







Squadron

THE 457TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION NEWS ESTABLISHED JULY 1971

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BENTONVILLE, AR

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AUGUST 2001



This Reunion, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 2001, marks the 30th Anniversary of the 457th Bomb Group. The first reunion in July 1971, was held at the home of Homer and Mickey Briggs in Bentonville, AR. About 100 people attended.

Please don't let this be our last. Register NOW!

The Prez Sez

Greetings! The excitement and anticipation of the 2001 Reunion in Colorado Springs are building. At this writing, over150 persons have preregistered, and many more will have by the time you read this. In fact, a significant reason for this Newsletter is to give those of you who have not yet decided to attend (and those who may have lost the last NL) a chance to pre-register, with attendant savings, before the pre-registration and hotel preferred-rate deadline.

Please consider this: several bomb and fighter groups have ceased operation. Others, while not disbanding, have terminated their reunions. We are not at that point yet, but each reunion becomes more difficult to produce and to attend. The year 2003 seems like a long time away; right now we are robust and active. Let's take advantage of that and attend the 2001 Reunion.

Joe and Jeanne Toth and Nancy Henrich have put together a great reunion for our enjoyment. Be sure you register sufficiently early, especially if you will need a name tag! Dick Wyman is quite good-natured about making a name tag, even if it is needed because you lost yours. But, if everyone waits until the Reunion to let us know, that good nature might wear thin.

The English Travel Fund needs your help! Please see the article elsewhere in this issue. We expect to have several of our English friends and historians come to the 2001 reunion, and we hope to continue our tradition of assisting their travel.

Visit your website! The correct address for the 457th BG website is www.457thbombgroup.org. One address published in the last NL was in reality a temporary address. For a limited time, those who use it will be directed to the correct one. The Message Board receives many messages of inquiry about matters, people and aircraft that many of you could answer. The messages themselves are extremely interesting. In the Photo Archive section are many photos that can be down-loaded into your computer, edited and printed on your own printer. You can even down-load registration forms for the Reunion or application for membership. It is a great site!

Your Memorial Window Fund chairman cannot help being excited at our progress toward completing our \$15,000 pledge to sponsor a stained-glass window in the Chapel of the Fallen Eagles at the Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum. At this writing (June 25), we have passed the \$13,100 mark, leaving less than \$2,000 to go. We are hoping that this achievement will encourage those who have not taken advantage of this opportunity to support the preservation of the legacy of the 457th Bomb Group to send a check today. The address is elsewhere in this issue. We will have an artist's concept sketch of the window for your viewing at the Reunion.

To contribute to the Memorial Window Fund: send check, made payable to "457th Bomb Group Assn." & noted "Memorial Window Fund" to:

Craig Harris 2701 Pickett Rd., #2035 Durham, NC 27705-5649

The Association would be grateful for your donation. We are nearly to our goal. Let's take it over the top! Thank you.

Those of you who are members of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society have received notice of the 2001 Reunion in Irving, Texas, Oct. 25 – 29. Even if you come to the Colorado Springs 457th Reunion, you can double your fun by joining us at the 8AFHS Reunion.

Now that we are on that subject, we have not been overburdened with invitations for a 2003 reunion. Of course, we have had suggestions and ideas, but no one has said, "Come here, and I will do the reunion". One continuing possibility, and one which will work in 2002 and 2003, is to meet with the 8th AF Historical Society. Think about it. We can have a reunion where someone else does all the work. We have in the 457th BG Assn. many members of the 8thAFHS. The 2003 8AFHS reunion will be at the Sheraton Waterfront in Norfolk, October 1 – 6, 2002. Why don't we have an even-year reunion there, and meet with them again in 2003??

I hope to see as many of you as can attend our great 2001 Reunion in Colorado Springs. Til then, may God's blessings shower upon you.

IMPORTANT!

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF MEETING

This is an Official Notice that the 457th Bomb Group Association will meet at the Sheraton Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colorado on September 23-26, 2001. The Business Meeting of the Association will convene in session on Wednesday, September 26, 2001, beginning at 9:00 AM, local time, for the purpose of receiving reports of officers, electing officers and members of the Board of Directors for ensuing terms of office, and to transact other such business as may properly come before the meeting. Regular and Life members of the Association are voting delegates to the Meeting and are entitled to vote on each matter properly coming before the membership requiring a vote. A proposed amendment to the Bylaws, with an appropriate related amendment to the Articles of Incorporation, will be considered. They are attached here.

RESOLVED that Article IV of the Bylaws be amended by deleting the words "and a Secretary-Treasurer" in the first sentence and by substituting the following:

"...a Secretary and a Treasurer. It is provided however, that the same person may occupy both positions."

RESOLVED that Article VI of the Articles of Incorporation be amended by deleting the words "and secretary-treasurer, and" in the first sentence and substituting ", secretary, treasurer and", and by deleting the words "secretary-treasurer" in the second sentence and substituting the words "secretary and treasurer".

These proposals address the reality of the circumstances that attend the availability and willingness of persons to serve in these important positions.

REUNION UPDATE!

- As of July 23, our official registration count is 175. Please note, that reunions in Savannah and Gettysburg had an attendance of over 400. As Craig said in his "PREZ SEZ" column, we are wondering if this will be our last reunion. We have had a few suggestions as to the "where", but no takers for the "who".
- Joe Toth is wondering where the rest of the 751st Squadron is. As of this printing, only 15 have registered, whereas the 748th Squadron has 23 registered.
- Deadline to register at the hotel is August 23. If you wait to register after that date, you risk not getting a room at the reunion rate of \$85 + tax a night. When making your hotel reservation, use this number: 1-719-576-5900. If you have any trouble, ask for Michelle in Group Reservations.
- Many people wonder why we have to pay a registration fee. We didn't know what that money goes for until we started planning for this reunion. We thought you should know what that registration fee covers:

printing and postage costs, banquet speaker and music, banquet table decorations, snacks for first night Meet 'n Greet, small fee to hotel for internet service, etc, etc, !!! And, there are probably a dozen other smaller things that are paid out of the registration fees that we don't even know about yet!!!

- Please note the change on the Daily Schedule for Squadron photos...<u>PICTURES WILL BE</u> TAKEN ON TUESDAY RATHER THAN ON MONDAY.
- Confirmation cards are mailed out after we receive your registration.
 If you do not get one, let Nancy know. (719)564-8599

From the publication of the Association of Graduates, US Military Academy, kindly submitted by Jeffrey Rogner.

NO. 11251 CLASS OF 1938 DIED DECEMBER 18, 1951, IN A PLANE CRASH AT SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA, AGED 37 YEARS

Rog and I first bumped into one another on the soccer field three days after our arrival in beast barracks, July 1934—result: two pairs of split lips and bloody noses. A week later Billy Cavanaugh- of boxing coaching fame-thought that Rog and I would make a fine pair to demonstrate the manly art; result: same as on the soccer field. Shortly thereafter B-game Burlington elected Rog and Jack Ryan to demonstrate to hopefuls that an end and a halfback can take out a tackle anytime; I was the tackle; result: same as on the soccer field and first plebe boxing. At this juncture, Rog and I decided to join forces. We calculated that with Jim Isbell the three of us would displace a rather large body of water, and that back to back, we'd well survive the plebe and yearling draggings and such not uncommon goings on. The strategy worked fine as far as that "A" Company rabble was concerned, and even in rough and tumble old "M" Co. However, the plans of mice and men certainly do go asunder. Things were so quiet and peaceful with the outside world that just for exercise we continued to work one another over-except now we were three. And it continuedwell after leaving West Point. Two on one was as common at Randolph, Kelly, in England or Timbuktu as it was on the parade ground practice field.

In deep retrospect, the unchronicled incidents of comradeship, the sincere closeness of a "pal", a "partner", or a "buddy", as your closest friend is sometimes known as, constitute an intangible piece of your life which makes life itself so worthwhile. It requires and seldom obtains its true reflection. I can see Rog taking the "skin" for me and twenty confinements for a radio of doubtful ownership so that I could make the RMC hockey trip to Canada; or trying to keep me out of trouble in Abilene, Texas, only to have me hang one on him-of course he was trying to pull me out of a bar by my necktie; the details of a wedding stag party Rog ran for Preacher Wells, Ski York and Jack Ryan after our Kelly Field graduation are so clear that I have to chuckle. Certainly Al Gillem, Sully, Sam and Brink cherish the memory of Captain Rogner's basketball team "staff meetings". Some who read this will recall the assemblies at the "Old Oak Tap Room" and their circumstance.

Rog had an infectious personality with a dominating

desire to make fun out of work, to live every minute of life, to compete and to win, and to laugh and mostly to be a strong man amongst men. The award of the saber as the outstanding sportsman and athlete of the Class of 1938 to Cadet Harris E. Rogner testifies to his early success in these desires. Although we fought the war on the opposite sides of the world, I frequently would hear that Rog was fulfilling these desires in actual combat. His record in U. K.'s 8th Air Force earned him five Distinguished Flying Crosses and three Air Medals, flying B-17's, and as one of the Class 38's youngest colonels, leading the group he commanded. For Rog's performance as the commander of the 457th Bomb Group, and a deputy commander of the 94th Bomb Wing and 401st Bomb Group, in nearly two years of combat, he was additionally awarded the Legion of Merit.

In combat, Rog's personality was felt by every man in his organization and his leadership ability was a driving as well as a steadying influence on the entire unit. Symbolic of Rog's determination to be in the middle of things when the going was toughest and when the chips were down, Bill Garland wrote me the following example: "The problem facing his commanders was to keep Rog on the ground. He wanted to go on every mission. Just one small example—by the time "D" Day rolled around, Rog had only a few missions remaining in his tour; consequently, he was selected to fly the weather ship for the 1st Air Division. Rog was determined to be in on this show. He had some bombs aboard his stripped B-17. With a skeleton crew he performed his weather mission and as the last group of his division passed the final check point, Rog tagged on and bombed with this outfit."

Rog was a natural commander and leader, all other assignments were merely milestones in his preparation for command. After World War II, Rog graduated from the Command and Staff School at Leavenworth, the Armed Forces Staff College at Norfolk, and completed an extremely worthwhile and interesting two year tour at Lake Success, Long Island, with the United Nations. He assisted in the U.N. to the formation of plans for the election of a democratic government in Korea. Returning to a command assignment in 1949, Rog led the 301st Bomb Group, a B-29 organization at Smoky Hill Air Force Base, Salina, Kansas and later at Barksdale Air Force Base, Shreveport, Louisiana. For the next two and a half years, Rog was again in his finest element. Strategic Air Command people remember well when the 301st was

sent on a normal ninety day rotation to England in May 1950, and, due to the Korean incident, still hadn't come home in January 1951. Rog's outstanding leadership ability truly paid off in holding the outfit together under rather dismal circumstances. Rog told me on visiting in England that he sure hated to miss out on the Korean affair. He didn't! Soon after returning to Barksdale from England he left to join General Joc Kelly and to get into the fracas on the other side of the world. His last citation was for leading a formation of B-29's through intense anti-aircraft fire to cut off Communist supply lines in North Korea!

On December 17, 1951 Rog was homeward bound from Korea to spend Christmas with his wife and family. I have saved mention of this very important part of Ed's life to the last. Yes—Rog had missed being with his family the preceding Christmas, and had been overseas at the birth of his youngest son. Rog was doubly anxious to be with his wife, Kay, and his two sons, Edward Price and James Stephan and his daughter Teta Elizabeth, this Christmas. Rog now has three sons, Jeffrey Bruce having arrived March 30, 1952. Kay was the life "partner" of our friend Rog. She was the pal and buddy. Kay, the little mite, could handle Rog, to my very positive knowledge as far back as 1938. Few if any gangs, and no man at all, could do the same.

I hope that young Eddie, Teta, Jimmy and Jeff will someday be able to extract from this brief memorial some of the respect and admiration which all their Dad's friends possess for him. It is also important for them to know with the most positive assurance that their Dad's departure was in the fulfillment of the most honorable and esteemed vocation: The defense of their home and country.

Kay and the children have made a new home at 812 Alcoma Street, Sharon Pennsylvania. Kay writes that little Jeffrey, born after his father's death, is the spitting image of Rog. He'll be a handsome man, God bless him.

—W., H. Blanchard Brigadier General, USAF

To: Joe Toth, Unit Contact man, 457th BG

From: Fred Campbell, EXPOW VA Outreach

Program Committee

3312 Chatterton, TX 76904 (915) 944-4002 Voice/Fax

Please help us all to reach out, in your organization's newsletter or however, to the

thousands of POWs who have not presented a VA claim application. Many are missing well-deserved benefits for themselves AND spouses. Please do what you can in your veterans' outfit to help the VA make contact as they are striving now to do. Please "Broadcast" the following message in any way you can, and help get the word out. I was in the 401st BG.

Former Prisoners of War: The VA Wants You!

Of all former prisoners of war, with approximately
46,000 still living, only about 35% have
connected with the Department of Veterans
Affairs to accept the benefits for which they are
eligible. Now is the time to step forward.

If you are an ex-POW or know of someone who is, please respond to this announcement. The American Ex-Prisoners of War, Inc., has worked hard over the past 20 years to determine the effects of the POW experience on the health in later years of our POW veterans. provides benefits related to over 20 health maladies that were presumed to be initiated because of severe prisoner of war conditions suffered in the hands of the enemy. These presumptives include frostbite, heart problems, traumatic stress, malnutrition. osteoarthritis, and many others. For instance, we who were shot down expericenced the forced marches in the coldest winter, 1944-45, northern Germany had had in years can well remember the swollen, cold feet; and later heart problems and residuals of frostbite are presumed by the VA to have resulted. Tax-free disability compensation is provided for such.

Join American Ex-Prisoners of War, to be kept informed about the special benefits due former POWs and their spouses or widows. Our volunteer accredited National Service Officers will do their best to help you present your valid claim to the Department of Veterans Affairs, without charge. Learn more, call or write:

American Ex-Prisoners of War American Ex-Prisoners of War c/o New Member Commitee c/o National Service Office National Headquarters DVARO

OR-

DVARO
3201 E. Pioneer Pkwy. #40
3225 N. Central Ave., Ste. 407
Arlington, TX 76010
Phoenix, AZ 85012-2421
(817) 649-2979
(602) 745-2201
Fax (602)745-2203

LETTERS....

NOTE: This is just an overview of a story told by the sister of "one of us." Loretta Hamilton-Geary has contacted the 457th Association and requested that we share this story. Unfortunately, Loretta's story is much too long to include in this newsletter and an edited version would leave out important details. Because of these reasons, her story will be available for anyone to read in the Memorabilia room at the Sheraton Hotel, Colorado Springs, Reunion 2001.

Loretta says: "This is the war that saved the United States of America. We are losing over a thousand WWII veterans every day. Thus it will not be long before there will be no one to tell the stories of that day and time. This is why I have asked my children to be a part of this history making event so that they can understand why they are so lucky to be here in this world, imperfect as it is, and can tell their children and grandchildren of their ancestors who fought so bravely for their freedom."

In an article published by the War Department, the opening paragraph states, "The greatest aerial assault of the war was ordered for 6-21-44 and remained the largest and most significant to date. In the first penetration since 'D Day' the 457th Group dispatched 42 aircraft as part of the 'second force' of 500 heavies to bomb the center of Berlin while 677 heavies went to bomb aero engine factories in the suburbs. In addition, 163 B-17s were dispatched to the Ruhland synthetic oil refinery, southeast of Berlin, and then continued on to Russia."

Loretta's brother, Hershel Lee Wilson, was a pilot. Only nine men were on the plane that day...

First Lt. Hershel Lee Wilson, Pilot
2nd Lt. Bailey J. Gaudinier, co-pilot - survivor
2nd Lt. Jack H. Srout
2nd Lt. Chester D. Perkins
S/Sgt. Francis X. Heekin - survivor
S/Sgt. Joseph F. Schankin - survivor
S/Sgt. George N. Vassiloupoulos - survivor
S/Sgt. Frank J. Garzia
Sgt. Edward L. Attleton

Over the years, Loretta has been able to piece together the story of her brother's death, with the help of the 4 survivors from the plane that day. Frank McCaffrey, a British POW with the men, has also been found and has provided much needed closure for Loretta and her family.

<u>Loretta states</u>: "I owe my undying gratitude first of all to my God, my English friend, Ernie Geary, who later became my husband ... Norman Thomas, England; Eric Bruce and John Arnold, Australia; Joe Schankin, Michigan; Frak Heekin, Ohio; George Vassiloupoulos, California; Bailey Gaudinier, Washington; Den Gordier, Minnesota; Homer Briggs, Arkansas; Warren Crotty, Australia; and to Frank McCaffrey, Australia."

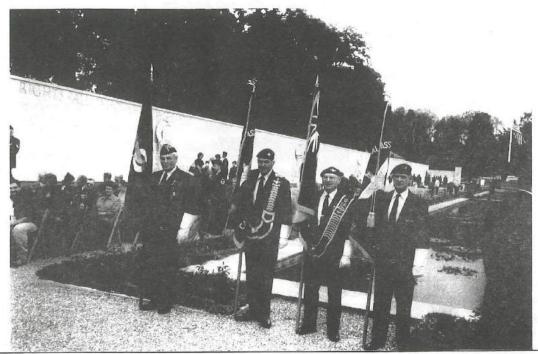
Loretta wants us all to know that it is possible to get information about war experiences and about loved ones, with perseverance and patience. And, she encourages all veterans to share their stores. Please look for Loretta's story at the reunion.

ACHTUNG!, Y'ALL ... English Travel Fund

We have just learned that Gordon and Ros Townsend have registered for the Colorado Springs Reunion. It was our hope that John and Syvia Walker, as well as Ray and Enid Pobgee, newly reelected Mayor and Mayoress of Peterborough, would also be in attendance. Unfortunately, as of the end of July, they report they are unable to attend. Our English Travel Fund has a balance of only \$758 at this writing. We really need your help in getting the fund up to a level where it can be used to help materially to defray some of the expenses of these fine English friends who go to such great lengths to welcome us on our even-year Mini-reunions in Peterborough. Gordon and Ros, along with John and Sylvia represented us at the 2001 Memorial Service at Madingley, -providing and laying the 457th BG Association Wreath at the Wall of the Missing in that annual ceremony. See photos opposite page. Please send your contributions for this worthy fund to:

JohnPearson, Treasurer, 457th BG Assn. 11308 Blendon Lane Richmond, VA 23233 -Thank you.

2000 Reunion Photos ... England



Color Guard at Memorial Service, May 28, 2001, Cambridge American Military Cemetery at left, Gordon Townsend



457th BG Assn. wreath at the Wall of the Missing, Cambridge American Military Cemetery left, Gordon Townsend --- right, John Walker

Reunion Registrations as of mid-July

Mary Addison Joe Ambrosetti Hugh and Phyllis Arnold Arthur & Doris Baker, daughter Carol Harbushka Lori Paris Barnett...daughter of Herbert Paris Charles and Elise Barrier James and Erma Bass William, Jr. and Lucille Bell Alexander and Janet Bennett Frank and Evelyn Bernd, and daughter and grandson Sandra and Andrew Atkinson William and Nancy Bird Earl (Rollie) and Helen Bolier Mickey Briggs Sons and daughters of Homer and Mickey Briggs: Carolyn Barron, David Briggs, Diana Bell, Jerry & wife Carol Briggs., Linda Baird and Robert Briggs. L. Bradley and Dorothea Bunker Reg and Betty Buxton

Calvin Campbell Kenneth Christensen, quest Edith Maurer William Davidson James R. and Marjorie Day, grandson Jason Louis and Rosalyn DeCunzo Joseph DeLuccia, brother Emil, daughter and son-in-law Marie & Carl Lukac John and Grace DeVoe Clifford and Bernice Digre Champe Dobler Hiram and Ada Drache Gordon and Margaret Dykes Iris Falcone Ray and Carolyn Field Jean Fitch Will and Phyllis Fluman, daughter Candace Fluman, and

son Will Fluman Jr.

Jack and Carol Gassman, son Kenneth and grandson Andrew Richard and Barbara Gibbs Thomas Goff and quest Lillian Malkus Preston and Nancy Grimm James Hall Frank and Jeanette Hallson Joseph Hamilton Craig Harris Ray and Wanda Hedrick, and quest Lillian Zaun Vaughn and Mary Heidenreich Bob and Nancy Henrich. .daughter and son-in-law of Joe and Jeanne Toth Ray and Kathryn Hoagland Robert and Florence Huels Walter and Belva Hunt Robert and Jeanne Ingraham George Inman, sister Billie Robertson William and Ruth Kabine. daughters Pamela Kabine, Kandy Gregory Alvin and Clare Kollaja Irving and Sue Lewis John and Helen Lewis Larry McMahon...and son Gary Clement and Ethel Marsden Normand and Irene Menard Felix and Carol Merlone William Britari & Bety Moore Hiram and Mary Morrow, and daughter & son-in-law Sherry and Mel Troutwine N. Kenneth and Ethelda Nail Donald and Sandra Nielsen Daniel and Jeanne Nose Anthony and Sarah Papaianni John Pearson George and Nancy Peschen Donald and Beverly Polen James and Ardis Rodel Mary Jean Salzer, daughter Mary L. Salzer, and quests Michele and Dan Mihelich

Harland "Bud" and Shirley Schuelke Donald and Betty Seesenguth Jerry Silverman Tex and Julia Thoman William and Judy Thompson Nicola Toscano Joe and Jeanne Toth Gordon and Ros Townsend Rosalie Upton. Loyd VanZant George Voris Rev. John and Anne Ward John and Alberta Welch, quest Anna Landauer Clinton and Shirlee Wells Lawrence, Jr. and Claudia Wilde Albert and Shirley Williams Morris Woddell and son Michael R.C. and Ethel Zeagler Donald and Marie Zeiler Lee and Helen Zimmerman

COME ON FOLKS...THE HOTEL
IS HOLDING 200 ROOMS FOR
US...WE'VE BARELY BOOKED
103. IF YOU HAVE NOT YET
REGISTERED,
PLEASE DO SO ASAP.

THE DEADLINE IS AUGUST 23.

WE WON'T TURN YOU AWAY
AFTER THAT, BUT THAT IS THE
DATE TO GIVE FINAL
NUMBERS TO ALL OUR
SERVICE PROVIDERS AND TO
THE HOTEL.
YOU MAY NOT GET THE
ACTIVITIES YOU WANT AND
MIGHT HAVE TROUBLE
GETTING A ROOM AT THE
REUNION RATE.



Harry S. Truman once said of Colorado, "You would run out of adjectives describing the beauty of Colorado."

Pikes Peak, a spectacular 14,110 foot peak offers visitors "a purple mountain's majesty," for it was of this magnificent mountain that Katherine Lee Bates wrote "

"America the Beautiful."

Colorado is in the Rocky Mountain west of the United States and is the highest state in the union. It has 53 peaks of more than 14,000 ft. and over 250 peaks higher than 13,000 feet. The name Colorado is derived from the Spanish word meaning "colored" or "reddish" and describes many of the colorful rock formations that can be seen in the mountains and the western plateaus of the state. Colorado Springs is located on a 6,000 ft high mesa in central Colorado, at the foot of Pikes Peak. Nearby are the U.S. Air Force Academy; Fort Carson; Falcon Air Force Base; and Peterson Air Force Base, Headquarters of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, the U.S. Space Command, and the Air Force Space Command.

Temperatures in September average 73 degrees. Since we will be out one evening at the Flying W Ranch for dinner and entertainment, be sure to bring jackets. Usually the best way to plan for Colorado weather is to dress in layers...that way you can "put on" or "take off" depending on how comfortable you feel.

Hotel reservations should be made to include the night of the 26th if you are planning to attend the Banquet.

Please Register with the reunion coordinators by August 23. Of course, the sooner, the better. We need to give final counts to the hotel, the bus companies, and all eating service providers shortly after that date...so help us out and register on time.

Your Reunion Coordinators are:

Nancy Henrich 453 Sunset Lane Pueblo, CO 81005 (719)564-8599 mylittledarlings@yahoo.com FAX (719)564-6458

-AND- Joe Toth 449 Sunset Lane Pueblo, CO 81005 (719)566-1714 joetoth457bombgroup@juno.com



REGISTRATION FORM

2001 REUNION...457TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO * SEPTEMBER 23-26TH, 2001

 Make your Hotel reservations either by filling out the form included in this newsletter and mail to the Sheraton Colorado Springs, or phone in your reservation. Rooms are blocked for us until August 23, 2001.

Fill out this Registration Form, and the Secretary's Information Form.

Enclose your check, and mail to:

Nancy Henrich 453 Sunset Lane -or-Pueblo, CO 81005 Joe Toth

449 Sunset Lane Pueblo, CO 81005

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: 457TH BG REUNION-2001

Registration Forms must be mailed by August 23.

TAME	SPOUSE OR	GUEST					
SQUADRONADDRESS							
CITY	STATE		ZIP_				
PHONE NO. ()							
NAMES OF OTHERS IN YOUR PARTY:		_	-				
Reunion Registration Fee		persons	@	\$20.0	0 ea =	\$	
Transportation and LunchCripple Cr	reek	persons	@	\$28.0	0 ea =	\$	
Transportation and Lunch Tour of Cold	orful Colorado	persons	@	\$30.0	0 ea =	\$	
OF COLORFUL COLORADO" WILL BE A FOR LUNCH		NUMBER					
Transportation and DinnerFlying W R	tanch	persons	@	\$29.0	0 ea =	\$	
Transportation and LunchAir Force A	Academy	persons	@	\$35.0	0 ea =	\$	
Reunion Banquet		persons	@	\$40.0	0 ea =	\$	
Please note choice of banquet entree (# o	of each): Prime Rib of B	eefC	R-	Chicke	n Cord	on B	leu
Farewell Breakfast Buffet		persons	@	\$12.5	0 ea =	\$	
				TO1	<u>AL</u> = \$	<u> </u>	
Special Dietary Requirements?							

Don't worry about duplications from others on your crew -- we will sort that out.

(BUT, BE SURE THAT ALL FOR WHOM YOU WANT RESERVED SEATS WILL BE ATTENDING THE BANQUET!)

NO RESERVATIONS FOR CREW SEATING WILL BE TAKEN AFTER MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24.

SECRETARY'S INFORMATION FORM

SPOUSE OR GUEST
adron WWII Job
t a Life Member, last year you paid dues?
METAGS
evious reunions, please bring them. Richard these and it is time consuming and costly to f you or any guest does not have one, or you one now. They will be made up ahead of time you will pick up at the reunion. Please do not he reunion.
g a nametag:
IEMORIUM
leceased since the last reunion in 1999 at seen previously reported in a newsletter, please information here:
FUTURE REUNION SITES: Sponsor
Sponsor
GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:
ORM AND MAIL IT WITH YOUR CHECK TO:
FORM AND MAIL IT WITH YOUR CHECK TO: Joe Toth -or- 449 Sunset Lane

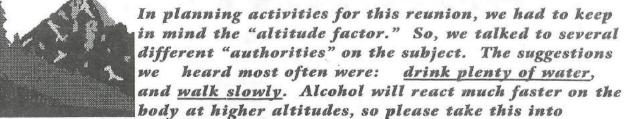
REUNION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



If you can help with any of the following reunion jobs, please fill out this page and return it to Nancy Henrich with your Registration Form, check, and Secretary's Information Forms.

NAME(S):				*1	
ADDRESS:	-				
Please	e circle activi	ty and time	that you can	help.	
REUNION COORDIN	ATORS WILL TAKE	CARE OF SATURD	AY FOR THOSE WH	O CHECK IN EA	<u>RLY</u>
SATURDAY, SEPT. 22	ACTIVITIES:	REGISTRATION PX	TIMES:	Sat. 7-8:30	РМ
e a		MEMORABILIA			
		Choose one:		Choose on	<u>e</u> :
SUNDAY, SEPT. 23	ACTIVITIES:	REGISTRATION	TIMES:	Sunday AM	9-12
HELP NEEDED		PX		Sunday	12-3
9	*	MEMORABILIA		Sunday PM	3-6
		Choose one:		Choose on	
MONDAY, SEPT. 24	ACTIVITIES:	REGISTRATION	TIMES:	Monday AM	8-12
HELP NEEDED		PX		Monday	1-3
	,	MEMORABILIA		Monday PM	3-5
TUESDAY, SEPT. 25	needs to regi at 8:00 A.M.	ster. We will ma on Monday and SISTRATION IS NO	ner or not there ke sure the regi Tuesday morning OT OPEN WHEN Y	stration room sbefore the	is ope buses

ALTITUDE REMINDER!



consideration. We hope your stay provides the kind of enjoyment that happy memories are made of! So, if there is anything we can do to help or to make things more pleasant, please don't hesitate to let us know.

-- Your Reunion Coordinators...Joe Toth and Nancy Henrich

If you have any dues questions, need a membership card, have any suggestions for the good of the Association, etc., please put these in writing, signed and dated, and hand them to Nancy Henrich. (This is so Nancy doesn't forget who asked for what!)



Dues can be paid directly to John Pearson at the reunion.

Ladies or Gentlemen who wish to get their hair done during the reunion, are referred to the following salons:

COST CUTTERS in the Cheyenne Meadows shopping center. Phone number is 527-7795. They take walk-ins, but you will probably want to call ahead for a time.

SHIMMIES SALON located at 2864 S. Circle Dr., requires an appointment. The phone number is 576-0941.

FYI: IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES FOR COLORADO SPRINGS:

Colorado Springs Convention & Visitors Bureau
104 S. Cascade, Suite 104
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
1-800-DO-VISIT or 1-877-PIKES-PEAK

Colorado Springs Tourist Information: (719)635-7506 Ext. 0

WOULD YOU HELP US ADVERTISE OUR REUNION?

YOU CAN, IF YOU WILL TAKE THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE TO YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER TO BE PUBLISHED NEAR THE END OF JULY THRU AUGUST 23. MANY NEWSPAPERS WILL DO THIS AS A PUBLIC SERVICE FREE OF CHARGE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR HELP.

The 457TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION of the 8th AIR FORCE, WWII,
which includes Ground Personnel, POWs, 748th, 749th, 750th, and 751st Squadrons
will hold its 2001 Reunion in Colorado Springs, Colorado.
Dates of the Reunion are September 23rd, thru and including the 26th.
The Reunion will be based at the Sheraton Hotel, on Circle Dr. in Colorado Springs.
For Reunion Information and Registration contact the Reunion Coordinators:

Nancy Henrich at 453 Sunset Ln. Pueblo, CO 81005 (719)564-8599 or Joe Toth at 449 Sunset Ln. Pueblo, CO 81005 (719)566-1714.

SHERATON

2886 South Circle Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80906 (719) 576-5900 1-800-981-4012

ADVANCE RESERVATION REQUEST

Reservations are accepted on a GUARANTEED basis only (Please complete and mail early)

Guaranteed Reservations:

- · Send a deposit of one night's room
- charge plus tax = \$91.38
 Include your credit card number
 (AmEx, DC, MC, Visa, etc.)
 If you do not cancel with hotel 48 hours prior to arrival, you will be billed by the credit card company for one night's lodging, plus tax.

Cancellations:

Please don't be a "NO SHOW." If you cannot stay with us, please cancel your reservation by calling the hotel directly at least 48 hours prior to arrival and obtain a Cancellation #.

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Check-out time is 11:00 a.m.

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SPECIAL NOTE:

Reservations made after August 24 may be subject to higher rates and space availability.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR GROUP RESERVATIONS -CALL 719-576-5900

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As promised from the last issue of the newsletter here is the conclusion of the article sent by John Welch. The article is about John's outfit...in particular a bombardier named Richard "Dick" Cooke. This is the rest of his story.

Airman lost plane, buddies over Germany

Missing in action

His mother's scrapbook chronicles Dick Cooke's experiences in aching detail, until the page bearing the Western Union telegram.

"The Secretary of War desires me to express his deepest regret that 2nd Lt. Richard W. Cooke has been reported missing in action since 25 February over Germany. If further details or other information is received you will be promptly notified."

The only item sharing the page is a poem.

"Let me have my tears,
Let me mourn today,
My heart is full and nothing else,
Will help it pass away."

While she wondered what had happened to her boy, she contacted the families of the other crew members and wrote down their names and addresses in his book. After a few months, five of the families received postcards from prisoner of war camps. The other five received another Western Union telegram.

In the years since, Cooke has replayed the mission, shared it with his sons, but says he's never dwelled on the day. After the war, the surviving crew members rarely spoke of the flight, rarely spoke to each other, as they returned to life. Cooke sold insurance for a while, but his wife noticed that he still stared at every plane that passed overhead. They both knew he had to go back.

Cooke rejoined the Air Force and stayed there for the next 25 years. Since the war, Cooke says he's awakened from dreams of flying missions again, but doesn't call them nightmares. In 1945, his wife says there would be days that went by without his saying anything.

He remembers replaying one scene in particular. He sees the co-pilot checking the bodies of the dead men in the waist of the plane, and wonders why he didn't take their parachutes. He wonders why his friend didn't say more than "so long."

"Years later, I thought what he must have felt," Cooke said. "From that altitude, as a

bombardier I'm familiar with how long it takes for a bomb to get to the ground. And 30 seconds is a lot of time to think. You never know."

In his Arvada home, the war still exists, but only for those who know where to look. His scale model B-17 is covered in a layer of dust. His mother's scrapbook is on a shelf, high in a closet. He keeps his purple heart in the basement, next to the canned goods.

Still, his house is easy to recognize. It's the only one on the block with an American flag outside 365 days a year.

"I'm just a flag waver," he said. "Always have been, I guess."

German POW camp

When the German Wehrmacht troops told the angry civilian mob to hand over the American, Richard Cooke says he "could have kissed them on both cheeks." His relief didn't last long.

From the village, he was taken to Stalag 1, a prisoner of war camp in northern Germany.

"They took me to the camp, I gave 'em name, rank and horsepower; that's all they got," Cooke said. "What's the name of that TV show with the stupid German officer? 'Hogan's Heroes'? It wasn't like that."

He says the treatment in the camp "could have been worse," but he also says he saw friends get shot. He had his own share of close calls.

"One day, I was walking around getting a little exercise, and we saw there were some of these mushrooms just past this perimeter wire. I thought they would be good to bring back to eat. I reached past this wire to get it and someone said, 'Watch it!'"

"I looked up at the guard tower, and he was lining me up."

Inside his living room, Cooke looked over at his sons. "Sometimes you don't realize how close you came to not being here," he said.

When the Russians finally broke through and liberated the camp, Cooke remembers celebration and devastation.

After the walls fell, the men ran to the university campus near the camp and stormed into a concert hall. In rage and retribution, the former prisoners began smashing everything they could, including a massive chandelier that hung over the hall. In the midst of it all, a British POW -- a man who had been in the camp more than five years -- sat down at a beautiful black grand piano.

As glass rained from the ceiling, the man began playing the "Warsaw Concerto."

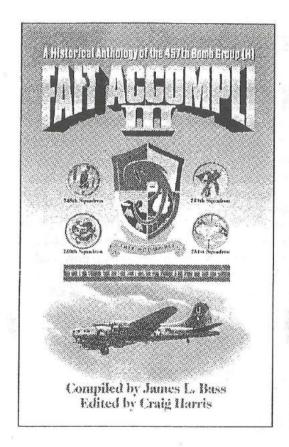
"Among all of that, ol' Charlie was just playing his heart out, and I thought, 'Boy that's just...'" Cooke trailed off, thinking back. "I thought, 'Boy, that's just typical.'"



When 9 are ordered you will receive one free.
Please do so soon,

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FAIT ACCOMPLI III

A historical anthology of the 457th Bomb Group that combines recollections of the participants with those of English friends and those who were on the home front. Fait Accompli III contains over 300 pages of remembrances of the defining period of the Twentieth Century—the war years 1941-1945— and also includes 12 pages of previously unpublished photos, as well as an updated listing of the KIA's and MIA's. This volume completes the "Fait Accompli" trilogy that preserves the heritage of the Group for you and future generations.

Limited edition. \$33.00 per copy, which includes postage and handling. Hard cover only.

ISBN 0-9648925-2-9

Publication date: December 1, 2000 (Please allow 7 days for delivery)

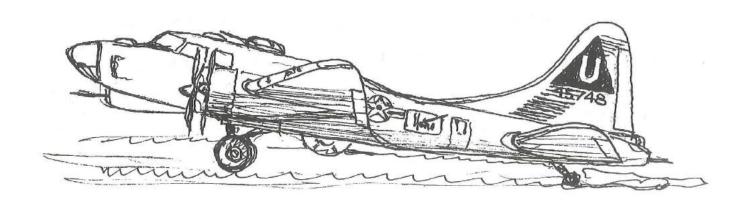
James Bass will have "FAIT ACCOMPLI III" for sale at the reunion.

Please note:

Two Memorial Services are scheduled for the reunion...

one will be at the Air Force Academy Cemetery and the second service will be Tuesday night, Sept. 25, 8:00 P.M. on the 4th floor of the hotel.

Names of all who have left us since our last reunion will be read Tuesday evening.



WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN THE EIGHTH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY??

Well, for one thing, each year you will receive four issues of the 8TH Air Force NEWS, a high-quality, on-time journal chock full of news and stories, mostly in full color. (This alone is worth the annual dues of \$20.) 8AFHS membership allows you to join your State Chapter, most of which meet frequently, with folks having an enjoyable time. Even if you are not an 8th AF veteran, you may join as an Associate, with the privilege of moving up to full membership after only two years, or as a Life Member with immediate full privileges of membership. (Call 1-800-982-1942 for Life Member fee schedule.) Your spouse may join also. Members of the 8AFHS often come as couples, much as they do in our Bomb Group Association. Then there is the Annual Reunion, where folks gather to hash over old times, meet old friends and make new ones. The 2001 Annual Reunion will be Oct 24-29, at the Harvey Hotel, in Irving, Texas, on the edge of easy-to-get-to DFW Airport. Join up now, and plan to attend the next reunion. You will find a number of Fireballers there. Below you will find a new-member application, large enough that you can write on it. Fill it out and send it in with \$20. Note that 8AFHS will accept VISA or MasterCard.

Detach and ,mail as noted below

8th AFHS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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SEND APPLICATION TO: 8AFHS, PO BOX 1787, SAVANNAH, GA 31402. PLEASE USE THIS FORM ONLY FOR YOUR INITIAL APPLICATION AND YOUR FIRST CALENDAR YEAR'S DUES (\$20.00 US) YOUR ANNUAL DUES WILL BE BILLED IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS.

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

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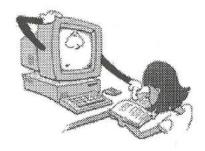
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1977 - 79 - WILLIAM SILER NM	1985 — DAVE SUMMERVILLE CA	1993 - 97 - BILLY HIGHTOWER	TX
1980 - 81 — EDWARD REPPA AZ	1986 - 97 - CLAYTON BEJOT NE	1997 - 99 - LEON ZIMMERMAN	MI
	1988 - 89 - DONALD SELLON CO		



THE <u>CORRECT</u> WEB SITE ADDRESS FOR THE 457TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION IS...

http://www.457thbombgroup.org

If you have not yet checked this out, you are going to be so impressed with what our Webmaster, Willard "Hap" Reese, and his helpers have put together. Be sure to sign the guest book and let Willard know what you think of the official site of the 457th Bomb Group.

457th Bomb Group Association 453 Sunset Lane Pueblo, CO 81005

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Wilmore Fluman.....LM 120 So. Ridge Road Boiling Springs, PA 17007-9712

FIRST CLASS

