

THE U.S. AIR FORCES ESCAPE & EVASION SOCIETY **SUMMER 2011 *Communications***

Vol. 23, No .2

WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS 76307-2501

June 6, 2011

Scotty's work records our history

By **LENORA (Scotty) DAVID**
Columbus, Ohio

Ralph Patton started the AFEES group meetings in 1964. They were held in conjunction with the Eighth Air Force meetings.

In 1978, my late husband Clayton and I attended a meeting in Pittsburgh, Ralph Patton's home town. A group of Dutch Helpers were touring two cities in Canada and three cities in the United States. When we attended the weekend meeting Clayton was pleasantly surprised to see two of his Dutch helpers, Joke Marie Folmer, Jacque Vrij and his wife Letti!

Joke Folmer mailed the names of 640 Americans her underground group, as well as other groups, had helped evade capture during W.W.II.

When my husband and I attended the 1984 Air Forces Escape and Evasion reunion in New York City, I was amazed that only 21 members and four helpers were attending this once a year meeting. I asked the president, Ralph Patton, if I could help locate American evaders. He sent me a list of 3,005 evaders with the debriefing numbers beside each name.

I asked the Secretary of the 8th Air Force to send me a membership list and told him that I was on a mission to find evaders who flew with the 8th Air Force. I tried to match this list with the Dutch list and members on the list Ralph Patton mailed to me.

Many letters were returned as Ralph said, because of security reasons, he could not tell me



LENORA (Scotty) DAVID
at San Antonio microphone

what fighter or bomber group the person was flying with the day he was shot down. I wrote to 19 Edward Millers before I located the right person.

I wrote to the president of each fighter and bomber group, asking for present day rosters with addresses. Most of them replied.

(Continued on Page 3)

U.S. AIR FORCES ESCAPE & EVASION SOCIETY
COMMUNICATIONS
<www.airforceescape.com>

VOLUME 23, Number 2

June 6, 2011

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT:

John Katsaros, 109 Crosby St., Haverhill, Mass; Ph. 978-374-7357,
(Summers): Cell: 978-869-3035; <jkatsaros3@comcast.net>

VICE PRESIDENT:

Beverly Patton Wand, 37 Crescent Rd., Madison NJ 07940;
Phone: 973-377-3103 <wandband@aol.com>

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT:

Lynn A. David, 923 S. Mason Rd., Town & Country, St. Louis MO 63141,
Ph.: 314-422-1567 <ldavid@airforceescape.com>

TREASURER:

Ann Grauerholz, 610 Marshall Dell Ave., Dallas TX 75211
Phone 214-272-8510 <anngrauerholz@live.com>

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Betty F. Hennessy, 13141 Hart Place, Cerritos CA 90703
Phone: 562-921-1494 <bcjhennessy@verizon.net>

MEMBERSHIP & CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

Richard P. Shandor, PO Box 254, Cresson PA 16630-0254
Phone: 814-886-2735; <rshandor@hotmail.com>

HONORARY DIRECTOR:

Gen. Duncan McNabb, USTRANSCOM, Scott AFB, Ill.

WEB MASTER:

Don Thorpe, 1087 South 1100 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84105
Phone: 801-582-6019; <dt@donthorpe.com>

COMMUNICATIONS EDITOR: Larry Grauerholz, PO Box 2501,
Wichita Falls TX 76307-2501 Ph.: 940-692-6700

LEGAL COUNSEL: Richard Rothfelder, 3739 Jardin, Houston TX 77005;
Phone: 713-661-2853

OTHER DIRECTORS:

Sandra A. Comstock, 4 French Ave., Unit 7, East Haven CT 06515-3314
Jerri Donohue, 9295 Highland Dr., Brecksville OH 44141
Margaret Fricke, 1517 T rollhagen Dr., Fridley MN 55421-1351
Steve Mac Isaac, 6449 Coventry Hills Dr. NE, Rio Rancho NM 87144-0832
Paul Rees, 367 Gertrude St., Syracuse NY 13203
Carl C. Scott, 2271 Walhaven Ct., Columbus OH 43220
Mary Spinning Shier, 267 W. Barnes Lake Road, Columbiaville, MI 48421

AFES COMMUNICATIONS IS THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AIR
FORCES ESCAPE & EVASION SOCIETY. AFES IS A TAX-EXEMPT
VETERANS ORGANIZATION UNDER IRS CODE 501 (C)(19). IT WAS
FOUNDED IN 1964.

THE SOCIETY'S PURPOSE IS TO ENCOURAGE MEMBERS HELPED BY THE
RESISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS OR PATRIOTIC NATIONALS TO CONTINUE
EXISTING FRIENDSHIPS OR RENEW RELATIONSHIPS WITH THOSE WHO
HELPED THEM DURING THEIR ESCAPE OR EVASION.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIRES THAT ONE MUST HAVE BEEN A U.S. AIRMAN,
HE MUST HAVE BEEN FORCED DOWN BEHIND ENEMY LINES AND AVOIDED
CAPTIVITY, OR ESCAPED FROM CAPTIVITY TO RETURN TO ALLIED
CONTROL.

IN ADDITION TO REGULAR MEMBERSHIP, OTHER CATEGORIES OF
MEMBERSHIP ARE HELPER MEMBERS, AND FRIEND MEMBERS.

SUMMER 2011

Reported Changes

*Roster updates and dues
should be sent to
Membership Chair
Richard Shandor
promptly to ensure
newsletter delivery
See Page 31.*

Mr. Keith Abbott
3434 Stanfield Dr
Cleveland, OH 44134-5052

Mrs. Doris Dingleline "W"
216 Grand Victorian Place
Washington, IL 61571-9651

Mrs. Arshula Larkin
101 Belle Maison Ct
Bossier City, LA 71111-5488

Mr. William McGinley
22125 N. Sardis RD
Mabelvale, AR 72103-9129

Mr. James Peters "H"
1840 Telluride Ln
Boulder, CO 80305-7228

Mrs. Caroline Ross
6 Curtis St
Brunswick, ME 04011-3010

Mrs. Rosalie Schantz "H"
1135 W Twin Buttes Rd
Sahuarita, AZ 85629-9410

Mrs. Bettie Smith "W"
18810 Rogers Pass
San Antonio, TX 78258-
4621

MORE ABOUT ...

Scotty's Scrapbook Work

Many letters went to the wrong person, but airmen were found that wanted to join AFEES to get the quarterly Communications and to meet other crew members they had not seen or heard of for years. Many were very excited about joining AFEES.

By 1986 I had located enough new evaders and escapees to have a reunion at Atlanta. Various helpers also came.

The men I found sent their travel orders

from Europe to America, plus any articles that appeared in an American or European newspaper. Each year since 1987 I have made a scrapbook from material members have sent to me. Some members look forward to reading and looking at the scrapbooks during the reunion that is held in a different city each year.

The reason I spent 24 years writing letters and making scrapbooks was in appreciation to the helpers in various countries for the sacrifices they made to save our airmen. Twenty of the books were scanned by the Defense Department. I gave these to the U.S. Air Force Museum at Wright Patterson, Dayton, Ohio, honoring Clayton C. David.

Scotty is 'hooked' on research

Scotty David, the widow of Clayton C. David, has spent some 20 years collecting records, stories, pictures and newspaper articles about the men and women of the Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society.

Of the 109 members of the 303rd Bomb Group reported MIA on 11 January 1944, Clayton was the only survivor who evaded capture and returned to Molesworth before the war ended in Europe.

He bailed out of the burning plane near Amsterdam, Holland, and evaded across Holland, Belgium and France to reach the Pyrenees Mountains in mid-April.

The trip over the mountains in waist-deep snow required three days and nights. In Spain he was arrested and interned for several weeks before being flown from Gibraltar to London on May 25, 1944.

Scotty was finishing her senior year at Ohio State at the time Clayton was making new friends in the Underground. They met while Clayton was in the B-17 pilot instructor program at Lockbourne AAF near Columbus, Ohio.

In 1978, Scotty met two of Clayton's underground helpers from Holland. They were in Pittsburgh, Pa., with a bus load of former Dutch Helpers touring in Canada and eastern United States.

It was also Clayton's first meeting with Joke Folmer and Jacques Vrij since they had escorted him to safety in the Venlo/Maastricht area of Holland in February 1944.

On meeting with these wonderful people, who helped save many downed flyers in their enemy occupied country, Scotty was hooked on the cause and dedicated to the motto of the Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society, which is "We Will Never Forget!"

During the AFEES reunion at Philadelphia, in May of 2004, men from the Department of Defense's POW/Missing Personnel Office saw Scotty's scrap books and recognized the value they could be in their research.

The books with personal stories, many pictures, copies of records and newspaper articles, reference 642 evaders and more than 2000 people in Europe and other parts of the World who helped the men and women evade or escape capture.

The men from the Defense Department also knew it would be possible to have them scanned without damaging them so they could be put on computer DVDs and CDs for preservation and extensive study.

When they learned that Scotty had enough material to complete two

more books to go with the 18 she already had, they asked her to complete the other two and contact them when she was finished. This was very interesting because several other groups had expressed a desire for this one of a kind material, but didn't have the ability to scan them without taking them apart.

When Lt. Col. Sanchez, US Army and Chief Petty Officer Michael Allen attended the AFEES reunion at New Orleans in early May 2005, they informed Scotty they had the scanning project out for bids.

A few days later, Clayton and Scotty got the call to announce they had determined a company at Frederick, Md., had won the bid and could do the scanning the next week while Sanchez and Allen were both at their Arlington, Virginia office before returning to Europe for their continued search of airplane crash sites and MIAs.

Clayton loaded Scotty's 20 books into their car and they met their scheduled time at Frederick.

In about four days, the job was complete and the Department of Defense had all 20 large scrap books, some 1400 pages, scanned onto a hard drive from which they created computer usable DVDs and CDs.

THE PREZ SEZ...

By John Katsaros, E&E# 755
109 Crosby St., Haverhill, MA 01830
jkatsaros3@comcast.net

If you were not at the San Antonio AFEES Reunion, you missed a golden opportunity, AF camaraderie, sight-seeing, and enjoyment to view the magnificent Air Force Cadets in spirited marching and graduation.

It was fantastic, thanks to the efforts of Lynn David and his committee, Honorary Member Duncan McNabb, with the assistance of Col. Steve Mac Isaac, who arranged visits to Lackland and Randolph USAF bases.

At Randolph, AFEES attendees were honored to be seated in front of the reviewing stand. General McNabb sat with our group, to view recruits graduating as airmen and airwomen. Several thousand family members, visitors and guests arrive each Saturday to witness the graduation of 800 recruits.

AFEES members, relatives and guests who attended the 8-week graduation, credit the Randolph Basic Training Center and the recruits with high marks, for their incredible and inspired marching precision.

We all appreciate Bill Donahue's volunteering for duty in the hospitality room. At the membership meeting, the AFEES by-laws were unanimously approved. AFEES thanked the committee, composed of Secretary Betty Hennessy, Legal Counsel, Attorney Richard Rothfelder, with added input by the Board of Directors and Attorney H Ownby.

The Memorial Service is always a heart-rendering ceremony. We light candles for deceased crew members and quietly say prayers, "May Their Memories Be Eternal."

The Alamo, River Walk, boat ride, hotels and restaurants along the river, were another highlight of the reunion enjoyed by all.

The committee did not plan to have the reunion during San Antonio's *Cinco de Mayo*.. However, the 10-day Fiesta celebration was a wonderful added attraction. This annual Fiesta, we were told, is the largest in the world and 3 million visitors arrive in San Antonio to participate.

It was great to see Scotty David, several new members, and over 12 members of Editor Larry Grauerholz and his wife Ruth's family. All promised to attend next year's reunion in Albuquerque, N.M.

Next year's host, Col. Mac Isaac, promises that it will be, "The Best." Check the newsletter and website for details and we will see you there!

SERE instructor does what she loves

*By Tech. Sgt. J.T. May III
92nd Air Refueling Wing*

FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. (AFNS) -- As the sun ascends on a cold, mid-March morning in Colville National Forest, Wash., it marks the beginning of a 14-hour training day for survival, evasion, resistance and escape students and instructors.

Three days of snow and rain have made the ground a wet, soggy, mud ice mixture. The temperature is

slowly approaching the low 30s and the humidity gives the cool crisp air added moisture. The average person would get broken down mentally if he or she has to spend days in this austere environment, but not Senior Airman Charlene Plante, a 22nd Training Squadron SERE instructor. She's smiling from ear to ear because she's eager to begin the day's instruction and feels right at home in these conditions for weeks at a time.

"She's a very motivated and organized person who has a passion

for the job," said Master Sgt. Travis Butikofer, the flight chief for Charlie Flight. "She has the leadership ability and integrity that we need as SERE specialists."

It's March 13 and seven SERE students, future Air Force pilots, navigators and aircrew members, gather around Airman Plante as she tells them the second training day's agenda without wearing a jacket despite the frigid temperatures: improvised shelters, triangulation, fire building, map reading, building and helicopter vectoring. Her attitude is upbeat and contagious, allowing her students who to set their sights on another rigid day of SERE training.

The Springville, Maine, native grew up building tree forts, hunting and playing in the woods located by her house. Her immense love for the outdoors played a pivotal role in her future as a SERE specialist.

Growing up she always knew she wanted a military life that would offer challenges, but didn't always know it would be in the Air Force. She recalls watching a Marine Corps documentary with her cousin, when she was younger and becoming intrigued by it.

"I believed I was joining the Marines until my dad told me either Navy or Air Force," Airman Plante said. When it came time to talk with an Air Force recruiter, she was given the opportunity to become a crew chief. The job offer wasn't adventurous enough. After the recruiter learned about her hobbies and what she liked to do, he suggested she join to be a SERE instructor.

The Air Force offered her the chance to do something she loved, so Airman Plante didn't think twice about choosing a career field that's not for the feign of heart. Nor was she deterred by the grueling physical requirements.



Some hungry AFees members interrupted their dinner to smile for the camera at the 2011 reunion in San Antonio.

President John Katoras is standing. Others, from left, are Leecroy Clifton, Sharon Wilson, Bob Wilson and Ed Miller.

President proclaims military spouse appreciation day

WASHINGTON (AFNS) --
President Barack Obama
declared May 6 as Military Spouse
Appreciation Day.

In his proclamation issued May 5,
the president said:

"Military spouses serve as steady
and supportive partners to the heroes
in uniform who protect and defend
our great Nation every day. Across
America and around the world,
military spouses serve our country in
their own special way, helping
families and friends through the stress
of a deployment, caring for our
wounded warriors, and supporting
each other when a loved one has
made the ultimate sacrifice.

"Our service members and their
families seldom ask for support or
recognition. They carry out their
duties to family and country with the
quiet courage and strength that has
always exemplified the American
spirit. On Military Spouse
Appreciation Day, we have an
opportunity to not only honor the
husbands and wives of our service
members, but also thank them by
actively expressing our gratitude in
both word and deed."

+++++

Next AFEES Reunion

**Albuquerque,
N.M.
May 3-6, 2012**

*Mark it on your
calendar!*

+++++

Frank lost his wife in the Paris subway

*Told to the 506th Squadron Dinner in Dayton, Ohio,
September 2010*

By Frank Schaeffer, E&E# 1369

August 1995. In an attempt to return to my landing spot in
France by parachute and to the village of Orbais where most of my
evasion took place, my wife Grace and I landed at Charles de Gaulle
airfield northeast of Paris. Then taking the rail train into Paris to
NonEst to transfer to Gare du Nord for the train to Epernay, I
planned to have us ride the subway which was just the next stop.

Grace said, "Let's take a taxi," but I said no, the subway was
less bother.

So when the subway train stopped, I stepped aboard and set
the three bags, which I was loaded with, down (no wheels) and turned
around, the horn blew. Instead of following me onto the car, Grace
stepped back onto the platform and the doors started to close.

There was a red T handle overhead which I pulled on, but it
did not move. I probably had pulled on it laterally instead of down.
Anyway, the door closed and the train moved away as I watched
Grace then the glass doors as the train moved on. I got off at the next
stop, Gare du Nord, which is where we were to go. Then I waited for
Grace to come on the next train and also the next many, but she did
not come on any of them.

Then in order to get back to where she had been left I had to
go up to the surface street and cross over to get the train back to the
Nor Est station and up and down to where she had been left. By then
she was nowhere to be found. There was a large area to be searched
without success. I had her paged from an information kiosk
repeatedly but received no response. There was also a further
complication: some mad person was setting off explosives in the
terminals.

Going up to the surface again, I found a policeman who told
me to go to the station where there was one policeman who spoke
English.

A further complication was the sudden wind squall which
materialized. A woman with a sidewalk stand had many of her wares
scatter suddenly and I started to help retrieve some of them.
Getting to the police station, I found that the English speaking officer
was not very fluent in English, but he did advise me to go back to the
station area and take a room in the nearby hotel Terminus Est which I
did but still continued to look for Grace.

The following morning when back at the station and returning
to the information kiosk I was informed that Grace had turned up at

SUMMER 2011

the American Embassy. I asked that they put her on a taxi and send it to the hotel Terminus Est where I'd be waiting.

It turned out that a woman had taken her home overnight and the following morning took her to the embassy. All that mishap and lost time canceled my plans to see my French places and friends.

Grace had the name and address of the young woman who had rescued her and taken her along home overnight, but somehow when we wanted to respond and thank her for what she did for Grace, we could not find the paper with her name and address.

Perhaps she will read this!

We continued on our schedule and went to Cologne to board the boat for our trip up the Rhine and Main Rivers to Frankfurt and then home to Wisconsin.



Gen. Duncan McNabb posed with Anne Minnick Greiner of Covington, Ky., at the AFA Cadet Chapel during the 2010 AFEEES Reunion last May in Colorado Springs.

Anne's father was Martin Minnick (E&E# 229) now deceased, of the Walt Baker crew that went down Aug. 17, 1943, over Belgium.

Evasion was no picnic, Jim says in a new book

THOMASVILLE, GA. — A local veteran is featured in a new World War II book.

Lt. Col. Jim Armstrong (E&E# 338, 384th BG), who served in the American "Mighty Eighth" Air Force, is one of the veterans included in "To Kingdom Come" by Robert J. Mrazek. Released March 1, the book focuses on first-person accounts from B-17 airmen who were part of a more than 300-plane mission to fly from England to Stuttgart, Germany, to bomb Nazi weapons factories.

"It's an epic saga of survival in the air war over Germany," Armstrong told a reporter. "The book highlights six air crews that were shot down and the different things that happened to them."

"I was interviewed by the author for about three days some time ago. He went to Emory University to get information about the leader, Gen. Robert Travis, because he was from Savannah and left all his memoirs at Emory University."

Armstrong's crew was Yankee Raider and he spoke with Mrazek about his bomber's crew being shot down in Normandy, France, on Sept. 6, 1943 — Labor Day.

"It was no picnic," he said. "We were on fire and bailed out in Normandy nine months before D-Day. We spent four-and-a-half months evading the Germans and, finally, the French Resistance helped me escape by way of a fishing boat."

"I'm not the author," he stressed. "But, as I'm highlighted in the book, I'll write something in the front of a person's copy. I think anyone interested in adventure will appreciate this book."

It took a village to rescue Fred

By JERRI DONOHUE
Brecksville, Ohio
AFEES Friend Member

When I interviewed evader Fred Hargesheimer for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, Fred asked me to also interview his friend, Lou Conter. Lou survived the bombing of the USS Arizona and became a Navy pilot.

In their retirement years, Fred, a transplanted Minnesotan, and Lou, a native of Wisconsin, had met in a donut shop in Grass Valley, Calif..

Before long, they realized that their lives had intersected 60 years earlier. Lou's check of wartime flight books showed that he had dropped supplies to the Coastwatcher camp in New Guinea where Fred hid from the Japanese in early 1944.

Fred had been making such connections most of his adult life. He was aware of, and grateful to, everyone who helped him survive the war. His chance encounters with the "right" people began with the Japanese fighter pilot who shot him down on June 5, 1943. Forced to bail out of his P-38, Fred dangled in his parachute as his enemy circled him but did not fire.

Fred spent the next 31 days alone in the jungle. His diet consisted of bamboo shoots, snails, two chocolate bars and a single fish. By the time friendly natives found him, he was sick and starving and sometimes mistook running water for human voices. He spoke with his rescuers for several moments before remembering that he was naked, whereupon he donned his rotting uniform.

The natives took Fred to the village of Ea Ea (later named Nantabu.) Whenever the Japanese patrolled the area, the flier hid in a nearby swamp, only rejoining his friends after dark. Other days Fred helped in the communal garden. He slept in a



FRED HARGESHEIMER

crowded grass hut, learned to speak Pidgin, and lived on taro, wild pig and fish.

It took a village to keep him safe, from the headman's wise choice of hiding places to the children who fooled the Japanese by following Fred through the mud, obliterating his tracks with their own small footprints. Some men might have viewed these people as primitive; Fred Hargesheimer saw them as the brave, generous souls they were.

Fred's poor health presented ongoing problems for the village. During a surprise visit from the Japanese, he climbed into a treetop animal nest deep in the jungle where mosquitoes preyed on him for several hours. Villagers nursed him through the ensuing chills and fever of malaria. Emerging from a delirious fog, Fred found some of them standing over him, praying.

Dysentery, too, plagued Fred. Weak and

desperate, he sent a runner to Germans working at a distant mission. Fred listed his symptoms in a note, adding that his grandfather had been a pharmacist in Dusseldorf. The unseen missionaries sent back two bottles of precious medicine.

Fred's native friends communicated with Australian coastwatchers who arranged for his evacuation by submarine. Awaiting departure, Fred spent a couple of months in the coastwatcher camp, helping the lone radio operator, Matt Foley. Fred and other evaders eventually hacked their way through the jungle under a torrential rain, making a last minute rendezvous with the U.S.S. Gato.

Back in the States, Fred began building a career and raising a family. But he always wondered about the fate of the folks who had protected him from the Japanese. Fred's wife, Dorothy, recognized the impact the war had made on him (he suffered a bout of malaria on their wedding day) and supported his decision to visit New Guinea in 1960, an expensive and arduous undertaking at the time. En route Fred met with Australians who had orchestrated his escape from Japanese-held territory, and Matt Foley even accompanied him to Nantabu for a joyful reunion with his helpers.

After returning home, Fred devoted himself to raising funds for the construction of a school, a lasting gift to his friends in New Guinea. Numerous corporations, civic organizations and individuals contributed to the project, mostly through small donations.

Then Fred and his son Richard traveled to New Guinea in 1963 to help with the building's construction. The Airmen's Memorial School opened in March 1964. During the 1970s, the Hargesheimers spent four years there, Dorothy as a teacher and Fred as a self-described "handyman." Matt Foley served on its board of directors.

While in New Guinea, Fred located and thanked the German missionaries who gave him medicine and kept his whereabouts a secret. Researchers helped him identify the Japanese pilot who shot him down but spared his life. By then,

his former enemy suffered from dementia. But the man's wife explained that her husband refused to shoot defenseless airmen floating earthward in their parachutes.

Fred Hargesheimer died in December 2010. His legacy is a thriving school and thousands of New Guinea villagers who received an education there.



Swiss Internees group founder and president just kept right on flying

Judy Kohler Doktor is the oldest of four children of Robert A. Long, founder and president of the Swiss Internees Association, who passed away on Jan. 20, 2011, in Lakewood, N.J.

Judy writes about her father:

"Robin Speer, Deborah Long and Jeff Long are my sisters and brother. My Dad was born in Syracuse, N.Y., in 1922 and always loved to fly planes. He learned to fly before he learned to drive. He flew a B-24 bomber. On his 19th mission his plane was hit over Germany. He was able to make it into Switzerland, where he and his crew were taken prisoner.

"They were treated humanely, but it was during the war and food was scarce. They were put up in an abandoned hotel. You got into bed with your clothes on, took them off in the bed and dressed the next morning in the bed. There was no heat and it was very cold.

"In the 1980s he started the Swiss Internees for men who were interned in Switzerland during World War II. He was president of the organization until his death. He also made it possible to get many men granted POW status. As a hobby he taught many people to fly and flew until the late 1980s.

"He then got involved with other hobbies such as producer of a community theater group. In the village where he lived he was on the grounds committee and active in his church."

John got to see the city of Reims

From the memoirs of

JOHN E. FARIS

Westlake Village, Calif.

E&E # 1472, 452nd BG

I had been in France for nearly a week, yet I still had no real idea of where I was. I didn't even know the names of the farmers with whom I was living. While I had no real desire to learn these things (for fear the information might be drawn out of me if I were captured by the Germans), I was still curious.

A few minutes prior to our bail-out we were close to the border of Luxembourg and France so I was very certain that I was some place in northern France, but exactly where I did not know. In fact, when Frances and I went to France in the 1988, I was very disappointed in not being able to find the farm anymore.

The next morning, a big car of some unknown kind rumbled up the driveway and pulled to a stop beside the barn. It was a taxi, with a Spanish driver (who, like the French friends I had made, also spoke zero English). I was told he would take me and my friends to Reims, a city fifty or sixty kilometers from the farm. I made my farewells to the family that had been so kind to me and piled into the back of the motorized behemoth.

In the village, we stopped for Otto (Havins) and Bob. Pinky was still in pretty bad shape and was going to have wait for some future evasion plan. We were told that, if anyone asked, we were to be "businessmen on a business trip." Three bumps on a log in the back seat, each dressed in civilian clothes and berets and hiding behind newspapers--we might have looked like French businessmen, but we sure felt like fish out of water.

Our drive into Reims was exciting, even interesting, but mostly it was just frighteningly comical. Here we were a Spaniard behind the wheel and three American servicemen in the backseat, motoring down a major highway behind enemy lines. We

passed several German military installations, including a Luftwaffe airfield (with fighters patrolling overhead). What if we were stopped at a road block, or what if we had an accident, or what if we just got lost? These were questions I was trying my damndest to drive out of me head as Occupied France flashed past me on both sides.

We arrived in the center of Reims sometime in the early afternoon, and just as an air raid siren began shrieking. Our luck appeared to run out when a policeman shouted at us to get to a shelter (I guessed). Our driver was very scared and so were we.

He was really sweating it; I knew he didn't know his way around and had no idea what he should do. Finally, he pulled to the curb and motioned for us to wait while he disappeared into a bar. Soon he returned and we followed him inside. The sense of comedy returned as we stood shoulder to shoulder with dozens of people, sipping champagne, while the distant thump, thump of aerial bombs pummeling the nearby railroad marshalling yard could be heard plain as day.

Only moments after the "all clear" sounded, a Frenchman in his early fifties came up to us and, in perfect English, introduced himself. After a lengthy conversation with the other Frenchmen, he turned to us and gave us instructions. I got the speech about just smiling and nodding my head if asked anything (there was a concern that my white teeth would give my nationality away); Otto and Bob looked a whole lot more French than I did.

We were going to walk out of the bar as a group, and head down the street to an apartment house where we could hole up for a few days.

There we were, three Americans in French clothes, wearing GI issue shoes, walking down one of the most trafficked streets in Reims. While not overly crowded right now, there

were still plenty of German soldiers and officers about. In fact, Otto had the misfortune of bumping into one of these officers. We all held a collective breath as time froze--but then the officer moved on without even noticing.

I had a better look at this English-speaking Frenchman serving as our guide. His English was perfect -- just as if he were born in the USA. It turned out he was. He served in World War I, was stationed in France, and there married a French girl. They decided to stay in France and now he was fluent in both languages. In fact, he had even done a stint with the American Counsel there in Reims.

After ten blocks of walking, we came to a stop before a large, three-story apartment building. We went around to the back stairs and climbed up to a nicely furnished unit that, we were told, belonged to a man in the auto business who was in Paris for awhile.

This was a swank place--there was even sweet-smelling soap in the bathroom. We were told to keep quiet because German officers were living on both sides, and above. We took off our shoes and settled in for how long we had no way of knowing.

I was in third or fourth grade when I first heard of the city of Reims. I and the kids in my class were asked to contribute to a fund which was set up to help rebuild the Cathedral of that war torn city. It had been badly damaged during World War I.

Now I was actually standing outside an apartment building directly across the street from this very chapel--or at least that's what I thought our guide said! It turned out, when Frances and I visited Reims as tourists in 1987 that I was mistaken, the Cathedral of Reims is much bigger and in another part of the city, but at the time it provided me a moment of pleasant recognition.

Looking at my nylon escape map,

it dawned on me that we were now in the heart of France where many of the most fierce and important battles of The Great War were fought; Verdun and Chateau Thierry, and Bellow Woods to name just a few. Reims is in the heart of "champagne country" (and would again play a significant role in history when General Eisenhower accepted the German surrender here on May 7, 1945).

Each night, someone would appear with food for the three of us, but otherwise we were left pretty much alone. One evening, two men dropped in to take our pictures. They were going to use the photos in making up phony documents for us. The initial plan was for us to board a train bound for the South of France. Once we were safely across the Pyrenees Mountains and into Spain, we could continue on to England.

We had a perfect view of the boulevard from our living room window. Reims was a central point for the training of German soldiers; several military installations were housed in buildings all over town. All day long, groups of soldiers marched back and forth (on their way to classes) singing German songs. It reminded me of the way the U.S. Army had taken over towns all through our own country in the name of wartime preparedness.

Still, it made me nervous to see all those enemy soldiers out there.

The morning of June 6, 1944 broke just like the rest for us, but out on the streets things were different. The soldiers were marching, but nobody was singing anymore. The volume of civilian activity also seemed to increase.

We switched on the apartment radio (careful to keep the volume low as always) and immediately learned why; the D-Day invasion was underway. The Germans woke to find themselves at the business-end of the greatest naval armada in human history-and it was all courtesy of our side!

Our French friend returned the next day with good and bad news.

The good news was that it was time to go. The Germans were coming around to check out all the buildings (they were looking for downed English fliers rumored to be hiding like us.) The bad news was that our train trip was off.

Because of the Allied invasion--and our pilots' orders to shoot at any "targets of opportunity" (i.e., trains) our safety could not be guaranteed.

Finally, he told us that the French Underground had received orders from London stipulating that any downed Allied air personnel were to be reassigned to the freedom fighters.

I doubted this strongly, but what choice did we have? It was either

hitch up with the French or wait around for the Germans. The next morning, we donned our berets and headed for a resistance camp 35 kilometers away.

Mullen: America must help vets

NEW YORK (AFNS) -- Navy Adm. Mike Mullen spoke about service member and veteran issues to a crowd primed for a Lady Gaga show here on May 9.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff found a nontraditional audience for his message about the military as part of a fundraiser for the Robin Hood Foundation at the Javits Center. The group raised \$132 million last year for charities all over the city, and this year announced a special fund to help veterans in Metro New York.

Admiral Mullen followed singer Tony Bennett and Seth Meyers of "Saturday Night Live." The 4,000-member audience listened respectfully to the chairman, who was interviewed on stage by veteran journalist Tom Brokaw. Kid Rock and Lady Gaga followed.

Mr. Brokaw told the audience that as they were enjoying the \$3,000-a-plate dinner, young Americans in Afghanistan and Iraq were putting on Kevlar and getting ready for another day of war.

"They represent less than 1 percent of the American population," he said. "The rest of us -- 99 percent -- nothing is asked of us."

Mr. Brokaw noted that New York has a growing problem with veteran homelessness and asked the chairman what the Defense Department is doing about it. As a Vietnam veteran, Admiral Mullen said, he is particularly concerned about the issue because veterans of that war were experiencing the same thing when the current wars started.

"My peers were still sleeping on the street in Washington and cities throughout the country, and I swore I would do whatever I could to address the homelessness challenge," Admiral Mullen told Mr. Brokaw.



Ray Sherk (left) and Art Mattson had some stories to share at San Antonio. Both have Canadian roots. Ray is a Canadian RAF escaper and evader. Art, who evaded capture in Italy, was born in Canada and lost a brother who served in the RAF.

WWII vets meet the new generation

By Robert Goetz
502nd Air Base Wing OL-B Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Tex. -- More than a dozen former airmen who exemplified the fighting spirit of the Greatest Generation saw the Air Force's latest generation up close last week (April 15).

Members of the U.S. Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society, Allied airmen who were forced down behind enemy lines only to avoid captivity or escape from captivity, visited Lackland and Randolph Air Force Bases April 15, a highlight of their four-day reunion in San Antonio.

"I absolutely understand that we stand on your shoulders," said Lt. Gen. Douglas Owens, Air Education and Training Command vice commander, as he welcomed the World War II aviators to an AETC brief, the first stop on their trip to Randolph, and credited them for their part in preserving the freedoms Americans enjoy. "I cannot tell you how privileged and honored I am to be with you today."

AFEES members started the day as honored guests at Lackland's Air Force Basic Military Training graduation, then crossed town for the AETC brief and tours of the Taj Mahal and the 12th Flying Training Wing's 99th and 560th Flying Training Squadrons.

John Katsaros, AFEES president and a member since 1986, said he was impressed by what he saw at Lackland and Randolph.

"It's amazing what they can do with these kids in just eight weeks," he said, talking about the BMT graduates. "At Randolph, I was so impressed by the officers there. The way they handled the reunion was unbelievable."

AFEES, which now has more than 600 members, most of them from World War II, dates back to 1964, when a reunion in Buffalo, N.Y., brought together American aviators



Members of the Air Force Escape and Evasion Society watch the Air Force Basic Military Training graduation parade April 15. (U.S. Air Force photo/Robbin Cresswell)

who had escaped from enemy-occupied territory during World War II and their European "helpers." Leslie Atkinson, a reserve captain in the French Air Force, and Ralph Patton, an AFEES founder, had separately envisioned such an organization before they began to communicate and lay the foundation for the society.

In addition to airmen, the organization includes helpers, their family members and friends.

Mr. Katsaros, who survived a B-17 bailout over France in 1944 despite being badly injured, said he owes his life to his helpers.

"Without the French Resistance and the many people who treated me like their son, brother or uncle, I would not be alive today," he said. "I have so much regard for the French Resistance and the French people. I go and visit them often."

Mr. Katsaros, who now has homes in Florida and Massachusetts, chronicled his experiences in the book "Code Burgundy - The Long Escape."

He was a 20-year-old waist gunner on a B-17 that was en route to bomb a factory in Frankfurt, Germany, when their aircraft was riddled with anti-aircraft fire and he was injured by shrapnel. He assisted some of his crewmates, but was forced to bail out and, after a 25,000-foot free fall, broke six ribs, fractured both ankles and broke his right arm, beginning a three-month-long ordeal to escape to freedom.

Twice he was captured by the Gestapo and twice he escaped with the assistance of the French Resistance before struggling over the Pyrenees Mountains into Spain.

Retired Air Force Col. Steve Mac Isaac, an AFEES director who was lead planner for the reunion, said he was introduced to the organization when he was serving as the 6th Air Refueling Wing chief of staff at MacDill AFB, Fla. He said his commander asked him to assist AFEES members during one of their reunions.

"Once you're around one, you can never say no," he said. "My father



AFEES members and guests were treated to special front-row seating at the graduation ceremony at Randolph AF Base, a keynote part of the 2011 reunion.

was a World War II pilot and I lost him. It was like hanging out with his brothers."

Mr. Mac Isaac, who now lives in New Mexico, said the San Antonio reunion was the organization's fourth "final" reunion, coming on the heels of reunions in Savannah, Ga., site of Hunter Army Airfield; Dayton, Ohio, home of the Air Force Museum; and the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

"Every year we take them to a place that is significant in their history," he said. "Randolph is one of those places where aviation was most prominent. There's so much history there."

Mr. Katsaros said he is looking forward to a reunion in Albuquerque, N.M., next year, but in the meantime there is plenty of unfinished business.

"There are a lot of fellows we have to get in so the organization won't die," he said. "We want all the airmen from Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and other wars who evaded the enemy. I am about the youngest one from World War II who is still living and I am 87."

AFEES

CASH FLOW STATEMENT 2010

Submitted by ANN GRAUERHOLZ, Treasurer

Beginning balance 1/1/2010		11,620.59
Income		
Dues	2,025.00	
Donations	315.00	
Books	110.00	
Bank services reimbursement	2.50	
2010 Reunion proceeds	4,041.61	6,494.11
Less expenses		
Air publications mailings	1,576.07	
Bank services	3.00	
Post office box for dues	70.00	
Postage	513.82	
Office supplies and copying	43.44	
State registration	25.00	
Newsletter	3,387.30	
Reunion 2011 deposits	250.00	5,868.63
Ending balance 12/31/2010		12,246.07

Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society Annual General Membership Meeting

April 16, 2011
San Antonio, Tex.

President John Katsaros called meeting to order at 1300 hours. John welcomed the 46 persons present at the meeting, of which 14 were Escapees/Evaders and two were Helpers. Lynn David passed around a paper to record the phone numbers and email addresses of those present.

Recording Secretary Betty Hennessy provided copies of the General Membership Meeting minutes of May 8, 2010. Bill Donohue made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Jim David. The minutes were approved.

Richard Shandor provided the membership report. U.S. newsletters, 725 total, broken down by category: Evaders 365, Evader widows 126, Helpers 28, Helper Widow/Widowers 2, Military friends 27, Friends 36, 2nd Evaders 57, 3rd Evaders 6, 2nd Helpers 2, 3rd Helpers 1, Friends 46 and Courtesy copies 29.

Foreign newsletters 174, broken down by countries: Australia 6, Belgium 20, Canada 25, France 72, Germany 1, Italy 1, Netherlands 34, Spain 2 and United Kingdom 13.

Rich requested that any change of address be sent to him via email or U.S. mail: <RShandor@hotmail.com>; PO Box 254, Cresson PA 16630-0254

The Treasurer's Report was provided by Ann Grauerholz. Ann said that a generous donation of \$900 was received from a member.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

The Newsletter Report was provided by Larry Grauerholz. The 32-page newsletter continues to be distributed four times per year. The printing costs are approximately \$700 per issue. The domestic mailing charges are approximately \$400 per issue. The international mailing costs are \$2.92 per recipient.

John Katsaros presented the slate of Officers and Directors with no change from the current year. Stan Stepnitz moved that the slate of Officers and Directors be accepted. Bill Donohue seconded the motion. The motion passed.

John Katsaros asked the appointed chair of the By-Laws Committee, Betty Hennessy, to introduce the proposed By-Laws. Copies were shared with all in attendance. Stan Stepnitz made a motion to accept the By-Laws. Ed Miller seconded the motion.

Larry Grauerholz led the discussion by providing background on the development of the By-Laws. Two friendly amendments were added relating to: (1) the inclusion of current military personnel in the definition of escapees and evaders; and (2) the maximum percent of non-military personnel allowed to maintain compliance with IRS rules for a non-profit Veteran's Organization.

The motion to approve the By-Laws as amended was passed. Betty thanked the members of the By-Laws Committee for their efforts in developing the By-Laws.

Lynn David provided information regarding efforts to expand educational

opportunities. Donations to AFEES are tax deductible and donors will receive an acknowledgement letter with the AFEES tax ID number. Donations will be used to expand information about AFEES, including the efforts and accomplishments of Veterans and Helpers.

Lynn David provided information regarding proposed sites for the 2012 Annual Meeting. Following discussion and voting for the most popular sites, the site of Albuquerque, N.M. was selected for the 2012 Annual Meeting.

Don Thorpe provided an update on the website and stated the need for copies of photographs and memorabilia from previous meetings. He said educational items would also be helpful. Don asked for photographs in jpeg format and documents preferably in Word format (although pdf files may also be used). Materials should be sent via email or computer disk.

Don's email address is <dt@donthorpe.com>. Don's mailing address is: 1087 South 1100th Street East, Salt Lake City UT 84105. Lynn David suggested a brief educational video for the website. Jim David suggested a password-protected directory for members.

John Katsaros shared his positive experiences in speaking to students, and he stressed the need for AFEES members to share their experiences..

John Katsaros adjourned the meeting at 1428 hours.

Respectfully submitted:

Betty Hennessy, Recording Secretary



"Mom said your kids gave it to us,
so we should stay with you 'til we get over it!"

New member finds friends at reunion

By CAROLYN COMPTON
DELMAR
NEEDVILLE, Tex.
(New AFEES Member)

My father was Lt. Charles Compton (E&E# 566), 100th BG bombardier of Laden Maiden, shot down near Epernay, France, on Dec. 30, 1943.

I first heard about AFEES in 1969 when my parents joined and traveled to Europe on the 25th anniversary of the D-Day trip.

It was Dad's first trip back since returning to the U.S. in May 1944 and it was Mother's first European trip. Even though they traveled internationally a great deal after that, it truly was their trip of a lifetime.

They put together a scrapbook full of mementoes from the trip. Hanging on the wall in their dining room was the framed invitation to Buckingham Palace for tea with Queen Elizabeth. It has been hanging on my dining room wall since Mother died in 1995.

Another memento from an AFEES trip to Phoenix is a photo of Dad with Barry Goldwater. Dad's experiences as a WWII evader were always part of my life. I was 11 days old when he was shot down over France. He was a terrific public speaker and spoke to many groups and individuals over the years, including some of my American history classes. He was proud to have served his country, thrilled to have been an evader and adoring and respectful of the French for aiding and abetting him in his greatest time of need.

When he died in 1990 of complications of Alzheimer's disease, my mother, brother and sisters and I buried him in his navy blue blazer with the AFEES insignia on the pocket as our way of acknowledging we knew just how important it was to



CHARLES W. COMPTON, Jr.
E&E# 566, 100th BG

him to have been in the company of fellow escapers and have the opportunity to thank the helpers who had survived the hardships of the war years and/or death at the hands of the German occupiers.

Dad began writing a book about his experiences in the early 1950s. He had completed about half of the manuscript when it disappeared.

He and Mother theorized that the housekeeper they employed at that time accidentally threw it out while cleaning. Dad made half-hearted attempts to begin writing again over the years, but the demands of daily living and then the ravages of Alzheimer's got in the way.

For years my family has encouraged me to take up Dad's cause and write his book. Now I am. That is why I attended the 2011 AFEES Reunion in San Antonio and became a member.

Having never been to an AFEES reunion, my husband George and I did not know what to expect. I had been in touch with Rich Shandor by email and telephone to make arrangements and he was the first person we met when we arrived at the hotel. He had been so helpful to us and continued to be, along with Betty Hennessy, who checked us in, and Mary Shier, who also was there and greeted us.

From the Welcome Dinner on the night of April 14 to the Farewell Breakfast on the morning of the 17th,



Friend Member Bill Donohue took on a new role at the San Antonio meeting. He volunteered to assist Mac as backup Hospitality Room maestro. Steve Mac Isaac has handled the refreshment procurement and hospitality chores at the AFEES watering hole for the past decade.

Service leaders honor heroes

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz joined service leaders here March 25 for a Pentagon ceremony marking the 150th anniversary of the Medal of Honor.

In his remarks, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen called the honorees America's "bravest of the brave," and each of the service leaders offered historical facts about their respective branches' version of the Medal of Honor.

Before 1965, when the Air Force design was adopted, members of the U.S. Army Air Corps, U.S. Army Air Forces, and the Air Force received the Army version of the Medal of Honor, General Schwartz said.

George and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

Everyone we met offered us an opportunity to enrich our lives just by being in their company. I especially loved meeting the evaders who were able to be there, along with the helpers. Knowing that all but one of the men who escaped and evaded with Dad are gone, along with many of the members of the Resistance who helped them and then were caught and executed by the Germans, made meeting these people especially "special".

Traveling to Lackland and Randolph AF bases was great! Viewing the graduation ceremony of so many of America's finest young men and women...in the chilly wind...at Lackland AFB was truly gratifying.

It also was an opportunity for George to return after 40 years. He had done his basic training at Lackland AFB.

Randolph AFB is beautiful! Loved every minute of being there. It was interesting to find such an unusual building as the Tai Mahal as

well as the Spanish architecture on a military compound. Enjoyed the tours, the briefing and lunch with General McNabb. I was fortunate to sit next to him...my first time to be in the company of a 4-star general!

As Texans who have visited San Antonio many times, George and I chose not to take any of the other excursions offered during the Reunion. San Antonio is the most visited city in Texas.

It is so visually beautiful and wonderfully cultural and, of course, is of great historical value, so I hope that the members who did venture forth on any or all of the trips enjoyed themselves.

During one of our telephone visits, Rich had told me that the Memorial Service is very special. He was correct. I so appreciated the opportunity to light a candle on behalf of my parents and Dad's fellow crewmembers on the Laden Maiden.

I am sorry that I neglected to mention Dad's helpers, so I am now. Thank goodness the French people were willing to put their lives in jeopardy in order to ensure Dad's

safety and well being! Dad left this world loving each and every one of them.

At the General Membership meeting, I learned more about AFEES and those who work tirelessly in order to maintain the organization. It was gratifying to cast my vote as a new member.

The Banquet was a fitting celebration for all attendees to gather for the last time. Our food was good and our table company even better, and we enjoyed the program. We ended our last night in the Hospitality Room, where we had spent many fun hours throughout the Reunion.

George and I thought the Holiday Inn on the River Walk was a terrific choice as the location for the 2011 AFEES Reunion. As we left the hotel after breakfast on the last morning, we agreed we would continue to attend AFEES reunions until we just couldn't travel anymore.

Hopefully, I'll be able to show up when I'm 95 years old just like Larry Grauerholz. See you next year in Albuquerque!

2011 Reunion Attendees:

David Allison, Jane Binnebose, William Binnebose, Bruce Bollinger, Cheryl Mattson Boyd, Larry Boyd, Bob Brand, Regina Sarnow Brand, Doris Carl, Floyd Carl(E), Margaret Carlson Fricke, Lee Clifton(E), Sandy Delguidice Comstock, Charles Cook, Chuck Cook, Jetty Cook (E), Wanda Cook, Jim David, Jon David, Lynn David, Scotty David, Alberta Delguidice, Carolyn Compton Delmar, George Delmar, Bill Donohue, Jerri Donohue, Rachel Ferrari, Brad Gosset, Julie Grauerholz Gosset, Ann Grauerholz, Larry Grauerholz(E), Ruth Grauerholz, Larry Grauerholz Jr., Kim Grauerholz, Liz Grauerholz, Mary Grauerholz, Mike Grauerholz, Rick Grauerholz, Sue Grauerholz, Patrick Grauerholz, Lois Hamilton, June Hauer, Betty Hennessy, John Katsaros(E), Mary Katsaros, Harold Kless, Mary Ann Krol, Betty Binnebose Lewis, Anne Robin Luckett, Dan Luckett, Gen Luckett, John Luckett, Steve Mac Issac, Art Mattson(E), Garry McKee, Larry McKee, Elinor McKee, Ralph McKee(E), Ed Miller(E), Marguerite Bouard Miller(H), Diana Morgan, Joe Owens(E), H. Ownby(E), Theresa Cook Peterson, Fred Platt(E), Paul Rees, Leonard Rogers(E), Richard Rothfelder, Gabriel Sauer(H), Gene Sauer, Frank Schaeffer(E), C. B. Screws(E), Richard Shandor, Ellen Sharlach, Raymond Sherk(E), Mary Spinning Shier, Margery Singer, Doug Snyder, Steve Snyder, Stan Stepnitz (E), Catherine Thorpe, Don Thorpe, Albert Vasquez(E), John Vasquez, Beverly Patton Wand, John White, Michelle White, Robert Wilson(E), Sharon Wilson, Keith Wright, and Nancy Krol Wright.



This assortment of evaders and helpers was herded together for a photo session at the San Antonio Saturday night banquet.

From the left, standing: John Vasquez, Joe Owens, Ed Miller, Gabriel Sauer, Marguerite Miller, Larry Grauerholz, Ralph McKee, Frank Schaeffer, Fred Platt, H Ownby, Bob Wilson and Ray Sherk.

Front row: Floyd Carl, Len Rogers, John Katsaros, Art Mattson, Lee Clifton, Stan Stepnitz, CB Screws and Jetty Cook.

--Photo by Richard Shandor

Daughter honors her dad's service

By MARY ANNE KROL
Pasco, Wash.

I have been asked to comment about what it meant to me to attend an AFEES reunion for the first time.

For me it was a life-changing experience of the best kind! As a child I always knew my father was a special person, different from other fathers, because in our home he was known as a "hero in the war".

I knew he had experienced something unique to only a chosen few. He never thought of himself that way, but he was always a hero to me.

My dad, Lt. Theodore J. Krol, from Hammond, Ind., was bombardier on a B-17 bomber based in Deenethorpe, England. His plane was shot down on March 20, 1944, on a mission to Germany.

He was able to parachute out of the plane, evade capture from the

enemy, and was aided by central members of the French Resistance to eventually be hidden in the "secret forest" at Freteval, until repatriated in August, 1944.

We knew all of this not because my dad spoke about it, but because my mother made sure we children all understood how profound that experience was for our family.

The people of the French Resistance made our family possible, and my father revered them for the gift of his life. His stories mostly were about the brave French who helped him; he was quite humble about his own service.

Years after the war, when my father was reunited with his crew members, and he and my mother joined AFEES, it was like he was renewed with happiness in joining with his friends and the helpers, who all shared such a special bond. AFEES was a very special part of my

parents' lives and they attended many reunions over the years.

My father died 16 years ago. I'm not sure why I waited so long to attend and join AFEES. After reading the book *Code Burgundy* by John Katsaros, my dad's crew mate, I was inspired to contact John and I made arrangements to attend the reunion in San Antonio.

I'm so glad I did, for I have met many wonderful friends who share experiences similar to mine, we gathered together to honor our living heroes and to remember our loved ones who served so well.

I am proud to honor my dad's service through AFEES. From the moment I arrived and checked in, I felt like I belonged here.

Witnessing the airmen graduate and touring the air bases was an honor; I am inspired and hopeful for the future. Thank you AFEES, I can't wait until 2012!

Sharing the paths their fathers took

*By Beverly Patton Wand,
daughter of 1st Lt. Ralph K.
Patton, co-pilot of B-17 "Horrible
Hanks," 94 BG, and Betty
Hennessy, daughter of 1st Lt.
Francis P. Hennessy, pilot of B-
17 "Captain Joe," 388 BG.*

We first met when we joined our fathers at the initial AFEES Reunion in Buffalo, N.Y., in 1964.

We shared the same bus during this year's tour of the Lackland and Randolph Air Force Bases in San Antonio, and found that this tour held special, heartfelt meanings for each of us as we had the opportunity to walk the grounds our fathers, now passed, walked nearly seven decades ago.

Our dads had many experiences in common. Neither father talked much about their training experiences in the Army Air Corps, but rather about their courageous crew members and the people who helped them get home after they were shot down over

enemy territory in France.

While Ralph grew up in Pennsylvania and Francis ("Frank") grew up in North Dakota, both enlisted in the Army Air Corps in April 1942, and both experienced their first nine weeks of basic training (with Frank starting in August '42 and Ralph starting in September '42) at the San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center.

SAACC is now called Lackland Air Base and has absorbed the old Kelly Field.

The drill field of the SAACC was the place our fathers learned to march in formation, and where Ralph described that he stood for two hours in the hot Texas sun waiting for President Roosevelt to pass by.

San Antonio was the city where our fathers had their first "Open Post" 24-hour leave. Ralph's picture was taken outside the Gunter Hotel, just around the corner from this year's reunion headquarters.

It was moving for both of us to tour the Gunter and imagine our fathers among the cadets that Ralph described: "The Gunter Hotel seemed to be the major watering hole and hundreds of thirsty cadets descended on the beautiful old hotel."

At the end of their 9-week training, the drill field was the place where 5,000 cadets lined up, proudly marching in review. So, seeing cadets of today at the graduation ceremony as part of the tour, it was easy to recall Ralph Patton's words of their experience: "After the final inspection we all trooped out onto the monster drill field to pass in review for all of the base brass."

"Five thousand cadets lined up on the drill field, marching smartly in review. It was a beautiful sight, and at eyes right each cadet couldn't help

but be filled with a certain degree of pride. Pride in completing this first phase of his training, pride in his Air Corps, and pride in his country. We were now adequately prepared for the challenge for which we had enlisted. We were eager to learn to fly."

Friday night, seeing the cadets and their families making their way along the River Walk, it was easy to picture our fathers, out on the town, so far away from home for the first time.

Following their nine weeks of basic training in San Antonio, Ralph Patton and Frank Hennessy were in the same states for the next phases of pilot training. Both men were on the same mission to Bordeaux, France on Jan. 5, 1944, when Ralph's plane was shot down during his ninth mission.

Frank's plane was shot down Jan. 29, 1944 during his 15th mission, which was to Frankfurt, Germany.

Paths of evaders Frank and Ralph crossed again during Operation Bonaparte, at the House of Alphonse on the Brittany Coast. Together, on March 17, 1944, they scrambled down steep cliffs to board the Royal Navy motor gunboat that would return them to England.



A/C RALPH K. PATTON
at Lackland AAB in 1942



FRANCIS P. HENNESSY
as an Aviation Cadet, 1942

Five remaining Doolittle Raiders visit Offutt AFB

OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, Neb. (AFNS) --

Almost 69 years to the day since their famous air raid on Japan, the five surviving Doolittle Raiders gathered April 14 through 17 for their annual reunion, this year in Nebraska.

Included in this year's events, spread throughout Omaha and Lincoln, was a visit to meet the men and women of Offutt Air Force Base.

"It's one of the rare chances we'll probably ever get to see these great war heroes and pioneers of aviation," said Capt. Andrew Maus, a navigator and executive officer with the 55th Operations Group. "To think that we could execute the same kind of mission that these guys flew ... kind of invigorates us."

Led by Lt. Col. James H. "Jimmy" Doolittle, the raiders took off in 16 B-25 Mitchell bombers from an aircraft carrier in the Pacific and launched a surprise attack April 18, 1942, over Japan. The mission was a direct response to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor nearly five months earlier and undoubtedly raised the morale of the U.S.

"We figured it was just another bombing mission," said David Thatcher, who was an engineer-gunner on crew 7 during the raid on Japan. "We thought people would have forgotten it by now."

Not quite. The Doolittle Raiders' legacy continues to live on through many books, multiple movies and a display at the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

And every year since 1947, these living legends have come together to commemorate their bombing mission.

"We have a reunion for a couple of reasons," said Richard Cole, who was a co-pilot on crew 1 for Colonel Doolittle. "One is pay homage to our guys who are missing, and another is to renew friendships. The reunion has gotten down to where it's become a family affair, because we know everyone's family."

During their visit to base, the Raiders had lunch and signed autographs for the Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines at Offutt Air Force Base.

"It's just an honor to see people like this here," said Senior Airman Daniel McFarland, a crew chief with the 55th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, who was on hand to answer questions from the Raiders. "It makes me feel good to have someone like that thank me for what I'm doing ... and makes me want to do my job even better."

As part of the reunion, five airmen from the 55th Wing were chosen to personally escort one Doolittle



Doolittle Raider David Thatcher, who was an engineer-gunner on crew 7, shakes hands with 1st Lt. Taylor Eavenson as Lt. Col. John Cooper looks on April 15, 2011, at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. The five surviving Doolittle Raiders visited there as part of their 69th annual reunion, which took place this year in Nebraska from April 14 through 17. Lieutenant Eavenson is an electronic warfare officer with the 38th Reconnaissance Squadron. Colonel Cooper is the 55th Operations Group deputy commander.

Raider for the duration of their visit, and they said it was something they'll never forget.

"It was amazing," said Senior Airman Amber Huber, a 97th Intelligence Squadron resource adviser who served as Mr. Thatcher's personal escort during the reunion. "I got to hear stories about the raid from the Raiders themselves, and I don't think any television interview could touch the feeling I got from hearing their (personal accounts)."

The Doolittle Raider escorts were afforded the opportunity to witness the goblet ceremony, which is an annual roll call and toast to the Doolittle Raiders who have passed away since their last meeting. The remaining Raiders turn the deceased men's goblets upside down in their honor.

"The ceremony is typically only for the surviving Raiders and the families of those Raiders who have passed within the last year, so being invited to witness possibly one of the last ceremonies was a huge honor," said Airman 1st Class Paul Imm, a 55th Operations Support Squadron air traffic controller who was a personal escort for Mr. Griffin during the reunion. "That experience is one that I will carry with me for the remainder of my life."

The goblet ceremony is an important part of each reunion and has been practiced since 1959.

"That was really something special for me," said Airman 1st Class Dennis Castellano, an airborne systems engineer with the 38th Reconnaissance Squadron, who served as Mr. Hite's personal escort during the reunion. "To be able to hang out with them, hear them talk to each other, hear their stories and get a real personal look at what it was like to be a Doolittle Raider, it's just been unbelievable."

An imaginary tale of wartime life

This fictional story was written by 13-year-old Robert, a grandson of Frances Millar of Houston, Tex., the widow of Gilbert Millar, an RCAF evader who was instrumental in researching evasion stories.

Robert's middle school class was asked to write an essay after reading two books on life in Europe during WWII.

January 25, 1941

The Nazis came to my house today. They gave us two more weeks before we have to go to the train station. If my father didn't have his appendix taken out we would have went today. We have to figure a way out of this.

February 8, 1941

Today, we have to go to the train station. My mind is racing thinking about every possible situation that could happen. The soldier gave us ten minutes to pack.

We got to the train station at 3:00. There were thousands of people at the station boarding the cattle cars. Each car was stuffed full of people. They separated men and women into two different trains.

We all got off the train and the guards were separating us into two groups, left or right. I hoped we got left because that meant life. The soldier gave me and my dad a gesture to the left. If he would have said right we would be shot.

February 9, 1941

Yesterday, the soldiers shaved all our hair off and gave us a tattoo. It's a number, probably to keep track of us. Most of the people that were here before us are skin and bones. They gave us bread and a little cup of water for dinner, no wonder they are so skinny.

Early this morning, a man tried to escape over the fence, but it was electric. The guards shot him and just left him there to fry all day. The smell is horrible.

February 10, 1941

I'm worried about my father. Ever since he had his appendix taken out he hasn't been feeling well. They finished a building that they were working on before we got here. Some people say think it's a new quarters, but others think it's another way to torture us. It has chimneys, so maybe it's a kitchen. That might be why we eat so little, they just didn't have kitchens.

February 11, 1941

They're not kitchens. They are ovens, but don't cook food in them. They cook humans. The stench is atrocious.

My father has gotten worse. He is getting sick which means the worst, they will kill him. The Nazi policy is if you don't work you don't live. My friend, John said his dad could help. He was a doctor. He said my dad was sick with a cold and he could fix it. He needs an herb. This was a problem; the only place you could get it was from the outside. A man told me that he could get letters in and out of the camp.

February 16, 1941

We sent a letter to my Aunt Catharine in Holland. She agreed to get the herb, but how were we supposed to get the herb in the camp. The same way we got the letter out. Less people are getting in their beds at night, but more people are coming into the camp. If they don't know what's going on here, they will soon find out.

February 17, 1941

The herbs arrived this morning. Mr. Helm made the medicine drink. My father took it and it started to work right away. Hopefully tomorrow will be as good as today.

February 18, 1941

A high ranking officer came today to inspect the camp. Then they called us out for selection again. My dad and I got left again. John didn't because last night he fell out of his bed and sprained his wrist. His dad went crazy and punched a guard in the face. He grabbed the guard's gun and killed the other soldier. He was expecting everyone to revolt, but nobody moved. I guess they thought they would be killed if they did. That's when the guard shot him from the tower.

February 19, 1941

Today was the worst day of my life. My dad was sick again. The guard in our cabin noticed it right away and notified his superior. They took my dad to the ovens. I was on oven duty, too. He got onto the stretcher and they tied him down. When I started crying, the guard asked me if he was my dad. I said yes. He made me do the honors. As I closed the door I thought about all the fun things we did together. It was horrible. Tomorrow, I will revolt; this might be the last time I write. If the guards find this they will probably burn it.

Farewell

It turns out that they didn't find it because an American soldier came across it after they liberated the camp in 1945.

The fourteen years old revolted and this time it worked. He and his rebels made it to the checkpoint down the road. There they were out gunned and out manned. They all died, but this revolution started others in camps around this one. Because of him, hundreds of prisoners escaped. He died as a hero.



Ted got front-page treatment from his hometown newspaper

NEWS WEEKLY

"Hegewisch's Own Newspaper"

PUBLISHED BY THE HEGEWISCH CIVILIAN DEFENSE COUNCIL

3c A COPY

10c A MONTH
DELIVERED BY
CARRIER

Volume VIII

HEGEWISCH, ILLINOIS, SEPTEMBER 29, 1944

Number 47

Lt. Ted Skowronek Safe!

Pilot Wins DFC, Purple Heart



•Somewhere in France.—Unnamed Brigadier General pins Purple Heart alongside Distinguished Flying Cross on breast of Lt. Ted Skowronek, son of Mr. and Mrs. Barney Skowronek of 13408 Brandon. Medals were won by son of Hegewisch barber when he attacked formation of 20 enemy aircraft in his Thunderbolt fighter plane, destroying another enemy attacking him from rear.

To celebrate his promotion to captain, Tadeusz Skowronek, Mustang fighter-bomber flight leader, destroyed another enemy plane on his next mission. It was his third "hit." Son of Mr. and Mrs. Barney Skowronek, 13408 Brandon av., Capt. Skowronek holds the distinguished flying cross, the Purple Heart, and the air medal with six clusters. He has been overseas 10 months.

Fighter Pilot Reported Lost Writes Parents

Lt. Ted Skowronek, reported missing in a fighter sweep over enemy territory Aug. 25, is safe and well, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Barney Skowronek of 13408 Brandon av., were overjoyed to learn this week.

The news came in an air mail letter from the young aviator himself. Assuring his parents he was safe and well, he added:

"I've had quite a few adventures lately but everything turned out o.k., thanks to the French people around here.

A Big Adventure

"I can't say much about the last 14 days, but it's been just a big adventure with all the excitement of an adventure story."

Lt. Skowronek is a member of the Ninth Air Force P-51 Mustang Fighter group in France. He has been awarded the Air Medal and bronze oak leaf cluster for "meritorious achievement in combat flights" in 40 sorties over enemy territory.

The report that the young Mustang pilot was missing was received three weeks ago by his parents in a telegram and letter from the War Department.

AIR FORCES ESCAPE & EVASION SOCIETY BY-LAWS

(Adopted at AFEES Annual General Meeting, April 16, 2011)

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be "Air Forces Escape & Evasion Society." It may also be referred to in these by-laws as AFEES.

ARTICLE II

OBJECTIVE

Section I. The Air Forces Escape & Evasion Society is a non-profit Section 501 C 19 Veteran's organization. Its objective is to maintain and continue the close relationships of its members and their related Helpers around the world who aided AFEES members to escape capture while within hostile territory; and to educate others regarding the role of AFEES, its members and Helpers.

AFEES shall remain financially and administratively independent.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Section I. Membership in AFEES shall consist of escape and evader members, family members, affiliated members and honorary members.

A. Escapee and evader members are dues-paying, ex-military personnel, who meet the definition of escapee or evader which is defined as follows: One who parachuted or landed in enemy territory and escaped or evaded capture before returning to Allied forces. A vote by an escapee or evader member shall count twice that of a family or affiliated member.

B. Family members are dues-paying, family members of escapees or evaders.

C. Friend members are dues-paying persons who, by association or interests, are eligible for membership. Applications for friend membership may be submitted to the Board of Directors through the Membership & Corresponding Secretary. Friend membership shall not exceed ten percent of the total membership.

D. Honorary members are: (1) Helpers; (2) widows of escapees or evaders; and (3) other persons selected by the Board of Directors in recognition for their extraordinary service to AFEES. Honorary members shall pay no dues and shall not vote.

Section II. Dues. There shall be regular dues to be determined annually by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS

Section I. The officers of AFEES shall be: President, Vice President, Executive Vice President, Treasurer, Membership & Corresponding Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Recording Secretary and Directors. These officers shall comprise the Board of Directors.

Continued on Page 24

A. The responsibilities of the Board of Directors shall be as set forth in incorporation law and the Roberts Rules of Order.

B. The President shall preside at AFEES meetings; shall appoint standing and special committees as are deemed necessary to carry out the work of the AFEES and shall be ex-officio member of all committees with the exception of the nominating committee.

C. The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in the President's absence or inability to serve and shall execute such other duties as assigned by the President.

D. The Executive Vice President shall have responsibility for planning and implementation of the annual reunion and general business meeting.

E. The Membership & Corresponding Secretary shall have the responsibility for maintaining a current membership list and corresponding with members.

F. The Newsletter Editor shall have responsibility for maintaining communication with the membership via newsletters or other means as deemed appropriate.

G. The Recording Secretary shall record the minutes of the Board of Directors meetings, the annual general membership meeting and other meetings at which the Recording Secretary is in attendance.

H. The Treasurer shall conduct the financial affairs of AFEES, submit a full financial report at the annual membership meeting, submit interim reports to the Board of Directors as requested and perform such other duties as requested by the President.

I. Directors shall have responsibility for other AFEES tasks as deemed appropriate.

J. A simple majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE V NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section I. The nominating committee shall consist of at least three Board of Directors members.

Section II. The nominating committee shall nominate a candidate for each position eligible to be filled at the annual general business meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor but no nomination may be considered without prior consent of the nominee.

Section III. The election of the Board of Directors shall be held during the annual general business meeting by a majority vote of members.

Section IV. The Board of Directors will assume their elected offices immediately following the annual reunion.

Section V. The Board of Directors may make appointments to fill vacancies for the period of time remaining until the next annual general business meeting.

ARTICLE VI ANNUAL REUNION AND GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

Section I. AFEES shall hold an annual reunion and general business meeting, the time and place to be announced by the Board of Directors at the close of the preceding general membership business meeting.

Section II. Proposed agenda items for the Board of Directors meeting should, if at all possible, be made known to the President at least a month before the meeting.

Section III. The voting body of the general membership business meeting shall be limited to members in good standing.

ARTICLE VII INDEMNIFICATION

Section I. AFEES shall indemnify and hold harmless all AFEES officers and appointees from and against all obligations, liabilities and expenses arising from and in the course of the performance of their assigned duties.

Section II. The Treasurer may be bonded by a reputable bonding company.

ARTICLE VIII DISSOLUTION

Section I. A motion to dissolve the AFEES shall only be placed on the agenda of the annual general membership business meeting by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Dissolution shall then require a two-thirds majority vote of members in good standing, present and voting, constituting a quorum.

Section II. In the event of dissolution, any AFEES assets remaining after all obligations are resolved shall be contributed to a worthy national organization associated with the U.S. military.

ARTICLE IX PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Roberts Rules of Order shall be the official reference for the disposition of any procedural questions that may arise at an AFEES function.

ARTICLE X AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

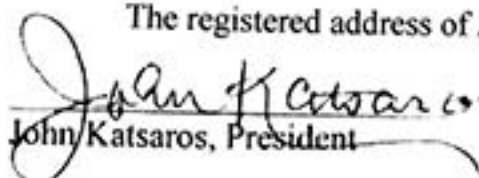
These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of AFEES in good standing, present and voting at the annual general business meeting, or by resolution and majority vote of the Board of Directors.

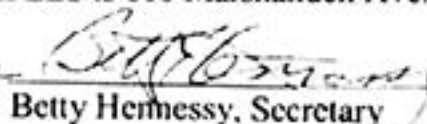
ARTICLE XI RECORDS

AFEES shall maintain books and records of all meetings and finances for a period of at least seven years. Personal information of individual members shall not be released without the express permission of the member.

ARTICLE XII ADDRESS

The registered address of AFEES is 610 Marshall Dell Ave., Dallas TX 75211


John Katsaros, President


Betty Hermessy, Secretary

April 16, 2011
Date

ROGER JAMBLIN, 1924-2011**Belgian helper saved many airmen**

By **CLAUDY WINANT**
(Friend of AFEES)
Belgium

Roger Jamblin died peacefully in Les Villettes, Liège on Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011. Roger was a member of the Belgian Resistance.

After the occupation of Belgium, he joined an espionage network. The group M.N.B (Mouvement National Belge) and began his work in the resistance.

He hid downed Allied airmen in the cellar of the Cathedral in his hometown of Liège. It became a gathering place for many unfortunate airmen who had bailed out over Belgium and were lucky enough to have made contact with Mr. Jamblin.

This typically happened as their planes returned to the U.K. Also he cached explosives and ammunition in the basement at his home doing this under the noses of the Gestapo and other German monsters.

He smuggled airmen through Belgium and France, harboured Jewish neighbours from the Nazis, distributed propaganda leaflets, sabotaged German army vehicles and recovered caches of explosives dropped into Belgium.

The Cloister of the Holy Cross, Liège, Belgium

The Holy Cross church is located at the top of the Rue Haute-Sauvinière near the center of the city of Liège. It's on the steep side of the Meuse valley, close to a railroad track and the commuter station Liège-Palais. It's a quiet neighbourhood, but convenient to the busy valley below.

The church property dates to the 13th century and is quite large. Still in existence on one side of the church is a corridor that in the past gave access to cloister cells.

These cells do not exist anymore, having been replaced by four houses that the church rents out. Each house had a door into the corridor

Doors of the four houses have blue and white numbers, like the other houses in town. Number 15, Lambert Hosdin's house, is one of the most famous houses in Belgium, having served as a safe house for evading airmen.

Liège was an assembly point for airmen who had landed in Belgium as well as for airmen coming from the Netherlands.

Lambert Hosdin worked for the MNB, Liège's group (or what was recognized as such at war's end). In the group's archives, which remained in the hands of Roger Jamblin, is a list of the airmen who were helped by the Liège resistance, and complete or not, it contains nearly 100 names.

It's impossible to say precisely how many of those passed through "The cloister". As his close friend, I uphold his legacy and I'm

contemplating remaking the history of this assembly point for airmen.

A picture dating back to 1943 or 1944 shows a group of airmen in the little courtyard of Hosdin's house. It's unclear whether Hosdin is pictured, but there are four or five resistance members and at least 10 airmen.

It's known that 10 Americans and three Britons who were guests of the cloister reached Switzerland.

Roger had the responsibility of preparing and delivering false identity papers for two of the Americans, Capt. Douglas Hoverkamp and S/ Sergeant Orvin Taylor. Both had landed close to Baclain (a little village) and had been hidden for a while in Joseph Istasse's Secret Army camp (zone 5; sector 4)

Another guest at the 15 Rue de Rome was 2nd Lt. James J. Goebel of the 445th Bomb Group, who later



These are among the many Allied airmen smuggled through Liège, Belgium during the war.

Standing, from left: Jim Goebel, later named president of AFEES, Joseph Pavelka, Philip Solomon and Donald Brinkhurst. Taking a knee: Bob Tucker, Jack Holton and Charles Westlerlund

SUMMER 2011

became President of AFEES.

After the war Roger visited Goebel and his family at their home in Conroe, Tex. Also 1st Lt. Ernie Fitzpatrick, T/Sgt Walter Swartz and T/Sgt William Schack of the Carpetbaggers (801st/492nd Bomb Group - OSS) were also sheltered in this house.

I have pictures with the names of Allied airmen who were sheltered. The pictures were made in the old firemen station (close to the Cloister) just before American forces liberated Liège.

The Gestapo tried to penetrate the Cloister. When a new evader arrived, the three resident Carpetbaggers, Fitzpatrick Swartz and Schack, had doubts about him. Lucien Theelen was contacted and confirmed their suspicions. It was decided the newcomer would be evacuated by three guides. They had drawn lots to determine who would terminate the newest arrival.

They took the suspicious man out of the valley towards Oreye. When all four were on the rear platform, under cover of the night, the guide shot the undercover Gestapo man in the back of the head.

Back in Liège, Theelen was prepared for the worst and had the airmen transferred to a firehouse in the Rue Hors-Chateau. The next morning, the Gestapo stormed the cloister residence and arrested Mrs. Hosdin. She resisted their hard questioning and was transferred to a German concentration camp, from which she happily returned in June 1945. The Gestapo had missed the Jews hiding next door!

The MNB was well organized, and superbly managed the movement of "parcels" in and out of the city.

Through friends in the Liège Judiciary Police, they managed to acquire a four-passenger car identical to the police's own car. They also obtained duplicate "police" papers for the vehicle.

Men were brought into town, one or two at the time, conveniently handcuffed in the backseat. If the car was stopped, the Germans would think these were real police bringing in arrested felons.



Roger Jamblin

The trick never failed. "Ach, so, mehre Gefangene!" (Oh, more prisoners!). On the way out of town, the problem was different since they were escorting men in larger groups toward the north of France. For those trips the MNB used a truck identical to those used by the Red Cross.

The men would wear Red Cross arm bands and travel under the tarp as if en route to a bomb site. They carried false papers that identified them as Red Cross volunteers, and the truck, being an exact duplicate, looked genuine enough. This trick also never failed Roger Jamblin or Franz Cauberg the driver.

Roger often told me these stories. However, don't think that these patriots and their charges moved without apprehension!

Experience and organization were not always sufficient protection from experienced police and traitors. The MNB group Liège was extremely lucky, when it was penetrated by a Belgian Gestapo agent, he left the Gestapo and sold two names of German operatives.

The group arrested, both of them, one in the town and one in Coo (Ardennes). The original military booklets of these two Nazi spies are in Liège MNB Archives.

Results achieved by this group were remarkable, especially considering the number of airmen helped.

Roger was never arrested. In 1948 he was awarded the Medal of Freedom, which was presented by

Admiral King (former commander of the American Pacific forces), who was the US Ambassador to Belgium. He also was honoured by the Belgian government.



New Members

Mrs. Carolyn Delmar
5510 Rancho Dr
Needville, TX 77461-8853
Charles Compton's daughter
(#566)
281-344-9679
mizccd407@yahoo.com

Mr. Geoffrey Ives
7415 N. Obegon Dr
Tucson, AZ 85704-3125
Researcher David Lloyd Butcher
520-308-5843
ives-geoffrey@yahoo.com

Ms. Mary Ann Krol
9 Jasmine Lane
Pasco, WA 99301-3284
Ted Krol's daughter (#1017)
509-528-5327
mkrolsinclair@msn.com

Mr. Howard Snyder
865 Belli, Apt#B
Reno, NV 89502-2545
Howard Snyder's grandson
(#1568)
uclasny@gmail.com

Mrs. Nancy Krol Wright
20142 Vintage Ln
Huntingdon Beach, CA
92646-4532
Ted Krol's daughter (#1017)
714-964-2410
wotanbarga@aol.com

Sons use book to honor father, Henry Woodrum

*From the Record Searchlight
Redding, Calif.
Dec. 10, 2010*

Mike Woodrum quickly warms and comes to life when he talks about the book he and his brother just published to honor their father's legacy.

Woodrum, co-owner and longtime bartender in Redding, has become a historian of sorts as he and his brother, Hank, delved into the story of their father, Henry C. Woodrum, a battle-scarred hero who fought in World War II.

Henry Woodrum wrote "Walkout" before he died in 1990. The book is an account of Henry Woodrum's time in German-occupied Paris during World War II in 1944. He worked on the book during the course of many years and finished the project in the 1980s.

Mike Woodrum said the book is an effort of love, respect and honor.

"I first read the book when I was in my early 20s and as I got older it meant more and more to me," Woodrum said. "I knew that we had to get it published for Dad. As a bartender, I would give anything to sit down and have a drink with Dad and talk about all of this."

The book details Henry Woodrum's war adventures and also serves as a thanks to the many people who helped him survive in war-torn France.

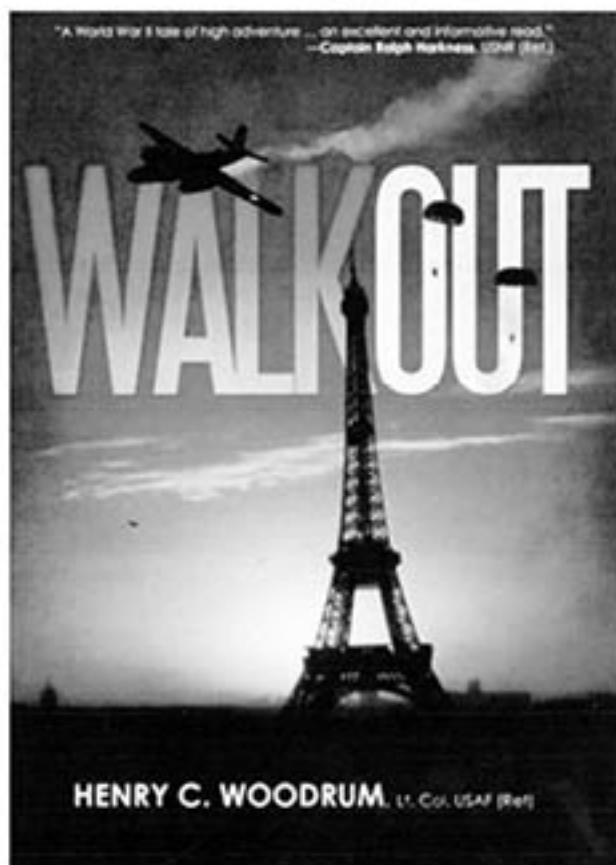
"Walkout" has gained the respect of members of the military, including retired U.S. Air Force Reserve Col. William F. Nicol, who wrote, "'Walkout' is a true story of a B-26 pilot's escape from the Nazis after bailing out over Paris. It is a must read!"

The book starts explosively, with Henry Woodrum getting shot down over France during his 35th combat mission. After avoiding German gunfire aimed at his parachute, Woodrum landed in the backyard of a home and quickly assumed the role of a painter to avoid capture by German soldiers going door-to-door hunting for him.

Woodrum was forced to do whatever he could to



***B-26 pilot bailed out over Paris
and helped the Resistance***



keep on fighting and not get captured. He took up residence in resistance camps, relying on the help of French citizens who were part of the French Underground. He trained Allied troops to fight. He even played along as a 7-year-old French boy explained to a soldier that his "father" was deaf to help Woodrum avoid capture.

According to Hank Woodrum Jr., his father's story is one that he could definitely see Hollywood taking an interest in.

"Dad was in Hawaii during the Pearl Harbor bombing on Dec. 7, 1941, was part of the Berlin Airlift and he witnessed the liberation of France first-hand," Hank Woodrum Jr. said. "His whole story is very interesting."

The name Woodrum now graces the street surrounding the Redding Municipal Airport and was named after Henry Woodrum Sr. after he retired as the city's airports manager.

Other people noted in the book are Clair Engle, a U.S. senator who corresponded with the Woodrum family, and who now has a park named after him in Shasta Lake City. Edith Hemstead-Woodrum, the mother of Henry Woodrum Sr. and the first woman to vote in Redding, is also featured. The Woodrum family has called Shasta County home since the 1800s.

Henry Woodrum Sr.'s war story was included in the best-selling book, "Is Paris Burning?" by Dominique Lapierre and Larry Collins. In 1964, he was one of only two foreign soldiers invited back to France to take part in celebrating the 20th anniversary of France's liberation.

VA enhances existing services for veterans and caregivers

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Department of Veterans Affairs officials published May 3 the interim final rule for implementing the family caregiver program of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act 2010.

This new rule will provide additional support to eligible post-9/11 veterans who elect to receive their care in a home setting from a primary family caregiver, officials said.

"We at VA know that every day is a challenge for our most seriously injured veterans and their family caregivers," said VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki. "I know many veterans and their family caregivers have been waiting anxiously for this day, and I urge them to get their applications in as soon as possible so they can receive the additional support they have earned."

Additional services for primary family caregivers of eligible post-9/11 veterans and service members include a stipend, mental health services, and access to health care insurance, if they are not already entitled to care or services under a health care plan. Comprehensive caregiver training and medical support are other components of this program.

Officials said the program builds on the foundation of caregiver support now provided at VA and reflects what families and clinicians have long known: that family caregivers in a home environment can enhance the health and well-being of veterans.

Veterans may download a copy of the family caregiver program application (VA CG 10-10) at www.caregiver.va.gov. The application enables the veteran to designate a primary family caregiver and secondary family caregivers, if needed.

Caregiver support coordinators are stationed at every VA medical center and via phone at 877-222-8387 to assist veterans and their family caregivers with the application process.

"Providing support to family caregivers who sacrifice so much to allow veterans to remain at home surrounded by their loved ones, is very important to us at VA," said Deborah Amdur, VA's chief consultant for care management and social work. "We offer a range of caregiver support services including training, counseling and respite care to ensure that our caregivers have the tools and support they need to continue in their care giving role. We appreciate the patience, support and assistance we have received from veterans, veterans service organizations, and the greater caregiver community in shaping this program and bringing this new VA program to our wounded warriors and their dedicated family caregivers."

Caregivers for veterans of all eras are eligible for respite care, education and training on what it means to be a caregiver, how to best meet the veteran's care needs, and the importance of self-care when in a care giving role.

The full range of VA services already provided to caregivers will continue, and local caregiver support coordinators at each VA medical center are available to assist family caregivers in identifying benefits and services for which they may be eligible.

Art Jibilian:

Part of WWII team that rescued many airmen in Yugoslavia

By Jack Kelly, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
March 23, 2010

During World War II, Art Jibilian was part of a three-man special operations team that helped rescue 513 Allied airmen from Nazi-occupied Yugoslavia. Mr. Jibilian died Sunday of leukemia at his home in Fremont, Ohio. He was 86.

Mr. Jibilian was the radio operator on the team, which was led by Ambridge native George Vujnovich. The team was dispatched from the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the forerunner to the CIA, which joined forces with Gen. Draza Mihailovich and his Chetnik guerrillas. The third member of the team was Johnstown native George Musulin, who played tackle on the University of Pittsburgh's 1936 Rose Bowl team.

The story of Operation Halyard, the greatest rescue of downed American airmen in World War II, was told in the Post-Gazette July 31, 2009. It was hushed up for decades because it was Allied policy to support Josip Tito in his struggle with Gen. Mihailovich, a royalist, over the shape of postwar Yugoslavia. The State Department had even opposed undertaking the rescue mission.

Mr. Jibilian, Mr. Vujnovich and Mr. Musulin and many of the pilots Gen. Mihailovich rescued tried for many years to right what they considered a historical wrong. Even while battling cancer, Mr. Jibilian traveled around the country to speak about the injustice he said was done to Gen. Mihailovich.

Rep. Bob Latta, R-Ohio, last summer introduced a resolution calling for awarding the Medal of Honor to Mr. Jibilian for his service in Yugoslavia.

Art Jibilian, who died Mar. 21, 2010, was interred at Arlington National Cemetery on May 5, 2011 in the Columbarium with Navy honors.

-FOLDED WINGS-

1st Lt. James C. Boornazian, 15th AAF, 451st Bomb Group, 725th Bomb Squadron, Gioia del Colle, Italy: passed away on 7 February 2011. Jim was trained as a navigator. On February 25, 1944 his crew had to use a standby B-24, "Wee Willie" which put them in the "Tail End Charlie" position.

They were at about 21,000 feet passing over the Alps without fighter escort when ME-109s approached, using a new strategy of staying out of range of our machine guns (about 1500 yds.) so our gunners could not fire at them. The Germans could fire their 20mm and 30 mm cannons into the formation while staying out of range.

His bomber was damaged by exploding shells and couldn't maintain air speed. The fighters flocked to them and soon they were on fire.

He put on his parachute and bailed out. Just as he reached a tree, some men were below him with guns. So he raised his hands and said, "American, American." Then they went to a small village and Jim was interrogated by the leader of the Partisans.

They put Jim on a horse and in the late afternoon they started out. Sometime during the midnight hours, they reached a building on the top of the mountain which was the spot for the English officer, Captain Davis, who had parachuted into that area several months before. He had a radio and he would contact London and Cairo. Jim spent about three months with the Partisans and finally was taken to the headquarters of Marshall Tito. After about a week a DC3 from Bari came to the airport and Jim was evacuated.

As an aside, the son of Winston Churchill was in the airplane with Jim.

E&E#391 S/Sgt. Clifford Hammock, 8th AAF, 384th Bomb Group, 546th Bomb Squadron, Grafton-Underwood, England: died on 2 February 2011. Cliff flew his 11th mission as a tail gunner. His formation made four runs before bombing a ball bearing plant at Stuttgart, Germany.

On the return trip his B-17 lost a supercharger on engine#2, causing them to fall behind the formation. The bail out order was given and everyone bailed out with the exception of the ball turret gunner, James Redwing who was killed.

Sgt. Hammock landed and walked for several hours before making contact with Mme. Boullett, who was tending her sheep. She sheltered him for about one month before Marcel Hitow housed him for two months. In January Sgt. Hammock was taken to Lavelanet, France.

From there USAAF T/Sgt. Joseph Shandor (#373), USAAF Lt. Jean Pitner (#375), USAAF Lt. Arno Plischke (#376), RAF Sgt. Kenneth Skidmore, RAF Sgt. Robert Griffiths and Clifford would start the final leg to freedom. On 14 January 1944 the six airmen met the two smugglers who would guide them over the Pyrenees and started walking through the snow towards Andorra. On the 17th of January they arrived in Andorra. Shortly before midnight on January 19th, they were driven a short distance and then crossed the river into Spain by climbing underneath the bridge.

After another five hours of walking they arrived at a safe house in Spain. On the 23rd the six airmen made a nine-hour trip by lorry to the Barcelona British Embassy.

NOW HEAR THIS!

The Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society has been like many families and organizations lately, facing budget challenges. The biggest expense facing AFEES is the cost of the quarterly newsletter, due to rising printing and mailing costs.

Therefore, the AFEES Board of Directors is testing a voluntary electronic version of the newsletter. This June issue is being sent electronically to some members on a trial basis.

AFEES will email an electronic copy to anyone who requests it and provides a working email address.

Any member who would prefer to receive the newsletter via the computer should email Membership Chair Richard Shandor at <rshandor@hotmail.com>.

Be assured that a print version of the newsletter will continue!

Electronic copies are delivered almost instantly, with no postal delay. Overseas members would not have to wait a month to receive the newsletter; and this would save AFEES over \$10 per member per year for issues mailed outside the U.S.

With the digital newsletter, AFEES will be able to archive newsletters on our website, making it easier to access past issues and furthering our education goals to ensure: "We will never forget."

Please send roster changes to Richard Shandor!

***AFEES membership dues are \$20 per year; \$50 for three years.
Changes of address a/o telephone # and checks (payable to AFEES)
should be sent to***

***Richard Shandor, PO Box 254, Cresson PA 16630-0254;
Phone: 814-886-2735; <rshandor@hotmail.com>***

Name _____ Amount enclosed _____

Street address or other _____

City and State _____ 9 digit zip code _____

Phone _____ Email _____ at _____

Related to Evader? Yes ___ No ___ Relationship _____ Evader's name _____

Are you a Veteran? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, what Branch _____ Years _____

Prefer to receive *Communications* electronically -- Yes ___ No ___

Other comments _____

The editor has the last word

By LARRY GRAUERHOLZ
<afees44@hotmail.com>

WICHITA FALLS, Tex. -- Ready or not, AFEES is keeping up with modern technology. *Our newsletter is going digital!*

To some of you geezers like me, that means that you can access the newsletter on your computer. That move will result in a considerable saving in printing and mailing costs.

For those of you still mired in the pre-Internet age, a print version will be continued, at least as long as the current editor has a say in the matter. For details, see Page 31 of this issue.

It was assuring to have more evaders/helpers in San Antonio than we had a year earlier in Colorado. To say that all had a good time is an under-statement. The venue right on the famous River Walk kept us in the middle of the action for Fiesta Week. And attending graduation at Lackland brought back memories of our days on the drill field.

The Kanas City tourism folks would like to have us there in 2013. For more, Google <MeetKC.com>.

Wannabee on tv? Here's your chance:

The Collings Foundation is pitching THE LAST LIBERATOR as part of a series to a couple of major networks. They are needing B-24 and B-17 crewmembers to take part in a series of interviews.

If interested, send a brief biography and picture to Hunter Chaney at <hchaney@collingsfoundation.org>

Don Lasseter, Friend member who has made many reunions, reports that he recently completed his 20th book. Personally, his *Their Deeds of Valor* (2008) is one of the best collections of evasion stories I have read.

His website, which lists all his book titles, is <donlasseter.com>

Their numbers are decreasing, just

like ours, but RAF Escaping Society (Australia) members are planning at least one more reunion. It will be at Brisbane on Sunday, Sept. 25.

Closest I ever got to Brisbane was in late '44 when I was assigned to the Ferry Command, delivering B-25s to Townsville. It was the chance to test my navigational skills by finding those islands out in the Pacific. Main excitement was hitting a frigate bird on final approach on Canton Island, rather than German .88s.

They earned the nickname of "Bloody Hundred" because of heavy losses over Germany. Now they have a website listing names of evaders, addresses and dates. Just try <100thbg.com>

Dr. Milan Buros, Balkan helper who now lives in Germany, has written to say how sorry he was that he could not make the San Antonio reunion.

He says, "In those cruel times of WWII, we in Eastern Europe were on the Nazi's list to be invaded and conquered. It was the heroes from the West who offered their lives to help us."

The late Russ Weyland was helped by some of the Tuskegee Airmen who flew cover for him out

of Italy. So it was of interest to his widow, Francene, to read of the passing of Tuskegee flier Yenwith Whitney, 86, who died in Sarasota, Fla.

Bobbie Ann Mason's novel based on the WWII experiences of her father-in-law, is slated for release June 28.

Entitled *"The Girl in the Blue Beret,"* it is a story detailing the effects of war on the French people.

I hope to have a review in next issue. For more now, Bobbie's website is: <Bobbieannmason.net>

This is another one from Steve MacIsaac:

Three friends from the local congregation were asked, "When you're in your casket, and friends and congregation members are mourning over you, what would you like them to say?"

Artie said: "I would like them to say I was a wonderful husband, a fine spiritual leader, and a great family man."

Eugene commented: "I would like them to say I was a wonderful teacher and servant of God who made a huge difference in people's lives."

Al said: "I'd like them to say, 'Look, he's moving!'"

From
AFEES Publications
PO Box 254
CRESSON PA 16630-0254
U.S.A.

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage Paid
WICHITA FALLS TX
Permit No. 16

Change Service Requested