

POOP from Group



791st



790th



789th



788th

Newsletter of the 467th Bomb Group Association

January 2016

Seattle

**..... here we come!
April 27 - May 1**



SEATTLE: *a vibrant modern city in the northwest corner enjoying a magnificent natural setting on beautiful Puget Sound and the host of our forth joint reunion/convention for the 467th and 492nd Bomb Group Associations.*

***** Full Details, Program, Optional Group Tours, Hotel, Registration *****

Our own Seattle coffee house, and much more. Come and Join us!

In this issue...."The TRAGIC Finale", when the 200th Mission celebrations turned sour.

467th BGA Administration

President

Brian Mahoney
823 Whitelock Street
Baltimore, MD 21217
archivist@brianmahoney.com

Vice President

Jay Shower
El Cajon, California
jayshower@aol.com

Secretary

Valerie Corvino
McMurray, Pennsylvania
vcorvino467@gmail.com

Treasurer

Kerry Davis
1032 Stanwick Dr.
Beavercreek, OH 45430
kdavis467thBG@roadrunner.com

Editor

Andy Wilkinson
6 Stowbrook
Sidmouth, Devon, EX10 9FH England
andywilkinson467th@btinternet.com

Directors

Bob Davis
Dayton, Ohio
whataboutbob@woh.rr.com

J. Peter Horne
Portland, Oregon
peter@467bg-research.com

Tom Johnson
San Leandro, California
tdj47@yahoo.com

Cindy Stevens
Washington, DC
cstevens467bg@gmail.com

Ann Pooch
San Diego, California
apooch@cox.net

Web Sites

www.467bg.com

www.the467thArchive.org

Honorary Board Chairman (RIP)

Col Albert J. Shower



The 467th
Bombardment Group
The Rackheath Aggies



President's Message

By Brian Mahoney

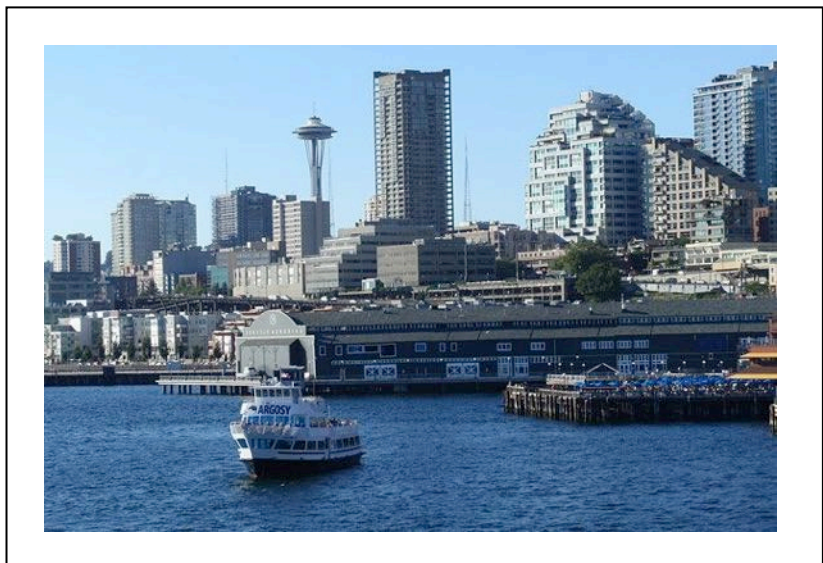
Planning for the next joint reunion (with the 492nd, for the 4th time now) has gone smoothly. The committee, comprising members of both the groups, again have delivered great value for us in Seattle. It is our hope that we will have made reunion attendance easier for some in this neglected Pacific Northwest corner of the country, and that we may even meet people 'new' to us, and our combined reunion circuit.

If you fit into that category, and are close enough to be mainly interested in a 'day trip' or single overnight to join us, the committee will accommodate with reduced or cost-free registration. Feel free to contact the registrar with your request. If you are a veteran within two hours of Seattle, but wanting logistical support to attend, please let us know that, too! We want to see you!

Your association directors continually consider what our activities will become when we no longer have WW II veterans in our midst... but we are aware of the amazing legacy shared by their families and friends, and want to be good stewards of the story of the Rackheath Aggies, well into the future. What are your concerns or ideas? As always, we would love to hear from you.

Whether it will be in body or spirit, we will enjoy 'having you with us' as we gather in Seattle in late April. I hope 2016 is a year of health and accomplishment for each of you.

Brian H. Mahoney - Archivist@brianmahoney.com



Harbor cruise..... one of the many options available during our Seattle reunion.

Notes from the Editor



Details including Registration for our 2016 Reunion/Convention in April at the DoubleTree Hotel in Seattle are found on Pages 6,7, & 8. Opportunities to spend quality time with *“those who were there”* back in 1944/45 are diminishing as each year passes. I urge you all to come and join in the fun and participate in this very special experience along with family and friends and make the 2016 gathering a truly memorable occasion to be treasured. Look forward to seeing you in April!

James Watts writes giving background to his Dad’s last work “Witchcraft” - Our Enchanted Wartime B24 Liberator

Some readers may have known my late father, Perry Watts, who lived on Norwich Road from 1957 until 2013. After retiring in 1993, Dad threw himself into reviving his childhood passion for aviation, first in paintings and latterly in writing a definitive history of the 467th Heavy Bombardment Group, part of the US 8th Army Air Force, which was based on the Rackheath/Salhouse borders in 1944-45.

The “467th” were unique in a number of ways. Firstly, the same commanding officer, Colonel Albert Shower, flew with the Group both on deployment from the United States, and on its return there on cessation of hostilities. Secondly, the Group possessed the record for the highest level of bombing accuracy in the entire 8th Army Air Force. Thirdly, the Group boasted the appropriately named B-24 Liberator “Witchcraft”, which at 130 credited missions far exceeded the average 30-40 mission operational lifetime of most other B-24 Liberators.

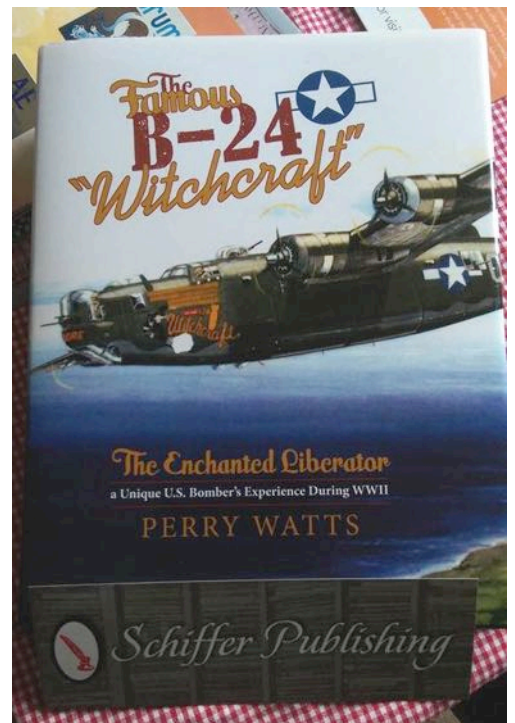
In his final year, Dad drew on the enormous archival resources he had on the 467th to write the story of “Witchcraft” – how it was built in the then largest factory in the world, flown stage by stage across the Atlantic to Rackheath, and became the home “ship” for a number of crews, some of whom would later pay the ultimate price as victims of the Gestapo. Her ground crew, the “League of Nations”, brought together Chinese-American, Dutch-American, German-American and American staff members under the leadership of a formidable Mexican-American master sergeant, Joe Ramirez.

70 years after “Witchcraft” departed our local skies for the final time, and in this 70th anniversary year of remembrance of the sacrifices made to achieve victory in Europe, it has been my pleasure and honour to publish Dad’s final book. In May last year I travelled to Kansas City to share it with some of the remaining Rackheath veterans. As might be expected, they were thrilled to see their story in print again.

I hope this book has also helped capture part of the history of Rackheath and Salhouse for posterity, a point in time that foreshadowed the huge influence American culture and connections would have in East Anglia and the UK (and vice versa) in postwar years to come.

For those interested, “The Famous B-24 “Witchcraft” – The Enchanted Liberator” by Perry Watts is published by Schiffer’s. It is currently available from Jarrolds (support your local booksellers!) at £33.50 or failing that new/used copies can be purchased online from Amazon. (Highly recommended! - *Editor*)

We were saddened to learn of the recent passing of UK Associate **Tony North** who some of you may recall worked for many years as a “Trust Aide” in the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library, Norwich. Tony was regularly at hand to welcome returning veterans from all the 2AD Bomb Groups, organise visits to the bases, and above all, share his passion, knowledge and wonderful B24 photographic collection.



Editor's Notes...continued

Our Rackheath Base Contact, **David Hastings**, kindly provided a couple of photos depicting the wreath laid by the Village at the Marker on Remembrance Sunday back in November. The inscription aptly reads, "We will not forget you...."



Please continue to send email and news you feel would benefit the newsletter, particularly those prized Rackheath photos of personnel, scenes, and B24s. All material warmly welcome. Next POOP newsletter will report on our SEATTLE Reunion, business meeting news and hopefully a likely location for our 2017 gathering. Make every effort to join us!

Andy Wilkinson - Editor andywilkinson467th@btinternet.com

Obituaries



Joseph "Joe" Pilarski, Gunner 790th & 791st Sq.

Joseph A. Pilarski, 91, of Indian Land, SC, passed away on Friday, June 19, 2015 at Levine & Dickson Hospice, Southminster. Mr. Pilarski was born on October 22, 1923 in Philadelphia, PA, son to the late Joseph and Helen Pilarski. His sisters Eleanor Gallagher and Alma Scott; step-daughter Lorraine Saitta and sister-in-law Cass Pilarski also preceded him in passing. He proudly served his country in the United States Air Force during WWII and received the Theater Ribbon and an Air Medal. Mr. Pilarski retired from Unisys Computer Corporation as a Mechanical Engineer in 1981.



John R. Harbison, Navigator 788th & 791st Sq.

Bob Harbison, 90, of Newberry, died Thursday, November 26, 2015 at Newberry County Memorial Hospital. Born on January 16, 1925 in Lexington, KY, he was the son of the late James Robert and Lenora White Harbison. Mr. Harbison was a man of principles and led his life as an example of integrity and honor. He was an Army Air Force veteran, and retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserves. He served in World War II with the 467th Bombardment Group. He was a member of Shandon United Methodist in Columbia where he was a member of the Good Will Sunday school class. He attended Central United Methodist Church and the Seekers Sunday school class. Mr. Harbison retired as State Highway Engineer with the Kentucky Department of Transportation, and later retired from Wilbur Smith and Associates. He loved to travel and his work took him to numerous places including Thailand, Hong Kong, Egypt, China and the Philippines. Mr. Harbison was a member of Tau Beta Pi, AASHTO, and SASHTO.

Obituaries cont.

Anthony P. Barrett, Armorer 1451st Ord. Co. / 791st Sq.

Anthony Patrick "Red" Barrett, age 96, late of Hegewisch, one of America's Greatest Generation, born April 23, 1919, third child of Bridget and Michael Barrett of County Mayo, Ireland and Chicago, passed away August 27, 2015. Beloved husband of 56 years to the late Helen (nee Lampa). Great dad and role model to Patty, Barbara and Tim Barrett. Tony was born and raised on Chicago's Southeast Side. He served his country in WWII in England with the 8th Army Air Force. He served his city as a Chicago Police Officer, retiring as a detective with 37 years of service and served his faith as a 64 year member of St. Columba Parish and Past Grand Knight of Trinity Council Knights of Columbus, participating in their many charities serving as longtime president of ESCA and of course Friday Bingo. And he grew the best tomatoes in Chicago. Though 6'2" and over 200 lbs, Tony never hid sentiment, always remembering to send birthday and holiday cards to friends and family. He stayed in touch with his many nieces and nephews, following their lives over the years. Even into his 90's, a family gathering was never missed. During trips to Ireland and England, when he was in his 80's, he met many of his first cousins (sharing a couple of pints, of course).



The 467th
Bombardment
Group

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 text reformatting and photographic restoration by Colin LaRussa, also a fully revised and comprehensive Addendum. Price \$50 + \$5 shipping - payment via check or PayPal

**Available from David LaRussa,
8570 N. Mulberry Dr., TUCSON, AZ 85704
TEL - (520) 322-9827 alarussa7@msn.com**

Folded Wings

Anthony P. Barrett - Armorer 1451st Ord. Co. /791st August 2015

Helen Dzenowagis - December 2015

Peggy Lou Gair - December 2015

John R. Harbison - Navigator 788th/791st November 2015

Merle L. Hess - Aircrew 788th November 2014

Tony North - UK Associate, Trust-Aide, 2AD Memorial Library December 2015

Joseph A. Pilarski - Aircrew 790th/791st June 2015

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 Archivist@brianmahoney.com



Reunion Roundup

An invitation to Seattle from the planning group...greetings from the gang behind the scenes! Every effort is being made to welcome you and make you comfortable at the 4th joint bomb group reunion. Our sincere hope is that each of you who is able will join us this year as we remember those not with us and rejoice with those who are. We want to see your smiling faces!!

Weather forecast—typically mid-50s during the day and low 40s at night. Averages for the time period are 40% cloudy/55% rainy. An umbrella will be included in your welcome packet!!!

What to bring—jacket, rain coat, walking shoes, happy feet, raffle/auction items, pictures or memorabilia to share.

Special reunion features

- “welcome to Seattle coffee bar” and beverage opportunities—you may bring your own alcoholic beverages to the hospitality room for consumption prior to dinner. The hotel exclusively offers adult beverages during dinner, along with non-alcoholic beverages.
- group photo
- sights and sounds of Seattle with our own group tours
- raffle and silent auction. Proceeds help lower costs so please contribute items of value and join in the fun.
- extras for those who want more: Northwest Tours offers you the Flying Heritage Collection, Mt. Rainier, City Tours. They pick up and return you to the hotel. Let us know if you are coming early or staying after the reunion and want more information.

Hotel information

Register before April 13. You may cancel without penalty up to 24 hours ahead so don't wait!!! DoubleTree Suites by Hilton, Seattle Airport/Southcenter, 16500 Southcenter Parkway, Seattle WA 98188, 206-575-8220 or toll free 800-222-8733 reservations. When registering use the Goup CODE: WW2 and let the agent know the group block is at this specific hotel. The group name is WWII Reunion 492nd/467th Bomb Group. Check in April 27; check out May 1. To register online go to <http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/S/SEASPDT-WW2-20160426/index.jhtml?WT.mcid=POG> Free breakfast buffet for up to 2 guests per room is included in the room reservation. Additional vouchers are available for \$12. Rates are \$109 + 12.4% taxes + \$2 tourism fee per night. Rates are available 3 days before and after the reunion based on availability. A complimentary airport shuttle is available 24/7 and free shuttle within 1 mile of the hotel.

***** LIVE LINK FOR Electronic POOP Subscribers *****

<http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/S/SEASPDT-WW2-20160426/index.jhtml?WT.mcid=POG>

Optional Reunion Itinerary

Welcome Wednesday, 27th

Settle into Seattle; pick up packets; Mexican buffet 6-7:30 pm; linger with friends in the fabulous coffee bar; drop off raffle/auction items



Thursday, 28th

Breakfast; 9 am coach to Space Needle observation tower and artist Dale Chihuly Garden & Glass exhibit for 10 am tour; 12:30 lunch on your own; 2 pm bus back to hotel; 4:30 separate group meetings; 6:30 dinner. The coffee bar is open all day for socializing.

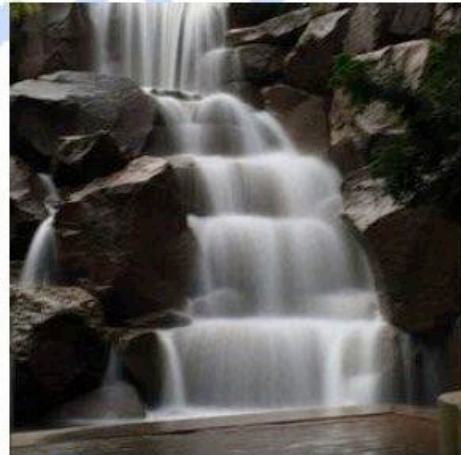


Friday, 29th

Breakfast; 9 am coach to the harbor with time to explore Pike Place Farmers' Market overlooking Elliott Bay waterfront and the nearby Seattle Aquarium before 12 pm harbor cruise; 1 pm lunch on your own; 2 pm bus back to hotel; 4:30 joint group meeting; 6:30 memorial service and 7 pm banquet. The coffee bar is open all day for socializing.

Saturday, 30th

Breakfast; 9 am coach to the air and space Museum of Flight tour. Continue with museum visit or explore the Klondike Gold Rush Museum, spotlighting Seattle's involvement in the 1890s gold rush, and Waterfall Garden Park, a secluded 22' artificial waterfall and monument to US Postal Service workers; lunch on your own; 2 pm bus back to hotel; 6:30 dinner; auction & raffle. The coffee bar is open all day for socializing.



Sunday, May 1

Breakfast and goodbyes to those departing.

Mail a completed form for each person attending with a check for total costs to
 Ginger Hester
 PO Box 588
 Statesville NC
 28687
before March 15

492nd/467th Bomb Group Reunion

April 27-May 1, 2016 Seattle Washington

Last name _____ First Name _____

Relationship to veteran self spouse/friend son/daughter other

Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Wheelchair needed Food allergy _____ Want information on other tours

Tours

Tour prices include round trip coach travel to and from our destinations and entry fees. Lunch is not included, allowing you to explore nearby eateries featuring your favorite cuisine (restaurant guide to be included in your welcome packet).

Dinners

Except for Wednesday, dinners include coffee, tea, soup or salad, seasonal vegetables, potato/rice/pasta, and dessert.

Item	Cost	Subtotal
Wed. dinner		
Build-your-own Mexican buffet	\$40 per person	_____
Thurs. Space Needle, Chihuly Garden & Glass	\$50 per person	_____
Thurs. dinner: check one	\$40 per person	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Veggie lasagna <input type="checkbox"/> Roasted chicken marsala with mushrooms <input type="checkbox"/> Poached salmon with rice		
Fri. Harbor tour, Pike Place Market, Aquarium	\$50 per person	_____
Fri. dinner: check one	\$40 per person	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Pasta Mediterranean with artichokes, olives, feta in garlic tomato sauce		
<input type="checkbox"/> Herb roasted Dijon Pork Loin		
<input type="checkbox"/> Seafood Salad with shrimp, salmon, avocado, tomato		
Sat. Museum of Flight, Klondike Gold Rush Museum, Waterfall Garden Park	\$50 per person	_____
Sat. dinner: check one	\$45 per person	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Mushroom Risotto with butternut squash cream and parmesan cheese		
<input type="checkbox"/> Herb grilled chicken with rice pilaf and lemon-thyme buerre blanc		
<input type="checkbox"/> Oven roasted tri tip of beef with mushroom marsala and mashed potatoes		
***Included in this check is my annual dues payment.	\$20	_____
Dues help defray costs incurred by the Association, including postage, copying, etc.		
TOTAL included		_____

THE TRAGIC FINALE

ARTICLE BY
CHRISTOPHER COLLINS,
467TH BG FACEBOOK ADMIN.



Stunning montage depicting the tragic crash-scene during the 200th Mission celebrations in 1945 with the present day tranquil setting.

On the 22nd April 1945, with the 200th mission celebrations entering their second day, surely nobody at Station 145 could have imagined a more tragic finale to the day's merriment. With the beer free-flowing in the main hangar and music being provided by the 2nd Air Division Band, Sunday's festivities were to culminate with an air display including aerobatics put on by P-47 Thunderbolts from the nearby 56th Fighter Group (FG), followed by a display team of three P-51 Mustangs. The party was well underway and in full swing when the 56th completed their impressive display, making way for the Mustang pilots to wow the crowds with their heart-stopping aerobatics. This highly experienced display team were performing their final stunt, flying inverted beneath the 50' high "clothes line" radio antenna, when an unknown P-51 from another group decided to join in with the show.

The pilot, 1/Lt. Robert C Young, previously a B-24 Co-Pilot prior to his transfer to fighters was seen by onlookers to "buzz" the field at very low altitude then attempt a slow roll. He appeared to get into difficulty in the inverted position whereupon the aircraft dived, crashing into the ground, exploding between the gymnasium and 791st Squadron quarters.

Eyewitness to the crash, Rex Blyth writes, "On the day in question, my brother and I saw three Mustangs performing aerobatics over the airfield. We climbed up on top of my dad's flat roof shed to get a better view. We could see right along the main runway in those days, the Liberators came nearly over the Sole & Heel pub when taking off and landing. Whilst watching, a fourth one came into view from the direction of Salhouse. He had a different coloured tail and he was much lower than the other three. It then dived towards the ground nose straight down, there was a terrific bang and smoke and flames shot into the air."

The following information was provided in part by 1/Lt. Young's Niece, Annette Young Lazzaro. Robert had completed his combat missions as Co-Pilot with the 93rd Bomb Group, William M. Brown crew and was scheduled to visit his Grandparents who lived in Scotland when he was given the opportunity to fly fighters. He decided to delay

his visit to take up a position flying the P-51 Mustang with the 479th FG as he had always wanted to fly the smaller plane. He had recently arrived at the 479th FG as part of the 436th Squadron, had clocked up only 37hrs in the Mustang and was returning from gunnery practice in P-51D 44-14571 “Ellie May” at the Wash when he made that fateful decision to join the aerobatic display at Rackheath.

Annette goes on to say, “My Grandmother always read tea leaves for the family at Sunday morning breakfasts. One day she stopped abruptly and never did it again. Years later she told my mother she saw his death. I never learned if it was the way she saw it or if she just knew he was going to die.”

1/Lt Robert C Young was laid to rest at Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial.



The Memorial to Lt. Robert C. Young at Madingley, Cambridge. Note the inscription details the 93rd BG (his previous unit) before assigned to the 479th FG.



Original scene, 22nd April 45 that prematurely cut the 200th Mission celebrations short.



Lt. Robert C. Young

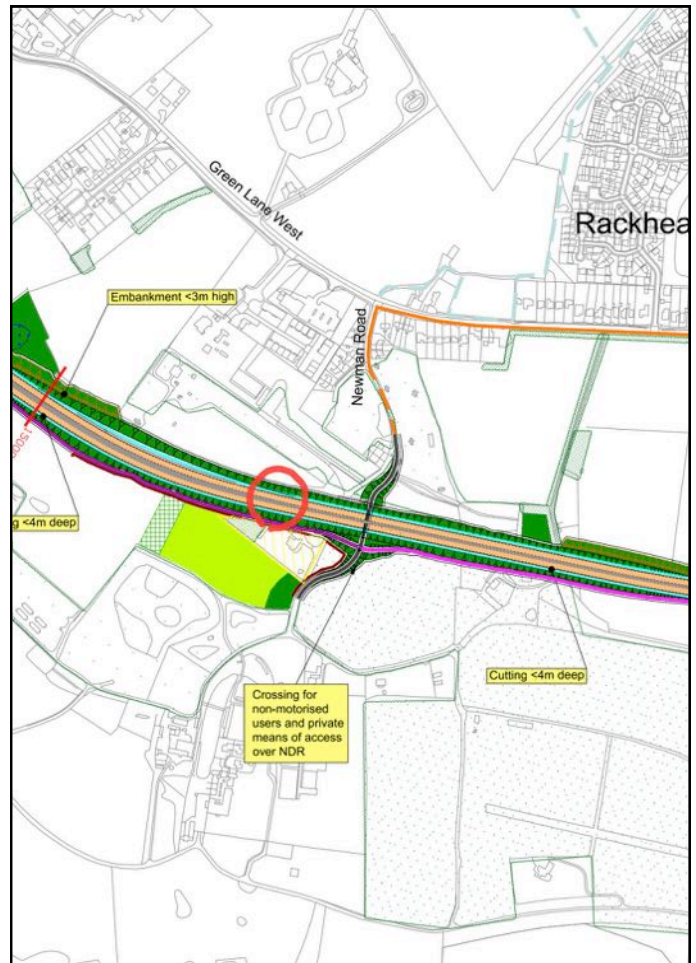
Over the relatively short period of time the 467th Bomb Group (H) Facebook group has been active it has given me great pleasure to find and share with its members, new and interesting posts, whether it be that unseen photo lost to a personal album or collection, a new discovery of historical interest or a new perspective to an important event.

I am therefore also very pleased to share with you, the Poop readers, and those who may not have the opportunity to join us online, news of an ongoing project I have recently undertaken.

This project has been instigated by the impending construction of Norwich's Northern Distributer Road (NDR) here in East Anglia and its impact upon what remains of the former airfield at Rackheath. As many of you may be aware the new road is scheduled to be built through Rackheath, but what you may not be aware of is that the exact route is planned to cut across the former communal site #4, requiring the demolition of the now crumbling former gymnasium.

After recently acquiring a rare image taken at the time of the tragic incident at the 200th mission celebration, I have established that the crash site of Lt. Young's P-51 is likely to be within the footprint of this new road, and therefore also under threat of destruction. In an attempt to preserve the site and possibly any aircraft remains I have contacted the relevant authorities who were previously unaware of the exact whereabouts of the crash, and after some discussion they have agreed with me on its location. I am pleased to say that they are currently in the process of organizing an archaeological survey of the area and will keep us updated with their progress.

If you feel you may have anything further to add to the story or would simply like to join us online, please search for the 467th Bomb Group (H) Facebook Group, we would love to hear from you.



Circled is the P-51 crash-site and the proposed new road

THE 467TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) STATION 145
U.S. ARMY AIR FORCES

200TH MISSION PARTY

SATURDAY, 21 APRIL :: SUNDAY, 22 APRIL, 1945

*A GREETING from
the Commanding Officer
to every member of the
467th Group
and all Allied Units*



Each and every member of the 467th Group and Allied Units may well view with pride and satisfaction the enviable record established in carrying out in less than a year, two hundred bombing attacks against enemy installations, as well as numerous efficiently run "trucking" missions—hauling supplies to rapidly moving ground forces during September 1944. The record has been outstanding because of the unflinching interest, untiring devotion to duty and wholehearted co-operation of all officers and men on this station, both on the ground and in the air. Your co-ordinated efforts have resulted in relentless attrition upon the enemy's resources and fighting facilities, and you may feel rightfully conscious that yours was a tangible contribution toward the impending final triumph of Allied Arms.

While giving thanks for past success, let us be mindful of the sacrifice made by those who have not returned from these missions. Their only request would undoubtedly be that we continue during the ensuing months of the war to display that same zeal and enthusiasm which have during the past year achieved such splendid results, to the end that we may see chastisement of the last aggressors and the establishment of a just and lasting peace.

ALBERT J. SHOWER, Colonel, Air Corps Commanding.

PROGRAM
OVERLEAF

**POOP FROM GROUP
467TH BOMB GROUP (HEAVY)
4908 TIMBERVIEW DR.
DAYTON, OHIO 45424**



**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE**

PAID

**DAYTON, OH
PERMIT NO. 966**



**Our fourth joint 467th & 492nd
Convention
April 27 - May 1 2016
SEATTLE, WA.**

DoubleTree Seattle Airport - Southcenter



REMINDERS:

**Return forms with checks to Ginger Hester BEFORE 15 March
Register with HOTEL by 13 April**