



748th  
Squadron



749th  
Squadron

THE

# 457th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION



"THE FIREBALL OUTFIT"

ACTIVATED 1 JULY 1943

DEACTIVATED 28 AUG 1945



750th  
Squadron



751st  
Squadron

THE 457th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION NEWS

ESTABLISHED JULY 1971

VOLUME 27 NUMBER 2

811 NW "B" STREET BENTONVILLE, ARKANSAS 72712

ISSUE 43

AUGUST 1997

# WELCOME

457th 457th

# SAVANNAH

OCT. 12 ~ 13, 1997





July 9, 1997

THE PREZ SAYS

Dear Compatriot Fireballers,

I know we must have one of the most generous memberships among the 8th Air Force Associations. Thank you for your wonderful response to my request for funds to help defray the costs of the English Historian's trip to the Reunion. The fund is looking great.

The books will remain open for your checks up until Reunion time. If you have not given yet, would you please consider it. We will announce the total amount in Savannah.

I will always remember the special relationship between our pilot, Bob Krumm, and our crew chief, Sumner Marshall and his ground crew. We had named our Bird the Flak Dodger. It was one of the first silver B-17s the 457th received. Our crew and the ground crew were very proud of her. I was the Radio Operator.

Krumm, who was an experienced pilot and loved flying, was out on the ramp at odd times talking to Marshall, who had an exceptional mechanical background. They were both a "little older" and experienced in their jobs. We catered to each others needs.

On June 14, 1944, John Barret, Tail Gunner, Shirley Marx, Waist Gunner, and I, were hit, on my 27th Mission. Krumm landed the Flak Dodger with one engine operating and two windmilling props. The ground crew popped into the waist as soon as the airplane stopped. We were really glad to see them before they took us to the Hospital. I wish I could remember their names. Would appreciate it if any of them read this, if they would drop me a line and come to the Reunion.

The Flak Dodger was shot up so badly, I thought it would never fly again. However, it was sent to the repair depot and came back to the 457th to be under the expert care of Sumner Marshall and his crew once again. Clayton Bejot and his crew picked it up and did all their missions in it. Sumner was made Line Chief. The Flak Dodger was flown back to Sioux Falls when the 457th shut down. I will always believe its longevity was largely because of the genial Sumner Marshall and the expertise of he and his crew. Many times they stayed up all night getting our planes ready to fly the next day. I remember them always looking tired. It seems like they had all their meals from their mess kits in their tent.

Our Savanna Reunion is dedicated to all the ground people of the 457th. I write of the ones on the flight line because they are the ones I knew best. There were many others in other jobs. And all of them felt the pressure of keeping us in the air. We could not have done it without you. I hope you all can come to the reunion and enjoy being in the limelight. You deserve it.

May I ask you again, will you please vote "YES" on the motion for us to donate \$10,000 to the 8th Air Force Heritage Museum when it comes up at the Business Meeting. We have had encouraging remarks in favor of this idea. I feel strongly this will leave ample funds in the Life Membership money to supplement our operational expenses for as long as we are able to carry on.

Nominating Committee Chairman, Ken Blakebrough, reports his committee has selected their choice of nominees. Of course, further nominations from the floor will be welcomed.

Reunion Chairman, Craig Harris, has cooked us up a reunion which I believe will go down in our Reunion History as one of the most enjoyable and well attended. I hope you can all be there.



This is my "Swan Song" Presidential message. I want to thank you all for your wonderful participation and support during my two terms of holding this office. You made the job easy. I look forward to remaining active in our beloved 457th Bomb Group Association.

Most Sincerely Yours,



Billy Hightower, President

\*\*\*\*\*

July 9, 1997

REPORT ON PAST PRESIDENT, CLAYTON BEJOT

I had an occasion to call Clayton Bejot in Nebraska, while writing about Sumner Marshall yesterday. Marie told me, he was in the Hospital at Kearney, Ne. So I got the hospital number, called him. He seemed glad to get my unexpected call.

He had driven himself from home in his pickup and checked himself in the hospital. Said he was feeling a little draggy. They immediately put him in bed and parked his pickup for him. He had Angioplasty surgery the day before my call. He talked very spritely and said he was feeling pretty good. No report yet on the success of his surgery.

Since this has occurred, and since Marie recently had a bad experience with her hip being dislocated, he said he would not try to come to the Reunion, as much as he would like to. He wished us good luck and said to tell all "Hello" for him.....Billy Hightower

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May 1997

Dear Mickey, Homer Briggs,

Please be advised Stan (Kleiner) is no longer Physically or mentally able to enjoy his newsletter and should be discontinued. He has been in a nursing home for 2 years and is comfortably cared for. He has no memory of his war service, business and civic service of the past 50 years. I have enjoyed the wonderful work you have done for the organization. Sincerely, Elizabeth Kleiner. 21 Wendy Ln, Lebanon, In. 46052-1148

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PAID YOUR DUES? 12.50 yearly  
2yrs. 25.00 !! 

NEWLY FOUND ADDRESS:  
JOHN KEARNEY, 750- 2254 Termino  
Ave, Long Beach, 90815

"Don't resent growing old. Many are denied that privilege."

"Bluenoser" 352nd Fighter Group Jan. 1997.

# **AGENDA ITEMS I WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT TO THE MEMBERSHIP AT THE 1997 REUNION IN SAVANNAH**

[All legal interpretations and legal wording should be rewritten by our Legal Counsel, Mr. James Bass, and acted accordingly on subject to our By-Laws prior to presentation to/or vote by the Members]

**Whereas**: The 457th Bomb Group Membership is distributed throughout the United States, and **Whereas** there are (7) elected Officers, (namely President, Vice President, Sec/Treasurer, (3) Board Members and an immediate Past President) and, **Whereas**: We have (4) Time Zones in the United States; (Eastern, Central Mountain & Pacific); **THEREFORE be it resolved** that NO Time Zone shall have over (2) two elected (having voting rights) Officials representing the 457th Bomb Group at any time. (Europe, Africa, Asia would be within the confines of the Eastern Time Zone; Alaska, Hawaii, and all Pacific Islands, including Australia) shall be in the Pacific Time Zone). [Ed note: This allocation would not cause a problem since we only plan on electing (1) New Board Member every two years (subject to resignation and death), which would mean that every two years .. two time zones with (1) member would vie for the opening).

**WHEREAS**: The 457th Bomb Group was stationed in England during World War II, and **Whereas**, there are a group of British citizens assisting in the continuance of good relationship in preserving the Heritage and well being of the 457th Bomb Group, **THEREFORE be it resolved**: that a British Assistant Director (Assistant meaning they have no voting rights and would be categorized similar to our two Assistant Sec/Treas. of today) be elected to serve on the Board. It would not be prudent for this Board (the 457th) to recommend their method of electing their Official. [ED Note: It would seem to me that a recommendation of an elected Officer not being able to be re-elected, but could be elected every 4 years. It would be my recommendation that this election take place at the Mini-Reunion in England every two years.]

I submit the above recommendations in the Best of Interest to further improve our wonderful Bomb Group.

Respectfully yours,

  
Dave Summerville

cc: Hightower  
Zimmerman  
Briggs  
Falcone  
Harris  
Jeffers  
Byers  
Bass





# th AF NEWS

VOLUME 97, NUMBER 1

— Voice of "The Mighty Eighth" —

FEBRUARY 1997

## *The Lines On His Face*

By Don R. Hayes, 97th BG  
(From the "Flying Fortress News Letter")

*Back many, many years earlier,  
When the world was badly torn by war,  
He was ready to fight for his country,  
And was imbued with "Esprit de Corps."*

*The Army Air Corps needed men to fly,  
To be the long arm to hit the foe.  
He bravely said, "I'm ready to go,  
Just give me a plane and off I'll go!"*

*The wild blue yonder was his new domain,  
To be a great warrior his chosen destiny,  
Challenging the enemy in far-flung skies,  
His silver wings a glorious sight to see.*

*His old face is now bearing many creases,  
And thinning hair turned gray and white,  
Look closely under those sad, tired eyes,  
You can strangely still see a ghostly sight.*

*Under the eyes the two fine curved arches,  
On the faces of they who fought the war on high,  
It's the faint imprint of a snug oxygen mask,  
From long months of combat in the freezing sky.*

*When skies resounded with a terrible clamor,  
As men and planes locked in a deadly war,  
And the victors came home in glorious triumph,  
To contemplate anew all they'd fought for.*

*There were many who fell and gave their all,  
And they are remembered only now and then,  
In solemn tribute they were toasted briefly,  
But as years pass they are all but forgotten.*





# 8TH AIR FORCE REVEALS SECRET FIGHTER UNIT AIDED BOMBER FORCE

**P-51 Mustangs are manned by Lead Pilots who had completed one or more combat tours in bombers.**

Headquarters 8th Air Force revealed the presence of a Fighter Force, made up of ex-Bomber pilots flying P-51 Mustangs, with the primary mission of leading bomber formations through hazardous weather reporting target conditions and helping to defend the bombers against German fighters.



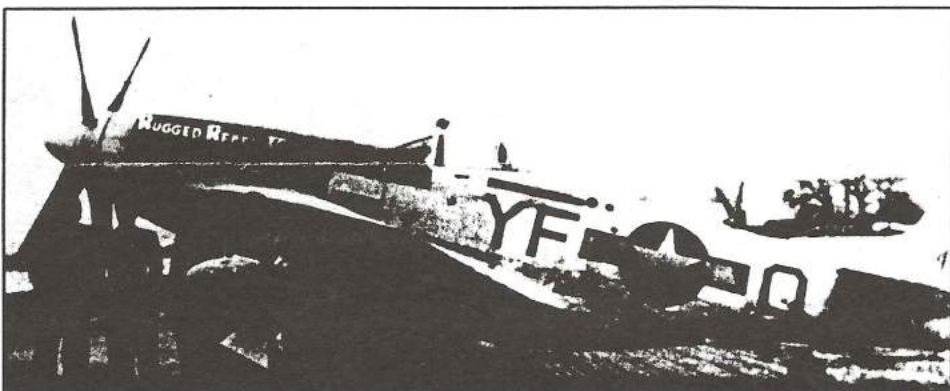
**Lt. Col. Allison C. Brooks**

In a May 1945 broadcast on the Armed Forces Network, Lt. Col. Allison C. Brooks, Commander of the 1st Division Scouts, revealed that the Scouting Forces had been in operation since July 1944, flying approximately 20 minutes in advance of the Bomber Stream to every target flown by the heavies of the 8th Air Force.



**Colonel Budd J. Peaslee**

The Scouting Force concept was not the idea of a single individual but the man who made it happen was Col. Budd J. (Uncle Budd) Peaslee, former commander of the 384th Bomb Group, who had suffered through many missions where weather determined the success or failure of the venture. Colonel Peaslee formed the original unit known as the Scouting Force (Experimental), which operated from July thru September 1944 and flew 35 missions from Steeple Morden. Upon completion of this phase, General Doolittle authorized Scouting Forces for all 3 Air Divisions.



**P-51D Mustang of the Scouting Force**

The Scouting Force concept was proposed in late 1943 but could not be implemented until an aircraft was available that had range equal to the bombers. That airplane was the P-51 Mustang. They were made available in mid-1944.

[Ed Note: Thanks so very much to Steve Billisits of Erie, PA for the above article. Steve, in his cover letter also stated that Robert T. Bennet, of the 457th, was killed, in training and that Robert Burkholder of Tucson, AZ actually served a tour in the Unit. This is the first information I have seen on this operation since 1944 and very few people are aware of its existence. It is of particular interest to me since I was in the 3rd class (early Sept. 44). I had completed my missions and was given the choice of returning home for leave (only to come back 6-8 weeks later for a 2nd tour, or volunteering for this duty ... and after 25 missions of "advanced weather" flying. Participation in this was voluntary and your final decision had to be made after 6 hours training in the P-51 plus groundschool, and an evaluation flight in the British Mosquito (the mosquito training was a story in itself). On decision day ... I was asked whether I wanted to continue, or return to the States on leave. My response was a question ... "How many P-51's were sent out today?.... and their answer was "3". I then asked "How many returned?" and when their answer was "NONE" ... my mind was quickly made up, without hesitation and I returned home, a decision I have never regretted. The time was early September 1944. C'est le vie.] Let us hear from other's who might have served in this unit.] Dave Summerville.



**DUE TO RECENT CUTBACKS**  
**the light at the end of the tunnel**  
**HAS BEEN TURNED OFF !!**



TIME ... CAUSES HEARING LOSS. POOR MEMORY, ETC. BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY... IT REAFFIRMS MY BELIEFS IN OUR U.S. POASTAL SERVICE.

No, I am not making this story up since it would appear I am having a running battle with the Post Office. Bear with me ..if you can.

In June of this year, I received a letter from one of our members, Dr. Donald Zeiler, DDS, which included a check made out to me, Dave Summerville, and dated May 29, 1992. Yes that date is correct ... May 29, 1992. and I finally received it in June of 1997. It only took a little over 5 years to be delivered, but in the meantime, Dr. Zeiler is probably thinking I absconded with the money. It was quite a sizeable donation intended to be used for Mickey & Homer's trip to England.

And now for the ending ... the original check is on its way back to the good Dr. but he has probably retired by now, and since the P.O. surely will claim that they do not forward after a 5 year lapse, I am anticipating it could perhaps be another 2 years before it reaches him. I just don't have the nerve to cash the check under the pretense that I didn't notice the date on the check.

With all that has happened in the past re: Post Office, there is bound to be a sequel to this story.

And ... an especial THANKS to you, Dr. Zeiler, for your kindness and good intentions. (by Dave S.)

## OBITUARIES.....

MAC LACKEY, Sr - November 11, 1995

In a letter in early 1996, Mac Jr. informed Dale Jeffers of the passing of his father on the above date. Dale responded to Mac Jr. as follows:

Dear Mac Jr.:

I am saddened to hear of the death of your father Mac, Sr. I had talked to him about coming to the Memorial Bench Dedication at the Air Force Museum here at Wright-Patterson AFB in August of '93, and again about coming to the Reunion in Reno in November. He just didn't feel up to it.

As you may know, Mac and I flew only one mission together. He had been co-pilot to Capt. Douglas Deal, on a Lead Crew, until Doug was moved up into Operations. I was moved into that crew, intact, at that time, but we had been living in the same Quonset Hut for about 25 missions before that, so we knew each other very well.

Mac was my co-pilot on the now famous mission to Politz, Germany, on which our Commanding Officer, Colonel James Luper was shot down. I was flying Luper's right wing, as the Deputy Group Leader, when he started to leave the formation, and we continued over the target and dropped our bombs, with the other aircraft dropping on the sight of our bombs. We lost one engine, number three, (on Mac's side) and the propeller ran away. I had had one lecture, by a pilot who had thrown a propeller, on how to do it when it was necessary. We lost 15,000 feet in the process, and we were able to extinguish the fire, and found that another engine was losing power. We came home at 10,000 feet, just above the undercast, so that if any enemy fighters attacked we could dive into the undercast. When we landed, an hour behind the others, I told Mac to ask the tower "if we should just taxi this wreck directly to the "boneyard"... and he did. When we pulled up into our hard-stand, it was like Lindbergh landing at Le Bourget ... everybody who had a friend aboard was waiting to see how he was. Our bombardier, John Traylor, headed straight to the de-briefing room and wrote me up for the Silver Star Medal. It came back as a Distinguished Flying Cross instead. After that, Mac got checked out as a first pilot and we never flew together again.

I have a newspaper clipping about the Memorial Bench Dedication, but I can't Fax anything that I don't type, so I will be sending it by mail.

I deeply appreciate your letter and obituary, and your request that I pass it on. I'll call Cedric Priest, the only other member of Mac's original crew, and with your permission, I would like to send both your letter, and the obituary, to the 457th Newsletter Editor for publication. Have you notified Mary Deal?

Sincerely,

(signed: Dale S. Jeffers

Mac, are you a subscriber to our 457th Newsletter? I highly recommend it.

[Ed Note: Sorry for the delay in reporting this, but I had nothing to do with causing the delay.]

**MAC LACKEY, SR' OBIT--sent in  
 by Don Beck, was printed in -  
 Mar 1997 issue #42.**





# England

## 1997



SOLDIER



COAST  
GUARDSMAN



SAILOR



AIRMAN

June 10, 1997  
Bernie Baines  
Peterborough, England

Bernie writes:

A fond hello from a warm & sunny Peterborough, having a drought again this year, but not to worry--the water is still coming out of the taps so we shan't die of thirst.

(When the Briggs were in England, we left a few of our books with Bernie to sell. The proceeds going toward the wreathes at the Memorials.) This year no known 457th'er would attend. Gordon Townsend was honored to do the wreath presentation for the first time.

Those attending were Bernie Baines, Mike Jackson, John Walker and Gordon & Ros Townsend. (not sure about any other wives)

Rex Burke (457th) & his sister Rosamond arrived just before the ceremony. After the ceremony, Rex & sister came back to Bernies and stayed over the night, before leaving for USA. A nice visit. Ken, Ethelda Nail & daughter, son in law visited June 8, enjoyed them, a lovely couple and nice to meet some of their family. Iris Falcone called this morning, her yearly visit, coming to see us tomorrow.

8 FOND REGARDS, BERNIE AND SADIE

# Memorial Service

Cambridge American Cemetery  
Cambridgeshire, England

26 May 1997





THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE "SHEILA WIDNALL CANCELLED HER VISIT.

GEN. DELSTROM APOLOGISED FOR HER ABSENCE AND GAVE HER ADDRESS.

## Order of Service

### Posting of Colors

Joint Analysis Center Honor Guard, RAF Molesworth  
Grampian (Corby) Association Bagpipers

### The British National Anthem

### The United States National Anthem

The United States Air Forces in Europe Band

### Welcoming Remarks

Chaplain, Colonel Jack W. Elliott  
Wing Chaplain, 48th Fighter Wing, RAF Lakenheath  
Memorial Service Master of Ceremonies

### Invocation

Chaplain, Colonel Henry B. Wilborne  
Wing Chaplain, 100th Air Refueling Wing, RAF Mildenhall

### Address

Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire  
Mr. James G. P. Crowden

### Recognition of Veterans

### Glen Miller Musical Tribute

The United States Air Forces in Europe Band

### Vintage Aircraft Fly-by

### Address

The Honorable Sheila Widnall, Secretary of the Air Force

### Presentation of Floral Decorations

The Lord-Lieutenant and the Secretary of the Air Force  
will lay wreaths on behalf of their respective country  
Followed by the laying of floral decorations  
as listed on the two following pages

### Moment of Silence

### Prayer of Remembrance

Chaplain, Major Brett C. Oxman  
Jewish Chaplain, 100th Air Refueling Wing, RAF Mildenhall

### "Flowers of the Forest"

The Grampian (Corby) Association Bagpipers

### Firing of Volleys

48th Security Police Squadron, RAF Lakenheath

### Flag Raising / Taps

Joint Analysis Center Honor Guard, RAF Molesworth  
Taps played by: United States Air Forces in Europe Band

### United States Air Force Fly-by in "Missing Man" Formation

F-15Es from the 494th Fighter Squadron, RAF Lakenheath

### Benediction

Chaplain Colonel Jack W. Elliott, USAF

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This service is conducted under the auspices of the United States Embassy and Third Air Force in cooperation with various 8th and 9th Army Air Force Memorial Associations, our British friends, and the Cambridge American Cemetery staff.

Today's service was organized and directed with pride by the members of the 48th Fighter Wing "Team Liberty" at RAF Lakenheath

Wing Commander ..... Colonel Douglas A. Richardson  
Project Officer ..... Major Russell E. Sackett

With grateful thanks for the assistance from the 1997 Madingley Memorial Ceremony Committee members for their planning and organization during the last three months.

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If you are presenting a wreath, please contact an usher prior to the ceremony. The listing on the following two pages was accurate at press time. We regret any errors as every effort was made to ensure accuracy.



# OBITUARIES

## DECEASED SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

### Anthony Coviello, flown combat missions

**WESTBOROUGH** — Anthony Coviello, 73, of Westborough, died at his home on Friday, March 7, 1997. He was the husband of the late Helen (Baggy) Coviello.

Born in Boston, he was the son of Basilio and Antoinette (Falcucci) Coviello. He had lived in Framingham for many years before moving to his daughter's home in Westborough in 1991. He was employed with the Town of Framingham as a dispatcher for the highway department for the past eight years. He was formerly employed with Reliable Fence Co. of Framingham. He was a veteran of World War II serving in the U.S. Air Force. He had flown more than 50 missions in combat. For many years, he and his wife provided a home for children in need.

This man was in the 749, as an armorer. I knew him very well. He bunked in my barracks. He was a Cpl. He lived in the town next to me. Phil Shebell.

BLAKELEY, HAYNE D.—May 14, 1992 (B) by

John Devoe

COLE, JACK —Oct 1, 1997 by John Devoe

TOBIAS, S CHARLES— 2, 1995 by Homer B.

749 Armment Office.

May 20, 1997

Gordon W Dykes 750,BS

Dear Homer and Mickey:

Enclosed is a letter Re: Howard Quinn on Pg 36 & 37, March NL., which I have sent to Mr. Ad van Zantvoort. I could have just told him Howard was a POW and he died about 1992. But I couldn't let it go at that since Howard and I shared a good part of our youth.

Dear Mr. Ad van Zantvoot,

Your letter to the 457th BG Association was published in the association's NL. I was surprised to read the story as it brought to mind, the memories of my friend Howard Quinn. We grew up and went to school together in St. Petersburg, Fl. During high school we both worked as morning newspaper carriers. We both entered college to study engineering. Howard at Ga Tech and I at the Univ of Fl. We both volunteered into the aviation cadet program. We both became aerial navigators. We both were assigned to the 457th BG. (He was a POW at the time I arrived in Jan 1945). Howards prison camp was liberated by the Russians. Howard returned and completed his studies at Ga Tech. He was employed for many years by DuPont in NC. He married Jean Harrison in St Petersburg and had 2 daughters. He retired from Du Pont. He died in Ft Meyers, FL, where his widow now resides. I think he died about 5 yrs ago of a heart attack. Howard was a wonderful fun loving red head and will be missed. Truly, Gordon W. Dykes.

4107 Farhills Dr....Austin, Tx 78731-2811

### DECEASED

Since last Newsletter

COVIELLO, ANTHONY—March 7, 1997  
by Phil Shebell. 749 armorer.

GELBER, CHARLES—Dec 7, 1996  
by Tom Goff. 750

HAYES, ROBERT "BB"— no info  
by Wm McCall

HOWARD, EUGENE—listed in AF  
News. 750

KNAPP, GEORGE — BY Wm Kabine.  
748 Heart 1975

MC CORKINDALE, JIM—His wife  
told Harold Franklin. 1997

OVERBY, GEORGE, LT.COL. LISTED  
IN 8TH AF News. 88th Station, May  
1996

SMITH, LEON —His wife told Paul  
Birchen. Oct 1996

QUINN, HOWARD BY Gordon Dykes.  
Heart 1992-?



# PAGE OF FACTS

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

DE VOE, JOHN  
DUNDAS, BAISL  
EYMANN, DON L  
GEREN, ASHTON, JR.  
HALAYKO, MICHAEL  
HAUMANN, RUDOLPH  
HIBBS, JOSEPH  
LATIMER, JAMES  
MORTON, ALAN  
O'REAR, JOE  
PARKER, GEORGE  
ROBERTS, PAUL  
VAN INGEN, JOHN

## NEW ASSOCIATES

FEMIA, PETE  
14 Baber Ct  
Clifton, NJ 07011-1009

NAEF, STEFAN  
27045 So. Narcissus Ct  
Broken Arrow, Ok 74102

PETERSON, RODNEY L  
2075 Coral Av  
Aurora, IL 60506STURM, DENNIS

CAF AZ WING  
PO Box 2969  
Messa, AZ. 85214

## NEW FOUND 457th NAMES AND ADDRESSES

AYLSTOCK, FRANK W.  
4336 Eurka Av  
Yorba Linda, Ca 92886-2343

BOGGS, BOONE B 750 ENGINEER  
360 Mill Creek Rd  
Atlanta, Ga 30319-1931

BURK, MARION KEITH W:Anne P 749  
(from inactive) 1Lt  
133 Bull River bluff Dr  
Savannah, Ga 31410-1552

CHUMAS, JOHN 750 (from Inactive)  
242 Parkway Dr  
New Windsor, NY 12553-7333

DIKE, SAM 748  
PO 2501  
Alliance, OH 44601

## NEW FOUND 457th NAMES AND ADDRESSES

DOBLER, CHAMPE V.  
Box 103 Oakland/Yacht  
1101 Pacific Marina  
Alameda, Va 94501

DOUTHWRIGHT, DON  
10271 Winstead Ave,  
Englewood, Fl 34224

GIBBONS, BILL (from inactive)  
1003 Eagle Dr.  
Macon, Ga 31211

HALAYKO, MICHAEL (from inactive)  
9386 State Rte 26  
Lee Center, NY 13363

HAMMAR, ARTHUR  
612 Polar St  
Ishpeming, Mi 49849

HAUMANN, RUDOPH E W: Lorraine  
103 Robert E Lee (N)POW  
Buffton, SC 29910

HIXSON, KENNETH E. W:Carol  
13604 Spruce Ave  
Grandview, Mo 64030-2868

JOHNSON, LEONARD Sgt WG 751  
1552 Schooner, Lane  
Sebastian, Fl 32958-6558

LUMBYE, PAUL  
6556 Old Busthead Rd  
Broad Run, Va 20137-1923

MEADOWS, JAMES  
5003 Beekman Ct  
Tampa, Fl 33624

MC FARLAND, CHARLES  
308 N Piper Lane  
Uvalde, Tx 78801  
PASCHAL, J.O.  
1113 Bond St  
Manchester, Tx 37355

NEWCOMB, ROBERT  
300 Lover Lane Ln  
Albany, Ga 31705

ROSE, RAY  
3471 Hill Circle  
Colorado Springs, Co 80904-1004

SCHUELKE, HARLAN 750 BTG  
117 Andrew Ave  
Neenah, WI 59956



## MY FRIEND

Once again, I must say good bye to a friend. Most recently- Margaret Owsley, Blanche Rurode, as well others, who early reunions were still with us. It is happening at a fast pace. Nellie Paris of Albany, Ga was taken away from us May 1st of this year. I remember her as one of those, who helped unpack and packup at some of the reunions. A phone call ever so often. Making a bed, a meal at her house for us. Our last visit was March 1996 at her house. She was so kind and we loved her very much. Homer, I, Herb and she all planned for 1997 reunion as Homer and I would stay all night at their house, on the last night of our trip from Arkansas and Savannah. We would eat breakfast and take off for the reunion together. They would stay with us until on Sunday, when their daughter would join them in another room. I planned for her to be in charge of the registration table, leaving me free to oversee all of the others.

Nellie had an operation, heart valve repair. Staying in intensive-care, her leg had poor circulation and they planned to amputate the leg, before they could, she passed away. We will miss her happy and friendly face so very much. Good bye Nellie. We loved you. Mickey Briggs.

## FREEDOM IS NOT FREE

I watched the flag pass by one day  
It fluttered in the breeze.  
A young Marine saluted it, and then  
He stood at ease.

I looked at him in uniform  
So young, so tall, so proud  
With hair cut square and eyes alert.  
He'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought how many men like him  
Had fallen through the years.  
How many died on foreign soil?  
How many mothers' tears?

How many pilots' planes shot down?  
How many died at sea?  
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?  
No, freedom is not free.

I heard the sound of taps one night.,  
When everything was still.  
I listened to the bugler play  
And felt a sudden chill.

I wondered how many times  
That taps had meant "Amen."  
When a flag had draped a coffin  
Of a brother or friend.

I thought of all the children,  
Of the mothers and the wives,  
Of fathers, sons and husbands  
With interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard  
At the bottom of the sea.  
Of unmarked graves in Arlington.  
No, freedom is not free.

— CADET MAJOR KELLY STRONG,  
AIR FORCE JUNIOR ROTC, HOME-  
STEAD SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, 1988.

From "Dear Abby", Memorial Day, 1997.



## Medals to which you are entitled



### MGySgt. Earl MacPhersonUSMCR (Ret)

There is a multitude of awards and decorations that individuals who served in the United States military are entitled to wear. Each month MGySgt. MacPherson discusses the lesser-known ones.

Regrettably, the free issue of these medals has long since passed, and they must be purchased, so in each article an agent who merchandises the medal of the month will be listed. The medal this month is the

### Victory and Freedom Medal of Poland

It was awarded to all who rendered assistance during WWII. All allied service personnel who participated in the fight against Germany and Italy from 1939-45 are eligible for this medal. It is a circular bronze medal with an eagle in the center, suspended from a ribbon of three red bars, two white bars.

The medal may be purchased from Wolciech Stela, PL-01, 365 Warszawska 83, 01 Oswiatowa 6/2. The full-sized medal and extra ribbon for a ribbon bar costs \$22 which includes postage. The simplest way to do this is to send Stela a check or money order for \$22 in U.S. dollars. I know of no current source for the miniature.

*Editor's note: Many of the medals featured in this column may also be available from Military advertisers. Check with them.*

MILITARY, July 1997



## 457TH BOMB GROUP QUESTIONS

Questions have arisen concerning eligibility for membership in the Association and the classification and rights of members in each classification. The following may clarify the concerns.

Q: Who is eligible for Membership?

A: Any person abiding by the objectives of the Association. The stated objectives of the Association are, "the preservation of the historical significance of the 457th Bombardment Group (H), United States Army Corps, and the continuity of a spirit of friendship and camaraderie, which first came into being as a result of military service in that organization during World War II".

Q: What are the classifications of Membership?

A: Regular Members, Life Members and Associate Members.

Q: Who is a Regular Member?

A: A Regular Member is a dues paying member and is entitled to all rights and privileges of membership, including the right to attend meetings, the right to vote, to serve as an officer or director, and to receive Association publications.

Q: Who is a Life Member?

A: Regular Members may become Life Members upon payment of Life Membership dues, which are established in the bylaws on a sliding scale from age 50 years upward. Additionally, the surviving spouse of any Regular Member or Life Member of the Association who served with the 457th Bomb Group (H) during the period of time it was stationed in the United Kingdom is under the bylaws, a Life Member and exempt from payment of dues, and is entitled to all the privileges of Membership.

Q: Who is an Associate Member?

A: A person who agrees to abide by the objectives of the Association. The Associate Member pays no dues, cannot vote or serve as an officer or director of the Association, (but can attend meetings), and does not receive Association publications.

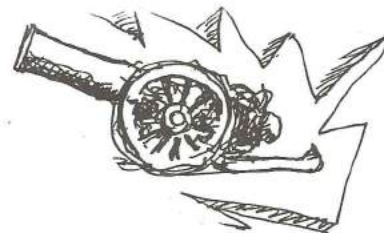
Q: How are all these membership categories established?

A: The organizational structure is established by the bylaws. The bylaws can be amended by a majority vote at any meeting (subject to complying with other provisions such as notice).



A

SALUTE

to  
YOU

How many people does it take to put up 38 B-17s (3 boxes of 12 and 2 flying spares) on a mission to Germany? Well, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure how many people are needed to crew the 38 bombers. The really interesting question is, how many people on the ground are required to get the mission into the air, and to clean up after it? Answer: A HUGE number of people who worked as hard and long, and who have received only a fraction of the credit their efforts deserved.

At its 1997 Reunion in Savannah, Georgia, the 457th Bomb Group Association salutes the people on the ground, you who

made possible the Group's WW II missions. From those who planned the missions, to those who assessed the results, there were in between those of you who got the aircraft ready, filled the fuel tanks, loaded the bomb bays, got everyone fed, assigned the crews to aircraft, manned the fire trucks, got the ammo ready, developed the in-flight photos that were taken, de-briefed the returning flyers, and so on down a list of things as long as your arm. Then you turned around and did it all again, through the night and the next day.

The flyers came, flew, and left, but you on the ground went about your work for months and months, many for the duration. There are, these days, only a few of you of the 457th BG Association who served on the ground in 1943, 1944 and 1945. But we are proud that about a quarter of you have indicated that you will come to Savannah. The Association honors you, gratefully. From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID.

\*\*\*\*\*

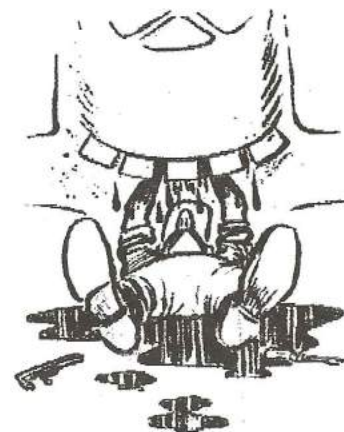
## Mechanic's Creed

**U**pon My Honor I swear that I shall hold in sacred trust the rights and privileges conferred upon me as a certified mechanic. Knowing full well that the safety and lives of others are dependent upon my skill and judgment, I shall never knowingly subject others to risks which I would not be willing to assume for myself, or for those dear to me.

**I**n Discharging this trust, I pledge myself never to undertake work or approve work which I feel to be beyond the limits of my knowledge, nor shall I allow any non-certificated superior to persuade me to approve aircraft or equipment as airworthy against my better judgment, nor shall I permit my judgment to be influenced by money or other personal gain, nor shall I pass as airworthy aircraft or equipment about which I am in doubt, either as a result of direct inspection or uncertainty regarding the ability of others who have worked on it to accomplish their work satisfactorily.

**I** Realize the grave responsibility which is mine as a certified airman, to exercise my judgment on the airworthiness of aircraft and equipment, I therefore, pledge unyielding adherence to these precepts for the advancement of aviation and for the dignity of my vocation.

\*\*\*\*\*



### LET US REMEMBER:

#### A Bender of Wrenches

Here's to the people with the greasy hands,  
Who fuel the planes when the pilot lands.  
Who fix the canopies and stop the leaks,  
And change the tires and oil the squeaks.  
Who smooth the scratches and rivet the panels,  
Check "loud and clear" on the radio channels.  
Check wires and cables for chafing or tears,  
And do all those nice things for crewmen who cares.  
Who pull the chocks and walk the wings,  
And do a million maintenance things,  
Who watch was the bird takes off and flies,  
So here's a salute to the gals and the guys,  
From a group of flyers who seldom ponder,  
The ones who keep them in the

**WILD BLUE YONDER!!!!**



# REUNION ATTENDEES

Allright!

You Couch Potatoes.....



Fill in all Paper Work and.....

Get off your Rusty - Dusty, and

Pack your bags, Put on your Best duds and.....

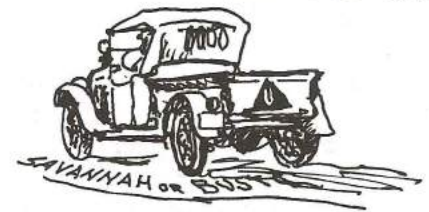


You're not through till the Paper Work's Done.

Gas the car,



Get the map and



Dont let the sad faces in this

turn the key and ..... way to Savannah.....



IT WON'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT U!

BE SURE TO WATCH YOUR DEADLINES, SO YOU WILL BE SURE TO BE INCLUDED IN EVERY THING. YOUR FORMS ARE REPEATED AGAIN-FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE. SEE (ELSEWHERE).

THE CUT OFF DATES ARE--TO INSURE YOU WILL HAVE A SPACE FOR-ROOMS, BANQUET, & BUS TO MUSEUM. IF WE HAVE AN ACCURATE COUNT BY THE CUT OFF DATES-THEN, IT COULD BE POSSIBLE TO FIT ONE OR TWO LAST MINUTE ATTENDEES.



picture be your fault

## NAME TAGS ?

Don't forget the NAME TAGS, I know in last minute hast--no-can find.....Well, hurry - send to Mickey for new ones. Deadline Sept 25.....after that date, she & Homer will be on their bikes, or maybe in the Van on their way to Savannah.

Come on anyway--You can repeat to everyone your name! Again and again.

By the way don't forget the spouse, children & their families, relatives, friends (please leave the pets for others to care for). We all will enjoy the reunion. If you have already heard the stories, plenty of friends getting together, site-seeing, and shopping.

**OCT 12-16**



\*\*\*\*\*  
**ATTENTION:** H. Briggs....Fax..271-9147

Please	Send	Mickey	a	Packet
Registration	Form	if		you
FORGOT !!				
WHY?	IS	IT	IMPORTANT	? ? ? ? ?

The Packet will be given to you at the time you sign in. Be sure to sign in your guests, if any, wife, children, grandchildren. We want to have a correct count of who attended. The Packet will contain the Finacial & Minutes Statements, Important info on any changes of times, if any, plus the regular time, PX-A new suprise item, & when you can find the different events open.

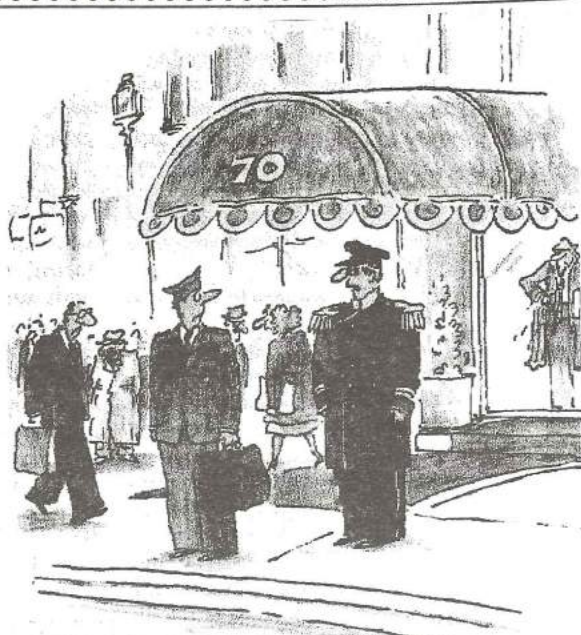
If you forgot to send for Name Tags, or cant remember, re-register with Mickey, she will disregard any duplicates), info on what you might visit or siteseeing. Everyone should have a name tag--Dick Wyman draws the most beautiful ones. He works hard at it over the years.

There will be three- that is 3 outfits at hotel all at once. Different groups have different things to attend. If your not known, you could be denied entrance, or discount----or you could even forget who you are!!

Kidding...Name tag guests, wife, kids older, younger, whatever.

THE REASON I AM REPEATING THIS IS---MANY HAVE REGISTER WITH CRAIG HARRIS-HAVE A RESEVATION AT HOTEL-BUT NONE FOR THE PACKET.

\*\*\*\*\*



\*\*\*\*\*  
 William and Ericka Morse visited the Briggs in late Mar on their way to Arizona. We met here at our house in 1971 at our first reunion amd they have missed very few since, we had a lot to reminisce about. They stopped early May going back home to Lake Ann, Mi . We had a great visit each time. Enjoyed.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Stefan Haef visited July 96. Stefan is in Broken Arrow, Ok working for his Co, 2 yrs, he will go back home. His parents live in Switzerland. Stefan wrote some years ago to us, about the Crash site of #31552 12-Jul-44 in Switzerland in the Alps Pilot Gerald L Kerr. He found it and began his own investigation of the who and why and how it got there. This is but one crash site of planes-- he has researched. Stefan has pieces of the plane and pictures of each piece that was still there. He has all the American and Swiss records. He got a 748 patch and Group patch for his books. He and Homer talked over 5 hours, picking each others brains and records. He has visited with Harold Ahlfors, former POW now lives in Ca. He was one of the crew. Some bailed out before the crash and spent their time in POW camps. The others were killed.

Stefan wants to attend the reunion if his work does'nt interfere.

We enjoyed the visit very much.

\*\*\*\*\*



Added to the List in last newsletter:  
WEEDON-K-KING 479 by Hiram Drache  
B-17-94-457th Memorial Bench, Wright/  
Patterson AF Museum..M Diehl  
1996 English Mini Reunion-J Silverman  
(Some School-girls dancing-River?)  
The following was sent to us by  
Cheston Hall: A few copies of -Gen  
Lacy's Documentary film. Documentary  
film of "Memphis Belle". The roll  
out & setting up at Wright/Patterson  
AF Museum of "Shoo-Shoo Baby".



...flying the plane; flying to Europe; that's okay. But I still don't think we should have bombed Berlin!"

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

Do you recognize anyone?

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
ATTENTION:

At presstime there are 51 people reg  
at the Hotel, who have no reg Packet  
Please send yours to MICKEY Briggs..  
If you have guests, send their names,  
also for name tags, and info packets.  
If you have a Fax, you can Fax to me--  
501-271-9147. If not mail ASAP-please.  
Thank you, Mickey Briggs 811 NW B,  
Bentonville, Ar 72712.

XX



## REUNION ATTENDEES

## HISTORIAN BOOKS:

In 1973, the Group voted for Mickey Briggs to keep letters, pictures, stories etc and future reunions. They called me Association Historian & I kept everything in Protective sheets to preserve them. And had a different subject in different Notebooks.

Thru the years, the background paper,tape has turned brown or simply no good.The protective sheets became orange, so therefore you could not read them. I have kept some at home each reunion.

This past two years, I have worked very long hours, putting new protector sheets on them. Used new tape to keep the pictures in place. Also new paper for background. I think this has improved the looks of them.

I have all of the books this time and hope you will give them another look - if you have read them before. This expense shows up in the Historian-books as expense. Some, the Briggs donated. Mickey of course is the sole volunteer keeping, arranging, and putting -so to speak -a new face on them. Some of the Note Books, have been replaced.

Bear- in -mind, I am not Museum professional, but have done as well as I can. Please do not remove any papers, pictures, or book. If you want a copy, see Mickey or whoever is in charge of the Memorabilia Room at the time. Thanks. Hope you enjoy. 19  
Mickey Briggs.



## A CONDENSED STORY OF "THE STONE AMERICAN"

by Mickey Briggs

Many of you may not know the complete story of "THE STONE AMERICAN"

Many of you helped from the beginning in adding, caring for and repairing of the-"THE STONE AMERICAN".

If any of you come to the reunion, the whole story has been kept and put into a book. Be sure to read it all.

In 1945 an Airman's head was sculptured by Les Fried. It was attached to a 5ft foot monument. On the front was a wreath inside it was written 'FAIT ACCOMPLI'. It was set to look over the 457th Air run-way. It was located in Conington Church yard and was dedicated in 1945 by the Airforce. Col Rogner unveiled the Monument. Col J.B. Roberts was also in attendance, as well Jerome J Heyman. These are the only names I have.

In 1968, a Peterborough Citizen & Advertiser news paper gave a story of 'A forgotten memorial' the story of Battered by the winters of more than two decades of a forgotten memorial by all.

Tourists included a USAF 457th Sergeant Dan Graham & was so concerned about the memorial that he started to search for someone to look after, without success.

The children seeing it, did not have a clue what it was for or for whom. The monument was crumbling away.

Perhaps the mission of those war-time airmen was accomplished, but the mission of remembrance and respect for those who gave the supreme sacrifice should never end.

Three months later, the Peterborough News paper had another article. 'Suddenly it seems everyone is interested in the memorial...the last week has seen activity on both sides of the Atlantic'. Daniel Graham had asked a St Ives firm of Monumental Masons, Wayman Funeral Service, to see if the memorial could be repaired. From NJ, USA another ex-airman who served in the Conington area in the War, Jerome J Heyman, has written to the Commanding Officer at the USAF base at Alconbury, after he had read the article.

Dan Graham, in the meantime, asked the work on the memorial to be done and paid for it his self.

Alconbury answered Jerome, saying he has not known about the monument and asked some detail....No way to pay for upkeep from the American Battle Monuments Commission's European Office in Paris.

In this case, a Britisher, whose mother is buried nearby has expressed his willingness to keep the memorial neat and tidy, if so required as his own tribute. (December 4, 1986). The man was George Townsend, his son Gordon also helped him. George had worked at Alconbury many years, & lived in Sawtry. In August 1970, a mower was presented by the USAF, near the Concrete American, so named by the News paper.

In 1971, Homer Briggs & Buddies started the 457th Association. When we started locating men & planning a reunion, Dan Graham contact us and told us of his dream of a marble plaque, that he had made, to be attached to the Memorial. The wording on the marble is: LEST WE FORGET In perpetual memory of those Valiant American Airmen of the 457th Bomb Group H who, during World War II gave their lives that Freedom might prevail....

Our first reunion, Dan attended & told of his efforts, all present donated to the expenses, and he wrote back after going home,--it was one of the greatest experiences, I have ever



had. Bill Siler picked up the plaque and arranged shipment via military transport (MATS). George Townsend arranged the installations.

Ones helping to do this: James Mazza, Al Martinez, Charles McClane, A.L. Ladner, Joe Falcone, August DeRosa, Homer Briggs, Wm Closs, Winfred Kincaid, Wm. Hite, Minor Lehmoan, Wm Siler, Roy James, Wm Goodfellow, Dee Owsley, James Carey, Fred Burkhart, Elmer Wright, Dr Richard Crow, Summer Marshall, Wm L Smith, Frank Anderson, Hershel Teague, Paul Birchen, Ken Kinyon, George Conover, Ken Rurode, Jim Day, and Eugene H Butscha.

Several visitors to the Monument began writing the perpendicular shaft was in bad shape.

In 1975, while visiting the English for the first contact, Homer visited Andrew T Greeley, Chief Office of Info-Hqs 10th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing USAAF. He was not in, but later wrote and said, he was sorry that they were unable to help rebuild the monument. Maybe The Dept of Army, who supported WWII memorials of former Air Force and Army units overseas, might assist. In the long run, No Help!! We asked for donations, and the group came thru and it was repaired once again. In 1982, the monument began to need repair again. Tom Goff was named Committee chairman- to replace the 6 ft monument "maintenance free" stone sculpture. Located on the same spot. The original monument and head was taken to Barksdale Museum in Shreveport, La by Tom Goff. Many of the Group donated once again towards the final monument. Bernard Bains took over the Caretaker for the monument in 1983. We now have a mini-social reunion on the even numbered year. We have it during the Mattenly Cemetary in Cambridge, England -to coincide with American's Memorial Day. We decorate the monument there and also at the Stone American. So very many of the 457th'ers have visited with their families in the Church yard. Dan Graham played the Church organ, as David Briggs pumped it. This was the last time Dan visited there. (I believe).....MB.

#### MARCH 1997 NEWSLETTER ASK QUESTIONS (As of JULY 1st)

##### 1. Question: Suggestions for the Good of the Association:

Have  
fun, don't have over 50 years more  
to go. \*\*\*\*\*

Several have  
said: Keep doing what you are doing.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Publish updated Roster and sell  
\*\*\*\*\*

Many suggested have every year  
Stateside reunions.  
\*\*\*\*\*

The rest have no opinion  
\*\*\*\*\*

##### NO 2. Suggestions for 1999 Reunion:

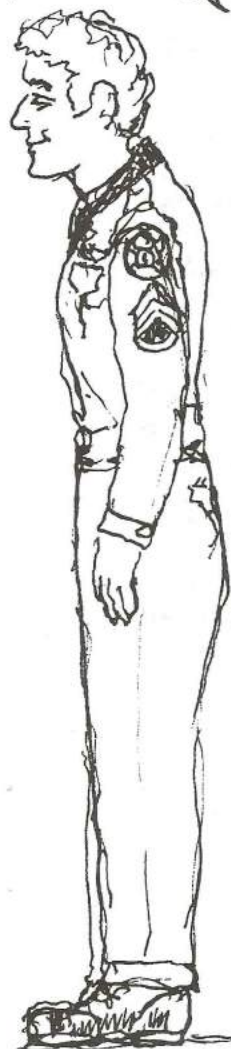
Listed with this in Mind:  
1st. Suggestion of person  
2nd. Place suggested  
3rd. Sponsor

BIRD, WM--Colorado Sprgs, Co--?????????  
BOLIER, EARL--Dayton, OH--?????????  
BUNKER, BRAD--Las Vegas, NV--Good  
Hotels-late Oct, Atlanta City--???????  
CROCKET, GEORGE--Tucson, AZ-lives (250-  
miles away, 4 live in Tucson.?????????  
FRIEDMAN, DANIEL--San Francisco, area  
Reasonable weather-?????????????????  
HIGHTOWER, BILLY- Shreveport, La-  
sponsor-MCLEOD, DON  
MERLON, FELIX--Gettsburgh, Pa. or  
Las Vegas?????????????????????????  
MC CALL, WM.....West coast?????????  
PANARETOS, TED--Graceland, Elvis  
Presely Home Tuneca Cassio, good  
hotel rate 30.00????????????????????  
SHIELDS, T J--Las Vegas?????????????  
SMITH, JULIUS--Little Rock, Ar-Julius  
Smith sponsor (as helper--Homer  
Briggs).  
ZIMMERMAN, LEON - Phoenix, Az-Don  
Nielson.Sponsor



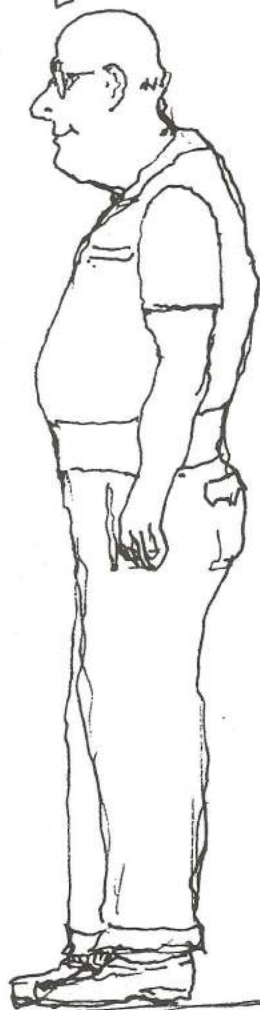
COULD BE ANYONE-RIGHT ?

WAY BACK



'45

NOW



'97

We all ask the question, when will be the last reunion?

Yes many members pass away as the years go by. We still pick up a few more each year, that had been trying to find a buddy. As years go by the buddies began to try to find others. Then why stop reunions, especially as each one of ours seem to pickup more as we go.

But since we are rushing to the end of the reunions, this year should be more reason to attend and meet more friends and get to know them. Also see friends we only see once every other year or has it been 4 years? Many have found someone, only to have them snatched away soon, but have a great memory of how happy that person was glad to have seen and visited awhile. So come along and bring your family or friends. I know Homer and I have met and made many friends along the years.

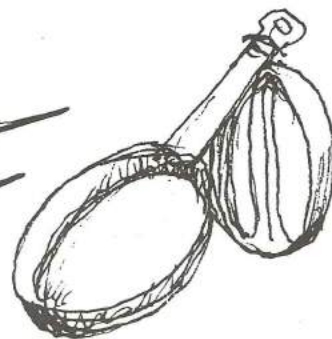
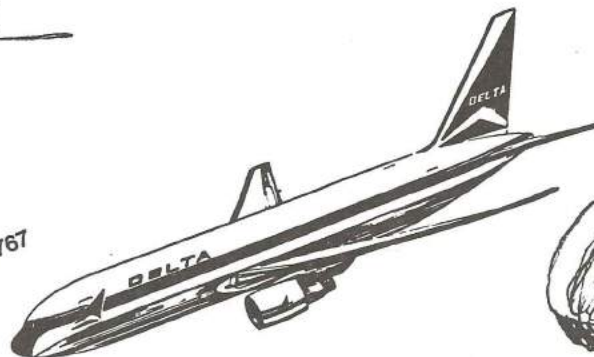
See you in SAVANNAH !!

We still get letters from Europe, who has found another B17 and by asking for information--may be telling you where your or your buddy's plane is or was.

WE WANT  
YOU

SAVANNAH  
OCT  
12-16

B-767



DON'T

GET

LOST!





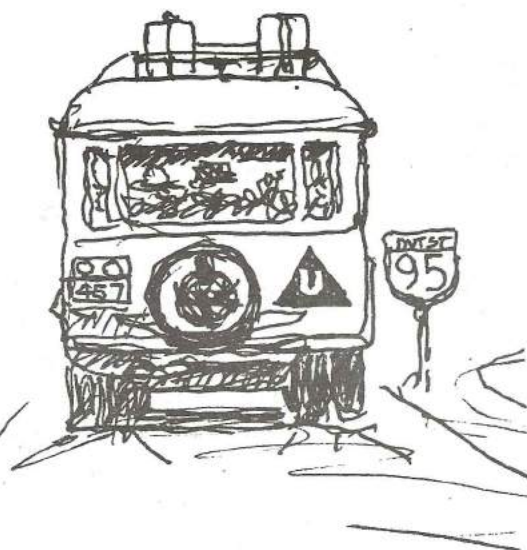
The monument depicts a young Florence Martus, who resided on Cockspur Island east of Savannah where her brother was the lighthouse keeper. She stood by the river greeting every ship that entered the Savannah harbor from 1887 until she died in 1931. There is the legend that she began her greeting after she had fallen in love with a seaman who left and never returned. Today she is the symbol of hospitality to freighters and land visitors to the "Hostess City."

THIS MONUMENT IS WITHIN 2 BLOCKS OF THE HOTEL.

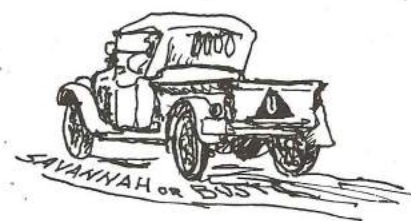
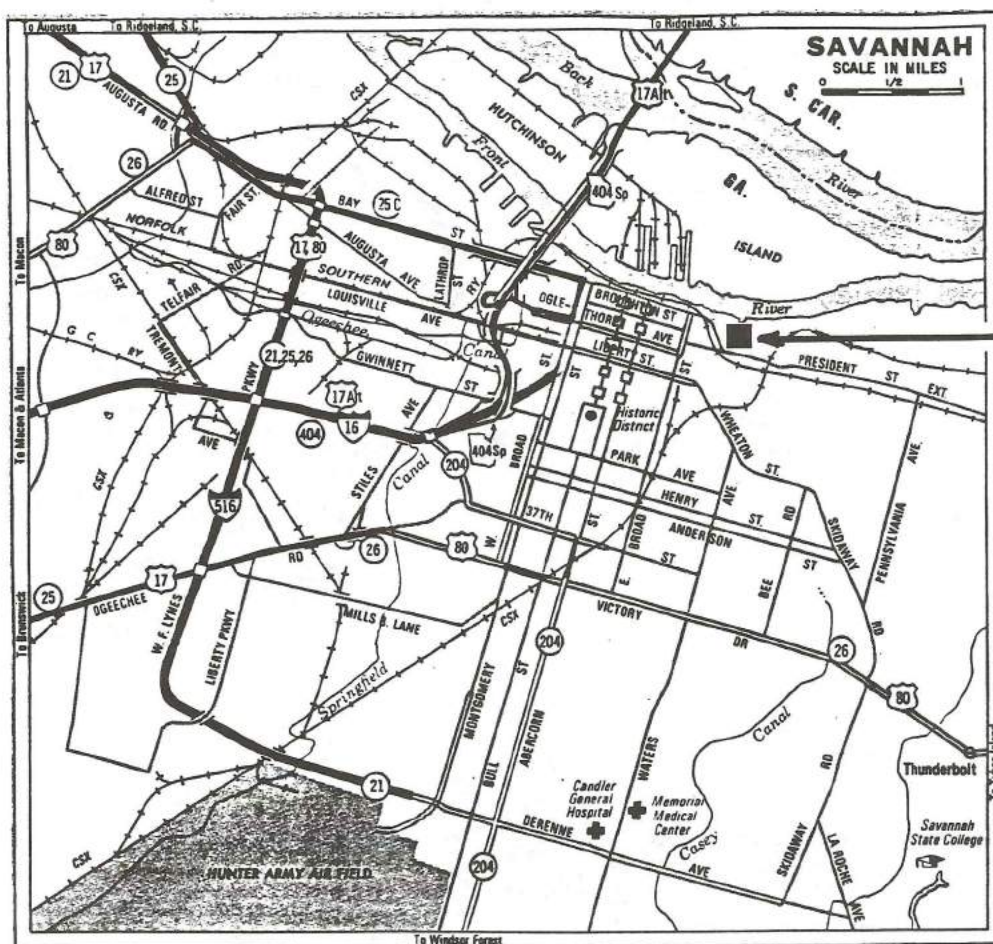
## AVIATION GLOSSARY

### ALTIMETER SETTING

'THE PLACE WHERE THE ALTIMETER SETS - USUALLY HIDDEN BEHIND THE CONTROL COLUMN DURING A TIGHT INSTRUMENT APPROACH'







## Savannah Marriott Riverfront

### HOW TO GET THERE

Come to Savannah by I-95 from the North and the South, and I-16 from the West. To get to downtown Savannah from I-95, take Exit 17 onto I-16 East. [If you come from the West on I-16, just keep rolling when you get to I-95.] Take I-16 to the end, exiting on Montgomery St.

Continue on Montgomery St. for about 10-12 blocks, and after you go around a second square, 2 blocks later you come to W. Bay St. Turn right onto W. Bay St (which is also US 80 East) and proceed to your hotel. The Days Inn is at 200 W. Bay St., on your right. The Hyatt Regency is a block farther, on the other side at Two West Bay St. Continuing down Bay St., the Hampton Inn is at 201 East Bay St. (the change from West to East is at Bull St, just after the Hyatt Regency). Continuing on down Bay St. toward the Savannah Marriott Riverfront, you will pass The Mulberry Hotel on your right at 601 E. Bay St., and at this point begin to stay left near the centerline of the street, to avoid a right-turn-only lane coming up as you approach Broad St. As you pass Broad St., Bay St. becomes General MacIntosh Blvd. Continuing straight ahead, you begin a swing to the right and go down a small decline. As you cross the railroad, the Savannah Marriott Riverfront is quite visible on the left. Come on in and celebrate your arrival. The bar is in the lobby.

**IMPORTANT WHEELCHAIR NOTE:** If you have a wheelchair-bound in your party, bring your wheel-chair. The Heritage Museum has only a limited number of wheelchairs. For the bus rides to and from the Museum, bus drivers will assist those who can board the bus, and store wheelchairs in the luggage compartment. In the parking garage under the hotel, there are handicapped parking places on the ground level, at the far left near the hotel's Garage Entrance. Elevators are just inside that entrance. If you need assistance, come instead to the main ground-level hotel entrance where assistance is available. The elevators are also close to that entrance as well.





# SAVANNAH



## NOTES

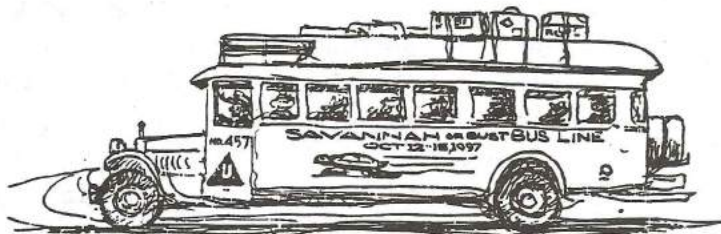
**WHAT KIND OF WEATHER WILL THERE  
MID-OCTOBER?? HOW DO WE DRESS**

**BE IN SAVANNAH IN  
FOR THIS REUNION??**

Expect the weather to be mild, nice. Daytime temperatures can be in the seventies, and casual light clothing should be comfortable. Evenings and early mornings can be cool, and a light wrap may be needed, especially in the late evening.

**IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THE BUSES TO THE HERITAGE MUSEUM !!** Some of you requested the second shift (9:45 departure) but were notified that you had been assigned to the first shift (8:15 departure). We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused anyone, and

hope that those affected can alter their plans accordingly. We told you in the Spring 1997 Newsletter that if one shift became filled (138 people), those who registered after that would automatically be assigned to the other shift. Running two shifts of three 46-passenger buses is necessary to keep bus costs reasonable.



**WE HAVE RESERVED ALL THE ROOMS BLOCKED AT THE SAVANNAH MARRIOTT RIVERFRONT !!** By the time you read this, all the 150 initially blocked rooms have been taken, plus an additional 30 blocked for us by the hotel. We are now in the "overflow" configuration, as some of you already know from experience. While this may cause you some inconvenience, we offer this information with a minimum of apology, because the initial block of rooms was based on our Reno reunion, allowing for two years of aging of our group, and those who said "This is our last reunion". We have now blocked 30 more rooms than we had in Reno.

**"OVERFLOW" HOTELS OFFERING SPECIAL GROUP RATES FOR 457th BG MEMBERS AT THIS REUNION FOR OCT. 11 ARRIVAL, OCT. 16 DEPARTURE: (Be sure to ask for special 457th BG rates, which are at substantial discounts from regular room rates.)**

1. Hampton Inn Historic District — 201 E. Bay St — Savannah, GA 31401 (912) 231-9700 — FAX (912) 231-0440, base rate, \$79, single or king. Cutoff date Sept. 11.
2. Hyatt Regency — Two West Bay St. — Savannah, GA 31401 — (912) 238-1234 — FAX (912) 944-3678, base rate \$97 (large discount), single or double. Guaranteed Riverview, additional \$25. Cut-off date, Sept. 5.
3. Days Inn-Days Suites — 201 West Bay St. — Savannah, GA 31401 — (912) 236-4440 — FAX (912) 232-2725 — base rate \$60, single or double, \$80, 1 bdrm. suite. Cut-off date, Sept. 17.



## IMPORTANT STUFF!!

**PLEASE REGISTER WITH THE REUNION COORDINATOR BEFORE SEPT. 12!! THE SOONER THE BETTER.** You won't be turned away if you don't, but we can better provide for you if we know by Sept. 12 that you are coming. Also, note last dates for special hotel rates; Sept. 5, 11, 12 or 17, depending on hotel.

**WE REMIND WEST COAST MEMBERS** that it takes all day to get to Savannah. Even leaving the West Coast early in the morning on Sunday, Oct. 12, you may arrive too late for the Opening Reception. So take advantage of the rooms we have for Saturday night, and plan to arrive on Sat., Oct. 11.

**IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE BANQUET** — Please set up your hotel reservation so that you depart on Oct. 16. We have had to fix several broken reservations that were mistakenly set up for Oct. 15 departure, when the folks really meant to leave on the 16th.

**REVISED SCHEDULE FOR MONDAY, OCT 13:** Buses will begin shuttling members from the Museum to the hotel on request, after lunch, when reasonably full. THE LAST BUS FROM THE 8AF HERITAGE MUSEUM WILL LEAVE THE MUSEUM AT 4:00 PM, arriving at the Savannah Marriott Riverfront no later than 4:30 PM, for "PHOTO TIME". REPEAT: LAST BUS LEAVES NO LATER THAN 4:00 PM.

**THOSE OF YOU WHO DRIVE YOUR OWN VEHICLES TO THE EIGHTH AF HERITAGE MUSEUM:**

**PLEASE LOAD UP AND DEPART THE MUSEUM IN TIME TO ARRIVE AT THE SAVANNAH MARRIOTT RIVERFRONT** in time for the photo session.

**KEEP US SOLVENT PAY YOUR DUES!**



**AT THE 8th AF HERITAGE MUSEUM—** As a registrant at the 457th BG 1997 Reunion, you will not be required to pay an admission charge at the Heritage Museum on any day of the Reunion. Rather, **YOUR 457TH BG NAME TAG WILL BE ALL YOU NEED FOR FREE ADMISSION.** But, without your name tag, you WILL have to pay an admission charge.

### ***EIGHTH AF HERITAGE MUSEUM MEMORIAL GARDENS PROGRAM***

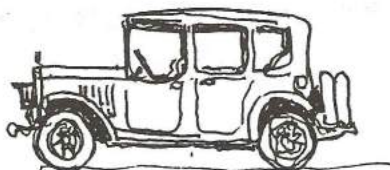
The Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum has created a program to give individuals and groups the opportunity to place various kinds of memorials in the Museum's Memorial Gardens. You will see many of these already in place in the Gardens on our visit. Three kinds of memorials are available to veterans, families or anyone who desires to place a memorial in the Gardens.

● The Wall of Valor Program affords an opportunity, for a donation of \$100 or more, to designate a name of a person, with rank and unit, carved into a 4" x 12" stone tablet that is permanently placed on the Wall of Valor. To place an order or to get more information, call Carol at 1-800-544-8878.

● The Memorial Plaques Program is designed for an individual or a crew that wants to place a plaque made of Georgia blue granite, Georgia white marble or black granite into the Memorial Gardens. Minimum donation is \$390 and goes up to \$925.

● The Memorial Monuments Program is designed for large groups and organizations who desire to place free-standing monuments in the Gardens.

● To order a Memorial Plaque or Monument, or for more information on these Programs, please call 1-800-421-9428, ext. 103.





**1997 REUNION — 457TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION  
REUNION COORDINATOR'S REGISTRATION FORM**

**PLEASE DO ALL THREE OF THESE THINGS —**

1. FILL OUT AND SEND THE HOTEL RESERVATION REQUEST FORM ENCLOSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER TO THE HOTEL. ROOMS ARE FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED. BLOCKED UNTIL SEPT. 12, 1997.
2. FILL OUT AND MAIL THE SECRETARY'S REGISTRATION FORM, ON THE PAGE FACING THIS ONE.
3. FILL OUT THIS FORM, CUT OUT ENTIRE PAGE, ENCLOSE YOUR CHECK, MAIL TO THE ADDRESS ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE, BY SEPT 12.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE OR GUEST \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ — \_\_\_\_\_ SQUADRON \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO. (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ — \_\_\_\_\_ May we publish your phone number? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

NAMES OF OTHERS IN PARTY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Reunion Registration -----	\$ 15.00 ea. person	X _____	= \$ _____
Bus Transportation to 8AF Heritage Museum -----	\$ 8.00 ea. person	X _____	= \$ _____
Buffet Luncheon, 8AF Heritage Museum -----	\$ 8.50 ea. person	X _____	= \$ _____
Reunion Banquet -----	\$ 40.00 ea. person	X _____	= \$ _____
		Total	\$ _____

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO "457th BOMB GROUP ASSN."

Check which bus shift desired: 1st. shift (8:15 am depart.) \_\_\_\_\_; 2nd shift (9:45 AM depart.) \_\_\_\_\_

Please note choice of banquet entree (# of ea.): Roast Sirloin of Beef \_\_\_\_\_; Chicken Marsala \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR TICKETS WILL BE RESERVED FOR YOU BY NAME

AND WILL BE PICKED UP AT THE END OF THE REGISTRATION COUNTER

DO YOU WISH TO RESERVE BANQUET SEATS FOR YOUR CREW ? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

IF YES, PLEASE INDICATE NAMES, INCLUDING GUESTS: (INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND GUEST) 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 HAVE BANQUET TICKETS!

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

NO RESERVATIONS FOR CREW SEATING TAKEN AFTER 6 PM, MONDAY, OCT.13.



THIS IS THE REVERSE SIDE OF THE REUNION COORDINATOR'S  
REGISTRATION FORM. PLEASE FILL OUT BOTH SIDES OF THIS FORM, AND  
MAIL TO:

Craig Harris  
457th BG Reunion Coordinator  
2910 Welcome Drive  
Durham, NC 27705

CHECK LIST: DID YOU —

☐

1. ENCLOSE YOUR CHECK WITH THIS FORM??

**ALL ROOMS BOOKED AT SAVANNAH MARRIOTT RIVERFRONT. INFOR-  
MATIO ON OVERFLOW HOTELS ELSEWHERE IN THIS NEWSLETTER. SEE  
"SAVANNAH REUNION 97 NOTES" PAGE.**

☐

3. FILL OUT AND MAIL THE SECRETARY'S  
REGISTRATION FORM, FOUND ELSEWHERE IN THIS  
NEWS LETTER ??

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION! ENJOY THE REUNION!



**1997 REUNION — 457TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION  
SECRETARY'S REGISTRATION FORM**

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE SAVANNAH REUNION IN 1997:

**FILL THIS SHEET IN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, NOTING CURRENT YEAR OF DUES. PLEASE CUT OUT THE ENTIRE PAGE AND MAIL IT TO MICKEY BRIGGS AT THE ADDRESS ON THIS PAGE.**

This is a pre-registration form for Mickey Briggs to prepare your packet to be picked up as you **SIGN YOURSELF & GUESTS IN** at the registration desk upon your arrival.

WE DO HOPE YOU HAVE KEPT AND BRING WITH YOU — YOUR NAME TAGS, WHICH YOU RECEIVED IN YEARS PAST. Richard Wyman has put many hours in making these; it very hard to repeat all these every reunion. However, if you or any guest does not have one, please send for one NOW. Making them takes time, and in order to have one, they will be made before the reunion and placed in your packet. Upon receiving your packet, please check. DO NOT PLAN ON ONE BEING MADE AT THE REUNION. We will furnish blank ones and you make it. Thank you for helping us with this.

\*\*\*\*\*

PLEASE LIST ANY DECEASED (UNLISTED BEFORE ON ROSTER OR NEWSLETTER) UNLESS YOU HAVE REPORTED RECENTLY. \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

SUGGESTIONS FOR 1999: REUNION SITE, where: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE FILL IN --MAIL TO: MICKEY BRIGGS AT 811 NORTHWEST "B" STREET, BENTONVILLE, ARKANSAS 72712-4741  
AS-SOON-AS-POSSIBLE (for name tags, info Packet, at reunion time).

THANK YOU.

FAX: 1-501-271-9147

=====

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Last name — first name — middle

Guests: Wife (or spouse) \_\_\_\_\_

Others: \_\_\_\_\_

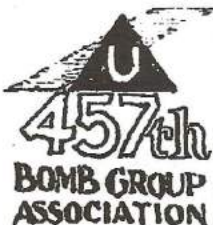
CIRCLE THOSE NEEDING NAME TAG

Former Rank \_\_\_\_\_ SQDN NO. \_\_\_\_\_ WW II Job \_\_\_\_\_ Ret Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Last year you paid dues \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your cooperation.





The dues are due each January 1st, due each calendar year. The year or LM is listed on your address label- behind your name. If it is blank-you have never pd any dues. If you haven't paid in several years, and have not made arrangement to stay on mailing list (to us you are not interested-and we will drop your name from the mailing). You will know with each issue what your status is as a dues paying member. If you don't agree with the label yr, contact us and we will correct. If you have not received a membership card, contact us and give date you paid.

**DUES?**

New ☐ Renewal ☐ **MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTION APPLICATION** Address Change ☐

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname \_\_\_\_\_ Wife \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Sqdn \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Assigned \_\_\_\_\_

Duties \_\_\_\_\_ Plane Names & No you worked or flew \_\_\_\_\_

Pilot's name \_\_\_\_\_ POW / Evadee: Date of capture / escape \_\_\_\_\_

RANK \_\_\_\_\_ RETIRED? \_\_\_\_\_ RANK \_\_\_\_\_

(Please provide Dates Assigned, Plane Name & #, Pilot's name, POW/Evadee info, if not already given)

**ANNUAL DUES: 2 years dues \$25.00.**

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP DUES: Under 60 yrs of age...\$110.00**

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ 61 yrs to 65 yrs...\$90.00 66 yrs to 70 yrs...\$75.00  
71 yrs & older...\$60.00

English Friends; \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ AMT \_\_\_\_\_

**DUES-SALES-CONTRIBUTIONS- MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO 'THE 457th Bomb Group Association' Your canceled check is your receipt.**

**MAIL TO: HOMER OR MICKEY BRIGGS..811 Northwest B St..Bentonville,AR 72712**

Once you have filled this application in, in future dues payment check only renewal box, your name and address.



**HELP SPEED MAIL DIRECTLY  
TO YOUR NEW ADDRESS**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

If Applicable, Name of Business \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Street Address or PO Box or Rural Route and RR Box \_\_\_\_\_

City or Post Office \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP or ZIP+4 Code \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**MEMBERSHIP CARDS:**

\*\*\*\*\*

A membership card is issued only when you first pay dues. Upon request for a new card, or you pay Life dues, another card will be sent to you. Your canceled check is your receipt. Usually your card should be received within ten days, unless unforeseen delay due to illness or out of town. Contact Homer Briggs 811 NW B Bentonville, AR 72712-- ,if you are concerned.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Please once again..SEND IN CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND GIVE US A TIME OF WHEN THE SUMMER ADDRESS CHANGES TO WINTER ADDRESS. Be sure to send your second address.**

**IF YOU KNOW YOUR ZIP+4 CODE,  
PLEASE USE IT.**

**ZIP:** If you know your ZIP+4 Code, use it. It will help move your mail fast and reliably through our high-speed electronic equipment.



## Schedule, 1997 Reunion, 457th BG Assn.

### NOTE CHANGES FOR MONDAY, OCT. 13!!!

DAY, DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY
Saturday, Oct. 11, 1997	4PM-6PM	Registration for early arrivals.
Sunday Oct. 12	9 AM - 4 PM	Registration, PX open
	2 PM - 4 PM	Board of Directors Meeting
	6 PM - 7:30 PM	Welcome Reception, cash bar
Monday Oct. 13	8 AM	Begin boarding buses for 8th AF Museum, first shift
	8:15 AM	Buses leave for Museum
	8:45 AM	Buses arrive at Museum
	9:30 AM	Begin boarding buses for 8th AF Museum, second shift
	9:45 AM	Buses leave for Museum
	10:15 AM	Buses arrive at Museum
	12:00 Noon	Buffet luncheon at Museum
	1:00 PM	Buses standby for shuttling passengers to Marriott on request.
	4:00 PM	Last bus leaves for Marriott
	4:30 PM	Last bus arrives at Marriott, end of shuttle service.
	2:00-6:00 PM	Registration, PX open
	4:45-6:00 PM	Photo Session, Atrium Lobby, Savannah Marriott Riverfront
	7:30-9:00 PM	Memorial Service
Tuesday Oct 14.	All Day	Open Day for reunion attenders. On your own. PX, memorabilia, video room open. Return to the Heritage Museum if you like. Gray Lines will offer several tours from which you may choose. You can take a trolley tour of the Historic District, take trolley at Marriott. River Street with picturesque shops and restaurants is walking distance. Or, just hang out at the Marriott and visit with friends.
Wednesday Oct. 15	9:00 - 11:00 AM	457th BG ASSN BUSINESS MEETING Squadron meetings to follow.
	2:00-4:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting
	6:00 - 7:00 PM	Attitude Adjustment Hour, cash bar
	7:00 - 11:00 PM	Banquet, usual recognitions, minimum of speeches. Dance to the music of The Swingtime Orchestra.
Thursday Oct. 16	9:00 AM --	Review proof prints from Monday's photo session, place orders, Atrium Lobby, Savannah Marriott Riverfront.



# PHOTO TIME!!



## *SQUADRON, GROUND CREW AND POW GROUP PHOTOS*

We have arranged to have group photos, which have eluded us in the past. **HOWEVER**, so that you can see the photos and place orders before you leave Savannah, we must set the photo shoot as early as possible in the Reunion schedule. This is because there is no overnight color photo processing available in Savannah, and the films must be sent off. Therefore the shoot is set for **MONDAY, AFTERNOON, OCT. 13**, immediately after everyone has returned from the Heritage Museum, **AND THE PHOTOS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR REVIEW ON THURSDAY, OCT. 16 BY 9:30 AM. THE PRICE WILL BE \$13 FOR AN 8" X 10" COLOR PHOTO.**

No orders or money will be taken on Monday, Oct. 13, but order forms will be distributed. Orders will be placed when you review the proofs on Thursday, Oct. 16, or by mail afterwards.

The photographer, Lars Eriksson, of Creative Reflections, says that if everyone in a group is in place on time, we can shoot a group photo every 10 to 12 minutes. We ask you gather in the Atrium Lobby at least 10 minutes before your group's shoot time, and move to the shoot location when called.

There is a bar in the lobby, the Atrium Lounge. So, you can be refreshed while you wait for your group's shoot.

The first shoot time is 4:45 PM, which gives at least 15 minutes after the last bus arrives from the Museum.

We believe we can pull this off, with everyone being able to get something to eat either before your photo comes up or afterwards, and in time for the Memorial Service at 7 PM. Your cooperation will make it happen. This shooting schedule will be posted in the lobby:

**Savannah Marriott Riverfront  
Atrium Lobby  
Monday, Oct. 13, 1997**

Group	Time
POWs .....	4:45 PM
751st Sqdn .....	4:57 PM
750th Sqdn .....	5:09 PM
Ground personnel ....	5:21 PM
749th Sqdn .....	5:33 PM
748th Sqdn .....	5:45 PM
End of shoot .....	6:00 PM

It is recognized that an individual may belong to more than one group, and have attempted to make the schedule for the least inconvenience of everyone. Please gather in the Atrium Lobby, by squadrons if possible, so that you can be ready when your group is called.

CHEERS!

☺☺☺☺☺☺



SAVANNAH REUNION REGISTRANTS LIST AS OF JULY 16, 1997

Bacon, Sid	Mary	Karr, Don	Carol
Bains, Bernard	Sadie	Kaufman, Chuck	Bonnie
Bass, James	Erma	Kravetz, Frank A.	Anne
Bernd, Frank J.	Evelyn	Krise, Kenneth M.	Ruth E.
Bird, William D.	Nancy	Landsman, Jack	Florence
Bolier, Earl (Rollie)	Helen L.	Lee, Thomas E. Jr.	Ruth P.
Briggs, Homer	Mickey	Lee's guest	Dorothy Barber
Buettner, Harlan	Pearl	Lewis, George L.	Marguerite
Bunch, Milton E.	Wanda	Lewis, Irving	Sue B.
Bunker, Brad	Dorothea	Lewis's guest	Dorothy Muser
Burk, M. Keith	Anne Y.	Lumbye, Paul F.	Sara H.
Buxton, Reg W.	Betty E.	McCall, William R.	Mary
Camp, Terry	Alyne (Pete)	McLeod, Donald F., Jr.	
Campbell, Calvin		Medica, John	Rose
Campbell, Harry J.	Doris I.	Menard, Normand R.	Irene
Clausen, Ras M.	Mary Lou	Meng, William J., Jr.	Nancy Warda
Cornell, Harry	Gert	Merlone, Felix	Carol
Crockett, George B.	Dorothy	Morse, William	Erika
Davidson, William		Nail, N. Kenneth	Ethelda
Day, James R.	Marjorie	Nielson, Don	
Day, Jason	guest of James	Nose, Daniel	Jeanne H.
DeVoe, John H.	Grace	Overdahl, Curt	Helen
Dobler, Champe V.		Ozenberger, Norman T.	Lois L.
Dundas, Basil	Betty	Ozenbergers guests	Dick, Dona Rhudy
DuPont, Philip A.	Claire	O'Hara, William J.	Gloria M.
Dykes, Gordon	Margaret	Parker, George E.	Maggie
Elliott, Tom		Parker, John B.	Felicia J.
Erickson, Sidney	Louise H.	Pearson, John S.	
Erickson, Dean G.		Peschen, George	Nancy
Eymann, Leon (Don)	Shirley	Polen, Donald E.	Beverly
Field, Ray G.	Carolyn W.	Puleo, Peter	Eleanor
Fluman, Will	Phyllis	Rittman, Alden	
Fluman, Will Jr.		Roberts, Paul M.	Anita
Franklin, Harold J.	Florence	Rogers, Charlie	Ruthan
Friedman, Daniel	Angeline	Rossner, Raymond F.	Sally
Garland, Richard	Ruth	Sanders, George L.	Jennie J.
Gassman, Jack	Carol	Schuelke, Harland "Bud"	Shirley
Geren, Ashton B., Jr.	Judith	Seesenguth, Donald L.	Betty J.
Goff, Thomas	Lillian Malkus	Shields, T.J.	Dollie
Gravelle, Donald H.	Shirley A.	Silverman, Jerome	
Harris, Craig	Bobbie	Smith, Julius	Clara
Harris daughter	Becky Moore	Springer, Robert E.	Virginia L..
Hedrick, Ray	Wanda	Sturdevant, Guy C.	Ruth
Hedricks guest	Lillian Zaun	Toomey, Patrick C.	Eleanor
Heidenreich, Vaughn	Mary	Toth, Joe	Jean
Hightower, Billy	Gladys	Toths guests	Bob, Nancy Henrich
Hoagland, Ray	Kathryn	Townsend, Gordon	Ros
Howell, James R.	Jayne	Umoff, A. Paul	Sandra Howell
Huels, Robert J.	Florence M.	Welch, John F.	Alberta C.
Hunt, Walter W.	Belva	Woodell, Morris	Audrey
Jackson, E.S.	Roberta	Wyman, Richard M.	Virginia (Ginny)
Jones, James Carey	Edith J.	Zeiler, Donald L.	Marie S.
Kabine, W.R. (Bill)	Ruth	Zimmerman, Leon	Helen
Karl, Russell G	Ella E.		



## MAIL CALL

### Experienced Top Turret Gunner Desires Work



Send inquiries to: Paul A. Birchen  
628 W. 5th St.  
Hastings, MN 55033

REMEMBER  
THOSE CRAZY  
SIGNPOSTS?





April 1997

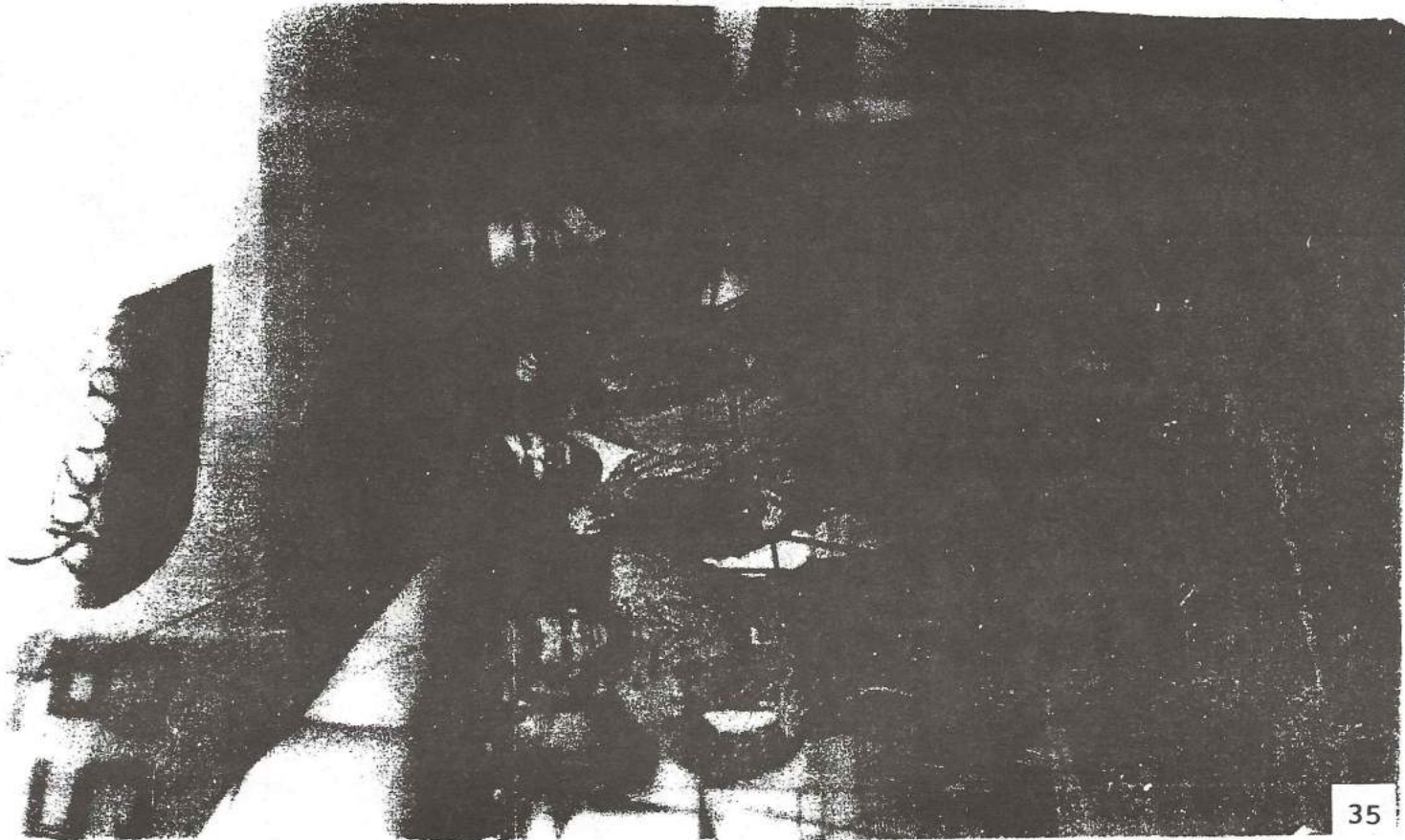
Lawrence D Wilde, Jr  
Box 52-1105  
Big Lake, AK 99652

Sends "a picture of my 1944-45 Ground Crew. I don't have their names. Need help to identify them."  
Lawrence was 1st Lt Pilot 750 "Blue Bell" Q Queen. I have tried everyone who might know. Do you know these three Men? If so let Lawrence know right away.

April 16, 97

John Parkers sends:

A picture of a Bomb he had placed in the Military Museum in Diekirch, Luxembourg. John is standing beside it. He lives in Luxembourg part of each year, as his wife is a native of Luxembourg. Most of winter, he lives at 5413 Royal Oak Drive, Fruitland Park, 34731.





The young man has a host of vintage aircraft on the site, both ours, and theirs. Lots of 17's in many configurations. Very interesting to many of us, and I plan to send him some photos so that we can get the Triangle U on the site. He will give us credit for the photos submitted.

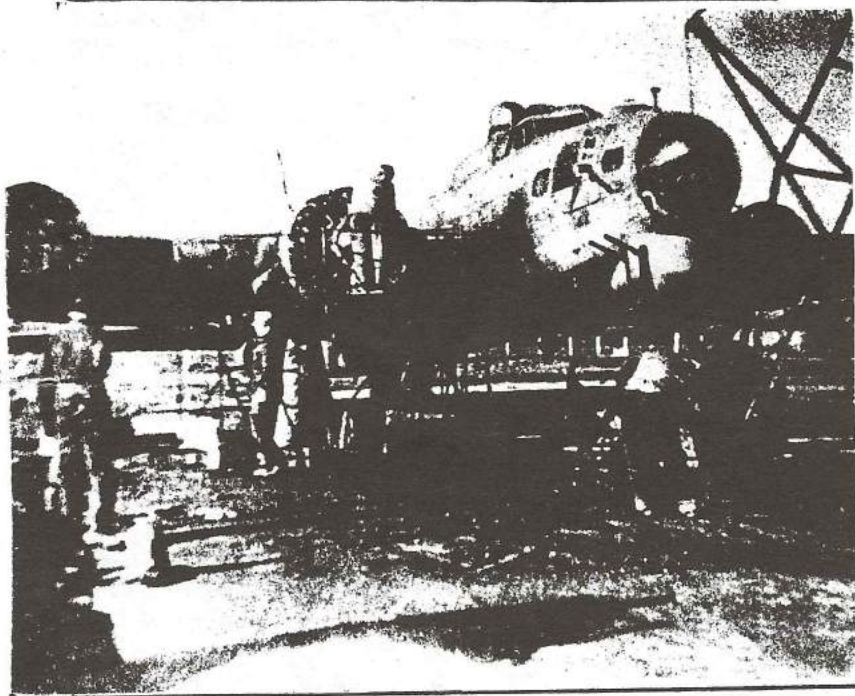
Jim Strling  
4238 James Drive  
Anchorage, AK. 99504  
Regards, Zim

(Ed: This letter in our Newsletter has a great possibility of reaching many people, on the internet-Hope this turns out good for everyone interested in this.)

April 1997

Phil Shebell sends three picture 749 plane and men.

We have moved to Hudson, Ma, we sure miss Vt. Getting use to it now tho. I enjoy talking to my old buddies. It is great to hear and read about the 457th. I remember so much. We were in a different world but it seems like yesterday. I haven't gone back but the picture remains. Bless you Homer and Mickey, you have done a great job. Sincerely, Phil.....  
(Ed: Glad some of you -do enjoy the NL. Its our hobby, our thanks comes when a buddy finds a war-buddy once again. It started in 1971-when Homer accidentally found a close buddy in a gas station here in Bentonville. They called a buddy that Homer was in touch with and the three got together and sponsored the first meeting. It sure has grown and now the other two have passed away and Homer is left. With others helping we located the first years quite a few. We still locate about fifty new found a year and lots of discoveries of happened to the planes, and in one case found the story of POW escaping and being shot, from a fellow POW German man, who escaped at same time. A lot of mysteries cleared up. Anyway----we love to do it.)





DUC AWARD: 4-13-97

PAUL GEDANSKY  
3990 Witt Ave.  
Riverside, Ca 92501-1562

Dear Homer,

As a fellow cadre member at Rapid City who, as you, was present at Souix Falls when we were deactivated (After two years with the group I felt betrayed and close to tears, a special greeting.

Further as the one who started this business about two years ago as to the validity of the DUC award being awarded to the Group while overseas, I would like to supply the answer to Colonel Rogner's son Edward concerning his dad's DUC (AS I SEE IT). Hi Edward hope all is well with you and your family.

When I graduated Intelligence School for non-coms at Salt Lake City my dad sent me a very valuable book on Military and Naval Recognition showing among other facts pictures of all the medals and ribbons issued; from Washington right to the date of publications (1943). He stated it might be of use to me in my work. If he could know that I will be quoting it fifty four years later I am sure he would be very surprised!

The book not only shows in color the awards but also goes into the history of the award and the circumstances under which it can be worn (temporarily or permanently).

So I shall take these up first and then apply the regulations to your dad. The Royal Blue Citation Ribbon was established by authority of EXECUTIVE ORDER 9075 February 26, 1942.

"It authorizes the Secretary of War to issue a citation in the name of the President as a public evidence of deserved honor and distinction to any organization, unit, detachment or installation of the Army of the United States for outstanding performance of duty in action on or after December 7, 1941....."

"After any organization, unit, detachment is so cited on two or more separate occasions a suitable device (ribbon) identifying such citations shall be issued to all officers and enlisted men who are assigned or attached as members of that organization, the device to become part of the uniform and any individual who was assigned or attached as member of such organization on one of two or more occasions for which citations were issued shall be entitled to wear the individual device as a part of the uniform at all times and wherever serving."

So Edward your dad was first assigned (in England) to the 401st Bomb Gp which was among the oldest groups arriving as part of the 8th AF; then assigned to Polebrook as deputy Commander of the 94th Wing and finally to the 457th, my group which arrived in January 1944 at Glatton. I am sure that since he could be cited as under the 8th AF, or 94th Wing of 1st Division or any 1st division citation and finally under both 401st or 457th Bomb Groups; he most certainly in totally all such citations given to these units; he had more than two to his record and was entitled to wear it, even if he had transferred to the infantry as a rifle man!!

The same can pertain to the 457th citable for itself as a unit; through the 94th Wing as an under unit and 1st division as an under unit and finally through 8th AF citations as an under unit!

I can think of three actions alone that the group participated in which were ideal for receiving citations. 1.



D-Day action, we had two assignments on that day. 2. The Shuttle Raid where we supplied 37 air craft on June 21st to the mission, Called "FRANTIC" where 144 8th Air Force B17s bombed Romanian Oil Fields, landed on a Russian Field (bombed by the German Air Force that night) and flew back via Italy. 3. The missions we flew during "The BATTLE OF THE BULGE" where we flew missions cutting off supplies from the rear to the Germans, which had cut off the American Army.

TO SETTLE THIS MATTER ONCE AND FOR ALL I FEEL WITH ALL THE AUTHORS AND LAWYERS WE HAVE--WE SHOULD APPOINT A COMMITTEE AT SAVANNAH OF HISTORIANS TO APPROACH THE AIRFORCE ON A HIGH LEVEL: WE SHOULD ALSO GET THE 8th AF SOCIETY to fight our case; after all they are THE EIGHTH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY !

Regards to all, Paul Gedansky

May 4, 1997

Jim Sterling writes:

Homer Briggs,

I am writing to you in hopes of finding some help. I am the creator of a website on the Internet called "Web-Birds: Warbirds on the 'Web'". I am trying to provide a place for people to find, and download, images of the many different WWII aircraft. To this date, I have been able to gather a large collection of images taken in recent years at the many different air shows across the world. Many of these images have been sent to me by other people from all over. But the most requested images are those photos actually taken during the war.

I am trying to locate some individuals, or organizations, that may be willing to supply me with those photos to be scanned and uploaded onto my website. I am not asking to be given the photographs, but just to be loaned them until I am able to scan them into computer images. Full credit will be given to the owner of the photographs on the Internet page, and the photos will be returned promptly.

I know that these types of photos are priceless treasures, and sending them off is not normally done. However, I am willing to pay all postage and insurance through a reputable carrier such as U.P.S. or FEDEX, and I can provide a couple

of references from individuals that have allowed me to do this for them. Being an avid Warbirds enthusiast, I am not about to allow anything to befall the photographs.

I am not sure how the best way to approach this is, and when I found a list of the many different reunions and their contact names and addresses on the Internet, I thought I may try contacting them and see if any could help me. I would really like to help keep the old Warbirds flying, and since this is the only way I know how, I hope that you, or someone you know of, can help me out. I would appreciate it if you could find some way to get this request out? I can be contacted at the address above, the Internet addresses below, or at (907) 338-045. Sincerely, Jim.

Webmaster: Jim Sterling Email: jims@alaska.net

Website: <http://www.akcache.com/akscan/warbird.html>

(Ed: I sent copy to Pres. and Vice Pres)

Leon Zimmerman answered:

Here is a nice item for the August Newsletter for those "FIREBALLERS" on the internet.

FIREBALLERS ON THE INTERNET

The title of the Webmaster: "Web-Birds: Warbirds on the 'Web'"  
<http://www.akcache.com/akscan/warbird.html>

E-mail jims@Alaska.NET



## IS THIS TRIP REALLY NECESSARY?

In correspondence with Norman Stevens Jr, ex 749th pilot of "Ladies Delight" he mentions that "Starting in December 1944, the powers that be determined that we should start dropping propaganda leaflets and tell the Germans that they should give serious consideration to surrendering and call it "kaput". It became demoralising for the crews to know that they were carrying just leaflets and therefore it became policy in our squadron, perhaps others also, that they did not know if they were carrying these. Therefore the bomber crew would have no remorse about getting shot at just because they were only carrying a load of paper. As the war began to wind down, I believe more of us were carrying propaganda leaflets than we had anticipated. One plane was decorated on the tail "Is this trip REALLY necessary?" Every time the rest of us would taxi by this airplane we received a boost in our morale. I would like to think that airplane survived the war, but I don't know."

Delivered to the Group in October 1944, the aircraft was 43-38909 'D' named "Kraut Krusher" from the 748th Squadron which I understand was flown by George Gilbert and Dave Kahne on 35 missions without casualties. Apparently it crash landed in France mid-Feb 1945, believed flown by Lt. Duane Southwood and eventually salvaged 28 Feb 1945.

Perhaps someone will be good enough to write the newsletter with further information on how & when the tail endorsement came into being and events surrounding the forced landing.

John B Wilson

Shortly after preparing the above item for the NL, we recieved the following letter, and called Duane Southwood and told him about it. We are to send a copy to him and get some answers.....ED.M.

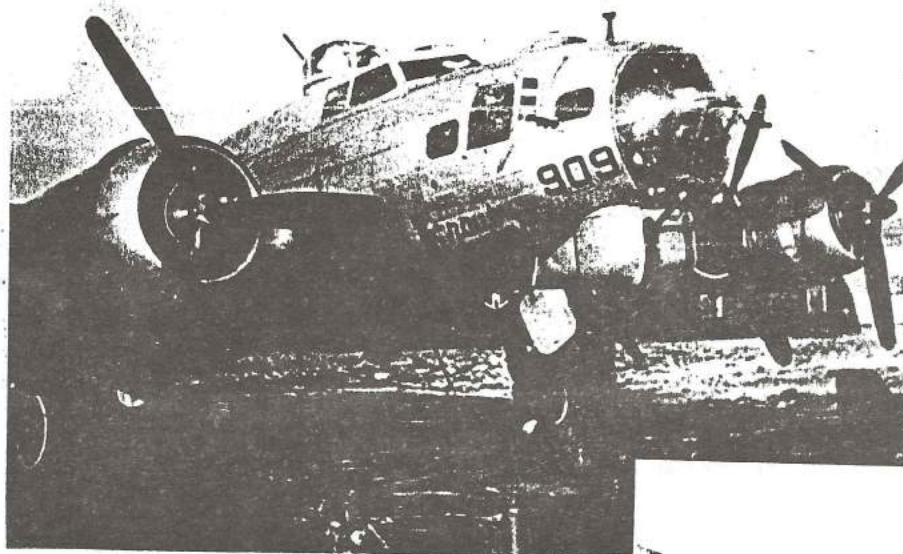
Frederic Evrard  
293 Rue Nationale  
69400 Ville Franche s/Soone  
France

Dear Sir. I am a member of The association, les ailes anciennes" (ancients Wings) & we collect all information about planes crashed during WWII in "Cofe d'or" (excuse Ed, mistakes are only in the translations of some words)

I contact you on the advices of EA Kueppers, Jr Director of information 8th AFHS about Flying fortress Boing B17 G Sn 338 9098 crashed on 2-13-45 in France.

Could you give me the information about this plane and his crew. I send you a bad picture of this plane, If you are interesting I can send you the original

(Continued on page 40)





18 Feb 1997  
Rain & Gale Wind

Dear Mickey & Homer,

Thanks for the last newsletter received 21st Dec and also for your comprehensive "1996 Events" letter which arrived 2nd January. Seems you had a pretty full year.

I was stunned to see on TV newscasts the terrible flooding of downtown Reno, it seems to come home to you more when you have visited there. We all seem to have had a bad winter and last night, heavy storms lashed London and East Anglia and its carrying on with sleet & rain at the time I am writing this. Lets hope a more pleasant Spring is not far off.

Things pretty well the same over here. Sadie is now back to normal after gashing her leg, which you no doubt know about. Wife Ann went into hospital for 4 days at the end of Jan with a nasty attack of unstable angina but OK now. Mike Jackson & John Walker OK havent seen Eric for awhile and havent seen Gordon since the mini reunion last May. Best wishes to you both. Cheers! John Wilson

Feb 18, 1997  
John Wilson sends:

#### Royal Opening

A DATE has now been set for the official opening of Duxford American Air Museum. On August 1, Her Majesty The Queen, accompanied by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh will open the impressive building--the largest pre-cast concrete structure in Europe, and its collection of aircraft housed within.

For those aircraft enthusiast who can't wait that long, it is intended to open the museum with restricted access, as soon as it's safe to do so.

2 May 1997  
Rain & Cold

Dear Mickey & Homer:

Coincidence on the date ..VE Day..53 years ago! Just a few lines in reply to your last letter. Sad to say I'm afraid I won't be there on this occasion. I have been very fortunate having attended five reunions , but there comes a time when finances just don't permit. I shall very much miss getting together with you all but will be thinking of everyone during the big event. Please say hello to all for me.

Cheers, John Wilson & Anthony Close  
Peterborough PE1 3XU

pictures, your sincerely  
F Gvrard.(we have written  
for the pictures.)Sending  
P. Duane Southwoods address.

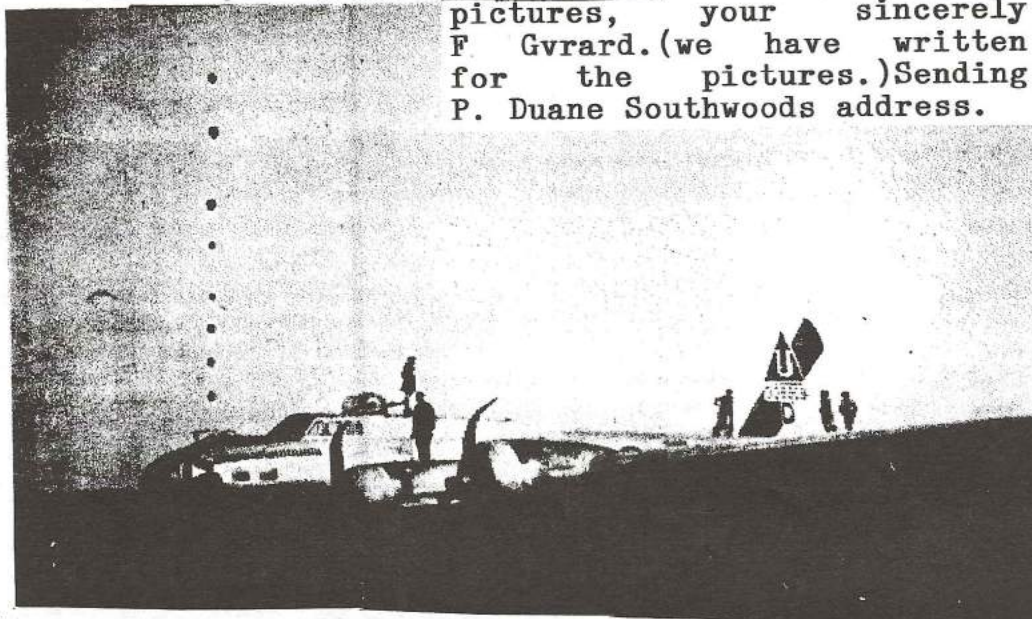
\*\*\*\*\*

Found in Ga Chapter  
8th AFHS

Attention to all  
WIVES:

OH HOW TRUE.....

If at first you don't  
succeed, try doing it  
the way your wife told  
YOU.





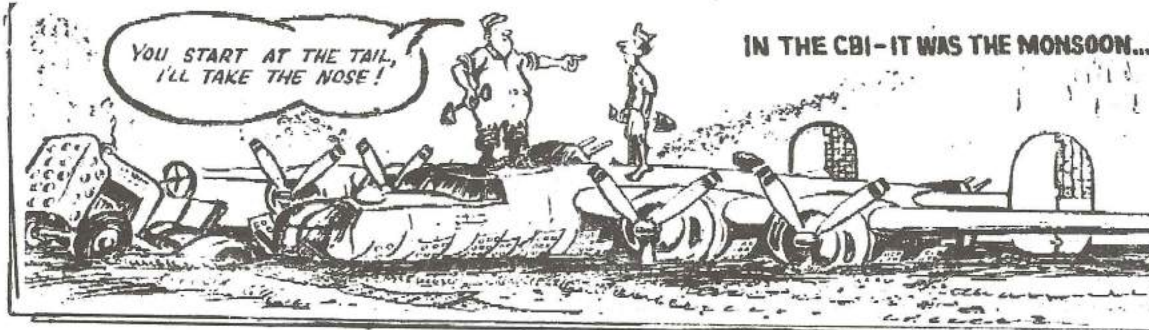
April 12, 1997

OSCAR P LAMBERT  
89 Faubourg d'Arival  
6762 Saint-Mard  
Belgium

Dear Mr. Briggs.

Last year, you gave me some information about a few planes that crashed in Belgium. I now have found others who fell in Belgium. I would be very grateful if I could get the information on them. The crew members, Is it possible to have a copy of the MACR ? I hope you can help me , I already thank you very much for all you can help.

Sincerely yours, O Lambert



Serial.....429707  
Pilot.....Capt Edward M Bender  
Crash date..25/04/44

Serial.....4232098  
Pilot.....Lt James Franklin  
(deceased 1978)  
Crash date....02/10/44  
Plane....."G. I. Virgin II"

From René Hoebeke  
Helmkruidstraat 16  
4341 JX Arnhem  
HOLLAND

To Mr. Homer L. Briggs  
811 NW B. Str.  
Bentonville AR 72712  
USA

Subject: Information about crew B-17G  
457th Bomb Group in World War 2.

Arnhem, May 24th 1997.

Dear sir,

On the 16th of February 1945 a B-17G, nr. 42-97591 from 457th Bomb Group USAAF, made a forced landing near the village of Nieuwdorp in Holland. I've read this information in the book "Heavy bombers of the Mighty Eighth". The target was "Hamm" in Germany (mission 833). The base of the plane was Glatton in Huntingdonshire, England.

I'm writing a book about the local war history in this area. I hope it's possible to give me the names of the crew and eventually a report about details about the forced landing, the plane etc.

Is it possible to mention what happened with the crew in the war if they survived the war?

If you can't help me with this information I hope you will send this letter to the "historian" of the Group.

I hope you can give me any information. Thank you anyway for the help.

With kind regards,

René Hoebeke  
Helmkruidstraat 16  
4341 JX Arnhem  
HOLLAND



## THE AMERICAN AIR MUSEUM IN BRITAIN

Royal Patron: His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent KG, GCMG, GCVO, ADC

President: Marshal of The Royal Air Force Sir John Grandy GCB, GCVO, KBE, DSO

Joint Chairmen: Mr Charlton Heston

Field Marshal The Lord Bramall KG, GCB, OBE, MC, JP



Duxford

Cambridge CB2 4QR

Telephone: (01223) 835000 Ext: 254

(Touchtone: (01223) 835155 Ext: 254)

Fax: (01223) 836750/837267

Mr Homer Briggs  
457 BG  
811 NW B St  
Bentonville, AR 72712  
U S A

12 May 1997

Dear Mr Briggs

As you probably know, The American Air Museum in Britain is nearing completion, and will be opened by Her Majesty The Queen on 1 August 1997. The Museum is dedicated to the US airmen who flew from British bases in World War Two, and will be a living memorial to the 30,000 of them who gave their lives. Thousands of Americans have contributed to this memorial museum; if you are among them, I thank you for your support.

To pay full tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of all who served, we have commissioned a moving memorial sculpture by a young British artist, Renato Niemi. Entitled 'Counting the Cost', a series of fifty-six 6 foot high, 3 foot wide, glass panels will mark the approach to The American Air Museum entrance. Each panel will be engraved with silhouettes of all the aircraft lost by each group of the US 8th and 9th Air Forces flying from British bases in World War Two. These shapes will, symbolically, commemorate the crews lost in action.

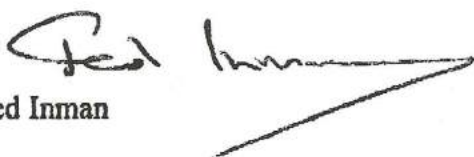
The sculpture will cost in the order of \$200,000. We are seeking the support of all associations of the 8th and 9th Air Forces to make this special memorial a reality, in time for it to be dedicated on 1 August, when The American Air Museum is opened.

I hope your Association will be moved to contribute, and that you will bring the memorial sculpture to the attention of your members. Associations which contribute \$2,000 or more, and individuals who contribute \$500 or more, will be acknowledged on a special plaque; all other contributions will be recorded in our Roll of Donors.

Please support this worthwhile memorial project which will be a deeply moving reminder to all Duxford's visitors, both young and old, and of all nationalities, of the brave sacrifices made in World War Two by so many American airmen in the causes of victory, freedom and the rule of law.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Ted Inman



May 28, 1997

The American Air Museum in Britain at Duxford - is constructing a display listing all 8th Air Force airmen who were killed in action.

A request was sent to Homer Briggs, 157th unit contact, by John E Greenwood, Pres 8th AF Memorial Museum Foundation, Inc., 8th AF Historical Society, for our list. Craig Harris compiled the list for us and we mailed it to him.

The information will not arrive in time for the Dedication, but the display is modular and can be added soon. It was sent June 5th to John Greenwood.



### 'Counting the Cost' - The Duxford Memorial Sculpture

The work I am proposing for Duxford aims to counter balance the elements of power and glory found in the displays of real planes inside the American Hall by indicating the cost of their use outside the building.

The sculpture will consist of 56 glass sheets etched with the general outlines of all the airplanes missing in action from the 8th USAAF, 9th USAAF and US Navy operations from England during WWII.

The work will create a contemplative element to the Museum experience.

The building itself conjures up images of bunker, mausoleum or long barrow. This raises associations with the burial of past warriors and their weapons. The work can act as a frieze around the building echoing the past when the glorious dead were honoured on reliefs recording their actions and their achievements.

The white outlines of the planes will echo the scores kept by pilots as tallies of planes shot down.

The etched planes will float in static formations on a dynamic reflective surface that constantly moves with the observer, conjuring up memories and images of war.

The planes will also be animated by the reflected moving sky, an irony now that they are no longer animated by their human crews.

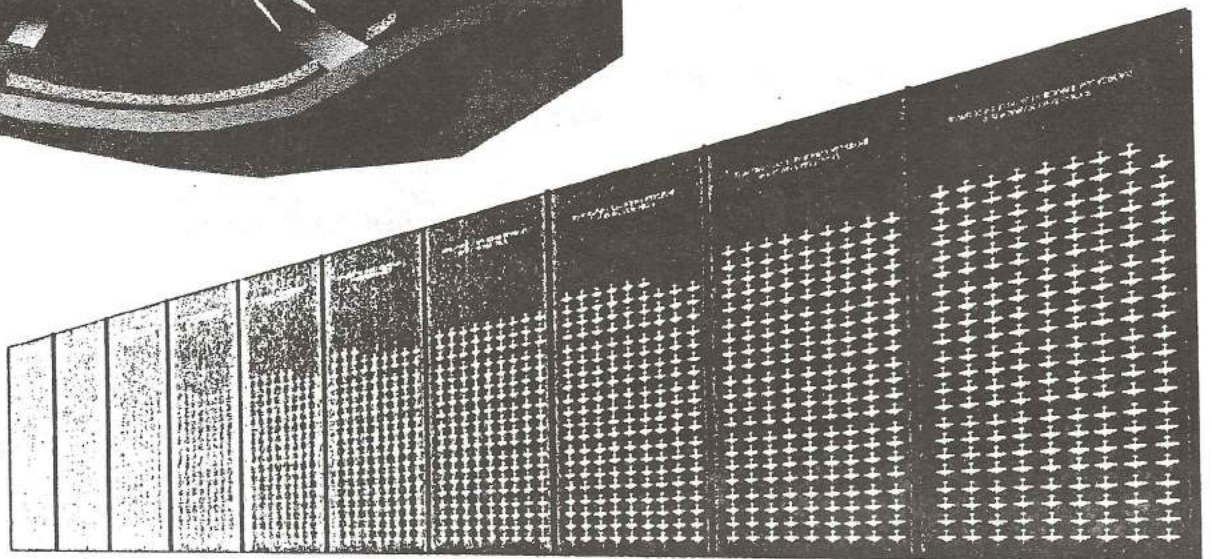
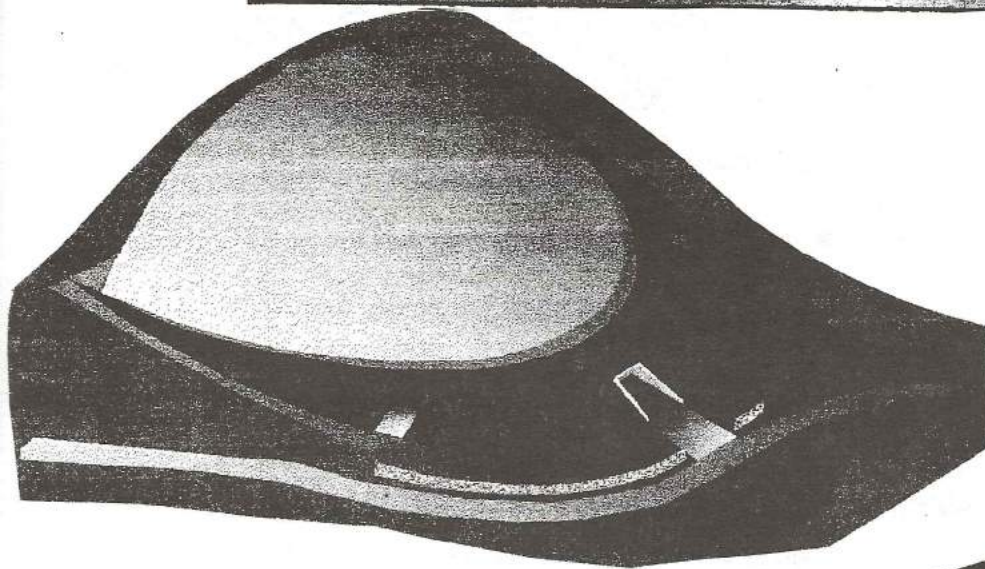
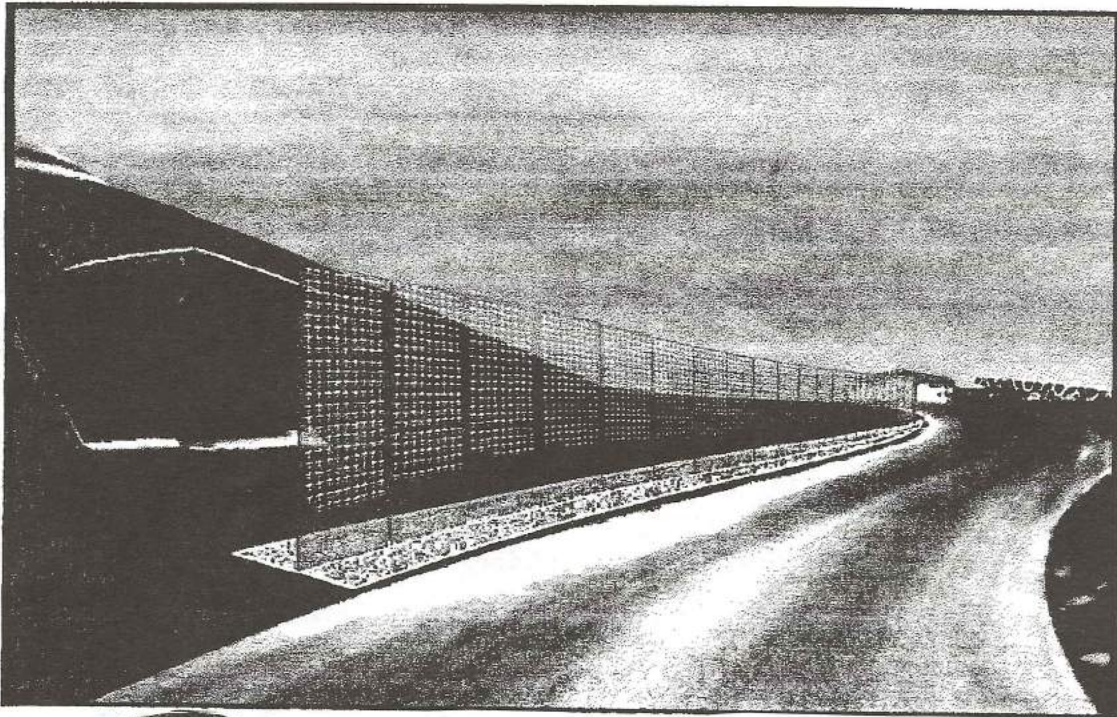
These etched planes will fly forever, an idealised resting place for these lost formations.

The symbolism of the cross-like shape of the planes in their formations evoke the regimented lines of the war cemetery, whilst the near empty sheets conjure up the potential for counting those not already counted, both in the past and in the future.



# GRAND OPENING AMERICAN AIR MUSEUM DUXFORD IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

August 1, 1997  
Duxford, Cambridge, England





# DUXFORD MEMORIAL SCULPTURE

'Counting the Cost'

## DONATION FORM

Yes, I would like to make a donation to the Duxford Memorial Sculpture and I enclose my contribution of:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cheques should be made payable to American Air Museum (Memorial Sculpture).

To make a donation by credit card, kindly complete the details below:

Access/Mastercard ☐

Visa ☐

Card No:

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions are tax deductible under section 501 (c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code. The Federal Tax Exemption Number is 52-1326048.

Please return the completed form to:

The Director  
Imperial War Museum  
Duxford Airfield  
Cambridge CB2 4QR



## The Royal International Air Tattoo

Britain's official tribute to the 50th anniversary of the United States Air Force was celebrated at the Royal International Air Tattoo 1997 on 19/20 July at RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire-home to 424th Air Base Squadron, USAF.

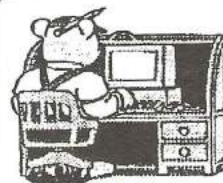
Among the honoured guests were General Ronald R Fogleman, USAF Chief of Staff, making his first visit to the event. The close military ties between America and Britain was reflected in a spectacular finale to the show by the Royal Air Force Red Arrow aerobatic team flying with the USAF's finest to wish the world's mightiest air force a very happy birthday on behalf of all the nations present. More than 400 aircraft from 35 nations across the globe flew in to take part in the Tattoo, recognised internationally as the biggest Military airshow of the year.

Other aviation themes include Fighter 97, with the world's Top Guns also competed in the Breitling Fighter Challenge- a sophisticated Virtual Reality contest to find the Champion Fighter Pilot of the World. The non-stop eight hour flying display introduces six national aerobatic teams, American and British vintage aeroplanes, helicopters, gunships, wingwalkers, free-fall parachutists, and the very latest in jet technology. US participation in The Royal International Air Tattoo 1997 was from Air Combat Command, Air Mobility Command, Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard.

### WAR IS AN UGLY THING

War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth War is much worse. A man who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing he cares about more than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature who has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by better men than himself. - John Stuart Mill

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Your input is  
Important!

Please send any changes for the newsletter, that you would like to see. Send articles and letters to be included in the News.



## THE FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL OF THE 8TH AIR FORCE AND ITS MISSION

The 8th Air Force arrived in England 12 May 1942 with General Ira Eaker Commanding Bomber Command. The first six months of the Eighth Air Force were critical for a variety of reasons:

1. Time was short and progress was delayed by preparations made in England to receive combat units.
2. The units arrived later than planned with minimum training and personnel.
3. Combat began 17 August 1942 but results from daylight bombing were marginal for the first 3 months.
4. Units from the fledgling 8th were diverted to North Africa to support the critical situation there.
5. Much criticism from high levels, both British and American, against the build up of the 8th and daylight operations put General Eaker in an almost untenable situation.

In December 1942, now as Commander of the 8th, Gen. Eaker took his staff to Casablanca and to Gen. Spaatz's headquarters in Algiers. In a series of high level meetings and conferences, General Eaker was tasked to make the case for the continued daylight bombing of Europe. At the now famous Casablanca Conference of January, 1943, Heads of State and top military leaders met to develop strategy for the conduct of operations against the Axis Powers in Europe.

At the conference General Eaker convinced the combined Joint Chiefs of Staff, Churchill and Roosevelt, that a combined round the clock night and day attack was the best use of air power. His action resulted in the continued development of The Mighty Eighth Air Force of WWII.

Under General Eaker's command the Eighth continued to build and combat capability grew rapidly. By the time General Doolittle took command in January, 1944, the outcome of the air war in Europe was virtually assured, but, massive aerial combat operations were to ensue and had to be won before final victory.

FOOTNOTE: Source material from USAF Historical Research Center, Maxwell AFB, Alabama. Documents - Historical Summary 8th AF 14 October 1943 Mission of the 8th AF 1941 - 1942



## BRIEF OF 8TH AF FORMATION AND ACTIVATION AT SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Shortly after Pearl Harbor President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, and the US Joint Chiefs of Staff met to discuss and make decisions concerning conduct of the war in Europe and North Africa. Out of these meetings one of the major decisions made was to establish the Eighth Air Force to conduct daylight operations from England as soon as possible.

General Carl Spaatz, the Commander of US Army Air Force Combat Command was to supervise the formation of the "first of the US Combat Air Forces" in Europe. By 19 January 1942 work was underway to put together all the elements required to bring into being what was destined to become the world's largest and most powerful air force.

On 28 January 1942 the 8th Air Force was activated at Savannah, Georgia, and three days later Col. Asa Duncan received his directive as Commanding Officer. Two armories were taken over, the First Volunteer Regiment of Georgia on Abercorn Street and the Chatham Artillery on Park Avenue. The Command Post of the Eighth Air Force opened on 9 February 1942 at the National Guard Armory at Bull Street and Park Avenue. The Base Command functioned from 611 Abercorn Street while the Savannah Recreational Camp was taken over to house personnel. On 13 February 1942 Bomber Command Headquarters arrived at Savannah under Lt.Col. Newton O. Longfellow and was housed at the Savannah Army Air Base.

### KEY COMMANDERS DURING THE FORMATION

<u>8th AF</u>	Gen. Spaatz C.G. 2 June 1942 Gen. Eaker C.G. 1 Dec. 1942
<u>8th Bomber Command</u>	Gen. Eaker C.G. 23 Feb. 1942 Gen. Longfellow C.G. 2 Dec. 1942
<u>8th Fighter Command</u>	Gen. Hunter C.G. 14 May 1942
<u>8th Service Command</u>	Gen. Frank C.G. 25 June 1942
<u>8th Support Command</u>	Gen. Cauder 29 June 1942
<u>8th Composite Command</u>	Gen. Chauncey 4 July 1942

FOOTNOTE: Source material from USAF Historical Research Center, Maxwell AFB, Alabama Documents - Historical Summary 8th Air Force 14 October 1943  
Mission of the 8th Air Force 1941 - 1942



The 8th Air Force Historical Society is tax-exempt veterans' organization under IRS Code 501 (c) (19), founded in 1975 and chartered in Florida to perpetuate history of "The Mighty Eighth." In 1976 the 8AFHS formed the 8th Air Force Memorial Museum Foundation. Contributions to either organization may be tax-deductible. Membership is open to veterans or spouses of veterans who have been assigned or attached to the 8th AF. Others may become Associate Members. Membership years begin on January 1 and dues notices for the following year are mailed from Aug 15-Nov 1. Your canceled check is your receipt. The 8th AF News is sent to paid-up Members, Associate Members, and Subscribers.



## Future 8AFHS

### Reunions

1997 Sept 8-14

Minneapolis, Radisson South

1998 (Omaha, Albuquerque, ?)

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Send to: Art Swanson, 65 Beddington Lane, Strasburg, PA 17579

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

Effective Date \_\_\_\_\_

When contacting 8AFHS, please use membership number.

(For Office Use Only. Do Not Write Above These Lines.)

### 8th AFHS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name

Middle Initial

Last Name

8th AF Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Service \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

Not in 8th. Sign me up as Associate Member

If in Service - Dates of Service \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

Please use this form only for your first calendar year's dues (\$10.00 U.S. and \$15.00 non-U.S.). Send with your U.S. Dollar check (made out to 8AFHS) to 8AFHS Membership, 65 Beddington Lane, Strasburg, PA 17579. Your annual dues will be billed for subsequent years.

### NEWS RELEASE-

Feb 24, 1997

### The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum

PO Box 1992 Savannah, Georgia 31402-1992 (912)748-8888 1-800-421-9428

Contact: Wayne Corbett

### 8AF HERITAGE MUSEUM APPOINTS JACK BURTON AS CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

SAVANNAH, Ga- The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum has appointed Jack Burton as Chief Operating Officer effective immediately.

"We are very pleased to have a man of Jack Burton's abilities and experience take over as chief operating officer," said Lt Gen E. G. Shuler, Jr., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Heritage Museum. "this will allow me to concentrate more of my time and efforts as CEO to fund-raising, creative exhibit planning and other similar duties while Jack runs the day-to-day activities of the Heritage Museum."



### THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE HERITAGE CENTER

P. O. BOX 1992, SAVANNAH, GA 31402

1-800-421-9428 (912) 748-8888

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE: \_\_\_\_\_

8AF UNITS & DATES: \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL INTERESTS (POW, GUNNER, SHOT DOWN, MECHANIC): \_\_\_\_\_

POST-SERVICE ACTIVITY: \_\_\_\_\_

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS: (Check one)

☐ INDIVIDUAL \$20

☐ FAMILY \$30

☐ ALLIES/ Out of USA \$35

### LIFE MEMBERSHIPS:

☐ COMMANDER'S CLUB \$200- \$999

☐ SUSTAINING MEMBER \$1000- \$4999

☐ ANNIVERSARY PATRON \$5000- \$9999

☐ MIGHTY 8TH PATRON \$10,000 & UP

Please make checks payable to: The Eighth Air Force Heritage Center. You may also use your MasterCard, Visa, or American Express to contribute and join.

Card Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

IRS APPROVED 501 (C)(3) CORPORATION

SAVANNAH

October 12-15 '97

Ed: Best one yet!! Also very very true...found in "Tall Tales Ga Chapter 8th AFHS"

If at first you don't succeed, try doing it the way your wife told you.



THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSEUM

The Heritage Museum opened May 13, 1996:

The year has brought:

Almost 5,000 8th AF Vets & family members from 38 states, 4 foreign countries.

Several new exhibits in the museum.

Rotunda has added permanent flooring, plants, organization banners.

Soon will have flags of all 56 American states & territories.

Canteen snack bar is popular with visitors.

Nemorial Gardens have more than 40 memorial plaques.

Five large free-standing monuments.

More than 400 names on the Wall of Valor.

Phase II of the museum:

Exhibit plan : Schweinfurt/Regensburg Raid.

Started expanding the "Honoring The Eighth" Gallery.

More unit display cases for unit artifacts can go on display.

New theater is being built in Eighth Gallery

Work continues in Combat Gallery

Escape & Evasion areas Prisoner of War area, additional signs, lights & Artifacts regularly.

More exhibit construction in house with recent creation of the museum workshop stocked with donated tools.

New show , museum art gallery featuring the work of a prominent aviation artist.

Library continues, with almost 4,000 volumes donated & available.

Archives continue to grow-soon information access from a computer terminal in Rotunda & Library.

Educational program, making the entire museum facility including the library available to teachers & students for their use.

Almost 40,000 people visited in first 8 mos. We need 500 daily.

Membership is almost 5,000, we should have 10-20 times as many.

We had 15 reunion groups, many more are signed up.

We hosted dozens of meetings, banquets, parties with organizations.

We need the above 4 things to have operating monies.

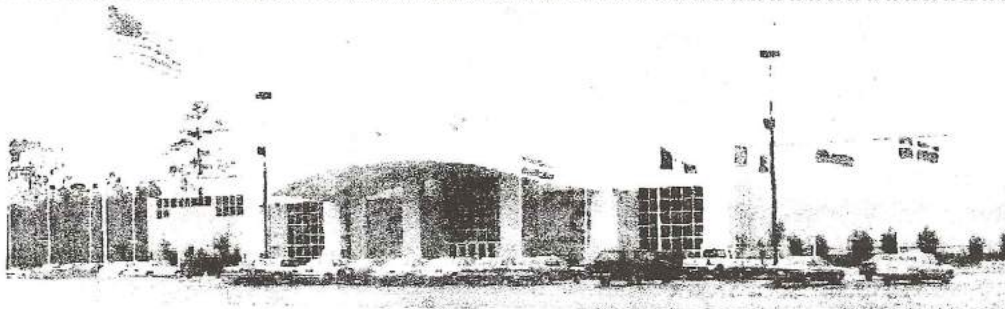
The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum was built to honor the more than one million men & women who have served in the Eighth since it was created in Savannah in Jan 1942.

The 90,000 square foot museum is located at the intersection of Interstate Highway 95 & US Highway 80 seven miles west of Savannah, Ga, in the town of Pooler.

We are open 7 days a week, closing only on New Year's Day, Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

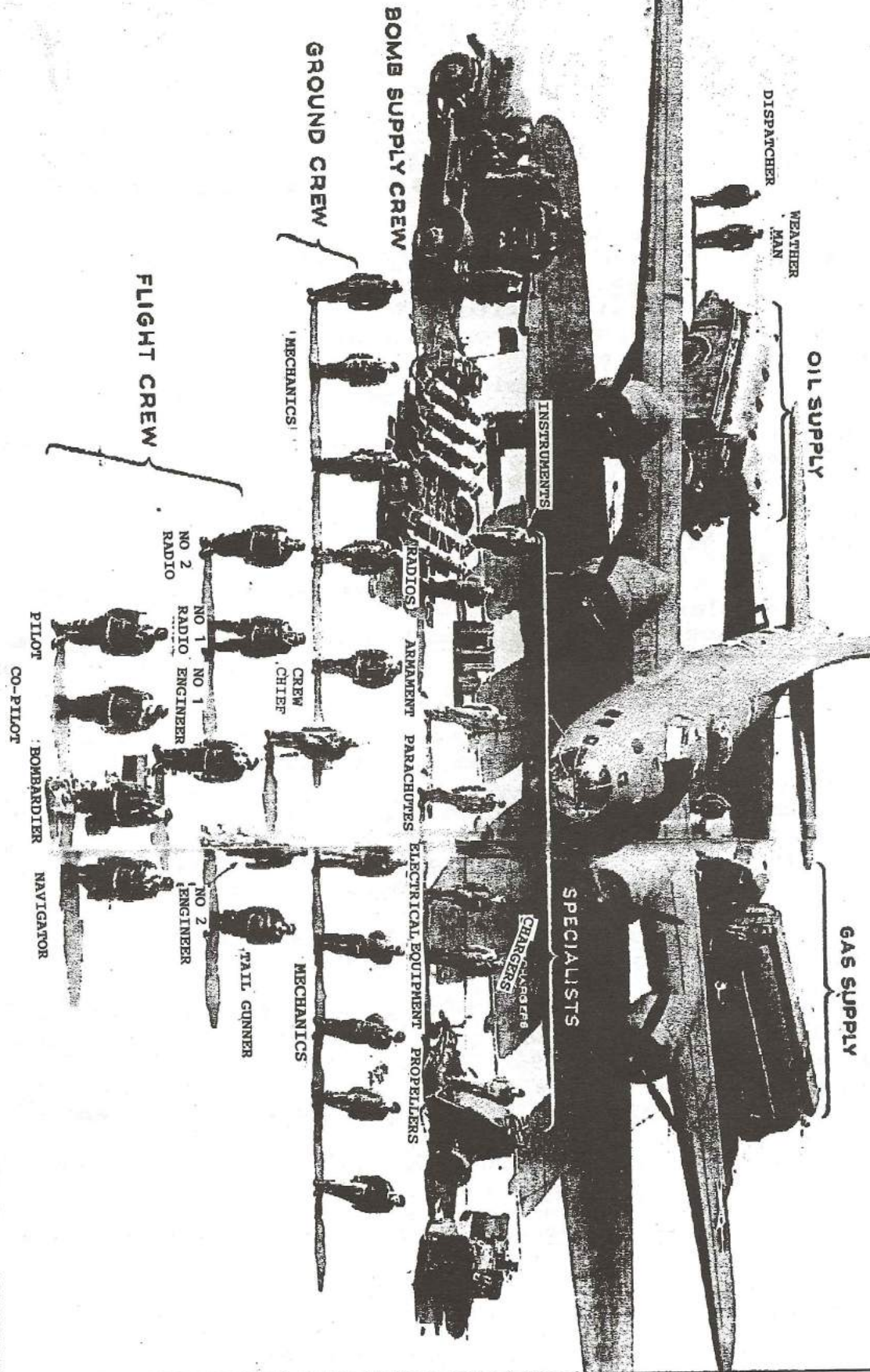
AFHM

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# T A S K F O R G E







A significant "hint" as to what (and who) went into putting a B-17 into the air was captured by Life Magazine photographer Frank Scherschel for the magazine's April 6, 1942 issue.

It was part of an eight-page "photographic essay" depicting the combat training of air crews at MacDill Field, Florida in the early days of World War II.

These were B-17 E models, and the men who were in training were destined to become the first contingent of the 97th Bomb Group, the first 8th Air Force group to see combat over the continent.

The "Task Force" photo is published in FLAK NEWS not only to show the air crew, but to contribute a visual presentation on some of the support personnel that were required to back up the flyers.

A timely publication, what with the annual 398th Bomb Group reunion in San Diego, Nov. 6-9, dedicated to the ground support personnel.

The April 6, 1942 Life Magazine was contributed to FLAK NEWS by M.E. Boswell, 602 pilot who retired from the Air Force as Lieutenant General Boswell, assistant vice chief of staff.

Life Magazine at the time showed Henry R. Luce as Managing Editor. It was his wife, Congresswoman Clare Booth Luce, who visited the 398th at Nuthampstead in October, 1944. A poem, written after being given a ride in a Fortress by Capt. Kearie Berry, is part of the 398th history book, REMEMBRANCES.

The April 6, 1942 Life Magazine will be on display at the memory room at the San Diego reunion.



## DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR DD -214 IS?

(Ed Note: No ... This not a naughty question)

Do you know where your DD-214 is? Does your spouse know? No? **THEN TAKE HEED.**

The Report of Separation from ACTIVE DUTY (DD-214) is a most important document. This Official Record is required in many instances to validate an individual's status to receive important Military Benefits, and it should be conveniently available. Retirees should consider taking their original DD-214 to the County Clerk/Recorder to have it officially recorded. A replacement DD-214 can be obtained by sending a request to CDR ARPERCED, ATTN ARPC-VSE-VO, 97 Page Blvd, St. Louis, MO .. 63132-5200. However, this takes time and requires a variety of information -- not a good method in an emergency. Once again .. **TAKE HEED.**

## ASSOCIATED PRESS MEMPHIS:

The Memphis Belle Memorial Association and the city's Parks Dept are wrangling over where to put the famed WWII bomber, which has been in a pavilion for the last decade.

The association is under contract with the plane's owner the US Air Force Museum in Dayton, OH to care for it.

The association voted recently to move the Belle from Mud Island, a tourist spot in the Mississippi River near downtown, to an airport in Millington, about 10 miles to the north, 10 years after \$500,000 was raised to build the plane a "permanent home" on Mud Island.

Association leader Brent Perkins said the plan is to carry the B-17 by helicopter to Millington Municipal Airport on Wednesday.

But the association and the Memphis Park Commission have an agreement requiring 120 days' notice before the plane can be moved. Park Commission chairman John Malmo says the commission may resist plans to move one of Mud Island's four main attractions.

We're happy with the location of the airplane," Malmo said.

Perkins said the plane is deteriorating in the pavillion.

"I'm concerned one day the airplane will fall apart under its own weight just sitting there," he said "It has gone through hell on that river." It is possibility, although a remote one, that the Mississippi River could flood the aircraft. Corps spokesman Bob Anderson said that the plane is just as likely to get hit by a comet as it is to get flooded.

The Belle has been in Memphis since 1946. It was a Memphis International Airport for three years, at the corner of Hollywood and Central for 27 years and was moved back to the airport before going to Mud Island in 1987. (ED: Homer and Mickey attended the Dedication that year and Seven B-17s flew over, with one dropping rose petals thru the bomb bay doors.)



MEMORIES OF A HOT SUMMER DAY IN '44

Poet Unknown-Reprinted from 305th BG "Can Do Notes"

And, oh, the perfume in the air,  
From fields of beans a-growing there.  
How young we were, happy and free,  
And strange, perhaps, that this should be.  
For this was in 1944,  
And England was a land at war.

I remember that day--that summer day,  
The sun beat down along the way.  
From out a broad and brilliant sky,  
And we were happy, you and I.  
Cycling through lanes, o'er dip and hill,  
On our way to Houghton Mill.

Those same blue skies could hold a threat,  
We did not think of that, and yet.  
We could not quite escape the war,  
We turned a bend and there they were.  
Their uniforms so spick and span,  
We knew they were American.

And so we stopped and smiled, as they,  
Sauntered to pass the time of day,  
And spoke, with transatlantic drawl,  
Leaning against a sun-baked wall.  
So far from home, so glamorous,  
So young and full of life, like us.

Perhaps, somewhere across the sea,  
Two old men talk of you and me,  
And that hot day in '44,  
When they were airmen in the war,  
And met two girls just cycling by,  
And small and dark, one blonde and shy.

And so we stood and talked awhile,  
They took our picture ("Gee, girls, smile!")  
And then we waved and cycled on,  
Toward the town of Huntingdon,  
Leaving them in that sunlit lane,  
Never to hear of them again.

Or did it end another way,  
Do they now lie in Madingley,  
Joining the ranks of bright and brave,  
Who stayed to fill a hero's grave,  
Never to leave these English scenes,  
And sun-warmed fields of perfumed beans?



## YANKS NOT FORGOTTEN OVER THERE

Perhaps because they knew first-hand what war was like, the people of England, Luxembourg, Belgium, France and other countries haven't forgotten the Yanks who fought for their freedom during World War II.

An example came from Thomas L. Winterbottom and his wife, Edie, who sent us a copy of a souvenir supplement published by a newspaper in England. Winterbottom, who was the first sergeant of an 8th Air Force squadron stationed at Wattisham-Mitcham near Ipswich, in East Anglia, received the copy, as Edie explained in an accompanying note, "from a friend who visits our town every year or so and he brought this paper over this year. Thought you might like to read it."

Headlines over stories read:

County bases echo to the bravery of American fliers...We'll never forget the friendly invasion...First and last raids from base dubbed "Grafton Undermud"...Heroic act ended in tragedy...Golden memories for a teenager who became a GI bride...US sergeant found love on the buses...Young bombardier ended war as POW...Unsung heroes played vital role in wartime effort...The Carpetbaggers top secret mission...Fame's Favoured Few remembered in bricks and mortar...

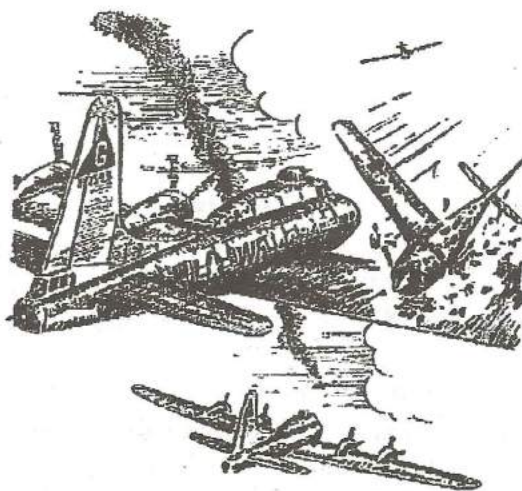
Photos show aircraft taking off, over enemy territory, crash landings and Yanks entertaining village children at American bases at Christmas. There are pictures of huts in which the GIs lived and aboard bicycles that were their main transportation on and off the base.

Tony Smith, who compiled and wrote the stories in the Evening Telegraph, explained why the supplement was produced in a story with the headline: Yanks for the memory.

He wrote: "From the summer of 1942, thousands of young American servicemen descended on Northamptonshire, formed a bond with their English hosts that still exists.

"Almost overnight the high-spirited Yanks stirred up as much excitement in the county's quiet market towns and sleepy little villages as the Second World War itself.

"For 1,000 days the sky was never empty as the brave young men of the 8th United States Army Air Force added their military might to the fight against Hitler. Many were never to return.



"Young, fresh, well-fed and confident they could win the war, they came with one aim - the destruction of Germany's ability to wage war on Europe. Their method was high-altitude precision bombing using techniques developed in the clear blue skies of Georgia. "Many were little more than kids. Barely old enough to drive in most states, these rookie fliers were expected to crew huge Flying Fortresses on raids 30,000 feet above enemy territory.

"The often unsung heroes of the ground staff, meanwhile, worked round the clock, often in freezing conditions, to make sure the planes were ready for the next mission.

Off-duty these good-looking men in smart uniforms were looked upon as long-lost uncles with seemingly endless supplies of chewing gum, candy bars and cigarettes.

"They gave us our first taste of such delights as chili con carne, peanut butter and cola. they complained about our warm beer but hey loved our fish and chips and bread-and-butter pudding.

"To local girls they were a breath of fresh air in a society riddled with taboos and conventions. Many were swept off their feet by smooth-talking GI Joes with their movie star accents and sense of fun.

"To mark the 50th anniversary of their arrival in Britain, the ET (Evening Telegraph) has produced a special souvenir supplement, which takes a nostalgic look back at those tragic but often magic times when our quaint little county became Uncle Sam's second home.

"With a mixture of memories and pictures, we hope we have captured some of the Anglo-American spirit of friendship which is still felt half-a-century later."

"Apparently, they haven't forgotten the Yank, and still remember the kindness they displayed by welcoming the GI, opening up their homes and sharing their meager food rations with many a lonely GI.



The German Government and its citizens are HONORING every American veteran who has served in Germany from 1945 to the present - all 10,000,000 plus (and their families) - and it could be YOU! Incredible? Perhaps - but the facts clearly show why. It is a testimony to the character of both the German and American people.

Germany is NOT being philanthropic. They recognize the important role that the United States played in the reunification of their country and the preservation of their freedom during the long years of the Cold War. It is a remarkable gesture of respect and appreciation. These simple facts illustrate the significance of their action:

(1) It is the only time ever that an occupied country has honored its occupier...and even more startling....

(2) It is the only time in history that a "military force" has been recognized for its role in peace (not war)! This is a fantastic achievement alone, and the implications it has for the future success of our military forces in peaceful pursuits are staggering.

Best of all - EVERY American military unit and individual who served in Germany in 1945 to the present is eligible. What does it mean to YOU? It depends on you. It offers wonderful opportunities for you to revisit Germany under special arrangements with prices that are almost too good to be true. Imagine, for example, a week in Germany for an inclusive price of just \$999 with round-trip air fare from New York, Boston or Washington, hotel with breakfast for six nights and a car rental for six days. Hard to believe, isn't it? And you can fly into and out of any Lufthansa airport in Germany at the same price.

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- (2) Scheduled group tour departures
- (3) Custom-designed group tours for your own unit

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For complete details, contact Galaxy Tours- toll-free - 1-800-523-7287 - or write P.O. Box 234, Wayne, PA., 19087



October

SAVANNAH

Remember, we print many things- by request. It is not necessarily the view of the Editor, or group. Please send any changes, you would like to see done for the good of the Association, or the News Letters



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July 4, 1997

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Frank W Aylstock

4336 Eureka Avenue Yorba Linda, Ca 92886-2343

Mr. Briggs:

I was looking for some information about the 748th, 457th BG & came across your name and address listed on the Web so I am writing you to find out what information is available about the group.

I was at Rapid City S.D, transferred to Ephrata, Wa, the first part of July 1943. I was assigned as a Flight Engineer with pilot (Lt Mark C Belcher) & we trained at Ephrata. We filled the crew there and went back to Rapid City, where we continued our training. We then went to Wendover, Ut. , where we were assigned a B-17.

We flew it to Grand Isle, NE then to Bangor, Me Spent couple days there then flew to Goose Bay. Labrador.

Having flown with the start of the group, finished 39 missions, I would appreciate an information you can give me as to some of the personnel. Sincerely.....Frank W Aylstock