

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

January 1979

Dear Fireballers:

A thought for you: "Someone gave me a smile to-day, I tried my darndest to give it away, everyone I chanced to meet gave my smile right back to me."

The roster is being reprinted and will be mailed to the members that have requested them. Every member has been sent additions to the original with each newsletter. Answering letters and delay of newsletter mail out is due to Mickey changing part time work at Bella Vista Craft Shop to full time Bella Vista Community Hospital. Mickey unable to use right arm for two weeks, Homer was hospitalized 10 days, now better. Please excuse delay. Group guys paper, stencils, Mickey cuts stencils, Bentonville Chamber Commerce mineographs frees, when they can fit it in.

1979 Reunion:

Time: July 29,30,31, 1979 Place: Holiday Inn--72nd and Grover--Omaha, Nebraska I-80--72nd Street Exit. 504 Rooms--Eppley Airfield 13 miles--SAC Headquarters 15 miles, 10 minutes to down town. In order to have room block reservations, your reservation will have to be at least 30 days in advance. Make your own reservation. More information will be in the next Spring newsletter along with reservation cards. Strategic Aerospace Museum--Adults \$1.00 children 50 cents- this tour will be given to us in a group at half price. A limited number of men will be given a SAC tour. Possible several meetings, dinner, etc will be on the base. Later newsletter will give more details. Any suggestions can be sent to us, or one of the officers. Any questions on dates or etc can be sent to Pres. Bill Siler, 1132 N Orchid, Lompoc, Ca 93436.

Membership: Please read!

Remember, Your first dues paid, we will send a membership card to be kept always, future years dues paid by check will be marked the year paid, for you to keep as a receipt. Those paying a \$5.00 yearly dues do NOT, I repeat DoNot need to send a \$1.00 mailing list fee. ONLY those not wanting to pay dues but want on our mailing list can send \$1.00 yearly to help pay for their postage. When a dues card comes as a reminder dues are due, DISREGARD, IF YOUR ARE ALREADY PAID. THOSE WHO SENT IN A \$5.00 CHECK AND HAD ALREADY PAID FOR 1978 WERE CREDITED WITH 1979 DUES PAID AND NOTED ON RETURNED CHECKS. PLEASE KEEP YOUR RETURNED CHECK AS A RECEIPT OF DUES PAID. Those who have never received the very first membership card please let us know. Paid Members or mailing list people, who need a roster(which has been sent to most, and will be sent to ones that have already requested). Those who are not members, please send self addressed stamped(40¢) long envelope. No further newsletters sent unless a member or on mailing list, please stay on our mailing list at least and send in your change of address if you move. We need you.

HISTORIAN:

Please send any news so we can include in next newsletter. We haven't received any data or photos for sometime. We do receive from England clippings and histories from time to time.

Books:

"The Fireball Outfit", Author Ken Blakeborough, can be ordered by sending to: Two Publishes, Inc 329 Aviation Road, Fallbrook, Cal 92028. "The Fireball Outfit" (ISBN-0-8168-9754-9)

"Eighth Air Force Album", Author John Woolnough. Can be ordered by sending check to Eighth Air Force Album, Box 4738, Hollywood, Fla 33023. Many pictures loaned to Woolnough by Homer Briggs, Tom Goff, Dr. Richard Barnes, Edward Jackson, Lester Peterson, and Bernard Bains from England. Price \$20.30 (Add 10 cents for Foreign and 76 cents, tax for Florida addresses.)

Requesting information:

QUOTE: David Johnson "I am currently doing research for a book about the impact of American servicemen upon London during the Second World War. My project centres upon their impressions of London and their reactions to the Americans. I should be pleased to hear from any former servicemen with personal reminiscences, pleasant or unpleasant, of London between 1942 and 1945. I would be particularly interested in hearing about first impressions of London and its inhabitants. Details such as date of arrival in the UK and duty station location would also be a great help." David Johnson- 2164 Stecher Ave- Union, New Jersey 07083.

Letters:

Robert F Foley, 60 Elvirs St, Rochester, NY 14606--749th Sgt payroll clerk writes; "thinking back, I can recall, too, the months spent in the close confines of a "Niessen Hut" with Sam Silverman (Operations 749) Elbert Schott (Operations), Bob Hadley and Bob Bisagno(Photo) Woodie Smith(personnel), now deceased, Paul Toepp, nearer in memory than the others-Dr. Sam Connor who, believe it or not, was best man at my wedding-it stuck, too, 33 years this past July. Would love to hear from any of the guys. I believe, Homer, as the years go by, that the memories, some faint, some strong, of the time spent in the 457th become more precious, something to cling to in these days of jet engines, computers and the utter disregard of man for his fellow man.--Bob Foley.

English Historians Peterborough:

Bernard Bains has had a leaflet printed and it is been placed at the Peterborough hotels, The Tourist Information Centre, Bus Station & Fen-Air Field (Operated from Glatton Airfield.) It has the Bomb Group insignia & 8th AF insignia as well as the 4 different sqdns. THE 457 Historical Society Peterborough Bernard Bains, John Walker, Eric Brumby, and Gordon Townsend, local associate members of the 457th Bomb Group Association, and founders of the above Society, are always pleased to welcome any ex-457 th. members who may be visiting Peterborough. These members can be contacted at the addresses as follows, Bernard Bains, 29. Western Ave. Peterborough. Phone No. 67888. John Walker, 89. Eye Road. Peterborough. Phone No. 43168. Eric Brumby, 82. Bluebell Ave. Peterborough. Phone No. 41821. Gordon Townsend, 17. Avon Court. Peterborough. Phone No. 72864 or 54081. Arrangements can be made to escort visitors to Glatton airfield and to see the collection of photographs and memorabilia in the Society's possession. American visitors who are not aware of the existence of the 457th Bomb Group Association, in the U.S.A. may wish to contact the Secretary, Homer Briggs, 811 Northwest B. St. Bentonville, Arkansas 7 712. (Also other 8th AF groups in England and their contacts). There also exists in the USA the 8th Air Force Historical Society formed to perpetuate the history of the 8th Air Force and to encourage 8th AF units to organise. The secretary is Aida Kaye, 495 N.E. 157th. Terr. Miami, Florida, 33162. (signed by the 4 members) (Editors Note: Another contact: Monument caretaker for many years- George Townsend, No 6 Moyne Road, Sawtry, Huntingdon Combs, England.)

Bernard Baines sends for our historian's books: Conington History:

The draining of the fens began in earnest in 1630 on the initiative of the fourth Earl of Bedford. He and his Co-Adventurers received their charter in 1634. In 1639 Sir Thomas Cotton started on the Conington Fen. The Cottons had been at Conington ever since 1460. Round Hill, 1 1/4 m WSW of the church. A five-sided enclosure of 17 1/2 acres with a moat. The earthwork was probably made for a house to be built by Sir Robert Cotton. Conington Castle has been totally demolished. It was the principal mansion of the Cotton family, built mostly by Sir Robert early in the C 17. The church monuments remain as a family memorial. All Saints. A large and important church, all of C 1500, with a W tower truly monumental. Few 1841, and characteristic of the date (Frontal Parts of two Italian C 17 maniples and two stoles. Silver embroidery on pink silk) Plate. Large Scallop Plate; Pat on foot of Britannia silver, 1702-3; Britannia silver Cup, 1711-12. (see church description in Church restoration). Monuments. Memorable Purbeck-marble effigy of a Franciscan tertiary, of about 1300. About 1600, the memorial tablet between two columns to Thomas XIII Cotton 1519 and his wife and in the same position in the other aisle that to Prince Henry of Scotland, one much larger to Thomas XV and Thomas XVI Cotton and wives with two arches and columns and an upper display of strapwork and heraldry opposite it in the other aisle that to David King of Scotland in two tiers with columns. In the upper part lies just a crown in the arch between the two columns Sir Robert Cotton 1631, the famous antiquary whose collection of manuscripts is now in the British Museum, and Sir Thomas 1662, both erected by Sir John about 1675 or thereabouts. Details of the two tablets are identical except that Sir Robert's bust is in an oval recess and the garland below is of laurel, whereas Sir Thomas's is in a circular recess. (Ed note) Our 457 Bomb Group "The Stone American" memorial is in the Church Yard.

Art Fitch visited in Conington this past year and sent article :

Conington Church Restoration: Conington Village Church dating back to 15th Century named ALL SAINTS has had a big face lift. 60,000 pounds spent on restoring. Rev. Gerard Sharpe said it was closed June 1976 due to small attendances. No plans have been made to reopen for service. It is planned to be completed by November. Its large tower is ashlarfaced in 4 stages with panelled Polygonal buttress, a recessed doorway, with a pointed tunnel vault bell openings under 4 centred arches and large pinnacles. The remainder of the build. with its embattled nave and aisles is in cobbles. The Chancel chapels are of only one bay and sedilia in the chancel have three small hanging vaults. There is a shelf in the piscina and octagonal Norman font has intersecting pointed arches. One of Conington church's prized possessions has been removed for safety reasons, the stately wooden chair- believed to have been used by Mary, Queen of Scots, while she was waiting to be executed at Fotheringhay-- has been taken from Conington and is now on display at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.....Art Fitch has mentioned, as he visited this during restoration, "perhaps we could have a permanent memorial put inside this fine old church as the future will bring many people to see this and I feel that the 457th should have a place of honor. This could be thought on and ideas and discussion on it at the reunion in 1979." In England he as others have before him have the impression that the English people still feel that the "Mighty Eighth", did their part for Freedom and he again felt very proud to be a small part of the "Mighty Eighth". The 457th-Historical historians overwhelmed them again this year with their hospitality and hope they will be able to make it to the states at a future date if not at our reunion."

Bernard Bains : also writes- Forty Photographs concerning the 457th are listed as available for purchase from the "1361 st A.V.S. Photo Depository section. 1221 S. Fern St. Arlington, Va. 22202". The Photos include the interior of mess hall and officers lounge, the control tower on V. E. Day. The Lead crew of the 200th Mission. Etc. Write for list and prices to the above address. The Mission reports of the 457th are deposited in the "United states of America, General Services Administration National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D. C. 20409". The Department asks that Enquiries are restricted to two dates Per request, because of the time involved in search and the printing of electrostatic copies. Write for information of availability and Prices. The Wartime history of the 457th is recorded on microfilm and 16MM copies can be obtained from "The Albert F. Simpson Historical Research Center, U.S. A. F. Maxwell A.F.B. A L. 36112." Write for prices. Any members who would like a copy of an airfield map of Glatton Airfield. A description of the airfield from the British Air Ministry and a copy of a brief history of Conington Church, wherein whose churchyard stands the Monument to the 457th. Please write to Bernard Bains, 29 Western Ave. Peterborough PE 1 4 HS England.

English Historian Reunion Fund:

About 2 years ago, several of the men who have visited in Peterborough's associate members' homes, started a volunteer fund to help defray expenses for any of them to attend our 1979 reunion. Gordon Townsend, George Townsend, Eric Brumby, Bernard Baines, have all expressed wishes to come, however at present can not commit their selves to the trip, but we are hoping they can attend. If you want to donate to this fund send it to Homer Briggs, ear marked for the Historian's(English) Fund. Many of our group visted England this past year.

THE STONE AMERICAN MONUMENT:

Reports from England say that the Monument is in badly need of repair. Suggestions may be sent to President Bill Siler on how to go about paying for this, then it can be discussed at the July 1979 reunion. Any other discussion should be sent to Bill, so that research can be done and brought before the attendees.

Next Newsletter:

At least one or two will be sent to you before the reunion. Anyone wanting anything printed please send in before March. I would like any message from the Officers and Exc Board to be sent in too. When we don't hear from anyone, we print what we have, we need your news and views too.

EIGHT AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

To join 8th AFHS send name and address along with 8th AF group No, Depot, HQ and location stationed, and a check for \$5.00 (yearly) to 8th Air Force Historical Society, 495 NE 157 Terr, Miami, Fla 33162. Due each January.

8th AF Album II:

John Woolnough writes, in Part: "The only complaints I am receiving on the '8th AF Album' are related to the fact that some units are not well covered. I have over 4,000 photographs and much other data that was not published in the 8th Album. Suggestions that I produce Album II. I plan to give space to every Britain based 8th AF unit. In addition to covering the basic history outline of the unit, we would include the present status of your organization, newsletters, reunions, histories, memorials, etc. We would also want to publish the Official address for your unit. We want also to provide a cross index of APO and Station numbers, airfield names as they relate to each unit. There will also be an index or subordinate and attached units. Homer Briggs has filled in the Unit Data sheet and returned to him. Send anything you have in at once to John Woolnough. Box 4738 Hollywood, Fla 33023. Be sure to mark it 457th Bomb Group. Needed: Pictures, Control towers. Military Police numbers.

8th AF Museum Duxford, England:

Two of our own 457th members are Museum Directors: Art Fitch, 118 Pleasant Valley Rd, Westwood, Ma 02090. Tom Goff, 255 E Woodhill Dr., Glen Burnie, Md 21060. If you have any material for the museum it should be checked by them and then sent to 8th AF Museum, 5 Ed Inman, IWM, Lambeth Rd, London, SE 1.

1979 8th AF Reunion:

October 5-6-7 1979, Phoenix, Arizona. The 457th Group has been asked to contact the 457th men about arranging a mini reunion at the same time.

Washington DC Reunion, 1978:

Among the 457th group to attend were Les Peterson, Art Fitch, Tom Goff, Joe Falcone, Francis Heekin & wives, Jerry Briggs(Homer's son)

English Historian New Address:

John W. Iker, 89 Eye Road, Neward, Peterborough, England.

New Names not on Roster Yet but will be printed on next Roster List.

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Dale L Cooke | Jerome Grossman | Norman W Breit |
| 826 N. Delaware Pl | 1030 Blythe Ave | 4001 Pasadena Ave |
| Tulsa, Ok 74110 | Drexel Hill, Pa 19026 | Sacramento, Ca 95821 |

Change address not ON ROSTER YET BUT WILL BE PRINTED ON NEXT ROSTER LIST:

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Owen F Ringgenberg | Godfrey C Edgerton | Felicisimo Basuil |
| 156 E Estate Dr | Rt 1 Box 165 | 813343 S.W. 81st Ct |
| Tulare, Ca 93274 | Craryville, NY 12521 | So. Miami, FL 33143 |

Arthur N. Hoffman, DVM 921 State Ave, Marysville, Wash 98270
 He has donated \$20.00 to the upkeep of the "Stone American" memorial in England in memory of his father, 1st Lt Arthur N Hoffman, now deceased. He was in the 751st sqd, he was assigned to Aircraft No 426146 at Wenddover, Utah.
 With the help of Tom Goff, ret Lt. Col of Maryland, we have found his crew to be Pilot 2nd Lt. Richard Bennett, Co-pilot 2nd Lt. Charles E Robb, 1st Lt Arthur N. Hoffman, 2nd Lt Robt Lotz, Deward, Eugene M Beanar, Geo Ribero, Sgt Robt. M. Fewlkes, Sgt Don J Lighthizer, Sgt Charles L Campbell, T/Sgt Mackey. Overseas orders Jan 12, 1944 Crew # 100-61.
 His son would like any information that anyone might know about his father's combat duty with the 457th group. He has sent to us a picture to try to identify the crew. Anyone that might have a copy and able to identify please contact him. He also sent dues and asked to be able to be aa assocaiter member and attend our next reunion.

PRESIDENT: Bill Siler
 1132 N Orchid
 Lompoc, Ca 93436

VICE PRESIDENT: Howard Larsen
 (new address) 4200 N W Morley Rd
 Topeka, Ks 66618

SECRETARY-TREASURE: Homer L Briggs
 811 North West "B" St.
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EXECUTIVE BOARD :

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 2011 Shoreham
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Dan Graham
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Ken Kinyon
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 Iowa City, Io 52240

Edward Reppa
 2632 Edgewood
 Dearborn, Mich 48124

HISTORIAN:
 Lourrene (Mickey) Briggs

Nov 1978

New Names

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plane "Big Time Operator"

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New Names

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