

THE 457th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION
811 NORTHWEST "B" STREET
BENTONVILLE, ARKANSAS 72712

DEAR FIREBALLERS:

FEB 1978

We have had many letters from the men & families that have visited Glatton, England and much praise for the 5 historians that are there near by. They give thier time freely to all vistor's and have asked that you contact them when visiting.

Bernard Bains has sent this article to be included in our news.

Some Activities of 457th Associate Members in Peterborough

Members have wellomed in Peterborough to Date, 9th June 77. Mr. & Mrs. Howard Larsen of Topeka, Kansas, during the week commencing 22nd May. Mr. & Mrs. James Martin of Charlevoix, Michigan, during the week commencing 6th June.

Photographic displays, showing 457th Aircraft and crews have been shown in the office window's of the 'Western Trust Company', An American owned finance company in Peterborough town Centre.

As part of Holme Village Jubilee Celebrations, photo's of the 457th group aircraft were displayed by members in the Village Church at Holme. Holme Village borders the northern boundary of Glatton Airfield.

Forthcoming events, where the 457th Photo's and Models of Glatton based aircraft, owned by Peterborough members will be displayed, include 'Perkins Engine Company's' annual exhibiton of Arts,Crafts and Hobbies on Sept 17, 1977, and the 'Soke Military Historical Society' exhibition, on Oct. 15th, 1977.

As part of the Peterborough City Heritage Fortnight, a display of 457th photographs was on show in the city Museum, during May and June this year.

Bernard Bains and his wife attended the Memorial Service at the American Military Cemetary Madingley, near Cambridge on Memorial Day. the 5th June 1977. If anyone has loved ones interred at Madingley and would like Photographs of their resting place, Please write.

-----This article was sent last year to me. The forthcoming events did happen. Newspaper clippings of events were sent to us. These events have been happening for several years. The Associate members have all sent papers, photos, news accounts to us over the years for our historian's books. Among other men recieving their hospitality are: Dan Graham & wife, Ind several times; Homer Briggs & family, twice Ark; Ed Benson & wife,NJ; Joe Falcon & wife,Mass; Paul Birchen,wife,Minn; Tom Goff,Md; Claude Gideon & wife,Ca; F. Angier & wife,Vt; Clayton Bejot & wife,Neb; Art Fitch & wife,Mass; Perry Rudd,family,Ala; and George Overby & wife,Miss.
Voluntary Fund:

A fund has been established by some members that have visited the 5 English 457th Associate Members to help defray plane fare to the 1979 reunion, they can attend.

News?

This is your newsletter, so if you want articles printed, please send them in for the next letter.

Addresses:

by request- Author Ken Blakeborough's book "The Fireball Outfit" (ISBN-0-8168-9754-9) Aero Publishers, Inc 329 Aviation Road Fallbrook, Ca. 92028.

B17 tie clasp--Deep Six Miniatures Box 134, Northboro, Ma 01532.(If you paid Mickey for one and never recieved it let me know).

Letter by Joseph Stuart IV -"Decision over Schweinfurt!" US 8th AF Battle of Daylight Bombingby Tomas M Coffey. Bookstore or David McKay Co, Inc. 750 Third Ave, NY,NY,10017 (Please understand these addresses are sent to us and printed by request of sender, not recommended by the Group or Homer Briggs)(we cannot endorse any).

Russell Buehler, Ga a 457th member learned about Book "The Sky is Falling" by Arthur Weingarten."It is fascinating to say the least and about 457th AirforceCol Smith hitting the Empire State Building."

Sad-

Al E Roeckle, sqn 749, one of our Charter members and a very dear friend to a lot of us passed away Sept 1977, with a heart attack in St Louis,Mo.

Sorry-

Douglas L Grantham was left from list of attendees of the 1976 July reunion. He also donated several after mission photos to our collections.

We have heard from Lester Fried of New York. He writes us that he designed & sculptured "The Stone American" monument in Connington Cemetery. He enclosed Xerox prints from his personal album that show the ceremony on May 31, 1945, when the monument was unveiled by the C O. Col. Rogner with Lester in attendance and the blessing was delivered by Canon Wayne of Connington Church. Enclosed was a copy of the commendation letter he received by Col. Rogner together with a portion of the Daily Bulletin that referred to the monument, urging members of our group to visit it for a 'moment's reflection' in honor of those who would not return. A copy of the photos include the original clay model that was first submitted for approval Lester made the bust and wreath with 'Fait Accompli' motto thereon, the pedestal was done by a former bricklayer member of our group. Unfortunately, he did not first confer with me and he made the width of the base wider than I had intended it to be. Another thing done in great haste, since we were slated to depart soon, the brick base wasn't given enough time to cure before the cement outer coat was applied. The bust was anchored to the base by means of an inverted "U shaped bar", Lester cemented to it which was in turn sunk into wet cement in the center of the base, after a couple of days the pedestal was given a coat of whitewash & Lester applied gold paint to the statue and the wreath, Lester says "I am very pleased to find out that there is a caretaker for the "Stone American", by the way, who gave it that name?"

Later as most of you know Dan Graham of Indiana went on to get the monument repaired and he enlisted the help of the first reunion attendees to get the present plaque done and sent over to be attached to the monument. Lester also designed the squadron insignias for the 748, 749, 751, but not the 750. Lester also painted designs of the 'flying members choosing' on the backs of their flying jockets and "Bombs" for no. of missions flew. He did not design the "Fireball" group insignia but painted the first large mock-up of it that was hung in officer's club.

Letters:

Roy James, Rte 1, Gadsden, Tenn 38337 a Charter member and attended all reunions, suffered several strokes and now slowly coming along. Your good wishes would be appreciated.

October 6, 1977 Mini Reunion St. Louis, Mo 8th AF Historical Society:

Fourteen 457 men attended 748 sqd: William & Ruth Siler, Ca; Howard & Fern Larsen, Ks; Ed Reppa, Mich; 749 sqn: Ken & Donna Kinyon, Ia; Homer & Mickey Briggs, Ar; Dee & Marguerite Owsley, Mo; Oscar & Jean Koirttyohann, Mo; Art & Jean Fitch, Mass; Ken & Blanche Rurode, Mo; 750 sqn: Thomas Goff, Md; John Derling, NJ; 751 sqn: Francis & Eleanor Heekin, Oh; Charles & Diana Campbell, Mo; 854 Air Eng.: Joe & Iris Falcon, Mass. A Board meeting was held.

8th Airforce news:

1978 Stateside reunion: Washington, DC Oct. 20-22 optional side to Bermuda Oct. 22-25. For details write to Lt. Col John Woolnough, Box 4738 Hollywood, Fla 33023.

8th Af Album, the story of the mighty Eighth Airforce in WWII by Lt. Col. John H Woolnough...The advanced sale for \$15.50 (\$16.08 in Florida) send 8th A.F. Album, Box 4738 Hollywood, Fla 33023. This book will cost more after Publication. It has many of the 457th pictures sent by Homer Briggs & various others. Our B 17 with 457th group insignia is on the cover. (Black triangle, white U, blue tail stripe)

Own own Tom Goff, Md 750 sqn is on 8th Airforce Historical Society Board.

Membership:

Anyone having paid membership but has never recieved the card, please write for it today. Keep canceled checks for receipt of following yearly dues. Anyone paying the \$5.00 membership dues yearly does not owe the \$1.00 for mailing list.

Historian: Be sure to continue to send Mickey Briggs any Photo's, etc.

Sad News:

1976 reunion attendess, Ed Reppa, Mich and Robert Seastrand, Ia both have lost their wives, we will miss them.

1976 Reunion attendee Winfred Kincaid RR#1, Whitestown, Ind 46075 is hospitalized with cerebral hemorrhage Feb 9th, 1978, your well wishes to him would be great.

Leslie R Peterson writes:

He has a 5 x 7 colored photo of the B 17. Hewould be willing to make copies for anyone contacting him. If interested contact him & make inquiries to him. Leslie R Peterson, 3921 Arthur St, Hollywood, Fla 33021

Decals:

A decal Co wrote and says they can make decals of our Bomb Group, if you think this is a good idea, contact one of the officers, or Exec Board so that they may vote on whether to order and sell at the next reunion. We do not yet know the prices. They are 4 in by 4 in.

Sawtry, England:

George Townsend has written that repairs have been made to the outside of the Church in Glatton Cementery where "The Stone American" monument is located. He writes "I have tried to repair the memorial, but I am afraid it is now beyond me. I have a man in the building trade who looked at it. It should come down and be rebuilt up with facing brick and it will not want painting or plastering again ever. It also needs a slab on the top to shoot the water off, because water getting in, is what is causing all the trouble. If we want the man to he will send us an estimate and carry the job out properly, if decided to be done." You as members in good standing should write to the board or President, Vice Pres. and give them your opinion, also as how to pay for this, so that the Board and Officers can decide what is to be done. In the meantime I, Homer Briggs will write for an estimate on the cost. We have already looked into the Airforce to repair and they will not do this.

B 17:

New and encouraging news on the B 17. President Bill Siler went by to take a look at them and they are "beautiful B 17's I'll say that. Good as I ever saw even in 1943-45." We are working with an idea that has worked with another Bomb Group that has obtained one recently. It would be on flying statis, by leasing it out to a musuem, we can have it flown to our reunions. This would be practically no cost to us. It would have our group insignia on it and used in Airshows thru out the country.

1979 Reunion:

Plans are in the making. Details will be in the next letter, around June 1978. Dates will be sometime between June 15 and Aug 15, 1979. The board is inquiring into a possiblity of SAC in Omaha, Ne. There is an Air musuem close by. Any inquiries, please contact an officer or Board Member.

Those who have never received a roster list please send for it. I need Ed Bleck's address, he attended 1976 reunion. Am sorry the Feb turned to March for this mailout.

PRESIDENT

Bill Siler
1132 N Orchid
Lompoc, Ca 93436

Vice President

Howard Larsen
1220 1/2 West 1st St
Topeka, Ks 66606

Secretary-Treasure

Homer L Briggs
811 Northwest "B" St
Bentonville, Ar 72712

Exc Board

Dee Owsley
2011 Shoreham
Florissant,
Mo. 63033

Mickey Briggs- Historian

Exec Board:

Dan Graham
21 Redbud Lane
Brownsburg, Ind 46112

Ken Kinyon
1628 Hollywood
Iowa City, Io 52240

Edward Reppa
2632 Edgewood
Dearborn, Mich 48124

1978 Roster Add-on New Names

Keran, Lyle E (Gene) 1st Lt 748
210 Jefferson St
Natchitoches, La 71457
ret: Lt Col Vice Pres Student Affairs
Northwestern State Univ of La

Ambrose, Edward F
110 Chapel Ridge Place
Pittsburgh, Pa 15238

Luck, Lt. Col. K. R. 748
405 E Sunrise Dr
Vista, Ca 92083

Southwood, Duane 748
2508-29 Ave
Rock Island, Ill 61201

Reed, Wallace 748
Rt. 2 Box 216
Rigby, Idaho 83442

Alexander, K. W.
Rte 3 Box 136
Ringgold, Ga 30736

Neuhas, Ralph R
Masonville, Ia 50654

Heekin, Francis (Heek) sgt 751
3414 Anaconda Dr
Cincinnati, Ohio 45211
POW

Campbell, Charles L 751
3638 Meramec
St. Louis, Mo 63116

Navarro, Joseph sgt 751
258 Dover Dr
Desplames, Ill 60018

Dr. Muth, Jack R 1st Lt
Patchogue Medical Group
1 East Roe Boulevard
Patchogue, NY 11772

Silverman, Jerome
737 Durham Road
East Meadow, New York 11554

Hoagland, Raymond T., Maj, pilot 750
Rancocas Valley Regional High School
Jacksonville Road
Mount Holly, N J 08060
USAF ret

McKinnis, Henry L
Rte 2 Box 144
Union City, Tenn 38261

Glover, Marshall H
810 Holliday Drive
North Augusta, Sc 29841

Jeffers, Dale S, Lt. Col ret
578 Lohnes Dr
Fairborn, Oh 45324

Kohut, Frank A
7405 Pickard, Ne
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Wells, Clinton E
2532 Country Club Dr
Pearland, Tx 77581

Gallesich, E. F.
2472 Balsover
285 Suite
Houston, Tex 77005

Zip code- Address Changes

Francis, Col. Roderick, ret 750
522 N. Igo Way
Tucson, Az 85710

Charles Whallon
2840 Shawnee Dr
Topeka, Ks should be 66605

Charles J McCane should be
McClane
2419 Graydon Rd
Wilmington, De should be 19805

Robert Seastrand
8793 Mignonette St
Alta Loma, Ca 91701

N.T. Ozenberger
1629 Orchard
Ojai, Ca should be 93023

1978 Roster add on-
Address corrections and changes:

Elgar, Cecil B
381 Illini Drive
Carol Stream, Ill 60187

X Buettner, Harlan
9217 Arrington
Downy, Ca 90240

Rudd, Milton
832 Pineview Lane
Sylacauga, Ala 35150

Kahn, Dave
PO Box 775
Laramie, Wyo 82070

Brunick, Sidney W
RR 1 Box 110
Wakonda, So Dak 57073

Christy, J. I.
PO Box 454
Holly Springs, Ms 38635

Buxton, Maj R W ret
9311 California Sp 27
Piverside, Ca 92503

Foster, Thomas
% W. A. Grant Co
23 East Poplar St
Harrisburg, Ill 62946

Lybarger, George
10337 Elk River Court
Mountain Valley, Ca 92708

O'Rourke Owen should be O'Rourke,
Owen S, Jr
1111 West Gimmon Circle
Mobile, Ala 36605

Hall, Cheston H
Box 91
Landsdowne, Pa 19050

Marra, J. Franklin
6137 North 73rd Way
Scottsdale, Ariz 85251

Bisagno, Robert
1110 Euclid
Augusta, Ks 67010

Peterson, Leslie R
3921 Arthur St
Hollywood, Fla 33021

Sellon, Donald G, Lt. Col, ret
2396 So Lansing St
Aurora, Colo 80014

Reichert, Ed
89 Carol Drive
Cheektowaga, NY 14215

Dvorak, RC
Rte 2 Box 104
Schuyler, Ne 68661

Zip Codes corrections:

Douglas, Robert
Tulsa, Okla should read 74105

Skillings, Gordon
Minneapolis, Minn 55418

Overbey, George
Jackson 4, Miss should read 39204

McMillen, Jack
Boise, Idaho, should read 83704

Castle, Fred
3629 Hirondeille
Florissant, Mo 63034

Sharkey, Douglas J
Rte 2 Box 62-N-11
Ogallala, Ne 69153

B. W. Kleen
Box 282
Bertha, Mn 56437

Nick P Nicholas
2138 Hazelhurst St.
Macon, Ga should read 31204

Kravetz, F.
105 Elizabet Ave
East Pittsburgh, Pa should read
15112

Ellsworth, Harley J
706 Orchard Ave
Glen Dale W. Va 26038

Smith W Hensley
200 Michigan Ave
Alton, Ill 62002

Deceased

Al Roeckle, St Louis (749) Heart Sept 77
Robert D Nelson May 1977
Raymond Wolff, PO notified Oct 1975
Scharuhorst, Wm Iowa Heart June 77
William Oden, May 77 (748) Stroke
Roman Becker (750) Jan 77
Mario V Tomassi, Rapid City SD Heart 77
Laurence Strojieski, heart attack Dec 77