

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

OCTOBER 1980

DEAR FIREBALLERS:

THIS NEWSLETTER HAS BEEN DELAYED SOME BY THE NEWS OF OUR PRESIDENT ED REPPA, FALLING OUT OF A TREE - BREAKING HIS BACK. AFTER A LONG STAY AT THE HOSPITAL HE IS AT HOME CONVALESCING. WE OFFER HIM OUR PRAYERS AND GOOD WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY.

HOMER AND MICKEY INVITE ANY AND ALL FOR A VISIT AT ANY TIME TO INSPECT THE HISTORIAN BOOKS AND THINGS SENT TO US TO KEEP FOR THE GROUP. HOMER IS AT HOME MOST ALL TIME..273-3908 MICKEY WORKS AT COOPER COMMUNITIES, INC, BELLA VISTA VILLAGE- 855-9313.

1981 REUNION: PLANS ARE IN THE MAKING FOR THE REUNION TO TAKE PLACE IN COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO. SEPTEMBER 25-26-27, 1981 HAS BEEN RESERVED AT THE FOUR SEASONS MOTEL IN COLORADO SPRINGS, THIS BEING A LESS BUSY TOURIST SEASON. TENTATIVE PLANS ARE BEING MADE FOR TOURS AT NORAD AND THE TRAINING ACADEMY. CHANGES OF OFFICERS IN CHARGE MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE DEFINITE PLANS AT PRESENT.....WE NEED TO HAVE SOME IDEA AS TO HOW MANY FOR THE MOTEL TO HAVE AN IDEA WHAT TO RESERVE. WE REALIZE YOUR PLANS WILL POSSIBLY CHANGE BY THEN, HOWEVER, IF YOU THINK YOU MAY BE ABLE TO ATTEND PLEASE CONTACT HOMER WITHIN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS, WE THEN CAN TELL THE MOTEL WHAT TO EXPECT..... A NEWSLETTER WILL BE OUT IN THE EARLY PART OF 1981 IN PLENTY OF TIME FOR YOU TO RESERVE YOUR OWN ROOMS FOR SURE AT THAT TIME. ALL THE DETAILS AND MOTEL ADDRESS WILL BE GIVEN AT THAT TIME. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS OR QUESTIONS CONTACT PRESIDENT ED REPPA, OR DONALD SELLON, WHO IS HEADING UP THE REUNION PLANS:

LT. COL. DONALD SELLON, 2396 SOUTH LANSING ST, AURORA, COLORADO 80014..

FRED M OGLESBY, JR: 8821 SO 65th PL, TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74133 HAS PROMISED TO BRING SOME CAF FILMS SHOWING THE RESTORATION OF THE PLANES, THAT ARE AT THE HARLINGEN, TEX. MUSEUM.

LT. COL. ARTHUR DEIHL, PASSED AWAY MAY 1980. ARTHUR ATTENDED THE 1979 OMAHA REUNION, HE SUGGESTED WE VISIT COLO SPRINGS, COLORADO FOR 1981 REUNION. WE SHALL ALL MISS HIM.

MEMBERSHIP: WE USE THE DUES COLLECTED FOR THE NEWSLETTER AND POSTAGE TO MAIL OUT LETTERS. WE NEED THEM ALL TO BE UP TO DATE. SORRY TO REPEAT EACH NEWSLETTER....VOTED BY 1976 REUNION ATTENDEES: AS YOUR INITIAL DUES ARE PAID YOU WILL BE SENT A PERMANENT MEMBERSHIP CARD TO BE KEPT AS A PERMANENT MEMBERSHIP CARD. WHEN FUTURE DUES ARE PAID, PAY BY CHECK MARK THE YEAR DUES YOU PAY ON THE CHECK, KEEP THE CANCELED CHECK AS A RECEIPT. YEARLY DUES ARE \$5.00 DUE JANUARY OF EACH YEAR.....SOME ARE UNABLE TO BECOME MEMBERS OR DO NOT WANT TOO, BUT TO STAY ON THE MAILING LIST PLEASE SEND \$1.00 for postage. IF YOU HAVE PAID YOUR DUES, BUT NEVER RECEIVED A CARD, PLEASE CONTACT HOMER AGAIN AND WE WILL HAVE THE CARD MAILED TO YOU. WE HAVE TO HAVE THE PRESIDENT OF SIGN THEM ALSO AND IT TAKES A LITTLE LONGER, IF WE DON'T HAVE THEM ON HAND, PLEASE BEAR WITH US.

YOU HAVE PAID FOR THE YEARS OF _____

"THE STONE AMERICAN" MONUMENT:

THE CONNINGTON CHURCH, THRU GEORGE TOWNSEND, SAWTRY, CARETAKER OF THE MONUMENT FOR 14 YEARS, ASKED WHAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO ABOUT THE CRUMBLING MONUMENT. THEY URGED US TO KEEP WITH THE CHURCH'S DECORUM, SAYING THE STAINLESS STEEL WOULD NOT BE IN KEEPING WITH THE REMODELED CHURCH AND SURROUNDINGS.

THIS WAS REPORTED, REPEATEDLY TO SECRETARY HOMER BRIGGS, WHO IN TURN REPORTED IT TO PRESIDENT: ED REPPA.

AS IT WAS VOTED AT THE 1979 REUNION TO HAVE IT REDONE, PRES REPPA GAVE PERMISSION TO GO WITH THE CHEAPER BID THAT WOULD MAKE THE MONUMENT WEATHER PROOF. A COMPANY BY THE NAME OF GREEN OF SAWTRY, ENGLAND AGREED TO DO IT OF ENGINEERING BRICK, AT A PRICE, WHICH WITH OUR LIMITED FUNDS, IT WAS DECIDED TO DO.

THE MONUMENT IS NEARLY COMPLETED, NOW WE NEED TO PAY FOR IT. SOME OF YOU HAVE DONATED THRU THE YEARS, BUT WE DO NEED MORE DONATIONS. NOW! WHEN ALL MONIES HAVE BEEN COLLECTED AND ALL EXPENSES PAID, A REPORT OF ALL WILL BE EITHER IN NEWSLETTER OR PRESENTED AT THE 1981 REUNION, WITH A COPY SENT TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED. A LIST OF DONATIONS AND WHO DONATED HAS BEEN KEPT.

TO ALL WHO DONATE: A SUGGESTION, BY ART FITCH AS BEEN APPROVED BY PRES. REPPA, TO SEND A GOOD 5 x 7 PRINT OF THE NEW MONUMENT, (THE NEW MONUMENT IS SIMILAR TO THE ORIGINAL MADE BY LESTER FRIED IN 1945,) TO ALL WHO DONATE OR HAVE ALREADY DONATED.

IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED BY SOME MEMBERS THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A REDEDICATION OF THE MONUMENT IN ENGLAND AT A LATER DATE. POSSIBLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH A GROUP MEETING IN THE FUTURE. SOMETHING TO THINK ON TO DISCUSS AT 1981 REUNION.

NEWSLETTERS:

ARE MAILED AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR, OR WHEN THE OFFICERS FEEL IT NECESSARY. WE DO NEED YOU TO SEND US NEWS, PERSONAL OR EXPERIENCES IN WWII, THAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO SHARE WITH US. PLEASE WRITE US AND LET US KNOW WHETHER YOU LIKE THE NEWSLETTER OR WHAT CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT ONE.

8th AFHS:

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE \$6.00. SEND CHECK WITH FIRST AND LAST NAME, ADDRESS AF GROUP. DEPOT OR HQ, ASSIGNED OR ATTACHED TO AND LOCATION SEND TO 8th AFHS, 495 NE 157th TER, MIAMI, FLA. 33162.

MINI REUNION:

IF YOU ATTEND THE ORLAND, FLA 8th AFHS REUNION, INQUIRE AS TO WHERE YOUR 457th GROUP WILL MEET, AS YOU REGISTER THERE. BRIGGS CANNOT ATTEND THIS YEAR. THOSE WHO HAVE WRITTEN THAT THEY WILL ATTEND ARE ART FITCH, DAN GRAHAM, KEN BLAKEBROUGH, TOM GOFF. and ED REPPA.

NEW ADDRESSES:

THE 8th AFHS ARE STILL FINDING US A FEW NEW MEN! !!! THANKS.

8th AFHS REUNION:

OCT. 29th THRU NOV. 2, 1980. ORLANDO, FLA. WRITE RAMBING TOURS, PO BOX 1304 HALLANDALE, FLA. 33009

HISTORIAN:

MICKY WOULD LIKE MORE PICTURES AND DATA, DIARIES (COPIES), TO PUT WITH OUR GROWING COLLECTIONS, WOULD APPRECIATE HISTORIES ON YOUR PLANE AND OR CREWS. WE HAVE MANY AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN AUTHORS WRITING FOR INFORMATION ON YOUR EXPERIENCE PERTAINING A CERTAIN PLANE, PILOT AND DREW AND OR CERTAIN MISSION, WE WILL PUT HIM IN TOUCH WITH YOU, IF WE HAD THE INFORMATION. THEY ALSO TELL US DIFFERENT FINDS AND WHERE.

ENGLISH HISTORIANS:

THIS PAST YEAR THE ATTIC OF THE CONNINGTON CHURCH RECTORY WAS BEING CLEARED AND A PAINTING, DONE BY PERSONEL OF THE 457th BASE, WAS FOUND. IT WAS THE PROPERTY OF CANON WAYNE AND HAD BEEN THERE ALL THESE YEARS. IT WAS GIVEN TO GEORGE TOWNSEND, SAWTRY, WHO IN TURN HAD HIS SON, GORDON TOWNSEND, PETERBOROUGH TO GO SEE ABOUT IT AND SEE WHAT CONDITION IT IS IN. HE WILL ADD IT TO THEIR COLLECTION SO THAT ANYONE GOING TO ENGLAND MAY SEE IT. GEORGE SAID IT WAS OF THE CHURCH AND B 17'S.

THE ASSOCIATE MEMBERS INVITE ANY VISTOR TO ENGLAND TO LOOK THEM UP AND THEY WILL GUIDE YOU AROUND THE OLD BASE. THEIR NAME AND ADDRESSES ARE IN THE 1979 ROSTER ADDITION LIST. ERIC BRUMBY, BERNARD BAINS, GORDON TOWNSEND, JOHN WALKER, JOHN WILSON OF PETERBOROUGH. THEIR PHONES ARE LISTED IN THE TELEPHONE DIRECTORY. GEORGE TOWNSEND IN IN SAWTRY NEAR CONNINGTON. JOHN WALKER AND GORDON TOWNSEND ARE TALKING OF POSSIBLY ATTENDING THE COLORADO REUNION, AS WELL AS GEORGE WOULD LIKE TO. WE INVITE THEM ALL TO ATTEND AND HOPE THEY ALL CAN COME. THE ENGLISH HISTORIANS HAD A 457th EXHIBITION IN OCTOBER BOTH 1979 & 1980.

CONFEDERATE AIRFORCE AIR SHOW:

OCT. 9-12, 1980 HARLINGEN, TX. "SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY" B-17, ARIZONA WING.....WITH 457th MARKINGSFLEW IN THE AIR SHOW.

FRANK HALM, 433 NW 33RD ST, CORVALLIS, OR 97330 (94th BM GRP) HAS FOUND US A NEW MEMBER. HE ALSO WANTS TO EXCHANGE NEWSLETTERS. SEVERAL OTHER GROUPS ALSO SEND US THEIR NEWSLETTERS. THESE ARE KEPT IN THE HISTORIAN'S YEARLY BOOK. WE HAVE FOUND SEVERAL MEN THRU THEM, IN TURN WE HAVE LOCATED SOME FOR THEM.

HOWARD LARSEN, HAS FOUND HIS CREW'S CO PILOT WHO WILL BE ON THE 1981 ROSTER LIST. ARTHUR GENARI, 3402 CHERRY, PITTSBURG, PA 15205. POW...748th.

MONUMENT:

8th AF NEWS, JOURNAL OF THE EIGHTH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY..AUGUST 1980 ISSUE HAS ON PAGE 7 A PICTURE OF OUR 457th BQ CONNINGTON. THIS IS A PICTURE TAKEN SOME YEARS AGO.

HAROLD E. JANSEN BERESTEINLAAN 14 B, 2542 KA THE HAGUE THE NETHERLANDS.....WRITES IN PART.....AS A MEMBER OF "AIRWAR BULLETIN 1939 1945", I HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED FOR MORE THAN THREE YEARS WITH A HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION INTO AN AMERICAN BOMBER THAT CRASHED AFTER AN ATTACK ON OSNABRUCK'S HUGE RAILROAD MARSHALLING YARDS ON 26 SEPTEMBER 1944, NEAR LISSE HOLLAND. THE B-17G BELONGED TO THE 457 BOMB GROUP AND THE SERIAL NUMBER WAS 42-32079. THE PILOT OF THE PLANE WAS LT. CARL GOOCH, HIT BY GERMAN FLAK. TWO CREWMEMBERS WERE KILLED, ONE MEMBER WAS TAKEN PRISONER AND THE REST OF THE SURVIVORS HID WITH SYMPATHIZING DUTCH. I WOULD BE VERY PLEASED TO GET IN CONTACT WITH RELATIVES OF S/SGT PARKER AND S/SGT REILLY, ASKING FOR MORE INFORMATION AND PHOTO'S. PLEASE CONTACT ME IF YOU KNEW THESE MEN..... HE INCLOSED PHOTO'S OF THE TWO PROPELLERS OF LT. GOOCH'S B-17. ONE READS: IN MEMORIAM ENGINEER WILBERT H PARKER OF THE USA AIRFORCE FALLEN LISSE HOLLAND 9-26-44...THE OTHER READS: IN MEMORIAM DONALD J REILLY OF THE USA AIRFORCE FALLEN AT KAGER LAKE NEAR SASSENHEIM HOLLAND 9-26-44.

8th AF EXHIBIT AT DUXFORD OPENS: DUXFORD, ENGLAND.... THE 8th AF EXHIBIT WAS OPENED ON 22 MAY 1980. THE EXHIBIT INCLUDES THE ILLUMINATED MAP OF 8th AF AIRFIELDS WITH LIGHTS THAT SHOW THE LOCATION OF GROUPS OF AIRFIELDS BY AIRCRAFT TYPE. A DISPLAY OF THE COMMANDERS AND THE COMMANDS INCLUDES THE UNIFORM OF MAJOR GENERAL EDWIN W HILL, COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE VIII AIR FORCE COMPOSITE COMMAND. NEARBY IS A DISPLAY OF PHOTOS DEPICTING DUXFORD'S ROLE IN THE 8th AIR FORCE. AN ADJACENT EXHIBIT AREA HAS SIX ALCOVES DISPLAYING, THE PLAN OF THE COMBINED BOMBER OFFENSIVE, HEAVY BOMBERS WITH FULLY DRESSED CREWMAN, TATICS OF PRECISION BOMBING, COMPLETE WITH A NORDON BOMBSIGHT, THE ENEMY COUNTERACTION DESCRIBES FIGHTERS AND FLAK FACED IN OUR AIR WAR, 8th AF FIGHTERS, COMBAT FIGURE, STORY ON THE HUGE AMOUNT OF GROUND EFFORT NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THE "MIGHTY EIGHTH". THIS EXHIBIT WILL BE DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF OUR LOST COMRADES ON 7 SEPTEMBER 1980. (WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE) MUCH THANKS GO TO E.O. INMAN, KEEPER OF DUXFOR AIRFIELD, AND ROGER FREEMAN, TECHNICAL ADVISOR TO THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM AND A DIRECTOR OF THE 8th AF MEMORIAL MUSEUM FOUNDATION, INC. FOR THEIR HARD WORK THAT LED TO THE EXISTANCE OF THIS FINE EXHIBIT. WE NEED TO THANK THOSE WHO DONATED TREASURED ITEMS TO THIS 8th AF EXHIBIT AS WELL AS ALL OF YOU WHO, THROUGH YOUR 8th AFHS DUES AND SEPARATE CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE PROVIDED FOR PURCHASE OF SOME DISPLAYS.

LETTERS:

IVO M de JONG, JULIANA STRAAT 25, 2351 GV LEIDERDORP, HOLLAND. WRITES..... ON MAY 28th, 1944 A B17 FROM 338 BG CRASHED IN GROENEGAN IN HOLLAND. I AM RESEARCHING THIS CRASH FOR ALREADY TWO YEARS, BUT I DON'T WANT TO FORGET THE OTHER BOMB GROUPS WITH LOSSES ON THAT DAY. FROM A FRIEND OF MINE I HEARD THAT THREE B17's FROM 457th BG WENT DOWN (LT. STOHL, LT. HAUF AND LT. KIIPFER). I SHOULD LIKE TO KNOW MUCH MORE ABOUT THESE CRASHES. CAN YOU PLEASE TELL ME THE NAMES AND RANKS OF THE CREW'S MEMBERS OF THESE B17's AND IF THERE ARE ANY PHOTOGRAPHS OF THESE CREWS. I REALLY SHOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THESE. WHAT WERE THE SERIALS OF THESE BOMBERS? WHAT WAS YOUR TARGET? WHAT WERE YOUR TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY, WHO WERE WOUNDED ON THAT DAY? ETC. I ASK YOU POLITELY TO HELP ME WITH MY RESEARCH INTO THESE 457 BG PLANES. SINCERELY YOURS.....

MR. R. MILBOURN, 4, CHILHAM CLOSE, PITSEA, BASILDON, ESSEX, SS 13 2AQ, ENGLAND WRITES..... SEVERAL WEEKS AGO I CAME ACROSS A BOOK CALLED "THE FIREBALL OUTFIT". THE 457th BOMBARDMENT GROUP IN THE SKIES OVER EUROPE, BY KENNETH BLAKEBROUGH PUBLISHED 1968, THE BOOK CAME INTO MY POSSESSION WHILST LOOKING AROUND AN OLD BOOK SHOP AND IS NOW AMONGST MY COLLECTION OF WW II AVIATION. I BELONG TO AN HISTORICAL AIRCRAFT GROUP CALLED THE ESSEX AVIATION GROUP, WHICH RESEARCH AND RECORD ACTUAL EVENTS. OUR VICE PRESIDENT IS MAJOR URBAN L DREW, U S 8th AAF RETIRED. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON HIM? PLEASE COULD YOU GIVE ME ANY INFORMATION ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF CYCLONE 1820/973s WITH SOME LIFE LEFT IN THEM? HAVE ANY MORE BOOKS ON THE 457th BOMBARDMENT GROUP BEEN PUBLISHED. IF ANY OF YOUR MEMBERS REQUIRE RESEARCH ON INFORMATION CONCERNING WW I, WW II AVIATION AND THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN, I'LL BE GLAD TO OBLIGE. IF ANY OF THE MEMBERS HAPPEN TO HAVE PHOTOGRAPHS OF OLD B PLANES WITH THEIR HISTORY, PLEASE WRITE. YOURS SINCERELY.....

GORDON H HUNSBERGER, SECRETARY, 355th F.G. ASSN. 75 CONGO ROAD, BOX 71, GILBERTSVILLE, PA. 19525. WRITES..... ATTACHED YOU WILL FIND A STORY ON ONE OF YOUR FORMER BOMBER PILOTS. LT. RICHARD T. BENNETT, JUST RECEIVED BY THE WRITER. IT STATES THAT ON JULY 12, 1944, HE JOINED THE 355th FIGHTER GROUP AND CRASHED IN A P-51 ON JULY 26, 1944. I HAVE SEARCHED THROUGH ALL OF THE RECORDS OF OUR ORGANIZATION AND CANNOT FIND SUCH A PILOT ASSIGNED TO OUR GROUP. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON THIS MATTER FROM OTHER SOURCES AND THAT IS THE REASON FOR WRITING TO YOU AND SEVERAL OTHERS. WHERE CAN I OBTAIN HIS SERIAL NUMBER SO THAT I MAY DO A BIT MORE RESEARCH AT THE ARCHIVES IN WASH, DC? IF ANY OF YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THIS MATTER, PLEASE CONTACT ME, SINCERELY..... EXPLANATION OF HUNSBERGER'S LETTER... FROM PAUL ? ?.. WHO REFERS HUNSBERGER TO RON BUXTON, 390th BOMB GROUP MEMORIAL MUSEUM 634 NACTON ROAD, ISPSWICH, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND IP3 9QE.. (CURATOR OF THE 390th BG CONTROL TOWER MUSEUM (FOTE) QUOTE: BACK IN JULY 1971, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT A P-51 WAS LOCATED IN THE FARM OF A FARMER IN THE VILLAGE OF WALBERWICK, NEAR SOUTHWALD. I DON'T KNOW HOW THIS WAS DETERMINED. BUT RON WAS CONTACTED BY THE FARMER AND HE CHECKED ALL OF THE DETAILED RECORDS HELD BY THE LOCAL POLICE DEPT. THIS INFORMATION REVEALED THAT A P-51 DID CRASH IN THIS AREA ON 26 JULY 1944 AT 2:15 PM AFTER RECEIVING PERMISSION FROM THE FARMER TO DIG ON HIS PROPERTY. RON AND SEVERAL HELPERS OPENED UP A HOLE THAT MEASURED 18 FT. WIDE BY 10 FT. DEEP TO FIND THE ENGINE (A PACKARD ROLLS ROYCE) WITH THE BENT PROP AND WHITE SPINNER STILL ATTACHED, ENOUGH OF THE FUSELAGE FOLLOWED THE ENGINE INTO THE SOFT GROUND TO READ THE MARKING ON THE SIDE AND FINALLY IDENTIFY THE PLANE AS ONE FROM THE 355th FG. MOST OF THE EXTERIOR OF THE PLANE, (THE WINGS AND TAIL ASSEMBLY) WERE RIPPED OFF WHEN IT PLUNGED INTO THE GROUND. THESE ON THE SURFACE PIECES HAD LONG BEEN REMOVED BY LOCALS WHO SOLD THE ALUMINUM FOR SCRAP METAL VALUE. HOWEVER: THE LANDING GEAR WAS RECOVERED, ONE RUDDER PEDAL, THE ENGINE, A TIRE, AND SEVERAL OTHER ITEMS WHICH ARE ON DISPLAY AT THE TOWER MUSEUM. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE SKELETON OF THE PILOT OR ANY OTHER PERSONAL ITEMS WERE RECOVERED, BUT RON HAS A COMPLETE DIARY OF EACH OF HIS RECOVERY DIGGINGS. ANOTHER INTERESTING ITEM WAS THE FACT THAT ALL OF THE P-51's AMMUNITION BOXES WERE FULL WHICH MEANS THAT HE MUST HAVE BEEN ON A TRAINING MISSION WHEN THE ACCIDENT OCCURED. FROM FURTHER RESEARCH. IT WAS PROVEN THAT THE PILOT'S NAME WAS LT. RICHARD T. BENNETT WHO JOINED THE 355th ON 12 JULY 1944- JUST TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE ACCIDENT, HE WAS A FORMER PILOT WITH THE 457th BG AND HAD COMPLETED 30 COMBAT MISSIONS WITH THE B17. ..PAUL. ?? WRITE TO RON BUXTON, IF YOU CAN HELP. ALSO TO GORDON HUNSBERGER.

JOSEPH J PEARCE, JR., 10 ELIZABETH STREET, MILFORD, DEL 19963 WRITES...(THIS IS A REPEATED LETTER WRITTEN APRIL 1979 HAVE NEVER HEARD AGAIN ON THE OUTCOME, MAYBE SOME OF YOU COULD HELP HIM ALSO, WRITE TO HIM AND ASK HOW YOU CAN.) QUOTE: AS A FORMER B17 COMBAT PILOT, AND NOW POSTMASTER OF MILFORD, DELAWARE, 19963, I HAVE PROPOSED TO THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE THAT A COMMEMORATIVE STAMP OR POSTAL CARD BE ISSUED FEATURING THE B 17, FLYING FORTRESS. THIS WOULD BE TIMED TO TIE-IN WITH THE RESTORATION OF THE LAST KNOWN COMBAT B17, "SHOO SHOO BABY" AT DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, DOVER, DELAWARE 19901, by the 512th MILITARY AIRLIFT WING. THE FOLLOWING HAVE ENDORSED THE PROPOSAL SO FAR; DELAWARE'S GOVERNOR DUPONT, SENATOR ROTH, CONGRESSMAN EVANS, AND ALSO DOVER POSTMASTER AS WELL AS OTHER POSTAL OFFICIALS. SENATOR BARRY GOLDWATER HAS RESPONDED FAVORABLY AND THE 512 th MAW HAS WRITTEN TO THE POSTAL SERVICE ENDORSING THE PROJECT. IS THERE ANYONE IN YOUR GROUP WHO WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE FORTRESS SO COMMEMORATED? IF SO PLEASE HAVE THEM WRITE TO THE FOLLOWING: U.S. POSTAL SERVICE, CITIZENS STAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE, ADMINISTRATION GROUP, WASH. D.C. 20269.....back up this proposal with letters and car it IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THE ONCE MIGHTY B17 IS NOW A WAR RELIC, SINCERELY YOURS. (IF ANYONE HAS INFORMATION ON THIS PLEASE CONTACT HOMER BRIGGS, ALSO)

OWEN S O'Rourke, JR. 748 SQDN FIREBALLER....1111 W GIMON CIR., MOBILE, AL 36605 WRITES..... DOES ANYONE HAVE AVAILABLE A ROSTER(PARTIAL OR OTHERWISE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE 748th SQDN, ESPECIALLY BETWEEN SEPT 1944 AND MAY 1945 ?

AUTO BADGE CO. 144 E SANTA CLARA ST, ARCADIA, CA 91006 .. INSERT SENT ALONG WITH LETTER (THIS HAS BEEN IN AN EARLIER NEWSLETTER , BUT REPEATING FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE NEWER MEMBERS)

457th BOMBARDMENT GROUP CONSTITUTED AS 457th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY) ON 19 MAY 1943. ACTIVATED ON 1 JULY 1943. TRAINED FOR COMBAT WITH B 17's. MOVED TO ENGLAND, JAN-FEB 1944, AND ASSIGNED TO EIGHTH AF. FLEW FIRST MISSION ON 21 FEB 1944 DURING BIG WEEK, TAKING PART IN THE CONCENTRATED ATTACKS OF HEAVY BOMBERS ON THE GERMAN AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY. UNTIL JUNE 1944, ENGAGED PRIMARILY IN BOMBARDMENT OF STRATEGIC TARGETS, SUCH AS BALL-BEARING PLANES, AIRCRAFT FACTORIES, AND OIL REFINERIES IN GERMANY. BOMBED TARGETS IN FRANCE DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF JUNE 1944 IN PREPARATION FOR THE NORMANDY INVASION, AND ATTACKED COASTAL DEFENSES ALONG THE CHERBOURG PENINSULA ON D-DAY. STRUCK AIRFIELDS RAILROADS, FUEL DEPOTS, AND OTHER INTERDICTIONARY TARGETS BEHIND THE INVASION BEACHES THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF THE MONTH. RESUMED BOMBARDMENT OF STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES IN JULY 1944 AND ENGAGED CHIEFLY IN SUCH OPERATIONS UNTIL APRIL 1945. SOMETIMES FLEW SUPPORT AND INTERDICTIONARY MISSIONS, AIDING THE ADVANCE OF GROUND FORCES DURING THE ST. LO BREAKTHROUGH IN JULY. 1944 AND THE LANDING OF BRITISH 1 AIRBORNE DIVISION DURING THE AIRBORNE ATTACK ON HOLLAND IN SEPT. 1944; AND PARTICIPATING IN THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, DEC. 1944-JAN 1945, AND THE ASSAULT ACROSS THE RHINE IN MARCH 1945. FLEW LAST COMBAT MISSION ON 20 APRIL 1945. TRANSPORTED PRISONERS OF WAR FROM AUSTRIA TO FRANCE AFTER V-E DAY. RETURNED TO THE U.S. IN JUNE 1945. INACTIVATED ON 28 AUG 1945.

SQUADRONS. 748th; 1943-1945. 749th; 1943-1945. 750th; 1943-1945. 751st; 1943-1945. STATIONS. GEIGER FIELD, WASH., 1 JULY 1943; Rapid City AAB, SD, 9 JULY 1943; EPHRATA AAB, WASH, 28 OCT 1943; WENDOVER FIELD, UTAH, 4 DEC 1943. ,1 JAN 1944; GLATTON, ENGLAND, 22 JAN 1944 ,1 JUNE 1945; SIOUX FALLS, AAFID, SD, 20 JULY, 28, AUG 1945. COMMANDERS, COL. HERBERT E RICE, 24 JULY 1943; LT COL. HUGH D WALLACE, 3 SEPT 1943: COL JAMES R. LUPER, 4 JAN 1944: COL. HARRIS E ROGNER, 11 OCT 1944-AUG 1945. CAMPAIGNS. AIR OFFENSIVE, EUROPE: NORMANDY: NORTHERN FRANCE: RHINELAND: ARDENNES-ALSACE; CENTRAL EUROPE.

DECORATIONS: NONE INSIGNE: NONE.

THIS AUTO BADGE CO MAKES BADGES TO GO ON CARS OR PLAQUES..TO YOUR CHOICE. LIMITED TO 19 LETTERS AND SPACES PER LINE. WRITE FOR INFORMATION.

.....IF YOU CAN ANSWER ANY OF THESE REQUESTS, PLEASE LET HOMER KNOW ALSO.....

LOST: WILLIAM COUCH-ATTENDED 1976 REUNION, HAVE NEVER HAD AN ADDRESS FOR HIM. WIFE: BETH, FROM TENN. ANYONE HAVING HIS ADDRESS PLEASE CONTACT HOMER.

ROSTER LISTS:

ROSTER LISTS WERE COMPILED BEGINING 1971, EVER CHANGING. ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS BEING MADE EACH YEAR. THIS IS SEVERAL PAGES LONG & EXPENSIVE. ONLY CORRECTED PAGES ARE INSERTED AS THE PRINTED ONES ARE DEPLETED. IT WOULD BE VERY MUCH WORK AND EXTRA EXPENSE TO DO AN ALPHABETICAL LISTING EACH YEAR. WE HAVE A POSSIBLE 650 MEMBERS AT PRESENT, NOT ALL CHOOSING TO BECOME MEMBERS, IN FACT LESS THAN HALF. WE WILL SEND ROSTER LISTS IN A ROLL, THIRD CLASS. ANYONE ASKING FOR THESE WILL BE MAILED ONE.

"THE FIREBALL OUTFIT", AUTHOR KEN BLAKEBOROUGH (457th 750 SQDN) CAN BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING KEN BLAKEBOROUGH, 26095 AVENIDA BONACHON, MISSION VIEJO, CA 92691.

"EIGHTH AIR FORCE ALBUM" AUTHOR JOHN WOOLNOUGH (8th AF'ER) BOX 4738, HOLLYWOOD, FLA 33023 PICTURES INCLUDED FROM 457'ERS HOMER BRIGGS, TOM GOFF, DR RICHARD BARNES, EDWARD JACKSON, LESTER PETERSON, AND BERNARD BAINS FROM ENGLAND.

1980-1981 OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT: EDWARD REPPA, LT.COL.
2632 EDGEWOOD
DEARBORN, MICH 48124

VICE PRESIDENT: DAN GRAHAM
21 REDBUD LANE
BROWNSBURG, IND 46112

SECRETARY TREASURE:

HOMER L BRIGGS
811 NORTHWEST "B" STREET
BENTONVILLE, ARK 72712 PHONE 501 273 3908

HISTORIAN: MICKEY (LOURRENE)
BRIGGS

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

PAST PRESIDENT-BILL SILER, LT.COL.
2661 NUTMEG
MORRO BAY, CA 93442

PAST VICE PRESIDENT-HOWARD LARSEN
4200 NW MORLEY RD
TOPEKA, KS 6618

DEE OWSLEY
2011 SHOREHAM
FLORISSANT, MO 63033

KEN KINYON
1628 HOLLYWOOD
IOWA CITY, IO 52240

457th MEMBERS - EIGHTH AIRFORCE HISTORICAL MUSEUM SOCIETY DIRECTORS:

TOM GOFF, LT.COL.
339-303 GATEWATER CT.
GLEN BURNIE, MD 21061

ARTHUR K FITCH
118 PLEASANT VALLEY RD
WESTWOOD, MA 02090

ROSTER ADD ONSEPT. 1980

NEW NAMES

MICHAEL DE NITTI 749
6 MEADOWBROOK DRIVE
WEST BOYLSTON, MASS 01583

KENNETH GARRISON
4800 WATERBRIDGE DOWN
SARASOTA, FL 33580

ROBERT J MAITLAND, LT COL
224 ROSEWOOD AVE
ALDAN, PA 19018
POW

MEYERS, IRVING H 750
3110 ESTATES DR
POMPANO BEACH, FL 33060
POW

NEFF, JAMES JOSEPH 749
90 CHILDS ST
SPRINGVILLE, NY 14141

CARTER, S. D. 748
2780 SAVAGE
BAY CITY, MICH 48706

RICE, W. LYNN 751
2751 OAKLAND DR
EDEN, NY 14057

BLACKWELL, DONALD W
PO BOX 860
LAKE PANASOFFKEE, FL 33538

STANSBURY, WILLIAM B
766 GREENRIDGE LANE
LOUISVILLE, KY 40207

CRAIG, CONRAD 750
1933 FOXHOUND COURT
SEVERN, MD 21144

ADDRESS CHANGES

BIERMAN, WILLIAM
151 PLEASANT AVE
JOHNSTOWN, NY 12095

CRAIG, WILLIAM D
3800 GALT OCEAN DRIVE
FT. LAUDERDALE, FLA 33308

GALLESSICH, EMIL 751
6281 25th ST SOUTH APT 116
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33712

OZENBERGER, NORMAN T 748
% GOOD SAM CLUB
P O BOX 404
AGOURA, CA 91301

SCHAFFNER, DENNIS G. 749
613 S.E. 36th
ALBANY, OR. 97321

DECEASED

LT.COL. ARTHUR F DIEHL, JR 1980
(COLO SPRS, COLO. ATTENDED
1979 reunion)