

POOP from Group



791st



790th



789th



788th

Newsletter of the 467th Bomb Group Association

June 2019



Hartford May 2019 Convention



OUR ESTEEMED Veterans, Will Noden, Jack Weyler, and John Harper (492nd BG) together at our Hartford, CT., Convention in early May where family members, associates, commemorated another memorable joint Reunion of the 467th & 492nd. A wonderful four days of camaraderie, local visits to aviation related locations, and many hours together in our memorabilia packed 467th themed Day Room. An opportunity to renew friendships, enjoy the local area and dining, culminating in our moving Memorial Service and Banquet before final “farewells” until we all meet again next year in a very special Return to Norwich/Rackheath 2020 event that you will not want to miss. Updates and news to follow!

467th BGA Administration

President

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

Vice President

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

Secretary

Ann Pooch
San Diego, California
apooch@cox.net

Treasurer

Valerie Corvino
242 Molly Dr.
McMurray, PA. 15317
valerie654@verizon.net

Editor

Andy Wilkinson
Briars, Cooks Lane
Axminster, Devon, EX13 5SQ
England
andywilkinson467th@btinternet.com

Directors

Tom Johnson
37171 Sycamore St. Apt#1314
Newark, CA. 94560
tdj1947@comcast.net

David LaRussa
Tucson, AZ.
alarussa7@msn.com

Jane Staedicke
Phoenix, AZ.
jestaed@yahoo.com

Steve Watson
Las Cruces, NM
fswat@gmail.com

Mike Wheeler
Freemont, NH
Michael-wheeler@comcast.net

Web Sites

www.467bg.com

www.the467thArchive.org

Honorary Board Chairman (RIP)

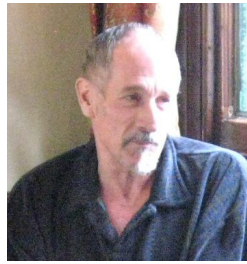
Col Albert J. Shower

Honorary Vice President (RIP)

Jay Shower



The 467th
Bombardment Group
The Rackheath Aggies



President's Message

By Brian Mahoney
Archivist@brianhmahoney.com

Thanks to the hard work by the 2019 Reunion Committee (under Ann Pooch and Steve Watson), as well as the tremendous 'on-the-spot' helpfulness and initiative of other Directors, Hartford was a great success. Weather and failure of a luncheon caterer had us improvising but the great crowd (63 at the banquet!) rolled from fun moment to the next. Having three of 'our vets' there, and bringing Sid Katz in via the internet, made for a very good group panel discussion and many smaller conversations. Our well-appointed 'day room' (split into 'library' and 'lounge' rooms) was in constant use, and the various meal outings and unscheduled times made for that magical smaller group intimacy that keeps all coming back.

Day visits by friends and members in the area, as well as attendance by many for the first time, rewarded us for finally thinking of New England for a location, and connections with Bradley Field (today's very efficient international airport) and outings to Pratt & Whitney and the New England Aviation Museum were most rewarding. Having 492nd son (and P & W retiree) Rick Centore as our docent at the last lent tremendous personal and historical authenticity to touring this world-class aviation museum.

Our business meeting included lively and productive discussions on two main fronts: Yvonne Caputo (daughter of 467th's late Michael Caputo) and Steve Watson are leading an initiative to outreach to potential members in three categories: any still-unfound veterans of the 467th, un-enrolled descendants of 'our veterans' well beyond the many '2nd gen' folks, and all, of any age, with historical airpower and aviation interest. Finally, Peter Horne presented a compelling and winning case to go forward with a campaign to put a large-scale model of an historical 467th Liberator, on display at the museum where the original 467th BG began its overseas movement and operation, Wendover, UT. It was unanimous at our very well attended meeting, and you will hear more of it in this issue of "POOP".

Our association is healthy and determined to evolve and flourish in telling the story of the historic 467th BG for years to come.

Brian Mahoney
Archivist@brianhmahoney.com



News From Station 145

From David Hastings MBE

The summer is almost with us and the 467th Marker is looking good and we have already have several visitors. Rackheath and the 467th Bomb Group also features in a new book just published. Last year I received a phone call from a well known US historian who was writing a book entitled "The Hidden Places of World War II" asking if I could help him by showing him around the 2nd Air Division bases. We met up in Norwich and spent several days together and he was a great guy and deeply interested in our history including Rackheath. A few weeks ago he called with the news that his book had been published and I would receive a copy from the publishers. He certainly is an amazing author and he brings alive so many places, names and other items where history was made so the book is a "must read" for anyone interested in World War II. The title of the book is "The Hidden Places of World War II" written by Jerome M. O'Connor and is available from Amazon as well as other outlets.

The next piece of good news is that in June the Heritage League of the 2nd Air Division USAAF are coming back to Norwich for a week visit and we are looking forward so much to meeting them. They are the families of those great wartime veterans who we met in the War and we can never thank them enough for keeping alive the friendship that we enjoyed with the 2nd Air Division USAAF of which the 467th Marker plays such an important part.

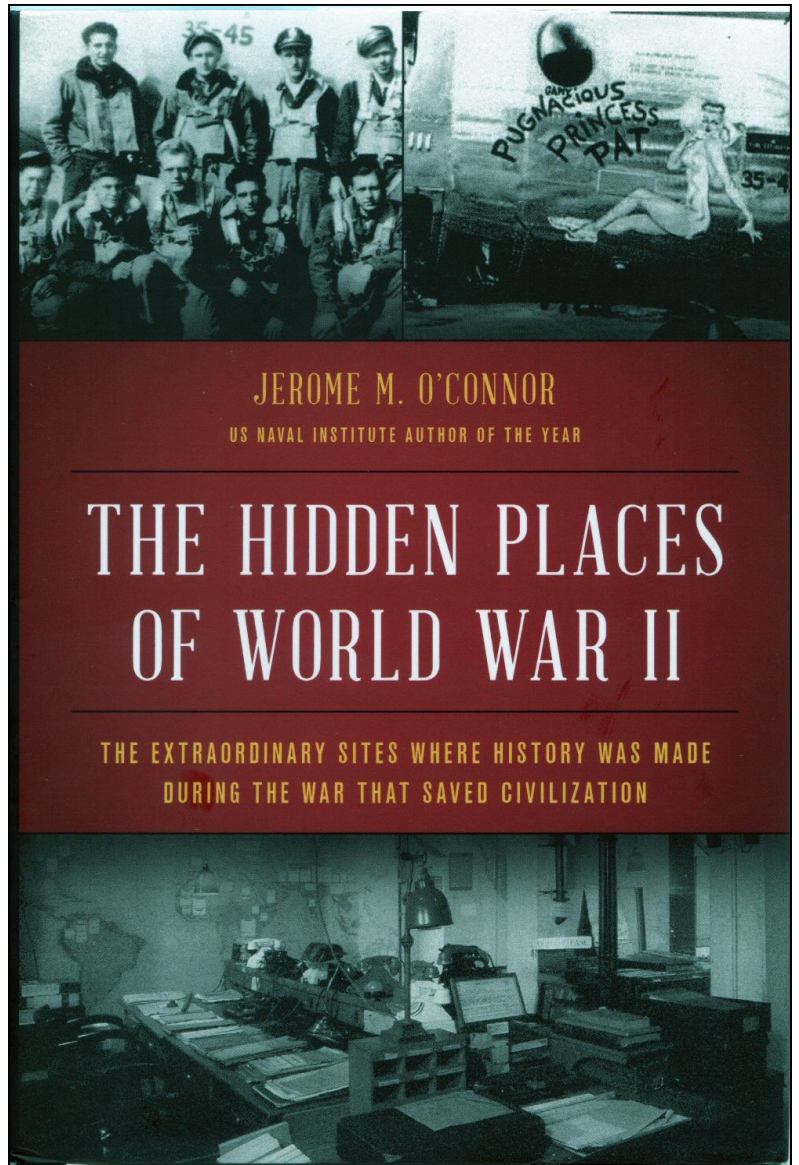
Finally thinking of the Marker, once again our great friend Martie Fankhauser from Tucson has sent us another batch of six flags so we are well prepared for another year or so. Martie we can never thank you enough for all your friendship, kindness and generosity.

With all our best wishes

Yours,

David, Jean and Roger Hastings

467th Base contacts.



The Hartford May 2019 Reunion

New England welcomed the 2019 annual gathering of the 467th along with our friends of the 492nd as we headed to Hartford, or more specifically Windsor Locks, CT., the location of returning Group air crews from Europe at the close of War almost 74 years ago. The local Marriott Hotel just a few miles from Bradley International Airport (Hartford) was to host our Convention and easily accessible with all the facilities we could wish to make out stay both comfortable and ideal for our early May Reunion.

The inevitable early-birds, some traveling in from long distance, and wishing to acclimatize prior to the Thursday official arrival date had already settled-in eagerly anticipating renewing friendships and looking forward to socializing with old friends. **VP Peter Horne** had departed earlier than most (all the way from Portland, OR.) with SUV heavily loaded with our unique archive, memorabilia, computer and TV monitors, books, digital-media, not to mention mannequins in period uniform. All destined for our "Day Room" always a focus of our gathering and place of conversation and a wonderful setting for our Reunion each year. Early access allowed Peter to make great headway in setting up and making sure the right ambience was created ready for Thursday. More folk arrived throughout Wednesday and the Hotel restaurant/bar, "Reverend's Bar & Kitchen" was proving a popular choice and continued to be an attraction throughout.



Our veterans happy to pose for photos with the younger generations

Official arrivals-day saw the numbers swell quickly with folk heading to Register and pick up the Welcome Packs, many warm embraces, hugs and smiles, and a joy to welcome a number of first-timers from the New England area and relatives of former 467th. The Day Room was a buzz of chatter and stocked with refreshments, coffee, snacks courtesy of Director **Michael Wheeler**, we were ready to go! By this time we were thrilled to have the company of our veterans, **Will Noden, Jack Weyler and John Harper** (492nd), their presence makes these gatherings such a special and significant occasion for all and we truly treasure opportunity to spend time with them. With more arrivals each hour, several slipped away to take advantage of "Happy Hour" and a bite to eat at "Reverend's", others more travel-fatigued opting for an early night before a full day of activity on Friday.



So after the buffet breakfast it was time to promptly board the coach for our first visit to the local Pratt & Whitney Hanger/Museum located at East Hartford. Here we were met by our own 467th representative, **Gretchen Schrader**, whose Father was formerly aircrew in the 789th, and had been instrumental in facilitating our visit to Pratt & Whitney being employed by the company. The historic Hangar housed a comprehensive collection of P&W's engines from the earliest example of the ground-breaking R-1340 Wasp which evolved into Wasp series of newer

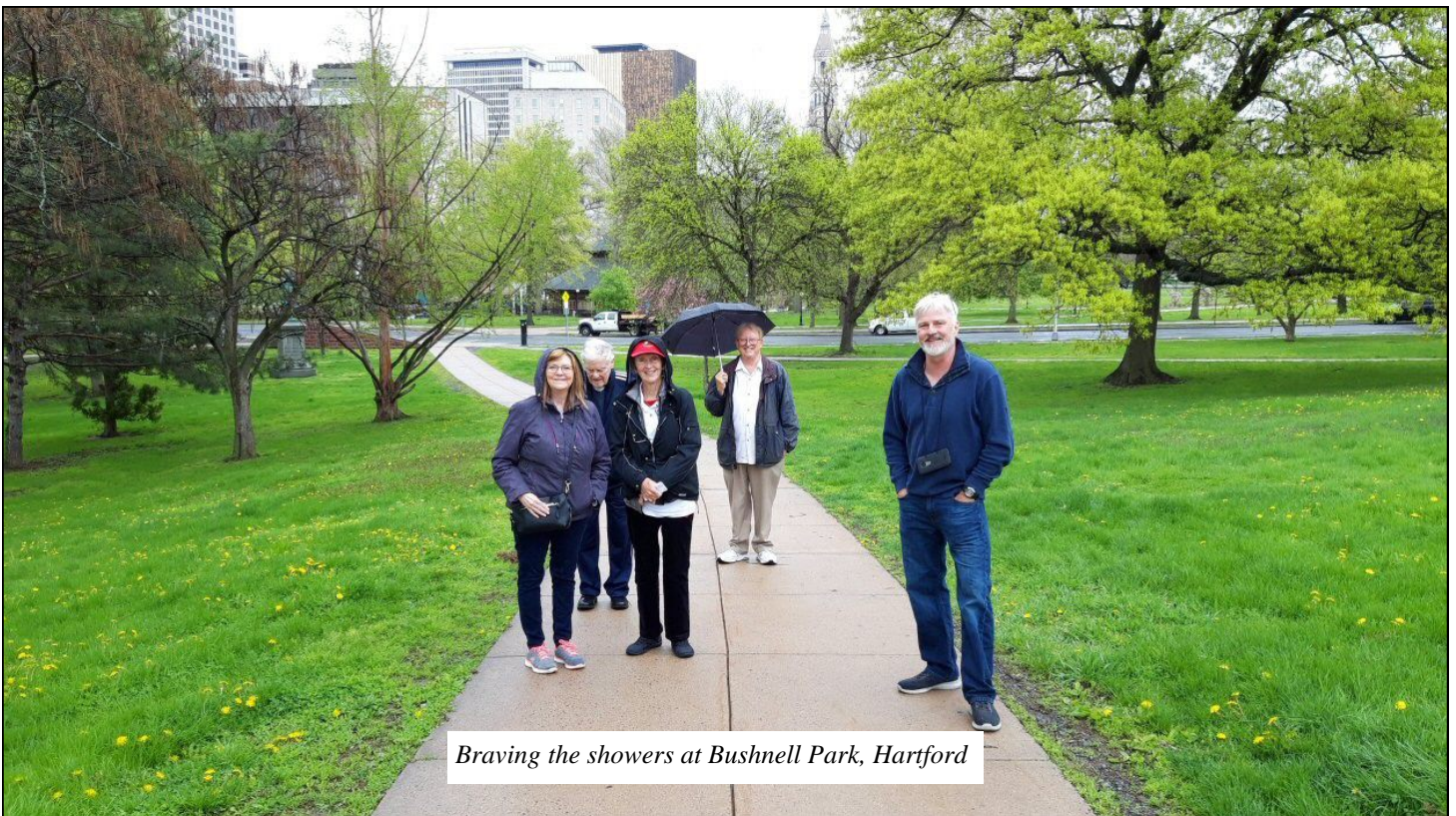
Hartford Reunion Cont.

variants right through to turbo-jets and turbofan engines for the latest airliners and military jets. Our party was split into two with each having their own P&W tour-guide who expertly took us through the Hangar/Museum comprehensively describing the development and subsequent deployment of each engine. We couldn't help linger at the display showing the famous R-1830 Twin Wasp, over 170,000 plus of these engines were built during the War years and of course powered the illustrious B24 Liberator. All too soon the tour was completed and the options were to return to the hotel or take an opportunity to explore a little of downtown Hartford.

Despite intermittent showers, a number of us decided to remain downtown and grab some lunch before exploring further. Hartford boasts an excellent free shuttle bus service around the center to which we took advantage, before alighting near the State Capital building at the recommendation of the helpful driver. Opportunity to also see the famous Hartford Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch in Bushnell Park to the 4000 Hartford citizens who served in the American Civil War, including 400 who died for the Union cause. A short walk back to the busy Union Station before heading back under our own steam to the Hotel where the Day Room was the usual hive of activity. A large group decided upon checking out the local area for our evening meal and settled on visiting the Tunxis Grill in nearby Windsor. Fortunately we had enough transport to accommodate everyone and we were able to secure a room at the rear for the majority of the party. All agreed, it was a great evening out together.



Pratt & Whitney Hangar/Museum East Hartford



Braving the showers at Bushnell Park, Hartford

Continued next page

Saturday morning it was back on the bus to the short trip out to the New England Air Museum located on the perimeter of Bradley International Airport. The present site comprises of six buildings and was first opened in 1981 following tornado damage to the original museum in 1979. This place really is a hidden gem and houses a world-class collection of aircraft, aviation artifacts, uniforms and personal memorabilia. Within this collection are the last remaining four-engine American flying the Sikorsky VS-44A, donated by its previous owner, actress Maureen O'Hara



and restored to original condition; an expertly restored B-29 Superfortress; Silas Brooks Balloon Basket (1870) believed to be the oldest surviving aircraft in the United States; the Bunce-Curtiss Pusher (1912), the oldest surviving Connecticut-built airplane; the Sikorsky S-39, the oldest surviving Sikorsky aircraft; and a Kaman K-225 helicopter, the oldest surviving Kaman-built aircraft. We were delighted to have **Rick Centore** our Tour Guide, son of a 492nd BG POW and incredibly knowledgeable with the Museum's comprehensive collection. Plenty of WWII era items, none better than Rick's donated personal collection relating to the devastating air attack on his Father's 492nd BG Squadron that all but wiped out those participating on the mission of early August 1944. The Museum also had a number of aircraft displayed outdoors which we had a chance to photograph as we walked across to the Restoration Building where many of the skilled volunteers spent time with a number of painstaking and highly detailed restoration projects. The adjacent building described as a "Storage Repository" was a real delight and an Aladdin's cave crammed full of myriad types from old to relatively new examples. Lunch here was prematurely curtailed when we learned the coach driver was booked for another appointment. Fortunately we were able to take the prepared lunches back to the Hotel for consumption here. Anyone living within traveling distance and interested in aviation would not be disappointed visiting this wonderful museum and its incredible collection.

The Day Room was to be the focus for the rest of the afternoon and early evening accompanied with a captive audience enjoying a good selection of DVDs featuring archive footage of the Group and a host of interviews with former 467th personnel. One of the most popular featured the History Channel production, "The Luftwaffe's Deadliest Mission", 7th April 1945 and the Sonderkommando Elbe ram their own aircraft into incoming American bombers. Coupled with gripping



CGI the DVD graphically recalls the incident when a pilot from this special unit "rams" a 789th Squadron 467th ship, "Sack Time", piloted by the Lt. Robert Winger crew who successfully managed to keep the ship flying before baling out safely behind Allied lines.

Sunday was essentially a free-day before the Banquet in the evening, however despite no organized trips there was plenty of planned activity within the hotel during the day. After breakfast we commenced the

Continued next page

Business Meeting hosted by our **President, Brian Mahoney**, open to all members of the association to be followed by the Board of Directors Meeting. One of the subjects promoting some lively discussion was what constitutes a "member" bearing in mind we have no annual dues and no intention to introduce them. The 467th Association has remained a viable group through the willingness of friends and members to kindly give generously through donations and gifts to sustain the organization through the years. With our transition from a largely veterans organization to now predominantly second/third generation 467th family and associates, further clarification was sought. **VP Peter Horne** made a thought provoking and illuminating presentation on the 467th's tradition and legacy to fund memorials to the Group and individuals as we had previously successfully carried out at locations both here and in England. Peter presented a project to memorialize the Group in the form of a scale-model B24 to be hung in a restored building on the former base at Wendover, UT., where the Group undertook intensive training to combat status before commencing movement overseas. No memorial to the Group exists at Wendover despite the Group losing 40 personnel in tragic accidents in pursuit of attaining combat readiness. This inspired fund-drive will be a most worthwhile project which we all need to get behind and fully support as only the 467th does. *(More details about the Wendover Model Project in this newsletter - editor).*

Sunday afternoon featured one of the real high points of the Hartford Reunion where our veterans kindly agreed to a roundtable question and answer session from the floor. We were delighted to add another veteran to the session via FaceTime digital link, **Sid Katz**, former 790th Sq. Radio Counter Measures operator who had originally planned to join us but health reasons prevented travel. Our veterans were in great form and spoke at length and most eloquently of their experiences. Who could ever forget Sid's account of "Bagels over Berlin" which had been the subject of a film



documentary celebrating Jewish veterans of the Army Air Corps in WWII. <https://www.bagelsoverberlin.com> Also **John Harper's** moving account of the forced march in the depths of winter from the POW Camp in Poland as the Soviet Army drew closer from the east. A march lasting close to three months with little to eat, often no shelter, and great deprivation. Spoken with genuine humility and the importance of looking after close buddies and determination to keep going knowing liberation was not far away. It was truly a great privilege for all of us present to hear our veterans speak and freely share their experiences with us. *[Sadly we learned of the passing of Sid Katz just two weeks later and he is remembered elsewhere in this newsletter. We will long remember his vibrant contribution to the roundtable discussion Sunday afternoon.]*

The traditional Group photo was taken of our Convention attendees in the hotel foyer and we were delighted to have many more folk arrive specifically to attend the Sunday evening Memorial Service and Banquet swelling the numbers to over 60. The Cocktail Hour enabled opportunity to meet new guests including representatives from Pratt & Whitney and our keynote speaker, **Michael Moeller**, VP Business Development, Military Engines, and formerly a Lt. Gen. USAF, retired. Thanks again to Gretchen for enabling the support of Pratt & Whitney to our Hartford Reunion. At 6:15 promptly members of the Civil Air Patrol's 186th Composite Squadron made the Presentation of Colors to commence our Memorial Service remembering those 467th & 492nd who gave their lives and those who were no longer with us since our last gathering. **Janice Wheeler** read the moving benediction while **Tom Johnson** read the names as we lighted a candle to each assisted by our fourth generation, 7 year old **Alyvia** and her father **Michael Wheeler** and **Shay Langgood** representing the 492nd.

Continued next page

After a brief presentation by your editor on the highly anticipated "Return to Norwich 2020" next May, it was the turn of our keynote speaker, Michael Moeller. We learned of his past USAF experiences flying B-52s and the B1 nuclear bomber which truly gave him an insight to the experiences of the 467th and 492nd in very hostile skies over Europe during 44/45. It was commendable the degree of research Michael had conducted before the address and his knowledge of the history of both units and their achievements and sacrifices was generously reflected in a moving speech. His deep respect and admiration of the men of the 467th and 492nd was sincerely appreciated by all and greeted by warm applause at the conclusion. It was a fitting end to our 2019 Banquet and final evening together and the Hartford Reunion will linger long in the memory as another successful gathering where the spirit and family of the 467th & 492nd continues to burn brightly.

*A special word of thanks and appreciation go to our 2019 Hartford Planning & Reunion Committee, **Steve Watson, Ann Pooch, Brian Mahoney, Michael Wheeler and Pat Scott** for their efforts in delivering a fantastic Reunion along with the Group Directors providing additional support and encouragement – Editor.*



Attendees Hartford 2019 Reunion

Ann Pooch	John "Jack" Weyler	Janice Wheeler	Vivian Sullivan *
Steve Watson	Karin Weyler	Damien Braley-Wheeler	Rick Centore *
Debby Watson	Tom Johnson	Yvonne Caputo	Lynne Centore *
Valerie Corvino	Shirley Lowe	Kirk Walters	Tom Centore *
Andrew Nix	Bob Garrett	Michael Wheeler	Anna Centore *
Brian Mahoney	Lynne Garrett	Alyvia Wheeler	Michael Moeller *
Andy Wilkinson	John McCrory	Paul Parker	Gretchen Schrader *
Peter Horne	Collette Coty	Walter Parker	Karla Schrader *
John Paul Harper	Donald Collins	Jim Gummelt	Anne Gutkowski *
Nora Kapichi Harper	Adele Gardner	Jim Bonerigo	Capt Robert Wyant *
Ginger Hester Harper	Jeff Stevens	Clive Loudon	1st Lt Eric Pearson *
Mike Hicks	Kenneth McCracken Jr	Raymond Coty *	C/Chief Mst Sgt Kiana Eaves *
Will Noden	Robin Lestochi	Sharon Campbell *	C/2nd Lt Jevonte Eaves *
Geoffrey Noden	Richard Haywood	Colleen Coty *	C/Staff Sgt Michael Frank *
Julian Metzger	Shay Langgood	Charles Sullivan *	C/2nd Lt Isabella Gregor *
(* Banquet Only including the Color Guard of the CAP's 186th Composite Squadron)			C/1st Lt Makenzie Murphy *

Folded Wings

John A. BALOG - Navigator 791st February 2019

Richard A. DONAHUE - Bombardier 790th August 2016

Roland H. DOUGLASS - Clerk/Typist 788th (1st Org.) March 2019

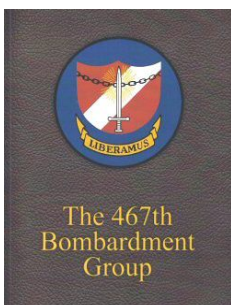
Sidney KATZ - RCM operator 790th May 2019

Lowery H. SPENCER - Clerk 467th HQ March 2018

Joseph C. WAILES - Bombardier 790th August 2018

*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 - Brian Mahoney Archivist@brianmahoney.com



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

Official 467th BG(H) Assoc. Wendover B24 Scale Model Fundraiser



In the original 'Articles of Incorporation' from 1986 for the 467th Bombardment Group Association, the 'Mission Statement' outlined that it was the purpose of the organization "to perpetuate the Group through memorials, both domestic and foreign".

The Association has over the years been instrumental in the creation of many memorials to honor, and preserve the legacy, of those who served with the Group during World War II. Some notable examples include the Rackheath memorial, the B-24 sculpture at the US Air Force Academy, the B-24 Model at the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth, and the 2nd Air Division Library in Norwich.

The memorial at Rackheath, the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth, and the 2nd Air Division Library in Norwich were all significant to the founding veterans of the 467th BG Association. These locations either supported the parent organizations that the Group was attached to, or was at the location of the base of operations during the Group's deployment overseas.



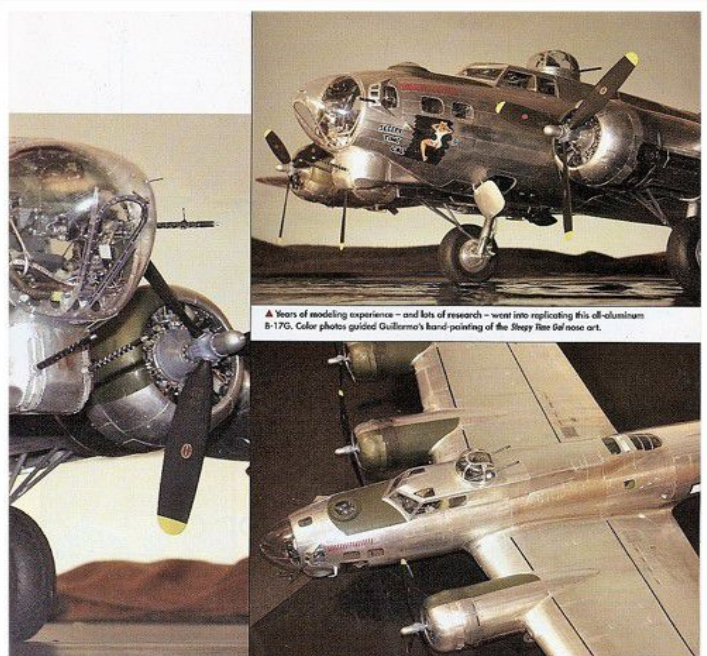
As many of you may know, the 467th BG was formed, and did their phase training before their deployment overseas, at the Army Air Base at Wendover Utah. Much of the air base still exists today. The organization there has been actively restoring much of the base and many of the original buildings. Included in these restorations are the control tower, the enlisted mens barracks, the Enola Gay hanger (the crews that dropped the atom bombs trained at Wendover), and the service club (which is now the expansion to the base museum).

Continued next page



At the 2019 467th BG Association reunion in Hartford, CT, the membership unanimously voted to commission a scale model of a B-24 to be donated to the museum. To be hung in the Service Club lounge, the model will be the prominent feature in this part of the museum. Along with a kiosk display remembering the 'Forgotten Crew of Wendover' and a number of display boards commemorating the Group, the 467th BG will have a remarkable presence at the location "where it all began".

After evaluating a number of potential model makers, the Association has agreed to commission Guillermo Rojas-Bazan to build the model. He has built well over 200 models, primarily in aluminum. Many of his works are displayed at many prominent galleries and museums around the world. The models are so perfect in every detail they can be compared to works of art. For further information about Mr. Rojas-Bazan, please visit his website. <http://www.rojasbazan.com/models/index.html>



Continued next page

Now begins the fund raising drive. Our goal is \$75,000. We are off to a great start with nearly \$20,000 raised from private donors (even before any official announced has been made). Now we look to you. It's time for the membership and friends of the 467th BG Association to once again help preserve the history and legacy of the men that served with the Group.

We hope to have the initial funds raised by end of summer so the year long process of making the model can begin. There are two methods available to make donations. Checks can be sent to the Association's Treasurer:

Valerie Corvino, 242 Molly Dr., McMurray, PA 15317 valerie654@verizon.net

Credit card payments can be made through the Association's Paypal account. A link can be found on the official website:

<http://www.467bg.com/archives.php>

Donations of any amount are warmly appreciated and tax deductible. A plaque will be placed with the model noting the historical significance of the aircraft, the model maker, and a list of sponsor level donors. We have a couple of different "Sponsor" levels.

"Shower" Level - \$5,000 gets the donor the opportunity to have their name, and a brief description of the veteran they are remembering, in large print on the plaque.

For example:

"Your Name" - In honor of his father "Veteran's Name", tailgunner in the 790th BS, 35 credited combat missions.

"Witchcraft" Level - \$1,000 gets the donor the opportunity to have their name, and the veteran they are remembering, in regular print on the plaque.

For example:

"Your Name" - In honor of "Veteran's Name"

"Pilot" Level - \$500 gets the donor the opportunity to have their name in regular print on the plaque.

For example:

"Your Name"

The Association is excited to present this opportunity. Please strongly consider taking advantage of this occasion to honor our veteran friends and family. Any questions can be directed to our Directors at info@467bg.com



The restored Service Club, proposed location of the model



Ivan alongside scale model of Site#6 on the former base

Community Wood Heritage Project, Visitors, & Memorial Day

By Ivan A. Barnard

Site #6 Community Wood Project

Little physical progress has been made apart from the identification of the trees and saplings etc that are to be removed. All of these have been marked with a red dot so that it is quite clear what is to be removed. At a recent meeting with Broadland District Council I was informed that due to some unforeseen circumstances the tree works have had to be rescheduled from May until October. In the meantime BDC have engaged a person to search the relevant 467th documentation as held at the Norfolk Record Office.

I myself, have earnestly continued my own research into the history 467th at Rackheath. Tracing residents who were school children of 1944/45 and recording their stories. I have now met with a number of people who have provided me with firsthand knowledge together with photographs and memorabilia of the period. All of which in due course will be on display at both the New Farm Aviation Heritage Group Museum and the 467th Memorial Room at Rackheath Holy Trinity Church as appropriate. One example of the interest and generosity of one such person is the donation of a scale model of Site 6. I am indebted to two other friends who have assisted me in the making of the oak framed 467th group insignia. The link between the people of Rackheath and our American friends is as strong today as it was in 1944/45.

The Night of The Intruders

Many of you will be familiar with Ian Mclachlan's book of the same name that so faithfully records the events of that fateful night. When in the skies over their home bases, fourteen aircraft were shot down with the lost of sixty crew members.

Due to weather conditions the 467th group took off late from Rackheath, therefore it was virtually dark on their return. Unbeknown to them a German intruder unit, Kamphgeschwader 51 in their Messerschmitt 410 fighter-bombers had followed them home and one plane in particular, H42 52536 was shot down. 21-year-old waist gunner Staff Sergeant James R. Howe was part of that crew and died that night.

In his memory and coinciding this year with the 75th anniversary of those events. Brothers Tom and Jim Howe came on a pilgrimage to Rackheath. In moving terms they told me of the effect of losing Jim Howe had on their family, and their passion to visit Rackheath and to walk in their uncle's footsteps.

Trevor Hewitt and myself took them on a guided tour of Rackheath to all the places that their Uncle would have known. It was a personal privilege for me to arrange a visit to Holy Trinity Church that contains The Roll of Honour and The 467th Memorial Room; we had a moment of reflective silence as we found their uncle's name on the Roll.

Continued next page

Memorial Day 2019

Five members of the New Farm Aviation Heritage Group of which I was one attended the American military cemetery at Madingley. I had the privilege to lay a wreath on behalf of the 467th BG. In an act of remembrance 120 wreaths were laid along the 'Wall of the Missing'. Superintendent Rich Cobb welcomed us all and the Master of Ceremonies was Suzie Harrison.

Mr. Chris Parkhouse DL Deputy Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, The Honorable Robert Wood Johnson the American Ambassador, Admiral James G. Foggo 111 Allied Joint Force Command, Naples; United States Naval Forces Europe: United States Naval Forces Africa, and Ms Jonna Doolittle-Hoppes gave the Addresses.

I could recall here various quote's from the Addresses so eloquently given by them all, but instead have chosen the entire Address as given by Ms Jonna Doolittle-Hoppes. The reason being that her grandfather is so well remembered here in Norfolk, England, as the Commander of the Mighty Eighth Air Force.



Tom and Jim Howe pictured at the Rackheath marker

"I am humbled and deeply honored to be with such distinguished company, surrounded by heroes' both living and at rest. Oliver Wendell Holmes called Memorial Day our most sacred holiday and he urges that we must not ponder with sad thoughts the passing of our heroes', but rather their legacy, the life that they made possible for us by their commitment and pain.

World war two was the time when good and evil battled with the world and the spirit of the citizens of our great countries stood tall and made us proud.

One of those who came forward was my grandfather, General James H 'Jimmy' Doolittle. On D-day June 6th 1944 he was commander of the mighty Eighth Air Force here in England. He felt strongly that the job of the Air Force was to destroy the enemy's ability to wage war. In the fifteen days prior to D-day the 8th attacked 52 airfields, 45 marshalling yards, 14 bridges, 6 coastal defence positions and 4 gun positions.

My grandfather wrote in his autobiography the Luftwaffe was forced to withdraw from airfields farther and farther from the coast. Some airfields could be quickly repaired most of them could not.

Enemy air resistance in the forward area became weaker and weaker. Gramp's was up before dawn on D-day. He and his wingman Pat Partage took off in their P-38s and climbed above the overcast, to check on the bombing formation. Just as he had hoped, enemy interceptions were almost nil. What few enemy aircraft did appear was promptly engaged and the skies were swept clear.

On the way back to base, Gramp's spied a hole in the clouds and decided to take a look underneath. He came out over the English Channel and turned towards the invasion beaches. For two and a half hours he flew observation over the largest amphibious assault force ever assembled.

He was the first to report back to General Eisenhower, beating the general's official intelligence report by several hours. In his briefing he told Eisenhower. "The impression I had was that everything was going smoothly everyplace except at Omaha beach. Where I saw many, many landing craft blown up beneath me. In excess of 11,500 died on the beaches in Normandy. Without the Air Force the numbers could have been higher.

Continued next page

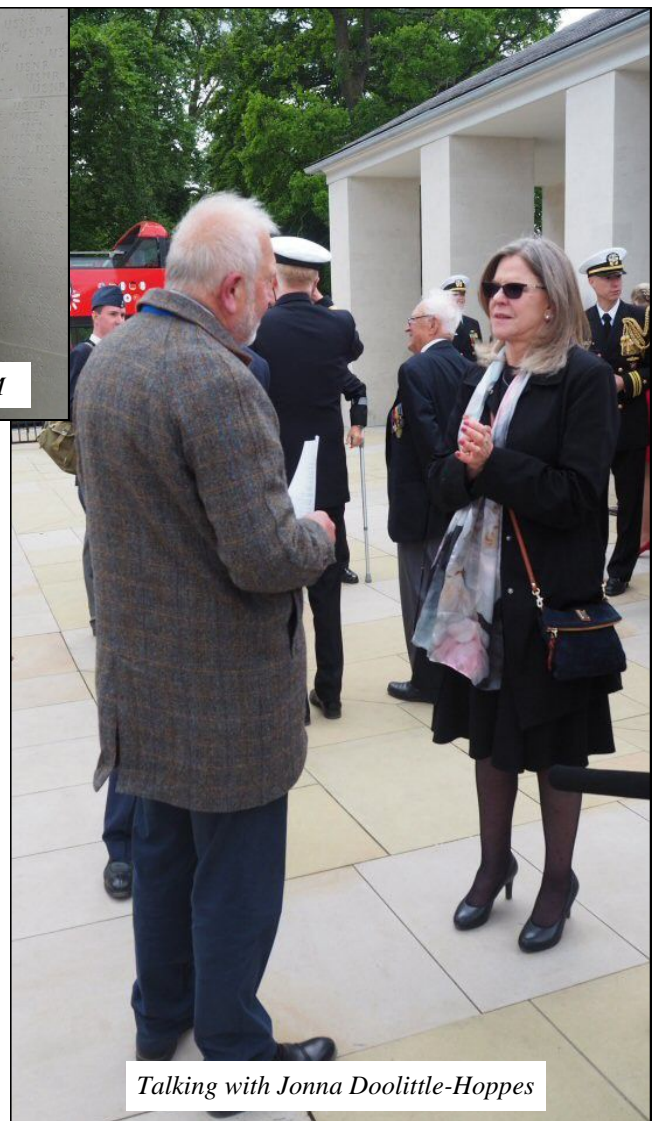
My grandfather was proud of the role that the Air Force played on D-day and the days that followed. What was personally satisfying to him was that hundreds of ships and barges could unload thousands of troops without worrying about enemy aircraft. We had achieved what we had planned and hoped for. Complete supremacy in the air over the beaches.

On July 12th Field Marshall Rommel wrote in a report, "The enemy has complete command over the air over the battle zone and up to a 100km behind the front and cuts off by day almost all traffic on roads or byways or in open country. Neither flak or the Luftwaffe seem capable of putting a stop to these crippling and destructive aircraft".

But the losses in the 8th Air Force over the course of the war were great and many of them are buried here. We must remember the price already paid by our nation; we must pass from one generation to the next the stories of how our freedom was purchased. Look at the headstones lined up on these grounds. Look at the dates; our freedom was purchased with young lives.

My grandfather and those who have served before have passed the torch of freedom to a new generation of airmen. I am sure he would be very proud of you today, as I am."

After the ceremonies were over I had the privilege to meet Jonna and although our conversation was not long our shared heritage and friendship is a lasting one. I therefore reiterate her words. ***"We must remember the price already paid by our nation; we must pass from one generation to the next the stories of how our freedom was purchased"***.



Notes from the Editor



Following our wonderful Reunion in Hartford in May, time to turn our attention to our next gathering a unanimous decision to once more travel over the pond to England and commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE-Day in **“Return to Norwich 2020”**. It promises to be a very special and memorable event and an opportunity to visit the former Rackheath base, meet the local villagers, and take in something of the flavor and ambience of Norwich and surrounding area as your fathers/

grandfathers experienced during 1944/45. All this against the background the former base is likely to radically change in a few years to an area of housing and light industry with the old airfield all but gone. Our 2020 Planning Committee have already begun work and we're delighted to announce the Reunion will be held from **May 5 through to May 8** at the historic **Maids Head Hotel**, Norwich, one of the oldest hotels in England that overlooks the 1000 year old Norwich Cathedral. Take a glimpse in what to expect staying at the Maids Head by visiting their site at <https://www.maidsheadhotel.co.uk/> In the next issue (around October) much more will be revealed regarding the program of events for Norwich 2020 and details of how to make reservations including the price of and choice of rooms available. Option to stay longer at the Maids Head will be possible but meanwhile make sure you **“Mark the Date”** for this not to be missed occasion.

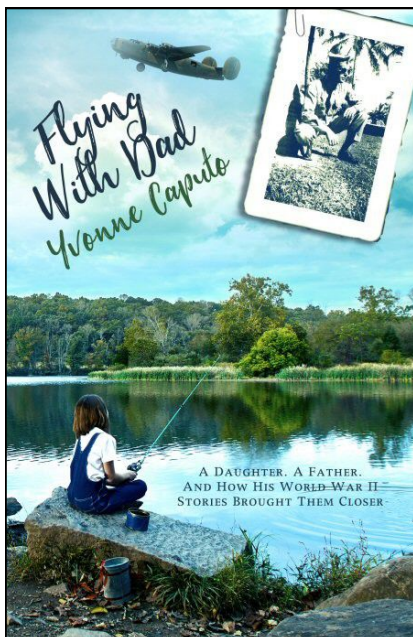


“Return to Norwich 2020” 5 May - 8 May

UNIQUE MEMBERS? In the last issue of POOP we revealed we had discovered twin brothers serving with the 467th in the SAME Squadron at Rackheath. Earlier this year we now find we have a married couple, **David & Carol Spinweber**, from Clarkston, Michigan, whose Father's served together in the same crew together in the 790th Squadron. David's Father was **Stanley A. Spinweber**, navigator, while Carol's Father was **John R. Kindra**, engineer, both were original members of the Lt. Oliver Carner Crew (Crew#51) who commenced flying combat with the 790th Squadron from November 1944. The two former crew members remained friends after the War and it was through their continuing friendship we assume David and Carol met. David mentions He and Carol married in 1978 and although both Father's had since passed, David's Mom is very much with us.

YVONNE CAPUTO: Real pleasure to meet with Yvonne and Kirk at the Hartford Reunion and delighted to bring the news that Yvonne has been working with her publisher and her book, **“Flying With Dad”** will be published this year by Ingenium Books. It tells the story how in later life her Dad opened up about his vivid wartime memories and describes

Continued next page



their conversations both sad and humorous bought them closer. Mike Caputo was a former navigator in the 789th Squadron and experienced combat in the closing month of WWII in England. During next year's "Return to Norwich 2020" Reunion we are looking forward to Yvonne making a presentation and talk in the 2nd Air Division Memorial Room where the model of "Witchcraft" made by her late father, Mike, hangs proudly near the entrance.

CLIVE STEVENS 8th Air Force Historian and collector of WWII era vehicles has taken ownership of the former Rackheath 1229th Quartermaster Company Service Group Dodge Command Car. In need of restoration this will represent a challenge. During 44/45 this would have been the staff car of Capt. Al Touchette former C.O. of the QM Section. Hopefully we can bring you a photo of the completed project.



Faded identification markings on the front of the former Rackheath QM Section Dodge Command Car. We look forward to viewing the restored vehicle at some point.



B24H "SIX BITS" in SWEDEN: In the November 2015 issue of "POOP" we ran an article on the Lt Edward Rudowski Crew arriving battle-damaged at Malmo in the neutral country of Sweden. Engineer on the crew, Sgt. Richard W. Ford remained in the country specifically to maintain the growing number of 8th Air Force and Allied aircraft finding their way to Sweden. Another 8th AF crew member, engineer Jack Junior Schafer, was a dedicated photographer and took a lot of pictures during his time in Sweden. Jack Junior Schafer's unique photo album was donated by his son Jack William Schafer to



Västerås Aviation Museum and below we have one of those photos depicting the 467th's B24H "Six Bits" at Swedish Airforce Wing F1 in Västerås. Thanks go to Brendan Wood passing on details of this rare photo we'd not seen before.

Continued next page

TREASURY NOTES: Our Treasurer, **Valerie Corvino**, reports the Association has a total operating balance of **\$10,035.11** as of 21 May 2019. The cost of producing printed issues of POOP (including mailing) for the February 2019 issue was **\$625** and remains the major regular financial outlay for the Association. Our Hartford Reunion raised \$312 through the Silent Auction and an additional \$245 in Merchandise sales. Further contributions amounted to \$200 through donations from **Jim Gummelt & Julian Metzger**. Most recently we have received a total of **\$233** to the Association to the memory of veteran, **Sid Katz**, from **Marlene & Steven Tarshis, Diane & Arthur Dickerman, Eileen & Bernard Finegold, Carol & Alan Stone, Elise & Andy Liss, and Roy Oskovitz-Bielski**.

EMAIL AND ADDRESS CHANGES: Remember to report changes to our President, Brian Mahoney, who handles all membership details including notifications of “Folded Wings” and obituaries. This is the sure way to continue to promptly receive the “POOP from Group” Newsletter.

Editor - Andy Wilkinson

Obituaries



Sidney Katz, Radio Counter Measures Operator, 790th

Sidney Katz, 94, passed away peacefully on May 23 in hospice in Delray Beach, FL. He served in the 467th BG, 790th Squadron, as a waist gunner and then RCM (Radar Counter-measure) operator, completing 30 combat missions between June 1944 and March 1945. He was active in the 467th Bomb Group Association and also served as past president and board member of the Florida Chapter of the 8th Air Force Historical Society. He spoke in many venues, schools, etc about his WW II experience and was featured in a number of documentary films including Bagels Over Berlin (bagelsoverberlin.com) which has been shown in a number of film festivals around the country and on PBS Buffalo Memorial Day 2018. The family ask, if anyone wishes to donate to the memory of Sid, please forward donations to the 467th Bombardment Group Association to our Treasurer, Valerie Corvino,

(address can be found on Page 2) where they will be gratefully received and acknowledged in the POOP from Group, Newsletter.



Joseph C. Wailes, Bombardier, 790th

(A memory from daughter, Sandy Wilson)

Dad died August 28, 2018. I'm the end of the line so Dad was buried with Mom in the Houston National Cemetery. Dad was a bombardier (B24) in the 467th out of Rackheath in England. He flew 31 missions in 1944. His Crew Commander was Edwin Harkonen. He stayed in touch with Edwin Wright in the crew until Edwin died a few years ago.

An interesting side note about Dad is that he didn't drink. So he didn't spend time in pubs but rather visited churches and took every opportunity to visit London and the theater. He always said he never expected to be back in England so he wanted to take in all the sights and opportunities he could while he was there. As it turned out, he was a visitor to England 2 more times as a tourist. When he joined the service there was no one to play the organ for chapel so he taught himself how to play. He played piano already after lessons as a child. He continued playing the organ after the service for the next 50 years. His day job was accountant for Shell Oil. But all through my and my twin brother's childhood Dad had a paid position as organist (and sometimes choir director, too) for sometimes 2 churches on Sunday. An early service at one and a later service at another church. Music was the constant in his life--mainly sacred music--since he sang in the choir growing up. When he retired from being a church organist he still filled in for friends and continued to sing in the choir of his church until age 90. Dad had a full and wonderful life until the last few years and his little body just wore out.

Obituaries



John A. Balog, Navigator, 791st

John Adolph Balog, age 99 of Monroe, CT., entered into eternal life on February 5, 2019 at St. Vincent Medical Center with his loving family at his side.

He earned a BS from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and an MS in chemistry from Pennsylvania State University. He taught and did research in the field of textiles and detergency at Texas Women's University in Denton, Texas. After leaving academia, he worked for Cowles Chemical, Stauffer Chemical, Brent Chemical and UNX.

John served his country during WWII in the US Army Air Forces. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for "extraordinary achievement in aerial combat." Flying as a navigator on a B-24 Liberator, he guided his heavy bomber to targets requiring penetrations of Germany and German held territory. He was also awarded the Purple Heart.

He was an avid runner. Dad was a devout Catholic who attended daily Mass when his health permitted. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus.



Roland H. Douglass, Clerk/Typist, 788th 1st Org.

Roland H. Douglass, age 94, passed away at his apartment at Schooner Estates in Auburn, Maine on March 5, 2019. Roland was born on November 7, 1924 in Wilton, Maine to Henry E. Douglass and Merriam Oakes Douglass. Roland graduated from Wilton Academy in 1942 where he was the captain of the ice hockey team. Roland entered Harvard College in the fall of 1942. After Pearl Harbor Day, he was allowed to take his freshman year final examinations early in March of 1943 and entered the United States Army Air Force.

After receiving training in Colorado and Utah, Roland served with the 8th Air Force in England and the 15th Air Force in Italy until the surrender of Germany in 1945. He then returned to Harvard where he continued his classes and graduated in June of 1947 with a

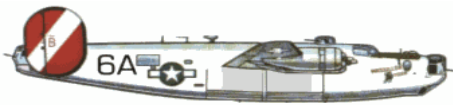
degree in economics.

Roland next entered Duke University Law School in North Carolina. He found that the law was not to his taste and therefore did not return after his first year although while at Duke he met his future bride, Marjorie Brumit, a nurse working at the Duke University Hospital. He then made a couple of life changing decisions. He married Marjorie in Johnson City, Tennessee on January 26, 1950 and traveled to New York City where he trained to become a stockbroker. He then returned to Maine with his new bride and worked for a number of national and regional investment firms between 1950 and 2005 when he retired from A.G. Edwards in Auburn, Maine. Roland was a savvy investor who had two standard responses for two very typical inquiries from potential customers. When asked when was the best time to invest, he would invariably say "do you dig clams when the tide is in or when the tide is out?" When asked by a customer how much money should be invested, he would always say "as much as you are willing to lose without shedding any tears". He was respected and loved by generations of customers as well as his peers.

In his spare time, Roland was an avid hunter and fisherman and spent many years at his family camp on Moosehead Lake and later traveled to Alaska and Labrador with his son and grandson. He was also very fond of sporting dogs and always had 3 or 4 during much of his life although in his later years became very attached to his cat Timmy.

Roland was also an active member in several masonic organizations, including the Kora Shrine, Tranquil Lodge #29 and the Royal Order of Jesters. He also served as a board member for the Chapman House in Auburn and the Sawyer Foundation in Turner.

**POOP FROM GROUP
467TH BOMB GROUP (HEAVY)
242 MOLLY DRIVE
McMURRAY, PA 15317**



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

PAID

**DAYTON, OH
PERMIT NO. 966**



"Return to Norwich 2020"

5 May - 8 May

**Save
the
Date**

