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Station 145 APO 558

November 30, 1981

## O F F I C I A L

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This is the first of a planned three letters to you prior to the 1982 Second Air Division Association convention in Nashville, Tennessee, on July 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1982. At the recent convention in San Antonio, I was elected Group Vice-President, succeeding Ken Darney. To Ken, we all offer our sincere thanks for having served as Group Vice-President this last year, and also for having served the Association as President in the past.

At the San Antonio convention, Vince LaRussa, of the 467th BG, was elected President of the Association and we all congratulate him on this. He did so excellently as Group Vice-President that I know the Association is going to benefit greatly from his term(s) as President.

George Condry was elected Deputy Group Vice-President at the convention. George was a pilot in the Group and resides at 34 Elm Street, Rebboth, Mass., 02769. Backing us both up is Ralph Giesecke, P. O. Drawer 760, Marble Falls, Texas, 78654. Many of you will remember Ralph as Group Engineering Office. I have remembered him for the "chewing out" he and Colonel Shower and the crew chief gave Bill Johnston, my pilot, and me, the reluctant (to be a B-two dozen) copilot, for aborting a mission due to a prop malfunction.

I am not a reluctant Group Vice-President however, I'll write you, phone you, badger you, console or comiserate with. Try me. This newsletter has cost us over \$250.00 to mail to over 550 people. It is sent first class so that we know an effort will be made to deliver it, and if not delivered, returned to me so that we can attempt to find the persons of the returned letters. Don't let this effort, and cost, go to waste. Let me hear from you positively by joining or renewing your membership in the Association, or if you are negative concerning anything that follows, I would certainly like to know that also. You non-members, please read carefully the next four paragraphs, especially the first. Everyone of us can and should be supporters of the principle purpose of the Association.

I want to address several matters in this letter. The Second Air Division Association has as its first purpose the support and perpetuation of the American Memorial Room of the Norwich Public Library, in Norwich, England. This room is ours, yours and mine, the personal legacy of each of us who served in the Second Air Division, our memorial to the six thousand and fifty-two of our comrades who died while serving in the Second Air Division. I have visited the Memorial and am very proud of the part I have played in it. It is America in that place that once was the center of the bases for the more than fifty-two thousand of us in the Division. This Memorial Room alone is sufficient reason to join the Association.

The Association has a second objective of bringing together, again, comrades and acquaintances of this time of our lives when we shared a common cause, to secure peace and freedom for the world. It does this through membership groups, our 467th for instance, through the quarterly Association Journal, the Journal alone is worth the price of membership, and through the yearly convention activity.

The Memorial is the reason to join the Association, the second objective is for free, the "nut" the "freebie". The cost of membership is only ten dollars, a little more than a carton of cigarettes, something less than a good bottle of bourbon. We want you to be an Association member, if you have trouble with the cost, let me know, we have some help for that problem also. Be a joiner of the Second Air Division Association.

You will find an application for membership in the Association printed on this letter. If you are not a member of the Association, or a member who by chance did not receive a renewal notice, use the form to join or renew. Use it also to make a donation to the memorial. And use it to give us the names of anyone of the Group or Division that you correspond with, or did correspond with, so that we can send them information of the Association. Any name you can give, with an address no matter how old, will be looked into, maybe we can locate that long lost buddy of that period that becomes more dear to us with each passing year.

On another tangent, I flew "Lil Peach", 41-29375, from August 1944, for ten missions, while in the 791st BS. If any of Rufas B. Stephens' crew, who must have named the plane, or its ground crew, would write, I have a picture of her I would be glad to send to you.

You all know that Colonel Albert Shower was Group C.O. of the 467th. It has been my pleasure over the last several years to become acquainted with him, and his wife Dee, by correspondence and visits, including the conventions. I know you will agree he was the Commander we needed, in the place, in the time. We were the best Group, by historical record, in the whole Eighth Air Force. He still has the strongest interest in the Group today and I know would like to hear from you, and see you at future conventions. His address is 1527 Arriba Drive, Monterey Park, Ca., 91754.

Another special interest of mine is the Eighth Air Force Museum at Barksdale AFB here in Shreveport. This is an official museum, along with that at Wright Patterson AFB. Buck Rigg, the Curator, is restoring to non-flying condition, a B-24, to be displayed with a B-17, and other Eighth Air Force used aircraft as acquired. If you have memorabilia you would like to donate to this museum, let me know or contact Buck Rigg, Curator, Eighth Air Force Museum, Public Affairs Division, 2nd Bombardment Wing (SAC), Barksdale AFB, Louisiana 71110. Buck was featured recently on a PM-News Magazine television segment. I hope you were fortunate enough to see it.

If anyone knew or knows Hugh F. Hackett, Serial No. 355-40-367, Aerial Engineer, 789th and 791st Sqds., late 1944 - early 1945, possibly from Ohio, please contact me.

Are there any artists, commercial possibly, that would take on the task of drawing on one plate the Group and Squadron insignias in a form suitable for color printing, suitable for framing, say 8" x 10" or similar. Let me hear from you. I have the official War Department sketches and descriptions.

# SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

8th Air Force



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DUES \$10.00 PER YEAR

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ WIFE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

GROUP \_\_\_\_\_

NAMES & ADDRESSES OF FORMER 2 AD PEOPLE YOU CORRESPOND WITH \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION - MEMORIAL LIBRARY, NORWICH, ENGLAND \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit to:  
 Evelyn Cohen - Membership V. Pres.  
 Delaire Landing Apt.# 06410  
 9300 State Road  
 Phila., Pa. 19114



BOMB GROUP  
 44th 446th 448th 453rd  
 93rd 458th 466th 467th 468th  
 389th 491st 492nd

FIGHTER GROUP  
 4th 56th 356th  
 SCOUTING FORCE - FIGHTER GROUP  
 361st 479th

OTHER GPS AND ATTACHED UNITS

HEADQUARTERS 2nd AIR DIVISION

Anyone assigned or attached to any of the units above is eligible to become a member of the Second Air Division Association. Give me their name and address and I will send them this newsletter and other information that will be of interest to them. Lets make the Association through our efforts in recruiting additional members.

The Group had forty-four former members in attendance at San Antonio and an additional thirty-six family members. We had a good Group meeting on Saturday morning, introductions, what I did in the Group, etc. Donations made to the fund to send out these letters and to use for locating work were very generous. Additional donations can be made to me, or 467th Bomb Group, and all surplus will go to the Memorial Fund at the next convention.

Jeff Gregory, Navigator-Bombardier of the Group, was given special recognition by the Memorial Board of Governors at San Antonio for arranging the donation of photo-reproductions of twenty-eight documents significant to American history to the Memorial Library by the City of Garland, Texas. Jeff's is the spirit and drive we each should strive for.

W. G. "Bill" Robertie, P. O. Drawer B, Ipswich, Mass., 01938, is the most able Editor of the Association Journal. Published four times a year, in its twenty plus pages are articles, stories, letters, and pictures, that I read non-stop cover to cover as soon as received. Send Bill an article of special or general interest, a letter or picture for use in the Journal, he will appreciate your help.

In the next newsletter, a feature on the only full crew to attend an Association reunion. From the 467th, a milestone.

My sincere best wishes for the Holiday Season and for a happy and prosperous New Year.

Phillip G. Day  
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 Shreveport, La. 71105

REPORT  
 WAT 13 15170741 12/17/81

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467th  
 Bomb Group



FRANK S WATSON  
 541 BLACK BEAR LOOF  
 NORTH EAST  
 ALBUQUERQUE NM 87122

WAT 41 01111131 12/11/81

WATSON  
 8013 KRIM NE  
 ALBUQUERQUE NM 87109