur K. 749 2/21/98
   Westwood, MA
Gamboa, Francisco 748 3/14/98
   Boise, ID – by Ken Nail
Grider, Jay W. 748 02/10/90
   – by Harry Olson
Heekin, Eleanor, wife of Frank 11/30/98
   Cincinnati, OH
Hill, J. W. 751 Maryville, TN
   Kenyon, Earl R. 748 10/18/98
   Harrisville, RI – by wife, Marguerite
Lade, Jack A. 748 11/20/97
   Tucker, GA – by James Bass
Lawson, Buford B. 749 10/17/98
   Memphis, TN – by James Bass
LeClaire, Charles A. 468 SubD 12/2/97
   Reno, NV – by wife
Mazza, John A. 748 01/06/98
   Naperville, IL – by Owen O’Rourke
McCall, William R. 748 5/20/98
   Naples, FL – heart, in London
McClain, Irvin 749 1997
   Clarksburg, WV – by Peter Puleo
Moore, Clarence R. "Butch" 748 8/8/97
   Cedar Hill, MO
O’Hara, William J. 748 12/18/98
   Vestal, NY – heart, by wife, Gloria
Perry, Windell H. 748
   Dublin, OH – by son, Robert Perry
Petcoff, Boris W. 750
   Beloit, WI – by J. Latimer
Pickeiello, John W. 750 12/18/98
   Chicago, IL – by daughter, Joni
Rodgers, Robert E., Dr. 751
   Lincoln, NE
Salo, Elmer A. 751 8/31/98
   Northport, FL – by wife, Beverly
Sitek, Bernard F. 749 1/7/98
   Feeding Hills, MA
Toomey, Patrick C. 751 11/19/98
   Westfield, MA – by family
Weibel, Carl M. 750 2/18/98
   Savannah, GA

- Discovered in a Report of Aircraft Accident (43-38812) and added to the KIA-MIA list:
  Bruer, George H. Sgt. 12/23/44
  Hawley, George B. Sgt. 12/23/44
  Fitzgerald, Edward T. Sgt. 12/23/44
  Hendrickson, Clifford Lt. 12/23/44
  Riedel, Robert H. Sgt. 12/23/44
  Williams, David E F/O 12/23/44
- Reported by Cliff Digre, added to KIA list:
  Rinehart, Earl Sgt. 9/12/44
- Confirmed by Warren B. Speidel, nav. on crew of Lt. Adrian W. Seabock, added to KIA list, Ingersoll, Frank T. Sgt. 5/13/44
- Reported as died in B-29 crash in Azores:
  Bryan, John date unknown
Notes on some departed comrades

AYRES — Aaron and Violet Ayres were married for nearly 55 years, when Aaron passed away. Violet followed him in death in less than six months. They leave twin daughters, Judy Morris and Jacque Brown, who had made certain that their Dad and Mom attended the 1997 Savannah reunion. Aaron was Ed Reppa’s copilot; their stories of their crash landing in England after Mission No. 4, to Augsburg, is found in Black Puff Polly. Aaron and Violet attended several 457th BG Association reunions, including the 1996 mini-reunion in England.

FITCHE — After a long battle with several illnesses, Arthur Fitch passed away on Feb. 21, 1998. His illness prevented recent participation in the reunions of the 457th BG Assn., of which he was a life member and former director. Art served as treasurer of the Massachusetts Chapter of the 8th AF Historical Society and was Director Emeritus of the 8AF Memorial Museum Foundation. He is survived by his wife of nearly 54 years, Jean, a daughter, (who was born about the time he was bailing out on his first mission), two sons, two grandsons and a granddaughter.

MCCALL — William R. McCall, Jr., passed away of a heart attack in London on May 20, while on his way to the 1998 mini-reunion. His wife of 12 years, Mary, was with him at the end. After the war, Bill was one of the initial officer cadre of the 113th Tactical Fighter Group of the DC Air National Guard. Promoted to Brig. Gen. in 1967, Bill logged over 8,000 flying hours and was rated a command pilot. Bill was interred in Arlington Memorial Cemetery, where his oldest son Bill III (a 457th BG Assn member) gave his eulogy. Bill III was a B-52 Aircraft Commander in Vietnam, and Bill III’s youngest son, Grant, is attending the Air Force Academy, with intent to fly.

SITEK — Bernard F. Sitek, "Bernie", a long-time member of the 457th BG Assn., passed away Jan. 7. He was a 30-year letter carrier in the US Postal Service. Bernie was aboard "El Lobo II" as a ball-turret gunner on Lt. Robert Kelley’s crew, on the fateful 02 Nov. 1944 mission to Bernberg. In the brief history of "El Lobo II" included in the instructions for Monogram’s well-known 1/48 scale B-17G model: "Bernard F. Sitek was kept busy that day by several Luftwaffe attacks, as was every other 457th gunner on this the Group’s worst mission." (9 aircraft lost) Bernie was credited with an FW-190 destroyed on that mission. He leaves his wife, Elda, two brothers, nephews and nieces.

TOOMEY — Patrick C. Toomey passed away Nov. 19, 1998 at Noble Hospital in Westfield, MA. Born in Bally Neety, County Limerick, Ireland, he was a resident of Westfield, MA for 42 years. He was a radio operator on the crew of Lt. Stuart H. James, crew #34 of the Hutchinson Provisional Group, which joined the 457th BG in Dec., 1944. The crew’s aircraft was 42-97131, 'Home James'. Toomey was assigned to the 751st Squadron, and rose to the rank of Tsgt. Taking leave after the first 20 missions, he returned to finish his tour of 25 missions, leaving for home on D-Day, 1944. Pat leaves his wife, Eleanor, four sons, three daughters, a brother and sister and 14 grandchildren.

WEIBEL — Carl Weibel, who was an essential part of the 1997 Savannah reunion of the 457th BG Association, died suddenly of stroke Feb. 18, 1998. Carl was a member of Lt. Norman Chapman’s crew. The story of their ordeal following being shot down at Cologne on Oct. 17, 1944 is given in Black Puff Polly. The surviving crew members held several reunions over the years, including one at the Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum in January, 1997. Carl was active in his local POW organization and was an active and enthusiastic volunteer at the Heritage Museum from before its opening until his untimely passing. He leaves his wife, Anna, two sons and three grandchildren.
Perhaps the largest group of 457th people to head for England since the 1940's joined us for our 1998 "Return to Glatton". Our attendance was 63 members, historians and guests.

Arriving at the Bull Hotel over several days, we found the arrangements made by Bernie Bains and the hotel staff to be just great. We had opportunities to meet old friends, enjoy a chance to see the famous "Bains Collection of 457th Memorabilia" in the Wakeford Room, and just relax and enjoy being together.

The planned activities began on Sunday, visiting our old Glatton Air Base in our double-deck coach with Gordon Townsend, Coach Capt. This seemed to be the right place to begin our several days of remembering old times. After a visit to the four squadron areas, we proceeded through the village to the Conington Church yard for our own memorial at the 457th Monument. This brief, simple service had become very important to us. In keeping with our tribute to the ground forces, this year the wreath was placed by Ed Federico from the Photo Lab.

A tribute was paid to Joe Falcone, who passed away in December. Joe was a longtime active member and a Director of our organization.

Our visit to the airfield and the coach ride down the old runway brings back many memories — whether it is your first visit or your sixth. We stop for photos, talk about what happened here and there, and find it difficult to get back to the coach to leave.

After a relaxing buffet lunch at the historic Bell Hotel in the village of Stilton, we headed out for the Kimbolton Castle. This was a very interesting guided tour. There happened to be a cricket match in the field beside the castle. As we watched, one of our English Friends explained the game to us. Some of us understood, maybe.

On the way home, we had an opportunity to visit the memorial to the 379th Bomb Group which flew out of Kimbolton.

On Monday we headed south toward Cambridge and the American Cemetery for the Memorial Day service. The distinctive white triangle U wreath was placed this year by Craig Harris. And although placing the wreaths at the flag pole base did not seem as appropriate as placing them at the Wall of the Missing, this was, once again, a very moving ceremony for many of us. At the end of the service, we waited patiently for the Fly-By of the lone B-17 and it never appeared. When we later heard that it was grounded with an engine problem, some of us would recall similar problems many, many years ago.

On to the Imperial War Museum as Duxford and a visit to the newly opened American Air Museum in Britain. It was all it was said to be and more.

Tuesday was Peterborough Day and began with the Mayor's reception at the Town Hall. We were greeted by the Deputy Mayor and once more regaled with historic facts and stories by the mayor's aide, the "Beadle". The rest of the day was free so that we could visit the historic Cathedral and the shops and markets around town.
This was particularly interesting for those who had not been back to Peterborough for half a century. Our closing Banquet at the Bull was once again all we could want it to be. The food was delicious, the service impeccable and the fellowship of the 457th people will be long remembered.

Of course, without Bernie Bains and his crew, we would not have this kind of a reunion — — and we thanked him and each of the other historians. Mike Jackson’s contributions in making arrangements and preparing reunion material was greatly appreciated.

We had a total of 63 attendees — — 54 were 457th members and guests along with 9 Historians and guests. It was encouraging to once again have some of the younger generation with us. There were three sons, one daughter and one grandson.

There were 24 men from the old "Fireball Outfit" who joined us in our 1998 "Return to Glatton". 14 of this group returned for the first time since the war. When we asked them to stand and be recognized at the Banquet, one was heard to remark, "what took us so long?"

Remarks at the brief and an opportunity was given for comments from the group. We recognized our president, Lee Zimmerman, our vice-president, Craig Harris, and our legal advisor, Jim Bass.

And so we closed our Eighth Mini-Reunion in Peterborough, with sincere best wishes and intentions to meet in Gettysburg in 1999.

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ATTENDEES TO 1998 MINI-REUNION

BASS, James Carthage, TN
BERND, Frank & Evelyn Naperville, IL
BURKE, Rex and Rosamond Fessenden San Jose, CA
WOOD, Vic & Joyce (guests) London
BYRD, John and son, Richard Huntington, WV
DOBLER, Champe Alameda, CA
FALCONE, Iris & Becky (cousin) Walpole, MA
FEDERICO, Edward & Catherine Billerica, MA
FLUMAN, Will & Phyllis Boiling Springs, PA
FRANZ, Norman & Georgie Delray Beach, FL
GARLAND, Richard & Ruth Ft. Myers, FL
GRAY, Lloyd Amston, CT
GRIMM, Preston & Nancy Pompano Beach, FL
HALL, Ralph & Mildred Chapman Huntington, WV
HAMILTON, Joseph Austin, TX
NIVEN, James & Alice (guests) Durham, NC
HARRIS, Craig & Bobbie

HEIDGE, Willard & Irene Doctors Inlet, FL
HEDRICK, Ray & Wanda Grafton, WI
KAUFMAN, Chuck Lancaster, TX
KEARNEY, John & Kristine Towsich (dtr) Long Beach, CA
LEWIS, Irving & Sue Buffalo Grove, IL
LUMBYE, Paul & Sara Broad Run, VA
PEARSON, John Richmond, VA
PETERSON, Mildred & Elma Munro
SPRINGER, Bob & Tony (son) Hollywood, FL
WARD, William, Bill (son), & Bobby Conway, AR
Gendron (grandson) Walnut Creek, CA
WILLIAMS, Albert St. Clair Shores, MI
ZIMMERMAN, Leon & Helen Jackson, MI

ENGLISH HISTORIANS

BAINS, Bernie & Sadie
JACKSON, Mike & Jean
TOWNSEND, Gordon & Ros
WALKER, John
WILSON, John
**Participating Personnel**

**Honor Guard**
Joint Analysis Center Honor Guard, RAF Molesworth

**Music**
Sixth Fleet Navy Band
Grampian (Corby) Association of Bagpipers

**Rifle Squad / Parking / Security**
48th Security Forces Squadron
Escort / Ushers
48th Fighter Wing "Liberty Wing" Military members

**Communications / Audiovisual Support**

**Program**
Design - 48th Public Affairs
Reception / Protocol
48th Fighter Wing Staff
48th Services Squadron
48th Contracting Squadron
Transportation
48th Transportation Squadron
Medical Team
48th Medical Group / St. John's Ambulance Service

**Ground Support**
48th Civil Engineer Squadron
F-15E Fly By Support
492nd Fighter Squadron
48th Operations Support Squadron

**Wreath Carriers**
Air Force JROTC Cadets, Lakenheath American High School
48th Fighter Wing "Liberty Wing" Military members
Air Training Cadets: 104 (Cambridge) Squadron
Volunteer Lunches

**AAFES**

**48th First Sergeant's Association**

**Cambridge American Cemetery Staff**
Mr. James Schoenecker - Superintendent
Mr. Michael Heath - Guide

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**Memorial Service**
Cambridge American Cemetery
Cambridgeshire, England
25 May 1998
If you are presenting a medal, please contact an usher prior to the ceremony for instructions.

*************************************************

Flowers of the Forest

Prayer of Remembrance

Memorial Note

Presenation of Purple Heart

Recognition of Veterans

Inauguration

Opening Remarks

Order of Service
US air force vets revisit old haunts

VETERANS of the 457th Bomb Group of the US Army Air Corps have held an emotional reunion near the airfield where they were based in the 1940s.

More than 50 former members and their partners, and even children, made the pilgrimage across the Atlantic for the four-day reunion which gives them the chance to revisit the landmarks of their youth and rekindle friendships formed decades ago.

For some it was the first time they have returned to the Peterborough area, in particular the Glatton airbase, since leaving in 1945.

For others it was a repeat visit to catch up with old friends and shared experiences.

WIll Fliman, a former B17 bomber pilot of the 457 group, who now lives in Pennsylvania, USA, was on his sixth reunion, which he organises every other year.

Over the years he has collected various memorabilia and old photographs of the group's time at Glatton.

He is helped from this end by local historian Bernard Bains, who devotes his time to digging into the 457th Group's past.

Mr Fliman said: "We try to get together here in Peterborough every other year and in the intervening years we meet up stateside.

"It is always nice to come back and go out to the airbase, and although there's not a whole lot left there, the runways are still there and some familiar landmarks. This year we had about 10 people who came for the first time and it has been very emotional.

"It is 50-odd years since we were based here and it is so emotional to visit the places where so many things happened. "We were here at a very critical time and we were all young men and it brings back a whole lot of memories. Although we probably didn't know each other at the time we can get together now and talk about experiences we all had in common."

The party were due to fly back to America today.

REUNION: Peterborough deputy mayor John Bartlett, front centre, welcomes some of the veterans from the 457th Bomb Group and their families to a reception at the city's town hall. (9905577) Picture: ROWAN HENDY
15 October 1998

457th Bomb Group Association
811 NW “B” Street
Bentonville, AR 72712

Chester Nimitz Senior High School
2005 W. W. Thorne (Attn: Mr. Richard Cheplick)
Houston, Texas 77073
(281) 233-4387

Dear Director:

We are writing to ask your organization for assistance on our National History Day project. This year’s theme is Science, Technology and Inventions that have influenced History. We decided to do our project on the Norden Bombsight. In order to compete at a National Level we are in need of pictures, copies of primary documents, and eyewitness accounts. In addition, any statistics or other information on how this device effected precision bombing and changed history would be of great help. Any assistance or point of contacts your office is able to provide would greatly assist our project. If your office can help, it would be great if you could forward any information to the school. If you need us to pay postage, please reply and we will take care of it immediately. If you would like to speak to one of us, we can be reached at (281) 233-4387. CST.

Thanks In Advance,

Christie Cook
Jeff Lindner
Monika Kierewicz
Segun Adebayo
Jeannie Thai

JOIN THE 8AF HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Your Name ____________________________
Address __________________________________________
City ______ State ______ Zip ______
Phone __________________________

8 AF Information
Rank __________________ Station Name __________________
Sqdn. ______ Bomb Gp. ______ Ftr. Gp. ______
Other __________________

KIA [ ] POW [ ]

MAIL TO: MEMBERSHIP RECORDS CHAIRMAN
ADDRESS ON INSIDE FRONT COVER
8AFHS
PO Box 1787 Savannah, GA 31402

Editor: We were unable to help these Senior High School members.
I know I did had have the information at one time.
I know this is surely too late for them now, but if you have this information, please send it to them. Maybe the next class could use it.
I believe we should encourage the younger generation to learn about our history.

To accomplish great things one must not only act, but dream.
Our British friends, Sadie & Bernie Bains called in November to let us know that Bernie is legally blind. It will be hard for him to write and send Christmas Greetings. He asked for us to print in NL a message for them. "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our American Friends, from Sadie and Bernie." Since he had to surrender his driving license, he sold his car. He will not be able to take visitors to see the airfield at Glatton, which he has done for past 22 years. If visitors wish to come, contact Bernie & he will arrange transport for them with the other local members. You can contact them if you would like:

John Wilson
8 Anthony Close
Peterborough, England
PR1 3XU
Phone No. 01733-898432

John Walker
20 Chancery Lane
Eye, Peterborough
England PE6 7YF

Eric Brumby
82 Bluebell Ave
Peterborough, England
PE1 3XH
Phone No. 01733-709811

Mike Jackson
11 Whiston Grange
Moorgate, Rotherham
S60 3BQ
Phone No. 1709-829842

REUNION NOTICE

Santa Ana Army Air Base
24th Annual Reunion, April 24
1999, Luncheon, Orange Coast College
Costa Mesa, CA Former S.A.A.A.B. Personnel; Civilian, Military, Aviation Cadet & Guests
Contact S.A.A.A.B. Wing, P.O.Box 1764,
Costa Mesa, CA 92628
Tel. (949) 631-5918. Thurs.-Fri. 10 A.M. -3 PM, or 24hr ... Ans. Machine. Please leave name and address.

1998

Dear Homer & Mickey,
Please find enclosed a Magazine of Royal Air Force produced by RAF Wyton & Brampton "Eagle Eye". I was invited to write for this magazine. My second article is on a trail around local Airfield Memorials. (Article will follow letter). We are hoping to come over next year. My cousin Carolyn lives close to "Gettysburg", so we hope to visit her, while we are there. I visited Bernie & Sadie recently & bought their green car. Bernie is now registered as a blind person, and can not use it. All our good wishes to everyone. Gordon & Ros Townsend, "Quakers Rest" Main St,
Kings Ripton, Huntingdon Cambs
PE 17 2NW.
As we draw towards autumn our thoughts may turn to Remembrance Sunday. Let me take you on a voyage of remembrance around the local airfields and show you some of the Memorials to the personnel who served there. We start our journey at RAF Wyton where we remember the Pathfinder Force. We proceed along the A141 towards March and turn off towards Warboys on the B1040. As you get onto this road we will pass the entrance to some farm buildings. At the gates to the farm house you will see two memorial plaques, one is to the Navigation Training Unit of the 8th PFF Group and the 1655 Mosquito Training Unit who were based there. The other plaque is to Squadron 8(PFF) Group based there 1942 - 1944.

Just a short way down the road you can find two seats in Warboys Church yard presented to the memory of “Taff and Norah Jones” by their comrades and friends in 56(PFF) Squadron Association.
From Warboys, we carry on towards Ramsey. As we come into the village of Bury we turn left at the White Lion Pub towards Upwood, as we reach Valiant Square on the opposite side of the road we see a memorial to 139 and 156 Squadrons of Pathfinder Force which were based on the airfield 1944 to 1945.

From Upwood, we can go one of two ways we can either travel towards Chatteris by going back through Ramsey and Ramsey Forty Foot and take the second turning to Benwick and along this road on the right hand side we will see a memorial cross to the fact that Captain Donald R Roberts died when his A10 Tankbuster crashed whilst on the training flight from Bentwaters on 17th April 1989.

We can take the alternative route from Upwood by turning left on the B660 towards Holme. On reaching Holme village go over the railway crossing and take the first turning left which takes us on to the old station 139 of United States Army Airforce. Following the road across the airfield which was part of the runway and now the connecting road to Conington. The airfield is now used by Klin Air as Peterborough Business Airport. If we go to Conington Church Yard we will find the memorial to the 457 Bomb Group which had the 746th to the 751st Bomb Squadrons as its constituent squadrons flying B-17 Flying Fortresses. The picture shows my late Father George Townend who cared for the original memorial for many years and Mr Bernard Bains the leader of the British Historians of the 457th Reunion association of which the writer is a member. Mr Bains was responsible for liaising with the Americans to get this replacement memorial in situ.

From Conington we travel north on the A1 at the Little Chef and follow the road to Kings Cliffe. On the left hand side we find the old airfield. Here we see the memorial in the shape of a P-51 Mustang wing on the left and a Spitfire wing on the right.

The men who served here were from the 79th Fighter Squadron, 339th Belgian Squadron RAF, 55th Fighter Squadron RAF, 33th Polish Squadron RAF, 616 Auxiliary Squadron RAF, 485th Royal New Zealand Air Force RAAF, 97th Fighter Group and the 20th Fighter Group of USAAF 8th Air Force.

We leave the memorial and go through Kings Cliffe towards Oundle and take the A427 towards Corby. After going through Lower and Upper Benefield villages we come to yet another memorial to an American Bomb Group. This one is the 401st Bomb Group Station 128 Deenethorpe which was part of the wing which flew B17's. These boys acclaimed themselves as the Best Damned Outfit in the 8th Air Force USAAF. Now we retrace our steps back to Oundle and when we get through the town we take the road to Peterborough having travelled through the village we come across the airfield site. There is a sign pointing to the site of a memorial to the 351st Bomb Group. It also includes a plaque to each of the four Group Commanders.

To the left of the main memorial is a very attractive marble bench which is also a tribute to a famous man by the name of Lt General James T Steward who was a Squadron Commander of the 80th Bomb Group which was part of the Polebrook Group.

To complete our journey of Remembrance around the airfield, we go from Polebrook and join the B660 between Glanton village and Gt Gidding and travel to Kimbolton, as we approach the village we take the Long Sowse road and this takes us to part of the Kimbolton airfield which is now an industrial site and here we find the memorial to the 379th Bomb Group of the USAAF. Most of these memorials have been the work of local Historians of most of these Bomb Groups and airfields linking with veteran groups in America and of course the Pathfinder Signs of the RAF.
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Send self-addressed large envelope (stamped) for the Tac pen, patches. If ordering more than 2, send double postage.

*Any glass broken in mailing will be replaced.*

Total cost of items ordered: ________________

Mail to: Name: ____________________________

                     Address: ____________________________
                     City/ state / Zip ____________________________

Send Orders & Payment: 811 NW B St. Bentonville, Ar 72712
THE 457th BOMB GROUP -- VITAL STATISTICS

1998-1999 OFFICERS & APPOINTMENTS

PRESIDENT .......... LEE ZIMMERMAN  3782 MAIDSTONE ST.  JACKSON, MI  49203 ............. TEL: 517-784-6947
VICE-PRESIDENT ...... CRAIG HARRIS  2910 WELCOME DRIVE  DURHAM, NC  27705 ............. TEL: 919-489-6695
SEC/TREAS ....... HOMER BRIGGS  811 NORTHWEST "B" STREET  BENTONVILLE, AR  72712 ............. TEL: 501-273-3908
ASST SEC/TREAS  MICKEY BRIGGS  811 NORTHWEST "B" STREET  BENTONVILLE, AR  72712 ............. TEL: 501-273-3908
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DIRECTOR (4YR)  DAVE JEFFERS  578 LOHNS DRIVE  FAIRBORN, OH  45324 ............. TEL: 513-878-5647
DIRECTOR (6YR)  WILL FLUMAN  112 S RIDGE RD  BOILING SPRINGS, PA  17001-9712 ............. TEL: 717-258-3080
I. PAST PRES ... BILLY HIGHTOWER  5 MOSS ROCK  NEW BRAUNFELS, TX  78130-6141 ............. TEL: 830-625-8110
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457TH B.G. ENGLISH HISTORIANS AND/OR F.O.T.E. MEMBERS

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BRUMBY, ERIC  HISTORIAN  82 BLUEBELL AVE  PETERBOROUGH PE1 3XH CAMBS  ENGLAND ............. TEL: 0170 8269842
JACKSON, MIKE  HISTORIAN  11 WHISTON GRANGE  MOORARGE  ROTHERHAM S60 3BG  ENGLAND ............. TEL: 1709 829642
TOWNSEND, GORDON  HIST. "QUAKERS REST"  MAIN STREET KINGS RIPTON  HUNTINGDON CAMBS PE17 2NW
WALKER, JOHN  HISTORIAN  6 CHANCERY LANE  EYE, PETERBOROUGH PE6 7YF ENGLAND
WILSON, JOHN  HISTORIAN  8 ANTHONY CLOSE  PETERBOROUGH PE1 3XU  ENGLAND ............. TEL: 1733 898432

PAST PRESIDENTS

1973/75 - WILLIAM WILBURN  OK  1980/81 EDWARD REPPA  AZ, MI  1985  DAVE SUMMERVILLE  CA  1990/91 JOHN WELCH  SD
1976  HOWARD LARSEN (ID)  KS  1982/83 DANIEL GRAHAM  IN  1986/87 CLAYTON BEJOT  NE  1992/93 ROLAND BYERS  ID

Bomb Groups

http://collect oranet.com/mlhst/BombAssoc.H1

457th Bomb Group Organizational List

Mr. Homer L. Briggs
811 NW B St
Bentonville, AR 72712-4741
501/273-3908
Fax: 501-271-9147

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