

THE AIR FORCES ESCAPE & EVASION SOCIETY

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WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS

SEPTEMBER 1, 1996

'We're the ones that came back'

From the Muncie (Ind.) Star
Press, Wednesday, June 19, 1996
By MIRIAM BALES

(Our Neighborhood Columnist)

They gathered from near and far.

They came from both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, from Holland, Belgium, France, Canada and many states of the United States.

There were 225 of them attending the meeting in Savannah, Ga., of the Air Force Escape and Evasion Society, aviators downed over enemy territory in World War II and their helpers, those who aided them in escaping and evading the Germans.

These helpers hid the downed aviators, fed and sheltered them at the risk of their lives, knowing they would be shot on the spot if caught. It is estimated that three Dutch helpers lost their lives for each flyer saved, two Belgians and one French helper for each one saved. On the Memorial Day weekend in Savannah, those who survived were reunited with those they had rescued.

We were with them, not out of personal experience, but because we have friends on both sides of the Atlantic whose interwoven stories we know well. These men and women were among the lucky ones who lived to tell their tales.

In the fall of 1977 a mature woman had enrolled in my French class with the explanation that she wanted to learn French so that she could speak with the people who had saved her husband's life more than 30 years earlier.

I was instantly interested in the story. Over the next weeks, my student related her husband's dangerous and frightening adventure with the help of photo albums

and scrapbooks.

Her husband, Gus, was shot down over the province of Normandy in occupied France in May 1944. Over the next 3 months he would be hidden, first in a hedgerow, then in a hole in the ground, next in a cart full of hay and finally in an attic or a cellar, being moved clandestinely each time the enemy came too close or rumors spread concerning the whereabouts of evaders. Collaborators were known to exist, so not everyone could be trusted. Gus had more than one narrow escape from capture.

The helpers we came to know best were the couple Gus was to call Mama and Papa for the rest of their lives, until their deaths in 1980s, and Roger, the school teacher who helped to make Gus's false ID card. He kept meticulous records of names, addresses, dates, places of landing and activities.

Mama and Roger were leaders in the Resistance movement in their area, and though it was a difficult and hazardous time, we sensed in our visits with them in both this country and theirs, that this was their finest hour.

Both helpers were decorated by the Allied countries, and Roger later received the medal of the Legion of Honor as well. Although they are no longer living, we know their children and grandchildren, and we still visit back and forth. Our most recent visit was in Normandy in 1994 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Liberation.

I encouraged Gus to write his story, which he finally did, simply and with sensitivity. With the help of a friend, a native Hoosier who taught French at Harvard, it was published in Laurels, the

magazine of the American Society of the French Legion of Honor, and we were given permission to reprint it in booklet form.

Gus then asked me to translate the story into French so that Mama and Papa could know the gratitude he felt. Copies of both books were carried to Savannah and sold, along with others, to people who had similar tales to tell, no two exactly alike.

An added bonus in Savannah was a visit to the newly-opened Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum on the outskirts of town. The Eighth Air Force was formed in Savannah in January 1942. Of an estimated 200,000 combat personnel, 26,000 were killed and 28,000 became POWs.

Three video theaters in the museum bring to life, without idealizing, the most dangerous air battle in aviation history. The exhibition is worth a detour and possibly a 900-mile trip to Savannah.

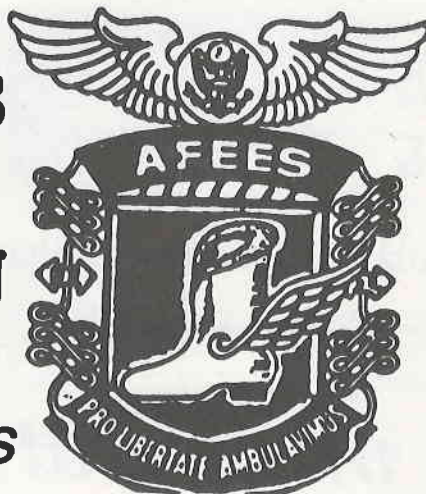
At the end of the third film, when the plane of the main character has been hit and blown to bits, the young volunteer, too young to have known that time, said he hoped we had enjoyed the film. No one moved. We were riveted to our seats. Then a voice barely audible from the back row said softly, "We're the ones that came back."

Noel Coward said it best. He said it was a strange feeling we had during the war, a kind of splendid carelessness that drew us all together.

It was a fitting way to spend Memorial Day.

Note: 'Gus' is Gus Bubenzer, E&E 1795, 9AF, 409BG, of Anderson, Ind.

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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.

ELEGIBILITY 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 FULL MEMBERSHIP, OTHER CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP
ARE: HELPER, MEMBERS, AND FRIEND MEMBERS.



PRESIDENT DICK SMITH
... on the job at Savannah

Dick Smith made first Plouha boat

Richard M. Smith, chosen president of AFEES at the May reunion, was born in 1921 in Leeds, N.D. His family moved to Minnesota when he was 6 years old and he completed high school in Breckenridge, Minn.

In 1939, he entered Notre Dame University and left college to enlist in the Army Air Corps in January 1942. He trained at Sikeston, Enid and Boise. He completed B-17 transition training in Boise, picked up a plane in Grand Island, Neb., flew it to England and was assigned to the 95th BG.

He did 12 missions before he was shot down northeast of Paris on Dec. 30, 1943. The Underground moved him to the Brest Peninsula and Plouha. He made the first boat off Bonaparte Beach and returned to England.

After the war, he spent a few months flying for Eastern Airlines, living in New York City. He decided he didn't like the city, returned to Notre Dame, got married after graduation, went back to Minnesota's Red River Valley, had three children in seven years, lost his wife in an auto accident. Married again in 1953.

Retired from the family agricultural business in 1973.

Now Dick and Margaret live on a lake in West Central Minnesota the summers and spend their winters in Palm Springs, Calif.



YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS WITH THESE GUYS -- New officers of the Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society, as chosen at the reunion in Savannah, are, from left: Chairman Ralph Patton, President Dick Smith, Vice President Russel Weyland, Recording Secretary Bud Loring, Treasurer Paul Kenney, Corresponding Secretary & Membership Chair Clayton David, and Communications Editor Larry Grauerholz.

HELPER FUND Raffle Winners

(As drawn at Savannah
Reunion May 26, 1996)

FIRST PRIZE (\$500)
Robert Wilson,
Peoria, Ill.

SECOND (\$250)
G. W. Temple,
Monroe, La.

THIRD (\$100):
R. Smathers,
Miami, Fla.

FOURTH (\$50):
W. R. Patterson,
Hot Springs, Ark.

FIFTH (\$25):
Ray Vitkus,
Las Vegas, Nev.

The '97 target: Dayton, Ohio

Dayton, Ohio, the home of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the Air Force Museum, has been selected as the site for the 1997 Air Forces Escape & Evasion Society reunion.

Dates for the reunion will likely be around the second weekend of May 1997, with the venue likely to be the Marriott, although that arrangement is only tentative.

You can expect details in the next issue of Communications.



REMEMBERING WHEN -- This group enjoyed the chance to visit at the Savannah reunion. From the left are Helen Wagner of Ellicott City, Md., Paulette Pavan, French helper, Howard Harris of Wolcott, N.Y., and Jeff Polk, Tulsa, Okla. Both Howard and Jeff were helped by Paulette.

FOLDED WINGS

MEMBERS

- Capt. Frank C. Griffiths, England, RAF, March 23, 1996
- #919 Joseph Gross, Cherry Hill, N.J., 96BG, May 28, 1996
- Charles L. Gurney II, Buffalo N.Y., 379BG
- #333 Carroll F. Haarup, Jackson, Miss., 100BG, April 17, 1996
- #1017 Theodore J. Krol, Crown Point, Ind., 401BG, May 10, 1996
- #2591 James A. Luton, Nashville, Tenn., 422 TCG, Jan. 22, 1996
- #2265 Dave O. Snowden, Marietta, Ga., 9AF, 315TCG, October 1995

HELPERS

- Mme. Eileen Le Bihan, Triel Sur Seine, France
- Mr. Claude Le Febure, Rambouillet, France, May 20, 1996
- Mr. Roger Poix, Lassigny, France, May 24, 1996
- Mr. Job Mainguy, Binic, France, June 24, 1996
- Mme. Janine Tovignon (LERAT), Loos-Les-Lille, France
- Mr. Jan H.C. Voges, Nunspeet, Holland, May 18, 1996



Jeannie and Job Mainguy in 1975 at Bonaparte Beach

Job Mainguy was part of Operation Bonaparte

Job Mainguy, age 93, of Binic in western France, passed away peacefully on June 24, 1996. Job was one of the French patriots who made Reseau Shelburne's "Operation Bonaparte" a tremendous success.

A captain the French Merchant Marine before the war, Job joined the small band of Frenchmen who headed up the Brittany section of Operation Bonaparte in late 1943 and was responsible for picking the small cove (Anse Cochet) in which the British

gunboat picked up 94 American airmen. In later operations Job and Pierre Huet were responsible for locating and identifying the land mines along the route to the beach.

Job and Jeannie Mainguy were active in the post-war organization known as "The Friends of Bonaparte Beach at Plouha" and were at every reunion of American airmen in Brittany. They visited the U.S. in 1976 when 50 members of Reseau Shelburne were guests of AFEES in Birmingham, Mich., Pittsburgh and New York City.

Frank Griffiths, RAF

Grp. Capt. Frank C. Griffiths, RAF, died March 23, 1996.

His Halifax went down the night of Aug. 14, 1943, while dropping supplies to the Resistance in the Alps near Annecy. He crashed near the Swiss border, crossed into Switzerland to be treated for injuries, then returned to France to evade through Toulouse and Spain with AFEES member Joe Manos.

Griffiths put in 41 years with the RAF. He earned the Air Force Cross while working with an experimental squadron developing a blind landing system.

French Helper dies

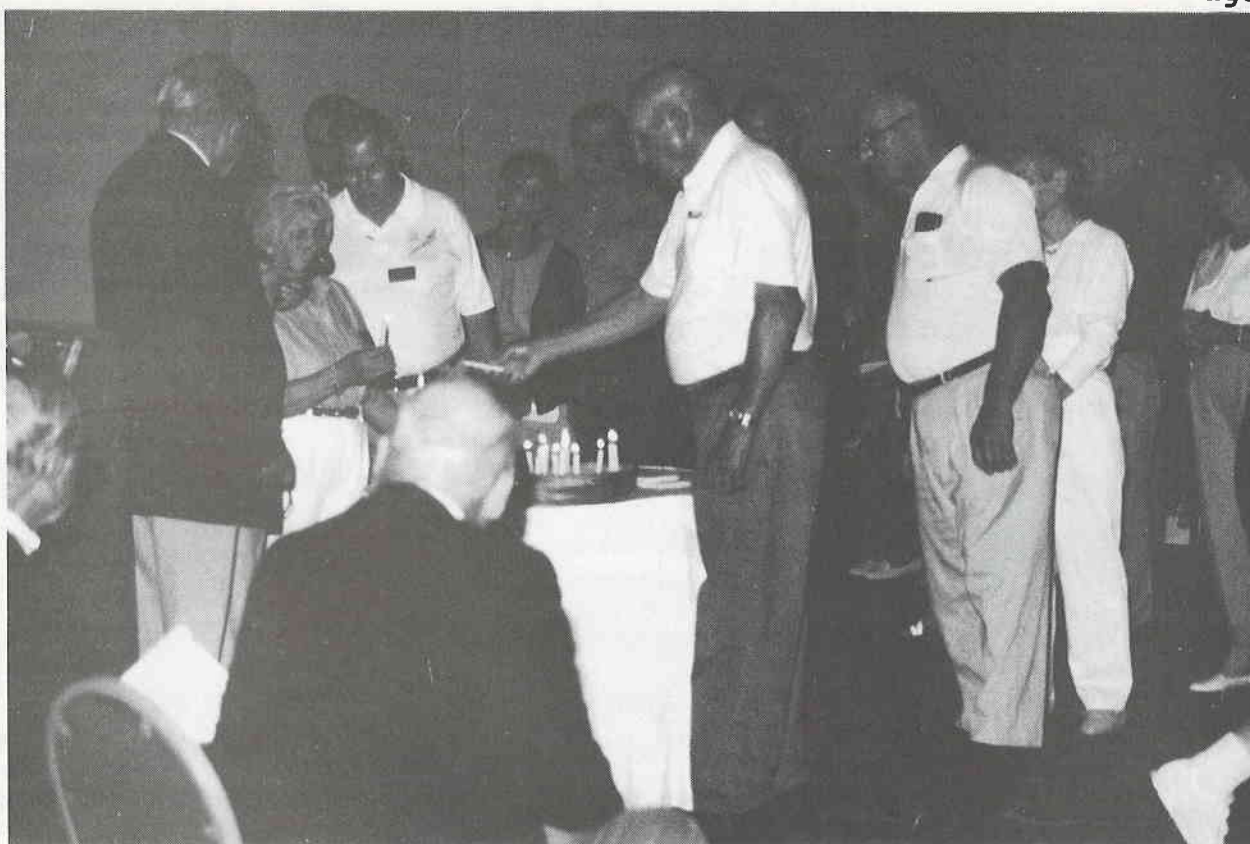
Russell Cotts of DePere, Wis., reports the death of Monsieur Claude LeFebvre on May 20, 1996. Russell writes:

"Claude and his mother lived in Rambouillet, France, during the war and helped many airmen evade capture including myself, Ed O'Day and J. I. Lindquist."

Eileen Yankus passes

Eileen, 70, the wife of Tom Yankus, died Feb. 19, 1996, in Melbourne, Fla. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., Eileen and Tom had been married for 50 years.

She had suffered from emphysema several years.



CANDLE LIGHTING -- An impressive memorial service concluded the AFEES reunion at Savannah, Ga., on Memorial Day 1996. Individual candles were lit in memory of family members or friends who have passed on. Here Dave Alford of San Antonio, Tex., lights a candle while Tommy Thomas of Morris Plains, N.J., awaits his turn. President Dick Smith observes.



CARROLL F. HAARUP

Carroll Frederick Haarup, E&E 333, a retired architect, died of heart failure April 17, 1996, at a hospital in Jackson, Miss. He was 76 years old.

Services were conducted April 18 in Clinton, Miss., with burial in the Veterans Affairs National Cemetery in Houston, Tex.

Carroll Haarup was born in Buena Vista County, Iowa. He served with the 100th BG of the 8th Air Force. He was listed as MIA when his B17 was shot down Oct. 4, 1943. He returned to England on the escape boat Breiz-Jzel. in February 1944.

Survivors include his wife, Ann; 3 daughters, 2 stepdaughters, a stepson, a sister, a brother, 14 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

JAMES A. LUTON

James Allen Luton Sr., 79, died Jan. 22, 1996, at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn.

Survivors include his wife, Anna Bateman, one son, one daughter, six grandchildren and one sister.

A native of Nashville, he graduated from Vanderbilt University. He was past president of the Woodmont Kiwanis Club, was involved with the Boy Scouts of America and taught Sunday school at Calvary Methodist Church for 25 years.

As a glider pilot in WW2, he was shot down Sept. 18, 1994, during the invasion of Holland. He was rescued by the Dutch Underground.

Jan Voges helped the Allies at the Bridge Too Far

Jan H.C. Voges, a Colonel in the Dutch Cavalry, died May 18, 1996, at Nunspeet, Holland, in his 78th year. He was one of the most active workers in the Dutch Resistance.

He aided many Allied airmen and soldiers. At the Bridge Too Far, Jan was on the Allied end of the bridge and helped many men to avoid being captured by the enemy. In later years, he often remarked how the Chowhound flights saved thousands of Dutch citizens from starvation.

He is survived by his wife, Anneka, and one daughter, Annet.

THEODORE J. KROL

Theodore J. Krol, age 77, passed away Friday, May 10, 1996, in St. John, Ind.

Survivors include his wife, Virginia Ann; five children, two sisters and one brother.

Services were held May 15 at St. Michael's Catholic Church of Schererville, Ind. Burial was in Arlington National Cemetery.

Ted Krol, a bombardier, was a member of the 401BG and had received the Purple Heart. His plane went down March 20, 1944, near Soissons.

He was a member of the VFW and Pipefitters Local 597. He shared many friendships through his love of golf.



Richard and Katherine Munsen in Kosi, Croatia, September 11, 1993

Dick Munsen returns to Croatia

By RICHARD MUNSEN
Story City, Iowa

On the weekend of Sept. 10, 1994, I returned to the towns of Kastav and Kosi to thank the former Partisans who protected me from capture by the Germans. On March 18, 1944, I parachuted into Yugoslavia when my B-17 was shot down by German fighters. Neither my crew nor I knew our exact location, but my waist gunner, Bob Brown, wrote down the name of the little village in an address book he used as a diary.

In May 1993, Ivo Matusic, a former Partisan in Yugoslavia, attended the meeting of the Escape and Evasion Society in St. Louis, Mo. It was a thrill for me to meet and finally say "Thank You" to one of the men who had helped me and my crew 49 years before. After the meeting Ivo returned with my wife and me to Story City where he spent a week in our home.

When I showed Ivo Bob's diary, he identified Kosi, a little village in the mountains, as the place where we had landed so many years before. Kosi is near Rijeka on the northern coast of the Adriatic and only a few miles from Ivo's home at Matulji. Ivo invited us to visit Croatia and meet other former Partisans who helped me and my crew escape. A year later, in September 1994, Kay and I flew to Croatia and spent ten days with Ivo and his wife, Milka.

Much to our surprise, Ivo planned the opening

of the Partisan Resistance Exhibition to coincide with our arrival. The dedication ceremonies were held in Kastav, a medieval town two miles from Kosi. Among those in attendance were two representatives from the U.S. Embassy in Zagreb, the commander of the Croatian Air Force and his assistant, the area's legislative representative, town and county officials.

Speeches were given by Ivo, who organized the exhibit, and Sonia Cuculic, Mayor of Kastav. After my response, I presented the mayor a plaque from my crew, expressing appreciation for the sacrifices made by the Partisans who enabled us to return to our base in Italy. I also gave the mayor a copy of my book, *Bail Out Over the Balkans*, which tells about the 45 days my crew and I spent with the Partisans in March/April, 1944.

At 10 a.m. on Sunday about 300 people gathered in the village square of Kosi to give tribute to a former Allied pilot. Of the 200 Allied airmen assisted by the people in Kosi during World War II, I was the first to return. Festivities were opened with a 26-piece band and a chorus which sang a Croatian folk song and *Auld Lang Syne*.

Speeches were given by Boris Detan, president (mayor) of Kosi, Ivo and Dr. Blecnic, the doctor in charge of three Partisan hospitals from 1943-1945. I responded by giving tribute to the many Partisans and

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Return to Croatia . . .

(CONTINUED)

Allied airmen who gave their lives so the world could be free of Nazi tyranny. I also presented President Detan a copy of my book.

As the band played the Croatian National Anthem and the Star Spangled Banner, an elderly woman from the village and I were taken to the rose garden at the center of the ceremonies. In the middle was a red, white and blue bunting. When I lifted the cloth I was stunned. There was a 2' by 3' marble memorial which reads:

MEMORIES OF 18TH MARCH, 1944.
AMERICAN PILOT RICHARD MUNSEN AND
HIS CREW FLYING IN A B-17 CRASHED IN
THE WOODS OF LUZINA. KOSI.
SEPTEMBER 11, 1994

To the left of the inscription is the parachute emblem of the Air Force Escape and Evasion Society and motto: "We Will Never Forget."

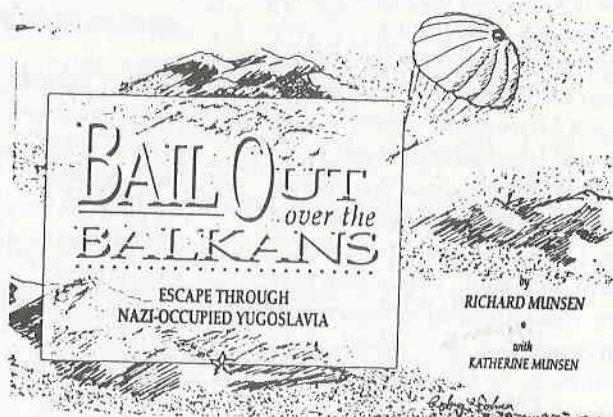
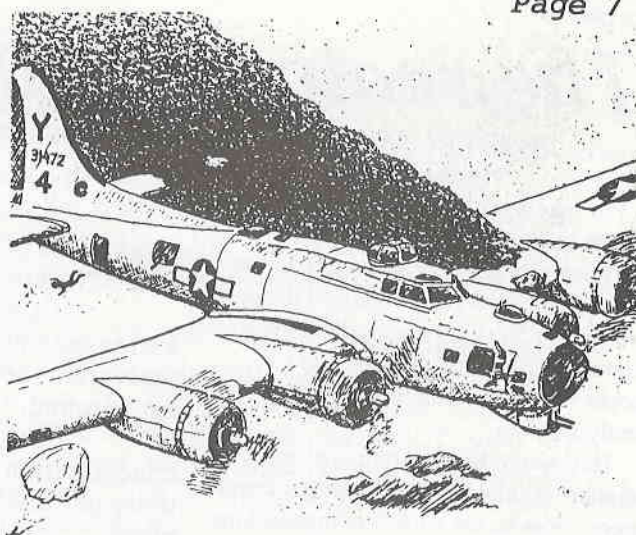
This was a somber moment. I had come to Kosi to thank the people for saving me and my crew from capture by the Germans, and the people had responded by giving me and my crew a tribute inscribed in marble.

Following the festivities on the square, rajika (plum brandy), wine, smoked pork, bread and sweets were served outside the house where three of my crew and I had hid in a cellar room. This house was used repeatedly to hide Allied airmen until they could escape into the nearby mountains. Although the house has been remodeled, the cellar room still appears as it did fifty years ago. I vividly remember that experience when we could hear the Germans walking overhead, searching for us.

With the aid of an interpreter I visited with a number of former Partisans and women who had housed and fed us. One woman said this had been the happiest day for her in four years. The war in the Balkans broke out in 1990. Although there has been no fighting in northern Croatia where we visited, the people have suffered economically.

After the festivities in Kastav and Kosi, my wife and I visited Delnice and Gerovo, two mountain villages where the people fed and housed us. In Delnice we met with the mayor and a former Partisan who identified the two-story home where I had slept. In Gerovo we were hosted by Darinka Kovac, an English teacher in the local elementary school. She took us to other mountain villages and the Kupa River which we had crossed in a flimsy row boat because the Germans had bombed the bridge. We could not follow our route of 1944 further because many of the areas were not safe to visit.

The economy is depressed in northern Croatia because of military costs and because northern Europeans are reluctant to vacation in a country at war. The fighting is far from the lovely hotels built along the Adriatic to accommodate tourists, but until the fighting ceases visitors from adjoining countries



An exciting World War II story of a B-17 crew whose plane was attacked by eight Focke-Wulf 190s. Forced to bail out of their burning plane, the men landed in the mountains of Yugoslavia. Guided by friendly Partisans the crew walked in the mountains for forty-five days before reaching safety.

will be hesitant to come, and the economy will be slow to improve. Hopefully the present cease-fire will bring peace.

The people in Croatia are similar to those in Iowa. They are friendly, they welcome visitors, place a high value on family, and emphasize the importance of a good education for their children. Teenagers like to watch TV programs from the United States and little girls like to play with Barbie dolls. Above all, the people in Croatia want to live in a country at peace.

The realization of a 50-year dream

By JETTY COOK
Hunt, Texas

For two years I had planned a trip to Europe to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Belgium. This would be the realization of a dream I've had for 50 years--the opportunity to express my gratitude to those brave people who helped me return to my family in 1944.

This would be my sixth visit to Belgium, thanks to my 32-year Air Force career. Wanda, my wife, accompanied me on the last three; Cindy, my youngest daughter, was with us on a 1973 visit. I returned to Leopoldsborg but couldn't find any of the places where I was hidden. And, not knowing the names of Belgians in the area who had helped me, I could not locate any of them. So my trips were primarily to Seraing, near Liege, where I visited M. and Mme. Jean Colleye, the family with whom I was hiding when liberated in September 1944.

In September 1994, Wanda and I, accompanied by Mel and Barbara Crouch of Fairfield Bay, Ark., flew to Frankfurt, Germany. Mel was tail gunner and I was flight engineer/top gunner on the B-17 "Berlin Special" when we were forced to parachute near Leopoldsborg, July 20, 1944. He and I, plus Fred Noble, Stan Jones and Herbert Burbank, evaded with the help of the Resistance.

On this visit we rented a car in Frankfurt and headed for Belgium. Rudy Kenis of Lummen met us at our hotel near Leopoldsborg.

Rudy is a teacher of handicapped children; his hobby is researching the air war over Belgium during WWII and the Resistance groups who helped downed Allied airmen.

I had written Burgemeister Steyaert in May 1994 to inform him of our impending visit and he wrote, "We are looking forward to meeting you and Mr. Crouch in September and we will take care that during your visit you will be able to have contact with your friends in our village from 1944. You will also get permission to visit the place where your B-17 crashed even though it is in a restricted military area."

The following day Burgemeister Steyaert escorted us to his office where

"I saw the heights to which the human spirit is capable of rising when there is a belief in a cause. There were men and women from every strata of society who willingly put their lives and their families lives at risk to assist Allied airmen.

"It's hard to imagine in normal times that anyone would take in a stranger who didn't speak their language and house, clothe and feed them from their own meager rations knowing absolutely nothing of his background.

"They knew that if caught, it meant execution for the men and a concentration camp, or worse, for the women and children. Many of those patriots have gone unknown and unhonored to their final resting place."

---An anonymous evader

27 other Belgians awaited us. All the people mentioned in "De Doodstraf als Risico" (The Death Penalty as a Risk) by Dr. J. Bussels of Hechtel-Eksel, Belgium, as having helped us evade capture, and/or members of their families, were present.

The first people to whom I was introduced were the son and two daughters of Peter and Maria Stessens (now deceased), the farm family with whom I first sought refuge the night after I parachuted. (They were 14 to 20 years of age in 1944.) The eldest daughter reminded me it was she whom I followed from the farm house to the edge of Leopoldsborg where I was picked up by Elisabeth Vanparys-Cox.

The first time I met Arthur Schalenborgh was when Mme. Cox answered a knock on the door of her apartment above the Bar L'Union in Leopoldsborg. When she opened it, there stood a man wearing the uniform of a German SS officer! He had obtained false ID papers for me, signed by the district German commander. He was now prepared to transport me to my next destination--in the sidecar of his motorcycle!

We walked through the bar downstairs, still occupied by German soldiers as it was when I followed Mme. Cox through a few days earlier. En route to Hasselt, we encountered two German checkpoints but were waved through after "Capt. Kurt" gave a Nazi salute and a "Heil Hitler!"

At our reunion, Arthur had a folder which contained a page on each airman he

had helped during the war; name, home address, bomb group, dates, etc., and a copy of the photos we carried with us to be used to obtain false IDs in event we were shot down. I expressed surprise that he had kept those during the war, considering security in event he was captured. He told me he kept the records as they were his insurance against reprisal by other Belgians after liberation as he frequently wore the German officer's uniform during the occupation and feared being accused of serving in the German army.

Victor Berckmans of Hechtel-Eksel was our tour guide to the places where we were hidden in the area. (Victor's hobby is researching military aircraft crashes in Belgium and their crews during WWII. As of December 1995 he had documented 4,034 incidents.) Victor was 11 years old in 1944 and, from a line of trees two miles away, watched as I parachuted down. Two days later, after the Germans ceased searching the area, he found my parachute which he kept until a few years ago when he gave it to a museum.

We then visited what had been the Stessens' farm house where we were joined by the Stessens children, Frans Louis Stessens, Marie Stessens and Jose Vanhees-Stessens. It is now a barn but I was told it is still in the same configuration, including the dirt floors, as it was in 1944. However, a shed had been constructed at the rear of the house since then to provide some privacy to those using the three-hole privy.

Burgemeister Steyaert hosted a lunch
(Continued on next page)

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A 50-year dream . . .

for everyone after which we walked to a nearby shop where the Bar L'Union was located in 1944. I had followed Elizabeth Cox there and, upon entering, started to walk (run) out when I saw several German soldiers. But the bartender, Mme. Cox's father, motioned me upstairs where she was waiting for me along with her huge dog. I am still thankful her dog recognized his master's scent in the clothing I wore and so I had another friendly Belgian helper. At the time, her husband, whose clothes I now wore, was an officer in the Belgian Army and had been a POW in Germany for over four years.

Upon completion of our tour, we returned to the city hall where Burgemeister Steyaert presented us with coffee table books of Belgium and large pewter plates emblazoned with the heraldic emblem of Leopoldsburg.

The next day we drove to Seraing to visit Joseph and Jeannine (Colleye) Misic who still live in the home of her parents, M. and Mme. Jean Colleye, where I hid the last few weeks before liberation.

Our final evening in Belgium was spent with Elisabeth Cox, my "beautiful blonde Belgian lady", at the home of her son, Dr. Fernand Vanparijs, and his family in nearby Momalle. This was an emotional event--seeing her again after 50 years and never knowing her name until August 1992.

REUNIONS

The 387BG, in New Orleans, La., Sept. 18-22, 1996. Joint reunion of 556, 557, 558 and 559 Squadrons. Info from Robert J. Destiche, 604 Ontario St., Shreveport, LA 71106-1628, 318-869-0767.

The 390BG Veterans Association, in Cherry Hill, N.J., Oct. 1-5, 1996. Contact Ken Rowland, 13112 N. Howard Ln., Spokane, WA 99000; 509-467-2565

U.S. Army Air Corps Cadets, Parks College (formerly Parks Air College), at Cahokia, Ill., Aug. 22-24, 1996. Cadets and others who took primary pilot training at Parks College or one of the training sites in Sikeston, Cape Girardeau, Tuscaloosa or Jackson. For info, call 618-337-7575, ext. 364.

The President's Message

I wish to thank the Board of Directors and the Membership for choosing me as your president for the next two years. I hope to be able to continue in the high manner of my predecessors, Jim Goebel, Clayton David and Ralph Patton.

I also want to thank, most profusely, all the members for the wonderful response to the Raffle. You are to be complimented to the highest degree. I am sure that many of you are not aware of the hard work and long hours that were spent to carry out a successful auction to benefit our Helpers fund.

With the raffle, reunion members are spared the inconvenience of lugging packages to be auctioned at the reunion and then wonder how to get the ones they bought, home.

It is my opinion that the raffle is a much cleaner fund raiser. We plan more raffles as fundraisers and I hope that your participation will continue.

Paul Kenney, our treasurer and reunion chief, organized a beautiful Memorial program at Savannah. We had many wonderful comments and compliments from all who attended the ceremony. Many thanks, Paul, for a most beautiful and moving Memorial Day program.

Your reunion committee is working on the 1997 get-together. Three cities are on the site list: Wichita, Kan., Kansas City, Mo. and Dayton, Ohio.

More information may be included elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter.

--DICK SMITH



AGAIN -- Three members of one crew of the 863th Squadron, 493BG, got together at Savannah. From the left are Ruth and Ashley Ivey (navigator) of Acworth, Ga., Helper Ann Feith of Barcelona, Spain, Nona and Albert Cobb (radio operator) of Waynesville, N.C., and Mille and Leonard Pogue (bombardier) of Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

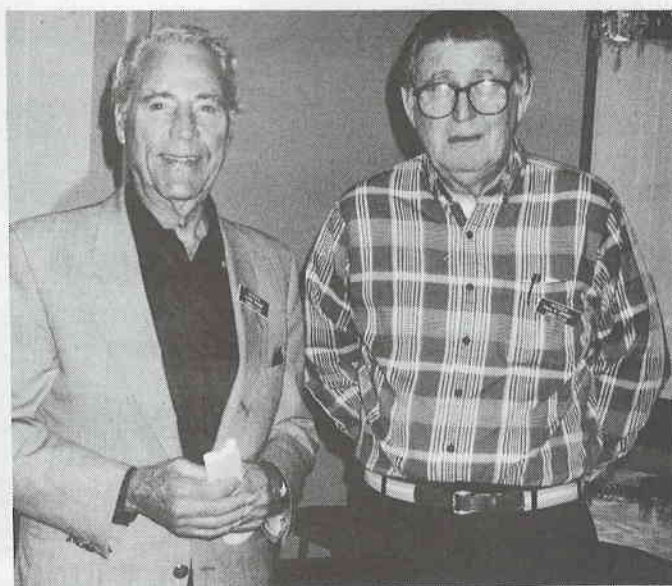
It was party time in Savannah!

About 230 members of AFEES, spouses, family and guests were in attendance for at least some portion of the reunion at Savannah, Ga., over Memorial Day weekend in May. The list of attendees as compiled by Scotty David:

ALFORD, David and Dorothy; San Antonio, Tex.
 ANDERSEN, Lester and Margaret; Springfield, Mass.
 ANDERSON, Eugene C.; Freeland, Mich.
 ANSLOW, James and Doris; Houston, Tex.
 ARMSTRONG, James and Nita; Thomasville, Ga.
 ASHMAN, Violette; Houston, Tex.
 BAKER, George Woods; Santa Monica, Calif.
 BALES, William and Mariam; Muncie, Ind.
 BARNARD, Mary Beth; Savannah, Ga.
 BEALL, Sylvia L.; Tampa, Fla.
 BECK, Jennings and Mary; Ormond Beach, Fla.
 BODWELL, Russell and Barbara; Glen Head, N.Y.
 BRANDT, Clarke; Aurora, Colo.
 BREITENBACH, Louis and Anne; Cincinnati, Ohio
 BUCKNER, John and Betty; Hardeeville, S.C.
 CAGLE, Joseph; Southern Pines, N.C.
 CARLSON, Charles and Elizabeth; Morris, Minn.
 CARROLL, Thomas and Evelyn; Tallahassee, Fla.
 CLARK, Paul and Bettye; Hixson, Tenn.
 COBB, Albert and Nona; Waynesville, N.C.
 CORBETT, Wayne and Gloria; Savannah, Ga.
 CRAMER, William and Mabel; Bedford, Tex.
 CUPP, William and Elizabeth; Northfield, Minn.
 DAVEY, Alice; Dover, Del.
 DAVID, Clayton and Scotty; Hannibal, Mo.
 DAVID, Jim and Debbie; Dadeville, Ala.
 DAVID, Lynn; Sunset Hills, Mo.
 DAVIS, William and Doris; Ormond Beach, Fla.
 DeMALLIE, Howard and Nancy; Rochester, N.Y.
 DISSETTE, Lawrence and Charlotte; Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
 DUERR, Elmer and Franny; Munhall, Pa.
 ERSKINE, Shirley; Mississauga, Ont.
 FEGETTE, Lee; Red Oak, Tex.
 FEINGOLD, Louis and Leah; Emerson, N.J.
 FINK, Phil; Lancaster, N.Y.
 FRICKE, Margaret Carlson; Morris, Minn.
 GOEBEL, James and Joan; Conroe, Tex.
 GOLDFEDER, Carol; Bethlehem, Pa.
 GOLDFEDER, Milton and Ada; Bethlehem, Pa.
 GRAUERHOLZ, Larry and Ruth; Wichita Falls, Tex.
 GRAUERHOLZ, Larry Jr. and Kim; Henrietta, Tex.
 GRIMES, Robert and Mary; Fairfax, Va.
 HAINES, Kenneth and June; Clare, Mich.
 HARKINS, Francis and Doris; Westminster, S.C.
 HARMS, John and Elizabeth; Temple Terrace, Fla.
 HARRIS, Howard and Jeannette; Wolcott, N.Y.
 HEEKIN, Francis and Eleanor; Cincinnati, Ohio
 HOGAN, Peter and Mary; Springfield, Mass.
 HORNING, Arthur and Janet; Delray Beach, Fla.
 HUGONNET, Ernest; New York, N.Y.

IVEY, Ashley and Ruth; Acworth, Ga.
 KATSAROS, John and Mary; Haverhill, Mass.
 KAUFMAN, Hector; Rouses Point, N.Y.
 KENNEY, Paul and Dorothy; Stone Mountain, Ga.
 KOENIG, Kristine; Santa Monica, Calif.
 KOSINSKI, Anthony and Eugenia; Chicago, Ill.
 KUPSICK, John; Cottage Grove, Ore.
 LASHINSKY, Francis and Dorothy; Old Lyme, Conn.
 LINCOLN, Joseph (Bill); Erie, Pa.
 LINDELL, Ernest and Constance; Moses Lake, Wash.
 LINDELL, Lt. Col. Kathleen; SAFB, Wichita Falls, Tex.
 LORING, Warren and Thelma; Monument Beach, Mass.
 LUCKETT, Elizabeth; Jackson, Miss.
 LUEDECKE, Carol Spinning; Destin, Fla.
 MARCO, Virgil and Bobbie; Dallas, Tex.
 MARCEAU, Peter; Ft. Belvoir, Va.
 MARR, John and Norma; Tallahassee, Fla.
 MARTIN, Clyde and Ethelene; Mackinaw, Ill.
 MAYS, Howard and Dolores; Mesa, Ariz.
 McDONALD, Frank and Sybil; Fort Collins, Colo.
 McKEE, Ralph and Elnor; Rockledge, Fla.
 McMICHAEL, Lloyd and Dorothy; Minnetonka, Minn.
 MILLER, Edward and Genevieve; West Sedona, Ariz.
 MILLER, Gary and Dee; Savannah, Ga.
 MILLER, Karl; Elizabeth City, N.C.
 MURPHY, Joseph and Dorothy; Wildwood Crest, N.J.
 MURRAY, James; Port Richey, Fla.
 NETTEN, John; Garden Valley, Idaho
 PATTON, Ralph and Bette; Pittsburgh, Pa.
 POGUE, Leonard and Millie; Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
 POLK, Jeff; Tulsa, Okla.
 RAMSEY, Francis and Wilma; Gaffney, S.C.

(Continued on next page)



DIRECTORS -- David Shoss (left) of Dallas, Tex., was caught by Scotty David's camera visiting with Paul Kenney of Stone Mountain, Ga., the Savannah reunion chairman.



THE LOAFING SHED -- *The lobby of the Riverfront Marriott at Savannah provided a pleasant place for conversation and socializing at the reunion. The huge WELCOME banner truly expressed the atmosphere that prevailed with the hotel staff and management.*

(CONTINUED)

RAWLS, Jacob and Evelyn; Memphis, Tenn.
 ROGOFF, Manuel; Pittsburgh, Pa.
 ROSKEY, Otto V.; Chriesman, Tex.
 RUCIGAY, John and Dorothy; Ballston Lake, N.Y.
 SARGENT, Chloe; Plant City, Fla.
 SCHAEFFER, Frank and Guest, West Bend, Wis.
 SCOTT, Carl and Elizabeth; Columbus, Ohio
 SCOTT, Peter and Helen; Old Saybrook, Conn.
 SENFIELD, Pamela Lincoln; Erie, Pa.
 SHAWN, Gilbert; Longwood, Fla.
 SHIER, Mary Spinning; Burlington, Iowa
 SHOSS, David and Doris; Dallas, Tex.
 SIMS, Christina; Santa Monica, Calif.
 SMITH, Richard and Margaret; Battle Lake, Minn.
 SOLOMON, Philip and Claire; Las Vegas, Nev.
 SPINNING, Catherine; Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
 SPINNING, William A.; Midvale, Utah
 STEAD, Jack and Mary Jane; Deaborn, Mich.
 STINNETT, Myrle and Vera; Staunton, Ill.
 SWEATT, Robert and Mary; Burton, Tex.
 THOMAS, Thomas III; Morris Plains, N.J.
 THOMPSON, Harold and Elizabeth; Longbranch, Wash.
 TITUS, Robert; Columbus, Ohio
 TROUP, David and Marjorie; Mishawaka, Ind.
 TROUP, Julie; Tampa, Fla.
 TUCKER, Robert and Guest; Palm Harbor, Fla.
 VANDEGRIFF, Robert and Virginia; Cincinnati, Ohio
 WAGNER, Helen; Ellicott City, Md.
 WALTER, Bruce; Plant City, Fla.
 WEYLAND, Russel and Francene; McHenry, Ill.
 WHISENHUNT, John; Ft. Belvoir, Va.

WIGGINS, Walton and Betty; Morgan Hill, Calif.
 WILLIAMS, Cliff and Mary; Nederland, Tex.
 YANDURA, John and Ethel; East Vandergrift, Pa.

BELGIAN HELPERS

AMBACH, Charlotte; Green Valley, Ariz.
 BODSON, Herman; Taos, N.M.
 DALEY, Yvonne; Dunedin, Fla.

FRENCH HELPERS

ATKINSON, Leslie and son Eric, Banyuls sur Mer, France
 AVIGNON, Dr. and Mrs. Bernard J.; St. Cyr-sur Loire, France
 FLOYD, Maita; Phoenix, Ariz.
 MOET, Jean Marie and Nicole; Noisy Le Grand, France
 PAVAN, Paulette; Juvisy, sur Orge, France

DUTCH HELPERS

FEITH, Ann; Barcelona, Spain
 FOLMER, Joke; Schiermonnikoog, Holland
 JASPERSE, Dr. Cornelis; Bergeschenhoek, Holland
 LEVIVELT, Mia; Lichtenvoorde, Holland
 LIND, Nel; Utrecht, Holland
 SAUR, Gabriel and Gene; Asheville, N.C., U.S.A.
 VAN VEEN, Piet and Pieta; Leimuiden, Holland
 VAN VEEN, Pia; Leimuiden, Holland
 VAN REMMERDEN, George; Seal Beach, Calif.
 VRIJ, Jacques and Letti; Rijswijk, Holland

CANADIAN GUESTS

LESLIE, Stuart and Lois; Vancouver, B.C.
 LINDSAY, Robert and Lynne; Don Mills, Ont.
 MOFFAT, James; Lachine, Que.
 MORAN, Alex and Florence; Windsor, Ont.
 SHERK, Raymond; Willowdale, Ont.
 STACEY, Gordon and Graig; Guelph, Ont.
 WIENS, Ross and Peggy; Montreal, Que.

Some Savannah scenes

--Savannah Photos by Scotty David, Gil Shawn, Letti Vrij and Jeanette Harris



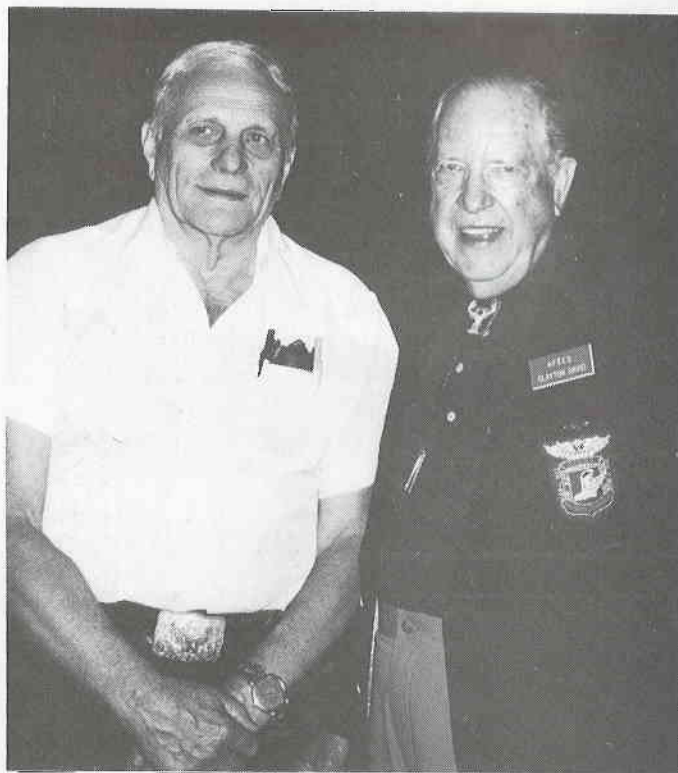
OLD FRIENDS -- Three members who hid out in the Fretval Forest while evading had a chance to visit again at Savannah. From the left are Paul Clark of Hixson, Tenn., William Davis of Ormond Beach, Fla., and Eugene Anderson of Freeland, Mich.



OLD FRIENDS -- Gilbert Shawn (left) of Longwood, Fla., and Leslie Atkinson, French co-founder of our society, had a chance to visit at the reunion in Savannah.



CHANGE OF COMMAND -- Jim Goebel, right, the retiring president of the AF Escape & Evasion Society, seems to be telling Dick Smith, the new president, that "It's your turn now, Buddy."



LONG TIME NO SEE -- Howard Mays (left), 94BG, now of Mesa, Ariz., and Clayton David, 303BG, of Hannibal, Mo., met in Savannah for the first time since they were evading through Spain 52 years ago.



DUTCH HELPERS -- Savannah was a reunion for this group of helpers from Holland. From left: Gabriel Saur, Mia Lelivelt, Cornelis Jasperse, Ann Feith, Jacques Vrij, Nel Lind, Joke Folmer, Pieta Van Veen, Piet Van Veen and George Van Remmerden.

Our Helpers gather at Savannah



COMRADES -- Belgian helpers now living in the U.S. who were at Savannah were, from left: Yvonne Daley, Herman Bodson and Charlotte Ambach.



RENDEZVOUS TIME -- This group of French Helpers got together for the camera at the Savannah reunion of the Escape and Evasion Society. From the left: Paulette Pavan, Nicole and Jean Moet, Maita Floyd, Mrs. and Dr. Bernard Avignon and Leslie Atkinson.

'Little George' has a different kind of story

"IN THE SHADOW OF THE SWASTIKA" The Double Life of a Resistance Leader in World War II Occupied Holland by H. Van Remmerden was available for the first time at the AFEES reunion in Savannah where "Little George" was accompanied by his co-author, J. Hal Netten.

This first-hand account of George's experiences at home in Holland before, during and after WW II is a "Must Read" for anyone who wants to understand the activities of a resistance that also involved helping evading Allied flyers.

After VE Day, he became part of a Dutch unit of an Allied Expeditionary Force formed in Great Britain to fight the Japanese in the Burma area. When Japan surrendered and withdrew from Indonesia, George's group became involved in establishing a stable government on the island of Java. Changes there are explained in clear and simple terms including his personal business exposures as influenced by Russian interest in the area.

Seeking more freedom, he came to the U.S. in October 1957. The oppor-



STORY TELLERS -- George Van Remmerden, left, now living in California, and John Letten are co-authors of "In the Shadow of the Swastika," George's stories of his work with the Dutch Underground.

tunities he created and his loyalty to the United States have been put into words.

Its 112 pages plus pictures, \$10.95. Available from George H. Van

Remmerden, 13500 Wentworth Lane, No. 121-E, Seal Beach, CA 90740; Phone 310-431-8893.

-- CLAYTON DAVID

An invite to cool Vancouver

The Royal Escaping Society of Canada will hold their annual meeting Oct. 3-6, 1996, at the Century Plaza Hotel in Vancouver, B.C.

AFEES members are invited. Those interested in attending should contact S. Leslie, 2574 West 36th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6N 2P5 Canada. His phone is 604-261-4693.



ITALIAN STYLE -- Camerawoman Scotty herded up a group of our 15th Air Force members for this picture at Savannah: From the left are Russel Weyland, John Yandura, John Rucigay, Thomas Carroll, Lester Andersen, Tommy Thomas, Frank Ramsey and Frank Lashinsky.



FOR AFEES -- Frank Caubergh prepares to place a wreath from the AF Escape & Evasion Society during the Memorial Day service at Ardennes Cemetery in Belgium.

AFEES represented at Ardennes ceremony

Frank Caubergh, a Belgian helper who has often attended our reunions, represented AFEES in the Memorial Day service at Ardennes American Military Cemetery in Belgium on May 25.

According to Frank, it was an unforgettable day with large crowds, speeches and prayers. Those present include a representative of the King, the U.S. Ambassador, government officials, mayors, generals and other dignitaries.

The laying of more than 70 wreaths took more than an hour. Frank felt that he was honored to place the AFEES wreath in place immediately after the officials had had their turn.

James B. Begg, president of the American Overseas Memorial Day Association, was master of ceremonies. Tributes were delivered by Mrs. Josee Pagnoul-Demet, mayor of Neupre, Lt. Gen. Thomas M. Montgomery, U.S. military representative of the NATO military committee, and Alan J. Blinken, U.S. Ambassador.

Honor guards represented the Belgian Armed Forces and the U.S. Army unit at Chievres, Belgium. The fly-by of F-15s was by courtesy of the 52nd Fighter Wing, Spandahlem AFB, Germany.

Five airmen jumped off the Phantom Train

In a recent letter, Alfred Sanders of Rockledge, Fla., furnishes information concerning five airmen who jumped off the Phantom Train just north of North Station in Brussels in early September 1944 as the train was being prepared to transport 52 Allied airmen and about 1,500 other prisoners to German camps ahead of the advancing Allied troops.

(For complete account of the Phantom Train affair, see pages 4 and 5 of 1992 Winter Communications).

Al writes: "Recently, I was able to contact John Bradley of Newhall, Calif., and we were able to determine just who the prisoners were who jumped off the train.

"It is strange that no one except Jake Thurmier (RCAF) seemed to remember it. His wife said that prior to his death, he had talked about it many times.

"The list of those who jumped on Sept. 1, 1944, includes William Rychman (E&E 1591), Bradley (E&E 1590), Stewart Leslie (Canadian), Royce MacGillvary and myself.

"I don't know how long it took the rest of them to return to England, but it took me six days. I was picked up by a C-47 at Amiens, France, on Sept. 6 and flown to England. We took off from a very small concealed airstrip.

"I thought this bit of historical trivia might be of interest to some of our members."

--AL SANDERS



CAUGHT BY THE CAMERA -- Our roving photographer found Doris and Francis Harkins of Westminster, S.C., in a good mood at Savannah.

E&E exhibit will tell our story

By **RALPH K. PATTON**
Chairman, AFEES

Those who were present when the AFEES visited the Mighty 8th Air Force Heritage Museum in Savannah on May 26 may have come away slightly disappointed at the Escape and Evasion exhibit as it was then constituted.

The museum staff fully understands our chagrin and have dedicated themselves to making changes in our exhibit to reflect our concerns. We are generally pleased with the amount of space allotted to the E&E exhibit and are

confident that we can tell the story of our helpers within its confines.

The museum staff held a brainstorming session on June 18 to review the existing exhibit and what can be done with the pictures, stories and memorabilia now in their possession. Lt. Gen. E. G. (Buck) Shuler has assured us that your committee will have input into the make-up of the revised E&E exhibit. Your AFEES committee consists of Dick Smith, Clayton David, Paul Kenney and myself. All of us have volunteered to go to Savannah to review the final designs when the time is right,

One of the ideas advanced by the museum staff revolves around the prized radio transmitter borrowed from Mme. Bozart-Delfosse in Belgium by Gil Shawn. This radio was used by the father of Mme. Bozart to communicate with London and is a rare item. The museum hopes to make it the center of an audio section of the E&E exhibit.

The urgency of opening the museum on May 13 required some shortcuts so a video tape was edited from existing tapes. A review and possible remake of this video is in the discussion stage. Your committee believes that this tape should be oriented toward the story of our Helpers.

We have discussed with Gary Miller, the museum director, the need to identify photographs on the "Wall of Honor." We have been assured that this will be done. A committee at the museum is currently doing research to determine how best to tell the E&E story while using the memorabilia our members have sent in. It's not too late to send items that will help tell your story. They especially need Pyrenees photographs.

The E&E exhibit has a way to go, but the good news is, the museum staff is gung-ho on E&E, and dedicated to telling the true story of our Helpers.

You said Yes

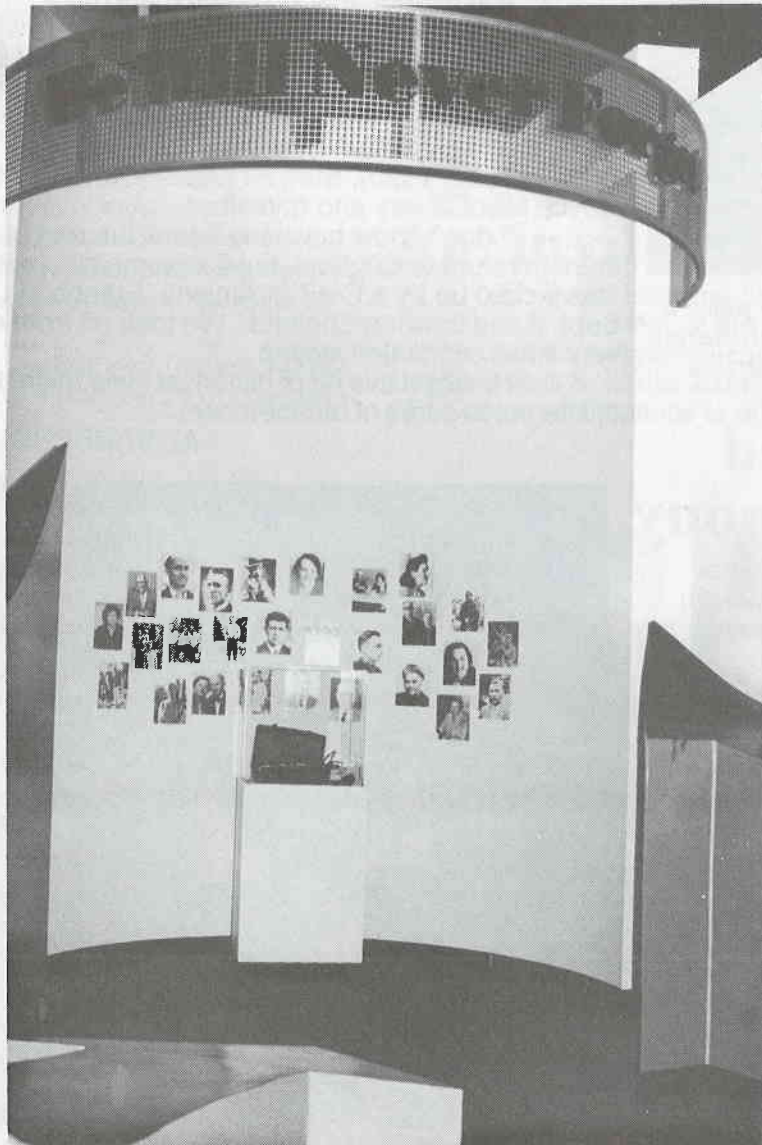
As most of our members know, I have been supportive of the concept of an 8th Air Force museum for more than a decade. The reasoning was all major museums so far had ignored escape and evasion and I did not want E&E to be left out of a new one.

Now that the museum is a reality, I want to thank all our AFEES members who have backed this concept with their cash and their moral support.

I realize that all of us are bombarded with requests for contributions to worthy causes, many of them difficult to say "No" to.

To all of you who said "Yes" to the museum, my heartfelt THANKS!

---RALPH K. PATTON



WE WILL NEVER FORGET -- The Wall of Honor at the E&E exhibit at the 8th AF Heritage Museum includes photographs of some of our Helpers. More pictures are to be added to the display soon.

'A permanent home for the 8th'

SAVANNAH, Ga. -- The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum, built to honor the more than one million men and women who have served in the 8th Air Force since it was created in Savannah in 1942, is now open to the public from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week.

The museum opened its doors on May 13, with more than 4,000 Eighth Air Force veterans and families from 38 states and three foreign countries present for the occasion. Among them were Brig. Gen. Paul Tibbetts, Col. Gabby Gabreski, Col. Robert Morgan, and Medal of Honor recipient Col. William Lawley.

"We finally have a permanent home for the Mighty Eighth," said Maj. Gen. Lewis E. Lyle, USAF (Ret.) museum president, "and all of us can be proud of this museum facility. I think all Eighth Air Force veterans and their families are going to like it."

Featuring a 100,000 volume capacity library, huge archives, memorial gardens, an art gallery, meeting and study rooms, a gift shop and a snack bar as well as a huge exhibit area, the 90,000 square foot museum is located at the intersection of Interstate 95 and U.S. 80 (Exit 18) in Pooler, Ga. The museum is on the east side of I-95 a few hundred yards north of U.S. 80 at 175 Bourne Ave., Pooler, Ga. 31402. Mail should continue to be sent to: The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum, P. O. Box 1992, Savannah, Ga. 31402. Persons sending packages via package

shipping services should use the Pooler street address.

Admission to the museum is by membership card or by purchasing tickets at \$7.50 for adults, \$6.50 for children ages six to twelve. Children under six are admitted free. Group rates are available at \$5.50 per person for groups of 20 people or more. Museum meeting facilities are available for rent by the public.

The museum gift shop is open for business every day with a large selection of merchandise. A catalog is being prepared for mail orders from the gift shop. To get a catalog when it's published, send your name and address to the Heritage Museum Gift Shop, P. O. Box 1992, Savannah, GA. 31402.

The most popular and moving exhibit in the museum's early days open has been the Mission Experience Theater. Museum visitors get a mission briefing in a Nissan hut constructed from an original World War II hut brought over from England. Then the visitors move into the Mission Experience Theater inside the control tower where they "fly" a lifelike World War II mission recreated through the use of film, sound and huge screens.

The Mighty Eighth was created during the early days of World War II to carry the strategic air war to the European mainland. At its peak World War II strength, more than 350,000 people served in the Eighth. More than 26,000 crew members were killed and more than 28,000 were taken prisoners as the Eighth played a decisive role in defeating the Nazis.

Museum salutes vets of three wars

From the Thomasville, Ga.,
Times Enterprise
Thursday, May 16, 1996

(By the Associated Press)

POOLER, Ga. (AP)--Thousands of veterans and their families were on hand for the opening of the Mighty 8th Air Force Museum, which honors those who fought in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

The \$12 million museum opened to the public Tuesday (May 14). Veterans of the 8th Air Force, which was formed in nearby Savannah in 1942, and their families got a sneak preview Monday.

"It's their day," said retired Gen. E. G. "Buck" Shuler, who was the driving force behind building the museum. "I feel good for them. It's been a wonderful challenge, and the reward is right here. It's more than I ever thought it would be."

The museum had been talked about for 50 years, but it became a reality after

Chatham County commissioners donated the land and pledged financing. Many veterans said they never thought the museum would be built.

That was before Shuler and retired Gen. Lew Lyle of Hot Springs, Ark., got involved.

"You could say I'm numb...absolutely in awe of the building and its long-term potential," said the 78-year-old Lyle, surveying the 90,000 - square - foot building that houses artifacts, a library, combat equipment, a mission briefing room and a flight simulator.

"This is what keeps me young," he said. "This is a fantastic home for the 8th. It's a great day for the 8th veterans and the veterans of this country. This place will be a major research center and one of the best high-tech museums in the world."

Roger Freeman of Colchester, England, who coined the name Mighty 8th Air Force, was on hand for the opening. Freeman, who was a boy

during World War II, has written about 40 books, mostly on the 8th Air Force.

"Magnificent," he said. "I've been promoting this hard overseas."

The museum, still not completely finished, includes World War II-era mock fighter planes, a German Messerschmitt Me-163B-1a Komet rocket plane, a rebuilt Jeep, cut-away engines for the P-51 and B-17, and photographs from England.

Saul M. Kupferman, president of the Georgia chapter of the 8th Air Force Historical Society, said the museum is "absolutely unbelievable...a dream come true."

"It's not finished, but what they've done is first class. There's got to be thousands of guys looking down from heaven today saying thank you," he said.

One display in the rotunda was manned by Steve Miller, son of the late band leader Glenn Miller, who was killed on a flight during World War II. Many veterans took time to tell Miller that they knew his father.

Mercantile Resistance? An Insult!

BY ROGER ANTHOINE

Peron, France

Just like drum-beating "music", disparaging "theories" about World War II emerge as a must for some so-called historians. Unborn when others died so that they presently enjoy freedom of speech, revisionists now wish to re-write history, seeking recognition (and money) with dramatic fictions. An example of late is a book by a Mr. Porch, obligingly reviewed in January under Mr. Kaplan's byline, in a column syndicated in the Hearst U.S. newspapers. There, author and reviewer contend that wartime underground resistance against German occupation of Europe was mostly a myth or at best a mercantile endeavor.

A right to speak up

The strength of present-day critics mostly stems from the fact that those who could counter them are either too shy and self-effacing, or not here anymore. Whilst certainly not being the best-qualified person to speak up, it still seems to be a duty to this writer to try and counter such wild generalizations.

A young background operator in Belgian subversive activities from 1941 onwards, he later joined regular U.S. armed forces. Having thus witnessed Underground operations from both the inside and the outside, he will perhaps be granted some competence in contributing several straight facts.

True indeed, a segment of boastful "postwar resistance" has helped to dilute credibility of the real deeds performed against the Nazi war machine. But it remains that undercover rejection of German force and brutality did second the Allied cause in several fields. Just to name the two discounted by Porch and Co.--helping downed Allied aircrew and gathering information on German war effort--let us admit that none were decisive in winning the war. But they were at least an immense boost to morale for the individuals involved, be they those in uniform or enslaved Europeans. On the Continent, spontaneous and often awkward actions for Freedom were always dangerous, often fatal. Caught, many paid the ultimate price. They did not survive to rise and speak against cheap

present-day contradictors. To pretend that what they did was for money is to heap insult on their memory!

Helping evaders

Was helping evading airmen done for money? No doubt the escape purse they carried as early as 1942 could provide some incentive, though most helpers were not even aware of its existence when coming in contact with a downed airman. On the other hand, humanity being what it is, some shameful occurrences did happen: this writer once discovered a dead RAF Wing Commander whose crashed body had been robbed. Such extremes were fortunately infrequent.

Escape money amounted to some 3000 francs or equivalent and in starved and severely rationed Europe it was not considered a sin to accept part of it in exchange for scarce clothing, shoes or food, or for railroad journeys to safer Gibraltar or Switzerland.

Still in numerous cases, the money proffered by hunted aircrew was not taken. Witness one example: Valentine Lequeux, an humble widow in Beaumont, Belgium. At the risk of her life and her daughter's, she sheltered U.S. ball-turret gunner Richard Harrington for weeks and for nothing. She survived. Just.

In the same vein, Mr. Porch and Mr. Kaplan could come over and ask Raymond Servoz in Lugrin, on the French shore of Lake Geneva, how much money he made smuggling people to neutral Switzerland. He still smarts remembering the amount he paid to retrieve his fishing boat from Swiss impoundment after bringing Jewish refugees in neutral territory.

A Helper needs help

Arlie Blood of Canyon Lake, Calif., is attempting to aid a French helper in tracing three airmen who parachuted from a B17 north of Paris on June 9, 1944. The three (with 1943 addresses): Josef Le Blanc of Lewiston, Me., Eugene Kiefer of Oklahoma City, Okla., and Paul Bartlett of Theresa, N.Y. Other members of the crew were Bruce Reeverts of Buffalo, N.Y., and Dominik Dentino of Rochester, N.Y.

And to jump from the individual to the organizational, one will consider Belgium's "Comete", wartime's most efficient escape chain. Through it at least 288 RAF and USAAF aircrew made it back to England via the Pyrenees. True, some smugglers--not all--took money for helping--and sometimes not helping--stranded aviators across the mountains. But such cases were definitely not the mark of the numerous helpers who operated along the line throughout Europe. Actually for 155 of Comete's patriots, retribution was a German firing squad or starvation in those death camps whose very existence is now denied by "revisionists" who should indeed find satisfaction in reading the Porch book.

True again, some are said to have grown rich from "underground money." This may have come from misappropriated containers dropped by RAF Special Duties Squadrons and later by the U.S. Carpetbagger Liberators. Loot also came from raided banks or stolen German funds. But again, the bulk of such money served rightful Underground purposes, not the money-seekers whose greeds were in any case less dangerously satisfied through black market operations.

Intelligence

To close what could become a book-length debate, a word on gathering intelligence. No one will ever be able to quantify the value of passing on to the Allies information about German armed forces. And this writer will certainly not claim that the war was much shortened by stealing in 1943 parts of a Lichtenstein radar in a downed Luftwaffe night fighter, or subtracting a Norden bombsight out of a belly-landed B-17.

There is no doubt however that, a few miles away, another agent greatly improved the life expectancy of RAF night bombers by providing London with a detailed description of the Himmelbatt station at Sautour, Belgium. Nobody ever got a dime for that. Nor a medal.

Roger Anthoine is an author and former Belgian helper. This article was prepared for the U.S. Carpetbaggers Association.

We made our point with Mr. Porch!

By RALPH K. PATTON
Chairman, AFEES

"FRENCH RESISTANCE MOSTLY A MYTH" screamed the headlines of a book review by Bernard Kaplan of Hearst Newspapers last January. Douglas Porch, the author of "The French Secret Services," responds to criticism by claiming the reviewer never read the book and attributed unwritten positions to the author.

Many AFEES members and friends were offended by the review and those who carefully read the book were convinced that while negative toward the E&E networks, Porch's book was unduly negative with regards to the efficacy of the Resistance.

Among the AFEES members and friends who called the author to task were Yvonne Daley Brusselmans, Maita Floyd, Herman Bodson, Roger Anthoine, The Carpetbaggers Association, Clayton David and myself. Author Porch, courteously, thoughtfully replied but he was not swayed from his basic position that the efficacy of the Resistance was overplayed by those who lived the war.

Historians are better able to judge these things than those who lived them!

Author Porch sloughs off Eisenhower's statement, that "the French Resistance was worth six divisions" by saying that the OSS gave Ike bad information. Authors can always find quotes to prove the position they wish to take. Author Porch defends one of his positions by stating, "It was conventional forces who won World War II, not resisters." Who can

argue with this? Porch has been careful in all correspondence to ensure that "it is hardly my task to denigrate the courage of those who took part" (in the resistance) but then he soundly negates the work that these courageous men and women did.

Douglas Porch wrote to Herman Bodson, "I cannot understand why your friends from AFEES are upset?" Yvonne Daley wrote to author Porch and very succinctly explained why she was upset and a number of other members spelled it out loud and clear. But just in case Porch didn't get the message--we were mad as hell because his reviewer inferred that our Helpers got rich by helping us, we're mad as hell because he inferred that our Helpers' efforts resulted in negligible assistance to the war effort, we're mad as hell because he inferred our Helper friends who died for their resistance activities gave their lives in a futile effort.

Author Porch takes pride in his role as a historian, and like other young historians, he sees his job as defying history as it was written while events were taking place. They apparently believe that history is much clearer 50 years after the fact. It is apparently much safer to quote dead men; live ones rise up and argue.

Thanks to all AFEES members and friends who called Mr. Porch to task. We didn't change his mind but we did make our point. The culprit who started the argument with a bad review, Bernard Kaplan of Hearst Newspapers, never answered any of the letters.



THREE GENERATIONS -- Clayton and Scotty David, the pair who make the wheels of AFEES go 'round and 'round, made the Savannah reunion do double duty. They turned it into a family reunion too. Here they are, from left: Lynn David, Scotty, Clayton, Jim David, Debbie and their daughter Sarah, Carl Scott and his wife, Elizabeth.

The Luftwaffe is coming!

Luftwaffe veterans will be hosted at the Midwest Regional 2nd Air Division Association meeting Sept. 27, 1996, at the U.S. Air Force Museum on Wright Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio. A number of German pilot veterans, and German civilians who created the Kassel Mission American/German Memorial near Bad Hersfeld, Germany, have accepted invitations and will attend this anniversary commemoration.

Sponsored by the Kassel Mission Memorial Association and the 445th Bomb Group, the Midwest Regional will focus on the highest group loss in 8th AF history--the Kassel mission of Sept. 27, 1944. The 445th Bomb Group lost 30 out of 35 Liberators that day, while the Luftwaffe lost 29 fighters.

Among the events planned is a preview of a new media-quality video about the Kassel mission by the Dzenowagis Group, including archival combat footage and interviews with actual German and American veterans who flew in the air battle.

To receive a schedule of activities and prices write: William R. Dewey, KMMA, P O Box 413, Birmingham, MI 48012, or phone 810/644-1492.

NEW MEMBERS

L/C Robert O. Lorenzi
6316 N. Sutherlin
Spokane, WA 99208
Ph.: 509-328-2608
#489; 8AF, 452BG

FRIENDS

Mrs. Miriam Bales
5005 N. Weir Drive
Muncie, IN 47304-6137
Ph.: 317-284-0470

Michael Carpenter
2404 River Green Drive
Atlanta, GA 30327
Ph.: 404-816-7043



THE SPINNING BUNCH -- Catherine Spinning of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., the widow of Bill Spinning (351BG) entertained three of her children at Savannah. From the left: William Spinning of Midvale, Utah, Carol Spinning Luedecke of Destin, Fla., Mary Spinning Shier of Burlington, Iowa, and Katy Spinning.

Roundtable hears about C-B-I operations from Charles

Charles Leonard of New York City was speaker at the May meeting of the AAF Roundtable of Connecticut. He was a P-47 pilot in the China-Burma-India Theatre. The program was carried on a local television station and AFEES received a plug.

The Roundtable is dedicated to the "preservation of our Air Force's history, contributions and sacrifices in the defense of the United States, and to the memory of all those who sacrificed their lives in the pursuit of that objective."

Updates to 1996 Directory

(Changes are in **Bold Face Type**)

In many sections of the country, addresses are being changed to accommodate 911 service and new telephone Area Codes are being added for expanded service. Please notify Clayton David, membership chair, of any changes so that the Membership Directory can be current.

BRIXIUS, John L., **14410 W. Las Brisas Ln., Sun City West, AZ 85375-2700, Phone 602-214-2094**

COBB, Albert M., **346 Stuart Circle, Lake Junaluska, NC 28745, Phone 704-452-9361**

GORDON, Lee C., *S* **PO Box 373, Millbrae, CA 94030-0373, Phone 415-697-7442**

HARRIS, Howard M. (L), **11903 W. Main St., Wolcott, NY 14590-1034, Phone 315-594-2015**

ILFREY, Jack (L), **1409 Nacogdoches, San Antonio, TX 78209-2751, Phone 210-805-0231**

KUPSICK, John A. (L), **2070 Clark Ave., Cottage Grove, OR 97424-1813, Phone 503-942-2133**

LOVELAND, Glenn (L), **Rt. 9, Box 601, Mission, TX 78572, Phone 210-519-8559**

McMINN, Joseph S., **511 E. Pierson St., Hamilton, TX 76531-2332, Phone 817-386-3878**

STONEBARGER, Gilbert M. (L), **523 Princeton Greens Court, Sun City Center, FL 33573-7058, Phone 813-633-4511**

George passed out good advice

One of the winners in the recent AFEES raffle was George W. Temple of Monroe, La. Getting the \$250 in the mail was a pleasant shock for George and he wrote a thank-you letter to Russ Weyland, the raffle committee chair.

In that letter, George described his own experiences in Italy that qualified him for AFEES membership. After his return to the States in the spring of 1944,

he visited staging areas in the Midwest to deliver escape and evasion briefings. You may have heard him! --The Editor

BY GEORGE W. TEMPLE

My escape, evasion and crossing the lines of action, took place in Italy during the summer of 1943. Though I didn't require the use of the Underground, the challenge and the rewards were of equal

magnitude to those who went down in France or wherever.

My experiences did enable me to work, in the spring of 1944, out of the Pentagon. I, along with a 2nd Lt. from G-2, went to the staging areas in Kansas and Nebraska and gave Escape and Evasion lectures.

The success of that program came to light, to me, in two separate cities, here in the States in 1945. I was stopped, on two occasions, by an airman. The question to me was, "Lieutenant, were you ever in Topeka, Kansas, or it might have been Lincoln, Nebraska?" There were five staging bases bases, out where new crews were picking up their planes and then departing for the U.K. I responded in the affirmative.

Next, they asked about the dates and I replied again in the affirmative. Then came the glorious follow-up! "If it hadn't been for something that you told us that day, I wouldn't be here talking to you now." This happened twice.

I was shot down while operating out of Benghazi, Libya. We were 8th AF on detached duty to Africa. My group was the 44th, one of the B-24 groups that went down there to participate in the Ploesti refinery raid on Aug. 1, 1943. I made it back from that raid, but went down two raids later over Foggia, Italy, on Aug. 16, 1943.

On September 23, I made it back and joined my outfit in Tunis. During the time after I was shot down, I spent several weeks in a hospital under Italian guard. That was all broken up about September 9 when B-25s blew up the hospital. We five POWs escaped out the opening that was left when the room next us was eliminated. After that we went in separate ways and all evaded capture by the Germans.

I returned to England with my bomb group in October and stayed in London. Part of the London experience included my attendance at a week to 10-day seminar at a British MI-9 location. This was on escape and evasion.

My mission in this field was complete, in my mind, after I met the afore mentioned airmen, who had likewise made it back after our lectures.

AIR FORCES ESCAPE & EVASION SOCIETY STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1995

GENERAL FUND

Receipts:

Annual dues	4,300.00
Life memberships	3,105.00
Gifts	3,085.00
Post exchange	2,050.20
Miscellaneous	<u>73.15</u>
Total Receipts	12,613.35

Disbursements:

News letter	4,366.50
Membership	934.59
Reunion	6,923.36
Post exchange	575.00
Christmas cards & postage	927.23
Miscellaneous	<u>451.82</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>14,178.50</u>
Excess of disbursements	(1,565.15)
Cash balance - beginning	<u>6,586.96</u>
Cash balance - end	<u>5,021.81</u>

REUNION FUND (Note)

Receipts	4,123.70
Disbursements	<u>439.01</u>
Excess of receipts	3,684.69
Cash balance - beginning	<u>3,144.20</u>
Cash balance - end	<u>6,828.89</u>

INVESTMENT FUND

Certificates of deposit:	
Balance - beginning	20,722.64
Interest credited	<u>930.86</u>
Balance - end	<u>21,653.50</u>

Note - Not included in the Reunion Fund activity are expenses paid by the General Fund of \$6,923.36 and the cost of Post Exchange items sold at the reunion.

The editor has the last word

WICHITA FALLS, Texas -- Trust me on this one: Savannah was Simply Super!

Our society was royally entertained by this fine old Southern city. The historic district had enough dining facilities to suit any palate, and enough monuments and sights to wear out your eyeballs. The Marriott people were knocking themselves out to please after taking over from the Howard Johnson chain. One of the hotel employees told me, "Things are going a lot better since the change of owners." I believe him.

Then there was the *piece de resistance*: the visit to the 8th Heritage Museum. To anyone with the slightest interest in military history, this museum is worth driving out of the way to visit.

Thanks should go to Paul and Dorothy Kenney, who handled the Savannah reunion beautifully. They made the event truly one to be remembered and fondly recalled for many years.

If you haven't heard from Russ Weyland by now, you DID NOT win the AFEES raffle. (See page 3 for the list of winners). Russ reports that the raffle netted our Helper fund about \$4200 and he received about \$750 in additional donations.

Since Russ and his family did the organizing, the envelope stuffing and the accounting, we owe them Big Time for their work. It was so successful that I am sure you can expect another raffle, perhaps with some refinements, next year.

Selman Field, near Monroe, La., has quite a history beyond serving as the site for my navigational training in 1943.

The field honoring Monroe native Lt. Gus Selman became the corporate HQ of Delta Airlines.

Now there is a move on to save the last remaining Selman WW2 structure and use part of it as a museum to tell the story of Selman Field since 1926 and the contributions Louisiana has made in the field of aviation.

We don't have many members in Kinderhook, N.Y., located in the upper Hudson Valley. That means that Scotty Rendall has a tough time defending our honor at meetings of the Kinderhook Association for the Detection and Prosecution of Horse Thieves, a group that meets yearly for a business meeting and oyster stew. The group must be highly successful in crime control as they have not prosecuted a horse thief since 1916. Scotty says he is the lone airman among the artillery and engineer types -- and even some Gobs!

Folks out in New Mexico may be seeing some F-4 Phantom jets with strange markings these days. The planes with the black, red and gold stripes are aircraft of the German Luftwaffe, which has opened a permanent training unit at Holloman AFB, near Alamogordo. German pilots have received training for many years here at Sheppard AFB, but not in German planes.

Dick Munsen (see story on pages 6-7) says he will donate \$5 to AFEES for each of his books sold to members. "Bail Out over the Balkans" is priced at \$15 for soft cover and \$20 for hard, plus \$1.75 p&h. You can contact him at 1027 8th St., Story City, IA 50248 if you want to take him up on his deal.

John A. Neal of Apt. 4114, 111-146 Avenue S.E., Calgary, Alta. T2X 1Z1 Canada, is still working on his book, "Bless You Brother Irvin" and could use some more parachuting stories, especially those with an unusual element. He was not able to attend the Savannah meeting, but his sister, Shirley Erskine, was present. Shirley and her friend Jack Kupsick were at one of the dinner tables with your editor, but she never mentioned the relationship with John.

I have been informed that a full-size statue of a famous French Resistance worker, Madame Francoise (Marie Louise Dissard) was erected in Toulouse after her death in 1957. Since Bill Foley and I were her house guests for a few days in early 1944, I would like to have a photograph of that statute if any of you touristy members can oblige.

Yvonne Daley-Bruselmans wrote President Dick Smith that AFEES reunions are very much like a very good wine -- the older it gets, the better it is! Yvonne rated Savannah as a Chateau-Neuf-du-Pape 1959, and says "believe me, that was a very good if not excellent wine."

I THOUGHT THIS WAS PRETTY GOOD: Get-well cards are getting so funny that if you don't get sick, you feel like you're missing something.

Your newsletter is a bit off schedule since your faithful scribe and spouse are off to England July 29 to visit a daughter who is teaching an exchange course at Oxford University. I hope to work in a day trip to the old 96BG base at Thetford and for sure, pay a visit to the museum at Duxford. -- LARRY GRAUERHOLZ

Hagar



Col. Klink gets revenge

From the Sacramento (Calif.) Bee

Those cut-ups from *Hogan's Heroes* are up to their old hi-jinx again, this time in the heartland of the people who were the butt of every joke.

Hogan's Heroes had a six-year run ending in 1971, and has been syndicated in 45 countries--but not, until recently, in Germany. That omission is explained not only by a desire not to offend Germans' sensitivities about the war but because it parodied something of older vintage Germans' presumed lack of a sense of humor. Even German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, whose English is excellent, complained about that stereotyping after he saw the series on U.S. TV. A German producer dubbed it into German and aired it in 1992; it flopped. Undeterred, the producer has tried again, with redubbed dialogue that leaves no doubt that it's meant as a caricature. New result: *Hogan's Heroes* draws a million viewers every day.

Another reason for its popularity is the passing of an older generation. As a 15-year-old Bavarian high school student quoted by the *Wall Street Journal* put it: "Why not watch some stupid Nazis getting their butts kicked by some American dudes?" He said it, of course, on the Internet. In English. Welcome to the New World Order.



Dues are due

--by the year

AFEES operates on a calendar-year basis. Yearly dues are \$20 and should be sent to Clayton C. David, 19 Oak Ridge Pond, Hannibal, MO 63401-9554. Make checks payable to AFEES.

If your membership card shows "Dues paid to 1997," it means you have paid for 1996 and should remit for next year before Feb. 1, 1997.

A Life Membership of \$100 is a simple way to pay your dues and never have to pay them again!



AFEES PX PRICE LIST

Ideal gifts for any occasion

Decals

4 1/2 in. Exterior	6 for \$2.00
3 1/2 in. Interior	6 for 2.00

Winged Boots

Lapel Pin, 3/4 in. Pewter	\$6.00
Tie Tack, 3/4 in. Pewter, with Chain	6.00
Lapel Pin, 1 in. blue shield with boot	6.00
Tie Tack, 1 in. blue shield with boot & chain	6.00
Cloth with metallic thread (dry clean only)	5.00
Cotton Sport Shirt Patch (can be laundered)	2 for 5.00
(Silver on dark blue)	

Blazer Patches

Royal Blue Only	\$10.00
Blue with metallic thread	15.00

A.F.E.E.S. Merchandise

Car License Plate	\$10.00
T-Shirts, sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL	18.00
Lapel Pin, blue and silver	6.00
Quartz Wrist Watch, with AFEES logo	49.95
Clock, Helping Hand logo (with battery)	15.00

Official AFEES Caps

(One size fits all)

Mesh Back, Navy Blue	\$12.00
Mesh Back, White	12.00
Closed Back, Navy Blue only	12.00

The PX has a nice selection of new Souvenir Items, especially appropriate for Helpers, ranging in price from \$2 to \$10. Call or write for items currently in stock.

(Add \$1.50 per order for shipping and handling)

Make checks payable to AFEES and mail to:

FRANK G. McDONALD, PX Manager
1401 Brentwood Drive
Fort Collins, CO 80521
Phone (970) 484-2363



AFEES Membership & Life-Membership Application Form



Regular A.F.E.E.S. membership is \$20.00 per year, including first year. Includes all rights and privileges.
Life-Membership is \$100.00 with no annual dues or assessments. Includes all rights and privileges forever.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE () _____

Duty Info: GROUP _____ SQDN _____ AIR FORCE _____ CREW POSITION _____

WIFE'S NAME _____ TYPE AIRCRAFT _____ WHERE WENT DOWN _____

WHEN, DATE _____ HELPERS _____

NOTE: Use extra sheet of paper if necessary. Give all the details you can.

Tell briefly the names of crew members and Helpers:

Enclose check or Money Order, a **TAX DEDUCTIBLE** contribution for paid up dues.

Send to Clayton C. David, Membership Director, 19 Oak Ridge Pond, Hannibal, MO 63401-9554, U.S.A.

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