



748th  
Squadron



749th  
Squadron

THE

# 457<sup>th</sup> BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION



"THE FIREBALL OUTFIT"

THE 457<sup>th</sup> BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION NEWS



750th  
Squadron



751st  
Squadron

ESTABLISHED JULY 1971

VOLUME 30 NUMBER 1 811 NW "B" STREET BENTONVILLE, ARKANSAS 72712

ISSUE 47

JANUARY \_ FEBRUARY 2000

# PETERBOROUGH MINI- REUNION

of the 457<sup>th</sup>

BOMB GROUP  
ASSOCIATION

MAY 27<sup>th</sup> ~ 31<sup>st</sup>



2000!

# England!

## THE PREZ SEZ:

As Snuffy Smith would say, "Glory be — we shore had a plum bodacious reunion in Gettysburg!" Lots of folks were seen having a great time. Jack and Jean Van Ingen did a great job of arranging things. The weather was as good as it could be, and the scenery was spectacular. There was a certain crowd that seemed to close the bar every night. And the way people hung around on the last morning, not really wanting to leave, was a good indication that they enjoyed the reunion immensely. On to 2001 in Colorado Springs!

Your new president is honored and humbled to serve you, and will work hard to do a good job. However, with great Board Members and Officers, with the examples set by our past presidents, and with the wonderful people in the 457<sup>th</sup> BG Association to work with, he will have no choice but to do a good job.

The Association has some challenges to deal with. First, Homer and Mickey Briggs have asked the Board of Directors to be relieved, over a proper transition period, so that we can find a successor. Mickey indicated a desire to continue with the Newsletter, which was granted by the Board. *So this is the first call for someone who would like to keep the membership records and look after our finances.* We will be forming a "search committee", but if anyone has any good ideas, maybe we won't have to go that far.

You will read elsewhere in this NL of some other important developments. One is, of course, the Mini-Reunion in Peterborough beginning May 27, 2000. Will and Phyllis Fluman have graciously agreed to — once again — make the necessary State-side arrangements. On the other side, Gordon Townsend has expressed a desire to "pitch in and help more, provided Bernie is still the boss". This bodes well for an exciting "Return To Glatton 2000". Make sure you are aboard.

Another exciting happening is the decision by the Board and membership to sponsor a stained-glass window in the Chapel of Fallen Eagles at the Heritage Museum in Savannah. This is something that is going to happen and if you are a part of it, you will be glad that you were.

Another thing that I would like to call to your attention is the *Eight Air Force Historical Society*. Many of you are members of that fine organization, but there were only 17 of us at the 25<sup>th</sup> (Silver Anniversary) Reunion in Savannah in October, 1999. [Incidentally, we had a great time at a great reunion!] If you are not a member of 8AFHS, you really should consider joining, because one of the privileges of membership is a quarterly News magazine of excellent quality. (HINT: join now — either annually or Life — because the dues are likely to go up!)

On the inside last page of this Newsletter there are listed the addresses and telephone numbers of your officers and directors. Please write or call when you have questions or concerns. These next two years will be challenging, but if we "stay in touch", we improve the chances that they will be good years.

God Bless You All.

Craig Harris

### **Board Votes to Hold 2001 Reunion in Colorado Springs, Co.**

Your Board of Directors have considered three excellent proposals for reunion sites and dates in 2001, and have chosen the one that they believe will be most pleasing to the membership. **The 2001 Reunion will be in Colorado Springs, CO, Sept. 23-26, 2001**, hosted by Joe Toth and Nancy Henrich. They have designed a most interesting reunion, and we hope to see you there. More on this later as plans further develop.



## MEMBERSHIP

We have at least 800 newsletters to mail, and we try to get 3 out each year. We had to drop over 100 this past few months. We have found nearly 50 people, new to our group.

We depend on yearly dues and PX to pay for office expense, printing, and mailing the NL. We have been able to save most of the Life dues, hopefully to help keep our 457th alive for years to come. We need our story to be told to future generations. This includes the 457th members and many other people interested in WWII history, airplanes. Many relatives and others want to receive a NL but also need to pay dues. We have carried over 100 for 5 or more years who have not paid dues regularly. We will have to drop all who have not paid dues or have not joined within one year. You may still attend Reunion, if you like, but without a vote on Association business. Widows of deceased 457th men who were Life Members, will continue as Life Members. We do exchange NLs with several other groups, as well as Officers of 8AFHS and Heritage Museum.

If you are unable to pay dues, please write a note stating why and the board will consider. If you receive a NL and do not want to receive it, refuse to keep it, or write a card to Briggs: 811 NW B St. Bentonville, AR 72712 to cancel it.

### Please pay dues...we don't want to lose you.

Yearly Dues:	=	\$25.00 for 2 years
Life dues Under 60 years of age	=	\$110.00
61-65 years of age	=	\$90.00
66-70 years of age	=	\$75.00
71 and older	=	\$60.00

Once again...to find your dues status: Check your address label on front of NL. The year follows your name. Sample: John Smith.....00 This means John is paid until Dec 31, 2000. LM means you are a paid Life Member. Check your label...is your name spelled correctly? Is your address correct? Do you agree with the dues information behind your name? Let Mickey know if she needs to change your label. If you are years behind, Please Join Again.

The heart has reasons which reason does not know



<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTION APPLICATION		<input type="checkbox"/> Address Change	
Name _____		Nickname _____ Wife _____	
Address _____		City _____ St _____ ZIP+4 _____	
Phone _____		Sqn _____ Dates Assigned _____	
Duties _____		Plane Names & No you worked or flew _____	
POW/Evadee _____		POW/Evadee: Date of capture / escape _____	
BANK _____		BANK _____	
(Please provide Dates Assigned, Place Name & #, Pilot's name, POW/Evadee info, if not already given)			
ANNUAL DUES: 2 yearly dues \$25.00			
LIFE MEMBERSHIP DUES: Under 60 yrs of age...\$110.00			
Birthdate _____		61 yrs to 65 yrs...\$90.00      66 yrs to 70 yrs...\$75.00	
71 yrs & older...\$60.00			
English Friends: _____		Other _____ ANT _____	
DUES-SALES-CONTRIBUTIONS- MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO 'THE 457th Bomb Group Association' Your canceled check is your receipt.			
MAIL TO: MONIE OR MICKEY BRIGGS..811 Northwest B St..Bentonville,Ar 72712			
Once you have filled this application in, in future dues payment check only renewal box, your name and address.			

This will never  
Come to pass.  
A backseat  
Driver  
Out of gas  
BURMA SHAVE

**NO EXCUSE! JUST THE PLAIN TRUTH! PLEASE FORGIVE!!!**

The 457th office has been closed from October 5, 1999 to January 8th, 2000. As MOST of you know, we have no Paid Employees. We couldn't, therefore, hire anyone. Volunteers are hard to find!

Our Reunion in Gettysburg, Oct. 10-14, '99, was Great! Afterwards, son David caught a plane for Bentonville, son Jerry drove Mom and Pop south to Panama City, FL to visit with Jerry's family, wife Carol, son and two daughters. Ten days later, we headed back north to Savannah, GA to join about 10 of our 457th people for several days at the 8AFHS reunion. We visited the 8th Heritage Museum. Touring it again brings tears. The outside garden is beautiful. We attended the dedication of the building...the Chapel of Fallen Eagles.

Soon, we were on the road again going west to Little Rock, AR. We stopped at North Little Rock Veteran Hospital. Homer had been told his spine just was not bad enough for surgery. No visits about his spine for over a year. Then, all of a sudden, they sent him to have surgery that very day. When the Dr. examined him, he said, "I have no idea what they are thinking. This should have been done years ago. You are not able to have any kind of surgery now and live." They set up heated pool exercise, (a temp not many have) at NLRock only 6 hr. drive...one-way. Forget that. Then the next week we had to return for the information on the asbestos in Homer's lungs, which are full. It is not cancer, but no surgery; too late. It is hard to breathe. It is service connected.

At this point, it is late into November. With unloading and all, we are into Thanksgiving. All family, except Jerry, are here (28) for afternoon dinner. Through all this, Mickey's back with a burning pain worsened. It began after falling at Gettysburg. The motorhome bouncing for so many miles over potholes in road jarred me too much. Osteoarthritis, bone density...scoliosis really got big time pain. Before long, Drs. and more...then Christmas was here. With outside help, we managed Christmas--cleaning, baking---but no Christmas cards (maybe July 4th!!!) In a chair, I watched 30-some getting presents in the right hands, breakfast, and late afternoon dinner. Then the whole family, one by one or more, started having upper respiratory, with pneumonia, bronchitis, and strep throat. New Year's Eve, we kept a Dr. in Emergency hospital busy. New Year's was Mickey then Homer went to Fayetteville Veterans on Sunday and again on Monday to check his lungs. Light flu got it's hand in, too. Now we are better. Mickey had more x-rays on the pulled muscle in her back. The legs are really a lot better...taking celebrex. I really don't want to complain, because so many of you are much worse, just explaining why I was unable to get the work done. END RESULT: Late with all 457th work, newsletter, etc. Give me one week after you receive this newsletter and if you have not received an answer to your requests, membership card, etc., please contact:

Mickey Briggs...811 NW B St....Bentonville, AR 72712

---Mickey B.

IF LIFE IS ABOUT GETTING THINGS DONE ON TIME.  
THEN, SINCE I AM SO FAR BEHIND I WILL LIVE FOREVER.



## GETTING YOUR MAIL



If you move, send change of address before your Association Newsletter is due to arrive. It will cost .50 more to receive correction from PO. Even if it is forwarded on to you, we still pay the .50.

If you have a winter address & summer address, make sure we have both with the dates you leave each address.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Please send Mickey any articles, letters, or inquires to be printed in the Newsletter. Please do not send any Political issues not pertaining to Veterans Affairs.

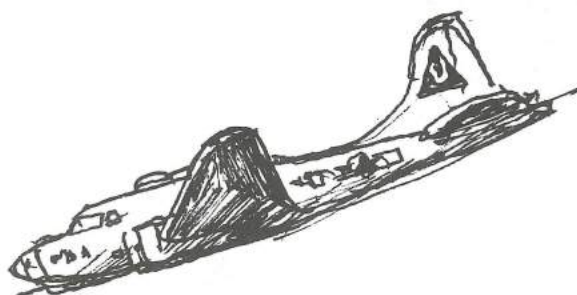


New Officers voted at the 1999 reunion are:

President:	R.C. Dick Baynes, Irvine, CA
Secretary:	Craig Harris, (457th President)
Treasurer:	N. Kenneth Nail, (457th Member)
Board Member:	John S. Pearson, (457th Member)



Congratulations to Craig Harris, Ken Nail and John Pearson.



**THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE HERITAGE CENTER**  
P. O. BOX 1992, SAVANNAH, GA 31402  
1-800-421-9428 (912) 748-8888  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE: \_\_\_\_\_

8AF UNITS & DATES: \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL INTERESTS (POW, GUNNER, SHOT DOWN, MECHANIC): \_\_\_\_\_

POST-SERVICE ACTIVITY: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS: (Check one)**

☐ INDIVIDUAL \$20

☐ FAMILY \$30

☐ ALLIES/ Out of USA \$35

**LIFE MEMBERSHIPS:**

☐ COMMANDER'S CLUB \$200-

☐ SUSTAINING MEMBER \$1000

☐ ANNIVERSARY PATRON \$5000

☐ MIGHTY 8TH PATRON \$10,000

Please make checks payable to: The Eighth Air Force Heritage Center. You may also use MasterCard, Visa, or American Express to contribute and join.

Card Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

IRS APPROVED 501 (C)(3) CORPORATION

8th HS confirms 2000 Reunion...Salt Lake City, UT...Hilton Hotel...Oct. 15-22, 2000.

## MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE WEB PAGES

### EIGHTH AIR FORCE

All Groups [www.collectorsnet.commilhist](http://www.collectorsnet.commilhist)  
Mighty 8th AF Heritage Museum <http://www.mighty8thmuseum.com>  
8th AFHS Website: <http://members.the.globe.com/>

compiled and submitted by Harry D. Gobrecht 303rd BG Association Historian

### 8TH AFHS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	LAST NAME
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Address \_\_\_\_\_

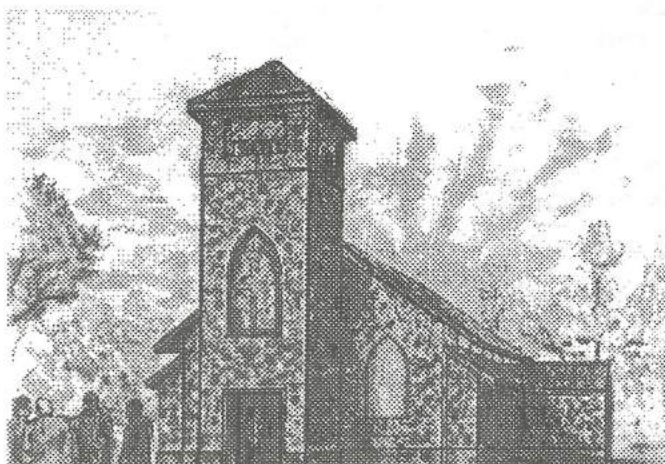
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
------	-------	----------

Where did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_ 8th AF Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Not in 8th - Sign Me Up \_\_\_\_\_

In service \_\_\_\_\_ Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Dates \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Were you a former member? \_\_\_\_\_ Member # if available \_\_\_\_\_

Send application to: 8AFHS, P.O. Box 1787 Savannah, GA 31402. Please use this form only for your initial application and for your first calendar year's dues (\$10 U.S. and \$15 non-U.S.). Your annual dues will be billed for subsequent years.



**CHAPEL OF THE FALLEN EAGLES  
8<sup>TH</sup> AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSEUM  
COMPLETION DATE, DECEMBER, 2000**

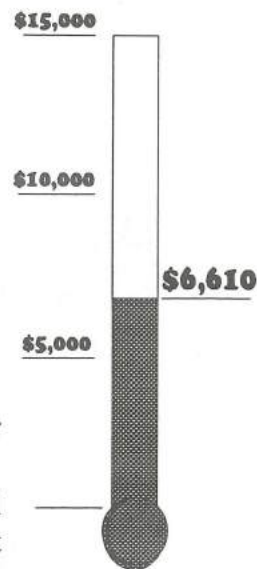
**457<sup>th</sup> BG Assn to sponsor window  
in the Chapel of the Fallen Eagles  
at the Eighth Air Force Heritage  
Museum in Savannah**

At the Gettysburg Reunion, the Board voted to sponsor a stained-glass window in the Chapel, ground-breaking for which took place during the 8<sup>th</sup> AF Historical Society reunion, Oct. 29. This is the first Association-wide appeal for funds for the window. To date (January 1, 2000) donations total \$6,610 toward the \$15,000 goal. The down payment was made with totally unsolicited donations at the Gettysburg Reunion, and *all these first donations have come only from those who attended Gettysburg*. The enthusiasm of 457<sup>th</sup> members for this memorial project is now quite evident, and reaching our goal by the end of 2000 appears quite feasible.

The design of the window, which is gothic-style 3' x 5', is not yet final and will be reported to you in a later Newsletter. There will be a brass plaque below the window where an inscription will denote those whom we honor with this beautiful and lasting memorial. We have been allowed to choose which one of the eight side windows is ours. After considerable thought, we chose the second from the front on the left as one

enters. The choice was made on several factors, such as visibility from the usual activities areas, visibility from the entrance, the building's orientation to the sun, etc. We know you will be pleased with this choice.

At right is our "Fund-o-Meter", on which we will chart our progress toward the \$15,000 goal to fully fund the sponsorship of the memorial window. Your tax-deductible contribution will keep the level of the "Fund-o-Meter" rising. This graphic will be repeated in each Newsletter until the goal has been reached. Your donation will help to place a permanent memorial to all of the Fallen Eagles of our Group in a beautiful House of Worship.



What a Millennium Project for the 457th Bomb Group Association!! As Sec.-Treas. Homer Briggs has asked President Harris to manage the Memorial Window Fund, donations should be sent to Craig Harris, 2910 Welcome Drive, Durham, NC 27705. Checks should be made payable to "457th Bomb Group Assn." and noted "Memorial Window Fund". Every donation, no matter how small, will be gratefully received and will help us toward our goal. Our smallest donation so far is \$10, and the largest \$500. Donations of \$250 or more will be acknowledged with a letter suitable for IRS purposes.

We have made a terrific start. Now is the time for those who were NOT at Gettysburg to send their donation to this worthy project. And those who were at Gettysburg, but have not yet made your donation, now would be a great time to get it in. Send your donation today, and drive the "Fund-o-Meter" up!



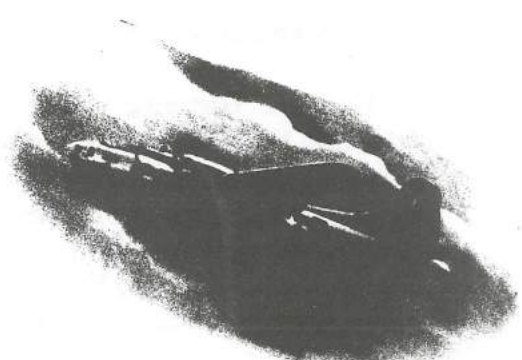
## *In Memorium*

The following are deceased since last newsletter:

<u>Bloomer, Robert</u>	Dec. 7, 1999	Reported by wife, Mary Beth
<u>Chapman, Neva</u> (sister of a 457th man)		Reported at 1999 reunion.
<u>Clausen, Ras M.</u>	Jan 14, 2000	Lt. Col (Ret.) USAF Orlando, FL 749th SQ...1st Lt...Bombardier Reported by wife Mary Lou
<u>Coakley, Robert</u>	Oct. 26, 1999	Reported by daughter, Carol, & Pilot Schuller (12 days after attending 1999 reunion)
<u>Felicimo, Basuil</u>		PO notice in 1999
<u>Gronberg, Capt. Robert</u>	Dec. 1998	Aqua Fria, AZ...Pilot...751st SQ...Lt. Lebanon, PA Reported by Herman D. Walmer, Jr.
<u>Hedgecock, Jr., James F.</u>	Dec. 31, 1999	Pneumonia...Winston-Salem, NC BT Gunner on "Miss Cue" 42-31505...751st Pilot: Lt. Joseph C. Frechette, Nov. 30, 1944 mission to Bohlen, shot down, made POW; liberated 02, May, '45. Reported by James Bass
<u>Jeffers, Dale</u>	Sept. 1999	Fairborn, OH...749th/751st SQ...Capt...Pilot Dale became director in 1996 in our 457th BG Association and was still serving at the time of his passing. Reported by wife, Rissa.
<u>Martiny, Charles C.</u>	Nov. 20, 1992	Chicago, IL...Reported by Robert Huels
<u>McLeod, Don</u>	Jan. 14, 2000	Heart. Reported by Rollie Bolier.
<u>Umoff, A. Paul</u>	Aug. 10, 1999	Clear Lake, TX Earned two Distinguished Flying Crosses, six Air Medals, eleven Battle Stars, and earned title of "Ace". Reported by Wm. Kabine
<u>Witten, Edwin</u>	June 16, 1995	748th Squadron

\*\*\*\*\*  
If anyone knows of a deceased man who has not been reported or if we have omitted  
anyone's name from the NL, please let Editor Mickey Briggs know.  
\*\*\*\*\*

CLAUSEN — Ras M. Clausen, Lt. Col (Ret.) USAF, of Orlando, FL, passed away Jan. 14, 2000. In WW II, he was a 1st Lt. bombardier on the crew of Lt. Frank A. Huntley in the 749th Sqdn., 457th BG. Born in Harrisburg, PA, Sept. 11, 1916, he was a long time resident of Harrisburg and Carlisle, PA. He moved to Orlando upon retirement from USAF in 1970. An active member of the 457th BG Assn., with his lovely wife, Mary Lou, he attended many 457th BG reunions, most recently the Gettysburg 1999 reunion and attended many of the England mini-reunions. We will miss his presence among us, his ready smile and his acerbic wit.



# PAGE OF FACTS

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

## NEW FOUND 457TH BUDDIES, RELATIVES & INTERESTED PERSONS & CURRENT ADDRESSES

Updated since last NL Issue

Baker, Gene  
Brown, Andrew  
Burke, Rex  
De Cunzo, Louis  
Dobler, Champe  
Erickson, Dean  
Farrell, Thomas  
Hamilton, Joseph  
Hasty, Betty  
(sister of James T. Hilty)  
Herbert, Mrs. Richard  
Hunt, David  
Jackson, Frank S.  
Keller, Charles C.  
Lumbye, Paul  
McGonigal, Thomas  
McKay, Robert  
McMakin, Robert M.  
Peter, Fredy  
Peterson, Rev. Bryan  
Raymond, George  
Reese, A. Willard  
Selling, Harry H.  
Sykora, Richard  
Tanner, Harry "Doug"  
Toppelstein, Paul  
Toscano, Nicola  
Williams, Albert G.  
Windell, Ralph

\*\*\*If you have paid Life Dues since last newsletter and we have omitted your name from this list, please let the Editor know.

### **Fireballers elected in 8AFHS**

At the recent 8th Air Force Historical Society reunion in Savannah, Ken Nail (748<sup>th</sup>) began his fourth year on the Board of Directors and was re-elected as Treasurer for the coming year. John Pearson (748<sup>th</sup>) was elected to a 4-year term as a Director. Craig Harris (748<sup>th</sup>), beginning his second year on the Board, was elected Secretary for the coming year.

### Adams, Stanley

44 Hillcrest Pensford NR  
Bristol B 539  
4At England

### Ambrosetti, Joe

179 W. 8th St.  
Oswego, NY 13126

### Anderson, Kenneth 751st-CoPilot

1335 19th Ave. South  
Moorehead, MI 56560

### Angott, Mrs Ruth (wife of Peter)

1616 Bracken Rd.  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

### Arndt, Harold

8564 CorCoran Patch  
Inver Grove Heights, MI 55076

### Bartlett, John (collector of military items)

3348 Groveport Dr.  
Grove City, OH 43123

### Bass, Thomas

700 NW Crosby Ave Trlr #118  
Oak Harbor, WA 98277

### Berger, Dennis (former member 457th Ops Group ... Altus, OK)

5809 79th Street  
Lubbock, TX 79424

### Charlesworth, Larry

4230 Rush Springs Dr.  
Arlington, TX 76016

### Coakley, Carol L. (daughter of Robert)

50 Bridge St.  
Mill, MA 02054

### Dance, Jeff

7700 N. Atkins Place  
Kansas City, MO 64152

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



# PAGE OF FACTS...cont.

## NEW FOUND 457TH BUDDIES, RELATIVES & INTERESTED PERSONS & CURRENT ADDRESSES...UPDATED SINCE LAST NL ISSUE

Erickson, Dean (son of Sidney)  
2101 Bryant Ave. So. #101  
Mpls, MN 55405

Fisher, William S.  
208 Ivory Dr.  
Melbourne Beach, FL 32951

Foster, Frank S.  
25 Bera Cruz St.  
Dana Point, CA 92629

Hunt, Ernest E.  
PO Box 635 411 Moreland  
Drain, OR 97435

Jordan, Michael  
677 Garder St.  
Bristol, PA 19007

Keller, Charles  
Box 547  
California, PA 16419-0547

Kuckler, Ken  
301 E. Naperville Rd.  
Westmont, IL 60559-1534

Lawton, John  
18609 Paul's Way  
So. Bend, IN 46637

Leach, Ervin E.  
11410 E. Lake Rd.  
North East, PA 16428

Li Greci, Nicholas  
90 Harvey Ave.  
Staton Island, NY 10314

Marske, Joni (daughter of John Piekieleko)  
1721 Ashworth Rd.  
West Des Moines, IA 50265

Mason, Ralph  
1375 NW Vallejo  
Rose Burg, OR 97470

Mihalik, Peter (bombardier)  
11 Al Lyn Court  
Haledon, NY 07508

McCloskey, George  
7839 Pepper Tree  
Dublin, CA 94568

McDonald, Wesley  
3726 Seneca Garden Rd.  
Baltimore, MD 21220-7500

McKone, Bill  
27 Francis Dr.  
Newington, CT 06111

Nelson, James Louis  
1312 Hamilton Ave.  
So. Pitts., TN 37380

Paulos, Geo  
774 Danbury Rd.  
Cincinnati, OH 45340

Reese, Diane E. (daughter of A. Willard)  
12450 Bluemeadow Ct.  
Saratoga, CA 95070

Sale, Gerald (son of Walter)  
9118 Leonard  
St. John, MO 63114-4010

Sale, Walter 751st  
1331 Normandy  
Godfrey, IL 62035

Shanaberger, Richard L.  
2120 Sallsburg St.  
York, PA 17404

Shaw, Kenneth  
6555 East 350 North  
Rolling Prairie, IN 46371-9430

Sherman, Donald  
727 3rd St.  
Everett, WA 98201-4160

## PAGE OF FACTS...cont.

### NEW FOUND 457TH BUDDIES, RELATIVES & INTERESTED PERSONS & CURRENT ADDRESSES...UPDATED SINCE LAST NL ISSUE

Tanner, Harry "Doug"

2923 Roy Bunch Rd.  
Sulphur, LA 70663

Tonkin, John B. (son of Sr.)

PO Box 4  
Horner, WV 26372

Toscano, Nicola

51 West Wildway  
Bronxville, NY 10708-5916

Trom, Frank

5012 East Forge Ave.  
Mesa, AZ 85206

Unberger, Robert

Box 92  
West Rockford, ME 04865

Whelehan, Jack L.

4206 Holmby Ct.  
Sacramento, CA 95821

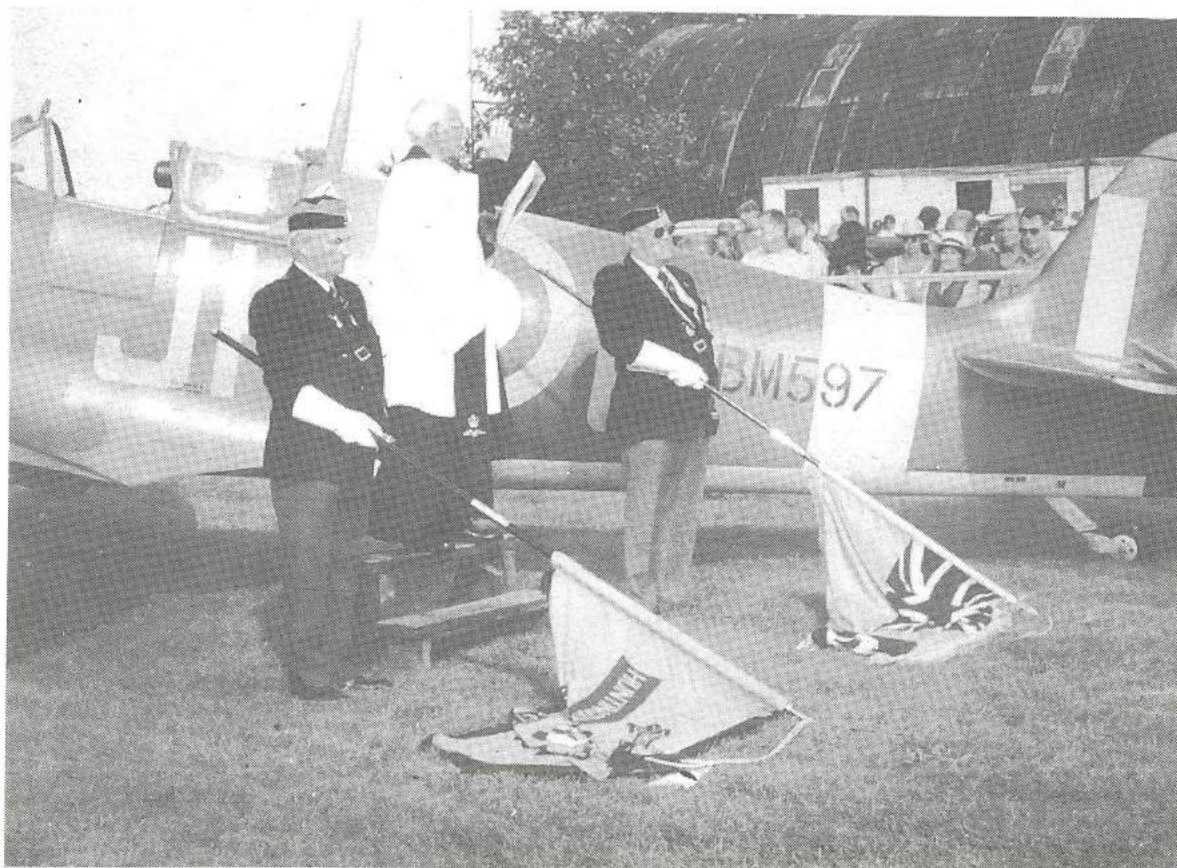
Yeggy, Kena (daughter of Ken Kenyon)

PO Box 102  
Dawson, IA 50066

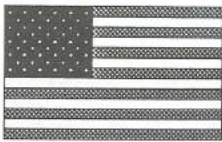
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Gordon Townsend-Standard Bearer, Huntingdon, England  
Rev. Dennis Clabe -- Bob Denton, RCAF Ass.  
District Royal Air Force Association.  
Performing the Royal Salute at Lt. Gransden Memorial  
Service 605 (Vancouver) Squadron RCAF.

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## **"RETURN TO GLATTON — 2000"**

**2000 MINI-REUNION**

**MAY 27 — 31**

**BULL HOTEL PETERBOROUGH**



Planning for our reunion is well underway. I have talked with the Cambridge American Cemetery office and determined that the Memorial Service will be on Monday, May 29. We developed our schedule around this event, so that we may participate in this very impressive ceremony.

As in previous years, the basic guidelines are that you make your own travel arrangements to get to Peterborough and I will take care of all necessary accommodations over there. There is no need for any payment when you make your reservation with me. You will pay your hotel charges directly to the Bull when you check out — and they accept all major credit cards. I will collect from you — over there — for all other expenses — coach trips, admissions, banquet, etc.

Bernie Bains has again arranged for our accommodations at the Bull, but we don't have a firm quote on rooms at this time. In 1998, the rates were £ 47.25 (Pounds) single and £ 75.5 double/twin. This rate includes a full English breakfast. We expect to have the current rates promptly. The total for all other charges was £ 56 per person in 1998.

With some details not yet firm, our plans are:

### **May 27, Saturday:**

Check in at the Bull Hotel. Meet 457<sup>th</sup> friends, relax and maybe catch up on some sleep.

### **May 28, Sunday:**

Begin our reunion with a visit to our old Glatton Air Base — brief service and place a wreath at the 457th monument in the Conington Churchyard. Luncheon arrangements and afternoon plans are being developed.

### **May 29, Monday:**

Visit the Cambridge American Cemetery at Madingley for the Memorial Service and place a wreath for the 457<sup>th</sup>. Proceed to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford and visit the American Air Museum.

### **May 30, Tuesday:**

Peterborough Day. Attend the Mayor's Reception in Council Chambers. Visit the Cathedral, etc. Reunion Banquet this evening at the Bull.

### **May 31, Wednesday:**

Depart Peterborough for home — or more travel.

If you have any questions, please contact me. If you have not been to Glatton for 55 years, you may have some questions about trains, airport transportation, etc. Get your reservations to me promptly so we can be assured of getting every one a room at the Bull.

This is a great event — small group — good fellowship — low key — you will enjoy it.

We welcome sons, daughters, grandchildren, and friends. Bring someone with you — they can help with the luggage — and you'll both feel good about it.

**Will Fluman**

**Phone (717) 258-3090**

**120 S. Ridge Road**

**FAX (717) 258-0560**

**Boiling Springs, PA 17007**

## THE GETTYSBURG REUNION

In some ways, October 10-14, 1999 seems like a year ago and yet, we just now have the opportunity to thank all who were helpers in making the Gettysburg Experience Reunion successful. We're saying that because despite the work and worry, we enjoyed it. It's the people who made it so special! There were a total of 36 states represented. We THINK the registrants received the correct tickets, got seats on the tour buses, ate chicken or beef as they preferred, and received their gorgeous 457th B-17 BG 8th AF Gettysburg mugs and by now have received any refund due them. Please contact us if we missed something.

We can't name all who helped, but we must mention a few. Thank you Craig Harris for the 7 page outline of your preparations for the 1997 Savannah Reunion. We REALLY needed and used it. We thank Leon Zimmerman and Helen for their consistently calm and friendly encouragement and support.

Our cousin Ted (Edwin Van Ingen) Shaw...on vacation from Alaska in August, Ted visited Gettysburg with us to help clear up some things. He became so interested and involved that he returned from Juneau, AK to attend the event in October. (After it was all over we found Jack's note which read: "Ted - bless his heart").

The Lady Family ... Francis and Don helped us in so many ways. They welcomed us; fed us; borrowed the coffee urn for the breakfasts; enlisted their nephew, Tony Crabill, a territorial manager for the UTZ Chip Co. of Hanover, PA, to arrange for the donation of all those great UTZ chips, pretzels and other goodies for Sunday's welcoming party; brought their friend Arlene Shealer to provide the lovely piano background for the banquet; and found the phone number for the Robert Clay Quartet that played for dancing. We have said that getting to know the Ladys was the best part of the reunion for us. Their son, Craig Lady, as a partner in the Appalachian Brewing Co. of Harrisburg, PA (called by one critic THE quality beer of the area) provided the beer for our Pennsylvania Welcome Party. He also brought us our speaker, Major General Robert E. Harris, Commander of the PA ANG, and his wife, who affirmed us, informed and entertained us while doing so. Craig's moving tribute to his father, Donald Lady, and in effect, to all 457th members, was very special.

Dr. Walt Powell, 457th member as well as Gettysburg Historian and aide to Mayor William Troxell who: cleared our tour of the Gettysburg National Military Park, chose the guides, (including the mayor) and was responsible for our knowing about Sgt. Henry Baker. We won't forget Charlie Rogers' tribute to Henry when he laid the wreath at the National Peace Memorial.

We must mention Ms. Tina Grimm, Director of the Gettysburg College Civil War Institute, who donated the beautiful Lincoln posters, as well as the folders which held our tickets and schedules. She also found us our photographer, Tina Hutton, and the bugler who played Taps for the two Memorial services.

Tony and Sarah Pappaiani, of Syracuse, were a big help with our pre-planning and the bus tours.

Many thanks to Mr. Jim Getty, of Gettysburg, aka President Abraham Lincoln.

Will and Phyllis Fluman, who, with the Ladys, joined us in Gettysburg to look over the Eisenhower Inn and help finalize our decision. Will's nephew, Carl Sechrist who owns Northeastern Photographics of Harrisburg, PA, designed and set up the spectacular 457th display which filled one corner of the lobby and drew many photographers. Will also kept an eye on things while we took the D.C. tour.

Our nephew, Jamie Barnhard (with wife Margy and son Ben), came from D.C. and took great photos which we will bring to the 2001 reunion for distribution if you didn't get your's already - his gift to the 457th.

So many stepped in to help move chairs, mugs and signs, do bus lists, coffee, etc., etc. You know who you are, including Ruth Sturdevant and (Jack's navigator) Felix Merlone and wife Carol.

We hope Mickey and Homer Briggs, and Nancy Henrich realize that they ABSOLUTELY saved our sanity.

!!!!!!    THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU    !!!!!  
                 THE 457TH IS A GREAT GROUP!!!

Jean and Jack Van Ingen



## REGISTRANTS AT 1999 REUNION IN GETTYSBURG, PA

Addison, Mary (John's widow)  
 Angier, J. Francis & Madeleine  
 Babicka, Joe  
 Bains, Bernard & Sadie  
 Baker, Arthur (Gene) & Doris  
     Baker's son, Douglas & Pam  
 Bartlett, John A.  
 Bass, James L & Erma  
 Bennett, Alexander & Janet K.  
 Benson, Edwin & Elizabeth  
     Benson, daughter, Jane  
 Bernd, Frank & Evelyn  
 Billisits, Stephen F. & Agnes  
     Billisits's dtr. & husb. Stephanie &  
     Richard Ziegler  
 Birchen, Paul & Rhoda  
 Bird, Bill & Nancy  
 Bird, John  
 Blakebrough, Ken  
 Bolier, Earl (Rollie) & Helen  
 Briggs, Homer & Mickey  
 Briggs, David, Jerry  
 Brines, Thomas & Lydia  
 Brofft, Bob & Lois  
 Brown, Stanley & Vesta  
 Bunker, Brad & Dorothea  
 Burke, Rex & dtr. Darleen Wright  
 Burningham, Haven  
 Byers, Roland  
 Byrd, John  
 Campbell, Calvin  
 Campbell, Harry & Doris  
 Chandler, Clifton J.  
 Chapman, Norman & Barbara  
 Chumas, John & Antonette  
 Clausen, Ras & Mary Lou  
 Cole, George & Jean  
 Conover, George & Phyllis  
 Creehan, Rich  
 Davidson, William  
 Day, James R. (Bob) & Marjorie  
 DeCunzo, Louis & Rosalyn  
 DeLuccia, Joseph & guests:  
     Delores Newman & Carl Lukac  
 DeVoe, John & Grace  
 Digre, Clifford & Bernice  
 Dobler, Champe  
 Dollar, Herbert & Ilse  
 Drache, Hiram & Ada  
 Dundas, Basil & Betty  
 Dykes, Gordon & Margaret  
 Ebbert, Mary Ann (Kafka) & John  
 Ellsworth, Bob & Patricia J.  
 Falcone, Iris  
 Ferrell, Tom & Rosalie Franklin  
 Federico, Edward  
 Ferguson, Thomas P.

Field, Ray & Carolyn  
 Finkelstein, Philip & Hilda,  
     son Robert & grd.son Zachary  
 Fitch, Jean C (Arthur's widow)  
 Fitzhugh, Richard E. & Alice  
 Fluman, Will & Phyllis, dtr, Candace  
 Fluman, Will Jr. & Deborah Franklin,  
 Franklin, Harold (Brud) & Florence  
 Friedman, Daniel & Angeline  
 Gallaher, Lawrence  
 Garland, Richard & Ruth  
 Gassman, Jack & Carol  
 Geren, Ashton & Judith L.  
 Gibbs, Richard & Barbara  
 Gilbert, Paul & Joyce  
 Goff, Tom & Lillian Malkus  
 Gravelle, Donald & Shirley  
 Gray, Lloyd S.  
 Grimm, Clyde & Nancy  
 Gustafson, Carroll & Annie  
 Hall, James L.  
 Hall, Ralph H & Mildred Chapman  
 Hamilton, Joseph  
 Harris, Craig & Bobbie  
 Hasty, Betty (Hilty sister) & William  
 Hedge, Willard & Irene  
 Hedrick, Ray, & Wanda &  
     Lillian Zaun  
 Henrich, Nancy (dtr. of Joe Toth)  
 Hertenstein, Paul  
 Hetrick, A. Clair  
 Hoagland, Ray & Kay  
 Hoffman, Art & Peggy  
     Hoffman son, Mark, dtr., Heather  
 Hollowhush, Robert G.  
 Huels, Robert & Florence  
 Hunt, Walter & Beiva  
 Ingraham, Robert & Jeanne  
 Jackson, Ed & Roberta  
 Johnson, Leonard G. & Vicki  
 Jones, David B. & Beryl A.  
 Kapp, Harold L.  
 Karl, Russ & Ella  
 Kaufman, Charles & Bonnie  
 Kearney, John  
 Keller, Charles  
 Kleinfelter, Walter  
 Kravetz, Frank & Anne  
 Krug, Eldon  
 Lady, Don & Frances  
     Lady, Craig (son)  
     Lady, Jere (son) & wife, Rose  
 Langowski, George & Ruth  
 Lawton, John V. & Marilyn  
 Lee, Thomas E. & Ruth E.  
     Lee guest, Molly Gerlich  
     Lee guest, Dorothy Barber

Lester, Joel  
 Lewis, Irving & Sue  
 Lewis, John & Helen  
 Lindholm, John C. & Mildred S.  
 Lurnbye, Paul & Sara  
 Mach, William  
 Marsden, Clement & Ethel  
 Martin, Albert & Angie  
 Martin, Frank & Dorothy  
 Marx, Shirley & Lillian  
     Marx's son, Larry & wife, Mary  
     Marx's guest, Sharon Bass  
 McCloskey, James & Catherine  
     McCloskey's sons, Michael & George  
 McDaniel, Harold L. & Jean D.  
 McDonald, Richard & Selma  
 McDonald, Wesley R. & Marlene  
 McDonough, Owen L. & Marion  
 McGibbon, Waldron & Elizabeth  
 McKelvey, Wm & Gladys  
     McKelvey son-in-law Bill Moore  
 McMakin, Robert & LaVerda  
 Meng, Wm & Nancy Warda  
 Menard, Normand R. & Irene  
 Merlone, Felix & Carol  
 Mihalek, Peter J.  
 Morris, Paul & Nona  
 Morrow, Hiram & Mary  
 Morse, William & Erika  
 Moses, William & Sue  
 Muston, Don & Patricia Ficker  
 Nail, Ken & Ethelda  
 Nielsen, Don & Sandra  
 Nose, Daniel W. & Jeanne  
 Olson, Harry A. & Dorothy  
 O'Rear, Joe & Joanne  
 Osborne, Don & Dorothy  
 Papaianni, Tony & Sarah  
 Parker, George & Maggie  
 Parker, John B.  
 Patry, William G., & Jean C.  
 Pearson, John S.  
 Peschen, George & Nancy  
 Polen, Donald & Beverly  
 Powell, Dr. Walter  
     Powell guest, Paul Baird  
     Powell guest, Marty Murphy  
 Prisk, Cedric & Alice  
 Reese, A. Willard & dtr., Diane  
 Reppa, Edward & Nelda  
 Reynolds, Edwin A. & Camille  
 Rodel, James & Ardis  
 Rogers, Charlie & Ruthan  
 Rogner, Jeffrey B.  
     Rogner sons, William & Harris E.  
 Rohde, Ken & Marge  
 Rossner, Raymond F. & Sally

## **REGISTRANTS AT 1999 REUNION IN GETTYSBURG, PA (continued)**

Rothbard, Harold & Nita Green-  
Rothbard, Nita's son, Merritt &  
wife, Anne  
Sale, Walter H. & Reba Inez  
Sale's son, Gerald R.  
Sartor, Johnny & Delores  
Schaaf, Robert  
Schuelke, Harland & Shirley  
Schuller, George & Jean  
Schwab, Del & Helen  
Schwall, John & Rusty  
Seesenguth, Donald & Betty  
Sellon, Don and Jeanie  
Silverman, Jerome  
Smallen, Virgil & Mary Lou  
Smalling, Hilary & Hilary Smalling, III

Springer, Robert E. & Virginia  
Stateman, Geo & Mildred  
Stein, Frank & Jo  
Sturdevant, Guy & Ruth  
Swanson, Dwight & Nadine  
dtr., Melody Pinks, Bruce Pinks  
Tonkin, John & Betty & John Jr.  
Toscano, Nicola  
Toth, Joseph & Jeanne  
Townsend, Gordon & Ros  
Van Ingen, John & Jean  
Voris, George  
Ward, Rev. John D. & Anne  
Welch, John & Alberta  
Welch guest, Anna Landauer  
Whatley, Vernon & Mary

Whelehan, Jack & dtr., Kerry Clifton  
Wilde, Lawrence & Claudia  
Willet, Hal & Sybil  
Williams, Albert & Shirley  
Windham, M.T. (Tex) & Mary  
Windland, Dole & Ada Grace  
Wood, Robert H.  
Wroblewski, Bernard & Eleanore  
Wyman, Richard (Dick)  
Zeagler, R.C. & Ethel  
Zeiler, Donald L. & Marie  
Zimmerman, Leon & Helen  
Zocks, Stanley & Roselyn

**Reunion helpers:**      **THANKS!!!!!!!!!!** So much.....Had no time at  
Gettysburg to recognize you and say thanks.

Unloading, unpacking--then repacking, and loading, being caretaker of the  
memorabilia, PX, Registration, and all the errands.

These people were the glue of the reunion. Not to mention Nancy Henrich, Jack and  
Jean Van Ingen, all their families, Mickey's family working not only at reunion, but  
months before reunion. We have to have all these good people help us do all this  
work to have the reunion. Too many for me to recall all your names. But all know who  
you are. Thanks very much. -- Mickey Briggs

### **New Officers and Directors Elected at the 1999 Gettysburg Reunion**

The following officers were elected for the 1999-  
2001 biennium:

President ..... Craig Harris, NC  
Vice-President ..... Will Fluman, PA  
Secretary-Treasurer ..... Homer Briggs, AR  
Asst. Sec.-Treas. .... Mickey Briggs, AR  
2 yr. Director (to serve unexpired term of Dale  
Jeffers, deceased) .... Brad Bunker, ME/FL  
4 yr. Director (to serve unexpired term of Will  
Fluman, VP) ..... Don Nielsen, AZ  
6 yr. Director ..... Nancy Henrich, CO

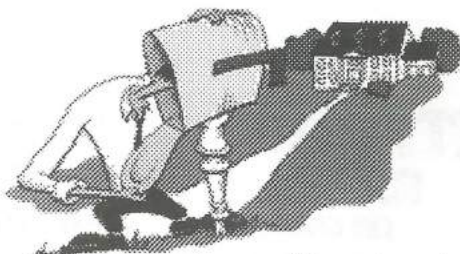
#### **Appointed:**

Recording Secretary and Legal Advisor,  
James Bass, TN





## REUNION STORIES



Nov. 3, 1999

Dear Homer and Mickey:

It was great to visit with you in Gettysburg. We enjoyed our whole trip and are about re-cooperated from the two weeks of vacation and all the travel time we spent.

Of course, the best part of the trip was finding our Bombardier, Pete Mihalik, on the Wednesday of the Banquet. We had a lot of catching up to do and still do. It is a great feeling to find an old crew member and gain one instead of losing one (we were down to 3 but now up to 4).

I am going to include Pete's address in case some of our members who missed him might wish to contact him... I know that lots of folks thought that "Pete" had passed away.

Peter Mihalik  
11 Al-Lyn Court  
Haledon, NY 07508  
(973) 389-0279

**Editor's note:** Please forgive me. I have misplaced the name and address of the person who wrote this letter. Would you please let me know. So many letters...my brain memory goes dead at times. --Mickey B.

**MORE ON THIS FROM MICKEY:** A few days before we left for the reunion, we received several new found men, who had just found us on the internet. One was Pete Mihalik. We thought time-wise that the men might not make it. But, either mailed, faxed, called and hoped they could make it. Two days into the reunion, a man stopped me in the hallway of the Inn and said, "Boy, did our crew have shocking news!!" We all thought our Bombardier was killed in Europe...but he is here and called one of the crew on the phone from this very Hotel. When his fellow crewman recovered from shock, he quickly spread the good news.

**ANOTHER:** John Parker kept telling Mickey, that Capt. Don Lady did not come. Mickey kept saying yes, he is here, Homer has talked to him. A couple of hours later John tells Mickey, "I can't find him." Three or so more are with him at all times. At the banquet, Mickey spies Craig, Don Lady's son up on the floor taking pictures, and Mickey grabs him and takes him to John Parker and introduces Craig. John says, "Pleased to meet you." Mickey says again, "This is Craig Lady, you know, Don Lady." John looked at me and then "Oh!" and jumped straight up and started off a couple of tables away, he turned back to the crew table and shouted, "It's Donald Lady. Come on!" Needless to say, all stood together and rushed to Lady for lots of bygone tales.

**AND ANOTHER:** Homer, in England, worked on airplane's engine, the Pilot being Capt. Don Lady. Many years later, they meet at several reunions. This year, Don Lady's son, Craig, came as well as David, and Jerry, Homer's sons. Craig and Jerry, about the same age, got to talking and found both of them in service. Air Force, of course, then in Reserves, still. Both worked with helicopters and C130s and worked with each other's fellow workers that had transferred to each other's base. Craig stationed in PA, Jerry was at Tyndel, Duke, and now at Egglund, all in FL. Stories such as these warm Mickey and Homer's hearts. It keeps us working and trying to keep on. Many have found us by B17's crews at airshows and on the internet. It is really sad so many never found the 457th Group at all. --Mickey B.

**Attention!!!** Some reunion attendees have said they didn't receive a Cloisonne Enamel 457 Tac pin or patch. To be able to receive one in your packet, you had to have 2000 or LM dues paid **BEFORE** coming to the reunion... ...you had to have your name tag on or have ordered one ahead of time and it would be in your packet.

If you qualified and did not get a pin or patch, contact Mickey and tell her which one you wanted.

**PAID YOUR DUES???**



# "VETERANS INTERESTS" RIGHTS & BENEFITS (IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD)

Mickey is taking one tablet of Celebrex each morning . It gives me at least 23 hours free of leg pain.

**CAUTION !!**

If you haven't heard about Celebrex or tried it be sure to ask your Doctor. Learn side effects!

I am not a Dr.....It works for me.....It does not work for Homer.

Discover what millions have turned to for arthritis pain relief.

The #1 selling brand of prescription arthritis medication\* delivers powerful relief of your arthritis pain and inflammation. By effectively reducing pain, inflammation and stiffness, Celebrex can help you through the day with activities like standing, walking or climbing stairs, and through the night while resting in bed.

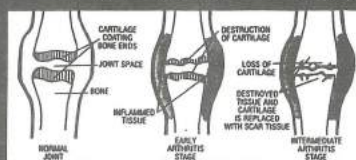
## day you discover Celebrex?

Celebrex is a scientific breakthrough: the first product to target only the COX-2 enzyme. Celebrex has been extensively studied in large clinical trials. The most common side effects were indigestion, diarrhea and abdominal pain. In rare cases, serious stomach problems such as bleeding can occur without warning. The percentage of patients who stopped taking Celebrex due to all side effects (7.1%) was similar to sugar pill (6.1%). You should not take this product if you have had asthma or allergic-type reactions to aspirin, arthritis medications or certain sulfa drugs, called sulfonamides. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have kidney problems or are pregnant.

This information cannot replace your doctor's advice. Only your doctor can assess the benefits and risks to decide if Celebrex is right for you.

**Instantly, 1500mg of Glucosamine HCl is absorbed into your system!**

## Don't Let Joint Pain Dominate Your Life



Single-serve, 1500mg  
**Glucosamine  
Chondroitin  
Chewable  
Lozenges...**

**deliver rapid relief almost instantly!**

"Despite recent blood tests and X-rays to view the arthritis in my left foot, toes, ankle and knee, I no longer suffer from swelling and am no longer stiff after prolonged sitting. Nor do I feel disabled or limp anymore. These Glucosamine Lozenges made a dramatic improvement in my arthritis pain. You may use this testimonial in your ads. I hope your Lozenges can help everyone who suffers." Letter on file



# VETERAN'S DATA RECORD

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU LIST NUMBERS AND LOCATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING NOTED ITEMS SO THAT YOUR FAMILY WILL HAVE THE DETAILS NECESSARY TO FILE FOR BENEFITS IF YOU ARE INCAPACITATE OR DECEASED. You should file this form in a safe place. Be sure that someone knows where to find it. You have earned the right to certain veterans benefits. Use this form to make it easier for your family in case of emergency. Make sure to retain a copy for your own records.

FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE AND PLACE: OF Birth \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION OF BIRTH CERTIFICATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE AND PLACE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_

BRANCH OF SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_ SERVICE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE AND PLACE OF DISCHARGE: \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF DISCHARGE: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION OF DISCHARGE: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE AND COUNTY WHERE DISCHARGE IS RECORDED: \_\_\_\_\_

VA CLAIM NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSES FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE AND PLACE OF MARRIAGE/S: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE AND PLACE OF DIVORCE/S OR DEATH: \_\_\_\_\_

# VETERAN'S DATA RECORD

LOCATION OF MARRIAGE LICENSE/S: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION OF DIVORCE DECREES: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION OF DEATH CERTIFICATES: \_\_\_\_\_

FULL NAMES OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTHS: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION OF BIRTH CERTIFICATES: \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS: \_\_\_\_\_

## COWPUNCHER



OH, DAD! - THERE'S NO WATER IN MY GUN!

## VETERAN'S DATA RECORD

### MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

WILLS: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

BANK ACCOUNT - NUMBERS AND LOCATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

CD/IRA ACCOUNT - NUMBERS AND LOCATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

STOCK AND BONDS - SHARES AND LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

MORTGAGE - MORTGAGE COMPANY AND ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

INSURANCE - POLICY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

INSURANCE POLICY LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

INSURANCE COMPANY ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

See next page 19.0.2

Feb. 3/00  
Mr Homer Briggs  
Dear Comrade, Thank you for your fax. Yes,  
we are still at this address, but since we are  
"volunteer workers", we may not always be at  
the end of the line when you phone. But,  
this fax is at my home and I always catch it.  
A Happy New Year!

Bruce Boeglin  
Federation of French War Veterans

## Are you over 55? "It's All Free for Seniors"

Washington DC (Special) An amazing new book reveals thousands of little-known Government give-aways for people over 55.

Each year, lots of these benefits are NOT given away simply because people don't know they're available... and the government doesn't advertise.

Many of these fabulous freebies can be yours regardless of your income or assets. Entitled "Free for Seniors", the book tells you all about such goodies as how you can:

- ▶ Get free prescription drugs.
- ▶ Get free dental care.
- ▶ Get up to \$800 for food.
- ▶ How you can get free legal help.
- ▶ Get help in paying your rent.
- ▶ \$15,000 free money to spruce up your home!
- ▶ \$1,800 to warm you this winter.
- ▶ Access the very best research on our planet on how you can live longer.
- ▶ Forgetful? Here's valuable free information you should get now.

- ▶ Stop blood pressure & cholesterol worries from ruling your life.
- ▶ Free help if you have arthritis.
- ▶ Free facts could help incontinence.
- ▶ Free eye treatment.
- ▶ Free help if you're depressed.
- ▶ New Cancer Cure? Maybe! Get free information.

- ▶ New prostate cancer developments.
- ▶ Get paid \$100 a day plus expenses to travel overseas!
- ▶ \$5,000 free to help pay your bills.
- ▶ Confidential help with your sex life.
- ▶ Free impotence treatments.
- ▶ Hot Flashes? New research helps!
- ▶ Find out if a medicine you are taking could be affecting your sex life.

To receive a **FREE** information packet without obligation about this outstanding \$12.95 value, simply write your name and address on a piece of paper and mail to: Free for Seniors Dept. FS1247, 718-12th St. N.W., Box 24500, Canton, Ohio 44701.

**Special Bonus** - Act promptly to also receive a **free tip sheet** to help get you started.

To help us cover printing and postage, \$1 would be warmly appreciated, but not necessary.

<http://www.irexcoinc.com>

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THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE • JANUARY 2000





# FÉDÉRATION DES ANCIENS COMBATTANTS FRANÇAIS

FEDERATION OF FRENCH WAR VETERANS, INC.

INCORPORATED 1919



18 E. 41<sup>st</sup> St., Suite 401, New York, NY 10017

Tel: (212) 213-0812 • Fax: (718) 591-3481



1944 - 1994

The Medal and Diploma commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Landings in Normandy and Provence and the Liberation of France

The medal struck by the Federation of French War Veterans Inc., in recognition by the French community of the Veterans who landed in Normandy and Provence and participated in the Liberation of France was first presented in New York City by 150 French people hosting 175 Veterans at the Armory of the Seventh Regiment on June 6, 1994, the 50th Anniversary of D-Day 1944.

Designed by Robert Perrot, a WW II-Veteran, the medal bears on the obverse a blue-and-gold head of Lady Liberty with its diadem against a background of blue waves and at the bottom the Cross of Lorraine on a red background. The lettering in gold reads "Cinquantaire des Débarquements" within the inner red ring and "1944 Normandie Provence 1994 Liberation of France" on the outer ring. This is a two sided die-struck round brass medal, 2 inches in diameter, in 3 soft enamel colors with a gilding-gold finish, topped by a metal loop. A tricolor neck ribbon is attached by 2 rings.

The reverse commemorates the 75th Anniversary of the Federation of French War Veterans Inc. with its insignia and "1919-1994".

The 8 1/2 x 11" Diploma, - *Diplôme d'Honneur de la Médaille du Cinquantaire*, accompanying the medal of the 50th Anniversary of the Landings of Normandy and Provence and the Liberation of France, is conferred by the Federation of French War Veterans Inc. on Veterans who qualify by virtue of service in France in WW II.

Who qualifies: All Veterans who landed in Normandy or Provence and all Veterans who participated in the Liberation of France are entitled to the diploma and the medal. A contribution of \$24.50 would be appreciated to help cover costs.

How to claim the medal and the diploma: Please return the attached coupon with a copy of your "Service record and Report of Separation-Honorable discharge" with your check or money order.

X

Please do not return this coupon by registered or certified mail.

To Federation of French War Veterans, Inc, 18 East 41 Street, Suite 401, New York NY 10017

YES, I claim the medal and the diploma of the 50th Anniversary of the Landings in Normandy and Provence and the Liberation of France commissioned by the Federation of French War Veterans Inc. in recognition of the Veterans by the French community.

Name.....

Address.....

Tel.....

Enclosed is a copy of my Service Record and Report of Separation-Honorable discharge. Also, a check (or money order) for \$..... as a contribution to the Federation of French War Veterans for the 50th Anniversary Medal and Diploma.

Date:

Signature:



## Veterans' Rights and Benefits Have Been Slighted

★ "To hell with the veterans" seems to be the attitude of our government. They have cut our medical care and other benefits. File a claim for disability and you can look forward to years of bureaucratic red tape. You wait while the lawmakers in Washington vote themselves a raise to go with their million-dollar pensions and their good health-care for life. All they are interested in is their campaign fundraising from special interest groups and dishing out corporate welfare while they sit on their thrones and enjoy the perks of their office. Contact one for help, and they act like you're a nuisance. They could care less about us veterans. **David J. Merideth** [Letters to the Editor reprinted from *The Tennessean*, September 23, 1999]

★ I read a lot about the VA cut backs and would like to share my war story with you. I am a service-connected disabled vet now receiving Social Security disability. I had been going to the VA hospital in Sheridan, Wyoming. Last month, I moved to Portland, Oregon, for health reasons. I went to the Portland VA hospital recently to renew my medications and receive treatment for my service-connected problem. I was re-enrolled and told to go to the emergency room, as I could not make an appointment since no new patients were being accepted at the Portland hospital or at any other VA hospital in Oregon. At the emergency room, the doctor said she could only give me two weeks of medications and basic emergency treatment. She suggested I go to a private doctor for medication and treatment for all medical help. I was placed on a waiting list and told that in a year or two I might be able to see a VA doctor and again get treatment and medication from the VA. It was suggested I use Medicare. Medicare will not cover any prescriptions and only half of the treatments at a reduced rate. Most doctors will not accept Medicare patients unless the patient can pay the difference between what they charge and what Medicare pays. With only \$795.00 a month income, I do not have that luxury. Nor can I get state help. As it stands now I will go without medications and treatments, while our members of Congress enjoy their new raise and free medical care - at our expense. God Bless our Congress. **Donald R. McCallister, Sr., Forest Grove, Oregon**

## Loud & Clear



DAV Magazine welcomes letters. However, due to the volume of mail, we are unable to acknowledge every letter. LOUD & CLEAR letters are subject to editing for clarity, style, accuracy, space, and propriety. Letters involving individual claims are referred to the DAV Service Department, DAV Magazine, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, Ohio 45250-0301. Our e-mail address is [feedback@davmail.org](mailto:feedback@davmail.org)

★ I am writing to you with great concern, as to how our Representatives have blatantly avoided the issue of the deteriorating VA budget, and the deplorable treatment our veterans are receiving, such as inferior treatment by students-in-training that are being passed off to veterans as doctors, as well as insensitive nurse practitioners who are not qualified to treat, let alone diagnose some serious health problems. I'm sorry, but it seems appalling to me that when my fellow veterans were asked to give their all when their country called they did that and more in most cases, and now many are shunned when they need help. This is a disgrace to the veteran. With the trillions of dollars that are supposed to be in Washington, which President Clinton and Congress seem not to know what to do with, the VA's budget should be priority #1. The government has failed to recognize that most veterans with compensable service-connected injuries and diseases are living well below the national poverty level as set forth by our government. This gentlemen, is a sacrilege and a travesty to veterans who served with honor. **E. L. Pitman, Orange Springs, Florida.**

★ The time has come to make our voices heard loud and clear!! We need to send a powerful message to our elected officials in Washington: Enough is enough...Stop the cuts!! The national commanders of all veterans' organizations should spearhead a "million veteran march" on Washington, D.C. Letters and phone calls don't seem to be enough. Our representatives are not representing us! My message to all anti-military persons and draft-dodgers out there is: "Don't you appreciate the freedoms we Americans have? Who do you think made America such a great country to live in?" Many Americans answered the call to serve in the military and were put in harm's way. Unfortunately, many sacrificed their lives, bodies, minds and youth. The government of the United States must not abandon its veterans!! The time has come. Let's do what we need to do!! **John Warholak, Monroe, New York**

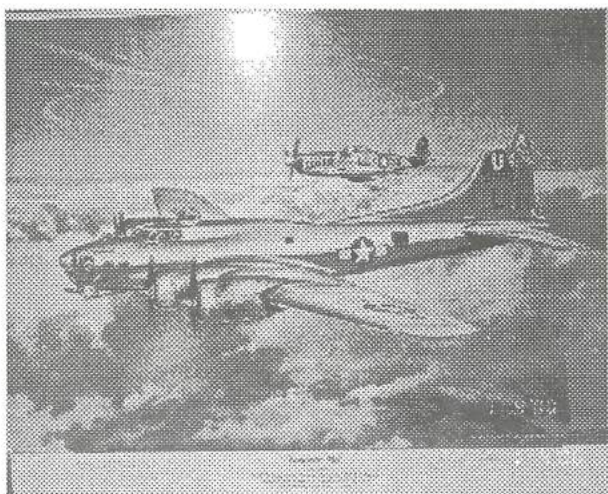
## A Veterans Day Salute from Students at Emerson High, Union City, New Jersey

★ I would like to thank all of you who fought in the wars. It is brave of you to fight for us. It is sad to know how many people went out there to fight and died. It is also happy to know that there are still veterans out there. On Veterans Day I always take a moment to think about all those soldiers who fought for us because I appreciate and honor all of you. In conclusion, the purpose of my letter is to let you know how appreciated you are. Thank you for everything you have done for us. **Denise Mendez.**

★ I am taking time on this Veterans Day to say thanks for what you did for this country. You risked your lives to try and save this country. I think it is nice that people take a day off from work and kids have noschool on Veterans Day, because that day is your day. We take a day off to remember all the veterans who were in the wars, and just say thanks for all they have fought for. So I would just like to take a moment of my time to think of all the veterans who are not with us today. I would like to say to all the families that lost someone in the war, I feel great pain for your loss. But you have to hold your head up high and think of all the good that veterans did. **Dianne Antonicelli.**



**Wonderful Opportunity for  
Fireballers to Own New Geoff  
Nutkins Print of "Remember Me?"**



Geoff Nutkins is recognized as an outstanding painter of premier aviation art. (See article "Remembering The Battle" by J Keith Baker in *Air Classics*, Jan. 2000, pp 52-54.) He was commissioned by Charles E. Barrier, original pilot of "Remember Me?", 43-37828, assigned to the 749<sup>th</sup> Sq., to render a painting of that aircraft. This is the same aircraft depicted on the pedestal of the 457<sup>th</sup> BG Memorial Bench at the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio.

The painting (of which the portrayal above is only poorly representative) was completed in late 1999, and is a beautiful rendition of "Remember Me?" and its P-51 companion from the 20<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group. Prints were made as a Limited Edition totaling 250 world-wide, numbered 1 through 250. Fifty of the prints have been reserved for the artist. Print size is 19 1/2" x 25" — image size is 14" x 19 1/2". Each numbered print comes with a Certificate of Authenticity.

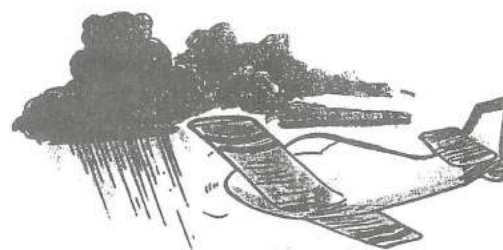
Prints may be obtained from:  
CEB Associates  
P.O. Box 1143  
Concord, NC 28026  
for \$75 plus \$5 for shipping and handling.

**Special Note:**

Any prints purchased by members or friends of the 457<sup>th</sup> BG Assn will earn a \$25 contribution to the Association by CEB Associates. Any contributor to the Memorial Window Fund who gives \$500 or more will have the option of receiving a "Remember Me?" print and certificate free.

Here is a great opportunity to decorate your wall with a beautiful, meaningful, limited-edition memoir of our Group, and at the same time, support the Association.

---



...THEN WE GO UP  
AND LOOK FOR A  
RINSE JOB! 2.

**Dear Lord:**

So far today, God,  
I've done all right.  
I haven't gossiped,  
haven't lost my temper,  
haven't been greedy,  
grumpy, nasty,  
selfish, or over-indulgent.  
I'm very thankful for that.

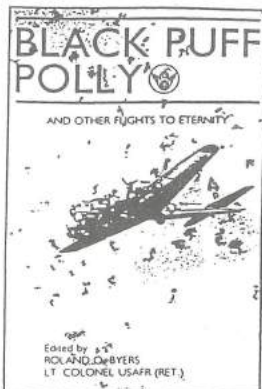
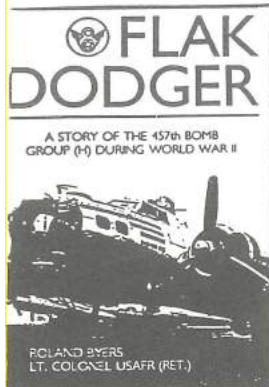
But in a few minutes, God,  
I'm going to get out of bed.  
And from then on,  
I'm probably going to need  
a lot more help.

**Amen.**



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### THE FAIT ACCOMPLI TRILOGY

**FAIT ACCOMPLI**, a historical account of the 457th Bomb Group is now on second printing and will be available on May 20th. An account of the group from 1 July 1943 until its disbandment in August 1945, the reactivated 457th Operations Group, a listing of the KIA's and MIA's and more. Over 400 pages. \$33.00 includes shipping. Hard cover only. ISBN 0-9648925-0-2.

**FAIT ACCOMPLI II**, a pictorial account of the 457th Bomb Group. Over 350 selected pictures tracing the Group from Camp Rapid to Glatton to Sioux Falls, including some then and now photographs. A total of 224 pages preserving the heritage of the Group for you and future generations. \$33.00 includes shipping. Hard cover only. ISBN 0-9648-925-1-0. Now available.

Coming this fall is **FAIT ACCOMPLI III**, an anthology of accounts taken from remembrances of former members of the 457th Bomb Group plus added information of interest. Watch for later details.

PAID YOUR DUES?

"DEAD ENGINE KIDS" by John Welch  
Available Now at \$12.00 each plus \$2.50  
for shipping.

"RB-36 Days at Rapid City" by John Welch  
Available Now at \$25.00 each plus \$2.50  
for shipping.

You can order either of these books from  
John Welch, 2933 Country Club Dr., Rapid  
City, SND 57702-5218

He will also have these at the reunion

Reunion  
in  
Britain

MAY 27-30  
2000



### RINGSIDE AT THE FIREWORKS

This book is a memoir of a small town Iowa, preacher's son. Norman Erbe speaks of life in Boone and his Spartan beginning. He married his high school sweetheart after college and a year in the U.S. Army, 2nd Infantry Division at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.

A gripping story of combat on 32, B-17 missions over Nazi Germany gives you a first hand view of the air war over the European Continent as seen and experienced by Norman Erbe. He piloted his B-17 bomber with the 457th Bomb Group of the 8th Air Corps during the D-Day invasion of June, 1944.

Erbe was elected Iowa Attorney General and then Governor of the State of Iowa after which he served seven years as a federal executive.

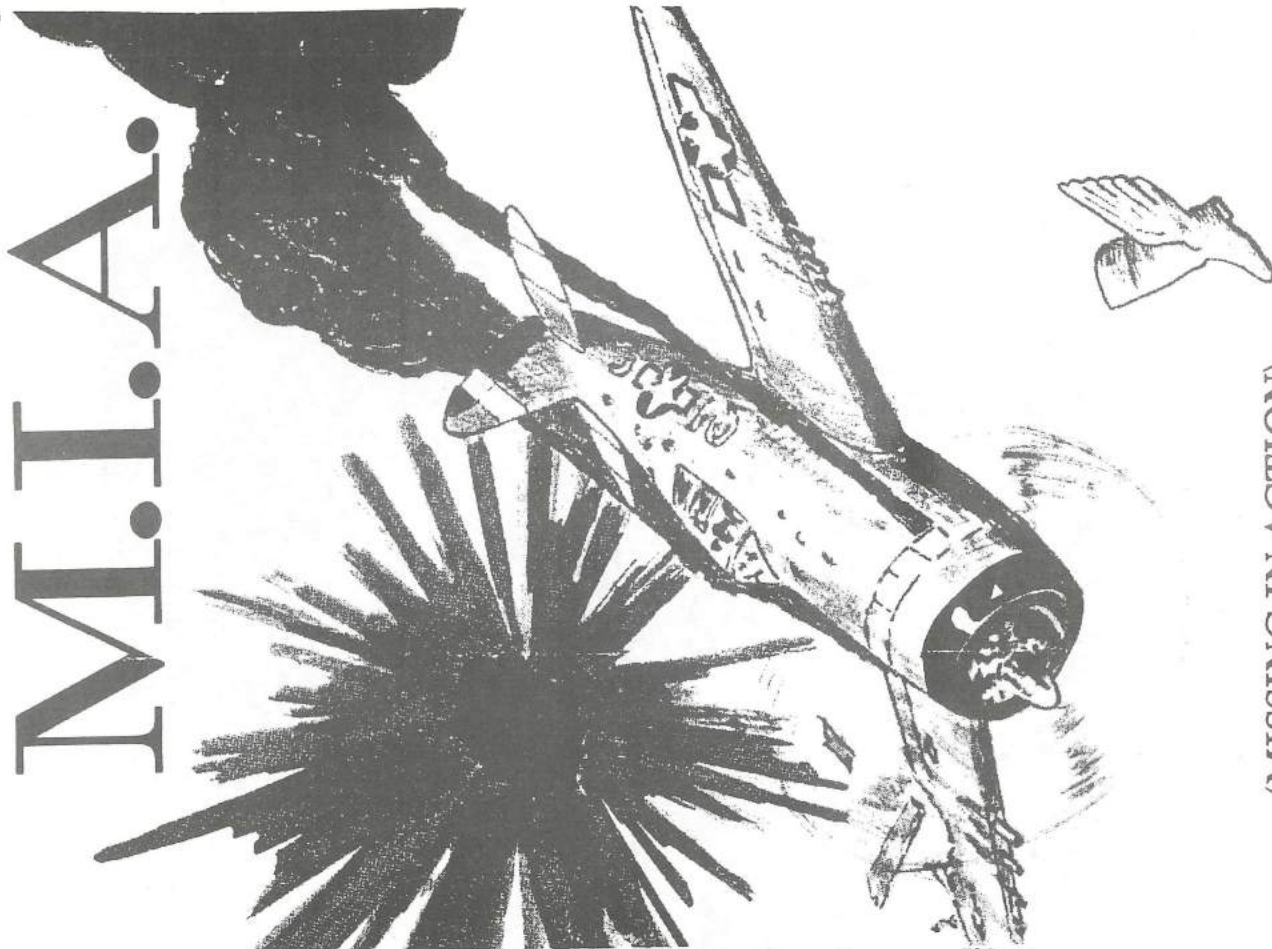
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# M.I.A.

(MISSING IN ACTION)



Phipps  
Publishing Company

(MISSING IN ACTION)

WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY H. PHILLIP CAUSER

# M.I.A.

(MISSING IN ACTION)



The Author in his "Thunderbolt"

This is a story of escape and evasion, of how the author, after being shot down by ground fire while strafing an enemy aerodrome, evaded capture, fought side by side with the Maquis (Free French), and finally after one unsuccessful attempt, made good his escape back to England and his fighter squadron.

He admits that his book is no award winner, and that no-one, even in a fit of kindness, will ever refer to it as being well written, but it is an unusual story, and fortunately a different part of the war than most experienced.

On the day he was shot down, the Maquis (F.F.I., French Forces of the Interior), who had been fighting an underground war since the fall of France, received orders from General DeGaulle that they had been impatiently waiting for, to rise up with arms against their German conquerors.

The story was written shortly after the author's return to England while on R. and R. A very few portions of the story have been rewritten for the sake of continuity



and clarity, but great care was taken not to disturb the words, thoughts, and impressions of a young fighter pilot at that time and during those years.

Names and places were changed back then for reasons of security and the protection of the individuals and their families.

This is but one story, by one person, of the many that still remain unwritten.

He mentions, that only if the French took the time to speak very slowly, and sometimes at his request to repeat themselves, was he entirely certain of the daily game plan. Without a clue, he knew that picks, shovels, and a pile of dynamite in the back seat of their Citroen meant they were going to blow up a bridge. However, at other times when he thought he had it hacked, it did come as a bit of a surprise when they wound up in the brothel of the town he thought they'd come to liberate.

All of us as kids have delivered hand bills, but he says it was something else tossing the La Marseillaise Du Berry or Le Department out of the window of a Citroen travelling at full bore through a town occupied by the enemy.

During the author's forty some odd years of flying, he has logged several thousand hours in every type of aircraft from homebuilts to jet fighters and heavy multi-engine.

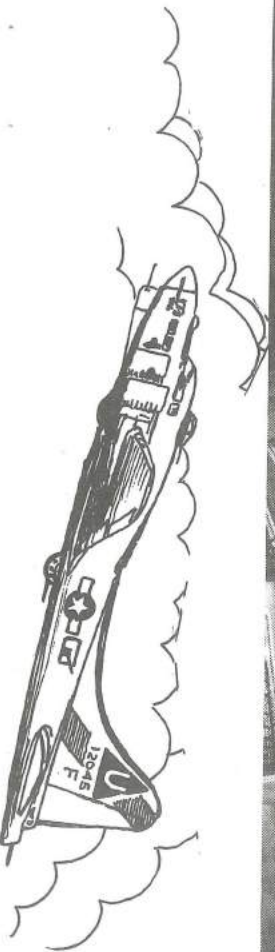
He has trained Dutch, French, British, and American pilots, served as fighter pilot, engineering officer, and test pilot.

Member: P-47 Thunderbolt Pilots Association; Royal Aero Club of the United Kingdom; Late Arrivals Club (Winged Boot, R.A.F.).

To order, call toll free, 1-800-430-0980  
All credit cards accepted. Costs 14.95  
plus 2.50 for mailing. This book is  
8x10 and illustrated by himself.

ISBN 0-918442

Craig Lady and Homer Briggs.





## LETTERS, LETTERS, AND MORE LETTERS...

Jan 2000  
Homer Briggs  
457th Bomb Group Assoc.  
811 NW B St.  
Bentonville, AR

To Whom It May Concern,

Dear Sir: I am a big fan of 17s and 24s. I go on the internet to find pictures of my favorite planes but no website gives me any good pictures.

I was wondering, if you would be able to send me some pictures of them. I was at an airshow and a B17 was there. They gave tours of it but like I said, I'm a big fan and could not get past the cockpit. The pilot told me to go through the back entrance. But, I just looked in. Hopefully, this summer when the Airshow comes back, I won't be that afraid to go through. If you could send me any pictures that would be swell. Thank you very much.

Michael Jordan

P.S. That is no lie. That is my real name.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Mr. Briggs,

I am writing to you for information on joining the 457th Bomb Group as an Associate member. I am currently a member of the 8th, 9th, and 15th Airforce Historical Society Associations. I collect autographs, pictures, etc, from WWII Airmen, both from fighter groups and my favorite ... the bomber groups. I do this as a hobby only and to help preserve the past.

If you need more info on me I will be glad to help you. I served six years in the Louisiana Air National Guard back in the late 60s. My wife's name is Lorene and she is on her 27th year as a school teacher.

Will look forward to hearing from you. Thank you very much for your help.

Your Friend, Harry "Doug" Tanner  
hdoug@usunwired.net  
2923 Roy Bunch Road  
Sulphur, LA 70663  
(318) 527-0322

\*\*\*\*\*

May 20, 1999  
Mr. Homer Briggs  
457th Bomb Group Association  
811 NW B Street  
Bentonville, AR 72712

Dear Mr. Briggs:

Please enter my new membership in the 457th Bomb Group Association. As you know from previous correspondence, I am the son of:

Lt. Regis J. Creehan (Rege)

Bombardier, 748th

born: 9/26/17

died: 5/20/75

flew with pilot Lt. Thomas E. Lee, Jr.

Plane: "My Buddy" (42-31552)

Thanks for sending me several copies of your newsletter. Seeing my name as a "new contact" in the most recent issue prompted me to get this membership check to you. I was also very moved by letters from other sons and daughters of 457th veterans. I share their interest in learning more about what our fathers did. Despite many stories told to me as a young boy, the true details of the 457th are relatively new to me. Every new-learned fact is an exciting discovery that brings a closer feeling to my departed Dad.

I first found your group through the internet while visiting [www.heavybombers.com](http://www.heavybombers.com) -- that site provides a link to your own web site.

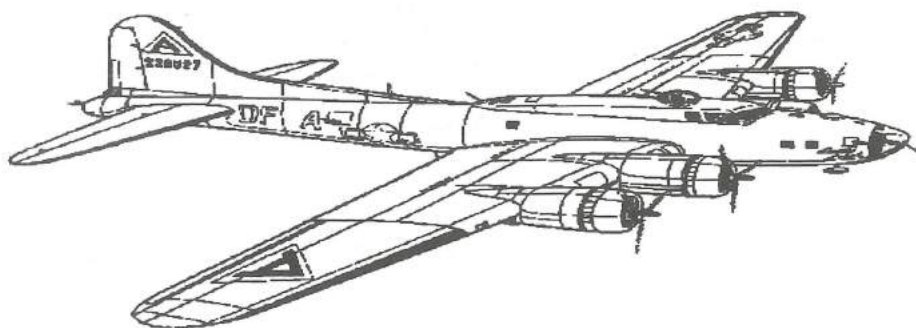
Sincerely, Rich Creehan  
607 Monte Vista Drive  
Dallas, TX 75223-1241  
Home: (214)328-5388  
Work: (214) 977-6376

### CREW OF "MY BUDDY" 42-31552

Lt. Thomas E. Lee	Pilot
Jupiter, Florida	
Lt. John M. Bristow	Co-Pilot
Deceased	
Lt. Regis J. Creehan	Bombardier
Deceased 5/20/75	
Lt. John D. Sherwin	Navigator
Wilmington, Delaware	
S/Sgt. Clayton L. Betterton	
KIA-22nd mission	
S/Sgt. John R. Barber	Radio Operator
Deceased	
Sgt. John A. Robinson	Ball Turret
Sgt. Jasper Stewart	Waist Gunner
Sgt. Irving Gerlick	Waist Gunner
Deceased	
Sgt. Ralph R. Zegorski	Tail Gunner

SOURCE: HANDWRITTEN PHOTO ID & TOM LEE

**DUES?**  
**457th**  
**2YRS \$25.00**



Fredy Peter , 4-19-1-207 Mikage Yamate, Higashinada-Ku, Jobe 658-0065, Japan  
Phone 81 78 821 5250, FAX 81 724 56 5139, e-mail : fpeter@osa.att.ne.jp[

Kobe, August 13, 1999

Dear Mr. Briggs,

Thanks very much for sending me your newsletter and the invitation to become a member of the 457<sup>th</sup> BG association. I will gladly accept this invitation and I am sending you USD\$ 100.00 for live membership. I hope that I can preserve the memory of the fatal flight of Lt.Kerr<sup>1</sup>.

I have sent to Mr. Willard Reese some photos which was taken at the crash site in 1987, I guess that he will be able to show them to you. Also I included local newspaper writing on the first page the story of 30 young students taking down parts of an engine of Kerrs plane. I do have the feeling they did it only for publicity as all newspaper wrote about it, however the story they wrote is all wrong and lacks the proper details. When I heard that they intend to display the engine in a drinking bar, I got a little exited, a bar is now not the proper place to display a part of such tragedy. I wrote the leader of the group and asked him to reconsider, maybe the can find a place in the local museum, if they agree, I will arrange and pay for the memorial plaque. If ever this happens, I will send you a photo of the display.

Coming October I will travel to the US and attend the re-union of the Swiss Internee Association, I am looking forward to listen to the stories of the crews again.

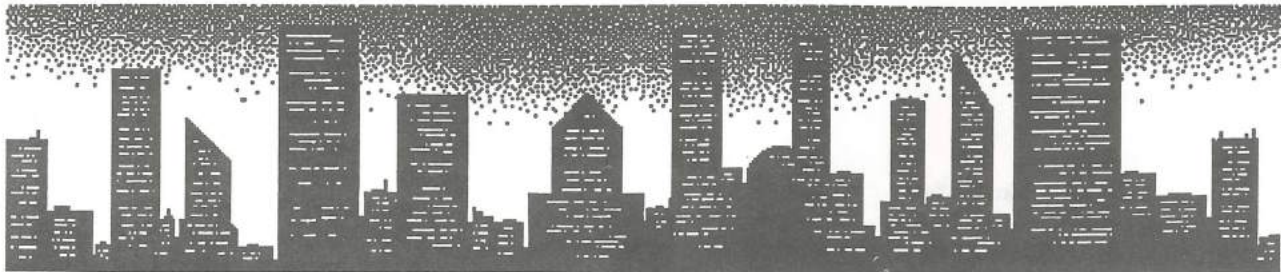
That's all for today, please let me know if I can do anything for the 457<sup>th</sup> BG, if it is in my power, I certainly will do it.

Take care and with my regards

---

<sup>1</sup> Crash 12<sup>th</sup> July 1944, Switzerland, Schlappintal, near the village of Klosters





Night View of Laramie, Wyoming

28 September 1999

Dear Homer and Mickey:

In the interests of saving time, we sure wish you had eMail -- as time is growing short!

We just returned from Seattle and Vancouver. While in Seattle, we visited a former pilot training student of mine who retired from the USAF and from Boeing. He took us through the B-747 production line, and then we went over to a little Boeing building on Paine Field. Off-duty employees of Boeing are building FIVE Messerschmitt 262 jet fighters. They got an original from the Navy that had been mothballed for over 50 years. They opened it up, and not only were the 30 mm cannons intact, they still had live ammo in them -- which they fired, and the U. S. ATF guys came in and confiscated the ammo amid a lot of excitement and thrashing about.

The plane is in mint condition, but it is made of steel, since the Germans did not have the aluminum technology then -- so it's pretty heavy. Boeing will make five of them from aluminum by duplicating the steel parts. Daimler-Benz is even going to build new engines for the five birds. It is a fascinating project. They will be used for museums, tours, movies, etc. We must all be thankful that Hitler decided to concentrate on bombers instead of the Me262 back in 1943. Had he not, I am convinced we would have lost the war, as we would never have achieved air superiority. Same stupid decisions being made now about our F-22 Raptor.

Mr. Nick Annan who is working on that project would like to come to the reunion in Gettysburg and tell everyone about it, IF he can put the trip together. His address is:

Mr. Nick Annan  
Classic Fighter Industries, Inc.,  
Me262 Project, Paine Field, Bldg 221  
10727 36th Place SW  
Everett, WA 98204

phone is 425-290-7878  
Fax is 425-355-1323;  
eMail is <Me262Project@email.msn.com>

Would you please send him a brochure for the reunion, and either talk to him on the phone or have our President talk to him? (And I **don't** mean President Clinton from your state, but our 457th President.) If you can get Annan to the reunion, it should add a lot of interest. We cannot come.

Another chap working on the Project that we talked to at length is Mike Anderson, same address. They are a wonderful group of people on this project, and well worth pursuing.

Sincerely,

  
Dave Kahne

7 Hilltop Drive,  
Dooradoyle,  
Co. Limerick, Ireland

27 October, 1999

Mr. Homer L. Briggs  
457th Bomb Group Association  
811 NW B Street  
Bentonville, AR 72712-4741

Dear Mr. Briggs,

I am writing in the hope that you can assist my research into a B-17 crew who force-landed in Ireland on 24 January 1944. I obtained your (association) name and address from "The Aviation Connection" supplement in the May 1998 issue of "FLYPAST" aviation magazine.

My hobby is military aviation history in its many aspects. However, the one area I research is the story of the Allied and German airmen whose aircraft crashed or force-landed in or off neutral Ireland during World War II. Over 40 American-crewed aircraft crashed or landed here from 1942 to 1945. One of these was a B-17G, 42-97443, from the 749th Bomb Squadron of the 457th Bomb Group. The crew force-landed near Belmullet in County Mayo on 24 January 1944 due to adverse weather and lack of fuel.

The 10 crew were uninjured and were not interned. Instead, they were handed over at the border with Northern Ireland. The crew were:

2/Lt. Donald G. Karr	0-803829	Pilot
2/Lt. John E. Haight	0-751731	Co-Pilot
2/Lt. Richard M. Condon	0-690372	Navigator
2/Lt. Joel H. Apel	0-681975	Bombardier
S/Sgt Kenneth M. Krise	33249349	Engineer
Sgt. Phillip Finkelstien	82496500	Asst. Engineer
S/Sgt Morris J. Woodall	42188230	Radio Operator
Sgt. Eugene M. Papreta	32478767	Asst. Radio Operator
Sgt. Paul M. Rogers	39458458	Gunner
Sgt. Charles L. Edwards	18052024	Asst. Gunner

The men's service numbers are hopefully correct, but were hard to read on the copy of the accident report I possess. While I have quite a lot of information about the landing, I know nothing about the crew or their subsequent fates. Can you or your unit historian/archivist please tell me anything about them? Details such of date of birth, home town and state, awards, missions, etc. would be of great interest. Did some or all survive the war? If any are still members of your association could you put me in touch with them? That would be of tremendous value to my research.

I would be very grateful for any help received. If I, in turn, can provide any information I will be happy to do so. With thanks and best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Gleeson





# THE 457th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION



January 25, 1993

Dear Monsieur Francis MULLER,

I received your letter and thought about it overnight, the more I thought about it, the more I began to think about the ship's #. I called a friend and asked him about his crash and it was his plane. He will write to you as soon as he gets a copy of your letter, from me.

Another friend was the crew chief. I called them both and they both will write to you. I am getting a newsletter ready and will put it in the news. I will send a copy to you. This is the second letter we have gotten in a month, that we solved the mystery right away. The other one was from a man in Germany telling about a POW camp, where a crew member (the very same crew of 086) was in same camp he was and he knew he had gotten away and was killed later. None of the Crew or AF had know how he died. The German man wanted the American man's family address.

The pilot of this plane recently (a few months ago) died. He had lived in Spokane, Wa 749 Sqn. Russell Karl of Peru, Il will write to you. He was a radio-gunner.

You may have your answers soon.

Sincerely,

Homer L Briggs  
Secretary, treasury, contact man  
811 Northwest B St  
Bentonville, Ar 72712

COPIE



Francis MULLER  
95, rue de Bâle  
67100 STRASBOURG  
FRANCE

Strasbourg, December 14, 1999

Dear Mr. Briggs,

In January 1993, I wrote a letter to you about a bomber that crashed in France during September 10, 1944, but I made a mistake, because the plane for which I had to seek information was in reality a B-24 that belonged to the 446 BG (It crashed the same day). Before I understood that I had made a mistake, Russ Karl, the radio-man of a B-17 (the wrong plane) wrote a letter to me.

Gene Forton, the only survivor of the B-24 came to France in September 1994 for a ceremony, but Russ Karl and his wife Ella came too! One year later, we visited them in Illinois and they came back again. During 1997, we returned to the States and they came again in 1998 and 1999! I think you know more about that story (Russ probably told you...). Finally, it was a good mistake because Russ and Ella became very good friends and this year, we went to the exact place where the B-17 serial 42-32086 "*You Never Know*" came down.

Since many years I try, with some other researchers, to locate the places where so many planes came down. On the crash sites, we can still find many small metal parts that can often help to identify the plane's type. I go often to the mountains and the forest with my metal detector. Hundreds of planes crashed east of France (Strasbourg is located near the border and the Rhine river), and there are so many stories behind these airmen.

On **May 27, 1944**, B-17s of the 457th left Glatton for a mission to Ludwigshaffen (see book "*Flak Dodger*" by Roland Byers page 163 and your book "*Fait Accompli*" page 52, a gift from Russ with your signature inside... Thank You...). Ship **42-31594** from the 751 BS was shot down by German fighters and the pilot 2Lt. Artie J. Whitlow was killed. Missing Air Crew Report is 5299.



I write to you about that plane because I think it crashed not far away from my hometown, near a village called **Bergheim**. Maybe some crew members are still alive and have some recollection about that day and where the plane crashed. I will see if I can find some witnesses who can help to locate the exact crash place.

Maybe a friend from France asked you about that plane some time ago, and if so, let me know. Thank you in advance for all information and I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy new Year.

Sincerely yours,

*Ranci's Muller*

---

Late Phone call from:

Bob Chastain  
1769 Lindell Cove  
Germantown, Tn 38193

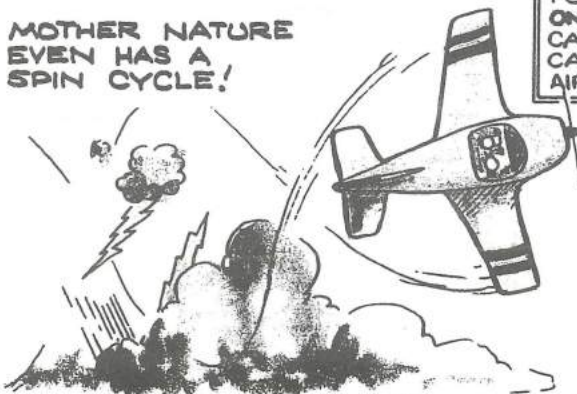
He is inquiring about his Uncle...Lt Walter Graves, died Dec.23, 1944. Burial at Cambridge Cemetery

He would like any information of what he did, or anyone still alive that knew him.

His father was also in WWII, he hasn't a clue as where he was or what he did. He wants to join our group and is very interested in all the museums and all the history. He lives close to the Memphis Bell at Memphis.

---

MOTHER NATURE  
EVEN HAS A  
SPIN CYCLE!



PLEASE NOTE: THE FAA  
HAS AUTHORIZED THE  
FOLLOWING MANEUVERS  
ONLY FOR HIGHLY QUALIFIED  
CARTOON PILOTS IN  
CARTOON CATEGORY  
AIRCRAFT. FAR. P. 20.1.3a

3.



AND  
FINALLY  
WE DRY  
OFF!

## FRANCE

WE WERE INVITED BY MME. ANDREE ALEXANDRE AND MAYOR BAUDET AND THE PEOPLE OF CHAMPLAY, AND THE MAYOR OUDINOT AND PEOPLE OF SENAN TO VISIT THE SITE OF OUR CRASH-LANDING NEAR THEIR VILLAGES WHICH HAPPENED ON SEPTEMBER 10, 1944.

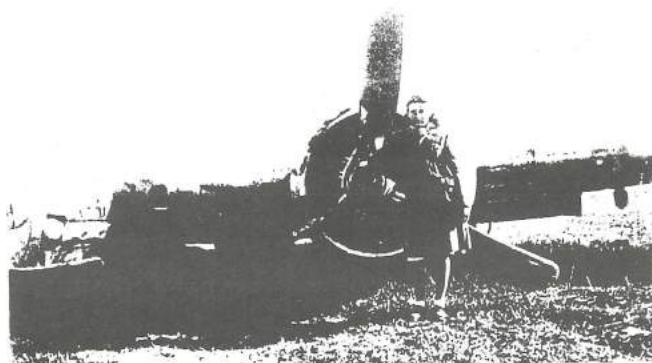
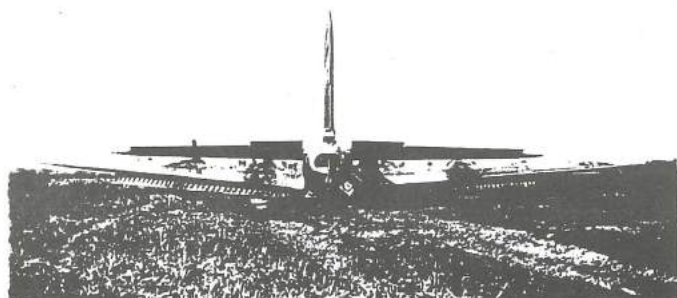
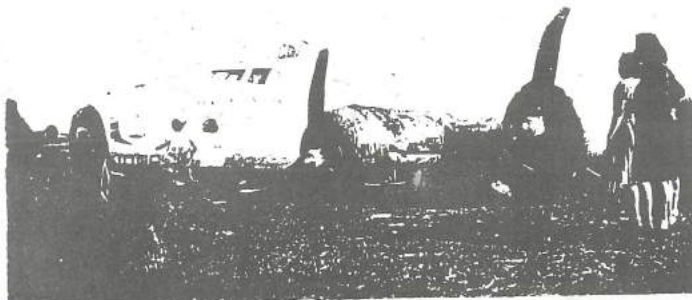
WITH OUR FRENCH FRIENDS FRANCIS AND ANNE MULLER OF STRASBOURG, FRANCE WE WERE GUESTS IN THE HOME OF MME. ALEXANDRE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 5-12. ON SEPT. 10, 1999, 55 YEARS LATER ABOUT 50 CARS GATHERED ON THE RURAL ROAD NEAR OUR CRASH SITE FOR A BRIEF CEREMONY---PLAYING OF FRENCH AND AMERICAN MEMORIAL TO THE DEAD COMRADES AND THE AMERICAN NATIONAL ANTHEM. WE PROCEEDED TO THE VILLAGE OF SENAN FOR A RECEPTION ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 80 PEOPLE WHO CAME TO GREET ME AND BROUGHT PHOTOS. MANY HAD VISITED OUR PLANE IN THE FIELD WHICH WAS THERE UNTIL MARCH, 1945 WHEN IT WAS SALVAGED BY U.S. ARMY.

THE PEOPLE SAID THAT WHEN THE WAR ENDED NO AMERICAN SERVICE-MEN WERE THERE TO THANK SO THEY TOOK THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK ME AND IN SO DOING WERE GIVING THANKS TO ALL AMERICAN SERVICEMEN.

SIGNED,

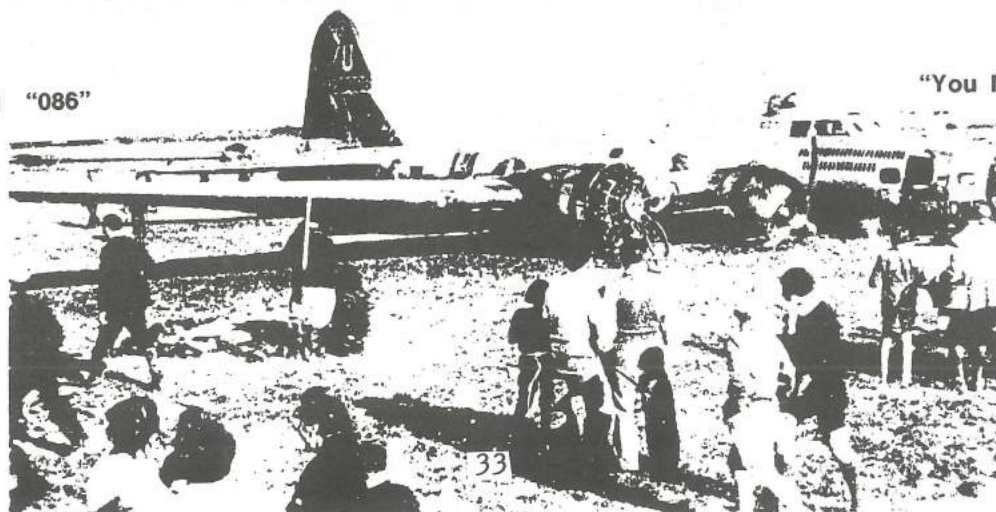
RUSSELL G. KARL

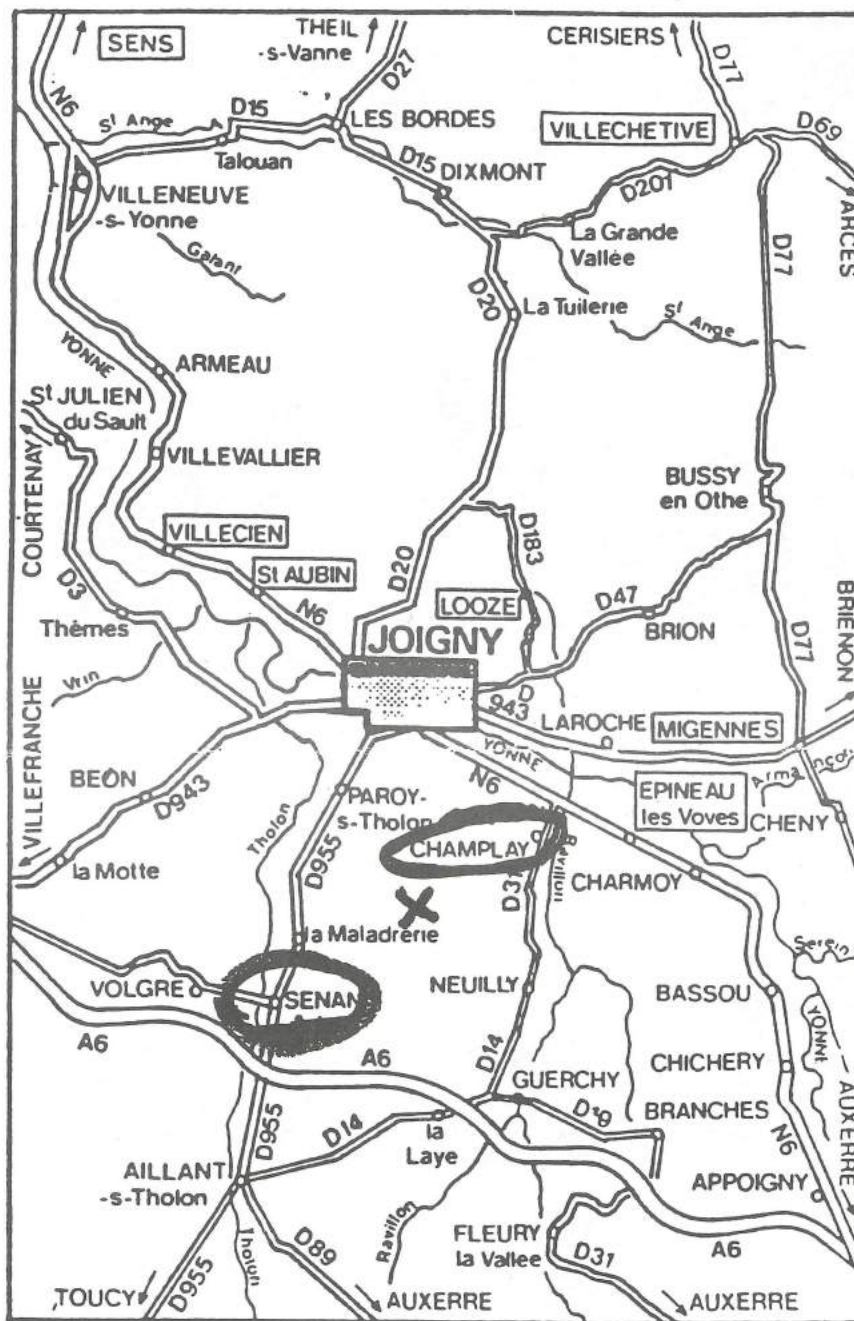




B-17G "086"

"You Never Know"





Joigny is about 80 miles south of Paris

"X" Site of our crash-landing.



## *The B-17*

You hear folks talk of graceful yachts  
that sail the seven seas,  
And some will talk of streamlined trains  
that cross the states with ease.  
Some like bikes and scooters  
some like limousines.  
But give me the Queen of the Airways  
a throbbing B-17.

She looks passive at rest in the bunkers,  
not seeming to worry or care,  
But as each engine roars into life  
she is eager to take to the air.  
She strains at the end of the runway  
impatient to soar into flight,  
Once airborne she is graceful and stately  
and ready to show off her might.

She's a nasty devil in combat,  
with guns spewing lead from each side.  
And tho' bullets and shrapnel may pierce her,  
no enemy will injure her pride.  
No matter how much she is wounded  
no matter the odds she must face,  
She knows it's her dying duty  
to return you safe to your base.

Soon, when this war is all over  
and the earth has been rid of the scum,  
You'll be able to look at the records  
and see what the "Fortress" has done.  
Then when my last flight is scheduled  
and I leave this earthly scene,  
Please let me fly up to heaven  
in my own B-17.

S/Sgt. Robert W. Halliday  
Engineer Gunner USAF

-sent by John Welch

---

.... WIFE: "What do you love  
most about me? My natural  
beauty or my great body?"

HUBBY: You sense of humor.

.... Gossip is talking about people  
you don't know well enough to  
talk to them yourself.

## LETTERS

Dear Fireballers,

I have recently returned from my 1st reunion of the 457th bomb group association in Gettysburg, PA. With me on this trip were my sons William 16 and Harris 13. This was a real eyeopener for me. The men and women of this association are the greatest!!! I urge all members to sign up family members to ensure that the 457th bomb group association continues its dedication to preserving the memory of these fine airmen who unselfishly loved and served their country. I am looking forward to our next reunion in 2001.

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey B. Rogner

29 Western Ave.  
Peterborough  
ENGLAND  
Oct. 29th, 1999

Dear Members of the 457<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association:

My wife Sadie and myself were privileged to be with all you in Gettysburg.

We wish to thank everyone most sincerely who helped to make it possible for us to be there.

Be assured, despite my vision problems, always pleased to see anyone at Western Ave.

Best wishes and fond regards,  
Sadie & Bernie Bains.

SPECIAL NOTE: Bernie telephoned your president to ask that the members be notified that, due to his vision problems, he sent no greeting cards this holiday season. Rather, he and Sadie ask that they might take this means of wishing you all holiday pleasures and a happy New Year. They hope to see as many of you as possible in Peterborough in May, 2000.

Dec 15, 1999

Dear Homer and Mickey,

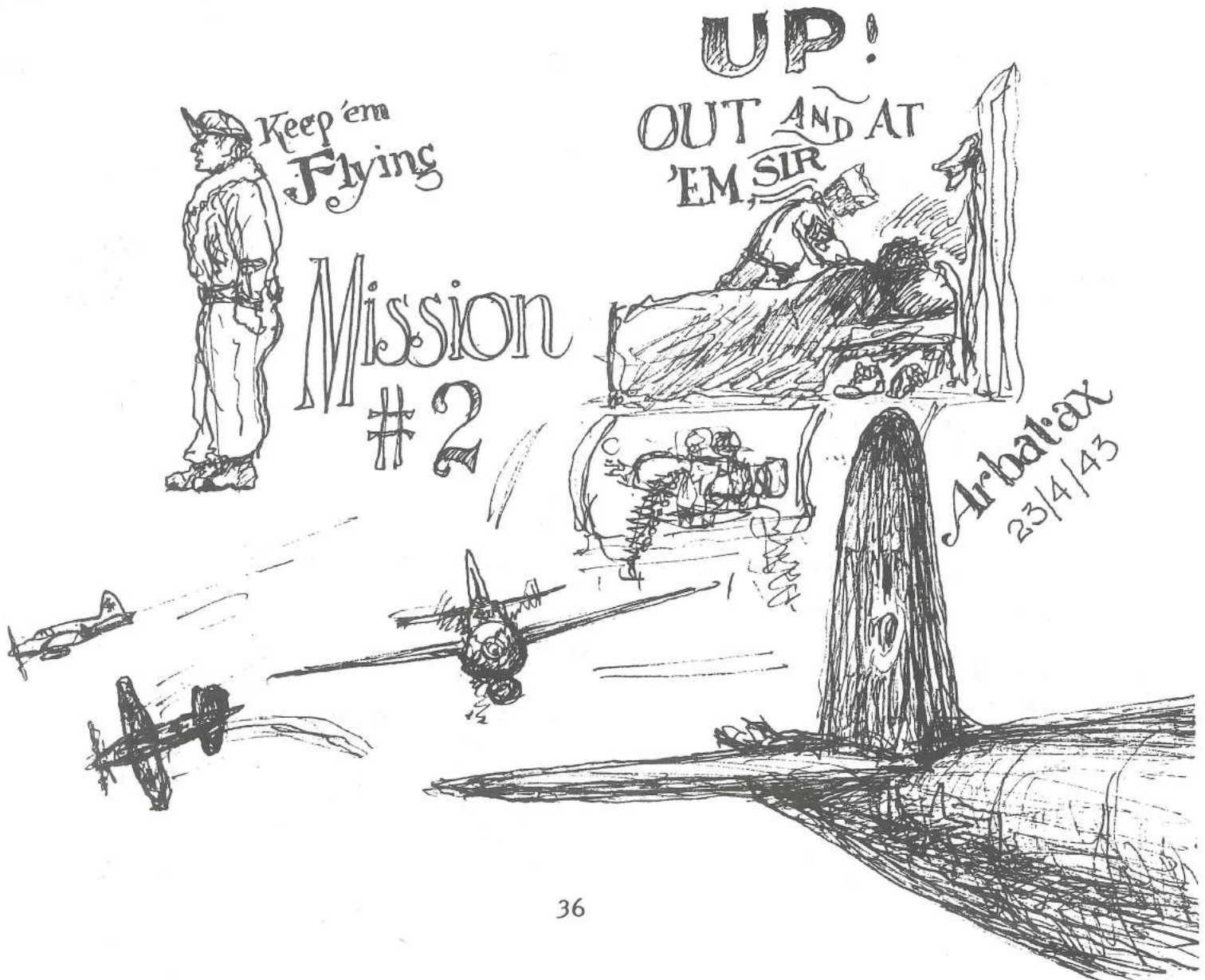
Here is the story of my very good friend, Larry Horras, (Col., USAF Ret.). I asked him if I could send it to you along with his credits of the early part of his career. I felt it was worth our publishing it in our newsletter for our gang to see there were others who felt the effects of combat! My friend, Larry, is a great fellow.

Regards,

Cpl. Dick Wyman

### ATTRIBUTION CREDIT

This article "BAPTISM OF FIRE" was written by Larry Horras for the 57th anniversary of the 320th Bombardment Group. Larry, a retired AF Colonel, flew 75 WW II missions with the 42nd Bombardment Wing. He has been awarded the Silver Star, Soldiers Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with Thirteen clusters, and the Purple Heart. The Arbatax mission was flown from North Africa in a formation of 18 unescorted B-26 Marauders in early April of 1943.





## BAPTISM OF FIRE

THE RAID ON ARBATAX- APRIL 23,1943

The morning of April 23,1943 began with Sgt.Jack Selikson and his ungentle shaking of the cot, sleeping bag, and finally the person of the sleeping combat crewman. Sgt.Selikson began the moment of truth on the day when the 320th would experience its first aerial combat. No great event but a small engagement in a big war was in the offing. What was happening? This was Tunisia and the Africa Corps and their Desert Fox had lulled us with Lili Marlene the previous night. How now does the mission trend? Sometime during the night the teletype delivered the target. It wasn't much. Arbatax on the eastern coast of Sardinia, and who had ever heard of that. In later years jet setters led by the Aga Kahn called it the Coasta Esmeralda famous for its friendly combination of beach, sky , and sun. In April 43 the beaches were bare, the sun did shine and the skies were not the least bit friendly. The 320th was enroute to the target on its 2nd mission ever, the first having been flown uneventfully the previous day. The Flight leaders are in their places, the gunners are alert traversing their guns, and all are ready. We trip the light fantastic leaving the coast line at Bone and threading the narrow path between Sardinia and the Italian boot. This is great, a terrific view of the Med, the sun shining, and all pilots holding station as the quest goes on. Now comes the turn on target.The flights shift into trail, the lead bombardiers pick out their aiming points, the pilots follow the PDI and we are on our bomb run. Lots of standardized communications between pilots and bombardiers. The pilots follow the bombardiers, the bombardiers follow the Norden bomb sight. Altitude airspeed and course are delicately adjusted and then bombs away. The big tailed bird gives an involuntary shudder as four thousand pound bombs depart from the wartime womb of the B 26. Falling earthward they are lethal mail addressed to whom it may concern. The sinister projectiles course earthward with their deadly mesage. The target, a harbor for E boats and assorted enemy war materiel was unduly aroused by the thunder of tons of bombs breaking over their littoral and usually placid scene.

In the meantime, back in the Marauders, the Group went from trail to a diamond formation and headed for home.All hands relaxed and the word was passed that the smoking lamp was lit. Casually, the twenty four planes and their relaxed crews set sail for Montesqui .How peaceful was the balmy spring day. The sun was shining,the cumulo nimbus flirted playfully with wisps

of sunshine and the great Pratt and Whitneys sang their triumphant song. So, as the Lucky Strike Green has gone to war were puffed so lustily by the relaxed crews, a stranger appeared flying on course with the bombers but faster. It was an ME 109. The first one in the two day combat history of the 320th TO CHALLENGE our right of passage. We were invited to the dance and our book was full as more ME 109s came into view. Our stalwart band continued on course to Africa. The fighters had a different notion. Like a pack of wolves stalking their prey, they continued to harry us. Fast and sleek, they began their attack, hitting us from all angles as a wolf worries a less agile animal. Their attacks were unhurried and deliberate. We, in an airborne sort of way, circled the wagons by tightening our formation. The contest was a battle of wills. The single engine fighters darted in and out using their entire plane as a gun platform while we fought with traversing weapons from a fixed position in the plane. After about thirty minutes of sustained action, the coast of Africa appeared. The enemy was not inclined to cross this boundary but before they left one pilot flew well ahead of our formation then turned and attacked us head on. It was a collision course but somehow, he wiggled thru the formation. It looked like a suicide and we were pleased that he did not succeed. The contestants disengaged at the coast line and the battle was over. The mystery of combat had been breached. The magic of survival had prevailed. The heat of battle had forged an eternal bond and the callowness of youth had been forever changed to the steel of manhood.

Postscripts to the mission include a damaged airplane that crash landed adjacent to the coastal railroad. The crew flagged down a passing train and rode back from this mission in the commandeered freight train. Gordon Friday please take note. Also noteworthy was the extremely damaged plane piloted by Carl Hoy that defied engineering principles by remaining aloft when no longer flyable. Respect is awarded to the ME 109 pilot who authored the frontal attack with the objective of splitting our formation. He flew parallel with us until he achieved about a two mile lead. Then he turned and came directly at the center of our formation. Our speed plus his added to a closure rate of about 550 miles per hour. Then he had the guts to slip by my flight and the lead flight with less than fifty yards of space to get thru. I can still see his goggled face as he went by. Arbatax was the Group's first encounter with an airborne enemy. It was an event and everyone who participated shared in this *bonding experience*.



## THE 457th BOMB GROUP -- VITAL STATISTICS 1999-2001 OFFICERS & APPOINTMENTS

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**John Parker greeting an Officer in Luxembourg.**





# PX

Mail order to...457th BT...811 NW B St...Bentonville, AR 72712

**For the following items, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope.**

ITEMS	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL AMT.
Cloisonne Enamel 457 BG Tac Pin .....	\$5.00 ea	_____	_____
457th Group Patch .....	\$5.00 ea	_____	_____
748th Squadron Patch.....	\$5.00 ea	_____	_____
749th Squadron Patch.....	\$5.00 ea	_____	_____
751st Squadron Patch.....	\$5.00 ea	_____	_____
750th Squadron Patch.....SOLD OUT.....		_____	_____
ANY 5 or more pins or patches.....	\$4.00 ea	_____	_____
Return to Glatton Button..1998 Peterborough, England.....	\$1.00 ea	_____	_____
B-17 cancelled stamp...1st day issue.....	\$2.00 ea	_____	_____

**For the following items, postage is included in the price.**

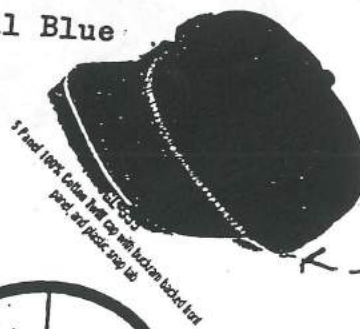
ITEMS	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL AMT.
NEW HATS...Royal Blue.....	\$12.00ea	_____	_____
Old Fashion Glass...size 13.5...Limited quantities.....	\$7.00 ea	_____	_____
Get 'em while they last...4 or more glasses.....	\$6.50 ea	_____	_____
Souvenir Coffee Cup (Gettysburg) with silver rim.....		_____	_____
<u>Hurry...quantities limited</u>			
457th BG Assoc., 8th AF insignia, picture of Gettysburg,			
B-17 U Triangle, 1999.....	\$5.00 ea	_____	_____
3 or more.....	\$4.50 ea	_____	_____

**TOTAL COST OF ITEMS ORDERED:** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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Royal Blue





X9

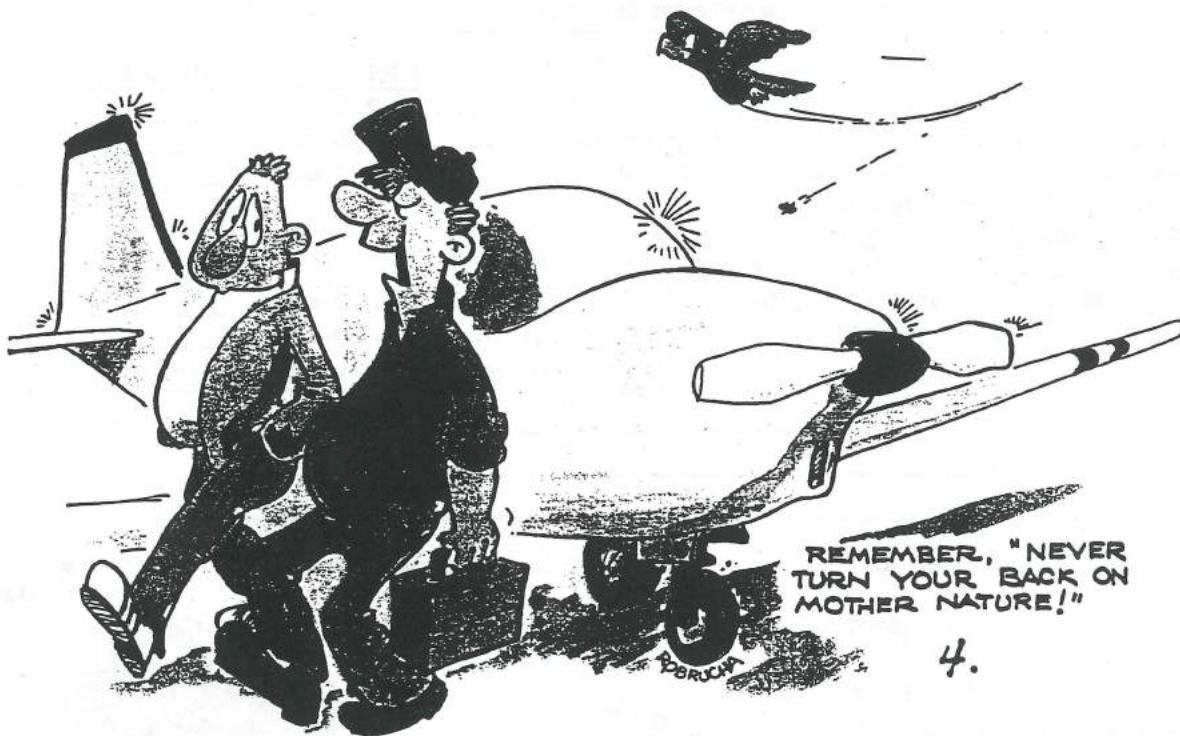
I NEED TO CONTACT MEMBERS OF LT. EDWIN WITTEN'S CREW  
AND THE ENLISTED MEN ON LT. GEORGE GILBERT'S CREW.

James L. Bass

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457th Bomb Group  
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