

THE 457th Association
811 Northwest "B" Street
Bentonville, Arkansas 72712

Dear Fireballers:

May 1979

Our Bentonville Chamber Commerce mimeographs our newsletters free .
If anyone would like to write to them thanking them, you can address
it to Bentonville Chamber Commerce, Bentonville, Ar 72712.

1979 Reunion:

July 29, 30, 31, 1979 Holiday Inn -- 72nd and Grover--Omaha, Nebraska
I-80--72nd Street Exit. 504 Rooms--Eppley Airfield 13 miles-- SAC HQ
15 miles, 10 minutes to down town. In order to have room block res-
ervations, your reservation will have to be at least 30 days in advance.
MAKE YOUR OWN RESERVATION. PLEASE MAIL CARDS ENCLOSED * ONE TO HOLIDAY
INN OF OMAHA WITH RESERVATION FILLED IN, WE HAVE MARKED THEM WITH
OUR GROUP NAME .

WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HOW MANY WE HAVE TO WORK WITH, HOWEVER
WE EXPECT SOME TO HAVE TO CANCEL AND OTHERS COME AT LAST MOMENT.

Reunion Notice:

Please send to your local paper the notice that the group will have
reunion-time-place, contacting either you or Homer and address.

Attending reunion: ENGLAND GUESTS

George Townsend and wife Ena will arrive in Bentonville the middle of
July and will travel to Omaha with Homer & Mickey. Gordon Townsend
son of George will arrive in Omaha. These two have already made
reservations. Eric Brumby has already wrote that he can not attend,
but has a trip planned in Sept to see some of the men. Bernard and
Sadie Baines, have not been able to confirm yet on their attending.

Anyone wanting to help with reunion, or have any requests, questions,
suggestions please write to Bill Siler, President.

Registration: When you arrive inquire as to Where & Where to register
with the 457th Group. Mickey Briggs in charge, with Fern Larson (Mrs.
Howard) helping. A schedule for each will be available along with prices
for tours, lunches etc, at that time.

Some registration will start Sat nite continued on Sunday. If you
come in later be sure to check in with Fern Larsen or Mickey Briggs.
Tentative prices are reasonable but may change.

Come to the reunion:

Wives, children, families, or friends have always been welcome & have
just as much fun, making new friends, sightseeing. Teenagers have always
attended. Formal or informal dress at banquet.

Everyone: who can bring a memento of local or state to reunion. Such
as printed pencils, pens, match books, state maps (write to your state
Capital) We exchange these at banquet.

Historian: Bring all of your pictures, data, mounted if possible on
large board or notebooks, Be sure to have all material labeled with
your name. We will have a special time and room to display this material.
Mickey has 25 books for inspection by all. Lt. Col. Kenneth R Luck, ret
Intelligence Officer 748 recently sent several nice pictures of Ed
Dozier, Rod Francis, Gen Lacey, and Col Luper. Copies of 'High Flight'
poem will be available at reunion. Ask Mickey for a copy.

HOMER & Mickey will arrive on Saturday -- see you all then.

Tentative Schedule *2----

JULY 28, 1979 Saturday Nite:

Registration: if enough have arrived.

July 29, 1979 Sunday:

9:00 Am - - - - - Registration.

(To be filled in later.)

Sunday evening- Get together supper

Group photos will be taken at sometime during reunion.

July 30, 1979 Monday:

Morning: Limited underground tour-- the rest will enjoy film & lecture on what the others are touring of SAC HQ. Base

Noon: Lunch at the Base NCO Club.

Afternoon: 2 hour museum tour

Evening: Formal Banquet on Base Officers Club.

July 31, 1979 Tuesday:

Will be planned later-- Business meeting also.

B 17 Stamp: A man wrote to us, we have misplaced his name at present, which we will bring up at reunion, about working for a stamp with a B 17 on it. He wanted our letters to congress also. (postage stamp)

Books: (We do not endorse or represent this offer):
Bibliography of Jack Ilfrey as a WWII Fighter Pilot. Fighter Escort "Happy Jack's Go-Buggy" For your Autographed copy, send \$9.45, includes postage and handling, Texas residents add 52 cent Tax. Name Address to Jack Ilfrey "Flying Aces" Interprises, 127 Lewis St., San Antonio, Texas 78212.

8th AirForce News:

REMEMBER---- Lt. Col. Tom Goff, ret is a member of the Board of the 8 AFHS & is ready to represent our 457th people, especially those who are members of the 8th AFHS. Feel free to write him on any matter pertaining to this. He & Art Fitch are Museum Directors, which is located in England at Duxford Airfield. Tom Goff, 255 E Woodhill Dr., Glen Burnie, Md 21060. Art Fitch, 118 Pleasant Valley Rd, Westwood, Ma 02090. If you have any material for the museum contact them.

Correction:

The 8th AF reunion in Phoenix, Arizona is October 25 thru 28, 1979 (not 5 thru 7) Sorry. Group has been invited to have a mini reunion at that time. Also the dues for joining 8th AFHS is \$6.00 yearly (not \$5.00) Also send name and address along with 8th AF group no, Depot, HQ & location stationed, and your check. 8th Air Force Historical Society, 495 NE 157 Terr, Miami, Fla 33162. Dues are payable each January.

AF AlbumII:

Be sure to send 457 Bomb Group pictures for the second Album. Also can use other data pertaining to the group, be sure to mark all items.

Hope to see all of you at the reunion.

PRESIDENT: Bill Siler
1132 N Orchid
Lompoc, Ca 93436

Vice PRESIDENT: Howard Larsen
4200 N W. Morley Rd
Topeka, Ks 66618

Secretary-TREASURE: Homer Briggs
811 Northwest "B".St
Bentonville, Ar 72712

HISTORIAN: Lourrene (Mickey) Briggs.

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Edward Reppa
2632 Edgewood
Dearborn, Mich 48124

Ken Kinyon
1628 Hollywood
Iowa City, Io 52240

Dan Graham
21 Redburd Lane
Brownsburg, Ind 46112

Dee Owsley
2011 Shorehan
Florissant, Mo 63033

HISTORY OF 457th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION REUNIONS:

1971: Homer Briggs found Ken Rurode, St Joe, Mo, former 749 sqd buddy under a car at Bentonville service station. Upon visiting decided to call Hurchel Teague, Hickory, NC., wanting to see some of the 749 buddies, all decided on a reunion. Advertising the fact in magazines, we gained a lot of men asking to include all 457th group & attaching units. Mrs Homer (Mickey) B began searching with names and 30 year old addresses, finding Ken Blakebrough & his book "The Fireball Outfit" in Ca, who in turn furnished 2 year old addresses of about 200 names. These in turn found more & some had gone from the newer addresses. We still have many we never did locate. One Okla address found 3 weeks later- Paul Krebs in Wash, having left Okla 25 years before. The Teagues & Briggs cohosted the first 1971 reunion in Bentonville, Ar. 39 men & families arrived fighting the war all over, REMEMBER THE NIGHT IN LONDON? REMEMBER THIS, THAT, whispering about old girlfriends, finding more than one had dated the same girl....Wives had a ball, kids had great fun on their own. Ken Blakebrough spoke, in part he asked us.. "Why are we here? Nostalgia of course, and in all our memories we must pay tribute to an airplane, a squat grasshopper on the ground, A PILOTS DREAM in the air.. A B17 by name.. in a far corner of a foreign soil a forever part of America-Glatton Airbase cementery. Why are we here? War is Hell, we agree. We the Veterans of 457th Bomb Group believe the extremities of World war, make it necessary for a group of men to band under a common banner for a common cause. An association is bred, which in the end is not easily forgotten. When such an association does exist in Hearts & Minds of Men, the Memory of it becomes a living thing, it will not be forgotten. In the years of 1943-45 we were welded in Just such Association, Distinguished only by the numercial 457 Bomb Group. It is an association of which we were proud, Still are proud and we Will always be proud."

Dan Graham, Brownsburg, Ind, after traveling to England several times took upon his self to restore the 'Stone American Monument' in the cemetery next to the 457th Bomb Group Base at Glatton. Having no written words on it prepared gold lettering up black marble. Dan Graham brought this plaque to the reunion for display & all interested donated towards its cost. It has since been placed on the monument thru efforts of Dan & Bill Siler of Ca. & a group of people in England, friends of Dan. Plaque reads:

Lest We Forget

'IN PERPETUAL MEMORY OF THOSE VALIANT AMERICAN AIRMEN OF THE 457th BOMB GROUP WHO, DURING WORLD WAR II GAVE THEIR LIVES THAT FREEDOM MIGHT PREVAIL'

A memorial service for all know deceased men putting their name on a scroll. We lost John Treadway, charter member, our 1st MC at Banquet, just 1 year after our reunion. The last thing John said as he gave Mickey a hug 'God Bless you for starting these get togethers' Barbara Treadway donated his pictures to the Historian. We have about 39 or so Charter members of this first reunion & feel we are a close knit group of friends. Then as the years roll by we add more friends. The first reunion only had Homer Briggs as secry, treas with Mickey as Homer's secry. 15,000 letters of inquiry was mailed in the 6 months we were searching & many phone calls, some only operators helping locate addresses. 1973 Topeka, Ks reunion was planned with Howard Larsen, Ken Rurode, Wm Stelle to head the committee. After the reunion, an account of the meeting was written in local paper and a local man called to say he was 751 Jack Bush, (only 7,000 in town at that time.) The men wrote a letter of thanks for caretaking the Monument for years in England to George Townsend, all attendees signing. The result of this letter was to find the Peterboough 457th Historical Society with 5 members. Mickey thinking it would be nice to keep all this data she had acquired started the historian books. Many letters full of personal experiences, pictures, assignments lists, shipping orders have been coming in & still do. English men sending pictures, clippings, etc. Group picture was made.

1973: Hosting Topeka reunion were Howard & Fern Larsen. The first business meeting was presided over by Ken Blakebrough, Lakewood, Ca. 60 men & families attended, Mickey Briggs acting as secretary, Bentonville Ar was selected by unanimous vote to be 1976 site. Reunions to be held every 3 yrs. Mickey Briggs was voted an honorary member Association historian. Homer Briggs was unanimously elected Sec-Treas. the first elected officer for group & for 1976 reunion. Bill Wilborn, Tulsa, Okla was elected unanimously President, the first President. Bill Wilborn took the chair & continued the business meeting. Howard Larsen was elected Vice Pres. Bylaws drawn up before the meeting were discussed, amended, voted, passed. We were now '457th Association'. Membership Drive Area Managers were appointed. Memorial services added many more deceased men. We had a great time, had TV coverage, visited Forbes AF Base.

We lunched on base. Barbara Treadway was reconigned and voted a honorary member. Dan Graham, base piano player, played again for us, showed England slides, Historian books displayed. Lt. Col Dave Kahne was our second MC. Bill Mattox, Mich had 1 day notice but made it. We made many new friends. Wives and kids enjoyed as the men did. The list climbs & more historian books each year.

1976: Homer & family visits England 1975 and makes friends with George & Ena Townsend, Satwry, & son's family, Gordon, Bernard Baines family, Eric Brumby family & John Walker, Peterborough. They showed us much hospitality, history, old Glatton base-field, monument & other places of interest. Met 457th 'er David E Callaghan while there. We start plans for George Townsend to attend the 1976 reunion for the thanks to him for all the years caretaking of the monument. Homer found that a B17 painted in a Black Triangle U in 457th 749(his) markings, was at Duxford Airbase flying status His great thrill-at seeing it take off and landing, also at being to examine it throughly. (1979 : it is still on lease at Duxford Airbase which is also the 8th Airforce Museum. It has just had completed 4 rebuilt engines.)

After several visits and some missed visits of different 457th men to England, Bernard Baines placed in several prominent locations, both city and base, telling the 457th historians existence. So now that many have visited with them. They all now help with the care of the monument, placing flowers on memorial day in memory of the men who were there. We found one or two men that had not known of our association. Another lost in 1974 was Kris Krysiak, an early member. His wife sent his photo album to the historian. After the reunion, Sept 77 -we lost another good friend and charter member Al Roeckle, St. Louis Mo, and many more names were added to the memorial service scroll. In 1975 Homer also found a board on the ground where once stood a little building housing the generator, behind the Headquarters. The Board reads--- Administrative site dispersed sites ring 30 KVA---. In 1978 he attended the dedication of the 8th AirForce Historical Museum at Duxford, England. They are asking for donations of items of all groups. Acting President Howard Larsen, Ks presided over the business meeting. Was voted to have a board of 4 to decide with the officers the reunion time and place and take action on any business coming up before the 1979 reunion. Officers elected were Pres. Lt. Col. Bill Siler, Ca; Vice President Howard Larsen, Topeka, Ks; Homer Briggs, Secy-treas; Ex Board Dan Graham, Ind; Dee Owsley, Mo; Ken Kinyon, Ia; Ed Reppa, Mich. George Townsend did in fact attend the 1976 reunion. The English Historians were voted Associate members. They recovered bits and pieces from the crash of "Miss Ida" lots of pictures, history, clippings. They display their things yearly in a fall Military display in Peterborough. Our MC for 1976 was Frank "Andy" Anderson, Milledgeville, Ga. We were welcomed in 1971 & 1976 by our Bentonville Mayor Ernie Lawrence. Our business meeting voted to have dues annually of \$5.00 and for those wanting to only be on mailing list not a member, to send \$1.00 for postage & costs. It was also discussed about trying to obtain a B 17 plane for display. Starting in 1971, Homer has 2 books full of information gathered on where B 17's and how if possible to obtain.

1977: A board meeting was held at 8th AF Reunion in St. Louis, Mo Mini reunion. All in attendance except Dan Graham. After discussing all locations and offers sent to them on location site, it was decided to have it at SAC Headquarters Omaha, Nebraska. July 29, 30, 31 (because of open date at SAC) We now have correct names and addresses for 600. Gaining each year a few, but losing also each year. The historian books have climbed to 25, several large boards of pictures and objects collected or donated by different members. We have reservations for George and Gordon Townsend of Peterborough & Sawtry England for the 1979 reunion. (For several years the 8th AF Clearinghouse has directed many men to our group.....Each reunion year advertising also brings in more men and current addresses)

B17 Prints: (The Group or Homer Briggs are not representing or responsible for this or any other offer) The Aviation Art Museum, PO. Box 16224, St. Paul, Minn 55116 offers Aviation prints, Black & White 8 x 10 charcoal reproductions of the original drawings. All prints have a pre-mat white border and are appropriately titled on heavy vellum cover stock. To order send Money to the above address along with Quantity*****
 Code 48 Print description B-17G Flying Fortress Boeing Quantity _____ C ode 40
 Print description Air Force Seal 12" x 16" \$2.00 each or any set of 4 for \$6.00. Or you may send for information on other Aviation Prints.

June 1979 New Addresses:

Halayko, Michael
RD 1 Box 150
Lee Center, NY 13363

Bleck, Edward
RR 2 Box 202
Belle Plaine, MN 56011

Col Watts, William C,ret 749
Rte #1
Dallas City, Ill 62330

Summerville, D.K. 748
2035 Camino Cantera
Vista, Ca 92083
(Capt. Pam Am)

William A Good ,Jr
3647 Bayshore Bl, NE
St. Petersburg, Fl 33703

Patton, William E
9318 Bruton Rd
Dallas, Tx 75217

Cheatham
Rt #4 Box 138
Greenville, Ala 36037

Miller, George C
Star Rte, Box 288
Pittsburgh, Mo 65724

Enslow, Donald L
Rte 2
Lake Warren, Ill 61462

Friedenburg, Glenn A
General Delivery
Beaver Falls, NY 13305

Klein, James J 749
3280 Cynthia Lane
Lake Worth, Fla 33460

Cooke, Dale L
826 N Delaware Pl
Tulsa, Ok 74110

Grossman, Jerome
1030 Blythe Ave
Drexel Hill, Pa 19026

Breit, Norman W
4001 Pasadena Ave
Sacramento, Ca 95821

Change Address
Ringgenberg, Owen F
156 E Estate Dr
Tulare, Ca 93274

Address correction:

Creigh, Walter F
1972 Colleen Dr
Los Altos, Ca 94022

(Kenneth Blakebrough)
26095 Avenida Bonachon
Mission Viejo, Ca 92691

Fred M Oglesby, Jr
8821 So 65 E Place
Tulsa, Ok 74133
Edgerton, Godfrey C
Rt 1 Box 165, Craryville, NY 12521

Basuil, Felicisimo
8133 S/ W. 81st Ct
So. Miami, Fl 33143

Honorary Associate Members:
Briggs, Lourrene (Mickey) Elaine 749
811 Northwest "B" Street
Bentonville, Ar 72712

Treadway, Barbara (John) 749
1234 Market St
Pascagoula, Ms 39567

Roeckle, Audrey C (Albert) 749
1127 Riverview Blvd
St. Louis, Mo 63147

Tomassi, Leona (Mario) 750
418 N 44th St
Rapid City, SD 57701

Hoffman, DVM Arthur (son of Arthur)
921 State Ave
Marysville, Wash 98270

(Dozier, Conner (brother of Ed))
Nanafalia, Ala 36764

(English::: George Townsend)
#6 Moyne Road
Sawtry, Hunts England UK PE 17 5TN

(Gordon E Townsend)
17 Avon Ct Gunthorpe,
Peterborough PE 4 6YU England

Bernard Bains
29 Western Ave
Peterborough PE1 4 HS England

Eric Brumby
82 Bluebell Ave Cambs
Peterborough PE 13 xH England

John Walker
89 Eye Road Newark
Peterborough, England