



June 2020

TH AF NEWS

Volume 20 Number 2 Voice of "The Mighty Eighth"



8 MAY 1945
V-E DAY

Inside this issue: Info on 46th Annual 8th AFHS Reunion
October 21-25, 2020 ~ Memphis, TN



8th AF News

Voice of "The Mighty Eighth"

June 2020

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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 maga-
zine of the Society, a 501(c)3. The 8th A F News
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for public sale.

Home offices are located at:

**68 Kimberlys Way
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EDITOR'S NOTES



To say we are dealing with trying times right now, is quite the understatement. While there is truly no comparison to what our WWII veterans and families dealt with 75 years ago and our current situation, for many of us--myself included--it IS beyond anything I personally have ever experienced...

All that being said, just a reminder that the Eighth Air Force Historical Society **IS ALWAYS OPEN!** If you are a member and need to renew your membership (or simply have a question), please feel free to call, and we can renew via phone, email, or you can always renew from our website 24/7. If you are NOT a member of the Historical Society, I definitely encourage you to join! Again, simply go to our website or give me a call.

Registration is now open for our upcoming reunion in Memphis, TN, Oct 21-25, 2020. We feel confident that most travel restrictions and/or

many limitations currently in place due to COVID-19 will be lifted by late-summer from the information we currently have, but we are closely monitoring the situation.

ALL reunion info is up on our website. Call or email me if you have any questions.

*We are ALL
in this together!*

One of the TWO major functions of our Society is to host an annual reunion--Memphis will be #46--and the other is to publish the 8th AF News Magazine quarterly.

If EVERYONE of you reading this now simply encouraged a friend or family member to join the Historical Society, we could continue well into

perpetuity to preserve and share ALL the memories of our amazing 8th AF veterans.

Remember: you can easily give the gift of membership into the Society either online, with a phone call, or simply filling out the form below!

Please continue to support our efforts which began in 1975.

God bless you all and keep you safe.

~

I hope many of you are making plans to attend our reunion this October in Memphis, TN. We have excellent programs and activities planned! I look forward to seeing you there!

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

By renewing or requesting membership in the 8th Air Force Historical Society, I hereby grant permission for the Society to hold and maintain my information as contained herein, indefinitely, with the stipulation that my information not be shared nor be made public to any other entity without my expressed written permission.

US Residents PLEASE mail to:
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JOIN ONLINE: www.8thAFHS.org

PRESIDENT'S BRIEFING

Anne Marek
President & Treasurer



Greetings everyone! Our country and our Society have been through an incredibly stressful and challenging time these past few months. COVID-19 has affected us personally, our businesses, our employment and our economy. We stayed resolute and followed the guidelines established by our Federal government and stopped this heinous enemy dead in its tracks! I am very proud that our country and your Society are standing strong and looking to the future with optimism and determination to accomplish the goals we established before this disaster hit.

Consequently, our plans for our 46th Reunion in Memphis are in full swing. Hotel rooms are filling up and so are our tour buses. If you haven't registered please do so now. You won't want to miss another fabulous 8th AFHS Reunion.

At our last meeting in April, your Board of Directors voted to approve the contract for the 47th Annual Reunion at the Savannah Riverfront Marriott from October 27-31, 2021. Mark your calendars now. You won't want to miss the Society helping the National Museum of the Mighty 8th Air Force celebrate its 25th anniversary.

I wish to reinforce to all of you not to forget to remember the Society in your estate plan and to "shop" at Amazon Smile (more info on page 6) when purchasing on-line. This will help to contribute to our financial stability and future "down the road".

Please reach out to me, Debra, or any of the other

Officers and Board members if you have any matter to be addressed. Our lines of communication are always open.

As Treasurer of the Society, I'm including the Society's financial statements, both the Profit and Loss and the Statement of Financial Position, for your information. Please note that while we show a loss of \$17,271.77 this is due to the fact that our portfolio has an unrealized loss of \$38,379.35 through April 2020. Our Oppenheimer account executive, Mr. Gavin Natelli, continues to monitor our investments and discusses the account with me several times each month. We have been in constant communication since the inception of the COVID-19 pandemic, and he assures me that our portfolio will bounce back stronger than before within the next 6 to 9 months. While this may seem grim to most of you, it shouldn't be. Our Statement of Financial Position indicates that your Society is still very strong. The stock market is currently very volatile and probably will continue in this manner for the next several months. The good news is that we continue to operate on a daily basis without having to go into our investment account to pay our bills. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

I wish to remind everyone that "It's never too late to remember the 8th Air Force Historical Society in your will or estate plan." This can be a major way to ensure the continuation of our Society and to fulfill our legacy for not only the next gens but the second and third gens as well.

TREASURER'S LEDGER

There is an additional way you can personally help bring in revenue into the Society. The next time you "shop" on Amazon.com be sure to register

with Amazon Smile and choose the 8th AFHS as your specified charity. For each qualified purchase, Amazon will donate .5% to the Society. Amazon Smile has donated over \$124 million to charities as a result of purchases on their website.

The info and link is (also found on p.6) <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-1757631>. Please take advantage of it.

Our reunion in Memphis should be a fabulous one. I hope to see all of you there. Remember,

*"Our focus is on our veterans,
preserving their legacy,
and keeping the memories alive!"*

Anne

The Eighth Air Force Historical Society Profit & Loss January through April 2020	
	Jan - Apr 20
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
4000 · Income/Miscellaneous	
4001 · Amazon Smiles	36.62
4010 · Member Dues Annual	35,719.85
4019 · Member Contributions/Donations	9,310.88
Total 4000 · Income/Miscellaneous	45,067.35
4050 · Investment Income	
4058 · Portfolio Dividends & Interest	1,891.46
4059 · Realized Gain/(Loss) on Invest	0.00
4060 · Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Invest	-38,379.35
4061 · Investment Management Fees	0.00
Total 4050 · Investment Income	-36,487.89
Total Income	8,579.46
Expense	
5100 · National Administration Expense	
5111 · Corporation Charges	70.00
5121 · 8AF History Projects	141.26
Total 5100 · National Administration Expense	211.26
5200 · Magazine Expenses	
5210 · Printing Expenses	2,330.00
5220 · Postage Expenses	2,938.92
Total 5200 · Magazine Expenses	5,268.92
5300 · National Office Expenses	
5303 · Telephone/DSL	250.00
5304 · Supplies	155.41
5305 · Abila Software/ Computer Exps	575.99
5307 · Office Rent	350.00
5312 · FICA-8AFHS portion	1,109.23
5313 · Payroll/ Office Management	14,784.76
5315 · Postage & Shipping	376.34
5316 · Bank Charges/ Returned checks	40.00
5323 · Merchant Account Usage Fees	684.84
5325 · Miscellaneous Expense	201.24
5326 · Payroll processing fees	875.76
Total 5300 · National Office Expenses	19,403.57
Total Expense	24,863.75
Net Ordinary Income	-16,304.29
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
6550 · Annual Meeting Revenue	
6551 · Event Registration	4,544.84
Total 6550 · Annual Meeting Revenue	4,544.84
Total Other Income	4,544.84
Other Expense	
7100 · Annual Meeting Expenses	
7104 · Tours/Transportation	5,512.32
Total 7100 · Annual Meeting Expenses	5,512.32
Total Other Expense	5,512.32
Net Other Income	-967.48
Net Income	-17,271.77

The Eighth Air Force Historical Society Statement of Financial Position As of April 30, 2020	
	Apr 30, 20
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1017 · Oppenheimer & Co	154,623.29
1040 · Bank of America Checking Acct.	9,677.49
1042 · Bank of America Savings Acct.	16,024.57
Total Checking/Savings	180,325.35
Total Current Assets	180,325.35
TOTAL ASSETS	180,325.35
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2050 · Payroll & Taxes Payable	
2051 · Payroll payable	2,896.57
2052 · FICA & withhold taxes payable	2,081.98
Total 2050 · Payroll & Taxes Payable	4,978.55
Total Other Current Liabilities	4,978.55
Total Current Liabilities	4,978.55
Total Liabilities	4,978.55
Equity	
3200 · *Unrestricted Net Assets	192,618.57
Net Income	(17,271.77)
Total Equity	175,346.80
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	180,325.35

Important Reunion Updates!

At this point in time, we are still planning on moving forward with the reunion in Memphis this October 21-25, 2020. Of course, we will be watching and listening to recommendations, updates and advisories from local, state, and federal levels regarding the safety of everyone's health, which will absolutely dictate our decisions.

We are encouraging everyone to book their hotel rooms ASAP—as you know, the hotel has a liberal cancellation policy—and to go ahead and **register** for the reunion and activities. If you are flying to Memphis, we urge you to check directly with your airline(s) on their refund policies due to cancellations, and/or consider purchasing flight cancellation insurance.

ONLY in the event we are forced to cancel the Memphis reunion on-site, 8thAFHS plans to keep much of the same schedule but run the programs virtually on Zoom and adjust the timing for various USA time zones. We will plan to host additional presentations or veteran panels in lieu of the tours. There will also be opportunities for individual groups to have their own Zoom meetings. ***You must still be an active 8thAFHS member and have paid the registration fee to partici-***

pate. If the onsite reunion is canceled, we will of course notify everyone who has registered, and **refund monies for food & tours where possible.** **Remember: canceling your hotel room does NOT cancel your reunion registration and vice versa.**

There is a vacancy on our Board of Directors which will be filled during our Annual Reunion in Memphis as well. The vacancy occurred AFTER the deadline for the “call for nominations” to be published in our March issue as per 8th AFHS bylaws, so there will be a call for nominations from the floor during the general membership meeting on Saturday, October 24th. Please note: **both** the person nominating and the nominee **MUST** be members in “good standing” (current on dues) in order to nominate and/or serve. If you are interested in serving on the BOD, please make sure your name is placed in nomination. The newly elected Board member must comply with all vetting procedures as stipulated in Standing Rules within 30 days of being elected.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or anyone on the Board about any questions or concerns.

Be safe. Be well. Hope to see you in Memphis!

**Support
Eighth Air Force
Historical Society Inc.**

When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

amazonsmile

Or, simply type the URL below into your browser:
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-1757631>

**DON'T FORGET:
MEMBERSHIP INTO
THE SOCIETY MAKES A
GREAT GIFT FOR ANY
OCCASION!**

***Please submit ALL articles, etc. at least 45 days PRIOR to the date of the next issue of the 8th AF News to reserve space; content must be received 30 days prior to publishing date! Remember: submission does NOT guarantee publication. Due to size constraints of the magazine, I am very limited in publishing non-solicited material, however, I will review for consideration. Please submit materials via email [preferred] with hi-res photos attached in jpg format. NEVER send originals—they may not be returned. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me. I appreciate your help immensely. DDK**



John Walker marker and pictured with family below.

Stronger Together!

by Suzie Harrison

American Battle Monuments Commission
Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial

On June 17, 1940, Brigadier General Charles de Gaulle arrived in Britain, having left France as Marshal Pétain's government was preparing an armistice with the occupying Nazi forces. The next day, June 18, Winston Churchill approved a speech to be delivered by de Gaulle to the French people via BBC Radio. In de Gaulle's appeal, which has come to represent French resistance to oppression, the General urged French soldiers, sailors, and airmen to join in the fight against the malevolent regime:



"France is not alone! She is not alone! She has a great empire behind her! Together with the British Empire, she can form a bloc that controls the seas and continue the struggle. She may, like England, draw upon the limitless industrial resources of the United States".

General de Gaulle,

as leader of the Free French in exile, saw the role of the Americans as pivotal. Some eighteen months later, when the USA was drawn into the conflict, the alliance was secure. John Donne in 'Devotions'

News from Across the Pond...

(1624) ably summed it up when he described how you need your friends and allies beside you in a fight:

"No man is an Island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the Continent, a part of the main."

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the American Military, as part of an Allied Force, was building up to the point when it would be possible to set off from the south coast of England, cross the English Channel, and land on the northern coast of France. During the build-up, front-line fighters, support personnel, and civilian volunteers all worked side-by-side towards the same objective: D-Day and beyond.

The young men and women who left America to travel overseas and fight a war had their own hopes

a common cause and all pulled together.

One major aspect of the time that US soldiers spent here was their collaboration with the British, not only the military, but also the civilian population. In many cases this was an enduring relationship as British and Americans got to know each other and learned about each other's culture.

When Victory in Europe was declared on Tuesday, May 8, 1945, all of the Allies celebrated together. This was the end of dark days! Soldiers and civilians alike were able to breathe a collective sigh of relief – the troops were coming home.

However, you only need to look in the military cemeteries dotted all over Europe to know that many combatants never returned home. Whenever



Czech soldiers IWM (D 1728)



Polly, the Piccadilly flower seller and her two US Engineers IWM (D 9788)



Free French in London IWM (D 1724)

and dreams, but they were made to put these aside. Instead their country ordered them to leave their loved ones behind and come to Britain, to fight a war far from home.

The Americans were part of the great melting pot that Britain had become. They found themselves rubbing shoulders with troops from Canada, sailors from Russia, Free French with Charles de Gaulle, and Polish fighter aces. During WWII the Allies had

someone dies, they leave an empty place at the table. How much more so than when young men and women make the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom we now enjoy.

Today, many American visitors to Cambridge American Cemetery are young themselves, and they come to pay their respects to someone about whom they have only heard stories.

News from Across the Pond...



Allied leaders (from left) French General Henri Giraud, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, French General Charles de Gaulle, and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill at the Casablanca Conference, January 1943. U.S. Army Archive



Soldiers, sailors, and airmen celebrate VE Day outside the American Red Cross Club known as Rainbow Corner IWM EA 65797

News from Across the Pond...

One such visitor was the nephew of 2nd Lt. Victor C Thoendel, 96th Bomb Group (Wall of the Missing), B-17 Flying Fortress navigator, who died with his comrades when their burning aircraft crashed into the sea off Lorient, France, on



2nd Lt. Charles L. Herzberg, 92nd BG., also navigator on a B-17 Flying Fortress, which crashed during take-off on May 20, 1944 E-4-47

Baby Fiona can be seen at Herzberg's grave to the left.

After World War I, General Pershing, revisited the battlefields where his men fought and died. When he saw the temporary cemeteries, he realized that his soldiers needed a permanent and more fitting memorial, so that, *"Time will not dim the glory of their deeds."* Today, the American Battle Monuments Commission keeps alive the memory of the men and women commemorated in these national shrines. We actively research their personal history to preserve their stories and experiences and to keep their sacrifice relevant. Their descendants, who now visit these memorial sites, support our endeavours to gather information. The family anecdotes add color to the back-grounds of those we honor. In

September 23, 1943. The nephew described how, prior to departing for the war, Victor came to say good-bye to his older brother, who was working their cornfields. Victor climbed onto the tractor, as if to burn the image of home into his mind's-eye for the last time, and told his brother who would stay behind to manage their Nebraska farm, that he would *'probably ... never see it again'*.

Last summer, a young family brought their baby daughter to pay homage to her great-great-uncle, 2nd Lt. Charles L. Herzberg. Baby Fiona's mother said, *'Something about it really touched us - my half American/half German 11-month old daughter at the grave of her great-great uncle, who died fighting on behalf of her mother's country against the country of her birth more than 70 years before she was born. It's incredible.'*



General of the Armies John Joseph "Black Jack" Pershing GCB, commander, American Expeditionary Forces on the Western Front 1917-18.

this way we can better safeguard their story for generations to come; and in doing this, stay true to Gen. John Pershing's promise. Families don't forget--neither does ABMC.

Please check back with us on dates and times for special events which were sadly postponed due to the COVID-19 issues and travel bans. SH

COMING HOME

by Alan Nesbitt



If you are a student of history... and you wonder if history and its lessons

are being lost in the blurring speed and clattering noise of 21st century technology...if you worry that those great men and women and many critical moments of America's past are too soon forgotten...

Then imagine a place, a venue, a setting where people young and old can not only open a door to history but immerse themselves into the virtual reality of daring, of decisive deeds, of American valor and victory. Where visitors can not only learn history, but discover the richness of living that history.

That place, that special connection to times past, is being built, slowly but surely, by skilled hands and dedicated minds. It is the General Carl Spaatz National US Army Air Forces Museum, coming to fruition just blocks from where Carl Spaatz was born and raised in Boyertown, Pennsylvania. Everything about Carl Spaatz's military aviation career was focused on the mission...from his WWI dogfights over France in which he shot down three enemy planes to many years later his assuming command as the first Chief of Staff of the newly-minted United States Air Force in 1947.

The Spaatz Museum will embody "living the mission" by guiding visitors through preparing, flying and surviving flight and combat. Museum staff, dressed in WWII uniforms, will talk the talk of the wartime era. They will immerse museum patrons in experiencing the sights and sounds of aerial warfare, including attending pre-flight briefings, donning gear and equipment, piloting a bomber and acting as waist gunners and bombardiers. It will be interactive, virtual reality at its finest.

The museum will also pay tribute to Spaatz by chronicling his illustrious career. From high school in Boyertown, to graduation from West Point, to helping pioneer aerial refueling right after WW I. Between the wars he oversaw the training of pilots and was instrumental in development of new generations of warplanes for the Army Air Corps. By WWII he was in charge of American bombing commands in several theaters including the Eighth Air Force campaign over Europe. With Germany's surrender, Spaatz then commanded America's Pacific Theater of Air Operations and directed the bombing of Japan, including the launching of atomic weapons against Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Remarkably, Spaatz was the only American general present at Germany's formal surrenders both at Reims, France, and later in Berlin, and the Japanese surrender aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo harbor.

Dwight Eisenhower later said that along with Omar Bradley, Carl Spaatz was his most effective General. "It was Spaatz's progressive strategy of precision daylight bombing that shut down the Nazi war machine," said Keith Seiwel, "and then cut short the war with Japan."

Seiwel is a retired Colonel, USMC, and himself a native of Pennsylvania's nearby Montgomery County. The museum is his brainchild and, indeed, his passion.



Along with visiting veterans and history buffs, Seiwel is focusing on bringing students and young people into the museum. He stresses that "being there" in virtual reality combat and the immersion into history is a key to the Museum's extraordinary educational nature. Seiwel added, "Among the giants of America's military leadership during WWII, Spaatz has gotten too little notice. This museum will change that."

From a potential visitor standpoint, the museum is within a 20-mile radius of almost 1.3 million people. And within day-trip drives of New York City, Philadelphia and Baltimore and their huge metropolitan populations.



The mayor of Boyertown, Marianne Deery, was an early cheerleader for the Spaatz Museum. "Building a Better Boyertown has been diligently working to increase our tourism trade and the General Spaatz

Museum is another wonderful reason to visit Boyertown," says Mayor Deery. She was so impressed with the project's potential she joined the General Carl Spaatz Memorial Association of Boyertown and serves as its treasurer.

Just as Spaatz was a leader and an innovator, the Museum will blaze new trails for its unique approach. Between exhibits and interactive sections, the facility will cover almost 6,000 square feet. An important extension of the Spaatz tribute will be exhibits and memorabilia honoring all warriors of WWII, military combatants and civilian workers alike. Completion and opening is scheduled for 2020.

"Finally, the story will be told of Boyertown's native son, Four Star General Carl A Spaatz, one of America's greatest soldiers," said Mayor Deery.

The General Carl Spaatz National US Army Air Forces Museum is a registered 501(c)3 organization. It is funded by generous supporters and donors and will also be sustained by admission fees and volunteers. The museum has a website, www.spaatzmuseum.org and can also be found on Facebook as Facebook.com/GeneralSpaatzMuseum.



Welcome to Memphis, TN! *46th Annual 8th AFHS Reunion*

Historical Memphis (City Tour) **Thursday, October 22, 2020**

The tour of historical Memphis begins with a driving tour on an enlightening, eye-opening journey. We will explore the city of Memphis and will see many of the following sites:

- The Lorraine Motel
- The Peabody Hotel
- Victorian Village
- Orpheum Theater
- St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- Redbird Stadium
- Historic Cotton Row
- Court Square, the heart of 19th Century Memphis
- Hotel Chisca, where DJ Dewey Phillips played Elvis for the first time
- Sun Studios

Enjoy time to explore the pedestrian areas of downtown Memphis with its quaint shops and restaurants, including the Historic South Main Arts District OR

Beale Street at your leisure. Enjoy lunch on your own!

9:15am board bus, 1:30pm back at hotel
\$46/Person includes bus, guide, and gratuities
Lunch on your own



Warbird **Olive Branch Airport** **Friday, October 23, 2020**

As all of you know, we had originally scheduled the B17, "Ye Olde Pub" for this tour many months ago. However, with the arrival of COVID 19 in the US, and the rapid development of the global pandemic, ALL vintage warbird organizations were forced to immediately cancel their tours and appearances in the US. This resulted in a total loss of revenue, which is critical to the existence of these organizations. Liberty Foundation returned the B17, "Ye Olde Pub" back to her owners, and canceled

their flights and tours indefinitely.

This being said, we are STILL working diligently to try and bring in a vintage warbird for this scheduled tour. We will keep you updated as we continue to work with these various organizations and private individuals to provide an aircraft.

We encourage you to go ahead and reserve this tour on your reunion registration form moving forward, as we continue our efforts to make arrangements for a warbird. In the event this tour is canceled, rest assured if you selected the Olive Branch Airport tour in your registration, we will contact you directly and refund your tour fee.

Thank you for your understanding.

9:30am board bus, 12:30pm back at hotel
\$26/Person includes bus, guide, and gratuities
Lunch on your own



Graceland

Saturday, October 24, 2020

Welcome to Memphis! Today, we will experience Elvis! Graceland is now one of the first historic homes in the U.S. to offer an interactive iPad tour that provides a fully immersive experience to guests. As your guests pull into Graceland, they will each be handed a pair of gold Elvis style sunglasses to keep as souvenirs. Today's iPad tour is narrated by celebrated actor and Elvis fan, John Stamos. Visitors will take a multimedia tour of the iconic music landmark while exploring content and hot spots which, when activated, allow users to dive deeper into the story of Elvis's life through unique archival audio, video & photo elements.

The journey through the mansion includes the decorated funky styles of the Jungle Room, rac-



Pictured above is a Normandy Veteran C47 which flies with the Liberty Foundation.

quetball court and Meditation Garden - where Elvis rests. Guests will have the opportunity to explore the mansion upon arrival.

After the mansion tour, guests will visit the newly completed entertainment plaza, "Elvis Presley's Memphis". This

\$45 million dollar addition enables music fans, pop culture enthusiasts and Memphis visitors to follow the path that Elvis took, surrounding themselves with the things that he loved, and experience the sights and sounds of the city that inspired him. We will become fully immersed in Elvis's life and career like never before.

We will walk among some of Elvis's favorite automobiles, including his iconic Pink Cadillac, Stutz Blackhawk, 1956 Cadillac Eldorado, Dino Ferrari, Mercedes Benz limousine, Rolls Royce sedans and more.

Elvis's time in the US Army is well chronicled and the journey is a fascinating one!

There are several food choices in the entertainment plaza.

12:00pm board bus, 4:00pm back at hotel
\$98/person includes bus, guide, and gratuities
Lunch/snacks on your own





46th ANNUAL 8th AFHS REUNION

Holiday Inn Memphis Airport & Conference Center

October 21-25, 2020

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

STOP!

◇ RESERVE YOUR HOTEL ROOM **FIRST!**

The reunion hotel has a liberal cancellation policy—in the event you are unable to attend the reunion, you will be able to cancel your reservation without penalty within 48 hours of your scheduled check-in time. However, if you wait until the last minute to book your room reservation, you may not receive the reunion rate or rooms may no longer be available at the reunion hotel. Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that our vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less a \$5 processing fee.

Canceling your hotel reservation does NOT cancel your reunion activities.

◇ COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM

Please fill out the registration form completely.

- ⇒ Fill out your name as you wish it to be on your name tag—and for any others registering with you. The principle attendee **MUST** be a current member of the Society to register for the reunion. You may **JOIN** and/or **RENEW** directly on the registration form. If you are a WWII veteran, and/or affiliated with a bomb or fighter group, please indicate which group.
- ⇒ ALL lunches and dinner meals are priced separately—Breakfast buffet is complimentary beginning Thursday, Oct 21st —Sunday, Oct 25th. Be sure and select your entrée if you plan on attending the Saturday evening gala.
- ⇒ There are three [3] tour options available during the reunion. Please read the information [here in this issue] on each tour and then make your selection on the form.

◇ MAIL IN YOUR REGISTRATION FORM

Once you have completed your registration form, please total up the amount owed and include a check, money order, or complete the credit card information on the form, payable to the **8th AFHS** and mail to:

8th AFHS
68 Kimberlys Way
Jasper, GA 30143-4769

Or you may **SCAN** your registration form *[if paying by credit card]* and **EMAIL** to:
ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org

ALL registration forms **MUST** be received by **September 25, 2020** in order to guarantee your place. If you have any questions or problems in completing your registration, please contact:

Debra Kujawa
Managing Director
8th AFHS
912-748-8884
ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org

ALL reunion information and forms are available on our website: 8thAFHS.org



46th ANNUAL 8th AFHS REUNION

Holiday Inn Memphis Airport & Conference Center

October 21-25, 2020

HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION
(800) 465-4329 or (901) 332-1130 Front Desk
or ONLINE registration on our website: 8thafhs.org
(Reference 'AFH' for group rate)

Location

The Holiday Inn Memphis Airport & Conference Center is located at **2240 Democrat Road, Memphis, TN 38132**. It features the 'Corridor Restaurant', a full service bar, and a sundry shop for snacks and necessities. We are located just two [2] miles from Elvis Presley's iconic Graceland, seven [7] miles from the North Mississippi Shopping District, 6.5 miles to Downtown Memphis famous Beale St., and twelve [12] miles from West Memphis Arkansas's Southland Gaming and Dog Racing. We are a short drive from the Cooper Young and Overton Square nightlife district and fine restaurants. The Staxx Museum, National Civil Rights Museum, Orpheum Theatre, and Bass Pro's Pyramid, are all within an 8 mile drive. The Memphis Zoo is just 10 minutes away, the Brooks Art Museum and Botanical Gardens are all a 'must see' during your visit to Memphis!

Shuttle Service

For those of you flying into Memphis, there is complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport to the hotel. After you collect your bags, go to **Pole 16** just outside—the shuttle runs every half hour. You are welcome to call the hotel directly regarding the shuttle: (901) 332-1130.

Upscale Amenities

Enjoy complimentary wireless High Speed Internet in all public areas, plus signature amenities you'll only find at Holiday Inn. Wake up energized after a restful night's sleep in any of our recently refurbished rooms. Stay connected in our lobby's business center. Stay fit with a visit to our well-equipped fitness center. **Parking is always complimentary.**

RESERVATION INFORMATION

Group Name: AFH *8th Air Force Historical Society*

Reunion Dates: October 21-25, 2020

Rate: \$110+8.5%+\$2.00 Rates are offered 3 days prior and 3 days post reunion based on availability.

Cut off Date: 9/15/2020

Cancellation Policy: All reservations have a 48 hour cancellation policy, or attendee will be charged one night room rate plus tax.

WHEELCHAIR RENTALS

ScootAround: (888) 441-7575 or ScootAround.com

HOSPITALITY SUITES

Once again this year, the 8th AFHS is pleased to announce that we are again offering **HOSPITALITY SUITES** to groups at **NO CHARGE**. The number of suites is limited, so we ask that you reserve your suite as soon as possible. Suites are located in close proximity to one another and most are large enough for two or more groups to share space.

In order to guarantee your suite, please call or email ASAP:

Debra Kujawa

Managing Director

912-748-8884

ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org



46th ANNUAL 8th AFHS REUNION

Holiday Inn Memphis Airport, Memphis, TN
October 21-25, 2020

Wednesday, October 21

1:00pm — 6:00pm	Reunion Registration open
6:00pm — 7:00pm	Complimentary Welcome Reception, followed by dinner on your own
7:00pm — 9:00pm	8th AFHS Board Meeting
7:00pm — until	Hospitality Suites remain open throughout reunion

Thursday, October 22

7:30am — 8:30am	Complimentary Breakfast
8:00am — 12:00pm	Reunion Registration open
9:15am — 1:30pm	<i>Historic Memphis (City Tour)*</i>
1:00pm — 6:00pm	Reunion Registration open
2:00pm — 3:30pm	<i>"Memoirs & Memories: Telling his story"</i> —authors' panel with Q & A
3:45pm — 5:00pm	<i>"Hidden History"</i> — Multiple Speakers with Q & A
6:00pm — 9:00pm	Cash Bar Open
7:00pm — 9:00pm	Buffet dinner and program: <i>"Legacy of the 8th"</i> — 8th AF Commanding General

Friday, October 23

7:30am — 8:30am	Complimentary Breakfast
8:00am — 12:00pm	Reunion Registration open
8:00am — 9:15am	Group Meetings
9:30am — 12:30pm	Warbird [TBD] (Olive Branch Airport)*
1:00pm — 6:00pm	Reunion Registration open
1:45pm — 3:00pm	<i>"Downed Behind Enemy Lines—Escape & Evasion"</i> — Lynn David
3:15pm — 4:30pm	Q & A WWII Vets
6:00pm — 9:00pm	Cash Bar Open
7:00pm — 9:00pm	Rendezvous Dinners

Saturday, October 24

7:30am — 8:30am	Complimentary Breakfast
8:00am — 12:00pm	Reunion Registration open
8:45am — 10:15am	General Membership Meeting
12:00pm — 4:00pm	8th AFHS Board Meeting
12:00pm — 4:00pm	<i>"Graceland Tour"*</i>
1:00pm — 6:00pm	Reunion Registration open
6:00pm — 9:00pm	Cash Bar Open
7:00pm — 10:00pm	Gala Dinner and Program

Sunday, October 25

7:30am — 8:30am	Complimentary Breakfast
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***It is important that you be in the bus boarding area at least ten [10] minutes prior to the scheduled departure times.**
All tours require a minimum of 45 participants, unless otherwise stated.
Driver and Staff gratuities ARE included in the tour prices.



REGISTRATION FORM

46th Annual 8th AFHS REUNION

Holiday Inn Memphis Airport, Memphis, TN
October 21-25, 2020

REGISTRATION CUT-OFF DATE IS September 30, 2020	Price p/p	# of People	TOTAL
<u>DUES</u>			
The principal attendee <i>MUST</i> be a member of the 8th AFHS to register for this reunion. If you are NOT a CURRENT member, please pay your yearly dues here:	\$ 40	#	\$
<u>REGISTRATION FEE</u>			
Registration fee for children ages 8-16 attending more than 1 function & staying at hotel:	\$ 30	#	\$
<u>BOX LUNCHES @\$18 per lunch, per person, per day!</u> Box lunches will be available from the hotel to attendees on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. You MUST PREORDER THEM HERE! Please indicate # of each kind of sandwich per day: HAM or TURKEY Thurs: Ham _____ or Turkey _____ Fri: Ham _____ or Turkey _____ Sat: Ham _____ or Turkey _____			
	Price is per lunch per person per day: \$ 18	#	\$
<u>DINNERS</u>			
Thursday, Oct 22 — EVENING DINNER BUFFET Memphis Style favorites	\$ 27	#	\$
Friday, Oct 23—RENDEZVOUS DINNER Chicken Marsala	\$ 29	#	\$
Saturday, Oct 24—GALA BANQUET (Please select ONE entrée)			
Sliced London Broil with Bordelaise Sauce	\$ 34	#	\$
Pan Seared Salmon with White Wine Beurre Blanc	\$ 34	#	\$
Vegetarian plate(s) Please indicate [X] : Thurs _____ # _____ Fri _____ # _____ Sat _____ # _____	\$ 29	#	\$
<u>TOUR OPTIONS:</u>			
Thursday, Oct 22: Historic Memphis Tour—Lunch on your own	\$ 46	#	\$
Friday, Oct 23: Tour of Warbird [TBD] Olive Branch Airport—Lunch on your own	\$ 26	#	\$
Saturday, Oct 24: Graceland Tour—Lunch on your own	\$ 98	#	\$
Total amount payable to: 8th AFHS			

Please PRINT. If registering a WWII veteran here, please list their name first.

MEMBER NAME (for name tag): _____

WWII Veteran _____ BG/FG Affiliation (for Rendezvous Dinner seating): _____ POW: _____ (Korea, Vietnam, etc.): _____

SPOUSE or PERSON attending: _____

ADDITIONAL GUESTS: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

DAYTIME PH #: _____ EMAIL: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____ PH #: _____

PLEASE INDICATE ANY PHYSICAL OR DIETARY RESTRICTIONS: _____

IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD —M/C; VISA; or AmEx (**a 3% convenience fee will be added**):

CARD #: _____ EXP. DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ *Your contact information will only be shared with attendees.*

MAIL completed form with check or credit card info to: 8th AFHS ~ 68 Kimberlys Way ~ Jasper, GA 30143-4769

IF paying by credit card, you may SCAN and email form to: ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org



Many of us have stories to share about loved ones who inspired a nation with their courage, determination and daring audacity to

defeat Nazism in World War II. The year 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII and will be a focus at the 8thAFHS Reunion in Memphis, TN. We hope to have an informal storytelling session for those attendees who want to share personal war story about themselves, a relative, or friend. With this in mind, please consider writing a personal story about yourself, or a WWII veteran who is still among us, or one who has passed on.

So many of us often think about writing family stories but don't know exactly how to get started writing a narrative. It is understandable. I publish non-fiction memoir essays using a simple outline that helps me organize my thoughts and memories before I begin writing. Several suggestions are listed below and hopefully will assist you with writing a short account of a special World War II memory.

1. First select a single event or incident that impacted you or your veteran, in a powerful way. As you choose relative memories to include, make sure they focus on the main point of this story.

2. Create an informal outline with a BEGINNING, MIDDLE, and END to help you organize thoughts and build a writing plan.

3. Give your story a TITLE.

4. When writing your account, include personal details about yourself or relative/friend so that we get to know something about that person's character, personali-

My Father's First Mission: telling his story

by Carole Webb Slater

ty, age, etc.

5. Use vivid descriptions to describe what happened including when and where this incident took place.

6. Attach pictures or other memorabilia about this account.

To maintain a similar format for all stories shared, please make sure you include the following details:

- NAME of Veteran
- THE SERVICE UNIT OF THE VETERAN in the story
 - Bomber Command, Fighter Command, or Ground Air Services Command
 - Group Assignment, Name of Base and Location
 - Specific Job Assignment
 - Dates of Service

A personal war story is shared below in an outline format described above. Perhaps this example might provide helpful insight as you write your account. If you have questions, please contact carolewebbslater@gmail.com.

NAME: Lt. Dana A. Webb

SERVICE UNIT: Fighter Command

ASSIGNMENT: 352nd Fighter Group, Bodney Airfield in England; and Chièvres Air Base in Belgium.

SPECIFIC JOB: Fighter pilot, P-51 Mustang

DATES OF SERVICE: December 1944 – September 1945

TITLE: *First Escort Mission on 14 February 1945*

My father, Lt. Dana Webb, arrived in Europe several months before his 21st birthday as a new fighter pilot stationed with the 352nd Fighter Group in Bodney, England. Fresh from flight training he was tall, lanky, optimistic, self-assured and cocky, feeling determined but uncertain about flying against the Luftwaffe. That is until he saw a

P-51 Mustang fighter plane on the makeshift runway and enthusiastically talked of it in a letter home.

"By golly, I'm flying a P-51, the fastest fighter plane made! She's the best in the ETO."

Dana made occasional references to flying missions in letters but to a casual observer reading his words on paper, missions seemed unremarkable and routine flying exercises. His description of this first wartime mission on 14 February 1945 was a perfect example.

"Yesterday was a big day for me and a good day's work. We were gone for over five hours and I really was tired when I got back. It was interesting but don't think I wasn't scared. I've never seen so many planes in the sky at one time, and all of them ours. The Jerries must be hoarding their planes and pilots for one last great try. Even the flak was moderate, even light."

No problems. No worries. All is well. According to Dana's letters, the air war in Europe seemed rather safe and boring. But years later I learned the truth about this mission and others.

Mission 830. 14 February 1945

1,377 bombers and 962 fighters are dispatched to hit oil and rail targets in Germany.

As I read an official Air Force Mission description, I felt overwhelmed at the magnitude of this operation, the sheer number of planes involved and that their destination was in Germany, enemy territory. I wondered what went through my father's mind that day as he mentally prepared for unexpected dangers and the enormous responsibility of protecting other men inside those big bomber planes thousands of feet above the ground. I speculated about what it was like to sit literally strapped in a single seat unable to move while wearing a bomber jacket, a parachute pack, a life jacket, helmet, goggles, and other flight gear. As my mind wandered, it was chilling to think of other fliers on this mission. There were 14,732 American sons, many in their early 20s, who were traveling together side by side in an unfriendly sky with life and death in the balance. Their goal was to destroy oil and rail targets to halt military operations in Germany, and they courageously did their job. As the B-17s continued flying further into enemy territory, fighter planes were positioned above and on both sides

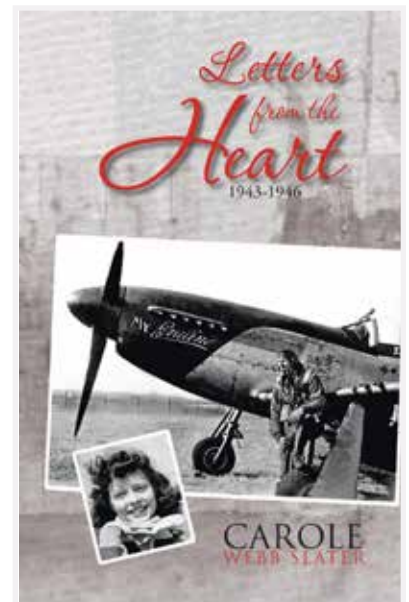
of the bombers to protect them from enemy aircraft. This mission lasted over five hours and Dana was exhausted when he safely landed later that day. ***But not all planes on this mission returned to base on 14 February 1945.***

There were 7 bombers and 7 fighters lost which meant that 77 young airmen did not come home. A sobering and heart-breaking thought, especially knowing that these same bombers and fighters would fly similar bombing missions the next day and the day after, weather permitting, until Germany surrendered in May 1945.

My father left a personal family legacy and history in over 250 letters written home to his parents and my mother, of experiences during World War II. Although his letters were filled with stories, he never once shared anecdotes about fears or horrors of war and for that I am forever grateful.

My father, Lt. Dana Webb would fly 25 missions with 110 combat hours from February to April 1945. He received an Air Medal with three oak clusters for meritorious achievements while participating in numerous aerial flights over enemy territory. A book about Dana Webb's experiences of love and war, *Letters from the Heart 1943-1946*, is available through your local bookstore or online at www.amazon.com.

*Editor's note: Carole Webb Moore-Slater is an educator and community speaker. She has written several books including **Letters from the Heart 1943-1946** with articles printed in various national, regional and local magazines as well as newspaper publications. Her writing is non-fiction and family related. In the last few years, Carole has given numerous community presentations about her World War II memoir and teaches a five-week mini-course on *How to Write a Memoir* at various locations including Vanderbilt OSHER Learning Institute. With a background in Social Work and Special Education, Carole worked professionally as an advocate and leader in the disability field for over thirty-five years.*



World War II Air War in Europe

History Data Points

V-E Day (8 May 1945)

(Compiled from multiple sources

by Lane Callaway, 8 AF-JGSOC Historian)

United States Strategic Air Forces (USSTAF) commanded by General Carl Spaatz was composed of Eighth Air Force (in United Kingdom) and Fifteenth Air Force (in Italy). The USSTAF was created to synchronize the air combat operations of both Numbered Air Forces (NAFs).

- Eighth and Fifteenth Air Forces in World War II: flew total of 488,065 bomber sorties and 350,864 fighter sorties.
 - Eighth Air Force conducted 986 air combat missions flying 619,454 sorties in the skies over 13 European countries during the air war with the most sorties conducted over Germany followed by France.
 - Eighth Air Force air warriors garnered 17 Medals of Honor (47 percent of the number awarded to NAFs in World War II). All 17 recipients were bomber aircrew members with ranks of recipients ranging from Brigadier General to Sergeant.
 - Eighth Air Force accounted for 42 percent of aerial victories while flying 26 percent of total Army Air Force's sorties.
- Both NAFs dropped 1,005,729 tons of bombs with 28 percent on marshalling yards, 12 percent on oil targets, 18 percent on aircraft targets, and 42 percent on other targets. Of bombs dropped, 8 AF dropped 687,052 tons.

Of the bombs striking Germany, 72 percent fell after 1 July 1944.

- Eighth Air Force's air attack top four strategic target sets in order of times struck were transportation (i.e. marshalling yards), city targets (i.e. command & control facilities, manufacturing plants, etc.), airfields, and oil facilities.
- Eighth Air Force dropped 35 percent of all munitions dropped by the Army Air Forces.
- Eighth Air Force during World War II had close working collaboration with the Royal Air Force in terms of combined air combat operations as well as with transfers of technology and knowledge.
 - Eighth Air Force had some 350 operational and technical innovations to include experiments in actual air combat using airborne radars for bombing through clouds and using remotely piloted drones.
 - Eighth Air Force, after 26 September 1943, flew 256,000 effective combat sorties with 48 percent using radar-assisted bombing techniques.
- Both NAFs are credited with destroying 15,426 German aircraft in the air with a lost for both NAFs equaling 8,759 bombers and 3,546 fighters.
 - Eighth Air Force claimed 11,481 German aircraft in the air.

- Both NAFs casualties totaled 35,844 Killed in Action (KIA); 13,727 Wounded in Action (WIA); 33,414 Prisoner of War (PW); and 5,958 Missing in Action (MIA).

- Eighth Air Force accounted for 47 percent of the total Army Air Force's casualties in World War II.
- Specifically for Eighth Air Force, the senior wartime leadership accepted the official number of 26,000 KIA for The Mighty Eighth Air Force.



Field Marshall Keitel signs German surrender terms in Berlin 8 May 1945

- When combined with the Royal Air Force, Anglo-American air power in Europe dropped 2,700,000 tons of bombs; flew 1,440,000 bomber sorties; 2,680,000 fighter sorties.

- Strategic air war over Europe:

- By 14 September 1944, the USSTAF could bomb wherever it willed limited only by severe weather conditions.
- German war production increased throughout the war reaching its peak in July 1944 and creating new weapons like the jet aircraft, fast attack submarines, V-1 and V-2 ballistic missiles, and increased in armaments like antiaircraft weapons. German aircraft production peaked in September 1944.



VE DAY Piccadilly Circus 1945 by Mrjspence at English Wikipedia

Notwithstanding by January 1945, the German economy was paralyzed and could not support military operations or supply basic needs of the German population.

Strategic bombing kept German war production less efficient and less effective.

- Strategic bombardment caused Germany to expend enormous efforts to defense and reconstruction efforts. By 1944, Germany had some two million persons in antiaircraft defense efforts, more than in aircraft manufacturing. An additional estimated one million persons

were engaged in repair and rebuilding due to bomb damage. Albert Speer, the German wartime Minister for Armaments, estimated 50 percent of the electro-technical production and 30 percent of the optical industry were engaged in providing radar and communication equipment to the antiaircraft effort and not to front line units.

- The Anglo-American strategic bombing campaign at war's end had achieved three-quarters of the strategic directive coming out of the Casablanca Conference of January 1943, in the "the progressive destruction and dislocation of the German military, industrial, and economic system." However, the Anglo-American conducted Combined Bomber Offensive strategic air campaign did not fulfilled the directive's goal of undermining the morale of the German people.

Flying With Dad

by Yvonne Caputo

review by Debra Kujawa

"I was Dad's precious baby girl just the first four years of my life."

It would take author, Yvonne Caputo, over 60 years to finally make the connection with her dad she had longed for her entire life, and it is a lifetime of experiences which took them both on a journey that she shares in her book, *"Flying With Dad."*

From the opening chapters, the reader is immediately drawn headfirst into the Caputo family; experiencing the gamut of interpersonal dynamics

and circumstances—from happy memories to devastating tragedies—the author allows an in-depth, intimate experience into a daughter's lifetime of failed attempts at a relationship with her father that she never thought attainable, until it was.

The non-linear technique Yvonne uses weaves a fluid story back and forth through time, taking the reader on an intensely personal experience culminating in a father daughter bond, years in the making.

From Yvonne's early childhood memories, to Mike Caputo's [her dad] decision to enlist in the Army during WWII, and then through his final days, we encounter a steady rhythm of events. We come to know a young man as he discovers who he is and eventually, who he ultimately becomes. Mike grows from a youngster, an eager young man supporting the war effort with his hands and tools, only to be propelled into WWII as a navigator on a B24 with the 467th Bomb Group.

Excerpts from letters between Mike

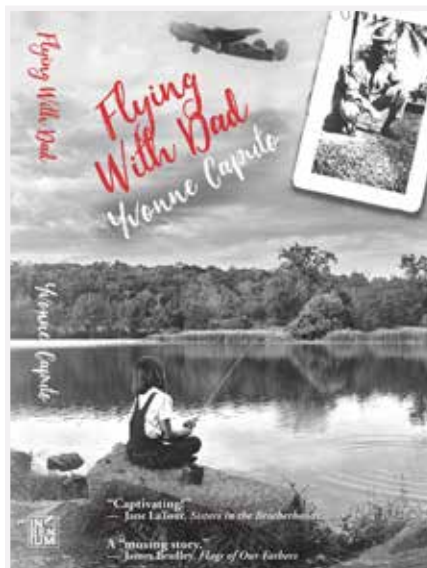


and "Teddy" (Mike's wife), reveal a vulnerability in her dad that Yvonne never experienced growing up. It would be their conversations—many years later—that would answer so many of Yvonne's questions, gradually eroding the barricades separating them.

"Flying With Dad" is not your typical WWII read. While it covers Mike's military experiences and mission highlights, the book focuses on what made Michael Caputo, Mike, and how his daughter, Yvonne, finally learned who her father truly was.

"Flying With Dad," by Yvonne Caputo, is available from multiple book sellers.

ISBN:
Paperback: 978-1-989059-29-6
eBook: 978-1-989059-30-2
Hardcover: 978-1-989059-31-9
Large Print: 978-1-989059-32-6



Father's Day: Remembering Dad

by Rob Gates

This morning I found myself thinking about my father. I'm not sure why. Maybe it's because of Father's Day. Or maybe it's related to the fact that I'm reading a book about the Spartans at the Battle of Thermopylae and, specifically, because of their sense of honor and responsibility. On the other hand, maybe it's just what you do when you get to be my age.

I was specifically thinking about his service in World War II. Like millions of young men, he dropped what he was doing and enlisted. In the Army Air Force in my father's case. They went off for three or four years and when the war was over, came home and picked up where they left off.

They weren't professional soldiers and, for the most part, left that behind them when they returned to civilian life. My father came home to my mother and went back to college on the GI Bill. The big changes for him were me (and the four brothers that followed in short order) and a change in major from pre-law to physics and an eventual career as an engineer working in the space program rather than one as a lawyer. He left that career path to his brother.

I may have noticed when I was growing up but I surely didn't appreciate until much later that he rarely talked about his experiences in World War II. I don't recall that he was ever involved with veteran's organizations or unit reunions. I found out later that he kept in touch with some people in Luxembourg

for a while and may have had occasional contact with some members of his crew. In any case, it seems that he had put his service years behind him and was focused on his family and work.

It wasn't until some fifty years after the war that he and my step-mother went to Europe and took a side trip to Luxembourg and to one of the houses where he had been hidden. He also reconnected with the daughters of the family that owned the house. He sat down that Thanksgiving and told us much more than he had ever told us before. He also joined the Virginia Chapter of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society after he retired and wrote about his service for the newsletter. In 2001 he was interviewed by the Virginia War Memorial and gave each of us a video of the interview.

Before that, I only knew the basics of his service – Ordway B. Gates was a B-17 bombardier with the 95th BG, was shot down on his seventeenth mission, and was hidden by the Luxembourg underground for about two months – but that was all. I certainly knew nothing – and probably never even thought – about what it took to fly 6 – 8 hour missions over Germany and the toll that it must have taken on him.

What I saw was his devotion to his family as evidenced by his participation as a baseball coach and scout leader for my brothers and me. I also saw how he applied himself to his work and to any commitments that he had made. What I didn't

appreciate until I was much older were the high standards he held us to and the high expectations that he had for all of us.

He wasn't one to put those standards and expectations in words. I can't recall that he ever lectured us. Somehow you just knew. My sisters told me that one measure of the man was that he held the girls to the same standards as the boys and had the same expectations for them. More importantly, he provided the same opportunities to all of his children.

Much later I put two and two together and realized that the standards that he held us to were the same standards that he set for himself. They were also the standards that allowed him to do his job in the Army Air Force and saw him through his missions and evasion in Luxembourg.

In some ways, he's no different from the millions of others who went to war and came back to raise a family and start a career. Most of my generation didn't have to do what his did, but we were fortunate to benefit from their experience. I look at my life and what I've accomplished, and I can clearly see in them the example that my father set.

Maybe this was triggered by the Spartans after all. The example that he set for personal responsibility and honor is something that I've always tried to emulate. It's something that he saw in his mother and father, lived by, and modelled for us. I only hope that I've modelled it as successfully for my son.

CHAPTER NEWS



**8th Air Force Historical Society,
Oregon Chapter
10 August 2019**

*Edited by Joan E. Hamilton
[*Checked and approved by
Barbara Heyman]*

Our August 2019 presenter was Barbara Heyman, wife of Richard Heyman, Jr., our May 2018 speaker who flew P-38s and P-51s during WWII and served during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Barbara experienced life in England during WWII. She moved to the United States in 1960 to marry Richard and became a US citizen in 1963. Here are excerpts from Barbara's speech.

"I was raised in Stoke-by-Nayland in East Anglia during WWII. My mother was a terrific person who never showed any fear during the war, though she had 7 children to raise while my father, a military man, was gone for 5 years. That was a wonderful, easy time for me. As I lay on the downs in front of our house, I loved the sights of the beautiful bombers which, I was told, were there to support us and make our life better. I also

remember the sound of the V-1 Doodlebugs during the night. If you heard a doodlebug engine stop, you knew it would come right down on your house. One bomb from an enemy plane dropped but fortunately didn't explode about 200 yards from our house.

During the war, we had only cold water in the house, and we washed everything by hand. With 7 children, my mother's sugar ration was quite large. We had fruit trees and she would use sugar to make lots of fruit pies. Every time the ration books came in, we (children) would rush out to the local store and come home with quarter-pounds of sweets in our pockets. My mother took in Women's Land Army girls who had come down from the North of England to cultivate the fields and grow the vegetables and so on because so few men were left in England.

At age 16 after the war, I left high school and worked in the county council and that's when I met my future husband, Richard Heyman, in the mid-1950s when he was a captain in the Air Force. Five years later on February 1, 1960, I arrived in the United States, and our wedding was on the next day, Ground Hog Day. Richard had come back to the States and been stationed at a B-47 base which did not appeal to him since he'd flown fighters during the war. Living in New Hampshire, I saw snow unlike any I'd ever seen in England. Our children were born there, and I was also taking care of Richard's two children. I had to learn how to use American money and to drive a

car on the wrong side of the road. The children and I went down to Wichita when Richard was getting his training in the F-105. Then he was sent to Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. As I stood watching him get on the plane with the children around me, that was the only time I worried that he was never coming back. Richard and I wrote letters to each other every day. To keep busy, I took a Red Cross course while living in Oxnard, CA, and volunteered at various hospitals as a Grey Lady. I visited Richard when he was stationed at the Takhli Royal Thai AFB. We visited Chiang Mai where the royal family goes for holidays and also spent a week in Hong Kong.

When Richard was stationed in Germany, he was flying with pilots from the 7 NATO nations and I was lucky to be able to visit with my parents and family. The first time he went over to Europe was on the *Queen Elizabeth* with something like 13,000 troops. This time, we went over on the *SS United States* first class. We returned to the United States and eventually retired in Oregon.

I think of my parents often. Before I left for the United States in 1960 my father told me, 'Don't look back. Don't compare. And if anyone can do it, you can.' I can and I did! I want to thank those of you who helped us out in WWII and every military person who has done their duty by this country. This country is worth fighting for."

*Barbara Heyman--this page
[Photo taken by Joan E. Hamilton]*

8th Air Force Historical Chapter NY State Southern Wing Chapter

By Joseph "Pat" Keeley
President

Unfortunately, our June 7th luncheon meeting was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Chapter President, Joseph "Pat" Keeley, and membership manager, David Levitt, phoned to check up on and update our veterans during this unprecedented crisis. Fortunately, all are doing okay! Our next luncheon is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, November 8th, 2020, in Plainview, NY, at the Holiday Inn. Our theme will be focused on Veterans Day. We meet from 11am to 3pm if you will be in the area and are interested in attending, please contact Pat Keeley [info on p.2]. You can also check our website:

blogs.ny8thswcafhs.org

Trolley Missions

8th Air Force Historical Society
NY State Southern Wing Chapter

By David Levitt
Membership Manager



The 8th Air Force flew its last combat mission on 25 April 1945. Within days, planners were working on a new operation for its men and planes. Called **Trolley**, the purpose was "...to provide all ground (non-rated) personnel with an opportunity of seeing the results of their contribution in the strategic air war against Germany." In addition to flight crews,

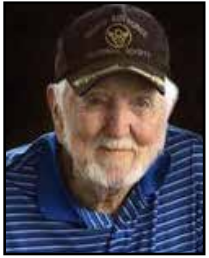
ground personnel flew 10 men at-a-time peering out the waist gunner positions so they could see the ground below. Seeing city after city reduced to rubble in Germany was an emotional experience for my father, Sherman

Levitt, a B24 mechanic in the 491st bomb group. He finally comprehended that all the misery of freezing fingers and getting soaked to the bone, working through the night outdoors on B24s for a

year and a half, was worth it—defeating Hitler and the Nazis—definitely worth it. It was especially meaningful to Cpl Levitt that his efforts, as well as all of the men in his unit, were critical in the success of all the missions, ultimately bringing an end to WWII in Europe.

Photo courtesy of 392nd BG showing Cologne during one of their "Trolley Missions." Map of Trolley Missions appears on back cover of this issue.

Canant, Douglas Sanders,



Sr., 96, from Beaumont, Texas, died Monday, February 3, 2020. He passed away surrounded by family and friends after a long bat-

tle with cancer. He was born July 1, 1923, in Beaumont, Texas, to Willie and Ernest Canant. He was a lifelong Beaumont resident, educated in Beaumont schools and graduated from Beaumont High School. He served proudly in the Eighth Army Air Force. He was stationed in England in World War II with the 1st SAD. After the war he married Margaret Jane Francis, his loving spouse of 72 years. He worked as a unit operator, then supervisor at Mobil Refinery for 38 years. After retirement he enjoyed traveling, volunteering, entertaining his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, feeding birds and cats, and scaring squirrels. He was a lifelong member of North End, now Wesley United Methodist Church, where he was involved in many activities. He was preceded in death by his mother and father; his brother, Jack; his sisters, Evelyn, Anna Beatrice, Willie May, Alma, Alice, Pearl, Betty, and Audrey. He is survived by his wife, Margaret; his daughters, Nancy and her husband, Ron; Martha and her husband, Lloyd; Carol and her husband John; Ginny; son, Doug, Jr. and wife, Debbie; eleven grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Huisman, Lewis Arthur, 96,



of Shelbyville passed away on Saturday, April 4, 2020. Lewis was born on January 18, 1924, in Wyoming, MI, and was the

son of Derk and Myrtle (Connor) Huisman. He graduated from Martin High School with the Class of 1941. During WWII he served as a tech sergeant/flight engineer on a B24 Bomber with the 453rd BG. He flew missions in Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe, and was awarded the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, EAME Ribbon with four Bronze Stars and the Good Conduct Medal. On June 16, 1945, he married Lois Hurdelbrink and together they had two children: Karen and Steve. After the war he was employed as a meat cutter at Boysen's IGA in Martin and on the family farm. Then, he spent over 41 years as a meat inspector for the State of Michigan and Federal government. He was proud of the fact that in 41 years in the work force, he only missed two days of work. He was also one of the original firefighters for the Orangeville Twp. fire department. In his more recent years, he attended Gun Lake Community Church and Leighton United Methodist Church. Lewis will be missed by all that knew him and will be remembered as loving nature, being a people person, hard worker, talkative, and always for his love for his family and

grandchildren.

He is survived by his two children: Karen McCarter, and Steve (Terri) Huisman; four grandchildren: Charles Anez, Tricia Anez, LeAnn (Jon) Graban, and Roxann (Chris) Williams, five great grandchildren: Avery, Taylor, Jordan, James, and Thomas. He is also survived by his special companion, Lee Biesbrock, of Shelbyville. He was preceded by his wife Lois in 2012.

Lee, Webb Pruitt, 95, passed



away on Tuesday, March 14, 2017, in Louisville, Mississippi. Pruitt and his twin brother Truitt were born on September

13, 1921, in Choctaw County, Oklahoma, to James H. and Lemma Kelly Lee. He grew up near Louisville, Winston County, Mississippi, after the family moved back to Mississippi. Mr. Lee was a student at Mississippi State University when World War II began and entered service in August, 1942. He had earned his pilot's license while attending East Central Mississippi Community College, so was assigned to the Army Air Corps. After his military pilot training, he was assigned to Alexandria, Louisiana, for B17 crew training. They were assigned to the 385th BG, 549th Squadron at Great Ashfield, Suffolk, England. Pruitt served as B17 co-pilot and attained the rank of 1st LT. He

survived 29 bombing missions, including two on D-day. On his last mission, October 5, 1944, after dropping their bombs over Munster, Germany, they were hit by flak which eventually knocked out 3 of the 4 engines, one on fire. They considered bailing out, but a waist gunner was wounded and unconscious so they decided to ride it as far as they could. They eventually got the fire out and threw out what they could to lighten the load and headed toward friendly lines in Holland. As Mr. Lee recalled a P51 Mustang fighter "*The Cherokee Kid*" came alongside to provide protection from German fighters as they fell behind the formation. Just as their escort had to peel off and leave due to lack of fuel, he took a direct flak hit, exploded, and didn't get out. Pruitt recalled many times how that fighter pilot gave his life for theirs. They kept losing altitude and got so low the German ground troops were shooting at them with everything they had. They eventually reached the front lines near the Holland/Belgian border and looked for a place to land. There was a gaping hole in the fuselage, the landing gear had been hit and locked, and the mechanism operating the flaps had been shot off. They spotted an open field near Bourg Leopold, Belgium, which had artillery holes, but was the only place to land. They crashed through some trees, bounced off an old German hanger, slid through barbed wired fencing, and ended up with the right wing cutting through a brick

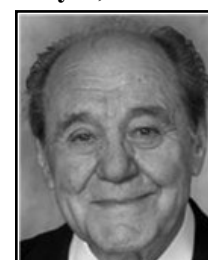
building. The fortress was broken into 3 pieces, but they all managed to get out with some help from paratroopers nearby before it exploded. Some of the crew were injured but all survived. On impact the top gun turret came down on Pruitt, and he sustained head and internal injuries, spending several weeks recovering in military hospitals. As he often said, they made it back by the grace of God. And God indeed blessed him with 72 more years. For his meritorious achievements he received the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters and a Purple Heart. He returned to active duty as an instrument flying instructor in Lubbock, TX, until war's end and then assigned to plane ferrying duty until released from active duty on October 17, 1945. Mr. Lee was humbled but proud that a new terminal at the local Louisville/Winston County Airport was named in his honor in 2014.

Mr. Lee was a graduate of Louisville High School, East Central Community College, and Mississippi State University where he obtained a degree in Agriculture and minor in Ag Engineering. He enjoyed farming and owned and operated Lee Tractor and Equipment Company for 25 years. Early in his career he sold equipment for Taylor Machine Works' Agricultural Division.

He is survived by his wife of 75 years Flora Lucille Haggard Lee, daughters Jann Leone and Kay Castle (Lee), and son James Lee

(Mary Anne). He also was survived by seven grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren, and three great-great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, James Havris Lee and twin Truitt Kelly Lee.

Meyer, Kenneth W. "Kenny",



91, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Aug. 14, 2016, in Gadsden, where he had lived with his devoted wife, Maure

(Loveman), since his retirement as an NFL coach in 1992. Ken was born on July 14, 1925, in Erie, Pa., and was the son of Werner Meyer and Pauline (Uhrmacher). He graduated from Ashtabula Harbor High School in 1943 and was inducted into the Ashtabula County Football Hall of Fame in 2004. He was proud to have served as a staff sergeant in the mighty 8th Air Force during World War II and flew 25 missions over Germany as a tail gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress. He maintained close ties with the men in his bomber group, and was an active supporter and past president of the 305th Bomber Group Association. After the war, Ken graduated from Denison University where he played for Woody Hayes. He was inducted into the Denison Hall of Fame in 1987. He began his college coaching career at Denison in 1952 followed by Wake Forest, Florida

State and then the University of Alabama. Ken coached at Alabama from 1963-67, under legendary coach Paul “Bear” Bryant, where he coached Joe Namath, Steve Sloan and Kenny Stabler and was a member of two National Championship teams as well as the 1966 year of the “missing ring.” In 1969 he began his NFL career with the San Francisco 49ers and went on to coach with the NY Jets and LA Rams, before becoming head coach of the 49ers in 1977, followed by three seasons with the Chicago Bears. He left the NFL to coach at Tulane University for two seasons, where he and Coach Vince Gibson led Tulane to victory over LSU in huge upsets both years. In 1992, he retired from coaching in the NFL after nine seasons with the Seattle Seahawks. His career as a coach and mentor in the American Football league in Europe began in 1992 with the Turku Trojans in Finland. With Ken as coach, Finland won the European Championship in 1993, 1995, and 1997. In 2014, Ken was inducted into the Finnish American Football Hall of Fame and is the first and only non-Finnish member. Ken also spent the 1996 season living in Rome, Italy, as coach of the Roma Gladiatori. After coaching and living in Europe for months at a time, he began scouting for the Kansas City Chiefs in 2001, where he developed a close personal friendship with General Manager and CEO, Carl Peterson. In 2008, he completely retired from football after 70 years of playing,

coaching, and scouting football at the high school, college and pro levels in the U.S. and Europe. In recent years in Alabama, he was a dedicated member of the University of Alabama “A” Club, and gave his time generously to local high school and college football teams and his close circle of friends. He had a passion for life, a passion for football, a gift for telling stories, and was well-loved by all who met him. Ken was preceded in death by his son, Tom and his daughter, Mary Katharine Colfax. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Maure; and his brother, Gilbert; his children, Cindy, Karl, Richard (Erlinda), and Alea (José); and his grandchildren, Eric, Deric, Brandon, Leah, Eileen, Christine, Steven, Charles, Samantha, Isabella, Gordon, Graham and Allison; and great-grandchildren, Kaylin, Cameron, Cheyenne, Harmony, Essence and Sadie.

Mirotznik, Bernard ‘Bernie’,



94, 452nd BG, 731st Bomb Squadron. Bernie was born July 8, 1925, in Manhattan and passed November

26, 2019, in New York. Private Mirotznik joined the AAF in August 1943 (age 18), and June '45. Bernie was an important member of the Ground Crew at Deopham Green Air Base. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, Distinguished Unit Badge;

EAME Medal w/6 Bronze Stars; & WW II Victory Medal.

Following Bernie’s deactivation, he went back to college to earn his Law Degree. This he obtained in 1953 and was licensed for sixty-six years. Bernie was a long-time member of the 452nd BGA. He volunteered as the 452nd Bomb Group Association Attorney for decades. Bernie wrote the original by-laws for the 452nd Board. We thank him for his time, effort, and his military service. He was one of the guys that “Kept ‘em flyin’.”

Nykamp, Henry John, 95, of



Holland Twp., NJ passed away October 4, 2019, at home in Beachwood, OH. Born November 15, 1923, in Holland Twp. to

Francina (Schryver) and Herman Nykamp, Henry was the youngest of four children. He graduated from Frenchtown High School in 1943. In July 1943, Henry began service in the Army Air Force and was discharged in October 1945, with the rank of S/Sgt. During his service, he was a nose gunner and armorer with the 93rd BG in a B24, flying 35 missions over Europe. In July 2017, he was awarded the French Legion of Honor for his participation in the liberation of France in World War II.

In 1945 he married Beatrice Virginia Crum. For 35 years, he worked as a meat cutter and

meat department manager for A & P Company. They raised their family in Holland Twp. where Henry was an active member in the VFW, Post 7857. He served as Post Commander and was a Life Member. He was also a member of the Masonic Phillipsburg Lodge 52.

Along with gardening and caring for his property, he loved hunting, bowling, and playing golf at the Oak Hill Golf Club. He supported the Holland Twp. Library, volunteer fire department, and Hope for Honduran Children.

He is survived by his daughters Judy Gill and Jean Koznarek and her husband, Mark. He is also survived by 5 grandchildren; Kimberly and her husband Richard, Rebecca, Laura, Anne and William. He was predeceased by his beloved wife Beatrice, son, Bruce, and sisters, Aaltje "Jean" Gardner, Wilhemina "Wilma" Magnarelli and Dora "Doris" Dunlap.

Richardson, Wilbur "Bill", 97



passed away on March 1, 2020, was born in Long Beach, California. Wilbur graduated from Wilson High School in 1940 and continued his education at Long Beach City College. In 1942, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and at 21, flew 30 missions with the 94th BG as the ball turret gunner in a B-17 Flying Fortress. Seriously wounded on 30th mis-

sion over Munich, 13 July 1944. After 5 weeks in the hospital was offered M/Sgt. and leader of bomb storage dump. Turned it down because brother was a casualty and felt he should return. Final assignment was night line office manager. Wilbur earned many honors during his service, including a Purple Heart and the Distinguished Flying Cross, along with the Air Medal with 4 OLC and 4 battle stars. Home from the war, Wilbur earned his Bachelor's in music at BYU and went on to pursue a Master's degree in education at Cal State Long Beach. There he met his wife, Virginia. Wilbur taught for 33 years with Los Alamitos Unified School District. He was active in his community, running for local office and participating in the Kiwanis Club. Music being a lifelong passion, Wilbur sang with the Choral Society of Southern California for 20 years. After retiring and moving to Chino Hills in 1991, Wilbur spent the majority of his time volunteering at the Planes of Fame Museum in Chino. He loved sharing stories of his wartime experiences with visitors and students, young and old. Wilbur still loved to travel and was named Chino Hills Citizen of the Year in 2012. He loved spending time with family and was still camping and boating into his 80's. He is survived by daughter Pam Runge and son Bryan Richardson, 6 grandchildren, and 3 great-granddaughters. He was preceded in death by his wife of 31 years, Virginia.

Ridley, Lawrence, 97, of South



Haven passed away February 7, 2020.

Lawrence (Larry) spent his life in the South Haven area and served in the 8th

Air Force during World War II, bravely serving 27 missions over Germany with the 486th BG as a top turret gunner in a B-17 and bringing back plenty of stories he'd proudly tell and retell his children and grandchildren. He also served in the South Haven National Guard.

He met his wife, Martha, upon his return from overseas. The two were married soon afterward. They celebrated 71 wedding anniversaries together, and Larry diligently took care of her in her final years of life.

He had a hearty laugh and a quick sense of humor, and loved to tease and tell jokes (often the same ones more than once). He enjoyed playing cards with his family, and was a steadfast fan of "The Price Is Right," many times yelling prices at the TV and scoffing in disgust when he felt someone placed a poor bid.

As a child, he disliked school, but would mention later how they liked him so much they kept him in the same grade two years in a row. He loved the outdoors, including deer hunting in particular, gardening, and driving his grandchildren around his yard in the bright green trailer of his John Deere tractor.

One of his proudest achievements was building a home for his family in Jericho using only hand tools. He loved his family above all else. He was a favorite not just among his own children and grandchildren, but their spouses and their children as well. He had a way with life and with people, making friends wherever he went—from McDonald's to the local pharmacy.

He enjoyed watching his children and grandchildren grow up—many of whom enjoyed spending spring break at his house, helping plant the garden, visiting garage sales, and eating strawberry shortcake.

He spent the majority of his career at Bohn Aluminum on the shipping dock, working up through the ranks, and enjoyed a long retirement. He was a member and longtime usher of the First Baptist Church of South Haven. His family is grateful for the dozens of funny memories and antics they'll keep close to heart.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Martha. He is survived by his three children - Larry (Linda) Ridley, Beverly (Jory) Holmes, and Annette (Jerry) Koller; nine grandchildren: Larry (Marcie) Ridley, Steven (Kim) Ridley, Erin Holmes, Sarah (David) Skipper, Jordan (Dana) Koller, Lindsey (Chris) Doty, Daniel (Janine) Koller, Stephen (Brandi) Koller and Jared (Lauren) Koller; 14 great-grandchildren and two

great-great grandchildren. All will miss him dearly.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edmond "Ned" and Ethel Ridley, as well as his five siblings.

Zurbuchen, Fred "Fritz", 94, of Fond du Lac, formerly of Waupun, passed away Friday, July 5, 2019. Fred was born March 5, 1925, in the town of Burnett,



the son of Gottfried and Anna Zurbuchen. Fred served his country in WWII with the Army Air Corps for four years. He was in the ETO with the 493rd BG as a B17 Ball Turret Gunner and received the purple heart. On October 27, 1945, he married Betty Lidtke in Trenton, NJ. Following his military service, Fred was a cheesemaker for five years. He then became a correctional officer for the Wisconsin Division of Corrections from which he retired. Fred was one of the founding individuals for Little League Baseball in Waupun. He served as an elder in Pella Lutheran Church in Waupun and helped out with woodworking tasks for the church. Fred enjoyed traveling with his family to Switzerland, the homeland of his parents. He and Betty traveled extensively with their children throughout the United

States. He and the boys enjoyed hunting together. He was a life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6709 in Waupun and a member of Experimental Aircraft Association. Fred loved God, his family, and his country.

Fred is survived by his wife of 73 years, Betty Zurbuchen, three children: Diane Pevonka, Scott (Luann) Zurbuchen, and Merri Smith; seven grandchildren: Andrew (Holly) Pevonka, Luke Zurbuchen, Bethany (Barry) Rusch, Casey (Kristi) Zurbuchen, Kathryn (Drew) Stalnaker, Abbey Smith, and Jesse Smith; six great-grandchildren; and two sisters-in-law.

Fred was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Erica Zurbuchen, a sister; two brothers; and two sons-in-law, Jerry Pevonka and David Smith.

We are NOT automatically notified upon the death of our veterans or other members.

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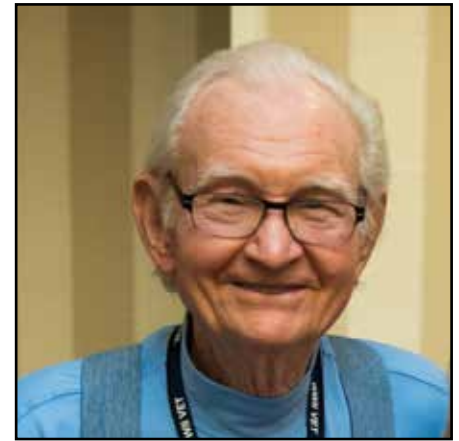
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HOW ABOUT IT!

In a Twinkle

Earl Wassom 466th BG, Chaplain 8th AFHS



“Twinkle” you say...what is a twinkle? I have observed that when a fellow sees a good-looking young woman, he is said to “have a twinkle in his eye” for her. A twinkle is measurement of time. Short, in time, but none-the-less a measurement of a lapse of time. Audio resonance is measured as “the speed of sound”. Likewise, light travels much faster, and its speed is recorded in seconds. Science tells us that light travels 186,000 miles a second. Astronomers measure space distance in terms of light years. That is quite a distance! But a twinkle is even faster!!!! This is a word seldom mentioned in conversation or in literature. It is mentioned in the Holy Bible, only one time. Again, length of time is measured when the writer says “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye”. (I Corinthians 15:52 NKJ). In a moment!

I would like to draw from an experience encountered not only by me but hundreds of other aircrews flying on an 8th Air Force combat mission over enemy territory during the years of 1944-45. Hundreds of bombers are flying in a stately stream of awesome military power heading eastwardly to destroy some military or industrial target in Nazi occupied territory. Our men are organized. The 8th Air Force is divided into units, Divisions, Wings, Bomb Groups, Squadrons, and Elements. This was a beautiful sight to witness then suddenly, the entire scene changes! A gaggle, swarms of enemy fighters at first hidden from view by the sun, attacked a group of about sixty bombers. The six hundred airmen aboard these planes were aware that an attack could possibly happen to them from the enemy at any time. Then it actually does!!!! No matter what was happening a few moments ago, the reality was

that things for them had drastically changed. In a moment, the sky became angry and black with the invasion of enemy airplanes, guns blazing away. From the ground below, flashing flak bursts hurling its penetrating shrapnel pieces flying in a million directions coming up to greet them. In a moment, there was total chaos! Burning and exploding bombers...desperate airmen trying to survive this holocaust are “hitting the silk”. Some are successful in reporting this event, others were not so fortunate and died.

In this case, stealth was the secret of the enemy’s success. “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye” it happened! The enemy was upon them. What happened was inevitable! This was war!!!! This is only the report of one military enemy encounter. This was happening on a world-wide scale on the ground, on the sea, or in the air. In every case, the element of surprise is engaged. This example shows that it can happen on a massive scale or on an individual level. It can happen at any moment to you or me. When we are born (and we have no voice in the matter), then the continuum called “life” ends (again, over which we have no choice). The writer declares in God’s Word that “it is appointed for men to die once but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who wait eagerly for Him, He will appear a second time apart from sin, for salvation.” (Heb. 9:27-28) NKJ.

God is good to us all the time. He is in charge of our beginning moments and “takes over” in our final moments. Time spent “in between” birth and death is all ours, and we determine how to use it. Most, but not all, have invested their lives wisely. They have accepted and received the

love given by a merciful God and caring parents and siblings. Learning and receiving with gratitude did not always come easy, but in “the end” life eventually takes on a meaningful tenor. Relationships develop with friends, classmates, vocational peers and, most importantly, a lifetime lover and mate. That moment when a man and woman make an eternal commitment to become “one flesh” with a common radical pledge of being a mystical union by living together in holy matrimony by loving, comforting, honoring, keeping each other in sickness and illness, for richer or poorer, and forsaking all others to stay together for better or worse, in other words, hang in there regardless.

Life does go on and on and every thought, action, attitude, behavior, reaction, becomes a strand, a part of a mosaic, the fabric of which our lives are made. No strand, added by us to our personal mosaic, can be ignored, enlarged, or subtracted. So then, living our lives a day-at-a-time and adding daily to our mosaic is a part of living. We all have our better days and our not-so-good days, and they are all recorded.

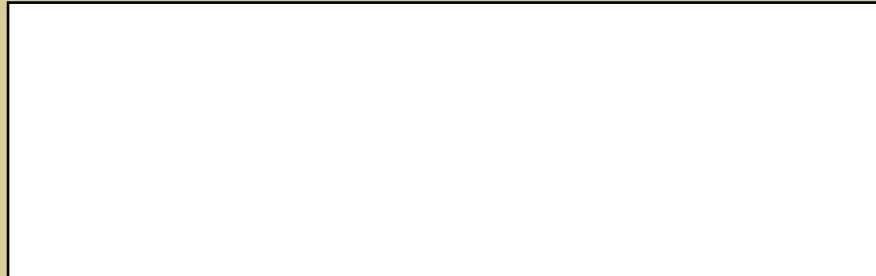
There are gloomy and disparaging times. Likewise, there are times of joy and satisfaction. God and the people are the observers of our mosaic. We are not all alike!!!! Look at the back-side of one’s mosaic, there is no evidence or pattern or plan, only a patchwork and disarray of threads. But, your life is a beautiful mosaic and will be revealed “in the twinkling of an eye”. (I Cor. 15:52 NKJ)



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Trolley Missions map (below) courtesy of Mrs. Edith Gersten,
491st BG, accompanies story from p.25.

