



8th AF NEWS

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OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

March/April 2003



REUNION ISSUE!



AF NEWS

JUNE 2003

Magazine of

The Eighth Air Force Historical Society

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. The 8th AF NEWS is sent to members of the Society and is not for public sale. The home office is at 175 Bourne St., Pooler GA. 31322 - P.O. Box 1787, Savannah, GA. 31402.

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OPERATIONS 2003



Operation Iraqi Freedom

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Your Board is doing its best to have a truly outstanding Reunion this year. Included in this issue of 8AF NEWS are all the programs, schedules and forms for registration that you will need to make preparations to come to Colorado Springs, CO, Oct. 14 - 19, 2003.

A VERY SPECIAL ANNUAL REUNION AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

It was in 1893 that Katharine Lee Bates, poet and professor of English at Wellesley College in Massachusetts, saw at Colorado Springs the view that inspired the poem that has become our unofficial national anthem. Even before I knew that, when I heard "Oh, beautiful for spacious skies . . ." it brought a vision of these beautiful foothills of the great Rocky Mountains.

A bountiful group of tour attractions at our reunion will allow you to enjoy the incredible beauties of the region. An aggressive program of symposia and seminars will entertain, enlighten and stimulate you.

As Colorado Springs is home to the Air Force Academy, many Cadets will be invited to our symposia. I would also encourage all of you to pay the small fee to 'sponsor a Cadet' or two at our Saturday banquet, have your sponsored Cadets at your table, and enjoy breaking bread with some of the future leaders of our Air Force. These opportunities do not come around very often!

We will also have an outstanding memorabilia room this year, with thousands of pictures, letters and documents from 8th AF activities beginning in WW II and continuing up to the present time. The 8AFHS Louisiana Chapter President, Harry Tanner, will display his 'Museum' for you to enjoy throughout the Reunion.

Also, there will be plenty of that which we enjoy the most — 'hangar flying'. Some of the stories we have heard so many times we are beginning to believe them. It is really good to see your friends there. Make your plans NOW to attend.

THE 8TH TODAY

As this is written, active fighting under Operation Iraqi Freedom has sort of wound down. I would be extremely remiss if I did not express our gratitude to the men and

women of our armed forces for going once more in harm's way in the cause of freedom. As long as there are men and women who are willing to risk it all for freedom, this great nation has a chance. Just as we "let it all hang out" in World War II, once more they took up the challenge, and we are in their debt.

And while I am at it, let's express our gratitude to our British friends, government and troops alike, for being willing to "hang tough" with us. They were with us then and are with us now. We will not forget. It is hard to forget Mr. Churchill's famous and irreverent statement: "Two great nations, divided by a common language." Our British friends may "talk funny", but they carry their share of the load, and God bless 'em. We are also grateful to others of the Coalition in Iraq who helped share the load, notably Australians and Polish troops.

Your president was honored to be present at the spring meeting of the Western Wing of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society. It was a memorable occasion with 127 members and guests present to honor a distinguished group of medal winners, ex-POWs and some successfully evaders of capture. It was a pleasure to be among these live-wire members.

When flying in the air, stay in the middle of it and away from the edges. That's where trouble can get you.

God bless you all, and I hope to see you in Colorado Springs.

Craig Harris



Craig Harris
President



Happy July 4th!

Our country's Pledge of Allegiance began as a set piece in a magazine written by a gentleman named Francis Bellamy in honor of Columbus Day that year, a now rather obscure holiday in America. The only change since then has been the addition of the words "under God" which were added during the Cold War presidency of President Dwight Eisenhower. The pledge has remained for over 100 years a unifying oath for all Americans and is one of the most famous declarations of respect and honor in the world.



Walter Brown, Editor
 Ewell Farm
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The 8th AF Historical Society had a most productive mid-term Board of Directors meeting March 2-3 in our reunion hotel in Colorado Springs. We are enthusiastic about the plans for this year's annual reunion to be held October 14-19, 2003. The inclusion of the professors and cadets from the U.S. Air Force Academy and a day spent touring the Academy, along with a very special seminar based on each day of missions during October 1943 - what is now known as the Mighty

Eighth Air Force Week - will make this reunion one to remember.

This current issue of the 8th AF News is the last of

this fiscal year and is being mailed first-class postage to get the reunion information out to you in its entirety along with some important items of Society business. The September issue will be a big fat one and lots of articles you have sent in will be included. It will feature some fascinating 8th Air Force combat stories.

The part that the air crews played in the Iraqi war and especially the return of Eighth Air Force combat teams flying missions from England, represent the continuation of the proud tradition of the Mighty Eighth stemming directly from those who served in World War II. Articles of the Eighth's role in Operation Iraqi Freedom will appear in the upcoming September 03 issue.

The Colorado mountains will be beautiful in the fall. Plan now to meet old and new friends in the Eighth at our annual reunion. We'll see you there!

Walter Brown, Editor

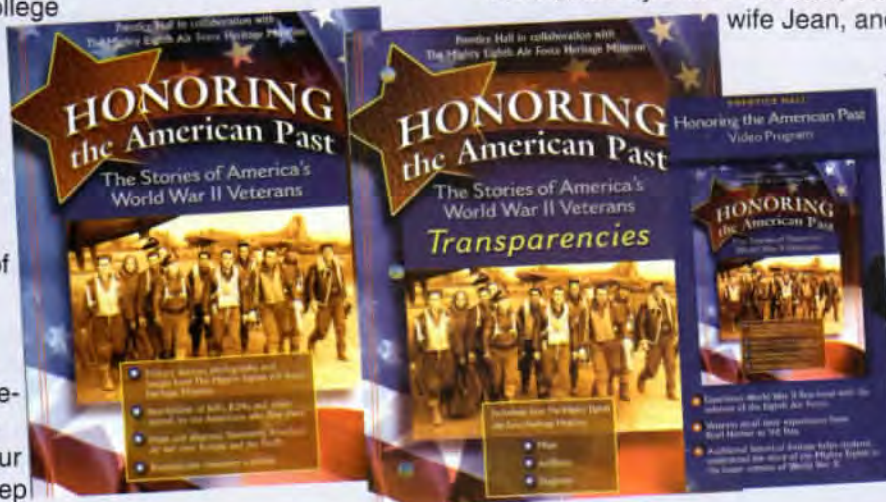
CURRICULUM GUIDE POPULAR WITH EDUCATORS

Teaching Materials Now Available to Historical Society Vets

The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum's new Curriculum Guide, *Honoring the American Past: The Stories of America's World War II Veterans*, is hot off the press and is already being used in classrooms across the country. A collaborative project between the museum, the Eighth Air Force Historical Society, and Prentice Hall, the 124-page booklet, video, and transparency pack provides an overview of the Eighth Air Force and the role it played in World War II. The guide is targeted for a middle schoolaged audience, but is also being used in high school and college classrooms.

This guide represents the museum's first large-scale effort to take the story of the Eighth Air Force beyond the walls of the institution. "Now we have a tool that teachers can use to effectively teach about this important part of our history, the next step

is distribution," said C.J. Roberts, Museum President & CEO. As part of the agreement, Prentice Hall Publishers will distribute copies to over 15,000 teachers around the country. The museum has an additional 5,000 copies to distribute. While suitable for students, the guide is actually designed for teachers. Activities, discussion questions, and other exercises can be photocopied and used as handouts or to form the basis for classroom activities. It is the museum's hope that Eighth Air Force Chapters, Bomb/Fighter Group Associations, and other groups will purchase guides and donate them to schools. Since much of the guide is reproducible, one or two kits per school should be adequate. American Legion Post 134 in Atlanta was the first group to step up to the challenge, purchasing 100 copies for distribution in the Atlanta area. Additional funding for the Curriculum Guide project was contributed by Frank DeCicco, 303rd BG member, his wife Jean, and the DeCicco family.



The kit consisting of a book, video, and transparency pack is available for \$24.99 plus \$4 s&h. Please contact Julia Smith, Director of Gift shop, 912-748-8888 or email www.mightyeighthgiftshop.org for more information.

ON OUR JUNE 2003 COVER

AIR WAR IN IRAQ MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

Air War technology has changed vastly in the past 60 years, but the effects remain the same. In Operation Iraqi Freedom air supremacy and targeted air strikes allowed the coalition ground troops the ability to maneuver and advance on objectives with a minimal of ground resistance by enemy forces. There was practically no resistance in the air. The campaign was a well-coordinated effort by all of the services, with the Navy, Army, Marines, Air Force, and Service groups all playing an important role.

The 8th Air Force was pivotal in its wartime role once again. B-52 Stratofortresses from the 457th Expeditionary Group assigned to RAF Fairford, England flew bombing missions from airbases in the UK. All-too-familiar .50 caliber machine guns, improved models, were fired from waist doors in American and British helicopters. Remote-controlled Predator propeller-driven aircraft and Marine Dragon Eye drones controlled from monitoring positions hundreds of miles from the battlefields, targeted enemy battle positions and movements as they occurred. Unpiloted forty-four foot long Global Hawk radar aircraft penetrated desert sandstorms from heights of over 60,000 feet. These remote-controlled aircraft were in the air every day before and during the war. With up-to-date information supplied by this technology, piloted aircraft were able to deliver their computerized armament directly into specific targets and buildings.

Headquarters 8th Air Force at Barksdale AFB, LA deployed over 2000 servicemen and women early in the campaign. Capt. Denise Kerr, Chief of 8th AF Public Affairs Section, states that units deployed included 8th AF Headquarters, 116th Air Control Wing, 2nd Bomb Wing, 5th Bomb Wing, 509th Bomb Wing, 67th Information Operations Wing, 7th Information Wing, and the 9th Reconnaissance Wing.

Maintenance ground crews faced unusual circumstances in the preparation and maintenance of their aircraft during the hot sandy climate which presented to them in the Iraqi war. B-2 Stealth Bombers from the 5th Bomb Wing at Whiteman AFB and other aircraft nearer the theater of operations flew long-range missions successfully, being refueled on the way in and return out. On their missions, B-52s of the 20th Bomb Squadron "Buccaneers" from the 2nd Bomb Wing at Barksdale AFB took on as much as 120,000 pounds of fuel from KC-135Rs of the 100th Aerial Refueling Wing at RAF Mildenhall, UK.

The B-52 "Buff" Stratofortress is capable of flying long-range missions at heights up to 50,000 feet carrying conventional or nuclear ordnance. It is highly effective when used for ocean surveillance and in Navy anti-ship and mine-laying operations. It is powered by eight Pratt & Whitney engines, achieving a top speed of 650 mph. Wingspan: 185 feet; length: 159 ft 4 inches, height: 40 ft 8 inches. Unrefueled range: 8,800 miles. Armament: 70,000 lbs of

mixed ordnance. The H-model has 20 mm Gatling guns. Its crew consists of two pilots, a navigator, radar navigator, and an electronic warfare officer. The B-1B and B-2 stealth bombers can fly intercontinental missions without refueling. With air refueling KC-135 tankers, missions in the B-2 have lasted as long as 35 hours.

The 8th Air Force remains an active defensive and offensive force in the labile situation in the Middle East and in Operation Iraqi Freedom and in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Airmen fighting for freedom for all people are continuing the proud traditions of the Mighty Eighth.



From top, our Bomber Strike aircraft! The B-52 Stratofortress, The B1-B bomber, and the B-2 Stealth bomber.

Heritage League Liasion

The Heritage League, the organization of younger generations of the 2nd Air Division Association, has appointed Brian Mahoney as Liaison to the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum in Savannah. Brian currently serves as Communications Vice-president and Editor of the Heritage Herald.

Brian has been in touch with the museum staff and with the John Woolnough Library Archivist at the Museum. He may be reached at: Brian Mahoney 492nd/467th, 1817 T St. NW; Washington DC 20009; tel (202) 232-1423 or email: BriCamera@mindspring.com

HERITAGE MUSEUM ACTIVITIES

WARBIRDS BALL 2003 A HUGE SUCCESS

The annual fund-raiser World War II USO dinner dance hangar party of the Heritage Museum was held March 22nd in Savannah. The evening event was held at Board member Robert Jepson's hangar near Savannah International Airport in the presence of two of his beautifully restored P-51 Mustangs, Diamondback and Lady Alice. The period big band music was provided by the Fred Nimmer orchestra and a special USO re-enactment song and dance team of young USO ladies from New York put on a swinging World War II music show.

The crowd of over 300 revelers applauded the 165th Airlift Wing of the Georgia Air National Guard for their continuing assistance to the museum and for their vital part in the defense capabilities of our country. The 165th Airlift Wing, under the command of General Steven Westgate, was the recipient of the prestigious Jimmy Stewart Award presented by the Heritage Museum. Many members of the 165th were recognized by Board

Chairman Lt. Gen. E. G. "Buck" Shuler during the Award presentation.

The Master of Ceremonies for the Warbirds Ball was local celebrity Sonny Dixon who introduced a number of special

guests including Mrs. Mardi Johnson, wife of the late 8th Air Force Commander General Gerald Johnson, and her family. Appreciation to the event sponsors of businesses and community leaders were extended. The very successful dinner dance event netted over \$50,000 for the museum, with plans to reach a goal of \$100K for the 2004 Warbirds Ball.



Master of Ceremonies
Sonny Dixon, and
Jennifer



The Fred Nimmer Orchestra and its big band sound



Frank and Jean DeCicco, 303rd BG



Jitterbuggers



Board member Jimmy
Hayes shows his colors



8th AFHS past-President Sherman Small
– that lipstick doesn't appear to be
Claire's color!



Your 8th AF News editor on yet
another tough reporting assign-
ment at the Warbirds Ball – USO
showgirls, in red: Jennifer Johns;
in white: Linda Sue Moshier; in
blue: Victoria Reed

HERITAGE MUSEUM ACTIVITIES

From the Development Office - The Heritage Museum forms a new Foundation to raise \$25,000,000 Endowment

The Museum has formed a new foundation, The Mighty Eighth Foundation, to raise and manage the Endowment. The Endowment will be funded through planned gifts. The Mighty Eighth Foundation is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Eighth Air Force history. To this end, the foundation supports the education programs, exhibits, research and operations of The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum. The foundation is a separate 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. Your gift will be tax deductible.

The foundation's goal is to raise \$25,000,000 for the endowment. While \$25,000,000 is a large number, it is important to realize that our membership numbers 5,600. There are 16,000 members in the Eighth Air Force Historical Society and another 6,000 in the Second Air Division. If only 5,000 of these Eighth Air Force veterans make a planned gift of \$5,000, we will reach our goal. Time is of the essence! The urgency grows with each day!

This mission is critical for the long term financial security of the Museum. You, our veterans, have been a part of the museum since its infancy in the design and development stage. You worked with General Lyle as he traveled across the nation seeking a home for the Eighth. You raised funds with your bomb group or fighter group for the construction of the museum. You donated your memorabilia and artifacts to our collections. Your name is inscribed in the Memorial Gardens. Today you support the museum with your membership dues and gifts to the annual fund. You are an integral part of our success. There is one last opportunity to participate and that is to make the ultimate gift - an estate gift to the Foundation. Recently, we announced the Ben F. and Margaret Love Society. We encourage each of our members and friends to consider joining the Loves by making a planned gift. Please let us know that you have made a planned gift or bequest which names The Mighty Eighth Foundation in your will.

Judy Walker, Director

For more information about planned giving, please call Judy Walker, 912-748-8888 ext. 123.

CARILLON DEDICATED AT CHAPEL OF THE FALLEN EAGLES

The belfry tower of the Memorial Chapel at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum now has a beautiful voice. A carillon strikingly similar to the one in the chapel at the American cemetery in Madingly, England was dedicated in memory of the late Dr. S. William Clark, 351st Bomb Group, in a special service attended by his wife, Susan Clark, and seventeen members of his family. Dr. Clark was a long-time supporter of the museum and a valuable member of the museum Board. Members of the Board of Trustees and museum officers and staff were also in attendance.

The carillon was donated by the Clark family as a very special remembrance of Bill Clark. It strikes the quarter hours and top of the hour in the same manner as the chimes of the Big Ben tower clock in London. The technology also allows the carillon to reproduce several hundred patriotic and seasonal tunes and songs for special occasions. The chimes are heard from the top of the bell tower and add a very special effect as they are heard across the entire Memorial Gardens of the museum. Special music of the carillon may also be programmed for occasions, weddings and events held in the Memorial Chapel and the Gardens.



Ceremonies at the Chapel of the Fallen Eagles Carillon dedication



Dr. Bill Clark's son, Dr. S. William Clark III, and wife, Susan Clark

MAJOR GENERAL ANDREW LOW HONORED IN CHAPEL

Friday morning, March 21st, 2003 outside the Chapel of the Fallen Eagles, the morning was moist following a day and night of fairly persistent rains. Weather, by the way, somewhat reminiscent of those long ago days so familiar to those who served with the Mighty Eighth during the anxious days of 1943-1945.

Those present were gathering to take part in a most significant ceremony honoring a prominent and much admired member of the "Mighty Eighth", Major General Andrew S. Low, Jr., USAF (Ret.) General Andy, as he was affectionately known, was about to have the memory of his devoted service with the "Mighty Eighth" permanently enshrined within the friendly confines of the home of the "Mighty Eighth". A beautiful stained glass window provided by the family and friends of General Andy was to be formally dedicated in a most intimate and appropriate setting.

The Low family, led by Andy's widow Helen, accompanied by two of her daughters and her son arrived at the chapel never having seen the actual window. The reaction of the Low family proved to all who witnessed the scene that "our" chapel allows family and friends to enjoy a quiet and comforting place for prayer and meditation.

A sincere and reflective ceremony eloquently presented by Colonel Tommy Thompson, West Point Class of 1942, classmate and friend of General Andy, reminded all present

that the impressive military career of Andy Low was also woven into a fabric that revealed the life of a warrior, husband, father and a quiet and private man.

Following an invocation by Craig Harris, President of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society, Russell Harriman, 453rd Bomb Group, 2nd Air Division led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Colonel Thompson recognized the Low family, distinguished guests and friends of General Low. A Second Air Division tribute to General Andy was delivered by Richard M. Kennedy, Past President, Second Air Division Association and current trustee of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum. Several members of the Low family spoke to the attendees, recalling loving and touching personal memories of Andy.

All in all, a truly memorable occasion, a warm and comfortable place crowned by an inspirational window designed by Jessica Low Kalfian. The "Mighty Eighth" can say "Well done, General Andy." Your memorial window will certainly reflect, to all who visit, a lifetime of service to God and Country.

As would be expected, when the small group left the chapel a bright Georgia sun warmed the morning air and the angel in Andy's window seemed to welcome all to share the memories of his "wonderful world".

**Dick Kennedy 2nd Air Division
Malvern, PA**

**Maj. General Andrew Low Chapel
designed by Jessica Low Kalfian**



The Low Family L-R: Aaron & Jessica Low; Kalfian Laecoinda Low Willis - daughter; Mrs. Helen Low; Kathy & Andrew S. Low III - from Beijing, China



L-R: Dick Kennedy - Past President Second Air Div Assn; Craig Harris - President 8th AF Historical Society; F.C. "Hap" Chandler - Past President Second ADA; Col. Jim Elkins - 453rd BG 735th BG Squadron Navigator

GUEST EDITORIAL
Reunions and the American Spirit
 by William Shupert, 379th Bomb Group

Recently I attended my first reunion of the 379th Bomb Group Association held at Harrisburg, Pa. I had been encouraged to attend by a good friend - "fellow" lead navigator, and neighbor, Jim Rockwell. Jim and I had flown together on D-Day and on a mission to Hamburg. We had met for the first time in 57 years at The Heritage Museum in Savannah.

My wife and I went to the reunion with some feelings of trepidation. I wondered if I would meet anyone I knew after all these years. Would I, of a replacement crew, be welcomed by the old cadre of the original Group who endured the Schweinfurt missions? When we attended the first gathering, my previous concern was quickly resolved.

As I was greeted by my brothers of the 379th BG, I realized we were all "one". No longer enduring the rigors of close order drill, obstacle courses, push-ups, learning the morse-code, and most of all, flying on combat missions. We were together with less hair, wearing hearing aids, using canes, and often assisted by a loved one or friend. After suppressing my wartime experiences for these many years, I found myself sharing them with a new friend who had been there, seen that, and done it himself! For me it was a form of release, a catharsis, a letting go of so many invisible scars of the past! I thought to myself, why had I waited so long before attending my reunion? For any of you, who have missed out on such an experience, I can only suggest that you consider attending one soon! Think of it as an easy mission over friendly territory, a milk run to share with former comrades-in-arms, a renewal mission of spirit and soul, preparing us for that inevitable "final mission to Big E",

the eternity that awaits us all.

This is a time of great tragedy for our nation and yet it is also a time of coming together. We served in the last "good" war, WWII. Our war was fought to save the world for democracy. At the time, we felt successful and so it was for nearly 60 years. Not since Pearl Harbor have we suffered a sneak attack resulting in the loss of so many Americans.

Songs such as "God Bless America", the flying of our flag and recognition of our military forces in a time of need, has re-kindled the Spirit of America. It has also awakened an interest among the young in our military history, especially World War II. We veterans of the Eighth Air Force are considered living symbols of our nation's last great victory - elder statesmen to go to for advice. It provides an open door of opportunity for each of us to become involved. Let us be a strong foundation of support for our nation, our families, civic groups, and for our Eighth Air Force organizations that already are involved in the education and encouragement of our nation's young people.

Our unity as a nation provides our strength as a nation. Becoming involved in our Eighth Air Force activities will help provide this support. Watch for reunions of your Bomb Groups as listed in the 8th Air Force News. Attend if you can the annual reunion of our 8th AF Historical Society this October in Colorado Springs. You will enjoy the fellowship of kindred spirits!
 Sincerely,

William R. Shupert, 379th BG
Marietta, GA



JOIN THE 8TH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

Name

FIRST

MIDDLE INITIAL

LAST

Address

CITY

STATE

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Telephone

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8th AF Unit

Not in 8th

Include me as a full Associate Member

In service

Branch

Dates

to

Were you a former member?

Member # if available

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY: LIFE MEMBER ANNUAL DUES \$20

PAYMENT: CHECK MASTERCARD VISA CARD # _____

SIGNATURE: _____

SEND APPLICATION AND PAYMENT TO 8TH AFHS P.O. BOX 1787, SAVANNAH, GA 31402

TEL: 912-748-8884

\$20 MEMBERS DUES NOTICES ARE MAILED ANNUALLY

- Form may be reproduced -

Website: www.8thafhs.org.com

8th AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REUNION SHERATON - COLORADO SPRINGS OCTOBER 14-19, 2003



Plans are well on their way for the 29th annual reunion, to be held in Colorado Springs, home to the United States Air Force Academy. Mark your calendars

now for a great time of renewing old friendships and seeing this beautiful part of the country.

In 1870, General William Jackson Palmer, on first seeing the Colorado Springs and Pikes Peak region, wrote to his wife: "Could one live in constant view of these grand mountains without being elevated by them into a lofty plane of thought and purpose?" Almost immediately, Palmer began planning the city of his dreams. Today, more than 125 years later, people by the millions continue to come from all over the world, drawn by the same beauty that forever changed Palmer. The city is surrounded by beautiful scenery year round, but we'll visit in October, when you'll find the temperature rising into the 60s during the day and falling into the 30s at night. Be sure to come early and/or stay late to enjoy all that the Colorado Springs area has to offer. The hotel will extend the rate three days before and after the reunion, based on availability.

For those of you with internet access, find out more about the Colorado Springs area at <http://www.pikes-peak.com>

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

See choices below and complete the Registration Form. Remit by check or money order payable to Armed Forces Reunions (NOT "8AF REUNION") by September 12, 2003 (no credit cards or phone reservations accepted). Forms received after this date will be accepted on a space available basis only. Hotel reservation forms should be filled out completely and mailed directly to the hotel by September 12, 2003.

ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. CANCELLATION POLICY

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a

full refund less a \$5 processing fee. Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less a \$5 processing fee. Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 5:00pm Eastern Standard Time, excluding holidays. Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Canceling your hotel reservation doesn't cancel your reunion activities.

MEALS / EVENTS CHOICES

CHOICE #1 TOTAL PACKAGE \$174

Package includes 7 hotel food functions starting with breakfast on Thursday. Options are separate.

CHOICE #2 PARTIAL PACKAGE \$123

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

Breakfast menus: The continental breakfasts on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday include juice, breakfast breads, yogurt, cold cereals & milk, fruit, coffee, and tea. The breakfast buffet on Saturday includes juice, assorted breakfast breads, eggs, pancakes, breakfast meats, potatoes, fruit, coffee, and tea.

CHOICE #3 INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Friday Rendezvous Dinner \$32 and Saturday Banquet \$40 can be purchased separately, but are included in both packages above.

TOUR / EVENT OPTIONS

Wednesday: Garden of the Gods / Old Colorado City \$29 and Flying W Ranch \$66. Thursday: Air Force Academy \$46. Friday: Olympic Visitor Center \$28. Saturday: Royal Gorge Train Ride \$63 OR Garden of the Gods / Old Colorado City \$29.



8th AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REUNION SHERATON – COLORADO SPRINGS

Tuesday, October 14

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

Wednesday, October 15

8:00am - 9:00am	Reunion Registration open
9:00am - Tbd	Hospitality/Gathering Room & Memorabilia Room opens
9:30am - 2:00pm	GARDEN OF THE GODS / OLD COLORADO CITY
1:00pm - Tbd	8AFHS 'PX' open through Sunday
1:00pm - 5:00pm	Reunion Registration open
2:00pm -	8AFHS Board Meeting
3:00pm - 4:30pm	Discussion on Web Page Development for 8AFHS Units/Chapters
6:30pm - 10:30pm	FLYING W RANCH

Thursday, October 16

7:00am - 8:30am	Continental Breakfast
8:00am - 9:00am	Reunion Registration open
8:00am - 9:30am	Unit Advisory and Chapter & Unit Development Meeting
9:45am - 2:45pm	AIR FORCE ACADEMY TOUR
3:00pm - 5:00pm	Reunion Registration open
3:15pm - 4:15pm	Medical Advisory Seminar by Dr. Walter Brown
4:30pm - 5:30pm	Seminar: Planned Giving by Judy Walker
6:00pm - 7:00pm	Cash Bar Reception
7:00pm - 9:00pm	Group Dinner & Entertainment

Friday, October 17

7:00am - 8:30am	Continental Breakfast
8:00am - 10:00am	Reunion Registration open
8:30am - 10:00am	Individual Group Meetings
10:00am - 12:00pm	Seminar: The American Dream by Brig. Gen. James H. Graves
1:00pm - 3:30pm	Symposium: "SEVEN DAYS IN OCTOBER" - The Norman C. Grant Memorial - 60th Anniversary Commemorative Symposium
1:15pm - 4:15pm	OLYMPIC VISITOR CENTER
3:00pm - 5:00pm	Reunion Registration open
6:00pm - 7:00pm	8AFHS Cash Bar Reception
7:00pm -	Rendezvous Dinners and 'Hangar Flying'

Saturday, October 18

6:30am - 8:00am	Full Breakfast Buffet
8:00am - 10:30am	General Membership Meeting
10:45am - 3:45pm	ROYAL GORGE TRAIN RIDE
11:15am - 3:45pm	OLD COLORADO CITY / GARDEN OF THE GODS
5:30pm - 6:00pm	Reunion Registration open
6:00pm - 7:00pm	8AFHS Cash Bar Reception
7:00pm -	8AFHS Gala Banquet

Sunday, October 19

7:00am - 8:30am	Continental Breakfast
8:30am - 9:15am	Separate Protestant and Catholic Services at the hotel
9:30am -	8AFHS Annual Board Meeting

REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

GARDEN OF THE GODS / OLD COLORADO CITY

**Wednesday, October 15 and
Saturday, October 18**

Board bus for the Garden of the Gods, a 1,350 acre park with magnificent red stone formations that date back 300 million years. Stop for a photo opportunity at the Trading Post, where the finest in authentic Indian arts, crafts, and jewelry are featured. Continue onto Old Colorado City. Ten years before General Palmer named the region known today as Colorado Springs, another town was already operating in the Pikes Peak region. The town was Colorado City and it remained proudly independent until being annexed to Colorado Springs during WWI. In recent years, the Colorado City downtown (now called Old Colorado City) has been refurbished into a historic district and specialty shopping center. Enjoy time to browse in the many boutiques and lunch on your own at one of several restaurants. Saturday's schedule will follow the opposite time line.

**Wednesday: 9:30 board bus,
2:00pm back at hotel**

**Saturday: 11:15am board bus,
3:45pm back at hotel**

**\$29/Person includes bus and
guide. Lunch on your own.**

FLYING W RANCH

Wednesday, October 15

Board bus for the Flying W Ranch. Round'em up for a real Chuckwagon Dinner in the Ranch's Winter Steakhouse. The wranglers dish up a delicious steak supper with baked potatoes, famous Flying W beans, applesauce, dutch-oven biscuits, spice cake, and coffee. Alcoholic beverages are available at the cash bar. After supper sit back and enjoy a root-en toot-en stage show with cowboys singing old songs of the West.

Note: To cover costs, this tour must have a minimum of 100 people. Due to space restrictions, the maximum is 200. Reservations will be accepted

on a first-come, first-served basis.

**6:30pm board bus, 10:30pm back
at hotel**

**\$66/Person includes bus, escort,
and dinner show.**

AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Thursday, October 16

Board bus for the Air Force Academy. Visit the Cadet Chapel, touring the Protestant, Jewish, and Catholic sections. Gather outside the Chapel to witness the daily meal formation of the cadets. At the Officers Club, enjoy lunch consisting of a turkey & cheese croissant, potato salad, fruit garnish, dessert, and a beverage. Tour the Visitor Center, with exhibits on cadet life and academy history, a theater, and gift shop. See the 8th AF Memorial Wall.

**9:45am board bus, 2:45pm back
at hotel**

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

DINNER BUFFET & ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, October 16

After a cash bar reception, enjoy a group dinner at the hotel featuring meatloaf, fried chicken, and pork, just like Mom and Grandma used to make. After dinner, sit back and watch the musical play, "I Was Young, Now I'm Wonderful," an Emmy award winning PBS special. The cast includes our own Birdie Schmidt Larrick (392nd BG) and is about the trials and tribulations of growing older.

**6:00pm Cash Bar
Reception, 7:00pm
Dinner.**

**Cost is included in
Package #1.**

SEMINAR AND SYMPOSIUM

Friday, October 17

Gather in the hotel for a special program on patriotism and diversity by Brig Gen Jim Graves. He spoke at our last Reunion and is

back again by great demand. After lunch on your own, WW II tactics and experiences will be discussed for two hours by a hand-picked panel in a symposium honoring Board Member Emeritus Norm Grant, who unfortunately passed away last year. We anticipate having many Air Force Academy Cadets in uniform as our guests.

10:00am The American Dream

1:00pm Seven Days in October

**Cost is included in your
Registration Fee.**

OLYMPIC VISITOR CENTER

Friday, October 17

After lunch on your own, board bus for a trip to the The Olympic Visitor Center, the primary support facility serving the general public and providing information about the USOC, U.S. Olympic Training Centers, and the Olympic Movement. The U.S. Olympic Spirit Store offers Olympic sports merchandise and gift items unavailable elsewhere. The tour includes a walk a long the Irwin Belk Olympic Path and visits to the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame rotunda and roof-top terrace with an Olympic flame display, which offers panoramic views of the entire complex and beautiful Colorado Springs.

**1:15 board bus, 4:15pm back at
hotel**

**\$28/Person includes bus and
guide.**



REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

RENDEZVOUS DINNERS

Friday, October 17

Gather in your respective banquet rooms with your individual groups for dinner featuring Chicken Cordon Bleu. Units (BGs, 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."

**6:00pm Cash Bar Reception,
7:00pm Dinner.**

Cost is included in both meal packages or \$40 separately.

ROYAL GORGE TRAIN RIDE

Saturday, October 18

Board bus for Canyon City to ride the Royal Gorge train. Pick up your box lunch (sandwich, side, dessert, and beverage), and then sit back and enjoy the narrated ride. The two hour train ride takes passengers through the "Grand Canyon of the Arkansas" on an unforgettable journey over the famous Hanging bridge, which clings precariously to the steep granite walls of the Royal Gorge, towering over 1,000 feet above. Experience this train ride that has been termed "The most spectacular 12 miles of railroad in America."

10:45am board bus, 3:45pm back at hotel

\$63/Person includes bus, guide, lunch, and train ride.

8th AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY GALA BANQUET

Saturday, October 18

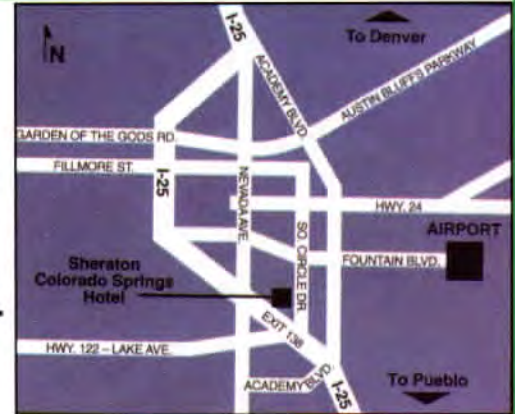
Assemble in the ballroom for the Posting of the Colors and Memorial Service. Dinner will be a choice of Roast Prime Rib of Beef or Pan-Seared Rocky Mountain Trout with the usual accompaniments. A pianist will provide dinner music, as well as a fun sing-along after the Banquet festivities. After dinner, we'll proceed with the awards ceremony and guest speaker.

**6:00pm Cash Bar Reception,
7:00pm Banquet.**

Cost is included in both meal packages or \$40 separately.

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

Please plan to be at the bus boarding area at least five minutes prior to the published times.



Two of the walls of Rickenbacker's pub at the Reunion Headquarters hotel



8th AFHS ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order (no credit cards or phone reservations accepted). Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before September 12, 2003. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.
 242 W. 22nd Street
 Norfolk, VA 23517
 ATTN: 8th AFHS

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Check # _____	Date Received _____
Inputted _____	Nametag Completed _____

CUT-OFF DATE IS 9/12/03

	Price Per	# of People	Total
REGISTRATION FEE			
Includes Unit rebates, Friday's Symposium expenses, and other reunion expenses.	\$40		\$
MEAL PACKAGES			
<i>Choice #1 includes 7 hotel meals beginning with breakfast on Thursday.</i>			
<i>Choice #2 includes 5 hotel meals beginning with breakfast on Friday.</i>			
Choice #1	\$174		\$
Choice #2	\$123		\$
Please select your entrée choice(s) for the Banquet:			
Roast Prime Rib of Beef		#	
Pan-Seared Rocky Mountain Trout		#	
SEPARATELY PRICED MEALS (if not purchasing a package)			
Friday: Rendezvous Dinner (chicken)	\$32		\$
Saturday: Banquet (please select your entrée)			
Roast Prime Rib of Beef	\$40		\$
Pan-Seared Rocky Mountain Trout	\$40		\$
TOURS / EVENTS			
Wednesday: Garden of the Gods / Old Colorado City	\$29		\$
Wednesday: Flying W Ranch	\$66		\$
Thursday: Air Force Academy Tour	\$46		\$
Friday: Olympic Visitor Center	\$28		\$
<i>Please choose one of the following two tours:</i>			
Saturday: Royal Gorge Train Ride	\$63		\$
Saturday: Garden of the Gods / Old Colorado City	\$29		\$
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.			\$

PLEASE PRINT Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.
 MEMBER NAME _____ 1st 8AFHS REUNION? _____
 LIFE MEMBER? ___ 8AFHS MEMBERSHIP # _____ WWII GROUP _____
 SPOUSE NAME _____ LIFE MEMBER? ___ MEMBER # _____
 GUEST NAMES _____

IF YOU'RE SPONSORING A CADET FOR THE BANQUET, PLEASE INDICATE HERE HOW MANY OF YOUR TOTAL BANQUET PURCHASES ARE FOR CADETS (Prime Rib is their entrée of choice) _____

MEMBER'S STREET ADDRESS _____
 CITY, ST, ZIP _____ PH. NUMBER (____) _____ - _____
 DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____
 ARE YOU CONFINED TO A WHEELCHAIR? _____
 EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PH. NUMBER (____) _____ - _____

SHERATON
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
(719) 576-5900, (800) 981-4012

The Sheraton Colorado Springs Hotel is located at 2886 South Circle Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80906, situated five miles from downtown. The Colorado Springs Airport is located eight miles from the hotel. If you are driving, take Interstate 25 to exit 138. You can see the hotel from the interstate. If you need more detailed directions, please call the hotel directly. All guest rooms have hair dryers, iron and ironing boards, and in-room coffee makers with complimentary coffee. A health club is on site with a sauna and steam room. Guests may enjoy an indoor pool, jacuzzi, and outdoor pool. Handicapped accessible and non-smoking rooms are subject to availability. Please request these special accommodations when making your hotel reservation. There is ample complimentary parking. Check-in time is 3:00pm; check-out is 11:00am. **Cafe Terra Cotta** is a full service restaurant, serving breakfast and lunch. In addition, it's open for dinner when needed while large groups are meeting. **Relish This! Deli** is a food court featuring breakfast items, Papa Murphy's Pizza, and Krispy Kreme Donuts. **Rickenbacker's** bar and grill serves lunch and dinner. Room service is available.

There are different types of suites that can be used for hospitality purposes. The parlors will rent for \$129/night (plus tax), and some suites have an adjoining sleeping room that can be rented for the group rate of \$89/night. We suggest you call the hotel for specific information and to make these special reservations.

Complimentary airport shuttle is available for guests of the Sheraton Colorado Springs. After retrieving your luggage, call the hotel from the courtesy phone in the baggage claim area of the airport. You may want to consider other transportation services, as space is always limited on complimentary services.

There is plenty of free parking. RV parking is available in an adjacent parking lot. You must be a registered guest to park your RV on the property. Should you need full hookup service, call the Garden of Gods Campground at (719) 475-9450 to make a reservation and to obtain directions. Please make your reservations at least 2 to 3 weeks in advance. This campground is located approximately five miles from the Sheraton.

Brady's Rental rents wheelchairs by the day and week. Call Brady's at 719-596-6406 for more information.

Vendors, Schedules, and Prices are subject to change.

----- CUT HERE AND MAIL TO THE HOTEL -----

8th AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY - HOTEL RESERVATION FORM
REUNION DATES: OCTOBER 14 - 19, 2003

NAME _____ TEL. NUMBER (____) _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ APPROX. TIME _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

OF ROOMS ___ # OF PEOPLE IN RM. ___ HANDICAP ACCESS ___ SMOKING ___ NONSMOKING ___
KING BED ___ 2 DOUBLE BEDS ___ If room type requested is not available, nearest room type will be assigned.

RATE: \$89 + tax (currently 8%). Rate will be honored 3 days before and after reunion dates, based on availability.

CUT OFF DATE: Reservations received after **9/12/03** will be processed on space & rate available basis.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Deposit is refundable if reservation is canceled 48 hours prior to your arrival day. Changes in departure date after check-in, resulting in a shortened length of stay, may result in a \$50 early-departure fee.

All reservations must be guaranteed by credit card or first night's deposit, enclosed.

___ AMEX ___ DINERS ___ VISA ___ MASTER CARD ___ CARTE BLANCHE ___ DISCOVER

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE (regardless of payment method) _____

MAIL TO: Sheraton Colorado Springs * 2886 South Circle Drive * Colorado Springs, CO 80906



Orville

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FLIGHT

Orville and Wilbur Wright

"I chose Kitty Hawk because it seemed the place which most clearly met the required conditions. . . . At Kitty Hawk, which is on the narrow bar separating the Sound from the Ocean, there are neither hills or trees, so that it offers a safe place for practice."

Wilbur to his father, September 9, 1900



Wilbur



One of the successful glides made with the 1902 glider. The camp buildings are visible in the distance.



Visit the Centennial of Flight homepage at:
<http://www.centennialofflight.af.mil/index.shtml>

"... if you are looking for perfect safety, you will do well to sit on a fence and watch the birds; but if you really wish to learn you must mount a machine and become acquainted with its tricks by actual trial."

Wilbur speaking to the Western Society of Engineers, September 18, 1901

THE WRIGHT BROTHERS AT KITTY HAWK, NORTH CAROLINA

I was eighteen years old before I found out that asphalt was not a hip problem.

Clyde White, 390th Bomb Group

CHAPTER REBATES FOR 2003

Chapter	\$ REBATE	Chapter	\$ REBATE	Chapter	\$ REBATE
Alabama	\$ 164	Massachusetts	396	North Carolina	285
Arizona	243	Michigan	340	Ohio	620
California - North	508	Minnesota	379	Oregon	192
California - South	743	Mississippi	117	Pennsylvania	653
Colorado	177	Missouri	225	Rhode Island	71
Connecticut	220	National Capital Area	349	Savannah	122
Florida	883	Nebraska	98	Tennessee	153
Georgia	268	New Jersey	433	Texas - North	302
Idaho	3	New Mexico	120	Texas - Rio Grande	63
Illinois	487	New York - Central	113	Utah	90
Iowa	256	New York - Southern	318	Virginia	152
Kentucky	124	New York - Western	183	Washington	280
Louisiana	141			West Virginia	41
				Wisconsin	273

FINAL MISSION OF THE *BONNIE-B*

A feature article in the 8th AF NEWS related the development of a painting by artist Keith Ferris, *Slow Timing Bonnie—"B."* The story told of a 303rd Bomb Group B-17 which had just had its #3 engine replaced by ground crew chief Bill Zachar on the airbase at Molesworth. The painting depicts the slow-timing break-in period of the new engine. Bill says, "I was crew chief for the *Bonnie-B* and was in charge of her #3 engine. Each of us had the responsibility for one engine. I hoped that she would make it home for 100 missions, but it wasn't to happen."

The airplane was named after pilot Neil Bech's daughter. The *Bonnie-B* completed 93 missions with the 303rd and on 5 September 1944 flew its last when pilot John Parker made an emergency landing with a lost propeller and two engines out at Reims, France. The airplane and the crews that flew the bomber during the nine months the airplane was in service during 1944 owe much of their success to Bill Zachar and the ground crew who worked many cold hours keeping the Fort ready for combat.

Records supplied by Harry Gobrecht, 303rd BG Historian, state that B-17G



At rest after the emergency landing in Reims. Note #3 engine with propeller damage to fuselage, about which Bill Zachar comments, "I have always felt bad that it was *my* engine that lost its prop."



Slow Timing Bonnie-B by Keith Ferris (Engine #3 just installed)



Closeup of the *Bonnie-B* during salvage operations; nose art on both sides

#42-31483 arrived in the United Kingdom on 12 Dec 43 and was assigned to the 359th BS of the 303rd BG on 1 Jan 44. Three days later, pilot William Purcell and his crew flew the aircraft's first mission, mission #95, to Keil, Germany. On 7 Jan 44, Neil Bech and crew flew their first of 12 missions in Bonnie-B on mission #97, to Ludwigshaven, Germany. It was a return trip to Ludswighaven on the 303rd's mission #236, which proved to be the 93rd and final flight of the Bonnie-B. The aircraft was salvaged where it landed in France.

James Crow of Elmhurst, Illinois, has researched and forwarded four unpublished pictures of this 303rd BG B-17 workhorse. Over the years, Jim has generously sent in photos of aircraft to several other Bomb Groups, including a number of them to the 452nd BG newsletter. Sincere appreciation goes out to Jim for his interest and his contributions.

Keith Ferris has also portrayed the Bonnie-B in a 1993 painting, "A Test of Courage." His artwork, available as signed prints, may be found online at: <http://www.303rdbga.com/art.html> or contact him at:



A late 1944 view of the grand airplane



Note 93 mission bomb markers along fuselage side

THE FIX - PART III

Dear Walt,

In response to Walt Sturdivan of the 34th Bomb Group in his article entitled "The FIX"!

The 482nd Bomb Group was formed outside the Continental limits of the United States. We worked with the R.A.F. as they already had radar planes flying night missions. We learned much from our english friends.

We also flew night missions with the R.A.F. and dropped leaflets over Germany and took pictures along the Normandy coast for the invasion plans.

We did lead missions in bad weather. A crew trained at our base was the first to lead a mission to bomb Berlin early in 1944. We were taken out of combat and made into a training base where all navigators, bombardiers, and technicians in England were sent to train radar and radio beam use in the pathfinder planes.

The 482nd was made up of the 812th and 813th Bomb Squadrons with B-17's and the 814th Bomb Squadron with B24's. We were joined by the 329th ser-

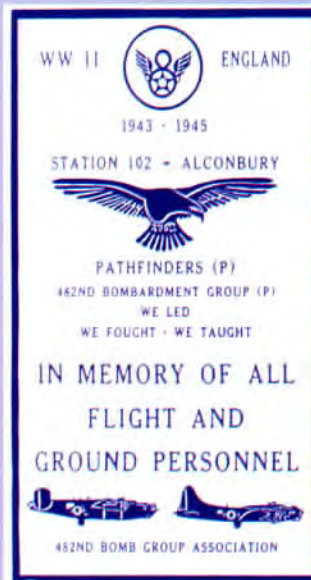
vice group; 41st Station Complement Group; 1251 M.P. Co; 861 Chemical Co; and 1114 Quarter Master Co. The 36th Bomb Squadron joined the 482nd early in 1945, and stayed until the war ended.

In June we took off from Alconbury for the last time. Each plane with a full crew and ten passengers. We flew the northern route home. Everyone was given a 30-day furlough and then we regrouped in Victorville, CA., to go to the war in the Pacific. The war was over before we were reformed and we were sent home and discharged.

This is what I remember of the 482nd Pathfinder Group. They were a great bunch of guys. The 34th Group did the very same thing we did two years later. They trained men from the 93rd Wing for radar and radio beam use, then sent them back to the other Groups of the 93rd Bomb Wing to lead the bombing missions.

Sincerely,

Eugene K. Goodrich
813th BS, 482nd BG
Muskegon, MI



MAIL CALL

Dear Walter,

That was a fabulous story that you did on MAX JUCHHEIM, FIGHTER ACE. Congratulations!

I was in England for over two years with the Third Air Division Headquarters. Your story on our fighter pilots got me to thinking of just a very few...that I saw. So I wrote the enclosed "THE U.S. FIGHTER PILOT AND THE SWAGGER STICK".

If you think it appropriate for our publication, edit it as you see fit and use it.

Sincerely,

James R. Hind, 3rd AD HQ
Maplewood, NJ

James - your story is on the Ready for Print file - many thanks! -Ed

BLOCK B

Hi:

Thanks! You have found the 95th Bomb Group (Block B) in Vol. 3, March 2003.

I joined the 95th in Sept, 44. We arrived there as the 200 mission celebration was in full swing. I wasn't on the first raid on Berlin which the 95th led but I was on the 2nd. Both missions were led by the 95th. We were about 100 miles from Berlin, the pilot had us on the intercom when we received a recall. We heard the Lead call back and say, "Your transmission garbled, say again," and we continued on to Berlin. I think you could have heard our groan when we thought we were going to have to turn to a secondary target. We were hitting the Luftwaffe headquarters.

What was so amazing to me was that we were getting back to the Channel as the last group was going in. It had been a continuous stream of formations and as I understand, there was some 2000 planes all scheduled to hit Berlin that day.

I flew 25 missions as ball turret gunner, made two food drops in Holland and flew one trip as FE to some place in Poland to pick up P.O.s. The John Sutton crew had it's first "Crew Re-union" in 1993 with the

95th reunion in Wichita, KS with all nine in attendance. We have had three more "Gathering of Eagles" since, but at this time there are only 5 of us still living.

Anyway, I certainly enjoy the monthly 8th AF news and read it from cover to cover.

Thanks again for showing
The Block B
Oran D. Evans, 95th BG
Bryan, TX

RADIO SHACK

Sirs,

We are looking for pix (copies) and documentation of a typical B-17 base "Radio Shack"--either England or the Pacific theater of ops. Our CAF Wing is putting together a museum focused around our B-17G "Texas Raiders" and a working, authentic, base radio station would be a great museum addition. Any info to help out on this project would be most appreciated.

Thanks and 73,
Bud Bearce, K5JGU
1614 Oxford
Houston, TX 77008

Email: budk5jgu@hal-pc.org
P.S. We are also soliciting donation of a BC-610, BC-342 and a Hallicrafters S-20R general coverage receiver. Also from the earlier "HF" war years.

INTERNATIONAL B-24 LIBERATOR CLUB

Dear Editor:

You and your organization helped us with the sale of our 2003 B-24 Liberator calendar. As promised, we are sending you .50 cents for each calendar sold through your organization. We have also decided to add an addition \$10.00 as a donation to your group as a small token of our appreciation.

We hope the response you have received from your members in regards to the calendar was a good one. We are currently seeking high quality photographs for a 2004 B-24 Liberator calendar, which this time will include some color, and encour-



age you to submit photographs that you feel would be appropriate. We thank you for your help, and look forward to producing a 2004 calendar later this year.

Sincerely,

George B. Welsh
Editor & Publisher

Many thanks to George Welsh and the International B-24 Liberator Club. It is a very detailed 2003 calendar. George's address for info and photo submission and for calendar orders is: 1672 Main Street, STE. E, PMB - 124, Ramona, CA 92065. Phone: 760-789-8911. -Editor

SQUARE B

The 95th Bomb Group

Dear Sir:

I never thought I would see one of my old planes with the Square B on the front cover of the 8th AF News magazine. This really brings back my tour in England.

Thank you very much.
Frank Mago, 95th BG
North Tonawanda, NY

PATRIOTS WILL

Dear Dr. Brown,

Thanks for the beautiful book review of Patriots Will in the 8th AF News March issue. I'm most appreciative. I didn't expect such a wonderful write-up. It meant a lot to me. Sales are going great! I've signed 470 copies thus far.

Your friend,
Jack Hubbard

EARLY ON

Dear Sir:

I'm writing this to correct a small error in Luther Cox's letter in the

December 2002 issue. The 93rd Bomb Group (B-24s) couldn't have flown their first mission on 9 August 1942 if they didn't leave the States until September 1942.

I'm not just trying to be picky, but the credit for the first American Heavy bomb mission out of England goes to the 97th Bomb Group (B-17s) which bombed the marshalling yards at Rouen, France on 17 August, 1942. The 97th departed Goose Bay, Labrador for England via Bluie West 1 or Bluie West 8, Greenland; then to Reykjavik Iceland; then on to Prestwick, Scotland. Due to weather, eleven of the planes returned to Goose Bay. Another four were listed as missing. Three of the planes made forced landings due to low fuel. All were safe. The fourth plane, #19043, Flown by Fred Dallas and navigated by Knox Oakley landed safely at Bluie West 8. One of the downed planes, #0032, "My Gal Sal" piloted by Ralf Stinson has been recovered from the ice cap and is being restored as a static display at Blue Ash, Ohio. Fred Dallas landed #19043, "Peggy D" in Prestwick in 4, July, 1942. The group proceeded to bases to Polebrook and Grafton Underwood. After a good deal of training, we became operational.

Our stay in England was short-lived as we departed for North Africa in November, 1942.

Edward J. Leary, 97th BG
Santa Clara, CA

THE LADY GRACE

Dear Mr. Brown:

As a recipient of the 8th AF News I want to compliment you and your editorial staff on the quality of the magazine. I read it from cover to cover every time it arrives in the mail.

In the December 2002 issue on page 11, I noted that Dick Rice's crew of the "Modest Maiden" had its usual compliment of six enlisted men but only three officers - no bombardier. Were bombardiers not needed on some combat crews? I was a Carpetbagger in the 801st/492nd

Bomb Group and we used bombardiers on both our Carpetbagger missions and later in the war out Pathfinder missions.

I also read with interest Robin Hill's article on page 53 entitled "Col Earl Aber's Funeral." In part of the article the author mentioned that when Cheddington air base closed in March 1945 and the 406th Bomb Sqdn moved to Harrington, his plane 'The Lady Grace' crash landed at Harrington and their navigator Gerben Coehorn was killed. I was a member of the 858th Bomb Sqdn stationed at Harrington at the time and just happened to be on the flight line when 'The Lady Grace' crashed. I, along with others, ran to the scene to find all the crew as the Navigator. He was the only dead man I saw during my nine-month combat tour, and now, after 58 years, I know who it was.

Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
George J. Hoerter, 858th BS
Lebanon, KY

DEAR C.J. ROBERTS:

You and those who collaborated with you in producing the "Curriculum Guide" for The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum, titled "Honoring the American Past", deserve a salute from everyone like me who flew combat missions over Germany and everyone who wishes to preserve those memories both for the nation and for our grandchildren. The accuracy, diversity, subject selection and overall journalistic expertise make me proud to be a supporter of The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum.

Most sincerely,
Ben F Love, 351st BG
Houston, TX

MAX

Dear Sir:

Your Mar 03 issue of the 8th AF News is a winner!

I was especially impressed by your article on Max Juchheim - especially since we went through flying school

together: class 43 C, Marianna Fl. I ran into him by chance at Duxford; My fighter group, the 339th, P-51's, was stationed near Duxford at Fowliner.

When I inquired about him later on - early 44- I was informed he'd gone down due to a mid-air collision.

I would like to contact him. Would you be kind enough to give my his address?

Thank you.

Lee D. "Dutch" Eisenhart, 339th FG
God Bless

Lake Ariel, PA

Dutch - Max's address is on the way to you! -Ed.

VETERANS IN SCHOOLS

Dear Doctor Brown,

I (Peggy Bradley) am writing this Thank you letter for my husband, Joseph Bradley.

Joe is very grateful to have received the past copies of the Air Force (8th) News from you this week. The issues arrived in good form.

At the present time he has a broken ankle, but his driving foot is fine. He is due for another visit to our former school district. There are nine schools in our district, so you may be sure they shall hear about the Curriculum Guide with its pages, slides, and videos, when your collaboration is complete. He wishes everyone great success.

Hoping this letter finds you well and all members of the Historical Society continuing their wonderful works for our future generations.

Sincerely grateful for these issues and,

Respectfully yours,
Joseph F. Bradley
Bricktown, NJ

AVIATION MUSEUM

Dear Mr. Brown,

We have an aviation museum at Pointclear, St. Osyth, on the Essex Coast in East Anglia, much of it dedicated to various units of the Mighty Eighth; we are also the contact point for the 479th Fighter Group. Some time ago a member brought

into the museum a photo of a very handsome couple on their wedding day. We are trying to obtain more information on them for example; did this brave airman survive the war? Who was his beautiful wife? And so on. The information we have obtained so far seems to indicate the officer is Lt. Col Jim Clark, Jnr DFM AM Silver Star, from Westbury NY. 4th Fighter Group. 334 Sqdn, Eagle Sqdn 15th Sept 1942, and HQ 15th March 1944. Our search continues and any help you can supply will be most welcome and add to the display.



Lt. Col. with two sets of wings on jacket, and his bride.

Incidentally, we have on show the fuselage of a P-51 from the 479th FG that crashed into the sea off Clacton in 1945. I was a 13-year-old boy at the time and saw what happened. I remember so vividly standing near the pilot as his life sadly ebbed away due to hypothermia. We have dedicated the museum to the pilot F/O Raymond King of North Braddock, Pittsburgh.

Many thanks, yours sincerely,
Albert Scott, Chairman of Society
c/o 1, Kestrel Way,
Clacton-on-Sea,
Essex, C015 4JD.
England

493RD BOMB GROUP

Re Stanley P. Friedman's article about Col. "Whittaker" of the 493rd B.G. in the March 2003 mail call section. I believe Stan may be referring to Col. George Whitlock who was the Commanding Officer of the 861st Bomb Sqd in the 493rd.

On Nov 2, 1944 the announced target was Merseberg, Germany. All of the 493rd was flying. At the 861st, Lt. Vernon Alexander was piloting the lead aircraft, his regular co-pilot Lt. Harry Graves was in the tail section as Formation Control Officer and Col Whitlock was in the right seat.

As Stanley pointed out, the flak was extremely heavy. I remember the skies being gray with bursts of flak everywhere you looked. The Alexander aircraft had just dropped their bombs when suddenly there was a shell bursting on the flight deck and Col Whitlock died instantly. Lt. Alexander gave the order to bail out of the burning aircraft. He along with Lt. Harry Graves and the navigator, Lt. Dave First, were captured and were prisoners of war in the same POW camp.

At that time, the 493rd was under the command of Col Elbert "Butch" Helton. He and Whitlock were old A.F. friends. Earlier in 1943 when Helton was putting together the 493rd at McCook,

Nebraska he received a phone call from Whitlock who had completed a combat tour in North Africa, returned state-side and was not comfortable with his new assignment. He preferred combat and Helton suggested he join the 493rd.

Fast forward to 1993 when General Helton (now retired) joined Doris and me at Myrtle Beach, S.C. along with his lovely wife Mary Pat, for a golf holiday. At the end of the day, Helton was reminiscing about the 493rd and his great fondness for George Whitlock. He described him as a tall, lanky, good looking cowboy from Wyoming who was an outstanding officer. As we cussed and dis-

cussed our golf scores over bourbon and water, Helton frequently returned to the Whitlock situation and expressed remorse and how it had affected him personally.

My memory may be hazy about some of this information but I recently confirmed the early part of this story with my friend, Harry Graves, who now lives in Florida with his wife Marguerite.

These former crew mates, and prisoners of war try to get together at least once a year.

Dale E. Files, 493rd BG
Durham, NC

Dale - Correct! It was Col. Whitlock, not Whittaker. Stan Friedman's getting a little up in years now. -Ed.

MAX JUCHHEIM, FIGHTER ACE

Walter,

Read your great article about Max.

He was quite a pilot full of enthusiasm. You did a good job on him. I wouldn't want to be in a dogfight with him--he would down 10 degree flaps, then split S and pepper my tail. In my opinion, Max was a dangerous foe behind the stick.

Not all pilots were like him, I can tell you that. I was one of them. I never entered into dogfights which were lethal. But I flew like Max when I was being attacked. I stuck to hit and run stuff.

Keep up the good work.

Jim White
352nd FG

357TH FG

To Editor, 8th AF News:

Sir, in the March '03 edition, under FROM THE EDITOR, appears some memories of Alvin Juchheim, regarding a mid-air collision and bailout into POW status. Mr. Juchheim states that the 357th Fighter Group, and Yeager were responsible for the collision with his 78th Grp P-47.

However, as the historian for the 357th Fighter Group, and speaking for Chuck Yeager and the 357th Fighter Group, I would like to plead NOT GUILTY.

Although Juchheim does not give a date, other sources show he was missing in action, from the 78th Fighter Group on 28 May, 1944. The 357th Fighter Group Mission report for that date, does not record any such incident, and we had no losses on 28 May 44. Furthermore, Yeager could not have been involved, as he was still restricted from operational flying, due to his recent escape and evasion from France and Spain. He did not have his famous interview with General Ike until 12 June, and did not return to Ops until sometime in July.

Referring to Freeman's MIGHTY EIGHTH WAR DIARY, we find, under 28 May 44, that the unit involved that day was the 363rd Fighter Group, NOT our 363rd Fighter Squadron. It is common to confuse squadrons and groups with the same numerical designation.

Referring to the 363rd Fighter Group history, we find that the pilot who was killed in the Juchheim collision, was Lt. Anthony P. Ladas, hence the 357th and Charles Yeager were in no way responsible for Mr. Juchheim's misfortune. Of course the fact remains, that he had to spend the rest of the war as a POW.

Sincerely,
Merle Olmsted, Historian
357th Fighter Group

Max Juccheim, 78th Fighter Group, adds a few thoughts to his story: "I think I flew about forty missions without firing my gun. Speed was the name of the game. If you had the altitude and speed, you had control of the situation. If you could estimate the speed of the man you were shooting at, you could get in a good shot. But if you couldn't, you'd miss him. Whatever you did, you didn't want to lose a wingman. That was a "no-no" with a fighter pilot. You did not lose a wingman." Max also recalls the mission, "I think Chuck Yeager had already been shot down before that day, but I am still certain his guys were in the air." -Editor

BOMBS ON TARGET

Dear Dr. Brown:
A few minutes ago, I was reading and enjoying, as usual, the just arrived March issue of the NEWS, which made me all the madder when I heard an ABC reporter from Iraq who just said, at 1:15 PM our time, that the new guided missiles are so accurate compared to the bombing in WWII when "... they were lucky to hit the right city". I wish you folks could lodge a protest. They'd only brush me off if I wrote. I don't even have e-mail. Heard on WRKO radio. Cordially,
John C. Wilson
305th/306th Pathfinder Radar
(I started coordinated bombing technique).
West Boston, MA

AAF PATCHES

Hi Doc:
After the war, many who stayed in the AAF preferred to wear their old combat command shoulder patch. The powers that be yielded and we were allowed to wear our old patch on our right shoulders and our current patch on the left. I hope this clears up the mystery.
Don Bradley, 100th BG

A TRIBUTE TO A COMBAT CREW

Dear Walter Brown,
This is just to express my thanks and congratulations for the issue of September 2002 "8th AF NEWS". I also join a few photos on tribute to the 14 September 2002 to three aviators of the "8th USAAF" Killed in Action the 16 September 1943 in village of CHAMPEAUX.
Can you give me, please the composition of crew of B-17 number 42-29531 (305 BG. 422 BS) shot down the 29 May 1943. Which is name of aviator member of this crew Killed in Action on this mission.
Beforehand I thank you very much for your help.
(Excuse me, I can't write English very well!!)
Yours sincerely,



**The Veterans Frenchs
The Flags in Champeaux**



Plate-Memorial to fix on the war memorial 1914-1918 1939-1945 of Champeaux, with the sheaf of flowers.

Jean Paul FAVRAIS
Life Member 34238
La Haie Ouisais
35310 Breal Sout Montfort
France

THOSE PESKY BLACK ME 109s

Dear Walt,
I'm the "guy who wrote the book on...JG 26" whom Max Juchheim



quoted in the March 2003 News. In fifty years of studying Luftwaffe photos and documents, I've never seen any evidence of a black-painted Me 109 in an operational unit, although I can't deny their existence. Over the years several USAAF veterans have asked me to help identify pilots of German black fighters. I can

often help based on other data (date, location, time, combat details), but I can do nothing with the "black" identification except suggest that the airplane was probably a standard dark gray mottle that appeared black due to circumstances of light and shadow.

I've been interviewing German fighter pilots for twenty years, and no sober man among them has ever mentioned seeing a black Messerschmitt or Focke-Wulf. The italicized adjective is important. I don't mean to insult anyone, but those Luftwaffe pilots interviewed at parties often say things they can't vouch for in followup communications, and thus aren't accepted as gospel truth by historians. One very well-known German pilot, whose last rank was general, was notorious for saying at least once at any party that included former Allied fighter pilots, "Ach! So you're the bastard who shot me down!" None of these shoot-downs could be verified.

I'm presently working on a history of the day fighter defenses of the Reich - my intent is to make it the first book to tell the whole story. I welcome correspondence with 8th AF veterans with stories of specific combats to tell.

Sincerely,

Don Caldwell

53 Pine Court

Lake Jackson, TX 77566

caldwel@quik.com

Thanks to Don Caldwell for his communique. A recheck with Max Juchheim confirms the black Messerschmitt he fought with. "I got a lot of very close looks at him in that air battle," Max says. -Ed.

SEARCHING

Dear President,

With my friends Mr. Genet and Mr. Leroux we prepared a book on the mission of the 8th Air Force on December 31, 1943 on Charentes (area of the La Rochelle - Cognac - Bordeaux).

Since many years we undertook research on this mission. We found the places of the crashes, that is to

say twenty B17s and ten B24s. During this mission the targets were Cognac A/F - Fontenet A/F - Landes-de-Bussac A/F. The priority targets of Bordeaux A/F and La Rochelle A/F were abandoned because of the bad weather.

Could you launch a call in 8th Air Force Magazine to find required people?

In advance thank you for assistance; so long.

Best Regards,

Bernard Ballanger

bernard.ballanger@tele2.fr

CRASH SITES

Dear Sir,

Let me introduce myself, I'm a member of the "Ago-Oschersleben". The name is from a fighter plant in Oschersleben during WWII. They built the FW 190 here and we collect all information about this A/C and the plant.

Our group is searching for missing pilots and airmen from WWII and crash sites in our area Magdeburg-Brunswick-Harz, so I could send some small items from several crashed B-17s to their formerly crewmembers in the US.

I'm working on a book about our Ago plant and the history of airwar in our area. I need still some information. From several BG's I got a lot of information, MACRs, reports and photos. Many greetings and thanks to all of them. Especially to Will Lundy (44th), V.J. Lawson, Willard Wolf and Marion H. Havelaar (all 91st), Ed Gain, Gerald G. McClure and Frank Halm (all 94th), Tom Thomas (96th), Chuck Harris and Jan Riddling (100th), Lt. Col. Harry D. Gobrecht



Work in progress at a crash site



Rene' Scheer with a MIA German fighter pilot (t 1.1.1945) in the small coffin (FW. George Scyoneich). He's now buried at his home.

(303rd), Mrs. Ken Stone and Ron Mackay (381st), Ed Stern (385th), to William A. Deane and Dr. Ralph W. Swanson (388th) and Ted Tate (446th).

But I need still some information. Here are my questions to your members:

1st: Who took part in an Oschersleben raid and wants to share his knowledge with me?
2nd: Who has got photos to support my research? Strike photos of the Ago, town Oschersleben, damaged A/C, German Luftwaffe fighter in action.

3rd: We found a crash site near Altbrandsleben, 3km north from Oschersleben. The B-17 was hit by Flak 11 January 1944 (German Flak report: 1154 hour, Fortress II B-17F Series G 166), 2 dead airmen buried in Altbrandsleben, 7 POW. We have

no knowledge about this A/C. Who knows BG, crew?

4th: Who downed in our area or claimed a German Luftwaffe a/c?

Thank you!

Best wishes, Sincerely,

Rene' Scheer

Birkenweg 6A D-39387

Neindorf, Germany

PURPLE HEARTS

Dear Mr. Brown,
 We would like to contact any medical personnel or patients who went through 123rd General Hospital or 156th General Hospital based at Foxley, Herefordshire, England 1944/1945. We know that a number of Air Force personnel were awarded Purple Heart medals while there. Many thanks,
 Martin and Fran Collins
 3, Ipswich Crescent

Great Barr
 Birmingham B421L4
 England
 or martin.collins@iname.com
 P.S. Enjoy reading the 8th AF News.
 Keep up the good work.

FIGHTER ACE

Gentlemen:
 Reference the article on Max Juchheim in March 2003 8th AF News.

Is it possible to get Max's mailing address? We went through some of our training together. I had heard that he was KIA. How wonderful that is untrue.
 Sincerely,
 Russell Leibfarth
 Dallas, TX

BRIEFING FROM OUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICE...

I would like to ask everyone again to please let me know in writing if you are a snow bird. We need that information for our alternate address. The post office will not forward your magazine. In order for the Society to be sure everyone receives their magazine, it's important that I keep my records up to date. I also would like to ask all the BG's and Chapter contacts for an update. If you are

the editor of a newsletter, I need that information. Regarding your dues notice; When you receive your first notice, please forward as soon as possible. If you receive a second notice and you have paid, please disregard. If you have any questions regarding your membership, please don't hesitate to call. I am here to help you in any way I can. Thanks for your help.

Connie Metts, Office Manager 8th AFHS

P.S. If you come to the museum, please don't be a stranger. Drop in.

SUCCESSFUL RETURN TO ENGLAND TOUR NOW FORMING UP

Roger Freeman to Lead Troops Again

Eagle Tours, the official operator for the Imperial War Museum and the American Air Museum at Duxford, is now taking applications for their premier tour of World War II England. Scheduled for **September 5-12, 2003**, the tour will be headed up by author and 8th AFHS Historian Roger Freeman. His lifelong interest in and devotion to the men of the 8th Air Force make this part of the tour a memorable experience.

Highlights include a Welcome dinner and overnight stay in Cambridge, followed by a visit to the American Military Cemetery at Madingley. That same day attendees will take part in the Centenary of Flight Air Show at Duxford. Later events include a trip to the new 2nd Air Division Memorial Library at Norwich. Roger Freeman will lead the tour on visits to East Anglia airbase sites with a dinner at Scole Inn, Diss. There will be trips to Bletchley Park and environs, where the German Enigma Code was broken. The tour concludes with trips to the Imperial War Museum London and Churchill's Cabinet War Rooms. Tour extension options are offered to Normandy and London-Paris.

8th AF Veterans and families who have taken this tour have said that it is a great time and a great tour - the perfect way to return to England for a wide variety of experiences each day. A bargain at \$1745 per person in a shared room. Single rooms available for a small additional price. For further details contact Mr. John Shumate at tel. 1-800-624-6579 ext.132; Fax (901)

761-3458; email: johns.ggt@wsspan.com., or write to: 492 Perkins Ext, Memphis TN 38117.

Early September is a great time to travel to the United Kingdom to relive an important part of your past and for younger generations to experience the flavor of the WWII Mighty Eighth.



REUNIONS

BURTONWOOD ASSOCIATION

October 14-18, 2003
Nashville, TN
Holiday Inn Express
Contact: George and Val Nelson
Telephone 931-553-8465 or
email: NGVKD7170@sc.com

436TH FIGHTER SQUADRON - 479TH FIGHTER GROUP

September 28-October 1, 2003
Biltmore Hotel, Oklahoma City, OK
Contact: Edward Akin, 10528 Willow
Ridge Drive, Midwest City, OK
73130-6034. Telephone (405) 732-
5169.

452ND BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION WWII

October 2-5, 2003
Mariott Hotel in Oklahoma City, OK
Contact: Hank North, 901 Poling
Drive, Columbus, OH 43224-1936 or
call 1-800-452-9099.

361ST FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION

October 12-16
Holiday Inn in Shreveport, La.
Contact: Murff O'Neal, 235 Bruce
Ave., Shreveport, La. 71105.
Telephone: 318-861-7840 or Dave
Landin, 8419 Michael Rd., Richmond,
VA. 23229. Phone: 804-288-5998
FAX: 804-288-5999 email:
d.c.landin@verizon.net

78TH FIGHTER GROUP

September 11-14, 2003
Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dayton, Ohio
Contact: Tommy and Randy Thain
803-359-2106 email:
tommyp51@earthlink.net.

34TH BOMB GROUP

September 10-14, 2003
Radisson Hotel in San Antonio, TX

390TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

September 9-14, 2003
Cincinnati airport Erlanger -
Covington, KY
Contact: Ken Rowland, P.O. Box
28363, Spokane, WA 99228-8363.
Telephone 509-467-2565, FAX 509-
467-2565, email: rkenrow@aol.com.

SECOND SCHWEINFURT MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

October 10-15, 2003
Washington Athletic Club and Hotel
Seattle WA
Contact: Arvid Dahl (253) 853-5409
arv246@aol.com

27TH AIR TRANSPORT GROUP ASSOCIATION

September 11-13, 2003
Spokane, Washington
Contact: Don Diehm 246 Laurelwood
Lane
Horseshoe, NC 28742 (828) 891-
5422

306th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

December 4-7, 2003
Savannah, Georgia
Contact: Russell Strong,
Editor 306th Echoes
5323 Cheval Pl., Charlotte, NC
28205

303rd BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

August 6-12, 2003

Doubletree Columbia River Hotel
Portland, Oregon
Contact: AFT, 242 W. 22nd St.
Norfolk, Virginia 23517

305th BOMB GROUP MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

September 16-21, 2003
At the Gault House Hotel in
Louisville, KY
Contact: John Butler, 858 Donna Dr.,
Orange, CT 06477
Tel (203) 795-3020

NINTH AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

September 20-23, 2003
At the Salt Lake City Plaza Hotel
(Best Western) in Salt
Lake City, Utah.
Contact: Fern Mann,
Secretary, 135
Riverwalk Place,
Memphis, TN 38103.
Phone: (901) 578-5333
FAX: 901-578-9999. Email:
cmann1525@aol.com



100TH BOMB GROUP FOUNDATION

October 8-12, 2003, Houston, TX
Adams Mark Hotel
Contact Bill Clift 12423 Overcup Dr.,
Houston, TX 77024
(713) 461-4150
gafuller@webtv.net

This flag... the symbol of the hopes of man. This cloth of dreams for freedom, justice and opportunity. Its stars are like beacons guiding us through the shoals of adversity. Its red stripes like wounds of struggle. The good in it cannot be had for nothing... like any garden it must be tended... like any loved one it must be held. Hold this flag high and keep its promise bright, for in it lies the best hope for all of us.



493RD BG RESTORATIONS AT DEBACH

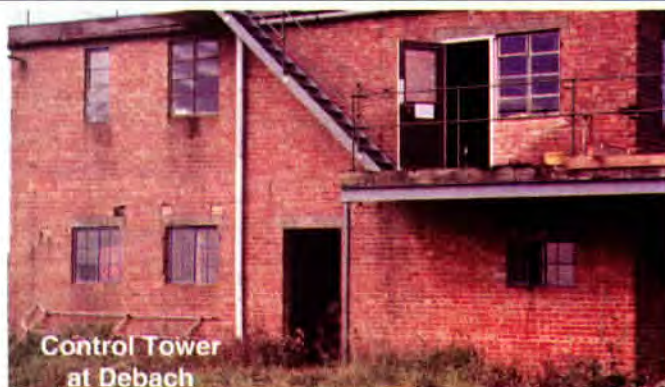
Dear Sir,

I am writing this for my Dad who flew with the Eighth Air Force out of DeBach Airfield near Ipswich, England. He flew in B-24s of the 493rd Bomb Group accomplishing 10 missions before being transferred to the 15th Air Force in Italy where he flew another 25 missions. Since I was in England, I wanted to locate the airfield where my Dad flew ten missions from. I not only found the airfield called Debach but was delighted to meet several English gentlemen who explained to me the history of Debach and the role the 493rd BG performed there.

These Englishmen were beginning a process of restoring the control tower to it's original WW II appearance. They also plan future restoration of the airfield's fire station and ambulance buildings which are nearby. I am sure anyone with interest of this airfield may be supportive of this project. This is a bit of WW II history that will be turned into a lasting museum.

Sincerely,
Thomas Locke
Plymouth, MA

Contact
Information



**493RD BOMB GROUP (H)
MUSEUM
'HELTON'S HELLCATS
GROVE FARM, CLOPTON
WOODBRIDGE. IP13 6QS**

CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS:-

**RICHARD TAYLOR 01473 737236
01473 737293**

ROGER BLUNT 01473 735510

KEITH GIPP 01473 737635

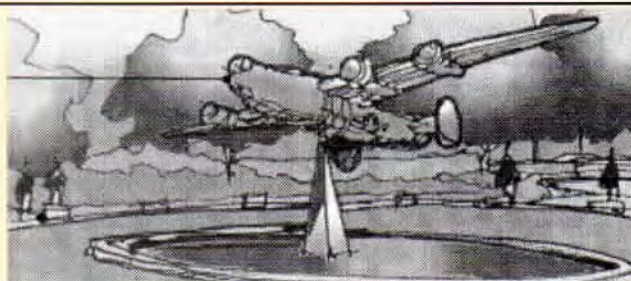
WEBSITE WWW.DEBACHFSLIFE.CO.UK

NATIONAL ARCHIVES ARE AVAILABLE AT HOME

Historians, researchers and citizens now have access to more than 50 million historical records kept in the National Archives. Battles of the War Between the States, family genealogies, and immigrant files may be obtained at home in the Archives' Database: <http://www.archives.gov/aad/>. These records, although extensive, represent just a small portion of the total records kept in the Archives. Good Luck.

B-24 MEMORIAL – SAN DIEGO

George Welsh, B-24 Liberator Club, writes to say that the drive to fund the 18-foot wingspan bronze B-24 Liberator Memorial in its birthplace in San Diego, California is in full swing. Donors who contribute \$100 will have their name inscribed on the permanent Honor Roll within the exhibit. A \$500 dollar donation will ensure that your name is placed on the Memorial itself in Veterans Memorial Park.



The Mar 03 issue of the 8th AF NEWS ran a story and photo proposals of this unique tribute to those who flew the Liberator in all theaters of World War II. Send your checks or credit card information to: B-24 Memorial – San Diego, 1672 Main Street, Suite E-124, Ramona CA 92605. Your tax-deductible contribution will also get you a one-year membership in the Veterans Memorial Center and a six-month subscription to Veterans Journal. Please include your military affiliation if any, and of course your street address and telephone number.

BOXTED FLY-IN AUGUST 30-31, 2003 This Year's theme: Air Sea Rescue



BOXTED AIRFIELD AIRSHOW

This year's event is even bigger and better than last year, two days instead of one and more aircraft appearing. This year's flying display will be the highlight of the weekend, with an appearance of "The Redwing". This 2-seat biplane was built in Colchester in the 1930's and is the only one left. It will be displaying on both days. The U.S.A.A.F. model aircraft display team, who come from all over Great Britain, these large scale models have up to a fifteen foot wingspan, models appearing include Thunderbolt, Flying Fortress, Liberator. The Search and Rescue helicopter from R.A.F. Whattisham will be giving a display on both days. On the Sunday the Spitfire and Hurricane of the Battle of Britain Memorial flight will be appearing. A star attraction will be The Mighty Antonov An2 the biggest bi-plane ever built. Other attractions to make this a truly wonderful family day out include: Static displays an aviation groups and organizations, military vehicles, Trade stands and Charity stalls, and Barbecue, food stands and refreshments. Boxted airfield is in the village of Langham about 3 miles from Colchester, Essex, England, access from the A12 trunk road.

**Richard Turner, Chairman
Boxted Historical Group
www.boxted-airfield.com
tel. (01206) 865275**

OLD FLIGHT JACKET - LIKE NEW

H. L. Watkins, 44th BG states that his fiance, Ms. Bonnie Antisdell, professionally refurbished his A-2 jacket. With her sewing skills, she was able to reproduce in detail his BG logo as well as his Caterpillar Club and Goldfish Club patches.

The completed jacket received so much positive publicity that she has recruited a few ladies from her sewing class and they are offering their services to others in the Historical



H.L. Watkins' "new" leather A-2 jacket.

Society. She will need an old patch or color photo or drawing of your patches, and she will perform miracles. Try H. L. at 1401 S. Cage Blvd, Unit 981, Pharr TX 78577.

NATIONAL AVIATION HALL OF FAME

Actor and pilot Harrison Ford will serve as Master of Ceremonies at the 2003 Pioneers of Flight Homecoming celebration on Saturday July 19, 2003 at the Dayton Ohio Convention Center. The event will recognize the collective contributions of the 178 enshrinees of the National Aviation Hall of Fame in this Centennial year of powered flight.

The guest list includes astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, the first two men on the lunar surface; Gen. Paul Tibbets, test pilot Scott Crossfield, and Senator John Glenn, the first American to orbit the earth. Over 2000 guests are expected to attend this special celebration during the 100th anniversary of Dayton's Wright Brothers, who flew the first powered flight near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

Tickets are now on sale and can be obtained from the NAHF. For further information contact Ron Kaplan, NAHF Director, at (937) 256-0944 or on the web at: www.nationalaviation.org. Admission tickets for all events are \$150.

The AFEES membership and guests gathered for their annual reunion in Wichita Falls, Texas May 1 – 4, the home of Sheppard Air Force Base, a basic training airfield for many 8th Air Force airmen. The event was attended by a number of Helpers and their families – European resistance helpers who, with their families, aided in the escape and evasion and return to freedom of many 8th AF combat crewmen shot down by enemy gunfire. Their story



Lt. General Duncan J. McNabb addresses the AFEES audience

of bravery and heroism is honored by the veteran members of the Society. Many citizens of Nazi-occupied countries were killed by the German army for their efforts to aid Allied soldiers.

The week featured a visit to nearby Fort Sill Army base in Oklahoma where they were received with full honors. The following day the group toured Sheppard Air Force base in Wichita Falls. Training facilities and techniques were demonstrated at the base.

Base Command extended a warm welcome for the day-long tour which ended with a Social Hour at the base Officer's Club. Evening banquets were first-class each night and included a Chuck wagon BBQ, a Helpers' dinner, and a special Gala Banquet, featuring tables laid out with foods from around the world. An excellent repast.

Special guests included Lt. General Duncan Mc Nabb, Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Programs, USAF Headquarters, the Pentagon, Washington DC, and

Gen. and Mrs. Art Rooney, Base Commander at Sheppard AFB. General McNabb, whose father flew P-51s in the war and later commanded Sheppard, spoke to the assembly recognizing the heroism of the Helpers, stating that they and their families were true "protectors of freedom." At the banquet, Walt Brown gave an in-depth report on activities at the Heritage Museum. The attendees showed much interest in and appreciation for the extensive educational initiatives and programs being carried out by the Museum and the 8th AF Historical Society.

The reunion was chaired by Larry Grauerholz and his entire family with help from Ralph and Bette Patton, Yvonne Daley, Cynthia and Cappy Bie, Scotty and Clayton David, the hospitality team and a host of Committee helpers. The Raffle Grand Prize of \$500 was won by member Edward Miller. At the general assembly meeting it was announced that the 2004 reunion will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



A number of AFEES Helpers

Two volumes that tell part of the story of the escape and evasion experience have just been published. Reviewed by the Editor.

THEIR DEEDS OF VALOR
by Don Lasseter

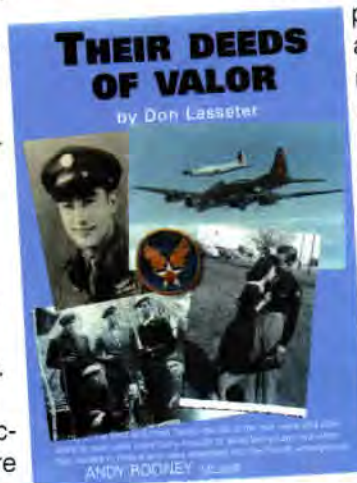
This volume tells the detailed stories of dozens of men who were shot down over enemy territory during World War II. Each of its 35 Chapters is written in detail and with fascinating first-person dialogues from hundreds of personal interviews by the author. He begins the book with an explanation of the origin of the underground escape lines and throughout the book tells how airmen's lives were interwoven with the families and helpers who gave them assistance in avoiding

capture by the enemy.

Many of these stories include tragic endings of citizens who fell into the hands of the occupying German army, and many demonstrate the uplifting determined spirit of ordinary people who value freedom and liberty above all else. You will recognize a number of the characters whose stories are

told. Author Lasseter has previously published a dozen books and this may well be his most memorable. You will not forget the stories of the lives of the airmen and their civilian helper friends presented in this volume. The bond of friendship and gratitude among them continues to the present day.

There is a wealth of material presented in the book's 462 pages. Hardback with photos throughout, you may



obtain a copy from the publisher Xlibris at 1-888-795-4274 or may order online at: www.Xlibris.com.

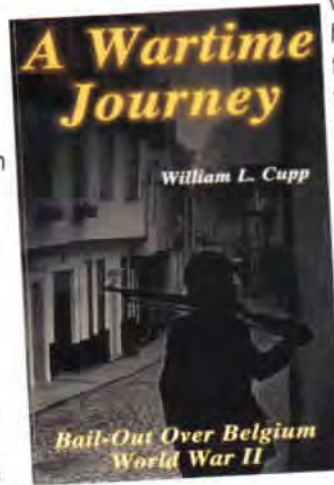
A WARTIME JOURNEY
Bail-out Over Belgium –
World War II
 by William L. Cupp

Floyd Addy's crew took off from the 493rd BG airbase at Debach in a war-weary substitute B-24 Liberator Won Long Hop on a milk run to a target in northern France near Laon. It turned out not to be a milk run. Ball turret gunner William Cupp tells the rest of the story in his book *A Wartime Journey*. Shot up by flak, author Cupp and the rest of the crew

bailed out of the crippled aircraft. His story of meeting and receiving assistance from families of civilian helpers in Belgium, and his subsequent unfortunate capture by the Germans present an unusual story and intimate picture of the fate of many 8th AF bomber crewmen during the war.

The story is rich in details of the resistance helpers, the countryside, Cupp's interaction with his German captors and of life in a Stalag as a prisoner of war. He tells of his return to the States after the war and concludes with some heart-warming tales of his

return years later to visit the families who assisted him and his crewmates during the war. The book is full of experiences told in a most personal manner; the reader lives the tale with author Cupp. It is a big volume – 446 pages – and has an extensive index. You may obtain a copy by contacting Dr. William Cupp at 626 Zanmiller Drive, Northfield, MN 55057-



1207, or through the usual bookseller retail sources and from on-line book dealers.

RAY ZUKER
MEMORIAL SERVICE
AT HERITAGE MUSEUM



The Ray Zuker family at the Zuker plaque, from left: Mike Zuker, Fred Zuker, Mrs. Naomi Zuker, Ron Zuker, Murray Zuker

Family, crew, and friends gathered at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum on Sunday March 23, 2003 to honor the memory of Ray Zuker, pilot of the B-17 "Lady Lightning" in World War II.

Walter Bacon presided over the memorial service in the Chapel of the Fallen Eagles, and eulogies were offered by Fred Zuker, Ray's son, on behalf of the family; Woody Rush (navigator) and Carl Williams (tail gunner) on behalf of Ray's crew; Cleve Porter's poem read by John Bacon. Walter Baker read a prayer on behalf of Earl Wassom.

John Bacon presided over the dedication in the Memorial Garden. Walter Baker read Dale Winbrow's poem, "The Man in The Glass," and Naomi, Ray's wife, unveiled the plaque on the Wall of Valor. Also, a Southern Magnolia tree was planted in front of the Chapel

in Ray's honor. Fred Zuker, on behalf of the family, in appreciation of his effort to develop the memorial presented John Bacon with a picture of Ray in his Class A uniform taken after his completion of pilot training in front of the first car he bought.

On Saturday night the group enjoyed a fine dinner at Savannah's famous "Pirates' House," and on Sunday night reflections of World War II England were triggered at "Churchill's Pub" in downtown Savannah.

The Ray Zuker
Memorial plaque



NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER

North Carolina Chapter has a much improved Annual Meeting! Our nineteenth Annual Meeting was held at the Carolinas Aviation Museum in it's 1934 Hanger/home on Charlotte's Airport. This was our best attended meeting in several years; we are somewhat handicapped by distance, over 500 miles from one end of NC to the other! Even so we had 71 senior citizens in attendance! A few comedians said it was because we had a free lunch. The museum, while relatively small, has a fine display of aircraft including a beautiful Piedmont Airlines DC-3 which saw service in WWII in it's original configuration as a C-47. The aircraft are supplemented by an interesting number of related artifacts from a Norden Bombsight to an E-6B computer. Volunteer staff members told of the organization's history and goals and how they came about securing many of the acquisitions.

The NC Chapter has volunteered to have an appropriate Eighth Air Force booth at the week-long Wright Brothers "Festival of Flight" in Fayetteville, May 19-26. In the Heritage Hall we will be joined by a new replica of the Wright Flyer, and other WWII representations by WASPS, Flying Tigers, Tuskegee Airmen, the US Air Force, NASA and many other aviation related activities and displays. This is the biggest of all of the 2003 events commemorating the "first flight".

And of course there was an election of officers. No one wanted to be President, so the Chapter founder and 2002 President was elected by unanimous vote as was long-time Treasurer, Lou Baffaro, who we promised would be audited this year! National 8AFHS President, Craig Harris volunteered to be Auditor. Imagine, a veteran of WWII Army Air Corps volunteering for anything. If I remember correctly, the first, unwritten regulation that the Army taught us was, "never volunteer for anything." On second thought, didn't many of us volunteer to Fly? George Hood, President

COLORADO CHAPTER

The Chapter survived the year 2002 with many activities, including luncheons, Ft. Logan Veterans ceremonies and serving as Honor Guards for deceased members and friends.

2003 began with a full slate of activities and additional duty as the host chapter for the Oct. 14-19, 03 8th AFHS National reunion in Colorado Springs, CO. On March 1st, Chapter members Jerry Nelson, Chuck Harris, John Self, George Meshko, Sam Tarkington, George Lewis, Bob Fulkerson, Wayne Whitlock, Lucky McGinty and Mike Quering met with the 8th National BOD planning committee to present our ideas for the reunion and to be informed what our volunteer duties would consist of. On March 28, a Chapter luncheon and election was held at the River Pointe Retirement Center. Turnout was 100%. River Point is readily accessible for members in wheel chairs, walkers and oxygen bottles (deja vu). The

Chapter was brought up to date regarding the coming national reunion and we have plenty of volunteers to man duties as needed.

Speakers for the luncheon were from St. Anthony's Flight for Life. Chief Pilot Rob Balak provided a detailed description and completion. The General election proceeded and the following officers were elected: President, Pete Peterson, VP Lucky McGinty, Secty. John Self, Treas. Jerry Nelson, Legal George Ashen, Atty, Membership/newsletter Editor, David Shomper. The meeting was concluded with a \$20.00 greenback doorprize, awarded to Nancy Meshko. Prior to the luncheon the Chapter had a open bar, serving beer, wine and soda.

Before the meeting concluded, a discussion was held regarding our annual luncheon at the Air Force Academy, which at the time is put on hold due to the war and restrictions at the Academy.

Presented and written by Now Past President, Mike Quering

NEW MEXICO CHAPTER

The New Mexico Chapter of the 8th AFHS held its annual Winter General Membership Meeting and Luncheon on Saturday, 15 Feb 03. The members and guests totaled 140.

Chapter member, Dave Townsend (43ADG), spoke briefly regarding the Visitor Center at the Albuquerque Veteran's Memorial Park. A number of New Mexico Chapter Members have volunteered for duty at the Memorial and have agreed to cover shifts there on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

In keeping with a Valentine's Day theme, "The Friends" - a local singing group - entertained the assembly with romantic ballads of the '40's.

The Spring General Meeting and Luncheon will be held on Saturday, 17 May 03.

Ray Dehner, Secretary



"The Friends" Sextette at New Mexico Chapter's Winter Membership Meeting.

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

The Connecticut Chapter held a meeting on March 22, 2003 at the VFW Hall, Hamden, Connecticut. President Art Ruggiero lead the members in a silent prayer for Vice President Roy Tripp, 361st FG who recently passed away. Art Ruggiero gave a brief description of the Oral History project and encouraged all to participate. The speaker was Peter Scott, 384th BG who recounted his experiences of being shot down twice. Refreshments were served.

Frank Cannon, Secretary

ST. LOUIS WING

We had our 28th social event on April 23rd at Pere Marquette State Park, IL., only 25 miles from the Missouri border. The beautiful drive ran alongside the rolling bluffs of the Illinois River to Illinois, just a few miles from Pere Marquette Lodge.

Pere Marquette has a rich heritage where once roamed indians and frontiersmen. The park is named in memory of father Jacques Marquette, who in 1673 was the first European to enter what is now Illinois. The centerpiece of the park is a massive lodge, hotel, guesthouses, dining



8th AFHS Luncheon; L to R, Carroll Forister, Bob Harper, Ralph Covinsky, Clarence Cherry, Bob Ryerson, Al Villagran



St. Louis Wing members at Pere Marquette

room, cocktail lounge, and conference rooms.

After a short meeting our group enjoyed a family luncheon of fried chicken, beef, mashed potatoes, corn, cole slaw, cherry pie, tea and coffee. It was a beautiful spring day, therefore after lunch we all met on the patio overlooking the Illinois river where we spent several hours enjoying each other's company.

Several members that had never attended any previous events joined us at Pere Marquette, IL.

Al Villagran

OREGON CHAPTER

Our February quarterly meeting was held at the Beaverton Elks Lodge. We have been very fortunate to maintain our great relationship with the Elks, as their facility is first class in all areas, including especially the buffet lunch!

It has become a tradition of our Chapter to especially welcome ladies to the February Valentine meeting, and this one was very well attended. In all, attendance numbered a record 100, including Veteran and Associate Members, spouses, and guests. President John Horne encouraged the recruitment of new members over the coming year. He emphasized the importance of signing up Associate Members, noting that the long term growth and development of the Chapter increasingly depends on the Associates.

The speaker for the day was C.M. Graham, a veteran of the fight for the Philippines and Corregidor in the very early days of WW2. Mr. Graham served in an anti-aircraft artillery unit on Bataan and Corregidor, and was a POW of the Japanese. He spoke at length of his experience and was well-received by our group.

Our quarterly meetings are held on Thursday of the first full week of February, May, August, and November. Many of our attendees arrive about 10:30 AM so as to have time to trade war stories before the formal meeting which begins at 11:30. We welcome all visitors, and encourage attendance for any 8th AFHS member in the area on quarterly meeting day. For information contact John Horne at (503) 234-1631 or email at <nancy@the-hornes.org>.

Clint Gruber

THE ROBERT H. NOLAN FLORIDA CHAPTER

The Board of Directors and the Chapter's general assembly voted in their November meeting to name the Florida Chapter in honor of one of their members who has worked to constantly improve the Chapter and its activities. Robert Nolan was involved in the development of the National Historical Society and especially in the formation of the Florida Chapter, which now has 540 members on its rolls. The Chapter is now named "The Robert H. Nolan Florida Chapter."

The Chapter had a successful reunion May 8-11 at the Boca Raton Holiday Inn. One highlight was a day cruise

on the Cruise ship "Palm Beach Princess" with great food, show entertainment, and the casinos. New officer elections for the upcoming Chapter year are now underway.

MISSISSIPPI CHAPTER

The Mississippi Chapter had its annual Reunion at Lake Tiak O'Khata near Louisville with over sixty members in attendance. They were pleased to have some members and guests from several states. Attractions offered included some splendid Southern cuisine - especially cat-fish and hushpuppies, barbeque, garlic cheese grits, and cream pies to make your mouth water for days. The party was regaled with nostalgic music and a sing-a-long including "Lili Marlene" and "I'll Walk Alone."



**Banquet speaker
Dr. Janos Radvanyi**

Speakers included Dr. Janos Radvanyi, who holds a chair in international studies at Mississippi State University. Dr. Radvanyi was born and grew up in Hungary. When World War II began he was drafted into the army to fight on the side of the Nazis. He said that the highest rank he attained was "deserter," and that after deserting he fought with the underground. Also speaking briefly was John Winters, who was born in Latvia but whose family was transported to Germany where his father worked in a munitions plant. Young John made himself a sling-shot with which he shot out a few

German windows and provided other harassment of his oppressors. John recently retired from the faculty at Ole Miss. Our group also had a speaker from the Mississippi National Guard who told of his unit's new C-17s. We could hardly conceive of this new cargo plane carrying a payload



Chapter Past-President John Walker during the Memorial Candlelighting ceremony

of over 400,000 pounds (about 100 times more than a B-17) or that it could takeoff or land on a 3,500 foot runway! The Chapter was very pleased to have as our guests two staff members from the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum, Judy Walker and Vivian Rogers-Price. Judy conducted a fine seminar on planned giving and Vivian did several of her oral history interviews. The meeting closed with a memorial service down by the shore of the lake, where members dropped carnations on the water in memory of lost comrades. This service was concluded, unexpectedly to those in attendance, by the playing of taps by member Col. Bert Hill, somewhat away from the pavilion where members were seated. All in attendance parted with hugs and vows to meet again soon, by beautiful Lake Tiak O'Khata!
Kenneth Nail

YOU CAN'T GET ONE OF THESE AT YOUR CADILLAC DEALER!

Phil Staley of Glenside, Pennsylvania, flew thirty missions as a tailgunner with the 401st Bomb Group.

He says, "It all started when I mentioned the Mighty Eighth and my youngest son did not know what I was talking about. So I decided to do a bit of promotion by entering my car in the annual Fourth of July parade here in Glenside."

You can see the results right here. A sign painter made the sign for the front bumper and Phil's artistic daughter, Rosemary, made the 8th and 401st emblems out of vinyl with magnetic tape on the back. She also made the B-17 replica out of aluminum insulation.

Phil comments, "Most of Glenside now knows about the Mighty Eighth!" He doesn't say if he won any prize in the parade.

Keep 'em Flying!



MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE WEEK OCTOBER 8 TO OCTOBER 14, 2003



Michigan Chapter Members, left to right: Eleanor Custer, Dick Giesing, Rita Roberts, Michigan Governor John Engler and Suds Sumney present John Clark's book "An Air Force Diary" at the Proclamation signing.

The year 2003 will mark the 60th anniversary of what we veterans of the 8th Air Force have designated MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE WEEK. During that fateful week in 1943, the 8th Air Force launched a series of attacks against strategic targets in Germany; attacks against the industrial might of the Nazi empire. Each of these missions employed forces of 300 or more heavy bombers flying beyond the range of their fighter escorts, into the heart of industrial Germany. The bombers were met with vigorous fighter opposition as they approached their targets, and these attacks continued until the bombers returned to the umbrella of Allied fighter coverage. More than 160

bombers and a number of fighters were lost during these raids, but the targets were struck with telling force and Germany was on notice that the Fatherland and its industrial might was vulnerable.

It was the veterans of that incredible week in 1943 that demonstrated to the crews joining the 8th in following months that the German Air Force and the huge anti-aircraft defenses mounted by Germany were vulnerable. From that heroic beginning in October 1943, the 8th Air Force carried on to write a stunning history of aerial combat.

As we prepare to mark this anniversary honoring all who served in the Mighty Eighth we, its veterans, have one more opportunity to enlist the support of the governors of all 50 states to proclaim **October 8 - 14, 2003** Mighty Eighth Air Force Week. Many governors have issued their Proclamations in past years thanks to the vigorous efforts of the respective local 8AFHS Chapters and Units. In addition to the heads of states, many local community leaders throughout the country have issued Proclamation honoring this October milestone in the air war over Europe during WWII. These local Proclamations are equally valuable since they carry the message honoring the 8th Air Force to so many more people.

Each Chapter and Unit should form an ad hoc team dedicated to the task of approaching their respective governors or state legislatures requesting the Proclamation of Eighth Air Force Week.

Sixty years is a long time. Those who flew into Germany during that fateful October in 1943 will never forget it. Let us be sure their sacrifices will not be forgotten, and perhaps, remind our citizens that the legacy of the 8th Air Force of WWII has been carried forward to the 8th Air Force of today.

Copies of the Proclamations can be obtained from Connie Metts at the 8th AFHS central office: (912) 748-8884.

**Bill Rawson, 493rd BG
Committee Chairman**

Make sure you stay in touch with those who mean something to you, and you'll be surprised how much you mean to them.

Chaplain Billy Jones, Mississippi Chapter



BOOK REVIEWS

Here is a selection of books for a great summer of Summer Reading! The brief outlines will lead you into stories which will brighten your long summer afternoons. All reviews are by the editor and are offered for Society members' enjoyment.

ONE LUCKY BASTARD

by Col. Elwyn J. "Stub" Warfle

Author "Stub" Warfle tells the story of his migration from The farms of Michigan to the farms of East Anglia, flying missions out of Rattlesden airbase as a bombardier with the 447th Bomb Group. He includes detailed descriptions of a number of crews who flew with him as part of the finest aerial attack force that ever flew for the United States. The title of the book indicates that Warfle completed his tour, becoming a member of the Lucky Bastard's Club, in his description "an honorable discharge from Hell on Earth."

There are a lot of combat air war tales in this 388-page hardback volume. The story is a personal view of the history of the 447th in 1944-45. The author writes vividly of missions flown with Ed Dingivan, now President of the 447th Bomb Group Association. He tells of the fate of unfortunate crews he flew with and details stories of crash landings and ditching in the North Sea. The heroism of combat air crewmen is evident throughout the book.

The volume contains over 200 photos and illustrations and is available for \$29.95 postpaid US. It is \$25 for multiple orders. Send a check to: Mt. Vernon Publishing, PO Box 127, Mt. Vernon VA 22121, or contact the author: tel (703) 780-2944; email: stubwarfle@aol.com.



Mexican-Americans who flew as pilots in the USAF. Henry "Hank" Cervantes came from laboring in the farm-fields of California to fly missions with the 100th Bomb Group at Thorpe-Abbotts. His is a very personal story of his war experiences, including the tale of his E-Z Goin B-17 being rammed by an Me 109 and making it home from the mission.

The story follows the author's career in the post war USAF, with an emotional section of his duty serving as a reburial officer to accompany bodies of airmen being brought back home. He details his years in the Strategic Air Command and his experiences in the B-58

Hustler fighter-bomber. The volume progresses from years in our country's history where people were less tolerant of Americans of foreign ethnicity and the reader follows the evolution of full acceptance through Hank Cervantes' years of service in the military.

The softback volume of 263 pages can be purchased for \$16.95 postpaid from Hellgate Press, PO Box 3727, Central Point OR 97502. tel 1-800-228-2275; or from the author tel (310) 823-4438; email: Hcervan102@aol.com.

There are a couple of wartime novels which have attracted attention.



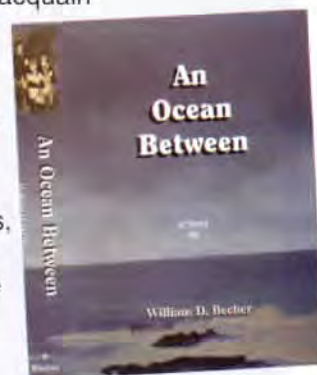
AN OCEAN BETWEEN

by William D. Becher

John Wranesh, 8th AF and POW during the war, forwards a volume

written by an acquaintance which addresses a little-known subject of the World War II home front. The story tells, in novel form based on true experiences, the experiences of a young English couple whose children were evacuated to the safety of the United States during the war. The children left England in 1940 and did not return until the end of the war in 1945. A very good review of WW II is interwoven with the lives of the family, one of many families who chose to protect their children in the wartime uncertainty which existed in those early years.

Author Becher tells this superbly written and emotional story of heartache and adventure in this large 688-page volume and includes an extensive Further Reading Bibliography. An Ocean Between is available at bookstores or online at: <http://amazon.com> for \$27.95 hardback. William Becher may be reached at email: becher@computer.org; Fax/tel (734) 994-5541.



THE TORNADO STRUCK AT MIDNIGHT

by Wesley Carrington Greayer

Author Wes Greayer flew as a tailgunner with the 493rd Bomb Group finishing 35 missions, one of which ended up with the Glofelty crew crash



PILOTO

by Lt. Col. Henry Cervantes, USAF Retired

There were only a handful of

landing on Normandy's Juno Beach.

His novel is set on a schooner off the coast of Trinidad and includes mystery, intrigue, romance and adventure, with an especially compelling solution to the murder which accompanies the plots of all good mystery stories. Of course a WW II hero is involved. The book is relaxing and a fun-filled experience to read.

The 201-page softback volume dedicated to the men who flew with the 8th AF and to the author's family has received great reviews from readers and will keep you up late at night. It is available in bookstores and online at: Amazon.com or Publish America at 1-877-333-7422 for \$16.95.

And a personal story of an 8th Air Force fighter pilot.

FROM MODEL T TO P-38 LIGHTNING

Celebrating the Life of William Frank Schottelkorb
by Robert W. Schottelkorb

This book is for real—very real. Bob Schottelkorb, who flew with the

493rd Bomb Group has compiled a tribute to his brother who was killed in action in North Africa, January 23, 1943. The large format hardback volume is based around the extensive letters and daily diary written by Bill Schottelkorb and is factual in every detail.

The childhood years and early flight school years are told with the inclusion of many personal photographs, all of which illustrate the youthful enthusiasm and enjoyment of life of a young man growing up in the 1930s wilds of western Montana. After flying combat in England, Bill's 14th Fighter Group of P-38 airmen transferred to North Africa as part of Operation Torch. The night before he was killed in action he notes in his diary that he met several movie stars who were visiting the airbase, including Carole Landis, Kay Francis, and Martha Raye. He closes his entry with: "Quite a day."

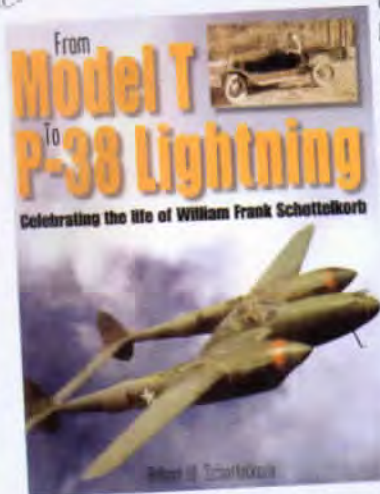
There are many drawing and photos from Bill Schottelkorb. His letters are written in descriptive detail to give his family back home a feeling of the country and the air war he was part of. The volume is an excellent

tribute from a loving brother, told in the words of a young P-38 pilot who gave his life for the freedom of his country. A creative and sincere tribute; a sincere pleasure to read.

The volume is 216 pages with over 200 photos, maps and drawings. Order it from Pictorial Histories Publishing, 713 South Third Street W., Missoula

MT 59801. Tel (406) 549-8488; email: john2pictorialhistoriespublishing.com.

The price is \$24.95 plus \$4 s&H. Author Bob Schottelkorb may be reached at 4008 Lincoln Rd, Missoula MT 59802.



I tend to live in the past because most of my life is there.
Herb Caen

Either that wallpaper has to go, or I do.
words of Oscar Wilde, on his deathbed

EIGHTH AIR FORCE HISTORY PRESERVATION THROUGH EDUCATION



Belton Wolf

This is a two-fold appeal to the Chapters. Specifically, it is a request for Chapter information regarding promulgation of 8th Air Force History in schools, and other locales; but primarily in the schools. The 8th AFHS Education Committee is in need of information from the Chapters regarding how many of its Chapter members have been, or are, active in telling students

about 8th Air Force History. All we require is that Chapters send the numbers (no names) of members involved in your Chapter's region. Also, if the Chapters desire to furnish information on where else members have been actively telling OUR story, this too, will be of value in this survey.

This survey will be of value later on when the newly developed Student Guide to 8th AF History is ready for use. Eventually the material contained in the guide will be an invaluable tool for those who tell the 8th Air Force story. So, it is imperative the requested information be sent directly to the undersigned, either by postal service or E-Mail.

Belton Wolf
Director, 8th AFHS Educational Committee
4032 Twyla Lane
Campbell, CA 95008
E-Mail: bel49maw@att.net

*All gave some...
Some gave all*

TAPS



Jones, Robert, Tuscaloosa AL; 8th HQ Group; Alabama Chapter
Damar, Haven; 390th BG B-17 pilot of crew #100; from his son Leroy Damar
Schmidt, Frederick, Andalusia AL; 100th BG; patriot and an enthusiastic member of the 8th AFHS Alabama Chapter
Bass, Roy, Tucson AZ; 95th BG engineer/gunner; shot down on his 24th mission 14 Feb 1944; docent at the 390th BGA museum in Tucson
Smith, Walter "Elliott", Vineland, NJ; B-17 and B-24 pilot; 42 years with Owens Illinois Glass Co.; active in Boy Scouts, Indian Guides, and local baseball team manager; proud owner of three holes-in-one at Centerton Golf Club.
Baligian, Armand "Inky", Warren MI; 325th Recon Wing A-3 Staff
McBee, Lawrence "Mac", Torrance CA; 7th Photo Recon Group pilot
Dixon, General Robert, Fair Oaks Ranch TX; 7th PRG pilot; the first 7th PRG pilot to complete a combat tour, shot down on his second tour while on a recon mission over the Leuna oil works near Merseberg. On his fourth pass over Leuna, his Spitfire PL 868 was hit by flak and after radioing his escorts to return home commander Dixon bailed out of his blazing fighter and became a POW. He flew 28 combat missions as 335th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron commander and 36 missions in the Vietnam War; served in multiple high level SAC positions and in the Pentagon during his USAF career and received his fourth star while serving as Commander of the Tactical Air Command. General Dixon was awarded the Collier Trophy Award, the nation's oldest aviation award, in 1978. — reported by Eric Hawkinson
Spitler, Thomas, Granger IN; 359th FG crew chief, Thetford England, 1942-45; missed every day by his wife Alice and daughter Janet Brooks

Durling, Gordon; Houston TX; from Alfred Lea
Ott, LeRoy; 452nd BG pilot
Whisenant, Dewey Arnold, Gadsden AL; 466th BG navigator; 35 missions Akins, Wesley, San Antonio TX; 457th BG
Hetrick, A. Clair, Lower Burrell PA; 457th BG; from his pilot Willard Reese
Langowski, George, Virginia Beach VA; 457th BG
Burnett, Reverend Clarence, Hanna City IL; 493rd BG HQ; 493rd BG Association Chaplain for a number of years; Methodist minister for 38 years; from his daughter Janet Nichols
Clark, Carl; B-17 Pathfinder pilot; the lone surviving WWII pilot still FAA-rated; pilot of the Collings Foundation B-17 Nine-0-Nine, seen at numerous airshow events around the country; educator
Verenis, James, Woodbridge CT; 96th BG; copilot of the B-17 Memphis Belle, the first 8th Air Force B-17 to complete a combat tour and return with its crew to the United States
DeBruin, Richard, Milwaukee WI; 352nd FG; long-time President of the 352nd FG Association; from Bob "Punchy" Powell
Howes, Harry, Hendersonville TN; 361st FG
Rawls, Jacob, Clarksville TN; 361st FG; from B. J. Redden
Freiberger, Fred, Los Angeles CA; 381st BG navigator; shot down on 1st Schweinfurt raid; POW almost two years
Clemons, Clark "Clem", Roseville CA; 78th FG pilot
Wall, Glenn, Kansas City MO; 36th FG pilot; flew strafing missions to Paris railyards in early 1943. Helped develop the robotic underwater recovery arm "Nemo"; from Ken Wilson
VanZytveld, William, Ann Arbor MI; 467th BG bombardier, Rackheath; from

Fred Hoxey, 442nd Air Service Group with the 55th FG and a frequent contributor to 8th AF News: "I lost one of my best friends."
Lippert, Paul, Wautoma WI; 448th BG crew chief; volunteer of the year 1988 and 1999 at the local Senior Citizens Center; from good friend Len Schutta, 467th BG
Stenseth, H. D.; 96th BG pilot; flew the Poltava mission and lost his a/c to the German attack, but was one of two pilots who flew a remaining B-17 back to England; from friend Ray Schleih, 390th BG
Bew, Jack, Little Rock AR; 96th BG navigator, 35 missions; strong supporter of the 8th AFHS
Walters, Robert, Ipava IL;
Sulia, Salvatore, Ellwood City PA; 486th BG, 23 missions; career with US Steel, an avid gardener and family man
Bohan, William, Lake Wales FL and Keene NH; 381st BG pilot; POW Stalag III for 22 Months
Anderson, Fred, Waycross GA; 93rd BG, "Ted's Travelling Circus," flight engineer on John "Packy" Roche crew of B-24 Ready and Willing; flew low-level mission from North Africa to the Ploesti oil fields and also as crew of Col. Ramsay Potts; awarded Silver Star, two Purple Hearts, DFC; from friend Ben Smith
Clark, S. William M. D., Waycross GA; 351st BG navigator; POW; career as ophthalmologist; supporter and member Board of Trustees of Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum; Served for over a decade on Georgia State Board of Regents, his final two years as Chairman, improving education and universities throughout the state; devoted his life to people, community service and his family
Regan, Bernard "Buddy", Kansas City KS; B-24 radio operator; 32 missions, three bronze stars; from Ken Wilson
Nelson, Randall, Lincoln NE; 453rd BG B-24 pilot; B-25 instructor in Korea
Crosland, Roy, Burbank CA; 446th BG pilot of Connie; one of six brothers to



T/SGT Fred Anderson

TAPS

*All gave some...
Some gave all*



serve their country, he once went down to fly cover over the English Channel for a crippled B-24 piloted by his younger brother, Harry; career in USAF
Spangenburg, Eldo "Dode"; Houston TX; 306th BG; from Al Lea
Evans, Paul; from his wife Barbara
Walter Bernard, Portland OR; 389th BG navigator; POW for 18 months; Oregon Chapter
Hood, Paul; 93rd BG; from daughter Julie Hood
Ransdell, William, St. Joseph MO; 306th BG Thurleigh navigator on Ray Franzino crew; career with IRS and AF Reserves; Treasurer of Missouri Chapter
Mulcahy, William, pilot P-51s; flew the AT-6 in Korea and led the first B-52 mission in the Vietnam war; from his friend Paul Wallace
Nelson, Richard, Los Angeles CA; radio operator on the B-29 Enola Gay, which dropped the "Little Boy" atomic bomb on Hiroshima Japan, helping force the Japanese government into a surrender in the Pacific theater of WW II; sent in by Gene Curry 389th BG
Baligan, A. Paul, Southfield MI; 7th photo recon; active member 8th AFHS; from his wife Jean
Moxhay, Charles, Leesburg FL; BAD 2

Davis, Jerald, North Richland Hills TX; from his wife Gay
Dexter, Al; 389th BG B-24 pilot; Minnesota Chapter
Anderson, John; 385th BG B-17 engineer/gunner; Minnesota Chapter
Webb, Clarence "Rusty", Treasure Island FL; Florida Chapter
Parsons, H. E., Montezuma GA; 7th Photo Recon Group; Georgia Chapter

Robson, Ronald, Lansing MI; 466th BG navigator; 30 missions; from William Amrhein

Peck, Gregory, Hollywood CA; Oscar winner for his role as 8th Air Force Commander Col. Frank Savage in "Twelve O'clock High," the definitive WWII movie

Their memory cannot grow old;
 their honor is the envy of all men;
 Mourned for their nature as mortal,
 they are famed as immortal for their valor.

Lycias, Greek philosopher

HENRY BOTTERELL

The last living Canadian World War I pilot died at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto January 3, 2003. He was 106, the oldest of 550 veterans at the hospital.

Henry Botterell was a banker who responded to the call of the King and joined Britain's Royal Naval Air service at age 20. After recovering from injuries incurred in an engine failure crash in England, he was sent to the front in France. Botterell flew as many as three combat sorties a day in his Sopwith Camel, logging over 250 hours in 1918.

Throughout his life, according to his friend, reporter Michael Rodgers, he exemplified in his character duty, courage, and humility. He also maintained his life-long chivalrous ways with the ladies, never missing an opportunity of greeting ladies with a gallant kiss of the back of their hand. A service of readings and eulogies was held in Anglican church services at the Warrior's Hall in the hospital.

Submitted by Sharon Egan - Lilburn, GA



Navigator Ron Robson
 back row, third from left

U&C CHANGES AND ADDITIONS

UNIT CHANGES

New Unit Contacts:

352nd FG Robert H. Powell, Jr. 1545 Ranier Falls Dr.
 Atlanta, GA 30329
 Tel. 404-636-3747 FAX 404-636-1229
 e-mail bluenoserbob@juno.com

100th BG Mike Faley 12400 Ventura Blvd. Studio City,
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 Tel 818-980-9349 e-mail mpfaley@aol.com

CHAPTER CHANGE:

PRESIDENT Gen. James H. Doolittle Chapter
 California North Chapter Paul Wallace 2190 33rd Ave.
 San Francisco, CA 94116-1622
 415-564-6587 e-mail pwally@pacbell.net

COLORADO CHAPTER ATTENDS MID-TERM BOARD MEETING

Members of the Colorado Chapter were in attendance at the national mid-term Board of Directors meeting in Colorado Springs this past March. Colorado Chapter will be the host Chapter for the annual reunion in October. The contingent brought with them plans and suggestions for the reunion planners and state that they will be out in full force to welcome the 8th AF Historical Society to Colorado and assist in all aspects of the week. Mark Wells, war historian and author, discussed an offer of support of the Department of History and the cadets at the US Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs for the reunion week.

Colorado Chapter contacts will be working this summer on arrangements and special projects to help make this reunion an enjoyable and memorable one.



Colorado Chapter representatives, from left: Wayne Whitlock, Bob Fulkerson, George Lewis, Richard "Sam" Tarkington, George Meshko, Lucky McGinty



Robert Vickers (seated), John Self, Mike Quering, Chuck Harris, Jerry Melson



Mark Wells, Professor, US Air Force Academy History Dept.



Board of Directors 8th AF Historical Society

Education — It's Our Mission

The CURRICULUM GUIDE kit, "Honoring the American Past", which tells the story of the Eighth Air Force experience, has been completed and is ready for distribution by the Store at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum. The complete kit, consists of a 124-page profusely illustrated booklet, a 25-minute video and a set of overhead-projection transparencies is available for \$24.99 with \$4 s&h, a non-profit price set for cost recovery. Members of the Museum get a ten-percent discount, making their price \$22.49 + \$4 s&h, a great value! Call 912-748-8888 for ordering information

Place your orders by mail to:

Julia Smith
The Mighty Eighth
Air Force Heritage Museum
PO Box 1992
Savannah, GA 31402

Or by fax at 912.748.0209, making sure to include credit card information.

352ND FIGHTER GROUP DOCUMENTARY AIRED

The prize-winning documentary about the 352nd FG "Blue Nosed Bastards of Bodney" was aired on PBS Channels beginning May 26th and will repeat throughout the summer.

The Last Reunion: A Gathering of Heroes was filmed at the final reunion of the FG Association in Richmond, Virginia with flight scenes using eight P-51 Mustangs in Orlando, Florida. The documentary includes interviews by many original 8th AF fliers and is introduced by General Norman Swartzkopf. It won Best Documentary at the Palm Beach International Film Festival from entries around the world. Check your channel schedules or on the web at: www.lastreunion.com or www.352ndfighter.com. Don't miss this one!

HOW ABOUT IT?

IF ONLY...

Walter Cunningham was the astronaut who flew on the first crewed spacecraft, Apollo, in 1968. In his time, he was justifiably perceived to be a modern day hero. He was looked upon with honor, pride and awe by his countrymen. Folks saw him as a true pioneer and jokingly would remark, "What do you propose to do when you grow up?" Others would ask, "Would you do it all over again?" "That is a hard act to follow," they would retort, "what now?" I am certain he would remember and review in his mind the vigorous training and the qualifications he had to possess to even be considered for the program; the competition he faced from among the others who desired the appointment; the screening and the sifting that went on before he got approval from the Space Agency. He willingly sought the appointment knowing well the perils and uncertain challenges. We could never know the mounting pressure upon his body and emotions as the first lift-off occurred; then, the first touch-down as he came back into the earth's atmosphere. He had many opportunities to speak and at the age of seventy, he made this statement: "Don't be one of those souls who says, 'If only I had my life to live over!' Live your life in such a way that once is enough."

If we desired to live life all over again, it would be an impossibility. I wonder who would want to anyway? If you will, put yourself again in the flying boots of the 1940-45 wartime period. The training, the challenges, the opportunities, the perils, the fears, the day-by-day unknowns, the uncertainty of life we faced every day.

Do you remember flying at 20,000 feet with your oxygen mask on, with the temperature down to 40 degrees below zero? Ahead lies the target and flak and hundreds and thousands of black puffs, just like a cloud--all you can do is sit there, knowing you've got to pass right through it. Then there is always the possibility of fighters slipping in behind you from a cloud bank. A ship goes down, no chutes are seen; friends are gone. We grieve a little and then go on. "This is war" we muse, and this reality somehow helps us justify our apparent dismissal of the terrible loss. Enemy territory passes beneath, and then it is

behind us. We see the water of the Channel and we start down. Our oxygen masks come off; we eat a frozen candy bar; we relax a little but not too much; we remain alert and keep our eyes moving. The skies are crowded with aircraft, the clouds are dense, everyone is fighting to find the airstrip, on the ground red flares glow against the gray fog and drizzle telling the ambulance drivers that someone is wounded. When the engines stop turning, a jeep arrives with the news: "Alert for tomorrow's mission." Yesterday's gone. Its memories may linger but it can never be repeated. A letter of a young airman to his sister testifies of his hope and trust. "I believe in God and his power and goodness. I've seen God answer my prayers, and calm my nerves, and give me rest. Always before any mission I pray to God for strength and guidance...I've said nothing about this to anyone. Now, I feel free to tell it, as I have faith God will go with me in this last one as he has in the past."



Earl Wassom

Jesus addressed the idea of the sufficiency of our Heavenly Father in facing the challenges, sorrows, joys, opportunities of each day when He said, "So, don't worry about having enough food or drink or clothing. Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs, and he will give you all you need from day to day, if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern. Don't worry about tomorrow."

Matthew 6:31-34 NLT

Earl Wassom
466th Bomb Group
Chaplain
Tennessee Chapter



FREEDOM



8th AF News

Dated Material Inside

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B-52 Stratofortress on takeoff from Fairford airbase, England.