

POOP from Group



791st



790th



789th



788th

Newsletter of the 467th Bomb Group Association

November 2025



***The 467th make a
welcome return to
Savannah***

MOST OF "THE GANG" PICTURED AT THE OUTSTANDING National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force during our return to Savannah, Georgia, in October. Blessed by fine weather, great company and a spirit of camaraderie, we couldn't have asked for a more enjoyable couple of days. Opportunities to explore the city, make further visits to the Museum and Memorial Gardens, coupled with plenty of free time and chance to socialize with friends at the end of a busy day. The modern Drury Plaza Hotel offered a great base and space for our legendary Day Room, with plenty of options to engage in research or simply enjoy a friendly chat. Read an extended report on our 2025 Savannah gathering commencing Page 10 and start making arrangements for our not to be missed Return to Norwich in 26.

***** Norwich 2026 Reunion, Dates, and Reservations *****

467th BGA Administration

President

Yvonne Caputo
Pennsburg, PA.
yvonneauthor4@gmail.com

Vice President

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

Secretary/Membership Data

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

Treasurer

Keith Hughes
Ormond Beach, FL.
keithalanhughes@icloud.com

Editor

Andy Wilkinson
Briars, Cooks Lane
Axminster, Devon, EX13 5SQ
England
andy467th@gmail.com

Directors

Ivan Barnard
Acle, Norfolk, England
Ivanbarnard999@btinternet.com

Tom Johnson
Newark, CA. 94560
tdj1947@comcast.net

Ross Rainwater
Brentwood, TN.
r-rainwater@juno.com

Cindy Stevens
Potomac Falls, VA.
cstevens467bg@gmail.com

Jim Zielinski
Tolono, IL.
coachjz64@outlook.com

www.467bg.com

www.467bg-research.com

Honorary Board Chairman (RIP)

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 reunion in Savannah was wonderful on so many levels. I was able to do an author event for *Flying with Dad*. This was followed by many events for the attendees of the reunion. The group had a quiet moment of reflection and remembrance in the chapel, which ended with Dr Frederick Isaak playing *Amazing Grace* on the harmonica. We laid wreaths and flowers at memorials and plaques in the Memorial Garden. We conversed and researched for information on our loved ones in the day room. Heather Thies, Director of Education, guided us through the museum and pointed to artifacts that were part of the 467th's history. We stood at attention as the Girl Scout color guard performed the presenting of the colors/flag ceremony at the banquet. Each of these moments connected us as attendees in deep and emotional ways.

Personally, something happened for me that made the hair on the back of my neck rise. On a free day, I went back to the museum alone. I wanted to wander at will and to spend as much time as I needed to read and absorb what the museum had to offer. I went back to the display of some of Colonel Shower's artifacts. There on the wall was a photo. It is one that I recognized immediately. Three B-24s were releasing bombs on April 09, 1945. The plane in the foreground was the Massillon Tiger, and my father, Michael (nmi) Caputo, was sitting in the nose of that plane on that very day. It was magical to know that Dad, in a very strange way, was there as a part of the museum's collection.

The story goes on. I sat at the banquet with three young people who had sung the national anthem as a part of the Color Guard. Their dinners finished, they were antsy to explore the museum on their own. I showed them the picture of the 24s, and I explained my father's relationship to it. Almost in unison, their eyes widened and they exclaimed, "No way. How cool is that?"

The teacher in me gave them an assignment. I sent them out on a scavenger hunt. They had to find the picture and report back to me. A mother of one of them stepped in and said, "The proof you have found it will be the selfie you take."

I was transported by the smiles on their faces when they reported back. Here was another generation touched by the history of those who fought for them in World War II.





Notes from the Editor

*Please send news/articles to
Editor - Andy Wilkinson
andy467th@gmail.com*

ANNUAL REUNION 2026, RETURN TO NORWICH, MAIDS HEAD HOTEL, SEPTEMBER 20 – 25:

Once again we are heading across the pond to England and staying at the historic Maids Head Hotel, Norwich, and another opportunity for a glimpse into the past and to experience the thrill of walking in the same footsteps as we explore the former Rackheath base and local environs. You can be assured of a warm East Anglian greeting as we eagerly look forward to renew the affection and special bonds of friendships that exist between the two countries. The Maids Head have provided a choice of rooms at a special Reunion rate with details found on Page 9 how to make a reservation and secure your place for this highly anticipated event next September. Make sure to book early enabling us to allocate more rooms if needed for what is likely to be a trip attracting much interest and attention. The March 2026 POOP Newsletter will reveal places and activities planned for the Reunion, and expect some surprises too! A full schedule will appear in the summer, June POOP Newsletter, but get those hotel reservations made right away.

SAVANNAH 2025 REUNION ATTENDEES:

Janice & Jim BATES	Byron & Angela BOYD	Yvonne CAPUTO
Suzie CHANDLER	Valerie CORVINO	Norma FELBINGER
Adele GARDNER	Bob & Connie GERRINGER	Frederick ISAAC M.D.
Peter HORNE	Keith & Laura HUGHES	Orla KENNELLY - American Library
Brian MAHONEY	Cindy MOORE	Paul PARKER
Ann POOCH	Richard ALLEN	Ross & Suzanne RAINWATER
Paul RODELL	John EDWARDS	Ash SKIDMORE
Tom SLADE	Charlotte SLADE	Suzanne CAMP
Laura MACHADO	David & Carol SPINWEBER	Donna SPINWEBER
Henry KALINOSKI	Andy WILKINSON	Larry WILSON
Jim ZIELINSKI		

ANNUAL MEMBERS AND BUSINESS MEETING 16 NOVEMBER VIA ZOOM:

The annual meeting was again conducted via Zoom and involved Association Business including election of Directors and Officers, also numerous presentations covering recent events with Association participation. This coincided with publication of the latest Newsletter and will be reported in greater detail in the March 2026 POOP Issue.

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

Joseph W. HAENN - Asst. Crew Chief 789th, October 2025

Donald C. TIBBETTS - Pilot 789th/791st, September 2025

MISSION STATEMENT

The 467th Bombardment Group Association keeps alive the memory of the legendary WWII 467th Bombardment Group (Heavy), its remarkable performance within the Eighth Air Force, and the heroic sacrifices of its members. We honor their service by conserving their records and stories, promoting historical research, and hosting educational and social programs.

You can contribute to our efforts through a deeply appreciated DONATION to our Association PayPal/Credit-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.

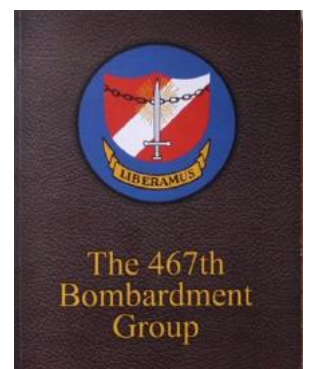
The 467th Bombardment Group History by Allan Healy

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



Tower Receives A Summer Spruce Up

Anthony Seymour from the Rackheath Control Tower got in touch with the news the Tower has undergone its first repaint since the original restoration in 2007. The job was undertaken during the summer entailing a complete fresh coat both internally and externally. Remarkably, completed single-handedly by painter and decorator, Robert Jones, all off a ladder - no scaffolding! Anthony reports a great job and thrilled with the results.



Robert Jones

All images via Anthony Seymour



Wendover Memorial Dedication

Report by VP Peter Horne



Major General Gregory Kreuder

First and foremost, a very heartfelt ‘Thank You’ to all who contributed to the realization of our vision to establish a memorial at the Historic Wendover Airfield in honor of the men of the 467th Bombardment Group. This memorial will serve as a poignant tribute to those who served with the Group, and especially those who lost their lives during training at the airfield and their subsequent deployment overseas.

The journey has been a long one. In 2019, the concept was conceived to establish a memorial in honor of the 467th BG at the site of their final phase training preceding their overseas deployment. Now, in 2025, the dedication ceremony has been successfully concluded. It has

been quite an odyssey to achieve our dream. Yet, from our endeavors an even larger (and more significant) ambition has been launched. The creation of the “World War II Army Air Force National Training Memorial”, dedicated to honoring the sacrifice of the more than 15,500 men and women (including 56 from the 467th BG) who lost their lives in the US during training.

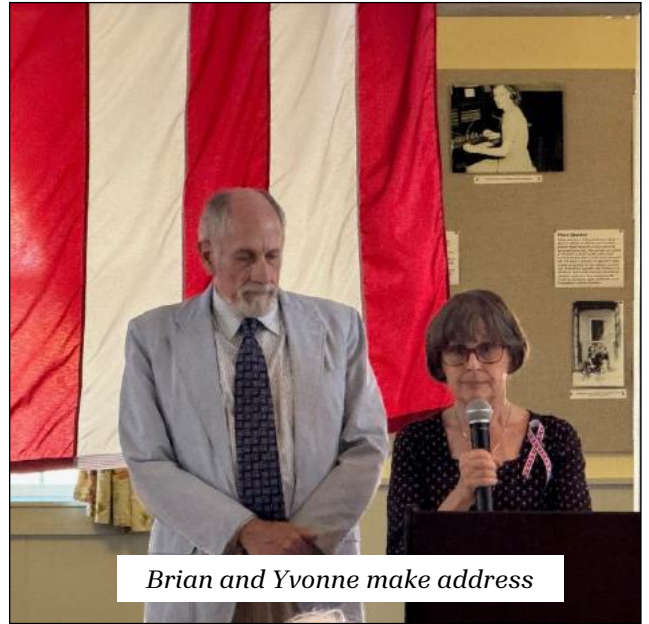
We were honored to have our dedication event included in Wendover’s campaign launch for the national memorial. The event was attended by many distinguished dignitaries including guest speaker Major General Gregory Kreuder, commander of the 19th Air Force and Brigadier General Paul Tibbits IV, Air Force (ret) and President of the 8th Air Force Historical Society. The 467th was well represented with Yvonne Caputo, Brian Mahoney, Jim and Janice Bates, Bob Gerringer, Ron Beitle and myself in attendance.

The day commenced with a tour of the airfield, conducted in vintage World War II vehicles, including a halftrack. The tour encompassed visits to the flight hangers, fire station, Norden bombsight vault, and the pit utilized for loading mock atomic bombs into B-29s. After lunch, local dignitaries delivered speeches, including a representative from the Utah governor’s office, the Mayor of Wendover, and officials from Utah tourism and arts councils. Following them, 467th BG Association President Yvonne Caputo and Secretary Brian Mahoney dedicated the memorial and discussed the 467th BG Association’s role in inspiring the national memorial. Finally, Major General Gregory Kreuder delivered an emotional speech, highlighting the profound influence of the training conducted by the Army Air Force during World War II on the efficacy of contemporary training for the men and women of the Air Force. He also underscored the significance of these memorials and the profound meaning they convey.

The importance of the event was not lost on the attendees. Initially conceived as a means of commemorating the 467th's role at Wendover, the endeavor has grown into a more substantial undertaking. It is hoped that the Historic Wendover Airfield will soon achieve its objective of constructing the long-overdue memorial to honor the sacrifices of those men and women whose contributions have been overlooked by time.

Our adventure continued the following morning. Before departing on our respective journeys home, Brian Mahoney, Bob Geringer, and I embarked on a brief drive to the site of the crash of the "Forgotten Crew." Unfortunately, time constraints prevented us from hiking to the summit of the debris field, where an American flag and a guest book are located for those who ascend. Nevertheless, we managed to traverse a significant portion of the site on that pleasant and crisp morning. It's quite a sobering experience surveying the salt flats and contemplating how close they came to clearing the peak of the mountain that fateful day. Even though they had been "forgotten" all these years, through the memorial at the museum and the efforts to mark the crash site, their sacrifice is now well etched for all to know.

For those that are interested in venturing to Wendover to see our efforts, the 467th BG memorial comprises a kiosk that chronicles the extraordinary achievements of the 467th BG, information detailing the stunning replica of 42-52534 'Witchcraft', and the "book" of donors that contributed to the realization of this project. In the near future, a photo gallery will be incorporated, showcasing images provided by the veterans who underwent training at Wendover.



Brian and Yvonne make address



Bob Geringer prepares for Jeep ride

In addition, the display case houses the meticulously crafted scale model of 'Witchcraft' by the renowned master-modeller Guillermo Rojas Bazan. Plaques commemorate the 467th, the donors, and our acknowledgment to the 15,500 who were lost. Further enhancements to the display case are planned.

A recent addition to the memorial is the display dedicated to "The Forgotten Crew of Wendover." On February 7, 1944, just prior to the 467th Bombardment Group departing Wendover to commence its overseas movement, 1st Lt Earl Chester

Bonville and crew crashed into a nearby mountain while participating in one of the Group's final training missions. It is thought due to the proximity of the incident to the Group's departure, the recording of the

accident in the 467th's history was overlooked. It was not until a post on the Association's Facebook page by Tom Wakelin, a relative of one of the casualties, prompted further research and surprise discovery of what became known as "The Forgotten Crew". This display currently presents a scaled-down version of its final configuration, as the majority of the storyboards are in the process of creation. It also showcases some of the artifacts recovered from the crash site. Furthermore, an additional plaque will be placed at the crash site.

Once again, a very heartfelt 'Thank You' to all who helped make this all happen.



Return to Norwich 26

Maids Head Hotel, September 20 - 25



Built on the success of the 2023 Reunion and by overwhelmingly popular demand, we make a further visit to Norwich, England, and once again our base for the week will be the historic Maids Head Hotel. Overlooking the 900 year-old Norwich Cathedral and located in the heart of the city with a wide choice of pubs, restaurants, historic buildings and all manner of cultural attractions just steps away.

RESERVATION DETAILS, MAIDS HEAD HOTEL:

Sunday 20 September to Friday 25 September, 2026.

[Classic Doubles @ £155.00 \(sole occupancy @£135.00\)](#)

[Executive Double Rooms also includes Executive Twin Rooms @ £175.00](#)

[Single Rooms @ £115.00](#)

Rates are per room per night and include full English breakfast and VAT @ 20%. These special Reunion rates to apply for any additional nights requested by guests, however, there will be a £30.00 per room supplement for staying on a Saturday night. For room details and facilities at this traditional and historic 4-star hotel, see [Maids Head Hotel](#)

Reservations to be made by email to <Groups@maidsheadhotel.co.uk> and in the Subject line state "ID 2609467THB" and clearly register the type of room, names of guests, arrival date and departure date (number of nights), additional requirements such as lift accessible/walk-in shower, with payment method (credit/debit card number including expiry date). Reservations may also be made by telephone to Alex Hassall (Reservations Manager) Monday-Friday to the Maids Head, **011+44+1603-209955**. Payment automatically taken 30 days prior to arrival. Ensure cancellation is made 30 days prior to arrival. Why not extend your stay and maximise enjoyment of the vibrant, historic city of Norwich and its host of attractions.

Email Andy Wilkinson <andy467th@gmail.com> for travel advice or questions relating to the Reunion 26.



All were in agreement the October 2025 Savannah Reunion had been an overwhelmingly successful gathering and a great decision to return back to the historic city after 16 long years. Kudos all round to the Reunion Committee who selected the Drury Plaza Hotel, Pooler, and presented a varied program of activities providing a relaxed unhurried schedule with plenty of downtime and opportunity to socialise and enjoy time together.

As ever, a special note of appreciation to VP Peter Horne, who arrived early driving all the way across country from home in Portland, OR, to ensure our Day Room was set up in its customary way offering a welcoming environment to meet and relax or opportunity to delve into the Group records and archives. Our individual Welcome Packs were a big surprise, Keith and Laura Hughes putting together an outstanding Aladdin's Cave of goodies and era-related mementoes and keepsakes as well as the usual useful Reunion literature. They too were generously on hand to collect and drop-off those coming in via the nearby Savannah/Hilton Head local airport, sincerely appreciated by many.

Must also mention Ash Skidmore bringing along his father's (Lt Curtis C. Skidmore) pristine condition A-2 Jacket adorned with unique artwork and subject to attention in 1944 by the Base Photo Section. It made a great addition to the Day Room.

With the Day Room set up, Welcome Packs ready to be collected, Wednesday was principally arrivals-day where folk made their way either via the nearby airport or some electing a longer car-drive. It was a first for this Reunion to utilise spare capacity in those cars/SUVs to get other attendees to the local attractions and The National Museum of the Mighty Eighth close to the Hotel. This worked very well with enough capacity to comfortably seat everyone and saved a large expense on transportation costs enabling a much cheaper registration. We must see if this would continue to work and benefit future reunions.

It was great to have a number of first-timers sign-up for Savannah, also see familiar friendly faces and warm embraces as we once again gathered to remember our Group veterans and the legacy of the 467th. Numbers increased throughout the day with the Day Room further augmented by a growing number of items donated to the silent auction which would conclude after our traditional last night Banquet.

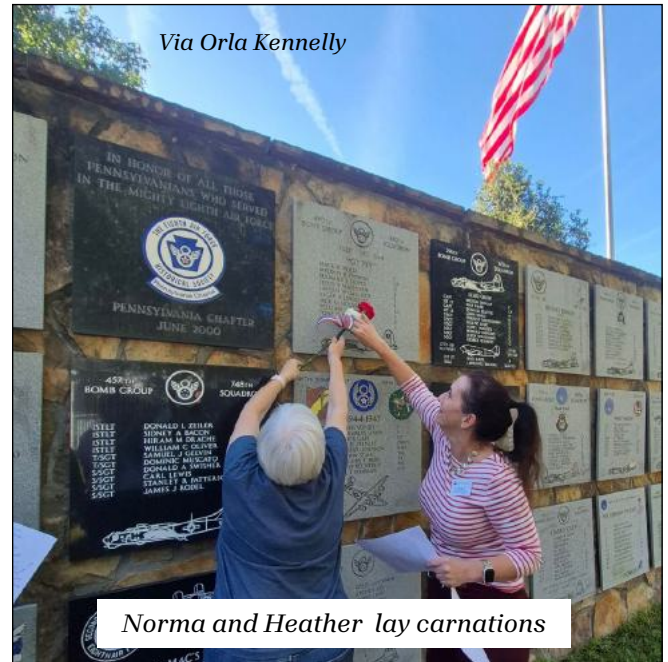
A feature of the Drury Plaza, was the ever popular 5:30 Kickback providing free fresh hot food, drinks and soft drinks encouraging folk to dine-in. This was available daily between 5:30 – 7:00pm and many took advantage of this appealing option throughout our stay.

Following breakfast Thursday morning it was the very short journey to visit the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth located less than a mile from our hotel and opposite side of I95. We were warmly greeted in the Rotunda entrance by Heather Thies, Director of Education, and our guide during our visit. Our first port of call was outside to the Chapel of the Fallen Angels located in the Memorial Garden. Built to resemble an old English church and augmented by some stunning stained glass windows representing numerous units and individuals. President, Yvonne Caputo briefly addressed the group reminding all of the bravery and sacrifice of our veterans and the reasons we gather to honor those brave young men. We remembered those who had very recently passed while Dr. Frederick Isaak provided an impromptu and poignant *Amazing Grace* on harmonica.

Heather Thies guided the group back into the Memorial Garden where we made stops at the 467th Group Marker where a wreath was laid, also a similar wreath at the large plaque commemorating Commander Col Albert J. Shower. Individual carnations were placed at the numerous 467th plaques to crews and individuals among the hundreds that have sprung up over the years. The extensive gardens beside the prominent reflective pool offered a real sense of tranquillity in the warm October sun and encouraged many to make a return to such pleasant and fitting surroundings. It was no surprise we opted to have our Group Photo in the Memorial Garden.



Col Albert J Shower Marker, Memorial Gardens



Norma and Heather lay carnations

Our tour continued inside the Museum where centre-piece is the pristine B-17G "City of Savannah", named in tribute to the original aircraft that was the 5000th aircraft to be processed through the nearby Hunter Field, Georgia, in 1944. There are exciting plans to radically add to the current display which will be expanded upon later. There is so much contained in the museum relating to the Mighty

Eighth which also includes displays on downed airman with a POW exhibit, escape and evasion replicating a “Safe House”. The Mission Experience was also a highlight with a series of films imagining early wake-up, briefing, and immersion in an 8th Air Force bombing mission. Great to see reference to the Second Air Division and the B-24 Liberator and a small display containing some of Col Shower’s donated items.

Appreciation of the full Eighth Air Force story becomes more apparent if the museum is entered immediately behind the entrance rotunda where you are led through a series of vivid displays outlining Prelude to War, the rise of the Nazi party in Germany, The Battle of Britain with the plight of Great Britain standing alone in Europe during the early years of World War II, then Day of Infamy and the momentous day of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and America’s response. This sets the scene before entering the main hall or Combat Gallery. I won’t attempt to name everything displayed, but it is a huge and ever growing collection and those who have not previously visited, strongly urge you to do so.

Lunch was available in Miss Sophie’s Restaurant inside the museum in a setting of a period pub. Others opted for the Cracker Barrel store a short walk away. During the afternoon we were invited upstairs to view The Roger A. Freeman Eighth Air Force Research Center, dedicated to promoting research on Eighth history and expanding its collection of original manuscripts, photographs, artifacts, works of art, oral history interviews and personal accounts. Within the Research Center is the John H. Woolnough Library housing 10,000 books and all published Eighth Air Force group histories and a wealth of other World War II-related material.

We were welcomed here by Scott Loehr, President and CEO of the Museum who recognised the significant role the 467th and Col Shower contributed to the overall success of the Eighth Air Force and the importance of preserving the history. Scott outlined the exciting news the Museum was at long last procuring an original B-24 aircraft to supplement the existing B-17. It would mean major reorganisation and expansion of the current layout, removal of walls to enable both aircraft to be displayed pretty much head-to-head as a new

centerpiece feature. The B-24 Liberator will be relocated from Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, where a significant program of restoration is planned before disassembly and transfer to Pooler where it is hoped to be in place toward the end of 2026. By rehoming to the Mighty Eighth Museum, it will allow the artifact to be kept alive and well for generations – a gift made possible not only by the Air Force, but generous benefactors.



It can't be understated the importance to have the two heavy bombers, the backbone of the Eighth Air Force, together at long last and enabling the Mighty Eighth Museum to comprehensively educate and tell the whole story of the fabled daylight strategic bombing of "eighty years ago". Scott kindly fielded questions regarding the prized acquisition and the expected time-line and process involved to get the B-24 to Savannah. No decision has so far been taken on what markings and unit the B-24 is likely to represent or whether markings can be temporarily removed and reapplied for visiting groups.

The Research Center aware of our visit had put on display a number of items donated by the family of Col Shower as well as those to be found in the main museum. It was fantastic to view Col Shower's original A-2 jacket complete with the fading iconic Libramus emblem. A lovely piece of artwork depicting a 467th Liberator once owned by the Colonel by artist Keith Hill was displayed alongside the A-2. The Library shelves were richly stocked with all manner of Eighth and war related literature and it was a joy have the opportunity to browse such a fine collection.

Back in the main museum area, we couldn't leave without a tour of the obligatory Gift Shop. Plenty of items to consider purchasing from apparel for all ages, models and toys, to a good selection of books. Something for everyone!

A short drive or walk back to the Drury Plaza and time for the welcome and popular 5:30 Kickback option. We were pleased to receive a visit to the Day Room of the local Civil Air Patrol (CAP) including a number of young interested Cadets who were keen to see what we were all about. Thankfully our VP Peter Horne was on hand to provide an unrehearsed history of the Group and Association and answer numerous questions. It was apparent the Day Room sparked a lot of interest with the variety of items, photos, books, and uniforms on display and feedback was encouragingly positive.

The following day the group departed the hotel for the drive to the Savannah Visitor Center to board for the Old Town Trolley Bus Tour of the city. A guide narrated tour of the numerous charming squares, architecture, and rich history that have shaped Savannah into such a unique place it is today.



Col Shower's A-2 Jacket



The Roger A Freeman Eighth Air Force Research Center

Several of us instead made an unscheduled return to the Mighty Eighth Museum and Research Center to view Col Shower's personal photo album, "Bombs on Target", not previously made available. This was too good an opportunity to pass especially as we now had means to record and document for the Association archive. A photographic record of the entire combat record of the 467th, mission by mission, all contained in one album.



Our final day, Saturday, was allocated as a free-day before we would meet for the traditional evening Banquet, this year hosted in the Art Gallery within the Mighty Eighth Museum. A number opted to make a return visit to the nearby Museum while others headed out to further explore Savannah and a little retail therapy. Others spent a leisurely day enjoying the pleasant October weather and time in the Day Room and opportunity to view records, photo-albums, and engage in conversation.

The group was all back together for the anticipated visit to the historic Betty Bombers at the former armory in Savannah, birthplace of the Eighth Air Force, and inside the American Legion. Now a nostalgic WWII themed diner it offered its own special atmosphere and a great selection of enticing handcrafted burgers such as "The Blitz", "The Beachhead", or the even more adventurous, "Battle of the Bulge". Given a private room comfortably accommodating us all we were delighted to meet owner and host "Kat" where after a brief address, a memento was presented to her on behalf of our Association. The food was great, the bar close by, and such a great evening of fun and enjoyment in the company of good friends.



Soon it was time to gather in the hotel lobby and head out for Group Banquet. The cash bar was already open and available for pre-dinner aperitifs while we mingled and selected a table ahead of the evening proceedings. It was a real delight to have Troop 30284 of the Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia provide our color guard and what an emotional and impeccable job they performed. The flag ceremony was perfect while singing of the anthem was accompanied by three teenagers from the local Savannah Academy of Performing Arts. What a way to start the evening and even better the young Girl Scouts along with their leaders remained with us to enjoy the meal and share in conversation.

President, Yvonne Caputo, provided the welcome and introductions before the hot buffet banquet and desserts and it was fitting to have Director of Education at the Museum, Heather Thies with us once again as guest speaker. Heather began with more on the exciting news of the acquisition of the Barksdale AFB B-24 Liberator and plans to both restore, disassemble, and get the B-24 installed by late next year. An ambitious undertaking and part of the "Maximum Effort fundraising to expand and update and improve the complete museum experience for visitors and ensure the museum's viability in perpetuity". The presentation strongly

featured the story of the Home Front and the role of Savannah during the war years. Special mention was made of the Girl Scouts during these times in acknowledgement of our young friends. A thoroughly engaging presentation and warmly appreciated by all.

The evening concluded with final bids on the silent auction items that were carried over from the Day Room and drawing of the major raffle cash prize. Winner was Paul Parker who most generously donated his winnings to the local Savannah Girl Scouts who we were proud to have join us, and kindly accepted by their Scout Leader. What a joyful and uplifting note to conclude the 2025 Savannah Reunion as we left in high spirits and return to the hotel.

Several had an early-start with long drives home, others with early departures from the airport. All agreed, it had been an inspiring and fun week together with welcome fine weather throughout. Warm embraces and safe travels, it was fond farewells until we meet once again next year and the exciting prospect of another special return to Norwich, England, in 2026.



Heather Thies makes her after-dinner presentation



Our wonderful Savannah Girl Scouts Color Guard



In September, The Forum, Norwich, hosted the highly anticipated Silver Wings event commemorating 80 years since the end of WWII and the huge influence of the United States Army Air Forces presence on local communities and history in Norfolk. The 10-day exhibition utilising the expansive atrium was presented in partnership with The Forum and American Library and supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

A host of local groups contributed to the wide-ranging and eye-catching displays with the 467th extensively and prominently featured throughout. Significant contribution came from The Rackheath Pathfinders, along with Ivan Barnard, Simon Hill, Trevor Hewitt, Trevor Wicks, James Watts, not forgetting the New Farm Aviation Heritage Museum.

Numerous events were staged, the first Saturday a Silver Wings Street Party outside the Forum with family activities, live music from the 40s Skyliner Band, food stalls, and an impressive collection of USAAF military vehicles. One of those vehicles was the restored Dodge Command Car that originally served at Rackheath with the Quarter Master Section and featured in earlier POOP newsletters. Encouragement was given to attend in "your vintage best!"

Our own Ivan Barnard along with Trevor Hewitt featured on the opening Friday with a talk entitled Airfield in Focus – Rackheath. This was held in the Auditorium in The Forum and apparently sold out! I'm sure Ivan will want to expand on his talk in his regular column of this issue. The Theatre also hosted numerous other talks and discussions including Margaret Fahey, American Red Cross, 8th Air Force Ground Support: The Men Who Kept The Planes Flying, as well as daily big screen feature films, documentaries, and rare footage that reflects the lives and legacies of WWII in Norfolk and beyond.

Among the permanent display of the exhibition included a famous Norden Bomb-Sight, uniforms, and several A-2 jacket displays with artwork, even the distinctive women's British Land Army uniform. Numerous archive interviews with servicemen and women from the American Red Cross were prominently screened in a side-room of the atrium. The three-man "Pubmobile" exhibit based on a creation by ground personnel from one of the local bases, received a lot of attention and raised many a smile.

I had the pleasure to spend three consecutive days at the event and offer assistance if needed. A personal highlight was to welcome a group of 30 or so children, Year 5 (aged 9 and 10 years old) from Rackheath Primary School along with their teachers and staff. The group was split into two, one group ushered into the American Library where Library staff seated the children around a conference table to answer questions and tasked the children with drawing and coloring figures who would have featured at the base and airfield during 44/45. The other group toured the main exhibition area where considerable time was spent studying Simon Hill's incredible 3D diorama of the Rackheath Site 6 based on archive Air Ministry Drawings and aerial photos of the day. It was a joy to think this youngest generation would take something from the event and give meaning to their local history and legacy.



Via Trevor Wicks

Delighted to be able to spend time with Trust Governor, Joe Dzenowagis, who had travelled over from home in Michigan to continue the invaluable work of the family documenting Reunions and the story of the

Second Air Division. The family has conducted hundreds of interviews over many years with veterans and British friends all captured on film and also producing numerous quality documentaries that can be viewed on YouTube and our 467th official web site. Joe's father, Joe Dzenowagis Senior, was a navigator in the 790th having flown Witchcraft in combat 5 occasions during 1945 and post war had the foresight to preserve the history through the medium of film and record the unique story of life on the bases and villages of East Anglia.



I managed to access the Auditorium and catch the wide-screen *Return to Hardwick* (2019) a wonderful film featuring the travelled 93rd Bomb Group. Other notable screenings featured *The Kassel Mission* (2006) followed by a Q&A, and a host of classic 40s films like *The Memphis Belle* (1944), also the 1990 version, and *Twelve O'Clock High* (1949).



Simon Hill's Site 6 Diorama

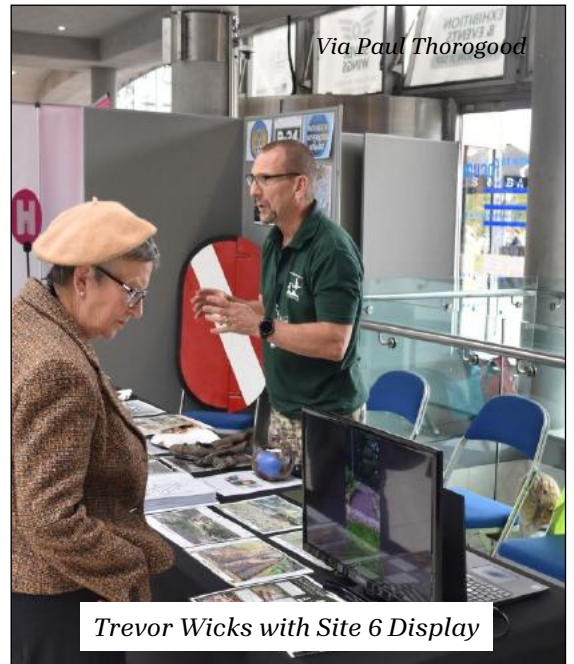
Thursday the Forum hosted a pop-up opportunity for local groups to display and 467th interest was furthered by the presence of both the Rackheath Pathfinders and the New Farm Aviation Heritage Group. Each exhibited tables with collections of items many of which had been found or extracted from the soil of Rackheath airfield and base area. Many stopped by to view exhibits, leaf through literature, and learn more of the activities of both groups.

This brief report barely scratches the surface to the scope and multiple contributors and further events held in conjunction with Silver Wings. It is important to highlight the monumental efforts of the American Library, all the staff and volunteers, together with the Forum who spent months in the planning and pulled off a truly memorable 10-day exhibition. Not forgetting those original 2nd Air Division veterans who in memorializing their fallen had the courage and foresight to fund and create a "living" Library for future generations. They surely would have heartily approved!



Via Paul Thorogood

Joe Dzenowagis and Ivan Barnard



Via Paul Thorogood

Trevor Wicks with Site 6 Display



Letter from Rackheath

By Ivan A. Barnard Ivanbarnard999@btinternet.com

In recognition of the efforts of the Rackheath Pathfinders, we were nominated this year for the 2025 Norfolk Community Biodiversity Awards, an event held at the Norwich Forum. Local nature groups and

individuals had a great day showcasing their work, networking and engaging with members of the public. Whether it was restoring habitats, supporting wildlife, creating greener spaces or inspiring the next generation of naturalists, the Fair had it all and put a spotlight on our local Norfolk biodiversity heroes.

A description of the project undertaken by the Pathfinders appears in the Biodiversity Awards Brochure and reproduced here on the left.

Rackheath Pathfinders



The Pathfinders, a volunteer group, meet every Saturday morning to help manage 4.5 acres of land on part of the USA Airforce airbase Station 145. Their mission is to preserve the WW2 heritage, to protect nature by generating habitat and to create a green space for the community. Following the management plan they have cleared and uncovered the remains of the site, researched the history, made the White House building safe, created footpaths, cleared scrub, planted trees, installed bat and bird boxes and given talks and guided tours. With interpretation panels, waymarked trails through the woodland and benches the site is an open space that benefits local people and allows them to learn about the history and experience nature.

Silver Wings Event Friday 12th - Sunday 21st September 2025.

Quote from Silver Wings Brochure.

"80 years after the end of WWII, a new project comes to Norfolk honouring the history of our local community, and the influence of the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) during the war.

Presented by the, The Forum in partnership with the American Library, Silver Wings puts a spotlight on the untold stories of American servicemen and women stationed in Norfolk - and the British communities that welcomed them.

Discover untold history at our free Silver Wings exhibition inside The Forum. A thoughtful look at community, memory, and shared heritage. Silver Wings showcases fascinating oral histories, rare film footage and creative work produced by Norfolk schools and communities.

From the influence of American culture to the vital roles of women, diverse communities and life on the ground during WWII, the exhibition highlights the hidden stories behind the friendly invasion and reveals the lasting ties between Norfolk and the United States."

Airfield in Focus - Rackheath.

On the first day of “Silver Wings” I was privileged to be asked to give a presentation highlighting the history and the narrative of the 467th BG (H) at Rackheath. The Auditorium was filled to capacity that included a Son two Daughters a Granddaughter and a Grandson of former veterans. I gave the following statistics. Flown 212 missions, 5105 aircraft attacked targets in German or German held territory, flown 35,537 hours of operational time, lost 49 aircraft of which 29 were missing in action, used 160 combat B-24 planes. By the end of the war over 5000 men and women had been stationed at Rackheath.

In emphasising the enduring bond of friendship formed in the dark days of the 1940s between our two nations I referenced a letter signed by the Quartermaster Section C.O. Captain Al Touchette. A paragraph states, *“of course we are glad we're going home. But underlying the anticipated pleasures of seeing our families again, there is a poignant feeling of sadness when we think of leaving our adopted folks. Truly, in this case to say **goodbye is to die a little.**”*

Continuing in the same vein I read Marybeth Ingram’s letter written after a visit in 2022 entitled, I Had no Idea. Quoted here are two of the paragraphs. *“I never thought I'd walk on the exact concrete paths that he did, go into the room where he had his meals, the club where he found entertainment, the bar where they bought him drinks if he sighted the target well that day, nor Rackheath Hall where he likely attended the summer party and the Christmas party the Stracey family hosted.*

*And most heartening, **I had no idea** the depth of respect and gratitude of the British for the USAAF.*

In conclusion, I was very privileged and proud to introduce my adopted niece Catherine Bradley. With elegance and emotion she told of her three year quest to establish who her grandfather really was. As her story unfolded there were many in the audience who were wiping away a tear or two. Catherine’s story as part of the “Silver Wings” project will be added to the American Library’s digital archives. Her story will be published in full in a later edition of the Poop.

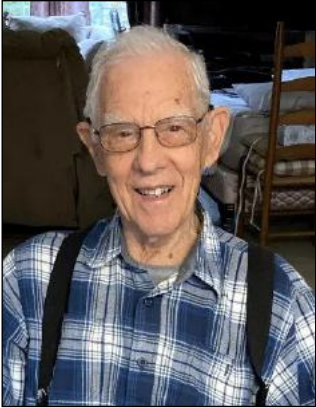
Site 6 Pathfinders.

August saw a major article published in both the Eastern Evening News and the Eastern Daily Press. Entitled **“Man on a mission to reclaim a hidden WW2 airbase on the cities outskirts.”**

Some of the more recent efforts involve excavation of the below ground section of the Officers Mess kitchen boiler house. Progress will be updated in a future POOP Newsletter. Meanwhile we continue to meet Saturday mornings throughout the year continuing to uncover, explore, and determine the former use of structures that existed within the domestic communal areas of Station 145.



Obituaries



Donald C. TIBBETTS, Pilot, 789th/791st

With heavy hearts, the family of Donald Conrad Tibbetts mourn the passing of our beloved father, grandfather, and great grandfather. Donald left this world peacefully in the early morning hours of Monday, September 29, 2025.

Donald was predeceased by his loving wife Lorraine of 70 years, his daughter Joan Tibbetts Sullivan and his sons in law Robert Cunningham and John Sullivan.

He is survived by his loving daughters, Susan Tibbetts Rogers and her husband Albert Rogers II and Sally Tibbetts Cunningham. Four grandchildren, Sean Sullivan and husband Mark Hamilton, Sara Biadasz and husband Sean, Laura Erb and husband RJ, and Albert Rogers III and wife Wendy. He also leaves four great-grandchildren Max Biadasz, Aria Erb, Miles Biadasz, and Lucas Erb.

After attending two years at University of New Hampshire (UNH) in Durham, NH, Donald left to enlist in the Army Air Corps in 1944 where he was the lead pilot of the 467th Bombardment Group, flying 31 missions over Germany. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, The Certificate of Valor, and rank of Captain. He was very proud of his WWII record.

After the war Donald returned to UNH to finish his business degree and married the love of his life, Lorraine Corson. He spent 40 years working at the PAUL REVERE INSURANCE Co, now UNUM Provident in Worcester.

Donald and Lorraine spent many happy summers at their cottage on Lake Monomonac with their children and grandchildren with many fond memories of lake adventures and climbing Mount Monadnock. They spent winters in Vero Beach, FL full time when Donald retired. Donald was an avid Red Sox fan. In 1955, Donald joined the Siloam Masonic Lodge AF & AM in Westborough.

Following a private funeral service with military honors, Donald was laid to rest beside Lorraine in Howard Street Cemetery, Northborough. A memorial service and celebration of Donald's remarkable life will be held at a later date.

Donald C. Tibbetts, standing back row second-left, pictured with his crew at Rackheath in late October 1944 shortly after transfer from the 789th to the Lead Crew, 791st Squadron. He went on to complete 31 credited combat missions between July 1944 and January 1945.





Joseph W. HAENN, Airplane and Engine Mechanic, 789th

Joseph William Haenn, formerly of Chalfont, PA, died on October 21, 2025, in Telford, PA. Born in Philadelphia on April 16, 1917, he was the son of the late Frederick George and Eva (Hutton) Brown of Dublin, PA.

He was a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Hilltown, PA, where he married Florence M. Kramer of Silverdale. They were married for 74 years prior to her death in March, 2017. He is a 1935 graduate of Sellersville Perkasio High School. He retired from the US Gauge, where he worked for 45 years as a milling machine operator and moved to Tampa, FL, in 1982.

During WWII, he served as a mechanic on B-24 bombers in the 8th Army Air Force, 2nd Air Division, in the 467th Bombardment Group (Heavy) stationed at Rackheath, England. He was past Commander of A. F. Wick VFW Post 5588 in Chalfont and Harris Post 4321 in Tampa, FL. He was also a member of the American Legion and of VFW Post 5308 in Telford.

Most of his time was spent volunteering in the communities wherever he lived. While still young, he became a member of the Dublin Fire Company; and he later became a life member of the Chalfont Chemical Fire Company #1, where he served for 32 years, 19 years as Assistant Fire Chief. During his time on the Chalfont Ambulance Corps, he was cited as Rescue Volunteer of the Year by the Bucks County Chamber of Commerce and received the David Burpee Award in 1982 for his service. He volunteered in the emergency rooms at Tampa General Hospital and Grandview Hospital. While in his retirement years in FL, he also volunteered in the maintenance department at Metropolitan Ministries in Tampa and was named Volunteer of the Year in 1998.

He belonged to many organizations including the Keystone State Fire Chiefs Association, Bucks County Fire Chiefs Association, International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Machinists and AARP, where he was an officer in FL. He was also a leader in the Boy Scouts of America.

Joe found great joy in gardening, hunting, archery, woodworking and making clocks. He will be remembered as a hard-working, honest and generous man--quiet in nature, yet a powerful role model in both work and life.

Joe Haenn (left) Assistant Crew Chief, with Frank Kohut, Crew Chief, in front of original Group B-24 "Wabbit" whom they maintained and serviced throughout it's long operational history.



The 467th Post Exchange



RED 467th LIBERAMUS INSIGNIA BALL CAP:

Universal fit.....\$10.00 ea plus package and mail.

SQUADRON PATCHES FEATURING SQUADRON LOGO, 788th, 789th, 790th, 791st:

Embroidered Patches 4" Dia.....\$3.00 ea plus package and mail.

467th LIBERAMUS SHIELD GROUP PATCH:

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SQUADRON PINS FEATURING SQUADRON LOGO, 788th, 789th, 791st:

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467th Shield/2AD/8th Air Force Round. 4" Dia.....\$2.00 ea plus package and mail.

WHITE POLO SHIRT WITH GROUP PATCH:

Liberamus 467th BG/2 AD - 8 AF. ONLY avail sizes, XL & XXL.....\$15.00 plus package and mail.

CHALLENGE COIN in plastic envelope:

467th Liberamus/Happy Warrior Squadron, Tucson 2018 Reunion.....\$15.00 ea plus mail.

ORDERS AND ENQUIRIES TO KEITH HUGHES keithalanhughes@icloud.com

Keith will advise shipping costs and availability

PAYMENT: Credit card/Paypal [HERE](#): or via check to "The 467th BG Association"
to TREASURER, Keith Hughes, 950 Holly Circle, Ormond Beach, FL 32176