

## Banquet - Prince George Hotel



**Above left:** Stuart Moak, Founder of the P-47 Pilots Assn., presents a copy of the U.S. Declaration of Independence to the Shelburn group.

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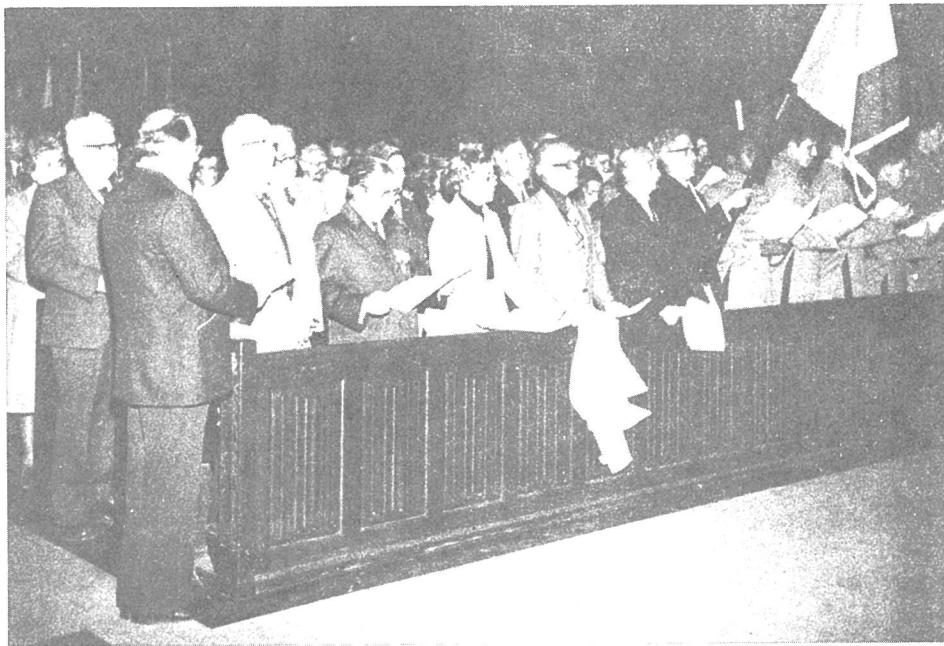


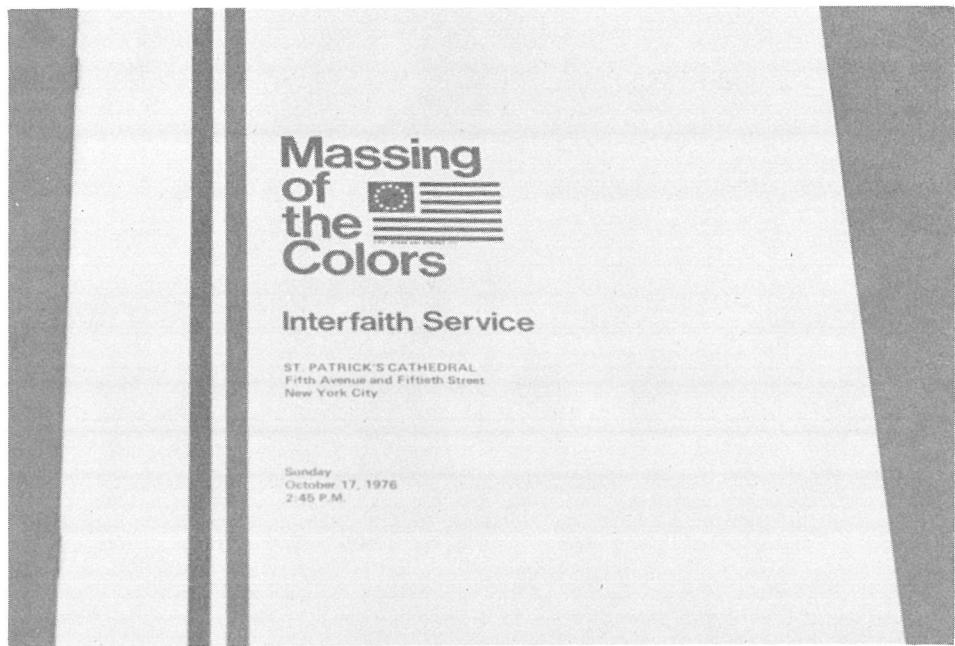
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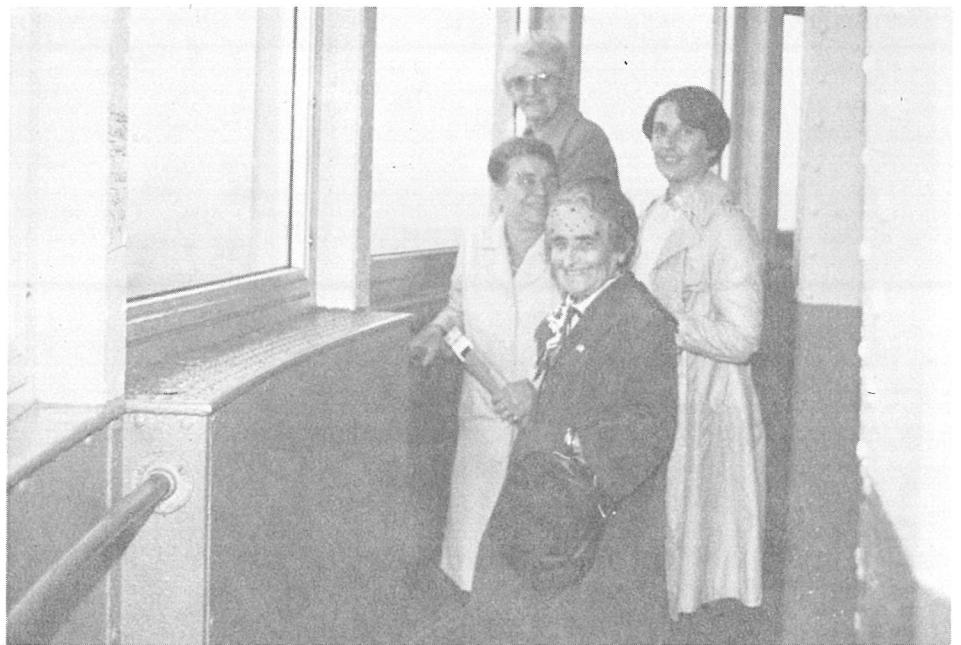




## Massing of the Colors Parade



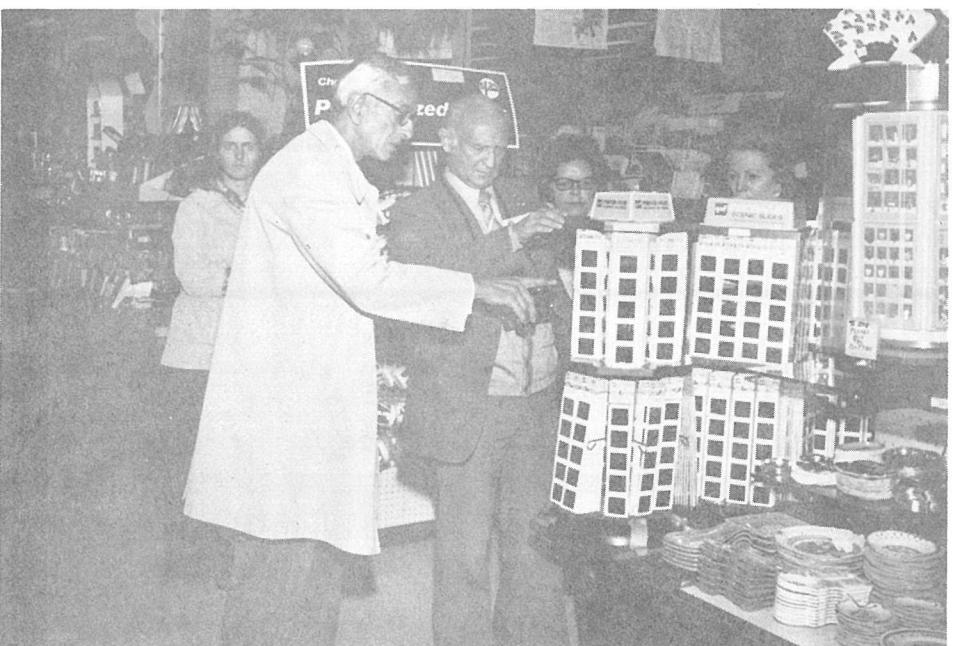
## Empire State Building

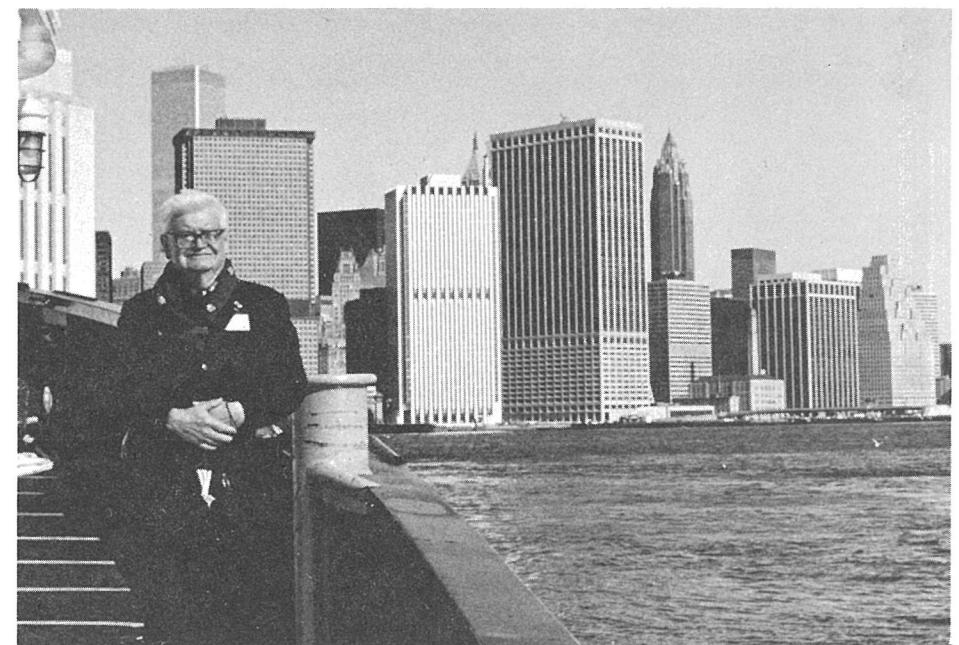


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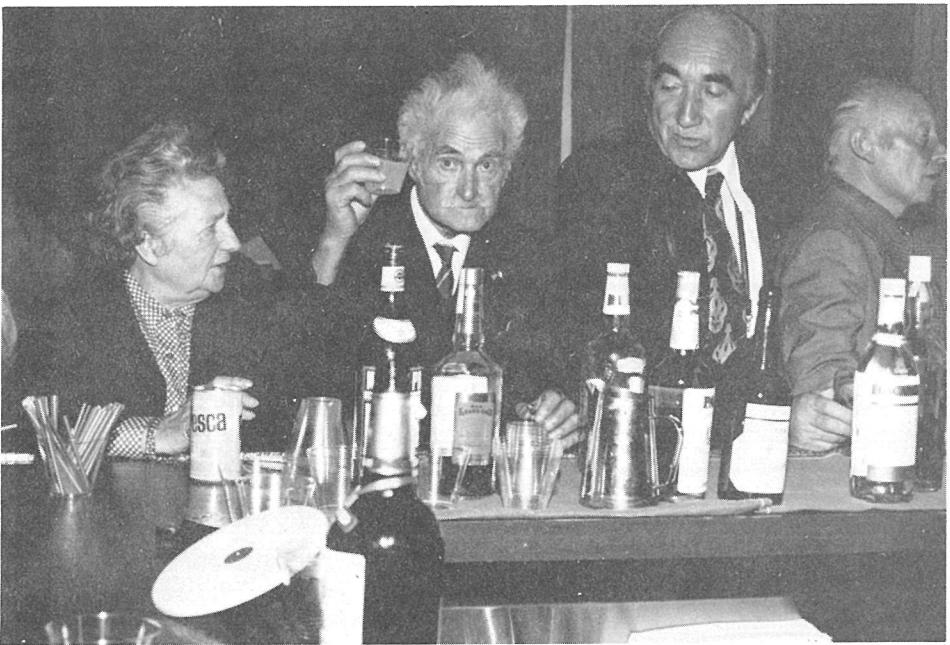
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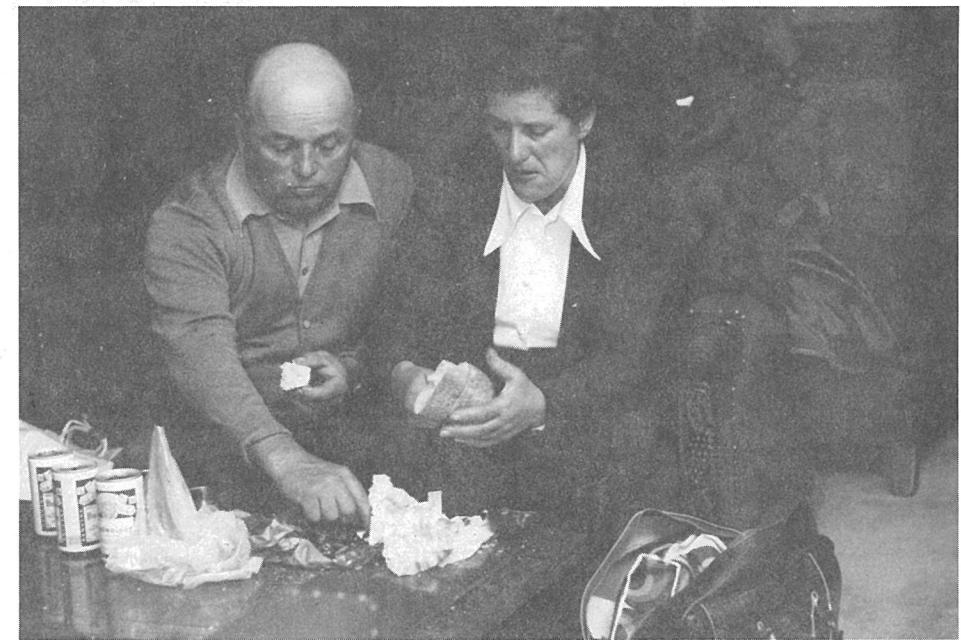


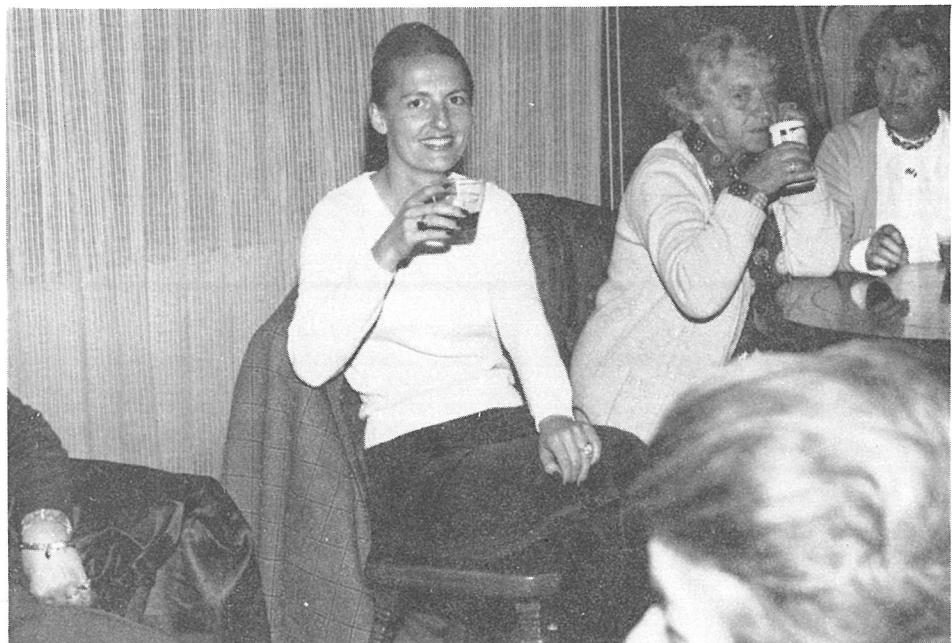


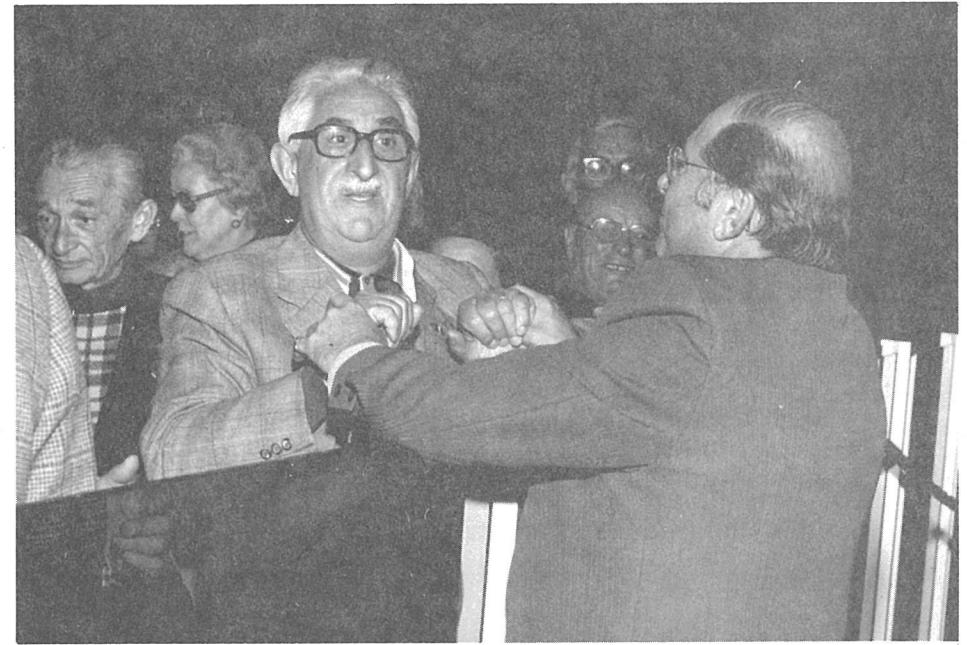
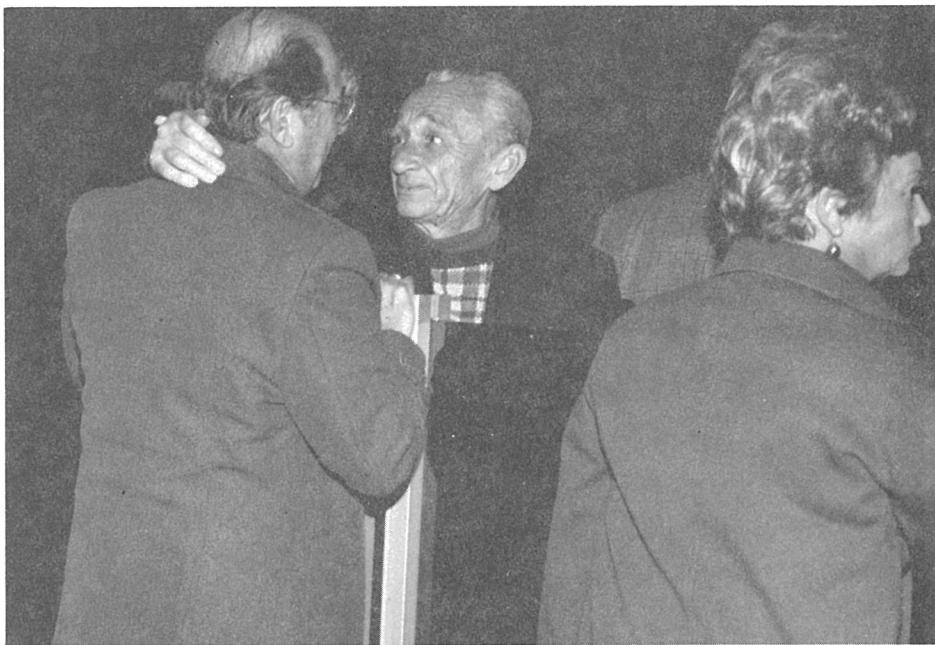












## CREDITS & THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED

It takes many people and organizations to plan and execute a mission of this magnitude. The following is a partial list of those who contributed to the fantastic success of Shelburn U.S.A. 1976.

### **Niagara Falls, New York**

Niagara Falls Air Force Base  
914 Tactical Airlift Group  
Royal Air Forces Escaping Society (Canadian Branch)  
John's Flaming Hearth Motor Inn

### **Bloomfield Hills, Michigan**

Mrs. John C. Angeli  
Bloomfield Township  
Burroughs Corporation  
Detroit Bank & Trust Co.  
Greenfield Village  
Henry Ford Museum  
Rolfe C. Spinning Advertising

### **Pittsburgh**

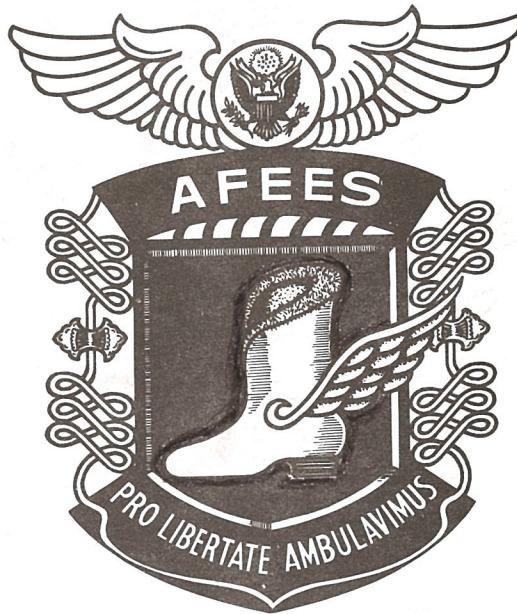
Consolidation Coal Co.  
Pittsburgh Council for International Visitors  
Pittsburgh Chapter of the Air Force Association  
University of Pittsburgh

### **Washington, D.C.**

U.S. Air Force  
Arlington Cemetery  
Senator Charles Mathias, Jr.  
St. Albans School  
Military Towers Hotel  
French Embassy  
White House Staff  
Mr. Henri Billey

### **New York**

World Wide Machinery Corp.  
Mayor Abraham Beame  
Veterans of the O.S.S.  
U.S. Coast Guard  
French Consulate, Mr. & Mrs. Gerard Gaußen  
Horn & Hardart  
Empire State Building  
9015th Air Reserve Information Squadron  
St. Patrick's Cathedral  
P 47 Pilots Association  
Prince George Hotel  
Col. Agenor Castro



## WE'LL NEVER FORGET

The booklet is dedicated to the heroic men and women of the many underground organizations that made possible the "Miracle of Shelburn". Records show that Shelburn's "Operation Bonaparte" effected the escape of 135 Allied fighting men from German-occupied France in the Spring of 1944.

Shelburn is not well remembered by the statisticians. It was not the turning point for military tacticians. It was, instead, a blazing beacon of the absolute limits of man's courage — of man's willingness to gamble his own life and the lives of those dearest to him in order to save strangers who believed in the same ideals of liberty and personal dignity.

Theirs were calculated feats of audacious, rash fearlessness — carried out under the very eyes of the German occupational forces. By day and by night the men, the women, and even the little children held their own lives cheap to effect the ingenious escapes, one by one and in groups, of Allied fliers. Many of those they helped were difficult to manage because of serious wounds or traumatic shock.

The odds against success were staggering. The penalties for failure were almost incalculable. To hazard your own life is a trivial thing when compared to risking the soul of your sister, daughter, mother and all the men and women in your group.

We of America can never repay these noble people. Nothing can ever balance the score, and nothing will ever dull the glory. In greatest humility we say, "We'll never forget. God bless you."



## NOUS N'OUBLIERONS JAMAIS

C'est dédié aux hommes et aux femmes héroïques des nombreuses organisations de la Résistance. Grâce à eux, grâce à elles, le "Miracle de Shelburn" fut possible. Les archives montrent que "l'Opération Bonaparte" de Shelburn, au printemps de 1944, a permis l'évasion de 135 combattants alliés de la France occupée.

Shelburn n'est pas souvent mentionné dans les statistiques. Ce ne fut pas un tournant décisif pour les tacticiens militaires. Mais ce fut un flambeau, l'exemple parfait du courage humain poussé à ses limites extrêmes, le témoignage de l'homme prêt à risquer sa vie et celle de ceux qui lui sont chers pour sauver des étrangers qui avaient la même foi dans le même idéal de liberté et de dignité humaines.

Leurs exploits furent des actes audacieux, calculés, intrépides, accomplis sous les yeux mêmes des forces d'occupation. Nuit et jour des hommes, des femmes et même des enfants ont mis leur vie en balance pour faciliter avec ingéniosité les évasions, une à une ou en groupes, d'aviateurs alliés. Un grand nombre de ces derniers, gravement blessés ou en état de choc, rendaient la tâche des sauveteurs difficile.

Les chances de succès étaient infimes. Les pénalités, en cas d'échec, étaient presque incalculables. Risquer leur propre vie était chose triviale comparée aux dangers qu'ils faisaient courir à une soeur, une fille, une mère et à tous les membres de leur groupe.

Nous autres, Américains, nous serons toujours les débiteurs de ces nobles âmes. Rien ne peut annuler notre dette, rien ne pourra jamais ternir leur gloire. En toute humilité, nous leur disons: "Nous n'oublierons jamais. Que Dieu vous bénisse."

