

VOL. 30 NO. 1

STATION 145

RACKHEATH

APO 558

JULY 1, 2012

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

IRC Section 501 C (19)

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467th Home Page: 467thbg.com -- Andy Wilkinson 467th Picture Page: the467thArchive.org

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

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3 year	3 years	Jay Shower	1945 N. Marshall Ave#102	El Cajon, CA 92020	
3 year	2 years	Jim Gamble	2715 Oak Bluff	San Antonio, TX 78230	Phone: (210)492-1107
3 year	1 year	Andrew J. Wilkinson	"Sandford" Botley Road	Horton Heath Hampshire SO507 DQ, England	44 2380-692113
3 year	1 year	Robert A. Davis	4908 Timberview Drive	Dayton, OH 45424	Phone: (937)237-8413
3 year	1 year	Tom Johnson	4120 Sweetwater Drive	San Leandro, Ca 94578	Phone: (510)895-1892

FROM THE V.P.

There is going to be a group reunion this year. The dates are **Oct. 4 through the 8th**. It will be held here in Dayton and this will be the last official group reunion that we will be having and I hope to see everyone once again. During the reunion we will have to decide what will become of the Association, it has been talked about turning over what we have left to the Heritage League, but that will be one of the topics.

It is with regret that this is happening, but there are not enough funds coming in any more to keep everything up, especially putting out POOP, it costs almost \$1,000 each time it goes out and that would deplete the funds in just over a year. I would like to get with some of the members and just put out an email edition a couple of times a year.

There has been a lot going on this year and I believe that the donation of our Memorial Marker in Rackheath to the Rackheath Village Parish Council via The 467th B. G. Rackheath Memorial Marker Trust. This will ensure that the Marker is well taken care of after the Group has dissolved. The group donated \$6,500 to the Marker Trust, Brian Mahoney donated to the Marker Trust in honor of our UK stalwarts, Polly Mahoney donated to the Marker Trust in honor of her husband James J. Mahoney, Thomas Johnson donated to the Marker Trust in honor of his Father Dean H. Johnson, Terry Gregory donated in honor of Geff Gregory. As of this time I do not have an address to give you if you would like to make a donation. If you would like to you can send the donation to me,

marked for the Marker Trust and I will see that it gets to them.

Meeting In The UK For Marker Donation:

Andy Wilkinson, Perry Watts and I met David Hastings and his lovely wife Jean at The Green Man for lunch around noon time on Tuesday, 27 Sept. I requested Jean's company at the lunch meeting because of all her efforts in the upkeep and maintenance of our Memorial Marker over the past 21 years AND I had never had the pleasure of meeting her before.

After introductions and ordering lunch and drinks, I formally presented David Hastings, Chief Trustee of the 467th BG (H) Rackheath Memorial Marker Trust with Brian's Letter of Intent and Conveyance and 467th BG (H) check in the amount of \$8,600.00. Also presented to him were the two (2) American flags and one (1) UK flag. In return, David gave me a copy of the Deed Conveyance, dated 02 August 1990, for the plot of land where our Memorial Marker is placed.

Our meeting with the Hastings at The Green Man could not have been more successful. David and Jean were very pleased that, finally after several years of non-activity, the future status of the Memorial Marker appeared to be moving forward and in the right direction.

After lunch, David and Jean invited Andy, Perry and myself for tea at their lovely home on Thieve's Lane. We were given a grand tour of the grounds, including his Spitfire model. Amazing! During tea, we viewed the Dzenowagis Family film of the November 2001 2nd Air Division Reunion in Norwich. The Hastings's hospitality was warm and heartfelt and, most definitely, appreciated. They accompanied us out to our vehicles as we said goodbye..."a good time was had by all".

NEWS FROM STATION 145:

Another busy year in our battle to prevent the old airfield being covered in concrete instead of producing valuable food. Perry and I enjoyed the visit from Tom Johnson and Andy Wilkinson to try and sort out the delays in protecting your beautiful Marker and your kind donation is deeply

appreciated. We now hope that you can complete the paperwork within the next few weeks.

The Rackheath Youth Council have worked wonders on part of the old site and we were all amazed to see over 400 people turn up on the Open Day - just shows the interest. Recently I spent an enjoyable day at the Rackheath Primary School talking to them about what it was like to be at school in the War as well as showing them the 467th film "A Village Remembers" and they are a super group of youngsters.

Everyone is now getting ready to support the 20th Anniversary of the epic B-24 Liberator "Diamond Lil" flight across the Atlantic and we hope to have a "Diamond Lil" evening in the village hall.

We will never forget you.
David and Jean Hastings

Dear Ralph, Committee Officers, Veterans, Family Members and Friends:

Firstly, it is really important to mention the future of the 467th Memorial Marker on the former airfield at Rackheath and that through the splendid and untiring efforts of David Hastings the Rackheath Parish Council have agreed to undertake the upkeep of the site. It is appropriate to mention that we all appreciate and say a great many thanks to the Memorial Trust Governors namely, David, son Roger and also Robert Lomax – and it is appropriate to also include David's wife Jean for their untiring and onerous work in taking care of all the maintenance and looking after the Memorial Marker in general since it was opened and dedicated by Colonel Shower on July 29th 1990. Also it is appropriate to mention the generosity of Robert Lomax in funding all the electricity usage accounts relating to the flood lighting of the Memorial. Also the untiring and splendid assistance by Andy (Wilkinson), Brian (Mahoney) and Tom (Johnson) in helping this to be achieved is greatly appreciated.

Since publication of my letter in the January 2012 edition of POOP two family members of two 467th Group Veterans have visited the area, the first on February 23rd when Ron Anderson and his wife Rebecca visited. Ron is the son of Ralph "Andy" Anderson former 789th Squadron navigator on Charles Russell's crew # 36. Having met 'Andy'

Anderson and `Chuck` Russell on two or three occasions it was really great meeting Ron and Rebecca and showing them around the interesting and remaining sites on the former base. On March 9th Mary Maier and Dianne Holum, daughters of former 467th Group pilot Edwin Holum together with the late Edwin`s grand-daughter Sister Catherine Holum visited the area. It was great having Andy (Wilkinson) driving the 400 plus miles round trip from his home on that day and together Andy and I gave the Holum Family members a full tour of the area but first, and `really a must-see by all visitors`, we made a visit to the Second Air Division Memorial Library at The Forum, Norwich which really impressed our visitors. Then a drive to Rackheath to tour the remaining sites on the `old Rackheath airfield` including a full drive from North to South on the remaining section of the main runway, still nearly 6,000-feet length but for most of the length now only between 10-20-feet wide instead of the original 150-feet. The tour included a visit to the Control Tower where they were made most welcome by Mr. Will Minns, and all three ladies even went up onto the roof of the Tower and from where they had a wonderful panoramic view of the area. We also managed to fit in to the tour a visit to the Rackheath `Green Man` Inn for refreshments and again our visitors were impressed by the 280 years old building.

I have kept myself occupied during the winter months writing the definitive history of the most famous B-24 `Witchcraft`, a topic that I consider should be done for the future generations – the book which hopefully will be completed by the end of April 2012, covers the production at Willow Run, Wendover, the flight from Wendover to the UK, the maintenance crew, the crews that flew `her`, brief details relating to every combat mission flown by `Witchcraft`, the flight back to the USA and her `final flight`. Also some other various interesting comments.

Finally, a mention about the proposed vast development of 4,500 houses on the former airfield at Rackheath, it gives me great pleasure to inform you that the small SNUB (Stop Norwich UrBanization) Organization that is opposed to such

vast development took out a Legal Challenge against the proposed and flawed local district plans (Joint Core Strategy) and the Judge subsequently upheld SNUB`s appeal.

Best wishes to you all from Jill, James and myself.

Perry Watts

Distinguished Member of the 467th Group Veterans Association and UK Based Group Historian.

2nd Air Division Memorial Library:

"Back in October the Norfolk and Norwich Philatelic Society visited the Forum with a display of stamps that included a special tribute to the 467th Bomb Group at Rackheath. This unique collection has been compiled by Mr Mac Middleton and charts the history of the 467th Bomb Group from their arrival in England in through to their departure. Each envelope is printed with a photograph and accompanying text. The 1st class stamps are printed with the official Royal Mail date. This morning Mr. Mac Middleton, the owner of the collection, dropped by the Memorial Library to formally present us with the stamps! We extend our sincere thanks to Mr. Middleton for his generosity."



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

467th LIBERAMUS INSIGNIA BALL CAP
(Red)(available)\$10.00 plus \$2.00 package and
postage

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.

Reprint of Healy's Book - \$50.00 + \$5.00 S & H

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.

ALL OF THE ABOVE AVAILABLE THROUGH:

Robert A. Davis
4908 Timberview Dr.
Dayton, Oh 45424
whataboutbob@woh.rr.com

ALAN HEALY'S BOOK ON THE 467TH

The book is ready for distribution and your
orders. You will be surprised at the quality of
the print and pictures as many of you who were
not in the first book will be happy to find your
name now listed with the 467th. I was one of
them. This issue is a complete write of all
available data associated with the group. The
cost is \$50.00 plus shipping and handling
(\$4.95 for all US). All the books are soft cover.
There will not be a hard cover issue due to the
cost. To order this issue go on line at
www.467book.org, where you can purchase
the book using pay pal or eBay, and if you do
not have internet or access of the internet
through a library, make your check out to
Vincent LaRussa and send it to:

David LaRussa
8570 W. Mulberry Drive
Tucson, AZ 85704.

FOLDED WINGS:

Betcher, Raymond A.
Brooks, Daniel T.
Davis, Doris (Ralph Davis)
Ellison, Henry "Tex" W.
Gamble, James R.
Holmes, Capers
Johnson, Dean H.
Muller, Albert
Perkins, Faye E.
Shank, Mervin M.
Zander, Harvey R.

*NAVIGATE R
ON MY CREW*

CONVENTION COSTS

(Please Make a Copy for your own Records)

Per Person	\$270.00
Times Number of Persons ()	\$ _____
Total Cost	\$ _____
Deposit Due With Reservations, \$100.00 Per Person =	\$ _____

Please Pay by Check or Money Order!

To make your reservations, contact the Wingate by Wyndham hotel in Fairborn at 1-800-992-2642. Rates are \$82.00 per night plus tax. Cut off Date for these prices is September 6, 2012.

Selection of Events to be Attended:

() Thursday October 4 – Welcome Reception 7 – 9:30 PM

() Friday October 5 – Breakfast at the hotel 6 – 9:30 AM. First bus out to the Museum at 9:30 AM, Last bus leaving Museum at 4:30 PM. Lunch on your own. Dinner at the Hotel 6 – 9:30 PM.

() Saturday October 6 – Breakfast at the hotel 6 – 9:30 AM. First bus out to the Museum at 9:30 AM, last bus leaving the Museum at 4:30 PM. Lunch is on your own. Dinner at the Hotel 6 – 9:30 PM. Dinner and drinks, dinner will be Pork Chops with mixed vegetables/salad/rolls and butter plus desert. (If you don't want Chops, we will Substitute Chicken Breast, Please check here ()).

() Sunday October 7 – Breakfast at the hotel 6 – 9:30 AM (free day), Board Members meeting at 10:00 – 11:30 AM, General Membership meeting 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM. Lunch at hotel 12:30 – 2:00 PM. Dinner at the hotel, Drinks 5:30 – 6:30 PM Dinner 6:30 – 10 PM. Dinner will be Steak/Prawns with Potatoes/salad/dinner rolls and butter plus desert.

() Monday October 8 – Breakfast at the hotel 6 – 9:30 AM.

Please make checks payable to “467th Bombardment Group Convention 2012”.

Fill in the above Convention Costs form and mail with your deposit of \$100.00 per person along with the Convention Registration Form to:

**Bob Davis
4908 Timberview Drive
Dayton, Ohio 45424
(937) 237-8413
Email: whataboutbob@woh.rr.com**

**A LETTER TO THE ASSOCIATION FROM SNUB-
STOP NORWICH URBANISATION:**

Dear 467th Bomb Group

Please let me introduce myself via the good offices of Perry Watts and David Hastings here in Rackheath, England.

Both of these gentlemen are committee members of the voluntary community campaign group called Stop Norwich UrBanisation (SNUB) that others and I formed back in 2008. I believe that both Perry and David have either talked to you or colleagues of yours about SNUB and indeed I made a short presentation to your Association last year during their visit to Rackheath in June and the following members were in attendance:

Mrs. Shower, widow of the former 467th Group CO

Colonel A. J. Shower

Mrs. Shower's granddaughter Patricia and great grandson Riley

Mr. James Sherrard, his daughter Mrs. Beth Brode and grandson Michael

Mr. James Gamble and son Ron

Mr. Jack Thompson

Mrs. Refrika Kladrijak

Mrs. Robert Cole, son Robert and his wife Joy

Mr. Tom Johnson

Mr. Andrew Wilkinson

You may therefore be aware that SNUB was formed in order to campaign against the large-scale housing developments in and around the city of Norwich with up to 10,000 new dwellings proposed in the immediate area around the old WWII airfield at Rackheath with 4,500 earmarked for the actual site.

Our campaign is not against the building of new houses per se however we do object to the size of this particular development. We would rather see a dispersal of the necessary new houses across the east of England to reinforce existing communities rather than force migration to what will be a soulless concrete jungle built on current productive agricultural land and in particular land that has such a historic connection to the special relationship between the UK and the USA.

We have taken legal advice on this matter and are reassured that the local government department responsible for this development have

acted illegally. As a consequence of this we have instructed legal counsel to legally challenge these decisions in the UK courts. However in order to achieve this we need to raise a considerable amount of money to pay for this advice and our fundraising has started here in the UK.

I would therefore request that you consider giving our campaign some publicity in the next edition of your Association's "POOP From The Group" journal, which I understand from Perry is in production at the moment.

In addition it would be extremely helpful if you could circulate to your members and supporters the details of our campaign and our request for funds to help us fight this decision in the courts, which, if successful, would prevent the airfield at Rackheath being concreted over.

I know, as an ex SNCO in the Royal Air Force myself, how special this site is to you and your members and your support would be greatly welcomed. If anyone of your supporters would like to donate then please ask them to contact me direct at the below contact points.

I thank you in anticipation,

Yours Sincerely,

Stephen Heard

Chair

Website: www.snubcampaign.org

Blog: www.snubcampaign.blogspot.com

Email: snub@me.com

Phone: 01603 722581

Address: Border Lodge

Station Road

Salhouse

Norfolk

NR13 6NY

Rettigny (Gouv, Belgium), April 28,2012

**Unveiling of the memorial to the memory of the
crew of the Lt.William Truxes B-24 42-95220
which exploded over Rettigny on Christmas Day
1944.**

Rettigny is a very small village, and the ceremony was almost like a “family meeting”. It was however a big family since around 80 people were present.

We had the honor to have the presence of Mr Dennis Frantzen and his daughter, Kirstin. Mr Frantzen is the son in law of the 1Lt William Truxes, the 788th Sq. pilot.

The Mayor of Gouvy/Rettigny and members of the municipal authorities attended the ceremony. Members of several Patriotic associations as well as members of Historical and Cultural associations were also present.

Many families, including children and some grandparents and grandchildren also attended the ceremony.

It was a very warm ceremony, full of emotion.

To begin the ceremony, the Mayor made a speech.

He expressed his thanks to Mr Frantzen and his daughter for their presence.

He emphasized the fact that such a ceremony is important, because the young generation must know what happened in the past and remember that “soldiers came from so far away” to fight for our liberty.

Mr Frantzen made the second speech in English.

He expressed his thanks to the Mayor for his invitation to attend this meeting.

He expressed also his thanks to Mr Paul Remy and his contacts who have worked to make this memorial a reality.

He spoke with a short biography of father-in-law, Lt. William Truxes.

He spoke also about the efforts and the gallantry of the crew, as well as those of this small village that

worked in their day-to-day tasks to support the effort of defeating the evil that occupied their lands.

The Secretary of the Mayor then read the French translation of this speech.

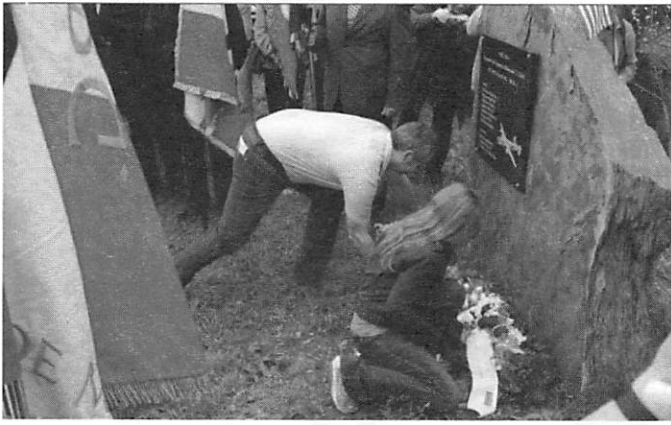
Paul Remy, the initiator of this memorial, also made a short speech to thank the Municipal Authorities and all the people who helped to make the construction of this Memorial a reality.

After the speeches, Kirstin and the Mayor laid flowers at the monument while we heard both National Anthems, American and Belgian.

The Mayor then invited everybody to drink the “glass of friendship”.

The Ceremony lasted approximately 1h30, and opportunity to speak with many local people. One local person was an eyewitness to the momentous events that Christmas Day 1944 and assisted with the burial of the 7 members of the crew in the local cemetery of Rettigny. It was indeed a day full of emotion...





467TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP REUNION:

This year's reunion will possibly be the last one the group has, so it would be great to have everyone that can attend be there, I need at least 20 to make it break out even this year.

I have slowed down on the activities because as we all know, we aren't getting any younger.

Thursday October 4 there will be a meet and great at the hotel from 6pm to 10pm.

Friday, October 5 we will have breakfast and then be going to the Air Force Museum. We will have a small handicap bus running to the museum at 9:30am, lunch will be on your own at the museum, I will have the bus scheduled to run back and forth from the museum to the hotel, times with the bus company have not been set in stone yet, but last trip back will be at 4:30pm. Dinner will be in the hotel.

Saturday, October 6 we will have breakfast and once again have a bus running to the Air Force Museum (last time we were here, people complained that one day was not enough to see the whole museum) lunch is own your own. Schedule will be the same as Friday, starting time might be a bit later. Dinner will be in the hotel.

Sunday, October 7 we will have breakfast, and then there will be the Officers meeting and then the general membership meeting. Lunch will be in the hotel as will be dinner.

Monday, October 8 we will have breakfast in the hotel and then it is time once again to say goodbye.

Make reservations at Wingate by Wyndham, make sure to tell them you are with the 467th Bombardment Group Reunion. Phone # 1-800-992-2642, rate is \$82.00 plus tax. Cut off date for these prices is September 6, 2012.



**POOP FROM GROUP
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DAYTON, OHIO 45424
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