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O F F I C I A L

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From Your Veep

All of us who attended the dedication service at Dayton last October were profoundly impressed by the warm and moving address by Al Shower, our Wartime Commanding Officer. I asked Al for the text to share with all of our mailing list:

"Ladies and Gentlemen, Veterans, and Camp Followers, my friends,

It is an honor and a pleasure to be asked to talk to you on this occasion. Being a member of this organization is certainly one of the most heart-warming aspects of my life. The fellowship and camaraderie extended by all of you is no less than inspiring.

When I served my war-time tour in England, and for some time thereafter, I didn't realize that I was going to come out of it with such a large family as the one gathered here today.

Especially noteworthy is the number of people who have come for the first time to enjoy meeting with associates in the distant campaigns of almost 40 years ago. We gladly welcome all the first-timers and hope to see them at future meetings.

Sincere credit and appreciation are due to Phil Day, who has done such an outstanding job as Group Vice President in the 2nd Air Division Association for the past two years. I know his labors were ably supported by his wife Miss Cille, and I'm sure we are all impressed by the leadership and hard work which have so evidently gone into the preparation of the activities of this reunion. I'm sure Phil will have the occasion to commend Blackie Dunham and many other helpers who have contributed to the operation.

Just 40 years ago, a cadre of 467th Bomb Group personnel, led by Colonel Fritz Glantzberg, was in training at Orlando, Florida. His motto was "Do it Now". We flew several missions in beaten-up B-24s, during which we also determined to "do it better". And, from the start, we showed the rival group cadre how to do just that, a policy which became fixed throughout the war.

Around the middle of October 1943, we returned to wonderful Wendover to begin the gloomy training grind. Colonel Glantzberg moved out to take the 461st Group to Italy, while the rest of us settled down to contend with the weather, the oily, war-weary B-24s and the incessant drain of personnel ordered out to fill vacancies in units being shipped out to the war zones. But, it seems now, almost miraculously, the new people we acquired turned out to be better than the ones we lost. And when we got into combat, the spirit of "do it now" and "do it better" persisted at Rackheath.

Many of you are more intimately aware of the details of life at Rackheath than I am. I keep learning, bit by bit, of many occurrences, or might they be termed escapades? But through it all, the Group strove to excel in doing its assigned task. And the records show that in maintenance of equipment, safety of operation and bombing accuracy the 467th achieved positions at or near the top.

At the end of the war it was decided that the final Eighth Air Force victory parade over London should be led by the group with the best bombing record. In tribute to the Group's accomplishments, I didn't get to see much of the parade, because I had the honor to be one of those in the aircraft leading the parade.

We can all be proud of the record made by our unit in the war. But it's no wonder. In talking with those who come to reunions, I have learned that there is a consistent pattern of successful careers in many different fields of endeavor. So it gives me the feeling - with people like these on that war-time team, how could it have been anything but the best?

And while we thank God that we are privileged to be here, let us not forget those who are not. I would like to mention one individual who is seriously ill and could not make the trip. Adam Soccio struggled in the early days after the war to generate interest in the Group reunions. He has seen the interest steadily grow, and I know he'd be very proud and happy to see the enthusiastic turn-out today.

And finally, let us contemplate and cherish in memory those whom we honor today, whose lives were lost or blighted, through many circumstances, during the course of the war. May their sacrifice encourage us to appreciate and promote the welfare of our families, our associates, and our country."

Colonel Shower then unveiled the Memorial Plaque for the continuance of the Dedication Ceremony.

Lets talk a bit about the Second Air Division Association, the 2ADA Journal and our Poop From Group.

There are two mailing lists of 467th veterans. The first is the "467th's own" and includes almost 800 names, each of whom receives Poop From Group, our own newsletter. The second is the Second Air Division Association list, of 2ADA members only and includes about 345 names, each of whom receives the 2ADA Journal. Both lists are the result of 38 years of work, most recently by Phillip Day, and earlier by Vince LaRussa, Ray Betcher and Adam Soccio.

Because of the differences in lead time before publication, you probably will receive some news twice, generally in Phillip's "Poop From Group" first, and again in the 2ADA Journal in my report - also Poop From Group. I trust you will understand.

The sharp differences in names between the two lists reflects, obviously, that many on our "own" roster either have not gotten around to joining or, for one reason or another, have let their memberships lapse in the 2ADA. In either case, I hope you will seriously consider joining. Here are some reasons:

The Journal itself (four issues a year) is worth the \$10 dues. You will find in it news, stories and letters of considerable general interest contributed by 2ADA members. And news about the Library, to which we all contributed one British pound in 1945, is particularly gratifying.

Part of the dues is sent to the Board of Governors of the Memorial Library Fund to continue the improvement, maintenance and operation of the Library Room, our living legacy, memorial, to those comrades from the Second Air Division who made the supreme sacrifice in World War II.

Ten dollars is not a minor sum for people on modest retirement incomes. However, once a member, the Second Air Division does not want to lose you. Should paying the dues become a problem, a note to Evelyn Cohen will assure your continued membership.

Within the next few weeks, I will "cross-ruff" the two lists and send the recently new 2ADA flyer to non-members. If you already have one, please send it to Evelyn Cohen with your \$10 check. Or, simply send your check, with your name and address, your Group and Squadron or other unit to Evelyn Cohen, Apt. 06-410 Delair Landing Road, Philadelphia, PA. 19114. Less than 100 new members in the 2ADA would move us from 3rd - 4th in membership to 1st, and that is where our Group belongs. Please join or rejoin. Thank you.



## THE 1984 REUNION

The 467th BG will reunion Oct. 4-7, 1984, at the 37th Annual Reunion of THE SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION in Palm Springs, CA. You who are members of the 2ADA have received the information and costs in the March, 1984, Journal. You who are not members of the 2ADA, join by sending \$10 to Evelyn Cohen, 06-410 Delaire Landing Rd., Philadelphia, PA., 19114 for membership, and request reunion information. It is unlikely that the 467th will have a reunion separate from the 2ADA for sometime, each of us who have attended the Group minireunions in conjunction with a 2ADA reunion urge your membership in the 2ADA and attendance at the reunions. Join the 2ADA so you can attend the reunion and the 467th minireunion.

## THE RACKHEATH MEMORIAL

In support of our Memorial at Rackheath, the Group has sent to the Rackheath Parish Council monies sufficient to install a bench and paved walkway to complement that already installed at the Village Sign-Memorial Site at Holy Trinity Parish Church. We have sent some of the Calvin Horn base scenes and personal photo requested by the Church Hall Committee to link the Parish sign and the Memorial. I still need orders and any other materials that gives the names of those who served at Rackheath. I hope to computerize all of these names in June so please send "names" information as soon as possible so that the list will be as complete as possible when it is sent to the Church Hall Committee for inclusion in their Book of Remembrance.

## Bits and Pieces

I am in receipt of a letter from Mr. C. V. Sleath, Deputy Divisional Librarian, Central Library, Norwich. He reports that the following books were purchased with the first of the interest generated by our Endowment Fund of \$4000.

Hollywood on Ronald Reagan - Doug McClelland  
One Brief Shining Moment - William Manchester  
The Only Way to Cross: the golden era of the great Atlantic liners - John Maxtone - Graham  
U. S. Military Power - Steven Rys  
Visions of America: Pioneer artist in a new land - Ran Tyler

Mr. Sleath's letter concludes "The constant use made of the library by the people of Norwich and Norfolk, together with the generous support of those in the States, combine to make this a fitting way of preserving the memory of your comrades and we are very grateful for this continuing support."

The book plate used to identify our book contributions is reproduced so that you each may see the dedication used.

# SECOND AIR DIVISION MEMORIAL

Presented to  
2nd Air Division (USAAF) Memorial Room  
Norwich Central Library  
by members of  
467th Bomb Group  
(Rackheath)  
in memory of  
all members of the Group  
who gave their lives  
in action against the enemy  
1942 - 1945

## NECROLOGY

Terry Bryan  
Vincent P. Siebern  
Lawrence Uebele  
Clair W. Worch

Over forty letters were received after the last Poop and I am especially grateful to those who wrote wishing me well and a speedy recovery from my operation. I am well, back to full strength, doing all normal 60 year old things. Thanks to each of you for the letters, cards and phone calls. I am very blessed.

Calvin Horn, Group Photo Office, sent me at New Years a grape fruit box and a half of prints and negatives, from Wendover through Rackheath. I sorted these as best I could into categories, ground scenes, AC on ground, in flight, strike photos, etc. Because Tony North needed 467th input for his forthcoming book on the 96th Combat Wing of the 2 AD, he was sent over 300 negatives and 200 prints to select from for his use. He has reproduced those he will use and returned ours. Now I will try to get a book of selected photos ready for you to see in Palm Springs. I know you all join me in thanking Calvin for his generous contribution to our 467th memorabilia. Ultimately I would like to see this and your memorabilia placed in the 8th AF museum at Barksdale Field, here in Shreveport-Bossier City, LA. The Group should address this proposition at the next mini-reunion at Palm Springs. We need to make certain that our memories of the Group do not die with us.

We received five donations totaling \$80 since the last Treasure's report. I wrote we had \$2043.90 on November 15, 1983. Poop expenses, postage other than Poop, telephone expense and the donations leave us with a balance on March 1, 1984, of \$1679.44.

A continuing effort is being made to try to identify all 160 AC assigned to the Group. At Dayton, the list was posted and resulted in a few new AC names and a few numbers given to names of AC previously without numbers. I now have 143 complete serial numbers and 30 buzz numbers. A source for buzz numbers, the last three and four digits of the AC serial number, sometimes on the nose of the plane, are briefing sheets showing AC, pilot, hardstand, and on the reverse the important mission data. If all of you, especially you airplane drivers, would look through your memorabilia and send or reproduce and send to me these sheets, I will appreciate you very much. Had the opportunity of sending information regarding squadron radio call signs to Roger Freeman, celebrated aviation author (The Mighty Eighth, etc.) recently and it came from the sheets I have. If you don't remember, Rackheath was Decktray, the 788th call was Shirtmaker, 789th - Acford, 790th - Hamos and 791st - Baron.

Sixteen new names were added to the roster since last Poop. Four of those came back from the 8th AF Historical Society convention in Houston, the others from individuals. Every member (if you get Poop you are a member) find a member. Unfortunately nine mailings were returned because the person moved and did not notify me. I have received only two notifications from USPS about a new address. We'll find the nine who moved but it would be so much easier if you would send me notice.

Our good friend of the Group, Peter Bond, wants each of you to know that he is available, and wishes very much, to be your guide if you visit Norwich-Rackheath. Peter has made, is continuing to make, a thorough study of Station 145. He now has Air Ministry plans (which I hope to reproduce in Poop) and can tell you more and show you more than we could ever remember. If you are going to England, contact Peter at 1 Markham Tower, Bowers Ave., Norwich NR3 2 PX. Call him when you get there at Norwich 49524, in England the area code is 0603.

## A FEW STATISTICS

The Group participated in four designated offensive battles during its combat tour. These were:

Group	Mission	Credited
	Nos.	Missions
Air Offensive Europe	1-41	38
Battle of Normandy	42-83	40
Battle of Northern France	84-112	27
Battle of Germany	113-221	107
Credited Mission Total		212

The Group had assigned a total of 160 AC. It arrived in the ETO with 58 of which 5 were immediately transferred to other Groups or depots. Declared operational losses were 49 AC including 29 as missing in action. Non operational losses were 34 and 69 are known to have been returned to the ZI. This leaves 3 in limbo, possibly accounted for by interned in Sweden and/or Switzerland.

In the 212 missions, 5105 AC got mission credit, an average of 24 AC per mission. In the 221 Group missions dispatched, 221 AC aborted. Total tonnage dropped on targets was 13,353 tons, 63 tons per mission, 2.6 tons average per attacking AC. It took 35,537 AC combat hours and 13,208 AC non-combat hours to accomplish the missions and 13½ million gallons of gasoline went through the fuel dumps. During the "trucking" operation in September '44, there were at one time 105 AC on the field to haul the over 646,000 gallons of vehicle gasoline to France.



Two Eight AF, possibly world, records by the Group were:

24 December 1949 - sixty-one (61) AC dispatched and attach assigned targets.

15 April 1945 - 24 AC in three squadrons attached a gun position at Pointe de Grace, France with entire bomb pattern within 1000' of the Mean Point of Impact (MPI). The 1st Sqd had 60% w/i 500', the 2nd, 40% w/i 500' and the 3rd, 50% w/i 500'; a record never before (or since?) attained by any 8th AF unit. Jim Coffey's account of this mission has been featured in the 2ADA Journal.

I've written you of Adam Soccio and his enthusiasm for the 467th BG and the Second ADA. Following are excerpts from some of the letters he has written me. Maybe one of these will let you remember again that time in that place.

#### Bits and Pieces - Adam Soccio

Once a week there would be dancing at the dance hall in Norwich. After the dance was over, somewhere between 10 and 11 PM, the Officers and their girls would come into the Combat Crew Mess for coffee, ice cream and cake. I know because we (of the Combat Crew Mess Staff) would have to prepare the food. I remember one night, an Italian girl. I was talking to her and beginning to make a little headway and I got some interference (from her Officer date) but not before I had already made a date with her for later in Norwich. In these days the Officers had it made, good food, and everything else. So did the men who worked in the (Combat Crew) mess hall, like Jeep, the Soccio Kid - I never ran short.

At one time in December 1944, everyone (Enlisted Men) were restricted to base as they were checking for AWOLs. A snow storm was going on and by 6 PM four inches of snow had fallen. I told some in my barracks that I was going to shave and clean up and then go to the Heath House Pub. By the time I was ready, so were four others in our hut, Joe Balog, Albert Richard, Howard Lamb and Robinson.

There were four Burma Roads (unauthorized routes) off and on the Base, each Squadron area had one. That of the 789th was the best, most popular. It left the Base road just before the MP gate, and led to the Norwich-Wroxham Road just past the Italian Prisoner-of-War encampment. You could ride your bicycle on this one, through a tunnel of trees, really like a Burma Road. The one we took off base that night was through the 790th. We walked through the woods, went through the mousehole, hiding in the ditches alongside the highway whenever we would see a vehicle coming, and finally got to Heath House Pub on Gertrude Road. The owner and his wife were very surprised to see us, five GIs, they knew of the restriction at the base. I can still remember their names, Arthur Yoxsley and his wife Carrie.

I wrote in Poop From Group on March 31, 1983, of the Group mission of December 25, 1944. In it I wrote of the unmanned aircraft, "Bold Venture III", that flew from France across the English Channel and over five countries of England before finally "crash landing" in Wales. I received recently an article from a magazine, "Flypast", published in England for aviation buffs that in three pages details the crash of "Bold Venture III". The AC came to the 467th from the 492nd BG where it had flown five missions. At the 467th it was fitted out as a lead ship for the 788th BS, and subsequently was transferred to the 791st BS when it became the lead squadron for the Group.

The article says that on descending into fog shrouded Wales when its gasoline was exhausted, the

We played darts, and there was a piano, someone would always play it, there was always singing despite what conditions were. We really had a ball, though we were thinking any minute the MPs would walk in. The owners finally had to say "Time Gentlemen, Please. Ain't you got a home Yank?" But before we left we chipped in to buy some beer. The owner had a crock or jug, straw covered, that held two gallons, which was filled and away we went, back the same route and way we came only this time it was a bit wobbly. It was still snowing, up to twelve inches then. And that is another time The Jeep got away with it.

One day Joey Balog, Oscar King and I were in Norwich with dates and having a ball. And we took these girls back to the Base and went to an empty hut in the 788th BS area. (The 788th left 10 May 44 and re-joined 10 August 44.) We were caught and I lost my two stripes. As the English would say I was also put in the "Lockup" along with Joey and Oscar. There were five others in the guardhouse with us, one named Burns, a flyer, the others I don't remember about. We were taken out on detail every day, washing latrines, shower rooms, cleaned out field ranges at the mess halls, policed the area(s), cleaned the theater building, fixed fences and guard posts. This is one of the reasons I know and remember the area so well.

Another time when I was without a pass in Norwich, some MPs stopped me. It was my fault, I had loosened my collar and my tie wasn't up tight when they came by and this caused them to stop me and ask questions. Since I was without a pass, they reported me and it was back to the guard house for two weeks. But they couldn't bust me again, I had no more stripes to lose. These are two times the Jeep didn't get away with it.

One time in the Combat Crew Mess I had cooked up a batch of powdered eggs, after mixing the powdered eggs and milk nice and fluffy like, from beating them so much. Two Colonels were eating some of them and one said "Who cooked these eggs?" Well, the rest of guys in the mess knew I was in trouble again, they were pointing at me and knew I was going to catch hell. Instead the Colonel said, "These are the best powdered eggs I've ever eaten". I said kinda sheepishly, "Thank you Sir, but I don't know what I did, as I always do my eggs up the same way". The guys heard the Colonel and me talking and were feeling pretty stupid. I don't remember now which Colonel it was, probably Colonel Shower or Mahoney.

Adam has not been, is not, well. I know it would make him feel much better to hear from some of you. Write him, Adam Soccio, 357 Midland Ave., Garfield, NJ, 07026.

AC hit a large tree just before impact that altered its course just enough to have it plough into the Vowchurch Village Common. The rear fuselage was, practically, undamaged but both wings were torn off and the nose section heavily damaged but sufficiently intact so that some of the villagers were able to go into the cockpit area and could sit in the pilot and copilot seats and move the controls.

The 3rd Strategic Air Depot sent a salvage crew from Griston-Watton and in two weeks all of the wreckage had been hauled away. However, over the years bits and pieces have been uncovered and discovered and are now displayed at the Norfolk and Sutton Aviation Museum at Flixton, a memorial to the bomber that wouldn't give up.

Adam Soccio passed away on Wednesday, May 9, 1984. Kathy Ricci, his daughter called me with this very distressing news. Our sincerest sympathies to Kathy and Letti Carlucci, his very good friend.

May he go from Strength to Strength in the Life of Perfect Service in God's Heavenly Kingdom - Rest In Peace, Adam.

## SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

8th Air Force



### Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to Memorial Trust Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues . . . \$10.00

Make Check or money order to:

SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Group \_\_\_\_\_

Squadron \_\_\_\_\_

Other Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

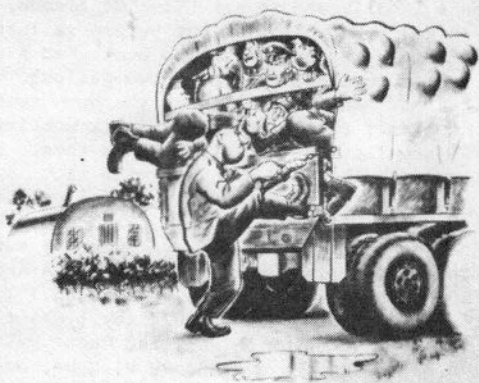
SEND TO: Evelyn Cohen, Membership

Apt. 06410 Delair Landing

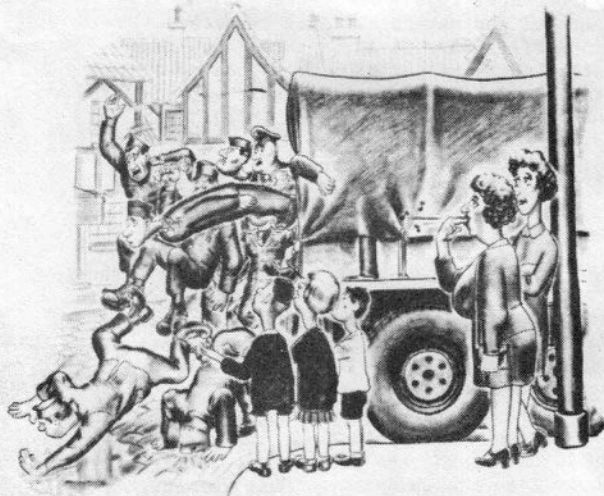
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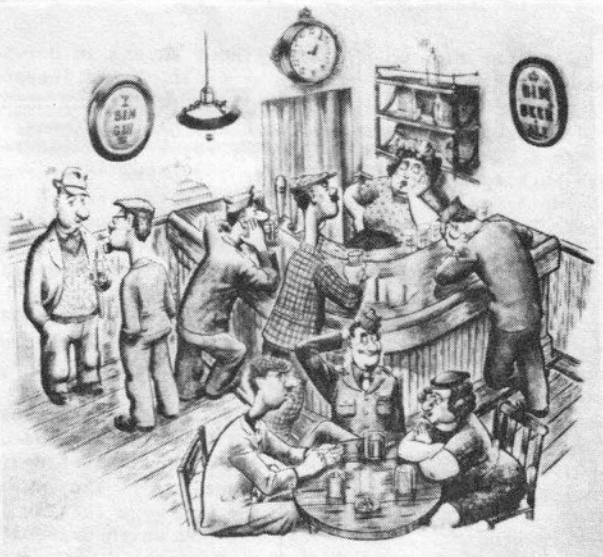




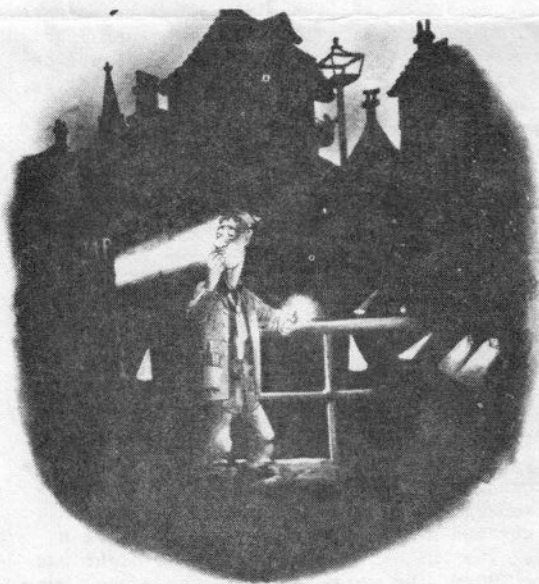
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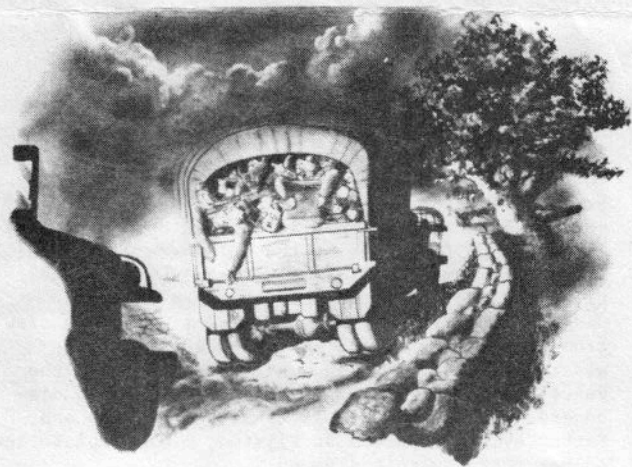
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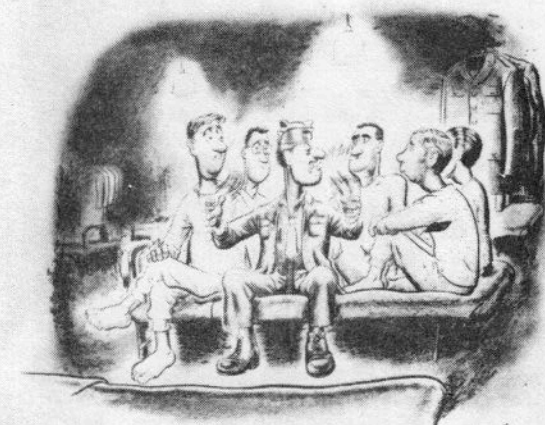
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LIBERTY RUN TO NORWICH

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