

POOP from Group



791st



790th



789th



788th

Newsletter of the 467th Bomb Group Association

November 2022



At Last, the 55 Honored at Wendover

THREE YEARS FOLLOWING the Association declaration at Hartford to honor and memorialize those fallen during training at Wendover, and transition to England, the project came to fruition in a moving dedication ceremony at the historic airfield in September. Family members and guests were present to remember and memorialize all U.S. Army Air Forces personnel who died in training or in accidents while traveling overseas — 15,500 of them — reflected on a second plaque presented at Wendover. You can read the full report on our activities at the Salt Lake City Reunion and Wendover beginning Page 6 in this latest POOP Newsletter.

***** *It's a return to Norwich, England, for our 2023 Reunion* *****

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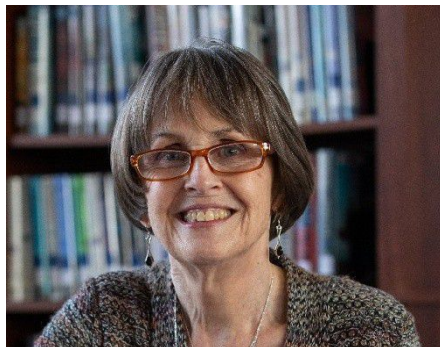
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Jay Shower



The 467th
Bombardment Group
The Rackheath Aggies



President's Message

By Yvonne Caputo

yvonneauthor4@gmail.com

Much to my surprise at the director's meeting in Wendover, I was asked to become the president of the 467th. It is an honor and a privilege, and as your new president let me start by telling you a little about how this came to be.

As some of you might know, I am the author of *Flying with Dad: A Daughter. A Father. And the Hidden Gifts in His Stories from WWII*. The book was a result of the phone conversations I had with my dad, Mike (NMI) Caputo, who was a navigator for the 467th. His first story was about an emergency landing in freed Belgium near the end of the war. It was funny and quirky, and the very first I had heard from him about the war.

I was so intrigued that on the following phone call I asked him if he would start at the beginning. At some point, I recognized that the stories could be more than just for the family. Yes, there were so many books about WWII, but how many of them were about an ordinary GI? The publishing bug bit me, and it took 11 years from thought to publication.

Little did I know that posting some of Dad's stories on the 467th's Facebook page would lead to my going to my first reunion and a subsequent request to join the board.

Being your new president makes me a little apprehensive, but I have the experience of watching the board work. I know I have all of them to support me.

This is a perfect opportunity for me to thank them for their incredible leadership over the past years. Their passion for the group is evident in every meeting. Brian Mahoney as president, Peter Horne as the vice president, Val Corvino as treasurer, and Ann Pooch as secretary. Peter and Ann will be staying on in their positions. Brian has agreed to be the treasurer and the data manager.

One of my missions as president is to bring 3rd and 4th generations on board. For the 467th to stay alive, we need to pass the torch to them. In that vein, I ask all of you who are reading the Poop to reach out to your children and grandchildren. Tell them stories both funny and tragic. It is within the story, that one of them might just be one of our new leaders.

In closing, God bless the men and women that fought for our freedom. Their legacy lives on through us.

Rackheath Site#6

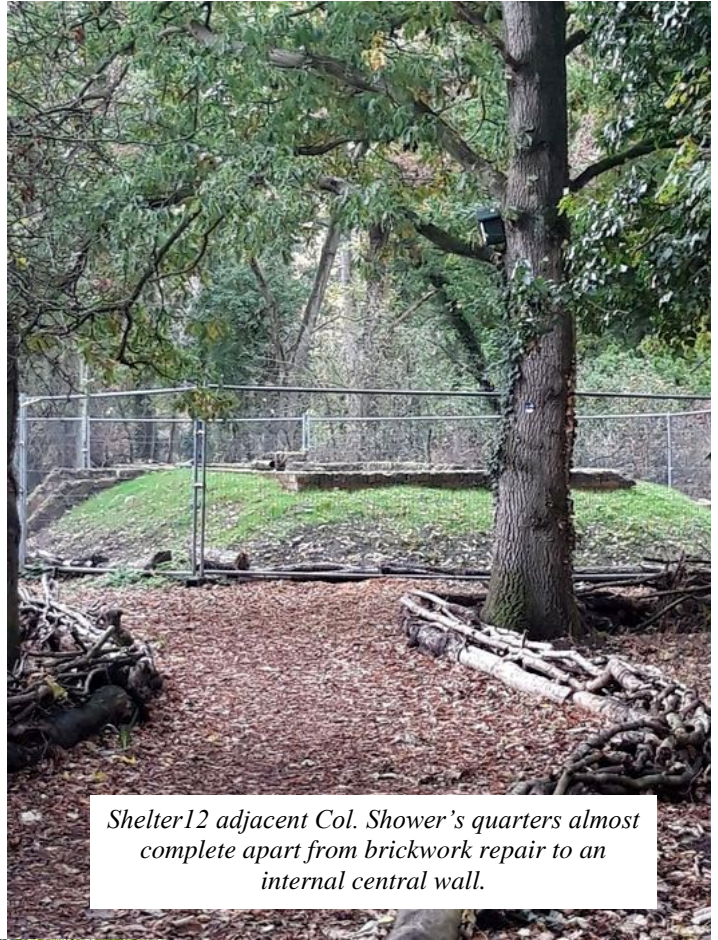
Progress Report November 2022

Ivan Barnard

A place where the past meets the present. Those words were very relevant to MaryBeth Ingram, daughter of Louis P. Rhoads a Lead Bombardier who flew 33 missions out of Rackheath and was awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses. It was an honour and a privilege to be her guide for her visit of the 15th - 20th October 2022.

My primary objective in the founding of the "Pathfinders" was to form a group of like-minded people who would be prepared to give their time and skills on a Saturday morning, to digging out the hidden architecture of the 467th Communal Site.

Over the last two years or so, that objective continues to be met as is demonstrated in in our weekly pictorial Facebook postings. Follow us on [Rackheath Pathfinders - Site 6](#). We can also be seen on YouTube. [Postcard from Rackheath and USAAF 467th Bomb Group \(H\)](#).



Shelter12 adjacent Col. Shower's quarters almost complete apart from brickwork repair to an internal central wall.

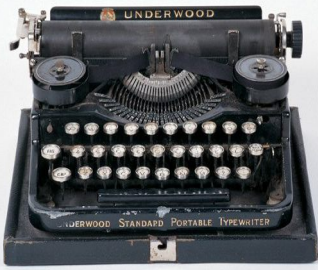


Shelter 12



Officer's Club and path with newly sown grass seed

Notes from the Editor



Please send news/articles for "POOP"
To : Editor - Andy Wilkinson
andywilkinson467th@btinternet.com

Those attending the recent Salt Lake City Reunion were in full agreement what a successful and enjoyable time was had by all with particular emphasis on the memorable dedication and full day at the historic Wendover Airfield. The Reunions offer opportunity for relatives and associates of the 467th to spend quality time together reflecting on the achievements and enjoying the camaraderie our veterans before us experienced. The Reunions continue to be an important part of our Association function and we do encourage and urge as many as possible to continue to support our annual gatherings by making every effort to attend and enjoy the shared experience. Our numbers this year were less than anticipated despite an exciting and full program and we may have to review and open a discussion to how we proceed beyond our planned event next year. We welcome your input and views with the question, "Why do you attend Reunions?".....over to you!

BOARD CHANGES: our annual Members & Directors Business Meetings held during the Reunion resulted in a number of changes to roles and personnel. These are reported at length in the Reunion Report (Page 6) and reflected under the regular Page 2 467th BGA Administration side-bar. We welcome new Director, **Ross Rainwater** commencing a 3 year term and thank him for stepping up and providing a new voice in the direction and travel the Association needs to navigate in the coming months/years.

100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: another of our veterans to reach the magical landmark 100th birthday is **Ken Micko**, former 789th co-pilot, and POW, who reached 100 in August and marked the occasion with many family members in a celebration hosted at the local golf club, Brainerd, MN. Ken is pictured on his actual birthday 24 Aug. during a smaller celebration to mark his special day. You may recall Ken's incredible story of the shoot-down over Berlin in March 1945 was featured in the June & October 2020 POOP and well worth reading. Congratulations from all the 467th BG(H) Association. Wondering how many other centenarians do we have from the 467th or maybe a veteran approaching the magic figure. Do let us know if you have a family member about to celebrate 100 years young and we will gladly feature in the POOP.

SALT LAKE CITY REUNION ATTENDEES:

Janice BATES - Daughter Ray Betcher, Witchcraft ground crew, 790th.

Jim BATES - Son-in-law Ray Betcher

Yvonne CAPUTO - Daughter Mike Caputo, Navigator, 789th (Director)

Valerie CORVINO - Daughter Vince Corvino, Gunner, 788th (Director)

Heath DORSEY - Gold Star Great nephew Duray Dorsey, Pilot killed in training.

Doug DOVEY - Son Arnold Dovey, 392nd/44th BG, Board of Heritage League

Adele GARDNER - Daughter Delbert Gardner, Armorer, 790th

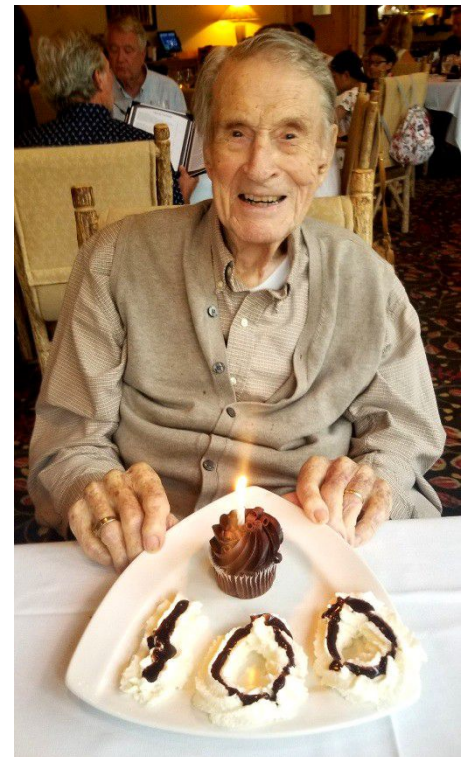
Bob GERRINGER - Son Ted Gerringer, 467th Group Bombardier

Connie GERRINGER - Daughter-in-law, Ted Gerringer

Richard HAYWOOD - Brother-in-law, Kenneth McCracken, 791st and POW

Bill HIRSCH - Son Richard Hirsch, Navigator, 790th

Peter HORNE - Son John Horne, Gunner, 790th (Vice-President 467th BGA)



Robin LESTOCHI - Daughter Kenneth McCracken, 791st and POW

Brian MAHONEY - Son James Mahoney, Deputy C.O. 467th (492nd BG prior) 467th BGA President

Ken McCRACKEN Jr. - Son Kenneth McCracken, 791st and POW

Tony OAKDEN - Friend of Jack Weyler, Pilot 789th (from Waterford, Hertford, England)

Charlie PALMER - Son-in-law, Jack Stevens, Pilot, 791st then 15th AF Italy

Judi PALMER - Daughter Jack Stevens, Pilot 791st

Ann POOCH - Friend of Jay Shower, son of 467th C.O. Col. Albert Shower (Secretary 467th BGA)

Ash SKIDMORE - Son Curtis Skidmore, Bombardier, 789th

Steve WATSON - Son Frank Watson, Pilot 789th/791st (PX 467th BGA)

Debbie WATSON - Daughter-in-law, Frank Watson

Andy WILKINSON - (467th BGA Director & Editor)

Joining with us at WENDOVER:

Scott PATTERSON - Nephew John T. Lynch, killed in training Wendover with wife **Jocelyn ALLRED**

Tim COWLEY and wife **Karen COWLEY**, **Chris COWLEY** and **Rose TENCZA**,

Brent PATTERSON and wife **Susan PATTERSON**

RACKHEATH VIP VISITOR: delighted to have **MaryBeth Ingram** from Westerville, OH., spend best part of a week visiting Rackheath and Norwich in the company of expert guide **Ivan Barnard** during mid-October. Opportunity for MaryBeth to walk in the footsteps of her Father, **Louis P. Rhoads**, lead-bombardier in the 789th and 791st and a member of the original William Grundmann Crew who trained at Wendover. An extensive base tour included time to view the volunteer work and on-going efforts of the “Pathfinders” at Site#6 before an essential visit to the “American Library” in Norwich where MaryBeth is pictured beneath “Witchcraft”.



may be the very last Group organized visit of a significant number under the banner of the 467th BG Association, so make it a date and experience to be cherished. Look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in September!

EMAIL AND ADDRESS CHANGES: remember to report changes to , Brian Mahoney, who handles all membership details including notifications of “Folded Wings” and obituaries. researcher@brianmahoney.com

2023 REUNION, NORWICH, ENGLAND: following cancellation of the proposed 2020 Reunion to be held in Norwich due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Board agreed time was ripe to once again, return to Norwich. A contract has been signed with the historic **MAIDS HEAD** to host the event **Monday 18 September through to Friday 22** with the theme, “**One Last Look**”. We encourage all to “mark the date” and make every effort to attend in what promises to be a final opportunity for many to view the former airfield site and base before the approved extensive housing and industrial development. The February 2023 POOP will contain reservation details with the Maids Head and an early tentative schedule of a busy week of activity centered on Norwich/Rackheath and local area. Make sure to keep your diary clear and plan ahead to walk the same paths as your Father/Grandfathers did in 44/45 and experience an assured warm East Anglian “welcome back” to the former home of the 467th. We are hoping strong support for this very special Reunion which

Salt Lake City Reunion & Wendover Dedication Report

Spirits were high as members of the 467th gathered at the downtown Sheraton Hotel in Salt Lake City during September, the first opportunity to join together since our last pre-Covid Reunion held at Hartford back in 2019. Much had happened since then but a pledge made at the 2019 Reunion to honor and memorialize those 467th lost whilst training at Wendover and during transition to England was to come to fruition at a special dedication at the historic airfield on the 23 September.

Our renowned “Day Room” focal point and meeting place had already been set up and ready for the early first arrivals. Thanks go

out to our industrious and hardworking “VP” **Peter Horne** for efforts to have everything in place from archive records, touch-screen presentations, computer terminals, audio-visual setups, books, uniforms, and all manner of research tools at the disposal for enquiring minds. Creating the Day Room a welcoming relaxing environment reflecting the history and times of the 467th has become an important component of the Reunion and again it worked very well and a natural place to gravitate for those attending.

Several arrived a day ahead of the scheduled program to acclimatize and take advantage of the warm weather and familiarize with surroundings not to mention opportunity to renew friendship, acquaintances and socializing. We were set to go.

Wednesday 21 Sept: officially “arrivals day” with the Day Room open, Welcome Packs to be collected and explore both the Hotel facilities and local options for dining. The Sheraton proved a good choice of venue, the heart of downtown within comfortable walking distance and offering a great choice of places to try including high end retail available at the popular City Creek complex. Enough folk had arrived by early evening to encourage a group outing to the nearby Gracie’s Diner, a lively place kind enough to provide us with our own private room. It was great to have first timers **Bill Hirsch, Ash Skidmore, and Tony Oakden** (from England) among us and quickly get to know the 467th family and enjoy the easy going camaraderie. A long day for many who had early airport departures and the Hotel bar proved popular for a last night-cap before a first full schedule day next morning.

Thursday 22 Sept: following breakfast, all aboard the coach for a relatively short trip north on I-15 to Hill Aerospace Museum located on the northwest corner of Hill Air Force Base. One of the premier attractions in Utah, the Air Force



base museum was founded in 1982 and opened to the public in 87 as part of the USAF Heritage Program. The Museum exhibits more than 90 aircraft, missiles, vehicles, and thousands of other historical artifacts housed in two large Galleries with an impressive array of aircraft including a good number outside in the Air Park. The Mission of the Hill Aerospace Museum is: to educate and inspire all ages through history, with a focus on the United States Air Force, Hill Air Force Base, Utah aviation, and unique learning experiences. The docent for our tour of the facility certainly knew his history and



provided a fascinating series of stories and detail for each significant exhibit. We learned Hill Field became operational in 1940 and was originally known as the Ogden Air Depot. Activity at the Depot increased dramatically following the attack on Pearl Harbor and began its first production lines for modifying and repairing P-39 and P-40 aircraft, shortly followed by a B-17 production line. By Feb.43 it opened an assembly and modification line for B-24s, graphically displayed by huge photo on the museum wall. The rich WWII heritage is amply reflected by a host of exhibits of era aircraft and comprehensive displays throughout the vast Gallery. We spent quite some time admiring their very own B-24D exhibit; in January 1943 the ship landed short of fuel on the unin-

habited western Aleutian Island of Great Sitkin, coming to rest at the foot of volcanic mountain with only minor damage. It remained here largely forgotten until 1994 when a team from Hill Heritage Foundation searching all known Alaskan B-24 crash sites identified it as a recoverable aircraft for display. A recovery team were dispatched and the B-24 disassembled and loaded to a recovery ship. After much work the final assembly of the airframe was completed in 2006 with interior restoration ongoing. The WWII collection of aircraft is impressive here and provided a great deal of interest to our 467th folk whose fathers, grandfathers, would have been very familiar. Towards the close of WWII Ogden Air Depot established a project for reclamation of surplus aircraft, the desert environment ideal for this role. Late July 1945 an allocation of 400 B-24s and 100 P-47s arrived for storage.

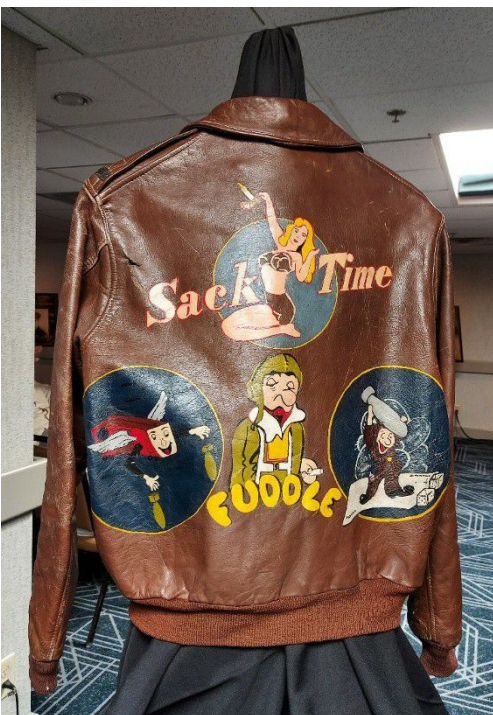
Our party took an opportunity to enjoy a packed-lunch outside utilizing picnic-tables strategically placed under the wing of the giant C-124 Globemaster offering good shade from the strong Utah sun. Post lunch plenty of opportunity to wander around and photograph the many exhibits located in the Air Park including examples of a B-52, B-1, to the older and historic B-29 which was undergoing some remedial work. Exploring the Air Park further revealed a number of memorials to Bomb Groups & Fighter Groups serving with the “Mighty Eighth” including reference to the 467th BG who trained in the state of Utah at Wendover. Also located in the Air Park was the Base Chapel and memorial garden, originally moved to its current position and restored with further work pending. The WWII era Chapels were built of wood to a common spec and appearance and Yvonne Caputo was keen to take a closer look as her parents were married in the Base Chapel at Harlingen, TX. Dennis, one of the Museum volunteers most kindly allowed us access. The building appeared in good shape with a myriad of flags representing many units, plaques were attached to the rows of pews, and an impressive stained-glass window gifted from the 384th BG, one of the earliest B-17 Groups in England, who had presented a similar stained-glass window to the local church at Grafton Underwood.





The afternoon allowed further opportunity to explore the second Gallery the Lindquist Stewart Fighter Gallery which houses post WWII and modern airframes. Notable examples include an SR-71 Blackbird, A-10 Warthog, even a F-117 Nighthawk “Stealth Fighter”. Wandering back to the first Gallery you appreciate so much more history is covered along the walls of the Museum including a recent display on the “Mighty Eighth”, and Air War conducted over Vietnam with a chilling reminder of the horrors of the infamous “Hanoi Hilton”. Before departing Hill Aerospace Museum a visit to the well stocked “Gift Shop” proved popular and after a word of thanks to the museum staff it was time to board the coach and head back to the Sheraton. Can’t emphasize enough how impressive and highly recommended are both the many exhibits and displays contained here. Checkout their web site www.aerospaceutah.org and spend a day here, you won’t be disappointed.

Our Day Room proved popular early evening and a note of thanks go to **Ash Skidmore** for bringing along his father’s illustrated A-2 Jacket in almost pristine condition applied and decorated at Rackheath during 1944. You may remember we featured the A-2 Jacket in the April 2014 POOP (available to view/download at www.467thbg.com) so a real treat to see the jacket up close revealing the stunning artwork. Thanks too to **Steve Watson** who administers our 467th PX and bought along a number of items in an effort to boost funds for the Association.



Friday 23 Sept: Wendover Memorial Dedication and visit, OUR BIG DAY. It was an early departure as we boarded the coach and headed west out of Salt Lake City towards the historic Wendover Airfield situated on the Utah/Nevada border. Couldn't help get a sense of how isolated Wendover must have felt back in the winter of 43/44 as we drove past the Great Salt Lake into the sparse scrubby desert and salt flats on our 120 mile journey. A keen sense of expectation was palpable as we turned off I-80 and into the historic airfield location and were greeted by **Jim Petersen (CEO)** and his enthusiastic team at the wonderfully restored John T. Brinkman Service Club. Jim has provided unstinting support with the entire Wendover Project including financial backing toward completion of the scale Model B-24, displays, also guidance in how best to achieve our aims.

We were given a warm welcome and invited to watch a brief video on the history of Wendover Field, the 21 Bomb Groups who trained here, including the Atomic connection and involvement with the secret "Manhattan Project". An airfield tour followed with some of the party transported along the flight-line in an authentic Willys Jeep. A true step back in time visiting the original wood constructed aircraft-hangars; the former fire-station with period vehicles; secret Norden Bombsight Storage vault, five concrete vaults with 'bank safe' type doors, each with a combination lock. The highly classified bombsights used in all American bombers were stored in these vaults when not in use. An on-going restoration is the "B-29 Hangar" constructed specifically for the Manhattan Project work at Wendover. The mammoth sized hangar is hoped will be the primary museum site for the Airfield complete with visitor walkways, exhibits, small theater, restored office-buildings, and even a B-29. A short distance away is first of the Barracks building restored which housed 25-40 men depending on the bunking setup. There are dozens more of these original wooden barracks and little changed from their appearance during the 1940s. Another completed restoration is the Control Tower originally built in 1942 and now back to its former glory. Over 60ft high, visitors can climb the series of stairs and fully appreciate the commanding view over the apron, flight-line and panorama of the airfield. Time was pressing and there are 5 or 6 other ongoing restoration projects we didn't get to see but it was back to the Service Club and lunch hosted in the beautifully restored club bar, the same room our B-24 model and displays will be located and contained in a specially designed display-cabinet.



Most of "the gang" pictured in one of the original restored wooden hangars at Wendover



Beautifully restored John T. Brinkman Service Club, location of the Dedication

DEDICATION: President Brian Mahoney opened with an Invocation followed by one minute silence as we remembered the 55 fallen from the 467th and the wider 15,500 of the Army Air Force who gave their lives. Our theme “Honoring 15,500 Unsung Heroes” was articulated beautifully with the aim of opening a national conversation in recognizing those overlooked; its whole impetus is to foment healing of families—yes, after this much time. Our memorial has truly found a rightful home here at restored Historic Wendover Airfield; Jim Peterson, CEO, and the 467th’s equal partner in formally and specifically recognizing the entire category of 15,500 unsung heroes was the first speaker. He reiterated the special place Wendover was as one of the primary training bases for “heavy bombers” during WWII and recognition of the many tragic accidents occurring here in pursuit of combat readiness. Jim added that an idea is in the works to build a larger, bronze memorial outside of the Wendover Airfield Museum that will feature all 15,500 names.

Next was Dennis L. Pairzek, VFW Department of Utah, Adjutant/Quartermaster and National Council Member. Denis noted that most of those lost in training died before even being assigned to a bomber or fighter group, meaning they have never been noted by any veteran or commemoration association, even though they sacrificed themselves for the country.

It was a pleasure to welcome Retired Army Sergeant First Class Becki Knepper, who continues important service as the Ambassador of the Utah Women’s Military Memorial. Long-overlooked is the contribution of brave young women volunteers, in most cases not considered as military, though serving the Army Air Forces in uniform, in Army Planes, under Army direction, at Army Air Forces training facilities all across the country. Becki spoke passionately about the role of women in uniform over the years and her thrill and support that women too were recognized among those contributing to the war effort and duly recorded as so on our second plaque to the 15,500.

Our own Ash Skidmore whose father, Lt. Curtis Skidmore was a survivor in a fatal crash taking four young 467th lives in an accident at Dakar during transition to England spoke movingly of the tragic circumstances. The name of each fallen was read in solemn reverence as we remembered and honored the sacrifice they gave for their country. We were to learn through Ash, just minutes after his father’s crew fatal crash a second occurred with the tragic loss of an entire B-17 crew en-route to Italy. Yet another among the forgotten “transition” category we hope will now feature in the dawning realization of the nation’s conscience.

Our final speaker, Heath Dorsey, a relative of one of the young 467th BG trainees killed in an accident in the unforgiving mountains north east of where we are standing. Through his conversations over the years with his grandfather and with his Uncle Bruce, who would have attended but for COVID, this Gold-Star Great Nephew of 2nd Lt. Duray W. Dorsey, brought us the most immediate, most personal testimony to the value and importance of the recognition we begin here and now. Heath said he never met his uncle, but he felt his presence through stories. "In a way we *did* know him". There was barely a dry eye in the room as Heath outlined the deep sense of grief and loss had burdened the family for such a long time. "This dedication provides a tremendous measure of closure for our family," Heath spoke.

Brian concluded, it was a reverent public gesture for American families to display in their window a star for each family members in the service during the war. "Heath, for the entire Dorsey family, we ask you accept this token of our profound, and now appropriately public recognition of your great uncle, and the loss and private sacrifice of your family, still felt as such three generations on".....a gold star.

Following the singing of the Recessional hymn, "America the Beautiful", Colors were withdrawn by the VFW Honor Guard and the Dedication came to a highly emotional but fulfilling close.

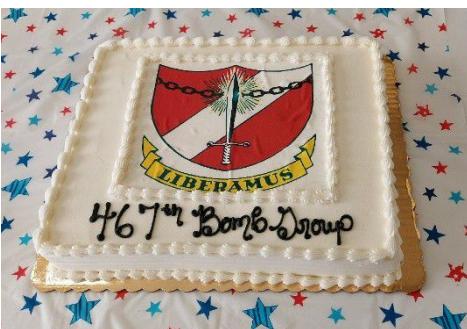
Attendees filtered through back to the Service Club Bar area for a reception and take a closer look at the three impressive plaques funded and donated by the 467th BG Association but tinged with a little disappointment our incredible unique B-24 scale model was not quite constructed in time to complete the display. Our hosts surprised us all with presentation of a wonderful cake beautifully iced complete with the 467th "Liberamus" in a truly generous and thoughtful gesture. We sincerely thank and appreciate the Wendover Heritage Foundation for their unstinting support throughout. Wendover will forever hold a special place in the hearts of the 467th.



Jim Petersen, CEO Wendover



Heath Dorsey



Restored original wooden Barracks

Saturday 24 Sept: Free Day. Following two busy and long days, a free-day was factored into our program this year. Good opportunity to further explore our Reunion location, relax, spend time in the Day Room with research, or maybe some retail therapy. One group visited the famous Salt Lake City Temple, and in the evening a choir rehearsal. Several were invited to make a short trip out to Kearns, now a suburb of SLC but during the War "Camp Kearns" was a huge basic training base for the Army Air Forces with many of the original 467th passing through here before moving on to

Wendover. Pam Todd founder of the Kearns Historical Society stages an annual exhibition of “Camp Kearns” memorabilia and we were amazed by just how much material had been collected by Pam and her team with only a fraction on display. Pam is hoping a more permanent location been found for the collection. That evening several of us made the short trip, just over a mile from the hotel to Smith’s Ballpark and an enjoyable ballgame ending in victory for the local “Bees”.

Sunday 25 Sept: the morning activity focused on the Annual Members Meeting with all welcome to attend. Reports were submitted by various Directors and lessons learned and the need to reset planning scale for future Reunions based on smaller attendance. Ann Pooch (Secretary) presented the Minutes of our 467th BGA Virtual Annual Meeting held in



Connie, Bob & Debbie

October 2021, a Zoom event, which was voted upon and accepted. Ann requested to step down from the Secretary role, a role she has held for many years and performed in an exemplary and timely manner for which we are all deeply appreciative for her efforts and commitment. Valerie Corvino (Treasurer) provided Association current finance figures (*covered elsewhere in this issue*), and too requested to step down from her role, but remain a Director. Next year’s Reunion was discussed and it was decided upon to resurrect a return to Norwich, England, originally planned for 2020 before Covid-19 intervened. (*Editor – more on the 2023 Reunion this newsletter*). Selection of New Directors was next with one position needing to be filled as David LaRussa’s 5 year term had expired. Other Directors whose term was ending agreed to remain subject the voting approval of members and recommendation of the Board. Ross Rainwater was nominated to replace David, Ross a long time member of the Association and keen supporter and contributor was unanimously approved. Welcome aboard, Ross! Following a brief adjournment it was a

pleasure to welcome Pam Todd whom some of us met yesterday, founder of the Kearns Historical Society speak about “Camp Kearns” and the 467th association with the facility during 1943. Fascinating to learn how Col. Shower and Major Fred Holdrege were of great assistance to Pam during the early years of her research. The meeting was convened and after lunch the Directors gathered for their own meeting to select Officers for the coming year.

Significantly, a number of major changes of Officer roles was forthcoming as a result of very productive and wide-ranging discussion. After 10 successful years at the helm, Brian Mahoney requested to step down and we were delighted to have Yvonne Caputo nominated and accept the position of President with immediate effect. Peter Horne agreed to remain as Vice-President (VP), while Ann Pooch agreed to remain in the post as Secretary for one further year. Brian kindly agreed to take on the role of Treasurer vacated by Valerie and we remain hugely indebted to Brian for his service to the Association and willingness to continue to offer his wealth of experience to the Board.



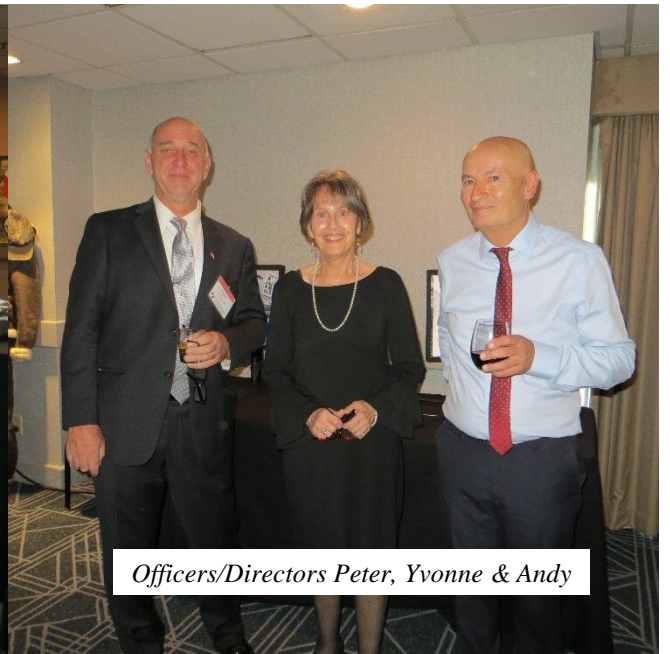
Steve & Tony

The remainder of the Sunday afternoon was free time before the group was to meet for our traditional close of Reunion Banquet which we were able to relocate last minute to our familiar and comfortable Day Room. Despite our lower number this year it was a joy to have a last opportunity to socialize and enjoy each other's company in what all agreed was a terrific Reunion and program. Our new President Yvonne was announced to the room and we wish her the very best in successfully taking the Association forward with renewed purpose, dedication, and enthusiasm as sure she will. Fittingly, it was Yvonne herself who had volunteered to be "Guest Speaker" presenting her wonderful and personal story of her relationship with her Father based on her successful authorship of the acclaimed "Flying With Dad". It was a real treat to have Yvonne describe the life of her Father & Mother particularly leading up and through the War years, a shared experience for many in the room.

So we came to the conclusion of another memorable gathering, many hugs and fond farewells to those with early morning departures, and a steely determination to do this all again in the spirit and kinship of our dearly loved and esteemed 467th veterans. See you all in Norwich, England, next year!



Officers/Directors Ann, Valerie & Yvonne



Officers/Directors Peter, Yvonne & Andy

790th Squadron Flight Surgeon,
Captain John R. Munger
at Rackheath

A Rose for Doc Munger



By Delbert R. Gardner

My World War II outfit--the 790th Bomb Squadron, 467th Bomb Group (Heavy)--was a good deal like other squadrons in the Eighth Air Force. We had some very good officers, some not-so-good officers, and some that were mediocre at best. But we were fortunate above all other squadrons, I am bold to say, in having one officer who earned the respect of every man in the outfit--and he was an officer only by accident of profession. This was our flight surgeon, Captain "Doc" Munger.

Doc Munger was an officer simply because that's what the army does with doctors. We enlisted men often wondered why the doctors and nurses had to be officers. Was it to make us respect them? But we would respect them anyway because of their profession. It seemed irrelevant and unfair to establish a military relationship between doctors and patients, so that we had to salute them and call them "Sir" instead of "Doctor."

Some army doctors, unfortunately, got caught up in their military role and took themselves more seriously as officers than as doctors--sort of like Major Burns of MASH. I remember one such when I was hospitalized for scarlet fever. He was a major, impeccable in uniform and military bearing. At dawn one day he came in, threw open some windows, and shouted, "Everybody up! Hit the deck and start sweeping and mopping!"

Some of us reminded the major that we were sick and under orders to stay in bed.

"Popycock!" he snapped. "I'm countermanding those orders! The best medicine for you is to get some fresh air and exercise. Now hop to it; I want this floor clean enough to eat from!"

The major stayed in the ward long enough to see us get up and begin to do his bidding. We staggered around and did the best we could; then we closed the windows and fell back into our beds.

When Doc Munger came in a little later, with his white coat covering most of the signs of his officer status, he was concerned to find some of the patients showing signs of worsening condition. Some had fits of coughing and showed temperatures more elevated than usual.

"I don't understand it," he said after checking the second patient. "You fellas were doing better yesterday."

"Maybe," said the patient between coughs, "it's because we just had a GI party."

"Sure," the doctor smiled, thinking it a joke. "You all jumped out of bed and scrubbed the floor!"

"That's right," I said. "No joke, sir. The major came in and ordered us to do it."

"Is that so?" The doctor's eyebrows raised a second; then he looked around at the floor, which still glistened from the mopping. "So I see. Did you tell him you were on orders to stay in bed?"

"Yes, sir."

"Hmm. Well, we'll see if we can get this straightened out," he said calmly with a look of determination. "I want to see all of you get well without any hitches. I'll talk to him on a professional basis."

We knew the "profession" Doc Munger had in mind was medical, not military. His professional talk with the major must have been effectual, for the major did not repeat his martinet act of the morning.

That's the way Doc Munger was. He was not in it for the money or glory or power. However, he was not a Hawkeye Pierce type either, except in his dedication to healing. Doc's uniform was not sloppy, and he was not a playboy; nor did he flout authority. But he did his best to influence those in authority to keep the health of the troops in mind.

I couldn't say precisely how many lives of flight crew members were saved by Doc Munger, but I know there was at least one ground crew member who owed his life to Doc. It's a common belief among combat crews that there is virtually no danger to ground crews--except from whatever enemy air raids may occur, and these are a danger to all. This belief is definitely not valid for those who work with armament.

One of our B-24 bombers returned from a mission one day with a jammed .50 caliber machine gun in the upper turret. An armorer friend of mine (I'll call him Bob) tried to clear the weapon.

Bob took the backplate off the gun and remembered the safety precaution of removing the recoil spring. This was very important when trying to unjam a gun with a cartridge in the chamber, for the recoil spring could be driven through a man's brain like an arrow if the gun fired with the backplate off. But Bob forgot another basic precaution: he removed the bolt stud. The bolt stud was the gun's most important safety device; its function was to stop the bolt at the back of the gun in case of accidental firing. When Bob reached in with a rod to try to disengage the bolt, the gun fired and, since the bolt stud wasn't there to stop it, the heavy steel bolt slammed into his forehead.

A couple of us heard the loud report from where we were working on other parts of the plane, and we scrambled through the bomb bay into the radio operator's compartment where the upper turret was located. We found Bob crumpled on the floor in a pool of blood, his face an unrecognizable mass.

"Oh, my God," I whimpered, "he's done for!" We called for the ambulance and helped the medics load him into it, but we had no hope at all for his survival.

Shortly afterward, we heard that Doc Munger was working feverishly in the operating room in an effort to save Bob's life. We admired him for trying, but still thought it was a futile effort--after all, that smashed forehead! Then the next day we heard the miraculous news that our flight surgeon had been successful in removing all the broken bone from Bob's forehead, and with luck the patient would recover.

Within a month Bob left the hospital with a plate in his forehead and new skin covering the wound. He laughed ruefully when telling about his near-fatal error with the bolt stud. "How could I forget a thing like that? It flashed into my mind a split second before the gun fired, but it was too late!"

"Well, at least," I consoled him, "you remembered the recoil spring, thank God! If you hadn't, you wouldn't be here talking to us!"

"That's right," he agreed with a light in his eyes. "And if it hadn't been for Doc Munger, I wouldn't be here either. Thank God for him too!"

I don't know where Doc Munger is today--but I would like to. I'm sure many other former members of the 790th would like to know also. Are you out there, Doc? If so, stand up and receive our salute--not because of your officer status, but because you were one helluva flight surgeon!

Editor - First published in Second Air Division Association Journal, Eighth Air Force, Vol. 32, No. 3, Fall 1993. Kindly provided by daughter, Adele Gardner.

Folded Wings

William D. ALLERT - Radar Mechanic (RCM) 788th, Feb. 2022

Jean WEEKS - wife of 788th pilot Harold E. Weeks, Sept. 2022

Please send news of "Folded Wings" also Obituaries to 467th BG veterans or prominent Associates to Brian Mahoney researcher@brianmahoney.com

467th BGA Treasury Report Nov. 3, 2022

—first full conformance/reckoning of treasurer's spreadsheet, bank statements
and checkbook register, under new Treasurer Brian Mahoney
—prepared for POOP from Group 467, November 2022 edition

Cash on hand comprises three separately accounted funds in our single
PNC non-profit checking account (no bills outstanding), as follow:

1. Reunion Support Fund	<i>no changes since 2016</i>	\$4,656.85
2. Wendover Memorial Fund	<i>total collected pledges/donations</i>	\$54,386.70
	<i>all expenses to date</i>	<u>-50,429.62</u>
	<i>campaign cash balance</i>	3,607.08
		3,607.08
3. General Fund ('Mail Fund')	<i>PX sales</i>	165.00
	<i>year-to-date contributions and in-kind gifts</i>	1,997.01
	<i>activity related income (all from reunion registration fees)</i>	7,633.00
	<i>misc reimbursements</i>	<u>119.44</u>
	<i>income subtotal</i>	9,914.45
	<i>purpose related expenses</i>	\$10,035.60
	<i>returned 2020 reunion deposits transferred to Wendover Fund</i>	400.00
	<i>donations (Historic Wendover and Hill Aerospace Museum)</i>	700.00
	<i>accidental debit card charges (fully reimbursed)</i>	<u>86.43</u>
	<i>expenses subtotal</i>	11,222.03
	<i>net year-to-date (\$9,914.45 - 11,222.03)</i>	-1,037.58
	<i>carry over from 2021 calendar year</i>	<u>2,790.00</u>
	<i>General Fund current running balance</i>	1,482.42
		<u>1,482.42</u>
	<i>total cash on hand</i>	\$9,746.35

Remarks

The accounting practices and detail attention of Valerie Corvino, my predecessor as Treasurer, have served us well. She is now the back-up signatory for the account, as I was before.

We continue to enjoy the generosity and financial support of our constituents. This is most apparent in the success of the Wendover Fund, which will be kept open until delivery and installation of the 1:20 scale model, Donor Book, and final plaque are all complete.

Our traditional process and formula for setting reunion budgets, until this year, have served well in delivering revenue-neutral reunions that paid for themselves while returning modest surpluses to the general fund. Informal analysis of the 2022 reunion shows the importance of continually reassessing the big-ticket costs, such as food-and-beverage minimums and chartered transportation, before locking in registration fees and other elements of the reunion budget. This year, those expenses exceeded our conservative allowances by 200% and 160%, respectively.

Since the reunion, the committee and Directors have a broad consensus that we should look into different reunion models, minimizing funds at risk when attendance is less than allowed for.

The very strong financial support of listed and anonymous individuals, both for the Wendover fund and the ballooned 2022 reunion costs, was crucial and is greatly appreciated. It also instructs that we need to return to regular 'mail fund' appeals (or annual giving), especially if we are to remain dues-free.

DONATIONS: are all gratefully received for general support and administration of the Association, also for specified special projects of historical note. All contributions are personally acknowledged and most welcome. Donate [HERE](#)

Obituaries



William Donald "Don" ALLERT, Radar Mechanic, 788th

William Donald (Don) Allert, age 100, of Rochester, MN., passed away peacefully February 24, 2022.

He was preceded in death by parents William and Bertha; his wife of 67 years, Maxine, brother Charles, sister-in-law Hazel and daughter-in-law Leah. He is survived by children James (Debbie), Tom, Jeff (Jennifer) and Carol (Jim); six grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; and many other loving relatives and friends.

Don grew up in St. Paul and after graduating from Harding High School he became a radar technician for the Army Air Force in WWII. After the war he earned a B.A. degree from Hamline University in St. Paul and did post-graduate work at Springfield College in Massachusetts. He was employed by the St. Paul YMCA as Director of Boys Activities. He later moved to Rochester and took on the challenge of regional supervisor for the Minnesota Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. From 1958 until his retirement in 1986 he spent many satisfying years helping those with disabilities to develop employable skills and adapt to new assistive technologies.

Don was an active member of Bethany United Methodist Church as usher, men's group leader and Sunday school teacher and is a current member of Evangel United Methodist Church. He took up stained glass artistry in his 50's, taught community classes in the subject, and held a class at Bethany in which each participant made a window depicting a different part of the life of Christ including his birth, baptism, teaching, death, and resurrection.

Don was active in many programs that benefited those in need. In retirement he and Maxine volunteered at the Ability Building Center (ABC), Channel One, and other local charities. They also travelled to work projects throughout the United States with the United Methodist Nomads service organization.



***Reunion 2023
Return to Norwich
September 18 - 22***



The 467th Post Exchange



1.



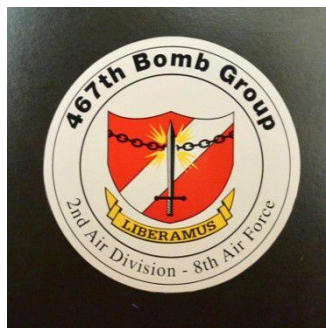
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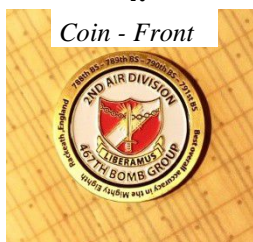
4.



5.



6.



Coin - Front

7.



Rear

The 467th Post Exchange

Items Available to Order in support of the 467th BG Association

1. **RED 467th LIBERAMUS INSIGNIA BALL CAP:**
Universal fit.....\$10.00 ea plus package and mail.
2. **SQUADRON PATCHES FEATURING SQUADRON LOGO, 788th, 789th, 790th, 791st:**
Embroidered Patches 4" Dia.....\$3.00 ea plus package and mail.
3. **467th LIBERAMUS SHIELD GROUP PATCH:**
Red Embroidered Patch 3"x3".....\$3.00 ea plus package and mail.
4. **SQUADRON PINS FEATURING SQUADRON LOGO, 788th, 789th, 791st:**
Pins 1" Dia. (790th Squadron currently unavailable).....\$3.00 ea plus package and mail.
5. **CAR/REFRIDGERATOR MAGNET:**
467th Shield/2AD/8th Air Force Round. 4" Dia.....\$2.00 ea plus package and mail.
6. **WHITE POLO SHIRT WITH GROUP PATCH:**
Liberamus 467th BG/2 AD - 8 AF. ONLY avail sizes, XL & XXL.....\$15.00 plus package and mail
7. **CHALLENGE COIN in plastic envelope:**
467th Liberamus/Happy Warrior Squadron, Tucson 2018 Reunion.....\$15.00 ea plus package and mail.

ORDERS AND ENQUIRIES TO STEVE WATSON fswat49@icloud.com

Steve will advise shipping costs and availability

PAYMENT: Credit card/Paypal [HERE](#): or via check to "The 467th BG Association"
to TREASURER, Brian Mahoney, 223 Whitelock St., Baltimore, MD. 21217

ALSO AVAILABLE: The 467th Bombardment Group History by Allan Healy

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.

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