

Poop from Group



791st



790th



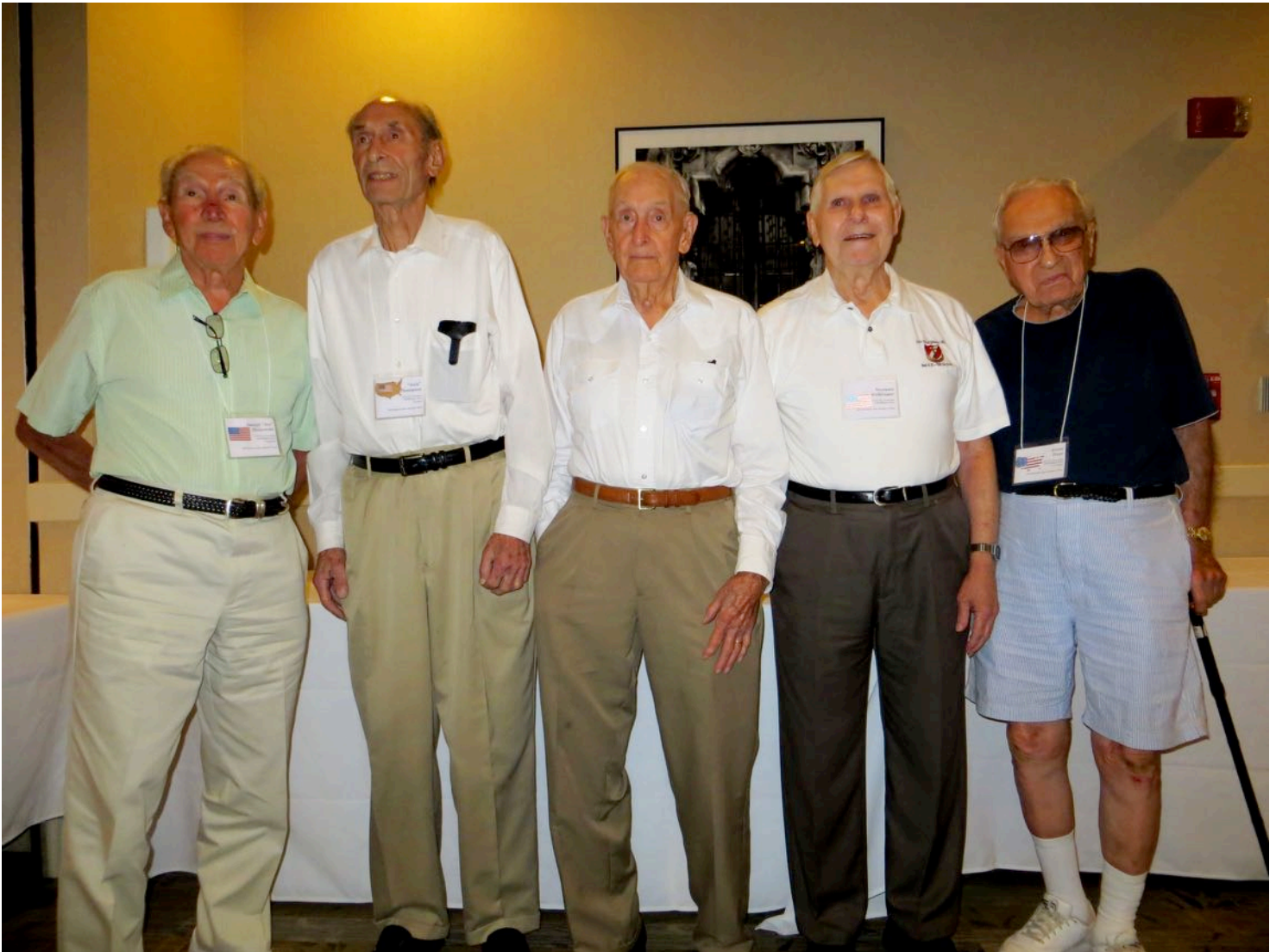
789th



788th

Newsletter of the 467th Bomb Group Association

August 1, 2013



Valerie Corvino

Five of the Best! B-24 Pilots, Joe, Jack, Frank, Norman, and Ernie (492nd and 467th)

Fun in the Sun!
First Joint Reunion as the 492nd and 467th
Get Together in San Antonio, Texas
Full Convention Report

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President's Message

By Brian Mahoney

I am honored to have been asked to take on the office recently held, in succession, by long-serving late great Ralph Davis, and his son Bob, who carried on, with his family members, service to our organization that personally honored Ralph and all of the vets. Bob and Kerry are active Directors (Kerry is Treasurer) and continue to partake in our guidance of the way forward for the association. We have a fine tradition of service in the association, inspired by the legacy of our veterans flying in harm's way from Rackheath during WW II to ensure a better world.

In San Antonio, we extended an invitation to Norma Felbinger to join the Board as a Director, and are delighted that she has accepted. Her father Norm and his Mary were with us at both recent reunions, and the trio really added a great deal to both.

This issue of POOP is adopted by recently-retired, always energetic and generous Andy Wilkinson, our 'real Brit' on board. We will print hard copies of the now 'primarily digital' POOP, for those who indicated that strong preference. If we missed anyone in the 'hard copy' (printed and mailed) version, please let me know, as my other, more lasting hat around here is 'data manager.' You will find ways to contact us opposite.

Just after we ended the reunion, we got the sad and 'too soon' news that Perry Watts, our amazing friend from Salhouse, had lost in his valiant struggle with cancer, with family there at the end. He was very relieved a month ago to send final edits off to his printer of his final big work, a book on Witchcraft, which this board, and his son James, will ensure does come out next year as Perry would have liked, with a small tribute to the author by his son inserted. Perry did a great deal for us as individuals, as this post-war association, and for the documented history of the combat organization. He was host, guide, friend, technology- and organization expert, and generous to a fault. He had a way with the written and spoken word, and was a precise and accurate illustrator in demanding dry-brush watercolor, as well as pen-and-ink. I suspect that if he had lived another 83 years, we still would have not found anything he could not do, and do well. Be assured, he would have been DOING. His age never squared with his 30-something's energy. His and David Hastings' efforts resulted in the memorial marker on 'our' airfield, and the recent endowment by us of its perpetual maintenance scheme, under the aegis of the Broadlands District Council. They both lent encouragement and technical advice to the firm that restored 'our' tower from near ruin in recent years, and both worked hard to allay urbanization plans that would overrun the old airfield site with poorly conceived housing.

Continued Page 3

President's Message Continued

We will never forget him, and will find suitable ways to commemorate Perry; your gifts in his name, made out to the 467th BGA with Perry Watts Memorial on the memo line, will be applied, appreciated, and acknowledged.

Our wonderful hosts in San Antonio, the 492nd BG Association, are keen to have us work with them for a 2014 gathering in New Orleans, dates and details being developed now. I was honored to deliver a talk on banquet night in San Antonio on the historical connection between the

two groups. Veteran of both, Ernie Haar, was there as the sole example of ones who were in squadron that came to Rackheath after the breakup of the hard-luck North Pickenham 492nd in August of '44. Both groups are now more informed on the strong connection they palpably felt and celebrated, and we hope you can be part of that next year! You can glimpse the fun by going to <http://492ndbgassociationreunion.shutterfly.com/> and supplying the **password: 492BG**

-Brian Mahoney

467th BG POST EXCHANGE

Group Window Decal..... - \$3.00 ea + \$0.75 shipping

Group & Squadron Pins..... - \$4.00ea + \$0.75ea for shipping (788,789,790,791 & 467th)

467th Liberaamus Insignia Ball Cap (Red)..... - \$10.00ea + \$2.00 shipping

White Polo Shirt with Emblem & BG Name (xl &xxl only)..... - \$12.00 + \$3.50 shipping

Liberaamus Car or Refrigerator Magnets:

Car Magnet..... - \$3.00ea + \$0.75 shipping

Refrigerator Magnet..... - \$1.50 + \$0.75 shipping

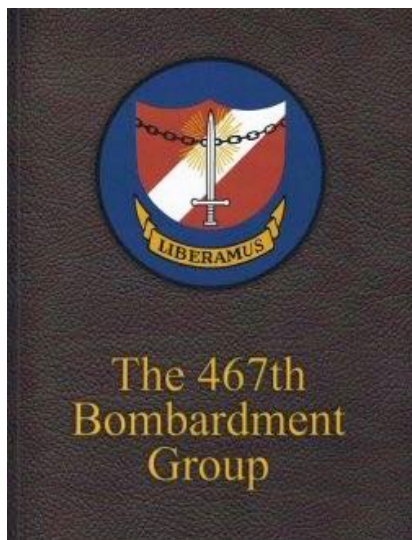
467th Tail & Round Tuit.....- \$0.75ea + \$0.75 shipping

467th Group Coin..... - \$7.00 + \$0.75 shipping

Group & Squadron Patches..... - \$5.00ea + \$0.75 shipping

All 5 patch set..... \$20.00 + \$1.50 shipping

Package and post is \$0.75 up to 4 patches.



The 467th BG Association is delighted to offer a Softback limited edition of the original 1947 Allan Healy "467th BG History". This fifth and final edition has had text reformatting and photographic restoration by Colin LaRussa. Also an Addendum with revised Casualty Listings and new details of burial sites within American Military Cemeteries. This book is not available elsewhere.

At 262 pages.....\$50 + \$5 shipping

**All of the above available from Bob Davis,
4908 Timberview Dr., Dayton, OH45424
TEL - (937) 237-8413 whataboutbob@woh.rr.com**

Together Again After All These Years—San Antonio, a 467th and 492nd Reunion to Remember

By Cindy Stevens cstevens467bg@gmail.com

It all kicked off with a hot taco bar in a cool hipster hotel—the first official joint reunion of the 492nd and 467th Bomb Group Associations— and by the time it was over, new friends seemed like old friends, and Ernie Haar, a 492nd and 467th vet with feet firmly planted in both groups, had recommended that we make a habit of having joint reunions going forward. In the mix of new and familiar faces were 467th veterans Norm Felbinger, Ernie Haar, Jack Thompson, Frank Watson, and Joe Zbikowski, all in fine form.

Fran Gramberg, daughter of Howard Heckmann (492nd), picked a great location and scheduled plenty of activities. San Antonio's El Tropicano hotel, originally opened in 1963, and renovated in 2006, provided plenty of cool places for spontaneous gatherings and a comfortable, friendly respite for the sizzling San Antonio heat.

During the day on Thursday, most of the group took an excursion to Lackland AFB for a base tour, graduation ceremony, and lunch, then it was back to the hotel for a few hours to rest and get ready for a Texas-style dinner. At the appointed time we were wrangled onto the bus and we headed up and moved out to Rio Cibolo Ranch where we were greeted warmly by a fiddler, a cowboy, and a bartender who mixed a mean margarita and was quick to serve up cold beer. Cowboy Doug had funny stories and jokes



Hotel El Tropicano



The Fiddler

(with blanks) along with a primer on the quick-draw skills of famous movie cowboys from Gene Autry to John Wayne.

Cowboy Doug was a tough act to follow, but we split into two groups and climbed aboard the tractor-drawn hayride to see more of the ranch and to get up close and personal with some Texas Longhorns. I have been assured that these cows will live long and happy lives, and are not destined to end up on someone's plate. The Longhorns were accustomed to greenhorns, such as ourselves, and ate feed pellets right out of our hands, which was a bit sloppy, but fun. After that, we were rounded up and herded back onto the bus and driven home to the El Tropicano where some went to our hospitality room, others off in search of a rumored bottle of Glenfiddich that needed emptying, and war stories while others were off to the Trop's on-site Tiki Bar for refreshments, live guitar music, and good conversation late into the night.

to tell as he chatted with folks while the fiddler, well, played a mean fiddle. Following a dinner that included barbecued ribs, chicken, cole slaw, and a dessert of fruit cobblers and vanilla ice cream, Cowboy Doug turned out to be the star of the after-dinner entertainment. He dazzled us with his trick roping with the assistance of Tae Bailey, grandson of Sandy Bailey (492nd), and whip handling with the able assistance of Patricia Halpin, Charlotte Shower's granddaughter, and a demonstration of his indoor pistol-shooting skills



"Cowboy Doug" Lassos Tae Bailey

Friday was another sizzler. The official group excursion was to the Alamo and other city sites, including a stop at the famed Mexican Market for shopping, lunch, and margaritas; others stayed in the hotel to catch up with one another, and others to enjoy the Trop's pool and patio.

After dinner at the hotel Friday evening, Jay Shower regaled the room with anecdotes including how his first flying lesson as a kid was in a B-29, courtesy of his father, in response to Jay's birthday request for a plane ride. Brian Mahoney spoke about the two bomb groups' shared history and how they came to be connected.

San Antonio awakened Saturday morning to an unexpected torrential shower. The rain ended as abruptly as it started, and the excursion for the day was to Fredericksburg, Texas, a town founded by German immigrants, located in Texas Hill Country about 70 miles north of San Antonio. Fredericksburg is the birthplace of Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, which sheds some light on why it was chosen as home to the National Museum of the Pacific War, which the group visited. Fredericksburg is also home to some wineries, so in addition to visiting the museum, members of the group sampled some of the local wine and German food at the town's restaurants before heading back to the hotel to prepare for the evening's festivities.



Fredericksburg, Texas' National Museum of the Pacific War

An official photo shoot kicked off Saturday night's festivities with group and individual photos in front of the hotel's curved lobby staircase, then dinner at the hotel, complete an honor guard, a remembrance ceremony in honor of absent friends, and a silent auction and raffle, which featured a traditional 492nd curiosity known as the "Howard Heckmann Rainmaking Raffle Dance", which was quite something to witness. After a successful silent auction and raffle, the evening came to a close, but not before the 492nd folks invited the 467th folks to make the 2014 reunion be another joint affair to be held in New Orleans—an invitation we accepted immediately and heartily. Please plan to attend, and weigh in with Fran (Reunion Organizer/Planner fgranberg@msn.com) as soon as you can with your preference as to whether you would prefer it to be in either April or September/October 2014. San Antonio gave us a reunion to remember, and as we look forward to meeting in New Orleans, as the Cajuns say, "laissez les bon temps rouler!"



The Alamo

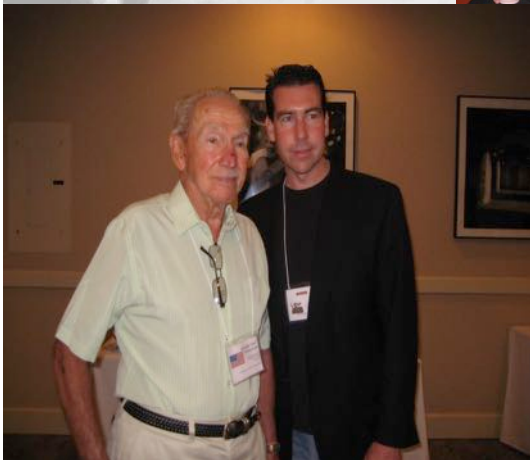


467th and 492nd veterans attending San Antonio Convention

Norman Felbinger, Joe Zbikowski, Jack Thompson, Frank Watson (all 467th), Walter White (492nd), Ernie Haar (467th and 492nd), Kay Craig, Bob Scott and Howard Heckmann (all 492nd)

San Antonio Convention Photo Gallery June 2013





Notes from the Editor



It is with a tinge of trepidation I take the new role Editor of “POOP” whose stewardship has been nurtured through the years by a number of individuals who have commanded great admiration and respect. It remains a big challenge to live up to expectations of the past but I hope we can together continue to report, reflect, inform, and above all, promote the legacy of the 467th BG in a purposeful manner through the medium of your newsletter.

My sincere thanks to fellow Directors who have been quick to encourage and never short of ideas. **Kelli Coolidge** for developing a new POOP Masthead and graphics. Hope the revised look and layout meets with the approval of the vast majority. Contributions and feedback are warmly welcome in the form of letters/email, news articles, photos, memorabilia, and all things “467th”. Address your ideas for publication to: **andywilkinson467th@btinternet.com**

Those of you receiving this issue as an on-line pdf file do so free of charge. Remember, the 467th BG Association maintains a policy of “no dues” for producing POOP. However, we incur substantial costs to continue to publish and mail hard copies of the newsletter to those who do not have access to Personal Computers or those who simply prefer to receive a printed copy of POOP. Although the aim is for the newsletter to eventually be an on-line version only, we

won’t abandon those of you who opt for the traditional printed method. With this in mind, we humbly solicit donations specifically for the production of the newsletter in order we may carry on with confidence that all can get to enjoy reading POOP whatever their chosen format. Please send checks payable to the “**467th BGA**” to Treasurer **Kerry Davis 1032 Stanwick Dr., Beavercreek, OH 45430** stating “POOP” in your communication.

Just as we go to publish we learn of the passing of our good friend and Group Historian, **Perry Watts**. Perry was an immense force in the authoritative documentation of the History and who could not be touched by his charm and generous spirit. A very special individual, I will sadly miss our regular “467th conversations”. A full tribute and appreciation of Perry is planned for the next issue.

- *Andy Wilkinson*

467th BG Association Attendees at San Antonio Convention

Valerie Corvino
Norman Felbinger
Mary & Norma Felbinger
Jim Gummelt
Ernie Haar (492nd/467th)
Lloyd & Maria Harmon
Tom Johnson
Brian Mahoney (492nd/467th)
Patricia Halpin & Charlotte Shower
Jay Shower & Ann Pooch
Cindy Stevens
Jack Thompson & Fika Kladjak
Joe Zbikowski
Shirley Lowe
Frank Watson
Steve, Debbie, & John Watson
Andy & Tom Wilkinson

Veterans in Bold



Introducing Web Watch: seen any interesting sites while browsing? Particularly sites with an aviation or WW2 theme. Then share them with us so others may enjoy and pass on.

In this issue - The Collings B24 "Witchcraft", Liberators over Europe, Arizona Aircraft Graveyard 1947, Inside the Willow Run B24 Plant, and stunning WW2 color Kodachromes.



Collings B-24 Witchcraft, taxi, takeoff and landing at Warrenton, VA. You Tube offers many examples of the Collings B-24 Witchcraft but this HD footage particularly captures the beauty of the aircraft as it taxis and departs the runway and returns to land at Warrenton. Those Pratt and Witney engines have never sounded better!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jfKqfubV_zs

Duration 04:38



National Archive Footage, Liberators over Europe 1943-1945. Touches on the famous Ploesti mission and much, much, more.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxuh9DX8VAI>

Duration 20:43



Kingman, Arizona, Aircraft Graveyard. Fantastic collection of photos depicting many B-24 and B-17 war weary surplus aircraft out in the desert. The production of this footage is "eerie" coupled with a wonderful and apt soundtrack.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TJk1jqzjYU>

Duration 06:04



Inside the Willow Run B-24 plant. Looks at the role of women in producing the aircraft in vast numbers at an incredible rate during 1943/44. Lots of facts and figures in this official Ford Motor Company archive footage.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQKvBPjxMo4>

Duration 10:15

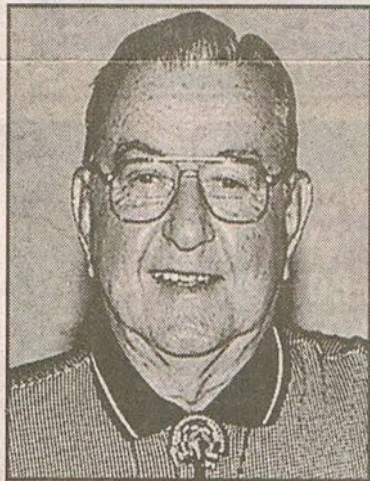


1940s 4x5 Kodachrome transparencies. Fine collection of images captured at many of the military aviation assembly plants during 1940-43. The photos of industrial war production are of the highest quality and inspiring to view.

<http://pavelkosenko.wordpress.com/2012/03/28/4x5-kodachromes>

Send your favourite web links to the editor at andywilkinson467th@btinternet.com

Obituaries



John William Upp
5/3/1923 - 10/7/2011

John, 88, was born in Harrisville, PA to John and Margaret Upp. He was awarded the Bronze Star for his WWII service in the 467th Bombardment Group. He flew the B-24 Liberator to complete 23 combat missions over Europe and continued during the Korean War as a transport plane pilot. Together with his loving wife of 57 years, Catherine Strachan Upp, they raised three daughters, Debra (Tony) Gagliano, Karen (Randy) Oden and Carol (Ron) Ham; grandchildren include: Paul, Alex, Sean, Britney and Kirsten. John retired after 30 years of service to Amphenol (Honeywell) and moved to Tucson where he and Cathie have been blessed with many wonderful friends. John enjoyed volunteering and donated time to the Pima Air Museum, leading discussions on the B-24 Liberator. His passions included baseball, cooking, stamp collecting, traveling with his wife and spending time with his grandchildren. A Memorial Service will be at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2450 E. Ft. Lowell on Saturday, October 15, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. Interment to follow at East Lawn Cemetery. The family requests donations are made to Paralyzed Veterans of America. Arrangements by **BRING'S BROADWAY CHAPEL**, 6910 E. Broadway.

John Upp, 790th Sq. Pilot.

John was an active member of the 467th BG Association and served as a Director on the Board for a number of years. Always full of ideas in promoting the history and legacy of the 467th, it was an honor and privilege to work alongside John during Group Business Meetings. *(Editor)*

Gary Torre, 791st Sq. Lead Navigator.

Gary Jerome Torre Died of heart failure in his home in the late evening of January 19th, 2013. He was born in Oakland on October 14th, 1919, the son of Giove Mario Torre of San Francisco and Jessie Lillian Garibotto of Stockton. He was the valedictorian of his Oakland High School class of 1937. During high school, he developed a lifelong delight in theater, playing Oberon in A Midsummer Night's Dream and copywriting two plays: "Ginnie" and "Royal Rebellion: A Satirical Fantasy." He graduated with a BA in English from UC Berkeley, in 1941. He served as a lieutenant and lead navigator of B 24s in the 467th Bomb Group in WW II, flying some 30 combat missions in Europe. He graduated from UC Law School (Boalt Hall) in 1948 and clerked for Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas from 1948-1949. On Christmas Day, 1948, he married Caroline de Saussure Goodrich of Saratoga, California. They took up residence in the Bay Area in 1949 and he joined the admiralty firm of Lillick, McHose, Wheat, Adams, and Charles (since merged into Nixon Peabody) in 1949, retiring as senior partner in 1982. He was well known for his legal work for the Pacific Maritime Association and the Sierra Club. He served for 12 years on the Board of the Sierra Club Foundation, from 1969-1981, the last three as its President. With his wife, he shared a zest for travel, a love of art, a passion for opera, the symphony, ballet, and theater, and a special gift for friendship.

Folded Wings

Charles "David" Grinnell

Arthur "Ken" Ireland

James A. Rollo

Dennis E. Soblom

Denis Sporle - UK Associate

J. Lucile Stevens - wife of Jack Stevens (June 2011)

Gary J. Torre

John W.C. Upp (October 2011)

William R. Voss

William "Perry" Watts - UK Distinguished Member

Edwin E. Wright

Please send news of "Folded Wings" also Obituaries to 467th BG veterans or prominent Associates where we will be honored to record names in the newsletter.

Details to our President and Membership/Data Manager

- Brian Mahoney BriCamera@mindspring.com

Obituaries

Village gathers to say farewell to 'Mr Barsham'

By **DAVID LENNARD**
david.lennard@archant.co.uk

MORE than 300 people gathered at Holy Trinity Church, Barsham, to bid farewell to a well-known Suffolk character, dubbed by some as "Mr Barsham".

Denis Frank Sporle, known as "Henry", died suddenly on the 14th September aged 80 and was buried in Holy Trinity churchyard on September 26.

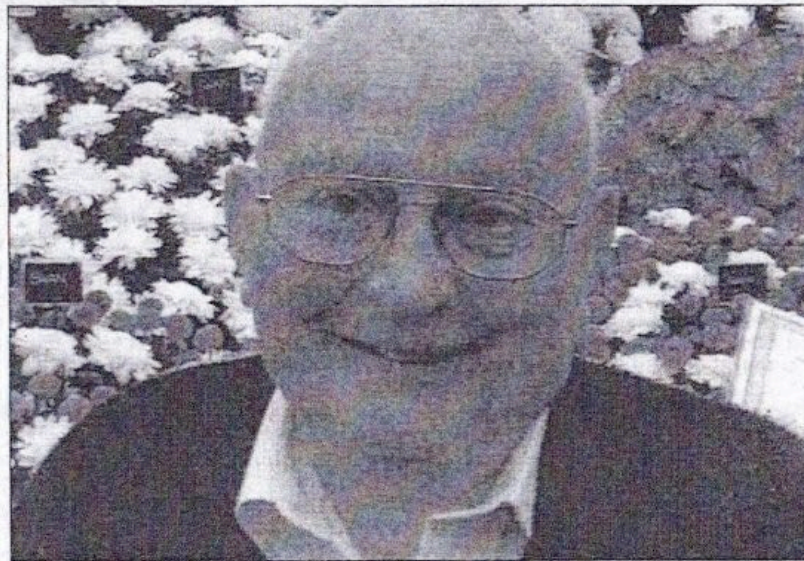
Denis was a member of the church choir since the age of 8 until his death, with only a two years gap for his national Service from 1950-1952. In 1956 he was elected to the church council (PCC) and became a church warden in 1967, a post he held until 2009, serving for some 42 years.

On his retirement he was elected warden emeritus and received a letter of thanks from the bishop. A generous benefactor to Holy Trinity Church, he enabled the church to restore the St. Christopher window that had been severely damaged some 27 years previously, following a fire in 1979.

He had an almost life-long association with Barsham Football Club having played for them for 30 years from 1948.

In 2008 Denis was awarded the Les Freeman Award for long service to Barsham FC at a meeting of Beccles Town Council and in 2009 he received a gold medal from the FA for his long service to the sport. The medal was awarded in the Bobby Robson Suite at Portman Road at the annual Suffolk FA awards, and in 2010 he was the first recipient of the Bob Sale Memorial Cup for exceptional services to his club.

An active and enthusiastic member of Barsham Parish Council, the Barsham Village Hall Committee (with his wife Joan he acted



MUCH MISSED: Denis 'Henry' Sporle, who was known as 'Mr Barsham' to many people in the village.

as caretaker for many years) and the Barsham Flower Show, he also took on the distribution of The Sheaf parish magazine as well as serving long-term as collector for the local '100 club' monthly draw.

In 1997 the EDP featured Denis standing opposite his house on the B1062 with a floral tribute he placed yearly as a commemoration to the American airmen who died or were injured when a Liberator bomber, shot down by a German night fighter crashed opposite the School House.

With the help of the War Graves Commission Denis also managed to obtain the names and details of the Barsham and Shipmeadow servicemen who gave the ultimate sacrifice

in the First World War and a plaque with their names was added to the memorial a few years later.

Henry's generosity and community spirit, his ready smile and cheeky sense of humour is well known, not only in Barsham, Bungay, Beccles and many other villages and towns in Suffolk and Norfolk but also in the USA where he was warmly welcomed by service families and associations, enjoying several holidays in their company.

A Barsham resident has written to the Sporle family: "We shall miss his cheerful presence in our community; he was a beacon of gentility and Christian virtues and an example to us all".

UK friend and supporter of the 467th BG, **Denis Sporle**, will be remembered as the instigator and driving force behind the creation of a memorial to the 791st Lt. Stalie Reid crew who crashed close to his home in April 1944. This was the infamous evening "intruder" attack where many 2nd Air Division aircraft returning from the mission to Hamm, Germany, came under surprise sustained attack when nearing home bases. Denis, aged 10 was a witness to the tragedy and it was always his wish to make a lasting memorial to the seven airman who lost their lives that evening. Following a successful fund-raising drive the Memorial was inaugurated on the 55th anniversary of the crash by the very special attendance of Mr.

Mervin Shank from Ohio, sole surviving member of the Lt. Stalie Reid crew.

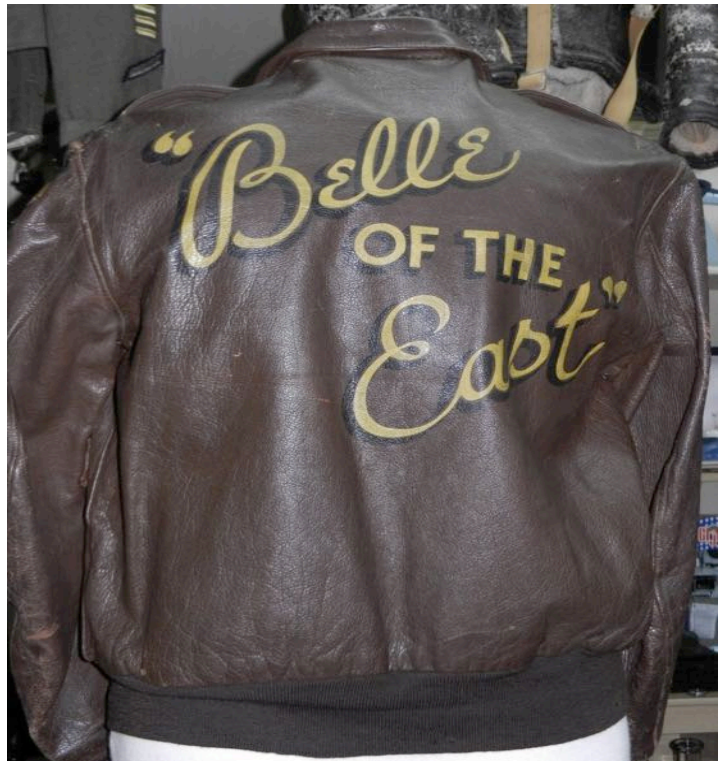




Overhead the Field -

Original A2 Jackets worn by aircrew during WW2 are keenly sought after artefacts by collectors and museums worldwide. This example formerly belonged to 791st Sq. Co-Pilot, Ken Ireland, and is owned by collectors Tammy & Shane Bryant of South Carolina. The A2 Jacket was “found” in an antique store in Gatlingburg, Tennessee, while on a weekend trip back in 2002. They describe the Jacket as “museum quality” and purchased it right away.

Following on-line research and a visit to the 8th Air Force Heritage Center, Savannah, GA., where they have extensive research facilities, also contact with English Eighth researcher Richard Lindsey, it was authenticated. How it found its way to an antique store in Tennessee is unclear.



Rear view of A2 Jacket with “Belle of the East” artwork which also adorned the 791st Sq. B24 the crew named and flew over to Rackheath.



Ken Ireland’s former A2 Jacket on display in the private collection owned by Tammy & Shane Bryant. Note the 35 mission bomb symbols, also the name badge “A.K. Ireland” (All Photos via Tammy & Shane Bryant, Richard Lindsey)

Lt. Ken Ireland was Co-Pilot with the original 791st Sq. Lt. Willard Sell Crew and assigned as Crew#86. They first flew combat on the 467th’s second Group Mission 11th April 44 on #420 “Belle of the East” and regularly through the following months. The crew were aboard “Belle of the East” for the Groups’ first mission on D-Day, 6th June 44, and almost came to grief two days later flying the B24 “Also Ran”. Following departure on the 8th June 44 mission to Pontabault, France, they ran into problems right away.

This is an extract from Fred Enck's mission diary, radio-operator on the Willard Sell crew:

"No time for radio pre-flight. When airborne discovered compass defective, could not locate Splasher#5. VHF out, could not contact formation. Ceiling up to 22,000ft and down to 500ft, became lost. SOS to D/F section got us a fix and we came in over the field. Visibility very poor, bounced on landing and left wheel came off. Crash-landed with Six 1000lb GPs aboard. Plane a washout, no one injured".

Lt. Ken Ireland continued to fly with the Sell crew with majority of the missions flying "Belle of the East". Final mission for the crew and their 35th was completed on the 25th July 44 mission in support of ground troops at Montreuil, France. Lt. Willard Sell remained at Rackheath for a spell instructing new crews as they arrived. Other crew members returned home after completing their tour.



Lt. Willard Sell, Crew Commander and Pilot Crew#86



Inset: Co-Pilot Ken Ireland wearing the original A2 Jacket in 1944:



Crew#86 pictured after completing their 35th Mission and safely back at Rackheath

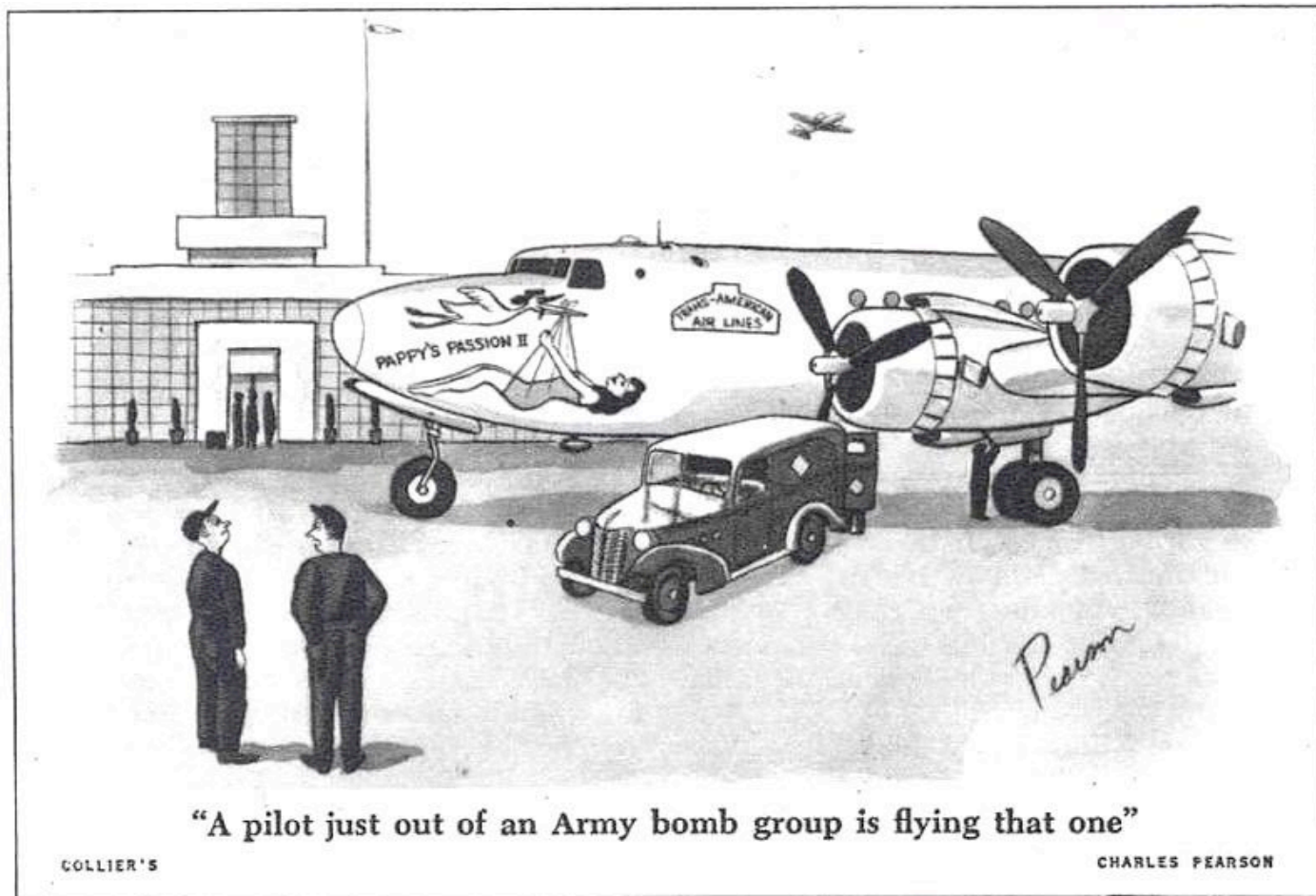
Left to right standing: Robert Farnsworth, John Simanowith, Francis McCusker, Willard Sell, Ken Ireland.

Bottom: Fred Enck, Charles Schultz, Mort Schecter, Francis Lavery, Charles Cochey.

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Cartoon from March 1946 Collier's Magazine