

THE AIR FORCES ESCAPE & EVASION SOCIETY  
**WINTER 2006-07 Communications**

Volume 18, No. 5

WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS 76307-2501

Dec. 14, 2006

***Deces de l'auteur du 'Chant des Partisans'***  
(Composer of 'Song of the Partisans' dies)

From *LE TELEGRAMME*, Thursday, Feb. 16, 2006

*Translated by Claude Helias, Plomelin, France*

Anna Marly, composer of the *Song of the Partisans* (Translation in English published in March 2006 issue of Communications), passed away yesterday (Feb. 15, 2006), at 88 in Alaska where she resided.

When the *Song of the Partisans* is mentioned, authors Joseph Kessel and Maurice Druon are first recalled. But the music was composed by Anna Marly.

Anna Marly was born in Russia on 30 October 1917. Her father was shot during the Revolution. Anna Betoulinski left Russia with her mother in the early '20s. Ten years later, she took the stage name of Anna Marly (a name found in the telephone directory) to dance in the Russian Ballets before starting to sing in the big Parisian night clubs.

**PERFORMED FOR THE TROOPS**

Anna Marly married a Dutch diplomat. In May 1940, a second exodus took her to London where she worked in the canteen of the Free French Forces headquarters, Carlton Garden in London.

In London she went on composing songs she would perform for Allied troops. Late in 1942, the English press related the resistance of Russian "partisans" near Smolensk. Anna Marly played a couple of cords on her guitar while composing the lyrics of a song in Russian. Quickly, the song's persistent rhythm met with success.

Early in 1943, at a party in London, Anna Marly performed the song in Russian, playing the guitar. Among the audience were French Resistance leader Henri Frenay and two reporter-writers, Joseph Kessel and Maurice Druon.

**JOSEPH KESSEL IS MOVED**

Kessel, who spoke Russian, was moved by the



*Whistled as the theme tune of the French programme "Honneur et Patrie" during WWII, Anna Marly's song became a global success.*

lyrics and melody. With nephew Maurice Druon, he wrote on a table the now famous lyrics: "Friend, can you hear the black flight of crows over our plains ...". The *Song of the Partisans* was born.

Whistled as the theme tune of the French programme "Honneur et Patrie" ("Honor and Country") on the BBC, then as a recognition sign in the Maquis, the *Song of the Partisans* became a global success and Anna Marly performed it all over the world.

In the '60s, the *Song of the Partisans* was one of three compulsory songs with the *Marseillaise* (the French national anthem) and the *Chant du depart* (*The Departure Song*) in French schools. Many French artists, including pop groups, sang it also.

# U.S. AIR FORCES ESCAPE & EVASION SOCIETY COMMUNICATIONS

<<http://www.rafinfo.org.uk/rafescape/afees-usa.htm>>

Volume 18 -- Number 5

Dec. 14, 2006

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### CHAIRMAN AND CO-FOUNDER:

\*Ralph K. Patton, Apt. #1205, 8100 Connecticut Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815; Phone: 301-657-4478; Fax: 301-657-4479

### PRESIDENT:

\*\*Richard M. Smith, 36214 Augustana Drive, Battle Lake MN 56515-9458  
(Summer) Phone 218-495-2106; Fax 218-495-3000  
(Winter) 76543 Begonia Lane, Palm Desert CA 92211; 760-345-2282

### VICE PRESIDENT:

\*\*\*Francis J. Lashinsky, 8015 Gatehouse Woods, PO Box 125, Cornwall, PA 17016-0125; Phone 717-228-0792; <flashinsky@comcast.net>

### EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT:

\*\* Yvonne Daley, 1962 Brae-Moor Drive, Dunedin FL 34698-3250  
Phone: 727-734-9573; Fax: 727-734-9565; <gadabout127@msn.com>

### TREASURER:

\*Francene Weyland, 1117 W. Northeast Shore Dr., McHenry, IL 60051-9211  
Phone 815-385-4378; FAX 815-459-0435

### MEMBERSHIP & CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

\*Clayton C. David, 19 Oak Ridge Pond, Hannibal, MO 63401-6539  
Phone: 573-221-0441

### RECORDING SECRETARY:

\*\*\*Robert H. Sweatt, 5208 FM 390-W, Burton, TX 77835-9704, 979-289-2073

### OTHER DIRECTORS:

- \*\*Herbert Brill, 5370 Punta Alta, Unit 2D, Laguna Woods CA 92637-2579  
Phone: 949-770-2076
- \*\*Thomas H. Brown Jr., 104 Lake Fairfield Drive, Greenville, SC 29615-1506  
Phone: 864-244-8420 <tbrown104@cs.com>
- \*Sandra A. Comstock, 4 French Ave., Unit 7, East Haven, CT 06512-3314  
Phone: 203-469-3372 <ontheball93rd@aol.com>
- \*\*A. Ray Kubly, 1204 Amber Lane, Watertown, WI 53098;  
Phone: 920-261-3782

### LEGAL COUNSEL:

R.E.T. Smith, PO Box 38, Wahpeton, ND 58074; Phone: 701-642-2668

### COMMUNICATIONS EDITOR:

\*\*\*Larry Grauerholz, PO Box 2501, Wichita Falls, TX 76307-2501;  
Phone: 940-692-6700; <afees44@hotmail.com>

\*Class of 2009    \*\*Class of 2007    \*\*\*Class of 2008

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

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.

WINTER 2006-07

## The Prez Sez

By Richard M. Smith

<afeesone@hotmail.com>

On Thanksgiving Day, I felt REALLY thankful that I am still "here" and able to write a note to you AFEES members and friends.

Since you last heard from me, I have had a hip replacement, to go along with the ankle I had replaced a few years ago. All the new parts are working well, though the two sets of nerves do clash now and then. Isn't modern medicine great?

Now, AFEES news: John Rucigay has asked permission to resign from the Board of Directors and we have a new director to take his place.

As the years roll by, it becomes more obvious that we need to count on future generations if we are to continue as an organization.

With that in mind, Sandy Comstock, daughter of Lou and Alberta Del Guidice, has agreed to join the board.

(Yvonne and Francene asked for another female director.)

The BOD has decided that AFEES can no longer afford the expense of entertaining children and grandchildren of Helpers at reunions. Of course, they are still welcome, but at their own expense.

There has been no change of policy regarding Helpers who require assistance and share the same room with an escort.

On your '07 calendar, pencil in the first weekend of May for the reunion at St. Louis and Scott Air Force Base. It will be a good 'un! See ya there!





## **‘We Will Never Forget’ medallions now available**

The AFEES Board of Directors has purchased a supply of “*We Will Never Forget*” medallions for resale to members or members of deceased Helper families.

The medallion is a three-inch version of the blue & gold Helper pin, but will have an adhesive back so that it will firmly adhere to any smooth, clean surface. It is a full-color reproduction of the emblem (as shown above)

on the front cover of the AFEES 2006 Membership Directory, published earlier this year by Clayton and Scotty David.

The medallions are made of metal, photo etched in color and weather-resistant, designed primarily for a deceased Helper’s grave marker.

**The colorful medallions are available for \$20 U.S. each, postage included, from:**

**Thomas H. Brown  
104 Lake Fairfield Drive  
Greenville, SC 29615-1506  
(The medallions will be available  
at the 2007 reunion in St. Louis.)**

## **Italian researcher seeks information on 2 airmen**

*A researcher on the Italian Riviera is seeking information concerning Allied military personnel who were evacuated in 1944-45. He writes:*

My name is Giuseppe Fiorucci. I live in Vallecrosia, a small city on the Italian Riviera near the French border. I am researching the activities of local resistance (the *Partigiani*) during WW2.

At the end of August 1944 Allied troops landed in the French region called Provence (St. Raphael e St. Tropez), freeing Nice and reaching the pre-war border with Italy.

During September ‘44 the local anti-fascist Resistance and Allied Intelligence began using small boats to transport, from the Italian shore to the French side, weapons, intelligence agents, wounded soldiers and Allied soldiers who had escaped from Italian prison camps.

Of the 30 plus missions accomplished by the network (*Partigiani*, Allied agents, civilians) that was called *Gruppo Sbarchi* (Disembarkation Group), one is particularly interesting.

At the end of February 1945, five Allied soldiers escaped from a detainees camp. One of them was Welch Regiment Capt. Michel Ross, who later published a book entitled *From Liguria with Love*, about his adventures in the period of the conflict, shortly describing how he and his fellows were brought to France.

His four companions were:

Lt. Highland Lt. Inf. Cecil George BELL (British)  
Fernand GUYOT, French pilot  
ERICKSON, American pilot, and  
KLEMME, American pilot

The Italian Resistance attempted several times to deliver the five soldiers to liberated France. Finally, in early March 1945, all went well with a 15-mile trip rowing a small boat.

I am seeking information about the two American airmen. Can anyone help me? Thanks in advance.

GIUSEPPE FIORUCCI

18019 VALLECROSIA, Italy

<mac.fiorucci@tiscali.it



## Allied Escape Group, Paris to Barcelona, 1943

**21 October 1943**—Group, including the Americans and six French Army and Naval officers, leaves Paris for Toulouse aboard a train. At Toulouse they are turned over to a former French Army Captain and are housed in a hardware warehouse. Bedding consists of a straw over a wooden floor.

**22 October 1943**—Group leaves early in the morning traveling by train to Montsaunès, Haute-Garonne near St. Martory. At Montsaunès the group boards a bus for St. Giron, Ariège where they spend the night at a hotel.

**23 October 1943**—In the morning, the group takes a bus southeast towards Massat, Ariège. At Massat, the group leaves the bus and travels on foot to Suc, where they spend the night in a farmer's barn.

**24 October 1943**—Upon waking, Lt. Olof Ballinger finds his legs will not function and he is forced to drop out of the escape group. The remainder of the evadees continues south towards Andorra and climb for 30 hours to the France-Andorra border at Port de Rat, a pass in the mountains. The group is forced to pass up a rest cabin in the mountains about halfway between Suc and the Andorran border when it is discovered it is already occupied by another group of escapees. The group experiences very foul weather as they approach the border and Lt. Bailey has had to be carried and/or dragged for some eight hours by Sergeants Owens and Plasket. The group arrives at Port de Rat in the evening near dark and in a fog. Several evadees collapse from exhaustion including Lt. Bailey, T/Sgt. Plasket and S/Sgt. Owens. All efforts to stimulate the men to continue traveling are futile; Bailey and Plasket are unconscious and Owens cannot control his limbs. The incapacitated men are left in the snow and the group continues on down the slope. One guide leaves the group at this point and returns to France. The remaining guide, Emile Delpy, stays with the evaders until they reach a hotel in El Serrat, Andorra. Mon. Delpy is an employee of British Intelligence and not a member of the usual French Resistance networks that work in the area.

**25 October 1943**—After traveling several hours down the mountain from Port de Rat, the remaining members of the group locate a shepherd's stone shack and are able to start a fire and warm themselves and get a few hours of sleep. The French officers with the group, who are in excellent condition, and guide Emile Delpy, go out to search for food and see if they can find the fallen Americans at Port de Rat and return them to the shelter. It appears their efforts were not successful and the French officers stay at another cabin further down the slope for the remainder of the night. Later in the day the groups rejoin and they walk to the village of El Serrat, Andorra. At this village they stay at a hotel for the night and are provided taxi transport to Andorra City the next day.

**26-27 October 1943**—At Andorra City the group catches a bus to the Spanish frontier and then takes a series of cars and busses to the southeast towards Barcelona. The escape group is supported by British SOE agents.

**28 October 1943**—Main escape group arrives in Barcelona. Americans are hosted at the British Consulate. The French members are processed through the French Red Cross.

**30 October 1943**—Lt. Ballinger leaves Suc, Ariège, turns south, and starts climb over Pyrenees alone after guide fails to return. He has no compass or map and relies on sun and stars for navigation.

**31 October 1943**—Ballinger passes through Andorra City and reaches St. Julia de Leria where he spends two days to rest.

**2 November 1943**—Ballinger leaves St. Julia de Leria with two Spanish guides

**3 November 1943**—Main group of Evadees who arrive at Barcelona on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October are returned to England from Gibraltar.

**6 November 1943**—Ballinger arrives in Gironelli, just south of Berga, Catalonia

**8 November 1943**—Ballinger arrives in Manresa and is jailed by local police. Later in the day he is driven to Barcelona; He is exhausted and requires medical care. He is released to the custody of the British Consulate.

**9 Nov to 26 Nov 1943**—Ballinger rests in Barcelona and Alamer (?).

**27 November 1943**—Ballinger drives to Madrid with a Maj. Clark and boards a train for Gibraltar.

*Information assembled from Escape & Evasion Reports, IDPF reports, and personal interviews with escape participants and survivors of the deceased airmen.*



# Tragedy in the Pyrenees mountains

From an appendix to the  
Memoirs of Lt. John M. Carah,  
381st BG, 1990

By **WARREN B. CARAH**  
Brighton, Mich.

For many evaders, the final and most formidable obstacle to their escape from occupied Europe is scaling the Pyrenees Mountains separating France from neutral Spain. The hazards are numerous and in winter the mountain range can be deadly for the unprepared.

After months of inactivity and marginal food, Lt. Olaf M. Ballinger and S/Sgt. Francis "Bud" Owens leave the countryside of the Department of Orne on 1 Sept. 1943, for Paris and prepare to cross the Pyrenees.

On 21 October 1943, Ballinger and Owens join five other Allied airmen and seven Frenchmen at a train station in Paris for the trip south to Toulouse and then St. Girons. The other Americans include Maj. William T. Boren (387th BG), 1st Lt. Keith W. Murray (98th BG), 2nd Lt. Harold Bailey (379th BG), 2nd Lt. Charles H. Hoover (381st BG) and T/Sgt. William B. Plasket (306th BG).

Each airmen has his own guide for the train journey; all are female members of the Resistance. The Frenchmen in the group, all military officers, are risking the trip so they can join Free French forces in North Africa.

The climb up the mountains begins on 22 October 1943 and the route chosen transits the small country of Andorra before turning southeast towards the ultimate destination of Barcelona. However, trouble haunts the expedition from the very beginning.

Lt. Ballinger finds that his legs will not do what he wants them to do and he experiences severe cramping. The group is barely in the foothills of the Pyrenees range at Suc, southeast of St. Girons, and Ballinger can go no further.

Ballinger is instructed to hide and wait for the guide's return in eight to ten days. Ballinger then spends the next 10 days waiting for the guide's return at a farm near Suc. On the 29th, he is warned that the Gestapo is in the area and that he has to move.

On 30 October Ballinger decides to try crossing the mountain range alone without a guide. He has no compass and so is forced to navigate by the sun and stars. He eventually reaches Spain through Andorra, but he is in poor condition. He is briefly taken into custody by Spanish authorities and spends several weeks in Manresa and Barcelona recuperating from his ordeal before moving on to Gibraltar and returning to England on 3 December 1943.

For the remaining climbers, the going is even more difficult because German sentries seem to be everywhere. Climbing for 30 hours, the progress is very slow as the group avoids enemy soldiers which force them to take difficult passages through the mountains. As they reach the summit, a fierce storm strikes, bringing bitter cold and deep snow. One of the Americans can no longer walk and he collapses in the snow. He is carried by the others, but the effort is exhausting.

Shortly after beginning the descent on the Andorran side of the mountains, two more Americans fall to the snow-covered ground, utterly drained by their ordeal. The lack of food and exercises plus the severe cold has drained all their energy. Their feet are frozen due to the disintegration of their French "ersatz" paper shoes which are hardly suitable for the wet climb



**S/Sgt. FRANCIS "Bud" OWENS**

through several feet of snow and sharp rock.

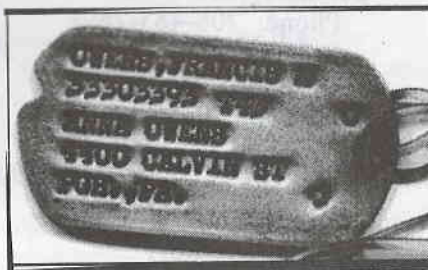
The guides are furious at the delays and they go to great lengths to get their American charges to stand up and move on. At one point a guide points his weapon at one of the airmen and orders him to get up. The airman seems not to hear and the guide fires his pistol next to the head of the dazed evader. It has no effect.

The group must move on and they reluctantly leave the fallen men and proceed down the mountain. Thus no one witnesses the final hours of Lt. Bailey, T/Sgt. Plasket or S/Sgt. Owens which probably come on 28 October 1943 at Port de Rat, Andorra.

In the spring of 1944, the bodies of the three airmen are discovered by local mountaineers and are buried at Arinsal, Andorra. The remains are exhumed by the U.S. Army in 1950 and are positively identified in June 1951.

The family of S/Sgt. Owens elects to have his remains interred at the Ardennes American Military Cemetery in Belgium, which they simultaneously celebrate the requiem high mass at their parish church in Pittsburgh, Pa., on Oct. 1, 1951.

*(Continued on Next Page)*





**.... TRAGEDY in the Pyrenees, Continued from Page 5**

Earlier during the war, the Owens family is presented with the Soldiers Medal that their son Francis has earned saving the life of a fellow airman during a bomb loading accident on 23 June 1943 at Ridgewell Field.

In the spring of 2006, the Owens family is presented with Bud Owens' dog tag which has been held by the McConnell family over the years while they searched for his survivors.

Francis Owens leaves the dog tag with the Duval family of LaCoulonche when he departs for Paris in September 1943.

In 1983, former navigator Paul McConnell is visiting LaCoulonche

with his wife Marie and is given the dog tag by the elderly Duval family in the hopes that Francis Owens' next-of-kin could be located in America.

Despite a concerted effort, Mr. McConnell passes away before he can locate the Owens family.

Warren Carah, son of 42-29928's co-pilot, John M. Carah, finally locates the Owens family in the Pittsburgh area in early 2006 and arranges for the transfer of the artifact.

And so, a part of Francis "Bud" Owens finally returns home some 63 years after he has left to fight for his country in the skies over Europe.

## Welcome to AFEES!

### NEW MEMBER

BENJAMIN MINKIN

3500 Trillium Crossing  
Columbus, OH 43235  
Phone: 614-764-7851  
14th AF, 308th BG

(Downed in Japanese-occupied China, assisted and picked up.)

### NEW 'FRIENDS'

CANDICE BROWN "F"

6126 Sullivan Hollow Road  
Kill Buck, NY 14748  
Phone: 716-945-5208  
<CBrown6126@aol.com>

DR. WALTER BROWN MD "F"

PO Box 1263  
Tybee Island, GA 31328  
Phone: 912-786-5827  
(CEO 8th AF Museum.)

NEIL CANNER "F"

37 Meadowview Road  
Boston, MA 02136  
Phone: 617-470-9125  
<neil.canner@yahoo.com>  
(Son of E&E #1203, Stanley Canner, now deceased.)

TOM H. DANAHER

540 Quail Run Drive  
Wichita Falls, TX 76310-0258  
Ph.: 940-691-1111  
<tdanaher@wf.quik.com>  
(WWII Marine Corps pilot)

WILBERT KASPAR "F"

4202 Featherston Ave.  
Wichita Falls, TX 76308-2660  
Phone: 940-692-2558  
<RAPSAKW@msn.com>  
(B-24 e/g 15th AF, 451st BG, Italy)

ELIZABETH McDADE "F"

55 Hall Street  
Rochester, NY 14609-7146  
Phone: 585-262-3356  
<emcdade@frontiernet.net>  
(Researcher, WWII History.)

DOROTHY R. VADAS "FFL"

1091 Crooked Creek Road  
Eatonton, GA 31024-7727  
Phone: 706-485-2894  
<DVadas@aol.com>

CLAUDY WINANT "F"

Toekomststraat 19  
Bd 3404 Landen, Belgium  
claudy.winant@pandora.be>  
(Author)

WINTER 2006-07

## General McNabb thanks airmen at N.Dakota base

GRAND FORKS AFB, N.D. -- "Well, it's not our aircraft or ships or weapons -- we have all that. Your enlisted core is unlike anything we could imagine. If we were to face you in war -- that is where we would lose."

Gen. Duncan McNabb, Air Mobility Command commander, began his all call here by recounting a conversation he had with Russian generals when they were asked what they thought of the U.S. military.

During General McNabb's visit Sept. 13-14 (See page 13, Fall Communications), he toured the base to get the airmen's perspective and wanted to see how the base executes the mission and how business can be done better. He was especially interested in how Air Force Smart Operations 21 is being implemented in daily operations to achieve sustained excellence.

The all call was not just about AFSO21 and an evolving Air Force, it was about recognizing airmen for their sacrifice and willingness to serve the country. General McNabb re-enlisted four Warriors of the North in front of their peers.

While General McNabb focused on the airmen, Mrs. Linda McNabb spent her time with the spouses and families talking about the Phoenix Spouse network. "This is a standardized program to help (AMC) bases' already existing Key Spouse program. They can take what they need for their individual base and disseminate the information and resources to the families," she said.

Gen. and Mrs. McNabb were also given a tour of the Greater Grand Forks community and had the opportunity to meet with several honorary commanders and ambassadors. General McNabb was able to see the teamwork and mutual respect that has been fostered between the base and the community.

## Heavy Bomber Losses in World War II

(Reprint ed from 385<sup>th</sup> B.G. Newsletter)

B17s....4,754

B24s....2,112

P47s...1,043 P38s...451 P51s...2,201

8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Bomb Groups - England 1942-1945

BOMB GROUP	STATION	AIRCRAFT	MISSIONS	A/C/LOSSES
34 th	Mendelsham	B 17	170	34
44 th	Shipdlam	B 24	343	153
91 st	Bassingbourn	B 17	340	197
92 nd	Podington	B 17	308	154
93 rd	Hardwick	B 24	396	100
94 th	Bury St. Edmonds	B 17	324	153
95 th	Horham	B 17	320	157
96 th	Snetterton-Heath	B 17	321	180
100 th	Thorpe Abbots	B 17	306	177
303 rd	Molesworth	B 17	364	168
305 th	Chelveston	B 17	337	154
306 th	Thurleigh	B 17	342	154
351 st	Polebrook	B 17	311	124
379 th	Kimbolton	B 17	330	141
381 st	Ridgewell	B 17	296	131
384 th	Grafton-Underwood	B 17	314	159
385 th	Great Ashfield	B 17	296	129
388 th	Knettishall	B 17	306	142
389 th	Hethel	B 17	321	116
390 th	Framlington	B 17	300	144
392 nd	Wendling	B 24	285	127
398 th	Nuthamstead	B 17	195	58
401 st	Deenthorpe	B 17	256	95
445 th	Tibenham	B 24	285	95
446 th	Bungay	B 24	273	58
447 th	Rattleden	B 17	257	97
448 th	Seething	B 24	262	101
452 nd	Deopham Green	B 17	250	110
453 rd	Old Bookenham	B 24	259	58
457 th	Glatton	B 17	237	83
458 th	Horsham St. Faith	B 24	240	47
466 th	Attlebridge	B 24	232	47
467 th	Rackheath	B 24	212	29
486 th	Sudbury	B 17	188	33
487 th	Lavenham	B17	185	48
489 th	Halesworth	B 24	106	29
490 th	Eye	B17	158	40
491 st	Metfield	B 24	187	47
492 nd	North Pinkenham	B 24	64	12
493 rd	Debach	B 17	158	41



# President Dick gave back a friendly wave from his parachute

From *THE FORUM*, Fargo, N.D.  
Oct. 1, 2006

Richard Smith was just 22 years old when he found himself piloting a B-17 on his 13th mission, a bombing raid over Bremen, Germany.

His plane had apparently taken flak over the target because it lost an engine on the return trip to its home base in England. That caused the bomber to fall behind the other returning U.S. bombers and become a "straggler," a juicy target for German fighter pilots trailing the bombers.

Smith says he knew he was in trouble when he spotted six German Messerschmitt 109 fighter planes coming up behind his bomber over France. The ME-109 was armed with a .37 mm cannon that could shred a bomber in seconds.

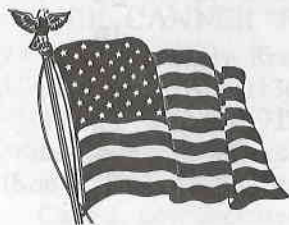
Smith says he gave the bailout order to his 10-man crew before the German fighters had a chance to blow his crippled aircraft to pieces.

All members of the crew bailed out, including Smith, who opened his parachute and was floating down to the French countryside.

That's when he noticed one of the ME-109s circling him in his parachute. Smith figured the German pilot was preparing to dive on him and shoot him out of the sky.

Smith says he was more than a little concerned when he saw that circling 109.

"All of a sudden the German



pilot came into view and he waved at me," says Smith. "I figured if he wasn't mad, I wasn't mad either, so I waved back at him."

Smith continued his descent to earth and was picked up immediately by French partisans, who spirited him into hiding from the Germans.

Smith spent more than a month in France, evading the Germans with continued help from the French people. Eventually he was picked up in the dead of night by a British gunboat and returned to England.

But Smith says he will never forget the day that German pilot waved at him instead of shooting him down. Two enemies found a moment in the midst of a world war to put aside their differences and greet one another. It's a truly amazing story.

## Sandy Comstock now a director

Sandy Comstock, daughter of well-known AFEES members Lou and Alberta DelGuidice, is now a member of the Board of Directors.

She was named by the board to fill the vacancy created when John Rucigay asked to resign.

Sandy first became interested in AFEES when she accompanied her parents to the Tampa reunion in 2001. Since then, she has traveled extensively with them to England and France, as well as becoming a fixture at AFEES reunions, where she is always ready to lend a hand to make things run smoothly.

She was born in Savannah, Ga., when her father was stationed at Hunter Field and then moved to West Haven, Conn., where she grew up. She now lives in East Haven, Conn.

She has worked in the insurance industry since she earned her license in 1978. She has three grown daughters and two granddaughters.

*Welcome aboard, Sandy! We are depending on the next generation to continue the AFEES legacy.*

## Dick finally gets his WWII medals

From *The Forum*, Fargo, N.D.  
Sept. 27, 2006

By TERRY M. DEVINE

Richard Smith, a B-17 bomber pilot who was shot down in World War II and evaded capture, was honored recently in ceremonies at the Fargo Air Museum.

Smith, a native of Campbell, Minn., was presented with the medals he earned during WWII by retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Darrol Schroeder.

The air museum was honoring World War II veterans during its salute to members of the "Greatest Generation."

Cass County Veterans Service representatives put together the medals display for Smith.

Smith was a 22-year-old first lieutenant on his 13th mission when the B-17 he was piloting was shot down while returning from a mission over Germany. All 10 crew members were able to bail out over France.

Smith wrote a book about his exploits and is president of the Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society, which has more than 1,000 members.

Smith and his wife of 52 years, Margaret, live on Otter Tail Lake during the summer and in Palm Desert, Calif., in the winter.



# Doolittle crewmembers visit D.C.

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- Five former Army Air Corps members who were part of a famed World War II bombing mission traveled to the nation's capital to participate in many Veterans Day events, including wreath-laying ceremonies at the Air Force and Navy Memorials on Nov. 10.

Known as the "Doolittle Raiders," the surviving members of commander Lt. Col. James Doolittle's World War II raid over Japan also met with servicemembers here at the Pentagon and Bolling Air Force Base.

At the Navy memorial, Doolittle Raiders met with former crewmembers of the Navy carrier USS Hornet, which launched the 16 Army Air Corps B-25s that carried the men across the Pacific and over Japan April 18, 1942, just four months after the Pearl Harbor attack. The Doolittle Raiders dropped their bombs on Japan, hitting targets in Tokyo, Yokohama, Kobe and Nagoya.

During a ceremony at the Air Force Memorial, Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne paid tribute to the Doolittle Raiders, saying "These magnificent (Air Force memorial) spires that soar upward call to mind the unlimited horizon of the human spirit, a spirit that dwelled in you when you pulled your B-25s off that USS Hornet in the Pacific on that historic day."

Though the bombing mission caused little damage in Japan, it had a huge impact on America's morale and changed the tone of the war.

Of the original 80 airmen who took part in the raid, 16 remain. They try to hold an annual reunion to pay tribute to fellow Raiders who have died since the last time they met.

*Descendants of Members and Helpers get together at Albuquerque*

*--Photo by Scotty David*







## AIR FORCES ESCAPE & EVASION SOCIETY

**This black-and-white photo does not do justice to the colorful 3'x10' AFEES banner now posted in the Combat Gallery at the Mighty Eighth Museum near Savannah, Ga.**

**According to Jean Moore, membership coordinator at the museum, it is "Probably the most impressive banner of all that are in the Museum."**

## Baseball an option

### Cardinals vs. Houston on a Friday night!

The St. Louis Baseball Cardinal schedule has been released and has the Cards (the editor's favorite team) playing the Houston Astros in a National League game Friday night, May 4, during the 2007 AFEES reunion.

It has been suggested that perhaps baseball fans at the reunion might like to arrange a private party room at the stadium for the game and other festivities.

A special room for about 50 people with a buffet dinner would cost about \$100 per person.

AFEES members who are interested should contact Friend Member Lynn David in St. Louis so that he can make arrangements.

Game time is 1910 at Busch Stadium, a few blocks from the Sheraton Hotel.

If interested, contact Lynn at 923 S. Mason Road, Town & Country, St. Louis, MO 63141 or <kstevens@bankconsultants.com>

He needs to get a head count not later than Feb. 1.

### Collings needs help for '07 national tour

The Collings Foundation, Stow, Mass., Wings of Freedom tour is seeking community stop volunteers for the 2007 tour.

The Collings marketing director will give support and materials to make the stop successful.

Call 800-562-9182 for more information on the '07 tours.



# We'll meet in Saint Looie!

U.S. Air Forces Escape & Evasion Society Reunion

**Wednesday-Sunday, May 2-6, 2007**

**Sheraton St. Louis City Center Hotel and Suites**

**(Downtown St. Louis, Mo.)**

AFEES Reunion Registration Form will be in next issue of *Communications*.

*Early-Bird Hotel Reservation Form is on Page 13 of this issue.*

## Tentative Reunion Schedule

Wednesday, May 2: Directors' Meeting, 1700

Thursday, May 3: Possible tour of City (Optional)  
Welcoming and Helpers' Buffet, Sheraton

Friday, May 4: Scott AFB Tour with Luncheon  
(Evening Free) (PERHAPS CARDINAL GAME!)

Saturday, May 5: Memorial Service, AGM, Directors'  
Meeting, Free Afternoon  
Evening: Banquet at Scott Air Force Base

Sunday, May 6: Farewell Buffet Breakfast

*SPECIAL NOTE: AFEES expects to host Helpers and their aide  
if they occupy the same room.*

*Descendants of Helpers are most welcome, but are expected to finance  
their own reunion expenses, including lodging.*

SAINT LOUIS  
**ZOO**

Can you come out and play?®

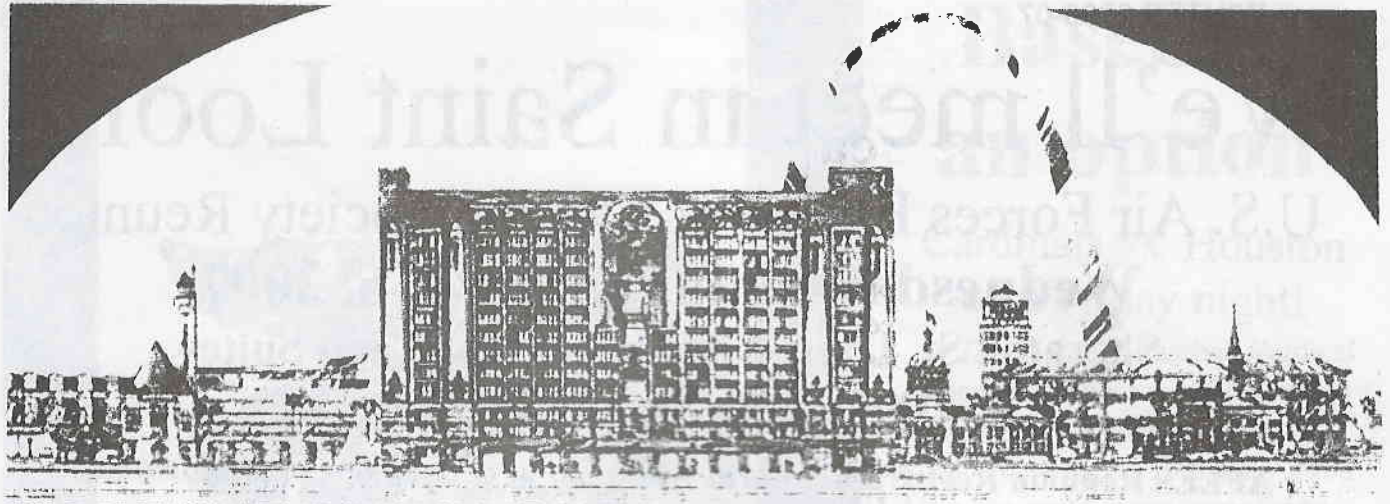


Free Admission • Open All Year

Beetle Bailey



©2006 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.



### *Sheraton St. Louis City Center Hotel & Suites*

**400 South 14th Street \* St. Louis, MO \* 314-231-5007**

**The Sheraton St. Louis City Center Hotel will be the rendezvous point for the Air Forces Escape & Evasion Society May 2007 reunion.**

The hotel is located in the heart of downtown St. Louis, with easy access to major attractions. It is only a short walk to shopping at Union Station, across the street from Savvis Sports and Entertainment Center, six blocks from Busch Stadium, one mile from riverboat casino and the Gateway Arch.

The hotel is steps away from the MetroLink/light rail system, and in 29 minutes you can ride from the airport to the front door. MetroLink provides access to all of the Forest Park cultural attractions, the Art and History Museums, Science Center, golf and the world-famous St. Louis Zoo.

#### **Features:**

- \* Oversized guest rooms and suites
- \* *Sheraton Sweet Sleeper* plush-top bed in all guest rooms
- \* In-room coffee makers, irons and ironing boards, hair dryers, refrigerators, and *Nintendo 64* in all guest rooms and suites
- \* Guest voice mail and telephones with data ports
- \* High-speed Internet access in all guest rooms and meeting space
- \* Cable television, in-room movies, and *Nintendo 64* in all guest rooms
- \* Complimentary access to the new City-View Fitness Facility pool and fitness center with Olympic-sized indoor lap pool, Jacuzzi and outdoor Sundeck
- \* Business Center
- \* Gift Shop/Internet Cafe
- \* Valet or self park, with over 400 indoor parking spaces

#### **Accommodations:**

The Sheraton St. Louis City Center Hotel & Suites opened in July of 2001. It offers spacious guest rooms, with Deluxe Standards starting at 500 square feet, and half the inventory is comprised of two-room sites of 700 square feet or more.



# HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

## Air Forces Escape & Evasion Society

May 1 – 8, 2007

\*Please fax this completed form to (314)613-6417 or Mail to:  
400 South 14<sup>th</sup> Street St. Louis, MO 63103 Attn: Lisa Schone  
Reservations: 314-231-5007 or 1-888-627-8096

Reservations can also be made on line please log onto:  
<http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=0609255053&key=EFD1E>

### REUNION CODE: AFEES

### RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY APRIL 12, 2007

Arrival Date _____	Departure Date _____
Name _____	No. of Adults _____
Street _____	No. of Rooms Required _____
City _____	Credit Card _____
State _____	Credit Card # _____
Phone # _____	Expiration _____
Email _____	Signature _____

#### RATES

The convention rate **inclusive of tax** is \$120.60 single / double / triple, \$143.58 quad. No gratuities included. Rate applies two days prior and two days post reunion. Please check the type of room accommodations that you desire:

( ) King ( ) Smoking ( ) Accessible Room  
( ) Two Queen Beds ( ) Non-smoking

Preferences will be noted on reservation, **but are not guaranteed**. All preferences are subject to availability upon check-in.

#### GUARANTEE

Reservations made after the cutoff date or exceeds the contracted block will be accepted on a space available basis. Each room must be guaranteed by a check or credit card.

Checks should be made payable to Sheraton St. Louis City Center Hotel in the amount of \$120.60 single / double / triple; \$143.58 quad representing one night's room request. Please attach your check and mail as soon as possible.

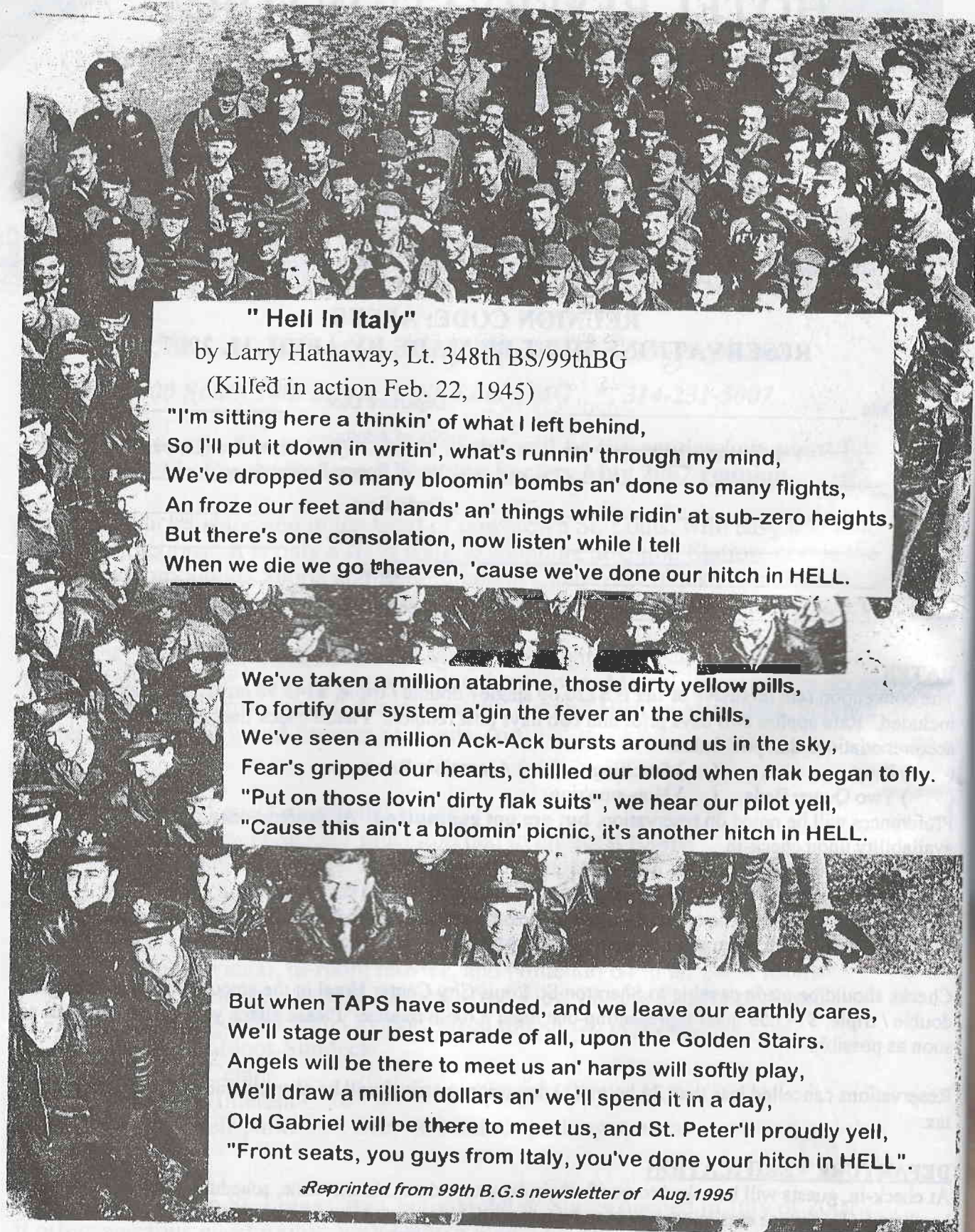
Reservations cancelled less than 24 hours (1) day prior to arrival will be charged one night's room rate and tax.

#### DEPARTURE VERIFICATION

At check-in, guests will be asked to verify their departure date. At that time, scheduled departure dates can be altered. Departure extensions are based upon availability.

**CHECK IN TIME: 3:00PM; CHECK OUT TIME 12:00PM**





### "Hell In Italy"

by Larry Hathaway, Lt. 348th BS/99thBG  
(Killed in action Feb. 22, 1945)

"I'm sitting here a thinkin' of what I left behind,  
So I'll put it down in writin', what's runnin' through my mind,  
We've dropped so many bloomin' bombs an' done so many flights,  
An froze our feet and hands' an' things while ridin' at sub-zero heights,  
But there's one consolation, now listen' while I tell  
When we die we go t~~h~~eaven, 'cause we've done our hitch in HELL.

We've taken a million atabrine, those dirty yellow pills,  
To fortify our system a'gin the fever an' the chills,  
We've seen a million Ack-Ack bursts around us in the sky,  
Fear's gripped our hearts, chilled our blood when flak began to fly.  
"Put on those lovin' dirty flak suits", we hear our pilot yell,  
"Cause this ain't a bloomin' picnic, it's another hitch in HELL.

But when TAPS have sounded, and we leave our earthly cares,  
We'll stage our best parade of all, upon the Golden Stairs.  
Angels will be there to meet us an' harps will softly play,  
We'll draw a million dollars an' we'll spend it in a day,  
Old Gabriel will be there to meet us, and St. Peter'll proudly yell,  
"Front seats, you guys from Italy, you've done your hitch in HELL".

*Reprinted from 99th B.G.s newsletter of Aug. 1995*





*David G. Helsel (E&E 538)  
of Parker, Pa., went  
down north of Paris and evaded.  
He was incorrectly identified in  
the September newsletter.*

# Thunderbirds release 2007 schedule, will visit 9 other countries

NELLIS AFB, Nev. (AFPN) -- The U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, "Thunderbirds," has announced its 2007 air show schedule.

The team is scheduled to perform more than 68 shows in 21 states and 9 foreign countries.

## MARCH

24-25: Luke AFB, Ariz.  
31-April 1: Point Mugu Naval Base, Ventura County, Calif.

## APRIL

14-15: Eglin AFB, Fla.  
21-22: Barksdale AFB, La.  
28-29: Langley AFB, Va.

## MAY

5-6: Fort Lauderdale, Fla.  
12-13: McGuire AFB, N.J.  
19-20 Andrews AFB, Md.

26-27: Wantagh (Jones Beach), N.Y.  
30: U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo.  
(Invitation only)

## JUNE

2-3: Davenport, Iowa  
9-10: Sacramento, Calif.  
16-17: Pittsburgh, Pa.  
23-24: Galway, Ireland  
26: Krzesiny Air Base, Poland  
28: Mihail Kogalniceanu, Romania  
30: Ankara, Turkey

## JULY

1: Graf Ignatievo, Bulgaria  
2: Aviano Air Base, Italy  
7-8: Evreux Field, France  
14-15: RAF Fairford, U.K.  
25: Cheyenne, Wyo.  
28-29: Dayton, Ohio

## AUGUST

11-12: Niagara Falls, N.Y.  
15: Atlantic City, N.J.  
18-19: Chicago, Ill.  
25-26: Otis Air National Guard Base, Mass.

## SEPTEMBER

1-3: Cleveland, Ohio  
8: Minot AFB, N.D.  
15: Hickam AFB, Hawaii  
22-23: El Paso, Tex.  
29-30: Columbus, Ohio

## OCTOBER

6-7: Pope AFB, N.C.  
13-14: Miramar Marine Corps Air Station, Calif.  
20-21: Moody AFB, Ga.  
27-28: New Orleans, La.

## NOVEMBER

3-4: NASA Cape Canaveral, Fla.  
10-11: Nellis AFB, Nev.

## Corrections and changes reported from 2006 Membership Directory

(Changes are in **BOLDFACE** type.)

1. Sandra A. Comstock "F", **4 French Ave., Unit 7, East Haven, CT 06512-3314; Ph.: 203-469-3372; <ontheball93rd@aol.com>**
2. Fred C. Cowherd "L", **367 Daniel Mill Xing, Villa Rica, GA 30180-5156**
3. Patricia **Dolph** Williams, Columbus, OH; **Ph.: 614-457-1341**
4. Jack Garstak, 2120 S.W. 94th Terrace, **Davie, FL 33324-6803; Ph.: 954-475-7130**
5. Henry J. Hodulik, Green Brook, NJ; **Ph.: 732-748-1383**
6. Alfred F. Sutkowski, Portland, CT; **Ph.: 860-342-1996**
7. Thomas R. Westrope "L", **555 S. Rockrimmon Blvd., Apt. 248, Colorado Springs, CO 80919-2047; Ph.: 719-594-0389**

### NAME CHANGE

From Carol S. Goldfeder to **Carol Goldfeder Moskowitz (Husband Philip Moskowitz)** 443 E. Fairview St., Bethlehem, PA 18018; Ph.: 610-868-0813

### ROSTER CORRECTION

**Marjorie Lawson Steinmetz**, 37 S. Elizabeth Ave., St. Louis, MO 63135; Ph.: 314-521-4647 (**Former WAF and SOE Agent**)

The U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron is an Air Combat Command unit composed of eight pilots (including six demonstration pilots), four support officers, four civilians and about 110 enlisted people performing in more than 29 Air Force specialties.

# A dream comes true

## President George Bush dedicates AF memorial

By The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Va. -- President Bush helped the Air Force make a dream come true on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2006, dedicating a hilltop monument for the service to the memory of airmen lost defending America and to those that fight it still.

"A long blue line of heroes has defended freedom in the skies above," Bush said. "To all who have climbed sunward and chased the shouting wind, America stops to say your service and sacrifices will be remembered forever and honored in this place by the citizens of a free and grateful nation."

Bush spoke at the base of three soaring steel stalks, meant to evoke the famed Air Force Thunderbirds' "bomb-burst" maneuver, that glinted in the bright sun.

The dedication ceremony concluded with a dramatic demonstration of the real thing by members of the precision flying team. Their four jets flew straight upward in close formation and released silver contrails as they peeled away from each other. A fifth plane followed, flying through the middle of the vapors while spinning.

The \$20 million U.S. Air Force Memorial, 15 years in the making, is set on a ridge next to Arlington National Cemetery and overlooking the Pentagon and the nation's capital beyond.

"Under these magnificent spires, we pay tribute to the men and women of the Air Force who stand ready to give all to their country," the president said. "And looking from this promontory to a place once filled with smoke and flames, we remember why we need them."

As the Air Force's history was

recounted by a series of speakers, a succession of aircraft -- from a replica of Orville Wright's historic biplane to an F-117A Nighthawk Stealth fighter flew overhead.

The 17,000-ton metal spires that are the centerpiece of the memorial are as high as 270 feet into the air.

"This memorial soars. It soars in space and in the imagination," Air Force Secretary Michael Wynne said. "These three spires echo our values: integrity, service, and excellence... This memorial is a brilliant symbol of freedom and the spirit of flight."

Nearby are also two inscribed granite walls and an 8-foot bronze "honor guard" statue of four figures. A glass wall engraved with the "missing man" formation -- a signature maneuver to honor those missing and fallen in the military - provides the only images of aircraft.

"This memorial says to everybody who visits, today and tomorrow, 'This is the spirit that helped defend our freedom. This is the courage that helped build our nation.' On behalf of a very grateful country, and a grateful people, it says, 'Thank you,'" said H. Ross Perot Jr., chairman of the memorial's board of trustees and a former fighter pilot in the Air Force Reserve.

The memorial was the last major work of architect James Ingo Freed, who died in December. Among his other projects is the U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

The Air Force was the only military branch without a monument around the capital. Efforts to change that, though, were stymied by controversy, lawsuits, and congressional action until the current site and design went forward.

WINTER 2006-07

## Locations named for '07 AF Week

WASHINGTON -- Air Force officials announced Dec. 5 the six locations to host "Air Force Week" in 2007.

They are:

- \*Phoenix, March 19-25
- \*Sacramento, June 4-10
- \*St. Louis, July 2-8
- \*New England, Aug. 18-26
- \*Hawaii, Sept. 10-16
- \*Atlanta, Oct. 8-14

The inaugural Air Force Week took place in St. Louis in August. Success of the event prompted the Air Force to begin partnering with other communities for 2007.

Each Air Force week will include community visits and talks by senior Air Force officials, flight demonstration team performances and displays providing an up close and personal look at the Air Force men and women serving on the front lines.



*George R. Stricker of Irving, Tex., can still get into his WWII uniform.*

*1st Lt. Stricker (E&E 461) was a co-pilot with the 15th AF. His B-24 went down Feb. 25, 1944, in Yugoslavia. He was rescued by Tito's Partisans.*



# Again, AFEES greeting cards go in the mail

The traditional AFEES cards expressing Greetings of the Holiday Season, went into the mailstream on November 26 to Helpers and Friends around the world.

Thanks again to Dorothy Kenney for creating the cards and to Ralph Patton, Scotty and Clayton David for preparing the labels. As usual, Dick Smith and crew affixed the labels and stamps.

From the response, we know Helpers and Friends appreciate being reminded that "WE WILL NEVER FORGET."

Clayton and Scotty serve as the clearing point for reporting address changes and other notices. They appreciate your cooperation!

A total of 237 cards were mailed this year: 138 were sent to France, 30 to the U.S., 30 to Belgium, 59 to Holland, 6 to Canada, and 4 to the U.K. Cards also went to individuals in Italy, Spain, Yugoslavia, Germany and Australia.

(AFEES members who know of persons who should be added to the mailing list should contact Clayton David.)

May your holidays  
be a time of warmth,  
joy and happy memories  
to last all through  
the year.



FROM THE MEMBERS  
OF THE

AIR FORCES ESCAPE & EVASION SOCIETY



WE WILL NEVER FORGET  
NOUS N'OUBLIERONS JAMAIS  
VI VIL ALDRIG GLEMME!  
WY ZULLEN NOOIT VERGETEN  
NOI NON DIMENTICHEREMO MAI

*Ralph Patton*

Ralph K. Patton, Chairman

*Richard M. Smith*

Richard M. Smith, President

*Thomas H. Brown*

Thomas H. Brown, Vice President

*Francene Weyland*

Francene Weyland, Treasurer

*Clayton David*

Clayton David, Corresponding Secretary

*Robert H. Sweatt*

Robert H. Sweatt,  
Recording Secretary

*Herbert Brill*

Herbert Brill, Director

*Yvonne Daley Brusselmans*

Yvonne Daley Brusselmans, Director

*A. Ray Kuby*

A. Ray Kuby, Director

*Francis J. Lashinsky*

Francis J. Lashinsky, Director

*Sandy Comstock*

Sandy Comstock, Director

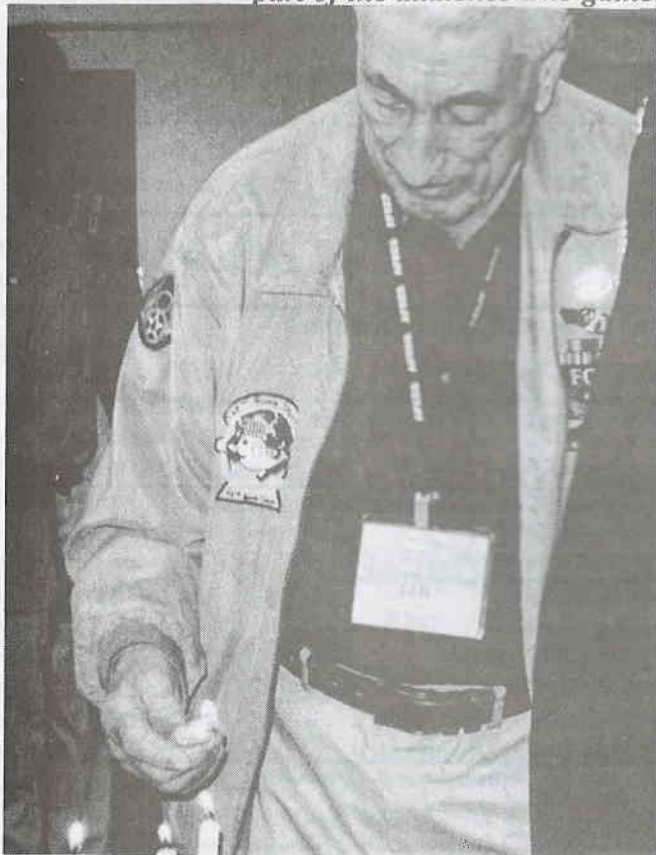
*Larry Grauerholz*

Larry Grauerholz, Communications Editor





*Highlight of the annual reunion is the candlelighting memorial ceremony, where those who wish to participate light a candle for a special person they wish to honor. This photo shows part of the audience who gathered at the Albuquerque reunion.*



*Lou Del Guidice lights a candle in honor of a special person during the impressive candlelight ceremony at the 2006 reunion. Lou will not be with us in St. Louis; he will be on a tour to England with his 93rd Bomb Group.*



*Leonard and Lamerle Rogers of Youngstown, Ariz., tried a seafood restaurant while attending the AFEES reunion last May. Len's nephew, Paul Rees, provided this shot.*



## Unmanned combat plane now on display at Dayton

DAYTON, Ohio (AFPN) -- The Boeing X-45A unmanned combat air vehicle was officially inducted into the National Museum of the United States Air Force collection during a ceremony here Nov. 13.

"The X-45A is a prime example of an air vehicle that points to the future of our Air Force," said retired Maj. Gen. Charles D. Metcalf, museum director. "Unmanned aerial vehicles are increasingly being used, and we are excited to show the public the giant step that has been taken with these aircraft."

For information about the X-45A or the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, visit the website. Go to <[www.nationalmuseum.af.mil](http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil)>

The museum is located on Springfield Pike, 6 miles northeast of downtown Dayton. It is open from 0900 to 1700 seven days a week.



*Yvonne Daley is getting acquainted with her third grandson, Timothy Daley, shown here at age one hour, born Oct. 6, 2006. Parents are Colin and Ginny Daley of Knoxville, Tenn.*

By GILES in PUNCH, London, 1945



"But, honey -- where did you get the idea that all Americans live in skyscrapers?"



*It's a birthday bash for the Mighty Eighth!*



**Stay with it  
Man!**

\*\*\*\*\*

**We ain't  
Finished yet!!!!**

*Coming Soon - Our 65th Anniversary Celebration  
February 1. 2. & 3 2007*

*At the Marriott River Front Hotel in the  
Heart of Savannah.*

*Birthplace of the MIGHTY EIGHTH*

**Hotel Phone Number: 912-233-7722**

**Room Rate: \$99 + tax. Cutoff date for group rate: Jan. 12, 2007**

**Registration fee is \$115, which includes hospitality room, trip to 8th Air Force First Headquarters, trip to 8th Air Force Museum on Friday, and banquet on Saturday night. (Please choose Salmon or Sirloin.)**

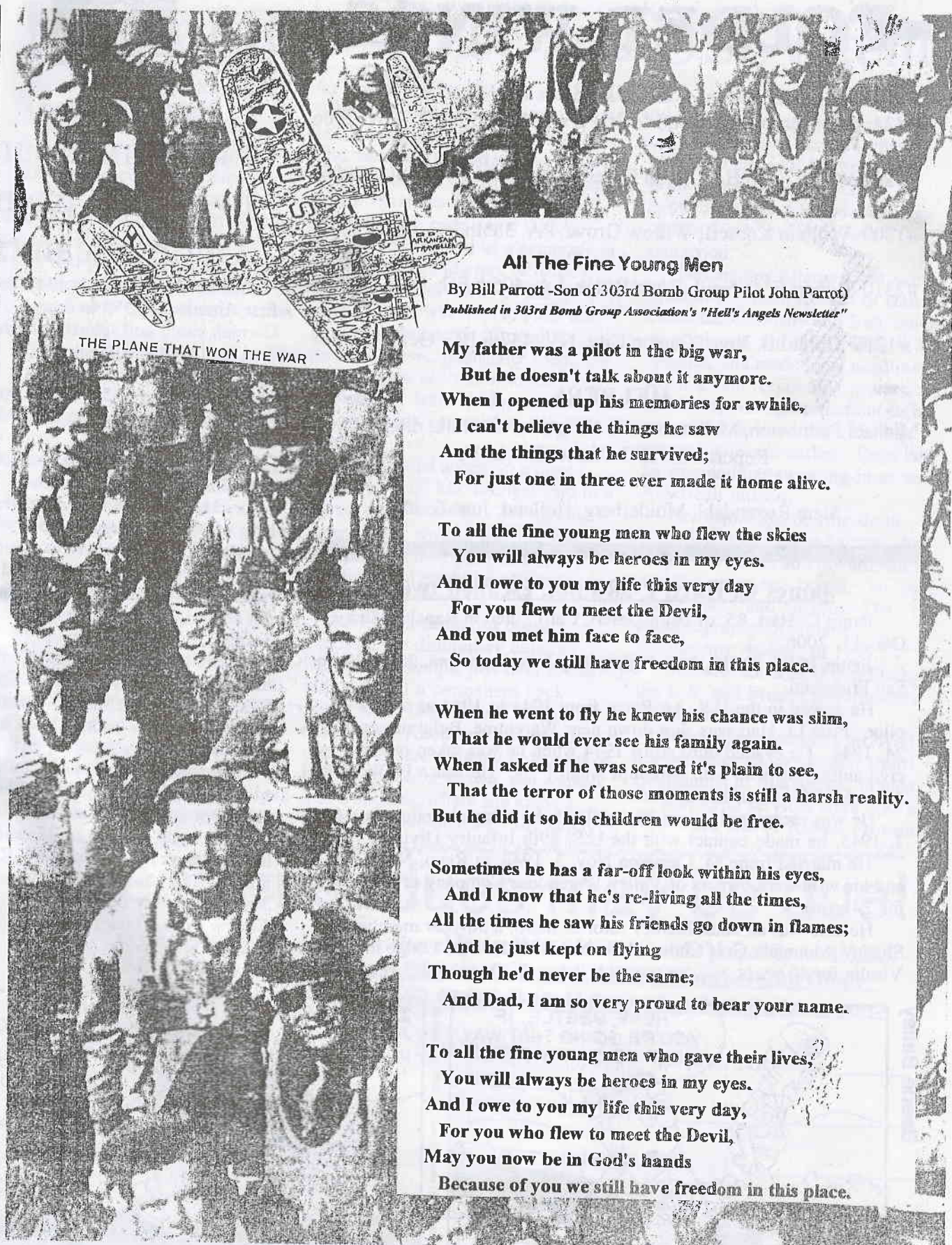
***LIVE ENTERTAINMENT BY THE VINTAGE VOCALS***

**Make reservations now!**

**Send checks to : Georgia Chapter, PO Box 73, Tucker GA 30085-0073**

**Name \_\_\_\_\_ 8th AF Unit \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Address \_\_\_\_\_**





### All The Fine Young Men

By Bill Parrott -Son of 303rd Bomb Group Pilot John Parrott  
Published in 303rd Bomb Group Association's "Hell's Angels Newsletter"

My father was a pilot in the big war,  
But he doesn't talk about it anymore.  
When I opened up his memories for awhile,  
I can't believe the things he saw  
And the things that he survived;  
For just one in three ever made it home alive.

To all the fine young men who flew the skies  
You will always be heroes in my eyes.  
And I owe to you my life this very day  
For you flew to meet the Devil,  
And you met him face to face,  
So today we still have freedom in this place.

When he went to fly he knew his chance was slim,  
That he would ever see his family again.  
When I asked if he was scared it's plain to see,  
That the terror of those moments is still a harsh reality.  
But he did it so his children would be free.

Sometimes he has a far-off look within his eyes,  
And I know that he's re-living all the times,  
All the times he saw his friends go down in flames;  
And he just kept on flying  
Though he'd never be the same;  
And Dad, I am so very proud to bear your name.

To all the fine young men who gave their lives,  
You will always be heroes in my eyes.  
And I owe to you my life this very day,  
For you who flew to meet the Devil,  
May you now be in God's hands  
Because of you we still have freedom in this place.



# FOLDED WINGS

## MEMBERS

#434 Lee (Shorty) Gordon, Menlo Park, CA, 305th BG, Nov. 2006

#2412 J. C. (Cal) Hart, Palm Desert, CA, 20th FG, Oct. 11, 2006

#1800 William Kosseff, Willow Grove, PA, 385th BG, Oct. 7, 2006

#2310 Robert E. O'Neill, River Ridge, LA, 406th FG, June 23, 2006

#1216 Gerald B. Ross, Carson City, NV, 457th BG, Oct. 11, 2006

## HELPERS

Michael Pavnovich, Melbourne, FL (Yugoslav Chetnik; died in 2005.)  
Report from L/C Charles Davis, Va.

Siem Rozendahl, Muiderberg, Holland, June 6, 2006

## James C. Hart, P-38 Pilot, escaped twice

James C. Hart, 85, of Palm Desert, Calif., died in Rancho Mirage Oct. 11, 2006.

James (E&E #2412, 20th Fighter Grp.) was born Jan. 21, 1921, in San Francisco.

He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1941 to 1944 as a P-38 pilot. First Lt. Hart was shot down near Waremmme, Belgium, on Jan. 24, 1944. He evaded until April 1944 when he was taken prisoner by civil authorities who held him until August '44. He was a POW until April 5, 1945, when he escaped.

He was recaptured but on 30 April '45, he escaped again. On May 1, 1945, he made contact with the U.S. 89th Infantry Division.

He married Irene M. Cameron Nov. 3, 1948, in Reno, Nev. He and his wife were owners of Valley Warehouse Company in Goshen for 24 years.

He also was an adult literacy tutor in Indio, a 30-year member of Shadow Mountain Golf Club and a member of the Elks Lodge in Visalia for 40 years.

WINTER 2006-07



Lee C. Gordon

## First American to escape from German camp

Lee C. Gordon (E&E 434), the first American POW to escape a German camp and return to London, died last month in Menlo Park, Calif. He was 84.

Lee, with the 365th Sqdn., 305th BG, went down near Munich in April 1943 and was captured.

At Mossberg, he made contact with French prisoners and they assured him that he would receive help when he reached France.

He left the camp with a British captain on Oct. 15. They found a railroad car headed for France and got aboard. At Strasbourg, Lee decided to get off the train.

After he contacted the Resistance, he was put on a train to Paris and later to Chartres. Then they took a train back to Paris and then to Quimper.

From there he was taken by truck to a house by the sea. The chauffeur was Louis Lauden.

Then, with a group of 27 evaders, he was taken by boat to the U.K., arriving there on Feb. 26, 1944

In a 2000 tv documentary, *Escape from a Living Hell*, he recalled his experiences.

Beetle Bailey



©2006 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved

9-25

GREG+  
MORT  
WALKER



Helene Adams, 1921-2006

# Hero of Resistance and OSS agent

From the *NEW YORK SUN*,  
Sept. 21, 2006

By RICHARD PYLE

Helene Deschamps Adams, a hero of the French Resistance who saved American fliers from capture and Jews from execution by the Nazis, and played a role in secret preparations for Allied invasions of France, died in Manhattan Sept. 16, of heart failure.

When asked why she took on the dangerous role of secret agent, "She was fond of saying, 'I didn't like the idea of Nazis taking over my country,'" according to her daughter, Karyn Anick Monget.

Helene Deschamps was born into a French military family at Tientsin, China, in 1921, and grew up in colonial outposts. Studying at a convent when Germany invaded France in 1940, she joined the Resistance.

First, she joined the French Underground and later the U.S. Office of Strategic Services, or OSS, the wartime forerunner of the CIA, in France and Switzerland.

Her duties ranged from being a courier to gathering information on German troop strength, airfields and coastal installations in preparation

for the Allied invasion of southern France in 1944. She rescued downed U.S. fliers before the Nazis could find them and guided groups of Jews to safety across the Spanish border in the Pyrenees Mountains.

Using the code name Anick, Deschamps worked as a secretary at the Vichy headquarters of Milice, the French equivalent of the Gestapo, and was able to steal the records of hundreds of people, including Jews, Resistance members and ordinary citizens who had been marked for death or deportation to concentration camps, her daughter said.

"She gained access to a huge filing cabinet," Ms. Monget said in a telephone interview. "Every morning for several months she would pull cards, put them in her brassiere and flush the evidence down a toilet."

Always in danger of being exposed, the diminutive auburn-haired Deschamps, just over 5 feet tall, suffered a permanent back injury when beaten by a French interrogator. Another time, faced with the choice of being blown up or having her cover blown, she walked into a building where she knew a bomb had been planted. She barely

escaped, bleeding and partially deafened, when it exploded.

In 1946, she moved to the United States as the French war bride of an American Army lieutenant, Forest E. Adams. He died in 1951, and she never remarried.

Deschamps Adams spent many years as a French teacher in Hawaii, Bermuda, Germany and Iran, among other places. In 1953, living in Los Angeles, she made local headlines when a man responding to her ad to sell her sports car turned out to be one of the downed fliers she had rescued a decade earlier. Days later, he attended her swearing-in as an American citizen.

Her espionage derring-do in Nazi-occupied France became the subject of books and documentaries, and she wrote two books, *The Secret War* (1980), and *Spyglass: The Autobiography of Helene Deschamps Adams*, in 1995.

She was honored late in life by the U.S. and French governments for her wartime deeds.

Deschamps Adams is survived by her daughter and a brother, Henri Deschamps of Maraussan, France.

Memorial services were held in New York and in Aix-en-Provence.

## At year-end: dues may be due!

**Dues are \$20 per year. Life Membership is \$100. Make checks payable to AFEES.**

**Send payments and changes to Clayton C. David, AFEES Membership Chair,**

**19 Oak Ridge Pond, Hannibal, MO 63401-6539, U.S.A. <davidafe@adams.net>**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ CITY & STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

# The editor has the last word

By LARRY GRAUERHOLZ  
<afees44@hotmail.com>

OR

<archerco@wf.quik.com>

WICHITA FALLS, Tex. -- As Pearl Harbor Day is commemorated, it brings to mind the events of Dec. 7, 1941, that dramatically changed the lives of every AFEES member.

Whether already in the army (as was the editor) or in college or on the farm or in the factory, the so-called Greatest Generation answered our nation's call to arms.

Word from Reunion Coordinator Yvonne Daley is that things are shaping up to make the 2007 one to be remembered! Included in the agenda are the usual events. The special Saturday night banquet will be at Scott Air Force Base, with Gen. Duncan McNabb and his crew acting as hosts.

*Can't help but wonder if GI chow has been improved in the last 60+ years.*

Friday night is usually an open night on the reunion schedule, but this time there's something special for you baseball fans. An optional trip to Busch Stadium to see the St. Louis Cardinals in action that evening is planned, thanks to a plan suggested by Lynn David.

Details are on Page 10.

An early-bird Sheraton Hotel reservation form is on Page 13 of this issue; the reunion reservation form will be in the next issue.

Albert Day, a Canadian WWII veteran, now lives in St. Louis and expects to get acquainted with us in May, so a friend of his reports.



The Winter 2006 issue of USAA Magazine explains how Errol Severe is determined to share the story of aviation cadets. A former cadet and former commercial airline pilot, Errol wants to build a \$40 million "living museum" in Eureka Springs, Ark., near Branson, Mo.

He began the project about six years ago when he bought 72 acres with a building which now houses memorabilia for the Aviation Cadet Museum at Silver Wings Field.

"There are now only about 32,000 remaining aviation cadets," he says, "And their story needs to be told."

For more information, contact Errol Severe at 542 CR 2073, Eureka Springs AR 72632, or <www.aviationcadet.com>

**SIGN OF THE TIMES:** The 15th Air Force Association office at March AFB, Calif., has closed shop.

You may recall that I have pointed out how dangerous the kangaroos are Down Under, where Member Brian O'Connell and his wife spend part of their time.

Now comes word that proves the point: A driver in Western Australia was killed in the Outback when a 'roo was hit by another vehicle and

came through the man's windshield.

Brian, this happens often in the Midwest of the U.S. as wild deer haven't learned to respect highway traffic.

Howard Rouse, an ex-Navy man who served in the Pacific, is searching for an evader without a name. He knows an elderly woman was who was 12 at the time she carried the evader's daily meal to him while he was hiding over the garage at an inn Monchio delle Corti (near Parma and Bologna) in the Apennines.

He was rescued by Italian partisans who set his broken leg, hid him, and airlifted him back to Allied lines. Is he still living?

Let the editor know if you can furnish any helpful information.

The great Will Rogers had some good advice, such as:

- 1) Never kick a cow chip on a hot day, and
- 2) Never slap a man who's chewing tobacco.

As a final note, the editor needs more stories. Even if you can't remember everything you did in ww2, it is high time to get those memories preserved in the interest of history.

---INKY

~~~~~  
From  
AFEES Publications  
19 Oak Ridge Pond  
HANNIBAL MO 63401-6539  
U.S.A.

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

Change Service Requested

Mr Bruce C Bollinger "F"  
12704 Butterfly DR  
Nevada City, CA 95959