

JUNE 2018



8TH AF NEWS

Volume 18 Number 2 Voice of "The Mighty Eighth"



*The Kusy Memorial
then and now*



June 2018

8th AF News

Voice of "The Mighty Eighth"

OFFICERS

President

Benjamin J Jones (Krista) 2019
15115 E Jones Beach Dr
Kent, NY 14477-9780
(585) 905-1476
limeybj@gmail.com

Vice President

Dr Nancy J Toombs 2018
5213 North Cedar St
Little Rock, AR 72116
(501) 681-3126
chase221@swbell.net

Treasurer

Anne A Marek (Rick) 2021
2 Logan Ct
Mendham, NJ 07945
(201) 960-1783 cell
(973) 543-8832 home
majorsoldsack@verizon.net

Secretary & Chapter/Unit Liaison

Joseph P Keeley (Andrea) 2018
1335 Belmont Ave
North Haledon, NJ 07508-2842
(973) 495-3404 cell
(973) 423-4854 home
fxe84@optonline.net

Director

Dr Vivian Rogers-Price (Mike) 2021
117 Charlton Rd
Rincon, GA 31326
(912) 667-4478 cell
(912) 988-1837 office
vrogersprice@mightyeighth.org

8th AFHS National Office

Managing Director/Editor

Debra D Kujawa (Joseph)
68 Kimberlys Way
Jasper, GA 30143-4769
(912) 748-8884
ManagingDirector@8thafhs.org

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

UNITED KINGDOM

Jeff Hawley
44 Belle Isle Crescent
Brampton, CAM
PE28 4SJ
United Kingdom
011 4414804 13503
yankee2100@btinternet.com

Paul Bellamy
21-22 Warkton Village
Kettering, Northants
NN16 9XF
United Kingdom
011 4478660 84743
Paulbellamy1939@hotmail.com

John P Gilbert
Glen Ann
42 Chapel Street, Cawston
Norwich, Norfolk
NR10 4BG
United Kingdom
011 4416038 71124
johnngilbert392bg8th@gmail.com

BELGIUM

Edouard Renière
Dieweg 296
1180 Brussels Belgium
Riiren.belsuo@skynet.be

FRANCE

Jean-Paul Favrais
La Haye-Ouisais N. 85
35310 Breal
France
Jeanpaulfavrais1@orange.fr

CHIEF OF VETERANS AFFAIRS & EDUCATION

Joan Garber
46 Coquina Ridge Way
Ormond Beach, FL 32174
(386) 672-5359
paljoe2@aol.com

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On the front cover: Kusy Memorial dedication.

Back cover: D-Day mission stats.

THE 8TH A F NEWS

The Eighth Air Force News is dedicated to the memory of Lt. Col. John H. Woolnough, founder of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society in 1975, and Editor of the "News" for sixteen years. It is published quarterly and is the official news magazine of the Society, a 501(c)3. The 8th A F News is distributed to members of the Society and is not for public sale.

Home offices are located at:

**68 Kimberlys Way
Jasper, GA 30143-4769**

EDITOR'S NOTES

Several years ago I wrote an article on character education in which I stated, 'there are NO universal truths.' By that I was referring to the stark reality that not every society embraces the same ideals, values, and concepts as we do. Truths, beliefs, concepts—these can all be changed...controlled...managed. The 'circle of life' however, will always remain that one, singular 'truth' we cannot alter.

In the physical world we are born, we live, we die. But the circle isn't limited by biology, it extends to things we build, manufacture, and create: including organizations.

Organizations exist ONLY because of the people within them. In 1975, the Historical Society was comprised solely of WWII veterans of the 8th. In a few short years membership swelled to over 20,000—after spouses and next gens were added to the rolls. Sadly, time has drastically reduced those numbers. While our total membership is just under 1700 as of press time,

nearly 400 members have NOT sent in their 2018 annual dues. Reality poses some dire explanations: many of these 400 have passed away and/or many have moved in with their

*"It's the circle
of life, and it moves
us all, through despair
and hope, through faith and
love, 'til we find our place,
on the path unwinding."*

~ Sir Elton John

children or into facilities and we can no longer connect with them. Either way, we are facing some really tough decisions. (*Your Board has done a tremendous job of operating on a shoe string budget, but that shoe string is getting pretty frayed.*)

Einstein taught us that "Energy cannot be created or destroyed, it can only be changed

from one form to another." The "energy" that is the Eighth Air Force Historical Society has been changing since day one in 1975. Every decision and action made since then and going forward, will determine the direction and future of our circle.

I have been associated with the 8th for nearly 20 years, now. Years which have absolutely been some of the most incredible and memorable moments of my life. Whatever lies ahead, I know I am part of an amazing organization.

I look forward to seeing you in Dayton!

Deb



**Please JOIN the Eighth Air Force Historical Society
TODAY!!!**



First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State/County: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____ Country: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ 8th Affiliation/Interest [optional]: _____

Membership Annual Dues: \$40 or £30 GBP

Payment: Check /Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date: _____ Amount: _____

Visa, MasterCard, or American Express ONLY--A \$2.00 processing fee will be added to all credit card purchases!

PayPal: ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org

US Residents PLEASE mail to:

8th AFHS, 68 Kimberlys Way, Jasper, GA 30143-4769
(912) 748-8884

UK/European Residents PLEASE mail to:

Jeff Hawley, 44 Belle Isle Crescent, Brampton, CAM PE28 4SJ
014804 13503

JOIN ONLINE: www.8thAFHS.org

PRESIDENT'S PEN

Benjamin J Jones
President



Wow, it's hard to believe that it's mid-year already and we're busy ramping up for the upcoming reunion in a few short months. It seems like only yesterday we were enjoying camaraderie in New Orleans.

This year we will once again be taking nominations for the Board to replace Pat and Nancy who complete their terms. I highly encourage those who wish to play an active part in your Society, to consider representing the membership on key decisions and ideas for the future. This issue contains all the details for the acceptance of nominations for the open positions and what is required.

Recently, I was fortunate to be

able to take some time out from a business trip to England and visit with some of those people on the front line of continuing the legacy of the 8th AF. A stop at Madingley where I met up with Suzie Harrison, an Interpretive Guide employed by the ABMC, a visit to Thorpe Abbots introduced me to Gordon, Ron, Carol, Richard and many more dedicated folks. A quick visit to the revamped American Air Museum where I met up with Lucy May and Carl who gave a most excellent tour of the museum. I was unfortunately unable to meet up with many of the other dedicated individuals who work so tirelessly to preserve the heritage and legacy of the 8th AF impact on East Anglia. I thank those who graciously

gave up some time at very short notice to accommodate my visit.

In closing, please take this opportunity to review the nomination procedures, encourage those who you think would be a good fit to serve on your Board of Directors, and as always, I look forward to hearing your comments, concerns, ideas or questions you may have

With warmest regards,

Ben

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations for candidates for election to the Board of Directors of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society must be in the hands of the **Secretary** no later than **July 15, 2018**. The following information must be included.

- Full name and address of the person being nominated.
- Nominee's 8th AFHS membership number.
- 8th Air Force unit in which the nominee served, if applicable.
- Brief resume of the nominee.
- Nominating member's full name and address
- Nominator's 8th AFHS membership number and, if applicable, his/her unit.

The **Secretary** will relay all nominations to the Nominating Committee. Nominations received by the Secretary after July 15, 2018 or any nominations

without complete information will not be considered.

In accordance with policy, nominees are required to submit the following documents (electronically or by mail) to the **Secretary** no later than **July 15, 2018**, in order to be placed on the ballot:

- A resume or other form of curriculum vitae.
- If the nominee is in a profession that requires a professional license to practice, a copy of that license.
- A copy of the nominee's passport.
- If the nominee was in the military – a copy of the DD214. If the nominee is currently on active duty or in the active reserves or National Guard, a copy of the person's last orders.

Send all nominations & documents to:

Joseph 'Pat' Keeley

1335 Belmont Ave ~ North Haledon, NJ 07508-2842

Email: fxe84@optonline.net

TREASURER'S REPORT



Anne Marek
Treasurer

Please see below two (2) documents: our Profit and Loss Statement and Statement of Financial Position for the first quarter of 2018. I have included these two reports here, to keep all of you informed of our financial position.

I have met with David Nowack, our immediate past president and treasurer, on two separate occasions so he could help me learn all the ins and outs of Quick Books and the type of reports generated and required. He has been incredibly generous and giving of his time, recently

teaching me how to enter the 2018 approved budget correctly into QB. As soon as it is completed we will have the Actual versus Budget Report.

I have also contacted Gary Brand at Brand Ferland Associates and hired him to again file our 2017 IRS Income Tax forms as they did in 2016. We are currently in the process of transferring our investment portfolio from Morgan Stanley to Oppenheimer & Co. because Morgan Stanley charges 2.5% management fees and Oppenheimer has guaranteed us 1.5%. I expect this will be completed very soon.

Please review the documents published here, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email.

Anne
See you in Dayton!

Profit & Loss January through March 2018	
	Jan - Mar 18
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
4000 · Income	
4010 · Member Dues Annual	39,447.67
4019 · Contributions	6,828.88
4900 · Uncategorized Income	732.88
Total 4000 · Income	47,009.43
4050 · Investment Income	
4058 · Port. Dividends & Interest	521.57
4059 · Realized Gain/(Loss) on Invest	6,955.34
4060 · Unreal Gain/(Loss) on Invest	-8,921.41
4061 · Investment Management Fees	-637.21
Total 4050 · Investment Income	-2,081.71
Total Income	44,927.72
Expense	
5100 · National Administration Expense	
5111 · Corporation Charges	70.00
5121 · 8AF History Projects	1,003.49
Total 5100 · National Administration Expense	1,073.49
5200 · Magazine Expenses	
5210 · Printing Expenses	2,380.88
5220 · Postage Expenses	1,020.69
5240 · Layout/Design	500.00
Total 5200 · Magazine Expenses	3,901.57
5300 · Savannah Office Expenses	
5303 · Telephone/DSL	150.00
5304 · Supplies	616.93
5305 · Abila Software/ Computer Exps	469.50
5307 · Office Rent	300.00
5312 · FICA-8AFHS portion	831.93
5313 · Payroll/ Office Management	10,875.00
5315 · Postage & Shipping	311.02
5316 · Bank Charges/ Returned checks	110.01
5320 · Annual Fees	178.95
5323 · Merchant Account Usage Fees	423.93
5326 · Payroll processing fees	273.00
Total 5300 · Savannah Office Expenses	14,540.27
Total Expense	19,515.33
Net Ordinary Income	25,412.39
Net Income	25,412.39

Statement of Financial Position As of March 31, 2017	
	Mar 31, 17
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1017 · Morgan Stanley	359,764.94
1040 · B of A Checking Account	12,118.24
1042 · B of A Business Savings	15,008.88
Total Checking/Savings	386,892.06
Other Current Assets	
1200 · Prepaid Expenses	4,514.78
Total Other Current Assets	4,514.78
Total Current Assets	391,406.84
TOTAL ASSETS	391,406.84
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2050 · Payroll & Taxes Payable	
2051 · Payroll payable	2,775.98
2052 · FICA & withhold taxes payable	2,159.84
Total 2050 · Payroll & Taxes Payable	4,935.82
2500 · Accrued Expenses	6,349.82
Total Other Current Liabilities	11,285.64
Total Current Liabilities	11,285.64
Total Liabilities	11,285.64
Equity	
3200 · *Unrestricted Net Assets	346,716.87
Net Income	33,404.33
Total Equity	380,121.20
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	391,406.84

Continuing the Mission

Like many of our members, Joe Garber, 96th BG and POW, joined the Historical Society several years ago as a Life Member. And, like many of you, he stepped forward to serve on the Society Board as a director. Shortly thereafter he was elected by the Board to also serve as Secretary. During this same period he was very active in his bomb group association [the 96th] serving as its president.

During the 2015 reunion in Omaha, NE, Joe accepted the newly created position of “Chief of Veterans Affairs & Education,” tailor made for him because of his passion and dedication in carrying out the important efforts of the Society to educate and preserve the memories, history, and legacy of the men and women of the 8th Air Force, for current and future generations.

Joe spoke and presented at dozens of school assemblies, veterans’ events, and military appreciation occasions. He promoted the Historical Society

and its initiatives at every turn and opportunity. He never missed a moment to share his story—in effect, sharing every veteran’s story of courage and selfless service.

Sadly, Joe’s final mission ended Saturday, March 17, 2018 with his passing. His presence will be greatly missed not only within the Society, but within his Ormond Beach community and much of Florida as well.

There is positive news among this sadness: Joe’s widow, Joan, has not only shared his passion and zeal to serve, she has offered to continue the mission Joe began and assume his role as “Chief of Veterans Affairs & Education” for the Society! The Board of Directors unanimously welcomed her officially into her new position.

Please remember the Garber family during their time of grief, but know that Joe’s mission is in good hands with Joan.



FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR & JUBILEE OF LIBERTY MEDALS

If you, or someone you know, is a WWII veteran who served in the ETO, you may be eligible to receive the French Legion of Honor and/or the French Jubilee of Liberty Medals. However, time is of the essence:

The application process for the French LOH **MUST** be completed prior to the passing of the veteran/applicant. There are specific forms, guidelines, and processes which must be followed. We have also been told that the French government is winding down this program.

If you or a WWII veteran served in the ETO between June 6, 1944

and August 31, 1944, you may be eligible for the French Jubilee of Liberty medal. Simply call the Society office: (912) 748-8884 or email ManagingDirector@8thafhs.org to help determine eligibility. **This award MAY be given posthumously, but this is an AFHS initiative that will be ending on January 1, 2019.**

REUNION NEWS

384th BG Reunion

October 18-21, 2018
Holiday Inn Dayton Fairborn
2800 Presidential Dr
Dayton, OH

Contact:

Carol Alfter

384th Bomb Group, Inc.
1306 Adams Way
Beavercreek, OH 45434-7098
FJAlfter@gmail.com

IN SEARCH OF... 8TH AFHS CHAPTERS

Are you part of an 8th AFHS Chapter that is still active, or in search of or interested in organizing a chapter in your area? If so, please contact our Chapter/Unit Liaison:

Joseph ‘Pat’ Keeley
(973)495-3404 or
fxe84@optonline.net

Please help us update our records and keep everyone informed!



Gordon Fenwick, radio operator and gunner, with the Mary Alice crew

In four raids between 13 and 15 February 1945, about 800 heavy bombers of the British Royal Air Force and 500 of the United States Army Air Forces dropped more than 3,900 tons of high-explosive bombs and incendiary devices on Dresden. The bombing and the resulting firestorm destroyed over 1,600 acres of the city centre. An estimated 22,700 to 25,000 people were killed.

GORDON FENWICK:

WITNESS TO THE FIRE

by Steve Bowman

This is not an easy saga to relate. During his 35 mission tour, Gordon Fenwick saw first hand three of the most historic missions, and without question, the most controversial of the war: The February 3, 1945 raid on Berlin and the February 14 and 15 raids on Dresden. To tell his story an explanation of these events is needed, and perhaps a justification for them. Gordon candidly addresses the hard-edge of the Air War head-on. This is his story.

Gordon, like many 8th Air Force veterans was an exceptional person before and after the war. He is a product of his times in a predominantly rural nation. Gordon was born in Sault Ste. Marie, population then 11,000, on Michigan's Upper Peninsula on March 21, 1923. With a bit of a smile he notes, *"Of the three boys in the family I was the most adventurous and unpredictable."* For instance, he flipped a canoe half mile out in Lake Superior during adverse weather, narrowly avoided plunging over a sizable waterfall in a canoe, camped in the dead of the winter, fishing and hunting to put food on the Depression era table.

The war stole the carefree days of young adulthood for most of his generation. Gordon enlisted as an Air Corp cadet in November 1942 while an engineering student at the University of Michigan. Orders to report for basic

training came in February 1943. He hoped to become a pilot, but flunked the physical exam: Ears that couldn't release pressure well above 20,000 feet and sight issues. As he puts it, *"The best the doctor could say was I had clean ears. I could have had non-combat duty but decided to stay the course and opted for duty as a radio operator."* The radio guy had a critical crew position. Duties included: providing position status in Morse Code to the base, keeping command sets operating correctly on assigned frequencies, assisting the navigator in location fixes, sorting out formation radio traffic and of strategic importance, using the classified mission codes of the day. (Radiomen were trained as medics and acted as gunners as well.) *"I was the medic on our ship, the Mary Alice. Unfortunately, I put those skills to use."*

The Big Show

Gordon Fenwick arrived at the 401st Bomb Group base at Deenthorpe in October 1944. He recalls his evening arrival, *"It was a unusual first night. An outgoing crew gave us a long briefing on what to expect."* (Gordon explained this was standard policy in the 401st.) *"They told us about German propaganda broadcasts that welcomed new crews naming each individual man. One broadcast enlightened us about the clock in the enlisted*



men's mess hall being five minutes fast. It was.

"It didn't take long for us to learn what we were in for." On November 25, 1944 they went to Merseberg, the most heavily defended target in Europe with its interlocking flak field that downed a bomber every couple of minutes when in the kill box. "We got shot to hell. Elevator trim tabs shot away, two engines out and a third damaged. To stay airborne, we tossed everything that wasn't bolted down: guns, ammo, everything. We ran out of fuel and made an emergency landing at a field just beyond the White Cliffs of Dover." Five days later they hit another synthetic oil plant at Bohlen. The November 30 mission was grim for the Eighth, dozens of B-17s were shot down, hundreds were heavily damaged. The Mary Alice suffered two serious injuries and Gordon nearly bought the farm. "A piece of flak sliced through the radio room and missed my head by about a millimeter." The Guardian Angel that watched over Gordon since his daring youth was with him on that day.

They Listened to Lilly Marlene

I love hearing non-combat memories; here are a couple of Gordon's: "One of the visions that's still vivid is laying in bed at night, trying to sleep before those two, three in the morning wake up calls, listening to Lilly Marlene. We all loved it, a German song actually. I'd lie there, and think about home. How were they? What were they doing? One of my favorites to this day."

And those notorious three-day London passes. "We were in a pub with several RAF boys. Everything was very cordial at first. After a few pints, it came to the classic pull the Yank's chain calling us out as, 'Over paid, over dressed, over sexed, and over here.'" I asked if he used the come back for it. He wasn't familiar with this one. Other veterans have told me about the quid pro

quo for the Brits, "*Under paid, under dressed, under sexed, and under Eisenhower.*" I could kinda tell he wished he'd had that one in his pocket back then.

They Would Not Surrender

Gordon experienced the horrific conclusion of the Air War during 1945. He was on the Berlin raid historian Don Miller calls, "The Moral Threshold for the Army Air Forces." Up until this point, they tried to the best of their limited ability to hit only military and industrial targets. That all changed on a cold, clear afternoon on February 3rd when 1,437 bombers and 948 fighters appeared in the skies above Berlin to level the central city. (Source: 8th Air Force Operational History)

The decision to conduct Morale Bombing, aka Area or Carpet-Bombing, was made at the highest level. George Marshall, Army Chief of Staff, sent the order to bomb civilian populations in four cities. President Roosevelt by default must have approved the verdict. The objections of Carl Spaatz, Commander of European Air Force Operations and Jimmy Doolittle, 8th Air Force Commander, were brushed aside. It's reported that Marshall asked, "How do you get an enemy that's defeated but refuses to surrender, just stop, give up?" The massive resources in Europe were needed in the Far East; the end of the war with Japan was not in sight. These missions were the grim answer.

Dresden

The press in 1945 had a field day lamenting the toll on civilians -- the Eighth was tarnished for its role. It was one of the few one-two punches by the RAF and the Eighth that produced such grizzly results. Kurt Vonnegut immortalized the raid with his wildly successful novel

and movie Slaughterhouse Five. There may be only one mission in the Air War known to the general public . . . that is Dresden.

The medieval city of Dresden had been bombed twice, but never in a massive assault. That changed on a beautiful, unseasonably warm evening on February 13th, 1945. Bomber Command dispatched over 800 Lancasters to the charming city known as the Florence on the Elbe. The ordinance selection was not unusual, 2,000 and 4,000 pound bombs to collapse buildings and/or blowout windows, sever water and gas mains, crater the streets, making access by fire fighting/emergency teams difficult or impossible. After the large bombs came the incendiaries. Around 9:30, the first wave of bombers delivered the Cookies as the large bombs were known. The next group released incendiaries, four-pound magnesium cylinders over the wreckage, again nothing unique. Two such formations hit the city that night. The city was a raging inferno when the second formation of bombers arrived around 1:00 AM. Self-generating gale force winds were feeding the flames well before the second round of incendiaries fell.

The planners probably didn't grasp it, but Dresden was mostly defenseless. The city lacked proper air raid shelters. Flak defenses were negligible. While the Luftwaffe's field was lined with new fighters right off the production line, they did not rise to fight. They were ordered to stand down due to lack of fuel. The final pieces of a perfect storm were in place.

The Eighth appeared the next day, February 14th with over 300 bombers to pummel the rail yards. Smoke from the furious inferno reached 15,000 feet making visual bombing impossible. A few bombs hit the marshalling yards, some struck the inner city, others were 8 – 10 miles beyond target. A cruel twist of fate brought the Eighth again on the 15th. The city was a secondary target for 200 bombers that were waived off the primary mark, an oil facility near Leipzig. (Source: 8th Air Force Operations History)

Tactically, the raid was unique. As many times as the RAF bombing techniques had been used, only a handful of instances produced a firestorm of this magnitude. Dresden was like a hole-in-one in golf.

What of the Eighth's involvement? They bombed as accurately as possible considering the circumstances. Precision bombing was a pre-war myth. There are dozens of examples dispelling this myth. In addition, with the city engulfed in smoke up to 15,000 feet -- even if precise targeting were possible with the Norden bomb sight in a mass formation, which it was not, it would have failed that day. Did the planners and crews of these missions understand the implicit civilian casualties? Without question.

Gordon says this about raids with large quantities of

incendiaries, *"You'd see a 500 pound bomb and all the incendiaries, you knew, but there was no time to ponder it. We were totally focused. Get the job done, don't screw up . . . [we had] the will to survive, live, go home. There was today, maybe a tomorrow. That was it."*

Witness to the Fire

The emotional impact on airmen varied. Some lost it, flak happy, damaged beyond repair. Gordon witnessed a man on the flight-line crack-up completely after a mission. He explains his experience. *"Several years after the war, I started to remember, think about what happened. It was dreadful. Any decent human being would recognize the horror of it all. What choices did we have, the airmen, the leaders of our countries? I had an adjustment period right after the war as well; it went on for several months. There was no time to feel sorry for yourself, no one to hold your hand. I had to get on with it. I had a family to take care of."* (Gordon's first child, Sally, was born in 1943.)

Gordon Fenwick overcame and had a wonderful life. He went on to graduate from the Wayne State University through the GI Bill. He and his beloved wife Pat were married for 68 years; they had four children, Sally, Gordon, James and Carol. He retired at the ripe old age of 58 concluding a highly successful career at Michigan Bell including an eight-year assignment to AT&T's New York headquarters, including coast-to-coast trips to the regional Bell phone companies. *"I watched the World Trade Center being built from my office. It was a brilliant time."*

*Smoke from the
furious inferno
reached 15,000 feet
making
visual bombing
impossible.*

Epilog: The Threshold

*Looking at events three quarters of a century ago, how do we feel, how **should** we feel? There are yardsticks for measuring history. First, never judge with the benefit of 20/20 hindsight. It's too easy knowing all the correct answers. Last of all, never judge through the moral lens of today. This is a naive, self-righteous path. Only a handful of people alive today have any sense or feel for the Armageddon of the 20th century, which at times felt like the End of Days.*

The Combined Bomber Offensive was a joint effort by the Eighth and the RAF's Bomber Command, only part of a Total War, war with only one acceptable outcome, unconditional surrender. Perhaps the real moral failure would have been to let this savage war, with several thousand people dying each day, to go on for one more day, one more hour than necessary.

Steve Bowman is on the Board of the Birthplace Chapter of the 8th AFHS and lives in Savannah, GA.

44TH ANNUAL 8TH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY REUNION

OCTOBER 10 - 14, 2018

DAYTON, OH



DAYTON CITY TOUR

Thursday, October 11

The birthplace of aviation, Dayton was once home to powered flight inventors Orville and Wilbur Wright. Your guide will narrate the significance of the many interesting sites along this tour, including Oregon District, the city's oldest suburb; the Civil War Monument; the Flyover, an award-winning sculpture of flight; the Korean War State Memorial; and Memorial Hall, where veterans are remembered. Learn the history of the Miami Valley from the first settlers in 1796 to the influence of such entrepreneurs as Patterson, Deeds, Kettering, and Frazee. These notables and others made immense contributions to aviation, the arts, sports, government, and industry. There will be a short stop at the Esther Price Candy Store, now a successful candy distributor, which opened 50 years ago in Mrs. Price's basement. Enjoy lunch on your own at Dayton's upscale shopping and restaurant district, The Greene – featuring Cheesecake Factory, Chipotle, Panera, Subway, and many other dining choices.

9:00am board bus, 2:00pm back at hotel
\$38/Person includes bus and guide. Lunch on your own.

THURSDAY EVENING BUFFET

Thursday, October 11

A special showing of *"The Cold Blue,"* a documentary by Peter Hankoff and Erik Nelson featuring

several 8th Air Force veterans.

In 1943, William Wyler, one of Hollywood's most renowned and versatile directors, went to Europe to document the Air War in progress. Wyler flew actual combat missions with B-17s--one of his three cinematographers was killed during filming. Incredibly, all of the raw color footage Wyler shot for the *"Memphis Belle"* was recently discovered deep in the vaults of the National Archives, and a new film has been constructed out of the material. *"The Cold Blue"* is a meditation on youth, war and trauma, and stands as a tribute to one of the world's great filmmakers, and the men of the 8th Air Force who flew mission after suicidal mission in the Second World



War. Nine of the very few surviving veterans were interviewed in the summer of 2017, and their voices take us through the harrowing world that Wyler and his cameramen captured in that summer of 1943.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE U S AIR FORCE

Friday, October 12

The National Museum of the U S Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base is the oldest and largest military aviation museum in the world. The Museum tells the exciting story of aviation development from the days of the Wright brothers at Kitty

44TH ANNUAL 8TH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY REUNION

OCTOBER 10 - 14, 2018

DAYTON, OH

Hawk to the Space Age. Exhibits include over 300 aircraft and missiles, plus historically interesting aeronautical displays. The newly refurbished B-17 Memphis Bell, one of the most recognizable symbols of WWII will be on permanent display at the museum. In addition, the Presidential Gallery is located here featuring a collection of presidential aircraft, some of which you can walk through. The museum also features an IMAX theater showing each hour on the hour (admission on your own). Have lunch at your leisure in the cafeteria on the second level. The buses will shuttle back to the hotel at 12noon, 1pm, and 2:15pm.

9:30am board bus, 2:30pm back at hotel
\$38/Person includes bus and escort.



Lunch and IMAX on your own.

CARILLON HISTORICAL PARK / PACKARD MUSEUM

Saturday, October 13

Carillon Historical Park celebrates the history of invention, transportation, and pioneer life in Dayton and the Miami Valley. It is home to a variety of collections, which document the area's history. While touring the Park, you may visit Newcom Tavern, Dayton's oldest standing building; view the Wright Flyer III; and board a 1903 Barney & Smith Parlor car. Antique automobiles, a working 1930's Print



Shop, and vintage bicycles are some of the other exhibits you will see along the way. Continue the tour and step back in time at America's Packard Museum, where the Packard Motor Car Company comes to life again. Located in the original Packard Dealership Building, which was built in 1917, the museum has officially taken the name of the original dealership - The Citizens Motorcar Company - but has become known as "America's Packard Museum". View the world's largest collection of "Packard only" automobiles in the actual showroom. This unique museum showcases "the world's finest motor car" from its beginnings in 1899 to its demise in 1956.

*Note: This tour may be limited to the first 100 people, or different schedules may be followed. A lunch break is not included on this tour, so consider **pre-purchasing the box lunch** at the Crowne Plaza Hotel to eat before departure.*

12:30pm board bus, 4:45pm back at hotel
\$54/Person includes bus, escort, and admissions.

All Trips require a minimum of 35 people.

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

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

44TH ANNUAL 8TH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY REUNION

OCTOBER 10 - 14, 2018

DAYTON, OH

8TH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER 10 - 14, 2018

CROWNE PLAZA - DAYTON, OH

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please see the information on the hotel and make your reservations immediately. Once your hotel reservation is confirmed, proceed with the activity registration. See choices below and complete the Registration Form noting your event choices and personal information. By "WWII GROUP," we're asking for the group or unit in which you served (specific Bomb Group, Fighter Group, PRG, HQ, etc.). We use this information for tallying totals for each group, nametags, and seating arrangements. If you prefer to sit with a different group, please give us that information too. We do not need your squadron. Remit by mail with check or money order payable to Armed Forces Reunions by September 7, 2018. You may also register and pay with credit card online at www.afr-reg.com/8afhs2018. A 3.5% convenience fee will be added to credit card reservations. Forms received after September 7 will be accepted on a space available basis only. Hotel reservations should also be made by September 7, but we encourage you to do so much sooner.

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 \$10 per person 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 \$10 processing fee. Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 4:00pm Eastern Time, excluding holidays. Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation doesn't cancel your reunion activities.

DUES

Most reunion activity registration forms include a principal attendee and possible guests. Examples include: A WWII

Veteran and his wife, a Next Gen Attendee and her son, an 8AF Enthusiast (no relation to a WWII Veteran), etc. The principal attendee must be a dues paying member of the Society to attend the reunion, so at least one person on the registration form must be in good standing as a member of the Society for that person and his/her guests to attend. If the principal attendee is not a member, Dues, \$40 per year, may be paid on the registration form.

REGISTRATION FEE

Everyone is expected to pay the registration fee, \$45 per person, which is totally different and separate from Dues.

MEAL & TOUR CHOICES

NEW FOR 2018: There are no meal packages! Because the hotel room rate includes a hot breakfast each morning, there is no need for a meal package. All other hotel meals can be purchased separately and are listed on the registration form.

In addition, tours are listed on the registration form and can be purchased separately. Tours and trips are described on the Reunion Highlights Pages, and prices are listed on the registration form. Driver and Staff gratuities are not included in the tour prices. All trips require a minimum of 35 people. Please be at the bus boarding area five minutes prior to the departure time.



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CROWNE PLAZA – DAYTON, OH

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10

- 1:00pm - 6:00pm Reunion Registration
- 6:00pm - 7:00pm Welcome Reception with Cash Bar and Snacks, followed by dinner on your own
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm 8th AFHS Board Meeting
- 7:00pm - Until Hospitality Suites open

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11

- 7:00am - 8:30am Complimentary Breakfast Buffet for 8AFHS overnight Crowne Plaza Hotel guests
- 8:00am - 11:30am Reunion Registration Open
- 9:00am - 2:00pm DAYTON CITY TOUR (description follows)
- 1:00pm - 6:00pm Reunion Registration Open
- 2:10pm - 2:50pm Curator's Corner
- 3:00pm - 5:00pm Seminar on Crash Site Excavations, Uwe Benkel, renowned German researcher *
- 6:00pm - 9:00pm Cash Bar Reception
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm Buffet Dinner and World Premiere, **"The Cold Blue"** by Erik Nelson & Peter Hankoff. *

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

- 7:00am - 8:30am Complimentary Breakfast Buffet for 8AFHS overnight Crowne Plaza Hotel guests
- 8:00am - 11:30am Reunion Registration Open
- 8:00am - 9:15am Group Meetings
- 9:30am - 2:30pm NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
- 1:00pm - 6:00pm Reunion Registration Open
- 3:00pm - 4:30pm Q & A WWII Vets
- 6:00pm - 9:00pm Cash Bar Reception
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm Rendezvous Dinners

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

- 7:00am - 8:30am Complimentary Breakfast Buffet for 8AFHS overnight Crowne Plaza Hotel guests
- 8:30am - 11:30am Reunion Registration Open
- 8:45am - 10:15am General Membership Meeting
- 10:30am - 11:30am Heritage League Meeting
- 11:30am - 12:00pm Box lunches available for pick up (**pre-purchase only**)
- 12:00pm - 3:30pm 8th AFHS Board Meeting
- 12:30pm - 4:45pm CARILLON HISTORICAL PARK / PACKARD MUSEUM (description follows)
- 5:00pm - 5:30pm Reunion Registration Open
- 5:30pm - 7:00pm Cash Bar Reception
- 6:30pm - 6:45pm WWII Veteran Group Photo (Tentative timing. Please check final schedule for update).
- 7:00pm - 10:00pm Gala Dinner and Program

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

- 7:00am - 8:30am Complimentary Breakfast Buffet for 8AFHS overnight Crowne Plaza Hotel guests

***SPEAKERS ARE CONFIRMED AS OF PRESS TIME.**

44TH ANNUAL 8TH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY REUNION

OCTOBER 10 - 14, 2018

DAYTON, OH

8th AFHS ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM – OCTOBER 10 – 14, 2018

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will participate in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as confirmation. You may also register online and pay by credit card at www.afr-reg.com/8afhs2018 (3.5% will be added to total). All registration forms and payments must be received on or before September 7, 2018. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. Your contact information will be shared only with reunion attendees.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.

322 Madison Mews

Norfolk, VA 23510

ATTN: 8th AFHS

OFFICE USE ONLY

Check # _____ Date Received _____
 Inputted _____ Nametag Completed _____

CUT-OFF DATE IS 9/7/18	Price Per	# of People	Total
<u>DUES</u>			
The principal attendee must be a member of the 8AFHS to register for this reunion. If you are not a member, please pay your yearly dues here.	\$40		\$
<u>REGISTRATION FEE</u>			
Includes meeting expenses and other reunion expenses.	\$45		\$
Reg. Fee for children ages 8-16 attending more than 1 function & staying at hotel	\$30		\$
<u>MEALS</u>			
Thursday, 10/11: Dinner Buffet (Chicken w/ Honey Brie Dijon Sauce & London Broil w/ Chimichurri sauce)	\$42		\$
Friday, 10/12: Rendezvous Dinner (Rosemary Lemon Chicken)	\$38		\$
Saturday, 10/13: Box Lunch (sandwich, chips, cookie, water)	\$16		\$
Saturday, 10/13: Banquet (Please select your entrée below)			
Herb-Roasted Prime Rib	\$45		\$
Grilled Salmon w/ Creamy Leek Sauce	\$45		\$
Chef's Choice of Vegetarian Entrée	\$45		\$
<u>TOURS</u>			
Thursday, 10/11: Dayton City Tour	\$38		\$
Friday, 10/12: National Museum of the US Air Force	\$38		\$
Saturday, 10/13: Carillon Historical Park / Packard Museum	\$54		\$
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.			\$

Please Print. If a WWII Veteran is registering on this form, please list his name first.

MEMBER NAME (for nametag) _____

☐ 8AF VETERAN ☐ OTHER VETERAN ☐ NEXT GEN ☐ HERITAGE LEAGUE ☐ OTHER

IF A VETERAN, PLEASE CIRCLE: WWII Cold War Era Korea Vietnam Gulf War Desert Storm Iraq Other _____

WWII GROUP AFFILIATION FOR UNIT TOTALS & SEATING ARRANGEMENTS (please list BG/FG, not BS/FS) _____

SPOUSE NAME (if attending) _____

GUEST NAMES _____ ☐ NEXT GEN

PHONE # (____) _____ - _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____ @ _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? ☐ YES ☐ NO (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).

HOTEL RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE CONFIRMED BEFORE SUBMITTING THIS FORM. PLEASE CHECK YOUR CONFIRMED HOTEL:

☐ CROWNE PLAZA DAYTON ☐ HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS DAYTON SW ☐ OTHER _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PH. NUMBER (____) _____ - _____

44TH ANNUAL 8TH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY REUNION
OCTOBER 10 - 14, 2018
DAYTON, OH

PLEASE NOTE *NEW* HOTEL INFORMATION
HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES, DAYTON SOUTHWEST
2140 South Edwin C Moses Blvd ~ DAYTON, OH 45417
(877) 666-3243
www.hiexpress.com

Location of Designated Overflow Hotel

Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Dayton Southwest, has been designated as our official "overflow" hotel due to the Crowne Plaza Dayton being **SOLD OUT** as of press time.

This property is brand new and conveniently located at:
2140 South Edwin C Moses Blvd, Dayton, OH 45417
This is only a few minutes south of the Crowne Plaza.

Reservation Information

Please call the number above and reference the 8th Air Force Historical Society or please go to:

www.afr-reg.com/8afhs2018

and click on the hotel reservation link at the top of the page. The hotel will allow no more than two reservations per call (or click). Reservations should only be made for yourself and/or a family member. Separate names will be required for each room reservation.

Please encourage friends and family to make their own reservations instead of holding multiple reservations as a 'just in case.' This caused a premature need for overflow hotels in the past.

Group CODE: A F R [Air Force Reunion]

Reunion Dates: October 10-14, 2018

Rate: \$110.94 + tax (currently 13.25%) for 1-2 people (\$10 add-on per night, per person for 3rd and 4th person).

Rate includes hot breakfast each day.

Rates will be offered three days before and after official reunion dates, with advanced reservation notice and subject to group block availability.

Cut-off Date: 09/7/18. Late reservations will be processed based on space availability at a higher rate.

Cancellation Policy: All reservations must be accompanied by a credit card guarantee. Reservations can be

cancelled up to 6pm on the day of arrival. No shows and late cancellations will be charged.

Parking & Shuttle Information

The hotel offers complimentary self-parking for guests staying at the hotel. Unfortunately, there is no shuttle service available at this time at the Holiday Inn Express. Both Lyft and Uber car services are available in Dayton, as well as several local taxi services.

Wheelchair Rental

ScotAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and week. Please call **(888) 441-7575** or visit **www.scootaround.com** for details or to make reservations.

Location of Reunion Headquarters Hotel

Crowne Plaza Dayton

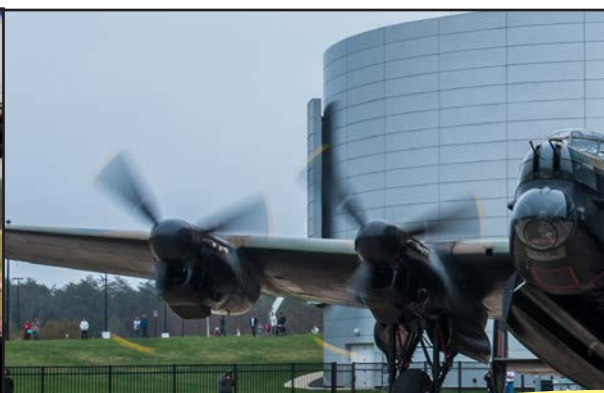
33 E. 5th Street, Dayton, Ohio 45402

Ideally located near the Dayton International Airport and situated in the heart of the city, near the Oregon Arts District, guests can enjoy shopping, dining, and entertainment just minutes away.*

****If you would like to be placed on a waiting list for possible cancellations at the Crowne Plaza, please contact Donna Lee, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. at DonnaLee@afri.com immediately. Please include your name, phone number, WWII Group, dates needed, bed type (only if absolutely necessary), and whether or not the occupant is a WWII Veteran. WWII Veterans will be accommodated first.***

The Society has secured the overflow hotel--if you have questions regarding the Holiday Inn Express, please contact Debra Kujawa: (912) 748-8884 or ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH A



Air & Space Museum, especially when the Museum is complete with RAF and Canadian RAF re-enactors. The crown jewel, the British four-engine Avro Lancaster bomber, became the RAF's main bomber during WWII. The British 8th Air Force's daylight bombing missions were key to bringing the war back home to Germany. Whereas the 8th is proudly known as "Twelve O'Clock High," the Lancaster is featured in several movies, including "The Dam Busters" which documents the RAF's plan to destroy the dams in Germany. The 100 event included the logo "Dam Buster" on its side.

8th Air Force and their hosts, the RAF. Cheers! C

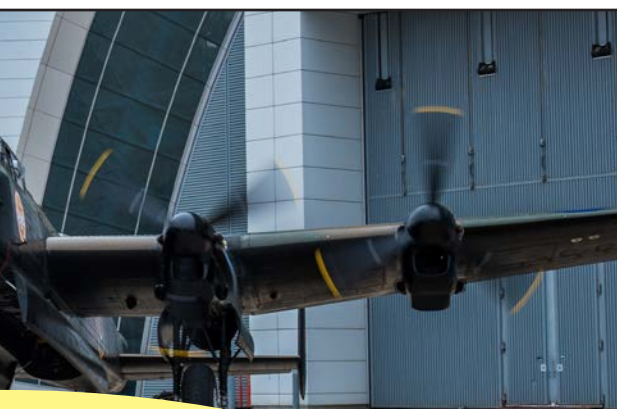
Photos clockwise: Top center: RAF Avro Lancaster

Spitfire pilot, Gerlad Mott; 8th AFHS photographer

Air Patrol (Middle East Region) with Royal Canadian

'thumbs up!'; front view of En

ANNIVERSARY OF THE RAF



April 15, 2018 was a special day at the Smithsonian's Udvar-Hazy National Museum was hosting the RAF 100 celebration, several smaller RAF spotter planes and, the bomber! It first saw service in 1941 and quickly became the RAF's night time bombing missions combined with the changing the German war machine to an end, and sending it highlighted in movies such as "The Memphis Belle" and several WWII films with the most famous being the 1955 film, to destroy German dams. The Lancaster present at the RAF. We salute and honor all our WWII airmen veterans –

Craig Dubishar

bomber; RAF re-enactor, Levi Sherman with RAF photographer, Craig Dubishar & Enola Gay; Civil Engineer, Royal Air Cadets; Lancaster pilot gives Enola Gay; Lancaster pilot.



THE KUSY MEMORIAL

by George Simko

On 30 July 1943, the crew of B-17F-25-VE-42-5829, Flying Jenny, from the 379th BG (H), 525th BS, took off from their base in Kimbolton, England. Their mission: bomb the factories of Fiesler Storch in Kassel, Germany.

During their return from a successful mission the squadron was attacked by German fighters over Belgium and the Flying Jenny was shot down by UFFZ Gerd Wiegand of JG26/8 in a FW 190A-4. Part of the aircraft fell on the town of Herbesthal with other parts falling on the town of Welkenraedt. The body of Lt Kusy was found in a meadow in the town of Baelen a few meters from where the Memorial is now located. Three other crewmembers remains were found in the town of Welkenraedt. The 6 surviving crewmembers were captured in Eupen, Belgium.

In 1947, Mr. Leon Konigs and his family erected the original memorial in Balen to Lt Kusy. Fifty years later veterans from the towns of Balen and Welkenraedt wanted to commemorate the sacrifice of the American airman. Tribute was paid at the memorial by various patriotic associations of Balen and Welkenraedt. Two witness of the crash, Messer's Auguste Becker and Gaston Schyns attended the ceremony. Flags of the two different patriotic groups of the region were displayed.



In 1999, Mr. Marcel Enstipp participated for the first time at a ceremony. In 2002, given the age of the original group who felt they could no longer organize the ceremonies Mr. Enstipp assumed arranging the ceremonies.

In 2005, given the age and condition of the memorial, he decided it should be updated. He contacted Mr. Pierre Wintgens, the Mayor of Baelen and with his help he was able to complete the project. The new Memorial was inaugurated with a ceremony. The Mayor, townspeople, civilians and 24 patriotic flag bearers in attendance. The Town of Baelen held a reception for the attenders.

The same year Mr. Eddy Poncelet became his partner in organizing the ceremonies and maintaining the Memorial.

In 2012, a plaque was placed to the left of the Memorial ex-



plaining the story of Lt Stanley A. Kusy and the Flying Jenny.

In 2013, a new flagpole was installed. The American flag is flown during ceremonies at the Memorial. During the past 3 years Ms. Solange Dekeyser* has been part of the association. Solange does translations into English and in contacting MSGT Michael A. Murieen, USAF Germany. Sgt Murieen and airmen participate in the Memorial Ceremonies.

Attending the 2017 Memorial services were Mr. Andre Pirnay, Alderman, Mr. Christian Delgoffe, Sectary General Service, MSGT Michael A. Murieen, USAFE, 786 Civil Engineering Sq., Ramstein AB, Mrs. Jenna Murieen, TSgt Tisha Speaks, SSGT Daquan P. McLean, SRA Marisol Zamora, USAF Spangdahlem, Germany. Twenty flag bearers from various patriotic groups and civilians from the nearby towns.

Now, every year now we organize a ceremony in memory of Lt Kusy. We would like to have a veteran of the crew, a member of the 379th Bomb Group attend the ceremonies. However we are unable to locate members the crew and with the demise of the 379th Bomb Group we have been unsuccessful.

Being passionate about aviation I have been doing research on Allied aircraft, shot down in my country, for over 15 years. To pay homage to these brave men who came from so far to give us Freedom after 4 years of occupation is a great honor for us. We will never be able to thank the United States enough for their help.



Photos from bottom left, clockwise: group at reception, Lt. Stanley A. Kusy; Honor guard at ceremony; Solange Dekeyser (L), Marcel Enstipp (M), Eddy Poncelet (R).

The Enduring Legacy of the Mighty Eighth

By Lt Gen Richard M. Clark

Commander, Third Air Force-Seventeenth Expeditionary Air Force

As the “Mighty Eighth” Air Force celebrates its 75th birthday this year, this is an ideal time to reflect on the sacrifices made by our World War II forefathers. In a turbulent global environment, this reflection presents an opportunity to highlight the continued importance of Global Strike assets. Our ancestors fought and flew in the skies of Europe against a tenacious, well-equipped and highly-trained Luftwaffe. While the threats today are much different, the adversaries who attempt to hold our freedom at risk are no less dangerous and increasingly innovative in their use of technology and asymmetric tactics to inflict harm on the United States and our allies everywhere on the globe. A look back over the last 75 years is useful for reminding the Global Strike Airmen of today that the core tenets of long-range strike executed with lethal speed and precision remain hallmarks.

Recently, I was reminded of the “Mighty Eighth’s” enduring impact on the outcome of World War II during a meeting with Mr. Co de Swart, a Dutch historian and advisor to the Eighth Air Force Historical Society. As a young child in Holland in 1943, Mr. de Swart recalled the enduring emotional impact of witnessing the shootdown of a USAAF B-17 in August of 1943 by a Luftwaffe Me-109. Five American crewmen were killed and five successfully bailed out of their aircraft over Holland. This single, tragic event inspired Mr. de Swart’s lifetime historical interest in these brave Airmen and their machines in the years after the war. In total, some experts estimate that as many as 7,000 bomber losses occurred in Holland during World War II, a reminder of the sacrifices made by our predecessors. Mr. de Swart continues to remain an active supporter of the historical society, including efforts to recover and document the estimated 300 still-unrecorded crash

sites throughout Holland.

The Historical Society’s efforts are important to remembering both the past acts of courage and accomplishment by a generation of Americans and Allies who would not quit in the face of a tough, increasingly desperate opponent despite incomprehensible human tragedy. That spirit exists in the Airmen of the “Mighty Eighth” today. As we continue to press the boundaries of human endurance, technological innovation and precision weapons delivery, we must not forget the lessons that continue to shape the narrative of Global Strike. Our capabilities have never been more



lethal or credible. We continue to normalize Bomber Assurance and Deterrence activities across Europe in the face of a resurgent Russia while maintaining the capability to strike violent extremist networks wherever they seek sanctuary. Global reach allows the United States to maintain an extremely rapid strike capability, demonstrating both will and intent to support our Allies and deter or destroy our adversaries when necessary.

The “Mighty Eighth’s” lineage remains stronger than ever today. This past summer, B-52s, B-1s and B-2s participated in BALTOPs and Saber Strike exercises with our joint service brethren and our European partners aimed at reassuring Allies of U.S.

resolve and reinforcing a European deterrence posture. These rotational deployments and partnership with our key NATO allies reinforce our commitment to partnering with all nations who treasure freedom, shun extremism and value the security and prosperity of their societies and those of their neighbors. The current challenges we face against violent extremist organizations and rogue state actors are likely an enduring problem set. Global strike capabilities will remain a key instrument of national military power as the United States continues to preserve security for ourselves and our Allies while denying the adversarial freedom of maneuver.

The “Mighty Eighth” continues today as a guardian of our freedoms, populated by skilled and dedicated Airmen who wield a sharp sword in support of the freedoms their predecessors succeeded in defending. The challenge is different in a modern era defined by unpredictable threats and determined adversaries. Through the past 75 years, the men and women of Eighth Air Force continued to stand on the shoulders of giants. Our Airmen are the giants for those will continue to carry the torch of freedom in our Air Force and our great nation. We must remain ready and vigilant as never before. One need only scan any news outlet to understand that outspoken, near-peer adversaries seek to destroy our freedoms by discrediting democracy and attempting to weaken and dismantle the rule-based international order established after World War II. It is imperative that we remember the lessons of that war so that we never again experience such tragic consequences. Precision, reach, and agility ensure that the “Mighty Eighth” will remain a potent force for defending our freedoms and democracy while deterring any adversary and remaining ready to answer the nation’s call – any time, any place.



FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR AND

Manny Abrams**	392nd BG	Jay Dee Cowan*	490th BG	Stanley Goldstein	466th BG
Stewart Ackerman	303rd BG	James D Cox*	303rd BG	Hewitt B Gomez	492nd BG
J R Akin	5th BG	James W Cox, Jr*	94th BG	George Gorman	96th BG
Vernon G Alexander**	493rd BG	Salvatore Cracolici	96th BG	Marvin Graham	392nd BG
Jay D Allen	94th BG	Thomas L Creekmore	305th BG	Sidney Grant	493rd BG
Andy Anderson	100th BG	Leo R Croce*	398th BG	Wesley Grayer	493rd BG
Ed Anderson	453rd BG	Howard Croner	452nd BG	Charles J Greenough	379th BG
William H Andrew*	493rd BG	Robert Culp	100th BG	Robert Gross	34th BG
Richard Andrews	379th BG	John F Curcio	458th BG	Joseph "Joe" Gualano	493rd BG
Albert Arreola**	100th BG	Wayne Davis	452nd BG	Rudolph "Rudy" Guerrero	493rd BG
Victor G Aubry, Jr*	493rd BG	Steve de Pyssler	VIII BC	Milton R Gunther	487th BG
Albert Audette	385th BG	Victor DeCaria**	446th BG	C Norman Gustafson	384th BG
George W Bachmann, Jr	306th BG	Eddie Deerfield	303rd BG	Carl Gustafson	453rd BG
Orville Baker	445th BG	Louis E Deutsch	446th BG	Russell W Gustafson	452nd BG
Willis Barney	379th BG	Harold L Dietz	466th BG	Paul C Haedike	452nd BG
Oliver L Bashor	303rd BG	Richard Dinning	351st BG	Percival L Hanson	305th BG
Andrew L Bates*	436th TCG	Jack F Disney	94th BG	Haas M Hargrave**	493rd BG
John Wesley Beaver*	92nd BG	Donald A D'Lugos	466th BG	Alfred B Harris	390th BG
William Becker	492nd BG	Jack Dodson	398th BG	Howard G Harris*	Veteran
Richard L "Dick" Bedford	353rd FG	John H Doyle	94th BG	Morton Harris	95th BG
Sheldon Beigel	306th BG	John J Dunnigan	351st BG	Glenn A Harrison**	96th BG
Caesar J Benigno	352nd BG	Norman R Dunphe	448th BG	Robert B Hastie	95th BG
Nelson Berger	100th BG	George Durgin	493rd BG	Robert Haynes	493rd BG
Tony Bezer	490th BG	Peter Durso	493rd BG	Robert Hecker	401st BG
Leo S Bielinski	44th BG	Alfred Dusey	447th BG	Walter Hendricks	452nd BG
Jack F Blackham*	34th BG	Eugene Dworaczek*	448th BG	Lewis E Herron	100th BG
William D Bodiford**	487th BG	Harold Dwyer	34th BG	John R Hildebran**	453rd BG
August C Bolino	388th BG	Don Echols	458th BG	Temple Hix Hill	392nd BG
Bob Bowen	398th BG	Stanley Edelman	351st BG	Robert H Hitchcock	303rd BG
James M Bond	385th BG	Richard J Eiseman**	94th BG	Bill Holden	1st B RNR
Robert L Brandt	452nd BG	William "Bill" Eisenhart	303rd BG	Don E Holmes**	58th BG
Gordon Breeding**	34th BG	James H Eshelman	385th BG	David Holst*	448th BG
Carl F Brown, Jr	4th FG	Dr. James Facos	388th BG	Dewey A Holst**	448th BG
Dudley Brown**	94th BG	George Farrer*	384th BG	Theodore C "Ted" Hood	306th BG
Harvey Brundage*	91st BG	Joseph Fischer	94th BG	William F Houlihan*	306th BG
Joe Burdis	88th BG	Harry Mundy Fisher*	467th BG	James Howell	447th BG
Ed Burnham	95th BG	Robert Fisher**	384th BG	Jake Howland	Unknown
Charles F Byrd*	493rd BG	Clifford J Foss	29th TCG	Jack C Hubbard	306th BG
Paul E Calkin**	100th BG	Donald H Foulk	303rd BG	David Huckabay	489th BG
Douglas S Canant*	1st SAD	Donald M Frank	9th BG	Blaine Hufnagle	94th BG
Guy Chookoorian**	94th BG	Paul Frank*	96th BG	Melvin Hurwitz	493rd BG
Donald Casey	379th BG	Herbert Friedlander**	351st BG	Albion Kenneth Hutcherson	95th BG
Frank Casey*	487th BG	Joel Friedman	34th BG	Joseph O Ingram, Jr	96th BG
Andrew D Caswell**	91st BG	James E Frolking**	479th FG	Gustave W Jacobson	94th BG
F C "Hap" Chandler	491st BG	Frank Gaccione	7th PRG	Bennie L Jefferies	306th BG
Clarence F Cherry**	100th BG	Henry C Gagnon	385th BG	Arthur Jenkins	390th BG
John P Chopelas**	452nd BG	Anthony J Gallagher*	100th BG	David Johnson	1st B RNR
Samuel A Christiano**	18th WSQ	Joseph Garber	96th BG	Martin Jordan	351st BG
George E Clark*	3rd Army	Ted Gary	493rd BG	Jay Karpin**	493rd BG
John A Clark	100th BG	Robert Genesky	493rd BG	Edward J Kastanek*	493rd BG
John J Clark*	452nd BG	Stoddard B Gerald*	55th FG	John Katsaros	401st BG
James O Clemons	484th BG	William Gerecitano**	388th BG	Samuel Katz	389th BG
Grayson Cocharo	492nd BG	Gerald Gerston	392nd BG	George H Keating**	452nd BG
Murray Codman	447th BG	Albert Gese	20th FG	Victor Keech	1st B RNR
Myron Cohen	91st BG	Dr. C W "Bill" Getz**	491st BG	Perry Kerr	466th BG
Paul J Collins	47th BG	Joe Glasser	94th BG	Howard Keskitalo	388th BG
Joseph Connaughton	319th BG	Reuben Glazer	445th BG	John Ketzner	92nd BG
Marbury L Councell, Jr	96th BG	Dallas Godsey	351st BG	Michael D Kindya	385th BG

JUBILEE OF LIBERTY RECIPIENTS



James King	1st B RNR	John W Newman**	94th BG	John A Smith*	493rd BG
Jack Kleinsorg	92nd BG	Henry J Nykamp**	93rd BG	Samuel W Smith	303rd BG
Russell A Knudson	303rd BG	Art Nystrom	445th BG	Robert W Smothers	452nd BG
Carroll F Knutson	447th BG	George M Ogle*	487th BG	Christopher Spagnola	44th BG
Donald L Koons	401st BG	William J O'Leary	384th BG	Leland C Spencer*	93rd BG
Joseph T Kozak*	94th BG	Allen G Ostrom	398th BG	George W Starks	92nd BG
John F Kraeger	466th BG	William "Bill" Overstreet, Jr	357th FG	Robert J Starzynski	306th BG
Donald F Krempfer	94th BG	Nels Pedersen*	44th BG	Willard Stelling	34th BG
Ralph J Kurka	93rd BG	Frank D Perez	401st BG	Louis J Stoffer	398th BG
Herbert J Kwart	381st BG	LaVerne Peters	389th BG	Colin D Storey	94th BG
Dean C Larson	401st BG	Stanley Peterson	96th BG	William E Stovall	390th BG
Paul W Latenser*	389th BG	Anthony W Pircio	7th PRG	Herman Stroupe	390th BG
William G Lathrop	94th BG	Nicholas Plackis*	390th BG	Walter Sturdivan**	34th BG
George A Lawson	7th PRG	Wilmer "Will" Plate	489th BG	John S Swarts	351st BG
Franklin H Lemonds, Jr*	389th BG	William Podolsky*	93rd BG	John Roger Swihart	388th BG
John Lemons	445th BG	Howard Polin**	352nd FG	Paul Swope, Jr*	353rd FG
Mathias J Leupold	385th BG	Steven Politis	97th BG	Edward J Tatro**	100th BG
Donald D Levine	453rd BG	Robert H Preller*	384th BG	Henry E Tessien	96th BG
Richard B "Dick" Lewis	493rd BG	Michael H Prestia	452nd BG	William Thacker, Jr	457th BG
George R Leyva**	351st BG	Vincent J "Bill" Purple	379th BG	Dennis E Thompson	487th BG
Robert M Littlefield	55th FG	Walter "Mike" Quering	487th BG	William M "Bill" Thorns**	96th BG
James L Livingston**	44th BG	Albert Rapvano	466th BG	Robert J Toeppe*	445th BG
Robert "Bob" Livingston*	351st BG	Seymour Ratner*	306th BG	William C Toombs, Sr**	493rd BG
Stan Loftsgard	493rd BG	Lauri Rautio	447th BG	Jimmy J Traupel*	379th BG
Lester Lyall*	401st BG	Lester Reekers	490th BG	Robert Tuchel	392nd BG
Ralph Lynn, Jr*	466th BG	Jesse A Reese	96th BG	William "Bill" Varnedoe	385th BG
Malcolm J Magid	303rd BG	Edward G Reuland**	379th BG	Alfred C Villagran*	306th BG
Warren B Marsh	493rd BG	Joseph H Reus	445th BG	Rudolph Villalobos	96th BG
Ken Mason	1st B RNR	James A Rich, Jr	96th BG	Adolph L Visconti*	306th BG
Ellis McClintick	390th BG	Charles J Richardson**	390th BG	Charles F Von Der Leith*	357th INF
Robert McCormack**	389th BG	Wilbur Richardson	94th BG	Robert H Voss	94th BG
James McCutcheon*	392nd BG	Wendell R Ringheim	92nd BG	Jay Walker	384th BG
Elmer "Lucky" McGinty	95th BG	George G Roberts**	306th BG	James H Walston, Jr	466th BG
Hugh McGinty	379th BG	Mort Robinson	94th BG	Douglas J Ward	305th BG
Jay McIntosh	94th BG	William L "Bill" Roche	452nd BG	Charles Warren*	351st BG
B/GEN Seth McKee	370th FG	J Warren Roundhill**	379th BG	Earl E Wassom**	466th BG
Russell Madsen	100th BG	Robert Rowland**	398th BG	Mark B Weber*	389th BG
Elmo Maiden	466th BG	Jack Rude	493rd BG	Billy D Welch**	361st FG
Warren B Marsh*	493rd BG	John Rumancik	392nd BG	Berton Werth	492nd BG
David Marshall	381st BG	Peter "Rupy" Ruplenas	486th BG	Charles Wheelwright	392nd BG
Burnia Martin	384th BG	Al Sadowsky	34th BG	James E Wicker, Sr*	7th PRG
Richard Martin	398th BG	Bradford Saivetz	305th BG	William O Wilbur, Jr*	448th BG
William Massey	401st BG	Jesse Sandlin	447th BG	Douglas C Willett	94th BG
Samuel Mastrogiacomio	445th BG	Frank N Schaeffer	44th BG	John M Williams	448th BG
Walter M "Boots" Mayberry	388th BG	Walter Schattel	487th BG	Paul R Wilson	305th BG
Seward M Meintsma	466th BG	Carmen Schiavoni	447th BG	Robert W Wilson*	313th TCG
Julius M Micek	381st BG	Robert F Schlack*	356th FG	Frank A Wiswall	96th BG
James Mikusi	447th BG	Fred Schonwetter**	55th FG	Lawrence Wolfson	493rd BG
Donnell "Don" Miller**	493rd BG	Robert Schuberg	306th BG	Richard P Woodson, III	96th BG
Charles Mills**	492nd BG	Bob Schuh	398th BG	James Zographos**	388th BG
Rex Mills	453rd BG	Donald L Seesenguth**	457th BG	List is current as of press time... [NO asterisk] French Legion of Honor [*] French Jubilee of Liberty [**] Has received BOTH medals	
E E "Mitch" Mischler	94th BG	Horace Seyster	457th BG		
Lloyd Mitchell	96th BG	Horace Shankwiler	445th BG		
Kenneth Moulden	448th BG	Ambrose C Shaw	493rd BG		
James Mynatt	490th BG	Marvin Silbersher	447th BG	<i>For more information:</i> Please contact: Debra Kujawa (912) 748-8884 or ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org	
Clayton A Nattier	306th BG	Taffe Simon	445th BG		
Warren G Nelson	398th BG	Harold W Smith	448th BG		
William J "Bill" Nevitt	353rd FG	Heber H Smith	94th BG		

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Florida Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society Spring 2018 Luncheon & Meeting

By Kathy Sreenan, Board Member
Photos by Kathy Sreenan

Members and guests of the Florida Chapter Mighty 8th Air Force Historical Society met again to honor and help continue the legacy of those who served in the 8th Air Force. Our Spring luncheon and meeting was held on Saturday, March 24, 2018 at noon at the Gallery Grille Restaurant in Tequesta, FL.

We had 30 people in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Kathy Sreenan. Sidney Katz led us in singing the Air Force Song and God Bless America. President Bill Uphoff introduced the Board of Directors. The minutes were read by Secretary Esther Cheriff. Nicholas Apostol gave the financial report for the Treasurer.

President Bill Uphoff started the meeting with a touching toast "to the west" and Jim Hart gave a stirring prayer prior to a delicious lunch.

We were honored to have guest speaker Carl Verstrepn, three of his colleagues and their wives from Lochristi, Belgium. Here is how Carl came to be speaker:

The annual Delray Beach St. Patrick's Day parade, is the largest

first responder parade in the world, and has long been dedicated to the men and women of emergency services who protect citizens on a daily basis. In 2016, the parade committee decided to also honor sixty WWII veterans who served when America and the world needed them most. Every veteran was escorted by a uniformed fire/rescue or law enforcement officer from the local area and from around the world. Carl Verstrepn escorted Bill Uphoff, our President of the 8th Air Force Historical Society and US Army Air

Corps B-17 pilot through the parade.

Carl has been part of a group of Belgian and Dutch firefighters who faithfully travel to Florida to march and represent their countries in the parade since 2012. In 2016, when they found out that sixty American WWII veterans were scheduled to lead the parade, they made a tribute video to our veterans, never forgetting how these men fought for their liberation.

After the parade, Carl had a moment with Bill and reverently bestowed to him his official Fire



Observer's badge as a thank you for helping liberate his country long ago. Carl said later, "It was my honor, and I can speak for the other Belgians as well, to have participated in this parade to honor those vets and to have shown them my utmost respect and gratitude for what they did a little over 70 years ago."

Since then, Carl has escorted Bill in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2017 and also in this year's parade.

Carl is currently active within the Fire, Emergency Service and Helicopter Emergency Services in Lochristi, Belgium. He is also a Rescue Swimmer, Fire Instructor, EMS instructor and Trauma and Critical Care Transport team member. He is CFO of the Fire Observers of Belgium.

We were all moved (many to tears) by Carl's presentation. To tie in his gratitude to those men and women who fought to liberate his country in WWII and his meeting of Bill Uphoff, Carl traveled to

many memorials and cemeteries in Belgium and tracked down 8th Air Force members buried in these resting places, and told their stories, or what he could find on them. He soberly explained the importance of these men and others who served and serve today: "Millions of Americans have fought and died on battlefields here and abroad to defend our nations, our freedom and our way of life. Today your troops continue to make the ultimate sacrifices, and even as you lose troops, more Americans step forward to say: I'm ready to serve! They follow in the footsteps of generations of fine Americans. They march in the footprints of the Greatest Generation!"

Photos:

Preceding page, top: Bill Uphoff, President with Carl Verstrepen and his colleagues from Belgium and 8th AFHS Board Members Esther Cheriff, Sid Katz and Kathy Sreenan.

Preceding page bottom: Carl Verstrepen giving his presentation.

Below: Bill Uphoff, President with Carl Verstrepen

Wisconsin Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society April Luncheon & Meeting

by Cindy Drehmel, President

Wisconsin Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society VP, Lt. Col Ralph "Andy" Anderson, B24 Bombardier, spoke at our April 3rd meeting. Lt. Col. Anderson part of the 467th Bomb Group, or the "Rackenthath Aggies" as they came to be known, flew B-24 Liberators on missions from April 1944 onward. The 467th BG air crews became known for their accuracy, touting the best overall standing for accuracy within the Eighth Air Force. The group bombed strategic targets in Germany and later, supported the ground invasion of the Continent by bombing enemy installations at Cherbourg in support of the Normandy landings and concentrations of enemy troops and supplies at Montreuil as Allied soldiers moved east across France.

Our very own Lt. Colonel Ralph "Andy" Anderson was a part of this Mighty 8th group. At that time, Ralph served as bombardier on the infamous B24, "Tail Wind," flying 33 missions. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in September 1943 in the U.S. 8th Army Air Corps as a bombardier. *[The Air Corps became the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) on June 20, 1941, but the Air Corps remained as one of the combat arms of the Army until 1947, when it was legally abolished by legislation establishing the Department of the Air Force.]* Anderson was assigned to the 467th BG, 789th BS as a bombardier and gunnery officer. Between February and August 1944, Anderson flew 33 missions with the 8th Air Force in England in a B-24 Liberator, inclu-



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sive of many bombing missions over Hamburg and Ludwigshafen.

Anderson received the prestigious Distinguished Flying Cross when his squadron blew up a strategic railroad bridge at Blois, Saint-Denis-sur-Loire, on 11 June 1944, bombing visually as low as 5000 feet! The bridge was never rebuilt. This strategic bombing kept

the Germans from getting additional supplies and ammunition. Additionally, Anderson's group led the victory air parade on VE Day. He returned to the United States in September 1944.

After the war, Anderson served 27 years in the 8th Air Force Reserves setting up Air Reserve recruiting sites in Wisconsin and working for the Post Master General in D.C. Ralph simultaneously worked for the New York financial division of United as secretary to the CEO. He married the love of his life, Mary Jane and later had three sons, Richard, Robert, and Ronald. All who became military 'mights' of their own.

Upon retirement, Ralph moved to New Mexico and set up fisheries for the state in collaboration with the Governor and then moved back to Racine in 1988.

Always trying to assist in making America great, Ralph continues to talk to and write letters to state rep-

resentatives urging them to focus on God and country for which he holds dear. Ralph is currently the Vice President of the Wisconsin Chapter. Ralph made us aware of the Bethany House, the recipients of our annual Christmas stuffed toy, mitten, and hat drive for abused children and mothers.





Preceding page top: Lt. Col. Ralph Anderson speaking to members of the Wisconsin Chapter during the April 2018 meeting. Bottom left: anxiously awaiting door prize drawing. Bottom right: Ralph engaging his audience. This page top: WI members enjoying a bit of bubbly!

Oregon Chapter

8th Air Force Historical Society

Alice Miller with Steve Miller

Transcribed and Edited by Joan E. Hamilton

In February, we again enjoyed a visit from Alice Miller who, with her husband, Steve, gave her "Duty and Beauty" presentation. Alice explained, "We're going back 100 years. Everything here is WWI. I'm a Salvation Army Donut Lassie. The jacket and blouse are tailored like the men's uniforms. I have US and SA on my collar, Army buttons, and the 41st Division patch along with Salvation Army embroidered on my shoulders because these women were right in the trenches. They were very important to the morale of our men."

Alice served us Salvation Army donuts that Steve had made based on the original recipe but using vegetable oil instead of lard.

Steve Miller joined Alice and she



explained, "Here's my Doughboy in the uniform that served as both a dress uniform with which he would wear his WWI European cap and a working or field uniform which he would wear his helmet with in the trenches. His uniform is made of wool and he has puttees wrapped around his legs. Four million men served in WWI from the United States in a little over 17 months."

Steve Miller gave us some background about Eddie Rickenbacker who served in "The Hat in the Ring" 94th Aero Squadron. Steve related, "Eddie Rickenbacker was a famous auto racer who was making \$20,000 in 1917 when he quit to join the Army. With persistence, he became our top American fighter ace in WWI. After the war, he formed the Rickenbacker

Motor automobile company and also served as chairman of Eastern Airlines."

Alice showed us more uniforms, "Here are our WWI Red Cross nurses' uniforms [p.26]. The starched uniform (left) is typical of the Edwardian era with its high waist. It was worn with a head coif. Overseas, the nurses wore the low-maintenance blue

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chambray (right) which didn't need to be starched and had easy to change cuffs and collars since these women needed to devote their time to caring for their sick and wounded patients.

"Here are a Yeoman (F) drill uniform (left) and summer dress uniform (right). Unlike most of the women who served in WWI, women who joined the Navy with the Yeoman (F) classification received Veterans' benefits, pay,



and rank just like the men because Congress didn't pay attention to the 'F' designation for 'female'. These women drilled with weapons and held positions such as ship fitters and torpedo fitters.

"This uniform (above far right) belonged to Dr. Mable Seagraves who studied at Johns Hopkins and became a famous Seattle surgeon. She served in France where she organized a hospital with volunteers from the United States who were with the Salvation Army, the Red Cross, and the Women's Suffragette Society. She was also a founding member of the Women's University Club of Seattle.

"This is the uniform of Army nurse Mary Stewart



who served with Hospital No. 20 along with 45 other nurses. Each nurse provided care to 33 patients. There were 22,000 women who served as Army nurses in WWI. This is a Norfolk suit with a blouse made of the first form of rayon, a tough material referred to

as 'mother-in-law silk'. Army nurses went overseas with no rank. These women sacrificed a lot. By the end of the war, over 1200 of them had died from enemy attack, influenza, and just plain exhaustion.

"In France, General Pershing put out a call for American women to provide translation services as switch-board operators. The 250 Hello Girls in the Army Signal Corps paid for their own passages to France, bought their own uniforms, and even had college degrees. The back and front of this uniform open completely up so she can sit on a stool all day long and so that big, heavy horn can sit there without being on top of buttons. Hello Girls didn't get Veterans' status until 1978. Below is a Marine uniform with a recruiting sleeve, polished boots, and a British-



style hat. She wasn't allowed to wear the globe, eagle, and anchor on her collars, but she was allowed to carry a swagger stick. WWI was over just a few months after the 300 Marine women were finally organized, but they did quite a bit in WWII."

Bond, James Madison, 94, of

Edenton, NC, died Monday, December 25, 2017. James was born in Chowan County on May 20, 1923, and was the son of the late Millard F. and

Hettie Hudgins Bond. Retired from the United States Postal Service, he had served as the Postmaster of the Edenton Office, and earlier had worked with the Bank of Edenton (later Peoples Bank), and as manager of the Edenton Savings & Loan. He served as a tail-gunner with the 385th BG. In 2016, he was awarded the French Legion of Honor. A member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, he had served as the treasurer for many years, taught Sunday school, and was a member of its Vestry. He served the Edenton community with distinction, having been the Edenton Town Treasurer, a member of the Edenton School Board, the Chowan Hospital Board, the Edenton Development Commission, and the Chamber of Commerce. A member and Past President of the Edenton Rotary Club, he was a Paul Harris Fellow. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Alice Weadon Bond; and by his siblings, Doris Smith, John Bond, and Edith Nixon. Surviving are his sons and their wives, James Bond, Jr. (Lucy), of Morehead City, Millard Bond (Teresa), of Edenton, and Richard Bond (Kathy), of Dunn; seven grandchildren, Sarah Caroline Bond, Michael Marino Bond (Karena), Joseph Cannarella Bond, Heather Bond DeShields, Jennifer Bond Thompson, Elizabeth Lee Bond, and Judith Reynolds Bond; and three great-grandchildren, Brooklyn Combs, Jabez DeShields, and Laurel Bond.

Burkholder, Merton E. (Burk),

93, passed away on December 30, 2017. Burk was born in Flint, Michigan, son of Mary and Felix Burkholder. Burk graduated

Flint Central High School in 1942, spent a semester at Notre Dame, then enlisted, serving with the 452nd BG as a navigator flying 35 combat missions. He was honorably discharged in 1945. Upon returning home to Flint, Michigan after the war, Burk married Dorothy Jane Turner. He graduated from the University of Michigan with a BBA in 1948. He joined Sears Roebuck & Company's management training program, retiring after 35 years as Executive Vice-President of the Midwestern Territory. Burk and Dorothy moved to Scottsdale, AZ where they joined the Pinnacle Peak Country Club and Burk pursued his passion for golf. They enjoyed time together with friends, traveling, and collecting original western art, and attending the annual gathering of Sears friends in Las Vegas over the years. Burk loved college football and was an avid reader. Burk and Dorothy hosted several family reunions set in: Hawaii, Sun Valley, Jackson Hole, Vail, San Diego, Scottsdale, and Lake Tahoe. Dorothy passed away in 2009. The couple had three children, Diane (Jim) Jones, John (Sue) Burkholder, and Lizanne (Paul) Westphal; eight grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Danziger, Edmund W., 92, of

Bridgeville, passed away on April 3, 2018. Served with the 44th BG. Beloved husband of Emma (Schick) Danziger for over 71 years; loving

father of Carol (Luke) Stacy, Linda (George) Fry, Claudia (Ron) Aleski and Amy (Kevin) Perdew; brother of Claudia Maioli and Charles Mondin; cherished grandfather of Lisa, Mark, David, Linda, George, Edmund, Brian, Michael and Eric; great-grandfather of Corey, Casey, Mandi, Gretchen, Tim, Leah, Caleb, Landon, Amanda, Devin, Kailey and Ean; and great-great-grandfather of James, Bryson and Harper Jane.

Garber, Joseph R., 94, of Ormond

Beach, FL, died on March 18, 2018. Born in Philadelphia, PA, he graduated from high school in 1942 and attended college in Wilkes-Barre, PA. He is

survived by his wife, Joan; a son, Joseph R. Garber Jr.; two granddaughters, Sarah Palm and Kristen Sweeney; a great granddaughter Beatrice Sweeney, three brothers, Robert Garber, William Garber, and Jack Garber, and a sister, Barbara Stahl. At 19, he enlisted on December 7, 1942 and served with the 96th BG, 338th BS. He flew 13 missions over Germany and Normandy, France. During a mission over Germany, his plane was shot down, and he and the crew were captured by German soldiers. He endured torture by his captors and was sent to Stalag Luft IV, a German POW camp at Gross Tychow and later to Stalag Luft I. The camp was liberated by the Russian army in May 1945 and he was returned to the US, being honorably discharged in October 1945. In his civilian life, he served on the board of directors for the 8th Air Force Historical Society and was president of the 96th Bomb Group. He was president of Post 2692 of the VFW and was also Commander of the State of Florida American Ex-Prisoners

of War. Since 2000 he was involved in speaking at schools to educate children on World War II history. He worked diligently to develop and raise support for the Veterans Museum and Education Center in Daytona Beach, FL. He cherished and honored the American flag and considered it a privilege and an honor to have served his country.

Glover, Gordon Andrews, 93,



passed away April 11, 2018. He served with the 94th BG and was still a teenager when he flew the first of 30 missions over Germany. At war's end, he met

and married Lynn Lewis. They were married 70 years. Gordon graduated with a journalism degree from the University of Tennessee. Gordon began his career as a reporter and New England news chief for the Associated Press; later, he was the award-winning editor and publisher of his own weekly newspaper, The Citizen of Morris County, in New Jersey. He worked in Washington, D.C., as a speechwriter for a United States senator, and in New York City as Editorial Page Editor for the New York Daily News. He worked with the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation to fund many environmental initiatives—his support helped return wolves to Yellowstone Park -- and he was instrumental in the creation of The Environmental Grantmakers Association. He enriched every community he was part of, serving on the Family Services Board of Morris County, NJ, and the Board of Education in Mountain Lakes, NJ. He was also a founder of the Woods & Lakes Run, a Mountain Lakes tradition now in its 41st year. He also served on the boards of the League of Conservation Voters, the Natural Resources Council of Maine, Freeport Community Services, and the Freeport Rotary Club. He

loved the great outdoors; hiking the Appalachian Trail; swimming at the Freeport YMCA; sailing on both coasts; skiing at Sugarloaf; and soaring above the Delaware Water Gap and the White Mountains in his glider. His wife, Lynn, passed away in January. He leaves his four children: Susan Lynn Glover; Margaret Christina Douglas (Gerry); Barbara Glover Shane (John); William Lewis Glover (Mary Lynn); and eight grandchildren - Alison Douglas, Chloe Douglas Brehm, Charles Shane, Riley Shane, Reed Godlewski, Margaret Glover, Sara Jane Glover, and Ginny Glover Bowen. He was overjoyed to welcome his first two great-grandchildren this past year.

Hitchcock, Robert, 94, passed



away January 30, 2018. Hitchcock was born in Concord in 1923. His cousin was Jimmy Doolittle. Bob enlisted in the war effort in 1942 and joined the 303rd

BG, was trained in radio operations, including Morse Code and semaphore. He also learned how to operate a 40-caliber machine gun. Hitchcock's first seven missions were aboard a B-17 responsible for jamming the radio frequencies of Axis forces to prevent enemy messages from going through. He was later trained in radio countermeasure operations at the Royal Air Force School in Oulton, England where he served as a signal scrambler. In 1944 Hitchcock's group was returned to the B-17. Hitchcock was honored in a victory parade in Paris in 1945, he was awarded five air medals plus additional medals for other campaigns. He returned to a B-17 as an aerial photographer (the planes equipped with cameras instead of weapons). He moved to Concord with his wife Joyce where they raised three sons. He

worked in refineries in the region before retiring and moving to Benicia. Hitchcock was awarded the French Legion of Honor and served as Grand Marshal at the 2016 Torchlight Parade. In recent years, Hitchcock was actively involved at events honoring veterans and served as Grand Marshal at the 2016 Torchlight Parade.

Lynn, Ralph, Jr., 98, passed away



March 16, 2018. Ralph was born in the farmhouse on the Lynn family farm. He was a member of Central Presbyterian Church in Massillon, Ohio.

Ralph was predeceased by his wife of almost sixty years, Mary Ellen (Bisco) Lynn. He is survived by his daughter, Cheryl Ann Lynn Shealy (Jaffrey), seven nieces and nephews, with special affection for his nephew George King (Clarice) of Decatur, Alabama. Ralph flew with the 466th BG as co-pilot in the B-24, "Our Baby." He was awarded The Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with three gold oak leaf clusters, and The French Jubilee of Liberty Medal. Returning to civilian life, Ralph continued his education receiving his Master's Degree from Emporia State Teacher's College in Emporia, Kansas. He began work on his doctorate at Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois. Ralph joined Scott, Foresman and Company as a Textbook Sales Representative for the Ohio area. He was a member of numerous organizations, including the Masons, Order of the Eastern Star, Scottish Rite, Knights Templar, VFW, American Legion, 8th Air Force Historical Society, 466th Bomb Group Association and the Military Aviation Preservation Society (MAPS). Ralph received the Roger C. Freeman Award for his photography from the 8th Air Force

Historical Society and The Legacy Award from the Military Aviation Preservation Society.

Piper, Homer Wilson, 94, passed away March 31, 2018. He was born on Staten Island, New York City, but raised in the Panama Canal Zone; his father worked for the Panama Canal



Administration. After graduating from Balboa High School, Homer enlisted in February 1945 and was assigned to the 493rd BG. Homer was a toggler and armorer gunner on a B-17. After discharge from active duty, Homer graduated from Sioux Falls College, where he met his future wife, Carolyn Marie Loewer. Homer's career began with the Red Owl grocery store, then the Archer-Daniels-Midland Company in Minneapolis, and finally, he was transferred to Columbus, Ohio, as a property accountant for Ashland Chemical Company. While in Columbus, Homer and his family attended the University Baptist Church, where he served as treasurer for a number of years. He also enjoyed bowling in a corporate league with ADM and Ashland Chemical, earning League Champion status several times. Homer retired to Rio Rancho, New Mexico. Homer enjoyed traveling in the US – visiting almost all 50 states. Homer expanded his travels to include several international cruises. He revisited the Panama Canal and Debach airfield in England. He became active in the Panama Canal Society and the 8th Air Force Historical Society, attending reunions whenever possible. He really enjoyed working on his family history, where he was able to trace his ancestors back to the early 1600s in Northam, Devon, England. Homer was preceded in death by his parents, Frank Leidy and Ella Safrona (Titus)

June 2018 (18-2)

Piper; his brother, Raymond Burton Piper; his former wife, Carolyn Piper Gearhart; and his son-in-law, Thomas Ryburn Taylor. He is survived by his 4 children: Raymond Titus Piper (Barbara), Mary June-el Piper, Oliva P. Riley (Jonathan), and Laura Piper Taylor, as well as 5 grandchildren: Morgen Piper, Amanda Taylor, Wilson Taylor, Megan Hunter (Andy), and David Riley.

Planck, Roy K. 93 of Eaton, Ohio died, March 19, 2018. Born in Waynesville, Ohio son of the late Ross & Jennie (Griffey) Planck. Retired in 1986 as a Vice President with the Society Bank Corp of Dayton, OH. Graduate of Ohio School of Banking, Ohio University and The Graduate School of Banking of University of Wisconsin, Roy possessed the desire to fly or play professional baseball, his decision came while flying combat as a gunner with the 9th Air Force during WWII. On his 48th mission, he was critically wounded and forced to return to the United States. He received a [Purple Heart](#) and the Air Medal. Roy had shared in many churches, Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International [FGBMFI] meetings and appeared as a guest with Demos Sharkarian on Good News Television. He previously served for ten years as FGBMFI State Treasurer for Ohio, and Treasurer for the Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana Annual Convention. Member of Eaton Church of the Brethren, [DAV](#) Chapter 9 of Dayton and the Air Force Association. Preceded in death by his wife of 70 years: Eleanor J. (Creech) Planck in 2014; 4 brothers: Robert, William, Lewis and Wayne Planck and 5 sisters: Mary Peterson, Merle Rottman, Ada Howard, Dasiey



Martin and Mabel Starr. Survived by son & daughter-in-law: James & Connie Planck of Corona, CA; 2 Grandchildren and 2 Great Grandchildren. Nieces and Nephews.

Prillaman, Harry Arnold, 92, passed away November 15, 2017. He was born on December 16, 1924 in the Dyers Store Community to Vance Prillaman and Etta Richardson



Prillaman. Harry graduated high school in 1943 and immediately enlisted, serving with the 34th BG as a waist gunner. After the war Arnold returned to Martinsville. He attended North Carolina State University, then worked with Frank Stultz as a plumber. He married Georgia Johnston in August of 1947. During this time he played on the Martinsville Optimist traveling baseball team as a catcher. In 1954 he and his brother, Richard, and Ed Pace co-founded Prillaman and Pace, Plumbing and Heating. It was his wish that his body be donated to Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, NC for research. He was preceded in death by his wife of 55 years, Georgia Johnston Prillaman (2002); his sisters, Madgie Kenney, Viola Dyer, Lois Dyer, Martha Myers, and Dora Etta Prillaman; his brothers, Abner Prillaman, Richard Prillaman and Phillip Prillaman. He was active in several groups and organizations including the Martinsville Volunteer Fire Company and local wildlife conservation groups for many years. He retired from Prillaman and Pace in 1980. He was a founding member of the Lorry Lester Air Park (1980) and resided there until spring of 2017. He was an outdoor person, happiest hunting with a friend and a favorite bird dog, flying his plane, or checking on the cows. Arnold is survived by his loving wife of fourteen years, Mary Dell

Richardson, his sister, Brenda Prillaman Purvis (Gary), and his children: Gayle Prillaman (Joseph Holt), Jan Bryant (David); Harry Arnold Prillaman, Jr. (Vickie), and Leeland Vance Prillaman (Linda); his grandchildren, Virginia Ann Bryant Heald, Cynthia Bryant, JoAnna Holt, Adam Prillaman Holt (Jennifer), Andrew Prillaman (Kim), Jessica Prillaman, Leah Prillaman, and Madison Prillaman; and great grandchildren, Grace Wolfe, Eli Heald, and Georgia Turrentine, and stepchildren: John Richardson (Barbara) and Carolyn Davis (Gene); grandchildren: Michael Richardson, Stephen Richardson, Nicole Richardson Kumer, Randy Davis, and Gina James.

Schaub, George Franklin, 95,



passed away January 23, 2018 surrounded by family at Circle of Life, Bentonville. He was born December 10, 1922 in Bunker Hill, Illinois to Norvel and Loraine

Stigler Schaub. George served with the 92nd BG as a waist-gunner on a B-17. After the war and completion of his apprenticeship, George married Lois Young. He was a successful General Contractor of Custom Homes in the Chicago suburbs and Fairfield Bay, AR where he resided for 26 years. During his time in Fairfield Bay he became a member of St. Francis Catholic Church, built the parish hall, served on the marina board and was a volunteer ambulance driver. Above all things George loved his family and was a good friend to many. He had a love of cars and interest in carpentry. George was truly loved and respected by all who knew him. He is preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Edward and Clifford. George is survived by his wife of 71 years, Lois, daugh-

ters Jan McMahon (Jim) of Bella Vista and Jill Marriner (Tom of Tulsa and grand-daughters Jenine McMahon-Peace, Jamee Stephens (Chris) and Megan Marriner, Great-grandchildren Josh Hefty, Sammi Hefty and Lyndi Peace.

Shields, Ellsworth H., 93, passed



November 23, 2017. Ellsworth was born on November 9, 1924 in Antigo, Wisconsin the son of Harry and Esther Shields. He attended both Milwaukee Lutheran High and Waverly (Iowa) High Schools. Ells was inducted into the US AAC on April 23, 1943 and honorably discharged on October 7, 1945. He flew 35 bombing missions with the 458th BG, and eight gasoline support flights to France for General Patton's tanks and armored vehicles. In 1948, Ellsworth graduated from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee with a business degree. On May 27, 1950, Ellsworth married Joyce M. Peterson. For 42 years, Ellsworth worked in the insurance and investment field retiring in 1990.

Ellsworth was a devout Christian touching many lives by his vibrant personality, warm heart, generous spirit and contagious smile. His love for family was unconditional and overflowing. He loved people. Ellsworth was preceded in death by his parents; his loving wife, Joyce (January 2, 1996); a sister, Arleen Sjoberg; and three brothers-in-law, Ralph Sjoberg, Richard Wanzer and Edward Riedel.

He is survived by his children, Randy (Linda) Shields, Laurie (Steve) Zwolfer, and Lynette Grundberg; grandchildren, Adam (Kristin) Shields, Brittany (Mason) Hewitt, Abigail (Ben) Myers, Shaun (Jennifer) Lemke, Ryan (Lacy) Lemke, Derek (Jamie) Lemke,

Alexis Stoneman and Austin Grundberg; two step grandchildren, Steven and Adam Zwolfer, and 14 great grandchildren; and two sisters, Marian Wanzer and Carmen Riedel.

Steinert, Jeff H., 96, passed away



on January 28, 2018 at his residence at Plantation Estates in Matthews, NC. During World War II he served in England with the 8th Air

Force, USAAF as a Navigator with the 389th BG, 567th BS. He was awarded the Air Medal four times and the Distinguished Flying Cross. The 389th was called on to fly gasoline to General Patton. Jeff's B-24 had aviation fuel in the main tanks, but the Tokyo tanks in the bomb bay, belly tanks in the aft bomb bay and the P-38 wing tanks in the waist contained gasoline for ground vehicles. The B-24s were so heavy they sat on their tail skids with the nose wheel off the ground. As they rolled down the runway, bright sparks flew up from the tail skids and gave the appearance of someone trying to torch the planes. The B-24s lurched forward and took off barely clearing the first poles that make up the runway path. They landed at a captured German Airfield near Chartres, France where the gasoline was loaded onto Army Red ball express truck tankers and General Patton got his gasoline. After his discharge from the Air Force, Jeff entered the Hospital Financial Field. He was preceded in death by his first wife of 51 years, Mary; son, Geoffrey; and daughter, Barbara. He is survived by his wife, Ann; and daughter, Susan Fretts.

*Please forward all TAPS to:
ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org
68 Kimberlys Way
Jasper, GA 30143-4769
912-748-8884*

HOW ABOUT IT!

HAI #100!

Earl Wassom 466th BG, Chaplain 8th AFHS

Walt Brown and I first met each other at the 50th anniversary of the founding of the 8th Air Force back in 1942 in Savannah, Georgia. Walt was a cold-war veteran and I was a WWII vet. It was the first meeting for either of us in this military organization. It was great to meet all of the former 8th AF Commanders and many of the leaders, fighter aces, and heroes I had heard about but never met. In addition, we learned about the organization of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society.

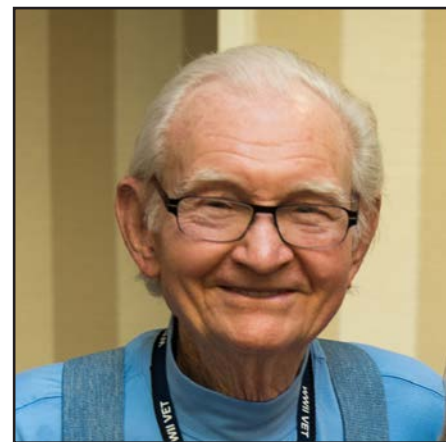
Much had been accomplished but there was still much to do in achieving its goal of preserving the legacy of the 8th Air Force and its involvement in the European Theater of operations during WW II. This was a fledgling group of veterans and its membership was made up of men and women from across the country and from England. Many parts of the country were represented and many of the military units were represented. Because of the geographic distribution of its membership, it was obvious that localized groups would be needed to plan and organize themselves. To meet this need Chapters were organized. They planned and strove to meet the overall goal of preserving the legacy of the 8th Air Force and to provide comradeship and fellowship among its membership. Interest, participation, and zeal created involvement and as a result, growth. It was strictly a volunteer group and as these Chapters and Groups came together at annual reunions, officers were elected to conduct business, organize the volunteers, and plan for the future.

It was about a quarter of a century ago when I was approached by Walt at a reunion of the 8th AFHS. The Board of Directors of the Society had recently named Walt to be the Editor of the 8th AF NEWS, the official *Voice of "The Mighty Eighth."* Later, I was named "Chaplain" of the organization. There was no job description nor were there any guidelines to follow. Of course I

could pray and that I did but what else? I was not a military Chaplain, I had no perceived notions or prescriptions to follow. I was on my own!

Walt, was always looking for material to publish in the NEWS and he targeted me. He asked me to "write a piece" for the NEWS. This came as a shocker for me. I was not a writer...I had published professional papers but nothing else. We began exploring the idea and I asked many questions; what should be the theme, subject, how long, the frequency, length, name, time line for new submissions, etc? We came up with the following ideas. The "pieces" should speak and relate to the readers and their lives and circumstances; past, present, and future. After much thought we came up with a general theme which we labeled **"HOW ABOUT IT"** to be followed by an appropriate subtitle, two or three pages and presented quarterly. I gave my permission for the editor to proof-read and modify if necessary. The editor stated that each submission would be located on the interior of the back page of each magazine. My targeted groups to address were the warriors who served in the 8th AF in the European Theater of Operation (ETO), their supportive children and grand children.

One of the privileges of old age is the opportunity to sit back and evaluate what I have seen and done over my ninety plus years of living. As a result, I have come to the conclusion, that everyone of us was put on this earth for a purpose. That purpose, within our capabilities, is to make it a better place in which to live, and it is my conviction that the men who served in the 8th AF in England from 1942-1945 did just that. We came from everywhere and all kinds of back-grounds. We were guys in our late teens, still in school, dating if we could afford it, working at whatever job could be found, living at home with parents who were struggling themselves to make ends meet for we



were living in the midst of the Great Depression. These are the citizens who made up our ranks. Just about everyone was poor. December 7, 1941, everything changed. The sovereignty of the United States was challenged. America was at war with Germany, Italy and Japan. When this happened, our entire nation immediately responded. We were in a global war. Patriotism soared, the Arsenal for Democracy flourished, victory was achieved,

Years later, Tom Brokaw reviewed this age group of Americans and called them *"The Greatest Generation."* Clearly, they did not seek the accolades awarded them, but during and in the years following, America's leadership to the world has been unsurpassed. Respect for the flag, the National Anthem, the family, God, and others, flourished.

WWII was not a welcome war but a necessary war and everyone involved had their oars in the water pulling in the same direction. This saga is about the thousands of young Americas, of draft age who, over 70 years ago, began their stint as a vial part of the beginnings of the *"Greatest Generation."* As they survived, they, with time, added grace, stamina, solidarity and their God-given talents as their contributions.

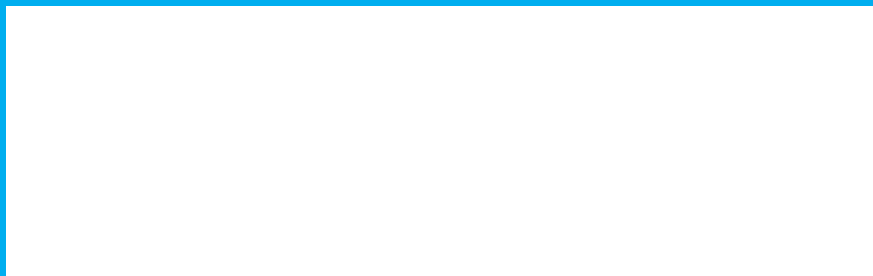
Were there times of frustration, fear, and uncertainties? Yes. They exist even now. We need encouragement and hope which I find in the message of the Psalmist David, who declared: *"God is our refuge and strength and always ready to keep us in time of trouble and we shall not fear."* (Psalms 46:1)



8th AF News
8th Air Force Historical Society
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Jasper, GA 30143-4769

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JUNE 6, 1944

The Eighth Air Force reaches its top strength as the 493d Bombardment Group (Heavy) becomes operational, making a total of 40 heavy bomber groups now operational. Heavy bombers fly 4 missions in support of the Normandy invasion:

Mission 394: At first light, 659 of 882 B-17s and 418 of 543 B-24s hit coastal targets in the area of the invasion beaches between Le Havre and Cherbourg; overcast and inability of the bombers to locate (or absence of) PFF leaders causes failure of some units to attack; 1 B-24 is lost, 1 B-24 is damaged beyond repair and 14 B-17s and 1 B-24 are damaged; 12 airmen are KIA, 2 WIA and 13 MIA.

Mission 394: The second mission strikes at transportation chokepoints in towns immediately around the assault area; total cloud cover causes 84 B-17s and 259 B-24s dispatched to return with their bombs but 37 B-24s manage to bomb secondary target of Argentan; 2 B-24s are lost and 1 B-17 is damaged; no casualties.

Mission 395: The third mission is dispatched against the important communications center of Caen; 58 of 73 B-24s bomb through overcast skies without loss.

Mission 395: Transportation chokepoints in towns immediately S and E of the assault area are the objectives of the fourth mission; 325 of 409 B-17s and 125 of 300 B-24s hit targets including Vire, Saint-Lo, Coutances, Falaise, Lisieux, Thury-Harcourt, Pont-l'Evêque, Argentan, and Conde-sur-Noireau; 1 B-24 is lost, 1 B-24 is damaged beyond repair and 11 B-24s and 5 B-17s are damaged; 10 airmen are KIA.

In all, 1,729 bombers drop 3,596 tons of bombs during D-Day. The VIII Fighter Command has the threefold mission of escorting bombers, attacking any movement toward the assault area, and protecting Allied shipping. The fighters fly 1,880 sorties including fighter-bomber attacks against 17 bridges, 10 marshaling yards, and a variety of other targets including convoy, railroad cars, siding, rail and highway junctions, tunnel, and a dam. Very little air opposition is encountered. The fighters claim 26-0-8 Luftwaffe aircraft in the air and 4-0-9 on the ground. Also destroyed are 21 locomotives and 2 carloads of ammunition. Numerous targets are damaged including locomotives, trucks, tank cars, armored vehicles, goods carriers, barges, and tugboats. Targets attacked with unreported results include warehouses, radar towers, barracks, troops, artillery, staff cars, 85 trains, and a variety of other targets. 25 fighters are lost.