

THE U.S. AIR FORCES ESCAPE & EVASION SOCIETY **Summer 2012 *Communications***

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June 14, 2012



Col. Anton Den Prijver, an air attaché from the Royal Netherlands Air Force, places one of five streamers as part of a flag-raising ceremony May 11 at the 2012 reunion at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. (Story begins on Page 14.)

U.S. AIR FORCES ESCAPE & EVASION SOCIETY
COMMUNICATIONS
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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 2012
WWII museum
seeks material

During the 2005 Reunion in New Orleans, Dr. Gordon "Nick" Mueller spoke to attendees about the development of the World War II Museum in New Orleans. One building has been completed and three additional buildings are under construction.

Executive Vice-President Lynn David has talked with Dr. Mueller about AFEES and the possibility of having an AFEES exhibit area within the museum. It may be in the area on Resistance.

Dr. Mueller would like AFEES evaders, helpers, sponsors, descendants and friends to send books, videos, DVDs and any other materials directly to his attention at:

Dr. Gordon Mueller
President and CEO
The National WWII Museum
945 Magazine Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

Dr. Mueller will assign a researcher to collect and categorize our material. The researcher will send you a Deed of Gift to sign so that the material may be available for review by qualified individuals. We hope that some of this material will be used to create the AFEES exhibit area.

If you have copies of material that you have previously donated to Air Force Museum in Dayton, the Eighth Air Force Museum in Savannah or the Air Force Academy, please consider sending a copy of the material to Dr. Mueller.

THE PREZ SEZ...

By John Katsaros, EE-755

109 Crosby St., Haverhill, MA 01830 — jkatsaros3@comcast.net

Attendance at the 2012 AFEES Reunion in May 6-13, at Albuquerque, N.M., was less than expected but the program set up by Lynn David and his committee was a great success. Last year the reunion committee promised us reasonable costs for this year at ABQ and they came through for us!

There was close camaraderie among Evaders and helpers — from France/ USA, Marguerite Brouard & Ed Miller and Catherine & Don Thorpe; France/Belgium, Roger Anthoine; Netherlands/No. Carolina, Gabriel & Gene G. Sauer; Netherlands/California, Bruce and Charlotte Bollinger, meeting, greeting and of course reliving their WWII escape and evasion stories.

We enjoyed visiting Kirtland Air Base, shopping at Old Town, viewing the interesting scenery and of course The Sandia Casino. My wife Mary and John Vasquez returned empty-handed. But John's son, Albert, had the big hit, with winnings that paid for their trip.

For over a dozen years, evader Frank Schaeffer has been driving to make every reunion and this year at 91, his trip odometer read over 1500 miles to get to ABQ. A great big thank you/welcome to Scotty David, responsible for recruiting hundreds of new members, who was in attendance. There were many interesting items to report, one of which is the welcoming sight of our 99-year-old evader, Joseph Walters (EE-224)

For the 12th year, Col. Steve Mac Isaac (Ret.) manned the Hospitality Room with help from Bill Donohue and Col. John Larrison USAF (Ret).

In a few weeks 360 letters will be sent to "missing" evaders who receive the quarterly newsletter; the finest mail letter of any military organization. If you have not yet sent Richard Shandor your email address, please do so if you wish to get the newsletter electronically. This would be a big saving for our treasury. It is important for each AFEES evader, relative and friend to fill out the survey regarding your interest in attending next year's reunion. Fill in your choice of one of the four cities suggested for the reunion. You may use the form on Page 31.

Four new members were elected to the Board of Directors: evaders Ed Miller, Robert Wilson, John Vasquez and Canadian Raymond Sherk.

Condolences to our Membership Chairman/Corresponding Secretary Rich Shandor, who received a phone call during the reunion that his mother had suffered a heart attack. She passed away after his return home.

Jesse found friends in Yugoslavia

From the Albuquerque (N.M.) Journal.

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

By CHARLES D. BRUNT

Journal Staff Writer

For a week in December 1944, 20-year-old Jesse Casaus and his nine fellow crewmen sneaked across the Yugoslavian countryside, knowing that capture – or rescue – could be just over the next hill.

Traveling at night in groups of two or three, the crew members of the crashed B-24 Liberator bomber inched their way westward toward the Adriatic Sea where, they hoped, friendly cohorts would help them return safely to Italy.

Had the latter not occurred, the crew's bombardier, retired Air Force Lt. Col. Casaus, 87, would not be attending this week's annual convention of the Air Force Escape & Evasion Society, taking place here Wednesday through Sunday.

If you go

What: Meet and greet members of the Air Force Escape & Evasion Society

When: 4 to 6 p.m. Friday

Where: MCM Elegante, 2020 Menaul NE

Instead of languishing or dying in a POW camp, Casaus survived World War II and the Korean war, returned to his native New Mexico and capped an impressive 27-year career with the Air Force in 1970.

Casaus and other "evaders" will share their stories at a public meet-and-greet from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday at the convention site, MCM Elegante hotel on Menaul just east of University.

Jerri Donohue, an Ohioan helping coordinate the convention, said AFEES was formed to encourage airmen assisted by resistance groups or patriotic nationals of foreign countries – referred to as the



Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Jesse Casaus, 87, of Albuquerque poses with his World War II flight jacket at his home.

airmen's "helpers" – to continue friendships with helpers and comrades alike.

Membership is open to any U.S. or allied airman who was forced down behind enemy lines and avoided capture or escaped from captivity.

Donohue said several "helpers" usually attend the conventions to share their stories with the veterans. Among those slated to be at this year's convention is Roger Anthoine of Peron, France, who was part of the underground from 1941 until 1944.

Anthoine never forgot the airmen he assisted, and he wrote a book, published in French, about Allied fliers who escaped the Nazis and made their way to Switzerland.

Casaus, a bombardier at the time, knows firsthand how important people like Anthoine were to downed pilots and crewmen.

On the morning of Dec. 14, 1944, Casaus and his 783rd Bombardment Squadron's mission was to fly from their base at Pantanella, Italy, across the Adriatic to bomb the Linz-Styer rail yards in Austria, a marshalling point for the German military.

It was his crew's 17th mission, almost halfway to the benchmark 35th mission that would earn them a return to the States.

Things went smoothly until about 10 a.m. "We got hit by anti-aircraft flak from ground fire – German 88s – and immediately lost an engine" Casaus recalled in the comfort of his northeast Albuquerque home. "We fell back from the

squadron and were out there like fish in a barrel for the German fighters.”

A German Messerschmitt ME-109 fighter quickly shot out two more engines, sealing the four-engine B-24's fate.

“The B-24, if it lost that much power, couldn't stay up,” Casaus said. “With three engines out, we had the choice of ditching in the Adriatic Sea which, in December, was very cold and we wouldn't have survived very long. Or we could crash-land in northern Yugoslavia.”

“We were lucky to find a little valley just big enough to crash-land in.”

The impact tore the bomber apart, but all 10 crewman were able to scramble out of the wreckage.

“Thank the Lord, no one was killed – although we got banged up pretty good,” he said. “I still have scars from it.”

The bomber crashed a few miles from Zadar, Yugoslavia, on the Adriatic coast. Preflight briefings had instructed downed crews to head toward the coast and to seek out OSS contacts.

The OSS, or Office of Strategic Services, was a U.S. intelligence agency formed during World War II to coordinate espionage activities and assist Allied troops behind enemy lines.

Casaus said he and his crewmen traveled in twos or threes during the night and hid during the day for nearly a week.

Squadron members had been warned to avoid guerrillas loyal to Gen. “Draza” Mihailovic and to

seek out Partisan soldiers led by Josip Broz Tito.

The advice wasn't much help, Casaus said, because it was hard to determine by sight who were guerrillas and who were Partisans.

Eventually, Casaus noticed a man wearing a cap with a red star pendant. “I knew that had to be Tito's bunch,” he said.

“With my Spanish and their broken Italian, I managed to tell them we were Americans who had been shot down by the Germans, and that we wanted to get to the island of Split. We had been told there was an Allied airstrip there.”

The crew soon was linked up with OSS operatives who returned them to Italy by boat. After reporting to an Army unit at Bari, Italy, they were taken by truck back to Pantanella.

“We thought, mistakenly, that they were going to send us home, but the flight surgeon said we were fit for duty so it was back to flying again,” Casaus said.

He and his crew flew eight more missions before the war ended.

Once back in the States, Casaus joined the Reserves and was called up for the Korean conflict, where he again flew aboard bombers. He remained in the Air Force until retiring in 1970 as a lieutenant colonel.

“The real heroes are the ones we call the ‘helpers,’ ” Casaus said. “They were the ones who helped the downed airmen. If we got caught, we'd have been POWs. But if they were caught, they would be shot and killed. Those people, the ones who set up escape routes ... we owe our lives to them.”

Casaus said he regrets not finding out the names of the people who helped him and his crew avoid capture. “But at the time, we were just worried about surviving. I don't think it occurred to us to ask them who they were.”

Nearly seven decades after those unnamed helpers risked their lives to get him and his fellow aviators to safety, Casaus remains grateful for their efforts.

“I hope they had wonderful lives,” he said.

Last piece of Lowry is given to the city

BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. (AFNS) -- The final 70 acres of the former Buckley Annex was given back to the Denver community during a final transfer ceremony June 1 here.

Denver Mayor Michael Hancock said the old Lowry Air Force Base was once a thriving hub for the United States Air Force and its members, and is now a vibrant and prosperous residential neighborhood.

Work for the redevelopment process started almost immediately after the closure of the Buckley Annex was announced in 2005, according to Montgomery Force, the executive director of the Lowry Redevelopment Authority.

Note: This article appeared on page A-1 of the Albuquerque Journal

Meet/Greet session at reunion reveals some secrets

by Jerri Donohue, AFEES Friend

Vietnam War veterans, high school history teachers and homeschooled children figured among approximately 50 people who attended AFEES first ever Meet & Greet on Friday, May 11 at the MCM Elegante Hotel. Little did I dream that any of these visitors would have their own connections with evaders—incredibly, three of them did!

Albuquerque resident **William Rooyakkers** was a citizen of the Netherlands when the Germans arrested him for ridiculing their military decorations. Rooyakkers escaped and joined an underground unit that helped several downed Allied airmen. He came to the USA right after the war, Anglicized his first name, and ended up in the American army in Korea. This fall, Rooyakkers will travel to Europe for a reunion with his underground comrades. During the Meet & Greet, he swapped recollections with one of AFEES beloved helpers, **Gabe Sauer**, and later spoke with AFEES member **Bruce Bolinger**, the grandnephew of a Dutch helper.

Owen McLaughlin, a 93-year old Army Air Corps veteran, also stopped by. **Daniel McLaughlin**, Owen's brother, bailed out of a burning aircraft over France in May 1944. Daniel McLaughlin eluded the Nazis for several weeks but they eventually captured him. He became one of 168 Allied airmen imprisoned at Buchenwald concentration camp. Daniel McLaughlin survived that hellhole and lived a long life. Owen gave detailed information about his brother Daniel to AFEES member **Elizabeth McDade**, a researcher with a special interest in the airmen sent to Buchenwald.

Richard Mason came to the Meet & Greet hoping to find someone who knew his late father, **Sgt. Horace Mason**, or any crewmember of the "Eight Balls" interned in Switzerland. (The men realized their badly damaged B-24 would never reach its base, and so they crashed landed in a Swiss meadow.) Belgian helper **Roger Anthoine** spent years studying the history of Allied fliers interned in Switzerland. He published a book on the subject in French and will release it in English as ***The United States Army Air Force in Switzerland***. Richard Mason brought two snapshots taken of his Dad and other crewmen during their internment. He lent the pictures to Roger for possible inclusion in the English edition.

Other visitors pored over maps and photographs displayed by **John Vasquez**, **Frank Schaeffer** and **C.B. Screws**. The three evaders traveled by car to New Mexico and therefore did not worry about airlines losing precious mementos. **John Katsaros** showed folks the exquisite medal he received as a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor.

Still other attendees visited with **Ed Miller**, **Ray Sherk**, **Joe Perry**, **Forrest Fenn** and **Joe Walters** at their respective tables. A 95-year old woman held a long

conversation with **Bob Wilson** and a knowledgeable 8-year old boy impressed French helper **Marguerite Brouard Miller** with the intelligent questions he posed.

Many people lingered for the entire two hours, listening to stories reunion attendees hear in the AFEES hospitality suite. This fulfilled one goal of the Meet & Greet: to afford evaders and helpers the chance to informally share their experiences with the public.

A teacher from **Manzano High School** delivered a poster her students had covered with messages of thanks and admiration for evaders and helpers, thus fulfilling the other goal of the Meet & Greet: to give citizens of Albuquerque the opportunity to acknowledge the wartime contributions of evaders and helpers.

The Meet & Greet served its purpose and reaped unexpected benefits. **Jane Binnebose** and I are already planning another one for the 2013 reunion.



The Code Talkers are (left to right) Alfred Newman, Bill Toledo, Jack Jones, Robert Wally and Kee Etsicitty.

Jack Jones gave a brief talk on the history of the Code Talkers and Bill Toledo sang the Marine Hymn in the Navajo language.

Navajo Code Talkers are special reunion guests

Attendees at the Thursday evening Welcome Dinner had a special surprise when five of the Navajo Code Talkers joined the group for dinner as guests of Lynn David.

Vicki Jarvison, who coordinates activities for the Code Talkers, explained that of the 430 men who were trained, less than 50 are still living.

The Code Talkers served in the South Pacific

during World War II. Thirteen were killed in action.

Because of the uniqueness of the Navajo language and the code that was developed, the Japanese were never able to break the code.

After the dinner, many attendees purchased the book "Navajo Weapon" and the Code Talkers autographed their book.



Members and guests who attended the 2012 reunion visited Kirtland AFB on Friday, May 11. Events included an aircraft static display at the 58th Special Operations Wing. Attendees explored the wing's search and rescue aircraft, including an HH60G helicopter.

HIGHLIGHT OF 2012 REUNION

Kirtland is host to vets and guests

*From the Kirtland AFBASE NUCLEUS
May 18, 2012*

By CHRISTOPHER McCUNE

58th Special Operations Wing Historian

The 58th Special Operations Wing hosted a reunion of about a dozen Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society members May 11 at Kirtland Air Force Base.

While largely composed of World War II veterans, the Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society includes flyers shot-down during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. The late Ralph Patton founded the society in 1964, after reconnecting with his French helpers.

In the European theater, British intelligence estimated that the Nazis captured and executed one helper for each airman who crossed Allied lines.

Decades after their evasion experience,

society members remain grateful for the staggering price paid for their freedom. Their motto has always been, "We Will Never Forget."

As is their tradition, AFEES members invited some of the brave men and women who assisted them during their days in hiding, including "Helpers" from France and Holland. An air attaché from the Royal Netherlands Embassy took part in a flag ceremony recognizing the contributions of the veterans.

As part of their visit to Kirtland AFB, the veterans, helpers and their families toured 58 SOW aircraft on static display, witnessed the ceremony and toured the Combat Rescue Training Center and its heritage displays.

In the evening, individual evaders and helpers appeared at the MCM Elegante Hotel in Albuquerque, answering questions and telling stories about their experiences.



Roger Anthione (second from left) Belgian Helper now living in Southern France, was among friends at the 2012 reunion.

Posing with him, from left: Richard Shandor, Roger, Mary (Beanie) Shier, and Mary and President John Katsaros.

Space Command bans A-2 jacket

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. (AFNS) -- Air Force Space Command officials have announced that airmen assigned to the command will cease wearing flight suits, the green flight jacket and the A-2 Leather Jacket by the end of the fiscal year.

The move is designed to standardize uniform wear across Space Command in a resource-constrained environment. AFSPC officials stopped purchasing Flight Duty Uniforms, Desert Flight Duty Uniforms, A-2 Leather Jackets and associated patches for space operators March 14.

The policy affects approximately 1,800 airmen in the Space Systems Operations and Space and Missile Operations career fields.



Dutch Helper Gabe Sauer (left) and William Rooyakkers, a former member of the Dutch Underground, pose with the AFEES flag at the reunion.

Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society Annual General Membership Meeting

May 12, 2012

Albuquerque, New Mexico

President John Katsaros called the meeting to order at 0940 Hours. John welcomed the 48 persons present at the meeting, of which 6 were Escapees/Evaders and 2 were Helpers.

Recording Secretary Betty Hennessy provided copies of the General Membership Meeting minutes of April 16, 2011 and copies of the AFEES Bylaws that were approved at that 2011 General Membership Meeting. Sharon Wilson moved that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Bill Donohue. The motion passed.

The Membership Report was provided by Lynn David on behalf of Richard Shandor. Lynn provided appreciation for the hard work and detailed written report provided by Richard. Lynn stated there are currently 697 members of which 361 are Escapee/Evaders. An additional 177 quarterly newsletters are sent to helpers and others in foreign countries; and 237 Christmas cards were sent to helpers and others in Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom.

The Treasurer's Report was provided by Betty Hennessy who expressed appreciation to Ann Grauerholz for her excellent and dedicated work as Treasurer. Ann was unable to attend this year's annual meeting and resigned from her position. Ann sent all materials to Betty Hennessy, who has accepted the position as AFEES Treasurer.

The balance in the AFEES account when it was received by Betty on May 3, 2012 was \$12,349.58. Donations to AFEES are tax deductible and promote the education goals of AFEES to support the motto: "We will never forget."

A member suggested that AFEES try to find a printing company that would consider donating printing services to save costs on the quarterly newsletter. Sharon Wilson made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Bill Donohue. The motion passed.

John Katsaros introduced four members who had accepted nominations to become Directors on the AFEES Board: John Vasquez, Ed Miller, Bob Wilson and Ray Sherk. Lynn David moved that the new Directors be accepted by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Betty Hennessy. The motion passed.

Lynn David shared information regarding the National WWII Museum in New Orleans LA. *(Details of needs of the museum are presented on Page 2 of this issue.)*

In order to determine the location for the 2013 Annual Meeting, Lynn David created a survey to get membership input. Surveys will be compiled, and the location and date will be announced as soon as possible and posted on <airforceescape>. A concern was brought up by some members that contact information for conference attendees and other members was not provided upon request for the purpose of networking within the organization.

A member pointed out that the Bylaws passed at the Annual Meeting in 2010, prevent the release of contact information without the express permission of the member.

Bill Donohue moved that the AFEES Bylaws Article XI, Records, be amended as follows: *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 outside the membership without the express permission of the member.* The motion was seconded by Don Thorpe. The motion passed.

President John Katsaros extended appreciation to Lynn David for his hard work to support the success of the 2012 Annual Meeting in Albuquerque.

Don Thorpe provided the web site report. He said that information regarding reunions, events and WWII museums will be posted, as well as photos and links to other resources. The newsletter PDF format is difficult to download but is available. Don requested that information be sent to him, including information regarding books that will be written related to AFEES members and events.

Catherine Thorpe suggested promoting the 70 year celebration of 1944. AFEES Annual Meeting information and membership applications are available on the web site. It was suggested that there be a delay in posting the AFEES newsletter on the web site as an incentive to maintain membership.

Heather Steele announced she is researching information related to Robert Sweatt for a book she is writing. She offered to compile names of those in attendance at the Annual Meeting in Albuquerque and to make copies for those in attendance.

Lynn David extended appreciation to Jerri Donohue for the wonderful news coverage of AFEES, and the great success of the "Meet and Greet" event which will now be continued in future annual meetings of AFEES.

Mary Spinning Shier provided information regarding the AFEES items available for purchase to support the organization.

President John Katsaros thanked all who attended the 2012 Annual Meeting and adjourned the meeting at 1029 Hours.

Respectfully Submitted:

Betty Hennessy, Recording Secretary

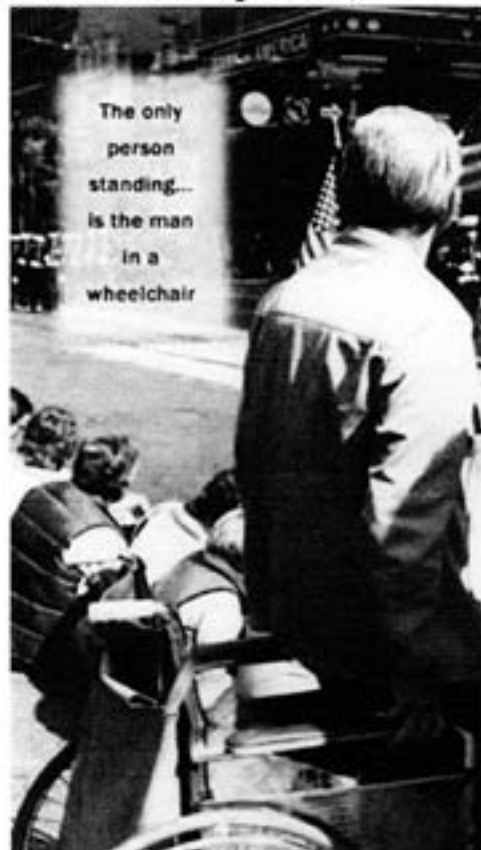


This group photo of tourists hardly qualifies for a military formation, but this gang of AFEES Members, Helpers, Friends and guests, got to kick the tires at Kirtland AFB on Friday, May 11.

(If you made the Kirtland visit, you should be somewhere in this picture.)



Hospitality Room Chief Steve "Mac" MacIsaac welcomes Lt. Col. John Galik, commander of the 512th Rescue Squadron at Kirtland AFB, to the Afees reunion.



AF Tv opens a new edition

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. (AFNS) -- Air Force Television News has released a new edition of Today's Air Force.

Today's Air Force, a 30-minute, weekly news show, can be seen on The Pentagon Channel and American Forces Television Service stations around the world. The show also airs on more than 140 public cable-access stations within the U.S.

To submit a story idea for "Today's Air Force," or for any Air Force News products, send an email to storyideas@dma.mil.



Mary Spinning Shier displays some of the AFEES souvenir items she had to offer at the reunion. Contact her for details.



Ten evaders registered at the reunion this year and most managed to shape up for a photo op. From the left, front row: Joe Walters, President John Kataros, C. B. Screws, John Vasquez, Frank Schaeffer. Back row: Canadian Representative Ray Sherk, Ed Miller, Joseph Perry, Robert Wilson. Missing: Jesse Casaus.

Attaché officers salute WWII vets

On May 11-12, Adjutant Marc Vandenhout, on behalf of Belgian Defense Attaché, attended the annual Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society (AFEES) in Albuquerque, N.M..

Retired US Air Force Colonel, Steve "Mac" Isaac, who took the initiative to invite several European countries to the meeting, welcomed the two attending NATO representatives, Col. Anton Den Drijver, Netherlands Air Attaché, and Adjutant Marc Vandenhout, representing the Belgian Defense Attaché.

After introductions were made, a delegation of Veterans, Helpers, NATO representatives and some family members were taken to Kirtland AFB, 58th Special Operations Wing (58th SOW) by bus.

The 58th SOW trains mission-ready aircrew in Special Operations, Personnel Recovery, Missile Site Support and Distinguished Visitor airlift for the Air and Space Force.

Upon arrival at the flight-line, a C-130, Huey, Black Hawk, and CV-22 Osprey were on display. Their respective crew members answered questions while opportunity was given to explore the aircraft and helicopters inside and out.

Immediately following the static display tour, an official ceremony was conducted. Col. Michael Wormley, Vice Wing Commander, asked Col. Anton Den Drijver to attach the Dutch country, to the AFEES flag. Adjutant Marc Vandenhout was then introduced to attach the Belgian streamer. Colonel Den Drijver also attached streamers from Greece, Denmark and Serbia. A moment of silence and a Military Salute concluded the ceremony.

After the ceremony, a barbecue was hosted by airmen of the 58th SOW Training Center, providing everyone with an opportunity to mingle and socialize.

The barbecue was followed by a visit to the Wing's 342nd Training Squadron - Pararescue & Combat Rescue Officer School.

This squadron trains US Air Force pararescuemen (also known as PJs) and combat rescue officer personnel, who are capable of worldwide deployment for rescue and recovery operations.

Their motto, "That Others May Live" reaffirms the pararescueman's commitment to

Ed and Margaret Miller of Sedona, Ariz., pose at the reunion with Marc Vandenhout, financial officer of the Belgian attaché's office in Washington, D.C.



saving lives and self-sacrifice. Without them, thousands of service members and civilians would have been unnecessarily lost in past conflicts and national disasters.

"After today's visit, I gained a great appreciation for the existence of the 58th SOW and their mission. This wing was activated in response to hard lessons learned from crash-landed airmen during WWII. This is a perfect example of how actively responding to lessons learned can contribute to success in the future." stated Adjutant Vandenhoudt.

Saturday morning started with an emotional memorial service to honor various WWII heroes who had impacted the lives of AFEES members and their families. All attendees were given the opportunity to light a candle and share the names of those who they were honoring.

In the evening, everyone rejoined in the Embassy Ballroom of the MCM Elegante Hotel for a formal banquet. Colonel Mac Isaac and Adjutant Vandenhoudt had the honor of presenting The Colors to open the banquet.

Lt. Col. John Galik, Commander of the 512th Rescue Squadron, was keynote speaker of the evening. He shared impressive personal experiences from his successful rescue missions during numerous deployments.

Adjutant Vandenhoudt was also given an opportunity to address the veterans and their families. He shared some personal WWII stories told to him by his grandfather who resided in Belgium during the war. He also mentioned the story of Roy Johnson, a U.S. pilot who was shot down in St. Vith, Belgium, on Christmas Eve 1944.



His remains were reunited with his family 67 years later on Jan. 5, 2012.

The annual AFEES meeting came to a close after viewing a segment on the local news channel, highlighting the memorial service from earlier that morning. The 2012 AFEES Reunion was attended by 10 evaders, 3 helpers and about 25 family members.

"This event was very emotional and enriching for all attendees. I met a lot of interesting people and some real heroes. On my way to Albuquerque, my flight was delayed several times. I was hoping not to encounter similar problems on my way back to Washington, D.C. But who am I to complain, after hearing the stories of these true heroes!" remarked Adjutant Vandenhoudt.

*Related Photo
on Front Page*

Registration list of those who attended reunion

David Allison, Roger Anthoine, William and Jane Binnebose, Bruce and Charlotte Bolinger, Floyd and Doris Carl, Jesse Casaus, Chris Common, Jim David, Lenora David, Lynn David, Bill and Jerri Donohue, Margaret Carlson Fricke, Betty Hennessy, John and Mary Katsaros, John Larrison, Betty Binnebose Lewis, Ann Lukacs, Steve Mac Issic, Elizabeth McDade, Ed Miller, Marguerite Brouard Miller, Jeff Miller, Diana Morgan, Perry, Joseph and Lupe Perry, Eli and Jane Rakas, Gabriel and Gene Sauer, Frank Schaeffer, Nancy Costello Scovill, Dennis Scovill, Charles Screws, Vernell Curry Seals, Richard Shandor, Raymond Sherk, Mary Spinning Shier, Jorge Spaeni, Heather Steele, Don and Catherine Thorpe, Albert Vaasquez, John Vasquez, Joseph Walters, Veverly Patton Wand, John and Michelle White. Robert and Sharon Wilson, and Mary Wolfner



Joe Walters, still spry at 99, had a chance to visit at the reunion with Col. Michael "Gumby" Wormley, vice commander, 58th Special Operations Wing, Kirtland AFB. S/Sgt. Joe (E&E 224) 381st BG, bailed out of his B-17 on the infamous Schweinfurt raid of Aug. 17, 1943. He landed in a tree near Boirs, Belgium, made his way via Paris and Bordeaux to Seville, Spain, where he arrived on Oct. 5.



HOWDY, Y'ALL —Canadian Representative Ray Sherk (RCAF Evader) and Diana Morgan, long-time AFEES friend living in the London area, were with us again this year for the reunion.

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Kirtland officers receive the DFC

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. (AFNS) -- Capt. Christopher Palmer, 512th Rescue Squadron, chief of standardization and evaluation, and Capt. Marcus Maris, 512 RQS, student flight commander, were presented the Distinguished Flying Cross by Col. James Cardoso, 58th Special Operations Wing commander, during a Warrior Call on April 20 at Kirtland Air Force Base.

Both officers were recognized for actions while deployed to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Both Airmen piloted the HH-60G Pave Hawk while there. The operations cited occurred while they were both deployed to a forward operating base in November 2010.

Maris distinguished himself during a mass-casualty evacuation mission in Watapur Valley, Afghanistan, on November 14, 2010. As the pilot of an HH-60G Pave Hawk, he flew in extreme mountainous terrain and performed a precision hover and hoist while under enemy fire. During this maneuver, three pararescuemen were lowered to the ground. After that he departed to rejoin his wingman in a defensive pattern overhead.

Once the casualties were ready for evacuation, Maris and his crew returned to the landing zone to evacuate 11 casualties and bring in medical supplies.

"It was a great honor getting the DFC," said Maris. "I felt a little emotional on stage, reliving the mission. It brought back memories from flying that day. We did what needed to be done to help those people on the ground. This is a win for the rescue community. It lets everyone know what combat search and rescue is all about."

Maris said that the HH-60G had a

This article was first published in NUCLEUS, the base newspaper at Kirtland.

crew of four for that mission and also carried three pararescuemen.

Palmer took part in two mass-casualty evacuation missions. He flew one on Nov. 12 and then was part of the same mission Maris was on Nov. 14. While on the first mission a crew member was wounded and the primary flight controls were damaged. After bringing the wounded crew member back to base and despite the aircraft's degraded capabilities, Palmer and his crew returned to the landing zone to continue their mission. During the second mission, he engaged the enemy to provide cover for the other aircraft while it was lowering the pararescuemen. His fire suppression allowed for vital medical supplies and care to be provided to those injured on the ground and then their evacuation.

Both officers will help train the next generation of rescue pilots and both are in line to be promoted to major.



Evader John Vasquez, 15th AF, 97th BG, attended the reunion with his son, Albert. John now lives in Irvine, Calif.



This trio of WWII Helpers probably had a lot to talk about at the Albuquerque reunion. At the left is Gabe Sauer, who now lives in North Carolina. He is shown here with Margaret Miller, now of Arizona, and Roger Anthoine, Belgian Helper now living in southern France.

AF leaders issue Memorial Day message

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz send the following Memorial Day message to airmen of the U.S. Air Force and their families:

"On May 30, 1868, the first official Memorial Day observance was held at Arlington National Cemetery to honor over 20,000 soldiers of the Civil War. Today, Memorial Day serves as an opportunity to pause and remember the sacrifices of more than one million Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who have given their lives to secure our freedoms.

"As we remember our fallen, captured, or missing service men and women, we also express our deep gratitude to those who are currently defending our Nation. Today, more than 33,000 Airmen are deployed around the world, while over 134,000 provide global support from their home station. Among our all-volunteer force, 68 percent of airmen joined the Air Force after 9/11, and have never known a peacetime military. The men and women who answered the call by saying, "Send me," truly exemplify Service before Self.

"In addition to recognizing the service of our fellow airmen, we also pay tribute to the families of those who have fallen or who have been wounded while serving our country. For these families--the husbands and wives, sons and daughters, mothers and fathers--every day is Memorial Day. We will not forget those whom our fallen, captured, or missing service men and women left behind, and to whom our debt of gratitude can never be repaid.

"On this day of remembrance, as we honor those who have given "their last full measure of devotion" in service to our nation, let us renew our commitment to military family survivors, as well as to our wounded warriors and their families. To all airmen, whether serving at home or abroad, please know your sacrifices do not go unnoticed. We are grateful for your service and are privileged to stand with you, by you, and for you."

B-17

Flying Fortress
Association



'SPLENDOR IN THE SKIES'

Echoes from the past

A book by Don R. Hayes, president and editor
of the B-17 Flying Fortress Association

PO Box 3398

Walla Walla, WA 99362

SUMMER 2012



AF legend dies

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- A retired Air Force general who was known as the father of "strategy to task," and was instrumental in the development and implementation of new weapon systems during the last half of the 20th Century passed away April 25, at the age of 96.

Retired Lt. Gen. Glenn A. Kent spent more than three decades as an Army Air Corps and Air Force officer, becoming influential in the development, analysis and implementation of new weapons systems for the Department of Defense. He retired from the Air Force in 1974 as the director of the Weapon Systems Evaluation Group, Office of the Director of Defense Research and Engineering, with the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Kent was considered to be one of the premier analytical thinkers of all time and considered a visionary of defense analyses still in use today. In his memoir "Thinking about America's Defense," Kent provided a summary of national security issues he personally engaged over his career.

In addition to creating the concept of a single integrated operation plan, Kent also led DoD's official assessment of strategic defenses throughout the 1960s and helped bring new weapon systems to life.

Kent began his military career in 1941 when he joined the Army Air Corps as a cadet and completed training in meteorology at the California Institute of Technology in 1942. His first assignment took him to Goose Bay, Labrador, Canada, as a weather officer, and later during World War II was assigned to Greenland in a similar capacity.



Bay-Bee crew cited at Pooler

By BETTY BINNEBOSE LEWIS
<bttyjl49@aol.com

After the AFEES 2010 reunion in Colorado Springs, the Our Bay-Bee Crew kids stayed in touch and worked together to do a memorial for Our Bay-Bee and her crew.

I worked as the liaison between families of the crew and Peggy Harden at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum at Pooler, Ga..

Just below "our plaques" is one for Anne Brusselmans. Yvonne Daley-Brusselmans was able to have a plaque for her mother placed here as Hank Sarnow and Martin Minnich were two of her "boys". We hope to have a dedication for the memorial in Pooler in 2013, the 70th anniversary of when the plane was shot down.

Last I heard there were still 11 spaces left before the wall is completed. I believe after this wall is finished, the Mighty Eighth is discontinuing the Wall of Valor program which is where the memorial is located.

THE FLAG OF FREEDOM

In the Andorran Embassy in New York there is a small Andorran Flag encased behind glass with a plaque explaining its recent adventures.

On the infamous day when the Twin Towers were destroyed by terrorist attacks and reduced to charred rubble due to the explosions and the fierceness of the fire, there was very little left to salvage.

One of the towers that was destroyed had housed an International Centre, where every flag of every country belonging to the United Nations was hoisted. Following the carnage the New York fire brigade found only one flag left intact.

That flag was retrieved and purposely placed in the city mortuary along with the many bodies. It was then later delivered by the authorities to the Andorran Ambassador with some ceremony.

It is not understood how the flag could possibly survive, but survive it did.



Lenora (Scotty) David lights a candle at the Memorial Service on Saturday morning at the Albuquerque reunion.

An airline story of great heroism

From the Flying Fortress Newsletter, March 2012

Reprinted from the 91st Bomb Group

Newsletter, October 2007

Submitted by Joe Harlick

About an hour into this particular flight, the Captain's voice rang over the intercom. He asked if there was a physician or nurse on the plane. If so, he asked them to identify themselves by ringing the flight attendant call button beside their seat. I listened carefully but heard no one ring their bell. I immediately began to wonder what was happening.

In a few minutes, the Captain informed us that there was a medical emergency onboard and asked again if there was a physician or a nurse who could help. When there was no response, we were told that we were going to make an emergency stop in Denver, Colorado.

He apologized but told us that there would be a medical emergency team waiting to meet us at the gate, and that we would probably only be delayed by about 30 minutes.

About half an hour later, we landed at Denver International Airport and the medical crew immediately came on board.

However, everything took longer than had previously been expected. An elderly gentleman, about 85 years old, had suddenly taken ill. It was not clear whether he had experienced a stroke or a heart attack. Even after the gentleman was carried off of the plane, we still sat there for quite a while.

The original "short" stop turned into about an hour and a half. When we finally pushed back from the gate and were in the air, the pilot apologized profusely for the unavoidable delay.

He said that since the stop had taken longer than expected, those passengers who needed to make connections in Atlanta would miss their flights, but would automatically be booked on the next flight out. You could almost hear the moans and groans throughout the airplane of everyone who was being inconvenienced by the unexpected stop.

Then the pilot did one of the classiest things

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I have personally ever seen or heard anyone do.

He spoke into the intercom and said, "Ladies and gentlemen, I thought you might be interested in one bit of information. The elderly gentleman who was taken off the plane was a Marine in WWII. I am holding in my hand a copy of the Congressional Medal of Honor that was awarded to him and signed by President Harry Truman in 1945."

The pilot went on to say, "I realize that we have all been inconvenienced today. However, in light of the fact that this gentleman was a war hero and was inconvenienced for four years of his life in order that we might experience the freedoms that we enjoy today, I thought you all should know that."

Immediately, the airplane was filled with applause. Everyone was cheering and so pleased to know that the gentleman had been cared for in a way that was fitting and appropriate.

As we continued to fly, I thought to myself, "Isn't that interesting? We were concerned that we were inconvenienced for a couple of hours, and yet this gentleman's entire life was interrupted and inconvenienced for over four years while he went and fought in a war to protect the freedoms and values that we love and hold dear in this country today."



"Until the lions have their historians,
tales of the hunt shall always glorify
the hunter."

—African proverb

"The best way to have a good idea is
to have a lot of ideas."

—Linus Pauling

(1901-1994)

U.S. chemist

"The secret of managing is to keep
the guys who hate you away from the
guys who are undecided."

—Casey Stengel

(1890-1975)

U.S. baseball player, manager

WWII veterans greeted and honored at Capital

WASHINGTON --(AFNS) -- The Honor Flight Network hosted 169 World War II veterans who were greeted at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport on May 15 as they landed to visit and reflect at memorials throughout the local area.

The Honor Flight Network is a nonprofit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices. Top priority is given to the senior World War II survivors, along with other veterans who may be terminally ill.

The veterans arrived from Florida on two flights and required 195 guardians, support volunteer and medical personnel to make these flights possible.

Upon arrival the veterans, were greeted by 85 military members and their families, the Falls Church Concert Band, and hundreds of bystanders.

These trips give veterans who might not otherwise get the chance to

see the monuments, the honor to see them and the local community the chance to honor the veterans for their service while they are visiting the nation's capital.

Master Sgt. Amy Winn, executive assistant to the Air Force chief of staff, has been greeting the honor flights for the last two years.

"To spend time with our country's greatest generation is so worth it. These men and women did their service not expecting anything in return," Winn said.

With approximately 900 WWII veterans passing away each day, the Honor Flight Network continues to do whatever it takes to fulfill the dreams of our heroes at no cost to them.

"What gets to me the most is that a lot of the vets look at us (greeters at the airport) and they thank us for our service. Their service is honored by current members of the military," Winn said. "I owe it to them. We all do."



Gen. Welsh is next AF Chief of Staff

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta announced May 10 that the president has nominated Gen. Mark A. Welsh III to be the next chief of staff of the Air Force, succeeding Gen. Norton Schwartz, who has served in the position since August 2008.

"I'm tremendously honored and deeply humbled by the nomination to serve as the next Air Force chief of staff," said Welsh, who is currently serving as the U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander.

Welsh entered the Air Force in June 1976 as a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Prior to his current position, he was the associate director of the Central Intelligence Agency for Military Affairs at the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington

Bud, who never made it across, honored at base

By Torsten Ove
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Francis "Bud" Owens, a strapping Lawrenceville boy, left Pittsburgh for the big war in 1942 and became a B-17 gunner.

He never made it home.

The Germans shot his plane down over France in 1943. After four months of hiding from the enemy with the help of the French resistance, he died at 21 while trying to cross the snowy Pyrenees Mountains between France and Spain.

He was buried in Andorra and then re-interred in Belgium in 1951, but for 70 years, no physical marker in the U.S. honored his service or his death. Until now.

Earlier this month, officials at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California gathered to unveil a plaque naming the new 381st Training Group's Airmen Learning Center after Staff Sgt. Owens.

His brother, Jim Owens, 82, of Whitehall, attended the March 9 ceremony with his daughter and two

grandchildren.

"That plaque is the only place in America that shows that Bud even existed," he said this week while poring over yellowed photos and documents. "I'm certainly glad that I went."

Also on hand was Michigan writer Warren Carah, whose father was the co-pilot of Sgt. Owens' plane and whose archival research for a 2006 book led to the Air Force honor.

"We all owe men and women like Sgt. Owens a debt of gratitude for not only the sacrifices they made but the hope their actions engender," he told the crowd.

Sgt. Owens was a member of the 381st Bomb Group - predecessor of the 381st Training Group -- and saved at least two lives in his short career.

In June 1943, the 381st was preparing to leave England for a mission into France when a bomb being loaded onto a plane exploded, leading to a cascade of blasts. Sgt. Owens, who was cleaning the machine guns on his plane, risked his life to pull an injured man to safety. Twenty-three others died.

Raiders mark 70th anniversary

DAYTON, Ohio (AFNS) -- The five remaining members of the famous Jimmy Doolittle Tokyo Raid were honored in a banquet at the National Museum of the United States Air Force here April 19.

Four of the Raiders were in attendance, Staff Sgt. David J. Thatcher, Maj. Thomas C. Griffin and Lt. Cols. Richard E. Cole and Edward J. Saylor. The fifth, Lt. Col. Robert L. Hite, was unable to attend for health reasons.

The banquet commemorated the 70th anniversary of the Doolittle raid, where the crews of 16 B-25 bombers took off from the deck of the USS Hornet and dropped bombs on several locations in mainland Japan. After the mission, the crews didn't have enough fuel to return home and 15 of the B-25s were either crash-landed in Japanese-occupied China or abandoned when their crews bailed out. The final B-25 landed safely within the borders of the Soviet Union and was the only plane to survive the mission.

The mission, though daring, was important because it marked the first time the United States was able to take the offensive against Japan after the Japanese military attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. The raid forced the Japanese to change their tactics and boosted the morale of America and its allies.

"It was a hard mission, but we got away with it," Saylor said, who served as a gunner with crew 15. "And we always knew it would help morale."

The banquet not only honored the brave men of the Doolittle Raid, but gave those in attendance a chance to show their respect and meet the living legends.

"We are honored to host the raiders on the 70th anniversary of such a historic event," said Lt. Gen. (ret.) Jack Hudson, the museum director. "And we are grateful these amazing men chose to come here to commemorate this famous World War II mission."

During the banquet, the raiders were honored with a special movie featuring Hollywood stars such as Gary Sinise and Jon Voight, who thanked the raiders for their service and praised them for their courage.

Several representatives from the Chinese Embassy were also on hand, as well as Hu Daxian, from Zhejiang, China, whose husband, Li Senlin, aided the rescue of Doolittle Raider crew number two, after they landed in Japanese-occupied China.

The banquet culminated a week of events held at the museum and throughout the local area, including a flyover of 20 B-25s, the most in one flight since World War II, and several autograph sessions and luncheons with the Raiders.

Changes/Corrections for AFEES mailing list

TITLE	FIRST NAME	M	LAST NAME	ADDRESS1	CITY	STATE	ZIP
CM SGT	Joseph		Barron	PO Box 900006	San Diego	CA	92190-0006
Mr.	Arthur	A.	Flores	1390 Pin Oak Dr	Gardnerville	NV	89410-7309
Mrs.	Louise		Freeman	1213 Long Meadows Dr.,	Lynchburg	VA	24502-5246
Mr	William	H	Gardener III	400 N. Jefferson St., Apt#63	Wickenburg	AZ	85390-1292
Lt Col	Jeremiah	F.	Hammond	1358 W. Riviera Dr	Mobile	AL	36605-2506
Mrs.	Jeannette		Harris "W "	2543 Stony Brook Ln	Clearwater	FL	33761-2576
Mr.	Colin	N.	Jones	1100 Grand Blvd, Apt#313	Boerne	TX	78006-9261
Mrs.	William		Kosseff "W "	1 Beechwood Dr., Apt#306	Waterford	CT	06385-1229
Mrs.	Margaret		McKillop "W "	18 Damian Ave	Wheeling	WV	26003-6061
Mrs.	Ruth		Oliphint	9404 Mercer Dr	Dallas	TX	75228-4144
Mr	Merlin	B	Smith	117 Hudson Rd	Monroe	LA	71201-5818
Mrs.	Phyllis		Turner	439 E. Salmon River Dr	Fresno	CA	93730-0860
Col	Jay	H.	Williams USAF(Ret)	13725 W. 141st Ter.	Olathe	KS	66062-5318

2012 MEMBERSHIP REPORT					
	LIFE	CURRENT(2011/2012)	PAST DUE	UNKNOWN DUES STATUS	TYPE TOTAL
US MEMBERSHIPS BY TYPE					
EVADERS	205	38	57	61	361
EVADER WIDOWS	59	3		67	129
EVADERS 2ND AND 3RD GEN	29	26	9	5	69
HELPERS	4	1		16	21
HELPER WIDOW/WIDOWERS	1	1		5	7
HELPERS 2ND AND 3RD GEN	2		1		3
FRIENDS	12	13	8	2	35
MILITARY FRIENDS	14	7	8	3	32
UNKNOWN	4			4	8
TOTAL	330	89	83	163	665
US NEWSLETTERS					
POSTAL SERVICE	660				
ELECTRONIC	37				
TOTAL	697	**includes 32 courtesy copies			
FOREIGN NEWSLETTERS	MAIL	ELECTRONIC	TOTAL	CHRISTMAS CARDS	
AUSTRALIA	6		6	2	
BELGIUM	15	5	20	37	
CANADA	23	1	24	24	
FRANCE	69	5	74	109	
GERMANY	1		1	1	
ITALY	1		1	1	
NETHERLANDS	31	5	36	50	
SPAIN	2		2	2	
UNITED KINGDOM	9	4	13	11	
TOTAL	157	20	177	237	

Horses are helping the healing process

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. --

The relationship between man and his horse is a storied one. Winston Churchill once said, "There's something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man." The 19th century novelist Robert Smith Surtees said, "There is no secret so close as that between a rider and his horse." And the 20th century American novelist John Steinbeck said, "A man on a horse is spiritually as well as physically bigger than a man on foot."

For hundreds of years, people have recognized the healing qualities of horses. Here, on the grounds of the U.S. Air Force Academy, equine specialists have taken those healing



qualities to a whole new level with the equine assisted learning experience.

As part of the Warrior Wellness Program, service members can participate in the program as a way to cope with their mental and physical

injuries, especially those that are combat related. Although the bulk of the guests are Soldiers from the southern Colorado area, the program is open to service members from all branches.



To My Fallen Friends

By Richard Pressley, 91st B.G.-401st B.S.

The Lord looked down and saw you fall,
No longer will you answer the flight line call,
Nor near the Flying Fortress engines roar,
Nor see the blood or feel the hate of war.

You ventured forth on a noble quest,
To challenge the Luftwaffe's very best.
The sky was filled with bursting flak,
Followed by whirling Messerschmidt's attack.

They came spurting fire out of the sun,
You were their target, your life was done.
War with its glory, war with its shame,
Wrote you life's last chapter in smoke and flame.

You flew your final mission, without regret,
A mission most mortal men will soon forget.
But rest in peace, you'll receive your due.
For the eternal skies are always blue.

Yes, await God's call, again to fly.
With the angel squadron in the heavenly sky.

The Strange Far-Away Look

By Don R. Hayes—97th Bomb Group

They see the veteran and wonder why,
He spends lots of time looking far away.
The people wonder about it, but don't really care,
In war lingo it's "The Thousand Yard Stare."

He has a sense of going way back in time,
But those around him know not where,
If only they could see up five miles high,
They'd get a glimpse of the "war in the sky."

What went on in battles there was beyond compare,
There was no protection there from enemy fire,
Confined in bombers with only 1/16th inch skin,
But they couldn't let the Nazi enemies win.

Fear and anxiety rode with each of the crews,
So have a little respect for those men who flew,
All the way to the target and back again,
Now reliving their war way up in the blue.



Fighter pilot Bob Izzard dies

Bob Izzard, a decorated World War II fighter pilot who became a pioneer in broadcast news in the Texas Panhandle, died in Amarillo, Tex., Sept. 14, 2011 at age 87.

Izzard (E&E 1123) gave the first televised newscast in Amarillo in the early 1950s.

In the 1980s, Izzard served as news director for KPUR on 1440-AM. Actually, Izzard was the news department of the radio station, said Janice Williams, who worked with Izzard on a morning show.

His delivery was famous. Though he retired 23 years ago, many media personalities still mimic Izzard's dramatic pauses and staccato delivery.

Izzard was an expert on how to tell a story and how to draw people through storytelling, said Jamey Karr, general manager of the The Eagle, 100.9-FM.

"Bob told great, great stories," Karr said. "He didn't read a newscast."

Karr never tired of Izzard, a fighter pilot, 371st FG, in World War II, retelling the experience of being shot down June 8, 1944, over Normandy shortly after the D-Day invasion.

Izzard parachuted into the woods, where he spent a couple of days, said Walt Howard, who made a documentary during a weeklong trip with Izzard to France. A Frenchman, Joseph Bertrand, hid Izzard in his

family's barn and helped him escape.

During the weeklong trip in 2001, Izzard reunited with the daughter of a French resistance chief who helped him out of enemy territory.

Howard, managing editor and news anchor for NewsChannel 10, captured the story in a documentary.

"Bob was a wonderful storyteller," Howard said. "He never stumbled."

Izzard's youngest son, Bill, who now lives near Houston, said his father loved the Air Force, broadcasting, history, the Texas Panhandle and his family. He enjoyed being a grandfather.

Izzard published a dozen books, including "Texas Trails of the Red River War" and "Adobe Walls Wars."

Mary Shandor passes away

Mary C. Shandor, 84, of Cresson, Pa., passed away on May 15, 2012, at Anne Arundel Medical Center, Annapolis, Md.

Born Jan. 25, 1928, in Cresson, daughter of the late Guy and Mary Grace (Machiarola) Albarano. Beloved wife of Master Sergeant Joseph Shandor (U.S. Air Force retired), whom she married on July 15, 1949. He preceded her in death on May 22, 1995.

Also preceded in death by sisters, Palma Dubis and Louise Santa Maria; and brothers, John, Joseph, Francis, Albert and Raymond. Survived by children, Richard (Sarah) Shandor, Karen (Peter) Checca and Michael (Anita) Shandor.

Member of St. Francis Xavier Parish, Cresson, where she was a member of the choir and volunteered with office work and as a church cleaner. Interment was to be made Monday, June 11, at Arlington National Cemetery.

Donations in Mary's memory may be made to the Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society, P.O. Box 254, Cresson, Pa. 16630.



Herbert G. Ruud, 91, passed away in Bothell, Wash., on March 26, 2012.

He was born June 20, 1920 in Osnabrock, N.D. In 1941 he drove across the country to Seattle to be near his brother Sherman (Bud) at Fort Lewis.

Herbert was shot down on Jan. 5, 1944 over France. T/Sgt. Ruud (E&E # 442) engineer with the Richard Stakes crew of the 337th Sqdn., 96th BG, was downed north of Bordeaux by German fighters. He was walked by the French Underground across the mountains to Spain.

He served from 1942 to 1945 in the Army Air Force and returned to Seattle where he lived the rest of his life.

He married Florence Elaine Huffman and was married for almost 50 years.

He was active in the OES, Scottish Rite Masons and the West Seattle Rotary and enjoyed gardening, puttering about and being with his family.

He was preceded in death by his wife and 2 brothers, Kenneth and Sherman.

He is survived by his daughter Katherine (David) Hope; brother, Duane; 4 grandchildren & 3 great grandchildren.

*Sgt. Ruud was engineer/top gunner for the editor's B-17 crew.
May he RIP.*



BOB IZZARD

-FOLDED WINGS-

2nd Lt. Louis R. Head, 15th AAF, 451st Bomb Group, 725th Bomb Squadron, Castelluccio Airfield, Italy: folded his wings on 9 September 2011. He was the co-pilot on a B-24 Liberator. Louis was on a mission to bomb a synthetic oil refinery in Czechoslovakia on 16, March 1945 when his plane went down over Yugoslavia. After losing two engines they are trying to make a friendly air base but when out of fuel, the crew was forced to bail out over Bittac, Yugoslavia. While parachuting down he observed that several of his crewmembers are surrounded by Germans, so he uses his orange life preserver to decoy the Germans. They think he is headed to his crew members, while instead hiding from the Germans. As a result he is the only one of eleven men that evades. His other ten airmen are captured. Five days later he makes contact with Tito's partisans. For more on his evasion see his book, "Dancing in the Dark: Escape and Evasion in Croatia during the Second World War."

E&E#997 2nd Lt. Robert D. Couture, 8th AAF, 355th Fighter Group, 354th Fighter Squadron, Steeple Morden, England: folded his wings on 14 January 2010. On 7 June 1944, Lt. Couture was flying his 12th mission in P-51 "Hat Jane" (#43-6895). While strafing a German convoy near Nogent le Rotrou, he took German anti-aircraft fire, causing him to crash land near Vicheres, France. A hurt and wounded Couture was immediately aided by Maurice Mathieu and then M. Rousseau. They hid him in tall grass. Rousseau made arrangements with M. and Mme. Marcel Rousseau to hide the airman on their farm. Five days later, Robert and Emile Maquaire bicycled 20 kms north to Mme. Celina Houpillard's home. Mme. Houpillard and her sister, Suzanne Maquaireto took care of him for six days. Then M. Renaudon transported him to Chateaudun, where Comet and other groups took over. Robert was the Freteval Forest with 151 other airmen until American forces liberated the camp. In the confusion of the crash, Robert lost a bracelet that Priscilla, his fiancée, had given him. In 1969 Robert and his first wife Priscilla returned to France and the bracelet was returned to him. In 2005 Robert and his second wife, Betty returned to France for the dedication of the "Robert D. Couture Woods", the site where he crash landed. For more on his story see his story in the Turner Air Forces Escape & Evasion book.

#1131 2nd Lt. Paul J. Goldberg, 8th AAF, 364th Fighter Group, 383rd Fighter Squadron based at RAF Honington, England: folded his wings on 18 January 2011. On 10 August 1944 Paul was flying his 42nd mission. His group's mission was in support of operations around Dreux. When his formation went after six Me-109 fighters, Lt. Goldberg's P-51C experienced engine trouble and he turned back. One of the Me-109 shot his fighter, causing him to bail out, landing in the Rambouillet Forest. Once on the ground Rene Loiseaux assisted him and helped him hide from the Germans. Later Rene's father Alphonse and L. Rignier brought him clothes and hid him in a farmhouse near Monfort L'Amaury. On 18 August 1944 American troops arrived and liberated the town. When he returned to France in 1965 he met Rene and Alphonse and was taken to his crash site where his plane wreck still laid in the forest. Paul was reunited with the Loiseaux a second time, when the three attended a 2000 stained glass window dedication at a church in Remy, France. Paul often made light of his "vacation in France" and told the story about his rescue and his hiding from the Germans.

Mary Shandor: folded her wings on 15 May 2012. She was married to the late Joseph Shandor (#373) for over 45 years. As an Air Force wife and mother she lived in Newfoundland and Japan and had traveled to many of the states. Two significant trips she enjoyed were: one to France, to retrace Joe's evasion route and one to Italy, where she met her mother's sister for the first time. She loved to get together with family and often traveled to her children's home to visit and assist them. She enjoyed her gardening and feeding her humming birds. In the last few years she missed attending church due to health issues.

E&E#89 T/Sgt. Ralph McKee, 8th AAF, 305th Bomb Group, 366th Bomb Squadron, Chelveston, England: folded his wings on February 4, 2012. Navigator The 305th Bomb Group turned over the initial point and headed down the bomb run. It was the Fourth of July, 1943 and the target was a German airfield on the outskirts of Nantes, France. While on the bomb run, a piece of flak hit a turbo-supercharger, causing one of the engines to lose power, more damaged to a different engine caused the Fortress continued to fall behind the formation. The German fighters had been waiting for a straggler and now they came in for the kill. One of his gunners shouted jubilantly, "I got one. He's on fire." but the fighters had killed the Fortress. One engine was burning fiercely and there was a fire in the vicinity of the bomb bay. The pilot sounded the bail-out signal on the emergency alarm system. Sgt. McKee bailed out, making a hard landing, fracturing one of his vertebrae, which would bother him for most of his evasion. Once on the ground two teenage French boys came to his aid. One hid his parachute and Mae West life preserver, while the second led him to two bicycles. They rode to a farmer's house about 20 minutes away. They hid him in a hayloft and fed him bread and wine. After they left him, he fell asleep. When he woke up the next morning, he was covered with a U.S. Army blanket. The farmer appeared carrying fried ham and omelet, which was in skillet stamped "U.S. Army". The farmer had fought with U.S. troops in World War I. During the day he hid in a thicket on the farm. After three nights and two days, the farmer hid Ralph under hay in a wagon and took him to a dry spot in a marsh. The farmer gave him cheese, bread and wine and explained that he would like to help more, but the Germans would kill his family, if Ralph was found on his farm. After sunset, he was visited by two young men, Jean and Felix, who brought him food, wine and cognac. They would arrange the next leg of his trip. Two days later, they returned with civilian clothes and three bicycles. They bicycled about 15 miles to a city, where Jean's house was located. The next day, Jean woke him and told him they had another guest coming for dinner. The guest turned out to his pilot, Bill Wetzel. With forged papers, Ralph and Bill were taken by train to Paris. While there two more American airmen joined them, and then they would travel to Mont de Marsan. There their party grew to nine Evaders and two guides. They travel by bus to the Restrictive Zone (special passes required), but when it looked like the bus driver was going to betray them, they got out and walked for two nights and one day. Then a truck was hired, taking them two hours closer to the Spanish border. Walking the rest of the way into Spain, they were eventually captured by two members of the Guardia Civile, who escorted them to a village jail. The next day they were taken to a prison in Pampuna. After about a week an American official arrived and interviewed the Americans. Several days later, a Spanish Air Force officer escorted them to a hotel in a resort town. Next they were taken to hotel in Alahama, then to Madrid and finally to Gibraltar. Ralph said "the courage and fortitude of this group of Frenchmen and other groups like them, symbolized the spirit and determination of a freedom loving people in resisting oppression. For more on his story see the Turner Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society book or Dunbar's "Escape Through The Pyrenees".

Ann Marie Hollway on January 5, 2011. She was born in New York City and raised in Staten Island. Ann graduated from Southern Seminary in 1945. She married William L. Holloway, "the boy next door," on June 24, 1946 and started their adventures in the oil fields of Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, and Oklahoma. Happily married for 54 years, they raised four children and lived in five states, Ann was highly skilled at all types of fine arts and crafts, enjoyed owning two knitting stores, sold real estate, and worked at places where she could meet new friends. Ann was someone who never met a stranger, loved her friends dearly, was sincere, loyal, and a great storyteller, who had a quick wit and a great sense of humor. She also loved hummingbirds, ladybugs, night blooming cereus, crossword puzzles and smiley faces.

#865 1st Lt. John H. Oliphint, 8th AAF, 359th Fighter Group, 369th Fighter Squadron, East Wretham, England: folded his wings on 19 December 2011. On 8 June 1944 on his 67th mission, he was lucky when he survived his plane crash. Lt. Oliphint was flying his P-51, name the "The Mad Rebel", the engine has seized up after overheating due to the radiator being shot up. He suffered multiple broken bones, facial injuries and many pieces of shrapnel in his body. He was trapped in his fighter for four hours until the Germans pulled him out and broke his arm in the process. John was given a shot of morphine and came to the next morning in a German military hospital in La Fleche. Once there a French POW took care of him with medical supplies stolen from the hospital. He also promised John to help him escape when he was well enough to walk. For four days he used his injuries as an excuse to resist questioning by the Germans. The fourth day another Frenchman told him the Germans were going to transport him to an interrogation hospital. Lt. Oliphant told his POW helper and the two of them escaped the next morning. They went to the train station but found that they could not catch one. They then were forced to walk out of town. The occupants of the first farmhouse refused to help. The second one fed them but could not hide them. They did direct them to another farmhouse where John was hid until his journey was arranged. For more on his story see his book, "The Mad Rebel".

2nd Lt. Neal Cobb, 15th Army Air Forces, 464th Bomb Group, 778th Bomb Squadron, Pantanella Airbase, Italy: folded his wings on 7 July 2010. On 7 July 1944 his crew was flying a mission to bomb synthetic oil plants at Blechhammer North, in Germany. His B-24 #42-52489 lost an engine due to flak over the target. Forced to leave formation, they were jumped by some Me-109 fighters and knocking out numbers one and four engines. Their bomber was falling rapidly and the bailout order was given. People witnessing Neal's jump, said that he had bailed out at 500 feet and his chute had opened only fifty feet above ground. Only six men got out, the last four crew members went down with the plane. The six of them were immediately captured. Luckily on Aug. 29, 1944 there was a Slovak National Uprising and all the guards deserted and all the POWs escape in different directions. George Winberg, Frank Soltesz (P-51 pilot), and Cobb traveled together. Frank's parents were from Slovakia so he spoke the language like a native. To get food we would find an isolated farm house and Frank would go up to the door while George and I would stay in the woods. Soltesz would tell them who they were and usually they would get bread and milk. They walked north and east and crossed the Polish border. This was into the Tatra Mountains and getting quite cold, so they turned south and back into Slovakia. Shortly after that we ran into some other Americans and learned of a town where they could get some help. The town was Banska Bystrica and was the headquarters for the Slovak National Uprising. They made it to Banska Bystrica on the 28th of September. On the run for a month, they figured that they had walked between 350 and 400 miles. After their arrival they found that a six man OSS group had landed there on Sept. 17th. The OSS group, was there to aid the Slovak uprising and to help escaping/evading flyers. More and more American airmen were arriving and after a week they were 30 Americans. In the meantime the Germans were trying to shut down the uprising. As it looked like the airport/airbase would fall to the Germans, arrangements were made for the 30 Americans to leave. This occurred on 7 October when six B-17's escorted by 32 P-51's arrived. These bombers brought in 12 more OSS personnel and then flew the 30 airmen back to Italy. Later he learned that the OSS men were captured on December 26th and then executed on 25 January 1945. "Neal always remembered them because without their help he would not be here today." For more on his story see the "The Slovakian Miles".

1st Lt. Leecroy Clifton, 12th Army Air Force, 350th Fighter Group, 347th Fighter Squadron, Tarquinia Airfield, Italy: folded his wings on December 30, 2011. On 22 September 1944 Cliff was flying P-47 #42-27264 while attacking Parma rail yard, he strafed a gun emplacement and his engine was damaged. While returning to base he was forced to make belly landing in the foothills of the Apennine Mountains, where Italian farmers aided him and hid him in a forest. The next day, they moved him up into the hills where his hiding places included a hayloft, a small country hotel and a parish rectory. Lt. Clifton met up with partisans, which included an escaped English POW, who provided Lee with a Beretta sidearm. Then tried to "walk out" and reach British forces, but that failed because the guide got lost. The group of evaders/escapers grew to include a dozen British escaping POWs. They had to split up because it was too large. It was also hard for the civilians to feed such a large group. At one point Lee subsisted on chestnuts for three days. While moving back to Allied lines, he encountered Germans soldiers shaving, but he was wearing grubby civilian clothes and greeted them in Italian, so they didn't stop him. Eventually he met African-American GIs of the 92nd Infantry Division. The outfit had no vehicles and received its supplies by mule. So after a meal of C-rations, Lee had to keep walking getting back to his base only five weeks after his crash landing.

Helper Col. Victor J. Layton folded his wings on 8 August 2010: He was born in Vienne, Austria but his family moved to Paris, France. Growing up he became fluent in German, French and English. In 1940 after German had invaded France, Victor used a false passport to escape via Spain and Portugal and arrived in the United States in 1941. After joining the OSS he eventually became involved with Jedburgh team operations. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions 1944. His citation reads "The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Captain (Corps of Engineers) Victor J. Layton, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Office of Strategic Services, in action against enemy forces on 21 April 1944 to 12 September 1944. After having been parachuted into France, Captain Layton achieved his mission of organization, arming and training resistance forces with extraordinary courage and ability. Despite a large-scale enemy attack which caused the loss of most of the personnel which he had assembled against formidable obstacles, he managed his escape under intense enemy fire, with unabated persistence and coolness, reorganizing his group and led it in numerous successful attacks against the enemy. Captain Layton's unremitting cool, utter scorn for danger and brilliant performance of an extremely hazardous mission are illustrative of the finest military characteristics and do credit both to him and the United States Armed Forces."

Iris G. Bennett: passed away on 11 June 2009. She married George F. Bennett (#650) on September 30, 1949, the same day George was commissioned in the U.S. Air Force. As an Air Force wife, Iris traveled the world with her husband all the while raising their 2 beloved children. A golfer, she loved spending time with her children and grandchildren. Iris had been employed by the Veterans Administration and the General Tire Company.

Helper William "Bill" van Niekerk: folded his wings on 12 December 2010. It was in August 1944 that he and four others (Herman Welp, Jo van Vliet, Wim Hagendoorn, and Lange Wilm) started their underground in Zoeterwoude, Holland. They started out try to find food for starving or dying people. One time they heard of a local farmer selling food on the black market for exorbitant high prices, they decided to teach him a lesson. They had a bunch of Dutch men in German uniforms surrounded the farm while Bill and his group took all his food. They even killed one of his cows and donated it and all of the food to Leiden's biggest hospital. Every week we tried to find a farmer, who would donated one

of his animals, to be butchered for the central kitchen. It was hard to convince some of them that it was for the good of the people and I remember one that did not complain any longer when we showed him the gun that we had in our belt. On average, the farmers did their best to help and alleviate the suffering of the people. Late in 1944 his local village was quite desperate for food to keep their central kitchen going. The northern part of Holland called Groningen was far away and was not heavily populated. While Groningen had potatoes but the trains had stopped running in September 1944. His only hope was to get these potatoes by boat, which would take four days. A permit from the German commander in Leiden was needed and since William was fluent in German, he went to his office and suggested that they needed the potatoes for the 2500 residents of Zoeterwoude. When he found out that the commander was planning on visiting family in Germany for Christmas, Bill suggested that it would be nice to take a big cheese home. The commander issued the permit. On February 22, 1944, an American Liberator bomber crash landed near his village. He rushed to the scene in time to see the crew emerging from the plane. Elmer "Bud" Duerr handed his parachute to van Niekerk before they concealed the crew in haystacks. Bill gave the parachute to Miep, his girl friend and she hid it under her bed for the rest of the war. When the war ended, Miep and Bill decided it was time to get married. There was a shortage of everything, especially material, but Miep, being an accomplished seamstress, knew she could do something special with the silk parachute. She made her wedding dress, silk underwear for Bill and when their first child was born, a baptismal gown from the parachute. After the war they immigrated to Canada. The wedding dress went into storage for over 50 years but one day, Ray Franklin, a Royal Canadian Air Force veteran, learned about the dress and its history. Ray had flown over Holland himself in a Lancaster bomber, making food drops for the starving Dutch people. Franklin suggested that they donate the dress to Calgary's Aerospace Museum. On March 6, 2002 the dress was presented to the museum in a ceremony attended by our family, the Dutch counsel general and a contingent of RCAF veterans. The dress has attracted attention and visitors from all over the world and is an unlikely exhibit in a museum otherwise full of airplanes. Some US Air Force veterans, learning about the donation, recognized the crash landing as that of the "Jolly Duck". The last surviving member of the crew was Elmer "Bud" Duerr of Munhall, Pennsylvania, who had died a few weeks before the donation ceremony. Fanny, his widow, visited them in Calgary to see for herself the wedding dress that her husband's impulsive gesture made possible.

Mary Frances Poole: folded her wings on 6 November 2011. She was married to the late Bernard L. Poole (486th BG). They were married for over 50 years. She graduated from Glenville State College with a B.A. in education in 1949. While she always took pride in being called a teacher, her primary focus in life was being a loving daughter, wife, mother, and grandmother. She was very involved in her children's education and their extracurricular activities. Her greatest joy in life was the time she spent with her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

AL ROBERTS (E&E 1687) 1920-2012: passed away Tuesday, April 17, 2012.

Al had lived in Fort Worth most of his life.

He served in World War II as a bombardier on a B-24, 389th BG. Lt. Roberts, of the Ken Giesel crew, bailed out March 6, 1944, over Boogeveen, Holland, on the First Berlin Mission.

He and his pilot evaded capture with help from the Dutch underground, Belgian underground and French Resistance.

Upon returning home to Fort Worth, Al went to work in the claims department of the Rock Island Railroad and remained with the company for 36 years.

Al was preceded in death by his brother, Lesford, sister-in-law, Connie, and niece, Toni Neil. Survivors: wife of 47 years, Nancy; sons, Allen and Ronald and wife, Mary; daughter Brenda Pardi; and grandsons, Thomas and Timothy Pardi.

AFEES REUNION SURVEY

Do you plan to attend the AFEES Reunion in 2013?

Yes _____ No _____ Uncertain _____

would you like to have the reunion in:

Tampa, Florida

MacDill AFB

Yes _____ No _____

Montgomery, Alabama

Maxwell Gunter AFB

Yes _____ No _____

Charleston, South Carolina

Charleston AFB

Yes _____ No _____

Norfolk, Virginia

Langley AFB

Yes _____ No _____

Name: _____

PLEASE NOTE: If your dues are not current, please consider enclosing a check for dues when you return this survey to Richard Shandor,
PO Box 254, Cresson PA 16630-0254

Please send roster changes to Richard Shandor!

AFEES membership dues are \$20 per year; \$50 for three years.

Life membership of \$100 is only available to "Evaders". Address changes, phone number changes, Email changes and checks (payable to AFEES) should be sent to Richard Shandor at PO Box 254, Cresson, Pa. 16630-2129; His phone number is 814-886-2735, his Email is rshandor@hotmail.com

Name _____ Amount enclosed _____

Address _____

City and State _____ 9-digit zip code _____

Phone _____ E/mail _____ at _____

Emergency Contact Person and phone
number _____

Are you a veteran ? Yes or No; If yes, what branch _____ Date of service _____

Do you wish to receive the e/mail newsletter instead of the Mail copy Yes or No

Comments: _____

The editor has the last word

WICHITA FALLS, Tex.-- For the first time in 19 years, ye editor was not able to make it to the reunion and it still turned out to be a great success!

My lungs could not handle the altitude and we had a recent death in the family.

A total of 57 persons attended the Saturday night banquet, including 9 evaders and 3 helpers.

It was especially good to have present Scotty David, widow of the late Clayton David.. Scotty is famous for her work over the years in locating members of AFEES.

John Vasquez, Ed Miller and Bob Wilson were elected to the Board of Directors, and Ray Sherk, (former RCAF) was named as official Canadian representative and member of the BOD.

YOU can have a voice on choosing the venue for the 2013 reunion. The BOD decided to go democratic --let the people decide. The prospective sites are all near a major air force base and have good airline connections.

See Page 31 for details and information on how to vote.

AIRMAN magazine, the official magazine of the USAF, is now
+++++

IS THAT SO?

The Rev. Billy Graham tells of a time early in his career when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to mail a letter, he asked a young boy where the post office was.

When the boy told him, Rev. Graham thanked him and said, "If you'll come to the church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to Heaven."

The boy replied, "I don't think I'll be there -- you don't even know your way to the post office."

available only at

<www.airmanonline.af.mil>

The June issue features stories on a medical training exercise in Honduras, the Doolittle Raiders, and one about a air force major who applies Air Force values to every facet of his life.

Carol A. Jensen of Byron, Calif., is seeking information on those who served in the MIS in California at Angel Island, Camp Stoneman and Camp Tracy.

She is seeking to contact anyone who served as interpreter or interrogator for German, Italian or Japanese prisoners at that location. Her e/m:

<Historian@ByronHotSprings.com>

Her website:

<www.ByronHotSprings.com>

The BBC is seeking American WWII veterans who served in Britain for a radio series called "GI Britain," to air later this year.

Veterans with a memorable experience in Britain from 1942 to 1944 can contact Colin McNulty in London at <cmcnulty@gmail.com>

Or call his father, George McNulty, stateside at 216-410-3646.

Dr. Carl Scott of Columbus, Ohio, has resigned from the AFEES BOD.

We are grateful for his service, especially in 2009 when he worked to continue an annual meeting. Carl, danke fer yer service.

Brigitte d'Oultremont of Comete Kinship, Belgium, sends word of the passing of Therese De Wael, a faithful friend and co-worker of the late Andree De Jongh. Therese died June 6, 2012, in Brussels.

Historian MRD Foot, the foremost British chronicler of Special Operations Executive (SOE) during WW2, died last Feb. 18.

Foot is best remembered for his books on the work of the Resistance in Occupied Europe.

A PERSONAL NOTE:

Our eldest son, Larry Jr., finally yielded to kidney cancer in April. He had worked in the newspaper business (like his parents), beginning when he was in high school and worked at our print shop after school. He worked as an advertising sales person in newspapers in Houston, Tex., and Springfield, Mo., as well as in Wichita Falls..

Ruth and I extend our sincere appreciation to those of you who sent us messages of condolence and sympathy.

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