



# POOP from GROUP 467

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STATION 145

RACKHEATH

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## FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVENTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY) ASSOCIATION, LTD. IRC Section 501 © (19) EIN: 39-1592334

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### FROM THE PREZ

#### TWELVE YEARS IS A LONG TIME

I agreed to continue on with the stipulation that if some younger associate member wants to take over the reigns, please step up and take hold of the organization. To cover our tax exempt status, we are going to petition the IRS to change our category to 501 c (3) in lieu of 501 c (19). That way we can be legal in our membership status. I have heard from other Bomb Groups and the IRS has let them change their category for tax purposes. This status allows you as members to write off any donations to the group as well as us getting a tax exempt status for meals and things from the Hotels at our conventions.

#### CONVENTION 2007

The convention was once again a very good one. To my knowledge, everyone in attendance had a good time and the visits to the Air Force museum and the Wright Cycle Complex which had some short films, "On Great White

Wings and Break Me My Bounds" and the Huffman Prairie Flying Field and Interpretive Center where the first practical airplane was built, the 1905 Wright Flyer III and the ability to fly was learned. Some walked the actual flying field and tried their hand at flying the 1911 Wright "B" Flyer simulator. Replicas of the Wright's 1905 hangar and catapult system were available. Saturday evening visit to the Beavercreek VFW for a catered meal by my kids catering business was received well by all and I do not believe anyone went away hungry. Doris got to attend this function and seemed to be very happy to see all the people that came over to talk to her. The Crowne Plaza, located at 33 East Fifth Street was the same Hotel that we had our 2000 convention. This year as in the past, the Hotel was excellent and the food was just that great also. The convention registration form was wrong on the two previous newsletters and I'm sure those in attendance were happy not to wait till April for the Sunday dinner. Friday was our day at the Air Force Museum and some left early to go through the Strawberry Bitch B-24. Sunday as usual was our day for meetings and banquet. Our guest speaker for the banquet was Mr. Howard Marks, Deputy Chief, ASC Acquisition Excellence Directorate. His background was work on the F-15, C-17, C-130, B-2 and Special

Programs as Advisor for Defence Acquisition Programs. His presentation covered all aspects of his background with emphasis on the B-2 Program since we were a Bomber oriented group. There were 17 veterans in attendance for this convention. The group picture only had 15 in it. The "free-be" drawing for \$285.00 was won by Jack Thompson. The Radio/CD/Record Player drawing went to Steve Watson, son of Frank Watson. The TV was won by Kevin Coolidge and since he did not need another TV, he asked me to send it to Jay Shower who needed one. The Sunday meeting reports are as follows:

**Director's Meeting:** In attendance were Ralph Davis, Tony Bell, Andy Wilkinson, Bob Davis, Kerry Davis, Jim Gamble and Valerie Corvino. Ralph's opening remarks covered the Director positions open for election which were Ralph's 5 year and Tony Bell's 3 year. Both Ralph and Tony agreed to be on the ballot and it will be open to write in at the Business Meeting. The Treasury report was given with a balance of \$11,312.97 as of October 3, 2007. Rationale of the drop from last year included \$2,700.00 for the Haley Book reissue and \$700 to Robin Janton for PUC work (that did not cover near the amount he has expended to try to get this award with no interest by either the Air force or the Army). The book status is that the pictures have been upgraded and the text data is available. It is estimated that the book will be available for sale around the first of the year. It will still be \$35.00 for soft cover and \$50.00 for hard cover. The Group will get its investment back on the early sales of the book. Once the Group no longer is functioning, then the proceeds have been given to the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Museum in Savannah Georgia. There was a discussion on the PUC and it was mentioned that a lady Lt. Col. had stated that we had not fought in a time when it was dangerous and this was primary reason for not awarding the PUC. It was suggested to get this letter out to enough people that perhaps the decision could be reversed. The convention sites for next year was discussed and it will be St Louis and Okalahoma City. Walt was concerned about Okalahoma City as the 2<sup>nd</sup> AD is having its convention at the same time and in Dallas. We will look at the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in October. Walt was concerned about the work involved if it goes to Oak City. A mention was made for sites for 2009 and Savannah Georgia, San Francisco, Las Vegas and Pittsburg were brought up. It was suggested that a questionnaire on location be put in the newsletter for response by mail or e-mail. It was discussed that with Fightin Sam and the rework of the 2<sup>nd</sup> AD area, the group might like to go to Savannah to see the results. The group attendance was discussed and it appears that the down road end of the functions are not too far away, unless the younger Associate members take over and run things for us. At the present time, not too many involved. The current attendance may be the norm for future conventions and the Board members thought that this one has been well received and that future ones should be planned on around 50 attending. The cost of the newsletter was brought up and it was suggested that the newsletter be made available by e-mail or on the Web Site for downloading. This would cover some, but not everyone has on-line capability, so we would still have to mail a large amount, but it could cut some cost. This will be looked into for future application.

**Old Business:** Walt brought up his concern of the Heritage League and 2AD problem. He said one fellow tore into the Heritage league as the 2AD and heritage League seem to have deteriorating relationship. The Heritage League is our future and we need to bolster our relationships with them and do what we can to get other groups also involved in the same way. Walt said the Heritage League has a strong relationship with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF Museum. The Museum has about 15,000 school children that go through every year, so support both. Walt said we need a legacy plan for the group and that the 2AD has one and he will see how we can copy from that one.

**New Business:** A video of our 467<sup>th</sup> Marker was shown and it appears that there is not a regularly scheduled maintenance program set up for the Marker. On two occasions when a veteran from the group was over there on his own to visit, the Marker was in very bad condition with weeds very high and trash as paper, cigarette butts and pop cans were around. I know that the group taking care of the Marker do a splendid job as every time I have been over there the condition has been exceptional. Maybe a Boy Scout group in the area might help with supervision from the current Marker Trustees. The Marker is an area that requires service the same as ones yard and perhaps its location could cause a problem with the current group and they could use some support as mentioned. I will contact David Hastings as he is involved with this service. Meeting was adjourned.

**Business Meeting:** The same group of Officers and Directors were in attendance as the Director's meeting. There were 33 members in attendance. The Board and officer were introduced. The treasury report was given and the reprint of the Healy Book was covered as above. The PUC situation was discussed along with the letter that turned us down. The Director election was passed out and there were no write-ins so Tony and Ralph were elected for their new terms. The possibility of e-mail or downloading the newsletter was covered and a questionnaire will be in the next newsletter. Walt Mundy discussed the Fightin Sam at the Museum and they got \$127,657 which was over the \$125,000 that they wanted. Duckworth added an additional 10 years so it is a good investment. The cockpit will have interactive displays. It will have a Norden Bomb Site with interactive video. The 2AD display will double in size. It is acquiring more artifacts and will have fiber optic lighting highlighting exhibits and describe ing what is going on. Next the Witchcraft painting was discussed and it was decided to have the large painting to go to the 8<sup>th</sup> AF Museum. The pro & con of a painting in a small area was discussed with the thought of a photo copy being more appropriate for the Control Tower. This was asked of Perry Watts to look into and then a later decision by the Board decided to go with a smaller painting for the Control Tower. The size will be 24 X 18 and the smaller painting will satisfy both the Tilla Properties and the 467<sup>th</sup> members as sufficient funds have been donated or committed to cover both paintings. Ben Banks family wants to donate the painting to the 8<sup>th</sup> AF Museum in the name of Lt Reed who was the original pilot of the Witch. Walt Mundy brought up the Legacy Plan for the 2<sup>nd</sup> AD and it will split the assets by thirds, a third going to the memorial Library, 8<sup>th</sup> AF Museum and the heritage League. The Fullbright Trust returned the money to the 2<sup>nd</sup>

AD and the 2ndAD wasn't happy about that. He stated that the 2<sup>nd</sup> AD being in Dallas in October 2008 will draw people away from our convention in St. Louis. My opinion is that the people that enjoy our conventions will attend after all we were more of an active part of the Group not the 2ndAD. Walt thanked everyone for their contributions to Fightin Sam. The video of our Marker was discussed and it was made available to all to see in the hospitality room. There was what appeared to be high weeds, beer cans, cigarette butts and in general did not look too good. We discussed the thought of having a Boy Scout group assist the Marker maintenance and that seemed to be a good idea. It is better to let David Hastings look into this idea. David advised me of the funds set aside for this maintenance, so it could be covered by donation to the Scout Group. The election tickets were passed out, there were no write-ins, so Tony and Ralph were re-elected. The next issue was the voting for next years convention location. The St. Louis and Oklahoma City locations were discussed and Valerie and her mother brought up the name of Pittsburgh and it did receive 4 votes; however, St. Louis won out over all after a couple of votes where it was even and a couple changed their vote. A vote entry will be in the newsletter for the members to vote on the 2009 convention city. The list will include, but not limited to San Francisco, Savannah, Las Vegas and **PITTSBURGH**.

#### **David's Comment on Marker Condition:**

March is the one time when perhaps the Team could be caught out as it is just prior to the major Spring work. By the way the bushes and plants surrounding the Marker are NOT weeds, but plants chosen to act as a backdrop to the Marker as well as keeping some of the debris from the adjoining Industrial site from blowing. They grow rapidly in the summer and need a regular cut, but we do allow them to grow in the winter. Our worst problem is the problem of the staff from the firm opposite parking their cars in front of the Marker and they throw rubbish which Roger clears on a daily basis. I have seen them twice about this and Roger repeatedly raises the matter. They have promised it will not happen, but again when I took Earl to see the Marker and the Tower, the darn cars were there again.

To look after the Marker, the Gates, the seat, the bronze plaque and the Private Miney Memorial you really need adults who care about the 467th. As we saw with the Air Cadets it was a "flash in the pan" and that is no help to us. When the Team decides to give up the Trustees will have to find another group to help but despite appeals in the Village Magazine, we have as yet not had many volunteers.

Good news on the Tower. The firm who is going to rent the building are a local one and very keen to increase still more the 467th memorabilia on display. We have now given them a framed copy of Roger Freeman's great poem "The Sky was never still". Earl could not believe the great length that Tilia had gone to restore the Tower and he was warmly welcomed by the Tilia Team.

**Editor's Comment:** I believe that David's comment as to the time period, does explain how this along with the neighboring business parking can provide situations beyond normal control. We can only thank the continuous efforts on the part of so few who maintain our Marker. Distance makes it impossible for any Bomb Group

/members to provide this service. David sent me a current picture of the Marker and as I have always seen it, it looks perfect. The video did show an unacceptable condition, but I believe that the local parking and the March time period explains the situation. I'm sure that the Marker will continue to be serviced by our dear friends of the 467<sup>th</sup>.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** For the St. Louis convention, Bob Davis wants a list of everyone who has an e-mail address and please e-mail it to him with your name on the subject line so he knows who belongs to each e-mail. Walt Mundy brought up the relationship of members to associate members and we need to change from a C (19) to a C(3) which will give us the same tax exempt status with no relationship of members to associates. Steve Thompson made a motion that we adjourn and it was seconded by Tim Heikkinen.

**New Board Meeting:** No meeting scheduled since the Board did not change. Members were polled for election of Officers and the same Officers were elected.

#### **DIRECT COMMUNICATION**

I changed telephone service and the toll free number has not been started up as yet... It should be up within the next two weeks. The toll free number is **1-877-882-7235**. This can be used for news, last posts, address changes, comments, etc. Thanks for your help.

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

The 467<sup>th</sup> has its own domain name, **467bg.com**. Please visit the site and let me or Bob know your comments. We are still updating it and want to get all of the latest information. If you have any picture of crews or individuals that you want on the web site, please send them to me and I will scan them and return the photos to you unless you do not want them or they are duplicates. You may also e-mail them to me if you do not want to send them through the mail.

#### **ORDERED ITEMS FROM PX**

I still have not heard from anyone since 25-3, yet I know there are members out there that have ordered items from the PX and have not received them. I must apologize to all as I have been so tied up with the necessary assistance to my wife as well as the newsletter, roster and starting the arrangements for the 2007 convention that there doesn't seem to be enough hours in the day. If you would kindly send me an e-mail, a note or call, I will be happy to see that the items are shipped. I know there was one order that was for a Ball Cap, please let me know who made the order. I thank you for your understanding.

#### **2 ADA VP - WALTER J. MUNDY**

Below is a photo of Walt Mundy with Lt. General Thomas P. Stafford USAF (Ret. ) . General Stafford was being initiated into the Oklahoma Air And Space Hall of Fame ,October 17 th , 2007, for his outstanding service as a APOLLO Astronaut and was Commander of Gemini and Apollo 10. He retired after serving as Deputy Chief of Staff for Procurement and was a major force in the Air Force developing the Stealth Fighter and the B-2 Bomber.

Walter Mundy was Facilities Manager for the Apollo Division of North American Aviation that was **responsible for the Apollo Command and Service Module of the Apollo Spacecraft. And later was Facilities Planning**

**Manager for the B-2 Program of Northrop Advanced systems Division.**

**Maybe this will be interesting to those who served in the 467<sup>th</sup> and know of Walt's service in WWII and since.**



Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Stafford and Walter Mundy

#### **NEWS FROM STATION 145**

Thank you for giving the matter of the painting a long discussion at the Board meeting and perhaps I can allay some of your fears in case Perry did not explain.

First of all, the planned sitting of the painting was in the large main reception area which would have given ample length to view. Tilia had already installed a picture light on the wall in readiness, but have now hung a large print of the Libermus Shield under the light as a temporary measure. To try and ease their disappointment on the opening day Jean and I gave them four framed pictures from our own archives. A colour picture of Colonel Shower outside the Church, the famous Vince Re colour picture of Colonel Shower and the 467th Group in front of the Tower in 1983, a colour picture of Colonel Shower and Group members at the Marker and finally a black and white photograph of Witchcraft with Joe Ramirez and Crew. In addition I have promised Tilia that we will present a framed copy of Roger Freeman's poem "The Sky was never still".

The whole object of having the "Witchcraft" painting was to ensure that future tenants and owners would always understand the importance of the building and the vital part it played in our history. Indeed we must never forget that the new road leading to the Tower is named "Witchcraft Way", another reason why the original painting was so appropriate. Still we accept that you have now changed your mind and that the picture is going to Savannah rather than your own airfield, but Jill is heartbroken as are we all.

On the question of Tenants changing and the control of valuable paintings, the Memorial Trust has for a long time dealt successfully with this matter. If there is any doubt for the future, the painting is given "on loan" with the proviso that should the building change hands or the picture not be displayed then it must be returned to the Trust. We had a classic example of how well this works, when RAF Coltishall closed last year, and the famous and

valuable painting of "Welcome Home Yank" which was presented to the Station in 1983 was immediately returned to the Trust and now hangs in the RAF Coltishall Room in the Air Defence Museum at RAF Neatishead under the same terms. The "Witchcraft" picture would have been covered in the same way.

On the fact that the Tower was restored as a commercial venture, we in the Village have for a long time accepted the fact that neither we nor the 467th Association in the USA could afford to buy the entire site for the price that Mr. Bagshaw wanted. Equally, we could never have restored the Tower to the superb Wartime condition as it is now. Because the building was in such a poor condition, the restoration cost Tilia Properties a small fortune. The walls had to be stitched, a complete new roof installed, with damp proofing and insulation. Tilia could have just restored the Tower as an office block in a new style that would have been unrecognizable or even worse demolished it. However, they listened to we locals and also with people like Martin Broom, Nick Hovey and Jill in charge, who appreciated history, they went to great lengths to restore it to its original wartime look. Their attention to detail was amazing, even the double glazed windows were specially made at great cost to their wartime shape, the balcony was restored and strengthened for you to enjoy, the new weather vane incorporates a B.24 and they even built a costly Watch Office on the roof complete with a new steel staircase, something that no tenant will ever need, but it will be enjoyed by locals, Veterans and visitors alike as an ideal spot to sit, contemplate and relive the history of the field. Tilia have stated that Veterans and visitors will always be welcome as they are in their main office now. They really have spent a fortune on items that really were not needed but they felt they wanted to support the 467th. At the opening I was talking with the possible tenant, the firm who have built a new Warehouse next door and named it "Liberamus House" and he said that Veterans and their families would always be made welcome. People working in the Tower will be proud of their history. Businesses based on the old wartime airfields are always delighted to welcome the Veterans back. You only have to look at Shipdham Tower to see what happens when a restoration project is poorly funded. Seething Tower is about the only one that is really kept in good condition and even they struggle. We in Rackheath are indebted to Tilia Properties for they have saved The Tower from becoming a ruin and transformed it into a building that will last for several generations.

I know whatever you can do to help restore good relations with Tilia then it will be deeply appreciated here in Rackheath. I hope the photographs I sent by mail have arrived safely and I presume you have enough "news from Station 145" for the Poop.

All our love to you both

**David and Jean Hastings**

Base Contacts.

**Editor's Note:** Since David's comments, the Board has approved an 18 X 24 painting of the Witchcraft and it will be presented to Tilla Properties at a time to correspond with Ray Betcher's visit to England. Ray is one of the original ground crew that serviced Witchcraft. Perry Watts is coordinating this visit with the painting presentation to Tilla

Properties. The painting has been funded by individual and group donations from the 467<sup>th</sup> personnel..

### **David's Response to the Clutter Comment:**

Ralph,

Thanks and that explains a lot. March is the one time when perhaps the Team could be caught out as it is just prior to the major Spring work. By the way the bushes and plants surrounding the Marker are NOT weeds, but plants chosen to act as a backdrop to the Marker as well as keeping some of the debris from the adjoining Industrial site from blowing. They grow rapidly in the summer and need a regular cut, but we do allow them to grow in the Winter. Our worst problem is the problem of the staff from the firm opposite parking their cars in front of the Marker and they throw rubbish which Roger clears on a daily basis.. I have seen them twice about this and Roger repeatedly raises the matter. They have promised it will not happen, but again when I took Earl to see the Marker and the Tower, the damned cars were there again.

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We did try the Wroxham Air Scouts two years ago when they asked for a project. Sadly the youngsters only turned up once.

While we "oldies" are still alive we will continue to work hard at the Marker. When the time comes for us to retire we will ensure that suitable "Next Generation" local people will carry on our work. Glad to say that Earl Zimmerman, the 2nd ADA President visited the Marker and the restored Control Tower on Tuesday and was deeply impressed by both.

Yours, David.

**Editor's Comment:** I believe that David's comments about the March season explains the situation and I am sure that the Marker will be in its normal excellent condition as it has always been when I was personally over there to view it. This should be enough to close this item.

### **LETTER FROM PERRY WATTS**

Dear Ralph, Group Veterans, Family Members and Friends,

It is appropriate to start with the 467th Group Convention for 2007 held at Dayton early October. Again, and as always a very enjoyable reunion and really great to meet up with many long standing friends. It must be said that great credit should be given to Ralph Davis and his family for all the time they devoted to making all the necessary arrangements to ensure the reunion would be a great success - and it certainly was with the visits to so

many very interesting places and a wonderful Saturday evening and dinner at the RSL Hall at Beavercreek . Must add that we extended our stay before returning home and we rented a car and being quite close decided to visit Canada, a country that neither Jill or I had previously visited, and as our route took us to Columbus I could not resist driving down both Broad and High streets in that city due to the close connection to the 467th Group B-24 'Broad + High'.

Other topics I would like to mention are:

On August 15th we had a visit from Lilya Menkova a teacher at a college in St. Petersburg, Russia and a long established friend of the Watts' family. 'Lili' whose husband was a former Colonel and test pilot in the Russian Air Force has been interested in the 467th B/Group ever since we first met her and has various photos and articles relating to the Group on display in one of her classrooms. It was a great to present her with a copy of my book on the history of the Group and I considered the appropriate place to do so was on the former airfield at Rackheath.

During the early part of the final week in September that the restoration work on the Control Tower at Rackheath was completed and it was with regret that the Company decided against proceeding with their original idea of a possibility of allocating a room in the Tower to be used as a mini-museum relating to the 467th Group.

It was really great to have Mrs. Charlotte Shower visiting the UK again and her in Norwich on 27th September. The following day I was honored to drive Charlotte on her first visit to the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library at the Forum, Norwich where librarian Mrs. Jenny Christian kindly gave her a full comprehensive tour and a full explanation of the various maps, computerized programs, etc. We next drove to the former airfield at Rackheath and there Charlotte had the opportunity to visit the restored Control Tower at leisure and view the newly renovated and nicely carpeted interior rooms. Following that we had an enjoyable hour at the 'Green Man' pub for lunch.

Saturday 29th September was another special occasion, for on that day the 'Kirby Kids' had laid on a reunion at the Church Hall, Kirby Bedon especially for Roger Leister and his copilot Frank Bales as well as Roger's daughter Joanne Woodfill and son-in-law 'Woody' and Frank's wife Pauline. That really was a very enjoyable and well organized evening with a superb buffet spread and attended by about 60 local friends and it was very pleasing to have Mrs. Charlotte Shower in attendance accompanied by Memorial Trust Governor Andrew Hawker and his wife Andria. For those who may not be aware of the fact it was Roger and Frank's B-24 'Broad & High' that crash landed at Kirby Bedon (with only about 8 miles to make base at Rackheath) at around 1800 hours on 18th August 1944 due to battle damage and fuel shortage while making the return flight from the target at Woippy, France. Some of the older 'Kirby Kids' saw the crash landing and several years later one of those 'Kirby Kids' successfully traced and contacted both Roger and Frank and several years back arranged the first reunion. My wife Jill also has a link Kirby Bedon as both her grandparents lived in that village and also that was the birthplace of her late father who also attended school and lived there until the late 1920s when he left the village to join the Merchant Navy. But pleased that I along with my good friend Les Willis attended that splendid function.

I was really honored when Mrs. Shower accepted my invitation to collect her from the hotel in Norwich on the morning of Sunday 30th September and accompany me to our local Church Service here at Salhouse - and it was at that Church where the 467th Group Veterans attended service when during the past years some of their Group reunions were held in this part of the UK. It was pleasing to hear our Church Priest, The Rev. Richard Sutton, announce to the congregation 'that we are honored today to have very special guest in the congregation, namely Mrs. Charlotte Shower - widow of the late Colonel Albert J Shower and base commanding officer at Rackheath in 1944/45'. At the close of the service several members of the congregation greeted and shook hands with Charlotte. After leaving Church and a quick visit to our home for a cup of tea we were on our way again back to the airfield at Rackheath where I took a few photographs of Charlotte standing behind the road name sign 'Albert Shower Road'. Then back to the hotel in Norwich.

Monday 1st October was a special day all round for two special occasions. On that day the restored Control Tower was officially opened and Mrs. Shower unveiled the plaque sited at the side of the door of the 'new entrance' into the building (that entrance was in 1944/45 the only way in and out of the generator/switch room). Due to personal reasons neither my wife or I were able to attend the opening ceremony but it is understood that all went well and it was a gala event. Unfortunately the two pilots, namely Roger Leister and Frank Bales who initially were invited to attend the opening ceremony were declined to do so due to a restriction on attendance numbers as regrettably family members and hosts were unable to be accommodated.

However Roger, Frank and their family members had a special visit (a real treat) laid on for them and to which Jill and I were kindly invited. That visit was really something out of the ordinary and we along with about 30 friends of the Kirby Kids made our way to Reymerton Hall where Wing Commander Ken Wallis (RAF Ret'd) lives. W/Cdr. Wallis is a 91 year old pilot who still holds a license to fly but above all he is an excellent designer and engineer and has designed and built several miniature autogyros - one of the most noted being 'Little Nellie' famous for the part it played in one of the James Bond films and which Ken Wallis flew that machine for some 42 hours and out of which only 7 minutes were used in the film. Ken opened up his Hangar containing about 20 of his autogyros and each was different in some way or another. A visit around the museum followed and all the while the Wing Commander was explaining various details and also gave a talk on his personal experiences as a pilot of a RAF 'Wellington' bomber during WW2. But the icing on the cake was really when Ken Wallis put on a 20 minute flying display which was really remarkable and without doubt irrespective of his being 91 years of age he is nevertheless a very remarkable pilot. That was a very enjoyable 4 hour visit.

Finally, Jill, our son James and I wish You All a Very Enjoyable Christmas and a Very Happy and Peaceful New Year and the Good Lord willing we hope to see all of you next year at St. Louis.

Best wishes,  
Perry Watts

Distinguished Member of the 467<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group Association, 467th Group UK based Historian and Rackheath Base Contact.

### **Request for Past 467<sup>th</sup> BG Convention Photos**

who attended (at each convention) and particularly those pictures of significant interest that show former veterans who may be no longer with us. This idea was sparked by a great photo belonging to Fred Holdrege taken at Tucson in 91 showing a line-up of Col. Shower with 3 Group Squadron Commanders, the Group Navigator, and another senior staff member - a unique photo.

Can I make an appeal through POOP to encourage those that have such significant photos taken at our conventions over the years to send copies to my address on the masthead of POOP or good quality scans to my email address [awilkinson@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:awilkinson@dsl.pipex.com). Will contributors also include which convention (date if known) the photos were taken and also the identification of those pictured. Let's make this Project a success and help the Group by contributing your treasured photos. Many thanks in anticipation. (<http://www.the467thArchive.org>)

Andy Wilkinson, "Sandford" Botley Road, Horton Heath Hampshire, SO50 7DQ, ENGLAND

**Editor's Note:** Andy, Valerie took a lot of group photos.

Below are two pictures taken by Perry Watts following opening.



Mrs. Shower at the new road sign



Here is Left to Right - W/Cdr Ken Wallis, Frank Bales, Pauline Bales. John Woodfill (Roger's son-in-law), Joanne Woodfill (Roger's daughter) and Roger Leister.



One view of the Building



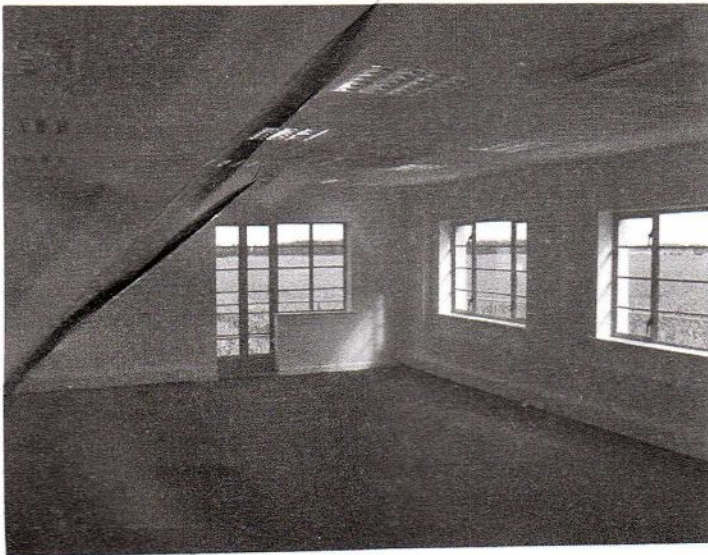
Another view of the Building



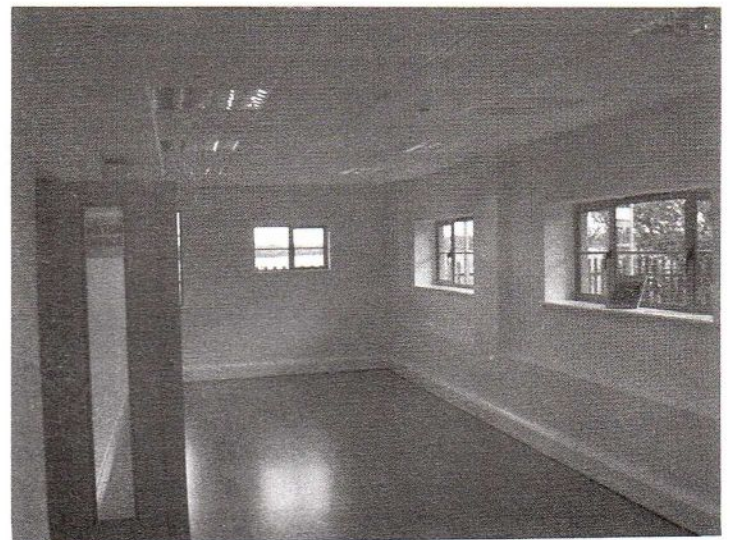
L/R Lt. Col. Dwight Doran, USAF; Air Marshal Sir John Kemball, RAF; Charlotte Shower; David Hastings and Philip Basey



Mrs. Shower at the wall plaque outside the building



View inside the building



Another view inside the building



Red & White tails over Control Tower once again!

## Restored tower had key role during war

(EDP November 19, 2007)

02 October, 2007 11:22

For more than 40 years it has sat abandoned and unloved, a shell of the building which played a key role in military history.



**Charlotte Shower officially opens the extensively restored control tower at Rackheath, which will now be used as an office suite.**

From inside its walls American airmen dispatched waves of bombers and their young crews on vital missions in the final months of the second world war. But as the control tower at Rackheath crumbled, passers-by could be forgiven their ignorance of its heritage. Yesterday, as its extensive restoration was unveiled for the first time, it stood proud once more. And while its new purpose as a plush office suite will no doubt be less fraught than its previous existence, the tower will form a flagship centrepiece signalling the area's wartime history.

Speaking after the official opening Jill Hollis-Graves, spokesman for developer Tilia, said: "It is so moving to see this redevelopment finally complete - it is a dream realised for so many people. "Many locals don't realise the significance of the tower's role in history, and the

community have told me how fascinating it has been for them to discover just what is on their doorstep. If the Americans had not been here it could have tipped the balance of the war. We have not yet found a tenant but there are various interested parties. It will certainly take a very unusual and special tenant to realise this building's potential."

The tower is virtually all that remains of the extensive USAAF second world war airbase constructed in 1942 to accommodate the 467th bomb group who, under the leadership of Col Albert Shower, played a large part in the war.

His widow Charlotte Shower attended the opening where she was joined by the lord lieutenant of Norfolk and a selection of dignitaries from the armed forces. The tower stands on Witchcraft Way, named to honour the renowned B-24 Liberator Witchcraft which was famed for her astounding endurance. Battered beyond belief, the Witch battled through 130 combat missions without ever failing to reach its target. Other planes were lucky to manage 30 or 40.

With many exploits in her career, including nearly biting the dust on many occasions, Witchcraft was scrapped and sold soon after returning to the US at the end of the war. The base was disbanded in 1959 and fell into a state of disrepair. However, about 1,000 ex-personal survive to this day, mostly living in the US.

The naming of Witchcraft Way met with controversy as the decision went to appeal with the parish council after misguided oppositions - many were simply unaware of the name's significance. Another road on the estate has been named Albert Shower Road.

A letter from Marvin Davis, president of the 467th Bombardment Group Association based in Ohio, expressed his gratitude at the developer's effort. He said: "Our two nations will always be as one, and in the days of the 1940s, without your keen desire to hold on, our efforts would have never come to pass."

"It is truly a pleasure to recognize your extraordinary accomplishment in renovating the control tower. The many frustrating years have finally ended."

### **MEMORIAL FUND**

There were 22 contributions to the mail fund this period which totaled \$1,086.50, approximately \$49.39 per donation. Your generosity, as always, is deeply appreciated but for this period, it did not meet the cost of the newsletter publication. The 22 number is only 0.016 of the membership. If you enjoy the newsletter, please help support it. Let's have some contributions from other members, other than the usual that contribute all the time. Any amount is deeply appreciated. We welcome your support. Contributors for this issue were as follows:

Abernathy, Joe  
Ament, Phyllis  
Corvino, Valerie  
Davis, Marvin Ralph  
Elliott, Walt  
Fox, Roger

Lewis, Wilbur  
Mario, Dorothea (John)  
Prichard, Lyle  
Strauss, Suzanne  
Sprague, Robert  
Samuel, Bob



Garver, Richard Upp, John  
 Harvey, M.H. (Memory Sybil) Wilds, Gordon  
 Koller, Corene (Memory Leo) Wilds, John  
 Kurtz, Larry Willis, Les  
 Leister, Roger Zaleski, Chester

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 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 29732  
 (803) 980-6529

**Cost of POOP 26-2**

Printing	\$ 465.00
Mailer Fee	\$ 265.00
Secretary Fee	\$ 350.00
Foreign Mail	\$ 62.00
Return to Sender Fee	\$ 47.65
TOTAL	\$ 1,189.65

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Currently, the balance is \$11,622.27 and there are no checks outstanding. Once the new version book of Healy is in production, the \$2,700.00 will be replaced plus any additional revenue received. No funds will be required from the treasury to support the 2008 convention.

**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 . . . . . \$3.00 ea + \$0.75 shipping

**GROUP & SQUADRON PINS**

Note: Call before ordering pins, not all available::  
 467<sup>th</sup> 789<sup>th</sup>  
 791<sup>st</sup> 788<sup>th</sup>  
 790<sup>th</sup> 470<sup>th</sup> Sub Depot (not available)

\$ 5.00 ea. plus \$0.75 package and post.  
 All 5 pins set (less 470<sup>th</sup>), \$20.00 plus \$1.00 package and post  
 Package and post is \$1.00 for five pins or less.

467<sup>th</sup> LAPEL PIN - 3/4 inch size  
 \$3.00 ea plus \$0.75 package and post for 6 or less  
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WHITE POLO SHIRT WITH EMBLEM & BG NAME  
 Sizes L, XL & XXL Shirt given at 2007 Convention  
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 \$10.00 per Bear plus \$3.50 package & post.

LIBERAMUS CAR or REFRIGERATOR MAGNETS  
 Car Magnet ea \$3.00 plus \$0.75 package and post  
 Refrigerator Magnet ea \$1.50 plus \$0.75 package and post.  
467<sup>th</sup> TAIL & ROUND TUIT

\$0.65 for two plus \$0.75 package and post  
467<sup>th</sup> GROUP COIN (Started with the 2003 Convention)  
 \$3.50 plus \$0.75 package and post

467<sup>th</sup> BG Ball Pens  
 Standard Pen . . . . . \$1.00 + \$0.75 S & H  
 Deluxe Pen . . . . . \$2.50 + \$0.75 S & H  
 2<sup>nd</sup> or more pens at 1/2 price + \$0.75 S & H extra.  
467<sup>th</sup> Calculator . . . . . \$2.50 + \$1.00 S & H

**ALL OF THE ABOVE AVAILABLE THROUGH:**

Ralph Davis  
 1143 Kenora Circle  
 Beavercreek, Ohio 45430-1101  
 (937) 426-2988

**GROUP & SQUADRON PATCHES:**

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

**ADDITIONS**

FRAZIER – AW (ED), JANICE	MELBOURNE BEACH, FL
GIESTA, LARRY	GROVE CITY, OH
MACKEY, OAK	MESA, CA
O'CONNOR, MAURICE	ROCK HALL, MD
SABLOTNY - AF, JIM	CENTERVILLE, OH

**LAST POST**

BARNDT, ELMER J.	DILLSBURG	PA
COOK, ARTHUR A.	SMITHVILLE	RI
FRAZIER, EDWARD E.	MELBOURNE BEACH	FL
HILTON, JOHN N.	LEWISTON	NY
YOUNG, GLENN D.	BRISTEL	IL

**LOST SOULS**

MCCULLOUGH, HOWARD	ST CLAIR	MI
O'CONNOR, MAURICE	ROCKHALL	MD
LOOMAN, ANTON J.	SAFETY HARBOR	FL
LOVAN, OWEN L.	SAN ANTONIO	TX

**Editor's Note:** The Lost Souls means that we have been unable to locate you for delivery of our newsletter, not that you are deceased. If I have not recorded any name that should be in the lists above, please write me the information and I will see that it is in the next issue.

**QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP**

**Convention 2009**

Please respond to the following selection of cities for the 2009. It is important to understand who would attend if the city is of their choice. The cities are:

1. San Francisco yes\_\_\_ no\_\_\_
2. Las Vegas yes\_\_\_ no\_\_\_
3. Savannah yes\_\_\_ no\_\_\_
4. Your Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Please respond by e-mail, telephone or mail this section back to me. Thank you for your cooperation.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR** from

Doris & Ralph Davis. This has been a very good year for the 467<sup>th</sup> with the Tower being restored and some of our artifacts being placed in the Tower. The membership is truly thankful to Tilia Properties for their effort in the Tower restoration.

**Ed Note:** Because of the many pictures of the Tower opening, letters and some death notices were set aside until the next issue of the newsletter. If there is any one who has not been recognized in the "Last Post", please make sure you contact me and I will get it in the next issue.

POOP FROM GROUP  
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