



THE

457th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION



"THE FIREBALL OUTFIT"



751st
Squadron

THE 457TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION NEWS

ESTABLISHED JULY 1971 - BENTONVILLE, AR

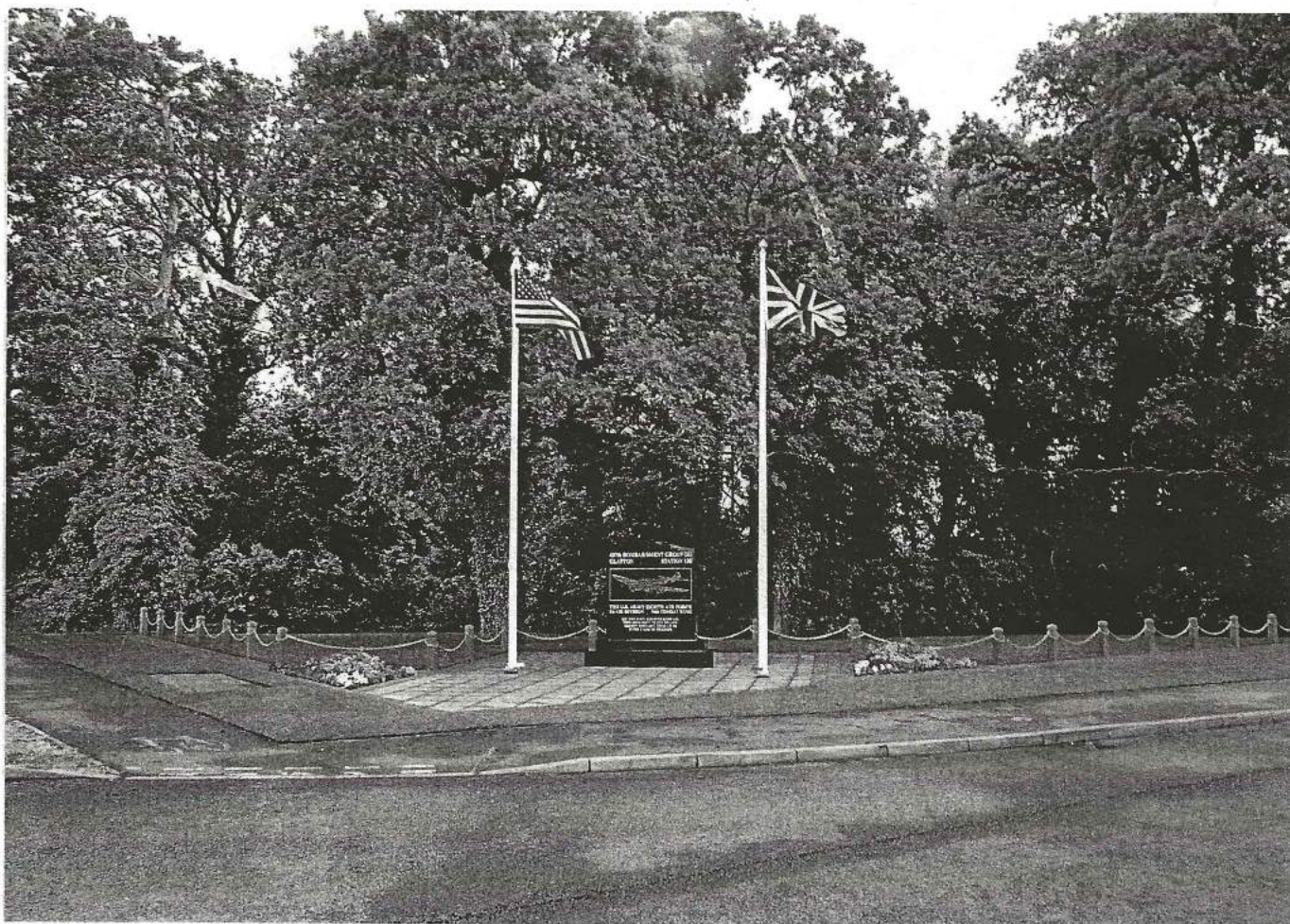
SEPTEMBER 2004

VOLUME 34

ISSUE 58

As General Douglas MacArthur was quoted as saying:

"THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR VICTORY."



Dedication of Our Contribution to Freedom
457th Memorial, Glatton, England

The next few pages are dedicated...

...to our faithful members and donors without whose support, both financially and in moral support this would never have become a reality...

...to those of you who weren't at the mini-reunion...

...and to those of you who were there for the festivities...

here's a walk down Memory Lane.



Photo no. 3545-06

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Mr. Brian Stapleton for taking these photos of our Memorial Dedication. He showed great professionalism and skill, as well as showing a very generous nature in allowing us to use these copyrighted photographs at no charge to us. A complete display of the originals, in color, will be available to view at the reunion in Savannah. Please contact Mr. Stapleton if you are interested in copies, using the numbers shown next to each picture.

17 Aliwal Road
Whittlessey
Peterborough PE7 1UG
ENGLAND

Crowds estimated at between 400 and 600 anxiously awaiting the start of the ceremony. Many of these people had waited for hours, arriving early to be able to get a good spot! Chairs were provided for most of our members as well as for dignitaries. Notice on photo -08, that our own Sadie Baines is seated directly behind the empty "reserved" seat on the right side of the photograph.



08

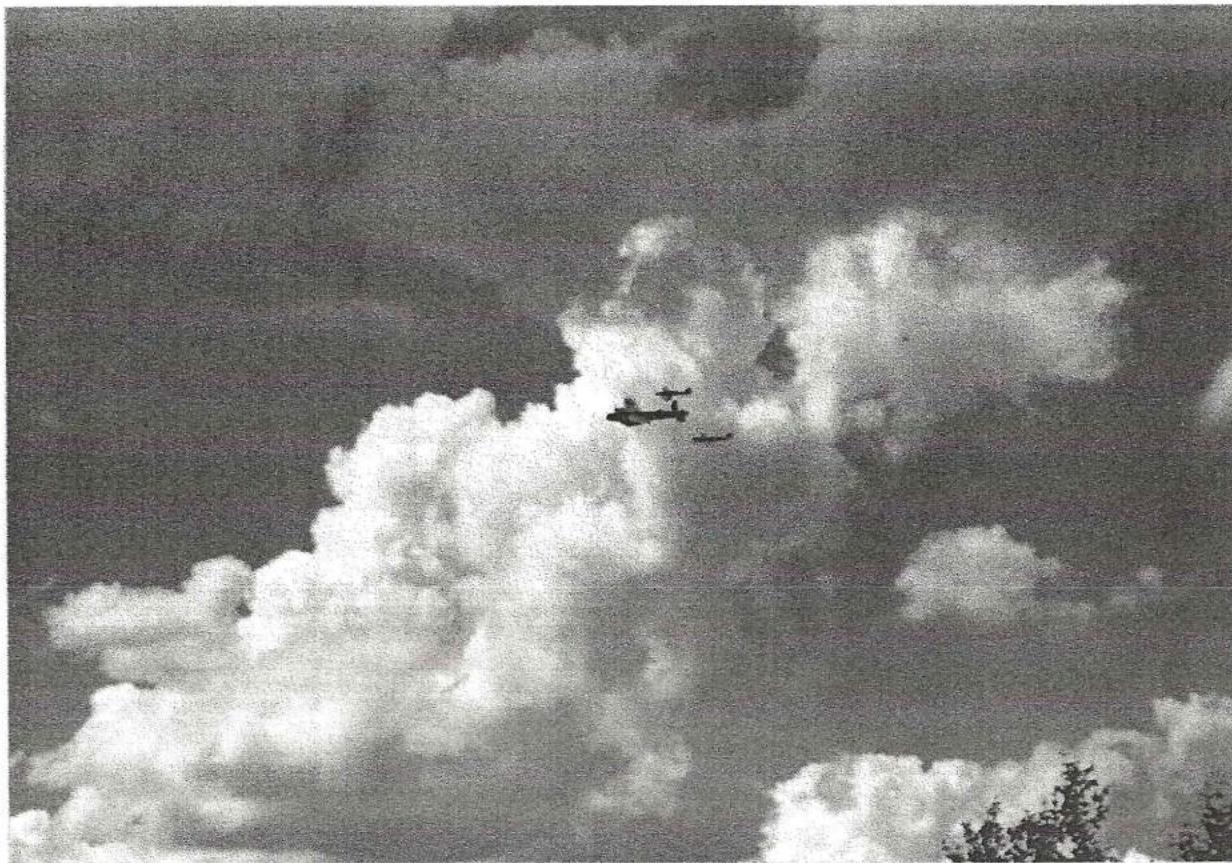
In photo -10, the Mayor and Mayoress of Peterborough are seated wearing the symbols of their positions. They were wonderful people who then warmly welcomed us to the Town Hall for our traditional visit and tea.



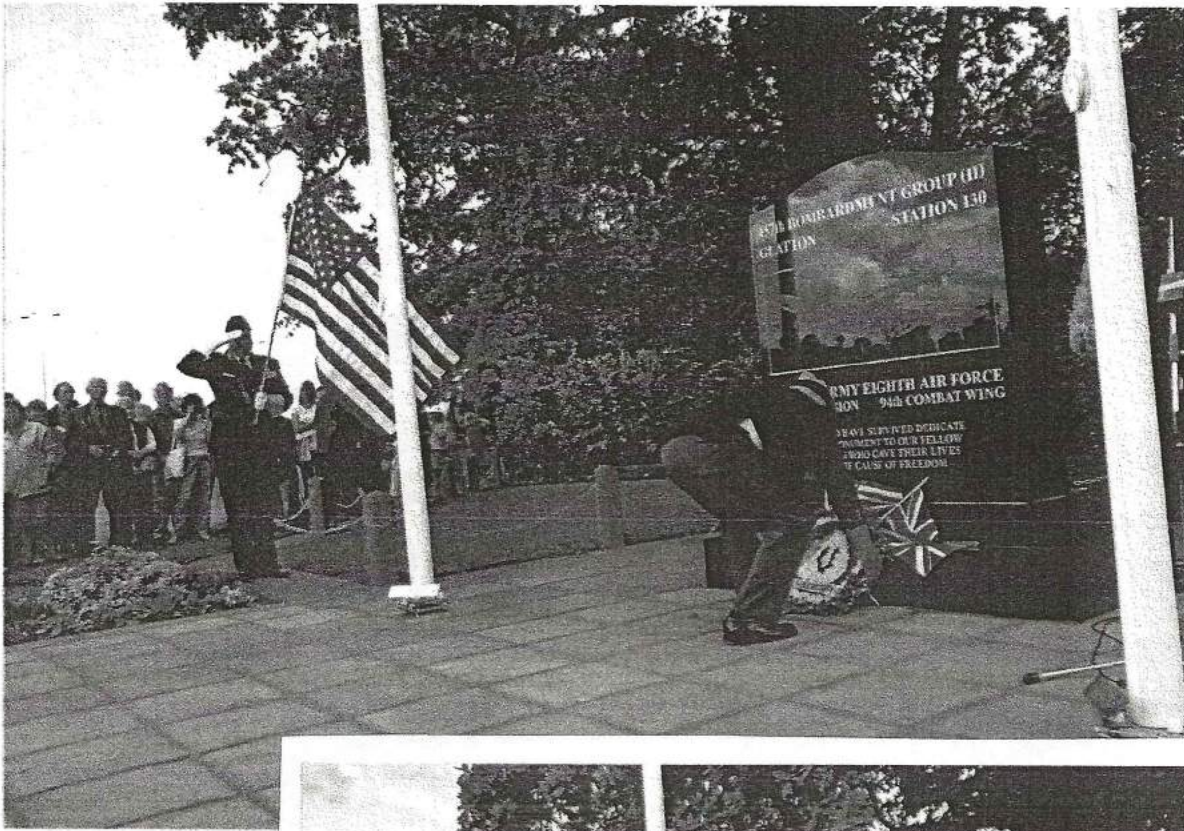
Memorial Monument was unveiled by Past President Don Sellon, left, and English Historian/Librarian, John Walker. The crowd was eerily quiet anticipating the first sighting of our Memorial, followed by oohs and aahs of excitement and pride.



Flypast by RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight...Spitfire, Hurricane, and Lancaster



English Historian and Mini-Reunion Chairman, Gordon Townsend lays a wreath at the foot of the Memorial Monument, followed by a snappy salute to those who have gone before and to whom this Memorial is dedicated.



"We who have survived dedicate this monument to our fellow Airmen who gave their lives in the cause of freedom."

Approaching the podium for a prayer offering is Zeke Ward, right, being introduced by 1st Past President Will Fluman. Will was the catalyst on this side of the Atlantic Ocean, leading the charge in seeing that the dream of this long-awaited Memorial became a reality. Will is the first to tell you, however, of all the many people who played a big part in the completion of this project.

Not yet in place at the time of the Dedication, will be two granite benches to the back and sides of the Monument. One was donated by Will Fluman and his children in memory of his wife Phyllis, and the other donated by Craig Harris in memory of his wife Bobbie.



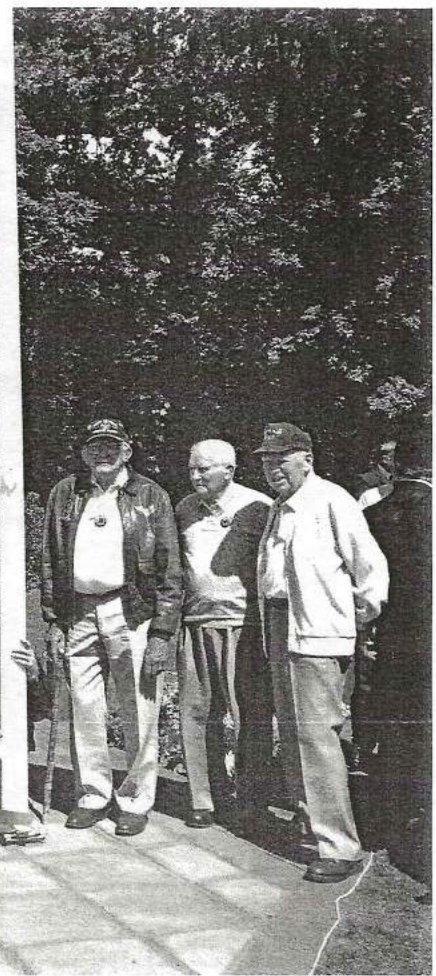
3545-18 Past President Lee Zimmerman at the podium making a presentation during the Dedication Ceremony. In the front row, to Lee's left, is Past President Craig Harris and current president of the 457th Association, Don Nielsen, both of whom made remarks during the ceremony.



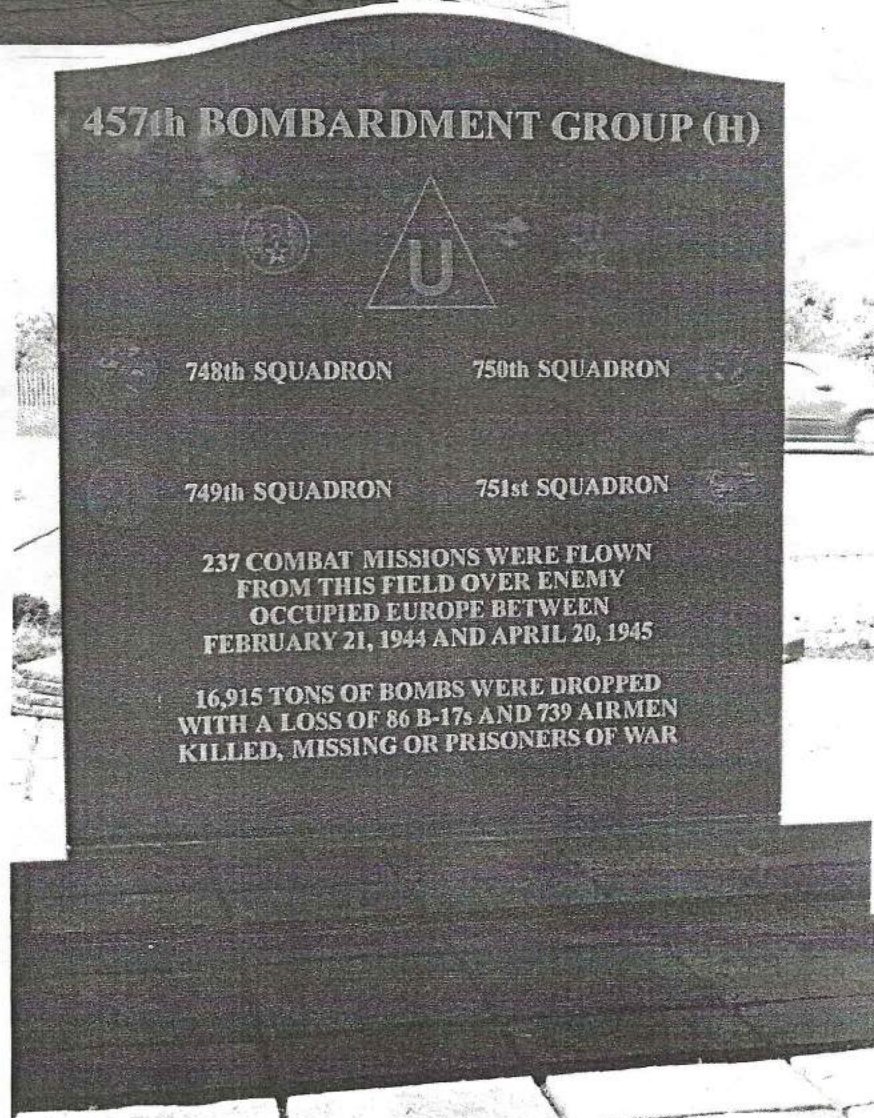
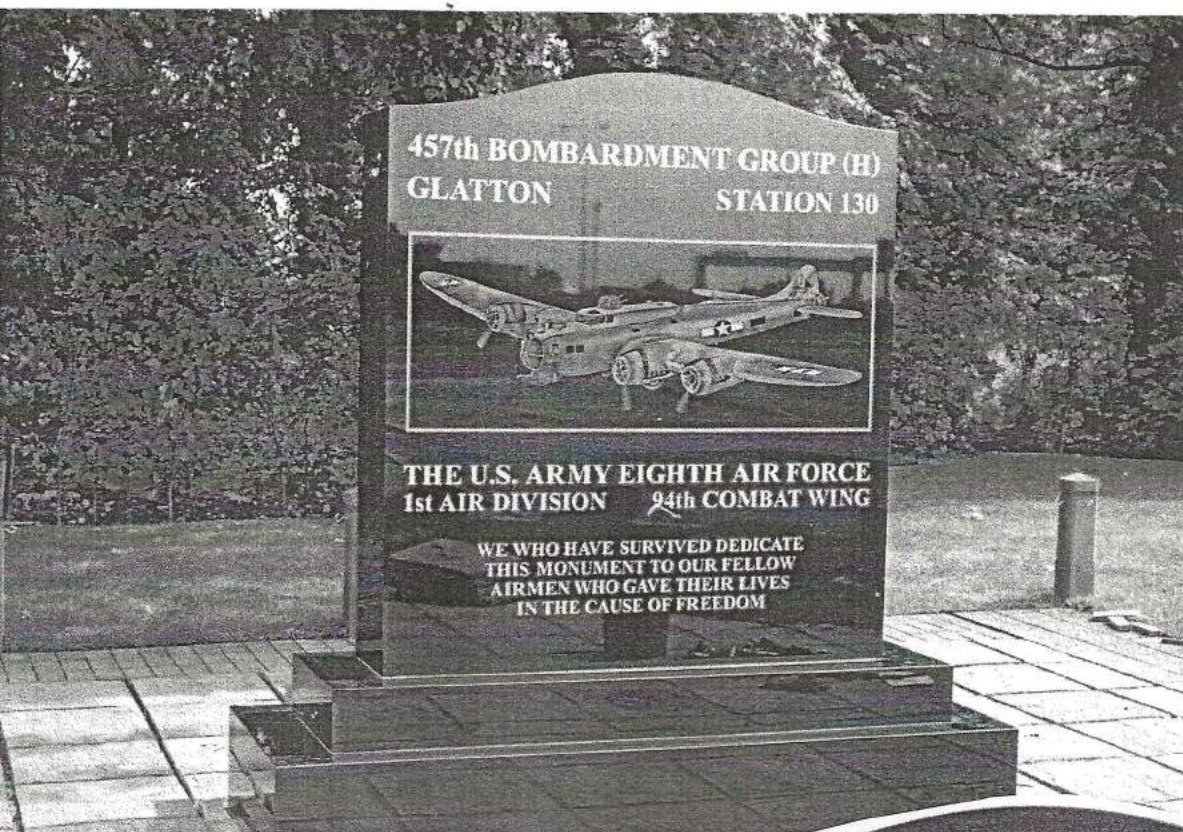
3545-19 Presenting the flag of the United States of America is Patrick J. Connelly, USAF, son of Aaron (dec) who was a member of the 457th Bomb Group.

Proud members of the 457th Bomb Group during WWII and now of the 457th Association.





Front of monument at the site of the entrance to the base on the Old North Road.



Back of the monument.

Following the Dedication Ceremony, reunion attendees were honored at a very delightful English tea in the gardens of a nearby villager who graciously opened her home to us. On the left is Ray Pobgee, newest English Historian, who was the driving force on that side of the Atlantic in seeing that miles of red tape were cut allowing placement of the Memorial at the very site we passed by many many times 60 years ago. With Ray is the Mayor and Mayoress of Peterborough. Seated are from left: Bob Henrich, Joe Toth, John Pearson, and Sandy Nielsen.



Recognize these guys??? They look like they are sleeping, but were actually deep in conversation.

WATER TANK IN 750TH AREA

Photo3545-4

A final look at a wonderful accomplishment honoring our fellow airmen. The flagpole on the left flying the flag of the United States is in honor of George Grau from his sons. The pole flying the Union Jack of the United Kingdom is in honor of Joe Toth from his kids. These are a fitting tribute from the second generation kids of our heroes...our Dads and to all the men of the 457th Bomb Group in the Cause of Freedom.



REUNION 2004

457th BOMB GROUP

ASSOCIATION.

MINI REUNION

ELEVENTH MINI-REUNION

ATTENDEES

MAY 29 - JUNE 2

- * BASS, James
Bass, David (son)
- * BENNETT, Al and Janet
- * BLACKMORE, James
- * BURKE, Rex
- * CAMPBELL, Harry and Doris
Connelly, Patrick USAF (son of Aaron)
- * DeLUCCIA, Joseph
DeLuccia, Frank (son)
DeLuccia, Emil (brother)
- * FARRELL, Thomas and Rosalie
- * FLUMAN, Will
Fluman, Candace (daughter)
Fluman, Will Jr. (son)
Sechrist, Carl & Chris (nephew)
Carter, Deborah
Furr, Jack (brother of Arnet Furr, KIA)
Furr, James (brother of Arnet Furr, KIA)
Streeval, Eric
- * GRAU, George
Grau, G. Tucker (son)
- * HAMILTON, Joseph
Niven, Jim & Alice (Joe's guests)
- * HARRIS, Craig
- * HEDGE, Willard and Irene
Hedge, Jerry & Carole (son)
- Kaufman, Charles
- * LEDERHAUS, Elmer
- * MARTIN, Frank
McCurry, Cindy & Melinda (daughters of George McCurry, dec)
McCurry, Eric & JoAnna (son of George McCurry, dec)
- * McMAHON, Larry
Moore, Lisa (daughter of Augustus) guest David Kearns
- * NEILSEN, Don and Sandy
- * OSBORNE, Charles
- * PEARSON, John
- * SCHAFF, Robert
Schaff, David (son)
Angelo, Lynn (daughter)
Angelo, Philip (grandson)
- * SELLON, Don and Jeanne
- * SILVERMAN, Jerry and guest Roberta Kohn)
- * TOTH, Joseph
Henrich, Nancy & Bob-daughter and son-in-law
- * WARD, Zeke and Anne
Ward, Jonathan (son)
- * ZIMMERMAN, Lee and Helen



457th Bomb Group (H)
'The Fireball Outfit'
USAAF Station 130, Glatton

Dedication of Memorial

Sunday 30th May 2004

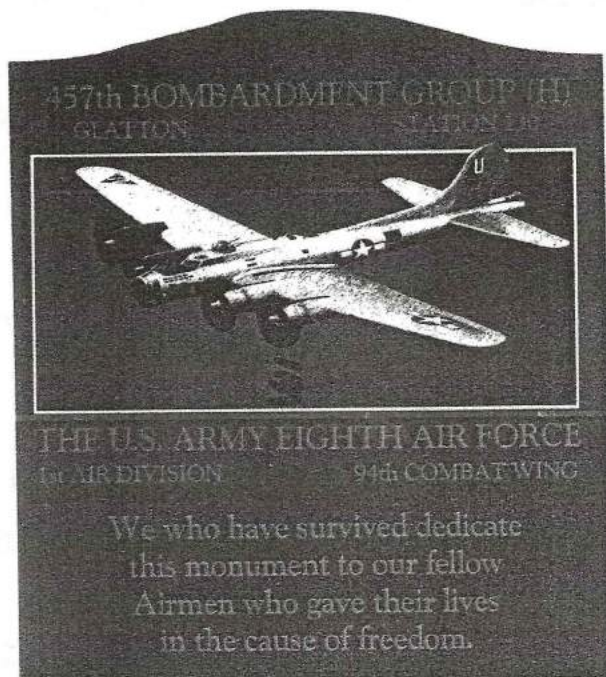




457th BOMB GROUP (H)

USAAF Station 130

Glatton, Huntingdon



I suspect that quite a number of people present at the Dedication of this memorial will not be fully aware of how and why this memorial is being unveiled to honour a United States Army Air Force Bomb Group that was stationed in this place in the later part of the second World War.

In May 1943 an order was made to activate a number of additional heavy bombardment groups in the United States Army Air Force, some of which were eventually to find themselves on airfields in England. One of these groups was to be numbered 457 and later, based

upon the design of a Unit badge, to become known as 'The Fireball Outfit'.

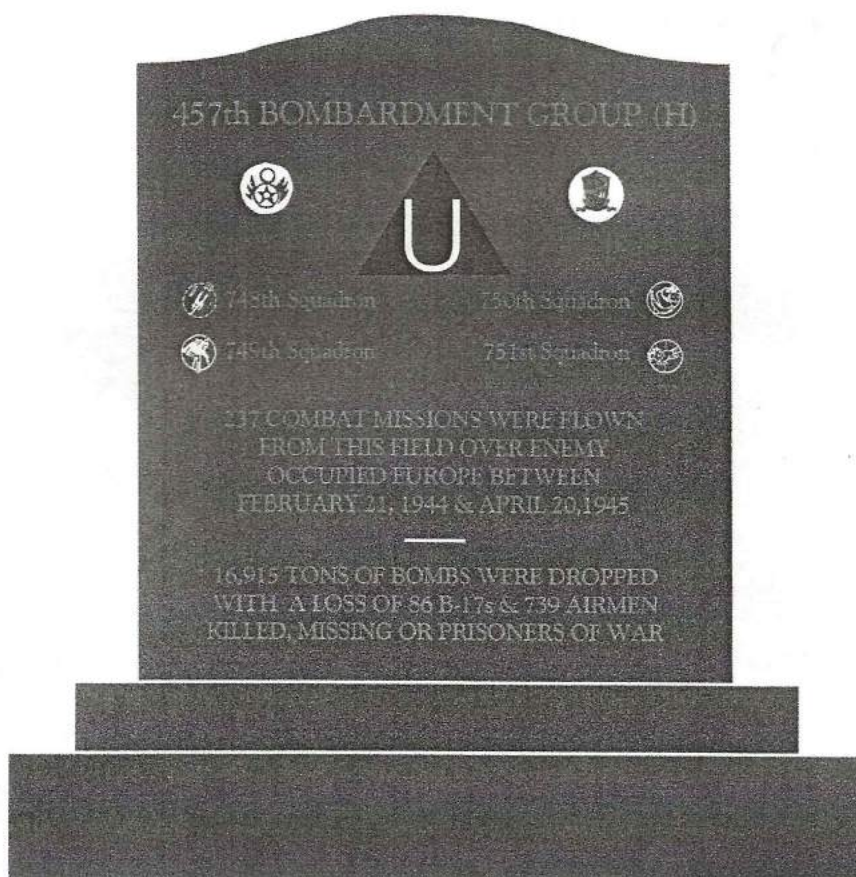
Initially, it was determined that this Unit would begin its life at an Air Force Base in Spokane, Washington, Geiger Field. Strangely, the 457th was never to be part of that Airfield Group but, as a B-17 Flying Fortress Aircraft Group, was to find itself at the Rapid City, South Dakota, Army Airfield for its initial training. The first members of the Group were transferred from Washington early in July 1943. South Dakota is a very scenic beautiful State, but the members of the 457th would not have the opportunity to visit Mount Rushmore or Deadwood City, but would find themselves flying over them and the Black Hills of Dakota in their early training missions.

By mid October 1943, the early training phases were completed and the Group moved to Ephrata Army Air Force Base in Washington. Here the Unit received additional aircraft to complete the Unit numbers, and it was soon after the training started that they were to lose their first crew in an accident. By early December, this training phase came to an end and the 457th moved on to Wendover, Utah.

In January 1944, the ground crews and administration left the United States, arriving in Glasgow and travelling by rail to Holme railway station and thence to AAF Station 130 which they came to know as Glatton. This name was chosen to prevent confusion, particularly in the use of radios where there were stations at Coningsby and Honington. The first aircraft flying the North Atlantic Route via Newfoundland, Iceland, thence to England in mid-winter, arrived at Glatton on 21st January. Again two aircraft were lost.

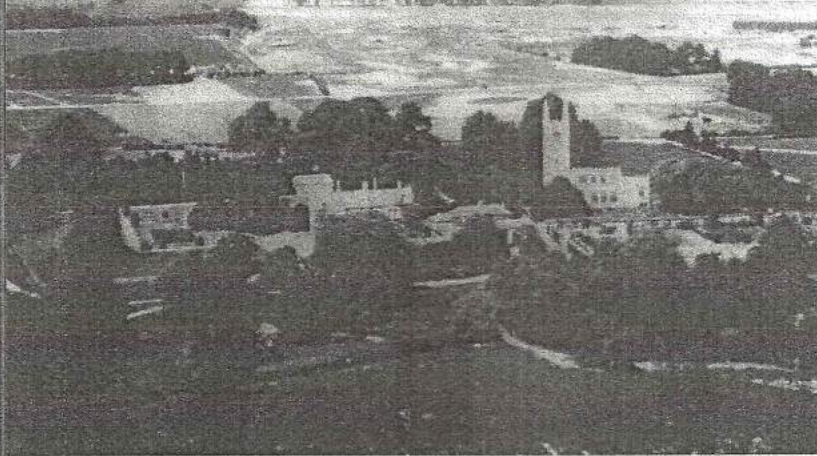
The Commanding Officer, Lt Col Luper welcomed his crews and the 457th was now waiting for the orders which would send it into combat. The final training of the Group to familiarise it with the British radar and navigation procedures were completed, a number of members had flown with other 8th Air Force Groups to bring back the benefit of their experience to the other crews. The first mission of the 457th Bomb Group took place on the 21st February 1944 when 36 Aircraft attacked German airfields. This organised activity was to be repeated on no fewer than 237 occasions. Lt Col Luper was himself to be listed as a casualty when his aircraft failed to return to Glatton, following the raid on Politz, Poland on 7th October 1944. It eventually became known that he had survived and became a prisoner of War. After a short stand down of the group, Col Harris Rogner was appointed Commander of the 457th Bomb Group, which became active again on 14th October.

The 'Fireball Outfit' continued their relentless operations until the 20th April 1945, when they were ordered to attack railway marshalling yards at Seddin, South of Berlin in Germany. On this operation, no opposition was encountered and all aircraft and crews returned safely. The final operation mission for the United States Eighth Air Force came on the 25th April 1945.





Conington Village and Church with Glatton Airfield beyond



WHOOPI



Mission Board, May 1945



MEMORIAL DEDICATION

Flypast by RAF Battle
(Spitfire, Hurricane)

Welcome
Unveiling

Laying
History
Re

The Real Purpose
The Air

Prayer from the Church
H

Will Fluman, Don Selinger,
Gordon Townsend,
Don Nielsen,

Dedication of the original Memorial,
in Conington Churchyard in 1945.
Col Rogner and Cpl Les Fried
(Commanding Officer and designer).

"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."



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0pm

Britain Memorial Flight
(ane & Lancaster)

0pm

& Opening

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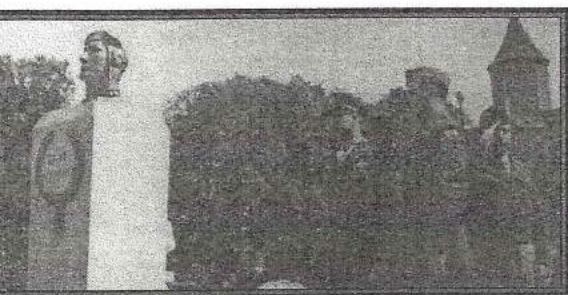
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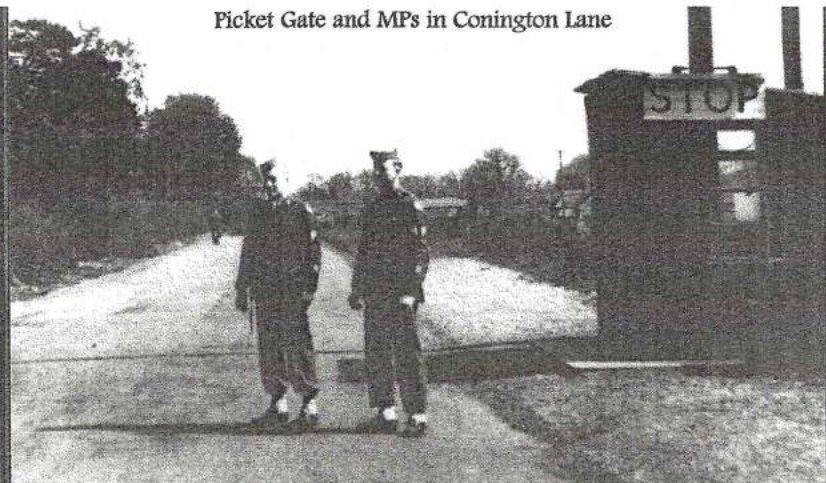
pel of the Fallen Eagles

today:

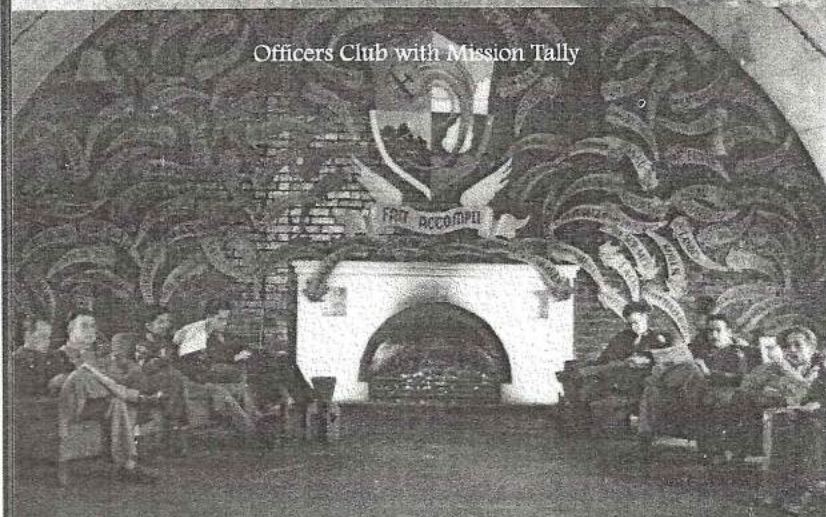
John Walker, Rev John Ward
Fluman, Leon Zimmerman
g Harris, Ray Pobgee



Picket Gate and MPs in Conington Lane



Officers Club with Mission Tally



In Flight



891st Engineering Company laying concrete - 1943





THE war in Europe ended on 8th May 1945. The 457th Bomb Group had an early anticipation on the previous evening with various pyrotechnics forming a multi-coloured spectacle in the sky over the airfield. Victory in Europe day was celebrated by the Group with a thanksgiving service on the base at the Chapel, and later at a service in Peterborough Cathedral, together with a parade through the centre of the City.

The personnel at Glatton became well known in Peterborough and the surrounding towns. For many, the Americans and the British, it was the first time that the communities had met together and mixed socially. Peterborough had an American Services Red Cross Club in New Road, and also an officers club above the Bird in Hand public house in Long Causeway. It was in these areas that the men were able to seek some relaxation and make friendships that have been long-lasting.

The 457th Bomb Group Veterans have returned to Peterborough, Glatton, and Cambridge on alternate years, for many years, the purpose being to remember each time those who served in the 457th, both during the war and since. The memorial in Conington churchyard was erected before they left this Country in June 1945, and has been the centre piece of their memorial service since then. This year, 2004, they come with a special purpose to dedicate a new memorial. As can be seen on the new memorial, it is dedicated to no fewer than 739 airmen killed, missing or made prisoners of war, in the 86 Flying Fortress Bombers that were lost, operating from Glatton. This is the sacrifice that is the subject of this dedication. The short history of the 'Fireball Outfit' I have outlined in this souvenir can only hint at the commitment made by our American Allies operating from this airfield, close by this Memorial.

The Memorial is, in fact, sited on the communal living area of the 750th squadron of the 457th Bomb Group. It was one of four squadrons, the 748th, 749th and the 751st being the other squadrons of the 457th Bomb Group. Each Squadron had a domestic area within the boundaries of Conington village. They were spread widely from the airfield to prevent excessive losses of men, should the airfield have been attacked from the air.

Unfortunately, at the time this programme is being prepared, the memorial stones are still being carved and the representations in the previous pages are taken from the artwork and there will be some slight differences, particularly with regard to the aircraft detail on the front of the stone.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our most grateful thanks to everyone who helped us and gave us their support, but especially the members, relatives and friends of the 457th Bomb Group (H) Association who have given so much so generously for this memorial, and to:

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr Robin Driver (Chairman)

Cllr Grp Capt Keith Walters

Lara Storr (Estates Department)

Mr A J Postings (Legal Services)

PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL

Mrs Gillian Beasley (Chief Executive)

Graeme Law (Planning)

HUNTINGDON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Richard Tuplin

Cllr John Garner

Cllr Nick Guyatt

Mr S Ingram (Development Control)

CONINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

For their support and provision of refreshments

Mrs Wendy Hubbard (Chairman)

Mr & Mrs Tim Newell

James Pepper (Geeres Stonemasons) – Janice Baker and Becky Tuohy-Hoy

The Peterborough Landscape Company – Andrew Young

The Royal Air Force Battle of Britain Memorial Flight – The Officer Commanding

The Bellringers at Conington Church

Adrian Christmas (Solicitor)

Brian Stapleton for photography

John Walker for provision of archive photographs

Neville Sanders for the loan of batteries for the Sound System

The Villagers of Conington

WWII: MY STORY

As Memorial Day approaches, *The Arizona Republic* is running recollections of World War II Veterans and home-front workers in their own words. For audio or video of other veterans' stories, visit azcentral.com

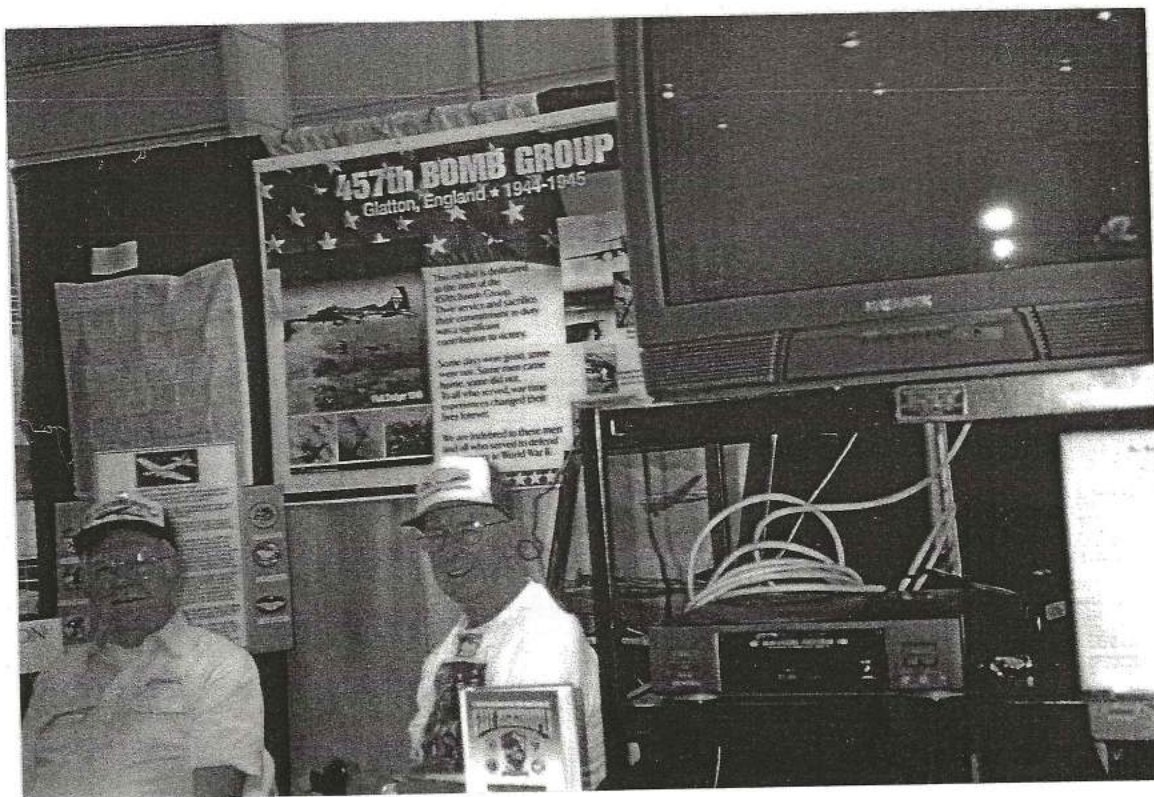
Peoria resident **Donald Nielsen**, 81, an Army Air Forces bomber pilot who flew 34 missions over Europe, talks about a run to Berlin in a B-17 nicknamed "Old 123," the last three digits of its serial number.

"In Hollywood movies, when the crews were told the target was Berlin, everyone cheered. Not at our briefings. When the map was exposed and Berlin was shown to be the target, everyone moaned. The Germans had many 88-millimeter anti-aircraft guns around Berlin, and with the clear weather, they could sight on us visually and accurately. The groups in front of us were catching hell. A plane in the formation blew up, and we flew through some of the debris. I was at the controls when we were hit with flak over the target and the plane bounced all over the place and the nose dropped. I just figured, 'This is it,' and I hoped it wouldn't hurt too much. But when I pulled back on the stick, OLD 123 responded and went back up into formation."

--Charles Kelly



Editor's Note: Don has been a terrific ambassador for the 457th Bomb Group Association. The photo below shows Don and fellow member Reg Buxton, former Flight Engineer in the 749th, manning a booth at the Commemorative Air Force's Veteran's Day Fly-In on November 8-9, 2003.



The following note and article were received from member Jerry Silverman...

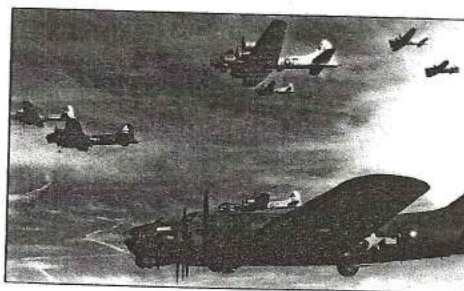
"Enclosed is something I wrote years ago for the National Warplanes Museum at Geneseo, New York, when they requested unusual war experiences of their members. I'm pretty sure of the date, the mission, etc., but even though I wrote this at least seven or eight years ago, it was still a long time after the fact. What happened is true. Believe me, it is etched in my memory."

On October 5, 1944, I was the lead navigator of the low box of 12 B-17s of the 457th Bomb Group heading to a target in or near Cologne. We were a good distance back in the bomber stream, and the contrails from the preceding groups had us flying in soup. I can't remember the reason, but we did not turn at our briefed Initial Point, but flew the new bomb run in the very dense contrails. We couldn't see any of the groups either ahead or behind, nor the ground below us. I think each box had a different target and we had to bomb by Mickey (radar). Going down this new bomb run I realized we appeared to be on a course on which we might hit the Cologne Cathedral. (Radar was not that accurate.)

Explaining the situation to both the Air Commander and the Bombardier, I asked for a course correction of 5 degrees to the right and cautioned the Air Commander to take precautions not to sidle into anyone on our right. As we drifted over, we were amazed to discover we were passing just a few hundred feet directly BENEATH another box of B-17s, barely visible through the contrails. Through the haze we could see THEIR BOMB BAY DOORS WIDE OPEN. I assume everyone prayed and our prayers must have been answered because they didn't drop on us.

After the war, I saw many pictures of the famous Cathedral, still intact, although the surrounding area was leveled. Apparently there were other navigators and bombardiers in the Eight Air Force who were also concerned about hitting the Cathedral.

This tells me that we Americans trained to hit the assigned target whenever it was possible to do so, and not bomb indiscriminately as the historical revisionists would have you believe.



Editor's Note: On page 23 of the newsletter dated March-April 2004, there was an article sent in by Norm Franz entitled "Mid-Air Collision". In response to that article Frank Bernd sent a letter and a follow up article.

In his letter, Frank said,

"The Nijmegen story should bring a fair amount of papers to you regarding memories fueled by this piece. My memories mainly concern my brother who was an officer in the Army and was with me at the day of the raid. As the result of his wounds, which he picked up in France when he worked for General Patton, he was in and out of Army hospitals for about three years. All that medication caught up with him at the age of 42 when he died. We were lucky to see each other three times in England. When I finished my missions and was sent home, John was at the front door. He was on a 30-day leave from the hospital, which allowed him to be Evie and my best man at our wedding. We both were lucky young men."

Frank's story about the Sept. 17th mission...

Norm Franz's article regarding the Sept. 17th mission to Nijmegen by the 457th did bring back a few memories. Lt. Haven Burningham's crew flew that mission as a wing plane but after that mission we were a lead crew. While I do not remember dodging C-47 planes on the way home, there are some things I do remember. It was a low altitude mission although I do not remember the exact altitude. During our briefing that morning I sort of remember the words "milk run" being bantered around. When the first four bursts of 88 shells took out the group leader who I believe was Major Hozie, the CO of the 748th SQ, the milk run soured. Frankly, I didn't believe in milk runs. Just taking off in a B-17 with thousands of gallons of 100 octane gasoline, loaded with six to eight thousand pounds of high explosive bombs was enough to eliminate the words "milk run" for me.

What this mission does bring back to my mind is that my brother, a 2nd Lt. in the army was on a three day pass and came to spend a few days with me. I had already been to his camp, where he was training new men for the fighting in France. Knowing we were going on a mission the night before, I planned on John going through everything I would be going through the following morning with the exception of the mission takeoff. My mother would not be happy finding out that John flew with us a day before on a practice mission to that little island off the coast of Scotland. She only had two sons.

It was probably about 0300 when we had a wake-up call on Sept. 17th, 1944. I believe our first call was to see Lt. Col. Sullivan and receive a general absolution. John received a freebee since he wasn't going into combat. I did not know Father Sullivan had time for a Mass before missions. This was followed by something to eat -- even John did not have the guts to call this breakfast. Next came briefing, then the equipment hut, and next being trucked out to the plane where every thing was checked out again.

It was a good mission for us, not much anti aircraft fire and no fighters. On the way home, we did see C-47s and gliders but I really do not remember shuffling the deck with them. We did shuffle the deck once with another group while assembling over Glatton. I never forgot the experience and never would. My brother John was waiting for us as Haven turned off the engines. Walking around the plane we counted a number of flak holes, nothing serious, thank God. The crew told him that this is the way combat Air Corps people justify their existence. John was transferred to France, assigned to General Patton's Army and after three weeks of combat, was seriously wounded. I next saw him at a hospital in southern England.

England, Sept. '44

Frank on the left...
John on the right.



Trivia...FYI

Coca-Cola bottles were used on December 7, 1941 at Pearl Harbor to store blood from donors since the usual containers were in short supply. They were also used on December 23, 1941, in defense of the Philippines, when a Private Soria made Molotov cocktails from Coke bottles and hurled them at Japanese tanks.

Frank says: "John only watched the oxygen bubbles go up and down on the practice flight. My best friend and brother."

Editor's Note: What follows is a communication received from Carl F. Runge, Ex-POW and Trustee, The Andersonville Trust

Dear Mighty Eighth Vet.:

Of the 95,532 Americans captured in the European Theatre of operations roughly 30% were airmen of the Mighty Eighth. On Memorial Day 2000 the 486th Bomb Group Association placed a bronze plaque mounted on a granite block at the National POW Museum at the Andersonville National Historic Site, a unit of the National Park Service at Andersonville, Georgia.

An endowment was established known at the Andersonville Trust to assist the National Park Service to assure perpetual care and maintenance of the facility. Currently \$860,000 is in the trust toward a goal of one million.

Enclosed is a brochure, a copy of a public service ad the TIME magazine published in its' southern regional edition and a copy of a draft of the plaque. Would appreciate your board giving serious consideration for a contribution. Any amount would be helpful in reaching our goal.

The letter is signed: Carl F. Runge, Ex-POW 486th Bomb Group Association Trustee, The Andersonville Trust

Don Nielsen, President of our Association, answered, saying"

"We appreciate your desire for such a contribution, but right now our association is pretty strapped for money. The hottest item for us right now is raising money for a memorial monument at our old WWII field at Glatton in England. That's a major expenditure. But we will put your appeal in our newsletter and suggest to our members that they may want to make a contribution directly. Perhaps this will generate some income for you."

Editor's Note: The following 2 pages were received from Mr. Runge. I have retyped one of the pages here because the copy he sent did not reprint clearly.

If you would care to make a donation, it can be sent to:

**The Andersonville Trust,
496 Cemetery Road
Andersonville, GA 31711**

HONORING OUR POWs

"You are not Forgotten"

Revolutionary War • War of 1812 • Mexican War • Civil War
Spanish American War • World War I • World War II • Korea
Vietnam • Gulf War



A NATIONAL POW MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM

Heroic Americans who have been prisoners of war have faced deprivation, disease and death throughout our nation's history...from the dreaded prison ships of the Revolutionary War to the harsh, neglected Civil War prisons of both North and South...from cruel and barbaric conditions of captivity during World War II, Korea and Vietnam, to recent conflicts in the Persian Gulf and Somalia.

At long last, this often forgotten group of brave men and women will be honored with a new museum at the Andersonville National Historic Site in Georgia, a place designated by Congress in 1970 as a memorial to all American POWs of all wars.

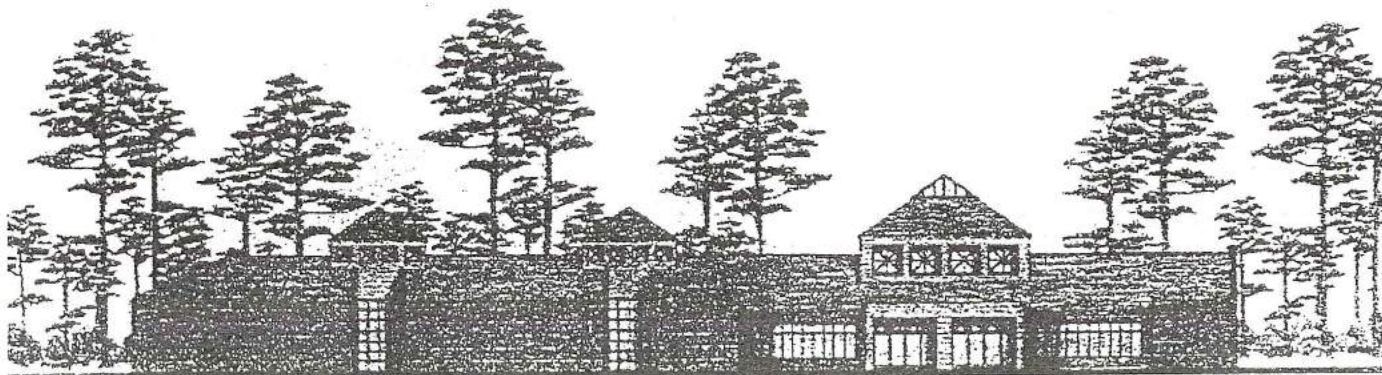
Scheduled to open in the spring of 1998, the museum will serve as an inspiring reminder to this and future generations of the sacrifices made by so many in defense of liberty and freedom.

The new museum is being funded partly through contributions from thousands of former POWs and support from foundations, corporations and the State of Georgia. It also has the enthusiastic support of our living former Presidents and the Honorary Trustees--former Senator Sam Nunn, former Attorney General Griffin Bell, Colin Powell and Newt Gingrich.

The Andersonville Trust, an endowment established by former POWs and a non-profit volunteer group, is seeking additional contributions to meet its original fund-raising goal for the new POW museum. Fully tax deductible contributions can be sent to the Andersonville Trust or you may request further information.

Phone: 229-924-0343

Fax: 229-928-9640



457TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

New ☐

Renewal ☐

Address Change ☐

Fireballer? ☐ or Relative? ☐ relationship _____ Other ☐ _____

Name _____ Nickname _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Phone _____ Squadron # _____ Rank _____

Dates Assigned _____ Duties _____

Plane Names and # _____ Pilot's Name _____

POW?/Evadee?...Date of capture/escape/release: _____

Retired? _____ Rank? _____ Birthdate _____

DUES INFORMATION:

Annual Dues: \$25 for 2 years

-or-

Life Dues:

Under 60 years of age:	\$110.00
61-65 years of age:	\$90.00
66-70 years of age:	\$75.00
71 + years of age:	\$60.00

Make checks payable to: 457th BG Association

Mail top of this form and check to:

John Pearson, Treasurer
457th Bomb Group Association
1900 Lauderdale Drive, C-315
Richmond, VA 23233

Your canceled check is your receipt.

BRITISH FRIENDS OF THE USAAF 457TH BOMB GROUP (H)

The Monument we have unveiled today has been wholly paid for by the Veterans of the 457th Bomb Group Association and friends. However, there will be some ongoing expenses to raise, for example a yearly Insurance premium and various upkeep expenses.

To cover these, we are setting up a group called the British Friends of the USAAF 457th Bomb Group (H)., and invite you to join us. The subscription is £10 per year. This will ensure that the monument is kept in pristine condition. We also hope, depending upon numbers who respond to this letter, to hold a social event and possible other events during the course of the year, and publish some form of newsletter on perhaps a six monthly basis.

If you are interested in joining us, will you please complete the form below and return it to me,

Ray Pobgee MBE DL, 23, Eastern Avenue, Peterborough. PE1 4PH.
Telephone: 01733 340282
Fax: 01733 751023
E-mail: raypobgee@aol.com

Many thanks.

BRITISH FRIENDS OF THE USAAF 457TH BOMB GROUP (H)

I am interested in joining the above group.

I enclose my cheque for £10 made payable to The 457th Bomb Group Association

Name _____
(in block capitals, please)

Address _____

Telephone No: _____

The following was received from James R. "Bob" Day...

"I want to take this opportunity to relate to you and some of our membership who might not have attended the WWII memorial dedication in Washington D.C. May 27-31. The feeling in that town was exhilarating. World War II veterans ruled supreme. Maybe the 60 year delay in paying the tribute had something to do with it. I have to relate a few personal experiences and am wondering if other veterans had similar experiences as I did.

On Nov. 11, 2000, as an Illinois funeral director and also charter member of the WWII Veterans Committee, our funeral homes in Sandoval, Carlyle and Patoka Il., paid a ten dollar fee for every WWII veteran we had served since I started in business in 1949. We contributed over \$6600 to the committee. The nationwide event of the National Funeral Directors Association realized over \$2,000,000 for the construction of the memorial, placing them in a category immediately ahead of the VFW on the contributors list.

Thursday, May 27th, walking hand in hand with my wife on the grassy mall taking the list of over 600 veterans to make sure their records were reported for historical purposes, a beautiful tall lady came up to me, embraced me with a big hug and a kiss on the cheek, and said "Thank You". And this was just the start. On Friday when we were purchasing our Metro tickets at Springfield VA station, a young lady said to me, "Are you a WWII veteran?"

I said I was and she presented me with three daily passes to ride the Metro which were worth \$15.00 for my wife, myself and my sister-in-law. We attended the MCI show, a super spectacular show with a cast of over 550 people, reenacting WWII, from Pearl Harbor till the treaties were signed. Then the Army band entertained us with a lot of Glenn Miller music which brought back such good memories. Then the Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force and Coast Guard bands and marching units entertained us. What a show!

Saturday morning's dedication found us in our seats at 10:00 AM about 250 yards west of the Washington Monument. A young man in his early 30's came to my seat, thanked me for being a veteran, wanted me to autograph his memory book with many others he had already secured. The WWII memorial was closed until 7:00 PM that day due to the size of the crowd for the dedication. We visited the WWII memorial on Memorial Day, May 31, 2004 at 7:00 PM. My only identification as a veteran was a baseball cap that had a B-17 in flight on the front of the crown and a WWII pin. The hat had come from Castle Air Base Museum in Atwater, CA. I was overwhelmed with kindness by everyone I met. With my wife on my left saying that we have to move on and someone else on the other hand thanking me or asking question, we made it entirely around the beautiful memorial at last.

Of all the many people I talked to, I have to relate one person's story. He really needed closure.

'On his bombing mission, they received a lot of damage to the aircraft, lost their formation and were struggling to get back to base over the North Sea. He misread the commanders orders and he and 2 other crewmen bailed out. The other 2 bodies were never recovered and no funerals held. He had to tell me the story since he knew I had flown in B-17s.'

Sunday, we attended church in Springfield VA. During the service, all WWII veterans were especially recognized.

In departing the area where the tribute to the greatest generation was held, our Southwest Airline going from Washington D.C. to St. Louis was on...

Concourse B--Gate 17!"

* * *

A wonderful 80 minute VHS video of the May 30, 2004 457th Bomb Group Memorial Service and dedication of the Glatton Monument is now available. Also included in the video is the memorial service at Madingly in England, and the 457th banquet for the mini-reunion. The cost is \$50 U.S. which includes postage from England. Mail your order to:

J. Walker
Abbey Croft Cottage
21 Ravensden Rd.
Renhold
Bedford MK 41 0J2
ENGLAND

* * *

Secretary's Station 130

* * *

You will quickly notice that this edition of the newsletter is missing some very important parts...namely lists of New Members, those Deceased since last newsletter, etc. A very short update will be mailed out before the end of 2004.

* * *

Since the retirement of our Webmaster, Willard "Hap" Reese, we have been most fortunate to find an awesome replacement.. James Derk. We will introduce you to James in the next newsletter.

As we approach the end of 2004, please check to see if your dues are going to be due by December 31. On your mailing label, there is a year listed...your dues will expire on December 31 of that date. If that's you, please mail your dues payment to John Pearson. There is an application included in this newsletter.

* * *

THE EDITOR'S FLIGHT

The typographical error is a slippery thing and sly; you can hunt it 'til you're dizzy, but somehow it will get by. 'Til the pages are off the press, it is strange how still it sleeps; it shrinks down in a corner, and it never stirs or peeps.

That typographical error is too small for human eyes, 'til the ink is on the paper, when it grows to mountain size.

On July 15, 2004, 3 of our members signed up to take a flight on a B-17...Don Sellon, Joe Toth, and me, Joe's daughter, Nancy Henrich. Colorado Springs was the site of this memorable occasion, my first and Joe and Don's...well, lots more than that. I believe Don said this was his first since the war and Joe had had this opportunity once before with his son, Jerry.

When Dad and I arrived at the Colorado Springs airport, we found Don and his wife, Jeanne, already there and registered for his flight. Jeanne told me that during the weeks waiting for this day, Don had shared the upcoming event with everyone he talked to, and often with the emotions of someone who had done this for real many years ago. Dad and I had talked about this, too, and I was just as excited as Dad and Don. Dad's excitement was in getting to see me do something I had so hoped to be able to do some day. What a thrill for all 3 of us.



Before our flight was called, we had a chance to tour around the plane. Dad and Don had several discussions of various things. They really talked the plane over!

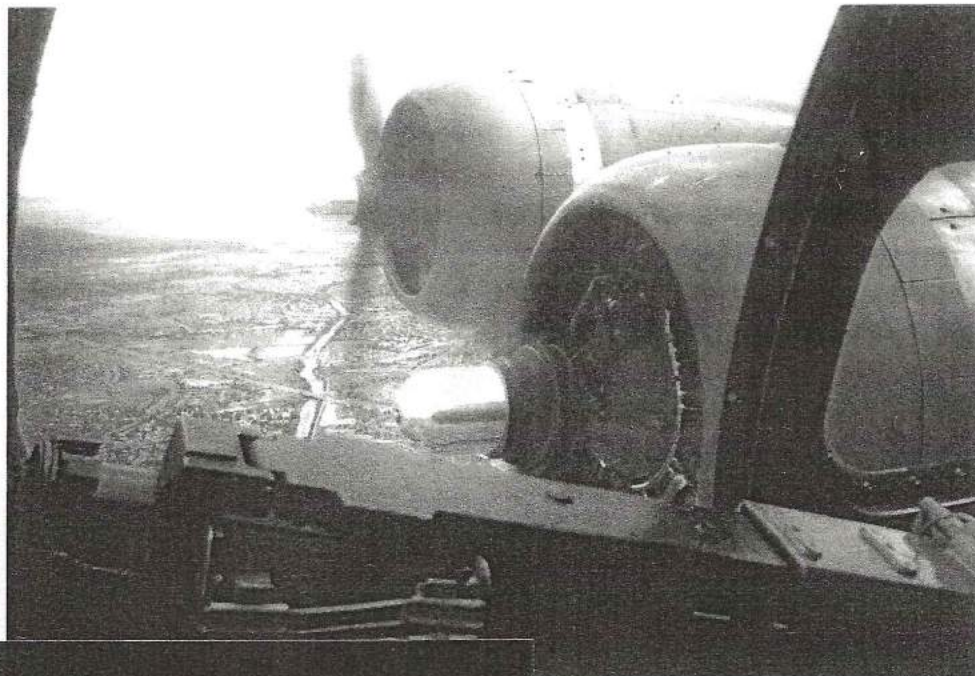


Several busloads of cadets from the Air Force Academy were on hand to look the Fortress over and talk to the Veterans. I wish I had had a tape recorder to get a record of their reactions to seeing this plane. They seemed to be absolutely amazed and had lots of questions. I pointed out to them that my Dad had flown in the tail section of a plane just like this during World War II and that he was their age at the time. More than one of them shook his hand with the words, "Thank you, Sir." It was such an honor to hear my Dad spoken to like this by these 'kids'.



When it was time for our flight, I looked a little confused about how I was supposed to get up in this plane with no steps. It quickly became apparent that I was to 'hoist' myself up. Yeah, right! My only hope was that my 'bottom' would follow my 'hoist'!!! We were given our instructions by the flight officer. He said we could wander around the plane after take-off but were to stay seated during take-off and landing. Don and Dad got me in trouble and hollared at when they assured me it was okay to stand up and take pictures of the tail section. Thanks guys!

From the nose. What a sight it must have been during a bomb run to sit in that section. I can't even begin to imagine what was going through the minds and hearts of bomber crews during a mission.



I just couldn't resist clowning for the camera. I'm including it here because Dad loves this picture and promised me no one would be offended.

Notice Falcon Stadium at the Air Force Academy ...left of center.





The Prez Sez...

Wow, what a satisfying time to be a member of the 457th Bomb Group Association. After years of talking about it, we finally have a wonderful memorial monument at the entry to our old Glatton base at the village of Connington, England. A wonderful dedication ceremony was held on May 30 at the site. We expected 50 to perhaps as many as 100 people to attend the ceremony, but we were dumfounded when an estimated 600 folks showed up. Some were notables like the Lord Lt. of Cambridgeshire, (the Queen's representative) Mr. Hugh Duberly and his wife, Mrs. Sally Duberly as well as the Mayor of Peterborough, Cllr David Raines and his wife, Mayoress Mrs. Carole Raines. Also in attendance were Officers from the U.S. Air Force and RAF. The fly-past of WWII RAF planes, a Lancaster, Spitfire and Hurricane brought much attention. All of this was possible by the hard work of Will Fluman as well as much help from our English friend, Mr. Ray Pobgee. Ray handed out applications for people to join the "British Friends of the USAAF 457th Bomb Group (H)" and, to date, over 50 people have joined. The income from this group should pay for the insurance and upkeep of the monument. One other bit of good news, it appears that contributions by all of you are going to cover the monument cost. We can thank Nancy Henrich for her letter to you requesting more donations when things looked a little bleak.

Following the dedication, we all went to the Connington home of Mr. Tim Newell and his wife Angela for a tea. The weather was wonderful so it was held in the Newell's back yard. The tea itself, including all the snacks were furnished and prepared by the Connington villagers. The Village sign now includes a B-17.

The new Conington Village sign.



The mini-reunion was so well attended this year, that it took 2 buses to get everyone to the various functions. And, again, we can thank Will Fluman and our English friends, Gordon Townsend and his friends for organizing the mini-reunion. It all went on without a hitch. The memorial service at Madingly was also very moving, being the 60th anniversary of our tour in England. It ended with a bagpiper playing "Amazing Grace" which got me all choked up. And, the flypast of the B-17 brought back a lot of memories. It looked like the pilot was having a ball with so many fly-pasts.

I am amazed at all this recent interest in WWII history, both here and in England. After the monument dedication, several Englishmen sought our autographs and many just wanted to shake our hands. I recently attended a ceremony dedicating the refurbishing of the tower at Thunderbird School of International Management which was formerly the Thunderbird Primary training base in WWII. Many students asked questions about the war, my experiences, etc. And, when they had a ribbon cutting ceremony dedicating the old tower, they asked me to do the cutting.

On the bad news - good news front, we were all sorry to receive Willard Reese's resignation as Webmaster of our website and producer of our CD Rom. Both have been excellent and the website gets many "hits" from around the world. But, we can thank Alan Morton for making the first contact with James Derk, a nephew of George Derzinski, a former 457th P.O.W. James is our new webmaster and he is well qualified. I know he will provide the same high quality standards created by Willard Reese.

I thank all of you for making these successes possible.

——Don Nielsen



B-17 flypast...Memorial Service...Madingly

Here's that picture that got me in so much trouble.



If any of you, veterans or second/third generation folk ever have a chance to experience a day like this, don't ever pass it up. It is expensive...but worth so much more than money could ever buy. It's like that Master Card commercial on TV that says \$10 for a game program, \$20 for snacks, \$100 for tickets, and seeing the look on your son's face when you catch the homerun ball...priceless. Well, that's what this was for Dad and me...PRICELESS. I'm quite certain Don Sellon feels the exact same way.

***Thank You to all
our Veterans for
your willingness
to sacrifice so
much preserving
our many freedoms.***

***From a grateful Nation which
includes your wives, children,
grandchildren, families and friends.***



40 PX.....PX.....PX.....PX.....PX.....PX.....PX.....PX.....PX.....PX..

ITEMS					PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL AMT.
Cloisonné	Enamel	457 BG Tac Pin		\$5.50 ea	1	
457th	Group	Patch		\$5.50 ea	1	
748th	Squadron	Patch.....			\$5.50 ea		
749th	Squadron	Patch.....			\$5.50 ea		
750th	Squadron	Patch.....			\$5.50 ea		
751st	Squadron	Patch.....			\$5.50 ea		
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PENS-Air Force Blue with gold trim-black ink.....					\$5.00 ea	1	
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ALSO AVAILABLE NOW:

BG Roster.....U.S.	\$18.00		
Canada	\$20.50		
Overseas	\$26.00		
457th License Plate Holder.....	\$10.00	1	
8 x 10 color photographs of our chapel window at the 8th AF Museum in Savannah.....	\$10.00		

TOTAL COST OF ITEMS ORDERED: ** _____ **
PLUS POSTAGE: \$4.00
TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: "457TH BG PX"

Mail order and check to...JOE TOTH...449 Sunset Lane....Pueblo, CO 81005

Your Name _____
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THE 457TH BOMB GROUP

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TEL: 44 1487 773493

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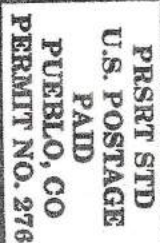
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1973-75 -- WILLIAM WILBORN.....OK
1976 -- HOWARD LARSEN (D)....KS
1977-79 -- WILLIAM SILER.....NM
1980-81 -- EDWARD REPPA.....AZ
1982-83 -- DANIEL GRAHAM (D)....IN

1984 -- WILLIAM GOOD (D).....KS
1985 -- DAVE SUMMERVILLE.....CA
1986-87 -- CLAYTON BEJOT.....NE
1988-89 -- DONALD SELLON.....CO
1990-91 -- JOHN WELCH.....SD

1992-93 -- ROLAND BYERS.....ID
1993-97 -- BILLY HIGHTOWER (D)...TX
1997-99 -- LEON ZIMMERMAN.....MI
1999-01 -- CRAIG HARRIS.....NC
2001-03 -- WILL FLUMAN.....PA

457th Bomb Group Association
453 Sunset Lane
Pueblo, CO 81005-1140



Strange and fascinating facts

from a book entitled:
World War II 4,139 Strange and Fascinating Facts
by Don McCombs and Fred L. Worth

Atlantic Wall:

Defensive barrier built by the Germans that ran along the coast of the continent of Europe. It was designed personally by Hitler and was constructed by the Todt Organization with over eighteen million tons of concrete. Nazi propaganda touted it as impregnable but the D-Day invasion of June 6, 1944, proved that there were weak spots.

Baker Street Irregulars:

Nickname given to a group of British intellectuals who were responsible for breaking the German codes that were sent via the Enigma enciphering machine.

Bambi:

Animated Walt Disney movie released in 1942. It was the last movie Disney made before turning his studios over to the war effort.

Mark Twain

Name given to a bomb sight devised by Captain Charles R. Greening for the Doolittle Raid on Tokyo on April 18, 1942. Something was needed to replace the Norden bomb sight, which was not for low-level missions and which they also did not carry for fear it might fall into the hands of the Japanese. The Mark Twain was made from 20 cents worth of metal and proved to be surprisingly accurate.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Ed S. Jackson.....LM
680 Edgewater Trail
Atlanta, GA 30708