

POOP from Group



791st



790th



789th



788th

Newsletter of the 467th Bomb Group Association

July 2018



Bright blue skies, rising temperatures, and glorious May weather set the scene as Tucson warmly hosted the gathering of the 467th along with our friends of the 492nd for a magic four days in Arizona.

Pictured all together again on the Sunday evening in the lobby of the Marriott University Park Hotel, an ideal location for our 2018 activities as friends joined from far and wide.

***** It's HARTFORD CT, for our 2019 Reunion ***
Photos and more from TUCSON**

467th BGA Administration

President

Brian Mahoney
823 Whitelock Street
Baltimore, MD 21217
archivist@brianhmahoney.com

Vice President

J. Peter Horne
Portland, Oregon
peter@467bg-research.com

Secretary

Ann Pooch
San Diego, California
apooch@cox.net

Treasurer

Valerie Corvino
242 Molly Dr.
McMurray, PA. 15317
valerie654@verizon.net

Editor

Andy Wilkinson
Briars, Cooks Lane
Axminster, Devon, EX13 5SQ
England
andywilkinson467th@btinternet.com

Directors

Tom Johnson
37171 Sycamore St. Apt#1314
Newark, CA. 94560
tdj47@yahoo.com

David LaRussa
Tucson, AZ.
alarussa7@msn.com

Jane Staedicke
Phoenix, AZ.
jestaed@yahoo.com

Steve Watson
Las Cruces, NM
fswat@gmail.com

Mike Wheeler
Freemont, NH
Michael-wheeler@comcast.net

Web Sites

www.467bg.com

www.the467thArchive.org

Honorary Board Chairman (RIP)

Col Albert J. Shower

Honorary Vice President (RIP)

Jay Shower



The 467th
Bombardment Group
The Rackheath Aggies



President's Message

By Brian Mahoney
Archivist@brianhmahoney.com

The Tucson Reunion really had it all! We had wonderful activities, great camaraderie, true ‘reunion’ moments of old friends reconnecting, and, if you can imagine, a productive Directors’ meeting followed by an even better Annual Membership meeting.

We came away energized and inspired, aware of the restored health of our organization, and openly discussing several practical ways to improve it and ‘widen the mission.’ Here are just a few of the specifics. The weather did not punish us in our enjoyable neighborhood explorations of eating and drinking establishments, and while seasonably warm for our day at the Pima Air Museum, was much better than it might have been, and our excursion to the Sonora Desert Museum was almost balmy. Most things ran very well; especial kudos to Peter Horne for his phenomenal Day Room set up with stunning graphics on the walls, considerable and continuous audio-visual presentations, archive and artifact presentations, and accessible data. He is nominally our VP, but a descriptive title would be very long, and a ‘job description’ for all of the efforts he contributes, would need to be issued in multiple volumes.

‘Local’ (Arizona) directors David LaRussa, Martie Fankhauser, and Jane Staedicke managed small details and large planning and execution steps superbly... we had the right pace of unstructured social time and planned activities. Jane managed, on very short notice, to deliver our stunning second edition of challenge coins, which celebrate the continuing connection between ‘us’ and the 492nd BG, which was ably represented by a handful—including me—whose WW II vets were in both organizations.

We had new friends from England, old friends from Tucson, regulars from Huston, veteran Jack Weyler and his fun-generating wife Karin, women who had lost their vets in recent years but now enjoying how our ‘family’ continues to celebrate the late John Upp, Joe Zbikowski, and Jack Thompson. We embraced the loved ones of each association’s most recent losses, Jay Shower and Jonell Barbier, in a joint memorial service that listed scores of losses since recent reunions in Seattle and Washington, DC.

Our meetings took on a theme, in large part owing to the thoughtful and instructive resignation of Martie Fankhauser, of reviewing our procedures and assessing our way of going forward, aware that we are a resuscitated organization that has its feet under it again. We welcomed awesome new blood to our board in Steve Watson (son of late pilot Frank Watson) and Michael Wheeler (grandson of Ted Wheeler, and our first “third gen” director).

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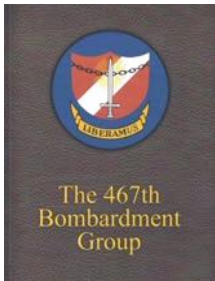
President's Message *Cont.*

We have begun an internal audit process, headed by our 'Renaissance Man' J. Peter Horne, a restatement of our mission (coming soon!), and committed in principle to continuing for at least 5 years as we undertake to shift our IRS non-profit recognition to an educational, historic and honoring entity, from strictly a veterans' organization. That will be a multi-year effort by many and opening wide new vistas for us in terms of resources and mission fulfilling activities in education, research, commemoration, and, yes, socializing!

The membership has endorsed planning for another joint 2019 spring reunion in the Hartford, CT area, to finally reward the patience of scores of neglected 467th and 492nd vets and descendants in New England. And we have committed to celebrating the 75th anniversary of V-E Day in Norwich, England!

Thank you for your continuing support of our association. Let us hear your suggestions and enlist your volunteer help as we refine existing programs and add new ones to keep alive the history and stories of 'our portion' of The Greatest Generation.

Brian Mahoney
Archivist@brianhmahoney.com



The 467th BG Association is delighted to offer a Softback limited edition of the original 1947 Allan Healy "467th BG History". This fifth and final edition has text reformatting and photographic restoration by Colin LaRussa, also a fully revised and comprehensive Addendum.

Price \$50 + \$5 shipping - payment via check or PayPal

Available from David LaRussa, 8570 N. Mulberry Dr., TUCSON, AZ 85704
TEL - (520) 322-9827 alarussa7@msn.com

Folded Wings

Joseph W. M. Appleby - Radio-operator 790th October 2017

Marshall E. Deutsch - RCM operator 790th December 2017

Ruth E. Geringer - June 2018

Ernest J. Haar - Pilot 788th (and 492nd BG) February 2018

Bernard E. Howard - Engineer 788th November 2017

Frederick R. Porter - Ordnance 790th September 2017

Charlotte Shower - February 2018

Albert "Jay" Shower - February 2018

Please send news of "Folded Wings" also Obituaries to 467th BG veterans or prominent Associates where we will be honored to record names in the newsletter. Details to - Brian Mahoney Archivist@brianhmahoney.com

Notes from the Editor



Just to echo the words of our President in his message, a truly memorable time was had by all at our recent gathering in Tucson along with our friends from the 492nd. The Reunion committee excelled in pulling everything together making the occasion a both joyous and purposeful four days with something for everyone. We are already turning our attention to next year when the Group unanimously agreed we hold our joint 2019 Reunion in the Hartford, CT. area, an opportunity to connect

with those in New England and nearby who maybe have not considered attending before. Likely to be held in early May 2019, the next issue of POOP will reveal dates and hotel location.

TREASURY NOTES: Our Treasurer, **Valerie Corvino**, reports the Association has a total operating balance of **\$11,614** as of 30 May 2018. The Reunions continue to be planned as “cost neutral” or paying for themselves through careful assessment of all likely expenses which are met through the convention expenses paid by attendees. To ease future costs we are looking to organize raffles, a silent auction, and more at the next gathering. The cost of producing printed issues of POOP remains the major financial outlay and we continue to look for ways to reduce costs and urge members to take the free digital “ePOOP” or pdf file version sent via email if they can. Contact **Brian Mahoney** if you can make the change.

EMAIL from DIANE DRING, RACKHEATH PARISH COUNCIL:

The Parish Council is fully aware of their responsibility for the maintenance of the USAAF Memorial and responds to alerts from David and others if there are any issues .

There is currently £5,575 in the maintenance fund. We used £625 for repairs to the lighting in September 2016. The fund would seem to be adequate at the moment but it is good to know there is a further source of funding if required.

We are currently sourcing replacement finials for the top of the flag poles as they blew off a couple of months ago and will charge those to the fund. David has offered his son's assistance in fitting these. I am not aware if David still has any flags but I am holding a spare Stars & Stripes but no Union Jack replacement.

Maintenance of the Memorial was undertaken by a group of Veterans but due to health and circumstances they have not been able to get to the Memorial that often so it was timely that the Scouts made their offer. However, they will not be able to paint the flagpoles as the Veterans had done and we may have to employ someone to do that task unless we receive a voluntary offer.

The Masterplan for 4,000+ new homes north of Rackheath covering the site of the old airfield have been discussed and a formal planning application is expected later this year. The plan for a 'Memorial Park will be in the later stages of the development and the Parish Council will be one of the statutory consultees on this so we will let you know what is proposed. Alternatively you could get in touch with the Planning Department at Broadland District Council and ask to be informed directly. Kind regards, Diane Dring, Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer, Rackheath P.C.

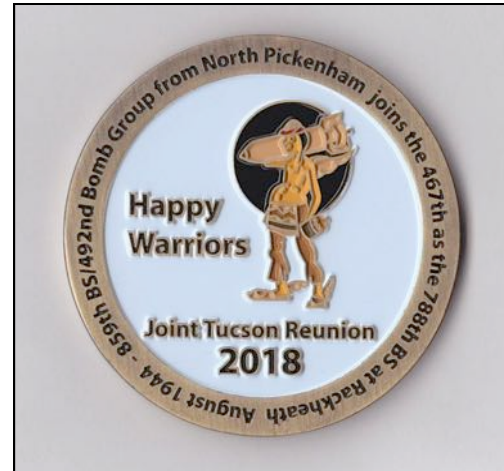
FOLDED WINGS: Since the last issue we have lost some dear and close friends of the 467th BG(H) Association including our long serving and special **Vice President, Jay Shower**. Those will recall Jay was ever present along with his father at every significant occasion relating to the 467th and continued to support the Association in the following years . We shall deeply miss his humor and wit, not to mention countless incredible “stories” that so often featured his father. A “natural” pilot revered in the aviation world, we proudly include an obituary to Jay, page 13. We also learned of the passing of Ruth Gerringer, long time supporter who attended Reunions with family and visited Rackheath representing late husband, “Ted”, former 791st Bombardier Officer who later was promoted to Wing. And immediately as we go to publish, news has reached us of the passing of “Ernie” Haar at 99, former pilot with both the 467th and 492nd BG. His obituary to follow.

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Notes from the Editor *Cont.*

EMAIL AND ADDRESS CHANGES: Remember to report email or address changes to our President, Brian Mahoney, who handles all membership details including notifications of “Folded Wings” and obituaries. This is the sure way to continue to promptly receive the “POOP from Group” Newsletter.

NEW CHALLENGE COIN COMMEMORATING THE 467th & 492nd BG SPECIAL LINK: Those attending the Tucson Reunion were privileged to receive among their “welcome pack” a new Challenge Coin that was specially commissioned through Director Jane Staedicke, who also pulled out all the stops to make sure they were available on time. Both sides of the coin are illustrated here and I’m sure you’ll agree they are a unique and special item.



Those attending the Tucson 2018 Reunion and Sunday Evening Banquet

Janice Betcher Bates	Richard Haywood	Bob Sisley
Jim Bates	Peter Horne	Anton Staedicke
Snowden Bishop	Tom Johnson	Eric Staedicke
Damien Braley	Fika Kladjack	Jan Staedicke
Patrick Byrne	Ashley LaRussa	Jane Staedicke
Guy Clotier	Colin LaRussa	Catherine Upp
Donald Collins	David LaRussa	Debby Watson
Valerie Corvino	Shirley Lowe	Steve Watson
Collette Coty	Brian Mahoney	John Watson
Martie Fankhauser	Ken McCracken	Jack Weyler
Norma Felbinger	John McCrory	Karin Weyler
Dana Fernkas	Katie Munger	Janice Wheeler
Michael Giblin	Andrew Nix	Michael Wheeler
Bill Godwin	Ann Pooch	Andy Wilkinson
Jim Gummelt	Donna Elliott Sisley	



Candles representing our recent “Folded Wings” of the 467th & 492nd during the Memorial Remembrance Sunday Evening Banquet at the Tucson Reunion

Please continue to send news, articles, and 467th BG related material to share in “POOP from Group”

*To : Editor - Andy Wilkinson
andywilkinson467th@btinternet.com*



News From Station 145

From David Hastings MBE

The summer has arrived and the Marker is looking good. However we have quite a few people to thank. First is our dear friend Martie Fankhauser in Tucson for the tremendous gift of six flags which have just arrived c/o of Andy Wilkinson. Martie we can never thank you enough for your continued generosity and support of the 467th Marker and as soon as the Gold Finials are replaced on the masts your new flags will

hoisted - bless you.

Then we were all deeply touched when the 1st Salhouse Scout Group offered to help the Rackheath Parish Council with the upkeep of the Marker. Jean and I attended a Troop meeting recently and showed them part of the James Mahoney film "A Village Remembers". To find youngsters interested in the history of the old airfield and the 467th and then willing to help in preserving the Marker was truly wonderful and proof that the next generation cares. Again we can never thank the 1st Salhouse Scouts and Jackie enough and we look forward to continuing these links.

Finally it was so good to see Brian Mahoney and Andy Wilkinson recently and enjoy a good chat over lunch at the Green Man. To have a "Last Look Back" visit in 2020 would really be wonderful.

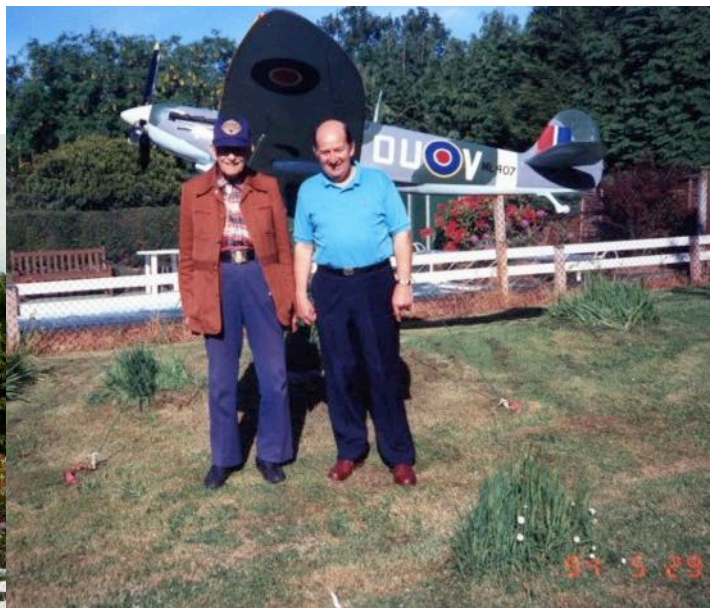
At the Marker Site our son Roger still keeps an eye on things as well as liaising with Diane Dring the Clerk to the Rackheath Parish Council as his base of R.J.HASTINGS TRANSPORT on Liberator Close is right opposite the site. The Dzenowagis films are still highly popular in the villages and "The Final Homecoming" especially helps to keep all the memories going and the Base Contacts on all the old airfields are still performing their vital role of keeping 2nd Air Division USAAF history alive.

Talking of memories I thought you might like to see our Salhouse Spitfire when Colonel Albert Shower came to see us all those years ago and how she looks now after her refit last week in this 100th Anniversary year of the Royal Air Force.

We will never forget you.

David, Jean and Roger Hastings

Base Contacts.



Tucson Reunion 2018







Interned Switzerland: a daughter's journey



The Lt Shoup Crew B24 pictured at Geneva

*The 11 May 1944 mission to target locomotive shops and repair facilities at Epinal, France, saw 29 crews depart and one crew failing to return. After successfully bombing and on the way back to Rackheath, the 790th Squadron Lt. William Shoup crew reported serious concerns with their remaining fuel. Following further exchanges the Shoup crew opted to set course for Switzerland, a haven of refuge for crews unable to reach England. The ship landed safely at Geneva Airport, and so began internment for the nine members of the crew including radio-operator T/Sgt. Harry G. Malin III; daughter **Susan Malin Brown** writes of her recent journey to retrace the footsteps and experience of her late father back in 1944.*

My name is Susan Malin Brown, daughter of the deceased Harry G. Malin III, for years I have wanted to visit Switzerland to witness the places where my father spent his time as a Swiss Internee during WWII. My partner, time and money all aligned in May 2018 and we took the trip of a lifetime. Here's my story.....

At the Zurich airport train station, we asked a young Swiss woman to confirm that we were on the right train track, and she pleasantly said "Follow me, I'm going to Luzern too".

At a Luzern restaurant, I had a minor choking spell while my husband was away from the table. The local woman at the next table, said "May I get you a glass of water?".

At the Luzern Jesuitenkirche, we were attending the Sunday morning service even though we do not speak German. I could not understand the hymn numbers given verbally, but the man next to me used his hymnal to show me the number of each song.

These three incidents happened in our first 24 hours in Switzerland. They certainly validated what my father always said – that the local Swiss people were overwhelmingly kind and generous to the Internees.

Our trip began in Luzern which is near Hunenberg, one of the 3 Swiss POW camps. I learned recently from an email that my father sent to Andy Wilkinson on December 3, 2000, that my father was in Hunenberg POW camp because of a failed escape attempt. My father never mentioned being in Hunenberg. I was unable to find any current information about the former POW camp or buildings in the town, so I did not go there.

We took the Golden Pass train from Luzern to Interlaken whose views were spectacular as the turquoise alpine lakes gave way to the towering, snow-capped mountains.

We established ourselves in Lauterbrunnen for the next 10 days to explore the mountain towns that my father had mentioned over the years. There was Meiringen, Interlaken, Murren, Wengen, Spies, Frutigen, Adelboden and Thun.

We took the cog train to Wengen and the Tourist Information staff helped us locate 3 hotels where the Internees were previously housed. The Palace Hotel has recently been purchased and was closed for extensive renovations. The Victoria Hotel was unrecognizable from the main street as it had been renovated and the first floor was ultra-modern and chic. From a side street, though, there was still the Victoria Lauberhorn Hotel sign painted in large letters on the side of the building.

Continued next page

We ate in their restaurant which had many vintage photos of the hotel and guests. Only one was from the WWII period, a 1944 photo of a champion skier. The Regina Hotel was like walking into a time machine. The manager told me that the hotel was built in 1898 and the owners have honored the original design although they had updated the building mechanics. I have no doubt that the architecture of the lobby, public dining room and private dining room look the same today as it did in 1940's.



The Shoup Crew pictured in Kansas, February 44. Radio-operator, Harry Malin kneeling second left

Back in Lauterbrunnen, we went to the Tal Museum which documents rural Swiss life in the area. There was no official display about the Internees. The docent said that there had been Internees in Lauterbrunnen but she was unable to give any further details.

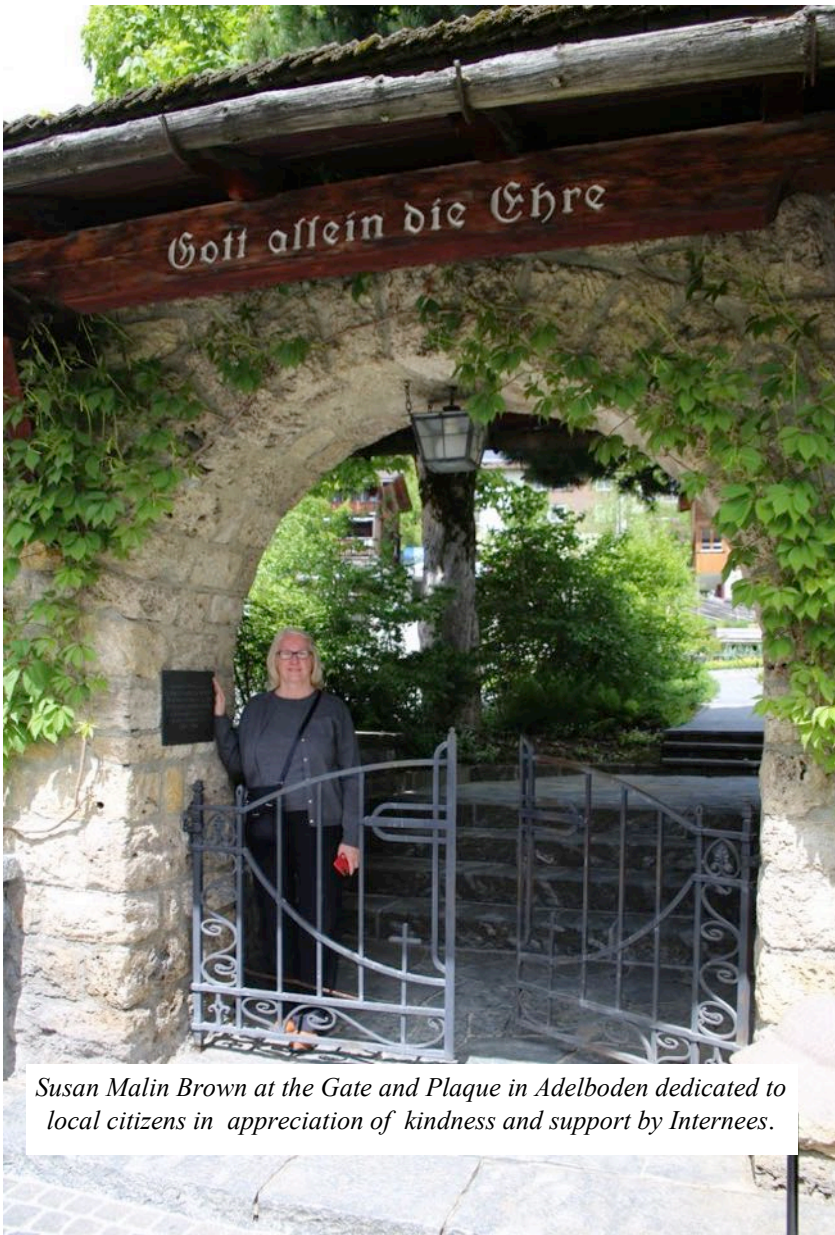
In advance, I had contacted the Tourist Information office in Adelboden. They put me in touch with Hans Peter Oester, the director of the Adelboden Museum, who agreed to meet with me and share what information he had about the Internees. Hans, a baby boomer himself, had no first-hand knowledge but his family was well established in Adelboden for generations.

Once onsite, the Adelboden Tourist Information staff directed us to the plaque and gate that the American and British Internees dedicated to the Adelboden citizens in appreciation for their support and kindness during their internship. I admit that I was moved to tears to be there.

Hans arrived at the Tourist Information office with a folder of information and a photo album borrowed from a local nonagenarian. The German speaking woman was too infirm to participate personally. We reviewed the contents, especially the photographs from the mid 1940's to see if there were any of my father or his crew. I did not recognize any. I did, however, recognize a photo of the Swiss Internees Reunion Celebration held in Adelboden on September 22, 1987 which I know my parents attended. In a photo of the event, Hans's father, Ernst Oester, was pictured as one of the key attendees of the event. Ernst had been a ski instructor and had taught many of the Internees to ski.

Hans also had a soft-cover book called "Strangers in a Strange Land, Volume II – Escape to Neutrality" written by Hans-Heiri Stapfer and Gino Kunzle. It details planes that crashed or made emergency landings in Switzerland during WWII. My father's plane, nick-named Fickle Finger of Fate, which landed in Geneva on May 11, 1944, was included in the May Landings chapter.

Continued next page



Susan Malin Brown at the Gate and Plaque in Adelboden dedicated to local citizens in appreciation of kindness and support by Internees.



Frank Spino, Susan Malin Brown and Hans Peter Oester, director Adelboden Museum.

In Adelboden, the Internees were housed in the Nevada Palace Hotel which has since been torn down to build holiday homes. My husband and I stayed at the Crystal Hotel in Adelboden which was the site of the 1987 Swiss Internees Reunion.

Hans said that he has gotten calls for information from the families of other Internees, receiving as many as 3 in one week. He was very generous in giving us more than an hour of his time and sharing what information he had. He introduced us to the editor of the local paper

and suggested that there might be an article about the increased interest in the Internees.

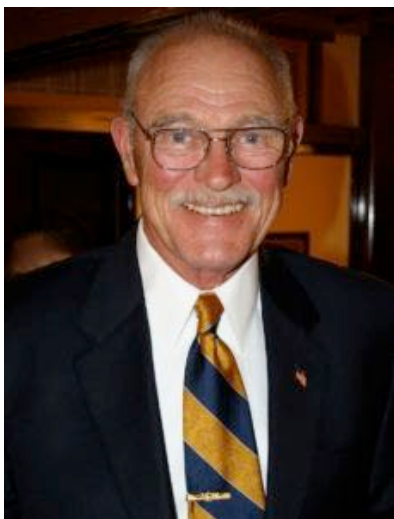
Our last journey was a cable car and cog train to Murren. Since it was late May, the Alpine meadow was in full bloom. Many of the wild flowers were buttercups, my father's nickname in school. I felt that each one was a message from my father thanking me for connecting with his past.

*Sincere appreciation to Susan for the photos and great write-up of her trip retracing her Father's internment:
Editor*



The Victoria Lauberhorn Hotel, Wengen, hosted internees during WWII.

Obituaries



Albert "Jay" Shower, Vice President 467th BG(H) Assoc.

The field of aviation lost a prolific airman when Albert Joseph "Jay" Shower, Jr. (USN Ret.) died of natural causes on Saturday, February 10, 2018 at his residence in Scottsdale, Arizona. Shower was a Vietnam veteran who served as an officer in the United States Navy for more than 22 years until his retirement and honorable discharge in 1983. In total, his adventurous career in aviation spanned nearly 70 years and took him around the world on numerous occasions.

"Flying is the love of my life," said Shower, whose deep passion for flight was unleashed on his 10th Birthday in 1947, when his father, Col. Albert Joseph Shower, a highly decorated, WWII commanding officer in the United States Air Force, let him take "left seat" controls of a B-29 Superfortress. "My father told me to 'Fly it right side up, or don't fly at all!' So that's what I did." Shower has since devoted his life to aviation, and has amassed more than 18,000 hours of flight time during his career.

After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1961, Shower embarked on a 22-year career as an officer and super-sonic jet pilot in the U.S. Navy. Flight training in the T-34, T2B, F9F and F11A jets prepared him for a five-year tour of duty in Vietnam, where he flew all models of the A-4 Skyhawk in 137 combat missions off the USS Ticonderoga aircraft carrier.

Upon his return from Vietnam, Shower attended the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, where he studied flight dynamics and earned a Masters degree as an Aeronautical Engineer, while flying the T2, T33, T34, S2F and T28 jets. Subsequently, he was assigned as an exchange pilot for the Royal Navy to fly the Hunter and Buccaneer aboard the HMS Eagle. Upon his return to the U.S. Navy two years later, he spent five years flying reconnaissance missions world wide in the super-sonic (Mach 2+) RA5 Vigilante, several years as a Naval Flight Instructor and several more as a Ferry Pilot, qualified in 23 different makes and models of jet aircraft. His last two years as a Navy Pilot, Shower was stationed at the Naval Air Rework Facility in Norfolk, MD, where he served as a functional Test Pilot in the F-14 Tomcat and A-6 Intruder. By the end of his Navy career, Shower had flown every jet the Navy had made up to that point.

Retirement from the U.S. Navy opened the door for Shower to embark on new adventures and uncharted territory in General Aviation. By then, with more than 10,000 hours of military flight time, Shower's experience and credentials made him an invaluable resource for other aviators in the civil aviation community. An active member of Earth-Rounders fellowship, Shower has circumnavigated the globe, crossing the equator on numerous occasions, and crossing the Geodetic North Pole in his single engine Bonanza. He was one of only a handful of aviators to have flown multiple cross-oceanic flights, delivering single engine planes to pilots located in Europe, New Zealand, Australia and Hawaii, earning himself a reputation as the "go-to" guy for ferrying single engine aircraft to and from anywhere in the world.

"In my 30 years of flying, Jay Shower is the most experienced, knowledgeable and impressive pilot I have ever met," said civil aviator, George "Jud" Shandel, who contacted Shower upon numerous recommendations from fellow pilots in his search for an experienced pilot to ferry Shandel's single engine plane from Honolulu to the U.S. Mainland in 2001.

In 1995, Shower won first place Gold Medal in the T-28 Unlimited Division at the Phoenix 500 Air Races. For 18 consecutive years, Shower flew to the Oshkosh Air Show in Wisconsin. He was an active member of the Flying Eagles, Experimental Aircraft Association, Antique Aircraft Association, Tailhook Association, Earth Rounders and Quiet Birdmen Society. As a volunteer pilot for Mercy Outreach Surgical Team, Shower flew numerous charitable missions

Obituaries Cont.

Several times per year to deliver medical supplies to doctors and hospitals throughout Mexico.

Shower's impressive credentials reach far beyond his expertise as a pilot. As an FAA-designated inspector and certified airframe and power-plant mechanic, Shower has been an invaluable resource conducting aircraft inspections, diagnostics, and repairs for hundreds of civil aircraft owners throughout the U.S. He was also a certificated flight instructor (CFI, CFII and CFI-MEI), passing along his wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm for aviation to fledgling aviators.

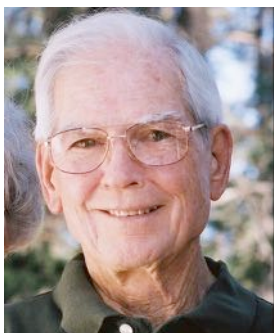
Shower's superb aviator expertise was illustrated in March 2007 when he led the "Flying Eagles" group from San Diego to La Serenidad fly-in hotel, Mulege, Baja California, Mexico, for a whale watching expedition. Following the day's adventures Shower gathered the group of about 20 pilots at midnight for a practicum on celestial navigation. In pitch dark conditions in the middle of a 5000 foot runway on a clear night with all constellations from the Big Dipper to the Southern Cross clearly visible, Shower proceeded with a dissertation of "short handed" methods to find the North Star if not visible from right angle projections of Orion's Belt and other key sighting stars from various constellations.

"Jay Shower has proven invaluable to me and my staff by way of leveraging his seemingly innate wealth of knowledge and experience in areas covering everything from aircraft maintenance to international aircraft delivery for our flight training center," notes Victor Arzuaga, Manager of the Yokota Flight Training Center at Yokota U.S. Air Force Base in Tokyo, Japan.

In 2009, Shower was presented with a "Blue Ribbon" book containing over 150 pages of certificates, exam scores and credentials documenting his entire flying career when he received the FAA Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award in recognition of his lifetime achievement as a career pilot in both military and civil aviation.

Shower was first nominated for the Master Pilot designation by his son, Major Brenden Shower, a Check Pilot Examiner in the Civil Air Patrol and former Chief Flight Instructor for the Yokota Flight-Training Center at the U.S. Air Force in Tokyo, Japan. With multiple aircraft ratings and certifications including ATP, it was fitting for him to take the lead coordinating necessary documentation for the FAA Safety Team Regional Manager, Frederick W. Christlieb and his team, who spent more than four months researching and vetting all of Shower's records, credentials and other qualifications. "Having the opportunity to honor a pilot such as Mr. Shower for his outstanding achievements in aviation safety is the best part of my job," said Christlieb at the award ceremony. Shower's name was added to the Wright Brothers' Master Pilot Award Role of Honor, which is archived on the FAASafety.gov website. To qualify for the FAA Master Pilot Award, a pilot must have demonstrated exemplary professionalism, skill and aviation expertise by maintaining safe operations in flight for more than 50 years. "Jay Shower represents the paragon of the aviation profession. He is the 'Pilot's Pilot.' There can be no nominee for the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award that can match the qualifications and 50 years experience of Jay Shower in sustained aviation safety," Shandel wrote in a commendation submitted to the FAA during the award nominee research due diligence process.

Shower resided in El Cajon, California, where he flew his Bonanza airplanes from Gillespie Field to destinations all over the world, sometimes solo and often accompanied by either Ann Pooch, his significant other of more than 10 years or son, Brenden, his daughter-in-law Seiko Shower, a private pilot, his daughter Snowden Bishop and son-in-law Markus Herm, an instrument-rated private pilot. Carrying the family legacy of pilots, Shower had an opportunity to sign the flight logbooks of his two grandsons, Kaden and Bryden Shower, future aviators.



Joseph "Joe" Appleby, Radio-operator, 790th

Joseph (Joe) William Michael Appleby, 93, passed away on October 28, 2017, in Peoria, AZ.

Joe spent his early years in Wichita, Kansas. After graduating Austin High School in El Paso, Texas in 1943, Joe served in the 8th Air Force during WWII as a Tech Sergeant, Radio Operator - Gunner on B24s. He flew 31 missions over Germany and France. He was recalled to active duty and served one year in the US Air Force, Air Rescue Service in the Pacific during the Korean War. Joe began working for Western Electric in 1946 and retired from the Bell System after 38 years.

Obituaries *Cont.*

Retirement for Joe was anything but leisurely. He and Rose Ann traveled extensively, enjoying several trips to Europe, cruises to South America and the Panama Canal, and multiple trips to Mexico and across the US in their RV. A devout Catholic, Joe worked tirelessly as a volunteer for the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and was honored for 50 years of outstanding and enduring service in 2014.

Joe was a lifelong learner. He loved history, geography, and language. He studied Spanish at Northern Arizona University's summer immersion program and took Spanish classes over the years so that he could better converse with the primarily Latino individuals and families he served through St. Vincent de Paul. Joe loved everything about the Mexican culture – the people, music, beer, and especially the food.

The lessons Joe learned as a child during the Great Depression translated to an unwavering commitment to provide a stable home and opportunities for his own children. Responsibility, self-sufficiency, and care for others were core values that Joe lived by and instilled in his family. His proudest accomplishments were his children. He took great pride in their academic, professional, and community achievements; yet always reminded them of the importance to act with integrity and compassion.

Joe was known as Grandpa, Bop, Uncle Joe and, to many of his nieces and nephews and his children's friends, an “unofficial Dad.” He walked a number of brides down the aisle, held babies as a godfather, and comforted many during times of loss and heartbreak. His kids and grandkids grew up believing that he could fix anything, from broken toys to VW bugs. His grilled chicken (4 beers and it's done) was legendary, as was his penchant for Old Milwaukee.



Ruth E. Gerringer

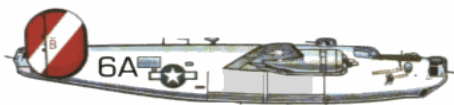
Ruth Evelyn (Canterbury) Gerringer, age 96, passed away surrounded by her children in her home at Bethel Retirement Community in Modesto on Thursday, June 7, 2018. Born in 1922 in a farmhouse in rural Broomfield just north of Denver, Ruth attended the University of Colorado at Boulder and worked as a Harvey Girl before marrying Theodore (Ted) Gerringer on September 5, 1942. She lived in Rocky Ford, Colorado while Ted was stationed in England in WWII, and following the war they farmed near Rocky Ford.

Ruth and Ted moved from Colorado to the San Diego area in 1954, and relocated to Modesto in 1961 where Ted represented the Texas Refinery Corporation, assisted by Ruth from their home office. Ruth and Ted were very active in a number of volunteer capacities at church throughout the sixties and seventies. They enjoyed square dancing with the Golden Squares and they also traveled to Puerto Rico, Acapulco, Hawaii, and throughout the United States.

After Ted's death in 1985, Ruth served 23 years with the Memorial Medical Center Volunteer Program (hospital volunteers). Ruth loved to attend dances at the Senior Citizen's Center (especially partial to polkas), and for years danced to Dixieland Jazz every Wednesday evening at the Barking Dog, and later at the Clarion Inn. Ruth traveled to the East Coast, Canada, and Europe, and was active with the 467th Bomb Group Association. Selling her home at the age of 91, she lived for 4½ years at Standiford Place in Modesto before moving to Bethel Retirement Community for her final year.

Ruth is survived by her four children, Bob (Connie) Gerringer, Chuck (Julie) Gerringer, Stephen (Destiny) Gerringer and Diane (Bob) Myers; five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren (with one more on the way).

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Most of the "Reunion Gang" pictured with the wonderful B24J at the Pima Air Museum