

VOL. 4 NO. 1

Station 145 APO 558

December 1, 1984

O F F I C I A L

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FROM YOUR VEEP

The 467th Bomb Group turned out an impressive delegation of 59 veterans and 37 family, a good representation for a Group late to arrive in England. With the help of Jeff Gregory's high-visibility caps, it was easy to find each other in the crowd. In a spirit of comradery, we renewed our wartime bonds, sharing the experience with family.

Our Group Mini-Reunion business meeting, after dinner, was opened by veterans introducing themselves and family. First timers were recognized to a round of applause, as were Joe Ramirez and George Dong, Crew Chief and Assistant Crew Chief on Witchcraft.

I report that, since the Dayton reunion, 1) we gained 71 new 2ADA members, but lost 7 (5 deceased, 2 by own request), bringing our 2 ADA membership to 385, less than half our known 467th veterans; 2) the Memorial Bench at Rackheath Common has been installed and dedicated, a project of Phillip Day; 3) a 467th - 2ADA plaque has been given to and is displayed in the Seco hut from Rackheath, now at RAF Neatishead, a principal Nato radar control center, a 2ADA project; and 4) a picture of Witchcraft and a photo-montage of base activities have been placed at Holy Trinity Church, Rackheath, to compliment and explain our Memorial there.

With the Group's consent, I appointed Phillip, our Editor, Treasurer as well.

On recommendation of the nominating committee (Ken Darney, Fred Janzen and Hank Wedea), I was re-elected 2nd ADA Vice President for the 467th; Floyd Kingsley was elected Deputy. I am, as at Dayton, happy to have the opportunity to serve and grateful for your support. I enjoy the job! I'm sure Floyd feels the same.

In the year ahead, we will persevere on membership, encourage the sending of copies of orders, taped/personal histories, etc. to Norwich (orders also to Phillip), a 2nd ADA project, and consider a new way of raising funds for Group projects.

Rather than depend solely on contributions, the Group agreed to ask its members (which includes those who have not yet joined the 2nd ADA) to pay dues of \$5.00 a year, most of which will fund Phillip's Poop from Group.

Andy Kapi suggested the Group establish a "living memorial" for the late Adam Soccio, a Pioneer in 467th reunions and a close friend. Andy agreed to work out details.

I was surprised and pleased to receive an award from 2nd ADA President, Charles Freudenthal, for "dedicated service".

David Hastings arrived accompanied by wife Jean. David, a member of the Library's Board of Governors and 467th fan and advocate presented the Group with, 1) a mounted piece of the runway at our base, together with a copy of the original plans, and 2) a selection of documents reflecting current life in Rackheath. He is working for the rehabilitation of our tower and briefing room.

The Group elected David its first honorary member in appreciation for his enthusiastic dedication and contribution to the 467th Bomb Group; he received a standing ovation. I will arrange for a certificate.

After the meeting, David made available tapes of his film "A Village Remembers," a superb documentary of the wartime work of the 2nd Air Division with contemporary views of the area and reminiscences of local people. The tapes included considerable footage from wartime color film taken by Jim Mahoney. Jim graciously provided the film and agreed to its tape reproduction, proceeds going to the Memorial Trust.

Al Shower, our wartime Commanding Officer, still concerned about every member of his 467th "family", received two introductions, one from Dave Swearingen and one from me. Both introductions and the sustain-

ed round of applause reflected the esteem, respect and, indeed, love, which his family has for Al. Al responded as "humble" and appreciative and talked about his doctrine of "do it right" and "try for the best", basics which served us so well.

As the meeting approached its close, the Group gave Phillip Day, absent but very much in the hearts of those present, a standing round of applause for his continuing dedication to the welfare of the 467th.

Let's get our new approach to raising funds off to a good start! **PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECK FOR \$5.00 (or more) TODAY made out to Second Air Division Assn-467th BG to Phillip Day, 237 Pennsylvania, Shreveport, LA. 71105. Thank you.**

*sent check for \$5 12/17/84*

RACKHEATH ROSTER

The roster that I have been working on for nearly the last year is completed and on its way to the Church Hall Committee, Holy Trinity Church, Rackheath. I suggested to you in the last Poop that I thought there should have been 4500-5000 at Rackheath. The Personnel Statistical Section reported an average of 500 Officers and 2400 Enlisted Men with a turnover of 100 per month in the first 12 months at Rackheath. Extrapolated that would give about 4500 from March 44 to June 45. The roster I sent has 3608 names, including Red Cross personnel, kindly furnished to me by Mrs Phyllis (King) Smales who was with our Base's Red Cross from before we arrived until just before we left. I thank all of you for the individual names sent, the orders, rosters, etc., to make this gathering of names possible. And I especially thank my friends, Maryse and Robert Harwell, who spent much time and effort at their computer, inputting, deleting, correcting and printing out the whole of it. It took more than 4300 entries to arrive at the 3600 and without Maryse and Bob it would not have been done. I do not know how the Church Hall Committee intends to exhibit the names, it was sent in loose leaf form in a suitable binder and can be used as is or reproduced in some other form. If you go to England and Rackheath, please look for it with the other 467th memorabilia displayed at Holy Trinity Church and especially thank all those there, they will keep our memory alive forever.

HELP WANTED

Reprinted below is an article from "FlyPost", FlyPast Magazine, 1 Wothorpe Road, Stamford, Lincs PE9 2JR, England. Some one of you can help Ron Hayne with the information he seeks. Write me of your recollections and I will send your answer(s) on to FlyPast. As an aside I have no notes as to a plane called "Ruptured Duck" in my list of names of planes with the 467th. You aircrew members will remember the Cromer-Norwich railroad was our "Iron Compass" from Splasher 5 to Rackheath when we let down individually over the North Sea on the many occasions of low ceiling-visibility on return from missions.

By Ron Hayne

The story concerning the "Empty Liberator" in the February issue kindled a memory within me, concerning a Liberator story of my own which occurred 40 years ago, during those eventful days of 1944. At that time I lived in rural Norfolk, travelling each day by train to my place of work in Norwich. The railway line in question ran between the east coast town of Cromer and the city of Norwich, passing through several small stations en route. One such station was called Salhouse which bordered Rackheath airfield, occupied by the USAAF.

My travel companions and myself who were air minded naturally took an interest in the daily activity at Rackheath as we passed by at 8:20 am each morning. One item of particular interest was a B-24 Liberator at the dispersal which the train passed quite closely I do not recall the number or group markings on the

aircraft but one thing which did stand out was the yellow painted name on its nose, The Ruptured Duck.

On numerous occasions the aircrew would be standing in a small group near the aircraft or sitting on the grass near the dispersal having a last cigarette before boarding the aircraft for the day's mission. On these occasions we would wave a greeting and the crew would all wave back.

As the weeks passed we all looked forward to the recognition from "our" crew and Ruptured Duck. Occasionally the dispersal would be empty for two or three days; perhaps the Ruptured Duck needed surgery in the maintenance hangar or had been diverted to another base due to bad weather.

To our relief Ruptured Duck always seemed to return to its dispersal nest and as the months passed we grew to recognise the features of our crew, who by this time used to walk to the rear of the aircraft to wave at our passing. Until, one day we realized Ruptured Duck had been missing from the dispersal for almost a week. Two days later another B-24 was parked at "our" dispersal, its aircrew were standing near the tailplane talking, but in spite of our waves and shouts, only glanced in our direction.

To our sorrow we had to accept the fact we would probably never see "our" crew or The Ruptured Duck again. As the years passed the daily travellers grew up and went their separate ways. I live in the West Country now and have no occasion to visit the Rackheath area, but memories linger on and I have at various times pondered on the fate of The Ruptured Duck and her brave, cheerful crew. Did they perish on a mission over Germany raids of 1944, did they bail out and spend the rest of the war as prisoners, did they survive the war?

#### LOST SOULS

The following were removed from the 467th mailing roster due to mail being returned, forwarding address expired or just plain moved without leaving a forwarding address. If one lived near you, make an effort to find him and get him in touch with me.

Charles W. Barrett	Van Buren, IL.
James Benham	Vashon, WA.
Paul E. Brady	Decatur, IL.
Bryan Brigham	Tomora, WA.
Thomas J. Colahan	Ashland, PA.
John E. Conley	Edwardsville, IL.
William J. Dempsey	Newport, RI.
Robert Feldtkeller	Palos Verde Estate, CA.
Bernard V. Fisher	Alexander, IN.
Robert C. Flagg	Bedford, OH.
Marvin L. Fritsch	Gahanna, OH.
William J. Grandmann	Tucson, AZ.
John Hannil	Miami, FL.
<del>Nicholas Hapsas</del>	<del>Albuquerque, NM.</del>
Albert Harrison	Victoria, TX.
Robert Horner	Chagrin Falls, OH.
Bob E. Hudock	Elyria, OH.
Earl E. Kieffer	Fort Pierce, FL.
Edward Kodish	Torrance, CA.
Sheldon Kohl	Woodman, NY.
Howard Lamb	Lancaster, NY.
Kelly Lewis	Forestville, MD.
Wilbur A. Lewis	Kalmath Falls, OR.
William Mark	Valparaiso, IN.
Howard J. Mecier	Rochester, MI.
Donald G. Miller	Baton Rouge, LA.
Robert E. Murphy	St. Paul, MN.
Jack P. McGlon	Talladega, AL.
Morey Patrick	Detroit, MI.
Don Pergantis	Chicago, IL.
Conrad P. Schwab	Tacoma, WA.
Robert Seiler	Montclair, NJ.
Emmet F. Spencer	So. Pasadena, CA.
Donald J. Tofard	Pawtucket, RI.
George E. Tormoen	Montgomery, AL.
Raymond J. Turner	Toledo, OH.
Charles Weir	Potter, NB.
Rameyne M. Werdung	Camp Springs, MD.
Henry M. Wilson	San Antonio, TX.
Philmore S. Zilbert	Beachwood Village, OH.

#### LETTERS

I received forty-eight letters after the last Poop, down slightly from the average sixty I usually receive. I try to acknowledge each letter I receive and do answer those asking for specific information. I apologize to you who wrote and did not receive acknowledgement since the last Poop, adverse business conditions required more of my time and also, especially, dulled my ability to respond. I will do better in the future, I have determined to set aside at least one evening a week to catch up and keep up.

In Poop Vol. 3 No. 4, I wrote of a memorial tablet at Kirby Beden Church. Vance Cridling wrote me the following in explanation.

Dear Phillip:

Just received the latest "Poop" which I always look forward to receiving.

Regarding the plaque at Kirby Belden Church maybe I can add a little. This was Roger Leister's (#3416?) crew which was as follows plus the listed casualties in your last Poop:

R. L. Leister	- Pilot
John F. Bales	- Co-Pilot
John Beyer	- Navigator
Neil Matzek	- Asst Radio
Jess Duff	- Tail Gunner
Ernest Schriener	- Waist Gunner

This was an afternoon mission to the D. Jon, France area (Note: I show this as Woppy near Metz, my first Mission-Day.) and had been a milk run. They were nearly home and ran out of gas near this church, which is near Rackheath.

I went through R.T.U. with this crew as their navigator at Casper, Wy. and McCook, NB. We departed by plane from Topeka, KS. on June 6, 1944 and after the usual shuffling around were assigned to the old 492nd BG(H) where we as a crew flew our first 9 missions before being re-assigned to the 467th BG(H). When we reached Rackheath, I was taken off Leister's crew and put on James D. Hudson's crew which was a lead crew. The Bombardier, John Beyer was taken off our crew at North Pickerham and assigned to Capt. Johnson's crew as Pilot Navigator - he was later assigned to Ehrleclis crew and then after this escape was assigned to Capt Schultz's crew as a lead bombardier. He now lives in Albuquerque.

Thanks for the note about "The Fortunes of War". Regardless of reputation at the 492nd we felt comfortable there and it felt like we belonged. We were in the group of crews that went there to replace the 2nd complete squadron loss.

I have reservations for the re-union at Pam Springs so will look forward to seeing you there. Incidentally, I will be accompanied by Forrest D. Brown who was the bombardier on Kramer's crew.

Sincerely, Vance Cridling

The letter following, from Roger A. Fox, who was 791st Ordinance Officer, I want to also share with you.

Dear Phillip:

I entered the service 6 Jan 42 - discharged 28 Dec 45. I joined the 467th at Wendover Field 27 Jan 44. I'll try to put down a few things I remember of my days with the 467th & 791st.

Upon arriving at Wendover, I remember all the snot in the barracks. We put newspapers over our clothes to try to keep them clean. The only business place in Wendover was a combination hotel, cafe, and bar. We went overseas on a liberty ship that was so crowded that the nine of us in a room had to take turns getting dressed, as there wasn't room for all of us to stand at the same time. Upon arriving in Scotland we got on a train and the window on the door was open, which we tried to close in the dark all night to no avail. In the morning we found that the glass was raised with a leather strap and it had fallen into the door. Every time the train would stop some English Red Cross workers would pass cold pot pies to the troops and after one bite most were thrown out the window. I bet some are still along the right-a-way as hard as they were.

Upon arriving at Rackheath, when we took a shower, we found out what it was like to take a bath without heat. As we didn't receive enough charcoal to start a fire, I think I went to town every night, arriving back at the base at 10 PM in time to pick up the bomb load for the next day's mission. The first night in Norwich (without flash lights) the 6 x 6 dropped us off at a place different from where we were to be picked up. The first night we spent the entire time trying to find the pick up point. My men had to work from 10 PM until 6 AM so I asked if they couldn't get a meal at midnight. All they received for the year and a half were pancakes as big as stove lids. You could put on two dippers of "sugar water" and by the time you would get to the table it had disappeared as if it was out on a sponge. After that, one of my men would volunteer for KP once a week and requisition food to go with the pancakes. Lord Stracy had a lot of pheasants and ducks on his estate so I went to London and picked up some cal .45 shot cartridges for jungle use and my men relieved Lord Stracy of his birds until none were left. I always wondered what the US had to pay for these. One of the Officers in an adjoining gunset was very afraid of bombs and one night when coming in late we decided to take a rock, hold it against the corrugated side as we ran along the building. We quickly ran into our hut and watched our fellow Officer run outside in his long underwear in the snow. With the war over, we returned to the states landing at Camp Joyce Kilmer, Boston. In checking out, later, we found that we had automatically become members of the Officers Club that we had never seen. I think they nicked us 6 bucks apiece, I bet they are still counting the money. When we took a train to Camp Grant, Illinois, the train was hot (July) and of course no air conditioning, so we pried open the windows and started to enjoy the breeze. We should have expected something was wrong when the conductor disappeared before we hit the first tunnel. After 3 or 4 more we were all ready for a minstrel show. When we arrived home for a 30 day leave, the Japanese surrendered and was discharged at Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Sincerely Yours, Roger A. Fox.

As an aside, one of the pictures featured in the photo-montage at All Saints Church, Rackheath, is of ordinance people unloading bombs from a truck to storage in the bomb dump, one of the few photos available of ground crew activities. If any of you have ground crew or base activity pictures, we would really appreciate them for our group photo album.

### VACATION

Miss Cille and I traveled to the North Central United States in September stopping first in Dayton to visit with Blackie and Joan Dunnam and to visit the 467th Memorial at the Museum. The Red Oak tree has grown very well in a year, all looked very good. Many other memorials have been set since we were there, ours is still one of the outstanding ones. We enjoyed a visit with Ray and Doris Betcher in Gaylord, MI, and Doris gave me some additional locator cards, unfortunately, those deceased which had not been sent to me earlier. Later we visited with Jim and Audrey Johnston in Burnham (Chicago), IL. Jim sent me the "pass outs" from the Second Air Division Palm Springs reunion. It appeared that the whole was well organized, as usual, by Evelyn Cohen and her help from within the 2ADA. The next 2ADA reunion will be in McAfee, New Jersey in the last weekend of August 85, August 29 - September 1, at a former Playboy Club Resort Labor Day Weekend. It is not too early to begin making your plans.

### PX

Those of you who send in the suggested dues (From the Veep), please note if you would like to receive the 467th patch, I have some left and would like each of you to have one. If you send in \$10 or more, I'll send you a patch for each \$5 or a plaque of the 467th for \$10. Please tell me if, which, you wish to receive of either.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Have had an enjoyable visit with Buck Rigg, Curator of the Eight Air Force Museum at Barksdale AFB here in Shreveport.

Slow progress is being made toward the permanent museum area on a 23 acre tract set aside on the base for the Museum. A T-2 hanger, two Nissen huts, the metal (windows, doors, railings etc.) of a control tower from a B-17 base are to be soon sent to the states. Memorabilia of any kind will be most welcomed and appreciated. The B-24 restoration is at a stand still, if any of you have four B-24 engine cowlings in their memorabilia, they are needed very badly. It is his intention to feature the B-24 in the T-2 Hanger undergoing repair as its condition will always be in a state of repair. Buck showed me 12 beds from the Nissen hut complete with the three piece mattresses. That, my friends is real scroungings but he needs our help to make it all come together. Let me hear what you have or wish to send to Buck.

### MINI-REUNIONS

A five state 2ADA Mini-Reunion will be held in the Dallas-Fort Worth, TX, area on February 9, 1985, at the Sheraton - Grand Hotel, Hwy 114, near DFW Airport. Hotel rooms for those who wish to stay overnight, Friday and/or Saturday, will be \$50 for single or double room occupancy. The banquet will be \$22.50 per person. Reservations for the banquet, with your check, should be sent to:

C. C. Merket, 716 Top Hill Drive  
Tyler, TX. 75703

Hotel reservations should be made directly with the Sheraton-Grand. Do not send hotel reservation money to Gerry.

Attendance will be limited to 300 people, first come, first served. Dinner will be informal, no head table, no speeches, nothing for sale, just a chance to get together to eat, laugh and scratch, tell lies.

I understand that featured will be David Hastings' latest film effort, "A Village Remembers", which includes the color footage taken by Jim Mahoney's of the 467th's combat activities. I would hope also that David's first film, "Remember Them", might also be shown.

Make your reservations early, show up early, the cash bar will open at 5 PM, and enjoy the comradarie and good cheer with your old friends while making new friends from this greatest experience of our lives.

If I get notice of any other mini-reunions, I'll put them in future "Poops" and send the coordinator a Zip Code print out of our 467th roster so that those in the immediate area can be given individual notice.

### WITCHCRAFT PHOTOGRAPH

JoAnn and Tony DeBiase report that sales of their photo of the painting of Witchcraft were brisk at Palm Springs. The pictures are beautifully matted in Air Force blue and measure 15" x 20". They have a few left. If you would like one, send your check for \$28 to A. E. DeBIASSE, JR., 58 HILLSIDE AVE., MADISON, NJ., 07940. The picture will be sent to you post paid with a money back guarantee. Proceeds go to the Group Treasury.

### "HOME BY CHRISTMAS"

Martin Bowman will be starting his new book with the above title very soon, which will deal with the shot down aircrews of the 8th AF including those mentioned in "Fields of Little America" and "Castles in the Air". "Castles" is Martin's latest book, written as a companion volume to "F O L A". If any of you wish to, send your POW, evasion or escape experience to Martin at 3 Armes Crescent, Norwich, NR2 4E, England, I know he will acknowledge each of them and will thank you by letter for your submittals.

### REUNIONING AT PALM SPRINGS

Les & Evelyn Anenson - Fairfield, CA.  
Robert & June Baker - Vancouver, WA.  
Charles & Katherine Ball - Lockney, TX.  
Don & Helen Bisbing - Lenore, ID.  
Forest & Pat Brown - Shawnee, KS.  
Charles & Eloyce Caldwell - Ventura, CA.  
George & Katherine Church - Rochester, MA.  
Jim & Rose Ciancitto - Dingman's Ferry, PA.  
Jim Coffey - Chappaqua, NY.  
George & Mary Condry - Rehoboth, MA.  
Vance & Mildred Gridling - Sun City, AZ.  
Ken & Dot Darney - Baltimore, MD.  
Lloyd & Rae Davies - El Centro, CA.  
Tony & Jo Ann DeBiase - Madison, NJ.  
Bill & Vernice Dillon - Amarillo, TX.  
George Dong - Coronado, CA.  
Ralph & Yvonne Elliott - Tucson, AZ.  
Charles Finn - Mattapoisett, MA.  
Curtis Fry - Reseda, CA.  
Paul Gourd - Spokane, WA.  
Jeff & Terry Gregory - Garland, TX.  
Weldon & Helen Gruver - Phillipsburg, NJ.  
Joseph & Florence Haenn - Tampa, FL.  
Robert & Bernice Halloran - Long Beach, CA.  
Joseph & Vera Imburgia - Pittsburg, PA.  
Fred & Cleo Jansen - Hemet, CA.  
Howard & Gretta Johnson - Stamford, CT.  
G. B. & Naomi Johnston - Lockney, TX.  
Jim & Audrey Johnston - Burnham, IL.  
Andy & Anna Kapi, Jr. - Wallingford, CT.  
Floyd & Eleanor Kingsley - Newark, DE.  
Ed Mahoney - Hyde Park, MA.  
Delbert & Ann Mann - Los Angeles, CA.  
Joseph & Mary Mulheran - Rio Verde, AZ.  
Walt & Ruth Mundy - Downey, CA.  
Earle & Arline Page - Burlington, NJ.  
James & Eleanor Peters - Birmingham, MI.  
Losse & Ruth Piland - Wilmer, TX.  
Floyd & Ann Pugh - Sedalia, MO.  
Joe Ramirez - Whittier, CA.  
Joseph & Catherine Reilly - Chicago, IL.  
A. E. & Ida Rothchild - West Des Moines, IA.  
Morton & Marilyn Schecter - Los Angeles  
Thomas & Betty Lou Shaughnessy - White Bear Lake, MN.  
Robert & Rosemary Sheehan - Tulsa, OK.  
Al Shower - Monterey Park, CA.  
John & Lucille Stevens - San Diego, CA.  
Jack & Ann Stratton - Wayne, PA.  
J. David & Jackie Swearingen - N. Memphis, TN.  
Samie L. Taylor - Hemet, CA.  
Jerry & Margo Trace - Hemet, CA.  
Allen Tucci - Orange, CA.  
Henry Wedaa - Yorbi Linda, CA.  
William & Betty Williams - Long Beach, CA.

### 467th Bombardment Group Treasurer's Report-11/15/84

Cash on Hand - Oct. 15, 1983	\$2043.90
Donations Received	205.00
	Total \$2248.90
Disbursements	
Postage Stamps & Envelopes	\$ 536.00
Computer Service	291.85
Reproduction-Printing	197.88
Shipping Charges - Photo & Negatives	109.84
Florist - Adam Soccio	59.36
Memorial - Bench at Rackheath	450.00
	Total \$1644.93

Cash on Hand - Nov. 15, 1984 \$ 603.97

### NECROLOGY

Ernest I. Anderson	Charles J. Marshall
Terry Bryan	M. J. (Jerry) Norwood
Bernard N. Cutler	Roy L. Rainwater
Charles Engelman	Ronald D. Taylor

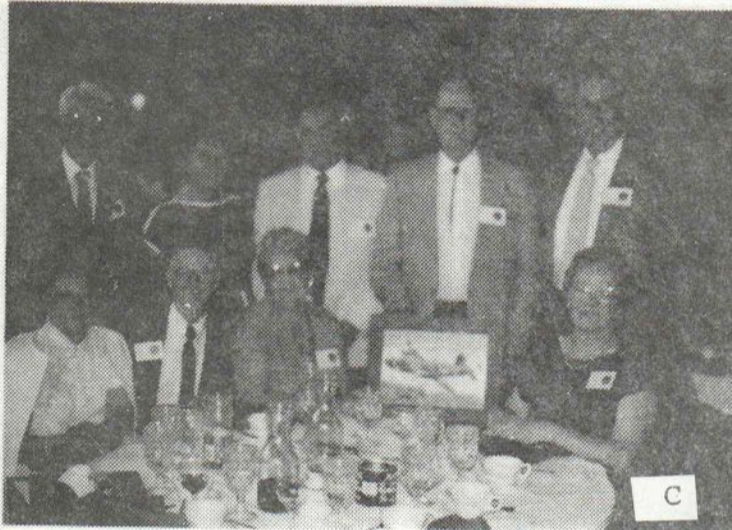
"May they go from strength to strength in perfect service in God's Heavenly Kingdom."

### JOIN THE 2ND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Send \$10 to Evelyn Cohen, 06-410 Delaire Landing Road, Philadelphia, PA., 19114 to join, rejoin or pay your dues for 1985. The quarterly Journal is worth the price of admission. Don't let your membership lapse. Join or rejoin to make the 467th the largest membership group in the Association.

*My best wishes for each of you to have a joyous holiday season and for a happy and prosperous New Year.*

*Phillip*



Jo Ann DeBiassse took pictures of three tables of reunioning 467th people and a volunteer took one of Jo'e table. If you would like a copy, write Jim Coffey, sending him a stamped self-addressed envelope large enough to hold the 3 1/2" x 5" print and specify either A, B, C or D.

80  
576

Phillip G. Day  
237 Pennsylvania  
Shreveport, IA. 71105



467th  
Bomb Group



FRANK S WATSON  
7208 AZTEC RD NE  
ALBUQUERQUE NM

87110 \*\*