

# POOP from GROUP

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ISSUE 17-1

APRIL 1, 1998

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## **FROM THE PREZ / 2ADA GROUP VICE PRESIDENT WALTER MUNDY**

The major programs initiated last year are progressing on schedule and will be completed prior to our annual Convention in September. Most gratifying is the progress on the B-24 one sixth scale model to be donated to the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum. I was able to inspect the model (mold) at Robert Henderson's studio in Canon City, CO. on January 8, 1998. He was making the plaster and fiberglass molds used to cast the bronze sculpture to be installed at the Air Force Academy on September 25, 1998. I am pleased to report that the wood model and the bronze will be faithfully represented and the details of the model will carry the 467th markings of Witchcraft. I want to thank Bob McEwen for providing photographs and much detail and information. Vince LaRussa also provided and passed along information on the nose art. Installation of the model at the Heritage Museum by Robert Henderson is scheduled for May 1998.

There is still a shortfall of donations to complete the model and provide the funds for the installation and dedication plaque. If you have pledged a donation please send in your donation. There is still time to be a part of providing this legacy so make your donations. Associate (family) members are encouraged to participate.

I am saddened to report the passing of so many of our group. I try to write letters or arrange for flowers for those I hear about in time, but it seems that time is overtaking us. I intend to ask our Board of Directors to put forward a plan to integrate more of our Heritage Group to participate on the Board of Directors and/or Officers. The day will come soon enough when they will have to take over and/or later dissolve the Association into the 2nd ADA.

The other major program to provide museum quality records and photo albums to the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum and the 2nd AD Memorial Library in Norwich is progressing. Kevin Coolidge is producing the albums similar, but improved, to the set he made for our Convention Day Room. Your Board of Directors authorized the funds to accomplish this project.

This year will mark the 50th Anniversary Convention of the 2nd ADA. The Convention will be May 23 - 26, 1998 and will be held at the Oak Brook Hills Hotel and Resort, Oak Brook Hills, IL. 60522 (just outside Chicago). I urge all of the 467th Bomb Group members of the 2nd ADA to attend this hallmark Convention.

For you computer Internet buffs, the 2nd ADA Memorial Library web site is [www.ecn.co.uk/memorial](http://www.ecn.co.uk/memorial). The Memorial Library is also one of the links on the 467th Bomb Group Home Page, "[www.siscom.net/~467thbg](http://www.siscom.net/~467thbg)", as well as many other interesting links. The B-24 Veterans web site is "[www.mach3.com/B24](http://www.mach3.com/B24)". If you want to reach me you can punch up my E-Mail at "[mundy@tminet.com](mailto:mundy@tminet.com)". In fact, the E-Mail list on our Home Page makes it easy to reach anyone listed by clicking on their names. It is a direct link-up. We can use more inputs.

The theme for the 467th Bomb Group Convention will be a salute to the Rackheath Air Base (Station 145). I hope every Veteran of the 467th regardless of their assignment will look for any photographs, records, orders, local stories and experiences they may have and bring it to the convention. I know that there are still a lot of memorabilia around and it would be great to have some of it incorporated in our historical records. We will reproduce all such items and return the original, if requested. Crew pictures, unit photographs, snap shots, local newspapers are of particular interest. Vince LaRussa and his convention team join me in a special salute to our Norwich English friends who are the on site support for our memorial marker and have been devoted supporters of our Group for all of the years since we were first welcomed. We will always welcome them and look forward to their visits.

I am sending a picture of my crew mates to give everyone an idea of the kind of things we would like to see. Frank Giosta sent me a photo record of his visit to Rackheath with some memorable photos of the base. I know that a lot of our members have made the trip and have snapshots. I hope everyone will bring their scrapbooks, pictures, etc. This is going to be a great opportunity to get more historical information in our Group records. See you in St. Louie!

### **THE PARISH OF RACKHEATH 1066 - 1977**

#### **BY PHILLIP G. DAY FROM THE PERRY WATTS STUDY:**

I wrote in the last POOP on this subject and one of the things I wrote was "Originally there were two distinct villages, Rackheath Magna (North?) and Rackheath Parva (South?) and ...". Better, I believe, would have been Rackheath Greater and Rackheath Lesser. Probably one of you Latin students could help with this. Did the Romans give these names? Or are the Anglo-Saxon?

The Rackheath area had always been principally agricultural until recent years, the light, loamy soil very easy to utilize for many crops, but now the Technical Site of Station 145, including many of the 1943-45 buildings and areas, have been utilized for industrial and commercial businesses. But even with this change, agricultural use of the land predominates. You will recall when the Group was at Station 145, farming operations were carried on right up to the perimeter track of the airfield, possibly within the triangular spaces between the runways.

The Domesday Records of 1085, Entry No. 191, translates "Principal Lordship of Racheisham was in the King at the survey and Godric was steward of it for him; three freeman were deprived of it who held 3 Curacates of land, with 3 Villeins, 12 Borderers and 4 Servants and there were 5 Curacates and 7 acres of Meadow valued then (1660) at 20s; but at the survey (1085) 60s. It was 1 Leuca long and 8 Furlongs wide, paid 15d tax, and 9 Freemen in Beeston had 40 acres, and a Curacate in said value, belonging to this Lordship of which the King and Earl have power and jurisdiction".

Curacate - An area of plough land (Dimension probably had something to do with amount of land

that could be plowed by one man and horse in a days time)

Freeman- A person who had permission to use the land.

Bordorer - One living near a land holding.

Servant - A person employed to do menial tasks.

Villein - A person who was bound or bonded to his Lord, belonging to a Manor of which the

Lord was owner.

The total area of Rackheath Parish after consolidation of Rackheath's Magna and Parva lands was about two miles square and included in its bounds were small tracts and parcels of arable (plow) land, heath land (sheep pasturage), wooden areas, common areas and waste land. Part of the Parish was within the area of Mousehold Heath which you may remember was a high ground to the east of Norwich. The closest point of Mousehold Heath today is 3 miles to the southwest and is within the boundaries of Norwich. It is recorded that hunting was very good in the area and hunting rights were assigned to various nobles.

The "All Saints Church" to the north of present (New) Rackheath, north of the Norwich-Wroxham Road, is probably the second on the site, built about 1360, was once (probably) surrounded by a village of houses and shops but its inhabitants were likely killed in a plague or left the village to escape a plague. Neglect and salvage of the village left no traces of it except some have said that at certain times of the year outlines of foundations of the prior structures can be seen from the air. It is not known if archaeologists have studied the area or what they have found. No structures other than the church are in its immediate vicinity. Some of you may have attended services there in 1944/45 as services were regularly held there until the new "Holy Trinity Church" was completed in 1959. All Saints has been under the care of The Norwich Churches Trust since 1976, having deteriorated badly and having been vandalized after being declared redundant in 1971.

(A short geography lesson. Dividing the technical site and airfield from the rest of Station 145 was the more or less north/south Green Lane. Its north terminus was the Norwich-Wroxham Road. About a mile west of the intersection were the Golden Gates, another 2 miles to the Blue Boar Public House in Spowstan, another 3 miles to Norwich. Rackheath Hall was one-half to three-quarters of a mile south of the Golden Gates. About one-half mile east of the Green Lane-Norwich Wroxham Road intersection was the Green Man Public House, another quarter mile east and northwest a short distance into a cultivated area was the All Saints Church. The Blue Boar and the Green Man Public Houses as well as All Saints Church are noted on Faden's 1797 map of the Rackheath area. Green Lane crossed the Norwich-Salhouse-Horning Ferry Road to the south and on the southeast corner of that intersection was the Soul And Heal Public House, which because of its appearance must have been built in the 20's or middle 30's.)

In the northeast corner of the Green Lane-Norwich Wroxham-Golden Gates-Rackheath Hall quadrangle was an area called Round Hills. This is thought to be the vicinity of the site of the first "Holy Trinity Church". Again, no archaeological survey are known of but a native to the area, Thomas "Tommy" Dugar, remembers when excavations were being carried out toward the construction of Station 145 facilities stones not indigenous to the area, remember the soil of the area is light sandy loam, were found and in later years human remains were found in another excavation in the area. Maybe not "Holy Trinity" but another burial ground extending back additional centuries and totally unrelated.

In former days a Priory (a Monastery) existed in Rackheath Magna, again its site is unknown. But in the year 1290 John de Meacham was given permission by King Edward I, allowing him to give some land to the Priory. Records reveal that as late as 1422 there were fees collected by the Priory.

The Rackheath Village sign, celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's ascension to the throne, was unveiled on May 30, 1983 while 16 Veterans, and 19 family members, of the 467th were there in Convention. The sign is placed at the New Rackheath Holy Trinity Church/Village Community Center on the Norwich-Salhouse Road. The sign has three panels above the name RACKHEATH and two spandrels below the name depicting the Coats of Arms of the Pettus and Stracy families. The painting on the small panel of the left of the three above the Rackheath is of a windmill (Postmill) which once stood in Rackheath Manga. On the main, center panel in the foreground is the River Brue, the water coarse 'Racu' from which the village may have taken its name. In the background at the top of the main panel the Parish Church of "All Saints" can be seen and to the left of the Church are two deer representing Rackheath Park and its parklands. At the right top of the main panel is a Monk reading a prayer book representing the Priory that is believed to have stood in the village. To the right of the Monk is a sheep to represent Rackheath Common and the law which gave the villagers the right to graze sheep on the common. The small panel on the right hand side of the sign represents Rackheath Aerodrome, a Liberator flying over the Control Tower, used by the USAFF in World War II. Remembering that the sign depicts the most significant events in the nearly 900 year history of the community, we, the veterans of the 467th should find this depiction very humbling and recognize that we will be remembered in Rackheath, if no where else, as long as there is a community of Rackheath.

At the base of the Village sign is the 467th BG (H) Memorial (Plaque) dedicated and placed there on October 6, 1983 while an identical one was being placed at the Air Force Museum, Dayton, OH in an identical ceremony. Also at the signs base is a wood slat on iron framed bench given by the 467th complimenting a similar one placed at the sign by the Rackheath Parish Council.

I understand, though opposed by the New Rackheath villagers of my acquaintance, it is proposed that a number of homes may be built in the village, making it a "bedroom" community of Norwich.

#### **NEWS FROM STATION 145 BY DAVID HASTINGS**

1997 was a very busy year with plenty of visitors to your Marker Stone and as always much interest shown in the 467th and the old airfield. The sign put up by Broadland District Council pointing the way to the Marker has helped greatly. Robert Lomax very kindly repainted both the flagpoles and the new flags have lasted the whole summer. Many visitors have praised the floodlighting and the garden has been kept neat and tidy. We were so pleased to see several 467th members and their families over this year and it was a great joy to have them in our homes.

The most moving event of the year was the visit of Gloria Roy and her family, and we were pleased to meet Earl's request that his ashes be laid to rest on the airfield. We all had lunch at the Green Man and then our new Vicar, the Reverend Gordon Howell's, performed a touching service before we went back to the Village Hall. In the evening it was a great pleasure to give the Roy family dinner in our home and

everyone involved in the day was deeply moved by the special poem written by Arnold Pryor. The Marker, the three plaques and the Village Hall gates are all in good order, but the gates will need repainted next spring. We are still chasing the Parish Council to revarnish the seats and they have promised that this will be done shortly. On the Control Tower we still have no further news from Ivan Palmer.

The work on the new 2nd Air Division Memorial Library to be rebuilt as part of our Millennium

Library is running on schedule and there is no doubt that when this is opened in 2001 it will be one of the finest memorials in the world. Your Fulbright Librarian, Linda Berube, had done an outstanding job and we were all delighted when Fulbright extended her tour for a second year.

At RAF Neatishead, your tree planted by Colonel Shower is growing well and flowered this year, serving as a constant reminder to the servicemen and women of today, and of the links with the 467th and the Air Division. Group Captain Barry Titchen has ended his tour as Station Commander and has been posted to Germany. His successor is another great guy, Group Captain Paul Blackford who is already showing a great interest in the 467th.

On the Bure Valley Railway, which several members of the 467th have visited, the main line diesel

locomotive will be named "2nd Air Division USAFF" after its refit next March in tribute to you.

Some of us look forward to attending the 2nd Air Division 50th Convention in Chicago in May, when it will be wonderful to meet the 467th once more. We will never forget you.

#### **MISCELLANEA BY PHILLIP G. DAY**

It has not been too good a four months since I last wrote. We had no winter, only seven days total with temperatures below freezing. Didn't burn a half a cord of wood. The pear and the peach trees bloomed out before we were ready and had to be pruned with the blossoms on them. We were late also in cutting back the grape and muscadine vines but think they will be all right. We had much too much El Nino rain and haven't been able to get the garden beds turned for spring planting. Miss Cille did plant some sweet peas (flowering) and some sugar snap peas in December, but as soon as they broke the ground the sparrows ate the new foliage off, so, none for us. Now is Ash Wednesday and Good Friday will be here in 40 odd days. That is when we plant (set out) tomatoes, bell peppers and egg plants. Then root vegetables and greens are planted a bit later. Saw the first Martins yesterday so will have to get their house opened up and try to keep the sparrows from nesting before the martins can.

Miss Cille remains fantastic, I keep on keeping on. Tried Pain management for my right leg in

mid-January. Was put on a prescription Nuerotin and in thirty days had all of the bad side effects, bloating, weight gain, fuzzy vision. Thought for a while I was going to have my wedding ring cut to get it off my finger but lots of ice, lots of lotion and much tugging finally got it off. First time in fifty-four years without wearing it. Am being weaned from the drug now, taking as long to get off of it as it did to get on it. Fuzzy vision will take four to six weeks longer they told me. A real mess!

Finally prevailed on The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum to take my oil

painting of "Lil Peach" for display. Shipped it to them last week. We will take a "Spring Break" in Charleston, SC and Savannah, GA in March and present the painting on March 9. Will see Mary and Walt Weaver though Walt is doing poorly, congestive heart failure I believe.

Was very shocked to learn of Ralph Giesecke's death. James L. "Jim" Sherrard attended for the Group and arranged for a red and white carnation spray to be sent to the service. Talked with Judy McLean at the end of the week. She's was Ralph's very good friend and assistant for thirty-two years who also attended two Group Conventions with him to aid him in traveling and in the Convention functions. She was kind enough to send an Austin, TX paper obituary and an article from the Marble Falls paper. Both were glowing in their praise for Ralph and all of the good works and deeds he did in the Marbles Falls area. At Convention 97, as neither Ralph nor I could go on the out of hotel excursions, I got to visit with him for many pleasant hours. He had much enthusiasm for the 467th, the scale model of "Witchcraft" and to do something to preserve the Control Tower at Rackheath. The second is done and he knew of it before his death, the last, if the people of Rackheath can get the tower, I believe we, the Group, can probably raise the funds to repair and refurbish it as a Memorial to our service in World War II.

**THIRTY.**

**Convention Cost**

Per Person            \$265.00

Times Number of Persons    \$\_\_\_\_\_

Total Cost                    \$\_\_\_\_\_

Deposit Due With Reservation, \$100.00 per person \$\_\_\_\_\_

Balance Due August 20, 1998 \$165.00 per person \$\_\_\_\_\_

I will pay by Check (    )    Money Order (    )

The above cost is for the entire package as listed below.  
There will be a "Freebie" drawing for a one person convention package of \$265.00. Drawing will be open to all who pay in full by August 1, 1998.  
Make checks payable to: "467th Bombardment Group Convention".  
Fill in the above registration form and mail with your deposit of \$100.00 per person to:

Vincent LaRussa  
8570 North Mulberry Drive  
Tucson, AZ 85704-3351  
(520) 742-3609

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**SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES**

Thursday Sept. 17 Early Birds Get together in the Dayroom. Snacks and Beverages.

Friday Sept. 18 Registration, Dayroom open, snacks and beverages. Wine and cheese reception and dinner in the Ballroom.

Saturday Sept. 19 Buffet breakfast in the Lodge, Dayroom open, snacks and beverages, Tour "Meet Me In St. Louis", lunch included, Host bar, Dinner at Sheraton Plaza Hotel.

Sunday Sept. 20 Buffet breakfast in the Lodge, Dayroom open, Snacks and beverages. This is a day of leisure, see activities sheet in your check in packet. Executive meeting in the morning, General Business meeting in the afternoon. Host bar and Banquet in the Ballroom.

Monday Sept 21 Buffet breakfast in the Lodge, Bon Voyage, See You Next Year. Check out time is 12:00 noon.

### **HOTEL REGISTRATION**

Make room reservations directly with the Hotel as soon as possible.

Sheraton West Port Inn

191 West Port Plaza

St. Louis, MO 63146

1-800-822-3535

Fax - (314) 434-0140

Room rates are as follows:

Single or Double \$65.00, Lakeside Single or Double \$75.00.

State that you are with the 467th BG Convention, September, 1998.

These rates will apply for a couple of days before and after the convention. All guest rooms and public areas are wheelchair accessible.

**ROOMS MUST BE RESERVED BY AUGUST 20, 1998 to assure the above rates.**

How to get there: Airlines servicing St. Louis; American West, American Airlines, Comair,

Continental, Delta, Lone Star, Northwest, Skyway, Southwest, TWA, TW Express, United and US Airways. For Complimentary transportation to the hotel from the airport from 6:30 A.M. until 11:00 P.M., use the house phone at Exit 6 at the Baggage Claim Level. Call the Sheraton West Port Inn.

By car and motor home; The Sheraton West Port Inn can be reached off I-270 at exit 16 (Page Avenue). No hookups for RV's or motor homes. Complimentary parking at the hotel.

### **1998 ST. LOUIS CONVENTION - VINCENT D. LARUSSA**

Our hotel is situated in a 42 acre entertainment complex filled with charming cafes and unique shops. It is just 10 minutes from the airport with complimentary vans to bring you to the hotel. Our tour this year will be a "Meet Me In St. Louis". Some of what you will see is a Downtown overview, a stop at the Gateway Arch with an optional tram ride, Union Station, lunch and a tour of the New Cathedral which house the largest collection of mosaics in the world.

This year our Dayroom will include a copy machine for your convenience and a computer to access the Internet. We will also have a VCR and a television for our

video viewing. During open Dayroom hours there will be snacks and beverages available. Make your reservations early for transportation, hotel and convention package.

### Convention Registration Form - St. Louis, MO, September 17-21, 1998 467th Bombardment Group (H) Association Ltd.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_ First

M.I. \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Name

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_ City

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

Telephone No. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail

Address \_\_\_\_\_

First Timer: Yes ( ) No ( )

Accompanied By:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_ First

M.I. \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Name

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_ First

M.I. \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Name

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_ First

M.I. \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Name

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_ First

M.I. \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Name

Date of Arrival and Estimated Time \_\_\_\_\_ A.M. -

P.M.



	Date	Time	
Date of Departure and Time P.M.	_____	_____	A.M. -
	Date	Time	
Arriving via Car (    )	Name of Airline _____		Flight No. _____
Car Arrivals: Off I-270 at exit # 16 (Page Ave.) to hotel.			
Air Arrivals: Use the house phone at Exit # 6 at the Baggage Claim and call West Port Inn.			
RV and Motorhome: Parking lot at the hotel. There are NO hookups available.			
Badge Information			
Your Squadron/Unit _____	Your Rank and Duty _____		
Your Pilot/CO _____ Arrived Rackheath _____			
Departed _____			
POW    Yes (    )    No (    )	If yes, where _____		How Long _____
Important - Complete the above for badge ID			
Cite one memory while at Rackheath that gives you a chuckle.			
<b><u>MAIL-MEMORIAL FUND</u></b>			
There were 53 contributions to the fund in the period November 15, 1997 through April 1, 1998, for a total of \$1,716.00. This compares with 35 contributions and \$1,555.00 in the last 4 month period. POOP Vol. 16 - 3 cost \$1,445.00 to produce and mail out, but Vol. 17 - 1 will likely cost closer to \$2,000.00 as it will be mailed out First Class instead of Bulk to be certain that you all receive Convention 98 St. Louis information. Please consider this in the next 4 month period, it would be most satisfying to the Editor and Publisher if the cost is covered by donations. There are still 1,400 veterans and associates on the Association roster. Please support POOP with your donations and talent of stories and antidotes of your time of service with the Group.			
The Association needs the support of every person receiving POOP from GROUP. The Association is a Veteran Based, Not-For-Profit, Charitable based Entity and all donations are Federal Income Tax Deductible.			
Send your contribution to:			
467th Bombardment Group (H) Association Ltd.			
237 Pennsylvania Ave.			
Shreveport, LA 71105-3319			

Contributors in the period were:

David Alp-AH    Henry P. Lemmen  
 Tom Brittan-AH    John J. Logan  
 Earl D. Belisle    Robert P. Lukeman  
 J. Ray Bickel    Vernon O. Mason  
 John W. Brooks    William P. McGovern  
 Henry G. Buchanan Jr.-AH    Malcom B. McIntire  
 Walter C. Colvin    Stephen Morekin  
 Marvin R. Davis (twice)    Wayne G. Mountford  
 Roy M. Dettinger    Fredrick R. Porter  
 William F. Dillon    A. Lyle Prichard  
 Elizabeth J. Elsen-AW    Frank P. Prokop  
 Catherine F. Fagen-AW    James E. Randazzo  
 Edward E. Frazier    Ray Lynn Rainwater-AF  
 Richard M. Garver    Warren J. Roseborough  
 Edward F. Gore    Max Sheppard-AF  
 L. Jack Hallman    Albert J. Shower  
 Edward D. Herzberg    W. P. Scharrschmidt  
 Fred E. Holdrege    Robert M. Stone Jr.  
 Joseph J. Huben (twice)    Albert Touchette  
 Frank H. Johnson    William J. Washburn  
 James B. Johnston    Perry Watts-AH  
 Eugene H. Jordon    Allen J. Welters  
 Loren F. Kannenberg    Robert M. Winger  
 Andy Kapi Jr.    Chester J. Zaleski  
 Alan Last-AH    Joseph N. Zbikowsk

I thank each of the above on behalf of the Association, and personally, for their donations. Their contributions are appreciated, they are appreciated.

### **SPECIAL PROJECTS PEPORIT**

#### **THE HISTORY OF THE 467TH, THIRD REPRINT:**

All who ordered the third reprint should have by now recieved the Addendum and Errata booklet to it. If you have not, write to Vincent LaRussa, his address is listed on the Mast Head. There are only 75 copies of the book left to sell, then there will be no more. The sale of these 75 will give the Association approximately \$3,000.00 profit for other uses. Order your copy from Vincent right away.

#### **PATCHES:**

Paul Hatten at 210 North Mall Drive, Unit 133, St. George, UT 84790 has only squadron patches remaining. Until all are gone he will sell a set of four for \$10 or \$3 each. To date this project of Paul's has given the Association \$327.

#### **WINDOW DECALS:**

Bob Sheehan's project has given the Association \$796. Write Bob for you decal(s) at \$3 each at 1828 East 27th St., Tulsa, OK 74114.

#### **GI MEMORIES OF THE E.T.O.:**

This 5-1/4" by 8", 25 page booklet of cartoon like scenes of enlisted personnel activities is available for \$5 from Allen J. Welters, 1418 70th St. E., Inver Grove

Heights, MN 55077. The project has returned \$260 to the Association.

**GROUP AND SQUADRON PINS:**

Ralph Davis of 1143 Kenora Circle, Beavercreek, OH 45430-1101, has Group and Squadron pins available (at this time there are none left of the 790th Squadron), the cost of these pins is \$5 each, plus 75 cents for packaging and postage. If there is a great enough interest in the 790th pins, he may be able to get more.

**GROUP ROSTERS:**

Ralph Davis also has available for \$3 a complete listing of the Group roster. Once received, you can get an update of the roster upon request with a self addressed and stamped envelope.

Special thanks, Ralph, Vince, Paul, Bob and "Wabbit" from the Association to each of you for your continuing support of the Association. You each are much appreciated.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Operating Fund 11-15-97 to 03-01-98

Opening Balance Corrected From \$1433.55\* \$1,459.56

**INCOME**

Contributions	\$1,716.00
Convention 97 Surplus	\$5,210.10
Rackheath Control Tower Fund	\$ 100.00
Hatten's Patch Sales	\$ 7.00
Welter's ETO Memories	\$ 20.00
Pass Through B-24 Model	\$ 224.00
Certificates of Deposit	\$ 72.89
Savings Account Interest 2 Months	\$ 9.90
Subtotal, Income	\$7,359.89

**DISBURSEMENTS**

POOP 17-1 Advance	\$1,400.00
B-24 Model Pass Through	\$ 224.00
Convention 98 Advance	\$ 500.00
To Rackheath Control Tower Fund	\$ 100.00
Kevin Cooledge Advance on Contract**	\$1,500.00
Bank Service Charge***	\$ 20.00
Three Ring Binders and Misc. Supplies	\$ 21.59
Subtotal, Disbursements	\$3,765.69

Operating Fund Balance 03-01-98 \$5,053.86

**SPECIAL FUND AMOUNTS**

Albert J. Shower Endowment	\$ 769.50
Rackheath Control Tower Fund	\$ 305.00
8th AF Heritage Museum	\$ 50.00
32 Day Certificates of Deposit	\$10,000.00
*Subtotal, Special Funds	\$11,124.50

**TOTAL ASSOCIATION FUNDS \$16,178.38**

\*\$27 error in prior balance due to special overstated by that amount in prior reports.  
 \*\*Kevin Cooledge has a contract to provide three complete sets of Association printed memorabilia for \$3,000.00. This advance was for supplies required.  
 \*\*\*Checking Account Balance fell below \$2,500.00 in two or the reporting months triggering a \$10 service charge. Have written requesting credit of \$20 because of our \$10,000 certificates.

**1997 CONVENTION FINANCIAL SUMMARY 12-30-97**

**INCOME**

Income from Convention Fees  
 159 @ \$150.00      \$23,850.00  
 5 @ \$100.00      \$ 500.00  
 5 @ \$50.00      \$ 250.00  
           Total    \$24,600.00

Other Income

Sale of Souvenirs      \$ 70.00  
           Total    \$24,670.00

**EXPENDITURES**

Check Printing      \$ 6.87  
 Checks Issued      \$23,632.99  
           Total    \$23,639.86  
 Checks for Refunds      \$ (4,379.96)

Total Expenditures      \$19,259.90

Bank Balance      \$ 5,410.10

Remitted to Association Treasury      \$ 5,210.10

Retained for Close-out      \$ 200.00

**WALTER RALPH GIESECKE**

**GENTLEMAN AND FRIEND**

**REST IN PEACE:**



Ralph passed away on February 15, 1998. His death will be mourned by all of the 467th as it is by his family and many, many friends in Marble Falls, TX and vicinity. Banker, rancher, entrepreneur, he was a common man with a great heart. He was born in Marble Falls and prior to his enlistment in the Air Corps in 1941 was a rancher there. He was a Crew Chief and T/Sgt prior to going to

Officers Candidate School from which he graduated on April 12, 1943 as a 2/Lt. He served in the States as a Squadron Engineering Officer of the 389th BG (H) and went overseas with that Group and served with it for its first 100 missions. His post war accomplishments were phenomenal in and near his beloved

Marble Falls, his war time accomplishments were also without parallel in the 389th BG (H), leading to his transfer to the 467th BG (H) on May 28, 1944 as Group Engineering Officer. When he reported in on arrival at the Station, he told me, Col. Shower said to him "The function of maintaining aircraft for operational and training flights was poorly accomplished by the previous Group Engineering Officer and that was why he was fired, and if you don't straighten this mess out, I'll fire you too". Ralph did straighten it out. Lack of coordination among the various sub-engineering sections were soon overcome. Drawing on his 100 mission experience he soon had the Line Chiefs, Crew Chiefs, Mechanics and other skills working toward establishment of many records in availability of aircraft, highest in the 2nd Air Division at the end of hostilities, fewest early returns (aborts), and one aircraft that completed 130 missions without an early return (Witchcraft), dispatching sixty-one aircraft on one mission (December 24, 1944), launched combat missions on eleven consecutive days in December 1944, also a 2nd Air Division record. Major Giesecke and twenty-nine of his Line and Crew Chiefs were awarded the Bronze Star for the outstanding work they accomplished.

His first convention was probably at Hershey, PA in 1978 organized by Vincent LaRussa. It was there that he and Vince agreed that Healy's "The 467th Bombardment Group, September 1943 - June 1945" needed to be reprinted. Ralph told Vince "Get ten people, including me, to put up \$500 each to be paid back out of the sales and whatever the shortfall I will cover". Vince did this, got Healy's permission to republish, sold enough books to pay everyone back, but Ralph would not accept his repayment. That and other income from sales was the beginning of the 467th's treasury. Ralph came to Nevele for Convention 97, though he was not well, determined that the wood model of "Witchcraft" for the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum would be fully funded. Again, as I wrote in the last POOP, his most impressive talk on the worthiness of the project assured the pledges to procure the model. I know his monetary support was also substantial and he was very pleased when told before his death that the "mission was accomplished".

**May He Go From Strength To Strength In A Life Of Perfect Service In GOD'S Heavenly Kingdom**

Amen.

**FOLDED WINGS**

Cleason D. Barker  
 William J. Check  
 James G. Coffey  
 Ralph Giesecke  
 Howard S. McGuffie  
 James P. Theadore  
 Tom W. Zabit

**MAY THEY GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH IN A LIFE OF PERFECT SERVICE IN GOD'S HEAVENLY KINGDOM.**

**LOST SOULS**

"POOP" was returned from the following. Tell us what you know of them. Try to locate them if they live in your area. We would like to have them back on the Group's roster.

John L. Doling Conard P. Schwab Donald Good Fred R. Sullivan Jr.  
Seymour S. McGuffie Don Winden C. W. Shulze Jr. Henry P. Zagula

### **ROSTER ADDITIONS**

Earl D. Belisle, 2701 Corabel Lane, #105, Sacramento CA 95821

Earl E. Bitzer, 133 Charlotte St., Painsville OH 44077-3367

Paul Bohme, 11635 Farrar St., Dallas TX 75218

John E. Brooks, 1229 Ringo St., Mexico MO 65265

Arthor H. Cook, 61 Central Pike, Foster RI 02825-1300

Bill Scott, 536 Via La Paloma, Riverside CA 92507

Rosemarie Theadore, 850 Reven Ave., Bronx NY 10465

Mark Volk, P.O. Box 4503, Englewood CO

If any of these additions to the roster live near you, give them a ring or drop by to see them. Don't let anyone of them not be welcomed.

### **MY SEARCH FOR A/C#42-50737 - C.P. LARRY KURTZ**

The photograph (below), was taken of the last mission the 467th Bomb Group flew in WWII to

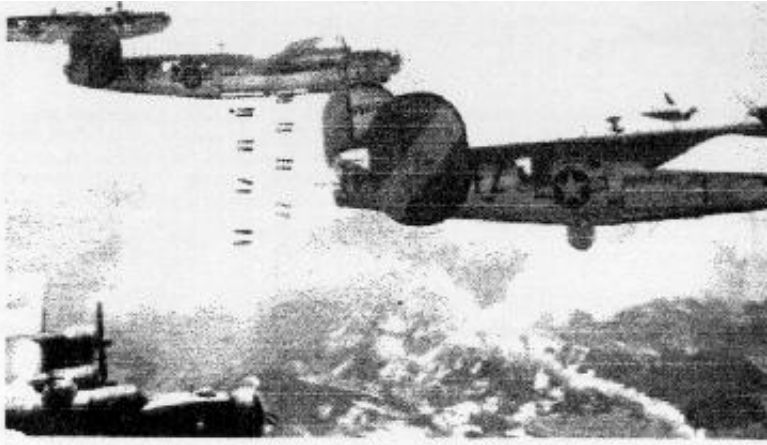
Traunstein Germany on April 25, 1945. This picture was published in 1993 in the Ohio AMVET

magazine. The author, Vince Re, of Cincinnati, OH, describes his experiences while serving as Aerial Gunner on a B-24 with the 467th Bomb Group at Rackheath, England during 1944-45. Included in this excellent article are details and other activities of the 467th Bomb Group Association membership. I'm also a member of the 467th BG Association, and was intrigued by this picture that Vince had published in his story. Those of you who have a copy of Allen Healy's book originally published in 1947 and recently updated; will recognize another photograph taken of the Traunstein mission. The picture, printed by Vince Re, has finalized my search for information on #42-50737. In 1994, Vince made me a beautiful 11x14 enlargement of this print which now hangs very proudly on my living room wall.

I arrived in the UK on Dec. 21, 1943, with the 453rd BG / 733rd BS and worked the "Line" as Assist. CC, until I was transferred to the 492nd BG / 859th BS on April 28, 1944. I kept the OD pouch containing service manuals with the serial number of this plane written on the bag. This plane was a replacement for my original aircraft which was lost with 6 others from the 859th BS on July 7, 1944, on a raid to Bernburg, Germany. #42-50737 flew 7 missions with the 859th BS before the 492nd Group was disbanded; and our Sq. was transferred to the 788th BS / 467th BG on August 14, 1944. I serviced #42-50737 with pride as an A/C mechanic when it flew combat missions with the 788th BS / 467th BG until it was finally transferred to the 790th BS in Jan. 1945. At that point I lost complete contact with this plane until I saw this photograph.

My initial search for additional information on this plane began after seeing Vince Re's photograph, and I was able to read 4Z, (791st BS) on the fuselage of the nearest plane, and the serial number #540156 on it's left stabilizer. Later, I learned this plane was the "Lead Plane" in the 790th Sq. formation. Enlargement of the photograph also revealed the last 3 serial numbers of the 2nd plane (#737) dropping a cluster of 2 bombs each. This was the plane I had serviced previously in the 492nd BG and in the 788th BS before it was transferred to the 790th BS.

In "POOP" issue of June 1, 1994, Ralph Elliott mentioned the mission to



Bombs being released at Traunstein on April 25, 1945—the last combat mission flown by the 467th

Traunstein, in which he flew the "Lead" plane of the 467th BG which led the 96th Combat Wing to Traunstein. Ralph also sent me a copy of the original formation sheet.

At the Minneapolis Convention in Sept. 1994, I was able to review all the mission records from the 790th BS that Ralph Elliott had brought with him. It is

interesting to note the the 790th BS also had an old camouflage B-24 with a serial #41-52737 which flew 5 missions from 8/16/44 to 1/1/45. This A/C was identified on Formation Sheets as #737. This A/C did not fly any more combat missions after 1/1/45. All combat missions that #42-50737 flew from 1/17/45 to 4/25/45 were identified on the Formation Sheet as #0737. In addition to the 11x14 picture of #42-50737 which hangs on my living room wall, I also framed a collection of five pieces of "German Flak" which I had remove from #42-50737, while servicing this plane in both Groups. All of the Flak damage was serious (engines, fuel cells, accessories etc.), and required many hours that I spent on the "line" for repairs and/or replacement. In retrospect, my hardships and efforts on the "Line" were trivial, compared to the hazards and dangers that the "Flight Crews" had to endure while flying combat missions. "I salute you Guy's".

More to come in the following issue of "POOP"

#### **SULLIVAN CREW #49 - RICHARD SULLIVAN**

My father, Fred R. Sullivan, had always told me that his B-24 took flak while bombing Munich. He was trying to make it to Switzerland, but the instruments were faulty, and the entire valley was covered with low clouds. His plane crashed into the Austrian Alps between Innsbruck and Imst. He parachuted onto the roof of a shed or barn, and was taken prisoner by a very young soldier who was very much afraid of my father. All of the crew survived except Joseph Lunc, who my father was told drowned in the Inn River. The crew were gathered into a village jail. Later, my father was interrogated by an SS Major in a castle. Finally, he was taken to Frankfurt am Main and eventually to Stalag Luft 1.

In 1989, my father and I visited the area. We focused our attention on Imst, where he thought he had landed. We found very little. Then, my father died in 1992.

Last August, I received a letter written to my father from Keith Bullock, a British-born historian who has lived in the village of Mils bei Imst for the last 23 years, and who is preparing a book on the air war in the Tirol. My father and I have the same name, so the letter came to me. He stated that he knew of several eye-witnesses of the crash and knew where the crash site was. I promptly called, introduced myself, and made arrangements to fly over.

The week before I arrived, Keith arranged for a friend of his who is an editor for the Innsbruck newspaper, die Tiroler Tageszeitung, to write an article stating the basic information

about my father's crash and that I was interested in talking to eye-witnesses. As a consequence, Keith's phone rang off the hook, and by the time I arrived, He had lined up about 15 people for me to interview. I speak German, which helped a great deal.

On the first day of my visit in early October, I went to the site where my father's parachute landed on Bachnitzstrasse in the village of Silz. One woman, who witnessed his landing, told me she was sure of the date (July 12, 1944) because her sister went into labor and had borne a baby girl that day. I then met the baby girl - 53 years old, and 12 hours older than I. Another woman described to me how she had seen my father land on the roof of the building - a large woodshed for timber, as she was bicycling by. When I told her my father's recollection that he was taken prisoner by a very young, very frightened soldier, one woman said that that person who was supposed to retrieve my father was the town gendarme, who was 80 years old. The gendarme whined that he was too old to crawl onto a roof for an American, so they got a younger man.

The town "jail" where the crew were initially incarcerated may have been the basement of the Volksschule in Silz. The headmaster gave me a fine tour. I since have been in frequent touch with him on the Internet. His students, 8-10 year olds, think that it's really "cool" that their school was a prison during WW II. I sent the kids some books for their library and am trying to hook them up with a local Houston grade school in which German is being taught.

Later in the week, a woman called who had a photo of my father's B-24 burning on the side of Mt. Gruenberg near the village of Obsteig. The photo was taken by a neighbor, but the woman who possessed the photo remembered well the crash. With the help of the photo, she then climbed to the crash site and retrieved a piece of the plane, which I brought back with me.

Another couple in Obsteig, Hurr und Frau Pflunger, remembered the crash and told me how three of the crew parachuted into their back pasture. Frau Flunger's father was the forest fire Marshall (Gemeindewaldaufseher, if you can believe that word) at the time, and his job was to dig a trench around my father's plane, which burned for three days, to prevent the fire from spreading through the heavily wooded mountain side. At the end of the summer, the local representative of Hitler's government gave the man a document commending his contribution to the Reich's war effort. Frau Pflunger graciously gave me the original document.

I met another woman next to whose house another flyer from my father's crew parachuted. 13 years old at the time, she ran out to get his parachute, which she wanted because it was a nice lemon yellow nylon. He gave it to her, in spite of some objections from the Buergermeister who was pointing a gun at him at the time, and she later made doll clothes out of it. She told me that that Christmas, the dolls in her village were very well outfitted. That flyer turned out to be Albert Taylor. Although I had never met him, when I got back to the States, I wrote him and eventually talked to him for several hours on the phone. I gave him Frau Rosa Mantl's address. He then wrote her and sent her a picture. She recently wrote me to say how thrilled she was to hear from the flyer whose parachute she took.

Later, in a history book entitled Im Bombenkrieg Tirol und Vorarlberg, I found a



picture of my father that had been taken by a villager immediately after he had been taken prisoner and was being marched under guard through the main street of the village of Silz. I sent the picture to Albert Taylor, who promptly called me and with great excitement proclaimed that the picture was indeed of my father.

Stefan Dietrich, the editor of the *Tiroler Tageszeitung*, wrote a follow-up article in which he printed that picture of my father and excerpted two statements that I made in a letter to him in which I thanked the kind people of the Tirol for treating me so graciously and for giving me so much information.

On the last day that I was there, Keith took me to the Oetzthaler Ach to show me where he believes Joseph Lund drowned. This stream flows down out of the mountains from the north into the Inn River. During periods of high mountain runoff, as would be the case during June and July, the stream is torrential. People apparently drown in it periodically because it is so treacherous.

I apologize for writing such a long letter. However, I am quite excited about my recent trip. I am very eager to talk to any of my father's crew members. I thank you in advance for any information that you might tap into.

(Note: This letter was sent to Andy Wilkinson, who forwarded it to me.)

### **BITS AND PIECES - BOB DAVIS**

First off, I would like to apologize for this issue getting out a little later than normal. My wife's

(Frankie) Uncle, John Combs died on March 25, 1998 at Hospice of Dayton. Between visits to Hospice and then the funeral in Kentucky, time has been a little strained for us. John served in the Army during WW II and I would like to thank all in the VFW for the excellent job they do for fallen veterans everywhere. The graveside service that they do was a tribute to the man (and men) who served with pride and have passed on, and might I say, there is nothing sadder than to hear the sounds of the guns during the 21 Gun Salute, or the playing of Taps.

I am in the process of redoing the web page ([www.siscom.net/~467thbg](http://www.siscom.net/~467thbg)) for the Group. Need to change every once in awhile to keep the interest up in it. There are a few new pages that will be introduced in the upcoming months, and changes to the picture pages that will make them easier to view. I have been informed about the e-mail page, I believe a few have tried to print it out, and there is nothing. I am changing the page to a lighter background with dark print so that you will be able to print it out.

I am still looking for more pictures to put into the web page, crew pictures, individual pictures, pictures of planes, the base, activities, generally any picture from training or pictures at Station 145. All pictures will be given credit as to the author, and to who is in the picture (this is one of the changes in process), all photos will be returned to sender if so requested.

You will see a couple of stories in this issue, if you have any stories from your time at Rackheath, missions flown etc. I would like to have you send them to me, I'm sure that there are a lot of us out there that would love to read about your days at Rackheath. These would also be good to put into the Group's web page, to make it more interesting for the public to read and see the accomplishments of the men that served in the 467th.

I have been in contact with a gentleman named Rudy Preus, he makes stained glass aircraft (of which he has sent me a few photos that I will bring to the Convention) of

which one is the B-24. If you would like to view these stained glass aircraft, there is a link on our Home page (<http://mars.ark.com/~stellar>), any information that you would need he will be glad to send to you.

The "98" Convention is coming soon, and hopefully I will be able to make it to St. Louis. I am so looking forward to meeting all of you in person.

### **CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE 467TH BOMB GROUP**

All members that attend the 467th Bomb Group Conventions are appointed delegates to the convention and their cost of transportation and expenses applicable to the convention are tax deductible under Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (3) (C) (19). This also applies to all donations to the 467th as well as donations to the 467th Model Fund.

### **PUBLISHER'S CORNER - RALPH DAVIS**

#### **POOP FROM GROUP:**

Bob and I hope that you are enjoying the "POOP" as we have put it together. There are a couple of ways that you can assist us and help cut the cost of publication. When you move, please send us notification. The cost of forwarding, if you left a forwarding address is \$0.50 each. If it is returned, there is a \$0.32 charge and if they have your address, then we need a new "POOP" plus an additional \$0.32. Last issue we had 68 situations like this. If you have a winter and summer address, let us know along with the approximate dates and we can cover you that way on our roster. If you have suggestions, please let me know. We are trying to cover what you want.

#### **INTERNET:**

The 467th BG home page, "[www.siscom.net/~467thbg](http://www.siscom.net/~467thbg)", has been receiving real good review by those accessing it. Many from other BG's as well as other services. We, Bob and I, want to make it the best on the Internet, but we need your help. We want to add crew pictures, base pictures, individual pictures (then and now, if possible) and anything that you can suggest to add. It's your page, give us something to work with. We have "links" to almost everything we can think of, but if you have suggestions, please comment.

#### **WIDOW ROSTER:**

Because some of the widow members have expressed an interest in attending our conventions, but were reluctant to do so because they did not know those attending or believed that they would be somewhat left out of the functions, I am setting up a widow roster and will mail it out as soon as possible. If one or some of you that attend fairly regularly would like to be the point of contact, contact some and/or set up an auxiliary of this group, this would help the situation. I will assist anyone doing so to the best of my ability. Please contact me with your requests or thoughts.

#### **B-24 WOOD MODEL "WITCHCRAFT":**

The wood model is currently scheduled to be placed in the 8th AF Heritage Museum on May 17-18, 1998. Anyone desiring to attend is welcomed. A plaque identifying the presentation and recognizing Col. Shower and Joe Ramirez will be placed with the model.

#### **IN MEMORY:**

On Sunday, February 15, 1998, the 467th Association lost one of its most dedicated and loyal

supporters, Ralph Giesecke. We who knew him and worked with him on bomb group endeavors will miss him dearly. Our sincere sympathy goes out to his family and friends and especially to Judy McLean, his dedicated secretary, whom we got to know through her support of his attendance to our recent conventions. "This then is the message which we heard from him and declare unto you: That God is light, and in him there is no darkness. 1 John 1:5."