



VOL. 27 NO. 23

STATION 145

RACKHEATH

APO 558

December 1, 2008

FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVENTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY) ASSOCIATION, LTD.

IRC Section 501 © (19) EIN: 39-1592334

Editor/Pub: Ralph Davis, 1143 Kenora Cir., Beavercreek, OH 45430/Phone/Fax(937) 426-2988/E-Mail: mrdavis@zoomtown.com

TOLL FREE NUMBER – 1-877-882-7235 – Report Change of Address, Last Post; and short deadline news items

Webmaster: Bob Davis, 4908 Timberview, Huber Heights, OH 45424 –Phone (937) 237-8413 / E-Mail: whataboutbob@woh.rr.com

467th Home Page: 467bg.com -- Andy Wilkinson 467th Picture Page: <http://www.the467thArchive.org/>

Fred Holdrege 790th Home Page: <http://fred790.tripod.com/welcome.html>

OFFICERS 467th Bombardment Group (H)

Hon. Board Chairman (RIP)	Col. Albert J. Shower	17022 Andrews Circle	Riverside, CA 92518	Phone: (951) 697-2543
President/Treasurer	Marvin Ralph Davis	1143 Kenora Circle	Beavercreek, OH 45430	Phone: (937) 426-2988
Vice-President	Robert A. Davis	4908 Timberview	Huber Heights, OH 45424	Phone: (937) 237-8413
Secretary	Valerie Corvino	242 Molly Dr.	McMurry, PA 15317	Phone: (724) 941-8973
2ADA Vice-President	Walter J. Mundy	15533 Swallow Tail Rd.	Edmond, OK 73013	Phone: (405) 340-1677
Alt 2ADA Vice-President	John E. Stevens	3526 Largo Circle	San Diego, CA 92110	Phone: (619) 222-4639

<u>Directors</u>	<u>Term Limit</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>City & State</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
5 year	4 years	Marvin Ralph Davis	1143 Kenora Circle	Beavercreek, OH 45430	(937) 426-2988
5 year	3 years	Kerry M. Davis	1032 Stanwick Drive	Beavercreek, OH 45430	(937) 431-0545
5 year	5 years	Walter J. Mundy	15533 Swallow Tail Rd	Edmond, OK 73013	(405) 340-1677
3 year	2 years	Anthony V. Bell	853 Jordanalo Dr.	Ripon, CA 95366	(209) 599-3066
3 year	1 years	James R. Gamble	2715 Oak Bluff	San Antonio, Texas 78230	(210) 492-1107
3 year	3 years	Andrew J. Wilkinson	"Sandford"Botley Road	Horton Heath HampshireSO50 7DQ, England	44 2380-692113
3 year	3 years	Robert A. Davis	1817 T Street NW, #2	Washington,DC 20008	(202) 232-423
3 year	3 years	Tom Johnson	5751 Camine Del Tronido	Tucson, AZ 85750	(520) 615-4140

**FROM THE PREZ
CONVENTION 2008**

The Convention in St. Louis was enjoyed by every one attending and a good time was had by all. The free Breakfast and three free drinks during cocktail time was used by all. I noticed that a few used their friend's ticket so most all slots were filled. The meals were all excellent and the rooms and service were exceptional. Liz and Bob did such a fine job that I immediately assigned them the task for 2009. The hospitality room was fine and there was room for our memorabilia, drinks, TV, music and some snacks when Bob remembered. Our dining area had the window view of the Arch.

Thursday, Oct 9 was registration day and as usual was finished with the Welcome Reception.

Friday, Oct 10 we departed the Hotel for the Arch and then we departed the Arch for Cherokee Antique Row, a six block area of antique shops – many categories and

several places to eat lunch on your own. We found a good Irish Pub that the meals were fantastic and very reasonable. Then the Bus went pass the hotel for those who wished to end the tour as the final trip was to. Anheuser-Busch Brewery – home of the famous Clydesdales! And then back to the hotel. Dinner was at the hotel.

Saturday, Oct 11 we depart the hotel for The Lewis and Clark Lock and Dam Cruise. It was a five hour cruise aboard a paddlewheel boat that features a buffet lunch, entertainment by a Dixieland duo, passage through a lock and we were back at the hotel by 4pm. Dinner was at 8:00 pm, a buffet consisting of Chicken Parmigianino and Roast Beef Au Jus with au gratin potatoes, carrots and brownies or cheesecake for dessert. Music was provided for the evening entertainment.

Sunday, Oct 12 was our day for Meetings and/or free time. Lunch was at the hotel unless you are out on your own.

The speaker at the Banquet was MSgt George A. Belsom and he was accompanied by his lovely wife, Christy. The MSgt is the Commandant of the CMSAF Bud Andrews Airman Leadership School (ALS), Scott, Illinois AFB. He covered his and the military commitment to duty. His talk was very interesting and inspiring. The Banquet was at 8:00 pm and the meal choice was either an 8 ounce Filet Mignon or Chicken Florentine (boneless chicken breast stuffed with spinach, mozzarella cheese, grilled Portobello mushrooms and shallots & topped with tomato basil cream sauce with either Cheesecake with Strawberries or Chocolate Suicide Cake. The free bar in the hotel was open from 5:00 to 7:00pm. Dinner both Thurs and Fri was at 7:30pm. As for Saturday and Sunday, the free bar closed at 7:00pm. That is when our bartender shows up in our banquet room. He was there until 11 both nights.

BUSINESS MEETING

PRESENT: RALPH DAVIS, KERRY DAVIS, WALT MUNDY, JIM GAMBLE, BOB DAVIS, ANDY WILKINSON, VALERIE CORVINO

Approximately 30 people present

Director terms up: Walt Mundy – Staying
Andy Wilkinson - Staying
Brian Mahoney – Bob Davis
John Upp – Tom Johnson

Old Business

WALT: 2nd AD reports updated. 8AF Museum has a set back on exhibit as the Design team quit. A new team is now in place and should be

back on track in 6-8weeks and the exhibit should be complete including

'Fighting Sam', interacting exhibits, etc

By the time of our convention in 2009

RALPH: The convention will be in Savanna, GA in 2009

Only 8 people responded to the survey

2 for San Francisco

2 for Las Vegas

4 for Savannah

No one attending objected to the selection.

TOM JOHNSON: Make sure everyone knows it's a final count

RALPH: This is a typical response

RALPH & WALT: Felt the group should go there (Savannah)...our legacy is there...got an opportunity to come together.

RALPH: The tentative date will be October 8 thru October 12, 2009.

RUTH: A beautiful place to go to.

RALPH: We're considering England for our convention in 2010

Show of hands?

OK...majority for England

Plan it as a convention or a trip?

(Discussion on the 2010 convention to England. Majority agreed with an England trip as our convention. Andy, Perry and James offered to help with arrangements. James volunteered to play tour guide. Meeting in Norwich)

ANDY: Late May or Sept usually has good weather and is cheaper

RALPH: Need someone to run it. James, Perry and Andy were looked at as possible help. Decided Sept/Oct 2010 for England and to include the convention.

TOM JOHNSON: 'Oyster Card', a lot of activities, a lot of stairs, London, etc.

JAMES: Volunteered to play tour guide

QUESTION: How long a stay in England?

RALPH: At least a week

WALT: 10 days

No definite number of days was taken, but it will be somewhere between a week and 10 days

Selection of Board Members

Board members are: Walt (5 years), Andy, Bob Davis for Brian, Tom Johnson for John Upp (3 years). The members were asked to vote by a show of hands and all new Board Members were approved.

RALPH: Andy brought up the 467th book and wanted to show appreciation for the work involved. He and the rest of us acknowledged the exceptional work that Vince and his two boys did on the re-make of Healy's book along with the additions added. The book is for sale for \$49.95. Does not have a hard cover – less expensive, large print

Newsletter – number of people on roster...not sure how many are still alive, active, etc. Trying to find out how many members we have. Will put a survey in the next newsletter for E-mail addresses also. Will be sending the newsletter as a PDF on E-mail or through Web Page or both to cuts cost down. Any objections? **NONE**

New Business?

JAY SHOWER: Does the 467th have a special area in the 8th AF museum?

WALT: No

JAY: He has a book and wants to donate his fathers items

WALT: The museum will be delighted

JAY: Has an electric flight suit, boots, etc. How do I contact them?

WALT: Going there in 2 weeks. Will get a contact.

JAY: Have a photo album. Will they display it or put it away?

WALT: You'll need to make it clear what you want them to do with it. There will be a display case by the exhibit.

RALPH: David Hastings advises that funds running low for the Marker and wanted to know if we can do anything as a group. He would like the group to earmark funds to him, to clean up, for lights, for flags, etc. All the markers in England are having the same problem.

ANDY: (Discussed condition of marker / factors). Perhaps it needs looked at, at least once a month.

PERRY: There are a number of industries around marker, maybe out of respect, they might make a donation, funds.

RALPH: Who would ask for help and/or funds?

PERRY: Don't know

JAY to PERRY: How about the boy scouts? Community services?

PERRY: They cannot do the painting and lighting.

RALPH: Perry to check into it. Maybe have David or have him get somebody to check for additional funds or services from the local industries around marker in addition to whatever we as a Bomb Group can do with respect to funds.

KEVIN C: Get a gardener for 1 or 2 times a month

RALPH: Will find out what's involved.

JANICE BATES: Thanks all of those involved in her dad's trip to Rackheath

PERRY: Met up with Brian Mahoney and he sends his best wishes and so does Jill.

JAMES: Thanks to Peter Horne for buying lunch at Malloy's Pub (It was GOOD!!!)

It was decided not to have a Board Meeting of the newly elected Board, so by default, the Officers governing the Bomb Group for the last year will remain the same for the coming year.

RALPH: Adjourn?

Kevin, Walt and Jim – yes

DIRECT COMMUNICATION

The toll free number is **1-877-882-7235**. This can be used for news, last posts, address changes, comments, etc. Thanks for your help.

INTERNET – WEB PAGE OF THE 467th

The 467th has its own domain name, **467bg.com**. Please visit the site and let me or Bob know your comments. We are still updating it and want to get all of the latest information. When you e-mail Bob please use his e-mail address that is in the mast head which is whataboutbob@woh.rr.com.

2 ADA VP – WALTER J. MUNDY

The Group reunion is scheduled to be held in St. Louis, MO October 9th through the 12th. The Group meetings will be held at the Drury Plaza Hotel, 2 South Fourth Street St. Louis MO 63102. The telephone number is 314-231-3003.

The 467th Bomb Group has voted to have the 2009 Reunion at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum and will most probably be the second week of October.

The Fightin' Sam project along with the new improved Second Air Division Exhibit in has suffered a delay, due to the unexpected loss of the project designer. The Museum Staff has taken on the task of reducing the schedule and is making progress. The interactive software has been completed and the integration with the Bomb Sight is progressing. The design of the Second Air Division exhibit will have new graphics and display material and will be a focal point in the Combat Gallery. I will be going to Savannah in August and will have a progress report prior to the Second Air Division Convention in Grapevine, (Dallas) Texas, October 16th to 20th, 2008.

The response to the survey for the Journal Forever has been disappointing. As of June first I have received only sixty five responses. Several members have sent checks and I have returned all of those. Please do not send checks or money at this time. I regret to report that the Journal Forever program will probably have to be one or two issues per year or as the Heritage League is able to do with diminishing membership and donations.

I hope to see you all in October. Meanwhile keep healthy wealthy and Active.

Well known American author visits Rackheath and the 467th

The well-known American author Marjorie Hodgson Parker who wrote the book "David and the Mighty Eighth", which tells the story of how the British youngsters first met the 2nd Air Division USAAF in the War, visited England in October with her husband Joe and daughter Sarah, to visit the places featured in her best-selling book.

Obviously Rackheath and the home of the 467th was one of the high spots of the visit and she was amazed to stand with David Hastings on the site of the superbly restored wartime Control Tower, as well as visiting the Marker, the Coffey Crew Gates, the Private Miney Plaque, the runway and the Church. They also enjoyed supper in the famous "Green Man" pub. Memories indeed of friendships that have lasted forever and will never be forgotten.

As well as visiting Rackheath, she sailed on the Norfolk Broads, saw Horsham St. Faith and Hethel airfields, spent a morning in the 2nd Air Division Memorial library and was interviewed by the BBC Radio Norfolk for thirty minutes.

The Lord Mayor of Norwich formally welcomed her and the family and they enjoyed Evensong in Norwich Cathedral. She was also the Guest of Honour at Norwich School for the Annual Trafalgar Day Service in the Cathedral, before touring the School featured in the book and then addressing over 100 students in two groups. Later she also toured Wymondham College and had tea with Lady Ralphs.

For both Marjorie and her family as well as Jean and David Hastings this visit was quite unbelievable and has left so many memories.



The Parker family outside the Rackheath Control Tower

WARTIME CONTROL TOWER RECEIVES TOP AWARD

The wartime 467th Bomb Group Control Tower at Rackheath airfield has been awarded the top Broadland Commercial property Enhancement Award for 2008 by Broadland District Council. The Award was made on Monday 8th September at the Tower, when in front of a large number of invited guests, Nick Hovey, the Managing Director of Tilia Properties Ltd, received the award for their outstanding work in restoring this famous Control Tower

and a vital piece of Broadland history from the Chairman of the Council.

NEWS FROM STATION 145

This has been a hectic year with new walls being built around your lovely Marker, the granite chippings replaced and the shrubs cut back. Also new floodlights have been installed. Additional pictures have been placed in the 467th Room at the Church and the new Coffey Crew Gates are much admired. The restored Control Tower has caused much interest to the many visitors we have had and we cannot thank Will Minns and his team enough for all their support. One big loss is that Jill Hollis-Graves has had to leave Tilia Properties due to ill health - we will miss her greatly.

The visit of the American author Marjorie Parker (see separate article) to the old base was deeply appreciated by the Village and she was impressed by the way your history has been preserved.

Another huge talking point is the announcement by the Government that Rackheath has been chosen as a site for one of their new Ecotowns. The Developer asked to see me to discuss the history of the airfield and we had a useful meeting. We have another meeting planned in 3 weeks time when I will receive all the documents and they are going to use me as their link with the 467th and field history. I also attended the Public meetings at the School, held over two days and they were packed out as this plan has caused huge concern as the development will totally change the character of Rackheath. I did raise the point that the proposed new town will cover the entire airfield site and if we are not careful all traces of the wartime airfield will vanish. They are proposing over 5000 new houses, plus light industry, a lake and Wind turbines. They agree that they will continue the policy of naming the roads after one American and one British name, and perhaps they will leave the main runway as a reminder of our wartime history. I had hoped that in view of the current economic climate that the development might be slowed, but yesterday the Government announced that the Rackheath site was their No.1.

Finally, we need your help on the long term care of your Marker and artifacts. The initial fund that you set-up in 1990 is now almost exhausted and we await your advice.

This Sunday is Remembrance Sunday in England when we remember all those who died in the Wars. Once again the 2nd Air Division Association will lay a Wreath during the service and I will have the pleasure of escorting John Lee in the ceremony. After the Cathedral service we will have the pleasure of giving all six of the 2nd Air Division Association party lunch at our house which will be fun.

With all our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. You will never be forgotten.

Yours,

Jean and David Hastings

Base Contacts and Honorary member 467thBG.

LETTER FROM PERRY WATTS

Dear Ralph, Committee Officers, Group Veterans, Family Members and Friends -

Firstly I must write and mention that both James and I greatly enjoyed the Group reunion at St. Louis in early October and meeting up with many old friends. It was, as always, a very well organized function and our thanks to all who were involved with the preparations. It was really good to take a trip up the St. Louis Arch again and must say how enjoyable the 5 hour cruise on the Mississippi aboard a paddlewheel boat was.

Now regarding news relating to the Rackheath area. Sad to mention that The Rev. Martin Benians passed away on October 12th. Martin was a good family friend and Priest for the Salhouse and Rackheath areas for about 25 years until he retired in 1989, and probably some of you may remember him when you visited England with the Group visits in the past years.

During the week-end 15-16 November Loretta Brennan-Harding and Joe Brennan, daughter and son of Terrance P. Brennan - veteran of the 789th and 791st Squadrons, will be visiting the area and it will be a great pleasure to show them around the remaining sites on the former airfield at Rackheath and also the surrounding local areas - they have written informing me that they certainly would like to visit the 'Blue Boar' and 'Green Man'. Will write about that visit in the next journal 28-1

Before the next (April 2009) journal is published we will have our good friend Tom Johnson (son of veteran Doc Dean Johnson) visit and stay with us for a few days in late March, and hopefully we will have our good friend Andy (Wilkinson) visit at the same time. Again will write more about that in the journal 28-2 (August 2009).

It would appear that our current British Government is adamant on building eco-towns in various rural areas in England, I prefer not to make any personal comment on such plans, but Rackheath has been selected as an ideal place for such and the proposal is that a total of 3,400 houses be built on what was the former flying field side of the old base and should the proposal go ahead building will probably commence around the end of the year 2010 - however, in the local November 6th edition of the 'Eastern Daily Press' it is mentioned that the eco-town at Rackheath may triple to 10,000 houses by post 2026.

I have received requests from two families residing in Norwich to assist them in tracing 467th Group Veteran friends who they lost touch with several years ago, unfortunately I am unable to find any reference to them on the records that I hold, but a Mr and Mrs Curtis of Norwich are trying to trace a Robert (or Bob) Cotton who came from Chicago - and it has been established that Bob linked up with a veteran by the name of Frank Priddle (or Pridell) which may be helpful. Also Mr. and Mrs. Woods are attempting to trace a Louis Cruz (Louis also used the name of Tony). Any information on or about Robert Cotton or Louis Cruz would be appreciated and could be sent to the President of the 467th Group Association, namely Mr. Ralph Davis who would then forward it on to me.

Finally Jill, James and I wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Best wishes - Perry Watts (Base Contact and Distinguished Member of the 467th Group Veterans Association)

MEMORIAL FUND

There were 25 contributions to the mail fund this period which totaled \$1,458.00, approximately \$63.39 per donation. Your generosity again was outstanding and as always, is deeply appreciated. Still, 25 number is only 0.02% of the membership. If you enjoy the newsletter, please help support it. Again there were some new contributions this time from members other than the usual that contribute all the time. Any amount is deeply appreciated. We welcome your support. Contributors for this issue were as follows:

Abernathy, Joe	Mastandrea, Phillip
Alexander, Jr., Ed	Prichard, Lyle
Benning, Karen	Pugh "Puff", Floyd
Corvino, Valerie	Rainwater, Lynn
Cox, Charles	Ruby, Reva (Clare)
Davis, Marvin Ralph	Schutta, Len
Epting, Carl	Speiser, Marvin
Green, Anne (Frank)	Sprague, Robert
Gregory, Terry (Geoff)	Stevens, Jack
Hallman, Jack	Watts, James
Holmes, Capers	Watts, Perry
Johnson, Frank	Edwards, Robert L.
Lemmen, Henry P.	

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Lucille Sefca Enclosed is the Obituary of Tony Catalano. I believe he was with the 467th at one time. I know Milan talked about him. Not sure if he ever made any of the reunions.

Editor's Note Yes Lucille, Tony was a member of our Bomb Group Association. I thank you for informing us of his passing.

Marilyn H. Gardner This is to let you know my sweet husband died Sept. 21, 2008. He received full military honors at his graveside service at Jerusalem Hill, Elmira, NY. He was always proud that he could serve his country, and enjoyed his connection with other servicemen in your publication. Enclosed is an Obituary mentioning his membership in the 467th. We met a few of his comrades in Savannah and Kissimmee some years ago, thanks to the information you provided in Poop from Group. We were also able to visit the museum in Savannah when it was new. All those experiences were very important to him. We've had contact with Fred Holdrege, who faithfully called Del every Christmas season. He was so touched that his Commander still cared so much to check on his men. I'll call Fred soon. Thank you for keeping the troops together! (40 year wife of Delbert R.)

Editor's Note Yes Marilyn, I too think it is a one of a kind man that has for the past years contacted all of his men that he could. Fred's that one of a kind!

Karen Benning The enclosed donation is in memory of my father, John C. Benning, who passed away in 1990. My mother has continued to read and enjoy the newsletter, but is now in assisted living and unable to read it any longer. I would appreciate it if you would keep me on your mailing list at the above address. Great Publication, by the way!

Len Schutta Hello Ralph! Since you are the treasurer of our Group, I have enclosed a check towards the cost of publishing the "Poop from Group". Wishing you and yours the best

Reva Walters Enclosed please find a donation as a contribution to Poop from Group. I am Reva Ruby, widow of Clare F. Ruby. I have remarried. Clare died in 2002.

Editor's Note Reva, I have always believed that someone happy in their marriage will continue to look for happiness through another marriage.

Carl E. Epting The latest issue of "Poop" came today and, as usual, was full of such great reading. I especially appreciated the additional tributes to Geoff Gregory. As you probably know, Geoff flew as my bombardier on most of our 35 combat missions (excepting only those when bombardiers were replaced by a toggle-ier) for many wing crews. I had learned just a few years ago, when he and Terry stopped off in Daytona Beach for a visit, that he had been recalled during the Korean conflict and flew additional missions as an active bombardier. I understand his record as such was quite commendable.

Since his passing, I have been in touch several times with Terry and learned from her that quite a number of contributions in his memory have been received and those funds are being given to the Memorial Library in Norwich and that a quite an impressive reception desk was being designed and built and when complete would be installed as a memorial to the tremendous work he did over the years for the library as well as the mountain of other work he spearheaded for both the 467th BG Assn. and the second Air Division Assoc. I am indeed proud to have had him as a friend and crew member. On the subject of contributions to assist with the cost of publishing the "Poop", I must confess that my memory once again failed me and I apparently did not send anything after receiving the last issue. My sincerest apologies for this oversight. A small check is enclosed and I trust that my memory will not let me down again. The upcoming 2008 convention in St. Louis truly sounds like a winner and I only wish that my wife and I could be there, but long-distance travel (even flying) has unfortunately been dropped from our activities list. We are still driving, but generally limited to the local area – grocery shopping, lab and doctor's appointments, church services and meals out a few times a week at our favorite, but close-by, eating places. Regrettable, but necessary as the aging process continues. Every good wish for a well attended and fully successful event. I will be there in spirit, even if not in person.

Lyle & Irene Prichard I was

Supposed to send it last Poop from Group, but forgot. Must be we are getting a wee bit older! Lyle can walk, but doesn't have all his strength back and cannot travel far. We are so sorry to miss this reunion. My two nieces are too. They love them. Hello to Doris.

Evelyn Davidson Robert passed away May 10, 2008. He enjoyed the 467th Group Reunions. We attended many reunions. Bob was proud of the 3 years (age 18 – age 21) that he served our country as a tail gunner on a B-24 piloted by Joe Cravens. He flew 30 missions over Germany and Belgium. He was stationed at Rackheath. He stayed in touch with many in his crew. We correspond

with James Kirkland and his wife Jennie. Also with Bill Eastland and Helen. We also visited Joe Cravens and his wife Juanita. Bob was 83 years old and we would have been married 6+0 years on June 26, 2008. I miss him so much and will always miss him. Our 3 daughters and 2 sons miss him also. They were very special to Bob. I enjoy the 467th newsletter. Bob always looked forward to reading about the Group

Joe L. Abernathy I have been told you are getting old when the days are too long and the months are too short. Or when you knew more people that died recently than you now know. I am not too old to enjoy Poop from Group and the last Saturday of February Brunch in Anaheim, CA. P.S. It is useless to hold a person to any thing they say while in love, drunk or running for Office (by unknown)

OBITUARIES, PAST AND PRESENT

Razzano, Anthony F (Anthony's Obituary was somehow miss placed and only just recovered, my apologies)
MARMORA, N.J. – Anthony F. Razzano died Monday, May 10, 2004 at Somers Point, N.J. Shore Memorial Hospital. Born in Watervliet on June 24, 1923, he was the son of the late Vincent and Mary DeRossa Razzano. Mr Razzano was a graduate of Watervliet High School and was the band leader while in High School. He took several courses at Union College in Schenectady. He was an Army veteran of World War II serving as a Sergeant and was an Areal Gunner in the Army Air Corps 467th Bombardment Group. He is survived by his wife, Marie Prouty Razzano, six sons and one daughter, 16 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. The members of the 467th belatedly send their sympathy to the family.

Severance, Jr., Joseph Died Friday, November 30, 2007 at Jefferson Place. A native of Louisville, Kentucky, he was the son of the Reverend Joseph Severance and Martha halberd severance. After graduation from Louisville Male High School, he attended Marion Military Institute in Marion, AL and the University of Louisville. Having joined the military shortly thereafter, he received his wings in October 1941. he served over 21 years in the Air Force from which he retired with the rank of lieutenant Colonel. Numerous medals were received, one of which was the Distinguish Flying Cross. He belonged to several military organizations. He was survived by his wife, Lucille, several nieces and nephews all of Louisville.

Delbert R Gardner Devoted husband, father, and grandfather, and child of God, departed this life of 85 on September 21, 2008, to be with his savior. Born in Wooster, Ohio in 1923, Delbert severed his country in World War II as a member of the U. S. Eighth Air Force, 790th Bomb Squadron, 467th Bombardment Group (Heavy) from 1941-45. He put the GI Bill to good use, earning his AB and MA in English from Syracuse University, followed by a PhD in English from the University of Rochester. Del did teaching for 21 years at various schools and then he turned his creative talents to writing, editing and developing educational materials and training literature for the U.S. Army, earning the Civil Service rank of GS-11 as a writer-editor/training specialist. He served in this

capacity at both Ft. Knox and Ft. Eustis for 14 years and merited a number of Sustained Superior Performance Awards. Del loved his family dearly. In many ways, this love has been the central theme of his life. From parents, brothers and sister it extended into his marriage to Marilyn Elaine Hegarty which was a match made in Heaven, a sentiment that he expressed every day and in numerous ways, including poems and stories. Del's great love for his family and love of life itself are strongly felt and will be carried on by all who survive him.

Anthony Catalfano Died Monday, July 14, 2008 at the age of 94. he was a veteran of World War II and served with the United States Army Air Corps in the European Theater of Operations of which he served with the 467th Bombardment Group. He received the Distinguish Flying Cross and the Air Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters. Flew 50 missions as a radio man on B-24 aircraft from the oil fields of Ploesti to D Day and Berlin. Tony was a liquor salesman and later an automobile salesman for Fiermonte Chevrolet. He is survived by a sister, Grace Guter of Auburn, and several nieces and nephews.

"PRACTICE DISASTER" by Ed King, crew commander
Crew#46, 789th Bomb Squadron. Provided by Andy Wilkinson in memory of Ed King.

And was it the "Massillon Tiger" that we took out on that disastrous practice mission one sunny day, when a sudden and vicious winter storm swept in over the British Isles and northern Europe like an express train? The practice mission having been called back, our formation headed out over the North Sea, looking for a way down through the solid cloud mass which was engulfing us. We were in the last squadron to turn and head down through the clouds, partly within a small "canyon" of clear space within that otherwise solid undercast. We broke out of the clouds a few hundred feet above the water, but as we proceeded toward the east coast of England, the cloud ceiling pushed us lower and lower, closer and closer to that icy water.

Laval Beniot, our radio operator (God rest his Soul) was plumbing our height above the water by measuring out the trailing radio antenna until he got a voltage drop! The cloud mass was now right on top of us, and we appeared to be no more than 75 feet over the water when I decided that disaster was surely waiting for us just ahead and I opted to peel out of the formation and start climbing up into the cloud mass as we neared London.

We climbed up and agonizingly up and around in that solid overcast until we finally broke out on top at about 22,000 feet! That climb on instruments proved to be the worst ordeal of my short flying career. (I had at one point in that long climb suffered a complete loss of orientation, hope, and faith in my instruments, so that I was ready to just let go and let the plane take us into the North Sea (or whatever was under us); but Tom Elsen's (copilot) encouraging voice got through to me and made me take hold again and come back fighting.

Once on top, we flew for hours, up and down the east coast of England - - figuring that if we could not eventually find a clearing to come down for a visual landing, we would fly inland a way when the gas got low, let the crew bail out,

and then head the ship out over the North Sea before we hit the silk. Meanwhile, we hoped that our IFF was sending out the right signal so that English ACK ACK would not start trying to bring us down!

We were in radio contact with the base, asking if there was ANY field open ANYWHERE IN EUROPE where we would have a chance of landing: but there was NO place open. That winter storm had socked in all of northwest Europe! So we flew and flew, periodically measuring our gas, and every eye on board straining to find a hole in that cotton mattress beneath us. Finally one of the waist gunners screamed "I see a light on the ground! A light on the ground!", and having found the hole, I upended the "Massillon Tiger" and we spiraled down through that skinny little chimney until we broke out several hundred feet above the ground, practically on top of RACKHEATH! What a Navigator Ed Gore was! (But we wouldn't have cared if we were over Germany!)

But we still had three significant problems: (1) The windows and windshield had iced up so badly on that trip down the chimney that I could not see through the windshield well enough to be sure I could land; (2) Either our gas was about gone, or the carburetors were iced up so much that the engines were having trouble digesting the gasoline - - splutter, sputter; and (3) Rackheath field had a solid, thick blanket of snow covering everything: there were no runways visible!

(1) I slid open the side window beside my seat and reached out and around the windshield in front of me - - a wrench in my hand - - and chopped a small, 50c piece hole in the ice in front of me, but big enough (and soon enough so that my frozen hand did not drop off!). (2) & (3) We prayed for the engines not to quit, and advised the Tower that we were in serious trouble and had to have the lights turned on so we could find a runway PDQ.

(3) The Tower operator flicked a switch, and lo and behold we could see ONE, PARTIAL string of runway lights shining mistily through a snow cover, on ONE side of a runway. "Which side of the runway are those lights on?" we asked. "I don't know. They are still out there shoveling and I don't have any contact with them or anyone to find out." "Curses" (or something like that) we said; FIND OUT before we run out of gas!" He said he was leaving the Tower: don't panic; he would go out and find out and call us back.

A heckuva long time and a few engine coughs later, having lost all human contact with the outside world, I decided that we had better GO FOR IT! I bet our lives that the few runway lights were on the left side of the runway, and we went in. As I neared the depthless white sheet and began to flair out, my 50c hole rose up and looked at the black sky! The lights had passed from view, and the rudders were getting very mushy, and I rode the hell out of them, PRAYING that it would not be a crash landing from 30 feet in the air!

And then softly, gently, the nose came down and we realized that we were ON THE RUNWAY and rolling it out! The softest, smoothest landing I ever made in my life! (A few hours earlier, I wouldn't have bet a nickel on her survival (the "Massillon Tiger") - - or ours!)

Ed King

Another Letter from America

As Geoffrey Gregory so apply stated, "tempus is fugiting and perhaps now is America's time to say farewell to what once was our beloved Rackheath. We of the 467th decided to make one additional trip to Rackheath and the Norwich area in 2010 per our Business Meeting at our Convention in St. Louis this year. According to the Eastern Daily Press Monday, October 20, 2008 issue, there may no longer be a Rackheath. Maybe we should consider a stateside city. The Eco Town Proposals as stated are "sensible and deliverable". The name Eco Town is apropos as throughout that area you can hear the echo of the voices of the thousands of men of the 467th. It all started on the 12th of March, 1943 when ground and air crews arrived at Rackheath. Colonel Shower in his commanding tone giving directive orders to his staff and crews. The pleasant voice of Colonel Creager as he administered the ground affairs of the auxiliary units as head of the 375th Air Service Group. Colonel Walker, the Executive Officer taking care of Housekeeping affairs and all the personnel problems. There was also other Executive officers, Lieutenant Colonels Herzberg and Mahoney. And who can forget Lieutenant Colonel Walter R. Smith who was the Operations Officer, who ran everything, and ran it well. Many of these officers flew combat as well as Little Pete, the Colonel's P-47. There was always something going on at the Squadron level including Wallace, Salzarulo, Rider, Carter, Holdrege, and Mahoney. Can you hear the trucks moving the bombs to the aircraft and then the trucks taking the crews out to their aircraft. If you ask David Hastings, Perry Watts, Bob Lomax or Andy Wilkinson, they would tell you the echoes are all around Rackheath. Even the late Leslie Willis would agree. If England, as a staunch advisory, had not stood up to the Germans in the early years, there never would have been a Rackheath for us Yanks. These echoes are all around you, all but the lost voices of 235 boys, no men who never returned to Rackheath or the country they loved. Other echoes might be from Ralph Elliott, Bob Sheehan, Dave Swearingen or Blackie Dunnam. The echo of the many bicycles on their way to the Green Man, Norwich or the surrounding area. Then will you ever forget the echoes of those Pratt & Whitney engines on our B-24's taking off for another mission. All these echoes could be preserved for our children and children's children to visit and see where their father or grandfather made history by exposing himself to danger to preserve our countries for future generations. It is only a piece of the runway, but every inch of that concrete is dear to me. I have always been proud of the English as they seem to preserve history. The Memorial Library is nice, but it is not the past that the members of the 467th want to leave and have for future generations. There is not that much left of Rackheath, but what is left is near and dear to every man women and child associated with the 467th Bombardment Group (Heavy). To all our English friends, we will never forget you as we know, you will never forget us. God Bless England and God Bless the United States of America. Do you hear the echoes? It's your decision Norfolk! I'm sure you will make the right one.

Marvin R. Davis, PhD
President

FROM THE RECTORY

One Spring Morning

On a Tuesday, being a day off, there's usually more time for a longer walk with Joe, the Rectory hound. So with coats for Joe and myself, we're both getting on a bit you understand, we stride off towards the industrial estates. Of course Joe has to leave his mark on the Rectory hedge as we go pass, to let other sniffing dogs know that he lives here; and has politely return the barks of other hounds as we proceed up the lane. We dive into the footpath which leads us past builders of yachts and larger craft, sellers of garden sundries and an omnibus depot; our noses assailed by pungent smells of resin, paint and hot machine oil.

Our path changes from concrete to grass and we turn through a gap in the hedge. There before us is the perfectly restored control tower of Rackheath Air Base, home of the 467th Bombardment Group (Heavy), during the last years of the Second World War. It rests in the early morning sun, its walls now painted a light green, its rooftop viewpoint still waiting for some anxious officer, hoping against hope, for his men to safely return, like gnats on the distant flat Norfolk horizon. For this is a place of memories.

We skirt the edge of the field, already the birds are starting to practice for Spring proper. Coming in low towards us is a single plane, low in the sky, with high wings and twin turbo-props, the regular shuttle from Holland, lifting one wing as it lines up for the final approach to Norwich Airport. We stand and watch, thinking of the other planes which flew past this tower, 5538 of them, crewed by men from Chappaqua, Madison, Pawtucket, Caracas, Piqua and elsewhere.

Joe and I continue our walk, reaching the remains of the concrete main runway; it stretches away into the distance. It's not difficult to stand there and think of those men, packed into their Liberators, with tons of high explosive below their feet, as thirty tons of men, machine and bombs struggled into the air and turned towards the rising sun, 235 never returned to this quiet Norfolk field, now the birds of the countryside sing them a requiem as the sun rises and the haze clears. This is a place of lasting memories.

Those memories were made over sixty years ago; soon we'll be thinking of just one brave man, a man who 2,000 years ago challenged the evil and wrong of the world. Jesus Christ gave his life working for what is good and right, he loved the unloved, cared for those who were suffering and told us to be like children before we enter into God's Kingdom. His was a life of love, compassion and humility. Then one Spring morning he walked out towards the rising sun, dragging his cross. He gave his life to give us ours, and he waits for us to follow after him. This Easter and every Sunday we retell the story of Jesus Christ, God's Son on earth, please join us as we journey together.

Take care, God Bless, love Richard

Editor's Note I received this too late for the Spring issue, but with the birth of Christ coming up, I'm sure all will agree, it is timely. I especially refer to his comments concerning the men and machines of the 467th Bombardment Group and our precious Rackheath.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Currently, the balance is \$15,604.24 and there are no checks outstanding. There are some costs that were paid for Visa items that were bought for the convention and this amount will be entered into this account as soon as all costs are known.

Cost of POOP 27-2

Printing	\$ 465.00
Mailer Fee	\$ 265.00
Secretary Fee	\$ 350.00
Foreign Mail	\$ 64.00
Return to Sender Fee	\$ 33.85
TOTAL	\$ 1,177.85

POST EXCHANGE

Current Membership Roster

(Alpha & Zip available) \$3.00 ea, including shipping.

Addendum & Errata Book & Group Roster

Addendum & Errata Book: \$5.00 including shipping

Group Roster: \$7.00 including shipping

Both for \$10.00 including shipping

GROUP WINDOW DECAL \$3.00 ea + \$0.75 shipping

GROUP & SQUADRON PINS

Out of Stock. Will be ordering more 467th pins only.

467th LAPEL PIN - 3/4 inch size

Out of Stock. Will be ordering more.

467th LIBERAMUS INSIGNIA BALL CAP (White)(available)

\$10.00 plus \$2.00 package and post

WHITE POLO SHIRT WITH EMBLEM & BG NAME

Sizes L, XL & XXL Shirt given at 2007 Convention

\$12.00 plus \$3.50 package & post.

FLIGHT BEAR WITH WHITE SCARF & RED LETTERS

\$10.00 per Bear plus \$3.50 package & post.

LIBERAMUS CAR or REFRIGERATOR MAGNETS

Car Magnet ea \$3.00 plus \$0.75 package and post

Refrigerator Magnet ea \$1.50 plus \$0.75 package and post.

467th TAIL & ROUND TUIT

\$0.65 for two plus \$0.75 package and post

467th GROUP COIN (Started with the 2003 Convention)

\$3.50 plus \$0.75 package and post

467th BG Ball Pens

Standard Pen \$1.00 + \$0.75 S & H

Deluxe Pen \$2.50 + \$0.75 S & H

2nd or more pens at 1/2 price + \$0.75 S & H extra.

467th Calculator \$2.50 + \$1.00 S & H

Reprint of Healy's Book - \$49.50 plus \$5.00 shipping.

ALL OF THE ABOVE AVAILABLE THROUGH:

Ralph Davis

1143 Kenora Circle

Beavercreek, Ohio 45430-1101

(937) 426-2988

GROUP & SQUADRON PATCHES:

467th

791st 790th

789th 788th

\$ 5.00 ea. plus \$0.75 package and post.

All 5 patch set (less 470th), \$20.00 plus \$0.75 package and post

Package and post is \$0.75 for up to five patches.

PATCHES AVAILABLE THROUGH:

Paul V. Hatten

4209 Ormston Circle,

Rock Hill, SC 29732

(803) 980-6529

LAST POST

NAME	CITY	STATE
ADKINS, CHARLES S.	NAPA	CA
BALLARD, JAMES F.	PHOENIX	AZ
BULLEN, WALTER "JACK"	NORTH CHILI	NY
DAVIDSON, ROBERT C.	INDIANAPOLIS	IN
HUBEN, JOSEPH J.	CARMEL	NY
KING, EDWARD W.	ITHACA	NY
KOHUT, FRANK A.	CHANDLER	AZ
WINGER, ROBERT M.		

LOST SOULS

NAME	CITY	STATE
HOBKIRK, GEORGE D.	KISSIMMEE	FL
LAW, GORDON F.	ARLINGTON	VA
MANN, DELBERT	PASADENA	CA
PALMER, IVAN	RACKHEATH ENGLAND	
SMITH, CRAIG MATT	WOODBIDGE	VA
STEELE, LAGRAN G.	ABERDEEN	NC
VAN ZANDT, HAROLD L.	LARGO	FL
WITT, MERRICK K.	CHARLOTTE	NC

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE 467th MARKER TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2008.

We are glad to report another very busy year, but also sadly some major expenses which has depleted the reserves. In the 467th Room inside the Church we have added 12 more pictures to the collection as well as the two superb plaques donated by Andy DeBiasse and the whole display looks very good. Sadly our Vicar, the Reverend Richard Sutton has just retired and we will miss him.

The 467th seat beside the Village sign is now looked after by the Parish Council and is in good repair. The Bronze plaque is kept clean and we have corrected the B.24 Tail colours on the Village Sign.

The Marker itself looks superb with the new brickwork and the silver lettering. Thanks to Robert Lomax the flagpoles have been repainted. The fault with the lights has at last been found and again thanks to Robert they are now working with a new unit installed at the front. The bushes have been cut back at the rear and Jill Hollis-Graves from Tilia Properties has kindly joined the small team that keeps your Marker clean and tidy. Her support is deeply appreciated.

The Private Miney Plaque is as always well looked after by that great team at Contact Electrical and is looking smart.

In the T4 hangar owned by Solus we have given them pictures of "Witchcraft" and in Mahoney Green we have presented to Dynarod, one of the leading firms on that road, with pictures of James Mahoney for display in their reception area.

Working with Broadland District Council we now have the following roads in Rackheath named in your honour. Wendover Road, Albert Shower Road, Liberator Close, Witchcraft Way and Mahoney Green. We have some names in reserve ready for any new roads when they are built. We have also worked with the Council to keep the signs in good repair as well as asking them to prevent the parking of cars in front of the Marker. We are also pleased to see that two firms on the estate have used 467th names

for their buildings, i.e. Libramus House and Liberator House. The Trustees are also giving film shows on the 467th as required and these are always well attended.

Finally, as you can see from the Financial Report below, we are becoming concerned for the future of all your artifacts. Also most of the team of willing helpers are now in their Seventies. In the long term in order to ensure these artifacts are always well maintained it might be best if they were all looked after by the Parish Council, but this would need a sizeable endowment fund before the Council could consider such action. As always we are indebted to the local people who have donated flags, paint, halliards, cleaning materials and their time to ensure that you will never be forgotten and your artifacts well looked after.

MARKER FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2008.

Current Account.		Reserve Account	
Opening Balance	£337.84	Opening Balance	£1126.77
Income	nil	Interest	£31.40
28/2/08 from Reserve	£300.00	28/2/08 To Current Account	- £300.00
20/8/08 from Reserve	£200.00	20/8/08 To Current Account	- £200.00
TOTALS	£837.84		£658.17
Expenditure			
28/2/08 New brickwork	£291.40		
20/8/08 Floodlights Repairs	£376.98		
CLOSING BALANCE	£169.46	CLOSING BALANCE	£658.17

TOTAL VALUE OF FUND REMAINING. £827.63
Trustees: D. Hastings, R. Lomax & R. Hastings.

467TH MARKER SUPPORT

I have already heard from some members offering donations to support the Marker. I would like to hear from more of you as to how much you can donate. If the Eco Town proposal becomes a reality, the only things the 467th will have to remember will be the tower, the Coffey Crew Gates, the Road Signs, the T4 Hanger, the bench and the aircraft tail colors. Of course, we will always have the Green Man. I would like to know how much would be needed for the Parish Council to take over the Marker. I imagine that it will take a sizeable fund before the Parish Council agrees to take the project over. Send your donations to the 467th BG and write in the memo that it is for the Marker.

POST EXCHANGE

I have an updated list for the items that are still available in the Post Exchange. I intend to order more 467th pins and lapel pins, but not more of the Squadron Pins. I have to order in 100 quantities and there is not enough demand for the Squadron Pins. If I locate small quantities, I will let you know. I do have a couple of 790th Squadron Pins and I have an order that will take those.

Doris and I wish everyone a most Merry Christmas and the greatest of New Year for health, happiness and wealth. God Bless you all and many thanks for the numerous well wishes for my wife, Doris.

POOP FROM GROUP
467th BOMB GROUP (HEAVY)
1143 KENORA CIRCLE
BEAVERCREEK, OH 45430-1101

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DAYTON, OH
PERMIT NO. 966



FRANK S. WATSON
261 HAPPY TRL S
LAS CRUCES NM 88005-8232



**467TH BG CONVENTION – OCTOBER 9-13 2008
ST. LOUIS, MO**



Back Row: F Dudley, J Gamble, W Noden, J Thompson, R Betcher, J Zbikowski, G Kenagy
Front Row: N Felbinger, B Samuel, W Mundy, A Stuart, J Sherrard, R Davis, J Horne