



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

**IRC Section 501 (c) (19) EIN: 39-1592334**

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**FROM THE PREZ - RALPH DAVIS**

It is a pleasure to serve you again for the coming year. The convention in St. Louis was excellent. The hotel location and external facilities were great. Service, food and accommodations were the best. My congratulations to Vincent and Gloria LaRussa and Ken and Dottie Close for coordinating such a splendid event. We will try hard to equal your efforts in Tucson (not Las Vegas - I lost 4 to 1 on that one).

With the several changes we put into effect by changing our By-Laws, there will be a questionnaire within the newsletter for response from the membership. I do encourage all of you to respond so that we get a feeling of the membership. We need volunteers to express an interest in serving on the Board of Directors, serving as Officers and volunteering to act as coordinator in some of the major cities that have areas of interest to the group. I enjoy doing this work and so did Walt Mundy, but we would like to see some new blood in these areas. I'm sure many of you are getting tired of seeing the same faces from year to year.

For the interest of some, and I realize that this has to be approved by the board, I have checked into what is available in the Dayton area for the year 2000 and have tentatively set Thursday 28 September as early bird day, Friday 29 September for registration, Saturday 30 September for visit to Air Force Museum, Sunday 1 October as free day, board and membership meeting day and evening banquet, and Monday 2 October as departure. The base hotel, HOPE, is basically a military type environment, nothing fancy, cinder or concrete block walls. The price is about \$60.00 per night, but there is nothing within walking distance. There is local bus service to the Officers Club, BX and Golf Course, except late Friday and all day Saturday. We would have to schedule busses to the Museum for Saturday with shuttles every hour for those who do not want to spend all day there. We will have lunch chits and

tickets for the I-MAX Theater. Dayton wants our business. The Holiday Inn in Fairborn which has a lot of little shops and eating places and is across from Wright State University. Other facilities will be considered. Take a look at the questionnaires (in this issue) and please let me hear from you.

A Merry Christmas, and our best wishes for a Happy New Year. Doris and Ralph Davis.

**FROM THE 2ND ADA GROUP VICE PRESIDENT  
WALTER J. MUNDY**

The past year has been one of the busiest years that I can remember since I became active in the 467th Bomb Group Association and the 2nd Air Division Association. In January I made an inspection trip to Canon City, Colorado to coordinate with Robert Henderson on the model of "Witchcraft". Then in February I attended the 2nd ADA Regional dinner meeting at El Torro, California. In May, I met Robert Henderson in Savannah, Georgia to install the model of the "witch" at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum. Then on to Chicago to the 2nd ADA Executive Meeting. I was unable to stay for the Convention due to a date with the Surgeon to operate on my back. That being successful, I was again able to walk without the use of a walker of canes and without severe pain. So much for June! Then on the fourth of July I spent eight days in the hospital to recover from a severe staff infection in my right elbow and arm. Flying combat was never that hectic!

At the EXCOM meeting we learned that the construction of the new Library has been delayed due to the allocation of funds from the Lottery. However, our British Board of Governors have pledged to do everything possible to expedite the completion by the end of the year 2000. The EXCOM is meeting with the Board of Gover

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### 2ND ADA CONTINUED:

nors the first week of November, 1998 and they will officially launch a fund raiser program to raise 125,000 Pounds (\$200,000). The 2nd ADA has pledged to provide \$100,000 and will present the Board with \$50,000, with the balance to be provided next year. The \$5,000.00 that the 467th donated will be the seed for the donations required for the rest of the pledge. Earl Wassom, President of the 2nd ADA and several of the other EXCOM members have expressed their recognition of the leadership that the 467th has continued to provide both to the Memorial Library and the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum.

And now for a few words about the Bronze B-24 dedication at the Air Force Academy. What a wonderful ceremony, the sculpture looked just like a B-24, the weather was beautiful, and Neal Sorensen, Al Ashe, Ray Pytel and their team did a professional job on the memory book and organizing the entire event. The B-24 is in the best location, near the top of the stairway from the lower courtyard and is the first Bronze warbird that anyone would see coming up from the lower level and also is the most prominent coming from the other buildings.

### NEWS FROM STATION 145 - DAVID J. HASTINGS

1998 has been a very busy year with plenty of visitors to your Marker Stone and as always much interest shown in the 467th and the old airfield. I am glad to say that the new flags have lasted the whole summer. Many visitors have praised the floodlighting and the garden has been kept neat and tidy. We were so pleased to see several 467th members and their families over this year and it was a great joy to have them in our home. Only the other week we had James and Dorothy Holt from Louisville and Andrew Horlock from Beaver Brook.

The work on the new 2nd Air Division Library to be rebuilt as part of our Millennium Library is running on schedule and there is no doubt that when this is opened in 2001 it will be one of the finest memorials in the world. Recently the "Friends of the Memorial" gave a dinner at Dunston Hall to mark the retirement of Hilary Hammond and Linda Berube. Your new Fulbright Librarian Judith Jerome has arrived and there is no doubt she will be another great asset to your unique Memorial. At RAF Neatishead, your tree planted by Colonel Shower is growing well and flowered this year, serving as a constant reminder to the servicemen and women of today of the links with the 467th and the 2nd Air Division. Group Captain Barry Titchen has ended his tour as Station Commander and has been posted to Germany. His successor is another great guy, Group Captain Paul Blackford who is already showing a great interest in the 467th.

On the Bure Valley Railway, which several members of the 467th have visited, the main line diesel locomotive will be named "2nd Air Division USAAF" by the President of the 2nd ADA in November when the Executive meets in Norwich. The program for this visit is coming along well and as always it is a joy to work with Evelyn Cohen on the arrangements. As well as the meetings various interesting activities are planned including a Dinner in the "Green Man".

Finally, it was great to meet many of the 467th at the 2nd ADA Convention in Chicago this year and we are sorry that we cannot visit the USA twice a year to be with you in St. Louis.

We will never forget you.

### BARSHAM MEMORIAL PROJECT -

#### ANDY J. WILKINSON

Denis Sporle called this evening with the latest on the fund-raising and future events planned in the village to augment the fund. They have close to £ 2000 and are confident they can get this higher and make initial plans for a stonemason to begin work.

Being a rural location with a sparse population, they have done well to get the funding this far. It is only small events like jumbles, aviation lectures and raffles in the church hall that have made up the bulk of the funding.

#### EDITORS NOTE:

In last issue of POOP from GROUP, 17-2, I left out Denis's address. For all that would like to donate to this worth while project, you may send your donations directly to Mr. Denis Sporle, made out to the "Barsham Aviation Memorial Fund".

Mr. Denis Sporle  
The Old School House.  
Barsham Nr. Beccles  
Suffolk NR34 8HA  
England

### 2ND ADA PRESIDENT - EARL WASSOM

"I have just been informed by Bill Nothstein, Treasurer of the 2ADA, of your gift of \$5,000.00 by the 467th Bomb Group. This is a noteworthy contribution to the Memorial Library in Norwich and I personally wish to thank you. The 467th has stood tall in its financial support for many projects in maintaining the Legacies of the Second Air Division. Please convey our appreciation to the members of this great group of fellows."

Earl Wassom went on in his letter to Walter Mundy to state that he will try to get definitive information regarding the completion of the New Memorial, pressing for an early completion date and expressed that they wanted a large contingency of 2nd ADA veterans to be present at the dedication.

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE 467TH BOMB GROUP (HEAVY) ASSOCIATION, LTD.

The annual meeting of the members of the 467th Bombardment Group (Heavy) Association, Ltd. was held at the Sheraton West Port Inn, St. Louis MO., on September 20, 1998.

The meeting was called to order by President Walter Mundy. Approximately 75 members were present.

#### Officers present:

President, Walter Mundy  
Vice President, Vince LaRussa  
Secretary, Bill McGovern  
Treasurer, Phillip Day  
Honorary Chairman, Col. Al Shower

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Phillip Day stated that the Group was in good shape financially. An itemized report is printed in POOP from GROUP. He discussed a contract with Kevin Coolidge to reproduce Group memorabilia.

#### CHANGES IN OPERATING PROCEDURES:

President Mundy discussed the proposals to the Board of Directors contained in letters dated May 25, 1998, and August 8, 1998. He referred to the increasing problem of recruiting nominees to serve on the Board and as Officers of the Association. He also foresaw the need at some time in the future to rely on widows and

sons and daughters of members to instill new life into the Association.

His proposals to improve these issues was to change our By-Laws to make widows and sons and daughters of members eligible to vote at meetings of the Association and to hold positions of Director and Officer.

He also proposed a more experienced permanent type of Board by electing three members to serve for terms of five years and three members to serve for terms of three years with a member being elected each year for a term of three years.

These proposals had previously been approved by the Board.

The proposals brought a lively reaction from the membership

One member suggested that we immediately place one of the sons or daughters to a permanent place on the Board to give them experience for a future position of leadership.

The other view was that we are and always will be a last man's club and that he should remember to turn out the lights and drink the last bottle of wine.

The discussions continued and many had an opinion on the subject.

A motion to table the discussion was defeated.

Finally, Hank Wedsa moved that the Board follow up on the issues involved and report back at the next meeting of the members.

The motion was duly passed. Ralph Davis said that he would attempt to frame the issues and place them in POOP from GROUP and invite response from the members.

#### **REPORT OF NOMINATION COMMITTEE:**

The report of Ralph Elliott, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, was presented to the membership.

For a five year term:

Walter Mundy  
Ralph Davis  
Vince Re

For a three year term:

Tony Bell  
Ben Hatch

Written ballots were given to the members and for the contested three year term. Tony Bell was elected.

The five year term nominees were all elected.

#### **MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:**

For the five year term:

Walter Mundy  
Ralph Davis  
Vincent Re

For the three year term:

Tony Bell           3 years  
Walter Robinson   2 years  
Vincent LaRussa   1 year

#### **PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION:**

Vince LaRussa discussed our continuing efforts in obtaining what all agree is a well deserved Presidential Citation for the Group. He will keep trying and has enlisted the help of Senator McCain from Arizona to help.

#### **WOODEN MODEL OF B-24:**

President Mundy again thanked the members for their generosity in raising the sum of \$25,000.00 to construct the wooden model which was directly responsible for 2 ADA being able to construct the bronze model. The wooden model with the name "Witchcraft"

and the 467th insignia printed thereon has been installed at the 8th Air Force Heritage Museum and the bronze model will be installed at the Air Force Academy.

#### **MEMORIAL LIBRARY IN NORWICH:**

Mundy reported on the progress of re-building the 2nd wing of the Memorial Library. The work had been delayed, but is now progressing to completion.

#### **467TH MARKER AT 8TH AIR FORCE MUSEUM:**

Ralph Davis reported that he had obtained a bid to erect a 467th Marker at the 8th Air Force Museum in Savannah. This will be much like our Marker at Rackheath.

#### **1999 REUNION - TUCSON:**

Mundy reported that our next reunion will be held at Tucson in the latter part of September or early October.

Tentative plans are being made for a return to England in 2001.

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 DIRECTORS OF THE 467TH BOMB GROUP**

The annual meeting of the Directors of the 467th Bomb Group was held at the Sheraton West Port Inn, St. Louis MO., on September 20, 1998.

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

Col. Al Shower	Honorary Chairman
Walter Mundy	President/Director
Vince LaRussa	Vice-President/Director
Ralph Davis	Director/Past President
Vincent Re	Director
Tony Bell	Director
Bill McGovern	Secretary
Phillip Day	Treasurer
Bob Sheehan	Past President
Jack Stevens	Past President
Mel Culross	Past President

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

The following were duly elected as Officer's of the Association for the ensuing year:

Ralph Davis	President
Vince LaRussa	Vice-President
Bill McGovern	Secretary
Phillip Day	Treasurer

#### **467TH MARKER AT 8TH AIR FORCE MUSEUM:**

After a discussion, Ralph Davis was authorized to proceed at acquiring a Marker much like the one at Rackheath to be placed at the 8th Air Force Museum, Savannah, at an estimated cost of \$7,000.00. He was instructed to get more bids in addition to the one he has.

#### **PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION:**

Because of the interest of the Group, this effort will include a Petition to the House National Security Committee and the Senate Armed Services Committee, as suggested by Senator McCain's office and will be prepared by Ralph Davis.

**DIRECTORS MEETING CONTINUED:**

**MOTIONS AUTHORIZING THE FOLLOWING EXPENDITURE WERE DULY PASSED:**

1. To donate the sum of \$5,000.00 to the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library for the 467th Book Fund.
2. To donate the sum of \$5,000.00 to the 8th Air Force Museum at Savannah, Georgia.

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

Respectfully submitted  
William P. McGovern  
Secretary

**CONVENTION 98 - VINCE LARUSSA**

The convention "98" was held in St. Louis, 17 - 21 September at the Sheraton West Port Inn. Some 175 members, wives, family and associates were in attendance. The facility, food and service was excellent. The trip to the Gateway Arch and the Cathedral Basilica (new cathedral) on Saturday was very interesting and gave us a look at the new and old St. Louis. The cathedral has the World's largest collection of mosaic art.

The banquet provided awards to Ralph and Bob Davis for their efforts on the newsletter and the Internet home page. Andy Wilkinson and Perry Watts were awarded recognition for their support of the 467th history, assistance to others and for Perry's painting presentation to March AFB. Walt Mundy was given a plaque recognizing his service as President for the past year. Entertainment was provided by several members of the group by speaking on specific instances that occurred during their tour at Rackheath. This included Tony Bell, Walt Colvin, Max Hoffbauer, Roger Giblin, Paul Hatten, Fred Holdrege, "Beef" Mountford, Clem Plaskiewicz, Robert Samuel, Mort Schecter, Bob Sheehan, John Shirk, Albert Shower, Jack Stevens, Frank Watson and Bill McGovern. Andy Wilkinson and Perry Watts added some items of interest that occurred since our stay at Rackheath.

The convention ended with a short statement from the new President, Ralph Davis, and he announced that the next convention would be in (not Las Vegas) Tucson, Arizona.

**A LETTER FROM ANDY J. WILKINSON**

It was a real honor and privilege the family was once again able to join with veterans, their families, and friends for another memorable gathering at the pleasant and delightful complex in St. Louis. A word of praise for President Walter Mundy and the Board of Directors for both selecting the location and running an extremely successful and convivial reunion.

Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all who made us feel so welcome in extending your warmth, generosity and companionship throughout. Special mention of Vince LaRussa for illumination young Tom with "tricks" with a yo-yo - his skills have not diminished over the years!

The 98 reunion has left lasting impression on us all, and strengthened the bond which brought our two countries together over 50 years ago when times were very uncertain. We thank you all for your kindness and continuing friendship, and remain for ever grateful and indebted to your sacrifice and for a job well done.

Look forward to seeing you all in Tucson next year.  
Best Wishes from Andy, Jacky and Tom Wilkinson.

**SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORT**

**THE HISTORY OF THE 467TH. THIRD REPRINT:**

The History of the 467th - Vincent LaRussa has only 25 copies with Addendum left to sell, \$40 each, delivered. There are also Addendum's that stand alone for sale at \$5 each, delivered. Income, \$12429 to the Association to date against cost of \$12329. The profit will be in the remaining sales, estimated over \$1000.

**PATCHES:**

All sold. We had a \$398 profit to the Association thanks to the efforts of Paul Hatton.

**GLIMMERIES 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.

**GROUP AND SQUADRON PINS:**

Ralph Davis of 1143 Kenora Circle, Beavercreek, OH 45430-1101, has Group and Squadron pins available (there are no 791st or 790th pins), the cost remaining pins is \$5 each plus 75 cents for packaging and postage.

**GROUP ROSTERS:**

Ralph Davis also has available for \$3 a complete listing of the Group roster. Once received, you can get an update of the roster upon request with a self addressed and stamped envelope.

**WIDOWS ROSTER:**

There are eight additions to the roster this period. They are as follows: Jennie G. Allen (Linton), 317 E. 8th St., Apt. C-16, Rome Ga. 30161-9590; Eleanor B. Brown (Clement), P.O. Box 544, Newport, RI. 02840; Katherine Elkewicz (Bill), 469 Tappan Rd., Peggy Lou Gair (Jack), 9609 Hillridge Dr., Kensington, MD. 20895; Mary Ann Garrett (Eugene), 446 Strafford Ave., Elmhurst, IL. 60126; Polly Mahoney (Jim), Spring St., RR#2, Box 77C, Hamilton, NJ. 13346; Rosemary Sheehan (Bob), 1828 E. 27th St., Tulsa, OK. 74114; and Lelia Wagoner (Gordon), 10838 E. Riverside Dr., Apt. C-202, Bothell, WA., 98011.

My apologies to some of the widows as they were inadvertently left off the list.

Ruth Becker (Bob), 1319 Lauchmont Ave., Louisville, KY. 40215 requested to be removed from the list and delivery of the newsletter. Pat Mattson (Bob) and Betty L. Schrader requested to be removed from the list. Upon the death of Merlyn Augsburg, I added his wife to the list and was advised that she had preceeded him by nine years, so please remove Mrs. Merlyn N. Augsburg from the list also.

**MONUMENT FOR 8TH AF MUSEUM, POOLER, GA**

Phillip Day received a bid from Central Monument Co. Inc., Shreveport-Keithville, LA. for the monument at a total price of \$1895 delivered to Pooler. The bid was for gray granite to our dimensions and design. Central Monument is the largest stone manufacturer in Shreveport. Phillip took a look at the shop and products and stated it was apparent that their work would be first class. He said he could supervise or at least be present. Other estimates have been as high as \$6192. Vincent LaRussa and Ralph Davis received a bid from Depue Monument Co. in Georgia for 6175. These two are made of polished black or Canadian mahogany, the latter more correctly duplicates the monument in England. It would have golden letters and the aircraft would be the only change, it would be cast aluminum with the tail markings in

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE 467TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION, LTD.**

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the Sheraton West Port Inn, St. Louis MO., on September 19, 1998.

The meeting was called to order by President Walter Mundy.

Present were:

Col. Al Shower	Honorary Chairman
Walter Mundy	President/Director
Vince LaRussa	Vice President/Director
Bill McGovern	Secretary
Phillip Day	Treasurer
Ralph Davis	Director/Past President
Lloyd Davies	Director
Bob Sheehan	Past President
Jack Stevens	Past President
Mel Culross	Past President

Mundy announced that Robert McEwen has submitted his resignation as a Director. He praised his work in connection with the B-24 model.

**B-24 MODEL FOR 8TH AIR FORCE MUSEUM:**

Mundy announced that the B-24 wooden model of Witchcraft had been duly installed at the 8th Air Force Museum in Savannah, Georgia, and again thanked the members of the 467th for successfully raising the sum of \$25,000.00 and gave special thanks to Ralph Giesecki for his part in the success. He reported that the 2nd ADA bronze model would be installed at the Air Force Academy on September 25, 1998.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Phillip Day reported that we are in good financial condition with a balance in our treasury in the sum of \$17,799.00 which will be augmented by an anticipated profit from the St. Louis reunion.

**FIRST CLASS MAIL FOR POOP:**

In the interest of better service, it was agreed to send "POOP from GROUP" by first class mail.

**ST. LOUIS REUNION:**

Chairman Vince LaRussa thanked Ken Close and his wife Dorothy for their work in serving as on-site managers and also the staff and employees of the Sheraton for their assistance in making the convention a success. There were 175 in attendance.

**PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION:**

Vince LaRussa reported on the continuing saga of our quest for a Presidential Unit Citation. It appears that we did not have enough blood involved and cited Ploesti as an example. In any event, Senator McCain from Arizona has now entered the fray, but don't hold your breath.

**GROUP MARKER FOR 8TH AIR FORCE MUSEUM:**

Ralph Davis reported on plans to place a Group Marker much like the one at Rackheath at the 8th Air Force Museum. He has a cost estimate of \$5,825.00.

**HEALEY BOOK:**

Vince LaRussa reported that he had 24 books on hand and cash in the sum of \$2,168.00. Anyone interested in a purchase should contact Vince.

**CHANGE IN OUR BY-LAWS:**

President Mundy reported that on May 25, 1998, and August 8, 1998, he had sent written proposals to the members of the Board setting forth issues that will eventually be needed to improve our future operations and needs in the not too distant future to provide

for and experienced Board and relieve the annual and increasing problem of recruiting nominees to serve on the Board and as Officers of the Association.

A synopsis of the proposed changes are:

1. That associate member's widows and/or family members be eligible to serve on the Board of Directors and as Officers of the Association.

Our By-Laws presently provide for two classes of membership.

(1) Veteran Members consisting of those veterans who were assigned or attached to the 467th Bomb Group during the period September 1943, to August 1946.

(2) Associate Members consisting of those who have an interest in the well being and success of the Association.

Only veteran members are eligible to vote and hold office in the Association.

2. To set the number of Directors at six and divide them into two classes: (1) Three to be elected to five year terms; (2) three to be elected to staggered terms of 1, 2 and 3 years, with one to be elected annually to a three year term.

3. Each group in 2ADA presently appoints a group Vice President to serve on the 2ADA Board. The 467th has been doing this for several years and Walt Mundy presently represents us. The problem is if a group is to receive any clout with 2ADA, its representative must serve for a number of years so that he learns the ropes and becomes politically acceptable. The proposal is that our representative as a 2ADA Vice President once appointed shall continue to serve at his convenience. On his declination to further serve, the Group President shall appoint a successor under the same terms.

Each of these proposals were previously approved by the Board and Bill McGovern was instructed to make any necessary changes to our By-Laws. He prepared and submitted to the Board the following amendments to the By-Laws which were duly passed:

Article III Board of Directors is amended to read;

Section 5.01 Qualification. There shall be two classes of members:

(1) Veteran Members shall be those veterans who were assigned or attached to the Group during the period September, 1943 through August, 1946

(2) Associate Members shall consist of members who have an interest in the well being and success of the Association. Widows and family members of veteran members shall be entitled to vote at meetings of the Association, including the election of Directors, and to hold office as an Officer or Director.

**REUNION 1999:**

Tucson, Arizona, was selected as the next reunion site, to be held in the latter part of September or early October.

Tentative plans are being made for a return to England in 2001.

**REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**

Ralph Elliott, Chairman, placed in nomination the following:	
Directors for five years;	Directors for three years;
Walter Mundy	Tony Bell
Ralph Davis	Ben Hatch
Vincent Re	

The report was approved and referred to the meeting of members for action. The meeting was adjourned with the new Board to convene after the meeting of members.

Respectfully submitted,  
William P. McGovern  
Secretary

**B-24 LIBERATOR MEMORIAL AT THE US AIR FORCE ACADEMY (OFF THE INTERNET) - RALPH DAVIS**

The ceremony started on time with a clear blue sky and the academy's cadet sailplanes flying overhead. The weather was excellent and an estimated 800-1,000 persons in attendance. The majority of those attending were WWII vets, their children, grandchildren, "friends" of the Liberator and AFA personnel. The ceremonies were held on the Honor Court. The Honor Court is located directly east of Harmon Hall and north west of the spectacular Cadet Chapel.

LTC. (Ret) Neal Sorensen gave the opening remarks. A color guard from the academy posted the colors and the National Anthem was sung by 2Lt. Holley M. Vandehei. Lt. Vandehei sang the National Anthem with exceptional skill and beauty. The invocation was given by CPT. (Chaplain) Scott A. Ofsdahl.

LTC. Sorensen gave a short speech on how funding for the memorial was accomplished. I believe there were over 600 individual and organizational contributions to the memorial fund. Taking a look at the commemorative plaque, it appears that every bomb group was represented. The B-24 bronze was draped with a parachute and was unveiled by the sculptor and about a half dozen of the key leaders in the fund raising effort.

The memorial is located at the top of the stairs to the Honor Court. It is the first memorial that cadets walking west from the cadet "quadrangle" and chapel will see. The memorial portrays a B-24J in a climbing left turn with a moderate bank. A very nice pose. The "other bomber of WWII" is located directly west of the B-24 and is flying "straight and level".

LTG. Tad J. Oelstrom (USAF Academy Superintendent) gave the USAFA acceptance remarks. He said that as a kid his "perception" of WWII had always been portrayed by the B-24 Liberator. He thought it was the slickest thing with wings, "until I saw a fighter". He remarked that the Liberator was the plane that carried the air war to Germany. He was reminded after seeing a memorial to "The Lady Be Good" at the old Wheelus AB, Libya about 30 years ago that a lot of men gave their blood for freedom over places like Ploesti and a hundred other targets. The Superintendent also mentioned that he will remember the memorial dedication for all time due to a single incident. Evidently the memorial had been completed last Tuesday. As the General was leaving Harmon Hall, he noticed a "Doolie" (Freshman aka "Plebe" at "West Point") come running up the stairs with his weapon at port arms, stop, execute a right face on the marble square and recite his "cadet knowledge" of the B-24. There will be a lot more cadets like that one reciting his knowledge of the B-24 as long as there is a United States and a US Air Force. All in all excellent remarks from the superintendent.

Mr. Ray R. Pytel and Mr. Robert Henderson gave the memorial credits. Mr. Henderson, the sculptor, described how he was "volunteered" to do many of the sculptures on the Honor Court. Mr. Henderson is an excellent sculptor and has done many of the sculptures on the Honor Court and around Colorado. He has done the P-38, P-40, P-51, B-17 and B-24 displays at the USAFA and an F4U Corsair at the Fremont County Airport as well as a Boeing P-26.

COL. Alfred Asch (USAF Ret.) and BG John Brooks III (USAF Ret.) gave a short speech on the history of the B-24 Liberator and Scouting Force. A special song to the B-24 composed by a friend of

John Denver was then sung. The closing benediction was given by CPT (Chaplain) Scott Ofsdahl.

**LORD GUARD AND GUIDE THE MEN WHO FLY**

Lord guard and guide the men who fly  
Through the great spaces of the sky;  
Be with them traversing the air  
In darkening storms or sunshine fair.

You who support with tender might  
The balanced birds in all their flight;  
Lord of the tempered winds be near  
That having you, they know no fear.

Control their minds with instict fit  
When'er adventuring they quit;  
The firm security of land  
Gran steadfast eye and skillful hand.

Aloft in sloitudes of space  
Uphold them with saving grace;  
O'God protect the men who fly  
Through lonely ways beneath the sky.  
Amen

**IN MEMORY- JAMES J. MAHONEY**

James J. Mahoney passed away on September 15, 1998. Jim was the 467th Air Executive, second in command at Rackheath. It was through his efforts that color film was made of Rackheath and aerial missions. the video was made available to members and his 16 mm film was furnished to the 8th Air Force Heritage Museum for color B-24 documentation to be shown in the 8th's new theater. Jim will be missed by all and our sincere sympathy is expressed to his wife, Polly, and his surviving family.

**IN MEMORY - ROBERT D. SHEEHAN**

Robert D. Sheehan passed away in his sleep on October 23, 1998. Bob was a past President of the Association and was a very active supporting member of the Group. He participated in all conventions and associated Board of Directors and membership meetings. His contributions were always well thought out and constructive. He will be deeply missed by the Board of Directors and the membership. Our sincere sympathy is expressed to his wife, Rosemary, and his surviving family.

**BITS AND PIECES - BOB DAVIS**

I would like to say thanks to everyone in attendance at the convention for making my wife (Frankie) and me feel so welcome. I enjoyed meeting and talking to all that I had a chance to visit with. I will keep this article short due to space in this issue.

I just got back Nov. 13 from Savannah GA. where we visited the 8th Air Force Museum (I will put some pictures up on the web page). Then took a trip through the mountains to Gatlinburg TN. The colors were beautiful in the mountains as the trees had not lost their leaves yet.

To all that have sent me letters, keep looking in future issues to see them, I will get them in so that you can share your stories of your time at Rackheath with all in the Group.

Nicole, Shawn, Frankie and I would like to wish all of you the happiest of Holidays, and may the new year be all that you want it to be.

**QUESTIONNAIRES -  
RALPH DAVIS**

In filling out the questionnaires, remember that our change in By-Laws makes it possible for Members, Associate Members and Widows to put their application in to run for any office or directorship. It is perhaps rational to run first for Vice President and move to President, however, the By-Laws do not exclude a first time selection for the office of President. Please fill out the questionnaires and return them to me as soon as possible. Planning for the year 2000 is already well taken up, as many people are scheduling events.

**QUESTIONNAIRE # 1**

Interested in running for:

- Director - 3 Year
- Director - 5 Year
- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailto: **Marvin R. Davis**  
1143 Kenora Circle  
Beavercreek, OH 45430-1101

**QUESTIONNAIRE # 2**

Interested in Hosting/Coordination a Convention:

City \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_

Recommend individual to run or host:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Checked with individual  Yes  No

Interested in Dayton for 2000  Yes  No

Interested in England for 2001  Yes  No

FROM:  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Mailto: **Marvin R. Davis**  
1143 Kenora Circle  
Beavercreek, OH 45430-1101

**QUESTIONNAIRE # 3**

During the business meeting in St. Louis, a discussion arose regarding the By-Law changes which opened up Officer and Director participation from associate and widow members. Some had the belief that this is a last man organization. Opening this to these members allows for continuation of the Bomb Group association beyond the life expectancy of the veteran membership. We are hoping our young people will be interested in participating. It is from them and the veteran membership that we desire for you to voice your opinion. Please so indicate below and if you have comments, please express them.

- Want Last Man Organization
- Want Organization to Continue
- Have no Opinion (Either Way)

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mailto: **Marvin R. Davis**  
1143 Kenora Circle  
Beavercreek, OH 45430-1101

**PUBLISHER'S CORNER - RALPH DAVIS**

We are still having problems with getting change of address and especially if you have a summer address and a winter address. We would like to know the time at each, so POOP can be delivered to the proper address.

For the Internet, we need your pictures, both then and now. We are still in need of crew pictures, nose art and any other pictures that you may determine to be of interest to the group.

I am keeping the roster up to date and have been making some changes and for that reason I have not mailed out the request from many, but they should go out before you have received this issue of POOP.

I was hoping to have more support from the widow group at the last convention than what we had. We need someone within that group to organize it and help to get the members out. I am willing to support any effort, both physically and financially.

**CONVENTION 2000 - RALPH DAVIS**

At the request of several, I am looking into the possibility of having the convention in the year 2000 in Dayton, OH. I have contacted several hotels in the area and have received back a few prices. The main attraction will be the Air Force Museum. The Dayton Chamber of Commerce is looking into other attractions in

the area. The time period is from September 28th through October 2nd. This needs to be approved by the Board of Directors and the membership body, however, this is something to give thought to and consider.

**CONVENTION 1999 - RALPH DAVIS**

Tucson will welcome us, at the Viscount Suites at \$75 per night. The plan is to have 1. Registration on Thursday with hors d'oeuvres and drinks.; 2. Friday, optional tour to Arizona Son ora Desert Museum, lunch at museum and return to hotel at 1:30pm - then 5:00pm bus to Tanque Verde Guest Ranch for BBQ in the Cottonwood Grove with no host cocktails and dinner with cowboy singer entertainment.; 3. Saturday, Morning free then bus to the Pima Air Museum in afternoon with dinner planned at the museum.; 4. Sunday, 10:30 Business meeting, salad luncheon, 5:30 - 6:30 hosted beer and wine with Mariachi band for entertainment, 6:30 sit down dinner banquet followed by speaker and presentations.; 5. Monday, Breakfast farewells on your own in the Hotel dinning room (this may be subject to change).

Breakfast is included every morning except Monday, which may be changed. Prices are being determined and will be in the next issue of POOP.

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

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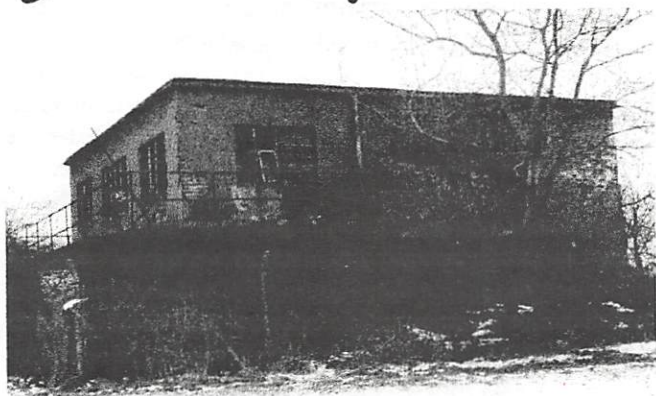
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# Season's Greetings



The "CONTROL TOWER" at Rackheath

I'm thinking of you today because it's Christmas, and I wish you joy. And tomorrow, because it's the day after Christmas, I shall wish you joy. Perhaps I can't tell you about it from day to day, for you may be far away, or we may be entangled with the things of life, but it makes no difference. My thoughts and my wish will be with you. Whatever of joy or success comes to you I shall be glad, clear through the year. Without pretense, I wish you the spirit of Christmas.

Henry Van Dyke.

May your Holidays be joyful, and the new year be a prosperous and healthy one to all.

Ralph and Bob Davis