



POOP from GROUP 467

SAVE
ARTICLE ON OUR
CREW

VOL. 14 NO. 2

STATION 145

RACKHEATH

APO 558

JUNE 1, 1995

FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVENTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY) ASSOCIATION, LTD. IRC Section 501(c) (19) EIN: 39-1592334

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FROM THE PREZ – MEL CULROSS

This issue of POOP FROM GROUP includes the latest information as to our San Diego Convention from our Coordinator, Jack Stevens. NOW is the time to make your reservation, if you have not done so, by calling the 800 number or mailing in the "Registration Form" attached to this PFG. The 800 number is 1-800-348-3087. Jack wrote in the April 1 issue as to our Group activities and there is no doubt in my mind this will be an exciting, but relaxing Convention. DON'T miss this one if possible, as it is going to be one of the FOREMOST conventions ever held.

A tip of the ole' hat to all the members and associate members making the last quarter the largest contribution to the MAIL-MEMORIAL operating fund. Keep up the good work! For those who mean to but never "get around to it," please send in your contribution (there is no such thing as a small one) to our Editor-Publisher, Phillip Day. His address is listed under the PFG Logo.

FLASH! When you do not receive your 2ADA JOURNAL, or your POOP FROM GROUP, it may be because you neglected to keep Headquarters or Phillip Day informed of the change. Summer/winter addresses are particularly important, both because it gets the mail to you and every returned paper costs money. A post card to 2AD and one to Phil will be appreciated.

For those who may not be aware, Phillip Day will be having an operation shortly to correct a sustained injury. I know you join me in wishing him a speedy recovery and God Bless.

Mel

FROM THE VEEP – RALPH DAVIS

Presidential Unit Citation

The latest word from Senator Glenn's Office is that the Air Force was in final preparation for submittal to the President sometime after the 1st of June. It appears that the Air Force is in agreement with the awarding of the Citation and we will soon know the results, hopefully, by our October conference.

VE Day in England

We merged together from several locations stateside and met at the Forest Crest Hotel at Sibson Road. The trip over was uneventful for most of us (just missed sleep); however, some of the group had an inside the aircraft rainfall (water leak that is) and although they did get wet, they were moved up from coach class. Once we got in London, there was an accident on the highway and our pick-up bus (coach) was late. It seems it was 10:00 a.m. or after, before the first bus arrived. The ride to the hotel was uneventful. However, when we started to leave for Norwich, the engine would not start as the battery was dead. The driver clutch started it and we were on our way to one of three hotels in Norwich, Stakis, Norwich and Nelson.

Today was a free day and I believe most liked that idea as we went to bed early. Saturday was also a free day. Some shopped, some visited friends and some just took it easy to catch up.

Sunday: This was parade day for us and many English. They, as usual, were spic and span in their uniforms and we were in mixed dress from old uniforms, current uniforms and mixed civilian clothes. We had the Salvation Army Band leading us in our march to the Norwich Cathedral for the Memorial Service. This was a very impressive service and the "Fanfare to the 2nd Air Division" played in that old cathedral echoed throughout its 900-year-old walls. This evening we attended the Theatre Royal to see "We'll Meet Again" show. It was a very moving performance, which, knowing there were around 500 of us from the 2nd Air Division, gave their show with the knowledge that there were "Yanks" in the audience. Everyone was presented flags, both British and U.S. Overall for the day, the reception that we received from the people of Norwich and Norfolk in general, was very warm, sincere and heart warming.

Monday: Our day at Rackheath where we were greeted by locals at the Rackheath Community Centre. Their greeting was most friendly and outgoing. Biscuits (cookies), coffee and/or tea as well as many other goodies, of which I cannot remember, were served. We then departed for Salhouse Church where a very impressive service was given with members of the 467th participating. Then it was on to the 467th Memorial where a short service was given. We toured the old airfield, the golden gates, the bomb storage area, the control tower and then drove on to a section of the old main runway. Some of us took a small piece of the runway as a remembrance. We had lunch with participants from both towns at The Green Man. The Green Man was one of the favorite local hangouts. Our next stop was RAF Neatishead, where we saw the old radar that was active during the cold war as well as their operations room, and museum. As a last item, we all participated in planting a tree in the area where some of our old buildings were used by the RAF. Once again, some tea, coffee and biscuits. Every place we went, we were given food and drink. That evening we had dinner at the Salhouse Lodge where we were entertained by Ken Meazey, who wrote the Fanfare to the Second Air Division. The meal was excellent and the friendship was outstanding.

Tuesday: Two trips were planned for this day. The Wroxham Broads and the Blickling Hall Tours. Wroxham was a most relaxing 3-hour tour on a river boat. We had a buffet lunch on board, very good. The sights along the way were very beautiful. The Blickling Hall Tour was a tour of a 17th Century red brick house that is flanked by hedge rows and has colorful gardens. It had a gift shop and, of course, a tea room. Both tours were very impressive and enjoyed by all who participated.

Wednesday: Today we had a common goal in the morning of going to Madingley Cemetery for Memorial Service. A local Air Base provided the color guard for the ceremony. The cemetery is impressive and especially the wall with the names on it of those missing in action. From Madingley we broke up into three tours. One returned to the hotels, one toured Cambridge and the other went to Duxford which is the site for "The American Air Museum in Britain." The Cambridge tour was a guided walk tour around this old University City. Duxford offered old aircraft, action simulator, and some newer aircraft which included the Concord.

Thursday: Today some of us talked to school children in various parts of Norfolk. Mr. Robert McKeever, 93rd BG and I went to Fakenham Junior School where we talked to 76 children in the 11 to 12 age group. We gave them a rundown of what our part in the war was and opened it to questions. They were very interested. They asked such questions as: 1. Were you ever hit? Was your plane damaged? Was any of your crew hurt? How high did you fly? Did you feel bad about dropping bombs? Where is your home? and many more that I can't remember. Bob brought them a box of ballpoint pens. I took them two videos, one was the manufacturing of the B-24 and the other one was the video on the Thunderbirds. When the B-24 video was over, they were given paper and I brought pencils and they were asked to draw a B-24. The video was stopped on a good 3/4 shot of the airplane. For the two best drawings, I had brought two small lapel pin B-24s; for the next two runner-ups, we had two tail insignia pins of the 458th. I showed them two Air Force Museum tee shirts and gave them to their teacher and asked her to establish a criteria for presentation and that I wanted the two who earned the shirts to write me and tell me why they received it. It was an excellent exchange of interest and culture. (A short note: When I got home and exchanged the few pounds left, the 20 or 21-year-old clerk asked, "Were you in England?" I responded that I had gone over for VE Day. She said, "Was that some kind of a veterans organization? I said yes, picked up my money and left the bank).

The afternoon was free; however, some of us returned to the 467th Memorial for some more photos and to view some of the pictures at Robert Lomax's place. We all met at the Green Man and then drove over. The evening was the 2ADA Banquet which was participated in by several of our British friends. The meal was very good and the music was excellent. We had the Big Band Music of the Forties by Jonathan Wyatt Big Band. The Glenn Miller style playing of the songs we knew then was real impressive. And who else did you see out there on the dance floor jitterbugging, but the Colonel and his new wife Charlotte. The eight-candle ceremony was impressive as always. A good time was had by all; however, the time really went by quickly. We said our farewells and returned to the hotels.

Friday: Friday was the day of departure for most of us. Some went home, some went to London, others took tours to Scotland and Europe. All in all, it was a most enjoyable reunion with old friends and newly made friends.

List of Attendees:

Dr. J. B. & Joyce Brinson
John & Margaret Brinson
Mike, Teddy, Yvonne Caputo & Kirk Walters
George & Katherine Church
Charles & Shirly Clawson
Ralph & Doris Davis
Joe, Helen, Joe Jr. & Joan Dzenowagis
Bill Kuboto
Ralph & Yvonne Elliott
Geoff & Terry Gregory
Joe & Jean Hodge
Capers Holmes
Bob Meyers
Vince & Caroline Re
Al & Charlotte Shower
Billy Johnston

The British had a statement theme throughout the reunion of:

YOU CAME AS FRIENDS

YOU STAYED AS FRIENDS

YOU HAVE REMAINED FRIENDS

Doris and I thoroughly enjoyed the trip and all of us who attended wish to express our sincere thanks to the Hastings', Lomax's, the townspeople of Norwich, Rackheath and Salhouse and the many workers that made this such a monumental occasion. God save the Queen and God bless America. See you in San Diego.

BITS AND PIECES by Phillip G. Day

On again, off again, on again. By the time you read this I hope to be on the road to recovery from the second abdominal surgery to reduce and reinforce my Femoral arteries, which couldn't be done in August, 1994 and which had to be put off when I fractured a vertebra on February 11th. I will have surgery on May 22nd, my 71st birthday no less. The Doctor has promised they would sing Happy Birthday to me as they put me to sleep for the operation. I think they are kidding an old man. My fractured vertebra has healed nicely though I still have some muscle spasms if I am not careful of my posture and activities.

So I am trying to get this POOP in a resemblance of order so that Ms. Eloise Musgrove who does all of the secretarial, roster changes and desktop publishing for me can finish it up and get it to the printer at the end of May. The printer will print, fold, label and stamp them for mail out. Am trying to get back on the regular publishing dates as POOP 14-1 went out one month late and I need to correct the Registration Form for Convention 95 as the WATTS number for the SERVICES COORDINATOR, TRAVEL CONNOISSEUR was in error on the form. The proper number is 1-800-348-3087, which was in the body of Jack Steven's write up of the Convention. Some found it there, some missed it.

About twelve of our veterans and some family members are in England at this time, May 6-8, some will go on to Europe for further travel. Marvin Davis, Group Vice-President, is in England and will FAX his report of activities to Ms. Musgrove for inclusion in this POOP. Mel Culross, Association President, has also promised a FROM THE PREZ to be faxed in. It is possible we will have a report from Ralph Elliott, VP- 2ADA who also went to England.

Albert L. Touchette, whose name by the way I spelled wrong in acknowledging Mail-Memorial contributions in the last POOP, is over there with his wife on his own. Phyllis Dubois of the Memorial Trust, in cooperation with Derek James of the Norwich Evening News when she called upon him, found Doris Tyrrell, some of you might remember her—she was at Rackheath each day with the Y.M.C.A. tea van—and her family, now living in Norwich, who had lived in Wensum Lodge when Al knew them in 1944-45. Also located was his old friend of the time from Coldham Hall pub at Surlingham, Harry Last, by Lesley Fleetwood of the Memorial Library. Al will see them through the efforts of the above named, and I look forward to hearing from Al about the visits. Billy L. "BOZY" Johnston is there on his own also, principally to revisit Rackheath. Look forward to hearing from him. Any others who go back at any time, the Association will be interested in hearing of your trip.

The little ole lady with the hoe, Miss Cille, has all of her flower beds planted and all but eight square feet in the vegetable garden, she is saving that for a second planting of mustard greens—we really to like fresh greens from the garden. All she planted is up but kind of languishing because of our unseasonable cool, cloudy, moist weather for the last six weeks.

I have a friend who will look after the garden while we are in Houston, keep it watered, cultivated as necessary. It, the garden, ought to be in prime shape when we return in mid-June. I am somewhat jealous of her success, especially since she got up a good stand of spinach which I have always had trouble doing. Tomatoes, peppers and eggplants do well, a very few blooms on the first two. Sugar snaps have been bountiful. Just one sweet pea, Miss Cille's favorite flower, bloom so far. She had a watermelon colored amaryllis with six blooms on it. Very impressive. Also her peonies were going to be beautiful, they are hard to raise in the South, but hard rains knocked the blooms off before we could really enjoy them. So much for the flora. The fauna has been quite interesting in our backyard. We have had a pair of chick-a-dees, rare here. A pair of purple finch, also rarely seen, a pair of mourning doves apparently not ready to nest so far, a pair of cardinals who have raised two chicks and now have another clutch in the nest. Two confused female purple martins, our first in two years, trying to nest but with no male in attendance. No hummingbirds yet but the feeders are out for them. And those damn pesky English sparrows who take over the bird feeders, the martin boxes, eat young greens in the garden. Worst of all, they are smarter than me. I have a BB gun to try to shoot them or at least scare them off. When I am outside to shoot at them, they won't come around, but let me go inside they come right back. If any of you have any ideas on how to get rid of them, I would appreciate your suggestions. Grey squirrels (tree rats) are a big nuisance also, digging up bulbs, even onions, eating just

BITS AND PIECES, Continued:

forming pears (not too many of those either because we had a frost while the pear tree was blooming). I shoot at them also and am successful in running them off but I can't be outside all of the time.

Phyllis DuBois, Trust Librarian, The Memorial Library Old Glasswells Building, 71 Ber Street Norwich NR1 3AD England, writes: "We need up-to-date leaflets and brochures about historic and scenic places to visit in your state, leaflets about major cities, unusual tourist attractions, and a state road map. We need only one copy of each item (this collection is for reference use only). Please do not send leaflets about hotels, restaurants and shopping". She asked me for Louisiana, I will comply as best I can. She probably asked others in your State to send materials but in the event they can't/won't do so, I am sure she will welcome your contributions to this request.

Attention: Craig W. Harrington!. Richard Lindsey 30 Woodview Road, Upper Marham, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE33 9LX England, would appreciate hearing from you or any of your crew members about the crash of B24H S/N 41-29420, "Belle of the East" at Belton on 25 August 1944. This was Group Mission 104, to Lubeck, GR.

Lawrence E. Dobson, Sr. had a pleasant surprise recently. His Mother, aunts and cousins found an article reprinted in their hometown newspaper (Lawrence no longer lives there) fifty years after it first appeared on March 30, 1945. The article reads "Staff Sgt. Lawrence E. Dobson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jess Dobson of rural Manchester, has been awarded the Air Medal for "meritorious achievement in aerial over Germany and enemy occupied Europe." Lawrence wrote that the Air Medal was earned in December, 1944, that it must have taken a while to process it to the paper.

VICTORY IN EUROPE MAY 8, 1945, I was back in the US of A on VE Day 1945. I had finished my tour in mid-March, had rested and recuperated at Miami Beach and was at Selman Field, Monroe, LA transitioning to C-47s in which I flew Navigation Cadets on over water and night celestial missions, over the Gulf of Mexico, until December 1, 1945 when I was relieved from Active Duty, so I was at Selman Field for VJ Day also. I don't remember anything special about May 7, 1945, Cille and I were in the Officers Club playing bridge (by coincidence on VJ Day also). We quit that, had a couple of drinks, then to the house. I had to fly on May 8th. A lot of the 467th had come home but there were many of you still in England. I have heard some of your tales of celebration but mostly of the relief that the war was over and you would soon be going home to your families after many months of separation. To all of us, congratulations on a job well done and many happy returns of the joy of that day.

I have watched with interest the celebrations in England and in France. One thing I must say—President Clinton, you should have been there. You could have gone on from there to Moscow on May 9. You are eaten up with dumb ass and no veteran of WW II, and probably no veteran, can ever understand your actions in this.

Great News: Phillip home from surgery and progressing well.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEES FOR THE 467TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY) ASSOCIATION, LTD., by Phillip G. Day

The Board of the Association consists of six members, two of whom are elected at the annual meetings of the Association for a three-year term while two who have finished their three-year term rotate off of the Board. All veterans in the Association have voice in making nominations and, if in attendance at the business meeting of the Association, the privilege and obligation in voting for directors. Associates have voice but no vote in selection of the Directors. Directors cannot succeed themselves but can stand for election after a year off of the Board.

Rotating off the Board at the San Diego Convention will be Mel Culross, current Association President and Jack D. Stratton, Jr. Remaining on the Board for one more year will be Charles H. Caldwell of Encino, CA and Lloyd A. Haug of Minneapolis, MN, for two more years Marvin Ralph Davis, current Vice-President of the Association from Beavercreek, OH and Vincent Re from Cincinnati, OH. After election of two new Board members at San Diego, the Board will meet for organization and will elect the new Association President and Vice-President. The President in turn will appoint, with Board approval, the Secretary for the Association (who has been William P. McGovern since Charter of the Association) and the Treasurer (Phillip G. Day since inception). He may appoint others, with Board approval, such as Convention Site

Selection Committee Chairman, Nominating Committee Chairman, Convention Coordinator, Vice-President to the Second Air Division Association and others as conditions in the Association warrant. Col. Albert J. Shower, the Honorary Association President since 5 October 1990 by Business Meeting action at the Omaha, NB Convention, the Secretary, the Treasurer and Past Association Presidents have voice but no vote at the Board meetings.

Vincent D. LaRussa, 8570 N. Mulberry Lane, Tucson, AZ 85704 is Nominating Committee Chairman for 1995 and he requests your nominations for the Board election at Convention 1995 as soon as possible. His Committeemen are Charles Caldwell and Walt Mundy. The nominee must be a veteran of the 467th Bombardment Group (Heavy), willing to stand for election and should have shown interest in Association affairs in the past and be ready to do so during his term.

The Association was voted into existence at the Business Meeting of the Group in Convention with the Second Air Division Association in Pheasant Run, IL on July 12, 1986. The first President was J. David Swearingen (Deceased), then Group Vice-President to the Second Air Division Association, the first Association Vice-President was Geoffery "Jeff" Gregory. No directors were elected. The Association Charter required only a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The December 1, 1986 POOP FROM GROUP showed on the masthead for the first time "Four Hundred Sixty-Seventh Bombardment Group (Heavy) Association, Ltd."

The first Association Convention site was Shreveport-Bossier City, LA from September 25 through 27, 1987. At the Business Meeting, elected to the Board (only 5 were required at that time) were: Gregory—3 years, Swearingen—3 years, James G. Coffey—2 years, John E. "Jack" Stevens—2 years, and Vincent D. LaRussa—1 year. The Board in turn elected Jeff Gregory as President and Jack Stevens Vice-President.

In the 1988 Business Meeting of the Association in Convention with the 2ADA in Colorado Springs, CO on June 24, elected to the Board was Robert L. Salzarulo—3 years, Vince LaRussa retiring. The Board consisted of Gregory, Swearingen, Coffey, Stevens and Salzarulo. The President and Vice-President were reelected by the Board.

At Fort Worth, TX in Convention of the Association in May 1989, the Board was increased to six members. To adjust to the rotation of terms, Robert D. Sheehan and Ralph H. Elliott were elected to three year terms, Salzarulo remained with two years, Stevens was increased from one year to two to replace Coffey who retired for health reasons, Gregory and Swearingen remained with one year. The Board elected Stevens and Salzarulo to be President and Vice-President of the Association, their terms beginning in November with the 2ADA Reunion.

On October 6, 1990 at Omaha, NE Floyd J. Pugh and Theodore M. Wheeler were elected to three-year terms. Retiring were Gregory and Swearingen. Remaining on the Board, Salzarulo—1 year, elected President; Sheehan—2 years, elected Vice-President; Stevens—1 year; and Elliott—2 years.

At Dearborn, MI in Convention with the 2ADA on July 4, 1991 the terms of the Board was extended one year. Robert D. Sheehan was elected President and Ralph H. Elliott, Vice-President.

In Tucson, AZ, at the Association Convention on October 14, 1991, elected to the Board for three years were Mel Culross and Jack D. Stratton, Jr. who joined Sheehan and Elliott (1 year remaining) and Pugh and Wheeler (2 years remaining). Salzarulo and Stevens rotated off the Board. Sheehan was re-elected President and Elliott re-elected Vice-President.

At Las Vegas, NV in October, 1992, Charles H. Caldwell and Lloyd A. Haug were elected to the Board for three years joining Culross and Stratton with 2 years remaining and Pugh with 1 year remaining. Elliott's term was extended 1 year, replacing Wheeler who had died. Elliott was elected President and Culross elected Vice-President by the Board.

The May 1993 Convention at Kissimmee, FL extended the terms of the Board one year. The board consisted of re-elected President Elliott, re-elected Vice-President Culross, Caldwell, Haug, Pugh and Stratton.

In Minneapolis at the Association Convention in September, 1994, elected to the Board were Marvin Ralph David and Vincent Re for three years. Retiring Board Members were Pugh and Elliott. The Board consists of Caldwell and Haug for 1994 and 1995, Davis and Re for 1994, 1995 and 1996. Culross and Stratton, with one year

467TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION CONVENTION 1995, by Jack Stevens, Coordinator

The 467th Bomb Group (H) Association will meet in San Diego, CA, from noon, Thursday, 12 October, to noon, Monday, 16 October. Our headquarters will be the Kona Kai Plaza Las Glorias Resort & Marina, overlooking San Diego Bay, on Shelter Island in the deep-water channel to the bay. Our special room rate is \$75 plus 10.5% local tax (\$82.87) per day, good 7 days before and 7 days after the convention.

Correction and changes to the reunion information in the April issue of POOP FROM GROUP:

THE CORRECTION: At the top of the registration form in the April issue of POOP FROM GROUP the 1-800 number for Annette is not correct, as some of you have already discovered. Please refer to and use the revised Registration Form on the last page in this issue. It has the correct telephone numbers and instructions for paying the reunion package and the post-reunion cruise costs. Its use will help us expedite arrangements for all attendees.

THE CHANGES: I thought I had made arrangements so you could make reservations for air travel, hotel, reunion package, rental car, and post-reunion cruise and charge them to your credit card with one 1-800 phone call to Annette at Travel Connoisseur. BUT!

a) The 467th does not have a credit card sales account. So, you cannot charge the reunion package to your credit card.

b) We are receiving discounted fares for the post-reunion cruise only because we are traveling as a group. So, cruise costs must be paid for as a group and not as individuals.

Refer to and use the Registration Form in this issue.

It has been more than fifty years since Wendover, Rackheath, 8-hour missions, and 28-hour days working on planes, radios, bombs, paperwork, and preparing meals for about 4,500 people, plus those *@@!@* "extra duty" details you always seem to get stuck with. But, don't worry—there won't be any early-morning wake-up calls and no one will pull KP at our reunion. But bring you memorabilia and photos to display in the Day Room and bring your camera to record your friends and the reunion sights and experiences.

The theme of the reunion is a **TRIBUTE TO THE GROUND PERSONNEL** and we'll no doubt be remembering incidents, problems, and frustrations that made Rackheath a steamed-up boiler of activity—and the shared humor, friendships, extra efforts and accomplishments that put the 467th at, or near, the top in so many categories and helped us live through it all. I hope there will be at least one ground crew that meets their flight crew again.

The reunion package shown in the April POOP includes our Thursday arrival dinner, all breakfasts, Sunday banquet, Day Room activities, and the transportation and entrance fees for the Friday and Saturday tours. Annette can arrange for extra tours and sight-seeing trips on Sunday morning and before and after the reunion. (Our special convention rate at the Kona Kai extends from 7 days before to 7 days after the reunion.)

I've been asked if an individual could substitute another of San Diego's attractions in place of one we are scheduled for. Unfortunately, scheduled event costs (meals and entrance fees, for example) and general costs (Day Room activity and transportation costs, for example) are combined to make up the entire reunion package and I can't break out the cost of individual items.

San Diego weather in October is even better than usual, with sunny skies, light breezes, a daily temperature range of 65 to 80 degrees, and no rain. And—most of the summer vacationers will be gone. So, bring comfortable light clothing. Dress will be California casual (which can mean anything) except for our Sunday evening banquet on the 15th when the men are asked to wear a suit or sport jacket. I'm not qualified, and wouldn't dare, to advise the ladies on their apparel.

Early reservations are recommended to ensure that rooms and facilities are held for our use and for best air fares. If you purchase airline tickets from Travel Connoisseur and fares are later lowered, the tickets will be reissued at the lower fare, wherever possible. Each reunion package and Kona Kai reservations received before 15 August will be entered in a drawing for a free post-reunion cruise for two people. (Note: If fewer than 15 cruise cabins are reserved, no free cruise will be awarded.) Reservation requests received after 15 September will be honored if hotel rooms are available.

We're looking forward to having a couple hundred "Rackheath Aggies" for our 1995 reunion.

Registration Form for the Convention and Hotel, and Tentative Schedule of Events, are on pages 7 and 8 in this issue of POOP.

CONVENTIONS, REUNIONS

Midwest Region of 2nd Air Division Association:

The 12th annual reunion of this nine state area will meet September 19–21, 1995 in Springfield, Illinois. Complete details and reservation forms will be mailed upon request to Bill Kirkton, 1 County Rd., Chatham, IL 62629.

Second Air Division Association:

The 48th annual convention of the Second Air Division will be July 3–6, 1995, in Lexington, Kentucky. To attend you must be a member or associate of the Second Air Division Association—dues \$15 per year. Contact: Evelyn Cohen, Apt. 06-410 Delaire Landing Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114.

CONTINUATION OF THE SAGA OF THE B-24 "MASSILLON TIGER", by FRANK WATSON, Pilot-Crew

By the time this article is published, another museum will have an Al Fernandez print of the B-24, "MASSILLON TIGER". A B-24 Museum is located on the Pueblo, Colorado Municipal Airport. The museum is reputed to be the only museum that is solely dedicated to one aircraft the B-24.

The April, 1995 issue of the "POOP" mentioned that Dean Johnson's friend, was instrumental in commissioning Al Fernandez to paint the "MASSILLON TIGER," all without Johnson's knowledge. His friend then presented Johnson with the picture as a surprise. Johnson, in turn had copies made and presented them to his other crew members. After I received my copy and upon learning of the B-24 Museum, I felt that the museum should also have a copy, whereupon I contacted the artist Al Fernandez and obtained a copy of the TIGER. It will be presented to the B-24 Museum in honor of my crew.

My crew consisted of Carl Dottore, gunner; Hugh Donlon, flight Engineer; Leonard Maharrey, Tail Gunner (deceased); Gordon Wagoner, gunner (deceased); Gerard Sodano, Radio Operator; Dean Johnson, Navigator; Frank Watson, Pilot; Earnest Sorrentino, Pilotage Navigator; Kenneth Rabin, Bombardier; Charles Shinn, Co-pilot (deceased), later became first pilot and assigned own crew; and Edward Kramak, gunner and assistant flight Engineer (deceased), assigned to another crew.

We were initially assigned to the 789th Squadron and flew 12 missions with that squadron. In October 1944 we were transferred to the 791st Squadron and flew 18 missions as lead crew. We flew 6 missions in the "MASSILLON TIGER." The last two missions in it were in support of the Battle of the Bulge on December 24th and 26th.

HERITAGE CENTER NOW THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSEUM

The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Center will be known as The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum beginning April 1, 1995.

"After careful deliberation during its February meeting, the Center's Board of Directors decided to change the name to Museum," said Lt. Gen. E. G. Shuler, Jr., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. "Most people know instantly what a museum is but many people have told us they don't exactly know what a heritage center is."

Shuler noted that most people already refer to the facility as "the museum." Legally we will exist as The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Center, but we will be doing business as The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum and that's how the world will know us."

The name change will not affect the plans for the facility. It will still include a library of Eighth Air Force and related books, films, and tapes; Eighth Air Force personal and unit archives; an artifacts and memorabilia museum; meeting facilities; gift shop; book store; and snack bar.

The Heritage Museum is being built on a 12-acre tract of land at the intersection of U. S. Highway 80 and Interstate Highway 95 west of Savannah in the town of Pooler. It is being built as a living memorial to the more than one million men and women who have served in The Mighty Eighth since it was created in Savannah in 1942 as part of the United States Army Air Corps. The Eighth has served America continuously since then and today is a vital part of the United States Air Force's Air Combat Command.

Target date for the grand opening of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum is May 1996.

THE 789TH SQUADRON RUMOR By Al Welters, Continued

After we arrived at Rackheath Airbase, my getting married in New York rumor took on more life and on the second or third day there we had a standby inspection of our gear. I didn't know the inspecting officer, Lieutenant by rank, who inspected our hut. He looked at the gear layout on my bunk and turned to go on when his eye caught my name on my duffel at the foot of the bunk. He turned and looked at me and said, "Are you the guy that got married in New York?" My reply was, "Yes, Sir." He looked me in the eye, gave a negative shake of his head and went on. As we got busily involved with the duties of war, the questioning of me ended and the New York marriage rumor was accepted. Then nine months after we were overseas my sister sent me an enlarged photo of her baby girl. I showed it to Handy and he said, "Tell the guys it is Grace's baby." So we did. One day out on the flight-line, Flight Chief Sam Urmsen came up to me and said, "What's this I hear about your wife having a baby?" I said, "Yes, that's right." He said, "Welters, I don't know about you; I always thought you were a nice guy, then you go into New York two nights, marry a girl and get her pregnant. I don't know what to think of you." Well, Sam, now that you know it was a rumor, what do you think? You owe me a letter and I would like to hear from you.

Now I suppose you would like to know if I got married, did we have children, and was the first one born nine months after marriage? The answer is yes to all three questions. Back at Rackheath, during the war, every now and then as the 50. cal ammo was being loaded for the guns in our B-24, I would check to see if the ammo was made at the Twin Cities Ammo Plant, but didn't think that in the future I would be marrying one of the girls that was helping manufacture that ammo. I was rotated home and discharged from the Air Force 10 October 45.

Now back to your questions, Sam. On that New Years Eve of 1945, I went to Holdingford, one of my old "stomping grounds," to go to a New Year's Eve dance. Upon entering the hall, across the floor on the other side was a girl (seated with her boyfriend) I had dated a few times before the war (that was Mary). When the band began to play I went over and asked her for a dance and surprisingly she accepted. At the end of the evening the look on her boyfriend's face was that of a mission failure. Mary turned out to be one of the girls that helped make that 50.cal ammo at Twin-Cities. We got married on 29 June 1946 and are nearing the 50th year for our "marriage mission." And yes, Sam, we have seven children, and I am happily satisfied with their choice of occupations—their work is of direct service to people. The eldest daughter is a nurse; eldest son is with an airline; 2nd daughter is in state unemployment work; 3rd daughter is with an airline (she possibly assisted some of you at the airport on your way to our 467th reunion at Minneapolis); second son, U.S. Army Airborne. I am grateful for his helping preserve the peace that the WW II G.I.'s fought for and gave their lives for. He has served two long tours in Europe, in Italy and in Germany, some time in England, and some along the Berlin Wall. He said all Americans should have the chance to see the area along the Berlin Wall. Fourth and youngest daughter is in missionary work. Her first assignment was in Bulgaria, which was under communist rule at the beginning of her service there. The missionary work had to be underground. When communism fell she helped start the building of churches. In December 1994, Bulgaria voted a Socialist government back in and now the church is back underground. In 1991, on our trip to Bulgaria, we were heading for Europe in the morning hours and were flying in overcast skies and I thought of the trouble that made for you air crewmen when we were back at Rackheath. Then suddenly it was clear, the sun was just coming up and our flight over Germany began. We were not flying that high that we could not see the countryside below very good. Germany looked like a new picture down there on the earth and the picture of what it looked like back in 1945 came into mind when we flew over Germany on one of the missions in the ole B-24's! The destruction of war was a terrible sight. From Frankfurt we flew to Bulgaria on a German airliner. The terminal where we landed for entry into Bulgaria reminded me of a corrugated metal Minnesota machine shed. We got to personally see what communist rule does for a country, how the military has closed the churches and made threats of imprisonment. Fifth child, a daughter for whom I am really thankful, is somewhat handicapped. We were surprised when the VA hospital at Ft. Snelling hired her for service in taking care of the disabled veterans.

And now, Sam, this is true, not a rumor. In the years after the war I have thought of how you walked up to me on the flight-line and told me what you thought of me. And I thought of all you G.I.'s on that line, the cooperation, determination and accomplishment of your efforts—I realized that I missed that and nine years after being out of the Air Force, I signed up for Army military service and enjoyed it. The last seven years before reaching age sixty was with 47th Army Aviation at Holman Field, St. Paul. It was good to be back among ground crewmen and pilots and the "iron birds" again. One of the Airfield Commanders turned out to be a B-24 Bombardier, WWII, Italy, Col. Harley Davis; and a WWII fighter pilot in Africa, Europe and Korea, Capt. Stanley Davis, later became the Commander; and lastly a pilot who was Gen. Eisenhower's personal B-25 pilot, Col. Sidney Freitag, became Commander. Holman Field was a B-24 center in WWII, a few years ago when the story of Joe Ramirez B-24 "Witchcraft" was published in the 2nd AD Journal and I heard of other B-24's assigned to our group from Holman Field, that made the connection of the end of my service at Holman Field with the beginning of my service with 467th "Bomb Group."

Cheers and all the best to all of you,

Al Welters

P.S. It would be quite the surprise if one of you New York members sent me a letter saying, "Al, I happen to know Grace Joahansmeyer or some of her family."

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY and the return of the 467th BG, 2nd Air Division USAAF, by David Hastings

How can we ever forget the wonderful week that has just passed, when our American friends came back to celebrate with us. From the time we first saw their faces at the London Airports on their arrival, then the re-dedication of their unique Memorial Room in the temporary Norwich Central Lending Library in Ber Street, and on the Sunday that amazing VE Day Parade, with over 900 British and American Veterans on parade, the greeting from the Lord Mayor of Norwich, the RAF Fly-Past, the amazing warmth of the huge crowds lining the route, the moving service in the Norwich Cathedral, including the moving 2nd Air Division Fanfare composed by Ken Meazey that had us all in tears and finally that wonderful "We'll Meet Again" show produced by Bob Brister and his great local cast at the Norwich Theatre Royal which ended a day that will never be repeated.

Then on VE DAY itself, Monday, May 8th, we had the 467th Veterans to ourselves on the BASE DAY visit, complete with their Commanding Officer Colonel Al Shower and his wife Charlotte, Ralph Elliott the Group Vice President and his wife Yvonne and Geoff Gregory, the incoming President of the 2nd Air Division Association, and his wife Terry, Thirty-one American Veterans in total. They asked us to prepare a programme for them and thanks to so much help we covered all the things they wanted to do. Firstly, can I thank Len Wells and his great team at the Rackheath Community Centre for the wonderful welcome and to Jimmy Brierton of the Rackheath Parish Council and Ron Fielder, Chairman of Salhouse Parish Council for their kind words and the moving response from Ralph Elliott and Colonel Shower, followed by the unveiling of the superb new bronze plaque on the Centre Gates in Memory of Jim Coffey's crew and brought over a few weeks before specially by Andy and Jo DeBiasse. Then we moved on to Salhouse Church for their commemorative service—our thanks to: the Rev. David Jones for his most moving address, the choir for the wonderful singing, the Cubs for their Guard of Honour at the entrance, Squadron Leader Roy Bullers, the Church Warden, and the young men and women from Royal Air Force Neatishead for their wreath laying which touched us all.

Next we went to their Airfield Marker for another moving ceremony led by David Jones; and our thanks to Robert Lomax, Roger Hastings and David and Heather Burton for the way they care for this unique marker. This was followed by a tour of the old airfield by coach and then a great lunch at the Rackheath Green Man with our thanks to Julie Mower and all her team for the superb meal and great service. By now we were running late and the traffic in Wroxham delayed us further as we made our way to RAF Neatishead for another great welcome, thanks to the kindness of the Station Commander Group Captain Barry Titchen. They toured the museum, visited the main operations room and then planted a tree in memory of the 467th, on the site where their old huts stood, still working for freedom until recently, followed with tea in the new

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY, Continued

Mess, where their plaque is proudly displayed, before we returned to their old Rackheath base for one last look.

Then to the final VE Day Banquet at the Salhouse Lodge Country House with Nigel Bales and his staff giving the 85 people who attended a superb meal and great service. How can we ever thank Ken Meazey enough for playing for us all evening, for Perry Watts for the paintings, Ivan Palmer for the tower project, Edward and June Trafford for their kindness and Carol Hart for the great wall painting of "Witchcraft". Finally, we visited the Airfield Marker

where they saw for the first time the superb floodlighting, installed by Robert Lomax and giving the 467th the only Floodlit Marker in the Division if not in the UK. The rest of their week included a tour of the Boards, Blickling Hall, a private service at Madingley, a visit to Duxford and then talking to 23 Norfolk Schools before their final Banquet on the Thursday. Now they are back home, leaving us with wonderful memories of their friendship and kindness. We will never forget them and my thanks again to all who helped make the Base Day so Special.

David Hastings



Col. Shower, 2nd from left & Geoff Gregory at historical marker, Rackheath Industrial Park.



Col. Shower unveils the plaque at Rackheath Centre Gate.

Note from Eloise to all Members: Serious family illness prevented me from meeting the June 1 publication date—sorry for the delay. And my humble thanks to Phillip and Cille for their prayers.

467TH CONVENTION 1995

Tentative Schedule of Events

Thursday, 12 October

- 1300 – 1700 Check in and Register at Kona Kai.
- 1300 – 1500 Board of Directors Meeting.
- 1300 – 1730 Day Room open. Coffee and tea available. Arrange and view photos and memorabilia in Day Room, meet other attendees, look over Kona Kai facilities, view Shelter Island and San Diego Bay.
- 1800 – Assembly call—no-host bar.
- 1900 – 2130 Arrival Dinner.

Friday, 13 October

- 0730 – 0900 Modified Continental Breakfast.
- 0930 – Buses load for Marine Corps Recruit Depot and Recruit graduation ceremony and review.
- 1130 – Buses load for on-base Lunch.
- 1300 – Buses load for Cabrillo National Monument and Old Point Loma Lighthouse.
- 1600 – Buses load for Kona Kai. Evening free; see restaurant and entertainment list.
- 1630 – 2300 Day Room open.
- 1800 – Private vehicles load for Jewish Sabbath (NTC).
- 1930 – 2030 PX open.
- 2000 – 2200 Video History videos.

Saturday, 14 October

- 0730 – 0900 Modified Continental Breakfast.
- 0930 – Buses load for Zoo, Lunch, and Harbor Cruise.
- 1600 – Buses load for Kona Kai. Evening free; see restaurant and entertainment list.
- 1700 – 2300 Day Room open.
- 1700 – Private vehicles load for Catholic religious service (Civilian).
- 1930 – 2030 PX open.
- 2000 – 2200 Video History videos.

Sunday, 15 October

- 0800 – 0930 Modified Continental Breakfast.
- 10:00 – Private vehicles load for Protestant religious service (NTC).
- 1000 – 1400 Day Room open. See optional activities schedule.
- 1400 – 1500 Group Business Meeting.
- 1500 – 1700 Symposium—Aircraft repair and maintenance at Rackheath.
- 1800 – Assembly call—no-host bar.
- 1900 – 2200 Final Banquet.

Monday, 16 October

- 0800 – 0930 Hail and Farewell Breakfast.
- 0830 – 1200 Day Room open to retrieve memorabilia and for good-byes.
- 1200 – Check out.

CONVENTION 1995 REGISTRATION FORM
467TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY) ASSOCIATION, LTD.
Kona Kai Plaza Las Glorias Resort and Marina
San Diego, CA 92106

From Thursday, 12 October, to Monday, 16 October, 1995

Group President

Mel Culross
1400 E. Menlo Ave #49
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Tel (909) 766-1266
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Group Coordinator

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Services Coordinator

Annette Rubenstein of Travel Connoisseur
4425 Convoy St., Suite 216
San Diego, CA 92111
Tel (800) 348-3087 or (619) 268-4106
Fax (619) 268-4238

NOTE: For reunion information, including airline reservations, hotel accommodations, car rental (rates, etc) and post-reunion cruise (deck plans, accommodations, services, and prices), please call our Services Coordinator, Annette Rubenstein of Travel Connoisseur, Tel (800) 348-3087 or (619) 268-4106 or Fax (619) 268-4238.

Name (Last) _____ (First) _____ Badge name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Tel (____) _____

Veteran _____ or Associate _____ member of 467th BG (H) Association? Is this your first 467th reunion? _____

Unit assigned to at Rackheath _____ Duty _____

Accompanied by: (Last) _____ (First) _____ Badge name _____

(Last) _____ (First) _____ Badge name _____

(Last) _____ (First) _____ Badge name _____

Hotel Accommodations:

Arrival date _____ via Airline & Flt # _____ Need transport to hotel? _____ Yes _____ No
(Check in - 3 PM. Check out - 12 noon. Convention rate extends 7 days before and 7 days after reunion)

Depart Date _____ via Airline & Flt # _____ Need transport to airport? _____ Yes _____ No

(Rooms have either 1 King or 2 Queen beds) No. of rooms needed with _____ 1 King size _____ 2 Queen size

Smoking _____ No Smoking _____

Handicapped: _____ Use _____ Cane _____ Crutches _____ Wheelchair

Rental car requested: _____ Yes _____ No Cruise requested: _____ Yes _____ No

Food Preference:

Arrival dinner entree (How many): _____ Beef _____ Fish _____ Chicken

Final banquet entree (How many): _____ Beef _____ Fish _____ Chicken

Airline reservations may be paid for and hotel reservations guaranteed with a credit card.

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