

# POOP from Group



791st



790th



789th



788th

Newsletter of the 467th Bomb Group Association

June 2021

# MISSION: ACCOMPLISHED

## Fundraising Target

**REACHED**



**AN INSPIRING IDEA FOR A FUNDRAISING project to honor and memorialize personnel tragically “lost” during training at Wendover Army Air Base, also in accidents en-route to England, has reached the ambitious target. It is gracious THANKS to you ALL for digging deep during difficult times this past year and enabling giant steps toward the reality of our stunningly detailed scale replica Group B24 to be sited at the Historic Wendover Army Air Base. It is young men like the 790th Lt Mosser Crew (pictured at Wendover) we will remember, all perished crashing in the Atlas Mountains, northwestern Africa, before reaching England. Progress on the B24 Model displaying original aircraft “Witchcraft” & “Scrapper” each side and how you can further help out with the project appears on Page 12.**

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The 467th  
Bombardment Group  
The Rackheath Aggies



# President's Message

By Brian Mahoney

[researcher@brianhmahoney.com](mailto:researcher@brianhmahoney.com)

Viewing a wonderful PowerPoint presentation on the work of the Pathfinders left me, you might say, *gobsmacked*.

US relatives of original Rackheath Aggies have personal 'ownership' of the *human stories* of the 467th BG (H)—as a shining exemplar of all 40 heavy US Army Air Force bomber groups in England. How sweetly this pairs with Norfolk 'ownership' of *their* relatives and countrymen sharing the war with the 'Invading Yanks' culturally and militarily, through privation and danger, to victory.

Tremendous strides in unearthing Site 6 will engage those newly interested in WW II history for another generation, as certainly as they speak to the dedicated efforts of current East Anglians. The miracle in Newman Woods has done the seemingly impossible: made USAAF Station #145 *even more* of a draw for American visitors. This is certain to begin informally, the moment prudence and pandemic prohibitions allow, and soon after as an official reunion trip.

Continuing records research on 'my side of The Pond' will find a wider audience in the near future, and also over time, more assuredly now than ever before. The successful Wendover Memorial Campaign has re-enlivened our expression of unending gratitude for 'our' 467th BG members of The Greatest Generation, but also a much wider interest in the USAAF personnel lost in training accidents in the American West. As a result, The Heritage League of the 2nd Air Division and of the 492nd Bomb Group Association (in its final act of dissolution), have both contributed substantially to this overdue memorial to those 15,500 who, until now, have gone unnamed into history.

With all of this recent progress, the literal unearthing of historic sites and 'mining' of rich official records and memoirs is going to be taken up by people in England and the US who are school kids today. Odds are greatly increased that *their children* will continue to embrace what two post-war generations feared would recede into dust and shadows with their passing.

Shared pride in historic persons and places presents new and expanded opportunities—and responsibilities—for engaging *all manner of people* with accurate history, presented compellingly, with *authenticity*. The ongoing friendship between involved Americans and Brits, and our intertwined stewardship, will not end with *our* generation.



# News From Station 145

*From David Hastings MBE*

At last Spring is here and hopefully we can see the end of this awful pandemic. The three of us have been working at the Marker and generally tidying up. We have replaced the halyards and the flags (thanks to Martie) and have refurbished the marker stone covering the ashes of Earl Roy. The main task is now the re-painting of the two flag poles.

The flags were flown at half-mast after the very sad news of the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh and we have lost a truly great man.. I was just so lucky to have met and talked with him on three occasions. The first was when Her Majesty the Queen gave a dinner for 50 of her volunteer Officers of the Royal Observer Corps at HQ Strike Command. Then when he invited 25 GAPAN pilots and our wives to join him for Even-song at St.Georges Chapel at Windsor Castle followed by supper at the castle. Finally when I was Chairman of the Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division USAAF I had the great privilege of showing him around the 2nd Air Division USAAF Memorial Library in 2002 when HM The Queen opened the Forum. He was full of praise for the American Veterans to leave us such a unique and moving War Memorial. He also very kindly signed the visitors book and accepted a 2nd ADA bronze medallion. On each occasion he made you feel completely at ease with a lively conversation.

We recently enjoyed the American Library Zoom meeting to celebrate the VE Day anniversary and it was so good to relive those memories of 75 years ago as well as chatting to Brian Mahoney and other old friends. To talk about the VE Day celebrations in Norwich on that amazing evening in 1945 at the Market Place was so good as well as memories of the 2nd Air Division veterans in the 1995 Parade. We even got round to the Norwich Blitz. I found this meeting great fun and can I urge other people to join in on future meetings (details from the American Library).

Once again all our best wishes and we will never forget you.

David, Jean and Roger Hastings.







# Notes from the Editor

Please send news/articles for "POOP"  
 To : Editor - Andy Wilkinson  
[andywilkinson467th@btinternet.com](mailto:andywilkinson467th@btinternet.com)

## **REUNION COMMITTEE INTERIM REPORT:**

In an ordinary year, we would have at least locked down our 'real' reunion or already had it. Owing to the pandemic, which also deprived us of our trip to England last year for the 75th anniversary of V-E Day, we find ourselves still carefully managing expectations. So, here is what we have decided: we will have another 'virtual reunion' for 2021, and are making plans for our next 'real' reunion in the spring of 2022.

## **Next 467th BGA Reunion**

We will meet 'virtually' on a Zoom call, **Sunday, October 3rd, at 1pm Eastern Time**. We hope to have yet another update from Rackheath on the tremendous ongoing work of the 'Pathfinder' volunteers, literally unearthing pathways, air raid shelters, and foundations of one of the living sites. As luck allows, we may also be able to involve a veteran or two, whose recollections and insights we treasure. We will post the link beforehand, so watch Facebook, the POOP, and our webpage. We look forward to 'seeing' you again!

## **Tentative 2022 Reunion plan**

The Reunion Committee is already looking into specific arrangements, and you can mark your calendar for **April 26th through May 1st in Salt Lake City**. We are also planning a full day trip to Wendover, UT, for a dedication of the memorial to 467th airmen lost in training or transit, and also to all of the USAAF personnel lost in training in the United States, or treacherous transit to their combat base.

Given the present circumstances, you will want to be patient for our *official* 'go/no go' decision on this long awaited face-to-face reunion - with 'an extra day' so we can really catch up! We will make this commitment no later than the virtual reunion in October, and hope to be able to call it earlier. Again, keep an eye on our webpage, Facebook page, and email, for updates, before buying your plane ticket. Fingers crossed!

**LETTER FROM KASHA MAZNIO:** I am writing on behalf of my father, **Steve J. Maznio** who passed away November 22, 2019. He was 95 years old. He was a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corp. 8th Air Force, 2nd Division, 467 Bombardment Group 790th Bomb Squadron, Crew# 73. Service dates 12/10/1942- 10/4/1945. World War II - Europe , Rackheath Airfield, Norwich England. Battles: Ardennes, Rhineland, Central Europe. Awards: Air Metal - 5 O.L.C. E.T.O. - 3 Bronze Battle Stars- One Overseas Service. My dad flew the famous 'Witchcraft' as a copilot to J.W. McFarland in 35 combat missions, see the book "The 467 Bombardment Group" by Perry Watts.

After the war my dad never flew again. Although he never stated why, I surmised that from our conversations about his flying experience he was so happy to have made it home safely that he didn't want to push his luck. It took awhile for my dad to share his flying experiences but once I showed interest I heard the stories more than once and I was as proud of him as he was of what he did at such a young age. He loved to tell me about coming home after the war and not being able to buy a drink in the bar because he wasn't of age but he was considered old enough to risk his life for his country. He also met the Queen of England and Princess Margaret at the officers club while on R&R in England.

After a brief stint in college my dad worked as a tool and dye maker/Forman. He married and 5 children later with a GI loan bought a home outside of Detroit, MI. He was an avid sportsman, swimming, ice skating, golf, bowling, tennis, snow skiing, etc. He was always in good health, very disciplined through his 80's and didn't stop driving his car until he was 91 until it was imperative to hand over the keys. From an assisted living to nursing home he kept sharp and independent with a fringe of stubborn until too many falls that lead to a brief time in the wheel chair.

My dad was also interviewed for the Yankee Air Museum by Julie Osborne, Curatorial Director, August 2016. I'm only sorry that I didn't acknowledge my dad's service with your newsletter while he was alive. He would have liked that! He was buried at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly Michigan with full honors.

**FOLDED WINGS:** News reaching us of "Folded Wings" comes primarily through family members where the veteran is known to the Association and receiving the POOP newsletter. We also learn of 467th veterans passing through our own research activities who may not have known or chosen to belong to our Association. Invariably, news of their passing often comes to us much later. As a general rule, we opt to record those "Folded Wings" occurring during the past two years.

**RACKHEATH "PATHFINDERS":** The local volunteer force under Project Leader Ivan Barnard who have been unearthing the former communal area Site#6, have all been presented with their own unique t-shirts. Fellow "Pathfinder" Paul Thorogood with Chris Brough provided the design while the artwork was created by Fiona Gowen who also designed the six display-panels now in place on Site#6. Broadland District Council provided the t-shirts in recognition of the terrific efforts despite interruptions due Covid and the group are now back on Saturdays (subject weather) continuing the exploratory work and restoration. Ivan has provided further update on activities and photos of progress can be viewed page 14.



**TREASURY NOTES:** Our **GENERAL FUND** for basic ancillary expenses stands at **\$2793.38**. Sales of **PX** items and donations since the last POOP total **\$66**. The **WENDOVER FUNDRAISER PROJECT** has reached our principle target of **\$52,000.00** achieved particularly from two generous donations from The **HERITAGE LEAGUE** and most recently the **492nd BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION**, further donations were received from **JILL & JAMES WATTS**, and **BOB & CONNIE GERRINGER**. The Fundraising campaign remains open to provide important display information, and support material which is highlighted in detail on our **WENDOVER PROJECT UPDATE** on page 12.

**EMAIL AND ADDRESS CHANGES:** Remember to report changes to our President, Brian Mahoney, who handles all membership details including notifications of "Folded Wings" and obituaries.

## Folded Wings

***Jonathan "Ray" R. BICKEL - Navigator 790th March 2019***

***Roland J. DORAN - Navigator 791st March 2019***

***Norbert R. EVANS - Navigator & POW 789th Sept 2019***

***Steve J. MANZIO - Copilot 790th Nov 2019***

***Wesley O. MEANS - Armorer 791st March 2021***

***Richard " Dick" PAIK - Engineer/gunner orig 788th Feb 2019***

***George SIMKINS - Gunner 791st May 2020***

*Please send news of "Folded Wings" also Obituaries to 467th BG veterans or prominent Associates  
to - Brian Mahoney [researcher@brianhmahoney.com](mailto:researcher@brianhmahoney.com)*

# *Land Girls*



## *A brief outline of the role and importance to the war effort*

Alec Blyth of Rackheath kindly provided the above photo depicting two members of the British Women's Land Army, affectionately known as "Land Girls". The family home located just behind the "Sole and Heel" Pub at Rackheath hosted two such "Land Girls" during 1944/45 but it is unclear if the photo depicts those same girls. Alex older brother, Rex, aged around 9 years old at the time can no longer recall both girls names but remembers one originated from London while the other was of Irish origin. They were popular girls and visited by airman from the Rackheath base and certainly would have attended the regular dances hosted on the base at the American Red Cross Aero Club.

The Women's Land Army (WLA) made a significant contribution to boosting Britain's food production during the Second World War. Before the Second World War, Britain had imported much of its food. When war broke out, it was necessary to grow more food at home and increase the amount of land in cultivation. With many male agricultural workers



joining the armed forces, women were needed to provide a new rural workforce.

The WLA had originally been set up in 1917 but disbanded at the end of the First World War. It reformed in June 1939. Women were initially asked to volunteer to serve in the Land Army and, from December 1941, could also be conscripted into land work. At its peak in 1944, there were more than 80,000 women in the WLA. Land girls did a wide variety of jobs on the land. They worked in all weathers and conditions and could be directed to

work anywhere in the country.

By autumn 1941, more than 20,000 women had volunteered to serve in the Women's Land Army (WLA). One third of these volunteers had lived in London or another large city. Posters suggested that the WLA offered a healthy outdoor lifestyle, which perhaps appealed to many urban women and girls.

Many land girls lived in at the farms where they worked. However, in many rural areas, living conditions could be very basic and the lifestyle lonely. As larger numbers of women were recruited, hostels were set up to house land girls. The treatment of Land Girls within private billets varied upon the house they were living in. In some cases, there were no problems; women were treated like daughters of the family. However, in some cases, women had to eat separately from the family (in particular on Sundays) and were made to feel very uncomfortable in their new 'home'.

For some women, this was the first time they had left home. This in itself was a daunting experience, made worse for those who were treated with disdain. Some farmers were ruthless in their choice of girls, choosing girls who were 17 ½, as they could be paid less than 18 year olds. Some women had to live with old ladies and with this came a sense of missing companionship, as in some cases it was difficult to

travel anywhere to meet people.

By 1944, when the Women's Land Army was at its peak, around one quarter of all land girls were employed in some form of dairy work. Land Girls were sometimes responsible for over 30-40 cows which posed quite a daunting prospect for some new girls who didn't even know what a cow was! The day usually began and ended with the milking of the cow which in the majority of cases went with a hygiene routine of washing the udders and milking equipment (if farms were lucky enough to have the luxury of this mechanism).

Other tasks included recording the yields of the cow to delivering the milk to the local community. This again shows the level (and range) of responsibility which a typical Land Girl had on her shoulders as well as illustrating some of the skills which she would have developed over the years.

'Flax growing' was the growing of a 5 petal light blue flower with a stem of 3-4 feet. This plant was then manufactured into linen (a strong and durable fabric) in the factory, which was key for the production of clothes, during times of shortages. The plant was brought in from farmers, stacked in barns and sent to the factories for threshing. The Land Girls' role was to pull the plant from the ground and prepare the plant for the factories.



Other work around the farm included the cutting and laying of hedges. Land Girls cleared waste land and ditches and cut back trees. Land Girls often learned ploughing from regular farmhands by watching their approach 'on the job'. Even then, it was still difficult for women to put into practice what farm workers appeared to do effortlessly. Nonetheless over time, many Land Girls picked up this new skill and became second nature. Having not driven before, these newly-acquired skills gave women career prospects for when the war was over.

Many Land Girls learnt how to become 'mechanised' and drive a tractor. Most Land Girls knew nothing about driving, let alone how to drive a Fordson tractor with a powerful engine. With driving a tractor came the responsibility of looking after it, especially in the winter.



The lifestyle of a Land Girl varied according to where her accommodation was and how many other girls were billeted at a particular place. If they were lucky enough to have an RAF base near them, or indeed an American base, then the social life was going to be livelier when compared with a single Land Girl billeted with an elderly couple. If big military camps were in the area, then Land Girls were frequently invited to dances.

However, not all of the social life of a Land Girl involved men. A somewhat 'normal' war-time social life was kept back at their place of lodging. Many had recreation rooms which had comfy chairs, books and a piano or gramophone player (if they were lucky). The girls had very little time off work. There were many restrictions on social life due to the demanding nature of the farm work. There were strict rules on the time in which girls arrived back in the evening.

The typical curfew time was 10pm. If girls missed this curfew 3 nights running, they would be moved to other hostels. Disobedience was frowned upon deeply as Land Girls were providing the crops for the nation in a time of war.

Land girls were paid directly by the farmers who employed them. The minimum wage was 28s (Shillings) per week and from this, 14s was deducted for board and lodging. The average wage for male agricultural workers was 38s per week. The basic working week for land girls was 48 hours in winter and 50 in summer. Initially there were no holidays – paid or unpaid, just a free travel pass after six months. However, conditions improved after 1943 with the introduction of the 'Land Girls Charter'. This introduced one week's holiday per year and raised the minimum wage.

As part of the drive to produce extra food, the Government needed more land to be turned over for food production. Efforts were made to transform areas of land previously unsuitable for farming. One of the most significant projects was in East Anglia where thousands of acres of fenland were drained. Heavy machinery such as excavators and tractors, often operated by land girls, were needed to carry out this work.





The Women's Timber Corps was set up in 1942 to help source and prepare wood which was needed urgently for pit props and telegraph poles. The work carried out by women in the Timber Corps, known as 'Lumber Jills', included selecting and measuring trees suitable for felling, sawing and lifting timber and burning brushwood. Around 6,000 women worked in the Timber Corps.

Land girls were not the only additional work force available to farmers. By 1943, there were almost 40,000 Italian prisoners of war working on British farms. In some places they worked alongside land girls. The general public was also encouraged to help out with farm work, especially at harvest time. This was seen as a cheap way of taking a holiday in the countryside. Special camps were set up to accommodate volunteers.

*(Editor – sources for this article, The Womens' Land Army site, Imperial War Museum site, Wikipedia).*

## 467th BG Assoc “Virtual” Zoom Meeting - all welcome to join

**Sunday 3rd October 2021**  
**1pm Eastern (6pm UK)**

**Save  
the  
Date**



## 467th BG Assoc 2022 REUNION

**Provisionally**

**Tuesday 26th April - 1st May 2022**

**SALT LAKE CITY**



# ***Another Miracle in the Joe Haenn Story***

## ***By Yvonne Caputo***

Semi-retirement has given me the ability to take an afternoon nap on almost a daily basis. That, however, isn't the miracle in this story.

I take my cell phone to bed with me, because I set the alarm for 20 minutes. If I sleep more, I wake up groggy and less likely to accomplish what I have set out for myself. To have an uninterrupted sleep, I also put the phone on "do not disturb." But for those who know me, I often forget to turn that feature off when I get up.

It didn't occur to me to question anything until later when I was in church for the Sunday afternoon service. I took my phone out to reset that feature, and saw clearly it was still set.

So then, it dawned on me, how in the world did the phone ring when I got up from my nap?

I didn't recognize the number on the incoming call, and I quickly decided I would be gracious to the telemarketer on the other end. I generally do, because I know it's someone just trying to earn a living.

What happened next was another Joe Haenn miracle. The voice on the other end said, "Yvonne, I am Ben Staudt's daughter."

For those who might be reading this, and not know the story behind it, Ben Staudt was a co-pilot who had been friendly with Joe while they served at the 467<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group at Rackheath, during WWII. Joe was a maintenance assistant crew chief.

The two waved at each other as Ben's plane taxied down to tarmac to begin a bombing mission. Ben never returned from that mission, and for 75 years Joe had no idea what happened. Joe told me he didn't get close to other crews, because he didn't want to know when they didn't come back.

That mystery had been solved through research with the 467<sup>th</sup>'s historian. Joe was able to learn 75 years later that



*Ben Staudt, co-pilot of the 789th Sq Lt. Murray Crew, second left front row*



*Joe Haenn with VP Peter Horne at the 2017 DC Reunion*

Ben's plane went down, he became a German POW. When the Allies came through, Ben was freed and returned to the US to live a full life. Joe's exact words when he knew the full story were, "It's so good to know after all these years."

The woman on the phone was Janice Graves. She said her sister, Loretta Staudt, found the Souderton Independent article about Joe and Ben while doing some family ancestry research on the internet. Janice went on and found my name and phone number, and she said she just decided to try and call.

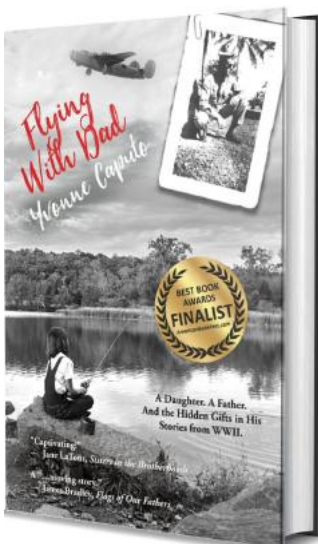




The energy and excitement between us was palpable. Janice told me what a wonderful father her dad had been, and that after the war like so many others, he wouldn't talk about his experience. When he became sick, the family encouraged him to write it down. He did so by dictating it to his wife. Janice said that it was saved as a word document and would I like to have it? Would I? Of course, and did I have permission to share it with Joe, his family and the 467<sup>th</sup>? Her response, "Absolutely."

No more than a half an hour later, the story was in my inbox. Also, there were emails and attachments from Ben's two other daughters. Not only did I have a clear idea of how Loretta found the newspaper article, but Rose Froehlich, the third sister sent a picture of Ben's crew, and a drawing that was done of Ben while he was a POW.

I visit Joe today, and what a package and story I will have to take to him. I can think of no other word but miracle. Writing *Flying with Dad*, has introduced me to dad's co-pilot's daughter, Susan Farnham, to the veteran Joe Haenn who saw the condition of the plane dad was in when it crashed, the story of a missing Murray, Staudt crew that meant so much to Joe, and to Ben Staudt's daughter Janice and her sisters Rose and Loretta.



*Thanks to Yvonne for sharing her story following on from the last "POOP from Group". "FLYING WITH DAD" has been widely acclaimed and nominated in the 2020 Best Book Award (AmericanBookfest.com). Published by Ingenium Books and widely available from well known online outlets in several formats including Kindle - EDITOR*



# WENDOVER FUND RAISER PROJECT

**TARGET: \$52,000**

It was just two years ago at the 2019 Hartford, CT. Reunion we announced the Board's challenging proposal to create a memorial to those young men who tragically gave their lives while training at Wendover and the hazardous transit to England. Twenty-four months later we can proudly pronounce, YOU'VE REACHED THE GOAL!

**MISSION:  
ACCOMPLISHED**



We thank you all for embracing this bold venture and striving so hard to enable the stunning replica B24 model take form under the gifted hands of world renowned aviation craftsmen, Mr Guillermo Rojas-Bazan. You would have been truly staggered at the painstaking attention to detail revealed in the progress photos. And the fundraising achieved against the background of genuine hardship and uncertainty for so many this past year. WE THANK YOU ALL!

## **THE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN REMAINS OPEN:**

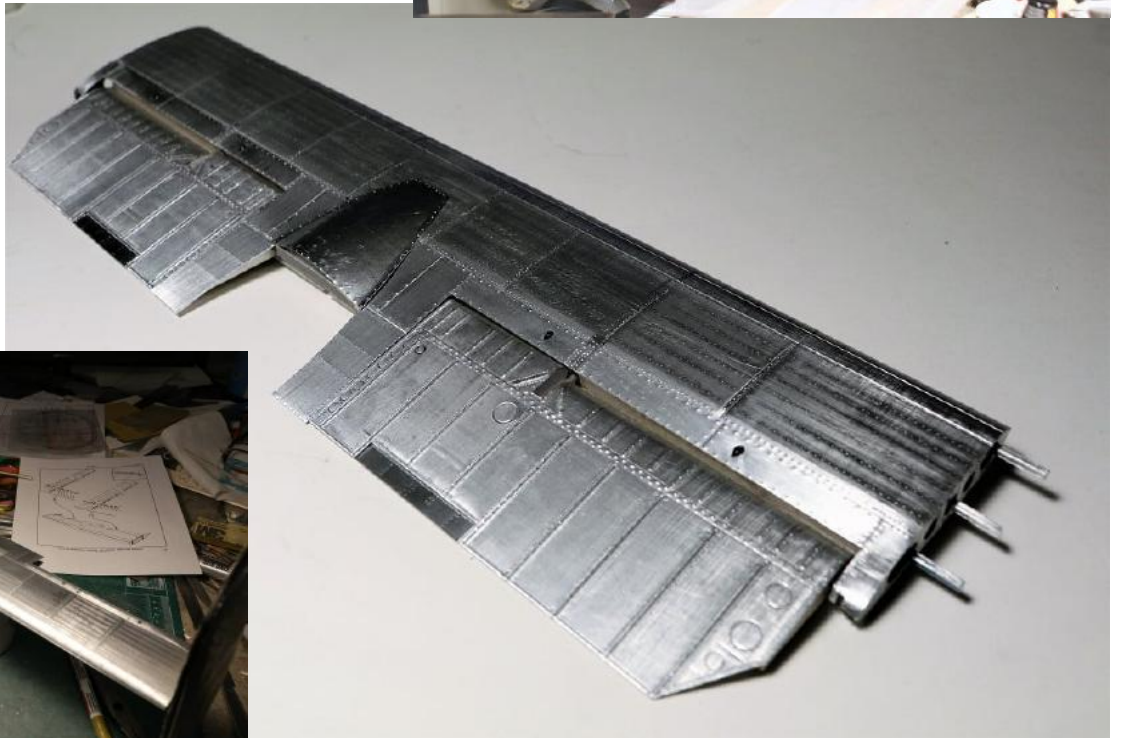
Funding for the contract and construction of the B24 model has been achieved, helped over the line by a generous donation to the project by the Heritage League. Their interest and commitment was borne by our aim to extend recognition of those lost in training and in transit to those other 2nd Air Division B24 units that trained at Wendover and acknowledge the 15,000 U.S. Airmen killed in training who never got to go overseas. This will be the first memorial of its kind in the entire U.S. and appropriately sited at the preserved historic Wendover Army Air Base and former training base.

The Directors and Project Committee have decided upon keeping the fundraising campaign open to enable the provision of additional material to enhance understanding and support of the project and offer further opportunity to those who intended to contribute earlier. It's not too late to have "your veteran" honored on a special plaque with a choice of sponsorship levels; in addition all donors whatever the amount donated to be acknowledged in a bound book placed near the memorial. Further displays are required to record the full scale of Group and nationwide losses and highlight significant achievements of the 467th and historical importance of the two chosen Group aircraft illustrated by the model.

We also want to document the detailed construction revealing the staggering internal detail by means of photographic record which otherwise would remain largely unseen after the model is hung for display. Support material associated to the B24 model is equally important and an essential component of the memorial overall. Imagine a book without words. We require further effort to complete the full package and appeal to those of you who haven't taken the opportunity already, to do so now, in the full knowledge our main goal has been achieved. Full details and how you can contribute are on our Group website [HERE](#): Also worth reading this brief article describing the sobering statistics of 15,000 U.S. Airman losses during training in WWII, with more aircrew trainees "lost" flying the B24 than any other plane. [ARTICLE](#)

# WENDOVER FUND RAISER PROJECT CONT.

Attention to the model construction has moved on from the previous time-consuming and intricate requirements spent with internal detail, to work on the rudder and aileron. Our most recent progress photos from Guillermo reveal his continuing pursuit of precise accuracy as our scale model approaches the final phases. It is hoped the October 2021 "POOP" can report close to completion and we remain highly excited at the prospect of viewing our unique tribute at Wendover in a special dedication late April next year.



## How to Contribute:

Checks to the 467th BG(H) Assoc. Treasurer

**Valerie Corvino**

242 Molly Drive

McMurray, PA. 15317

Credit card payment via the Association

PayPal account



Full details on the Wendover Memorial Project and to contribute in support of this exciting effort, visit the website at:

<http://www.467bg.com/wendoverMem.php>

*Fundraising Campaign Remains Open*

*Not too late to "Sponsor" your vet.*

*We still require funding for Display Signs, Bound Donor's Book, & Photo record of B24 model build.*

*Be part of this Project and please make your effort count.*





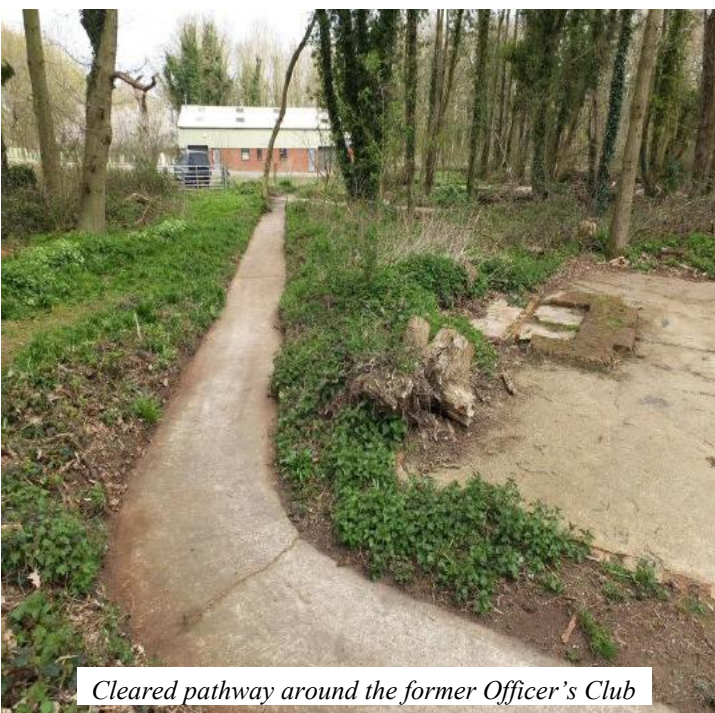
## Pathfinders Site#6 June Update

*Photos: from Paul Thorogood and Alec Blyth*

Saturday, the 10th of April saw the return of the Pathfinders following yet another pandemic lockdown, hopefully this will be the last lockdown that we have to endure.

Although no physical works by the Pathfinders could take place on site during the lockdown, a number of important and interesting items took place behind-the-scenes. These included a further tree survey that identified quite a number of trees that were suffering from ash dieback, subsequently they have all now been removed. The collection and removal of a quantity of small sections of asbestos roofing sheets. An Unexploded Ordnance Survey was commissioned and completed. This survey, some 62 pages long, complete with maps and a vast amount of historical data makes for some interesting reading. A publicity leaflet has been finalised and is now ready for printing. This link [SITE#6](#) will take you directly to a beautifully produced PowerPoint presentation that details the concept and implementation of the project to date. Pathfinder volunteers have been issued with T-shirts, with artwork depicting a B24 flying over Site 6. Last but not least I am delighted to say that a bench has been installed in the Chapel garden, to a design that I had submitted.

Our first major task on returning to site following the pandemic lockdown, was to sweep all the pathways and the



*Cleared pathway around the former Officer's Club*

concrete building bases clean and free of debris. In the following weeks the major task of digging out the blast shelter that is opposite the Whitehouse has continued apace. Adjacent to the concrete footpath that runs the entire length of the Officers Club, there are a number of large tree roots that we are now attempting to remove. The largest of these is immediately adjacent to the main entrance to the Club. The root system of this tree had severely damaged and uplifted sections of the concrete path. Week by week we are currently burning the stump out from below ground level, this in time will allow us to reinstate the path.

The attached photographs and inscriptions bear witness to our current endeavours, with a reminder that a photographic record of our progress, is uploaded weekly onto the 467th Facebook Page.

Ivan A Barnard Email: [ivanbarnard999@btinternet.com](mailto:ivanbarnard999@btinternet.com)





*Clearing of Blast Shelter previously filled with soil and decades of undergrowth*



*Photo revealing the extent and scale of the Site#6 Officers Club and dining areas. Ivan deals with troublesome tree-roots.*





*Cleared pathway from Col Shower's quarters to Officers Club*



*Newly installed wrought iron bench in the Chapel Garden*



*Significant efforts required to clear and remove material from the Blast Shelter*



# Obituaries



## **.Wesley Othell MEANS, Airplane Armorer, 791st**

Wesley Othell Means was born on August 17, 1923 and was welcomed into the arms of Jesus on March 20, 2021. He had an amazing 97-year life on this earth and considered himself very blessed.

The son of Romulus and Era (Baldree), he was born in Trent, Texas, and grew up mostly in Parker County where his family farmed and where, by his account, he reckoned he had climbed every tree worth climbing. He also could be found lying on the grass looking up at the clouds and dreaming. He had three siblings - S.A., Doris, and Vera Lee.

Between his tree climbing, dreaming, and farming he found time to letter baseball at Peaster Rural High School and graduate as salutatorian.

Any plans he may have had after high school were changed by World War II when he, like most young men of his age, joined the Army Air Corps. After training as an aerial gunner he was selected for training as an armament specialist working on the machine guns of B-24 bombers. He was stationed at Rackheath AB, Norwich, England with the 467th Bomb Group (H), 8th Air Force in 1944 – 45.

After being discharged from the Army Air Force he came back to Weatherford to pick up his life post-war. A need for surgery at the Medical Surgery Clinic in Weatherford changed his life forever when he met a young nurse and fell in love. Wesley and Viola Greer married in 1951 while they were both working at Convair in Ft. Worth on the B-36. Their beautiful story would last 66 years until Viola's passing in 2017.

In 1952, he joined the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey and he and Viola and their growing family spent the next 17 years traveling all over the United States, including Alaska, Hawaii, and parts of the Caribbean. They lived in travel trailers as the party would move every few months as the surveyors did their work.

In 1969 he and Viola bought a home in Weatherford so their five children could stay in one place and finish their high school years in their hometown. This brought a big sacrifice as Wesley continued to travel with the Coast Survey with everyone joining back up in the fall and summer. Wesley and Viola's love survived and thrived through long Sunday phone calls and letters as they maintained two households and raised their kids.

Wesley retired from the Coast Survey in 1979 and enjoyed several employment adventures in and around Weatherford before finally settling at Brock ISD where he worked for 17 years into his eighties. He loved Brock because he loved kids and they loved him.

Wesley was a long-time member of Hilltop Baptist Church in Weatherford where he also served as a deacon.

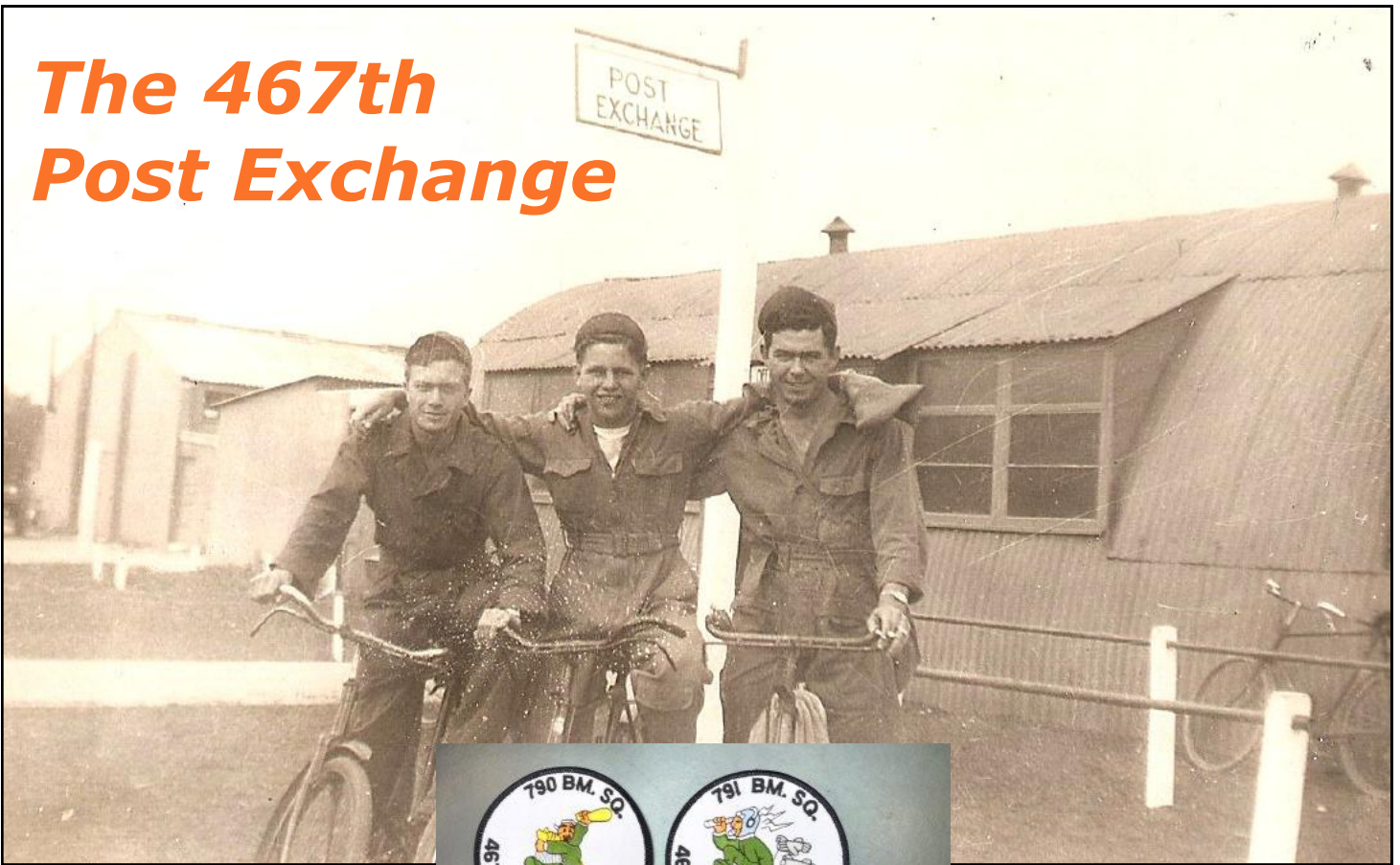
In 2012, he and Viola moved to Valley Center, California to live with his daughter, Phyllis, and son-in-law, Roy, where he passed away on March 20, 2021.

*Editor - Thanks to Roy Knight for providing photos and obituary for his father-in-law, Wesley.*





# The 467th Post Exchange



1.



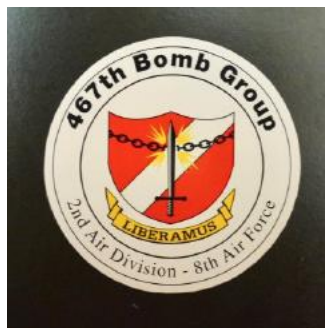
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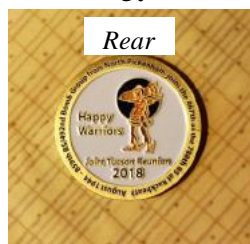


5.



Coin - Front

7.



Rear



6.

# The 467th Post Exchange

## Items Available to Order in support of the 467th BG Association

1. **RED 467th LIBERAMUS INSIGNIA BALL CAP:**  
Universal fit.....\$10.00 ea plus package and mail.
2. **SQUADRON PATCHES FEATURING SQUADRON LOGO, 788th, 789th, 790th, 791st:**  
Embroidered Patches 4" Dia.....\$3.00 ea plus package and mail.
3. **467th LIBERAMUS SHIELD GROUP PATCH:**  
Red Embroidered Patch 3"x3".....\$3.00 ea plus package and mail.
4. **SQUADRON PINS FEATURING SQUADRON LOGO, 788th, 789th, 791st:**  
Pins 1" Dia. (790th Squadron currently unavailable).....\$3.00 ea plus package and mail.
5. **CAR/REFRIDGERATOR MAGNET:**  
467th Shield/2AD/8th Air Force Round. 4" Dia.....\$2.00 ea plus package and mail.
6. **WHITE POLO SHIRT WITH GROUP PATCH:**  
Liberamus 467th BG/2 AD - 8 AF. ONLY avail sizes, XL & XXL.....\$15.00 plus package and mail
7. **CHALLENGE COIN in plastic envelope:**  
467th Liberamus/Happy Warrior Squadron, Tucson 2018 Reunion.....\$15.00 ea plus package and mail.

**ORDERS AND ENQUIRIES TO STEVE WATSON** [fswat49@icloud.com](mailto:fswat49@icloud.com)

Steve will advise shipping costs and availability

**PAYMENT: Credit card/Paypal [HERE](#):** or via check to "The 467th BG Association"  
to **TREASURER, Valerie Corvino, 242 Molly Dr., McMurray, PA. 15317**

### ALSO AVAILABLE:            **The 467th Bombardment Group History by Allan Healy**

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.

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