



THE

457th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION



"THE FIREBALL OUTFIT"



THE 457TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION NEWS

ESTABLISHED JULY 1971

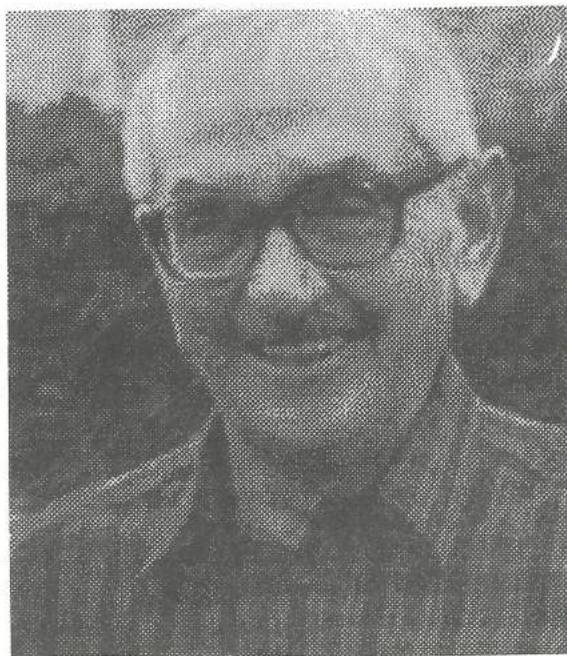
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ISSUE 48

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2000

A Tribute to Bernard "Bernie" Baines

Historian - 457th Bomb Group



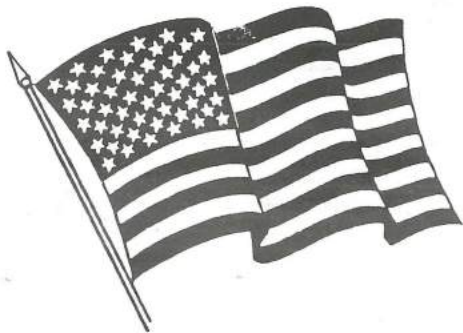
As most of you already know, the 457th Bomb Group Association lost one of its earliest and best-loved members, on March 10th, 2000. Bernie Baines died in a hospital in Cambridge, England.

Many of us knew Bernie only by his familiar name. A few of us were privileged to know him and Sadie on a personal level for many years. All members of the Association know what Bernie and Sadie have done during the last half of this century to preserve the memory of those who served during World War II with the 457th Bomb Group.

Bernie was a native of England who lived most of his life in Peterborough. Since WWII he had amassed a huge archive of information and photos of the war days at Glatton and had hosted the mini reunions that have been held every other year in Britain. His visit to the reunion at Gettysburg in 1999 will be remembered by all who attended. He was, officially, the Historian of the 457th Bomb Group Association.

We send our condolences to Sadie, his wife of over 50 years, and to his children and family. He will be sadly missed by all.

RCV 12-4-00



**Personal letter to members of the 457th Bomb Group
Association from Editor Mickey Briggs:**

**I want to say, once again, that the newsletter has been
delayed and we had to stop the presses, due to a huge
personal crisis... two, in fact.**

Bobbie Harris, Craig Harris' wife, died the morning of October 26, 2000, at a Durham, NC hospital. Bobbie was loved and touched deeply by all who knew her. She will be remembered for her many kindnesses and her very beautiful, heart warming smile.

Homer L. Briggs, a week after having broken his left arm, returned to the hospital with a pain in his chest, for which they never truly found the reason. Four days later...very suddenly...he was gone. Asbestosis Lung Disease. It was proven that he was exposed to asbestos dust from B17 brakes and was also covered with a tarp full of it after being hurt at Wendover, UT.

Homer was born September 16, 1921 and died October 7, 2000. He wore a medal on a red, white, and blue ribbon, and many of his pins, such as his B17 and 457th pins. A U.S. flag draped his casket. One of the songs played was written and sung by the nephew of Daughter, Carolyn, entitled "At the Feet of Jesus."

Gordon Townsend, 457th friend from England, wearing his RAF uniform, told Homer good-bye with one step back and a salute. Gordon also served as a pallbearer. At the cemetery, The American Legion of Rogers, gave a 21-gun salute and played "Taps". The American flag was presented to Mickey. Homer was the Father of 4 boys, 3 girls, 13 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, with one due in December. All were present. We received so many plates of food, cards and flowers. The BG sent many...thanks so much for the caring.

Homer did not know so many thought him a good man. One person made the remark to me, "I didn't know Lee's Father, but watching and seeing the man Lee is, I knew what kind of Father he had."

Homer loved the 457th and talked about some part of it and the men everyday. He hoped the Association would live on. Once there were three men who had the idea of the Reunions in 1971, and just look at what it grew into!! Finally, finding the English George Townsend, Gordon Townsend, Bernie and Sadie Bains, John Walker and others in 1975, they joined forces to form the Association. Thank you Ken Rurode, Hurchel Teague, and Homer Briggs. All are gone now. Let's keep it going for them.

Bobbie Harris, who was ill for several years, became a telephone friend and notes-back and forth. It was a shock, when heard she was critical, and then her death. So another friend gone. I will be missing her... Mickey Briggs.

Bobbie Harris/Homer Briggs Memorial

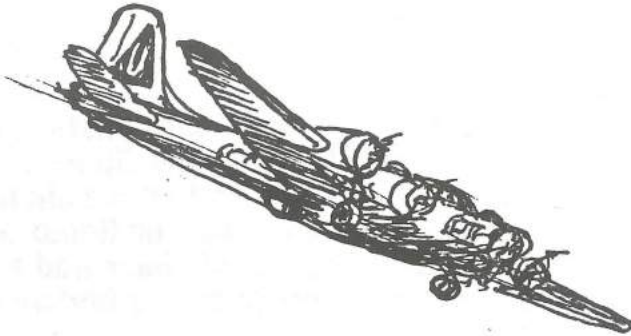
Dear Members and Friends of the 457th Bomb Group Association:

Many have asked, "what may I do to honor the memory of the founder of our group, and our two great friends?"

Craig and Mickey have suggested that the families would be honored if any memorial gifts would be given to the Stained Glass Window Project for the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum in Savannah in remembrance of Bobbie and Homer.

Checks should be made to:
The 457th Bomb Group Association
Memo to: Memorial Window Fund

Sent to:
Mr. Craig Harris, President
2701 Pickett Road
Apartment 2035
Durham, NC 27705-5649



Forever In My Mind

Do you hear it?
Do you hear it in the air?
The faint drone of engines
Planes taking off from an airdrome somewhere

Can you smell it?
Can you smell it in the air?
The stench of gunpowder and gas and sweat
The smell of a battle out there

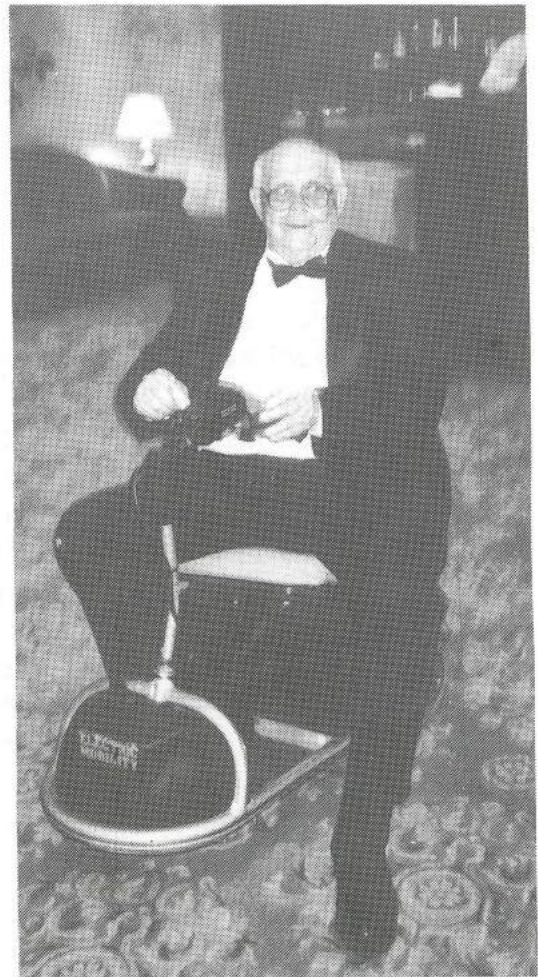
Can you see it?
Can you see it in the air?
The ghostly image of a bomber
Limping home from a mission over there

These recollections are forever imprinted
In my mind
Time will not let them rest
Tho' I try to leave them behind

I was there and lived those days
I will always hear it
And smell it
And see it in my mind

3

This nostalgic poem was written by Jill Chandler of Spokane, Wa:



THE PREZ SEZ:

One of the things on the minds of most of us is the passing of Bernard Bains on Mar. 10, 2000. Despite the fact that more than six months have gone by, two thoughts remain: sadness for his passing, and the joy for the blessing of his life. We are grateful to John Welch for the idea of a fund for Sadie Bains, and his dedicated management of the fund. The Bains family is very grateful to those who contributed to the fund. There is more on this elsewhere in this issue.

The 2000 Mini-Reunion in Peterborough was very successful, thanks to the efforts of Will and Phyllis Fluman, and those of John Walker and Gordon Townsend. Please find the report of Mr. Fluman elsewhere in this issue

Also, elsewhere in this NL there are more details about the appointments of Nancy Henrich as Acting Secretary and John Pearson as Acting Treasurer. Nancy will be handling membership matters; all applications and dues checks should go to her. She, in turn, will send personal data that accompany membership applications to Mickey Briggs, and she will send dues checks to John Pearson. Mickey still, of course, generates the Newsletter, so send your NL stories and other contributions to her. Anything else Mickey receives will be forwarded on to Nancy or John as necessary. Addresses for Nancy, John and Mickey may be found on the inside back page of this NL.

The fund-raising for sponsorship of our stained-glass window in the Chapel of Fallen Eagles at the Heritage Museum in Savannah necessarily took a backseat to the campaign for the contribution to Sadie Bains. Nevertheless, we have reached \$8,445 in our quest for the \$15,000 goal. We still need to raise the rest of it over the next year. Design of the window is in progress and will be reported to you in the near future.

Of the 17 Fireballers who attended the 25th Reunion of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society in Savannah in October, 1999, 10 pre-

registered by the Sept. deadline, for which the 457th BG Assn, received \$5 per person, or \$50!

The mention of money brings to mind that Mickey and Nancy are — even as this is written — identifying former members (those whose dues payments are not current) and are notifying them that they will no longer receive the 457th BG Newsletter.

As this is written, Bobbie and I have sold our home at 2910 Welcome Drive here in Durham, and have moved into a nearby retirement community. Please note our new address on the inside last page of this Newsletter. Our telephone and fax numbers are the same as before.

God Bless You All.

Craig Harris

Homer and Mickey Briggs, with misty eyes and heavy hearts, decided after 30 years and being a little bit brain dead, that we should give up most of our work on our Bomb Group. We will slow down some. We have had a ball, and enjoyed seeing many of you finding old buddies.

LOOK FOR IN NEXT NEWSLETTER...

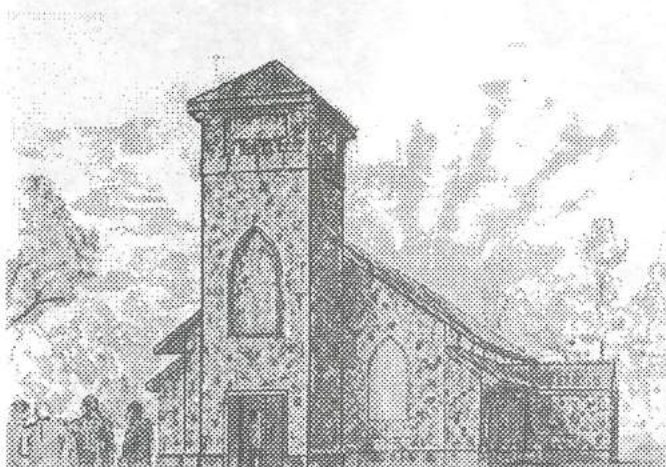
FEB. 2001...

- Personal story of Frank Bernd "Paper Warrior".
- Poem, "Just a Simple Soldier" sent in by Sy Seyster, who suggested the title "Our Country is in Mourning, for "A Soldier Died Today."
- Trip to England by Richard Gibbs...457th Reunion and all side trips telling his Crew and Relatives back Home.
- Don Nielsen, "Sentimental Journey" rides.

SIGN ON A REPAIR SHOP DOOR:

We can repair anything.
(Please knock hard on the door...
the bell doesn't work.)

**PROGRESS REPORT
MEMORIAL WINDOW FUND -
457TH BG ASSOCIATION
STAINED GLASS WINDOW IN THE
CHAPEL OF THE FALLEN EAGLES
8TH AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSEUM**



The news from the Heritage Museum in Savannah is that the B-47 restoration is complete and the aircraft moved so that construction on the Chapel can begin. And when finished, one of eight stained glass windows will be installed under the sponsorship of the 457th Bomb Group Association.

As you will recall, at the Gettysburg Reunion the Board voted to sponsor a stained-glass window in the Chapel. Contributions began at that time toward the goal of \$15,000, the cost of the sponsorship. Our last report to you indicated that \$6,610 had been contributed, almost all by registrants at the Gettysburg Reunion.

While many of you sent contributions after the appeal in the last Newsletter, for all of us the unfortunate passing of our beloved Bernie Bains put the Memorial Window "on the back burner." The most worthy "Sadie Bains Fund," originated and managed by John Welch, promptly and properly became our top priority. The Association's gratitude goes to all who contributed to that fund.

Accordingly, the Memorial Window Fund is now on a new schedule, one which now will hopefully be completed by the time of the 2001

Reunion in Colorado Springs. This is still well within the time period allowed by the Heritage Museum. This will put the fund raising on a more realistic schedule.

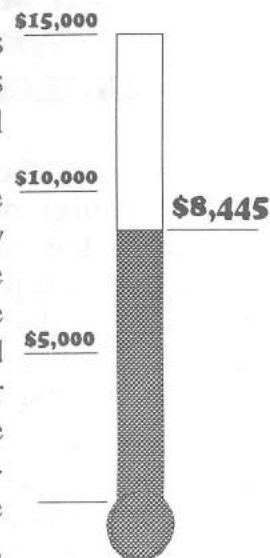
Our "Fund-o-Meter," at the right, our progress toward the \$15,000 goal is now shown at \$8,445, well over the halfway mark.

The design of the gothic-style 3' x 5' window has gone "back to the drawing board," as the committee has discarded an early concept in favor of one perhaps more pleasing to the Association and to the Heritage Museum. In all likelihood, the Window will be finished by the time we can report to you again.

Your contributions this Millennium Project of the 457th Bomb Group Association are still needed and will be most welcome! Checks should be made payable to "457th Bomb Group Assn." and noted "Memorial Window Fund." They should be sent to: (NOTE CHANGE OF ADDRESS)

**Craig Harris
2701 Pickett Road #2035
Durham, NC 27705**

This is a great start. We are very grateful for your contributions to date, and know that our goal is within reach. Send your donation today, and drive the "Fund-o-Meter" up!



**PLAQUE HONORING
BERNARD BAINS
ATTACHED TO 457TH BG
MONUMENT IN
CONINGTON
CHURCHYARD**

Through the dedicated efforts of John Walker of Peterborough, a stone tablet honoring the memory of Bernie Bains was prepared, affixed to the east side of the column of the 457th Bomb Group monument in Conington Churchyard. The plaque was dedicated during Mini-Reunion ceremonies at the Churchyard on May 28, 2000.

The tablet idea was originated by Tom Goff and Craig Harris, and the wording was developed by John Walker, Will Fluman and Will Fluman, Jr. It reads:

**IN MEMORY OF
BERNIE BAINS
PETERBOROUGH
1918 — 2000
HISTORIAN AND FRIEND
OF THE 457TH.**



The tablet was contributed by Goff, Fluman, Harris, Nancy Henrich, John Pearson, Ken Nail and James Bass. We are grateful to John Walker for finding the original builder of the monument, and engaging him to make, engrave and mount the plaque in time for the Mini-Reunion. (Above right — Jerry Silverman speaks to Rex Burke in photo by Becky Harris Moore.)

Bernie Baines...another dear friend has gone...

George Townsend, was caretaker of "Stone American" and we corresponded with George and family. When we visited Peterborough with our 4 boys for 3 weeks, we asked Gordon to find a Bed and Breakfast, which he did reserve a place and met us there. After several days of Gordon showing us the countryside, he took us to a meeting of the 457th historians. We met Sadie and Bernie along with John Walker, Eric Brumby and another man (sorry I've forgotten his name.)

We have known Bernie and Sadie since 1975---25 years. This was the start of some of the English coming to our homes and us going to theirs, and coming to reunions. At the 1983 Houston, TX reunion, it was voted to hold a "Mini" reunion in Peterborough every other year. Bernie and Homer traded pictures, etc., during the years, for the Historian books. The 25 years have really been good for friends of England becoming friends of 457thers. We lost George and Ena Townsend a few years ago. Now we have lost Bernie.

We will miss Bernie very much. We love you Sadie. Hope to see you again soon.

--Mickey and Homer Briggs

'They died nobly. And they died well'

BY RON JENSEN

U.K. bureau

MADINGLEY, England — Bob Chastain never knew his uncle, the man buried in a shady spot at Cambridge American Cemetery.

But asked to talk about his mother's youngest brother, the private investigator from Memphis, Tenn., took nearly a full minute to compose himself.

"I love him," he said minutes after a Memorial Day ceremony concluded at this cemetery where 3,813 of America's dead from World War II are buried and another 5,126 are remembered on the Wall of the Missing.

Chastain, 44, was not born when his uncle, Walter B. Graves, a B-17 pilot with the 457th Bomb Group, died in a crash returning from his first mission. But the man's presence was continually felt.

"My uncle came out of a shack in Tennessee without running water and electricity," he said. "He had already served. He enlisted in '38 and was discharged in '41."

The man re-entered the service to fight in the war. He was killed two days before Christmas 1944 while supporting the Battle of the Bulge. Chastain's mother still has a Christmas card she sent to her brother. It was returned and stamped "Killed in action."

"My mother named my middle brother after him," Chastain said. "She couldn't even talk about him. He was her baby brother.

My mother grieved for him till the day she died."

The Memorial Day service attracted nearly 1,500 people and was made all the more meaningful by the presence of about 20 veterans of World War II, members of the 457th, who were holding a reunion that included a visit to their old airfield at Glatton. Chastain was traveling with them.

The veterans were asked to stand and be recognized during the ceremony that was held under the threat of a rain that never came.

Afterwards, Joseph De Luccia, a former radio operator and gunner on a B-17 from Saddlebrook, N.J., could barely speak.

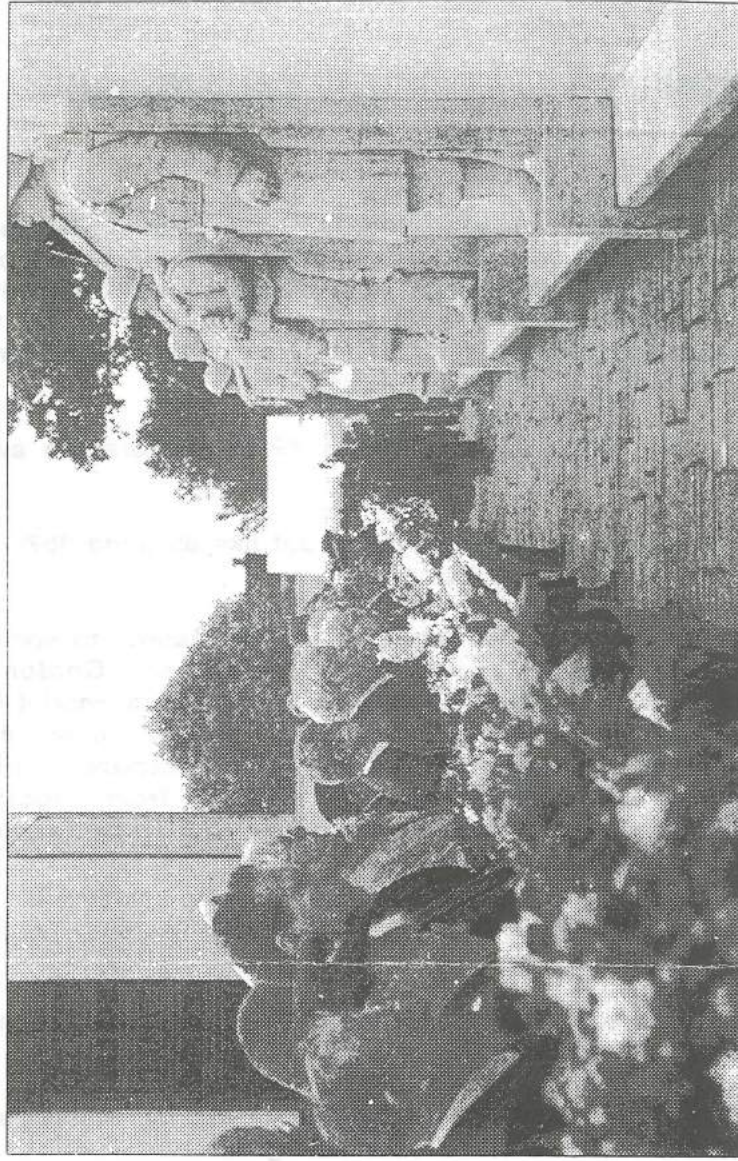
"Indescribable," he said of his emotions on his first visit to England since the war.

None of the graves here hold members of his squadron, he said, but there were more than a few that did not live to the end of the war.

"You get up in the morning and the people that you're with, you may not see them again," he said of the ever-present possibility of death during those days.

The mood of the day was captured in the address by James Crowden, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, a title he wears as the crown's representative in the county.

He noted that the cathedral of Ely, 14 miles away, can be seen from the cemetery on a clear day. It has stood there for nearly 1,000 years.



JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

Presenters prepare to place more than 100 wreaths at the Wall of the Missing during a Memorial Day ceremony at the Cambridge American Cemetery in Maddingley, England.

On a recent visit to the cathedral, he stood in the church tower with some church officials.

"I said, 'There is that gap between the trees. There is the great American cemetery at Maddingley,'" he said.

People visit both places, he said, and when they visit the cemetery, "they say, as they say at Ely, 'We did not realize — we did not know — the greatness of this place.' Maddingley speaks to us here in England in that way."

our hope that these fallen heroes will never be forgotten."

Chastain may have never known his uncle, but the relationship he has fostered with the man's squadron mates has given him a glimpse of who Uncle Walter was and what he was like.

"These guys are all heroes," he said of his traveling companions. "They saved the world. And then they built it."

E-mail Ron Jensen at:

jensenr@mail.estripes.osd.mil

2000 MINI-REUNION—PETERBOROUGH, ENGLAND

MAY 27 - 31

by Will Fluman

This was our first Mini-Reunion without our leading Historian, our Man in Peterborough, Bernie Bains. But, he was always in our thoughts while we were together for four days doing the kind of things that he had arranged for us for so many years. Bernie had been involved with the early planning for this reunion. We were together in Peterborough in late January and talked over our preliminary plans. Gordon Townsend and John Walker immediately took over all arrangements for our activities. The success of this reunion is a direct result of their efforts.

The Bains family, Sadie and son John, made all of Bernie's 457th memorabilia available for our enjoyment.

The weather was not as good as it has been in previous years, but like all good 457th men, we didn't let a little English rain ground us. We just modified our plans.

On Sunday, our visit to the old Glatton Air Base was damp---it seemed natural to some of us. At the Conington Church yard, we moved our memorial service inside the church. Gordon Townsend had arranged for a retired RAF Padre to be with us and he delivered a very fine memorial message. Craig Harris paid tribute to Bernie Bains and announced the placing of a plaque on our 457th monument in Bernie's honor. We then unveiled this plaque when we moved our service to the church yard. The traditional 457th wreath was placed this year by Joe Toth. Buglers from a local band sounded Last Post and Reveille. It seemed very appropriate to have RAF and local participation in our service this year as we were also honoring Bernie Bains.

We once more rode down the old main runway and took time for pictures and recalling things that happened 55 years ago.

After lunch in Stilton, we stopped at the Memorials for both Polebrook and Deenethorpe which, along with Glatton, made up the 94th Combat Wing.

We visited Deene Hall and Gardens. This was an enjoyable tour of an impressive family home with lavish furnishings and beautiful gardens. The afternoon tea was great.

On Monday, we attended the always impressive memorial service at the American Cemetery at Madingly. At the wreath placing ceremony, the 457th had two presenters. Jerry Silverman placed the distinctive white triangle U for the 457th and Craig Harris placed a wreath for the Eighth Air Force Historical Society. The wreaths were placed at the Wall of the Missing. Once again this emotional ceremony ended with the Fly-By of the lone B-17, the Sally-B.

Our afternoon at the Duxford Imperial War Museum offered us a chance to visit the new American Air Museum and all the great exhibits of the RAF. We were also able to meet and talk with the crew of the Sally-B.

Tuesday, once more, was Peterborough Day and began with our visit to the mayor's Reception at Town Hall. Since the new Mayor is a personal friend of our Historians, this was a very enjoyable visit. Jerry Silverman was installed as "Mayor" and looked impressive in the traditional regalia. The Mayor presented a decorative Eighth Air Force plate to the 457th and this is now with our memorabilia. The Town Crier gave an official welcome to the 457th people from the front of the Town Hall.

Our closing Banquet at the Bull was probably the best we have ever had. The food and service provided by the hotel staff was outstanding.

Following the dinner, we acknowledged the fine work done by all our Historians, particularly Gordon Townsend and John Walker. We referred to all of them, one final time, as the "Bernie Bains Crew."

PETERBOROUGH REUNION -- 2000

We recognized our president, Craig Harris, past president, Don Sellon and treasurer, John Pearson. We gave special recognition to Tom Goff, long-time close personal friend of Bernie, a pioneer member of our association and very active in the early days of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society. We gave a round of applause for Joe Toth, who is chairing our 2001 Reunion in Colorado Springs.

We had a total of 51 attendees --- 43 were 457th members and guests along with 8 Historians and guests. The younger folks were well represented by 3 daughters, 3 sons, 1 grandson and a nephew. We also welcomed two guests from Switzerland who have hiked high in the Alps to one of our planes which crashed there in 1944. This year there were 19 men from the old "Fireball" Bomb Group who joined us in Peterborough. Of this group, 7 came back for the first time since 1945.

In closing, we asked if there were any comments from the group and with this active crew, there were many. It seemed that they just didn't want to see this reunion end. So, we closed out our Ninth Mini-Reunion in Peterborough with great memories, best wishes and intentions to meet in Colorado Springs in 2001.

ATTENDEES TO 2000 MINI-REUNION

AMBROSETTI, Joe	Oswego, NY
CAMPBELL, Harry & Doris	Staten Island, NY
CHASTAIN, Bob & Kim	Germantown, TN
DeLUCCIA, Joe	Saddle Brook, NJ
DeLUCCIA, Emil (brother)	
FALCONE, Iris	Walpole, MA
FLUMAN, Will & Phyllis	Boiling Springs, PA
FLUMAN, Candace (daughter)	
FRIEDMAN, Dan & Angeline	San Francisco, CA
GIBBS, Dick & Barb	Vermillion, KS
SWITLIK, Barbara (daughter)	
GOFF, Tom	Glen Burnie, MD
HAMMAR, Art & Ann Marie	Ishpeming, MI
HARRIS, Craig	Durham, NC
MOORE, Becky (daughter)	
MOORE, Bryant (grandson)	
KAUFMAN, Chuck	Lancaster, TX
NAEF, Stefan	Switzerland
SCHMITTER, Werner	
PAPAIANNI, Tony & Sara	East Syracuse, NY
DAVIS, Myra (sister)	
PEARSON, John	Richmond, VA
SCHELLENGER, Dave & Louise	Austin, TX
SELLON, Don & Jeanne	Aurora, CO
SILVERMAN, Jerry	East Meadow, NY
MATHESON, Kevin & Dexter (sons)	
TOTH, Joe	Pueblo, CO
TOTH, Jerry (son)	
WARD, John & Anne	Norwich, NY
McMAHON, Larry	Venice, FL
DOBLER, Champe	Alameda, CA
BURKE, Rex	San Jose, CA

ENGLISH HISTORIANS

BAINS, Sadie, John & Margo
TOWNSEND, Gordon & Ros
WALKER, John & Sylvia Kerry
BRUMBY, Eric

THE SADIE BAINS FUND:

Dear Fireballers,

The response of our members, associates, wives and widows to our suggestion of an emergency purse for Sadie Bains, in memory of her husband Bernie, has been overwhelming. This has been an emotional roller coaster for me, with tears not infrequent.

199 gifts totaling over US\$11,000, far more than we even dreamed, have come in. There were donations of all sizes, some from the givers' own plenty, others at a sacrifice from the givers' own needs. I was reminded some times of the "widow's mite".

Many of the notes and letters included with the gifts recounted how the donors had been hosted and treated royally by Bernie and Sadie, proving beyond doubt that Sadie and Bernie have loved us all, and been loved by us in return. I forwarded letters and notes to Will Fluman, so that he could give them to Sadie along with our gift, at the Mini-Reunion.

This has been an inspiring example of the bonds we formed and forged in the hardships and dangers of war fifty-five years ago. Our departed comrades must surely be proud of us.

Thank you all, Fireballers, for your love and generosity for Sadie and celebrating the memory of Bernie, and for giving me such a boost to my faith in the human race.

God Bless you all,



John F. Welch
Chairman of the Sadie Bains Fund

Tel: 1529 461305

4 Royal Oak Court
Eckington Sleaford
Lincolnshire NG34 9QQ
ENGLAND

Dear Friends,

Thank you all so much for your gifts to the fund organised by John Welch. I was quite overwhelmed by your generosity and the amount of money collected; it is very kind of you all and is very much appreciated.

The gift was presented to me at the mini-reunion in Peterborough which was a very moving experience for me and my family. As you probably know there was the unveiling of a stone plaque to Bernie's memory on your 457th memorial. This makes us feel very proud and also honoured that you should want to cherish Bernie's memory in this way. It will be an important focal point for us as a family in the years to come.

It was good to see so many old friends at the reunion and I really enjoyed the warmth of their friendship. Thanks also to everyone who has written and sent cards in the last couple of months. They meant a lot to me and were very comforting.

By the time you read this I will be in my new home (as above address). It is in a village only 30 miles north of Peterborough and close to where my son and daughter-in-law live. It's accessible by train (a branch line from Grantham which is the next stop on from Peterborough), so please do come and see me when you are next in England. You know you will be very welcome.

Thanks again for your generosity and kind wishes and warmth expressed in your letters.

Love,



Sadie

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SADIE BAINS FUND

LISTED IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THE GIFTS WERE RECEIVED

Craig Harris
Jerome Silverman
Robert and Betty Vilas
Sidney and Helen Brunick
Tom and Lydia Brines
Richard and Virginia Wyman
Robert and Beverly Prisk
Clement and Ethel Marsden
Michael Halayko
George and Dorothy Crockett
Richard and Marian Sykora
Franklin Don, Sr.
George Anderson
David and Shirley Kahne
Ralph Hall
Basil and Betty Dundas
Kenneth and Janet Burkhardt
William and Mary Girard
Paul and Nora Morris
Arlene Breit
William and Jennie Good
Billy and Gladys Hightower
Ray G. Field
John and Felicia Parker
Francis and Carolyn Friedel
Robert and Helen Burkholder
Joseph and Joan O'Rear
Louis and Fay Rickert
Daniel and Angeline Friedman
Charles Barrier
Alexander and Janet Bennett
John and Ruth Grainger
John and Barbara Wranesh
William and Katherine Jones
William and Elaine O'Connor
Owen and Marion McDonough
Anthony and Sarah Papaiani
John and Barbara Fonda
Daniel and Jeanne Nose
Gordon and Margaret Dykes
Gloria O'Hara
Donald Zigler
Normand and Irene Menard
Felix and Carol Marlene
Joseph Hamilton
John Toney
Ferd Biancalana
Richard and Viola Smith
Robert and Iva Miller
Tom Goff
Hiram and Mary Morrow
Kenneth and Ruth Krise
Frank and Anne Kravetz
Reginald and Betty Buxton

Ray Hedrick
Julius and Judith Kornblatt
William and Nancy Bird
Sally and Andy Brown
Brad and Dorothea Bunker
William and Ruth Kabine
Robert and Mary Scheaf
Clyde and Betty Weid
Warren and Dorothy Kiesel
Bernard Weinberg
W.C. and Glenna Moses
Kenneth Morrow
Jack and Carol Gassman
Larry and Lucille McMahon
Harley and Mary Danforth
William and Gladys McKelvey
Louis and Helen Dahle
Ken Nail
Eldon Krug
Robert and Florence Huels
Fred Oglesby
Dick and Alice Fitzhugh
Samuel and Mary Gelvin
John and Anne Ward
Raymond and Annette Kristoff
John and Rita Kearney
George and Phyllis Conover
Donald and Jeanne Sellon
Craig Lady
Richard and Barbara Gibbs
Jean Fitch
Harry and Doris Campbell
Kenneth Johnston
James and Dorothy Gleason
Willard and Irene Hedge
Robert and Grace Christofferson
Carey and Edith Jones
Harold Rothbard
Thomas and Ruth Lee
Jack and Opal Gumm
William Meng
Beverly Salo
Paul and Miriam Toppelstein
Bob and Marge Day
Jonie Pielko-Marske & Family
Bernard and Irene Kleen
Mary Jean Salzer
Mr. and Mrs. Karl David Bradley
Edwin and Elizabeth Benson
John Byrd
Eleanor Toomey
Willmore and Phyllis Fluman
John Pearson
August and Marjorie De Rosa
Bernard and Eleanora Wroblewski

Joan and Palmy Matagrano
Fred and Dorothy Castle
John and Mildred Lindholm
Anthony and Dorothy O'Brien
Thomas Farrell
Erika and Bill Morse
Frank and Evelyn Bernd
Hiram and Ada Drache
George Brice
Clayton and Marie Bejot
Jackie Goff
Edward and Kathryn Bender
James Jason Day
Dee K. Owsley
Frank and Ruth Taylor
Virgil and Mary Lou Smallen
Joseph Hibbs
James and Annie Conklin
Larry & Jacquelyn Brown,
Judy Morris
Donald and Sandra Nielsen
Donald and Betty Seesenguth
Carol Coakley
Calvin Campbell
Bill Davidson
Daniel D. Bradley
Julius and Clara Smith
Russell and Ella Karl
Richard and Ruth Garland
Harland and Pearl Buettner
Earl Bolier
Clifford and Bernice Digre
John and Antonette Chumas
William and Jean Patry
Donald Goss
Robert and Margaret Tangney
Karl and Winifred Lambertson
Preston Clyde and Nancy Grimm
Richard and Selma McDonald
Chuck and Bonnie Kaufman
Stephen and Agnes Billisits
Harold and Florence Franklin
Albert and Shirley Williams
George and Jean Cole
Joseph Waszkierscz
Lawrence and Claudia Wilde
Arthur and Joyce Jensen
Waldron and Elizabeth McGibbon
Mildred Peterson
Johnnie and Delores Sartor
William and Jeanne Moore
Edgardo Buletti
Homer and Mickey Briggs Family
Guy and Ruth Sturdevant
Alberta and John Welch

Norman and Lois Ozenberger
Charles and Roberta Gavin
George and Jennie Sanders
John and Margaret Barnett
Richard Seeley
Bob & Virginia Springer & Family
Don and Frances Lady
Walter and Donna Creigh
Will Fluman, Jr.
Candice Fluman
Ed and Roberta Jackson
Carroll and Annie Gustafson
Lloyd Gray
Clifton Chandler
Nancy Henrich, Joe & Jeanne Toth
James Bass
Patrick and Audrey Fusci
Dave and Lillian Summerville
George and Mildred Stateman
Frank and Dorothy Martin
William and Ruth Ward
David and Louise Schellenger
Murray and Ethel Swardlove
William and Grace Watts
Bennie and Mary Louise Johnson
Cheston and Betty Hall
Paul Hertenstein
Del and Helen Schwab
Noel and Nikolaus Guarino
James and Louise Dixon
James and Mary Cochran
Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Harris
Anne and Thomas Hayman
Mary Addison
Rex Burke
Eugene Butscha
Bill Siler
Leon and Helen Zimmerman
Jack and Thelma Furr
Owen S. O'Rourke

FINAL Tally =
203 contributors
\$11,673.04

IN MEMORIAM

The following are reported deceased since last newsletter:

<u>Barnes, George Morris</u>	Jan. 2000	CP...Retired Airline P...1963 POW...750 SQ Reported by Lt. Col. Robert Whitby
<u>Byrd, Richard W.</u>	April 99	Heart...Son of John Byrd...reported by John
<u>Good, William H. "Bill"</u>	6/25/00	Heart...lived in New Port Richey, FL TG...POW Apr '44-May '45...Stalag 17B Attended 8th AFHS 9th, '99
<u>Graham, Harold E.</u>	8/6/99	Flt. Eng...Reported by Norman L. Stevens
<u>Kalman, Sam</u>	6/4/99	Reported by Ron Byers
<u>McHannah, Alan</u>	11/99	TG...Shot down 9/44...POW Reported by John Wranesh
<u>Poshefko, John</u>	8/24/44	Reported by brother Joe
<u>Sweetman, Donald R.</u>	7/7/99	Reported by Norman L. Stevens
<u>Wilson, John</u>		SGT KIA

High Flight

*Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds---and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of---wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.*

*Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, nor even eagle flew---
And, while with silent lifted mind I've trod
The high, untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.*

John Gillespie Magee

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.

Clayton Bejot has written to Mickey and Homer to tell them that his wife, Marie Bejot, passed away on June 7, 2000 from cancer. Marie and Clayton attended many of the earlier reunions. We will miss her. --Mickey

PAGE OF FACTS

UPDATED SINCE LAST NL ISSUE

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Ambrosetti, Joseph
Bonazza, Robert
Dupont, Jr., Phillip A.
Exley, Fredrick E.
Fleming, David
Foster, Frank
Gumm, Jack
Kirkendall, Alvie
Kleinfelter, Walt
Leach, Ervin E.
Lisia, Samuel
Paris, Herbert
Stevens, Norman
Topakian, Armen

NEW MEMBERS, NEW FOUND 457TH BUDDIES, RELATIVES & INTERESTED PERSONS

Bartley, Leo S. 749 SQ
316 Atmore Dr.
Santa Paula, CA 93060

Bonazza, Robert
935 Tibbetts Wick Rd.
Girard, OH 41420

Crowe, Robert W.
1228 Westmoor Rd.
Winnetka, IL 60093-1845

Dehart, Paul L.
10220 3rd Ave. SE Apt 115
Everett, WA 98208

Exley, Fredrick E. 748 SQ
208 Plaza Dr.
Dalville, AL 36622

Exley, Fred E. - son of Fredrick
305 W. Anderson Ave.
Coppers Cove, TX 76522

NEW MEMBERS, NEWLY INTERESTED, ETC...CONTINUED...

Fleming, David
46725 Lynnhaven Square
Potomac Falls, VA 20165

Goodykoontz, Brian - son of Charlton
Goodykoontz (deceased)
Base Hq 749
33460 Michele St.
Livonia, MI 48150

Herron, Bill - grandson of William Herron 749
(deceased 2/26/45)
110 River Points Way #5212
Lawrence, MA 01843

Leone, Anthony "Tony" - grandson of
Stanley Sierakowski (deceased)
420 Boylston St.
Second Floor
Boston, MA 0211

Moll, Paul 748
7461 SW 172 St.
Miami, FL 33157

Miller, Willmont J.
604 W. Sound Cove
Spokane, WA 99204-3733

Rienhart, Louis
106 Nottingham Rd
Enid, OK 73701

Sawyer, Edward 751 SQ
7842 Belridge Rd. Apt A
Baltimore, MD 21236

Sober, Steve - son-in-law of Lester Malon
4011 Byrd Rd.
Kensington, MD 20895

Thompson, William E. 749 SQ
70 Notting Way
Haines City, FL 33844

NOTE: Peter Mihalik (bombardier) has requested that his correct address be in the NL: 11 Al Lyn Ct Haledon, NJ 07508 - 1121

NEW MEMBERS, NEW INTERESTED
CONTINUED...

Toth, Jerry - son of Joe Toth
922 W. 96th Ave.
Thornton, CO 80229

Troutwine, Sherry - daughter of Hiram Morrow
6170 Ramseel Dr. NE
Rocksford, MI 49341

Truba, R.E. - bombardier, 751 SQ
shot down 4/18/45
3940 Moss Oak Dr.
Jacksonville, FL 32211

Truba, Roy E. - son of R.E. Truba
10902 Carter's Oak Way
Burke, VA 22015

Windsor-Hampton, Mark - newest English
member
1 Manor Dr. Sawtry
Huntingdon Cambs.
PE 28 5UV
United Kingdom

John Young - son of Harold Young
(deceased)
c/o Bergeron Chrysler
3525 Veteran's Memorial Blvd.
Metairie, LA 70002

The following list of names are members of the
8th AFHS, but not members of the 457th BG.
We are listing them here in case you want to
contact them. We are hoping they will join us!

Barnes, Pete H.
10353 Leolang Ave.
Sunland, CA

Bean, Albert A.
7003 Jackson Springs Rd.
Tampa, FL 33634-4713

Beatty, Paul E.
900 Murray S.
Wichita, KS 67212-4155

Blanchard
46 Dix Ave.
Newburgh, NY 12550

Colone, Secondo
77-40 74th St.
Glendale, NY 11385

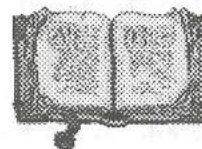
Hansen, Alfred
1035 Whitwell Rd.
Hillsborough, CA 94010-7046

Hansen, Grant
4157 SW Heronwood Terr.
Palm City, FL 34990-2550

ATTENTION ALL FIREBALLERS AND MILITARY HISTORIANS:

*"Fait Accompli III" is being printed as you read
this newsletter. James Bass reports that the
publication date is set for December 1st.*

This promises to be the best one yet!



A personal friend-
Betty Grant died Sept. 18, 2000. She lived in
AL. Betty worked at the Bentonville Chamber of
Commerce in the 70's. She & I inked the old
hand crank (some on our face & hands)
mimeograph & printed 1 newsletter at a time. We
would take turns cranking, changing when we
got tired. She helped me fold them by hand, & if
more than 1 page, we put them together. She
attended some of the Bentonville Reunions.
She knew George and Ena Townsend well. She
always asked about the 457th for several years.
When she left, we exchanged Christmas cards.
She was a sweet lady. --Mickey Briggs



We hope that all of you
are up-to-date with your
dues, so we won't be
sending your last NL to
you.

MESSAGE ON A LEAFLET:

If you cannot read,
this leaflet will tell you how
to get lessons.

8TH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Unit Contact Man
Homer L. Briggs

To All Units
From The Committee

The enclosed roster is of people who have joined the Historical Society between Feb. 3, 2000 and May 31, 2000. If there is no roster, it means no one from your Unit has joined the Society.

From our Editor: We have been asked to invite any non members to join The Eighth Air Force Historical Society. Our Unit would receive \$5.00 for each one...We found about ten of their members not on our membership and have sent each one a NL and asked them to join. They have asked for the 457th Unit to have members to attend the meeting in Salt Lake City and have a representative at the committee meeting Thursday morning. (The 8th Air Force Historical Society Annual Reunion is in Salt Lake City, UT, October 17-22, 2000.) I will send a copy of this list to John Pearson...Mickey

Jim Erskine, Chairman
568 Colima Drive
Toledo, OH 43609

Phone (419) 382-8595
Fax (419) 382-4242

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

JOIN US! THE EIGHTH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We want YOU as a member of the 8th Air Force Historical Society! Become a part of the fun and camaraderie of State and National meetings, receive the quarterly 8th AF NEWS magazine, membership cards and all privileges, and become a part of the historical legacy of the Mighty Eighth Air Force! Friends, kids, grandchildren, veterans of all services, history buffs, and patriots are all welcome to become members. The coupon below may be copied and sent in with one year's dues to start your membership right now!



8TH AFHS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name

FIRST NAME

MIDDLE INITIAL

LAST NAME

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 1767 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.

Another undated letter reads in part...

We received a small check (\$50) for having "17 members attending the 1999 Historical Society Reunion and made their reservations by 9/27/99 as determined by Armed Forces Reunions, Inc." --Mickey for Homer

...457th BOOKS...

THE "FAIT ACCOMPLI" TRILOGY

FAIT ACCOMPLI, a historical account of the 457th Bomb 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 **Compiled by Homer Briggs and James L. Bass, Edited by John F. Welch**

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 **James L. Bass**

FAIT ACCOMPLI III, an anthology of accounts taken from remembrances of former members of the 457th Bomb Group plus added information of interest. This third and final edition is being printed as you read this and will be available in December. Watch for further details. **James L. Bass**

**To order: Make check payable to JLB Publications.
Send to: JLB Publications - Box 500
Carthage, TN 37030**

FLAK DODGER **BLACK PUFF POLLY**

by Roland O. Byers, Lt. Colonel USAFR (Ret.)

The stories of 40 men, shot down during WWII, while flying as crew members in the B17-G, 8th Air Force, 457th BG. Most were POWed by Germans, others escaped with help from French and Belgian underground.

**Now available at PawPaw Press - P.O. Box 9191
Moscow, ID 83843**

RINGSIDE AT THE FIREWORKS

by Norman Erbe

This book is a memoir of a small town Iowa preacher's son, Norman Erbe. 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.

\$14.95 plus 5% tax and \$2.50 postage

**To order: Make check or money order payable to Toreador Press
Send to: Toreador Press - P.O. Box 25218
West Des Moines, IA 50265**

DEAD ENGINE KIDS

by John Welch

Available now at \$12.00 each plus \$2.50 shipping

RB-36 DAYS AT RAPID CITY

by John Welch

Available now at \$25.00 each plus \$2.50 shipping

You can order either of these books from:

**John Welch
2933 Country Club Dr.
Rapid City, ND 57702-5218**

2001 REUNION...

"A TASTE OF COLORFUL COLORADO"

PLACE: Colorado Springs, Colorado

DATES: September 23-26, 2001

HOTEL: Sheraton Colorado Springs Hotel

ACTIVITIES:

- * Rate: \$85 + tax per night (500 room hotel)
- * 15 min. from Colorado Springs Airport. Complimentary shuttle service available on the half-hour, or you can call directly to the hotel from the free airport phone, pick up your luggage, and the shuttle will be waiting.
- * 3-day window for guests who want to come 1-3 days early or stay 1-3 days after reunion.
- * Secured area available to stow luggage until your room is ready.
- * Coffee machines in all rooms.
- * Beautiful banquet room on the 4th floor...windows on 3 walls will give a spectacular view of Pike's Peak and a breath-taking sunset is promised.
- * Two full-service restaurants. One, "Rickenbackers", has B-17's in the ceiling lights and is a combination bar/lounge/restaurant. There is also a Deli open 5:30 a.m. to midnight.
- * Free parking...RV parking space but no hookups are available on site.
- * Huge lobby area with many areas for small groups to sit and visit.
- * Gift shop and business center.

Sunday, Sept. 23

- * Check-In and Registration
- * Hospitality Hour in the Atrium

Monday, Sept. 24 "CHOICE DAY"

-EITHER--a bus trip to Cripple Creek ...a restored mining town with casinos, antique shops, and optional 45-minute round-trip train ride to see Colo. Aspens.
-OR--you may choose a bus tour of Garden of the Gods, lunch, then on to various other scenic sites, including the world famous 5-Star Broadmoor Hotel.

Monday Evening--20 minute bus ride to Flying W Ranch for one of the best evenings of dinner and entertainment you've ever had.

Tuesday, Sept. 25--Tour of and lunch at the Air Force Academy.

Wednesday Evening...Sept. 26
Banquet, Special Guest Speaker, Peter C. Lemon, youngest Medal of Honor recipient in history, and Dancing.



Tour of the Air Force Academy will include a stop in Arnold Hall named for Hap Arnold, shown here. Also pictured, on the right, is Joseph Toth, 751st Squadron. Names of men behind Arnold and third from left are unknown.

**WATCH FOR
REGISTRATION
INFORMATION
AND FORMS IN
THE SPRING
NEWSLETTER.**



FROM MICKEY...

Since I have given much of my work to Nancy and John, I have some added leisure time!!!

I have decided to write a story on the Association, how it started and what has happened along the way. If any of you can remember something happening that should be included, drop me a line. In the next Newsletter, I will begin a continuing serial account of our story. Many of the new members and relatives have not heard of any of the things we have done along the way.

Following, is a list of the First Reunion Attendees. If you know of someone who has passed away and hasn't been noted by a *, please let Mickey know.

CHARTER MEMBERS

Bentonville, AR 1971

457th Bomb Group

* Deceased as of Sept 1, 2000

ARKANSAS

* HOMER BRIGGS 749
* WILLIAM STELL 749

CALIFORNIA

KEN BLAKEBROUGH 750
* AL MARTINEZ Ord 1790
WILLIAM SILER 748

FLORIDA

* HUGH SULLIVAN 749

GEORGIA

* FRANK ANDERSON, JR 749

ILLINOIS

JAMES DAY 750
? JOSEPH TURNEY 749

INDIANA

* JAMES CAREY 748
DAN GRAHAM Ord 1790

KANSAS

* HOWARD LARSON 748
? THEODORE STEELE 749

LOUISIANA

* RICHARD D. CROW, MD SURGEON

MAINE

* SUMNER B. MARSHALL 750

MICHIGAN

WILLIAM MORSE 749

MINNESOTA

PAUL BIRCHEN 749

MISSISSIPPI

* JOHN TREADWAY 749-750
* WILLIAM L. SMITH 750

MISSOURI

DEE OWSLEY 749
* AL ROECKLE 749
* KEN RURODE 749
E.L. SCHOTT 749
? ELMER WRIGHT 749
* J.G. HUNSPERGER 749

NEW YORK

? WM GOODFELLOW 749-750

NORTH CAROLINA

* HURCHEL TEAGUE 749

NORTH DAKOTA

GEORGE CONOVER 749

OHIO

EUGENE BUTSCHA 751
* KEN KENYON 749

TENNESSEE

* FRED BURKART 749
* WM S. HITE 751
* ROY JAMES 748
* IVORY PHILLIPS 748

TEXAS

SPEEDY PHILLIPS 750
LEON SMITH 748
CLYDE WEID 748

WEST VIRGINIA

* IRVIN McCLAIN 749

Thirty-eight Men, most had their wives and children also attending this first-ever get together. We fed 100 at the Briggs' house.

KEN RURODE, wife Blanche, HURCHEL TEAGUE, wife Florence, and HOMER BRIGGS, wife Mickey were Co-Founders.

MEDALS

Nov 6, 1999

James Bass sent Mickey a message after the Gettysburg Reunion as follows:

"In a business session held in the lobby of the Inn, the subject of how to apply for lost medals, medals not awarded, the French Victory Medal, The Polish Medal, etc, was brought up. They asked me to contact you and see if the information could be found and printed in the NL."

July 7, 2000

Dear Homer, How can I replace my DFC, which has somehow gotten lost? Do any other members have the address? Sincerely, Curtis Overdahl

Editor's note: I apologize for not finding this and putting it in the Feb. newsletter. (Homer and I were still not home yet in Nov, we were at the Little Rock Vets Hospital.) Below is what I found. Does anyone out there know the address of the ones I didn't find? If so, please send to Mickey for Curtis and for the next NL.

--Ed. Mickey Briggs

NEW BENEFITS FOR PURPLE HEART VETERANS

Veterans awarded the Purple Heart are now eligible for increased benefits through the VA, according to a recent amendment to the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act. In late February, the VA announced that this specific group of veterans would be advanced to priority category 3 and are no longer required to pay co-payments associated with hospital care and outpatient medical services.

Veterans awarded the Purple Heart are asked to submit documentation of their award, such as DD 214, service records or orders of award or certificate, to be included in their Consolidated Health record (CHR). In addition, these veterans are eligible for reimbursement for any medical care co-payments provided on or after November 30, 1999. If you are a veteran who was awarded the Purple Heart, and would like to find out more information about having your status changed, contact your nearest VA facility or VFW Service Officer.

National Personnel Center
9700 Page Blvd.
St Louis, MO 63132

To receive any medals or decorations -- send to above address

Name, address.

Serial # - Service Dates - Ask for eligibility
to receive any...

N.W. 2 Victory Medals American National defence Campaign

National Defence
American campaign or any others.

VETERANS: Wear with pride your
Divisional or Regimental
Miniature Insignia Lapel Pin.



(Army, Marine & Air Forces)

\$3.50 per pin ppd.

Send SASE for complete list.

THE WARDS

10 Rita Dr. • Attleboro, MA 02703

(508) 761-6432

(A great Reunion item too!)

DO YOU DESIRE TO REPLACE THE MEDALS AND RIBBONS THAT YOU WERE AWARDED?

The office responsible for determining
Air Force members' eligibility and entitlement
to awards and decorations is:-

HQ AFMPC/DPPRA

550C Street West Ste 12
Randolph AFB TX 78150-4714

Simply mail copies of your discharge and
any other papers showing the awards you were
entitled to wear, and be prepared to wait
about 6-8 months. You should receive a com-
plete set of duplicates, including a 'Ruptured
Duck' as I did recently!

WAR VIDEOS

COMMEMORATIVE UNIT HISTORY BOOKS & VIDEOS WORLD WAR II - KOREA - VIETNAM Army - Marines - Airforce - Navy

U.S. ARMY UNITS

1st Special Service Force	#BP-2616	\$45.00
1st Armored Div WWII	#BP-025	\$45.00
1st Armored WWII Video	#C-403	\$34.95
1st Infantry Div in WWII	#T-0102	\$52.50
1st Inf. Div WWII Video	#C-401	\$34.95
1st Inf. Div Vietnam	#T-01DV	\$52.50
1st Cavalry - Korea	#T-01CK	\$56.50
1st Cavalry WWII Video	#C-402	\$34.95
1st Cavalry Vietnam	#T-01CV	\$56.50
2nd Inf Div WWII, Korea	#T-02D	\$52.50
2nd Infantry Div 1950-51	#BP-1717	\$45.00
1st Cavalry WWII Video	#BP-1733	\$45.00
2nd Infantry Div 1953	#BP-1776	\$45.00
2nd Armored Div. WWII	#T-02A	\$49.50
3rd Armored 1941-93	#T-03A	\$52.50
3rd Armored Div WWII	#BP-030	\$45.00
3rd Inf Div 1910-1993	#T-03D	\$59.50
3rd Inf Div in WWII	#BP-101	\$59.00
3rd Inf Div WWII Video	#C-418	\$34.95
4th Inf Div. 1910-1975	#T-04D	\$52.50
4th Inf Div. WWII Video	#C-421	\$34.95
4th Armored WWII	#T-04AD	\$49.50
5th Inf Div. WWII-Vietnam	#T-05D	\$52.50
5th Armored Div. WWII	#BP-084	\$39.00
6th Infantry Div. WWII	#T-06D	\$44.50
6th Infantry Div. WWII	#BP-073	\$49.00
6th Inf Div. WWII Video	#C-412	\$34.95
7th Cavalry in Korea	#T-07CK	\$48.50
7th Inf Div 1940-1990	#T-07X	\$52.50



7th Inf Div in WWII	#BP-118	\$45.00
7th Inf Div WWII Video	#C-408	\$34.95
8th Inf Div in WWII	#BP-121	\$33.00
8th Armored Div WWII	#BP-176	\$48.00
10th Armored Div WWII	#T-10A	\$56.50
10th Armored Div Video	#C-111	\$29.95
10th Mtn Div WWII Video	#C-119	\$29.95
11th Airborne WWII	#T-11AB	\$52.50
Angles, 11th Airborne	#BP-117	\$45.00
11th Airborne WWII Video	#C-424	\$34.95
11th Armored Div WWII	#BP-041	\$48.00
11th Armored Div Vol 2	#T-11A2	\$49.50
11th Cav Blackhorse	#T-11C	\$52.50
12th Armored Div Vol 1	#T-12AD	\$56.50
12th Armored Div Vol 2	#T-12AD2	\$48.50
13th Armored Div WWII	#T-13AD	\$54.50
14th Armored Div WWII	#T-14AD	\$59.50
War Stories: 17th AB	#T-17WS	\$34.50
23rd "Americal" Div 1940-72	#T-23D	\$52.50
24th Inf Div WWII	#BP-122	\$36.00
24th Inf Div WWII Video	#C-413	\$34.95
25th Inf Div: 50 years	#T-25D	\$52.50
25th Infantry Div WWII	#BP-2136	\$55.00
25th Infantry Div Korea	#BP-221	\$59.00

27th Inf Div WWII Video

27th Inf Div WWII Video	#C-407	\$29.95
29th Infantry Div 1941-90	#T-29D	\$52.50
29th Infantry Div WWII	#BP-0184	\$55.00
29th Inf Div WWII Video	#C-415	\$34.95
29th Inf Div WWII	#BP-111	\$44.00
115th Inf Rgt, 29th Inf Div	#BP-300	\$52.50
30th Infantry Div WWII-WWII	#BP-036	\$45.00
30th Infantry Div WWII	#C-406	\$29.95
30th Inf Div WWII Video	#BP-190	\$55.00
31st Inf Div 1940-45	#T-32D	\$52.50
32nd Inf Div WWI - WWII	#BP-149	\$33.00
32nd Inf Div WWII Video	#C-414	\$34.95
34th Infantry Div WWII	#BP-024	\$45.00
34th Inf Div 1859-1945	#T-34D	\$49.50
34th Inf Div WWII Video	#C-416	\$34.95
35th Inf Div WWII	#BP-112	\$49.00
35th Inf Div WWII-Gulf War	#T-35D	\$52.50
35th Inf Div WWII Video	#C-420	\$34.95
36th Inf "Texas" Div WWII	#T-36D	\$52.50
36th Inf (WWII Reprint)	#T36DRP	\$59.50
36th Inf Div WWII Video	#C-109	\$34.95
37th Inf Div WWI-Korea	#T-37D	\$48.50
40th Infantry Div. WWII	#BP-225	\$55.00
41st Inf "Jungleers" WWII	#BP-120	\$45.00
41st Inf "Fighting Jungleers"	#T-41D	\$65.50
41st Inf Div WWII Video	#C-409	\$29.95
42nd Inf Rainbow Div WWII	#T-42D	\$52.50
43rd Inf Div in Video	#C-410	\$34.95
43rd Inf Div WWII-Korea	#T-43D	\$52.50
45th Inf Div WWII Video	#C-417	\$34.95
65th Inf Div 1943-45	#T-65D	\$48.50
76th Inf "Onaway" Div WWII	#T-76D	\$52.50
78th Inf Lightning Div WWII	#T-78D	\$56.50
81st Inf Div WWII Video	#C-411	\$34.95
NEW! 82nd Airborne 75 yrs	#T-82D	\$54.50
82nd Airborne WWII Video	#C-404	\$24.95
83rd Inf Div WWII Video	#C-102	\$29.95
84th Inf Div in Germany	#BP-069	\$47.00
84th Inf "Rail Splitter" WWII	#T-84D	\$52.50
84th Inf & 9th Army Video	#C-1019	\$29.95
85th Infantry Div WWII	#BP-019	\$39.00
86th Inf "Blackhawk" WWII	#T-86D	\$52.50
88th Inf Blue Devils WWII	#BP-107	\$45.00
88th Inf Div WWII w/roster	#T-88D	\$52.50
88th Inf Div WWII	#BP-052	\$45.00
89th Inf Div 1942-45	#BP-031	\$48.00
91st Inf Powder River Div	#T-91D	\$38.50
92nd Inf Div (Colored)	#BP-159	\$39.00
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France Awards World War II Veterans With Diploma

The Republic of France is now awarding Diplomas to World War II veterans who served in or over France. One Diploma acknowledges the nation's gratitude for the landing of Normandy and the subsequent liberation of France. Another Diploma is for those veterans who landed in Southern France and who participated in the liberation of the eastern half of the country. *Note: There is no Medal to accompany the Diploma.*

Anyone who has the notation "Normandy" or "Southern France" in Item #32 or a similar notation under Battles and Campaigns on his Army Honorable Discharge Certificate will be eligible to receive one of these Diplomas. To request the Diploma, write to the nearest French Consulate located in the following cities: Atlanta, GA; Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Houston, TX; New York, NY; New Orleans, LA; San Francisco, CA; Los Angeles, CA; or contact the Consulat Général de France, 4101 Reservoir Road NW, Washington, D.C. 20007-2185, phone (202) 944-6000, fax (202) 944-6148. ■

The Honorable Service Lapel Button was a small token of appreciation given to every American servicemember that was discharged during and after World War II. It was nicknamed the "Ruptured Duck" by the more than 12 million soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines that were mustered out of the military between September 1939 and December 1946.

FÉDÉRATION DES ANCIENS COMBATTANTS FRANÇAIS

FEDERATION OF FRENCH WAR VETERANS, INC.
INCORPORATED 1919



18 E. 41st St., Suite 401, New York, NY 10017
Tel: (212) 213-0812 • Fax: (718) 591-3481

It might be best to use his fax. That is how I got a hold of him. Wicken

New York, July 14 1994

REPEATED

Dear Comrade in arms,

On June 6, 1994, the anniversary of D-Day 1944, at the ceremony and banquet at the Seventh Regiment Armory on Park avenue, New York, 175 Veterans received the special medal of the Federation of French War Veterans, Inc., and an emotional "Thank you" from the Honorable André Baeyens, Minister Plenipotentiary, Consul General of France and from the French community.

Ambassador Hervé Ladsous, Minister Plenipotentiary, Deputy Permanent Representative of France at the United Nations and many of the well known presidents or executives of the finest French corporations and associations attended.

The band of the Cadets Lafayette sounded "Taps", and the choir of the Lycée Français sang the National Anthems and tunes of the forties. Exhibits — artifacts and posters — designed by young students and photographs by War Correspondent Walter Rosenblum brought the Normandy landings down to the personal level.

Many Veterans have told us, orally or in writing, how gratified they were at this recognition, albeit 50 years later. Some of them having asked for a personalized document with their medal, the Federation issued a special *Diplôme d'Honneur de la Médaille du Cinquantenaire des Débarquements de Normandie et de Provence*.

The Federation will send its 50th Anniversary Medal with Diploma to all qualified Veterans who apply as specified overleaf. We would appreciate your letting any of your Veteran friends or acquaintances know about this offer by giving them a copy of this leaflet.

On a personal note, we thank you very much for your participation in the Liberation of France. We are proud to have the opportunity of honoring you, and we hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

Bruce Boeglin
President

Roger Cestac
President d'Honneur

FÉDÉRATION DES ANCIENS COMBATTANTS FRANÇAIS

FEDERATION OF FRENCH WAR VETERANS, INC.

INCORPORATED 1919



18 E. 41st St., Suite 401, New York, NY 10017

Tel: (212) 213-0612 • 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:

Mr. Claude H Sullivan
717 W 8th St.
Florence, Co 81226



Left to Right: Congressman Scott McInnis, LTC Claude H. Sullivan, Jr., Major General Mason Whitney

LTC. Claude H. Sullivan, Jr., USAF, Ret. was recently presented the "Jubilee Of Liberty" Metal.

The presentation was made by Congressman Scott McInnis and USAF Major General Mason C. Whitney, Adjutant of Colorado.

The Regional Council of Normandy had the Monnaie de Paris mint commemorative medals to pay tribute to the men and women who fought in Normandy to restore freedom. Medals of the Jubilee of Liberty were presented to the veterans who came back to Normandy for the 50th anniversary of the D-Day landings during various ceremonies throughout the region.

The medal represents Normandy. On the front, "Overlord 5 Juin 1944" is inscribed on the upper part of the medal, with the flag of the Allied Countries and the names of the landing beaches completing the face of the medal. On the reverse side of the medal is the Torch of Freedom surrounded by the device of William the Conqueror "Diex Aie" (God is with us.)

The Governor of Normandy has authorized that the Medal of the Jubilee of Liberty be presented to any Normandy veteran who was unable to attend the 50th anniversary ceremonies in France, but who was a part of the invasion June 6, 1944.

Col. Sullivan was a navigator in the 750th Squadron, 457th Bomb Group.

DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO US...

After one last trip, Dunkirk Veterans surrendering to time
by Robert Barr
The Associated Press

LONDON -- Once more to Dunkirk, and then no more. The men who escaped being slaughtered on French beaches in 1940, bucking up British morale at a moment of terrible defeat, have grown old.

This year's crossing of the English Channel for today's reunion will be their last and the Dunkirk Veterans Association is disbanding.

"It is very, very sad that the association will no longer exist, but it is getting very difficult to run it as we are all getting on a bit," said Joe Barnes, 74, the youngest member.

FIREBALLERS: Encourage your sons, daughters, grandchildren, etc., to become active members of the 457th Bomb Group Association. We don't want to read in the newsletter one day that our Association is disbanding.



Pay your dues when due...We don't want to lose you.

Dues are as follows:	Yearly Dues:	\$25 for 2 years
-or-	Life Dues:	under 60 years of age: \$110
		61-65 years of age: \$90
		66-70 years of age: \$75
		71 and older: \$60

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.

SEND DUES TO: John Pearson, Treasurer
457th Bomb Group Assoc.
11308 Blendon Lane
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MAKE SURE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ARE ACCURATE AND SPELLED CORRECTLY.

IF CORRECTIONS ARE NEEDED, CONTACT:

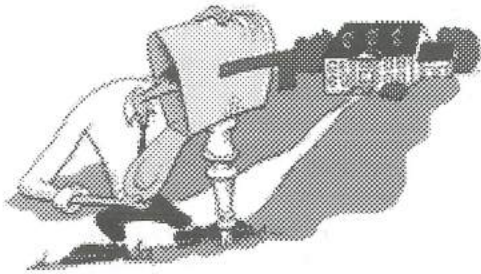
Mickey Briggs
811 NW B St.
Bentonville, AR 72712
(501) 273-3908
FAX: (501) 271-9147

-OR-

Nancy Henrich
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Once you have filled this application in, in future dues payment check only renewal box, your name and address.			



LETTERS, LETTERS. AND MORE LETTERS!

Hello,

A year ago, in honor of my father-in-law, Lester Malon, who was a ball turret gunner in the 457th, I founded a World Wide Web based World War II flight combat simulator squadron named after "The Fireball Outfit." Our group is dedicated to flying the B-17 (among the 3 dozen of so military aircraft available in the simulation.)

The game, "Warbirds", was advertised in the National Air and Space Magazine and attracts 1000's of computer simulation fans from all over the world. One of our members was actually in the 457th and another had a father in the 457th during the war.

I say all this to let you know that we are very careful to represent ourselves in a manner that honors the memory of all veterans.

When I founded the squadron, I also created a website for our use: <http://457.peakloadsys.com>. Please visit our website which has links to the 8th Air Force site and Reese's 457th site as well as to WarBirds related sites. It would not exist as it is, were it not for a discussion I had with Mr. James Bass about our use of the group patch and other materials published in "Fait Accompli", and his subsequent approval. (I have a copy of "Fait Accompli" signed by him, a gift from my father-in-law.) Many of our members regularly talk about what we have learned from the real life 457th websites and histories.

I would like for our WarBirds Squadron to have a membership in the 457th Bomb Group Association. Thanks!
Steve Sober

NOTE: Steve has joined our Association as well as another of the members of his "Warbirds Squadron", Paul DeHart.

Mickey received a phone call the morning of Sept 16, 2000. It was Sherry Troutwine, the daughter of Hiram Morrow, a Life Member. She would like to be on the mailing list and join the 457th BG Assn. -Mickey B.

This next letter is from our newest English member of the 457th Bomb Group Association.

Hello,

I was first aware of the 457th shortly after moving into my new home here in Sawtry. I moved in on 6 June 1996...this anniversary of D-Day was "The Longest Day" for me!

I've been a photographer for years (following in my father's footsteps - he worked for JARIC in the RAF as an aerial photographer.)

One of my first bike rides around the village took me east to Conington where I spotted a photo opportunity in the shape of Conington Church. The opportunity soon disappeared with the arrival of bad weather but I spotted the memorial, read the inscription and left.

Almost four years after that first bike ride, I again went to the Church. This time was different though as now I had the power of the internet and upon returning home, logged onto various search engines trying to find relevant information. Imagine my surprise when I was directed to "Heavy Bombers.com" and the resulting linked sites. I could not believe the amount of information available but more importantly, the amount of interest and enthusiasm there was for this part of our history. I soon found there was a whole new world I never knew existed and stayed "on-line" for hours.

Since that day, I have ordered two books: "Dead Engine Kids: World War II Diary of John J. Briol" and "Fait Accompli: A Historical account of the 457th Bomb Group (H)", which, along with the web sites around should fill in most of the missing pieces. However, there is no substitute for personal contact and that has been the best part: - talking to you and other friends with a similar interest.

I look forward to receiving your next newsletter and am very proud to become a member of the 457th Association.

My time is yours. Just call for any help needed.

Mark Windsor-Hampton
+44 1487 832 775
mark@soundandcamera.co.uk
United Kingdom

NOTE: This letter was received from the *VetSignia* group.

Hello,
HEADS -UP-

Thought you might be interested in a project we got involved in over seven years ago. We were trying to come up with a way to help fellow Veterans gain visibility in their communities on more than just a few special holidays.

We decided to make Veterans Recognition Window Stickers. We call them *VetSignias*. Newspapers and magazines have been running brief articles about the stickers and we've sent them to thousands of Veterans in every state. Of course many Veterans have not yet had an opportunity to read about them.

We're not a business, just a loosely knit group of retired WWII and KOREA Veterans with the time, know-how, and commitment to make a wide variety of the attractive, inexpensive, long-lasting stickers. We now make thirty-three different stickers, for WWII, KOREA, VIETNAM, PERSIAN GULF, OVERSEAS EXPEDITIONARY CAMPAIGNS, PEACETIME, and services: AIR FORCE, ARMY, NAVY, MARINES, COAST GUARD, MERCHANT MARINE. This is something a commercial enterprise probably couldn't do.

The stickers can be viewed at <http://www.wat3.com/vetsignia>
The Sticker Request Form at the site tells how to get them. We don't have the where-with-all to put up a web-site. A nearby company, World Anthem Technologies, Inc., did it as a service to Veterans. Take a look.

Recently got a note from a WWII/U.S. NAVY Vet. He was requesting additional stickers and wrote:

"I have Life Member DAV and 50 Yr VFW decals on the window but have never had a comment about them - your sticker, however, - I've already had 4 guys see it and say, -I was in the Navy - Where were you? - What ship? etc., a regular shoot the breeze about the service."

Please help to pass the word about these distinctive badges that offer proud Veterans 'every-day' recognition. Thanks. Bill Kline, for the *VetSignia* group.

July 8, 2000

Dear Mickey Briggs,

I am writing to tell you, that my husband Bill died on June 25, 2000 of heart disease. He had been ill several months in fact several years. I would like you to mention his passing in the Newsletter.

William H. Good 9035 Harrow Place. New Port Richey. Fl. Passed away on June 25, 2000. He was in 8 th AF during WWII. Tail Gunner on a B-17. POW April 1944 and liberated May 1945 Stalag 17B. Also was Post Commander of Fl. State Chapter #1 of American Ex-POW's Leaves behind Wife Jennie of 22 yrs, daughter Kathryn Good of NJ., son Dwight Good of LosVegas, Nv. nephew and many friends.

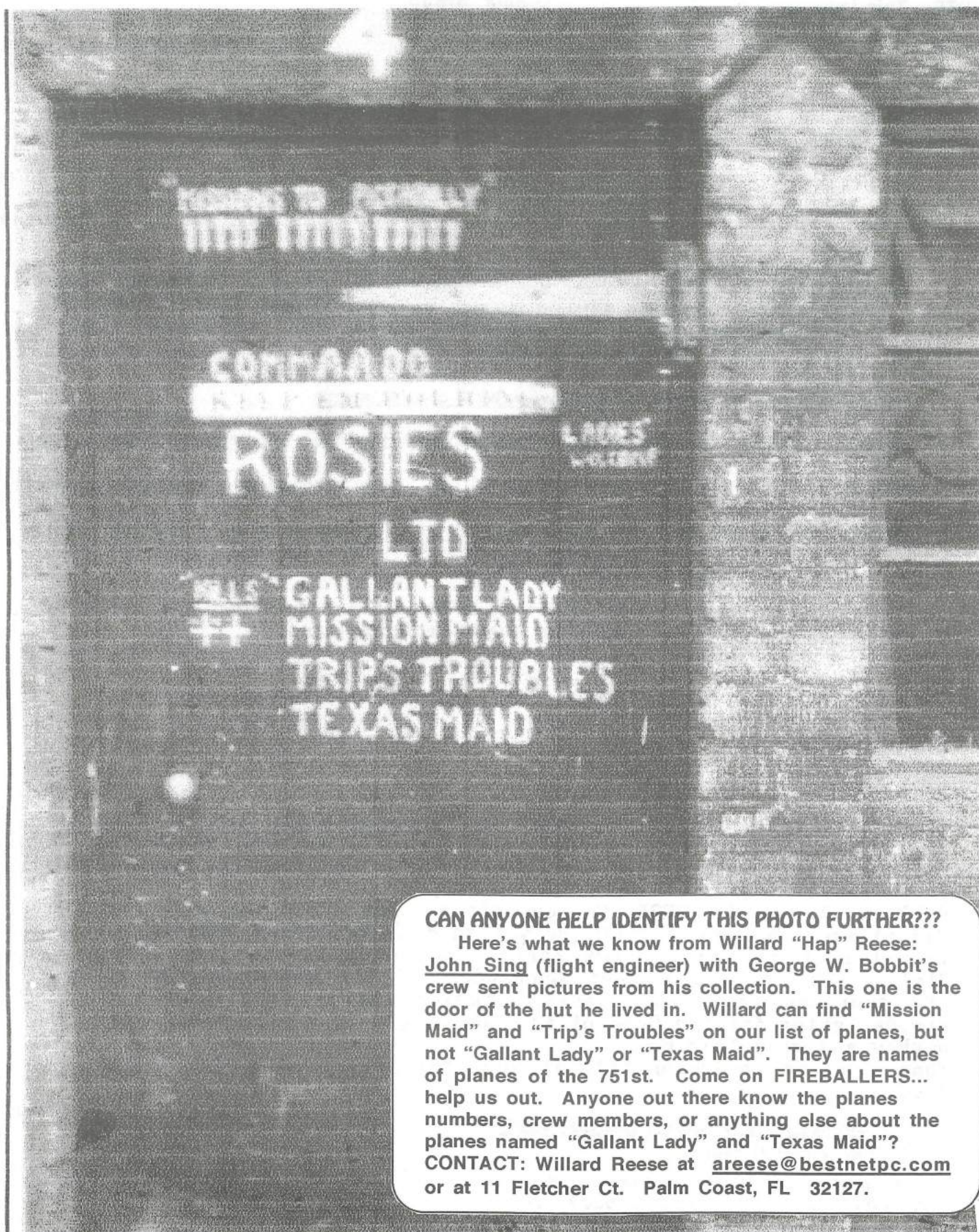
Than you for including this in your newsletter. Regards. Jennie Good.

Dear Homer and Mickey,

I was quite surprised to see your article in the latest 457 BG newsletter about B-17G, 42-97443. I was the Flight Engineer on the D.A. Karr crew that gracefully bellied this lady into the Peet Bog on the Irish Coast.

I will write to Martin Gleeson to inform him as much as I can about this incident.

Sincerely, Kenneth M. Krise
4955 S. Jamaica Way Tucson, AZ 85746-1105



CAN ANYONE HELP IDENTIFY THIS PHOTO FURTHER???

Here's what we know from Willard "Hap" Reese:
John Sing (flight engineer) with George W. Bobbit's crew sent pictures from his collection. This one is the door of the hut he lived in. Willard can find "Mission Maid" and "Trip's Troubles" on our list of planes, but not "Gallant Lady" or "Texas Maid". They are names of planes of the 751st. Come on FIREBALLERS... help us out. Anyone out there know the planes numbers, crew members, or anything else about the planes named "Gallant Lady" and "Texas Maid"?
CONTACT: Willard Reese at areese@bestnetpc.com or at 11 Fletcher Ct. Palm Coast, FL 32127.

RESPONSIBILITY

by 1/LT David F. Berry

If enlisted men meander
And indulge in rape or slander,
It's their airplane commander they defame.
If his officers are lazy,
Or alcoholically hazy,
And, in fact, a little crazy, he's to blame.

If they don't salute their betters,
If they fail to pay their debtors,
Or write censorable letters, or get stewed;
If they get back late from passes,
Or decline to go to classes,
You can bet it's not THEIR asses that get chewed.

For the pilot has his uses.
He's the one that makes excuses,
Answers charges, takes abuses from them all;
Though a flyer of acumen,
He's considered less than human
If he cannot keep his crewmen on the ball.

When a gunner's finger freezes,
Or the navigator sneezes,
Or unprintable diseases ground the crews;
It's the pilot's fault they're dying.
(If they aren't, they should be flying.)
And don't argue - for you're lying in your shoes.

If, returning from a sortie,
When the gas is down to forty,
And three engines abort, he brings them down,
Is the crew more understanding?
Sympathetic? Less demanding?
No! They criticize his landing with a frown.

Yes, it certainly is tough
For the hero of this ditty,
But don't waste your tears of pity on this fool;
For although he's nurse and mother
To Joe Blow and Joe Blow's brother,
He'd trade places with no other, the dull fool!

-sent in by Willard "Hap" Reese

This is part of a letter from John Pearson. It came about because the son of a former member of the 457th Bomb Group was trying to research his father's military service.

"What a pleasant surprise I had last night when I received a call from John Young, son of my crews' engineer, Harold. I really appreciate your referring him to me. Over the years, I had not been able to contact Harold Young or my pilot, Jerry Sharrock. John had just spoken to Jerry on the phone and gave me his number. I then called Jerry, the pilot I had not spoken with in 55 years! I am thinking about flying out to San Antonio for a reunion with him."

NOTE: The son, John Young, inquired about membership in the Association. This points out the importance of getting the "younger generation" involved in our 457th Association. Please encourage your sons, daughters, grandchildren, etc., to get involved. Veterans have a story to tell, and the telling of these stories of military service during WWII will enable your memories to live on.

DUES are just \$25 for 2 years. Checks should be made out to: 457th Bomb Group Association

and mailed to: John Pearson, Treasurer
457th Bomb Group Assoc.
11308 Blendon Lane
Richmond, VA 23233

Words to live by...

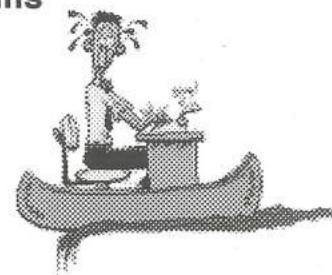
**"Beautiful young people are acts of nature,
but beautiful old people are works of art."**

Willard "Hap" Reese has worked hours upon hours getting the 457th photo collection of Bernie Bains on the 457th Bomb Group Association website.

Please visit this website and see what Willard has done to preserve the history of the 457th during World War II, on the internet.

Thanks, Willard, for your outstanding work and tireless effort in putting together our story.

areese@457thbombgroup.org



THE EIGHTH AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSEUM

Dr. Barry Buxton to Leave



Dr. Barry M. Buxton will leave The Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum March 17th to become Vice President for Institutional Advancement at the Savannah College of Art and Design. Dr. Buxton joined the museum staff on July 15, 1998 and has been the President/CEO establishing it as the State of Georgia's Center for Character Education and securing significant State funding for educational programs as well as various exhibits. Dr. Buxton leaves the museum on a solid

footing with respect to administration, fiscal status and staffing.

A search is underway for a new President/CEO. The officers of the Museum's Board of Trustees, the EXCOM, are serving as the search committee and will review all candidate applications. An application deadline of April 15th has been established and several applications have already been received. The EXCOM will meet at the museum to narrow the candidate field and make a final selection. An announcement of the name of the new President/CEO will follow soon thereafter.

The Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum has continued to grow into a world-class museum since the grand opening in May 1996. The museum is dedicated to educating students and the public at large, about the patriotic core values exhibited by all of the men and women who have served in The Mighty Eighth since its activation in Savannah in January 1942.

**Lt. Gen E.G. Shuler, Jr. Chairman,
Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage
Museum**

Sign up for:

<input type="checkbox"/> Wing Commander Circle	Amount \$1,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Squadron Leader Club	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Honor Guard	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Allies	\$45
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> Heir Of The Eighth <small>(Children & Grandchildren of Eighth Air Force Veterans)</small>	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/> Veteran	\$20

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Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum
P.O. Box 1992
Savannah, Georgia 31402

MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSEUM

Annual Membership Sign-Up Form

THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSEUM

July 28, 2000

To The Members of The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum

We have good news for you!

The news release enclosed explains that we have appointed a talented young man, C.J. Roberts to be the President and CEO of The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum beginning September 15, 2000.

Roberts has been Chief Administrative Officer of The National D-Day Museum in New Orleans. He brings experience, talent, energy and vision to our work.

We look forward to the future under the direction of this dynamic young man.

With kind regards,

Cordially,

Buck Shuler

Lt. Gen. E.G. Shuler, Jr., USAF Ret.
Chairman, Board of Trustees

THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSEUM...

Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum

PRESS RELEASE

July 29, 2000

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Jeffrey Bilderback
Director of Exhibits and Collections
The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum
912-748-8888 ext. 109



AWARD RECIPIENT ANNOUNCEMENT: THE BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES M. STEWART AWARD

The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum has named Astronaut and Shuttle Commander Colonel Eileen Collins, USAF, as the third recipient of the Brigadier General James M. Stewart Award. This annual award is given in honor of General Stewart and to an individual or group of individuals in recognition of distinguished contributions to United States civilian or military aviation or exceptional airmanship and leadership involving aerial flight. The award was presented to Colonel Collins on July 19th, 2000, by Mighty Eighth Board of Trustee member Ben F. Love of Houston, Texas.

Colonel Collins became the first female space shuttle pilot in 1995. In 1999 she became the first female shuttle commander on mission STS-93, which deployed the \$1.5 billion Chandra X-Ray Observatory. Col. Collins faced two major problems during the shuttle mission, including a loss of electrical power to the shuttle's center engine and a hydrogen leak. Her leadership and perseverance prevented a premature end for the mission, and the crew successfully completed their mission objectives. Lieutenant General E.G. Shuler, USAF, Retired, commented that in addition to her other attributes, the Board of Trustees selected Collins because of her "coolness as Shuttle Commander in handling two emergencies shortly after liftoff, and her appointment as the first female Shuttle Commander."

The Board of Trustees at The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum unanimously decided that Col. Collins displayed all of the characteristics of a Brig. Gen. James M. Stewart Award recipient. Previous awardees include Colonel John H. Beard, Mission Commander of the longest combat mission in history and General Michael E. Ryan, Chief of Staff United States Air Force.

MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE
HERITAGE MUSEUM

PRESS RELEASE

July 29, 2000

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Jeffrey Bilderback
Director of Exhibits and Collections
The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum
912-748-8888

The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum has named C. J. Roberts as its new President and Chief Executive Officer. Roberts, who has been Chief Administrative Officer of The National D-Day Museum in New Orleans, will assume his new responsibilities September 15, 2000. "We are confident that C. J. Roberts will bring the experience and vision we need to continue our growth toward national prominence," said Lieutenant General E. G. Shuler, Jr., USAF, Retired, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Mighty Eighth.

Those who planned the D-Day Museum, led by noted World War II historian Stephen Ambrose, chose Roberts in July, 1998, to coordinate the planning, building, opening, and now the operation of this national museum. Opened June 6, 2000, this facility has captured the attention of the American public who have expressed renewed interest in the courage and sacrifice of World War II veterans. Earlier, Roberts served as Director of the George C. Marshall Museum, Lexington, Virginia. This Museum honors the work of the military leader and statesman of World War II and the years following.

Roberts, a native of Indiana, took his baccalaureate and masters degrees at the Indiana University. He gained his fascination with the past while doing museum work as a graduate student. He has served with the United States National Park Service, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.

Sarah Roberts, wife of the new President/CEO, also from Indiana, is Director of Education for the Louisiana Children's Museum. C. J. Roberts, writing to the Trustees, observed: "We are eager to make our home in Savannah and look forward to leading this museum, which is nothing less than a national treasure."

Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum

PRESS RELEASE

July 2, 2000

Eager Beaver Nose Art now Displayed at Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum

A relic of the first Eighth Air Force plane to bomb World War II Germany left the Pennsylvania College of Technology recently to find its home in the Museum. A dedication of the exhibit will take place July 4th, 2000 at the Museum in Pooler, Georgia.

The Eager Beaver's original pilot convinced Penn College to donate the original decorated nose piece to the Museum, making it a striking remnant of this gallant aircraft. The B-17 was sold by the government in 1946 to the Williamsport Technical Institute, now Pennsylvania College of Technology, for \$350. The plane served the Institute as a training tool for aircraft mechanics for 35 years before it was finally broken up in 1980. As the old warbird was being taken apart for the last time, this section of the left side of its nose, with Leland Kessler's original art, the plane's mission tally, and a painting of the Distinguished Flying Cross, was removed and saved. The Museum will host members of the 306th BG Association as part of the dedication ceremonies at 10:00 AM, July 4th.

The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum is a history and aviation museum that promotes understanding and appreciation of the contributions of the men and women who have served in the air forces of the United States. The Museum is committed to meeting the educational needs of future generations through a variety of innovative programs, unique exhibits, and historical archives.

The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum is a 501-C (3) non-profit organization incorporated in the state of Georgia.

Phil Sellers

Director of Marketing & Public relations

Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum

PRESS RELEASE

July 02, 2000

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Phillip Sellers

Director of Marketing & Public Relations

The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum

912-748-8888

MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

TWO EXHIBITS OPEN JULY 4TH !!!

Angelo Spinelli's Photo Documentation on the life and culture in a POW Stalag Camp opens at the Museum July 4th, 2000. "Spinelli—Behind the Barbed Wire" is an exhibit whose main focus is the depiction of life in a Stalag and is culled from select photographs from the single largest collection of prisoner of war camp photos in existence in this country.

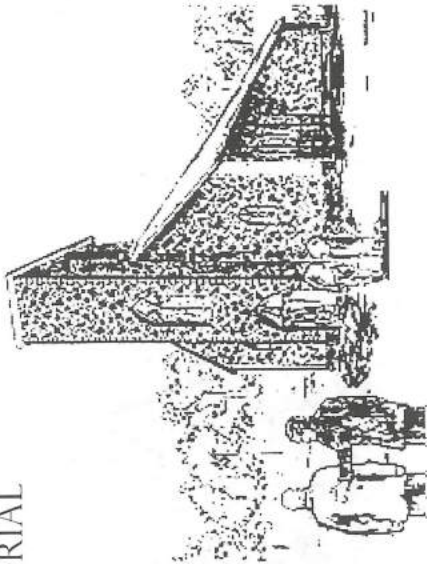
Mr. Spinelli, a World War II veteran, recently donated this unique collection of original negatives (over 400) to the Andersonville, Georgia National POW Museum. Mr. Spinelli took the photographs himself from 1943 to 1945 while a prisoner of war in Stalag IIIB, a camp near Furstenburg, Germany. Spinelli, like so many other POW's, quickly learned the value of trading or bartering with German guards for food and other commodities, obtaining a Bessa Voightlander folding camera, film, and tripod. Risking his life, the native New Yorker took over 1,200 exposures to document life in the camps. This unique traveling exhibit marks an extraordinary depiction of POW life. For more info, call the Collections & Exhibits Department, ext. 110. The exhibit remains on display in the General Lyle Rotunda through September 15, 2000.

MUSEUM'S MEMORIAL CHAPEL GROUNDBREAKING SET FOR OCTOBER

MASTER PLAN FOR MEMORIAL GARDENS APPROVED

Final construction detailing is underway and groundbreaking for the Heritage Museum's Memorial Chapel is set for October during the Eighth Air Force Historical Society Reunion.

With \$400,000 of project funding received, the excitement of the Chapel is in the air. Situated on 12 acres with 90,000 square feet of exhibits and aircraft, the Heritage Museum has become one of the most visited attractions in the region. The Museum's addition of this well conceived and masterfully planned worship center will make visits to the facility both inspiring and memorable.



Preliminary drawings show the Old English Chapel influence on plans now approved and underway.

HERITAGE NEWS

SIGN IN ANOTHER OFFICE:

After the coffee (tea) break, staff should empty the coffee(tea)pot and stand upside down on the drain board.

SIGN ON A CHURCH DOOR:

This is the gate of heaven.
Enter ye all by this door.
(This door is kept locked
because of the draft. Please
use side entrance.)

Groundbreaking Ceremony Update

The memorial groundbreaking ceremony on the National Mall is tentatively scheduled for November 11, 2000, pending approval of the final architectural design in September. If the design is approved by the NCPC, the campaign will activate the following toll-free number to provide callers with details about the ceremony:

1-877-992-2732

YOUR GIFT

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THE WWII MEMORIAL!!!

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MEMORIAL FUND

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COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 96766

WASHINGTON, DC 20090-6766

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

Memorial Day Tribute



*"They answered their country's
call to arms,
into battle they did go,
Where their final destination was,
No one will ever know,
May their final resting place,
Under some unknown sod,
Be forever hallowed,
For it is known
only unto God."*

TMP



Friends of the Eighth Newsletter

Volume 24 Number 2

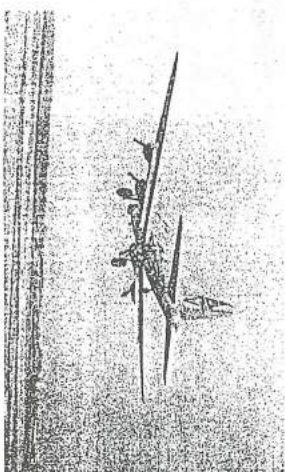
March 1999

Down in the Drink

John B Wilson

Cold and wet and adrift in a dinghy in the North Sea or English Channel was a daunting experience; therefore survival and early rescue action was most important for crew retrieval and morale purposes. During 236 combat missions by the 457BG eight such incidents required Air-Sea Rescue assistance.

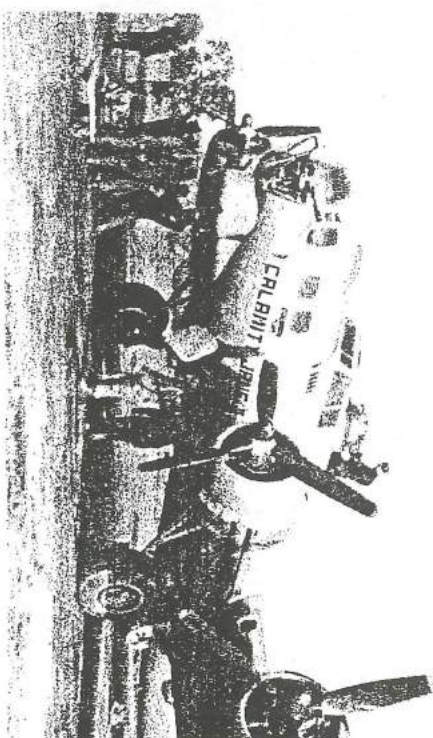
The Group's thirteenth mission to Augsburg on 16 March 44 proved unlucky for 2 Lt. Lewis Lemartson's crew in 42-97063 (V) who were forced to 'ditch' in the Channel at 1505 hours after being hit by enemy fighters on the way home. Sea Otter JM745 of No. 277 Sqdn. RAF rescued three men but had difficulty in getting airborne, so the pilot had to radio for a High Speed Launch (HSL) to pick them up. The entire crew returned later to Glendon with just a minor flak injury suffered by the tail gunner.



Reaching 50 missions on 24 May 44, intense and accurate flak over Berlin caused damage to 14 bombers including 42-102965 flown by 2 Lt. Harry Stafford which received several direct hits immediately after bomb release. One engine was completely destroyed and a second disabled, the electrical system was put out of commission, and all turrets and navigational instruments were rendered inoperable. On the way back further flak hit near the coast knocked out a third engine. However, despite three 'windmilling' propellers the B-17 was successfully 'ditched'. As a result of his actions, Stafford was later awarded a well-deserved DFC.

On D-Day+8 the Group mounted a 'maximum effort' to send five 12-ship boxes to attack Le Bourget and Melun airfields. The formations met accurate flak, losing five aircraft including 42-31618 (D) piloted by 2 Lt. James LaPaze. A direct hit below set the right wing and both engines on fire. The flames were extinguished and the propellers 'feathered' but part of the way towards the Channel the wing and engines re-ignited and smoke filled the cockpit. The crew baled out and almost at once the bomber exploded over the water. ASR picked up the tail gunner and wounded ball turret gunner; halfway between Dover and the Pas-de-Calais Lt. LaPaze and S/Sgt Charles Rogers (ROG) were rescued by a royal Navy minesweeper and

About an hour later HSL 2732 drew alongside and took the crew aboard where they were reunited with the two lifeboat 'volunteers'. The HSL commander attempted to tow ERIKA but found this too difficult and radioed for another ship to complete the duty. On landing ashore the airmen were hospitalised overnight; next morning a Group B-17 flown by Capt. Ed Dozier collected them from a nearby airfield and flew them 'low level' back to Glendon.



Poltz was the target on 7 October 1944 when 1 Lt. Ernest T Salzer experienced technical problems with 43-38529 on take-off, the landing gear refusing to retract electrically and having to be hand-cranked into the nacelles by the engineer. However this action was still not completed when the bomber arrived at the Assembly Point.

On the way out fuel consumption proved higher than normal and rising engine temperatures forced Salzer out of formation in order to conserve supplies. The B-17 trailed the Group up to target-approach before rejoining for the bomb-run. On the way home and again trailing the pilots found they had just 200/300 gallons - barely sufficient to regain friendly shores. All heavy gear was jettisoned and west of the Frisian Islands the guns and ammunition also went overboard. By now the fuel tanks were registering empty and ASR was radioed. Two HSLs were located and the B-17 was successfully 'ditched' and all crewmen rescued between the vessels. Lt. Salzer learned next day the '529' remained afloat until the following morning. An HSL attempted to tow it back but its bulk acted like a massive sea anchor, whereupon it was reluctantly sunk by machine gun fire since it was seen as a navigational hazard.

The final 457BG 'ditching' occurred on 28 February 1945 and involved B-17G 44-8255 returning from bombing marshalling yards at Soest (North of the Mohne Dam). The No. 3 engine caught fire and the wing fell off, forcing 2 Lt. Roy E Kirk to crash ten miles off North Foreland. Six crewmen were rescued but sadly three others including the pilot lost their lives.

Footnote from John:
Survivors Charlie Rogers and Reverend John (Zeke) Ward attended the 457BG Memorial Dedication at Conington church on 2 May 1984. Ten years later Herbert Barre attended Madingley on 4 June 1994 and was amazed to see the accompanying ASR photos given me by Julius Smith. As an ATC cadet I logged a three hour practice flight with Harry Stafford on 17 June 44 - one day short of my sixteenth birthday!

(The act of 'ditching' was one that could never be practised and therefore was a highly risky and unpredictable course of action even in smooth conditions. Assuming a crew complement of nine for each bomber, making 72 in total, the fact that 60 crewmen - more than 80% - did survive is quite amazing. The other comment I would make is this; John, you flew longer on that one flight in 1944 than I have flown in Post-war preserved B-17s over a period of 19 years! Ed.)

Aero engine factories five miles NE of Leipzig were bombed on 7 July 1944. During the mission 2 Lt. Jack B Owens flying an old B-17F 42-30731 was unable to transfer fuel from the Tokyo Tanks; the crew elected to return to base over the same route taken across Holland. A flight of P-47s escorted the bomber out to the coast where three of the flight remained with their charge to ensure their safety across the North Sea. About half-way to England the crew's luck ran out and the pilot's were forced into a 'ditching'. Crashing into a choppy sea the aircraft broke up and sank on impact with the unfortunate loss of four crewmen.

Waist gunner John D (Zeke) Ward recalled the action; "My leg was broken on impact and because the aircraft sank so rapidly I was helpless and so resigned myself to my fate. One minute I had given up, the next I found myself free of the aircraft but still several feet under water. I held my breath and pulled to the surface just as my lungs were getting ready to burst. I pulled the lanyards on my Mae West and popped to the surface like a cork. I came up next to the other four crewmen and Lt. Berta assisted me into the dinghy. Time was impossible to judge but we were in the water between 30 and 90 minutes. We were picked up by British ASR and the three P-47s kept us in sight until they saw the HSL coming for us".

Five days later 42-38063 (S) THE G.I. VIRGIN flown by 2 Lt. Robert Kaufman was hit by flak on Mission 87 to Munich. The pilots managed to steer the bomber as far as the Channel over which the crew baled out and were picked up by ASR.

A fuel dump some three miles SSW of Nienburg was Mission 103's target on 5 August. Since 2 Lt. Charles Canfield's regular PROP WASH was in for maintenance his crew were assigned 42-97060 CALAMITY JANE II. At the target flak disabled two engines, started a fire in the cockpit as well as causing other severe damage. S/Sgt Herbert Barte (Ball turret gunner) was initially trapped but was extracted by S/Sgt Julius Smith (RWG) and Alvie Kirkendall (TG). A third engine was quickly lost and a 'ditching' 14 miles off Heligoland was made. The sea was very rough but all the crew survived and got into their rafts before the B-17G finally disappeared. Two P-51s then flew over and dipped their wings to acknowledge they had spotted the dinghies.

After drifting for several hours a search team comprised of an RAF twin-engine aircraft escorted by three P-38s dropped a lifeboat by parachute into which the very fortunate crew transferred. The position-marking smoke-bomb and circling aircraft had attracted the attention of the small Danish fishing boat ERIKA operating under the Nazis and crewed by four men. The captain who spoke a little English and two others were German while the fourth was a 16 year old Dane. Canfield's crew transferred to ERIKA at which point the vessel was promptly commandeered and the lifeboat hauled on board! (The small food supply allowed for four days fishing and since 36 hours had already elapsed since leaving port there were meagre rations left).

The vessels' top speed was six knots but the captain agreed to sail to England; just 50 miles short of the Scottish East Coast the fuel ran out. The anchor was dropped as an anti-drift measure and the ASR boat was put into the sea for volunteers to go for help. The flip of a coin left 2 Lt. Clarence Ross (CP) and T/Sgt William Cain (TT/EG) to cast off and head west. Three full days had elapsed since the 'ditching' and in this time the sea had moderated to a smooth surface. Five hours after the lifeboat left an RAF aircraft appeared. It fired warning shots ahead of the fishing vessel, which the captain interpreted as a signal to turn back - an impossibility with no fuel on board. Some quick thinking by which the letters Y.A.N.K. were spelled out using white boards on the deck surface satisfied the RAF pilot who circled several times while flashing a response by Morse.

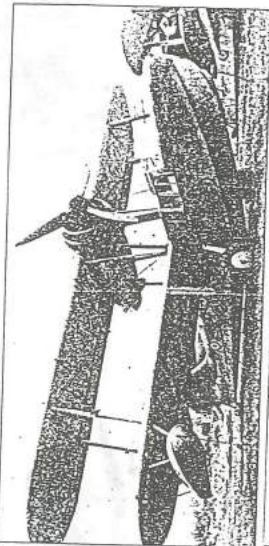
Reference the enclosed Air-Sea Rescue notes you may be interested to learn that Squadron Leader Jack Brown DFC, the Officer Commanding No. 277 Squadron was the pilot involved in the 16 March rescue. He was also presented with the American DFC by General James H Doolittle on 13 January 1945 the citation stated that he had been on 68 rescue sorties resulting in 26 men being saved.

The Squadron crest and picture of a Sea Otter will serve as a reminder of RAF wartime co-operation with the USAAF.

No. 277 Squadron

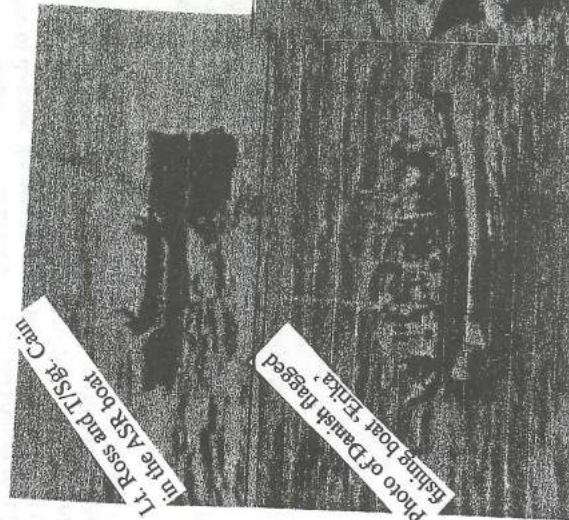


No. 277 Squadron formed at Stapleford Tawney on 22 December 1941 with detachments at Hawkinge, Martlesham Heath, Shoreham and Thangmere. It remained covering the Channel and Thames estuary throughout World War 2, finally disbanded at Hawkinge on 15 February 1946. A few Westland Lysander Mk IIAs and Supermarine Walrus Mk IIAs joined the



A Westland Lysander Mk IIa of No. 277 Sqd prepares for an ASR sortie at a south coast airfield, possibly during 1943.

Mk IIa initially. In 1942 came Boulton Paul Defiants and Supermarine Spitfire Mk IIAs and in 1943 Supermarine Sea Otters, Spitfire Mk VBs and Vickers Warwick joined the squadron in 1944.



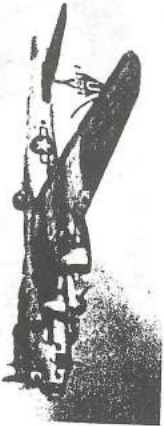
Lt. Ross and T/Sgt Cain in the ASR boat.

Photo of Danish flagged fishing boat 'Yinka'.

HSL 2732 that picked-up Ross and Cain and later picked-up the rest of the crew.

Footnote:

My special thanks to Julius Smith for the above ASR photos and information regarding the rescue.



Volume 24 Number 3

June 1999

'YOU NEVER KNOW'

John B Wilson

The above name appeared on the nose of B-17G No. 42-32086 of the 749BS, 457BG operating out of Glatton, Hunts, during 1944. On 10 Sept. 1944 the nine-man crew were awakened at 0400, briefed at 0530 and took off at 0715 as a part of a 36-strong formation. The assigned target was a motor transport plant located at Gaggenau in Germany.

The Group steadily ascended to 16000 ft. at which stage of the mission it was crossing in over the French coast. Just East of St. Quentin a mid-air collision occurred between B-17 No. 42-97451 NANCY K. flown by Lt. Harold D. Gay and 42-97456 MIGHTY LITTLE JOHN piloted by Lt. Homer M. Passmore. Lt. Gay was momentarily blinded by sun glare and had inadvertently pulled up, striking the other B-17 in the process. The impact resulted in the latter-named bomber splitting in two just behind the radio-room. Just two of its crew, the navigator and tail-gunner, managed to take to their parachutes and land safely; the remainder were trapped in the tumbling wreckage of the doomed aircraft. Lt. Gay managed to turn back and return without incident to Glatton but also without his navigator and bombardier who had also jumped without waiting to hear the bale-out bell.

The Group now proceeded without further incident although some scattered but accurate flak was encountered over Metz. The bomb-run was commenced at 25000 ft and the ordnance finally released at the end of a 27 nautical mile visual distance. Following 'bombs away' the Group returned home along the briefed route. On return the bombing results were only classified as 'fair'.

As the Group was about 40 miles south of Nancy 42-32086 YOU NEVER KNOW flown by Lt. Loren G. Hampton was struck by small-calibre fire when flying at between 4000 ft. and 6000 ft. Navigator Lt. Bob Mattox was badly wounded and the waist and tail gunners abandoned the bomber, one of whose engines was exuding a thick black smoke trail. Lt. Hampton succeeded in regaining control of the crippled B-17 but a shortage of fuel finally forced him to make a 'wheels-up' emergency landing in a farm field two miles from the village of Senan near Joigny.

T/Sgt. Russell G. Karl (ROG) recalled: 'The plane skidded across the field and came to rest without any of the crew suffering injury. We got out in a hurry in case of fire and anxiously waited for whoever might approach, be they friend or foe. Finally around 30 French men and women came running up. We were told that the Germans had left just 48 hours before we arrived. The French

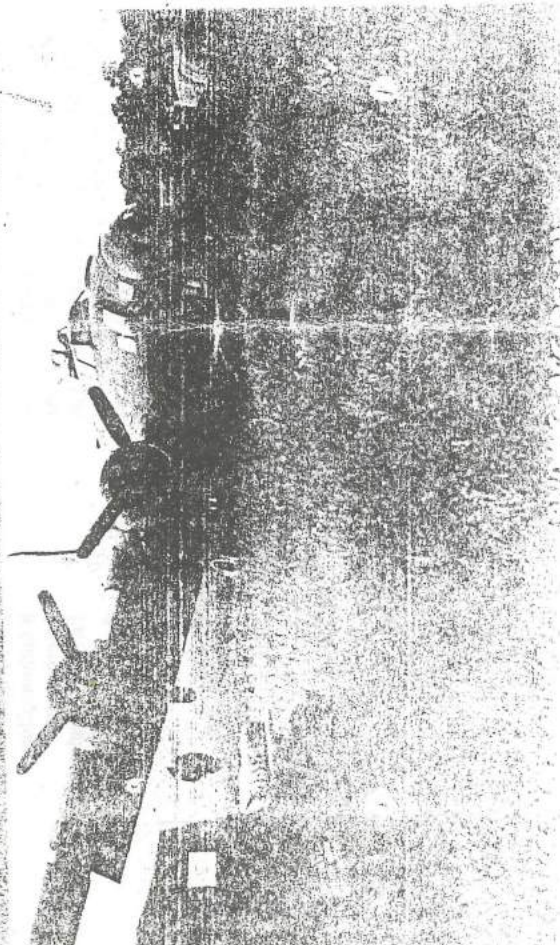
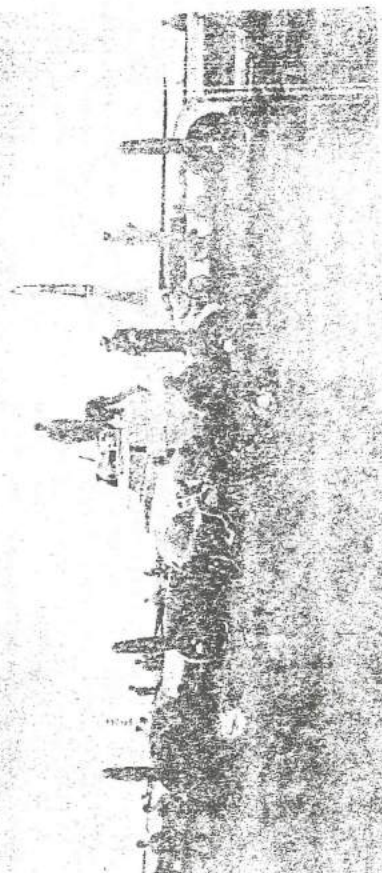
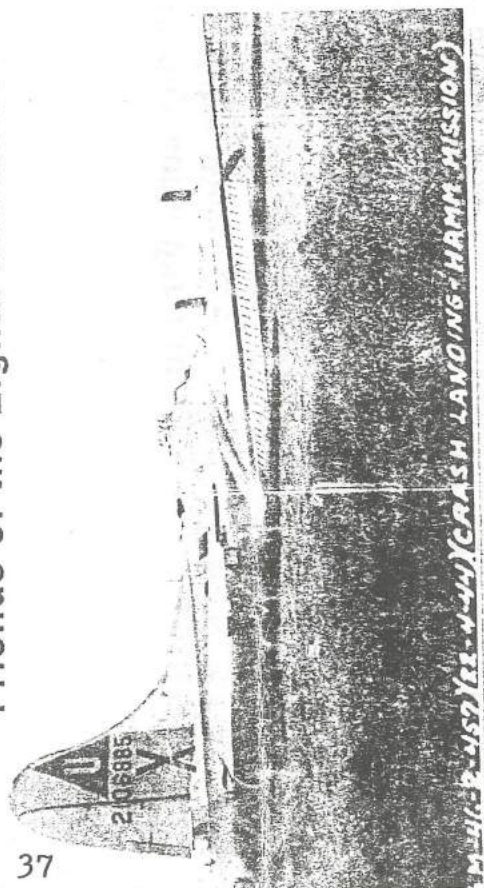
Underground (FFI) pumped out the small amount of gasoline still remaining in the aircraft's tanks, while we were taken to the village where we were pried with food and drink; our wounded navigator had been removed to a hospital in Joigny in the meantime. Next day we were driven to Only airfield about 80 miles away and from here hitched a ride to U.S. Army HQ situated near the Opera House in Paris. After three days in the Capital City we were flown back to London on 14 September where we were interrogated prior to release and return to Glatton. Our next mission was not until 25 September and I completed my 35th and final one on 1 January 1945, returning to Washington nineteen days later'.

In sad contrast the two gunners who baled out of T/Sgt. Karl's bomber did not survive. One of the duo fell to his death and the other was captured and turned over to the Gestapo for interrogation at Schirmeck La Broque Concentration Camp - a complete violation of the Geneva Convention regarding POWs and their treatment. The unfortunate airman was beaten and generally maltreated prior to transfer to Rotenfeld Camp near Gaggenau. Here on 25 September and along with several British POWs he was removed to a wood north of the town and shot.

The saying 'You never know' could equally be applied to the experience of a second 749BS crew headed by Lt. Paul W. Gilbert and flying in 44-8032. In the course of the 10 September mission the bomber lost two engines to flak, its No. 4 engine caught fire and the hydraulic, intercomm and oxygen systems were knocked out. T/Sgt. David C. Foltz (Engineer) came down out of his turret in order to assist the pilot and rigged up his own oxygen line for Lt. Gilbert's use. He then took a portable oxygen bottle and made his way aft to check out the rest of the crew and the bomber's condition. As he was doing so Lt. Gilbert set the B-17 on auto-pilot and punched the bale-out bell. Unbeknown to Gilbert the alarm system had also been shot out. The result was that only the four officers up front actually jumped, leaving the other crewmen unaware of their action.

Back in the waist T/Sgt. Foltz now became alarmed by the aircraft's gyrations and made his way back up to the cockpit where his astounded gaze took in the abandoned pilot seats. Despite two flak fragments in his hand he immediately climbed into the co-pilot's vacant seat and piloted the bomber in a westerly direction for more than 90 minutes. By this point in the flight the five airmen concluded they were over France and since Foltz felt that the B-17 was likely to blow up at the 'gunner-pilot' duly gave the order to bale-out. All five airmen parachuted safely and landed into what was liberated territory. Subsequent to his action, Foltz was awarded the Silver Star and also picked up the Purple Heart in respect of his wounds.

(My thanks to 'Russ' Karl, a long serving member of the 457BG Association for providing details of the story YOU NEVER KNOW. I am pleased to record that I flew with the Hampton crew in - 086 on 18 August 1944 as well as making two flights with Paul Gilbert who now enjoys retirement in York, PA.



A CREW CHIEF'S LAMENT

by Robert Heiliger, 303rd Bomb Group

I watched those brave men, those 10 brave men,
As they drove up in their jeeps,
With flying suits and parachutes
And things they left for me to keep.
There was no talk, just a confident walk
To the B-17 we called "Sack Time."
As they gathered there in the morning air,
With the target - Dresden - on their mind.

The captain asked "Is the Sack OK?
Will she bring us back alive?"
He knew I'd be sitting on an ammunition crate,
Anxiously waiting for them to arrive.
As they climbed so high in the morning sky,
I felt like shouting to the clouds,
"War is hell, we all know that,
But Hitler left us no way out."

I worked away the hours in the English chill,
Passing the time by any means,
When suddenly, they began to return
In their battered and crippled B-17s.
I scanned the sky with my naked eye
But "Sack Time" was not in sight;
I kept the virgil into the evening hours
Then gave up long into the night.

Come cry with me,
Cause war is hell,
It takes a deadly toll
Today....my buddies fell.

Please forgive me, for I have misplaced one of John Wilson's letters, as well as the article sent with it. He however ask for the following information: M.B.

Through the columns of the newsletter I would like to make a request for information concerning the following incidents, all occurring at the base in 1944. I would appreciate any details of crew involved and relevant comments before, during, or after the crash landings.

- 1) 42-106985 X. Crash landed after mission to Hamm 22 April. Salvaged 27 April.
- 2) 44-6118 T (?) 28 August. Reason: Unknown (?). Salvaged same date.
- 3) 42-97456 Q. Landing accident 19 May. No details known.

I am sure someone will come up with the answers...could make interesting reading! Thank you!

JOHN WILSON PETERBOROUGH ENGLAND



RAF ASSOCIATION
AIRCRAFT WORLD



John B Wilson
8 Anthony Close, Peterborough, PE1 3XU, England

Dear Mickey & Homer,

APR, 13-00

I attended our first FOTE meeting this year at Alconbury on 18th March and thereby learned of Bernie's death. You may like to know that following an announcement by our chairman, members present held a minute silence in respect.

I note that you have both expressed a desire to ease back on your activities, which I well understand. Similarly, I feel that having escorted numerous 457th visitors to the airfield over the above period, I feel now is the time to ease away from this aspect and would like to advise other members of the Association that nearing 72, I no longer wish to have the responsibility of driving visitors to the old base/or Maddingley Cemetery near Cambridge.

I still have a great interest in the Association and "all things 457th", so will continue to correspond with anyone who writes to me. I am sorry that I shall not be in attendance at the May 2000 re-union (the first I have missed since 1984) but will continue to submit an occasional article to you for publishing consideration... (if no objections ?)

I hope you will find space to include this in your next newsletter.

Best wishes to All

John B Wilson

GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLDER

- Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.
- Insanity is my only means of relaxation.
- Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.

During World War Two, B-29s Were Here!

A sixteen-year-old English lad in 1944, I was an enthusiastic air cadet in our national Air Training Corps (115 Peterborough Squadron) which helped prepare us for ultimate service in the RAF learning theory of flight, navigation, meteorology, Morse code, aircraft recognition, etc. We also visited local RAF/USAF airfields and with parents' written permission were allowed to fly in service aircraft.

I made many good friends with some of the 457th Bomb Group (H) and regularly visited their base at Glatton, Hunts about ten miles from our city, eventually achieving 38 flights logging 93 hours 5 minutes passenger air experience on local air tests, formation practice, etc. with occasional "stick time" on their B-17s.

During one of these visits, on 11 March while the group was attacking Munster marshaling yards, a new silhouette circled the base in the shape of a B-29 Superfortress. Better still, it lowered its landing gear and lined up for eventual runway touchdown. Needless to say, the whole base seemed to come alive to view this latest bomber planned for service with the USAF.

749th Squadron Operations was only about half a mile from the control tower and I was into a jeep with other personnel when they went out for a closer look after it had parked.

This BIG, beautiful Boeing was soon surrounded by an admiring crowd.

Several stories went around... it was part of a recruiting drive for experienced crews for the Pacific Theater with stateside leaves thrown in, pilot command meant promotion to major (it was flown by a full colonel), etc. It was only after the war that the true facts emerged.

This dark olive drab/neutral grey coloured aircraft, numbered 41-36963, was the tenth built YB-29 and was attached to the 8th Air Force. It visited several bases in England in order to deceive German intelligence into believing that the B-29 was to become the 8th's standard B-17 replacement.

The 20 planes that bombed Munster returned safely in time to also view this interesting visitor, and just before dusk the giant four-bladed props lifted off the bomber for return to its home base, never to be seen at Glatton again. But I was there!

To an air-minded youth it was a great day. It was some 34 years later that the first photos of this event came to light from Lester Fried's personal album. Sadly, now deceased, Lester served in the 457th S-2 Section.

To all Americans... Thank you for all your sacrifices in our time of need.

John Wilson
8 Anthony Close
Peterborough
PE1 3XU, England

Now that I'm older, here's what I've discovered:

- * I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.
- * My wild oats have turned into prunes and All Bran.
- * I finally got my head together; now my body is falling apart.
- * Funny, I don't remember being absent minded.
- * If all is not lost, where is it?
- * Some days you're the dog; some days you're the hydrant.

March 1, 2000

Dear Mr. Briggs,

My name is Nicole Peterson Hunter and I am the granddaughter of the late Leslie R. Peterson, Sr. and Mildred Peterson of Hollywood, FL. I believe you know both of my Grandparents from the 457th group and the various reunions. I know they attended most of them and my Grandmother is still active. My brother, parents, and I attended the mini reunion in Peterborough in 1992 and really enjoyed it.

The reason I am writing is that my husband, Jon, and I recently attended the funeral of Jon's uncle's long time companion in Georgia and since the passing of Uncle Doug's dear friend, we have been spending a lot of time with him, so as to keep his mind off of the subject. Imagine our surprise, during one of our visits, to find out that Uncle Doug also served in the 457th! He was in the 751st, (my Grandfather was in the 750th) and was a prisoner of war for 2 years. Is that a small world? Since then, my Grandmother has been forwarding some of her old 8th Air Force and 457th NLs so that we can pass them along to Doug. We think that getting involved in the organization is just what he needs right now. We hope to get him to England for the next Mini reunion.

So my Questions..."When will the next England reunion be? and How can I buy a copy of your book 'Fait Accompli'?" We would like to purchase 2 copies. One for us and one as a gift for Doug, but I am aware that it is currently out of print. I have computer companies searching for it as they specialize in that type of thing, but I was sure you would know!

My address is 2415 Fagot Ave., Metairie, LA 70001. Phone (504)833-5472. I would surely appreciate any information you could send me so that I can get Uncle Doug Rice involved with your group. Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely, Nicole Hunter

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UP-TO-DATE?**

Mailing Address... Be sure to warn us if you have moved. Where and When?
Let us know if you don't want the newsletter.

AIR Power

The Eighth Air Force Historical Society
General James H. Doolittle Chapter

Summer Edition

June 1, 2000

• Perhaps you know why women over fifty don't have babies. They would put them down somewhere and forget where they left them.

• One of life's mysteries is how a two pound box of candy can make a person gain five pounds.

1.) Results of the election to the Board of Director's and election of Chapter Officers:

Somehow thinking of the General membership meeting of April 29, 2000 at the Red Lion at Sacramento made me think of past meetings, and of friends. Please bear with me for a few moments while I show some photographs of some past meetings;



Angeline and Daniel Freidman, 1997

457th BOMB GROUP

MEDALS

GETTING YOUR DECORATIONS

The key to getting the awards you never received, or in replacing ones lost over the years, is your DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FORM 214. This all-important piece of paper should have been given to you at the time of your discharge or separation from active duty. The form should have been registered at the courthouse serving your place of permanent residence. If your DD214 was registered, you can always get a copy of it by visiting or writing the courthouse where it was registered. Otherwise, you'll have to write to the military records center in St. Louis to get a copy. On the DD214 Form should be listed your medals and decorations. If you want the medals and awards listed on your DD214, write to one of the following address and request them (*they are free of charge*):

Army:

AGUZ-PSE-AW
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132

Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, USPHS
Director

National Personnel Records Center
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132

Both places have the same street address, but be sure to address your envelope exactly as it is shown above your particular service. The record center is a huge place and your request for action is going to take months as it is. Don't create extra time for yourself by sending a letter that might wander around a number of desks before it reaches someone who can actually act on it. There is always a huge backlog of requests, so expect a long wait. No special form is required but be sure to include the following information neatly and prominently in your letter:

Your full name
Social Security Number
Service number (if you served before 1970)
Date and place of birth
Approximate dates of service
Medals and decorations requested



OF HONORED MEMORY

By TAMAR A. MEHURON, Associate Editor, AIR FORCE Magazine / May 1999

WORLD WAR II CASUALTIES

	Battle Deaths	Non-Battle Deaths	Total Deaths	Wounds Not Mortal	Number Who Served	Ratio of Battle Deaths to Number Who Served
Army Air Forces	52,173	37,856	90,029	17,359	2,244,000	2.33*
Army	182,701	45,544	231,245	548,502	9,016,000	2.03
Navy	36,950	25,664	62,614	37,778	4,183,466	0.88
Marine Corps	19,733	4,778	24,511	68,207	669,100	2.95
Total World War II Deaths			408,400			
AAF Percentage of Total	17.89	33.25		2.58	13.93	*Over 12% of air crews

The Heavy Toll of Two Battles

B-24s - Ploesti, Romania, August 1, 1943	Number Involved	Combat Deaths/Aircraft Lost	Attrition Rate
PERSONNEL	1770	582	30.10%
AIRCRAFT	177	54	30.50%
B-17s - Schweinfurt, Germany, October 14, 1943	Number Involved	Combat Deaths/Aircraft Lost	Attrition Rate
PERSONNEL	2290	590	26.20%
AIRCRAFT	229	67	29.30%

SOURCE: AIR FORCE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

8TH AF BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT

REPRINTED FROM THE 8TH AF NEWS, JULY, 1986

Your editor recently read an interesting report on the 8th AF casualties in June, July, and August of 1944.

This 65-page report is Chapter IX (pages 47 through 611) of a report, *Wound Ballistics*, prepared by the Medical Department, U.S. Army, Office of the Surgeon General, Washington, DC. The book may be identified by library of Congress Catalog Card Number 2-600002.

Due to the need for data on air combat casualties, the Chief Surgeon of the ETOUSA, on June 1944, appointed Major Allan Palmer to be chief of a Medical Operations Research Section. From the report they produced, it appears that the Medical ORS was located on the grounds of the Cambridge American Cemetery. In his report, Palmer states that those three months in 1944 were chosen in the belief that they would "yield a satisfactory sample of casualty data..."

For the record, the report noted that the 8th AF was served by the 1st, 7th, 65th, 91st, 11th, and 184th General Hospitals, and by the 4th, 121st, 136th, 231st, 280th, and 303rd Station Hospitals. It is a shame to note that only one is in contact today with members of the 65th, the 231st and the 303rd. It would be interesting to know the location of each of the

hospitals.

The report covered casualty statistics for the 12, 14, and 14 heavy bombardment groups in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Bomb Divisions respectively. This force conducted 69,682 combat sorties during the period under study.

A survey of their findings produces the following data by type of aircraft:

	B-17	B-24
Sorties	39,724	29,958
Man-combat msns	357,516*	299,580*
A/C MIA	390	303
Crew MIA	3,510*	3,030*
A/C Ret	624	320
w/casualties		
Crew WIA	673	334
Crew KIA	69	41

*The report states that the B-17 carried an average of nine crew members during the period, while the B-24 carried an average of ten crew members. It also stated that the 8AF had estimated that 40% of the MIAs in the first six months of 1944 were KIA. (Ed. Note: In the 13 months of combat by members of the 466th BG, 428 men were MIA on combat missions. Of these, we have found through MACRs that 222 were KIA. That rate is 52%. This may indicate

that the 8AF KIA estimate for MIAs was low).

Another look at the figures given in this report shows the following data, by Division:

	1st BD	2nd BD	3rd BD
Sorties	23,488	24,448	21,746
A/C MIA	237	272	184
Av. # WIA, per group	32.17	20.21	24.14
Av. # KIA, per group	3.42	2.36	2.57

A breakdown by crew position shows relative casualty rates as follows:

Bombardier	17.6
Navigator	12.2
Pilot (2)	14.0
Top Turret	8.4
Radio Operator	8.5
Ball Turret	5.9
Waist Gunner (2)	20.9
Tail Gunner	12.5

It was interesting to learn that 94% of the casualties brought back to the UK during this period were the result of flak. 4.5% were due to fighter attacks, and 1.5% due to unknown causes.

The most remarkable statistic in this report was the fact that during the study period the



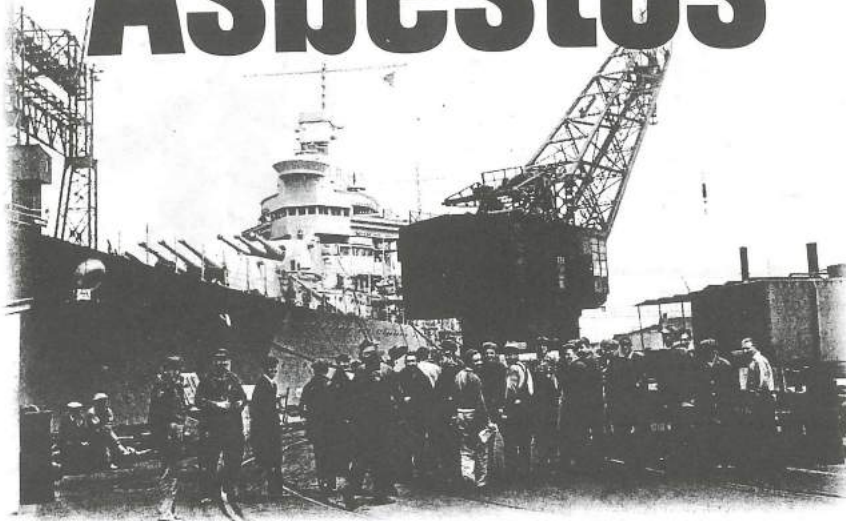
You Know You've Had Too Much of the Year 2000 When....

1. You tried to enter your password on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with a real deck of cards in years.
3. You e-mail your son in his room to tell him that dinner is ready and he e-mails you back, "What's for dinner?"
4. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of 3.
5. Your grand-daughter sells Girl Scout Cookies via her web site.
6. You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home.
7. Your child just bought a CD of all the records your college roommate used to play.



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20th October 2000.

Mr. Homer L.BRIGGS
457th BG Association
811 North West B Street
BENTONVILLE -Arkansas-72712

Oscar LAMBERT
89, Faubourg d'Arival
6762 SAINT-MARD
Belgium

Dear Mr.BRIGGS ,

Once again, I need your help concerning the B-17 from 457th BG/748BS serial 42-31517
Crashed on 25/02/44. The pilot was 2nd Lt James R.CHINN. There were 6 KIA, 2 POW and 1 EVD :

Nav. : 2Lt Frank McNICHOL (pow)
Bomb. : 2Lt John C. VOLLMUTH (pow)
TT. : S/Sgt Vito PERAGINE Jr. (evd)

I should like to know their addresses in order to obtain information about their odyssey
And how their plane was shot down.

I already thank you for your help.

Sincerely yours,

O.LAMBERT

Lambert

Every time I think about exercise,
I lie down until the thought
goes away.

It's frustrating when you know all
the answers, but nobody bothers
to ask you the questions.

The older you get, the tougher it
is to lose weight, because by
then your body and your fat are
really good friends.

43 Since we have changed Volunteer's positions, it is possible you did not get a Membership Card for Life, or one for the first time you joined. We may not have the correct year after your name on the mailing label. You may not have been listed in NL as new Life Member or listed as being found. Be sure to contact Mickey Briggs or Nancy Henrich for corrections.

PX

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Souvenir Coffee Cup (Gettysburg) with silver rim.....	\$5.00 ea	_____	_____
<u>Hurry...quantities limited</u>			
457th BG Assoc., 8th AF insignia, picture of Gettysburg,			
B-17 U Triangle, 1999.....	\$5.00 ea	_____	_____
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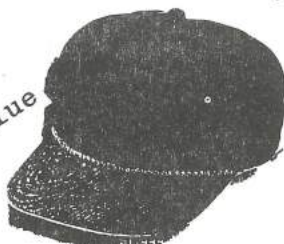
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