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FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVENTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY) ASSOCIATION, LTD.

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**FROM THE PREZ -WALTER J. MUNDY
REPORT ON 2ADA EXCOM**

This is a hallmark year for the 2ADA, it is the 50th convention year which will be held May 22 - 26, 1997 in Irvine, California. The Executive committee (EXCOM) meeting was held in February, and a number of vital issues were acted upon. The EXCOM voted to include all 14 Group Vice Presidents voting members instead of just 6 on a rotation basis. Much discussion was held on ways to increase the membership in the 2ADA. The 467th has 1435 members (plus or minus) and only 415 are 2ADA members.

MEMBERSHIP

The greatest incentive to attend Group Conventions is the availability for close up contact with Group members, crews, co-workers and support units. Close inspection of Group activity archives such as photos, orders, movies, records and the availability of Group, Squadron and Unit patches, hats and souvenirs.

It is inevitable that someday the 467th Association will be dissolved (see Dissolution Committee report) and integrated into the 2ADA.

During this interim, one possible way to increase Group membership in the 2ADA is to have joint Conventions, where the individual Groups, as they desire, can have a 1-1/2 day Group meeting with a Hospitality Room for their individual Group activities.

The first opportunity for a joint Convention would be the 1998 2ADA Convention at Oakbrook Resort (outside Chicago) May 23 - 25. I would like to have the 467th membership vote on this issue at the September 1997 Convention. I would urge all of the 467th Group members that do not belong to the 2ADA to join. The \$15 dues is one way to support our 2ADA Memorial Library.

The 467th attendance at Group Conventions has been 150 - 250 and 25 - 40 attending 2ADA Conventions. We need to increase the 2ADA Convention attendance to insure a strong input for the support of our Memorials.

LIBRARY

We will have three of the Board of Governors at the 2ADA Convention and an overview of the "New Improved" expanded Library will be presented. The Library is going to be bigger and better. We have a Web Page now and the Librarian is working to put much of the information on the Net. As your Group Vice President representative, I urge all 467th Vets to join the 2ADA. We will be "going home" there eventually, and we should support our Memorial to those who gave their tomorrow's for our today's these past 53 years.

B-24 MODELS

The proposed plan for the 2ADA to spearhead a fund to finance a bronze, one sixth scale model of a B-24, for installation at the Air Force Academy. To use the "wood model" for installation at the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum has been considered by the Board of Directors of the 467th Bombardment Group (H) Association Ltd.

It is the consensus of the current Board that the 467th would recommend that our Group and the 2ADA concentrate on the enhancement of the 2AD and B-24 image at the 8AF Museum in Savannah. If the other Groups, Air Forces and Units that flew B-24's want to contribute to a very expensive bronze model for the Air Force Academy, we will wish them success. However, we feel that the priority of our contributions should be first to our Memorial Library, with the 8th Air Force Museum a close second. The 2AD 8th Air Force image will always be preserved as a US Army Air Corps Organization in England and at Savannah.

A one sixth scale model B-24 of museum quality will cost 20-30 thousand dollars and the 467th would support a program to produce such a model to be installed a Savannah. I intend to entertain a motion at our 1997 Convention to finance and build a one sixth scale model of Witchcraft to be placed in the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum. We must determine what our Membership would support and then develop a plan to implement the project.

DISSOLUTION COMMITTEE-RALPH DAVIS

The committee was appointed to review the status of the 467th conventions and to determine what action to take with our 467th marker in England, when the time comes to dissolve the 467th Bombardment Group (H) Association Ltd. The results of our study have resulted in the following recommendations, which will be covered at the next Director and Business meetings at Nevele, NY.:

1. The 467th will continue to have independent conventions as long as the attendance remains at least one hundred (100), there are volunteers to run for the Board of Directors and available convention coordinators. Once this criteria is not met, then our convention will be combined with the 2AD and the 467th corporation will be dissolved.

2. We accept David Hastings and Robert Lomax suggestion that the plot for our memorial be transferred to the Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division USAAF which will operate our unique memorial and the 2AD Memorial Library in perpetuity. David said this was a registered British Charity, fully protected by English Law. He advised that other Groups are considering the same approach.

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION-RALPH DAVIS

My last report covered Gen. Phillip Ford's letter to the Under Secretary of the Air Force. Initially I did not know that a response to Gen. Ford's letter had been made. I had been in touch with Gen. Shuler and he with Gen. Ford and the consensus is that we should send the package forward to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, John P. White as they both believe that he would have a sympathetic ear to our effort. A letter outlining all events over the past few years was mailed on the 18th of February. Then on the 11th of March, I received a copy of a response to General Ford that was dated 17 December, 1996. It basically stated that, "We have considered all supporting documentation that has been provided requesting our assistance in processing the 467th Bomb Group for the award of PUC. We have as well reviewed all the relevant material in the archives. As documented, the 467th was involved in several significant bombardment and supply missions during the spring and summer of 1944. However, the material reviewed in detail both by the Office of the Air Force History and by the Air Force Personnel Center was devoid of any indication that the 8th Air Force ever submitted or considered the 467th for the PUC. So far as we can determine, the 467th Bombardment Group did not meet the award criteria. While the 467th participated in notable campaigns, and their performance was indeed commendable, there was no extraordinary heroism demonstrated by the 467th of the caliber required by the reward criteria". This was signed by **RODNEY A. COLEMAN**, Assistant Secretary (M&I), I have no idea what will become of the letter to Mr. White. More than likely he will repeat the comments of the Assist. Secretary. In my opinion the Department of the Air Force has completely ignored the supporting data that we accumulated and has stood by the initial findings of Dr. UpShulte, totally disregarding the 96th Combat Wing letter, the statistics, the recent 2nd Air Division recommendation and the letter from General Ford from the 8th Air Force. It appears that we fought, we won, but we are forgotten.

B-24 COMBAT FILM-RALPH DAVIS

Thanks to Colonel Jim Mahoney, the museum now has the 16mm film that he took during the WWII, and has integrated it into an 8th Air Force film giving recognition to the 467th and Colonel Mahoney. General Shuler stated that the museum has nearly completed

the theater in which the film will be shown. The film will be narrated by Roger Freeman who also did the Battle of Britain script. The film was so impressive to General Shuler that he indicated that had he had access to the film earlier, he most likely would have used it for the bomb ride adventure that some of us attended at the museum. In his estimation, Col. Mahoney's film is the best he had seen of WWII. The 467th now has something in the museum, and we should all show our support at the anniversary May 15-18, 1997.

STUDENT STUDY-RALPH DAVIS

Edward J. Kelley, son of Veteran, Cpl. Bernard Kelley of E. St., Litchfield, CN, of the 467th is writing a research paper for a graduate course, The Study and Use of Military History, in Military Studies offered by American Military University. He is working on a MA in Military Study. The questionnaire he sent me was for me, but I thought perhaps some other veterans of the 467th would be interested in helping him out in his research. He says he has several hundred B-24 pictures both in the air and on the ground as well as some bomb strike photos. These may be of interest to Phillip Day and Kevin Coolidge. The questions in his research were:

1. How did you get to, and return from England?
2. Describe your job; if you were a pilot or co-pilot, comment on particular missions, targets, techniques, experiences; if you were a crew member offer specifics on missions, enemy fighters or anything else; if you were a mechanic, comment on specific planes, etc.; if you were in support services, comment on your role in strategic warfare.
3. What were some of your thoughts about your experiences during the war? What are some of your thoughts now about those times?
4. What was life like when you were on duty?
5. In your view, how effective was the B-24 as an instrument of Strategic Warfare? Please cite specific missions.
6. What was the greatest accomplishment of the Group when you served?
7. What other areas of interest can you comment on?

Please respond to Edward J. Kelley, The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, CT 06039. I am sure that if anyone receiving the "POOP" remembers his father, he would be most happy to receive comments about your times over there with him.

SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORT

CONVENTION 1997 ELLENVILLE, NY: The Association has advanced to Walter J. Mundy, President of the Association and coordinator for the Convention \$500 for pre-convention expenses.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS EXPENSES: Ralph Davis has been advanced \$600 for this project which will include awards, permanent identification badges for officers and directors and miscellaneous other costs.

THE HISTORY OF THE 467TH, THIRD REPRINT:

500 Copies ordered - Grover Cleveland Press	\$12,329.30
Paid direct by LaRussa from pre-sales	2,000.00
Paid by Association	10,329.31
Grover Cleveland Press Account Balance	- 0 -
Income to Association from Sales	10,329.31
Remaining to Recover	- 0 -

Vince LaRussa has handled each of the three reprints of the History. The first two returned considerable profits to the Associa