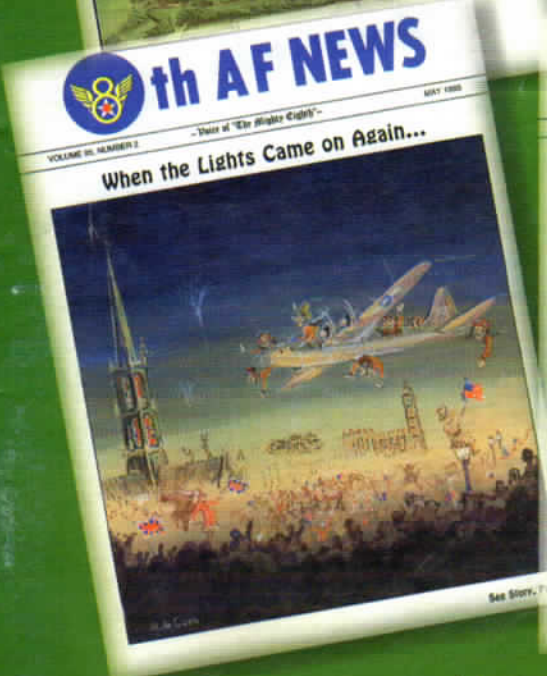
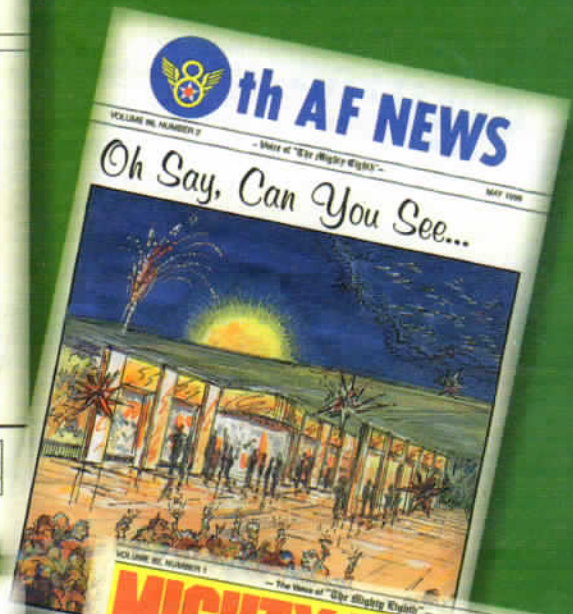




th AF NEWS

VOLUME 98 NUMBER 2 Voice of "THE MIGHTY EIGHTH"

MAY 1998



A Tribute to Editor Jim Hill

1998 REUNION INFORMATION INSIDE



AF NEWS



Magazine of The Eighth Air Force Historical Society

Editor Emeritus James W. Hill

Walter E. Brown, Interim Editor

The Eighth Air Force News is dedicated to Lt. Col. John H. Woolnough, founder of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society and editor for sixteen years. It is published quarterly and is the official newsmagazine of the Society. Submissions of Eighth Air Force related material are welcome and encouraged, but we cannot be responsible for its return. All material will be permanently preserved in the 8th Air Force archives. The 8th AFHS does not endorse or guarantee the products of its advertisers.

Matters concerning membership, address changes, and copy distribution should be sent to the Membership Records office.

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Mission Briefing



I have the first mission (first NEWS issue) under my belt and most of the heebie-jeebies are gone. However, as could be expected a few gremlins crept into the February 98 magazine. My thanks to each of you for your

input suggestions and for your words of encouragement. Noted. I have tried to reply to each of you, and herewith you will find in this May 98 issue some changes. A larger type font, darker print, a refinement in color use, and with your contributions: more articles in this and upcoming issues.

There are also some Fixes, to be seen elsewhere. Donna Neely of Ambrose Printing has been very active with composition and layouts and has been invaluable to me with her advice and suggestions.

The big news for this issue is the layout of plans and application forms for our Annual Reunion in Cherry Hill, New Jersey in October, 1998. A very successful and upbeat Board of Directors mid-term meeting in March produced a program which should offer something for everyone. This will be a very special and enjoyable reunion. We look forward to a big turnout - plan to be there!

A reminder to send your Chapter Newsletters to Committee Chairman Jim Erskine so your chapter will be included in the HS NEWS. Forward other items of interest to your Interim Editor.

Walt Brown, Interim Editor
Ewell Farm
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The Eighth Air Force Memorial Museum Foundation 1998 Board Officers

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Class of 2000: Roger A. Freeman, James W. Hill, Clifford L. Peterson, Herbert M. Childress. **Class of 2001:** Edward J. Creeden, James M. Hower. **Class of 2002:** Edward A. Kueppers, Robert E. Vickers.

Bob Vickers wants a copy of Sentimental Journey that we didn't have a photo of. I think I left you a card for a few of our plans

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Norm Grant
President of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society

Time certainly flies when you are busy or having fun. Hardly seems like seven months have passed since our reunion in Bloomington, MN., but they have, and your Board of Directors just completed the Mid-Year meeting in Cherry Hill, NJ. The contents of the meeting will be found in articles written by the other officers, committee chairman, and staff. Suffice to say it was good meeting. Where differences occurred, they were discussed civilly and assurances were made that all questions will be answered and requested information provided.



We have made great strides in setting aside many of the problems of yesterday. It is easier to heal from a physical hurt than it is from verbal hurt. Broken bones will mend and cuts will heal, but it is so hard to heal from a written or verbal attack. So often things said during a confrontation have two meanings. One "what is said", the other "what is heard". That creates the challenge of defending a position, which leads to more antagonism and confrontation, which in any organization can only be resolved by all parties forgetting the past and starting anew. Oh yes, the hurt will always be there, but we must keep it buried and work to keep it from surfacing again.

I have been so privileged to hear from so many members, assuring their support for the positiveness expressed in my previous messages. They have shared with me their history with the "Mighty Eighth" and the strong feeling which our society stands for-that being our memories of times, places, and persons.

Many stated that they haven't been to an 8th AFHS reunion for some time, and many reasons. Some said they have a closer affiliation with their units and attend their stand alone reunions, and can't afford to attend more than one reunion a year. Health problems were voiced by several but they still have that deep desire to be a part of the organization and look forward to the 8th Air Force News. Some found difficulty with traveling any great distance and when a reunion is geographically convenient, they will be with us again. Each said that when their units decide to terminate stand alone reunions they will encourage their unit members to join together and meet with the Mighty Eighth at the Historical Society national reunions.

To the many of you who have written or called expressing your feelings and support I extend my deepest heartfelt thanks. May I ask just one more favor? If you are pleased with what you read, what you hear, what you see, make a call or drop a note to the other officers, the board members, committee chairmen and other staff thanking them for their work and efforts to continue to strengthen, grow, and preserve the memories that make us "The Mighty Eighth".

Yours in friendship,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Norm".

"The Mighty Eighth"

Treasurer's Report



Your Treasurer, with the support of other members of the Budget and Audit Committee, is continuing to work toward making our financial records and financial reporting more responsive to the needs of our Society. In addition, we are continuing to work to provide better accounting control, in order to more effectively preserve the Society's assets, and to provide more open and useful financial information to the Society's Board of Directors and members.

I hope that if any of you have questions about the financial affairs of our Society, you will contact me right away. There is nothing that will be hidden from you, the members of our great Society, for it is your Society and you shall have full access to its records and its method of procedure at any time.

Best wishes to all of you; N. Kenneth Nail, Treasurer

PRODUCTIVE MID-TERM BOARD MEETING AT CHERRY HILL

Your Historical Society Board of Directors had a successful three day meeting March 26 - 29 at the Hilton Hotel, Cherry Hill, NJ - the site of our 1998 Annual Reunion in October. Some of the topics addressed are found in the reports of officers and committee chairmen in this issue. Many of the items are new business and are ongoing through the annual meeting. Some of these topics include:

— Several Chapters, especially those in larger states, have formed Wings which have frequent meetings apart from the state chapter meetings. These formations are allowed for in our National By-laws, and organizational plans and funding for Chapter Wings are supplied by the Chapters.

— The importance of informing National of any leadership changes in the state chapters immediately, as well as the chapter and unit contact person/newsletter editor cannot be overstated. **Please send in your chapter President and Newsletter editor names and addresses ASAP.** Our last update was in 1996. There is no way for us to compile and print this valuable roster if we do not receive them from you. Send these important contact names and addresses to Committee Chairman Jim Erskine, address inside front cover of this issue.

— Chapters are encouraged to exchange newsletters to inject news and new ideas into your year-to-year activities and programs.

— Chapters should seek out new members to join the Historical Society. Publicity at veteran and Air events in your area is a good start. The New York Chapter has been successful in attracting new members by contacting bomb and

fighter groups asking them to send a computer copy of their members in the New York area. These rolls were compared to Chapter rolls, and the members were contacted to make them aware of the Historical Society programs. Many have joined. Also mailouts to those members who are in the National Society but not the local chapter had good results. New members are vital to keep our membership level at a peak.

— Other topics discussed included site selection of cities and dates for our annual reunion the next few years. These are published in this and future issues to encourage other units to consider holding their reunions in conjunction with the Historical Society. This will increase interaction among members as well as increasing attendance at the annual reunion. An Eighth Air Force week with a Mighty Eighth Day was proposed to be a nationwide observation, proclaimed nationally as well as by the governors of every state. The target week was to coincide with our annual reunion. Much time and effort was spent on committee reports, with a thorough examination of all committees and their responsibilities. A tour of the convention hotel, the Cherry Hill Hilton, was conducted by the hotel staff and the Board got a good look at all the facilities available to us for the reunion.

The atmosphere of the mid-term meeting was upbeat, a concerted effort put forth to accentuate the positive, E-liminate the negative, with much progress being made to resolve many of the issues which have troubled some of the membership recently. Society business will continue on a daily basis right up to the October meeting; the next regularly scheduled Board meetings will be held then.



YOUR 1998 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Front: Tom Parsons, Norm Grant Left to Right: Jim Erskine, Jack Hower, Gene Person, Robert Vickers, Harold Rutka, Walt Brown, Charles Dye, Sherman Small, Mark Copeland, Ken Nail, Hubert Childress, Richard Baynes, Larry Goldstein, Ed Kueppers.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT: HIGHLIGHTS OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MARCH 27-28, 1998**

President Norman Grant emphasized our continuing goal of openness and a positive attitude. All pulling together, we can accomplish a great deal.

Chapters - Please Note: As the Chapters are an important part of the 8th AFHS and reach many members who can not attend National Reunions, the Board of Directors voted to reinstate the one dollar rebate to all Chapters that send at least one newsletter each year to all listed members of the 8th AFHS in their Chapter area.

Chapel Project at the 8th Air Force Heritage Museum: Members of the 8th AFHS contributed \$80,000 as of the end of March, already exceeding our pledge of \$75,000. The Board of Directors voted to apply \$100,000 from the General Ira Eaker Fund toward the Chapel. This brings the Chapel Fund to almost two thirds of the total needed. (The Chapel will not be built until all the necessary money has been collected.)

Annual 8th Air Force Day: President Grant suggested a plan for the establishment of an Annual 8th Air Force Day/Week, and the Board of Directors heartily approved. We will request proclamations from the White House, Congress, the Governors and Mayors, and ask all 8th Air Force veterans to wear something that will identify them as a member of the 8th Air Force.



Chapters will be encouraged to support this project.

Staff functions separated: The Board voted final approval for the separation of the three following functions: Membership Manager, Finance Manager, PX Manager. This was accomplished at our reunion in Minneapolis last year, but officially approved at this meeting.

Future Reunion Sites: The 8th AFHS will hold their 1999 Reunion in Savannah, GA. The dates should be finalized and published in the May issue of the 8th AF NEWS. We will soon have locations and dates for the year 2000.

Dick Baynes, Secretary

**CHAPTER AND UNIT DEVELOPMENT
AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THE BUCK IS BACK FOR THE CHAPTERS!**



At the mid-year Board of Directors meeting it was brought out that the Chapters wished to have the \$1.00 rebate reinstated for the Chapters. After all the reports were read, President Norm Grant suggested the reinstatement of the rebate. A motion was made and seconded to that effect and it was passed.

The rules governing the rebate, which will be sent out in early 1999 are:

The Chapter will receive \$1.00 for each member whose dues are paid by Dec. 31, 1998 and for each Life Member. The name, address and phone number of the President of the Chapter must be sent to the Unit and Chapter Development and Advisory Committee and must be kept up to date.

All Unit and Chapter news should be sent to this committee and be kept to 100 words or less due to space limits. Future Unit and Chapter reunions will be published with the

Unit or Chapter name, date and place of the reunion and the name, address and phone number of the contact. If you have a story for the newsletter send it directly to the editor.

Questions or comments may be sent to the Committee. If we do not know the answer we will direct it to the proper staff member. Criticisms should be accompanied with a solution. You have seen a problem and are the one who should know the solution.

Questionnaires were sent to the last known Unit Contact and Chapter Presidents. Less than half of these were answered and a few were returned as undeliverable. In order for this Committee to function properly we must have the name, address and phone number of the current Unit Contact and Chapter President.

The questionnaires that were answered by both Units and Chapters had a lot of very good ideas. These will be included in the Committee Newsletter when it comes out. In order to send these out properly we must have the information on the contact. The newsletters for the Chapters will go to the Chapter President.

Send Information To Jim Erskine

"FROM THE INFORMATION MANAGER"

It's been business as usual, with 4-5 pieces of mail and a like number of telephone calls per day.

Our web page will be on line shortly. It basically will be an ad to show that we are around and how to join our organization.

It will not be a place for people looking for us to do their homework, term papers, etc. While we have the resources to do that, we will point people in the right direction. If they get stuck, we're here to help them.

Some people in and out of our organization think we are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I even receive calls from people telling me to call them back at a certain time and hour. This is not possible.

Our office hours are from 9-4 Monday through Friday, central daylight time. The phone is answered by a real person,

unless I am on the phone. While I usually go to the office on Saturday, I can't guarantee it. Always leave your area code when calling.

Information regarding the Heritage Museum in Savannah should be directed to them, as the Museum and the Historical Society are two separate operations.

For Chapters needing PR materials, i.e: applications, old newsletters, posters, etc, it should be ordered at least ten days in advance of their use, as we usually mail it library rate.

**Regarding our operation, your advice is welcomed.
That's all for now.**

Ed Kueppers





Tara Field

Shadows lengthen as the evening sun edges closer to the horizon. The planes have landed and departed all day, propellers making waves in the silky grass beside the runway. Set in the green

countryside, the air base looks like any of the hundreds that dotted the U.S. and England during World War II.

Across the field from the white tower beckons the aircraft home. A soldier on the tower scans the horizon with binoculars and talks with the pilots on his radio. Below him, lines of planes are parked in orderly fashion, ready to take off at a moment's notice.

Beneath the tower there is a flurry of activity. Olive drab jeeps whine to and fro, large and small trucks are relieved of their cargo, and the base commander's staff car and driver wait for orders.

Nearby is a favorite place - the "Club". It is a typical Nissen hut, reached by a gravel walk and wooden steps. Inside, the hardwood floor bears the name of the base, inlaid. A wood stove provides toasty warmth, sounds of Glen Miller come softly from the old console radio, the wooden bar gleams, and the furniture is worn but inviting. Black and white photos of past parties adorn the curving walls, along with favorite nose art. A parachute and models of various warplanes hang from the ceiling.



As darkness approaches, the flight line grows quiet and couples begin to arrive for an evening at the "Club". There's a captain and his date, a Red Cross girl. A pack of pilots in "pinks and greens" strolls in, looking for action. On the sofa is a major, a colonel and a blonde in a gorgeous dinner dress. Nurses, WACs and more Red Cross girls chat at

the bar and occasionally check their stocking seams.

Is this East Anglia in 1944? No, it is North Carolina's Tara Air Base in 1997. Tara Field, owned by Jan and Novaro Nichols, is a private airstrip between Mocksville and Salisbury. The "headquarters building" is their lovely, one-of-a-kind home and the air base is their creation. Jan and Novaro themselves found the materials and, with the help of a few close friends, put much hard work into the house, the hangars and other structures that make up the base. The result is extraordinary, the look vintage, the ambiance perfect.



Last September marked the fourteenth anniversary of their annual fly-in and "living history" weekend. For those who love vintage aircraft and vehicles and forties-era clothing, this was the place to be. For everyone else, it was an opportunity to watch the show put on by the re-enactors. Visitors enjoyed looking over the displays of old uniforms, photos, equipment, and the many aircraft parked on the flight line (aircraft arrive from as far away as Indiana).

L-R: Mel Preston, Sharon Allen and Ron Gragg.

pos, hair rolls and snoods, red lipstick and backseams. The Nissen hut was transformed into a scene worthy of a World War II movie set, complete with the characters and music.

There are many ways people honor the memory of World War II and its veterans - through monuments, parades and various ceremonies. Others keep the memory alive each September at Tara Field.

by: Sharon S. Allen Charlotte, NC. Member # 33126





James W. Hill became the second

editor of the Eighth Air Force News in 1990 and served in that capacity for the next seven years. During those years he was a friend to many of the Society members and families and was the "Voice of the Eighth". Jim expanded the News in its format, and by adding new features and color to the pages. The magazines which he edited brought a new depth and variety of 8th AF related subjects to the entire membership of the Society. This issue is dedicated to him in recognition and appreciation for his years of dedication to the 8th AF Historical Society. This magazine cover depicts a few of his notable issue covers, several of which were commissioned specifically for the 8th AF News. The issues themselves reveal a man of great perception who exhibited a sensitivity to the recording of Eighth AF history and heritage.

During World War II, 1st Lt. Jim Hill was a lead navigator with the 305th Bomb Group and was at that time the youngest airman to complete a combat tour of missions. He earned the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters. Following the war, he worked in the defense industry for twenty-four years as a mechanical engineer and in communications for large industries including DuPont, Lawrence Radiation Laboratory and Westinghouse. Jim also worked at the Savannah River Project and for the Air Force Research and Development Command, and for ten years taught business and management communications at Pennsylvania State University. His love for the Eighth Air Force is shown by his activity with the local chapter of the Historical Society, as well as his work with the 8th AFMMF.

I met Jim in Memphis in 1993 at a



James W. Hill

regional Historical Society meeting and we spent some memorable hours together. One bright May afternoon we walked the length of Beale Street and Jim talked about his career and his experiences, and his philosophy of life. His love of people was evident. He spoke of his service as pastor for the United Methodist Church

in his community. He also has served as Chaplain of the National Historical Society as well as of the Pennsylvania Chapter.

His sermons demonstrate his ability to lead a congregation and these very same sermons offer words of guidance to the all members of the 8th AFHS. As suggestions to the membership for a revival which he once held at his church, Jim says:

"Forget the past, look forward, forgive and forget."

- Develop pride in our church, its mission and its history.
- Show unity in the church.
- Get excited - make something happen. Develop and share your talents.
- Don't be afraid to dream and explore. Seek, consider and explore new ideas.
- Show enthusiasm in everything you do. Don't put down anyone else's enthusiasm or beliefs. Think on it and pray for it night and day.
- Show appreciation to contributions of others.
- Support all church activities and invite others. Talk with the young people and encourage their participation.
- Take the initiative, and heal yourself and others.
- Forget the past, look forward, forgive and forget.
- Keep a smile on your face - laugh, clap, enjoy yourself.
- So let's go ONWARD and UPWARD!

"Get excited - make something happen. Take the initiative, and heal yourself and others."

Jim has spent what recreational time he has had enjoying fishing and hunting in the company of his wife Marjorie and sons James and David, and all the grandchildren.

Jim Hill has contributed much to the Historical Society and has acquired hundreds of friends along the way. He has been a reliable source of support and advice to many. For the past several years Jim and I would sit together at the table during the HS Board meetings and his thoughts and comments, both to the Board members and as asides to me, were invariably

insightful and often humorous, and always interesting and on target. He has an expanse of knowledge which allows him to offer significant opinions even in controversial subject areas. If you don't always agree with Jim, you at least get his well thought-out ideas.

I miss having his company and friendship at the Board of Directors meetings and at our reunions. His feelings for this 8th Air Force Historical Society will continue to be reflected in future issues of this news-magazine.

Jim developed a serious illness in early 1997 and was forced to give up his duties as an active Editor of the 8th AF News. The precedents which he established and the standards he set for the Voice of the Mighty Eighth are ones which will hold the Society in good stead for many years to come. He told me just the other day that his thoughts and good wishes for the Historical Society are with us daily. Ours too, and our prayers, are with you Jim.

Walter Brown, Interim Editor



PRISONER OF WAR MUSEUM OPENS AT ANDERSONVILLE

The National Prisoner of War Museum was officially opened in April 1998 at the site of the Confederate Army prison of the War Between the States. The beautiful museum complex sits on a rise overlooking the prison camp adjacent to the National cemetery at Andersonville, Georgia.

More than 3,000 people, mostly former American prisoners of war and many from the Eighth Air Force, filled a huge tent in front of the buildings to see and hear the opening ceremonies. Featured on the program were Senator John McCain of Arizona who spent more than five years as a POW in North Vietnam. Sen. McCain said in his remarks, "We commemorate the sacrifice of 800,000 Americans who served a cause greater than their self-interest and whose loyalty obliged them to suffer extraordinary deprivation and cruelty. Their humanity, so ironic and gallant in its opposition to organized inhumanity, was their glory."

The Marine Band out of Albany, Georgia played numerous patriotic songs and military marches during the ceremonies. Georgia Governor Zell Miller spoke, as did the current head of the American Ex-Prisoners of War, Wayne Hitchcock, who represented the nation's 56,000 living prisoners of war. "This is truly a gathering of eagles. They know what freedom truly is," he said. Also in attendance was Swiss Army Col. Heinrich L. Wirz, great grand-nephew of prison camp Commander Captain Henry Wirz.

The idea for a National POW Museum began back in the 1960's with groundwork being laid in 1983. Since then a concerted effort by many veteran's groups and many individuals, including those of the Mighty Eighth, accumulated the funds to begin construction. Donated artifacts and memorabilia as well as oral histories and stories are seen throughout the museum and give a broad story of the ordeals American prisoners of all wars underwent. Beyond the museum proper, enclosed in a memorial patio, are an impressive bronze sculpture, reliefs, and memorial plaques depict-

ing the atmosphere in which prisoners of war spend their day-to-day lives. There is a plaque listing the names of American soldiers who were being held in Hiroshima prisons at the time of the bombing raids on Japan. The original Andersonville stockade area extends past the memorial patio. Nearby are an archival library and a gift shop. There is a 26 minute film presentation shown hourly as a capsule of POW experiences.

The Eighth Air Force was well represented at the ceremony; 8th pins and jackets were seen throughout the crowd. Carl and Marguerite Fyler from Topeka, Kansas, Molly and Lou Lovesky, and Dick Funk were several who enjoyed the festivities. The 8th Air Force had more prisoners of war than any other numbered military unit in the history of the country, over 26,000 airmen were captured and imprisoned, most being interned in the German Stalags of World War II. The emotional opening ceremonies, the museum ribbon cutting, and the facility itself received much publicity, being shown on several national news hookups.

The National POW Museum is open daily and is located near Americus, Georgia not far from Interstate 75 south of Macon. The entire National Park grounds, with its tall pines, huge magnolias and azaleas, and the Park cemetery offer a most meaningful experience - one well worth the visit.

Editor's note: The definitive video on the Eighth Air Force POW experience has been produced by our own Al Zimmerman and is available in our PX - see the PX pages in this issue. Al's film is widely acclaimed and has won many notable awards in the film industry. Behind the Wire, produced in 1994, has won five National Telly awards, is highly recommended by the Journal of American Ex-Prisoners of War, and has followed his previous successful 8th Air Force video Start Engines Plus Fifty Years by being shown on national television on numerous occasions.



The National Prisoner of War Museum at Andersonville, Georgia



The overflow crowd of attendees at the grand opening ceremonies of the National POW Museum

THE 8th AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INVITES YOU TO REUNION '98 CHERRY HILL, NEW JERSEY OCTOBER 13 - 18, 1998

The 1998 annual reunion is quickly approaching. Mark your calendars now for a great time in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, a suburb of the Philadelphia/New Jersey area.

Cherry Hill sits at the heart of the Northeast Corridor, with easy access to dozens of different sights. Within the Cherry Hill area you will find hundreds of shops to explore, as well as nationally-known department stores and picturesque town centers. Cherry Hill puts you just six miles from Philadelphia, the "City of Brotherly Love," which will allow you the opportunity to visit the historic shrines of America's birthplace. Philadelphia is one of the oldest cities in the United States, the second largest on the east coast, and the fifth largest in the U.S. In October, temperatures average in the low to mid 60's, so the weather should be cool and comfortable. The room rate will be extended three days before and after the reunion, so you are encouraged to extend your stay.

HILTON AT CHERRY HILL

The Hilton at Cherry Hill is located at 2349 West Marlton Pike, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002 and overlooks the Philadelphia skyline as it sits alongside the scenic Cooper River. The hotel is conveniently located only 10 minutes from Center City Philadelphia and 20 minutes from the Philadelphia International Airport. The Garden State Race Track (thoroughbred/harness racing) is directly across the street from the Hilton.

This beautiful fourteen-story high-rise hotel offers 408 deluxe guest rooms. Luxury accommodations will make your stay at the Hilton restful and relaxing. Each guest room features a hair dryer, voice mail, and iron/ironing board. The hotel has a gift shop, coffee makers in all guest rooms, and a complimentary USA Today Newspaper is delivered weekdays to guests.

The group rate at the Hilton is \$79 plus tax. Please use the enclosed reservation form to make your reservations. Hilton at Cherry Hill features non-smoking guest room floors and handicapped accessible rooms. Please request either of these types of rooms, if needed, when making your hotel reservation. There is plenty of free parking available. Check-in time is after 4pm; check-out is 12noon.

If you are in need of a hospitality suite, the rate is \$275 per night, which includes one sleeping room as well as the parlor. The hotel is holding five suites at this price, so please call as soon as possible to reserve yours (609-665-5555). The parlors feature a wet bar with refrigerator, dining table, seating area, and bathroom. Most of the parlors are equal to the size of two sleeping rooms. However, please specify this request when making your reservation.

In addition to the parlor suites, we have one meeting room reserved that can be used for hospitality purposes. The cost would be \$125 per day, and the approximate size is 600 square feet. The group would be allowed to bring in their own beverages and dry snacks; however, there is no refrigerator or storage facilities. If you wish to reserve this room, please call Donna Lee at Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. as soon as possible (205-864-0825).

For your dining pleasure the following are on-site:

-Bentley's V, serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Hours are 6:30am until 11pm or midnight on weekends.

-American Bar, the hotel lounge. Hours are 11am until midnight.

-Room service is available between the hours of 6:30am and midnight.

There are several restaurants within walking distance of the Hilton at Cherry Hill. A path by the river makes this an enjoyable walking excursion.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

AIRPORT SHUTTLE

Two services are available for transportation from the Philadelphia International Airport. Both have identical fees, currently \$13/person one way. Sky Shuttle and Rapid Rover have desks located in the Baggage Claim area of the airport. Just go to the desk and request transportation to the Hilton at Cherry Hill. Both shuttle services offer 24 hour service.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

- From Atlantic City and South Jersey: Take the Atlantic City Expressway to Route 42 north to I-295 north to Exit 34. Proceed on Route 70 west approximately 4 miles to the Cuthbert Blvd./Collingswood Exit. The hotel is on the left.
- From Baltimore, Washington and all points South: Take I-95 north to the Delaware Memorial Bridge to I-295 north to Exit 34B (Cherry Hill/Route 70 west). Proceed to Route 70 west approximately 4 miles to the Cuthbert Blvd./Collingswood Exit. The hotel is on the left.
- From Harrisburg and all points west: Take the PA Turnpike to Exit 24 (Valley Forge). Follow I-76 east (Schuylkill Expressway) to 676 east to the Ben Franklin Bridge. After crossing the bridge, follow Route 30 east to Route 70 east. Hotel is on the right (approximately 5 minutes from the bridge).
- From New York City and North Jersey: Take the NJ Turnpike south to Exit 4. Then take Route 73 north (one block) to I-295 south. Exit 34B (Cherry Hill/Route 70 west). Proceed to Route 70 west approximately 4 miles to the Cuthbert Blvd./Collingswood Exit. The hotel is on the left (approximately 85 miles from New York City).

NEARBY RV PARK

RVs may be parked in the hotel parking lot. However, should hookups be required, call The Timberlane Campground, Clarksboro, NJ 08020, (609)423-6677, for information, reservations, and directions. The campground is located off I-295, Exit 18B.

WHEELCHAIRS

Should you need a wheelchair while at the reunion, Cherry Hill Pharmacy rents standard wheelchairs for \$10 per day or \$30 per week. Reservations are required as well as a \$50 refundable deposit. Please call 609-667-8700 for information.

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. See choices below and complete the Registration Form. Remit by check or money order made payable to Armed Forces Reunions (NOT '8AF REUNION') by September 11, 1998 (no credit cards or phone reservations accepted). Forms received after this date will be accepted on a space available basis only. Please complete the entire form (Member number, WWII group, etc.).
2. Your canceled check will serve as your receipt, although you are not expected to present it at registration. Confirmations will not be sent.
3. After you check into the hotel, report to our registration desk on the 1st floor to pick up your nametags, tickets, etc.
4. Full refunds will be given (less a \$3 processing fee) for cancellations received by September 24, 1998. After this date, the refund amount will depend on charges made for unused portion of services. Please call 757-625-6401 (9am-5pm EST) if you need to cancel.

MEALS / EVENTS CHOICES

CHOICE #1 TOTAL PACKAGE \$159

Package includes 7 hotel food functions starting with breakfast on Thursday. The Thursday evening dinner outing is available only in this package. Options are separate.

CHOICE #2 PARTIAL PACKAGE \$117

Package includes 5 hotel food functions starting with breakfast on Friday. Options are separate.

CHOICE #3 INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Friday Rendezvous Dinner \$29 and Saturday Banquet \$34 can be purchased separately, but are included in both packages above.

TOUR OPTIONS

Wednesday: City Tour \$26 and Dinner Cruise \$63. Thursday: Amish Country Tour \$46. Friday: Brandywine Valley Tour \$45 or Valley Forge Tour \$24. Saturday: Peddler's Village \$25 or City Tour \$21.

EIGHTH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REUNION HILTON AT CHERRY HILL (PHILADELPHIA AREA)

Tuesday, 10/13

2:00pm - 7:00pm Early Bird Registration

Wednesday, 10/14

8:00am - 10:00am Reunion Registration Open
 9:00am - Gathering Room open until Saturday, 5pm (exact hours to be determined)
 9:00am - 'Mighty Eighth' Theater open until Saturday, 5pm (exact hours tbd)
 9:00am- 4:00pm (Option) City Tour
 1:00pm - 5:00pm 'PX' open
 1:00pm - 5:00pm Reunion registration open
 6:00pm - 10:45pm (Option) Spirit of Philadelphia Dinner Cruise

Thursday, 10/15

7:00am - 8:30am Extended Continental Breakfast
 8:00am - 10:00am Reunion Registration Open
 9:00am- 4:00pm (Option) Amish Country Tour
 9:00am- 10:30am Unit Advisory Meeting
 9:00am - 5:00pm 'PX' Open
 9:00am- Memorabilia Room open until Saturday, 5pm (exact hours tbd)
 10:30am - 12:00pm Medical Advisory seminar by Dr. Walt Brown
 11:00am - 12:00pm Chapter & Unit Development Meeting
 1:00pm - 5:00pm Reunion Registration Open
 6:00pm - 10:00pm Theme Dinner at the Hotel with Entertainment

Friday, 10/16

7:00am - 8:30am Extended Continental Breakfast
 8:00am - 10:00am Reunion Registration Open
 9:00am - 10:30am Individual Group Meetings
 9:00am- 4:30pm (Option) Brandywine Valley Tour
 9:00am - 5:00pm 'PX' Open
 12:15pm - 4:45pm (Option) Valley Forge Tour
 2:30pm - 5:30pm Reunion Registration Open
 6:00pm - 7:00pm 8AF Cash Bar Reception
 7:00pm - Rendezvous Dinner and 'Hangar Flying'

Saturday, 10/17

7:00am - 8:30am Full Breakfast Buffet
 9:00am - 11:00am General Membership Meeting
 11:00am - 4:00pm 'PX' Open
 11:00am - 4:00pm (Option) Peddler's Village Shopping Trip
 1:00pm - 4:00pm (Option) City Tour
 1:00pm - 4:00pm Annual Symposium
 5:30pm - 6:00pm Reunion Registration Open
 6:00pm - 7:00pm 8AF Cash Bar Reception
 7:00pm - 11:30pm 8AF Banquet, Memorial Service, and entertainment

Sunday, 10/18

7:00am - 8:30am Extended Continental Breakfast
 8:30am - 9:00am Catholic Service, tentative
 8:30am- 9:00am Protestant Service, tentative
 9:15am - 8th AFHS Annual Board Meeting

Until Next Year in Savannah, GA

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REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

1 9 9 8 R F C N Z - O N WEDNESDAY - CITY TOUR

9:00 Board bus for the "City of Brotherly Love."

9:30 Begin a guided tour of historic Philadelphia at the Liberty Bell Pavilion. This glass-enclosed building houses the bell which symbolizes our nation's freedom. Proceed to Independence Hall where the Declaration of Independence was adopted and the United States Constitution was written. Originally built as the State House for the Province of Pennsylvania, it is now one of the most visited historic buildings in Philadelphia.

12:00 Free time and lunch on your own at one of Philadelphia's downtown shopping/dining complexes.

1:30 Reboard bus to continue the tour. Stop by Elfreth's Alley, the oldest residential street in America, where thirty houses date from 1728 to 1836. Then move on to the Betsy Ross House where the first United States flag was made. The final stop of the day is at Christ Church where patriots, loyalists, heroes, and traitors have worshiped since 1695. Sit in pews once occupied by George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and Betsy Ross. Guides from the church narrate the history of the building and its famous parishioners. Parts of the city tour require walking.

4:00 Back to the hotel.

\$26/Person includes bus and guide. Lunch is not included.

WEDNESDAY - DINNER CRUISE

6:00 Board bus for the Philadelphia waterfront.

6:30 Begin boarding the Spirit of Philadelphia for a three-hour dinner cruise. Feast on a lavish three-entree buffet, and then sit back and enjoy a performance by your servers. Take a walk on the open air deck and view the lighted city skyline, or dance the night away to live music.

10:00 Reboard bus to return to the hotel by 10:45pm.

\$63/Person includes bus, escort, and dinner cruise.

THURSDAY - AMISH COUNTRY TOUR

9:00 Board bus for a tour of the Amish Countryside and visit an Old Order Amish farm.

10:30 Begin a respectfully conducted lecture and tour through ten rooms of this authentic exhibit. You will learn the history, religion, customs, and way of life of the Old Order Amish. Embark on a self-guided tour of a typical Pennsylvania Dutch Farm - in operation!

11:45 Reboard bus and proceed with a guided tour of the Amish Country. Horse-drawn carriages are a common sight; the bustle of modern life seems centuries away.

1:00 Enjoy an authentic Pennsylvania Dutch family-style meal featuring three country meats, four vegetable dishes including dried corn and mashed potatoes, fresh baked breads, and five desserts including the famous wet-bottom shoo-fly pie.

2:30 Reboard bus to return to the hotel by 4pm.

\$46/Person includes bus, guide, admission, and lunch.

THURSDAY - DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT AT HOTEL

6:00 Cash Bar.

7:00 "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" theme dinner begins. Enjoy a casual buffet including hot dogs, Philly Cheese Steaks and barbecue chicken. After dinner, relax while listening to the entertainment: Sweet Adelines and a men's chorus.

Price included in Choice #1 only.

FRIDAY - BRANDYWINE VALLEY TOUR

9:00 Board bus for a tour of the beautiful Brandywine Valley.

10:00 Discover 240 acres of history along the banks of the Brandywine River as you tour Hagley, the original du Pont mills, estate, and gardens. The museum offers a diversity of restorations, exhibits, and demonstrations. See a massive water wheel, a vintage steam engine, a machine shop, and more. Visit Eleutherian Mills, the charming Georgian-style 1803 residence of E.I. du Pont.

12:00 Reboard bus for Longwood Gardens. Enjoy lunch on your own in the cafeteria.

1:30 Begin your walking tour of the gardens. Explore American and European landscape garden styles, with over 11,000 varieties of plants displayed throughout outdoor gardens and twenty indoor conservatories.

3:30 Reboard bus to return to the hotel by 4:30pm.

\$45/Person includes bus, guide, and admissions. Lunch is not included.

REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

FRIDAY - VALLEY FORGE TOUR

- 12:15 After having an early lunch on your own, board bus for a guided tour of Valley Forge National Historical Park.
- 1:15 Stop at the Visitor Center for a fifteen minute film on the surrounding park. Begin a guided tour past the extensive remains and reconstructions of major forts and lines of earthworks, the Artillery Park, Washington's Headquarters, and the Grand Parade grounds where General von Steuben rebuilt the army and news of the French alliance was announced in 1778. These, plus reconstructed huts, memorials, monuments, and markers, tell the story of the men at Valley Forge who wrote an imperishable chapter in the history of America's struggle for independence. The last stop on the tour is at the chapel and museum, which contains artifacts relating to the Revolution.
- 3:45 Reboard bus to return to the hotel by 4:45pm.

\$24/Person includes bus, guide, and admission.

FRIDAY - RENDEZVOUS DINNERS

After a Cash Bar Reception, gather in your respective banquet rooms for dinner with your individual groups. Bomb Groups (FGs, PRGs, etc.) with approximately fifty or more people in attendance will have a private room. Smaller groups will be combined with others. Think of this as your "reunion within the reunion."

Cost is included in both Meal Packages (or \$29 separately)

SATURDAY - PEDDLER'S VILLAGE

- 11:00 Board bus for Peddler's Village, in historic Buck's County, Pennsylvania.
- 12:00 Enjoy shopping on your own in seventy shops built around a beautiful garden area. You may want to visit the Carousel Museum and ride on their antique carousel (admission not included). Enjoy lunch on your own in one of eight restaurants.
- 3:00 Reboard bus to return to the hotel by 4pm.

\$25/Person includes bus and guide. Lunch is not included.

SATURDAY - CITY TOUR

- 1:00 Board bus for the "City of Brotherly Love."
- 1:30 Begin a guided tour of historic Philadelphia at the Liberty Bell Pavilion. This glass-enclosed building houses the bell which symbolizes our nation's freedom. Proceed to Independence Hall where the Declaration of Independence was adopted and the United States Constitution was written. Originally built as the State House for the Province of Pennsylvania, it is now one of the most visited historic buildings in Philadelphia.
- 4:30 Back at the hotel.

\$21/Person includes bus and guide.

SATURDAY - SYMPOSIUM, "Combat Crew Member Stress...The Flight Surgeons' Story"

- 1:00 Professional flight medical personnel will examine the individual medical and psychological stresses faced by many aircrew men during WWII combat missions and by those engaged in today's high-tech warfare operations. It is a not-to-be missed program for any 8AFer who ever observed the mental sufferings which occurred among some of their fellow comrades. This symposium will be moderated by Roger Freeman, our own widely acclaimed historian.

SATURDAY - ANNUAL BANQUET AND DANCE

Enjoy a Cash Bar Reception and then assemble in the hotel ballroom for the Posting of the Colors and the Memorial Service. Later, dinner will consist of your choice of london broil with caramelized onions and mushroom demi-glaze or spinach stuffed flounder with lemon basil sauce, along with the usual accompaniments. Following dinner, awards will be given to active duty members of the 8th Air Force and Roger Freeman will speak about the "Friendly Invasion." Finally, entertainment will be a "USO-style" show.

Cost is included in both Meal Packages (or \$34 separately)

Driver and guide gratuities are not included in the tour prices.

ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM - CUT OFF DATE: SEPTEMBER 11, 1998

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NAMES (for nametags) _____
 ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____
 PH. NUMBER (____) _____ 1st 8AFHS REUNION? yes or no CHECK ____ IF LIFE MEMBER
 8AFHS MEMBERSHIP # _____ WWII GROUP (for seating arrangements) _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

	PRICE PER	x	NO. OF PEOPLE	=	AMOUNT
<i>Registration Fee</i>					
Mandatory Registration Fee includes Unit Rebates, Symposium, 8AFMMF memorial plans, postage, etc.	\$32.50	x	_____	=	_____
<i>Meal Packages</i>					
Choice #1 Total Package (7 meals)	\$159	x	_____	=	_____
Choice #2 Partial Package (5 meals)	\$117	x	_____	=	_____
Please note Banquet Choice (included in both packages):					
London Broil # _____ or Spinach Stuffed Flounder # _____					
<i>Individual Meals (if not purchasing a package)</i>					
Friday Rendezvous Dinner (Chicken Marsala)	\$29	x	_____	=	_____
Saturday Banquet	\$34	x	_____	=	_____
Please note Banquet Choice (if purchasing separately):					
London Broil # _____ or Spinach stuffed Flounder # _____					
<i>Events Section (Options)</i>					
<u>Wednesday</u>					
City Tour	\$26	x	_____	=	_____
Dinner Cruise	\$63	x	_____	=	_____
<u>Thursday</u>					
Amish Country Tour	\$46	x	_____	=	_____
<u>Friday</u>					
Brandy Wine Valley Tour (choose one of these two)	\$45	x	_____	=	_____
Valley Forge Tour	\$24	x	_____	=	_____
<u>Saturday</u>					
Peddler's Village (choose one of these two)	\$25	x	_____	=	_____
City Tour	\$21	x	_____	=	_____
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE TO ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.					\$ _____

Mail by 9/11/98 to: **Armed Forces Reunions / PO Box 11327 / Norfolk, VA 23517 / ATTN: 8th AF**
 ***** CUT HERE AND MAIL BOTTOM PORTION TO HOTEL *****

THE 8th AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOTEL RESERVATION FORM - OCT. 13 - 18, 1998

NAME _____ SHARING ROOM WITH: _____
 ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____
 ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____ 1 KING ____ or 2 DOUBLES ____
 # OF ROOMS NEEDED ____ # OF PEOPLE IN ROOM ____ SPECIAL REQUESTS _____

Rate: \$79 + tax (currently 6%)
Cut off date: 9/11/98 - Reservations received after the cut off date will be processed on a space available basis.
Cancellation policy: Deposit is refundable if reservation is canceled 72 hours in advance. Hotel phone 609-665-6666.
 Please include first night's deposit by check (payable to Hilton at Cherry Hill) or credit card to confirm your reservation.
 ____ AMEX ____ DINERS ____ MASTER CARD ____ VISA ____ DISCOVER ____ CARTE BLANCHE

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____
 SIGNATURE (regardless of payment method) _____

MAIL TO: **HILTON AT CHERRY HILL / 2349 WEST MARLTON PIKE / CHERRY HILL, NJ 08002**

ALABAMA CHAPTER

The Annual Business Meeting was held in Birmingham Feb. 20th with 40 members and guests present. Charles Beard and Glenn Taylor had beautiful pictures of our Memorial Monument which is now installed in Heritage Museum's Memorial Garden. Charles Beard, member of the Museum Board of Directors, announced the Museum now has 6,600 members; these members and guests provided the Pooler, Ga. area with over \$1,000,000 in revenues during the past year. New Officers for 1998 and Directors for 1998-1999 were nominated, elected and installed. Central Ala. Wing Comm. Louis Kline invited us to meet with his Wing Feb. 27th at Holiday Inn, Prattville. Bill Massey talked on his trials as an evadee in France and also tell of his V.I.P. treatment at the last space shuttle launching with his nephew as pilot. The North Alabama Wing met February 6th at the Hometown Buffet in Huntsville. Sec. Ann Vaughn reported 26 members and guests present. Commander Dave Stimley gave an interesting report on the Wing's participation in Huntsville's Veteran's Day Parade. Many people gave enthusiastic response when they recognized our 8th AF banner displayed on the convertible. President Arnold presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Bill Varnedoe who helped organize the North Alabama Wing and became its first Commander. Dave Stimley showed a documentary video, "The 100th Bomb Group Mission over Schweinfurt and Regensburg" which was well received by all.

CENTRAL ALABAMA WING

The Central Alabama Wing met at the Holiday Inn in Prattville on Friday, February 27. Wing Commander Louis Kline welcomed 31 members and guests from Montgomery and Ozark. Linda Walter had an interesting display of books, magazines and memorabilia.

Speaker Bill Massey, Birmingham, an evadee for 76 days in France, didn't get a change of clothes for the whole 76 days. The Allies used white parachutes while the enemy used colored

ones necessitating our downed airmen to dispose of their chutes. Bill had to change his location frequently while working his way toward England. He said the French underground was working with 200 evadees during the time they were helping him. A rescue plane sent from England landed at night in France, and picked up Bill, along with 15 other evadees and flew them back to England.

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

The State Chapter had a general meeting in January. The speaker was Everett Cassagneres, who is recognized as an expert historian of Charles Lindbergh. His talk was very interesting and informative. On March 23 the dedication of our memorial monument at the Heritage Museum in Savannah was held. In attendance were several members of the Chapter.

In early April we gathered for our semi-annual luncheon, which was enjoyed by 77 members. Our annual picnic will be held in June, as usual.

For Chapter information, please contact Art Ruggiero at (203) 488-8754.

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA/GENERAL CURTIS E. LEMAY CHAPTER will hold a reorganization meeting, May 9, 1998, at the Golden Dragon Restraunt in Los Angeles, CA. The program will feature Violet Cowden, President of the Women's Army Service Pilots, WWII. New officers will be elected and future plans call for two meetings per year rather than our traditional one. (Submitted by R.C. Baynes)

GEORGIA CHAPTER

The Savannah Wing of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society meets every third Tuesday of the month at 8th Air Force Heritage Museum at 6:15 P.M. For membership information please contact Art Howe (912-354-6880).

1998 Duly Elected Officers

Chairman: Perry G. Sessoms
Wing Commander: Paul C. Grassey
Vice Wing Commander: Donald G. Hahn
Sec. Treasurer: Richard P. Gehrke

ILLINOIS CHAPTER

Last month we had an unusual guest from our norm, he was a WWII anti-tank officer, Zinovy Futerman. He was a Captain on the WWII Russian Army and was also at Poltava before our Shuttle Mission veterans got there. Last meeting we held our annual elections and the results are:

President: Terry Carlson **Vice President:** Mel Brandt **Treasurer:** Jim Tvrdik **Secretary:** Jay Spitzer **Board Member:** George Honchiarevich **Board Member:** Florence Richards
The 1st five are incumbents, (thanks for continuing) the last one, our first woman!! Welcome.

KENTUCKY CHAPTER

The members of the Kentucky Chapter are looking forward to a great weekend in Savannah on May 15 -17 when they will travel en masse to dedicate the Kentucky Chapter memorial monument at the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum. They have raised a total of over \$10,000 to place the impressive memorial which honors 8th AF veterans from Kentucky; people across the state have contributed. All are invited to attend the ceremonies at the museum on Sunday, May 17 at 10:30 AM.

MINNESOTA CHAPTER

ACE OF ACES MEMORIAL PLANNED
Minnesota Chapter members played a role in the recent unveiling of a replica of the P-38 that Major Richard Bong flew in the Pacific where he was credited with 40 victories over Jap planes. Volunteers worked more than 16,000 hours to put this P-38, named 'Marge' in shape for display. It will be housed at a Heritage Center at Superior, Wisconsin, 15 miles from Bong's birthplace.

It's purpose is to "Preserve the memory of America's ACE of ACES and other brave men and women who defended our freedom in World War II".

Pictures indicate there were hundreds of young and old at Polar Aviation Museum, Blaine, Minnesota, to hear Bong's widow review his experiences. Marge Bong Drucker stated that "our youth these days have no sense of

what a real hero is. I try to remind them of the sacrifices people like Richard made for us--the selfless bravery they showed on a daily basis to preserve our freedom."

Donations can be made to the Bong Heritage Center, Box 326, Poplar, WI 54864. It is a 501(c) (3) organization.

MISSISSIPPI CHAPTER

The Mississippi Chapter held its eighth annual reunion at Lake Tiak O'Khata, near Louisville, Mississippi, on April 24-26, 1998. Officers elected included: Homer King, President, John L. Walker, Vice-President, Kathryn MacNeill, Secretary and Ernest J. Adcock, Treasurer. The Chapter is working on an anthology entitled, *Mississippians in the Mighty Eighth*, and a documentary video featuring its chartered bus trip to Savannah to dedicate the Mississippi Monument in the Memorial Gardens at the Heritage Museum. A new project was authorized by the Board: to set up a Speaker's Bureau to provide speakers from our membership for civic clubs, school groups and other potential listeners to the story of *The Mighty Eighth*.

NEBRASKA CHAPTER

The officers for 1998 are:

President - Homer Sheridan

Vice-President - Bob Mahan

Secretary - Eleanor Anderson

Treasurer - Bob Hess

Director - George Wolfe (Four year term)

NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER

The annual North Carolina Chapter meeting, under the leadership of President Jim Phillips and his Board, was held in Greensboro in April, 1998. The three Chapter Wings, the Eastern Wing, the Metrolina Wing, and the Western Wing members all met together at this central location for enjoyable business and social activities. The three Wings continue to hold very successful meetings and functions throughout the year.

CENTRAL NEW YORK REGION

The officers for 1998 are:

President: Louis R. Lupi

Vice President: George Honor

Sec/Tres. Ken Weisl

Editor: Ken Weisl

Don't forget our annual Banquet May 15th, at the Woodlin Club.

OHIO CHAPTER

The annual meeting will be May 29, 30 & 31, 1998 at the Regal Cincinnati Hotel, 150 W. 5th Street in downtown Cincinnati. Much is planned for this weekend. Our speaker will be General Paul Tibbets - pilot of Enola Gay. General Tibbets has written a new book, *Flight of the Enola Gay*.

OREGON CHAPTER

The Chapter is looking forward to having W. R. 'Beads' Popp speak at the quarterly May meeting at the Elk's Club in Beaverton. He was a Navy pilot in the VF-17 'Jolly Rogers' Group. Beads was carrier-based part of his time and has many stories about his missions to Rabaul and Bouganville in the Pacific War. The Chapter's next meeting will be August 6th, 1998.

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

The Pennsylvania Chapter will hold their statewide annual reunion at Lebanon, PA on June 19-22 according to President Dick Scott. The reunion is headed up by Gen. Frank Smoker who will assure a pleasurable and productive meeting for all attendees. The Western Wing, the Delaware Valley Squadron and the Scranton Squadron are active with luncheons, informal dinners and speaker programs and socials in their areas of the state. Contact Pete Ardizzi at 215-675-9194 for detailed reunion information.

TENNESSEE CHAPTER

The annual reunion meeting of the Tennessee Chapter will be held on June 12 - 14, 1998 in Lebanon, TN. Hosted by Jim Bass, Chapter Legal Advisor, and Clyde White, Director, a packed schedule of events awaits all attendees. Chapter officers for the upcoming year will be elected. Those wishing to join their friends in the 8th

and enjoy Middle Tennessee in early summer should contact John Harold Robinson, Scty-Treasurer; 355 Red Wolf Drive; Collierville, TN 38017 - 6842.

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

Colonel Knox Bishop, USAF Combat Veteran and Aviation Historian presented the April program and spoke on the B-52 combat role and his work at the Frontiers of Flight Museum.

WISCONSIN CHAPTER

1998 Meeting dates are:

Tuesday June 2, 1998

Tuesday September 1, 1998

Tuesday December 1, 1998

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

We need your cooperation. We get a rebate for each paid up member by the first of the year on yearly dues for 1998, for both the National and the Chapter. Send your dues to: Robert Abresch, 15250 Fieldstone Drive, Brookfield, WI. 53005-4546.



Eighth Air Force Historical Society PX News ***Spring 1998***

Greetings to all! Thank you to all of those who ordered from the PX in the last few months. We have received some terrific responses to our new PX as format. Members have commented that the order form is much easier to read and more "user friendly." Your comments are much appreciated.

With the dawning of our new newsletter format, we have decided, along with the advice of the editors, to make the 8th AFHS PX News and Order form a separate insert within the newsletter. This new format allows the editors more magazine space and an opportunity to print additional 8th Air Force related stories, business news, reunion information, etc. We don't want to turn the 8th AFHS News into a publication that is nothing but advertising. It will also save the member from ripping his 8th AF News to shreds to obtain the PX order pages. We will continue to make the PX order page a separate insert to the magazine, and we hope that you will find this easier to use.

We are very pleased to announce the addition of a few new items to our PX pages. In our book selection, we are offering for a limited time only, the new re-print of the air-war classic "**Thunderbolt**" by Robert S. Johnson. Col. Johnson, of the 56th FG, was the first pilot in the E.T.O. to surpass Eddie Rickenbacker's 26-victory record of WWI. These softcover editions are personally autographed by Col. Johnson exclusively for the **8th AFHS "PX"**. These are sure to be a collector's item...get them while they last!

Another new book that we are featuring as a new item is a masterful work entitled "**Fortresses of the Triangle First,**" by Cliff Bishop. This book documents the actions of the **1st Air Division** from 1942 to mid-1944. It is a very difficult book to find here in the United States, but we fortunately have obtained copies of this marvelous research work. If you were in the **1AD**, do not miss this superb book.

We still have inventory remaining of these out-of-print titles, **Mighty Eighth War Diary**, by Roger Freeman and **Over Here—The Americans in Norfolk during WWII**, by Steve Snelling. If these are not in your library, order them now to avoid disappointment.

A very welcome edition to our book inventory is the re-printed version of "**The Interrogator.**" This is the fascinating story of Hanns Joachim Scharff, Master interrogator of the Luftwaffe. This story is simply amazing. If you have any interest in 8th AF POW stories, this book is for you. I just re-read it after many years, and found it very hard to put down. You won't be disappointed with this one!

Lastly, we continue to offer the two video's which were produced by the 8th AFHS, **Start Engines—Plus 50 Years and Behind the Wire**. Both of these tapes are award winning documentaries and have not been available in our PX for quite sometime. We are very pleased to offer these tapes to the membership again. If you have not seen them, treat yourself!

Until next time, stay healthy and well! We look forward to hearing from you very soon! It is our pleasure to serve you! Cheers!



Mark and Monica Copeland
8th Air Force Historical Society PX Managers

**REMOVABLE PX
4 PAGE INSERT**



Please use the latest PX page when ordering.

Prices listed are good through 1 August 1998.

QTY.			TOTAL
—	B7	Airfields of the Eighth, Then & Now , Roger Freeman, 1987. Hdbd. Each 8th AF base is presented in this 'must-have' book. The history of the base, and the 'then and now' photos illustrate this great work!	\$ 35.00
OTHER 8TH AIR FORCE BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM THE PX			
—	B8	Mustang Aces of the 8th Air Force , Jerry Scutts, 1994. Stbd., 7 1/4" x 10", 96 pp. 103 b/w photos, 66 color profile paintings. History of P-51 Mustang aces of the 8th AF. Covers all 8th AF Fighter Groups and respective aces.	\$ 15.95
—	B9	Fighter Command , Ethell & Sand, 1992. Hdbd, 10" x 10", 180 pp. American fighters of WWII in color. The story of the men, airplanes, bases, and countryside, plus excellent first-person accounts from WWII fighter pilots. Illustrated with over 200 original color photos! Terrific book!	\$ 29.95
—	B10	Bomber Command , Ethell, 1993. Hdbd, 10" x 10", 180pp. American bombers of WWII in color. Unique collection of USAAC bombers in original color photos. First hand accounts from bomber crewmen. Excellent book!	\$ 29.95
—	B11	Big Week: The Classic Story of the Crucial Air Battle of World War II , Infeld, 1992. 6 1/4" x 9 1/2", 125 pp. The most critical time of the 8th Air Force - February 1944. Complete and detailed history of the most decisive period in 8th Air Force history.	\$ 16.95
—	B12	Eighth Air Force Bomber Stories , McLachlan, 1993. Hdbd, 6 3/4" x 9 1/2", 208 pp., 150 photos. Gripping, graphic and honest first-hand accounts from 8th Air Force bomber crew experiences. Set against previously unpublished photos, this book paints a vivid picture of life as a bomber crewman in the 8th Air Force. Great reading!	\$ 37.95
—	B13	The Mighty Eighth: The Air War in Europe as Told by the Men who Fought It , Astor, 1997. Hdbd, 6" x 9", 464 pp., 16 b/w photos. New book that chronicles the first-hand accounts of 8th Air Force combat crewmen. Very nicely formatted. Super book!	\$ 26.95
—	B14	From Somewhere in England , Lande D. A., 1991. Hdbd, 8 1/2" x 11". Nostalgic look at life in the Eighth Air Force during WWII. Well written and superbly illustrated. Great "then-and-now" photos!	\$ 29.95
—	B15	Bloody Skies , McGuire and Hadley, 1990. Hdbd, 448pp., 6" x 8 3/4", photos. An outstanding account of the air war over Europe and the 15th Air Force. Autographed by the authors!	\$ 22.95
—	B16	8th Air Force Yearbook (reprint); Hdbd., 224 pp. Pictorial. Superb photo book published especially for the 8th Air Force Historical Society members. Terrific book!	\$ 32.95
—	B17	The Evader , Harry A. Dolph. Stbd. An American airman's story of eight months with the Dutch underground. Readers' Digest January 1994 condensed book selection.	\$ 18.95
—	B18	Raiders of the Reich: Air Battle - Western Europe 1942-1945 , Bowman & Bolten, 1996. Hdbd, 6" x 9". 224 pp., 32 b&w photos. Superb book giving vivid accounts from not only Allied aircrews, but Luftwaffe fighter pilots. Interesting reading and captivating stories from both sides.	\$ 29.95
—	B19	Thunderbolt! R.S. Johnson. Stbd, 6" x 9", 307pp., 17 photos. The classic memoir of 56th FG ace Robert S. Johnson, the first American WWII fighter pilot to top Eddie Rickenbacker's WWI record of 26 aerial victories. <i>Col. Johnson has autographed these editions especially for us!</i>	\$ 19.95
—	B20	US 8th Air Force in Camera - Volume 1- Pearl harbor to Big Week 1941-1944 , Bowman. Hdbd, 7 3/4" x 10 1/2", 192 pp., 220 b/w photos. Fully illustrated in black and white photos, author captures a pictorial aspect of the Mighty Eighth at war!	\$ 29.95
—	B21	The 8th Air Force Album , 1978, Hdbd. 9" x 12", 224 pp. Photo essay of the 8th Air Force in WWII. 1150 photos, including 250 nose art photos. Published by the 8th Air Force Historical Society. Excellent book!	\$ 29.95
—	B22	Air War Europa , Hammel, 1997. Strbd. This fine book gives a day-to-day account of the air war over Europe. A great book to guide you through the greatest air battles the world has ever seen!	\$ 19.95
—	B23	Eyes of the Eighth , Keen, 1997. Hdbd. Explore the heroic exploits of the 7th Photo Reconnaissance Group in this unique and exceptional unit history. Author Pat Keen gives the reader an insightful account of the 'Photo Joes' of the 8th AF.	\$ 49.95
—	B24	Fortresses of the Triangle First - Bishop, Hdbd, 320 pp., 251 ill. An extremely detailed history of the 1st Bombardment Wing from 1942-44. Covers each squadron with mission lists, missing in action, crashed and salvaged aircraft. Includes a complete listing of all serial numbers. Meticulously researched! Very highly recommended.	\$ 40.00
—	B25	B-17 Flying Fortress , Hess, 1994. Stbd., 9" x 10 1/2", 144pp., 107 b/w photos, 33 color, 1 map. This tribute to the B-17 is filled with design, manufacture and combat records. plus rare color photos from WWII showing aircraft, nose art, and crews. A very nice tribute to the 'Fort'.	\$ 24.95
—	B26	USAAF Fighter Stories: Dramatic Accounts of American Fighter Pilots in Training and Combat Over Europe in World War 2 , McLachlan, 1997. Hdbd, 6 1/2" x 9", 192 pp., 180 photos. Well illustrated accounts of training, combat, bail-out dramas, POW, and evadee adventures. Stories from the 4th, 20th, 55th, 78th, 339th, 352nd, 356th, 361st, and 364th FG personnel. Aircraft archeology stories. Great book!	\$ 39.95
—	B27	B-24 Liberator , Johnsen, 1992. Stbd, 9" x 10 1/2", 144 pp., 106 b/w photos, 41 color, 7 diagrams. A tribute to the mighty 'Lib'. Series of design, manufacture, combat records, production facts, engines and armament. Nice book!	\$ 24.95
—	B28	Called to Command - The Life of General Gerald Johnson , Johnson, 1996. Hdbd., photos. Remarkable story of 56th FG ace Gerald Johnson. Courage, dedication to duty, commitment and luck describe this wonder ful look at his incredible life.	\$ 29.95



Please use the latest PX page when ordering.

Prices listed are good through 1 August 1998.

8TH AIR FORCE LOGO PATCHES

QTY.		TOTAL
___	P1 4" Jacket Patch (Blue/White with 8th AF emblem)	\$ 3.95
___	P2 Special Blazer patch (Gold Bouillon thread)	\$ 19.95
___	P3 8th AF Shoulder Patch (wartime patch reproduction)	\$ 2.95
___	P4 Deluxe 8th AF Shoulder Patch (Gold Bouillon thread)	\$ 17.95

JEWELRY

___	J1 3/4 inch 8th AFHS Lapel Pin	\$ 2.75
___	J2 3/4 inch 8th AFHS Life Member Lapel Pin	\$ 3.25
___	J3 1 1/4 inch 8th AFHS Lapel Pin	\$ 4.95
___	J4 8th AFHS Tie Tac (Regular)	\$ 3.95
___	J5 8th AFHS Tie Tac (Life Member)	\$ 4.50
___	J6 B-17 Belt Buckle, (Pewter finish)	\$ 13.95
___	J7 B-24 Belt Buckle, (Pewter finish)	\$ 13.95
___	J8 8th AF Bolo Tie	
___	___ Gold Medallion Clasp with Black Rope	\$ 17.95
___	___ Silver Medallion Clasp with Black Rope	\$ 17.95
___	___ Gold Medallion Clasp with Gold Rope	\$ 17.95
___	J9 Solid Pewter Tie Tacs @ \$6.95 each	\$ 6.95
	<i>please circle your choice(s)</i>	
	B-17 B-24 P-47 P-51 P-38	
___	J10 Key ring Tabs @ \$6.95 each	\$ 3.95
	<i>please circle your choice(s)</i>	
	B-17 B-24 P-47 P-51 P-38	
___	J11 8th AF Key Ring - Metal key ring with 8th AF emblem	\$ 3.95
___	J12 Gold Ladies 8th AF Bow Broach Pin	\$ 8.95
___	J13 Ladies Gold plated Earrings, 8th AF emblem (pierced ears only)	\$ 12.95
___	J14 Miniature Wings - lapel type	\$ 4.95
	<i>please circle your choice</i>	
	Crew Member Pilot	

AUTOMOTIVE ACCESSORIES

___	A1 8th AF Logo Metal Grille Ornament	\$ 12.95
___	A2 8th AF License Plate - 6"x12"	\$ 3.95
___	A3 8th AF License Plate Holder (one per order)	\$ 5.95
___	A4 8th AF Bumper Stickers @ .90 each	\$.90
	or 3 Bumper Stickers for \$2.00	\$ 2.00
___	A5 8th AF 4" Sticker @ .75 each	\$.75
	or 3 Stickers for \$2.00	\$ 2.00
___	A6 8th AF 3 1/4" Inside Decals @ .75 each	\$.75
	or 3 Inside Decals for \$2.00	\$ 2.00



CLOTHING

QTY.		TOTAL
___	C1 8th AF Cap - Good Quality - Fits all sizes	\$ 8.95
___	C2 8th AF Cap - Better Quality - Fits all sizes	\$ 16.95
___	C3 T-Shirts - 8th AF logo in full color	
	<i>Please indicate size(s) wanted</i>	
	___S ___M ___L ___XL -----	\$ 9.95
	___XXL -----	\$ 11.95
___	C4 Sweatshirts - 8th AF logo in full color	
	<i>Please indicate size(s) wanted</i>	
	___S ___M ___L ___XL -----	\$ 18.95
	___XXL -----	\$ 21.95
___	C5 Golf Shirts - 8th AF logo in blue	
	<i>Please indicate size(s) wanted</i>	
	___S ___M ___L ___XL -----	\$ 20.00
	___XXL -----	\$ 22.00
___	C6 A-2 Jacket, genuine goatskin	
	<i>Order one size larger than your suit size</i>	
	Indicate ___Regular ___Long	\$190.00
	<i>Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery</i>	

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

___	M1 8th AF Wall Clock	\$ 19.95
___	M2 Grave Markers - 5 7/8" Diameter, with metal stake	
	___Aluminum	\$ 15.00
	___Bronze	\$ 80.00
	___Please check here if you would prefer a flush mount for bronze marker.	
___	M3 Bronze Coin/Medallion, 2" diameter - WAS \$6.95, now	\$ 4.50
___	M4 8th AF Luggage Tags	\$ 4.25
	or 2 for \$7.95	\$ 7.95
___	M5 8th AF Zipper Letter Opener	\$ 2.00
	or 3 for \$4.95	\$ 4.95

8TH AIR FORCE BOOKS

QTY.		TOTAL
	ROGER FREEMAN BOOKS: THE FOLLOWING POPULAR HARDCOVER BOOKS WERE WRITTEN BY NOTED 8TH AF HISTORIAN ROGER FREEMAN	
___	B1 Mighty Eighth in Color , Roger Freeman, 1992. Hdbd, 8 1/2 x 11, 160pp, 426 color illustrations. Take a nostalgic trip back to England 1942-45 with this magnificent book of all color WW2 photos. Superb!	\$ 35.00
___	B2 Mighty Eighth Warpaint & Heraldry , Roger Freeman, 1997. Hdbd, 8 1/2 x 11, 160 pp, Color photos.  The latest edition from 8th AF historian Freeman. Examines the colors, markings and heraldry of every 8th AF unit. A must have book!	\$ 34.95
___	B3 Mighty Eighth War Diary , Roger Freeman, 1990 (revised). Hdbd, 8 1/2 x 11, 300+ pages. 2nd book in the trilogy of Freeman 8th AF histories. Day-by-day accounts of 8th AF activities, missions and losses. A great history! Please note this book is now out of print- order now to avoid disappointment.	\$ 49.95
___	B4 Claims to Fame: The B-17 Flying Fortress , Freeman & Birdsall, 1993. Sftbd, 6 1/4 x 9 1/2. Study of the most famous B-17s of WW2 -- longest serving, most damaged, etc. All studies are meticulously researched. Fascinating!	\$ 16.95
___	B5 Mighty Eighth in Art , Roger Freeman, 1996. Hdbd, 11 1/4 x 9, 160pp. Remarkable collection of aviation art relating to the 8th AF. Beautiful book! Highly recommended!	\$ 39.95
___	B6 Raiding the Reich: The Allied Strategic Bombing Offensive in Europe , Roger Freeman, 1996. Hdbd, 8 3/4 x 11 1/4, 160 pp,  260 b/w photos. Study of the 'Round the Clock' bombing theory. Another Freeman classic!	\$ 29.95

8TH AIR FORCE



PX ORDER PAGE

Please use the latest PX page when ordering.

Prices listed are good through 1 August 1998.

QTY.			TOTAL
—	B29 America's Aces in a Day , Hess, 6" x 9", 192pp., 50 photos. William Hess brilliantly chronicles the combat records of American pilots that achieved the status of "Ace in a day". Covers USAAF, Navy, Marines - 1941-45.	\$ 19.95	_____
—	B30 B-17 Nose Art Directory , Forman, 1995. Stbd, 8 1/2" x 11", 96 pp., 32 photos. For the benefit of the aviation researcher and enthusiast, Forman has categorized over 8200 B-17 serial numbers and respective nose art names.	\$ 15.95	_____
—	B31 German Jets vs the US Army Air Force- Battle for the Skies Over Europe , Hess, 1996. In late summer 1944, an awesome new weapon took to the skies over Europe - the jet fighter. Hess explores this radical change in air combat in WWII, with interviews of both American and German airmen about tactics and defense. Superb book!	\$ 19.95	_____
—	B32 The Interrogator , The Story of Hanns Joachim Scharff, Master interrogator of the Luftwaffe. hdbd, 6" x 9", 352 pp., 150+ photos. The amazing story of the man who questioned captured 8th AF fighter and bomber crewmen during WWII. Long out of print!	\$ 29.95	_____
—	B33 Over Here- The Americans in Norfolk during WWII , Snelling, 1994. Hdbd. Well-illustrated. For a limited time only, we are offering this now out-of-print book. Mainly detailing the 2nd Air Division, this book chronicles the life of crewmen at bases around the Norwich area.	\$ 34.95	_____
—	Squadron Signal's In Action series: Stbd. Excellent quick reference on specific aircraft. The perfect gift for a grandchild! Circle your choice.	\$ 7.95	_____
	_____ B-17 _____ B-24 _____ P-51 _____ P-47 _____ P-38		

8TH AIR FORCE VIDEOS

QTY.			TOTAL
—	V1 Pistol Packin' Mama , 60 minutes. Story of the crew of the Pistol Packin' Mama B-17 crew from the 390th BG. Their story is heart-wrenching, emotional and extremely stimulating. Very highly recommended!	\$ 24.95	_____
—	V2 Wing and a Prayer: The Story of Utah Man , 58 minutes. August 1, 1943 - Target, Ploesti, Rumania. One of the most infamous missions in which the 8th AF participated. Emmy award winner. Absolutely wonderful!	\$ 24.95	_____
—	V3 Start Engines -- Plus 50 Years , 60 minutes. Excellent video covering all aspects of life in the 8th Air Force during WWII. Produced by the 8th AFHS. Highly recommended!	\$ 24.95	_____
—	V4 Behind the Wire , 80+ minutes. Superb documentary focusing on the German POW experience. Great first-person accounts. Don't miss this award-winning film. Produced by the 8th AFHS.	\$ 24.95	_____

Quantities are limited on Sale Items

SALE ITEMS!

Sale prices good through 1 August 1998

QTY.			TOTAL
—	S1 Bronze Coin Medallions - 2" diameter 50th Anniversary commemorative Medallion. 8th Air Force emblem embossed on front. Very nice gift item. Was \$6.95 -- now only \$4.50!	\$ 4.50	_____
—	S2 SALE BOOK The Weathermen Let Them Fly - Story of the 8th AF Weather Squadrons, Brown. Very interesting reading! Was \$13.95 -- now only \$9.50!	\$ 9.50	_____
—	S3 SALE BOOK The Friendly Invasion , Roger Freeman, 1992, Stbd. A fine book detailing life in war-time England. Well written. Superb reading. Was \$21.95, now only \$10.00 while supplies last! This book is now out-of-print!	\$ 10.00	_____
—	S4 SALE BOOK Fighter Aces of the Mighty Eighth , Hess and Ivie, 1990, 264 pp. Well illustrated, fascinating look at the Fighter Aces of the Eighth Air Force. Gripping accounts and well-researched facts. Great reading! Was \$39.95 -- now just \$19.95!	\$ 19.95	_____

ORDERING INFORMATION

DIRECTIONS: Fill in quantity ordered in first blank next to Item Number. Be sure to indicate choices (if applicable) and sizes (if applicable). Fill in the total cost of items in the last blank line next to the per-item price. Add the cost of all items ordered and write the total in the blank below. Add Postage & Handling charge, write in the grand total, and PRINT your name and address. When ordering, be sure to send all pages along with your check payable to 8AFPX to the address below.

Cost of Items ordered: _____
 Shipping & Handling Charge _____
 Under \$20.00, add \$3.00 _____
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 Overseas orders: add additional \$5.00 _____

Grand Total, payable to 8THAFPX \$ _____

Credit Card: (Minimum Purchase \$20.00)

____ Visa ____ MasterCard Exp. Date _____

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Signature _____

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 P.O. Box 240837
 Apple valley, MN 55124

No Phone Orders Please

The Historical Society Memorial Chapel Fund

Your Eighth Air Force Historical Society Chapel Fund Drive is well underway. To date, we have received \$205,000.00 on the way to our goal of \$300,000! The Chapel will be constructed in the style of old East Anglican stone chapels familiar across England and will be an important addition to the

Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum in Savannah, Georgia. It will serve many purposes: a solemn place for meditation and prayer; a place to hold memorial services; an area to hold special ceremonies; a location for weddings and for religious obser-

vances; a very special location for memorials and remembrances to those who did not return from war and for those who have gone before. The Memorial Chapel will be a most special addition to our permanent home for the Eighth. It will stand in the northern portion of the Memorial Gardens of the Heritage Museum and will feature many special tributes, landscaping, and features to honor those who served in the 8th Air Force.

The time is now to complete the funding for this special Historical Society project so that chapel construction may begin this summer. All



funds donated to construct the memorial chapel are being held in a special Historical Society account to be used specifically for the completion of the building. Donations are considered to be charitable deductions for records purposes.

All those who contribute an amount to the

Historical Chapel Memorial Fund Drive will be recorded in a special donor book to be placed on permanent display in the sanctuary. This volume will be presented during the opening dedication ceremony of the chapel.

Be one of those included and send your donation in to

meet our fund drive goal. Every contribution is important and they add up quickly! If we all take part, together we can make the 8th AF Historical Society Memorial Chapel a reality.

To date, we have received \$205,000.00 on the way to our goal of \$300,000!

Send your contribution to:

**Mr. Jack Hower
H.S. Finance Manager
P.O. Box 1033
St. Joseph, MO 64502**

**LET'S ALL SUPPORT
OUR FUND DRIVE!**

8th AF HS MEMORIAL CHAPEL FUND DRIVE

NAME _____

AMOUNT
\$ _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

GROUP OR
UNIT _____

Please send this form & make check/money order payable to: 8AFHS Chapel Drive and mail to: Jack Hower (address above)

Dear Sir:

I left my only copy of the poem, "Battle of Britain" Part I&II, with our West Michigan Wing office to be duplicated and sent to our members in one of our news letters. Somehow it got misplaced.

If any Air Force veteran who served in Great Britain during WWII still has a copy of this priceless bit of nostalgia, I would dearly love to hear from him (or her). Maybe the talented G.I. author will come forth, who knows?

Sincerely,

**Earl W. Krieger (28058)
884 Ansley Dr.
St. Joseph, MI 49085
(616)429-0278**

Aviation Cadet Buddy

I am trying to locate an old Aviation Cadet Buddy named "Alexander Guidotte". I would be very grateful for anyone who can help.

With Best Regards,

**Charles "Chuck" Halper
20508 Harvest Ave.
Lakewood, CA. 90715-1113
562-860-3221**

"Memorials Preferred"

I suggest to members of the Eighth Air Force that they request in their obituary "Memorials Preferred to the 8th Air Force Heritage Museum Savannah, Georgia."

In this way they can support the museum in death as they did when living.

If you know of someone killed in action, or missing in action in the Eighth Air Force, place his name on the Wall of Valor for just \$100. It's a fitting memorial for those who never returned.

**Dave Dahlberg
487th Bomb Group**

Researching USSAAF and RAF

I am researching USSAAF and RAF losses in Brittany from 1940 to 1944; my aim is to collect as much information as I can get for a book on the air war in my area and a museum project. I am working on a book on Eighth Air Force raids in Brittany from 1942 to 1944 (Brest, Lorient, Saint-Nazaire, Nantes, Rennes).

Claude Helias, Ty-Ar-Groas

29700 Plomelin, France

Dear Sir:

In 1995, the Washington State Legislature passed a bill authorizing the construction of a World War II Memorial on our state's capitol campus in Olympia. The legislation provided \$50,000 seed money to begin the process, leaving the future funding of an estimated \$700,000 to be raised by community efforts.

I had the honor to be appointed by our state's governor to be a member of the World War II Memorial Committee. We are actively soliciting support for the memorial's construction. We have assurance that Boeing and other industries that materially supported WWII will contribute to our effort. However, their contributions in themselves will not be sufficient to erect the memorial. We are depending on veterans organizations such as "The Mighty Eighth" to assist with the memorial's construction.

We deeply appreciate any effort to assist in this fund drive for the World War II Memorial.

Please send all communications to the following address:

**William Merifield
8th Air Force Combat Crew Member
E. 90 Panorama Way
Grapeview, WA 98546
(360)426-5006
Web page site:
WWW.WA.GOV/DVA/WWII**

Thank you

I want to thank all the people who answered my inquiry of my airplane on April 20, 1944 - which I learned, it was destroyed by flak. The last mission flown by members of the 401st BG.

613th BS. Thanks to :
Ellis Foukes, of Wisconsin
Bill Thompson, of Alabama
Roger Zeman, of California
Jim May, of California
C. Craig Havvis, of North Carolina
R.H. Hodges, of New York
J. Prugh, of Ohio
M. Covinchock, of Pennsylvania
A.P. Smith, of England- who were all very informative.

But I still have a problem. I'm old, tired, crippled up by a broken neck; will write another letter later.

Thanks again,

Lawrence Million

Dear Sir:

I would like to locate the whereabouts of two old buddies, Robert Winne, a pilot, and Bernard 'Lefty' Weinmon, a navigator.

Sincerely,

**Sidney Willig
25 Ward Ave.
Staten Island, NY
10304-2215**

"Mary Alice"

Trying to find more information on the Fort "Mary Alice", S/N 42-31983, 615th B.S., 301st B.G. I am looking for a picture of the original "Mary Alice" and the missions that the "Mary Alice" flew on. My uncle, Sgt. E. L. Page, was tail gunner on the mission to Munich on July 13, 1944. He was killed in action on the return trip. Second Lt. H.E. Haskett was pilot of the "Mary Alice." Is any of the crew or family members alive and is there further information on this mission? Also in the article, there were other crews that witnessed this attack. Are there any who can supply any information?

Sincerely,

**Edward T. Page
PO Box 73
Abbot, ME 04406
Member # 33558**

Brest (France) town

"For the need of a university thesis about the Brest (France) town and harbour bombings from 1942 to 1944, I would like to contact 8th and 9th air forces veterans or any person likely to have documents, pieces of information or accounts about this subject. The study will deal with the missions in themselves and the human side of them (Allied, German forces, French civilians).

Please write to:

**Jean-Yves Besselievre
30, rue Degas
29820 Guilers
France"**

Dear Mr. President,

Mr. Grant, Hello. Hope this letter finds you okay. I am proud to write you as new member #33429. I want to thank you for your services and sacrifice in World War II. Thank you sir.

I've a question: In the 1960's I was stationed in Hanau, Germany. The airfield I was stationed on during the war, the Air Corps visited it a few times. I was wondering if you would know how I could find some pictures recon photos or any other pictures of the airfield. The Germans called the base Langen Die Bach Field- the town of Langen Die Bach was just outside the gate. On the east side of the airfield was the town of Langen Ebold. The city of Hanau was to the west. I remember one of the Germans who worked for U.S. Army telling me about underground repair hangers and showing me one of the air ducts. They flooded them after the war so the Nazis could not hide, or use them. During the summer months the water would recede and by looking down air ducts you could see a few tail planes protruding out of mud.

If you could help me I would really appreciate it. I also work as a volunteer at Air Museum at Dayton. If you are ever up there please let me know; I would be glad to show you around. The one thing that really gets me is the young kids that come to Air Force Museum who didn't know we were at war with the Japanese.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. The 8 AF News is a great magazine. Tell men of the 8th I said thank you for my freedom.

**Your new member,
Michael Reynolds #33429
2704 Brookfield
Muncie, IN 47302**

Gentlemen:

Our organization is a non-profit group that emphasizes the history of a former B-17 training facility in Halls. We have a commemoration air show in August each year as well as a Reunion of those who trained here. This year will be our sixth year for this event, and we are proud to say that last year from 18-20,000 visitors enjoyed the weekend. We will appreciate it if you will list our

activity in your next edition:

**Air Sho '98 and Reunion of WWII Veterans
August 29 and 30, 1998
Arnold Field, Halls, TN
Contact: 901-836-7448 after 7pm**

Dear Editor:

We are looking for World War II Veterans and Civilians, who worked at the MIAMI AIR DEPOT or MIAMI 36TH STREET AIRPORT. Our Agency is conducting historical research into the activities and operations performed at the 36th Street Airport and the Supply and Engine Overhaul Depot and Sub-Depot operated by the United States Army AF in Miami, Florida during World War II, in the 1950's or the 1960's.

If you, or any of your members, worked at the above-mentioned locations during the 1940's, 1950's or 1960's, especially from 1942-1947, we would like to talk to you regarding your memories and experiences.

**We can be reached at:
RAVEN INTERNATIONAL
965 N. Nob Hill Rd. Suite 303
Ft. Lauderdale, FL. 33324
1-800-719-1626**

Dear Sir:

"DIRTY DICKS," was the first place that Calvin Lefler and I, from the 450th Bomb Squadron, 322nd Bomb Group(M) visited on our first trip to London on December 31, 1942. The people in the bar started singing "The Yanks are Coming" when we walked into the place.

The story about this place is that the owner of the place was to be married and he had planned a dinner party for the wedding guests. The food was prepared and was on the table, but the wedding was called off because the bride never showed. The owner just left the food on the table and locked the doors of the place. He left London and traveled for many years. He returned one day and opened the place up for business. He found dried up food and two or three dead cats. He hung the cats and trash from the ceiling and left almost everything as it was. That is why the place is called Dirty Dicks.

Charles C. Watson

**Savannah, Georgia
Weimar/Buchenwald**

Researcher looking for officers from the 401st, 457th, 351st, and 381st BGs, who were on the August 24, 1944 mission to the Weimar/Buchenwald armaments factory.

**Especially,
2nd Lt. G.E. Hansen
2nd Lt. J.V. Ridley
1st Lt. M.B. Jeffery
Captain R. Woodhouse
Capt. J.R. Locker
1st Lt. H.E. Kron
2nd Lt. E.K. Stout
Please contact Stuart Erdheim, 125
Chambers Street, #209, New York,
NY 10007; Tel. 212-577-2478;
E-mail: serdheim@erols.com**

The Norway Mission Survivors

About 35 survivors of the 8th Air Force bombing mission 18 Nov. 1943 have formed a unit and dedicated a memorial exhibit at the 8th AF Heritage Museum in Savannah, GA and placed a bronze memorial in Norway to honor the 62 Americans and three Norwegians killed on the mission. More than 50 items of 8th Air Force history were donated by the survivors group, The Norway Mission Survivors. (submitted by: Forrest S. Clark)

Re General Leon Johnson

Regarding the cover story on Gen. Leon Johnson. It may be a surprise that from July 1937 to July 1940, Capt. Leon W. Johnson, was one of 22 charter officers in the Army Air Corps Weather Service, and first commander of the 3rd Weather Squadron, Barksdale Field, LA.

**R. H. Hodges, 486 BG and AWS
Pelham, NY**

Big Mistake

They should have told you that the 8 AFHS is strictly a B-17 outfit - no mention is to be made of the B-24, its personnel, exploits, etc. Never forget this...

(unsigned)
Rapid City, S.D.

Editor Note: It seems a few took some exception to all of the B-24 material in the February 98 issue.

THE FIX

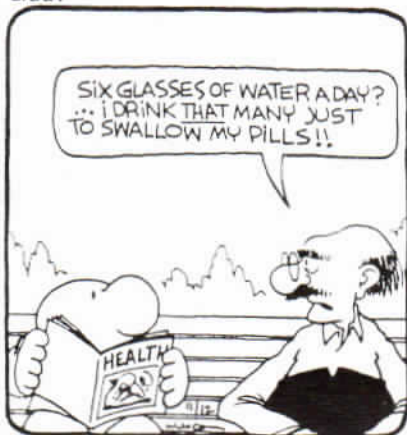
Inadvertent Omissions in the FEB 98 issue:

— Sincere appreciation for the photographs of the General Leon Johnson portrait which appeared on the issue cover to Wayne Corbett, Publicity and Information Manager at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum. Likewise, thanks to Mary Beth Barnard, Archival Director at the Heritage Museum, for her cover story about General Johnson, as well as some additional photos. The cover and writeup were enthusiastically received by Society members! Other contributors to be thanked for their articles are Ray Zuker 486th BG, Judge Ben Smith 303rd BG, Earl Wassom 466th BG, Harold Robinson 445th BG, Major General Lewis Lyle 303rd & 379th BG, and our Historical Society Staff members.

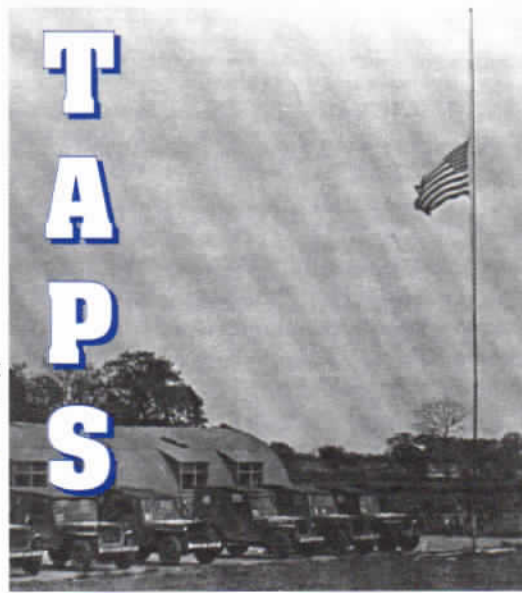
— Information inside the front cover listed the Historical Society Board members but the Memorial Museum Foundation members were omitted, with the editor's apologies. These members appear in this issue.

— In the cover story reprint by Steve Snelling of the Norwich Eastern Daily Press, it is stated that General Leon Johnson was small, self-effacing, his hair receding at the temples.... It has been pointed out by several who knew General Johnson that, at over six feet in height, he was in no way considered to be small in stature. This editor certainly agrees with those opinions.

ZIGGY



TAPS



Cliff Barker, a member of the "Fabulous Five" that won Kentucky's first NCAA basketball championship 50 years ago, died at his home in Satsuma, Florida. He was a prisoner of war in Germany in World War II.

- Beadle, Frank, Atlanta, Ga 34th Bomb Group Bombardier on first 8thAF raid (Paul Tibbets crew)
- Buechner, Isadore A. (Isie), Cross Plains, WI Flight Engineer 448th BG
- Chastain, Jack Sloan
- Clarkson, Jack Savannah, Ga 34th Bomb Group
- Cook, Marion E., Westfield, Mass. 93rd BG
- Crabb, William W., Middleton, WI 100th BG
- Crumley, Noah Oxford, AL 493rd BG
- Deboy, Carl Phoenix, AZ 447th BG
- Edwards, Kenneth C., "Buzz" 303rd BG
- Fagen, Thomas, Sun City Center, FL 447th BG
- Galloway, Carl J., Toledo, OH 352nd BG
- Harris, Kurt W., Bryan, OH 93rd BG
- Harlan, George Walter, Paola, KS Radio Operator
- Hess, Roger Jacksonville, FL 447th BG
- Howel, Maj. Jack, Kansas City, MO POW 2 1/2 years Stalag
- Hurd, John B., Dublin, OH 93rd BG
- Jones, George D., Macon, GA 390th BG
- Jordan, Charles "Chuck", Topeka, KS Ball Turret Gunner
- Jurgens, Robert H. "Bobby", Mississippi Chapter
- Kissel, Raymond D., Cincinnati, OH 452nd BG
- Lambert, W. R. (Bob), Mineola, TX B-17 Pilot
- Mingo, Andrew C. "Andy", Miami, FL
- Nester, Willard F. "Faye", Meridian, MS Pilot of B-24 492nd BG
- Perry, Patrick J., Maumee, OH 491st BG
- Pomeroy, John H. Jr., Miami, FL 555th BQ
- Powell, Mel, Sherman Oaks, CA Musician - Piano man in Glenn Miller's Army Air Force Band - WWII - Pulitzer Prize Winner
- Rogers, Ennis L. "Buck", 303rd BG
- Rogos, John, Avon Lake, OH
- Rowan, John E., Cary, N.C. Navigator 351st BG
- Schaefer, Donald E. W., Chicago, IL 401st BG
- Smith, Carlton M. "Smitty", (Hdq) 303rd BG
- Stanek, Chester "Chet", 835thSQ 486th BG ("Goin Jessie" Crew)
- Taylor, Harold E., Toledo, OH 381st BG
- Taylor, S. Paul, Stockdale, N.C. 384th BG
- Thorup, Louis, Bountiful, UT Commanding Officer 447th BG
- Thrasher, John P., 303rd BG
- Vrabel, Tom, Crew Chief, 84th Squadron 78th FG
- Walker, Willis Reeves, LA 305th BG
- Welch, Thomas C., 453rd BG
- Weddle, Lt. Col. Frederick, Independence, MO Pilot, Pastor, radio controlled air plane flyer

THE 8AF MEMORIAL MUSEUM FOUNDATION (MMF) UPDATE

Submitted by Robert Vickers
Current Director 8AFMMF and 8AFHS Boards



This "howgozit" status update report to each and every one of our Society's members is the first in a forthcoming series of periodic activity updates to come. These overviews will be aimed at keeping our membership informed about the Foundation, ie, the "MMF", and its accomplishments - past, presently on-going, and those approved future projects in the mill - involving its chartered mission of pre-

serving the history and 'heritage story' of our Mighty Eighth Air Force. Though often going unsung but unintentionally so in the years along the way, the MMF's "track record" is an enviably proud and excellent one in its assigned role for carrying out the vitally important tasks as the Society's 'educational arm', separate and apart of necessity, - and the adjunct agency tied into the 8AFHS' organizational structure for helping preserve the indelible wartime history of our illustrious combat air force which all 8AF-ers served. As most all are aware, the MMF has been in existence now for over 22 years - having been created in 1976 by our Society as a matter of urgent necessity to perform the many 'educational' tasks that were envisioned to lie ahead in working with key and accredited major air museums among other bona-fide agencies throughout the USA and in England, where the Mighty Eighth fought and made

lasting history long ago. This most unique foresight on behalf of our Society and the 8AFHS Directorship, in particular of then, has clearly and handsomely paid off in a dividend of legacy for all 8AFers by keeping the true story of our Mighty Eighth ever before those millions of visitors who today walk through the many air museums annually throughout this great nation and elsewhere - and for the thousands of historians who thirst for this knowledge and set the 8AF legend down in print for the knowledge and research benefits of all generations to come.

The Foundation's numerous achievements could never have been possible, even from the very beginning, had it not been for the truly dedicated support given by our membership and especially the many 8AFHS Boards over the years - whose support also has been readily and unselfishly tendered to the MMF's mission. Notwithstanding that, the Society's By-laws spell out a provision for the full support of the MMF by the 8AFHS - the intent and dedication to do so in any event without this written directive has always been evident in the Society's years of on-going business.....a real prideful tribute indeed to all.

The Foundation presses on with achievement of our aims and goals long established for it. And, in the 8AF NEWS issues to come, much more in detail concerning the MMF's past record and its future project expectations will be reported to you.



The 20th Fighter Group, 29th Ftr. Squadron P-38 "Lucky Lady" while at King's Cliffe, England. This beautiful fighter is depicted on the recent U.S. Aviation postage stamp shows the P-38 in full markings. Note combat sorties recorded beneath anti-glare panel.



Left- Right: 1st/LT - Arthur Heiden, Pilot- T/Sgt. Max Pyles, Crew Chief - S/Sgt. John Cavalier, Radio - S/Sgt. Clyde Birdwell, Ass't Crew Chief - Sgt. Charles Fink - Armorer

"HOW THAT PLANE GOT IT'S NAME"

This B-24, #42-109867,
was with the 93rd BG, 330th BS.

"MAULIN' MALLARD"

SEND US THE STORY

It will be in the next issue of the 8th Air Force News,
along with the names of those replying.
Send to 8th AFHS P.O. Box 7215, St. Paul, MN 55107



THE EIGHTH AIR FORCE - KOREA The 27th Fighter Escort Wing

Do you know the 8th Air Force has a forgotten unit, which flew with distinction in a forgotten war? This same unit earlier served at Bataan during WWII and still exists as an operational Fighter Wing today.

That unit was the 27th Fighter-Escort Wing assigned to the 8th Air Force in the Strategic Air Command and stationed at Bergstrom AFB, Texas in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Designated the 27th Fighter-Escort Wing and flying F84E Thunderjets, this Wing fought in the Korean War in 1950 and 1951. The 27th FEW was assigned to the Far East Air Forces and deployed aboard "jeep" aircraft carriers from San Francisco and established headquarters at Itazuke Air Base, Japan. In December of 1950 the Fighter Group element moved and established forward operations at Taegu Air Base, Korea, and flew the unit's first combat mission on 6 December. The Wing was tasked to fly armed reconnaissance, interdiction and bomber escort missions. Later the Wing would also fly combat missions from their headquarters location at Itazuke. The 27th FEW participated in three major campaigns. These were Chinese Communist Forces interven-

tion, 3 November 1950 to 24 January 1951; First United Nations Counteroffensive, 22 April 1951 to 8 July 1951. The Wing was relieved from combat operations in August of 1951 and returned to Bergstrom AFB, where they were again a part of The Mighty Eighth and the Strategic Air Command.

The 27th Fighter-Escort Wing personnel distinguished themselves during the nine months of combat operations receiving the Distinguished Unit Citation and the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation. Aerial victory scores included 8 enemy aircraft destroyed, 5 probables and 24 damaged, with the first victory coming on 21 January 1951, when Lt. Col. William Bertram, commanding Officer of the 523rd Fighter Squadron shot down a Mig 15. Additionally, the 27th FEW destroyed numerous enemy buildings, vehicles, boats, locomotive, railroad cars, tanks, bridges, guns and troops during the numerous fighter-bomber sorties flown in support of combat operations.

Seventeen 27th FEW pilots paid the supreme sacrifice, including Wing Commander Col. Ashley B. Packard who was killed in action 1 May 1951. Additionally four pilots were wounded in

action. There were two distinguished members of this unit during the Korean War who were Eighth Air Force Pilots during WWII. They were Col. Donald J.M. Blakeslee of the Eagle Squadron and 4th Fighter Group, who destroyed 15.5 German aircraft in aerial combat and 2 on the ground, and Col. Cy Wilson of the 20th Fighter Group, who destroyed 3 German aircraft in aerial combat.

The 27th FEW, an Eighth Air Force unit of the past, participated in the "Forgotten War" with it's great distinction. After serving many years with the Twelfth Air Force and the Tactical Air Command, the current 27th Fighter Wing, now stationed at Cannon AFB, New Mexico, is now once again assigned to the Eighth Air Force and the new Air Combat Command. The proud heritage continues!

Written by Lt. Gen. E.G. Shuler, Jr., USAF, with information submitted by Donald W. Cotton, S/Sgt. 27th Fighter Escort Wing, Hamilton, Ohio and research materials from The Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum Library and Archives.



A significant response has been made regarding the photo of the flying B-24 "Delectable Doris"- now named "Joe"- which appeared in the February 98 issue with Harold Robinson's *Love Letter to a Lady*. To quote Irv Day (446th BG): The ode to the Lady covered the bases very well but could not do justice to my sense of disappointment, incredulity; yea even outrage at what has been done to poor, delovely Doris. It was not enough to expunge her delightful form; they have transformed her very sex! My mind is still boggled! I grieve, ache, and moan! True, it is a magnificent eagle, but "JOE"?

Mr. Russell A. Reeve of Colchester, England writes in:

In your reference to the nude nose art you state this aircraft was named after the English girlfriend of the crew chief! Oh Dear - this was news to me and presumably to Mrs. Doris Graff, the wife of the 1st pilot, Bill Graff. The original B-24J "Delectable Doris" flown by the Second Air Division 389 BG out of Hethel, England, was lost on 3 February 1945 on the Magdeburg raid of that date. Debrief note states - Delectable Doris was hit by flack over the target, the initial hit taking off the nose. The aircraft disinergrated at about 17,000 feet on fire, with controls shot out and the bomb load on board. Miraculously some of the crew survived the Magdeburg disaster. John "Jack" Merrill, co-pilot and Billy Weidman, right waist gunner survived as POWs. Whilst the replica "Delectable Doris" was at Duxford, it was actually visited by Doris Craff. I enclose a photograph (courtesy Steve Gotts) of this occasion.



**P-47 Thunderbolt Pilots
Assoc. Annual Reunion
May 21-25, 1998**

Hyatt Regency Dallas, Dallas Tx.
Contact: Al Hagg, Chairman, PO Box
2365, Lindale, TX 75771
(903)882-1497 e-mail:
jdalh@juno.com

**1st Strategic Air Depot Assn.,
8th Air Force Honington-Troston,
England (1942-46)
October 1-4, 1998**

We invite those who were stationed at
Honington-Troston England during
World War II to attend. It will be held
in Omaha, NE. Contact: Mr. Herb
Kaster, 720 Society Hill, Cherry Hill,
NJ 08003, Phone: 609-751-1763.

**401st Bomb Group
October 1-4, 1998**

Savannah, GA. Contact: George
Menzel, PO Box 15356, Savannah,
GA 31416

**361st FG(WWII)
September 9-13, 1998**

Crown Plaza Hotel, Nashville, TN.
Contact: Dave Landin, 8419 Michael
Rd., Richmond, VA 23229
804-288-5889.

**34th Bomb Group
September 10-13, 1998**

Boise, ID. Contact: Harold Rutka, 11
E Artavia St., Duluth, MN 55811

**390th Bomb Group (H) Veterans
September 2-6, 1998**

The 390th Bomb Group (H) Veterans
Association, WWII, 8th Air Force (Sta-
tion 153-Framlingham, England) will
hold its annual reunion in San Diego,
CA. Contact: Ken Rowland, PO Box
28363, Spokane, WA 99228-2565

**386th Bomb Group and Associated
Units, WWII 8th and 9th Air Forces
September 13-16, 1998**

Annual reunion, Radisson Hotel,
Asheville, N.C. Contact: Harry
Guinther, 262 Manor Brook Dr., Cha-
grin Falls, OH 44022.
Ph. and FAX 216-338-8372
e-mail: harry555@aol.com.

452nd Bomb Group

May 1998 (98-2)

September 3-6, 1998

24th annual reunion at the Marriott
Hotel in Portland, OR. Contact: Hank
North, 901 Poling Dr., Columbus, OH.
43224-1936. 1-800-452-9099.

**303rd Bomb Group Association
August 21-25, 1998**

The 15th reunion will be held at Mar-
riott Riverfront Hotel in Savannah, GA.
This will be the first time that the
Association has returned to a former
reunion city, having met at the birth-
place of the Eighth Air Force in 1994.
Contact: Walter J. Ferrari, 207 Lake
Circle Dr., Hampstead, NC 28443,
910-270-0824.

**364th FTR GP (WWII) Honington,
Eng, 8th AF, & Support Units
September 13-17, 1998**

Amerstar Casino and Hotel, Council
Bluff, IA. Contact: Dan Leftwich,
6630 Caldero Ct., Dayton, OH 45415
Ph. 937-890-3641.

**20th FTR GP Association
October 8-10, 1998**

Nassau Bay Hilton, Houston, TX.
Contact: Leo H. Kerns, 9908 Ham-
mocks Blvd., Miami, FL. 33196
Ph. 305-380-1418.

**339th Fighter Group Association
August 27-31, 1998**

DeSoto Hilton, Savannah, GA. Con-
tact: Richard C. Penrose, 142 SW
17th St., Bend, OR 97702.
541-389-0305
e-mail: cockshy6@bendnet.com

**BAD-2 Association
August 27-30, 1998**

Savannah, GA. Contact: Pres. Charlie
Phillips, 23417 St. Andrew St., Mis-
sion Virjo, CA. 92692-1536.

**467th Bomb Group(H)
September 17-22, 1998**

Contact: Vincent La Russa, 85704
North Mulberry Dr., Tucson, AZ.
85704-3351. Ph: 520-742-3609.

**55th Anniversary Ploesti Reunion
July 30- August 1, 1998**

A reunion for the 55th anniversary of
the Low-Level attack on the Ploesti,
Romanian oil fields will be held at the

Convention Center in Sioux City, IA.
Everyone involved in the Ploesti raid,
including all support groups, are cor-
dially invited to attend the reunion.
Contact: Bill Feder, Sr., Mid America
Air Museum, PO Box 3525, Sioux
City, IA. 51102-3525.
Ph: 712-252-5300 or 712-943-5325.

**91st BG
August 27, 1998**

Savannah, GA. Contact: Mr. Earl
Pate. Ph: 615-824-7909.

**339 FG
August 29, 1998**

Savannah, GA. Contact: Jay Marts, J
Edgebrook, Charleston, SC. 29418.
Ph: 803-352-5800 803-552-7935

**2nd Air Division Regional Meeting
September 27, 1998**

Savannah, GA. Contact: Reggie
Kitchens, PO Box 4887, Monroe, LA.
71211. Ph: 1-800-467-2891.

465th BG

**8th Air Force Historical Society
October 13-18, 1998**

The reunion headquarters is the
Cherry Hill
Hilton in Cher-
ry Hill, NJ.

Contact:
Donna P. Lee,
161 Rosecliff
Dr., Harvest,
AL 35749.
Ph: 205-864-0825 FAX 205-864-
2238.



October 2, 1998

Savannah, GA. Contact: Ralph San-
son, 119 Chicago Ave., Point Pleasant
Beach, NJ. 08742-2626. Ph: 732-
892-9162.

**7th Photo Recon Group--- Eighth
Air Force, England
October 29-31, 1998**

Marriott Hotel, Savannah, GA.
Includes 325th Wg., Mount Farm &
Chalgrave people. Contact: George
Lawson, 4390 14th St. NE., St.
Petersburg, FL. 33703.
Ph: 813-526-8480.

44BG Reunion

October 26, 1998

Savannah, GA. Contact: Roy Owen.
Ph: 707-538-4726.

486th BG

November 4-7, 1998

Savannah, GA. Contact: Bob Bee,
2064 Tuckaway Ct., Columbus, OH
43228

381st BG

September 2-6, 1998

Marriott Hotel, Savannah, GA. David Shackley son of George Shackley, will be our host. Address correction: 381st Bomb Group Memorial Assn. P.O. Box 6064, Madison, WI. 53716-0064.



Hq. 381st

351st Bomb Group Association

June 3, 1998

Tucson, AZ. Contact: Clinton W. Hammond. Ph: 717-766-1489.

490th BG Association

November 4-9, 1998

Pensacola, FL Jack Dossett, Host
8865 Burning Tree Rd. Pensacola, FL
32514 914-474-4800

801st/492nd BG

October 14-18, 1998

Savannah, GA. Holiday Inn-Midtown
Banquet: Saturday October 17, at the Museum.

Contact: William Becker
619-287-7163

**436th Fighter Squadron -
479th Fighter Group**

September 24-29, 1998

Le Baron Hotel, Colorado Springs,
CO (800-477-8610) Contact: Kenneth
and Gladys Hansen, 1105 McDougall
Drive, Lander, WY 82520-3534
307-332-5104.

78th FG

October 15-18, 1998

Best Western Hotel, San Antonio, TX
Contact: Kathy Koll, 812 Penn St.,
P.O. box 14686, Reading, PA 19612
1-800-223-3884



ADVERTISING

We will only accept advertising that has to do with the 8th Air Force, 8th Air Force units or personnel, 8th Air Force memorabilia, or the Air War over Western Europe. To do otherwise would subject us to tax problems with the I.R.S. We do not want to jeopardize our non-profit status in any way.

All copy must be camera ready.
The print run is
20,000 copies per issue

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Arthur E. Swanson, Membership Records Manager

"LOST" LIFE MEMBERS - Many thanks to those who sent information about our missing Life Members listed in the February issue. We have been able to restore some to the active Roster and regret that we are advised others are deceased.

MEMBERSHIP CARD OFFER - This is the last call for replacement of membership cards. If your card is in poor condition, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to me at 65 Beddington Lane, Strasburg, PA 17579, and will send you a new card. We are extending this offer to Life members as well. All requests must be received no later than June 15, 1998.

MAIL - The delivery - or non-delivery - of mail is a continuing problem. We received letters and telephone calls that the latest issue of the 8AF NEWS has not been received. Remember that these magazines are sent out at the bulk rate, and if there is the slightest difference in the address we have listed and your address with the Post Office, your magazine will not be delivered. We had an unusually large number of regular members who have never received the first dues notice but did get the second one. Why? We don't know. Please look at the mailing label on this issue

and make sure it reads exactly as it should. And for those newer members, what does that label mean? Example:

12345-6 98 or LM Your name Your Group

Obviously the first item is your member number. The separate digit after the hyphen is a locator in the computer. The next shows the year for which you are paid, or if you are a Life Member. In the case of husband and wife who have both paid Life members fees, the designation is LP for Life Partner. Then your name.

Please pay particular attention to the group. If you were in the 357FG, it will read 3357F. This means the Third Air Division, 357FG. The first digit preceding the code indicates your Air Division.

The designation ASSOC means you are an Associate. If you have been a member in Good Standing for Five Years or more, it has changed to ASOVM, meaning you are an Associate Voting Member. The designation SERVE, means you were in the service but not with the Eighth Air Force. After five years in good standing, this code is changed to SERV - Service Voting Member. Please advise if there are any corrections to be made. Remember that our computer can only handle one code. We do not have the capability of listing several. Thanks for your help!

MONUMENT MEMORIALIZING 351st BOMB GROUP (H) PLACED IN MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE MUSEUM GARDEN

by Lee E. Gingery 351st Bomb Group Association

Members of the 351st Bomb Group Association gathered at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum near Savannah, Georgia the weekend of January 16 and 17. The special occasion was marked by the dedication of a monument memorializing those who served and those who died in combat in Europe, 1943-45.

Association president, Clinton W. Hammond presided at the functions both days. The event culminated in the unveiling of a monument placed in the Memorial Garden adjoining the museum. The granite monument is a close replica of the original that graces one end of the old main runway at Polebrook, England, put there in 1981.

Prior to the unveiling, President Hammond introduced a representative of each of the four squadrons who read the names of those in each squadron who were killed in action or missing in action. It proved to be a moving moment as the 382 names were spoken to the hushed assembly of almost a hundred veterans and family members.

The officers, board members and members of the 351st Bomb Group Association are unanimous in their praise of the staff of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum. The CEO, Lt. Gen. (Ret.) E.G. "Buck" Shuler, Jr. as host, was generous with his time. Also, Jim Fogarty representing the Depue Monument Co. was present for the dedication.



The 351st Bomb Group Association president, Clint Hammond, after the unveiling of the unit's monument, January 17, 1998 in the Eighth Air Force Museum Memorial Garden. (Photo, courtesy Col. Wayne Corbett).



Here is the 351st Bomb Group monument in the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum Memorial Garden after the dedication. Note bronze full color B-17 plaque at the base of the monument has been affixed. (Photo supplied by Jim Fogarty and Wilma-jean Stickford).



The posting of the colors prior to the ceremony honoring the memory of the KIA and MIA members of the 351st Bomb Group at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum, January 17. (Photo, courtesy Col. Wayne Corbett).



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398th Bomb Group Memorial Association



601

The 398th Bomb Group stationed at Nuthampstead, England during the war has a lot going for it. Around three dozen members and friends of the group will leave June 3rd for a two week trip to Germany, ending in a stay in England with activities scheduled for the area of Nuthampstead. Allen Ostrom, editor of their excellent newsletter *FLAK NEWS*, says that on this excursion there will be no less than four daughters and one son on the return to



England. Later in the summer, August 26-29, the entire Association will hold their annual reunion in Harrisburg, PA. They will visit Amish country, the Hershey chocolate plant, and the War Between the States battlefield at Gettysburg, among various other activities. You can get further details from Thomas Bewley at 717-766-3457, or check your recent copy of the newsletter.

The 398th is proud to be one of the lead groups instrumental in funding and placing the large bronze B-17 sculpture in the Study Hall Memorial Court at the U.S. Air Force Academy.



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600

WALL OF VALOR

As a part of The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum in Savannah, there is a sanctuary called The Memorial Gardens. It is a place to reflect - a place to pray - a place to pay tribute to those who served in The Eighth Air Force and to those we loved and lost.

In these Gardens near the long reflecting pool, there is The Wall of Valor, much like the impressive Memorial Wall in the American Cemetery in Cambridge, England. It is constructed of stone with beautiful dark green inscription panels for each name.



Judge Ben Smith, 303rd BG, past-president of the 8th AFHS, conceived and directs the impressive Wall of Valor Memorial Program at the Heritage Museum.

Eighth Air Force veterans may have permanent recognition inscribed on this Wall of Valor by contributing a **donation of \$100** to the continuing development of the beautiful Memorial Gardens. Each person's name, rank, unit number will be carved on an individual 4x12 inch panel. A second line is also included for a significant message, aircraft name, crew name, or slogan up to 24 letters.

The museum staff is ready to assist you with your order. You may order by phone: **1-800-544-8878**. Our goal is to see that every person of the 8th Air Force has a chance to share in this great memorial. You may send your information on the form with check or mastercard/visa if you wish. All donations are tax deductible.

THE WALL OF VALOR AT THE HERITAGE MUSEUM

Your Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____

8 AF Information

Rank _____ Station Name _____
 Sqdn. _____ Bomb Gp. _____ Ftr.Gp. _____
 Other _____ KIA [] POW []

"Makes a great Memorial gift"

TO MAKE A DONATION:

Enclose **\$100.** minimum for 4" x 12" panel.
 Add **\$1.** per letter for each additional letter above 24.
 Total number of letters _____

Please send donation and selection form with check or money order payable to:
Mighty 8AF "Wall of Valor"

P.O. Box 1992 • Savannah, Georgia 31402-1992

For Phone donations and information:

Local: 912-283-9966 or Toll Free: 1-800-544-8878

[] Mastercard [] Visa

Acct. No. _____

Exp. Date _____

Please fill out the following space as you would like for your Memorial Stone to be engraved.

Line 1.

Line 2

Advertisement

JOIN THE 8AF HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Your Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____

8 AF Information

Rank _____ Station Name _____
 Sqdn. _____ Bomb Gp. _____ Ftr.Gp. _____
 Other _____ KIA [] POW []

**MAIL TO: MEMBERSHIP RECORDS CHAIRMAN
 ADDRESS ON INSIDE FRONT COVER**

Please use this form only for your first calendar year's dues
 (\$10.00 U.S. and \$15.00 non-U.S.)

6TH AIR FORCE REUNION

SEPTEMBER 11-13, 1998

ANTIQUÉ AIRFIELD,

BLAKESBURG, IOWA

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT: BOB TAYLOR

PO BOX 127,

BLAKESBURG IA 52536

OR

PHONE/FAX (515) 938-2773

WELCOME ALL FORMER MEMBERS

ANTILLES AIR COMMAND

Guest Speaker

Lt. Col. Fred J. Olivi, USAF Ret.

**Co-Pilot of Boeing B-29 "Bocks Car" that
 dropped second atomic bomb on Nagasaki**

MIGHTY EIGHTH AF HERITAGE MUSEUM

JET BOMBER COMES TO THE EIGHTH AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSEUM

A Boeing built B-47 jet bomber has been allocated to The Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum by the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. General Shuler reports that a B-47 that was flown to Florence, S.C. in 1965 and became a part of the Florence Air Park has been made available to The Heritage Museum.

The Florence Air Park has gone out of business and the Air Park aircraft are being dispersed to a variety of museums.

The aircraft is currently being dismantled and will be moved to Savannah in late May by the World Wide Aircraft Movement Company. This same organization recently moved some 30 aircraft, including a B-47, B-52 and B-36, from Offutt AFB, Nebraska to the new SAC Museum location on I-75 between Omaha and Lincoln. The outboard engines, nacelles and bomb bay doors have already arrived at the Heritage Museum.

The B-47 will be placed in the Memorial Garden's right rear corner and mounted on pedestals as if in flight. The aircraft will be refurbished and painted in the 2nd Bombardment Wing colors and serve as a signature for the traffic traveling on I-95. The B-47 medium jet bomber was the primary aircraft serving with both the 2nd and 308th Bomb Wings at Hunter AFB in Savannah from 1954 to 1963.

Both Wings also operated KC-97 air refueling tankers. The B-47 was conceived during WWII and first flew in 1948. Over 2000 of these aircraft were manufactured and served with SAC from 1948 to 1965. It had a three man crew with a mission of delivering nuclear weapons. It could fly at Mach 95 and over 400 MPH at low level. The maximum gross weight was 225,000 pounds and it was air refuelable. During the height of the Cold War SAC deployed these aircraft to England, North Africa and Guam to sit nuclear alert.

The B-47 will be a nice addition to the museum and represent the legacy of the 2nd Bomb Wing, which was an Eighth Air Force unit during the time it served at Hunter AFB.

The 2nd Bomb Wing currently operates B-52H aircraft at Barksdale AFB, Louisiana and remains in The Mighty Eighth today.



The beautiful reflecting pool near the Wall of Valor at the 8th Air Force Heritage Museum, in Savannah, GA. The B-47 Stratojet (pictured above) will be moved to the northern-most end of these gardens, where it will appear in flight in the Memorial Gardens.



The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 1992

Savannah, Georgia 31402-1992

Address: 175 Bourne Ave. Pooler, GA

1-800-421-9428

website: <http://www.mighty8thmuseum.com>



Retiree finds a piece of his past

By Jim Conley El Paso Times 1997

Frank Baca lost his youth in World War II, as a teenager belly gunner in a B-17 bomber before being shot down and spending 14 months in a German prison camp.

But last year, the Bayard, N.M., retiree found a piece of his past - a hatch from a bomber whose crash landing he survived near his old bomber base in England in January 1944.

It took an unlikely chain of events to get the flak scarred, Plexiglas radio hatch to him after all these years, but Bacam, 73, has it nevertheless.

"We barely made it back from that mission," said Baca, who told the story in West El Paso where he and his wife, Lilly Baca, were visiting their daughter, Pam Uzeta, son-in-law Carlos Uzeta, and granddaughter, Jessica.

"Flak and fighters knocked us out of formation, and we barely made it back over the English coast before we crashed," Baca said.

"We just missed a house where two old ladies were drinking tea," Baca said. "The plane broke into several pieces, but we all walked away."

Baca's luck held, in that he came home alive, although he and his crew were shot down March 6, 1944, on a raid to Berlin - "my 20th birthday and 25th mission," he said. "If I'd made it back (to England) from that one, I would have rotated out of combat."

The whole crew bailed out and the plane exploded seconds later. Everyone survived, but they were taken prisoner by the Germans, he said.

After that, nearly a half century passed before Baca had his rendezvous with the chunk of his old plane.

"In 1992, I went to a reunion of our 95th Bomb Group in Horham (England)," Baca said. "Our crash was well known to the townspeople.

While we were there, a man in his 50's told me he had been 10 when he saw the crash, and had gone to it and taken the hatch. He asked if I wanted it and gave me his address."

Baca wrote the man but got no response.

Then came the real coincidence of the whole tale. In 1995, three years after the reunion, an evangelist from Toronto, Canada, visited the Bacas' church - Potter's House Christian Center at Silver City.

"The evangelist, Ian Wilson, was raised in York, England, and our pastor told him about me

and my little room that has a lot of war memorabilia," Baca said.

"Wilson came

to see my display and noticed my picture of our crashed airplane near Horham and said he had a friend who lived near there."

After Baca told him about the radio hatch, Wilson called his friend - and the friend knew the man who had the part.

"Later in the year, Wilson called and said Air Canada had flown it to him. And this January, he drove in to preach again and gave it to me.

"He said Air Canada had flown it for free, and he said

they all felt that was the least they could do for our helping them win the war."

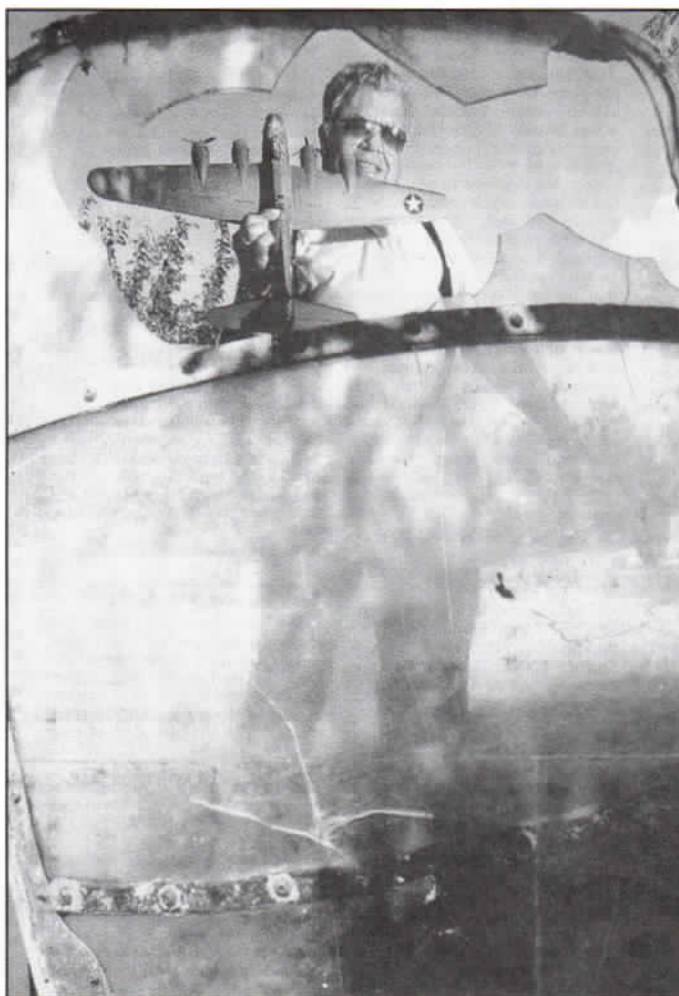
Their gesture moved him deeply, he said. "I felt happy and proud, for someone to keep it so long, and to go to such trouble."

Baca said he would like others to be able to see the piece, and he plans to offer it to the

War Eagles Museum in Santa Teresa, which already has some of his items on display.

"A ten year old boy salvaged the piece from the crash and held onto it until 1995"

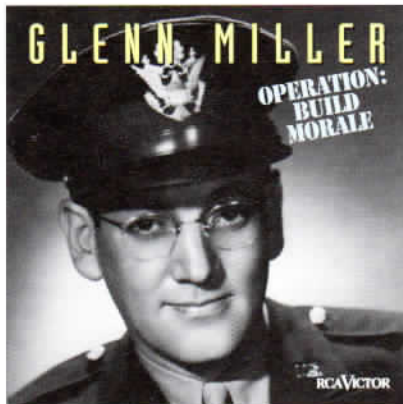
"The plane broke into several pieces, but we all walked away."



Frank Baca of Bayard, N.M., is viewed through the radio operator's hatch from the B-17 bomber in which he crashed in England in 1944. A ten year old boy salvaged the piece from the crash and held onto it until 1995, when another Englishman got it for Baca. His finger points to the spot - on a model of the plane - where the hatch was located.

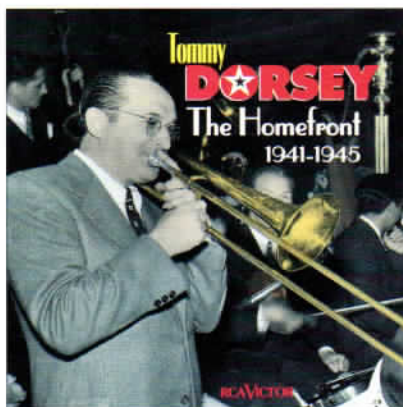
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GRISSOM AIR MUSEUM



A Half Century of History and Heroism in the Skies is the theme of the impressive Grissom Air Museum in Peru, Indiana. Constantly acquiring new aircraft such as a Navy F-11F jet, a UH-25 helicopter, and an Air Force F-101, new features are being added monthly to the Museum exhibitry. Eighth Air Force connections are an important part of the museum's offerings - there is a B-17 Flying Fortress out on a hardstand as well as a C-47, a B-47 Stratojet bomber, and numerous fighter aircraft.

A special exhibit recently dedicated is the Lt. General William E. Kepner display. General Kepner is remembered as a leader and commander of the Mighty Eighth Air Force, having served in World War I as a Battalion commander before entering the Air Corps. This pioneer aviator flew in international balloon races before taking over the 8th Fighter Command in England in World War II. Kepner also served as Commander of the 2nd Air Division and flew on 24 combat missions with fighters and bombers during the war. Born just a few miles from the site of the Grissom Air Museum, General Kepner has his permanent exhibit as a tribute to his leadership and years of service.

The museum has interactive cockpit displays, archives, aviation art collections, a theater and a gift shop.

There are monthly activities and events, for which information may be obtained by calling the Museum at 765-688-2654. The Air Museum is open daily from 10am to 4pm Tuesday - Saturday, and outdoor exhibits from dawn to dusk daily. Admission is free. **The GRISSOM AIR SHOW will feature the Navy Blue Angels and many other flying acts, static displays, and special activities on June 20 - 21, 1998! The Air Show may be watched from the museum parking lot or campground. Free Admission!**

REUNION NOTE:

Frank Halm of the 94th bomb group Association writes for the information of those Society members attending the annual reunion in October, that during the 94th BGA reunion at Cherry Hill, NJ in 1997 he rented an automobile from Friendly Rent-A Car near the Cherry Hill Hilton and gives them high marks for service and cost. They picked him up at the Hilton on time with no problems. Their telephone number for arrangements is 1-888-RENT-FUN. Friendly Rent-A-Car — highly recommended!

Serenade to the Blue Lady

Robert Cooper, an 8th AF veteran and biographer of Bert Stiles (*Serenade to the Blue Lady*), an 8th AF fighter pilot killed in combat and who wrote the acclaimed book *Serenade to the Big Bird* during his tour in bombers, has uncovered over 100 of Bert's unpublished essays and short stories stored in a basement since 1943. Bob and a college friend of Bert, Dr. Roland Dickison, plan to publish these in a separate volume this year. Fans of Bert Stiles may contact Bob at 30 College Park; Davis, CA 95616.

Computer Database

For several years, Arlo Bartsch has been developing a computer database to record and permanently preserve the individual military records and experiences of those who served in the 8th Air Force. His computer program will be available for group records as well as individuals, and

can include photos, personal artifacts, videos, and other important items to be presented on a CD disk or a hard cover copy. Arlo has been successful in working with his group, the 379th Bomb Group Association, and would like to be in touch with groups and individuals who are interested in a permanent record of their accomplishments while in the Mighty Eighth. Museums, universities, and researchers may have access to these "Living Monuments" for future use. Arlo may be reached at (414) 355-5506 for complete information.

Appreciation of the editor goes out to John Embich of Drake, Colorado for forwarding his complete collection of 8th AF NEWS magazines and his 2nd Air Division newsletters for research use and in preparing a book publication of the fourth four years of the 8th AF NEWS.

NOTICE

After almost two decades of service to the Society, Arthur and Carolyn Swanson are moving into a new house and clearing their basement of years of accumulated files. At the midterm Board meeting in March Art announced his official retirement as Membership/Records manager of the Historical Society. He and Carolyn will continue their many activities in the Society and with the Pennsylvania Chapter as well.

The Board of Directors has confirmed the annual reunion site for 1999.

Unit and Chapter meetings may be planned around this date.

1999 - Savannah, Georgia Marriott Riverfront Hotel October 26-31, 1999

HOW ABOUT IT?

The wall in a maternity ward has an inscription which reads, "A baby is God's opinion that the world should go on." In the first three decades of this century, God was sending a strong message to freedom-loving people everywhere that he had a specific purpose for every baby born during this time in history. These babies were nurtured by God-fearing parents and a society which expected integrity, industry, and patriotism. As they grew into their teen years, the war clouds of oppression arose to destroy the ideals which they had been taught to respect. Challenged, they responded to the call of their country. They went into an atmosphere of regimentation preparing them for duty and often, the supreme sacrifice. Still they went...by the thousands and then by the millions. They went from tranquility and confidence to an atmosphere of violence and fear.

What happened did not seem fair. Some were single and survived. Others didn't live to see their new baby. Some were maimed for life and others came through unscathed. Some lie in hallowed resting places in England, Brittany, Lorraine and the Ardennes, yet many came home to live lives of comfort, achievement and happiness. The lives and talents of many were destroyed, others were able to use theirs to enable people around the world to enjoy freedom purchased at such a high cost. There is no simple explanation. All of us are pressing through life, some press longer than others. Many reach the promised three-score and ten. Others do not.

How could these wasted talents have been put to use had they not been destroyed? We do not know, of course. But we, as a part of the legacy that has been spared, must recognize that Divine intervention allowed us to survive. How have we used and how are we now using our gifts and talents? Are we tiptoeing through each day, week, and year just so we can reach death safely? We should be praying, "Lord, wake me up before I die. " Life can get away! Don't be satisfied with just breathing God's free air. Pump blood, but pump it with a purpose.



Earl E. Wassom
Chaplain, Tennessee Chapter

Eighth Air Force Historical Society 1998 Mid-year Meeting

Cherry Hill, N.J., March 27th, 1998

Planning Committee and Mighty 8th Air Force Heritage Museum Liaison Committee Report

Board discussions of the business of the Planning Committee and the Mighty 8th Air Force Heritage Museum Liaison Committee were combined for convenience and efficiency because of the singularity of their Chairs and the considerable overlap of their affairs. A number of matters were contributed for discussion by members of both committees, but those introduced before the Board and requiring Board action were:



- I. A 2/12/98 letter from Lt. Gen. Shuler to 8AFHS President Norman Grant on behalf of the Mighty 8th AF Heritage Museum Board of Directors offering office accommodations and business services was discussed by the 8th AFHS Board. Consequently it was m.s.p. (by Exec. Action) that Gen. Shuler's offer be "... affirmatively responded to..." and that discussions be initiated by President Grant to work out the details of such an accommodation.
- II. It was discussed, and consensus apparently reached with no formal Board action deemed necessary, that site selection for all future membership meetings be determined two years in advance.
- III. A letter from (8th AFHS founder) John Woolnough's son, Mark, to 8th AFHS Pres. Norman Grant, requesting the Society's support of his efforts to have his father's historic collection of letters and artifacts removed from the Pennsylvania State University Library archives and deposited for full display in the Mighty 8th Air Force Heritage Museum, was discussed extensively. After some argument it was m.s.p. to request that President Grant comply with Mr. Woolnough's request.
- IV. The Planning Committee initiated extensive discussion of the relationship - particularly the very costly (and seemingly obligatory) financial support, with virtually no accountability - of the 8th AFHS and the legally separate 8th AF Memorial Museum Foundation. It was revealed that though some of the contributions of the "MMF" have been of value, they have not been a bargain and could probably have been accomplished as efficiently (if desired) within the 8th AFHS's own corporate entity rather than by another entity over which we have no control or review. Historically, it was further revealed, the "MMF" was charged, as its name indicates, to establish just such an historic monumental institution as we now have in the Mighty 8th AF Heritage Museum. Consequently, it was m.s.p. to thoroughly re-examine any continued relationship of the 8th AFHS and the 8th AFMMF.

Tom Parsons
Chairman 8th AFHS Planning Committee;
Mighty 8th AF Heritage Museum Liaison Committee

Memorial Affairs & Services Committee: Although committee members have been extensively in communication with each other and with Pres. Norman Grant, no presentation was made to the full Board at its 3/27/98 cherry hill, N.J. meeting. Consequently no report of actions at that meeting is available.

Tom Parsons
8th AFHS Memorial Affairs & Service committee



8th AF News

The Eighth Air Force Historical Society

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