

# POOP from GROUP 467

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

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### FROM THE PREZ / 2ADA GROUP VICE PRESIDENT WALTER J. MUNDY:

This year, September 1996 - September 1997 has been a very active year for me. It has been rewarding, memorable and another highlight in my life. Thanks to all the 467th and the 2nd ADA members and supporters.

As President of the 467th Bombardment Group (H) Assoc. Ltd., it was my pleasure to have a Board of Directors that responded to my requests and supported the programs we had on going. We found a "permanent home" for our marker property at Rackheath and the care and maintenance of the markers and flag is in good physical and financial shape.

We continued our pursuit of the Presidential Unit Citation that was "lost in the shuffle" at the end of the War. However, it does not look like the Department of Defense will act on it favorably at this late date. AB previously reported we have been working on getting the 2ADA and B-24 presence at the OAF Heritage Museum. This project also includes a great dedicated effort by Kevin Coolidge, son of Miles Coolidge, to identify, sort and duplicate all of the 467th operational records that we have collected, including mission photographs and target strike photos. A copy of these records will be sent to the Memorial Library in Norwich and to the 8th AF Historical Museum. A special thanks to Kevin, and his wife, Kelli Coolidge.

For those members of the 467th that were not able to attend the 1997 Convention at the Nevele Hotel in Ellenville, NY, the Convention had approximately 169 of your friends and fellow Veterans. We hope that many of you who could not attend this year will attend next year. It will be at the Sheraton Hotel in St. Louis, MO, September 17th to 22nd, 1998.

This years Convention was highlighted by two tours. The first tour was to the United States Military Academy at West Point, where we had a ceremony at the Flight Memorial. General Christ-

man, USMA Superintendent provided ~ Color Guard, Rifle Squad, Chaplain and addressed the ceremony honoring Col. Shower, Col. Holdrege and Col. Herzberg, who were West Point graduates. Gen. Christman also lead our memorial ceremony, placing a wreath in memory of all those who gave their lives in combat. Gen. Christman's and my address at the ceremony are presented in this issue for the benefit of those who could not attend this very moving and impressive ceremony presented by the US Military Academy.

The second tour took us to the Library and home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Vanderbilt Mansion. It was a memorable and interesting journey back to visit our war time Commander-in-Chief's historical records of our crusade.

The Convention was, in my humble opinion, one of our most productive with respect to launching our legacy program for providing a B-24 model at the Heritage Museum. This program accomplished the center piece of the 2nd Air Division and the 467th exhibit at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum and the Air Force Academy. I was overwhelmed by the generosity and support of the fund raising that was accomplished before, during and after the Convention. We raised, by donation and pledge, over \$22,000.00 of the \$25,000.00 needed to provide a 1/6 scale B-24 model. Our Board supported our fund drive and the membership in turn supported the plan. I wanted every member, associate and widow to have the opportunity to participate in providing the B-24 model. I sincerely hope that as many as read the "POOP from GROUP" will find a way to contribute. It will be there long after we have folded our wings.

There were 169 attendees at the convention. Of that total, three were present one day for the banquet and four were present for two days. There were 149 attendees that took the West Point tour and 120 attendees that took the Hyde Park/Vanderbilt tour.

The Convention attendees list shown in this issue is the latest and

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**FROM THE PREZ/2ADA GROUP VICE PRESIDENT WALTER J. MUNDY CONTINUED:**

accounts for a lot of late cancellations. At one time we had 202 registered. Registration fees for the Convention package for all members who had to cancel were returned. If you had to cancel and have not received your deposit of paid in full fee, please contact me.

The Board of Directors nominated and the General Business meeting elected two new Directors, Bob McEwen and Walt "Tozz" Robinson. Normally the Vice President would be nominated for the following year for President, however, Vince LaRussa advised the Board that he would be unable to serve as President but he would serve as Vice President and be the Coordinator for the Convention in St. Louis in 1998. The new Board was polled and nominated Walter Mundy to serve another year as President.

The Board also voted to make the \$5,000 donation, which is the remaining balance on our pledge to the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum. The pledge was mad two years ago in San Diego for \$10,000 and \$5,000 was given at that time.

The minutes of the meetings will be presented in the Secretary's report in this issue.

At the Gala Banquet, the following Past Presidents received the Presidency Award for distinguished service:

Mel Culross	Ralph Davis
Ralph Elliot	Geoff Gregory
Walter Mundy	Bob Sheehan

Earlier by mail, Past Presidency Awards were sent to:

Jackie Swearingen for Dave  
Eleanor Salzarulo for Bob  
John E. "Jack" Stevens

**2nd AIR DIVISION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING WALTER J. MUNDY**

After our Convention in Ellenville we attended the 2nd Air Division Association Executive Committee in Chicago. The EX-COM was held at the Oak Valley Country Club and Resort, where the 2ADA Convention will be held the last week of May, 1998. As your Group Vice President to the 2nd ADA, I was afforded the opportunity to second the motion by Neal Sorensen, Past President, to provide a bronze B-24 (H) 1/6 scale model for the Air Force Academy and the wood model used for the molds to be refurbished and painted with the 467th markings and the combat colors of "Witchcraft". This motion was accepted unanimously and the Group Vice Presidents of the other 2nd AD Groups congratulated us on raising the funds for the model. What a great tribute to the 467th membership! I would like to thank every one personally for the support of this project. I especially thank Ralph Davis and Vince LaRussa of the 467th Board of Directors, and Ralph Giesecke for their outstanding effort in support of providing this legacy. Those who contributed so generously know that the 467th Bomb Group achievements will be recognized by millions of our future generations who will visit the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum and the U.S. Air Force Academy.

As your 2nd AD Group Vice President, I want to take this opportunity to encourage all of the 467th Association members to also join the 2nd ADA. The dues are only \$15 per year and the three Journals published each year will be of interest particularly with respect to the Memorial Library in Norwich and the other activities of the 2nd ADA. We have only 397 members who belong

to the 2nd ADA out of over 1,200 total 467th membership. I know that sooner or later we will arrive at the point where it is no longer economically prudent to hold stand alone Conventions, and we have an approved plan to consolidate back into the 2nd ADA. Let's start now - those who haven't; join the 2ADA and attend 2ADA one of the 2ADA Conventions, especially if they are in your area. We only had 13 - 15 attendees at the 2ADA Conventions in Irvine, CA. this year. As a leading Group in the 2nd AD we can do better.

**MEMORIAL CEREMONY AT THE USMA. FLIGHT MEMORIAL SEPT. 25, 1997 WALTER J. MUNDY**

Welcome remarks were given by Walter Mundy honoring our commander that graduated from the USMA:

Colonel Albert J. Shower  
Colonel Fred Holdrege  
Colonel Allen Herzberg

As well as those within the 467th who have their lives in combat and who have passed away since then. The ceremony was conducted by Major Fasio, aide to General Christman. The colors were posted, the pledge of allegiance was spoken, Chaplain Cook gave the invocation and Major Fasio introduced Lt. General Christman. General Christman is a 1965 graduate of USMA and took command last year as the 55th superintendent. General Christman's address was as follows:

"It is a great privilege for me to join you on this glorious day as your honor the memory of Colonel Albert Shower and other veterans of the 467th Bombardment Group. Your sacrifices and those of sister organizations within the Eighth Air Force have established a timeless reminder for all Americans of the price of freedom. For the casualty ratios suffered by the Eighth Air Force were among the highest of any tactical unit in the Second World War. As I look around and see the faces of so many veterans, I stand in awe of your achievements. The 467th Bombardment Group (H) - your group - was activated on the 1st of August 1943. The original cadre consisted of 35 Officers and 155 Enlisted men: ultimately, some 3,000 men were associated with the unit. Colonel Albert Shower, a graduate of the West Point Class of 1935, assumed command of the Group on 1 November 1943, and deployed it to England from February to March 1944. Two of the Group's Senior Officers, Colonel Fred Holdrege, class of 42, and Colonel Allen Herzberg, class of 39 were also West Pointers. Flying B-24 Liberators, the Group's initial mission was directed against targets in France on the 10th of April. In the months that followed, the 467th attacked harbor facilities at Kiel, chemical plants at Bonn, power plants at Hamm, steel works at Osnabruck and the aircraft plants at Brunswick. By the time that the Group flew its final mission in April, 1945, it had completed a total of 212 Combat Mission's and dropped over 13,000 tons of Bombs. The 467th lost 49 aircraft while suffering 236 killed or missing in action. Of particular note was the mission against gun positions at Pointe De Grave, France on April 14, 1945. The Group's bombing accuracy on the mission was the best performance by any unit in the Eighth Air Force up to that time. Yes, these were truly remarkable achievements - but there is much more to your story than just cold historical facts and statistics.

As I prepared to speak to you today, I was reminded vividly of a Memorial Day Ceremony I attended in 1994 at the Large American Cemetery in the Ardennes. The Crosses and Stars of David seemed to stretch endlessly before us. I was especially impressed by the large

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### **MEMORIAL CEREMONY - CONTINUED:**

number who have their final rest in that peaceful and beautiful place. At that particular ceremony, Commandant Paul Moors, a Belgian veteran who had fought side-by-side with Americans in the Liberation of Europe, delivered the tribute. It was the most moving Memorial Day speech I've ever heard, and I thought it would be especially appropriate to share some of those words with you today.

Commandant Moors talked to his "friends" in the cemetery, the way soldiers talked to each other during that time probably not too unlike today's exchanges among friends who share the experience of combat. Facing these friends in that cemetery, he made the following remarks":

"On this very special Memorial Day, we are back here again, among your all - We the Belgian Volunteers of war who lived and fought with you prestigious Army in 1944 and 45, because it's an Anniversary deserve a special salute from all of us today. So as we used to say jokingly, every morning, in those days, I'm telling you; "Fellows, rise and shine, today is your day for the message I have for you". My friends, GI's, when the roaring jet fighters will ply over you in a few minutes, please consider the enormous noise of their engines as the cheers of the large faithful Belgian crowd shouting: "Thanks for what you have done, Thank You, Thank You. Merci".

And May I add to the poignant words of Commandant Moors, thanks to each and every one of you veterans who are here today, veterans of that terrible World War which claimed the youth of so many Americans. You are our heroes, the very personification of the ideals we hold so dear here at West Point and which are expressed so eloquently by our motto: "Duty, Honor, Country." May we never forget - You truly are the ones President Clinton had in mind when he said on the edge of Pointe Du Hoc, "When you were young, you and your generation saved the world!"

Upon completion of General Christman's address, General Christman, Colonel's Shower, Holdrege and Herzberg laid a wreath at the memorial in honor of members of the 467th Bombardment Group. A moment of silence was observed, then a volley was fired, followed by taps. Walter Mundy gave the closing remarks:

General Christman, thank you for your impressive presentation and thank you Major Fasio and Chaplain Cook, and our thanks to your Color Guard, Rifle Squad and Bugler.

To those Veterans who flew the B-24's, some may ask how did you keep going? We say:

It was Hard....When Col. Shower ordered training missions.

It was Easy....When everyone did their job.

It was Hard....For the Colonel to send up a max. effort mission knowing there would be losses.

It was Easy....For the troops to "Hate His Guts" because of his demand for excellence.

It was Hard....To get up at 3:00 to 4:00 A.M.

It was Easy....To suit up.

It was Hard....To think about the target.

It was Easy....To check the airplane.

It was Hard....Sweating the take off and forming up.

It was Easy....When everything worked.

It was Hard....As the flack marked the route and we searched the skies for fighters.

It was Easy....To stay busy.

It was Hard....Guessing if evasive action would work.

It was Hard....To watch the B-24 next to you fall smoking, burning out of control.

It was Easy....To thank God it wasn't you bailing out, or going down.

It was Hard....To see what we did to the target.

It was Easy....To head for home base when the flak and fighters went away.

It was Hard....To talk about the mission after debriefing.

It was Easy....When VE Day came and those left all went home.

It was Hard....To forget our days in England and our English friends - So we didn't.

It was Easy....In time...To realize that the Colonel's did their job because they wanted to do everything in their power to save our lives.

It was Hard....To not come to Honor, Respect and Love the men that believed in what they learned here."Duty, Honor, Country" and what was instilled in their lives they instilled in the fine young men of the 467th.

It was Easy....To understand that war is hell and the Freedom we enjoy was paid for by those who gave their lives and those who offered their lives and survived.

Walter Mundy concluded with "and as Walter Cronkite said - That's the way it was". Chaplain Cook gave the benediction, Major Fasio ordered the colors retired and that concluded the ceremony.

### **MISCELLANEA PHILLIP G. DAY**

Well, I went to Convention 97 and I am glad I did. Miss Cille and I enjoyed the four days of camaraderie and good cheer to the fullest. The Nevele Hotel was not constructed for persons with handicaps in walking, but with excellent care from spouses and friends, those of us so afflicted were able to get around in the hotel even if it meant those in wheelchairs had to detour through the kitchen to get to our dining area. The Day Room/Hospitality Room was quite large and adequate for the display of memorabilia, for the business meeting of the Association and for the cocktail parties held there each evening. An inconvenience was that the room also served as a passage for other hotel visitors and staff from place to place and their passage was at times disruptive. The food served in the dining area was very good, approaching excellent at times and copious, I gained four unneeded pounds. Those who took the bus trips were not so fortunate, I understand the box lunches left a lot to be desired. But in the hotel you had a menu for every meal, breakfast was the same each day, but a variety of breakfast things that allowed you to have something different each day if you wished. Lunch and supper were at least one salad, two soups, six entrees-meats, excellent beef, fish, pastas, fruit plates, others, six deserts. Take one or ever how many you wished. The wait staff were competent, though at times trying, they seldom poured water, getting a glass of tea was an effort, coffee service was the better of their liquid efforts. Some things were just not available, for instance Salsa, not even that made in New York City! All in all, bordering on excellent.

The memorabilia display was excellent. I cannot say enough about the presentation of Group materials and photo albums that were there due to the efforts and expertise of Kevin Cooledge-AF who over the last nine months reproduced all of the Group memorabilia including the first fifteen years of POOP FROM GROUP and put all in indexed loose leaf binder format. The convenience of

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### **MISCELLANEA - CONTINUED:**

the presentation (loose leaf format) had the copy machine in virtually constant use. Kevin also reproduced Col. Shower's collection of Group combat pictures, arranged in mission sequence. He was aided in this endeavor by Jay Shower who arranged for the loan of the collection. Also displayed were collections of Andy Wilkinson-AH, Perry Watts-AH, Bob McEwen, Walt Mundy, Tom Steranko and others I cannot remember at this time. I spent many enjoyable hours in the room, looking at the displays and TALKING to any one who would listen to me or who had questions I could answer, and there were many of those.

Also there were PX items displayed. Paul Hatten brought the last of the patches (no Group) and sold a bunch at 4 for \$10. Ralph Davis had enameled metal pins for sale, Kevin had a display of shirts he can personalize with name, squadron, duty, crew pictures and also a series, by months, of combat mission targets on a map in color, very attractive. He also can personalize your missions on a map of Germany and Occupied Territories. I am sure that all of these items will be covered in other areas of POOP.

One more thing and I'll quit. Donations and pledges to procure the one-sixth scale B-24, in "Witchcraft" regalia for presentation to the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum was not quite enough to meet the estimated cost before the Banquet. After a very impressive talk by Ralph Giesecke, Group Engineering Officer, on the worthiness of the project, Vincent LaRussa went among those present for the Banquet and in five minutes or less got pledges of \$500 each from eleven veterans. The fund requirement was met! Ralph, you and Vincent did one hell of a sales job, both my very good friends and the whole Association. God love you, I do.

I have not been able to answer several historical inquiries as the Group memorabilia generally in my custody has not yet been returned by Kevin. Just as soon as it is I will get right on the research and get out the answers. Just bear with me a bit.

### **THE PARISH OF RACKHEATH 1066 - 1997 BY PHILLIP G. DAY**

A year ago in POOP 15-3 I asked if someone in Rackheath would write me of the history of Rackheath for my own information and to share with you in POOP. Perry Watts-AH of Rackheath accepted the request and at Convention 97 presented me with a 125 page review of the history which had taken him and his son, James E. P. Watts, MA, nine months to research and compile. I have had no formal courses in English history and but have read a bit of it. I have visited the battle field at Hastings where this all begins and know that the Norman William defeated Harold Godwinson (Godwinson was killed in the battle), the non-royal Saxon King, in the Battle of Hastings ending the Anglo-Saxon period of England in 1066. Beginning William's successful, though lengthy, effort to secure his position. Through building of fortifications, baronial grants to insure loyalty and through reformation in the church, after five years his kingdom was secured. There has been a royal ruler in England since that time except for the period, 1649 to 1660, when Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector, was the ruler until coronation of Charles II.

Watts writes that sometime around the year 1050 the area of the present site of Rackheath was called Ra-Cheisham or Rakeia and was approximately two miles square. The Ra is possibly Danish for stream. In Doomesday it is listed as Ra-Cheisham and the principle Lordship was in the King and a Godric is shown as

Stewart of it for him.

Originally there were two distinct villages, Rackheath Magna (North?) and its church dedicated to "All Saints" and Rackheath Parva (South?) and its church dedicated to the "Holy Trinity". Both of these churches were on the tax rolls of 1200. Neither of these exist today, the present All Saints was built over 600 years ago in the period 1300 - 1350, the present Holy Trinity, "the new church", was built in 1959. Until 1422 these two villages and the churches were separate and distinct. All Saints first rector is recorded in 1300 and nine are recorded before consolidation in 1422. The first rector of Holy Trinity is recorded in 1302, the last before consolidation was appointed in 1407, a total of twenty-two. After 1422, thirty-two rectors are recorded for the combined Magna and Parva churches, a total of 63 rectors for the 697 years of the churches.

The records of rectors is of much interest as in ecclesiastical usage the name of the presenter of the Rector is listed, so as the churches belonged to the Lord Of The Manor he had the right to name rectors and an assumption can be made that the presenter was The Lord Of The Manor. In feudal times the district over which a lord held authority was the manor, more recently it is a landed estate, usually with a main residence, the owner of which still holds some feudal rights over the land. The Lord Of The Manor we are most familiar with is Edward Paulet Stracey, was in 1871 and in 1888 became the seventh baronet. Sir Edward Paulet Stracey, Bart. He was married twice, his first wife died and the wife we saw him with was Kathleen Emily Robertson, whom he married in 1935. Their daughter was Dereen. A Rackheath Hall was built on Rackheath Estate about 400 years ago by possibly Sir John Pettus who was knighted in 1608. The Pettus family fell on hard times, for what ever reasons, and in about 1772 upon the death of Sir Horatio Pettus, sixth baronet of Rackheath Estate, the estate was let out to a tenant until about 1780 wherein it was sold to Sir Edward Stracey.

Sir Edward, the first baronet of the Straceys of Rackheath family, began construction on what we knew as Rackheath Hall in 1820. His heir, Sir Edward H. T., began enlargement and embellishment of the Hall in 1850. This work was finally completed in 1854. In 1851 The Golden Gates were purchased in Norwich and installed, flanked by the Gate Keepers' lodges. The bridge across the lake was built, possibly by Sir Henry Josias Stracey, fifth baronet 1855 - 1885.

The death of Sir Edward Paulet Stracey occurred in 1949 and I have been led to understand that the inheritance taxes imposed on his estate were so high that it was necessary to sell the acreage still held in the manor, approximately 600 acres from the sale in 1919, to satisfy the tax assessment. Sir Michael George Motley Stracey was the eighth baronet and because of the sale in 1949 he inherited only the title. He was succeeded by Sir John Simon Stracey, the ninth and present day baronet. He resides in Montreal, Canada. The hall has been sold several times since 1949, is presently vacant but it is thought that the present owners are contemplating making it into an apartment complex.

(TO BE CONCLUDED IN A FUTURE POOP)

Accompanying the Watts presentation I received was a letter from James E. P. Watts, Perry's son, which I reproduced here. Though addressed to me, it is for all veterans of the 467th.

"I derived great pleasure in being involved, albeit in a minor way, in the compilation of this history of Rackheath. Without doubt you will understand my comments as follows:

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### **THE PARISH OF RACKHEATH - CONTINUED:**

I am pleased my father (Perry Watts) listened to me in the fore part of this year, accepted my advice and 'persuasion', and continued on the research of the history which otherwise would have been abandoned in the very early days of research.

Although I was not born until 1974, some thirty years after you came over with the 467th Group, I would like you to know I am very grateful to you and your colleagues and appreciate you coming over to my country and helping us out in that "hour of need". Many of us young people, although we had not been born at the time, most sincerely appreciate that valued support given by the people of America and particular by yourself and all the veterans of the 467th Group.

With my best wishes,  
(S) James E. P. Watts

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE 46TH BOMB GROUP**

The annual meeting of the Directors of the 467th Bomb Group was held at the Nevele Hotel, Ellenville, New York, on September 27, 1997.

The meeting was called to order by President Walt Mundy, Officers, Directors and Past Presidents present were:

Col. Al Shower	Honorary Chairman
Walt Mundy	President
Vince LaRussa	Vice President
Bill McGovern	Secretary/Legal Council
Phillip Day	Treasurer/Historian
Vince Re	Director
Ralph Davis	Director
Ralph Elliot	Chairman Nominating Committee & Past President
Geoffrey Gregory	Past President
Bob Sheehan	Past President

### **REPORT ON STATUS OF P.U.C.:**

Ralph Davis reported on our continuing efforts to secure a Presidential Unit Citation for our Bomb Group. It seems to be conceded that the Citation should be due to our excellent bombing record during the war, but politics continue to intervene. However, a new avenue through veterans organization will be approached.

### **REPORT ON 1997 CONVENTION:**

President Mundy, who served as Convention Chairman, thanked the hotel and its staff and the bus lines for good service. He thanked his wife Ruth, and his Assistants, Syd Katz and Vivian, for assistance in handling the details of the convention. Ruth was in charge of registration and secretarial details. Syd arranged the nightly entertainment and it was truly excellent. The performers represented Broadway at its best. Accomplishing the pledging of \$25,000 for the wood B-24 model to be painted in Witchcraft colors and the glorious day at West Point in which Commandant of West Point, Lt. General Christman, praised the 467th for its great record in the war and gave special honors to three of its distinguished graduates, Colonels Al Shower, Fred Holdrege and Allen Herzberg who so ably led the 467th. Squadron Commander, Col. Bruce Palmer, was also present at the ceremony and shared in the honors bestowed on the Group and its Officers.

### **REPORT ON PLEDGE MONEY TO MIGHTY EIGHTH HERITAGE MUSEUM:**

President Mundy announced that we were making the final payment of \$5,000 on our pledge of \$10,000 to the Museum in Pooler, Georgia, to be used for operating expense.

### **REPORT ON STATUS OF THE WOODEN B-24 MODEL FOR THE MIGHTY 8TH HERITAGE MUSEUM:**

President Mundy recited the events leading up to our decision to take a lead role in providing a 1/6 wooden scale model of a B-24 with the 467th marking (Witchcraft) at a cost of \$25,000, to be donated to the Mighty 8th Heritage Museum in Savannah, Georgia. Many members complained during visits to the Museum at our 1996 Convention in Pooler that the B-17 received an unequal share of the Museum space to the detriment of the B-24. Walt Mundy, Vince LaRussa and others registered this complaint in a meeting with General Shuler, Director of the Museum. He promised to correct the problem.

As reported by Walt Mundy, who is our delegate to the Executive Committee of 2ADA, in the August, 1997 issue of POOP from GROUP, the 2ADA has for some time planned to present a 1/6 scale bronze model B-24 to the Air Force Academy with the necessary wood scale model to be installed at the Mighty 8th Heritage Museum. At several meetings of the 2ADA Executive Committee (Ex Com) action was adjourned until October 1997, to commence a fund drive to raise the estimated cost of \$175,000. All of the B-24 groups would be asked to join in the drive. At this point, the Directors of the 467th with its convention coming up in September, 1997, saw an opportunity to be a leader of all of the groups by taking upon itself the project to build a wooden model of the B-24 at a cost of \$25,000 with its group markings (Witchcraft) painted thereon and to present it to the Museum.

The Directors wanted to be in a position to pledge the use of this model to the Executive Committee meeting of 2ADA in October, 1998 as its pledge to the proposed \$175,000 bronze model to be presented to the Air Force Academy. Ownership of this wooden model would remain in the 467th and at the time of presentation to the Heritage Museum would have the colors of "Witchcraft" painted thereon.

In furtherance of this goal, a Pledge Agreement was printed in the August, 1997 issue of POOP from GROUP and a copy included in the package given to each registrant at the September Convention in New York.

President Mundy announced at this meeting that approximately \$7,000 had been received in pledges at the time and that additional pledges had been made.

After a discussion, the following resolution was duly passed:

"RESOLVED that the 467th Bomb Group will provide a wooded mold model of a B-24 at its cost of \$25,000 to be raised by donations. The wooden model will be donated to the Mighty 8th Heritage Museum with "Witchcraft" colors painted thereon."

It should be mentioned that at the banquet that evening the matter of the B-24 model and the required \$25,000 was again mentioned. Our Treasurer stated that total pledges were still short of our goal. At this point, Vince LaRussa took a packet of pledge forms among the assembled diners and called for 10 members to come forward and pledge \$500 each to put us over the top. In a truly remarkable show of support, eleven stepped forward to accomplish the effort in a matter of minutes.

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**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING CONT.:  
NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chairman Ralph Elliott submitted the following names to serve as Directors for 3 years:

Robert McEwen                      Walter J. Robinson

The report was approved and ordered to be presented to the meeting of members for its action.

Mundy announced that Director Walter Weaver had resigned for personal reasons. Ralph Davis was duly elected to fill his unexpired term (2 years), as provided in the by-laws. Mundy then called for new business.

Chairman Vince LaRussa announced that the 1998 convention would be held in St. Louis, September 17th to 24th, and that Ken Close would serve as on site Chairman and Coordinator.

He announced that plans are still being formulated for a convention in England in 1999 or 2000 in connection with 2ADA or alone. It was recommended that a committee be appointed to review this and report at the next convention.

Past President Geoff Gregory presented a report on the special endowment fund for the memorial library in Norwich. He said that the fund requires 100,000 Pounds to ensure the purchase of books in perpetuity. We had previously donated \$5,000 to its general fund.

The meeting was duly adjourned to be reconvened following the membership meeting. The reason for this procedure is that our by-laws provide that an annual meeting of the members be held for the purpose of electing Directors and the transaction of such other business as shall come before the meeting.

The by-laws further provide that the principal officers of the corporation shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, each of whom shall be elected by the new Board at its first meeting after the meeting of members.

The meeting of the new Board convened after the meeting of the members: present were:

Ralph Davis                      Vince LaRussa  
Walt Mundy                      Robert McEwen

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Walt Mundy, whose term as President had expired, stated it was customary for the Vice President to move up to President. However, Vice President Vince LaRussa asked that his name be withdrawn due to personal reasons, but agreed to be Chairman of the 1998 convention in St. Louis. Under those conditions, Walt Mundy agreed to serve as President for a second term.

Upon motion duly adopted, the following were elected to serve as officers for the ensuing year:

President                      Walt Mundy  
Vice President              Vince LaRussa  
Secretary                      Bill McGovern  
Treasurer                      Phillip Day

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was duly adjourned.

Respectfully submitted  
William P. McGovern, Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
MEMBERSHIP OF THE 467TH B. G.**

The annual meeting of the members was held at the Nevelle Country Club, Ellenville, New York, on September 27, 1997.

The meeting was called to order by President Walt Mundy.

A quorum was present, the following Officers were present:

President                      Walt Mundy  
Vice President              Vince LaRussa  
Secretary                      Bill McGovern  
Treasurer                      Phillip Day

**REPORT ON STATUS OF P.U.C.:**

Ralph Davis reported on the frustration we continue to run into in our attempt to secure a Presidential Unit Citation for the 467th. He promised to continue the efforts.

**REPORT ON 1997 CONVENTION:**

President Mundy, who also served as chairman of the convention, thanked the hotel staff and the bus lines for helping to make our stay pleasant. The Nevele Country Club is located in a picturesque area in the Catskill Mountains about 90 miles north of New York City.

He gave praise to his wife, Ruth and his right-hand man, Syd Katz. Ruth was in charge of registration and secretarial details and Syd for arranging the nightly entertainment.

**REPORT ON PLEDGE TO MIGHTY EIGHTH HERITAGE MUSEUM:**

The chairman announced that we were making the final payment of \$5,000 on our pledge of \$10,000 to the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum, Pooler, Georgia, to be used for its operating expenses.

**REPORT ON STATUS OF THE B-24 MODEL FOR THE 8TH AF HISTORICAL:**

Mundy recited the events leading up to our decision to take the leading role providing a 1/6 wooden scale model of a B-24 with the 467th markings (Witchcraft) at a cost of \$25,000, to be donated to the Heritage Museum in Savannah (Pooler) Georgia.

To raise the \$25,000, a pledge agreement was printed in the August, 1997 issue of POOP from GROUP and a copy was included in the package of papers given to each registrant at this convention. For a more complete statement on this project, please refer to the Minutes of the Board of Directors of this date.

A member took issue with the wording in the pledge agreement which stated that if the total amount of \$25,000 was not achieved, the donations received will be pledged to the 8th AF Historical Museum. After a full discussion, the following resolution was duly passed:

"RESOLVED, that if the goal of collecting the sum of \$25,000 is not met, the amounts collected will remain in our treasury in a B-24 model fund."

**ELECTION OF DIRECTORS:**

The report of the Nominating Committee placing in nomination the names of Robert McEwen and Walter J. Robinson to serve as Directors of the corporation for terms of 3 years was presented to the members. A call for further nomination was made and none were received.

Upon motion duly adopted, the report of the Nomination Committee was approved and the following were duly elected as Directors of the Corporation to serve for a term of 3 years:

Robert McEwen                      Walter J. Robinson

The Board of Directors as presently constituted, in addition to the above, are:

Ralph Davis (2 years)              Vince LaRussa (2 years)  
Lloyd Davies (1 year)              Walt Mundy (1 year)

NOTE: Ralph Davis was duly elected to fill the un-expired term

(Continued from page 6)

## MINUTES OF THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING CONTINUED:

of Walter Weaver, who requested resignation at the meeting of the Board of Directors.

The Chairman then called for new business.

Vince LaRussa reported on the status of the Alan Healey History of the 467th. He has 73 books left on the 3rd printing.

Ralph Davis stated that the 467th is on the Internet. The call letters are:

"www.siscom.net/~467thbg" (Home Page) 97

"467thbg@siscom.net" (E-Mail)

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was duly adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted  
William P. McGovern, Secretary

## 467TH CONVENTION ATTENDEES LIST

Barry, Larry	Giesecke, Ralph	Lepoer, Bennie
Barry, Mrs.	Gore, Ed	Lepoer, Annie
Basar, Walter	Gore, Betty	Long, Joe
Basar, Josephine	Gregory, Geoff	Mallulke, Bill
Bell, Tony	Gregory, Terry	Malone, Maurice
Bell, Connie	Gummelt, James	Malone, Virgie
Bernstien, Vivian	Haenn, Joe	McEwen, Bob
Bickel, Jonathan	Haenn, Flo	McEwen, Ruth
Bickel, Ray	Hallowell, George	McGovern, Bill
Bosko, Johnny	Hatch, Carolyn	McKenzie, Mac
Brinkman, Merle J.	Hatten, Paul	McKinzie, Bea
Brinkman, Lathea	Hatten, Evelyn	McLean, Judy
Brinson, Jack	Haug, Carmen	McMahon, Lawrence F.
Brinson, Joyce	Hodge, Joe	McMahon, Elizabeth
Bush, Susan	Hodge, Jean	Messina, Fred
Colvin, Walt	Holdrege, Fred	Messina, Ruth
Colvin, Phyllis	Holdrege, Jane	Mundy, James
Cox, Charlie	Holt, Jim	Mundy, Jeff
Cox, Ann	Holt, Dorothy	Mundy, John
Crocoran, Helen	Houser, Keith	Mundy, Walt
Culross, Mel	Houser, Steven	Mundy, Ruth
Davis, Ralph	Johnson, John	Noden, Will
Davis, Doris	Johnson, Dean	Noden, Cecily
Day, Phillip	Johnson, Rita	Oken, Aaron
Day, Cille	Kapi, Andy	Palmer, Bruce
Donlon, Hugh	Kapi, Sid	Palmer, Mary
Donlon, Eileen	Kapi, Anna	Perkins, Amel
Dottore, Carl	Kaynor, Don	Perkins, Fay
Dottore, Connie	Kelly, Ed	Perkins, Arlene
Elliot, Ralph	Kenagy, Glen	Perkins, Merlina
Elliot, Yveonne	King, Edward	Peters, John
Ellison, Tex	King, Theresa	Pippenger, Jim
Ellison, Mary	Kurtz, Larry	Pippenger, Marcia
Elsen, Betty	Kurtz, Faye	Plaskiewicz, Clem
Emick, Helen	Lang, Ed	Plaskiewicz, Rose
Felbinger, Norm	Lang, Debbie	Re, Vince
Felbinger, Lucy	LaRussa, Vince	Re, Carolyn
Fillebrown, Robin	Law, Gordon	Richter, Ray
Fox, Joe	Law, Peg	Riekter, Pauline
Fox, Pat	Lemmen, H.P.	Rostocki, Rose
Giblin, Gibby	Lemmen, Marian	Sameul, Bob Sr.
		Sameul, Bob Jr.

## CONVENTION ATTENDEES CONT.:

Sefca, Milan	Stone, Bob	Wicks, David
Sefca, Lucille	Stone, Anne	Wicks, Art
Segalla, Fred	Stratton, Anne	Wicks, Jean
Segalla, Marguerite	Traicoff, Al	Wicks, Claudette
Sheehan, Bob	Troy, Bob	Wilkinson, Andy
Sheehan, Rosy	Troy, Lila	Wilkinson, Jacky
Sherrard, Jim	Upp, John	Williams, Bill
Sherrard, Pearl	Upp, Cathie	Woodside, Lee
Shower, Al	Wagoner, Lelia	Woodside, Dina
Shower, Char	Watson, Frank	Zbikowski, Joe
Spencer, Ron	Watson, Etoile	
Spencer, Dot	Watts, Perry	
Sprague, Bob	Watts, Jill	
Steranko, Ron	Weslock, Gene	
Steranko, Tom	Weslock, Patty	

## SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORT

### AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

The treasury along with funds set aside from the past two conventions have made funds available to the President and the Board of Directors the capability of presenting special awards to individuals for exceptional service and dedication to the group. A "Presidency Award" was conceived for all presidents and past presidents of the organization since incorporation. For those who have passed on, the award was presented to the widow or surviving family member. We hope this token of appreciation compensates to some degree for the effort involved in guiding the Group through its tasks. In addition, these funds also covered name tag identification for Officers, board members, Bomb Group Commanders and for conference attending widows with their husbands name below. Ralph Davis initiated this during his watch and has been delegated the chairmanship to continue the effort.

### THE HISTORY OF THE 467TH, THIRD REPRINT:

All who ordered the third reprint should have by now received the Addendum and Errata booklet to it. If you have not received the Addendum and Errata, write to Vincent LaRussa of it, his address is on the mast head. There are only 75 copies of the book left to sell, then no more, ever. The sale of these 75 will give the Association approximately \$3000 profit for other uses. Order your copy right away from Vince.

### PATCHES:

Paul Hatten at 210 North Mall Drive, Unit 133, St. George, UT 84790 has only squadron patches remaining. Until all are gone he will sell a set of four for \$10 or for \$3 each. To date this project of Paul's has given the Association \$327.

### WINDOW DECALS:

Bob Sheehan's project has given the Association \$796. Write Bob for your decal(s) at \$3 each at 1828 East 27th St., Tulsa OK 74114.

### GI MEMORIES OF THE E.T.O.:

This 5-1/4" by 8", 25 page booklet of cartoon like scenes of enlisted personnel activities is available for \$5 from Allen J. Welters, 1418 70th St. E., Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077. The project has returned \$260 to the Association.

Special thanks, Ralph, Vince, Paul, Bob and "Wabbit" from the Association to each of you for your continuing support of the Association. You each are much appreciated.



**ROSTER ADDITIONS**

Ed Bidwell, 349 Marmaton Rd. El Dorado, KS 67042  
 Helen Emick-AF, 1524 West 4th St., Williamsport, PA 17701  
 Keith Houser-AF, 16300 Burning Springs Rd., Oklahoma City, OK 73013  
 Wayne D. Kinman, 7111 Aliceton Ave., St. Louis, MO 63123  
 Neil C. Matzek Jr., 8427 Bahama Ct., Ft. Meyers, FL 33907  
 James G. Mundy-AF, 118 E. 28th St., Apt. 1001, New York, NY 10016  
 Jeffrey S. Mundy-AF, 119 E. 96th St., Apt. 5, New York, NY 10128  
 John R. Mundy-AF, 9927 Masked Duck, Las Vegas, NV 89117  
 Aaron Oken, 1704 North Park Dr., 613, Wilmington, DE 19806  
 John J. Shirk, 3399 Gulfshore Blvd. N., Naples, FL 34103  
 A. Jay Shower, 3325 Biscay Dr., San Diego, CA 92154  
 Mary Sorrentino-AW (Ernest) 59 Westlyn Dr., Bardonia, NY 10954  
 Fred R. Sullivan, Jr., 3642 Robinhood St., Houston, TX 77005  
 Robert J. Tully, 1177 Sw. 4th St., Boca Raton, FL 33486

If any of these additions to the roster live near you, give them a ring or drop by to see them. Don't let anyone of them not be welcomed.

**LOST SOULS**

"POOP" was returned from the following. Tell us what you know of them. Try to locate them if they live in your area.

Earl D. Belisle	Minneapolis, MN
Robert M. Clark	Carmichael, CA
John Duma	Old Bridge, NJ
Francis P. Muleady	Whittoier, CA
John L. Stewart	Vancouver, WA
Don Widen	Minot, ND

**LAST POST**

Milford A. Copley	John R Munger, M.D.
Wayne O. Crossan	Alexander G. Robertson
Henry W. Marling	Harmon J. Small
Frank J. McCarthy	Ernest G. Sorrention
Robert L. Mattson	Fred R. Sullivan
Joseph J. Mulheran	Steven W. Torgeson-AF

"May they go from Strength to Strength in the Life of Perfect Service in GOD'S Heavenly Kingdom."

**MAIL-MEMORIAL FUND**

There were only thirty-five contributors to the fund in the period July 15, 1997 through November 15, 1997, for a total of \$1,555. This is far less in number from last report of 58 and also far less than the \$3,505 (remember in that total was one donation for \$1,500) received in the last accounting period. The POOP Vol. 16-2 cost \$1355 to produce and mail, so we had donations that covered its cost. Had two letters in the period saying there were too many fund requests in POOP and I agree that the last two had an excess but that is, I think, unusual due to the projects contemplated by the Association to be acted upon at the last Convention. But I must keep requesting you to contribute to the Mail-Memorial Fund so that POOP can continue to be published and sent to all veterans of the Group that we know about, to their widows if they wish to receive it and to Associates who support the POOP with donations of money and or talent. Search your conscience and your check book. Have you contributed in the last year? Ever?

**MAIL-MEMORIAL FUND CONT.:**

THE ASSOCIATION NEEDS THE SUPPORT OF EVERY PERSON RECEIVING POOP FROM GROUP. THE ASSOCIATION IS A VETERAN BASED, NOT-FOR-PROFIT, CHARITABLE ENTITY AND ALL DONATIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION ARE FEDERAL INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

Send your contribution to:

467th Bombardment Group (H) Association Ltd.  
 237 Pennsylvania Ave.  
 Shreveport, LA 71105-3319

**CONTRIBUTORS IN THE PERIOD WERE:**

Robert A. BarClay	Roger L. Leister
Mildred W. Cridling	Delbert M. Mann
Marvin R. Davis	Kenneth M. McCracken
Phillip G. Day	Lawrence F. McMahon
Howard W. Dye, Jr.	G. Bruce Palmer
Robert L. Edwards	William L. Pehrson
Walter W. "Tex" Ellison	Vincent C. Re
Norman W. Felbinger	Gloria A. Roy-AW
Donald M. Gannett	Ronald J. Romabasky
Lloyd A. Gilbertson	Jack D. Stratton, Jr.
Charles W. Grace	George E. Tormoen
Paul J. Hannefey	Goron F. Tucker
Capers A. Holmes	Charles R. Wagner
James T. Horgarth	Walter W. Weaver
Gerald B. Hunter	Allen J. Welters (Twice)
Richard E. Fletcher	Andrew J. Wilkinson-AH

I thank each of the above on behalf of the Association, and personally, for their donations. Their contributions are appreciated, they are appreciated.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Operating Fund 07-15-97 to 11-15-97

Opening Balance	\$ 5,869.68
<b>Income</b>	
Contributions	\$ 1,555.00
Hatten's Patch Sales	\$ 87.00
Welter's E.T.O. Memories	\$ 50.00
Certificate of Deposit Interest	\$ 145.77
Checking Account Interest	\$ 33.68
Subtotal Income	\$ 1,871.45

**Disbursements**

Fax Charge	\$ 7.50
POOP 16-2 Advance Balance	\$ 187.59
POOP 16-3 Advance	\$ 1,400.00
Mighty 8th AF Heritiage Museum	\$ 5,000.00
Subtotal Disbursements	\$ 6,407.58

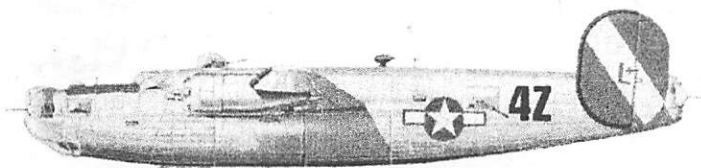
Operating Fund Balance 11-15-1997 \$ 1,433.55

**Special Fund Accounts**

Albert J. Shower Endowment	\$ 769.50
Rackheath Control Tower	\$ 205.00
8th AF Heritage Museum	\$ 50.00
32 Day Certificate of Deposit	\$10,000.00
Total Special Funds	\$11,051.50

**Total Association Funds \$12,485.05**





**467th BG (H)**  
**Lt. Myles Coolidge - Leye's Crew**  
**Co-Pilot - 791st Squadron**



**Ray Betcher**  
**Aircraft Mechanic - Witchcraft**  
**467th BG (H) - 790th Squadron**

### **PERSONALIZED SHIRTS-KEVIN COOLIDGE**

Personalized polo shirts with any combination of the design elements (pictured above) are being offered by Kevin Coolidge (son of Myles Coolidge). The artwork on the white shirt is in color, printed above the pocket; natural metal finish or olive drab finish B-24, squadron markings for your squadron (X7-788th, 6A-789th, Q2-790th or 4Z-791st). The polo shirts are priced at \$25 (plus \$3 to mail them to you). The shirts can be further personalized by the addition of a crew photo on the shirt back for an additional \$10. Kevin also makes caps in the 467th livery using the aircraft artwork, including 8th AF, 2nd Air Division affiliation. The cap is offered at \$10.

Kevin is also offering LAMINATED COLOR MAPS detailing the missions flown by the 467th during each month. If you'd like the maps for the months you flew, contact him and make your request (phone and address at bottom of this article). He'll also put your name on the map. The cost is \$2 for each page plus \$3 for Priority Mail. If you'd like a map showing the missions you flew, Kevin will do one for you for \$30. Kevin Coolidge can be reached at 760 La Loma Lane, Corona, CA 91719. Call or fax at 909-278-0204.

### **2ND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION**

The annual Reunion of the Florida Chapter of the 2nd Air Division Association, 8th Air Force Veterans of WWII, will be held in Fort Meyers, FL on March 26 - 29, 1998. The host hotel is the Sheraton Harbor Place. During the reunion there will be a Hospitality Room where veterans can meet with their comrades to view mementos and video tapes of combat missions over Ploesti, France and Germany. There will be many activities offered, and if you'd wish to make a vacation out of it, your extended stay will be at the same low rate granted by the host hotel. For more information please contact Fred K. McConnell, P.O. Box 482, Cape Coral FL 33910, or call at 941-549-2747

### **BITS AND PIECES - BOB DAVIS**

Well, I'm putting the finishing touches on this issue and wondering what to write about here. The weather in Ohio is turning cold, and most of the leaves have gone away. Quite bleak looking out this window, and the sun goes down way to soon for my liking. Oh how I wish spring was just around the corner.

I'm doing a lot with the groups Internet page, and I hope that all of you out there that have the capability of accessing it, will. Please be sure to sign the guestbook while you are there and give us your comments, good or bad, this is the only way I am going to know just what everyone would like to see on the page. I am in the process of building a page that has reference to all the items that are available to group members i.e. pins, shirts, hats, maps, books etc.. The cost of items and the quantity in stock will also be listed and updated once a week.

The new issue of POOP will be on the website before you receive this issue. I will be keeping all back issues of POOP in an archives file that will be available on the web, (it will take a little time to put this together) and I will get a hold of Kevin Coolidge and see if he can send me a copy of all of the back issues and I will try to post them also in the archives file.

Don't forget the url for the website is [www.siscom.net/~46thbg](http://www.siscom.net/~46thbg).. and while you are looking at the page please sign the guestbook!

I have redone the e-mail list so that it is now in alphabetical order, and all address are inserted so that all you have to do is click on it and it will bring up your mail browser with their address already in it for you. I'm am also building a link to everyone's e-mail address, so if you want to send to all on the list, all you have to do is to click in one place and e-mail all that are on the list.

The history that is in the page is the one that was sent to me by Phillip G. Day, and is the complete copy of what I received from him.

I am working on a page that shows the bomb missions for the group, strike targets and all pertinent information on those strikes. If there is anything else related to this that you would like to see, please let me know, I can use all the help in the information department that I can get.

We are also in the process of building a page with photos from Rackheath, bomb strike photos, group photos and any other type of photo that you would have pertaining to the 467th BG (H) during the time from start to now. All photos can be mailed to either me or my Dad (Ralph Davis) and the addresses are on the mast head. All photos will be returned to the sender unless you state that you don't want them back. I will take the photos and scan them into a file, then I will have a permanent copy of them to place on the webpage.

The links page to other sites is in the process of being updated, but this takes a while to do. I go out and search for interesting sites that pertain to that era, and the B-24, then check the site to see if it is worth putting on the page. This is a very time consuming project, so bear with me for awhile. If you know of any sites that you would like to see on the links page, let me know and I will get it there.

Ralph and I would also like to build a page of photos of guys that were in the group, we would like to have a photo of you while you were stationed at Rackheath (or close to that time period), and a photo of you now, kind of like a then and now thing. If you would like to participate in this please send along those photo's too.

I guess I have taken up enough of this issue on the web page, it has been a joy to put it together for the Group, and it can only get better with time and more information. I have learned a lot about the Internet since doing it, and would like to thank my wife, Frankie, for putting up with me while working on it.

To all of you out there, from my wife Frankie, son Shawn, daughter Nicole and me, we wish you a great holiday season, and a happy and prosperous New Year. Be safe, we want to see all of you in St. Louis next year.

**POOP from GROUP**  
467th Bombardment Group (Heavy)  
1143 Kenora Circle  
Beavercreek, OH 45430

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

DAYTON, OH  
PERMIT NO. 966

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



FRANK S. WATSON  
7208 AZTEC RD NE  
ALBUQUERQUE NM 87110-2252

**MEMBERSHIP ROSTER dated 26 August 1997**

available through:

Marvin Ralph Davis  
1143 Kenora Circle  
Beavercreek, Ohio 45430-1101

\$3.00, including packaging and shipping. Updates available upon request with a self addressed and stamped envelope

**GROUP & SQUADRON PINS \$ 5.00 ea. plus \$0.75 package and post (1-6 pins) (available through M.R. Davis)**

Note: Pin availability as follows (Dec. 1, 97):

467th	27	789th	14
791st	12	788th	11
790th	0	470th Sub Depot	17

(If there is an interest in 790th, I may get more)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM DORIS AND RALPH DAVIS AND THE MOST PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!!!!!!!

