

POOP from Group



791st



790th



789th



788th

Newsletter of the 467th Bomb Group Association

June 2024

Come Join in the 80th anniversary Reunion

Set for Colorado Springs, CO.

OCTOBER 17-22



THE SPECTACULAR B-24 BRONZE MEMORIAL CAST at the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, and a location featured during the upcoming milestone 80th anniversary Reunion since the 467th BG completed training and entered into combat over Europe. Dedicated in September 98 and sponsored by many 467th, it reads in part, "to honor the brave airman we lost, the valiant ones who survived, and to all who designed, produced, maintained and flew this stalwart aircraft".

***** Colorado Springs October Reunion *****

Full Schedule and Details

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Col Albert J. Shower

Honorary Vice President (RIP)

Jay Shower



The 467th
Bombardment Group
The Rackheath Aggies

Rackheath Pathfinders
Site#6 (467th USAAF)



467bg_assoc



President's Message

By Yvonne Caputo

yvonneauthor4@gmail.com

The older I get the quicker time passes. It seems to blink and be gone, but I have yet to see my 80th birthday. How then can it be that our fathers and grandfathers climbed into planes for their first bombing mission overseas? When my father was asked by a psychiatrist what he thought about his chances, Dad said, "If I die or return, it's God's will."

When he read the first four chapters of the book I was writing about his experiences during the war, he said "I knew that you would write it in your own style but it's missing something." I had to prompt him several times before he would tell me just what that was. Without any elaboration, he said, "Combat was terrifying."

"Dangerous Skies" was a chapter in Donald L. Miller's book when it was titled *The Eighth Air Force*. I read and reread it to try and understand what Dad might have experienced. Some of what Miller described was at 22,000 feet above the ground it could be 40 to 60 degrees below zero, and the cabin was unpressurized. Heated underwear and sheep lined outerwear were all there was to keep warm. The fuel lines were along the sides of the fuselage, and the plane's skin could be punctured with a screwdriver. The oxygen mask would freeze over from the moisture in the breath, or if someone got sick and vomited in it. There were no medics aboard, and the crew did their best with what little training they had if one of their crew mates was injured. Flying in tight formations meant an inability to avoid flak or the onslaught of German fighter planes. In Dad's words, "We were sitting ducks."

When *Masters of the Air* was aired on television, I thought I might have a better sense of Dad's experiences. I was told by someone involved in the making of the series to have a tissue box by my side as I watched. I never used one, and I questioned why given the reality of the production. It came to me that as real as it was unless I was sitting in the navigator's seat flying on one of those missions, I would never understand what Dad meant by his words.

We are now 80 years beyond the first mission of the 467th. While I may not be able to fathom the reality of what Dad and so many others of his group experienced, I know this, we must continue to teach and honor their stories. The sacrifice of all of those lost should never be forgotten.

Notes from the Editor



Please send news/articles to
Editor

andywilkinson467th@btinternet.com

COLORADO SPRINGS OCTOBER 80TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION: we urge as many as possible to make plans to join with the 467th family as we head for Colorado Springs this October commemorating the milestone 80th anniversary of the Groups' departure to England and first combat operation. As I write these words, today is the 6th June and blanket tv coverage of the historic D-Day landings with world leaders gathered in Normandy to honor the sacrifice and commitment of Allied serviceman represented by the dwindling number of veterans who bravely made the journey to remember fallen comrades. And we remember the 467th contribution that historic day flying three combat missions all in support of the landings. All the more important we continue to remember our veterans and their contribution through our annual gatherings in a spirit of true camaraderie and "family". The full schedule of activities, hotel details, with a recommendation to extend to Monday and Tuesday for relaxed sightseeing in this beautiful locality are found in this issue. **REGISTRATION** for the Reunion will be available next month and expected to be via online for both registering and payment. We will email all members with the online Registration link, or look out for it on our Social Media platforms and official web-site. Make it an occasion to relish and remember and join the fun and commemoration this October. Look forward to see you there!

NEW DIRECTORS: following two unexpected vacancies we welcome **Keith Hughes and Cindy Stevens** who stepped up at short notice to ensure the Association remains in good health for the challenges we face during the next few years. Keith has kindly agreed to take on the Treasurer role while Cindy has volunteered to administer our new INSTAGRAM presence. You can follow the 467th BG Association on Instagram by searching **467bg_assoc** Cindy makes a welcome return to the Board and many will remember how her Mom & Dad were stalwarts and leading lights of the Association and represented the Group in the Second Air Division Association for many years. Jack Stevens will always be remembered for his leadership and great humor, signing off communications with his regular signature, "keep 'em flying!". Keith's Father was Lt. Donald J. Hughes a co-pilot in the 789th on one of the early replacement crews flying 35 missions between May to December 1944. Keith too is an aviator, a private pilot and proud owner of a veteran Ercoupe, "Double Trouble", named (and same artwork) after the B24 his Dad and crew regularly flew at Rackheath.

ANNUAL MEMBERS BUSINESS MEETING: after the success of last years meeting conducted via ZOOM we will again use this format to complete our usual formal business of elections, etc. and also an opportunity for presentations and light-hearted participatory "chat" enabling as many of you who can to take part. This has been set for **SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER, 1pm EST (6pm UK)**. Reminders including Agenda and Zoom link will be sent closer to the date by email, Facebook, Instagram, and official web-site. Make sure to mark the date and make your voice heard.



OFFICIAL WEB-SITE ADDITIONS: our site Administrator VP Peter Horne continues to make great progress with additional new input chronicling the rich history and story of the Group in a new section now available to view, “**Library**”. This section provides four categories, Multimedia; Photo’s; Stories; & Publications. We are thrilled the Dzenowagis Video Collection professionally filmed and presented by former 790th Navigator Joe Dzenowagis and family, comprising of 14 presentations has been added to Multimedia with full cooperation and approval of the family. Captured are significant and key moments with Group veterans with in-depth interviews, including Col. Albert J. Shower, and many more filmed during the 80s and 90s, at memorable events, Reunions and Rackheath visits. They present a unique, compelling, and comprehensive history through the eyes of the men who served and we welcome the opportunity to include this important collection. Further sections continue to grow and are work-in-progress but well worth exploring this archive at our official site at www.467bg.com

CEO WENDOVER HISTORIC AIRFIELD, JIM PETERSEN: has kindly accepted to be our guest-speaker at Colorado Springs and many will recall the warm welcome Jim and his team provided in the memorable visit to Wendover during the 2022 Reunion. Looking forward to hear about the plans for accepting the scale B24 Witchcraft model and potential dedication. It was the 467th’s efforts to remember those “fallen” during the training phase that inspired Wendover Airfield to aspire to a national memorial to ALL similar fallen and I’m sure we will learn more in October.



INSTAGRAM: as mentioned earlier, the 467th BG Association has created an Instagram account to increase our social media presence, allowing greater opportunity to connect in the digital world. Administered by Cindy Stevens you can follow at [467bg_assoc](https://www.instagram.com/467bg_assoc)



EMAIL AND ADDRESS CHANGES: report changes to, Brian Mahoney, who deals with membership details including notifications of “Folded Wings” and obituaries. researcher@brianhmahoney.com

Folded Wings

William D. ALLERT - Radar Mechanic 788th, February 2022

Allen L. DAVIDSON - Gunner 789th, July 2022

Henry G. DIFFENDFER - Aircraft Mechanic 788th (Wendover, UT), February 2022

Windferd D. DOVER - Gunner 788th, February 2023

Richard D. FROHLICHSTEIN - Aircraft Mechanic 788th, April 2023

Albert “Al” J. MATTHES Jr. - Radio-operator 789th/791st, February 2024

Marvin W. SPEISER - Gunner 788th, January 2022

The Age of Longevity

100 YEARS!

By the year 2050, the number of us reaching the age of 100 is projected to increase eightfold to 3.7 million people worldwide. Roughly the equivalent of everyone living in Connecticut or Los Angeles. And according to a Stanford report from their Center on Longevity, half of all five-year-olds alive right now in the U.S are expected to live to 100 years old.

We are thrilled to bring you a number of our esteemed veterans having already reached the magical “100” or will be celebrating a 100th birthday this year. No stranger to the POOP newsletter is **Joe Haenn**, who in April celebrated his 107th birthday. Joe, a former 789th Sq. B-24 mechanic celebrated with friends and family, even attracting local media keen to discover his secret to such a long life. The oldest member of the 467th BG Association and maybe 2nd Air Division, the occasion led to a visit by our current and past *Presidents*, Yvonne Caputo and Brian Mahoney to celebrate with Joe at his assisted living residence in Telford, PA. Several of the Association were honored to join Joe on a Zoom call on this special day where he kindly answered questions on his memories of life at Wendover and Rackheath. A gift from the Association was an Instruction Manual Power Plant for a B-24D which Joe was looking forward to reacquaint himself having a special interest in the maintenance of engines.



Joe engages on a Zoom call on his 107th

Introducing **Merle Brinkman** who celebrated his 103rd birthday last July with a report featured in the local Mankato Free Press, MN. Merle was radio-operator in the 791st Lt. Wells Wescott Crew, one of the original air echelon of the 467th who trained at Wendover and flew the B-24 “Bugs Bunny” which the crew named in honor of Wells, applying the name and artwork before they left for England. Merle and the crew participated on the Groups’ first combat mission on 10 April 44 and regularly throughout the next few months of operations. Along with co-pilot Wendell Pirtle from the Wescott Crew, they were the first in the 467th to complete their 30 missions on the 25 June 44, matching their sister 791st Lt. John Seward Crew, who completed the same day. An enviable record including completing a successful mission on D-Day and a testament to the ground crews who enabled B-24H “Bugs Bunny” to fly on a regular basis ably piloted by Lt. Wescott.



Merle Brinkman is pictured (left) in a recent photo kindly provided by family. Almost 80 years earlier, Merle is pictured left alongside co-pilot Wendell Pirtle after completing their missions at Rackheath on the 25 June 1944, and among the first aircrew to do so.

Another of our centenarian veterans is **Donald C. Tibbetts**, a pilot and crew commander who was assigned to the 467th as a replacement crew and commenced flying combat in July 1944 with the 789th Squadron. Recognized as an outstanding crew, they were reassigned as a lead-crew in the newly organised 791st Squadron in mid-October and flew combat as lead or deputy-lead until completing their missions at the end of January 1945. Donald reached 100 in November last year and as well as family celebrations he was honored at his local Northborough, MA. veterans' parade where the VFW made a special banner and had a cake presented.



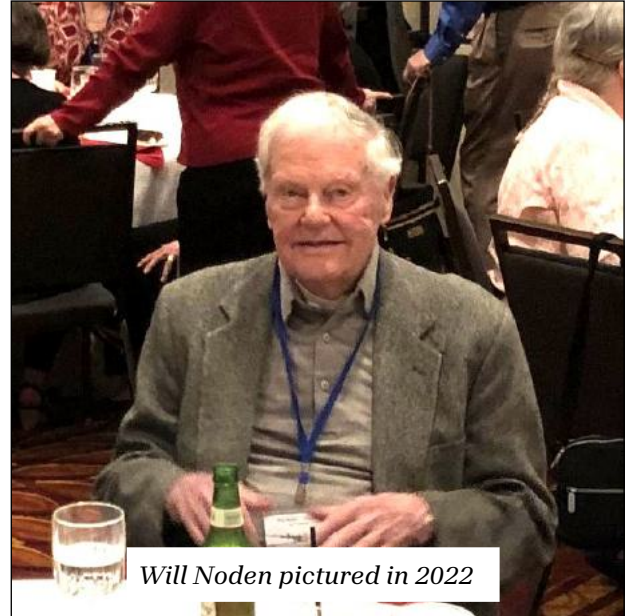
Captain Donald C. Tibbetts honored at Northborough, MA. veterans' parade. Right, pictured in England in full flying apparel.



Familiar to many and a regular at our recent Reunions is “**Will**” **Noden** who will be celebrating his 100th Birthday this September. “Will” was a navigator with the 790th Lt. Jimmie D. Thomas crew who flew their missions as a replacement crew in the final months of WWII during March and April 1945. They were among the 29 Group crews participating on the final mission for the 467th to Traunstein, 25 April 45. A resident of Titusville, NJ, we look forward to share a photo of Will’s special occasion in the next POOP Newsletter.

The following is a list of individuals who served with the Group who too reached the magic 100 years young but sadly are no longer with us. **William D. Allert; David L. Brady; Allen L. Davidson; Fred J. Hicks; Frank J. Hribar; Albert J. Matthes; Kenneth C. Micko; Frank A. Minello; Wilbur A. Newell; Charles C. Russell; Alvin J. Stasney; Aurel E. Stuart.**

There maybe several more out there we are unaware as our records database has a number of individuals whose current status is indeterminate. If you know of anyone not listed here do let us know and we will report here and update our records. *Editor - Thanks to family and friends who provided photos and details.*



Will Noden pictured in 2022

A Direct Appeal for your Help

To enable our important on-line presence particularly hosting our dynamic web site, ever expanding databases, also domain registration, we require funding to maintain and safeguard our digital footprint for ALL to access.

Maybe you have learned of the history, service record, and so much more of a family member through our [RESEARCH SITE](#). We need to further develop, grow, promote the story and legacy of the 467th for future generations in a crowded digital world.

Make sure our voice is heard and HELP this continue. You can contribute to our efforts through a deeply appreciated DONATION to our Association Paypal/ Cedit-Debit Card account which is tax deductible, [HERE](#). THANK YOU sincerely for supporting our aims and determined endeavors; all donations will be acknowledged personally and in the POOP Newsletter.

**467th BG Assoc. Annual Joint Reunion with the 93rd BG Assoc. &
Heritage League of the 2nd Air Division
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
OCTOBER 17-21 2024 with optional extention Oct. 21&22**



This year we will gather in Colorado Springs, Colorado in Mid-October. Our hotel is the **Embassy Suites Colorado Springs** located about 3 miles from the United States Air Force Academy. Two airports are available: Colorado Springs Airport (COS) located 18 miles away with taxi and uber service; and Denver International Airport (DEN) located 80 miles away. Complimentary shuttles are not available from either airport. The Embassy Suites is an all-suite hotel with both queen and king rooms. Our rate for either type is **\$155.00 plus tax totaling \$174.38 per night** with made-to-order breakfast included as well as a 7-day per week complimentary evening reception.

Reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at **719-599-9100**. Ask for the 93rd Bomb Group Association Reunion block. Our Point of Contact is **Sheri Neely**. Ask for her assistance if you encounter any difficulty. The negotiated rate is available three days before and after the reunion. Please make your reservations as soon as you can. The rate will be available **until September 23rd**. Reservations can be cancelled without penalty up to 48 hours prior. If you are considering attending, make your reservations **now**. You can cancel without penalty if your plans change.

We recommend staying Monday & Tuesday (21st/22nd) for opportunities to explore the natural beauty of the local scenery and the best of Colorado Springs. See the proposed schedule for these days out and enjoy the company of friends in a relaxed end of Reunion adventure.

Our Day Room will offer research, videos, books, memorabilia, and a place to socialize and always a natural draw for folk. Meanwhile the 467th have some standalone activities including a trip to the the Pueblo Weisbrod Airfield Museum where many 467th crews spent time training; and delighted to host our special guest speaker and CEO of the Historic Wendover Airfield, Jim Petersen.

SCHEDULE

Day 1 – Thursday, Oct 17

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Memorabilia & Research Room Setup – Everyone is welcome!
1:00 – 5:00 PM	Registration
2:00 – 3:00 PM	Officer's Reunion/Convention Update
6:00 – 9:00 PM	Welcome Dinner – Hotel
7:00 – 8:00 PM	Attendee Introductions
8:00 – 9:00 PM	Guest Speaker
9:00 – 10:30 PM	Memorabilia & Research rooms open

Day 2 – Friday, Oct 18

7:30 – 9:00 AM	Breakfast – Hotel
9:00 – 9:30 AM	Travel to Air Force Academy
9:30 – 10:15 AM	Air Force Academy Visitor's Center
10:15 – 11:15 AM	Air Force Academy Planetarium
11:15 – 11:30 AM	Walk to Bronze Statue of B-24
11:30 – 12:00 AM	Observe the Cadet's Lunch Meal Formation
12:15 – 1:30 PM	Air Force Academy Club - Lunch
1:30 – 1:45 PM	Drive to Air Force Academy Cemetery
1:45 – 2:15 PM	Wreath Laying Ceremony at Cemetery
2:15 – 3:15 PM	Travel to Hotel
3:30 – 5:30 PM	Memorabilia & Research rooms open
3:30 – 5:15 PM	Business Meeting – Heritage League
5:30 – 8:00 PM	Walk to Restaurant – Chicago Pizza, Outback, The Margarita, 49ers (On your own)
8:00 – 10:30 PM	Memorabilia Room & Research Rooms open - Movie Night



Day 3 – Saturday, Oct 19

7:30 – 9:00 AM	Breakfast – Hotel
8:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum – 467 th BG
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Business Meeting Session #1 – 93 rd Bomb Group
10:45 AM – 12:00 AM	Business Meeting Session #2 – 93 rd Bomb Group
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Lunch - Hotel
1:00 – 2:00 PM	Educational Session #1 – 93 rd
2:00 – 3:00 PM	Educational Session #2 – 467 th
3:00 – 4:00 PM	Educational Session #3 – Heritage League
4:45 – 5:30 PM	Group Photo
5:30 – 6:00 PM	Reception
6:00 – 8:00 PM	Memorial Dinner – Hotel
8:00 – 10:30 PM	Memorabilia & Research rooms open



Day 4 – Sunday, Oct 20

7:30 – 9:00 AM	Breakfast - Hotel
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Religious Service (non-denominational)
10:15 – 10:30 AM	Travel to Off-Site Activity
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Tour – National Museum of WWII Aviation
12:30 – 12:45 PM	Travel to Lunch
12:45 – 1:45 PM	The Airplane Restaurant (on your own)
1:45 – 2:00 PM	Travel to Garden of the Gods
2:00 – 4:00 PM	Tour – Garden of the Gods
4:00 – 4:30 PM	Return to Hotel
6:00 – 8:00 PM	Dinner - Hotel
8:00 – 9:00 PM	After-Action Discussion – Everyone is welcome!
9:00 PM – 11:00 PM	Memorabilia & Research Rooms Pack-up – Everyone is welcome!

SCHEDULE Cont. Optional Extention 21/22 Oct.

Day 5 – Monday, Oct 21

7:30 – 9:00 AM	Breakfast – Hotel
9:30 – 10:00 AM	Enroute to Manitou Springs
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Pikes Peak Cog Railway
2:00 PM – 2:15 PM	Enroute to Seven Falls
2:30 – 3:30 PM	Lunch at Seven Falls
3:30 – 5:30 PM	Tour Seven Falls
5:30 – 6:00 PM	Return to Hotel
6:00 PM	On Your Own

Day 6 – Tuesday, Oct 22

6:30 – 8:30 AM	Breakfast – Hotel
9:00 – 9:20 AM	Travel to Cave of the Winds
9:30 – 10:30 AM	Cave of the Winds Discovery Tour
10:30 – 11:15 AM	Travel to Royal Gorge
11:15 – 12:15 AM	Cross the Suspension Bridge/Gondola/Lunch on your own
12:30 – 2:30 PM	Royal Gorge Route Railroad
2:30 – 3:15 PM	Travel to Colorado Springs
3:15 – 5:00 PM	U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum
5:00 – 7:00 PM	Dinner – TBD
7:00 – 7:30 PM	Return to Hotel
	BON VOYAGE.....until we meet next time!



FROM PUEBLO ARMY AIR BASE TO PUEBLO WEISBROD AIRCRAFT MUSEUM:



During World War II, Pueblo Army Air Base (PAAB) was one of the major bomber training fields for pilots and crews. The Museum pays tribute to those who served on the base during that time and the Pueblo community that supported it. The collection contains many records from PAAB.

Six major bomb groups trained at PAAB would ultimately be assigned to the "Mighty 8th" Air Force, flying wartime missions from English bases. These included the 44th which was part of the infamous low-level raid on the oil fields in Ploesti, Romania on August 1, 1943.

Thousands of men and women worked and trained here. And while many died here in training accidents, the airmen that left PAAB had gone on to face combat in every theater of war. On June 20, 1947, PAAB was officially closed, and the land returned to the City in 1948.

The Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum (PWAM) is a non-profit museum owned by the City of Pueblo and managed by the Pueblo Historical Aircraft Society with a dedicated all-volunteer staff. The museum was started in the mid-1970s by the then Pueblo City Manager Fred Weisbrod. The aircraft were initially stored outside but in 2001, the first 30,000 square foot hangar was erected and in 2010 a second hangar was completed. This construction has allowed most of the museum's aircraft to be housed inside, preventing further damage to the bulk of the museum inventory and allowing for more sophisticated presentation and display.



Two of the 467th BG replacement crews who undertook training at Pueblo Army Air Base before transiting overseas. Left is the 788th Sq. Lt Frank Beatty Crew, and right, the 789th Sq. Lt John Belingeri Crew. We plan to visit the Pueblo Air Museum, located south of Colorado Springs, Saturday morning of the Reunion.



Letter from Rackheath

By Ivan A. Barnard Ivanbarnard999@btinternet.com

In writing my first “Letter from Rackheath” I am conscious that I am following in the footsteps of our dear friend, David Hastings MBE. Someone who for so long has been synonymous with the Second Air Division, USAAF and in particular the 467th BG (H) Association. A few days ago I spent a very enjoyable afternoon’s

visit to David’s home where once again I could view pictures, paintings, ceremonial awards, and memorabilia. All of which relates to Davids lifetime’s association with the Second Air Division, USAAF.

The Marker continues to be well cared for and maintained by the Salhouse Scouts. The cleaning and refurbishment of the Marker stone together with the Reunion visit has created something of a renewal of interest in what happened here some eighty years ago.

This renewed interest has resulted in the B24 Café, located on the former Technical Site, setting up extensive displays with some assistance from myself. That started with a collection of artefacts recovered from the airfield displayed in a glass case, also a recent acquisition of a painting of B24 “Witchcraft” which for many years was to be found at the local Green Man Pub. Recently acquired from America is Lt Anton J Looman’s (former 789th/791st Bombardier) wartime footlocker complete with its original contents.

SITE#6 REPORT and 80th ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL FLIGHT

The memories and friendships from last September Reunion are still very much alive and remain with us all. Personally, to have been adopted by Catherine as her “Uncle” was one of the many highlights of the Reunion. Catherine’s journey of discovery in her quest to establish who her grandfather was is a truly moving and emotional story. Then to walk with Catherine in her grandfather’s footsteps at Site 6 and other places around Rackheath was, in her words. **“You have brought him alive for me and my Mom”.**

Site 6 progress and developments continue to be photographically recorded weekly on the Pathfinders Facebook Page. Those of you who weekly follow us will know what has been happening. For those not yet following us, you can find us by searching **Rackheath Pathfinders-Site 6 (467th USAAF)**. The FB Page has developed substantially boasting in excess of 320 members who regularly drop by to view progress and the latest discoveries unearthed by the Pathfinders.

A number of us Pathfinders attended an evening event at the American Library, Norwich, and most appropriately our photograph was taken standing beneath the model of Witchcraft.

In the centre of the former Officers Mess complex on Site#6 there is an open space, no doubt used for outside storage. This has been developed as a representation of a Nissen hut domestic quarters from within Rackheath Park. The mini-mock-Nissen huts were assembled from oil drums with painted windows and doors.

From time to time an Army Cadet Force will join us in keeping the site clean and tidy. We also have had three young lads who have joined us as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. The help of these young people has been greatly appreciated.

More recently we have acquired a high definition aerial photograph depicting Site#6 taken in July 1945. The degree of detail is stunning revealing the presence of several vehicles, one of which is a jeep. This photograph has been of enormous assistance in positively identifying detailed features of the buildings and their surroundings. This includes a previously unknown cinder-path running from Col. Shower's quarters to Newman Road which has since been "uncovered" beneath layers of soil and vegetation.



Pathfinders at the American Library



The 1945 Aerial high definition image of the Site#6 Communal Area of the Rackheath base. This gives an idea of the extent and scope of the Pathfinders efforts uncovering and identifying the position of paths and existing building bases that remain today. No fewer than 8 Blast Shelters can be seen in this photo, a number have already been restored or are being worked on.



Entirely due to the generosity of Board Director, Keith Hughes, and also of Rob Clarke of the Norwich Aviation Centre, it was planned to fly three Piper Warrior 11 light aircraft in an 80th anniversary memorial flight. The flight plan was that we would take off from Norwich Airport the former home of the 458th BG (H) and like Rackheath part of the 96th Combat Wing.

The flight plan was formulated a few days beforehand. We were due to take off from Norwich, circle round over Rackheath Hall and line up with the mile long Rackheath runway, dropping at that point to approximately 500ft. Once clear of the runway we gained height and headed on the same course as they did during 44/45 for Splasher 5 which was the radio beacon between Mundesley and Cromer on the Norfolk coast.

On the morning of the planned flight we were advised that due to unpredictable gusting winds we may not be able to fly. This uncertainty remained all day. The safety and the mission briefing was completed, our departure time of 6pm came and went. Then at 6.40pm clearance was given to fly.

Then at 6.40pm clearance was given to fly. No words of mine written here would be adequate to describe the sheer thrill, excitement and emotion of what followed. Click on the link and see for yourselves. [80th Anniversary Rackheath Memorial Flight](#)



Rackheath Pathfinders following completing their 80th anniversary memorial flight from Norwich Airport where they commemorated the first combat mission undertaken by the 467th BG back on April 10, 1944, targeting the airfield at Bourges, France.

OBITUARIES



Windferd Darlus DOVER, Gunner 788th (award of Purple Heart)

Windferd Darlus Dover entered Heaven's gates on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at the age of 98. The son of Archie E. and Era (Waddle) Dover, Windferd was born on December 17, 1924, in Winthrop, Arkansas. While attending Foster High School, Windferd was called to honorably and bravely serve his country and on April 4, 1943, he enlisted in the United States Army Air Forces 8th AAF bomber group battalion to be a Liberator gunner on the Heavy B-24 Bomber. In June 1944, Windferd was sent overseas and made 19 missions over Germany. On January 1st, 1945, during his 19th mission over Germany, Windferd was wounded in action and spent time recuperating on European hospitals before being transferred back to USA hospitals. Windferd was honorably discharged from military service on March 13, 1946, having received the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, a Ribbon with two Bronze Battle Stars, and a Purple Heart. After his honorable discharge from active duty, Windferd continued to serve his county by working in the civil service at Tinker Air Force Base where he worked as a Turret Specialist overhauling gun turrets on B-17, B-24, and B-52 Bombers. Throughout his career and dedicated service, Windferd was honored to receive 18 special awards as suggestion from the Commander of Tinker Air Force Base Gene Randolph. On May 26, 1982, Windferd retired from Tinker AFB after 37 years of dedicated service. Following his retirement, Windferd continued working by becoming a private home building contractor making show case homes for Southwest Home Building Construction Company in the Greenbrair Housing Additions. As well, Windferd also completed several Christmas lighting projects in the south OKC area for many years and was awarded several times for his animated scenes. He was also asked to decorate the Bricktown OKC area and the Haunted House buildings. All of his intricate lights and scenes brought tremendous enthusiasm and smiles to all spectators. Windferd married the love of his life, Tommy Jean Moore on November 25, 1946. This union of marriage was blessed with a son, Rick and a daughter, Darlus. The family was members of the Southminster Presbyterian Church for many years.

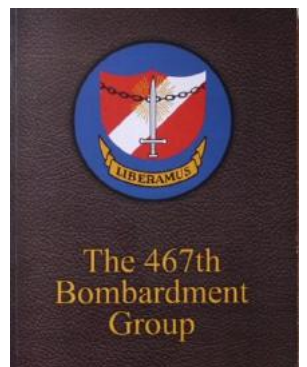
The 467th Bombardment Group History by Allan Healy

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.

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



OBITUARIES



Albert “Al” James MATTHES Jr. Radio-operator, 788th

Albert James Matthes (Jr.) was born 18 August, 1923 in Richmond, Virginia and peacefully departed this world February 11, 2024, age 100, at Bonaventure of Tigard, Oregon

He was the firstborn son of Albert Jacob Matthes, Sr, a U.S. Navy veteran of World War I, and later an importer-exporter; and Isabel Fuller, a Girl Scouts leader from Richmond. He was raised in Briarcliff, New York and excelled in athletics in high school.

The recipient of a family-endowed scholarship, he attended the University of Virginia, majoring in geology. His studies were interrupted from 1943-45 by World War II, when he volunteered for the U.S. Army Air Corps, serving as a radio-operator in the Eighth Air Force bombing campaign over Fortress Europe, and also trained in gunnery, with his final mission canceled by Victory in Europe Day.

After the war, he completed his university studies, but abandoned a career as a traveling geologist in favor of family life. He married the former Mary Louise Dyer, of Evanston, Illinois, at the University of Virginia Chapel on January 24, 1950. Al and Lou, as they preferred to be called, raised three sons while Al served his country for two decades in the Central Intelligence Agency during the Cold War. They raised three sons in Virginia, Maryland, and, after his 1962 transfer to Oregon, in Tigard, where they lived for the rest of their lives, attending Calvin (now Rise) Presbyterian Church. After 66 years of devoted marriage, Lou passed away in 2016, aged 92.

After retiring from government service, he worked for a few years at J.C. Penny’s before retiring completely, except for volunteer work for Meals on Wheels and at the gift shop of the local Good Shepherd Lutheran Home. His hobbies included jazz music, sports, and camping. He and his beloved wife also traveled extensively across the continent and globe, including a walk down the entire Oregon Coast over several years, and rejoiced at frequent visits with their family, including their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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