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**FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVENTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY) ASSOCIATION, LTD.****IRC Section 501 © (19) EIN: 39-1592334**Editor/Pub: Ralph Davis, 1143 Kenora Cir., Beavercreek, OH 45430/Phone(937) 426-2988/Fax 426-9955/E-Mail: [BJMax@aol.com](mailto:BJMax@aol.com)**TOLL FREE NUMBER - 1-877-882-7235** - Report Change of Address, Last Post; and short deadline news itemsWebmaster: Bob Davis, 1654 Flesher Ave., Kettering, OH 45420 -Phone (937) 258-0368 / Fax 254-0610 / E-Mail: [bobdavis@erinet.com](mailto:bobdavis@erinet.com)467th Home Page: [www.siscom.net/~467thbg](http://www.siscom.net/~467thbg) - Andy Wilkinson 467th Picture Page: [www.usaaf467th.org.uk/](http://www.usaaf467th.org.uk/)Fred Holdrege 790th Home Page: <http://fred790.tripod.com/welcome.html>**Hon. Chairman of the Board**Col. Albert J. Shower  
21320 McConnell Ave,  
Riverside, CA 29518  
Phone: (909) 697-2543**President/Treasurer**Marvin Ralph Davis  
1143 Kenora Circle  
Beavercreek, OH 45430  
Phone: (937) 426-2988**Vice-President**Paul V. Hatten  
4209 Ormston Circle  
Rock Hill, SC 19732  
Phone: (803) 980-6529**Secretary**William P. McGovern  
929 N. Astor St., #901  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 276-8332**2ADA Vice-President**Geoff Gregory  
3110 Sheridan Drive  
Garland, TX 75041  
(972) 278-8537

<u>Directors</u>	<u>Term Remaining</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>City &amp; State</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
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3 year	2 years	Paul V. Hatten	4209 Ormston Circle	Rock Hill, SC 19732	(803) 980-6529
3 year	1 year	Anthony V. Bell	853 Jordanolo Dr.	Ripon, CA 95366	(209) 599-3066

# Col. Shower Dies!

It is with sincere regret that I must notify the members, associates and friends of the 467<sup>th</sup> that we have lost our beloved commander. Col. Albert J. Shower passed away on October 15, 2001 at 1830 hours with his wife, Charlotte and his son Jay at his side. He was 91 years young. The Colonel was born and raised in Madison Wisconsin. From there he received an appointment to the US Military Academy at West Point from which he graduated with honors in 1935. Upon retirement, some 30 years later, he worked at General Motors where he inspected parts for the Apollo Spacecraft. He then became a Real Estate broker and then moved to Air Force Village in Riverside California some 15 years ago. As you all know, Colonel Shower was very active in various honor societies, veteran groups and community organizations. A list would

include The American Legion, Independent Order of Foresters, International B-24 Liberator Club, West Point Society of the Inland Empire, B-17 Combat Crewman and Wingmen, Second Air Division Association, 467<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Heavy) Association, Ltd., Veterans of Foreign Wars, Norfolk Military Vehicle Group (Honorary Member) at Norwich, England, Knights of Columbus, TROA, Order of Doedalions, Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, and the Distinguished Flying Cross Society. Colonel Shower is survived by his loving wife Charlotte, son Albert Joseph (Jay) Shower Jr., two daughters Katherine Tittman and Holly Rusinak, sister, Esther Touchen, eight Grandchildren and thirteen Great-Grandchildren. A Rosary was said on Friday, October 26 at 1930 hours in the Chapel at Air Force Village West. A memorial service was held in the Convocation Room of the Air Force





**Col. Shower requested this picture for his obituary**

Village West on Saturday, October 27 at 1500 hours. Colonel Shower wanted so dearly to make the November trip to England. It was only a short period prior to the trip that Charlotte had to cancel his plans. However, his son Jay went in place of him and Jay very commendable filled in on specific functions where the Colonel would have performed. Colonel Albert J. Shower was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery at 1030 hours in Grave Number: 2225-A, Section 3, on McKinley Drive on November 16 in the year of our Lord 2001. The 467<sup>th</sup> had representation at all functions and sent a red and white carnation B-24 shape tail to the memorial service and a living planter with red and white cut carnations to the funeral.

**EDITORS NOTE:**

It is difficult for me to believe that this fine gentleman is no longer with us. He had so much vitality and was a ready participant in any venture. The words that I used, "beloved Commander" is true. However, 57 years ago at this time, I am not sure I would have spoken the same. During combat he never let us relax. If you weren't flying a combat mission, then you were flying a practice mission. If the weather was too bad for either, then you were in ground school. He always kept us busy. His perfection to formation flying was one of his prime objectives. We were taught to tuck it in and I have heard comments from my crew that the lead crew, when I flew #3 position, use to say they could serve coffee off of my

wing tip. Returning to the base was always interesting. He wanted tight turns; I believe he thought we could do in a B-24 what he could do in the P-47. I remember cutting out two aircraft in my approach to landing and the one I cut out near final was close to me and had a rather rough landing. The Colonel visited them, not me, but I heard about it in the Officers Club that evening. He truly encouraged sharp and tight flying. This exceptional leadership is the reason that we had fewer casualties and many more of us came home than from other groups. The fighters by-passed us on many occasions to get to the more loosely flown formations. I believe that many of the traits and positive aggressiveness that I developed after the war was a direct result of the influence of Colonel Shower. I went back to college got my BSME and ME degrees, served two years during the Korean War as an Air Force test pilot at North American Aviation Co., earned my Masters in Industrial Engineering and my Doctorate in Management. The Colonel at the most recent conventions would come up to me and say how much he appreciated what I was doing for the group. He never seemed to realize what he did over all of these years for the group could never be repeated by any one of us and my deepest regret is that I never took the time to say to him, "Thank you Colonel Shower for all the things you did for me that will last a lifetime".



**Col. Shower with some of his Grandchildren**

**A MEMORIAL POEM**

The sincere feeling of Colonel Shower's family was best expressed in a poem that was sent to me as part of

the Memorial Service at Air force Village West in  
Riverside, California.

**In our hearts and in our minds  
You shall always be  
The hero we always knew you were  
And we will miss you dearly  
We'll do our best to make you proud  
To make you see in time  
We are honored to carry on  
The legacy you left behind**

With Love,

Your Wife, Charlotte  
Your Sister, Esther  
Your Children, Katherine, Jay & Holly  
Your Grandchildren,  
Snowden, Brenden, Christine, Heidi,  
Stephanie, Raymond, Monica & Brian  
Your Great-Grandchildren,  
Matthew, Franz, Katherine, Peter,  
Bernard, Kayla, Maximilion, Tyler, Briget,  
Analise, Marie, Bernadette & Ernest

### **A Beautiful Fall Day**

The following ode was written by Mary Ford, Jay Shower's friend, at Arlington Cemetery on the afternoon of the burial of Col. Albert J. Shower, 16 November 2001.

It is a beautiful fall day.  
There is a breeze  
That causes the fallen Oak and Maple leaves  
To dance along the grass,  
Skipping to the unheard rhythm of the Universe.

Today is a beautiful fall day  
To be buried and remembered.  
Today my family and friends  
Have come together to bid me farewell.  
I was old and aching,  
Too frail to serve the world any longer  
In a manner to my liking.  
I left them behind,  
But they need not weep for me,  
For I belong to a larger, more renowned  
Group of flyers now.

It is a warm, beautiful fall day. A peaceful day.  
A day that is signaling the passing  
Of one season to another:  
A force over which we have no control.

It is a beautiful day  
And the trees are full of color  
As far as one can see,  
Even into the mist in the valleys

And down hillsides  
Where the afternoon sun warms the earth  
And draws the last of the color from fallen leaves.

Leaves that now fall upon  
And dance over my resting-place,  
Where I now lay peacefully  
Among my peers and comrades.

Nearby, there are some towering Maple trees  
And a large red Oak  
To guard over me.  
In them now, my great grand children climb,  
And their laughter  
Drifts up and between the leaves of red and gold.

My life has been spent and I am content.  
So be like the children and enjoy life,  
For all too soon another fall will come  
And the children will be remembering you  
On a day such as this.

Today is a beautiful fall day:  
Warm and colorful.  
It is a perfect day.  
A perfect day to be surrounded  
by the warmth of God.

Love, Jay & Mary

### **COLONEL SHOWER LIVING MEMORIAL**

The 467<sup>th</sup> is establishing a living memorial to Colonel Albert J. Shower, our Commander, and we are accepting donations for this effort. Please make your checks out to the 467<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group and in the memo portion of the check, please write Col. Shower Memorial. These checks should be mailed to the 467<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group at 1143 Kenora Circle, Beavercreek, Ohio 45430-1101. Depending on the amount received, we plan to have such a Living Memorial at both the Second Air Division memorial Library and the Eighth Air Force heritage Museum. The Colonel should be fondly remembered at both these fine institutions.

(Colonel Shower's funeral service with pictures is on page 11 of this issue)

### **FROM THE PREZ**

#### **NORWICH CONVENTION – Ralph Davis**

The trip over was uneventful and we arrived in London around 0915 the next morning. We had transportation problems and finally got on the bus at 1400 hours. Traffic was terrific with a lot of construction and we arrived at the Nelson Hotel at 2030. A longer trip to Norwich than Detroit to London.

#### **SATURDAY – NOVEMBER 3**

Twenty-two members went to Barsham to view the memorial made by the community to Lt. Reid's crew. On the night of the intruders, April 24 1944, Denis Sporle as a young lad witnessed the crash. Six perished with the aircraft, four bailed out and one parachute did not deploy.

Of the three survivors, two later perished with other crews. Denis as a boy use to put flowers at the site and as he grew older, he became more and more interested in having a memorial to the crew. In April of 1999 it was completed and Mervin Shank, the lone survivor of the crew, and his wife attended the dedication. Our Group took this opportunity to present Certificates of Appreciation to two members of the community who had done much of the physical work on the memorial, Huby Fairhead and Gordon Honeywood and to Denis Sporle for his dedication. Jay Shower placed a wreath at the memorial in memory and performed this act in place of his father, Colonel Shower, who so very much wanted to be at this convention, but the Lord had another mission for him to perform. A plaque was given to Mr. Neville Smith, Chairman of the Parish Council for the Villages of Barsham and Shipmeadow recognizing their efforts in the memorial. Perry & Jill Watts provided a snack lunch serviced by community ladies and then we returned to the hotels.

#### **SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 4**

The 2ADA Business meeting was held at the Hilton Hotel. All members were designated delegates to the convention. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Division Association is covered for tax purposes under IRC Section 501 c (19), EIN 25-1227743. There was a tour of Blicking Hall for those who selected the tour. A buffet dinner was held at the Hilton Hotel for family members of all ages to meet each other, the Heritage League members and Friends of the 2ADA. This was a most interesting evening. David Hastings presented his slide show of the trip to England on Diamond Lil, the Confederate Air Force B-24. Many young members of the various local support organizations were present and spoke to the crowd. The buffet dinner was very good and everyone really enjoyed himself or herself.

#### **MONDAY – NOVEMBER 5**

There were three for this morning. Buses took everyone to Madingly Cemetery where a short memorial service was held. Walter J. Mundy, the new President of the Second Air division laid a wreath at the base of the monument. The ceremony was cut short due to traffic problems in transit. It is difficult to say that the cemetery is beautiful when the white crosses represent so many fallen comrades of America. From here we had one group going to Duxford Museum with lunch at the Officer's Club and two groups going to Chilford Hall for lunch with then part of them went to Wyndham College while the balance of the group went straight back to the hotel. Doris and I went to Duxford. It was most interesting as we got to see the B-24 from Lackland. They had it completely disassembled and were giving it a good going over to get rid of the corrosion. I shall put some of the pictures I took there on the Web Page.

#### **TUESDAY – NOVEMBER 6**

Two trips were planned for today, one was a tour of Wroxham Barn and Arts Craft Center and the other was the boat tour of the Norfolk Broads. Doris and I did the boat trip and it was a very pleasant tour around the Broads. We had lunch at one of the local restaurants, which was a most pleasant event. The evening was our

Civic Reception and buffet dinner following the awards ceremony of the "FREEDOM OF THE CITY" to the Second Air Division Association. This event was held in the St. Andrews Hall. Nick Le Neve Walmsley played music at the organ and the Norwich City Concert Band brass ensemble. It began with the seating of the 2ADA members and the memorial trust governors. This was an award of the highest order. Norwich Lord Mayor Keith Ratcliffe handed over the scroll paying tribute to the continuing bond between the American airmen and the people of Norwich. He said there were reasons why the American airmen had such a special place in the hearts of so many local people. "Firstly, it is for their courage, determination and skill in the way they defended us. Secondly, for their sacrifice – they risked everything, their lives, their youth and their futures. Thirdly, it was for their company. There was an initial culture shock, after all everyone said they were over-paid, over-sexed and over-here," he laughed. "But they won over Norfolk hearts and a strong bond formed between them with the older generation, who looked upon them as sons, between their own generation and between them and the children, who they spoilt whenever they could with parties, candy and gum." Jordan Uttal, Honorary President of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Division Association accepted the Freedom of the City with this comment: "We came back in June 1963 just after the memorial library was finally completed. We were treated royally. We have been back several times since and we get goose bumps when people say to us "welcome home". Be sure we look upon you as part of our extended family. We thank you for being in our lives and we wish you the best." It was an impressive ceremony and in the true British style.

#### **WEDNESDAY – NOVEMBER 7**

The Memorial Library opening ceremony at the Forum was the day we were waiting for and the major purpose of our visit, the opening and dedication of the new Memorial Library. It all started with the memorial service of thanksgiving and remembrance in the cathedral. There was a procession of church and civic dignitaries and the Band of the Dragoon Guards. It was a most effective and impressive celebration. Members of the 2nd Air Division Association escorted the Standards and the Roll of Honour. The Rt. Rev Graham James, the Bishop of Norwich, remarked in his address that when this celebration was planned no one had any idea that American and British forces would be allies again in conflict. The music in the cathedral was overpowering. Several said they had not witnessed such performance before. In true British custom, the drizzle and low clouds came in. The fly past was scheduled for around noon and it was hoped that things would clear up to allow it. By 11:00 there were around 800 of us under the vaulting roof of the Forum. The new 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Division USSAF Memorial Library, the only one in the world, is twice as large as its predecessor and significantly more impressive. The formal procession started at 12:00 noon from the West Door of St. Peter Mancroft Church, exactly as in 1963. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Air division Association members lined the route facing the Guard of Honour provided by the Royal Air Force Coltishall and the USAF Mildenhall in our honour.

At 12:05pm, after music by the Royal Air Force Regiment and a review of the Guard of Honour, the Royal Air Force and the USAF provided a Fly-Past with two Jaguars from Coltishall and a Tanker from the USAF at Mildenhall. Paul King, Chairman of the Memorial Trust said that the British regard 100 miles as a long way, and Americans regard a 100 years as a long time. He stated that at looking at these men taking their final bow in a country many regard as their second home, the thought occurs that their life span represents more than a quarter of their nations history. In a message from the Queen delivered by the Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk, Sir Timothy Colman, Her Majesty said "All of us will remember with everlasting gratitude their bravery and sacrifice in the defense of freedom during this country's hour of need. I hope that their entire visit to Norfolk will be a happy one strengthening still further the unique bond of friendship between our two countries." Major General Kenneth Hess, Commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Air force, based at Mildenhall, took the place of the US Ambassador, William S. Farish, who was unable to attend because of diplomatic duties, delivered a message from President George W. Bush. President Bush reiterated the words of President John F. Kennedy on the occasion of the dedication of the first memorial Library nearly 40 years ago: "They gave their lives in the defense of free men everywhere." General Hess and Sir Timothy Colman performed the opening ceremony. General Hess was a very good substitute as his father had flown B-24s out of Hethel. One of the striking features of the new Memorial Library is a 28ft mural depicting aspects of "The Friendly Invasion". Within it is a photograph of three members of the Women's Army Corps, one of them, dressed in a tin hat and pushing a fire bowser was our own 2<sup>nd</sup> AD VP Evelyn Cohen. This trip was looked upon as a "pilgrimage and a homecoming" by many in attendance. In the street in Norwich a billboard said: "Norwich Honours Wartime Heroes." And it was stated "did and does, the torch still flames."

The Matthews Norfolk Brass played for the evening banquet at the Norwich Sport Village. There were around 800 people in attendance. Jordan R. Uttal, Honorary President of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ADA, was the Master of Ceremonies. He did an excellent job as always. One of the premier functions is the presentation of the Eight Candles of Remembrance. Brian H. Mahoney was the participant representing the 467<sup>th</sup> and his father, James J. Mahoney. The dinner was very good and the service was excellent. During the evening, Chairman of the memorial Trust, Mr. Paul King was presented with checks totaling \$200,000 (140,000 pounds). This is a good start towards the completion of the 500,000-pound goal to support the library. Buses returned to the hotels starting at 9:45pm. (It started raining again)

#### **THURSDAY – NOVEMBER 8**

This was Base Day for each Group. Because of our size, we had two buses. Our members were located at four hotels and we scheduled departure at 9:00am with a return around 9:00pm. It was a long, but most memorable day. Visiting all the old sights, lunch at the

Green Man and dinner at the Salhouse Lodge. The day could not have gone as it did without the very excellent planning and preparation on the parts of Jean and David Hastings and Jill and Perry Watts. We will always be in their debt for such a most reminiscent day to end all days. Once on our way, our first stop was a visit to the Rackheath Community Center for coffee or tea and biscuits. The Chairman of the Rackheath Parish Council made a welcome address. Geoff Gregory and myself had a few words in response and then we departed for the Salhouse Church for a memorial service. Geoff Gregory read a lesson Reverend Gordon Howells presided, and the Royal Air Force Neatishead provided a wreath party in tribute to the 467<sup>th</sup>. We then departed for the Green Man Inn for lunch where for once we had all the 467<sup>th</sup> together in one mass with friends and relatives. Soup and sandwich was excellent. About this time the weather started to look rather nasty as we departed the Green man for our one of a kind marker and it eliminated any possible chance of a fly-past that was arranged by David Hastings. Our base tour, after leaving the marker, included "All Saints Church", the remaining portions of the runway, the restored T2 Hanger, former de-briefing building, Control Tower, The Golden Gates and Rackheath Hall. We also drove back to the residence of Air Vice Marshall John Howe to view his home and live stock of sheep. We then departed for the Rackheath Community Center for tea or coffee and a chat with the locals. I will never be able to write the total feeling of friendship shown by all the British people throughout our stay in England. We truly seemed to be a part of their everyday functions and were made to feel at home. We then departed for the Salhouse Lodge where we had our dinner and presentations. The meal was fantastic. They gave us a choice of four selections for the main menu. The rule of the day was, "order from the list". The service was exceptional and everyone enjoyed each other's company. Guests of the 467<sup>th</sup> were; Jean, David & Roger Hastings; Jill & Perry Watts; June & Edward Trafford; Sarah & Roger Lomax; Betty & Les Willis; Shelia & John Oakley; Annabelle & John Howe; Denis Sporle; and Andy Wilkinson. It was our one last "Harrah" to so many friends that we have treasured through out the years. David Hastings and Perry Watts were recognized for their outstanding work on preparing such a fine Group Day and were presented a plaque from the 467<sup>th</sup>. Then we departed for our hotels. The last day, Group Day, England showed us the typical weather I remember when I was there in November. It started out with rain and then through the day we saw snow, sleet and hail. Walking out of the Salhouse Lodge, we had about 1/2 to 3/4 inches of slush. But then Friday as we went to London, the sun came out. In all the weather was very good for November. We had sunshine everyday except for Group Day and the banquet on Wednesday. The Second Air Division says they will not make another trip to England. If the spirit moves us in the 467<sup>th</sup>, maybe we can make a trip on our own if enough members, family and friends want to make the trip. Think it over, I know some are getting up there in age, but Colonel Shower was 91 and it took the grim reaper to stop him from going. It is truly a

deep regret of mine that he did not get to make the trip. Somehow through out the stay, I believed he was enjoying it with us.

#### **FRIDAY – NOVEMBER 9**

The trip for some started at 2:45am for some. We had sunshine for our departure and truly welcomed the good weather we had most all of our stay. The local newspaper has a web site, which covered the trip and said their farewell to the group on departure. The site is [www.edp24.co.uk/Content/Features/usaaf/asp/USAAFdefault.asp](http://www.edp24.co.uk/Content/Features/usaaf/asp/USAAFdefault.asp). They have an interesting article on the Witchcraft; however, Perry Watts had a little problem with it and highlighted some of the errors, which I will put in later and on the Web Page.

#### **CONVENTION 2002**

The plans have been completed. The Registration Forms for the convention and the motel are included in this issue. I am still working the cost, but at the present it appears that \$225 per person will be about right with the motel at \$60.50 for one or two persons. The only trips planned will be transportation to and from the Heritage Museum on Friday and trips to the Museum and then to the City Market and River Street and back to Museum and motel. City Market is a restored warehouse. A variety of shops, Galleries and eating and drinking establishments. The outdoor sidewalk cafes of City Market lend a bit of Old World charm to Savannah. Market Street is your access to the Octoberfest in Savannah with many various stores crafts and eating places. Representatives will be at the motel Thursday and Friday morning to schedule special tours such as: Ghost Tour, Island Tour, Shopping Tour, Book Tour and Dauphine Tour. They may have others, as they become available. We will have the large three-section hospitality space, which will afford itself to good conversation, reviews of memorabilia, snacks and drinks. Lunch will be available at the motel for those who wish to eat at the motel.

#### **CONVENTION 2003**

During the Group Day dinner in England, I took the opportunity to ask those in attendance, their view of what of three cities they would select as a site for 2003. The vote turned out to be; one for Oklahoma City; 12 for Dayton; and 22 for San Antonio. It appears that we are going **TEXAS** style for 2003. Hope your happy Geoff. Paul Hatten's brother lives there and will help. Also, a young lady, Linden Whittet, who ran the 453<sup>rd</sup> is sending me all her data.

#### **PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (PUC)**

Walt Mundy has heard back from Rep. Bill Thomas and it seems that the request was put back into the same channels as before. They left a door open for one more try and Walt and I are going to put together another effort to see what happens. Also, Jack Stevens's daughter, Cynthia wants a package to see if she can try from another aspect. We accept any help we can get. I believe this should be our last try. If this doesn't work, then I do not know of any other action we can take.

#### **NEW COMMUNICATION**

Some of you are using the toll free number; however, many are not. I would hope that you would start using it for news, last posts and change of address. The number is **1-877-882-7235**.

#### **INTERNET - WEB PAGE OF THE 467<sup>TH</sup>**

The 467<sup>th</sup> now has its own domain name which is "**467bg.com**". Bob has to do some restructuring for some of our links to make sure everything is set up properly. It may take another month or so to get it changed over, so if you are trying with our old URL and can not reach us, it may be that we have changed over. We are going to try to get a referral from the old to the new, but our server has not confirmed he will do that.

#### **2 AD GROUP VP – Geoff Gregory**

Greetings from Texas via Norwich

Well now – if the creek don't rise & I don't buy any green bananas, I'll be writing this in 4 stages: home, British Airways, Norwich and home again.

First things first – We were all distressed to hear of the death of our Colonel just days before we left the States for Norwich. He will be praised & memorialized many times during our reunion. I just wish to say this: During the war, I was scared stiff of the Colonel. After the war, I came to know & love the man. I know now that he demanded the best in us and we are probably alive today because of that. He will be missed indeed! So Colonel, if you are reading this – We salute you! Your spirit will be with us in every future convention.

On to the convention – some 30 of us departed DFW for a pleasant and uneventful flight, passed quickly through customs, and it was evident that the Brits are expecting us. Our British friends, acting as couriers, efficiently boarded us on the busses that took us – about 3 hours later – into the heart of Norwich and on to our hotels.

The city hadn't changed much – same shops, market place, hotels and Cathedrals. However, there was a bustle in the city that portends great future growth. Ah, but there is one new building that really catches your eye! It is "The Forum on the Millennium Plain" – the new home of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Division Memorial Library! A very large horseshoe shaped building, principally built of red brick and glass. This magnificent building dominates Central City; and is indeed, a beautiful new home for our Memorial Library!

I will try to describe the main events, which brought some 600 of us over the Atlantic to Norwich for this convention. Five major activities dominated our stay. They were: The Cathedral Service, the Presentation of "The Freedom of the City" to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Division Association, the dedication of the Memorial Library, the Banquet, and the 467<sup>th</sup> Base Day!

The Cathedral service was one of the most impressive I have seen in this venerable old Church. All 600 veterans with family members, plus hundreds of our English friends filled the Cathedral and overflowed into the close outside. The "Roll of Honor" was proudly



carried in formal procession to the Bishop of Norwich for consecration before being placed in our Library. The Dragoon Band, with the Cathedral organ, added to this memorable occasion.

The "presentation" was most impressive, with much "pomp & circumstance". The Town Crier announced all the dignitaries complete with wigs, plumes, regal robes, Mace and Sword, great band – all followed by a reception in Blackfriars Hall. A very enjoyable evening and we now have the "right" to advance up Prince of Whales Rd. with fixed bayonets, as well as the right to march down the street with our sheep! This is actually a very old revered "privilege" not given lightly, and never in the past given to an "organization".

Next came the event we were all waiting for – the Library Dedication, itself! The Forum was filled to capacity. Leading the dignitaries to the stage were a Sword bearer and 2 Mace carriers, and of course, our flags. There were many speeches – perhaps too many and some too long – followed by the actual "dedication". There was a "fly-over" which was most impressive as seen through the glass roof of the Forum. Lunch and personal visits through our Memorial followed.

On to the Banquet! The only venue able to accommodate all 900+ attendees was the Sports Village – some of you may recall that we had had a previous dinner there a few years ago. The dinner, as always, was up to our expectations, and Jordon served as MC. Jordan, as always, did a fine job in spite of severe time restraints.

I would like to add a few words about the area of my responsibility – namely, the Bequest Program. I had the most pleasant task of introducing Mr. Nelson Becker from Montana, who brought with him, his wife and son. Mr. Becker presented to Paul King, representing the Trust, the redemption of his uncle's Pledge. His uncle, Edwin Becker, had pledged \$50,000 to the Capital Fund of the Trust! Edwin Becker folded his wings in May just passed. This is the first Pledge to be redeemed, and we are indebted to Ed. Thank you Edwin Becker, and thank you Nelson, for your help.

I was also involved in concluding the Koormdyk challenge – explained in previous Journals. Bud's generosity triggered participation by the groups, and I am pleased to say that all stipulations made by Bud were met. Representing the Bequest Program, I proudly presented to Paul King, a check for another \$50,000! So the Bequest Program, which is a continuing activity, was responsible for increasing the Capital Fund of the Trust by \$100,000! In addition, Bill Northstein, Treasurer of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ADA, presented to Paul King, Chairman of the Board of Governors, another check for \$100,000 on behalf of the Executive Committee. Thus, on our last visit, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Division Association presented \$200,000 to provide for the future of our Memorial! **Well done each and every member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Division who helped make this possible!**

The final day – Base Day! Beginning with 9am hotel pick-ups, we proceeded to the Village Hall for "tea" with our local village friends. Then on to Salhouse Church for a memorial service, lunch at the Green Man. This

was the first opportunity for ALL 467<sup>th</sup> people to be in the same place at the same time and by ourselves! A good hot lunch, great fellowship and English beer! A tour of the Base – still available to us – was one more fond memory – in spite of the only really bad-weather day we had. This was followed by a visit to Rackheath Church. June Trafford and Perry Watts told of many interesting facts about this lovely old Church. After a long day, what a great evening awaited us at Salhouse Lodge! We enjoyed some of the best food and service ever; but more importantly, some 100 of us had one more opportunity to enjoy each other and drink in precious friendships. What a better way to end the day than by one last visit to our Marker! To see our floodlit Marker flanked by our British and American flags is a sight to cherish forever.

We certainly owe a deep sense of gratitude and a sincere "Thank You" to Perry and Jill Watts, and Jean and David Hastings for all the long hours of planning they spent to give us a day we shall long remember.

In conclusion – was it worth the trip? – every cent and more! Were we pleased with the Memorial? – Very! Heard not one negative comment! Was our reception by the "locals" friendly? – Couldn't have been treated better! After months and months of anticipation, our dream had come true – a very emotional experience indeed! And now it is there for all to see. We have not forgotten "Them"! And our Association has provided that "They" will continue to be remembered in this Memorial for years in perpetuity.

This report is inadequate; I really can not impart the emotions evident and present at all times. I am sure other friends who attended will fill in from different standpoints and reactions as you speak with them. The Dzenowegis family "filmed" virtually 24 hours a day. When that tape becomes available, I strongly suggest you obtain one! Those who were there – you have your own pictures, as I do. However, a professionally recorded record of this "never again" trip will keep it alive for you and your family forever. Those who were not there, you will enjoy it through the camera's eyes. **AND NOW ON TO SAVANNAH! Hope to see "youall" then!**

## **NEWS FROM STATION 145**

Just to say THANK YOU once again for coming back to Norfolk this month and for leaving us with such wonderful memories. We are all delighted that you are so happy with your New 2nd Air Division Memorial Library, it is a truly stunning Memorial and we are having a record number of visitors. How can we ever thank you for those wonderful cheques for \$200,000 to help secure the long-term future of your Memorial.

Every day of your Convention was so moving right from the first event at the Airport Hilton on the Sunday when we talked about the Future. The Madingley Day was another great event, although I am sorry that the road delays due to a traffic accident rather upset the programme.

The Civic Reception on the Tuesday evening when you received the Freedom of the City of Norwich was tremendous and we felt so proud for you.

Then on the Wednesday how can we ever forget the Cathedral Service followed by the Opening Ceremony with the Guard of Honour and the Fly-Past. To have four of the Royal Air Force Battle of Britain Squadron Standards paraded in your honour was another unique occasion, which few other Groups would ever receive. The day ended with that superb Banquet at which we were honoured to be your guests.

Thursday and the Base Day was a lot of fun at Rackheath. Perry and I thank you for the Plaques and as always it was a pleasure to organise the programme for you. Geoff and Terry Gregory represented the 467th and the 2nd ADA the following weekend when they were Guests of Honour at the Annual Wyndham College Concert and his speech held all the audience spellbound. Again those great youngsters played "The Acclamation" as well as "Stars and Stripes Forever".

So ended another Great 2nd ADA Convention, which we will never forget.

Stay well and God Bless.  
Jean and David.

#### **FROM Perry and Jill Watts**

Dear Ralph and All the Visiting 467th Veterans and Accompanying Family Members who attended the November 2001 reunion in Norwich. Both Jill and I absolutely enjoyed the honor and privilege of being in your company. We sincerely hoped you all enjoyed your visits to the various places during your short time you were in this locality. We also hope that at the end of the visit you had a good flight on the return to your homes. We both derived great pleasure and enjoyment in having the privilege of organizing the Barsham Memorial and Base Day visits for you.

I appreciate the great honor which the President, Committee Officers and Veterans of the 467th Bombardment Group Association bestowed upon me by presenting me with the treasured Certificate and beautiful Plaque at the dinner on Thursday 8th November. It is only very fitting to tell you all that the Plaque is mounted on the wall of our entrance hall and immediately opposite our bedroom door, but more to the siting – as it is immediately below a framed photograph of your dear Colonel Albert J. Shower. That photo of the Colonel is mounted below a large framed painting I did of 'Little Pete 2' depicted as being flown by the Colonel over Rackheath during 1944/45. What is more the Colonel signed the painting on the Group visit in 1999. Thereby we still have extremely close connections with the Group on a daily basis for every morning on coming from the bedroom door we are proudly greeted with a picture of our departed but former very dear friend Colonel Albert J. Shower; 'Little Pete 2' and that very very beautiful and treasured Plaque which you so kindly presented.

Our very best wishes to you all and all being well, we hope to see you in Savannah next October.

#### **THE FRENCH JUBILEE OF LIBERTY MEDAL**

At a ceremony held at the Kuss Auditorium in Springfield Sunday, July 29, 2001. U.S. Rep. Dave Hobson, R- Ohio, presented the medals to veterans of Greene, Clark, Champaign, Logan and Union counties. They were given the medal for service during the Normandy campaign from June 6 to August 31, 1944. Two members of the 467<sup>th</sup>, Mervin M. Shank and Marvin Ralph Davis, received the medal.

#### **COST OF CONVENTION 2001**

Deposit from Members	\$ 2,353.00
Expenses:	
Lance Miller (3 award plaques) \$	165.00
Perry Watts (transportation to Barsham)	225.00
Dinner @ Salhouse Lodge	1,232.56
Lunch @ Green Man	943.00
6 - 467 <sup>th</sup> Shield Pins	25.00
2 Window Decals	6.00
USPO mailing of awards, VISA payment	55.70
Return \$62.00 to Brian Mahoney	62.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> AD Banquet Meal for 4 Guests	220.00
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,934.26</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ ( 541.26)</b>

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Operating Fund 7-23-01 to 12-03-01	
Operating Fund Balance 7-23-01	\$ 13,636.17

#### **INCOME**

Mail- Memorial Fund Contributions	\$ 2,054.00
Patch Sales	23.25
Pins, Rosters, Errata Books, etc. sales	000.00
Colonel Shower Living Memorial	785.00
Checking Account Interest	167.37
Convention 2001 meal fund	2,353.00
6 Month CD plus Interest	3,079.10
<b>Sub-Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 8,501.72</b>
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 22,137.89</b>

#### **DISBURSEMENTS**

POOP FROM GROUP 20-2	\$ 1,445.82
POOP 20-1 Printing & partial mail fee	640.81
Visa Charges	340.19
Flags for English Monument	68.20
Cash mailing charge	3.89
2 <sup>nd</sup> AD Banquet Guests (4)	220.00
Pay for bus to Barsham	225.00
Purchase 5 Award Plaques	275.00
Purchase 1 Award Plaque	55.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,274.00</b>

**OPERATING FUND BALANCE \$ 18,863.89**



**Convention Registration Form – Pooler GA., Oct 3 -7, 2002****467<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group Association (H) Ltd.**

(Complete this form and mail to Ralph Davis)

(Please fill in all the requested blanks to assist Convention Records)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First M.I. Badge - NameAddress \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip Code

Telephone No. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ e- mail address \_\_\_\_\_

First Timer Yes ( ) No ( ) Accompanied By:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First M.I. Badge - First NameName \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First M.I. Badge - First NameDate of Arrival and time \_\_\_\_\_ A.M.- P.M. (Very Important)  
Date TimeDate of Departure and time \_\_\_\_\_ A.M.- P.M.  
Date Time

Arriving via Car( )/ ( ) Air line \_\_\_\_\_ Flt # \_\_\_\_\_

Car arrivals: From I – 95 take exit 102 and the sign is visible from the exit. Address is 301 Governor Treutlen Drive. It is across from the Econo Lodge and the drive is between Burger King and Hardees fast food.

Air arrivals: The motel does not have a courtesy car at this time; however, it is only 2 or so miles from the airport, so a taxicab is recommended. RV and Motorhome: Parking available in lot at motel. There are NO hookups available.**BADGE INFORMATION**

Important - Complete data below for badge ID

Your Squadron/Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Your Rank and Duty \_\_\_\_\_

Your Pilot/CO \_\_\_\_\_ Arrived Rackheath \_\_\_\_\_ Departed \_\_\_\_\_

POW Yes ( ) No ( ) If yes, where \_\_\_\_\_ How Long \_\_\_\_\_

Cite one memory while at Rackheath that gives you a chuckle and/or of interest to the group:  
.....**CONVENTION COSTS**Per Person \$ 225.00  
Times Number of Persons \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

Total Cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit Due With Reservations, \$75.00 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Balance Due August 30, 1999, \$ 150.00 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay by check or Money Order!

The above cost is for the entire package as listed in the Schedule of Activities.

There will be a "Freebie" drawing for a one-person convention package cost of \$ 225.00. The drawing will be open to all that pay in full by August 1, 2002

Make checks payable to: "467th Bombardment Group Convention 2002".

Fill in the above Convention Costs form and mail with your deposit of \$75.00 per person along with the Convention Registration Form to:

Ralph Davis  
1143 Kenora circle  
Beavercreek, OH 45430-1101  
(937) 426-2988 (e-mail: BJMax@aol.com)  
1-877-882-7235

## HOTEL REGISTRATION

### MAKE ROOM RESERVATIONS DIRECTLY WITH THE COMFORT INN & SUITES MOTEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

All rooms must be reserved by September 1, 2002 in order to guarantee space and to assure rates.

Reservation phone number: 1-888-895-6464. Check-in time: 3:00 PM.

Comfort Inn & Suites Motel  
301 Governor Treutlen Drive  
Pooler, GA 31322  
1-888-895-6464 (Reservation)  
(912) 748-6464 - FAX (912) 748-8163.

Room rates are: Single or Double                      \$ 60.50 + tax

When making reservations, please refer to the **467th Bomb Group Convention**, Oct 3 - 7, 2002. A **48-hour** cancellation policy is in effect. These rates will apply for three or four days before and after the convention. All rooms are either a single king bed or two full size beds. In addition to the usual amenities included are a full size ironing board and iron, hair dryer, microwave, refrigerator, coffee maker and public areas are wheelchair accessible. Let your special requirements be known to the hotel.

### MAIL MEMORIAL FUND

There were 36 contributors to the fund during this period that gave \$2,054.00, approximately \$57.06 per donation. Your generosity as always is deeply appreciated. There are no dues, so we rely on your donations to keep our newsletter and other activities funded. If you enjoy our newsletter, please help support it. Donations to the Colonel Living Memorial Fund total \$785.00. An (\*) donates those contributing to Col. Shower's fund. Contributors this period were:

Abernathy, Joe	Newhouse, Jean
Bell, Tony (* & mail fund)	Nogan, Joe
Brooks, Loyce	Powell, Edgar
Brown – AW, Eleanor	Pugh, Anne & Puff
Davis, Ralph	Quick, Charles
Elkewicz, Katherine	Rambosky, R. J
Feil, George	Reynolds, Leroy
Fillebrown, Robin	Samuel, Bob
Frazier, Ed	Severance, Joe
Garver, Dick	Spencer, Lowrey
Gilbertson, L. A. (*)	Thompson, Don
Holmes, Caper	Tittmann, Katharine
Kraemer, John	Tucker, Gordon
Kuchinski, Paul (*)	Twyford, Bob
Lane, Jill	Wagner, Charles
Lekel, Alex	Watson, Frank
Lukeman, Bob	Watts, Jill & Perry
McGovern, Bill	Wedaa, Henry (*)
Micko, Ken (*)	Willis, Les (2)
Mountford, Wayne	

### LAST POST

John W. Brooks	Mexico, MO
William D. Conner	Bakersfield, CA
John Mondok	Glenmont, OH
Charles E. Struppa	San Antonio, TX
Rex M. Sedwick	Front Royal, VA

### LOST SOULS

James B. Aldret	Walterboro, SC
Charles P. Bednarik	Coopersburg, PA
Jennifer S. Cayless – AF	Carrboro, NC
Haskell H. Dekle	Thomasville, GA
Charles T. Eppolito	Buffalo, NY

Donald R. Greery	New York, NY
Hugh C. Miner	Lakeland, FL

### REQUEST REMOVAL

Jean Newhouse – AW (Keith) Fayetteville, AR

### POST EXCHANGE

#### CURRENT MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

(Alpha & Zip available) \$3.00 ea, including shipping.

#### ADDENDUM & ERRATA BOOK & GROUP ROSTER

Addendum & Errata Book: \$5.00 including shipping

Group Roster: \$7.00 including shipping

Both for \$10.00 including shipping

#### GROUP WINDOW DECAL (AVAILABLE)

\$3.00 ea + \$0.50 shipping = \$3.50

#### GROUP & SQUADRON PINS

Note: All pins are now available:

467th	789th
791st	788th
790th	470th Sub Depot (limited number)

\$ 5.00 ea. plus \$0.75 package and post.

All 6 pins set, \$24.00 plus \$1.00 package and post

All 5 pins set (less 470<sup>th</sup>), \$20.00 plus \$0.75 package and post

Package and post is \$0.75 for up to five pins.

#### ALL OF THE ABOVE AVAILABLE THROUGH:

Ralph Davis  
1143 Kenora Circle  
Beavercreek, Ohio 45430-1101

#### GROUP & SQUADRON PATCHES:

467 <sup>th</sup>	
791 <sup>st</sup>	790 <sup>th</sup>
798 <sup>th</sup>	788 <sup>th</sup>

\$ 5.00 ea. plus \$0.75 package and post.

All 5 patch set (less 470<sup>th</sup>), \$20.00 plus \$0.75 package and post

Package and post is \$0.75 for up to five patches.

#### PATCHES AVAILABLE THROUGH:

Paul V. Hatten  
4209 Ormston Circle,  
Rock Hill, SC 19732

#### GI MEMORIES OF THE ETO:

A 5-1/4" by 8", 25-page booklet of cartoon like scenes of enlisted personnel activities is available for \$5.00 from:

Allen J. Welters  
1418 70<sup>th</sup> St. E.  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077



Colonel Albert J. Shower's gravesite at Arlington National Cemetery is located at Grave Number: 2225-A, Section 3, on McKinley Drive. "May he go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in God's Heavenly Kingdom". Additional pictures of the Arlington burial will be placed in the next issue of the newsletter and will be placed on the Bomb Group Web Page. The flowers from the 467<sup>th</sup> and from the Second Air Division Memorial Trust was very beautiful. Once again, it is almost beyond belief that this fine gentleman has passed on to join so many others of our Group.

### **THE RACKHEATH AGGIES (Forward)**

Many tales have been told and stories written about the time in England when we 'Yanks' came to those shores in forces, divisions and groups. We tore down lanes and through the quiet villages in our trucks and jeeps and roared down the concrete strips, so freshly laid over the used-to-be cow pastures, in our thundering Liberators.

Here is an account of one such group, my group, the 467th Bomb Group-Heavy. We were based in a remote eastern corner of England known as Norfolk in the small village of Rackheath. As you will learn, many were the triumphs and defeats, the joys and the sorrows we shared there. In the reading of it, the story and details are quite accurate. I have very vivid memories of so many of the events depicted here. I truly recommend this book as a gate to the inner problems and feelings of the group, the staff and supervision.

As I have mentioned, many pages have been written about our time at Rackheath but this story is unique. It is written by one who grew up in postwar England and whose background is firmly planted in the Norfolk area. It is, I believe, very appropriate that a story of the 467th be told by one so closely associated with the land and its people. Who better to know and understand how we were perceived! David H. Kibble-White is our narrator. He has done an excellent job in the telling.

I shall never forget that spot in that little corner of Norfolk where so much of my life was lived in such a short space of time. Indeed, so strong were the ties that were made, so profound was our mission, we left feeling akin with each other, the land and its people; such bonds can never be broken!

**ABBERT J. SHOWER Colonel, USAF/Ret.**

The book is available through Rufus or Eunice Webb at: 708 W. Oregon St., Seymour, Texas 76380 email: [murwebb@quik.com](mailto:murwebb@quik.com). The book, as stated, is currently #2 Best Seller in England. It has several pictures, a good story of our beloved Colonel and Rufus is on the Cover page, "ENOUGH"!

### **BRIAN MAHONEY – AF (JIM)**

Brian book of his father's adventure during World War II is available. It covers Jim's accounts of two Bomb Groups, the 492<sup>nd</sup> and the 467<sup>th</sup>. It is a paperbound book of 548 pages. I believe the price is \$34 and you can purchase it from online bookstores. Using the title, "Reluctant Witness, the WWII Memoirs of the late James J. Mahoney" and the ISBN# 1-5521 2-875-X when contacting bn.com (Barnes & Noble), Amazon.com or Borders.com. Look it up on the Internet or contact your local bookstore. Brian is once again considering running another videotape of his father's colored film. He will have information of this in future newsletter.

### **BITS & PIECES – Bob Davis**

Now that I have a new computer, I need your help. I want to start putting your stories and your pictures on the Web Page. To accomplish this, please send them directly to me at my address on the masthead. Frankie and I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you in Savannah next year at our 2002 Convention.

### **FROM THE EDITOR – Ralph Davis**

Many things were left out of this issue because of space limitations. I will try to get members comments, new additions, widow's comments and additional pictures in the next issue. This was a difficult issue to write. I procrastinated quite a bit in putting it together as well as time required to obtain some of the pictures and data. With the Group's permission, I will keep the Colonel on the masthead as our Honorary Chairman, edged in black. Doris and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves in England. Wish you all could have gone. We do wish all of you the Happiest Holiday Season and the Most Prosperous New Year and we sincerely hope to see you at the October 3-7 Convention next year in Savannah (Pooper), GA.

**POOP from GROUP**  
**467<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Heavy)**  
**1143 Kenora Circle**  
**Beavercreek, OH 45430-1101**

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