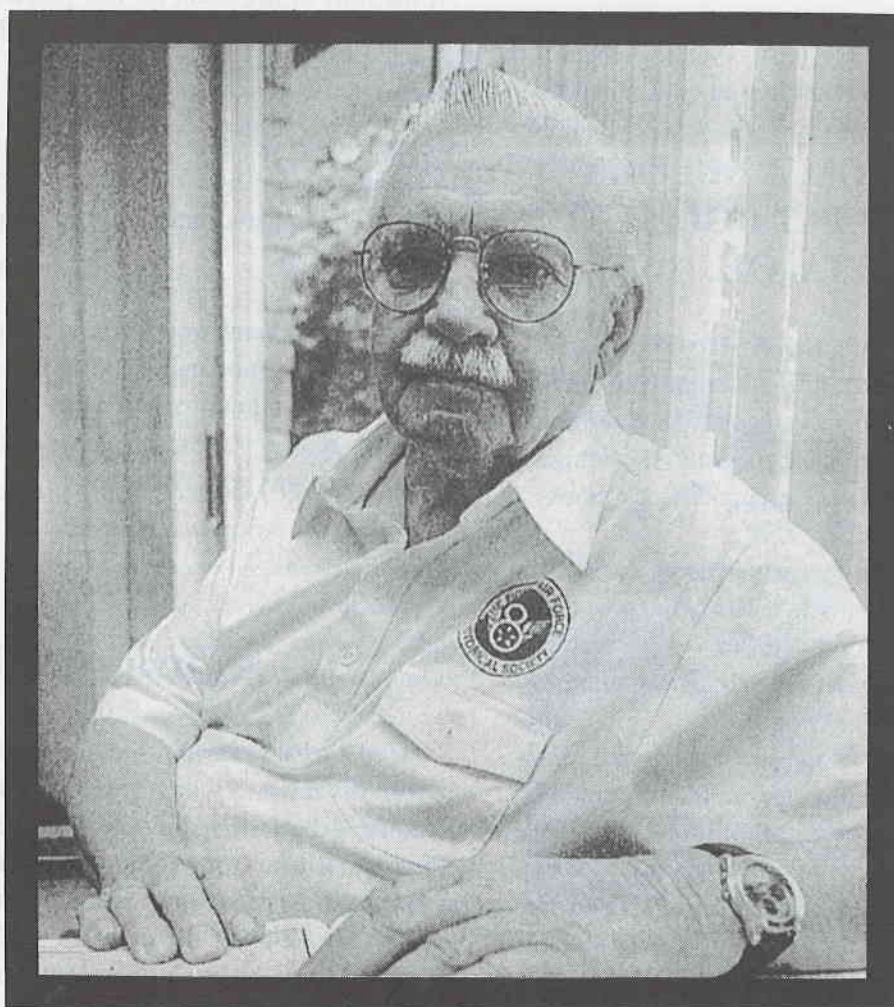


THE AIR FORCES ESCAPE AND EVASION SOCIETY

1994 SUMMER COMMUNICATIONS

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 5



HARRY A. DOLPH

MARCH 12, 1918

JUNE 12, 1994

HARRY A. DOLPH

On Sunday June 12th 1994 AFEES lost one of its most enthusiastic members. Harry Dolph died at Marietta Memorial Hospital after suffering a massive stroke the evening before. He was in the hospital within minutes but the best modern medical science could not undue the damage of the stroke and Harry passed away within 24 hours.

AFEES was represented at the service in Marietta, Ohio by Clyde and Ethylene Martin and at the service in Arlington, VA. by Bob and Mary Grimes, Jacques Kisishian and Ralph and Bette Patton.

Harry Dolph served as a director of AFEES, as editor of our newsletter, and as keeper of our computerized records so laboriously put together by Gil Millar. Harry will be sorely missed by all active members of AFEES.

Harry's wife Pat has suggested that memorial contributions may be sent to "The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library at P.O. Box 188, USAF Academy, Colo. 80840-0188.

EXCERPTS FROM A EULOGY DELIVERED BY PAT DOLPH AT MARIETTA, OH.

Harry was a man who loved life. He loved to shop, to travel, the latest technological gadgets, difficult crossword puzzles from the New York Times, his morning coffee, sauerbraten prepared by the Bavarian Inn of Frankenmuth, Michigan, dogs of all shapes and sizes, boats, computers, and books.

He had an attitude toward life that served as an example to me and will serve me well in my life. His belief was that a positive attitude and hard work would see you through any situation and that life was a great gift and an adventure.

At the age of 59, when many people are considering retirement, our home state of Michigan began facing economic hard times, particularly in the automobile business. We moved to Houston, Texas--a major growth area at the time. Within two years, he had established a successful insurance business. Within three years, one fourth of service stations in the area were insured by Petroleum Underwriters Insurance Agency.

Upon retirement from his insurance agency, he purchased the latest model computer and began to write the story of his experiences during World War II with the Dutch resistance. Writing this story had been his lifelong dream. He finished the book and began sending it out to publishers. After one hundred rejections and three rewrites, his book was published in 1991 at the age of 73.

Last September, at age 75, it was he who encouraged me to come ahead to accept my new position in Marietta while he remained behind to organize and manage a major move across the country. He loved the area and was happy to begin his life anew once again so that I could be closer to my family.

He used his gift of life wisely and well. After each adventure, after each goal-another was just ahead.

At the time of his death he was preparing for yet another adventure, a European trip to film portions of his book for the Discovery Channel.

We have traveled far together in our lifetime. We have been in every state in the United States three times. Through Mexico and Canada, and to Europe four times. This will be our last journey.

And so Harry, thank you for your unconditional love and support, your humor and wit, your friendship and wisdom, your service and contributions to humanity and to your country. May you rest in peace with other heroes in Arlington as was your desire.

NEWSLETTER

Most of this newsletter was prepared by Harry Dolph before his untimely death. It was completed by Ralph Patton and the mailing list was prepared by Clayton David. Thanks to Richardson Printing Co. of Marietta Ohio paste-up, printing and mailing was handled courteously and efficiently. We are at the mercy of the U.S. Postal Service for delivery. Please notify Clayton David of any errors in your mailing address.

FORT WORTH REUNION NEWS

A REPORT BY RALPH K. PATTON, COB

After three action packed days more than 200 attended the final dinner and dance of the A.F.E.E.S. reunion in Fort Worth on April 18th. The Worthington Hotel, in downtown Fort Worth, was the venue for the ninth annual membership meeting of A.F.E.E.S. We hit Fort Worth on the same weekend as their annual arts festival and fair which practically surrounded the hotel, many of our group spent their spare time browsing the hundreds of arts and crafts booths within two blocks of the hotel.

One of the special activities was the trip out to Meachum Field to see and tour "Chuckie" a flying B-17. It was noted that no one entered the aircraft by way of the front escape hatch like we used to do. How did we do that???

The Bar-B-Que lunch served under the nose of "Chuckie" was outstanding and the singing of "Three Times a Lady" brought back nostalgic memories. the singing of Paula, Naomi and Dorothy was truly outstanding but in addition, the girls were young and beautiful. It brought back pleasant memories of when we were young and our wives were beautiful but we're not young.

The auction was a great success and a good time was had by all the big spenders. Over \$3,000.00 was raised to help offset the costs associated with entertaining our guests.

After the auction we were entertained by Ben Tahmahkera, a full blooded Comanche Indian in a very colorful headdress, as he told a very interesting story of the mother of the last Comanche Chief. Ben was introduced by his "Brother" Jim Lane, a young attorney who is a Fort Worth Councilman. Councilman Lane presented Jim Goebel, A.F.E.E.S. president with a certificate naming Sunday April 17th, 1994 as A.F.E.E.S. day in Fort Worth, Texas!

Helpers present included: Jacques and Letti Frij from Holland, Jacqueline Guy from France, Now living in Houston, Texas who brought her daughter, a resident of Dallas, Texas. Marcel and Amanda Stassart Desire from Belgium, Ries Martin from Holland, Anne Brusselmans Daley from Belgium, now living in Dunedin, Florida, Leslie and Renee Atkinson from France. Leslie is a confounder of A.F.E.E.S. and our representative for western Europe. Ann Feith of Holland and now living in Spain, Paulette Pavan of France, Lucian and Marie Clare Vienne of Belgium, Frank and Lea Caubergh of Belgium, Dr. Jean Auvert and Dr. Bertranne Auvert of France.

The membership meeting was well attended and the decision on the next reunion (place and time), evoked a spirited discussion. Eventually the decision was made to join with the RAFEES (Canadian Branch) for a meeting in the Niagara Falls area in September of 1995. the details will be worked out after the canadian meeting in Brockville, Ontario in September. Lt. Gen. Buck Schuler updated the Savannah Heritage Center

project for the membership and it was agreed that we would conduct an A.F.E.E.S. fund raising campaign after ground breaking and start of construction of the Eighth Air Force Heritage Center. A.F.E.E.S. has committed to raising one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) for this project. In return we will have a special area in the center for our Escape and Evasion story. We are excited about the prospect of having our stories and those of our Helpers perpetuated in one location. The computer data base that Gil Millar has devoted several years of his waking life to will be preserved with the latest electronic equipment.

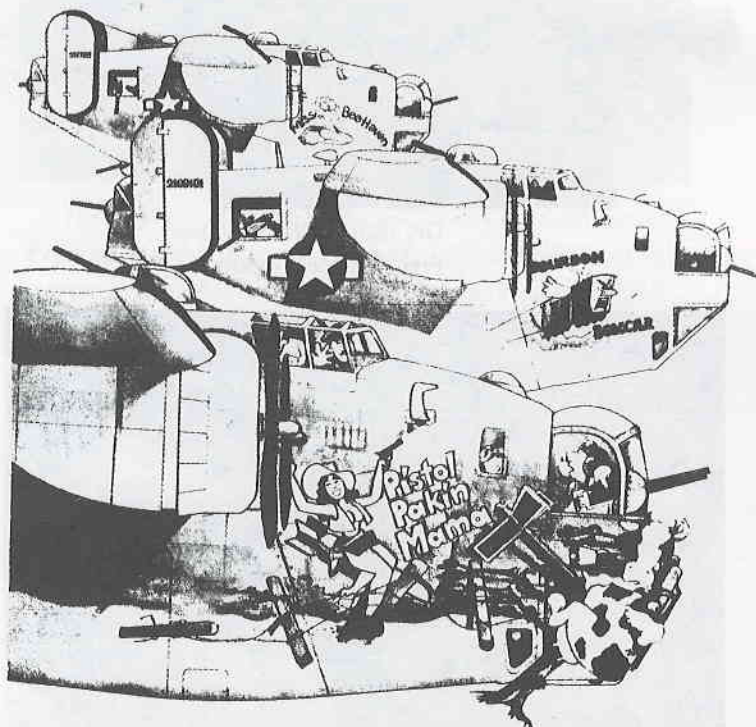
The Fort Worth reunion was an outstanding success and a vote of thanks goes to Bill Cramer and his committee for their hard work under very difficult circumstances. Bill had open heart surgery several weeks before a couple hundred A.F.E.E.S. members descended on Fort Worth. Thanks Bill for a very successful reunion. The hard work of Paul Kenney in handling all the financial and bookkeeping matters associated with the reunion is truly appreciated by all who know what makes a successful meeting.

461ST BOMB GROUP REUNION

May 3, 1944 - Request you publish the following notice:

The 461st Bomb Group - 1943-1945 - will hold its 1994 annual reunion at the Hampton Coliseum, Hampton, VA from October 12th through the 16th. Please Contact the Merimac Corporation, 1-800/292-1490 or contact Frank O'Bannon at 602/797-1439 for further information.

Y'all come now, ya hear?



LOW LEVEL RAID OVER NORMANDY

FORT WORTH TX. APRIL 15-19, 1994



Jacqueline Quay-French helper
now living in Houston, Tx.



Yvonne Brusselmans Daley and
Comanche Chief Ben Tanmankera



Drs Jean & Bertran Auvert
French helpers - Paris



Marcel & Amanda Stassart
Helper - Belgium



Leslie & Renee Atkinson



Fort Worth Councilman Jim Lane presents AFEES
Day Proclamation to Pres. Jim Goebel

FROM RICHARD M. SMITH

Battle Lake MN April 23, 1994 -

Dear Harry: I would like to take this method to thank all A.F.E.E.S. members and guests who attended the recent reunion in Fort Worth, Texas. We got off to a rocky start, but the *finale* was fantastic! I especially want to thank those members and guests for the wonderful and lovely items that were donated for the auction. The *Silent Auction* was the best we have ever had.

I want to thank all of you for digging so deep, bidding so quickly, and having fun doing so. It is my opinion it was a great fund raiser for our helpers!

Finally I want to thank Russ Weyland for his organization and along with Gerry for the great record keeping. The last persons paid up within twenty minutes after the auction's conclusion. A superb smooth function.

I want also to thank Francine Weyland and her crew for a smooth organization. Francine, you're the greatest! And last but not least, the tremendous job done by the runners and too, the little goodies hidden in the purses!

A GREAT BIG GRATEFUL THANKS TO YOU ALL
Dick Smith

GIL MILLAR AND A.F.E.E.S. HAVE A GUEST.

THE LITTLE THREE YEAR OLD GIRL WHOSE PARENTS USED HER FOR A COMETE COURIER, in the dangerous world of 1944 German Occupation, finally was able to visit the United States. Gil remembers walking hand-in-hand with her and her parents in the Ardennes, among the trees surrounding the small village of Porcheresse.

Now, Marie-Claire and her husband, Lucien Vienne, left three grown sons in Belgium as they flew off to the A.F.E.E.S. annual reunion in Fort Worth, Texas. There, she visited with A.D. Roberts, Gil Shawn and Gil Millar for those three were part of a contingent of more than twenty-one men who were at the camp in the care of her father, Emile Roiseux, who was "***Chef de Camp***". Among others at the camp were Bob Morgan of Canada, Milo Blakely of Oregon, Ray Koch, (Deceased) of Connecticut, and Jim Cochran, (Deceased) of Oregon.

Upon their arrival at DFW airport, they were met by Gil Millar, wife Frances and son Andrew. It was an emotional meeting for Millar and Marie-Claire. Andrew immediately caught a flight back to Houston. Thus, Lucien was immediately initiated into the nerve-wracking experience of driving in big-city United States rush-hour traffic. He did very well.

The entire reunion was enjoyed by all. There was a special surprise for Marie-Claire when Millar took the microphone after the banquet to call her forward so that Tom Lynch of R.A.F.E.S. (Canadian Branch) could present her with a medallion honoring her for her service as an unwitting courier

and Helper.

After the reunion, Lucien then chauffeured the Millars and his wife back to Houston where they were able to visit the NASA space center, the IMAX theater and the Museum, the Ima Hogg residence and gardens, Bob Sweatt's ranch with it's Buffalo, black buck antelope, a fifteen year old bob-cat and the horses. Their final visitation was to the Brazos Bend State Park to see the alligators close up and wild, herons, poule d'eau, etc. That part of the visit required some exersize because Millar's scooter's batteries died and they had to push him up a hill to the car.

Afterwards, the happy couple went to Louisiana in a rental car where they enjoyed the New Orleans Jazz Festival. After they return to Houston they will fly to Washington where they will be in the very capable hands of the Bob Grimes family. They in turn will drop them off at the railroad station for their ride to Penn Station in New York. Three nights in New York will end with a flight back to Brussels, Belgium.

Gil would like to thank A.D. Roberts, Gil Shawn, The Sweatts, The Grimes and everybody else at the reunion for their kindness to this very special helper and her husband during this momentous visit.



*Tom Lynch, RAFEES Marie-Claire Vienne Roiseux
Frances & Gil Millar. Note the Medallion on Marie-Claire
presented by Millar and Lynch on behalf of A.F.E.E.S.*



Marie-Claire at NASA space center

HELPERS & GUESTS AT A.F.E.E.S. REUNION

LESLIE AND RENEE ATKINSON
PROCESSOR JEAN AUVERT
DR. BERTRANNE AUVERT
LILO BROCHETTE
FRANK AND LEA CAUBERGH
YVONNE DALEY
ANN FEITH
JACQUELINE GUY AND DAUGHTER
MIA LILEVELT AND RIES MARTIN
PAULETTE PAVAN
GEORGE VAN REMMERDAN
MARCEL AND AMANDA STASSART
LUCIEN AND MARIE CLARE VIENNE
JAQUES AND LETTI VRIJ

AIR COMBAT

WITH THE MIGHTY EIGHTH By Wm J Cramer, Jr.
(A BOOK REVIEW)

Bill Cramer was the Armorer/Gunner on a B-17. As with most of us his crew flew to Europe via Reykjavic Iceland but the crew had a bad experience upon landing because the tail wheel wouldn't go down. The result was the airplane "looked like a banana when it came to rest. The crew flew on to England in a C-54. He recalls his experiences flying his missions even volunteering for a second combat tour, and being shot down 5 times, the final time severely wounded in his head and became a POW. He received a "Battlefield Commission" to 2nd Lt. He returned home after 37 combat missions then was sent to a secret counter-intelligence school and began his new adventure as a career officer in the Army Air Corps with G-2. Flying in Korea after WWII in B-29's & B-47's Bill was assigned as Commander of O.S.I units in France and the United States. He attended eight colleges and universities in the United States, Europe, the near East finally being awarded a Ph.D in business management. He has continued in Intelligence work ever since his discharge from the USAF attaining many plaudits from different Organizations and is past president of American MENSA in Fort Worth, Tx. Bill retired as a full Colonel.

I would recommend this book for anybody's bookshelf.

WILLIAM JAMES WEISNER 70

William J. Weisner of Columbus, Indiana died on May 6, 1944. He served in the 8th AF, 466th Bomb Group, 786th Bomb Squadron as a S/Sgt waist gunner on a B-24. He was shot down over Holland on August 15, 1944, returning from his 16th mission and was a POW for nine months in Stalag Luft IV and Stalag Luft I. He was a life member of the American Ex-POW's. In 1989, Bill wrote a 180 page autobiography of his

military/POW experiences, "The World Adventures of a young lad named Billy Jim". An honor guard from Wright Patterson AFB was provided for his funeral. The organist complied with "Bill's Request" for a rendition of "Off we go into the Wild Blue Yonder", softly at first, then rising to a booming crescendo! He is survived by his wife, Imogene, three sons, and two grandsons. *Sent in by Louis Loevsky.*

Ed. Note: Bill and your editor had a lot in common for we both started our new adventure in life the same day. We were both flying on the same mission to Vechta, Germany. The German ME-109s shot us down sending Bill to Stalag Luft as a POW and I began my eight month evasion in Holland. It is notable that our own past leader, John Woolnough was our leader on that fateful mission.

Hobbies That Help the Heartbeat

Trio Takes Audiences Back to the Big Band Era

WHEN the ladies with musical backgrounds got together to harmonize, little did they know they'd wind up with a sound like one of the most beloved singing groups of all time—the Andrews Sisters.

"We were never intending to imitate them in either sound or appearance," says Naomi Holloway of Grandview, Texas. "But when we got together to sing, we fell in love with the music of the Andrews Sisters."

Naomi and friends Paula Christian and Dorothy Hudson make up "Three Times a Lady", a trio that sings songs of the Big Band era, Broadway hits and '50s music, as well as Andrews Sisters selections. They perform for military and class reunions, conventions, community festivals and other events.

Naomi fondly recalls the time she played a dem-



onstration tape outside a hangar where a crew was restoring a vintage B-17. "Within seconds, the crew began to emerge from the hangar," she says.

"One man came running out yelling, 'Where's Maxine? I know she's here!' Another said, 'That can't be you—there's only one group in the world that could sing like that!'"

The most grateful and

appreciative audiences the trio has seen are at WWII and Confederate Air Force reunions, Naomi adds.

"We know, of course, they aren't just cheering for us, but for the Andrews Sisters and all the other valiant USO performers who brought a little bit of home to so many people in so many faraway places. Today, folks are still so appreciative of their music." ☛

LETTER FROM KEN WOODHOUSE

While we were being chanpagned to death in the Oise area, 7 homes in 24 hours. One family showed us a pair of U.S.A.F. fleece lined pants they have had for 50 years. Upon inspection we saw the name "SAUL RUBIN" written in ink on a seam. Do you know anyone in the U.S.A.F. by that name? I would like to see that this fellow, if he still exists, gets to collect his property and meet those people.

Ken Woodhouse
98 Phillips Cres.
Saskatoon, Sask
Canada S7H 3N1

WARTIME ACQUAINTANCES MEET AGAIN 50 YEARS LATER

Houston Chronicle, Houston Texas



John Everett / Chronicle

James R. Walker, left, and Jim H. Lee, who first met at an air field in China during World War II, renew their acquaintance.

CHINESE-AMERICAN business man Jim H. Lee felt sure he knew a man he spotted at a recent reception at the Chinese Consulate here but couldn't quite place him.

"This man I know," he thought.

The man was James R. Walker. When Lee talked to him, memories suddenly flooded back. He recognized Walker as an American flyer he met in China almost 50 years ago when World War II was raging.

In 1943, Walker was a U.S. Army Air Force captain piloting a B-29 Superfortress bomber based at an airfield in the Chengdu Valley in China's Sichuan Province. Lee was directing Chinese workers who manned the field's mess hall and performed many other duties, including bearing flyers, wounded during missions, to medical facilities.

An army of Chinese laborers built the field's four immense runways without benefit of mechanized earth-moving equipment. By hand they broke up stone used to pave the runways and reinforced the pieces of stone with clay. They formed massive teams to tow a huge roller that evened the runways' surfaces.

Four bases in the Chengdu Valley placed the B-29s within range of targets in half of Japan, plus Japanese-held territory in areas such as Manchuria, China's coastal regions and Sumatra. In 1945, B-29 squadrons moved to bases in the Mariana Islands, and all Japan became vulnerable to bombing.

Because he had worked for Americans during the war, Lee was able to immigrate to the United States after the war. Now 72, he has lived in the Houston area about 25 years and has been involved in operating enterprises ranging from a

restaurant to a steamship line.

Walker, a native of Waterproof, LA also is 72. He spent 15 years in the Air

Force before resigning to go to law school. Now he is an entrepreneur working to promote trade between China and the United States.

He remembered how he couldn't communicate to Chinese cooks at the bomber base that he wanted his eggs fried hard, not soft. Even after Lee interceded for him, he said, "I still got runny eggs." That memory made the two men laugh.

By Bob Tutt, Chronicle reporter.

FROM ALBERT LARDOT OF BELGIUM

TO: MR. CLAYTON C. DAVID, President A.F.E.E.S.

TO: MR. THOMAS L. THOMAS, President 8th A.F.H.S.

Dear Sirs: I am in thankful receipt of the document dated September 21st, 1991 by which your Societies have been kind enough to award me a special citation.

Whilst I wish to assure you of my continued support and dedication to the cause of freedom, I remain, dear Sirs, with grateful regards, very truly yours - /S/ Dr. Albert Lardot.

STANLEY G. LANGCASKEY DIES

THE TIMES, Tuesday April 26, 1994

Stanley G. Langeaskey, 71, of Hamilton Square died Monday at St. Francis Medical Center.

Born in Kulpmont, PA., he lived in the Trenton area for more than 50 years.



An Evader, though not a member of A.F.E.E.S. was a U.S. Army Air Corps veteran of WWII receiving the Purple Heart, Air Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters.

Mr. Langeaskey was employed by the Trenton Board of Education for 19 years. He was a member of the

Caterpillar Club; Military Order of the Purple Heart, VFW Post No. 3525; DAV Post No. 41; American Legion Post No. 0231 of Kulpmont, PA; the Second Air Division; and the 44th Heritage Alumni.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Shauna Langeaskey, and two daughters plus numerous relatives and kin folk.

Funeral Services were held at the Saul Colonial Home in Hamilton Square. A Mass Christian burial followed at St. Gregory the Great Roman Catholic Church also in Hamilton Square.

He was buried in the veterans section, Princeton Memorial Park, Robinsville.

Ed. Note: Newspaper article sent to "COMMUNICATIONS" by A.F.E.E.S. member William A. Rendall, 12 Van Buren Dr. Kinderhook, NY 12106

FROM GIUSTO ULTIMO PERRATTA (Italy)

Ed. Note: Copied exactly as written to me.

ISTITUTO COMASCO PER LA STORIA
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22100 COMO - Via Brambilla, 39

Tel. (031) 27.55.11

Como 24 Febbraio 1994

TO A.F.E.E.S. U.S.A.

Dear Sirs, this our Institute,,under the aegis of the Presidency Regional Council of Lombardia, the Provincial Administration of Como and Como town Administration, the Fighters and survivors: Provincial Association, in the recurrence of the fiftieth Anniversary of the Second World War, and Liberation Fight, is going to make a show with didactic and evoking purposes on:

ITALIAN WAR PRISONERS IN THE SECOND WAR CONFLICT

The show will include a sector about the crossing the frontier, apperced after the 8th September in 1943 from the Allied War Prisonners, from Political and racial persecuted towards the neighbouring Helvetia Confederation

Therefore we do appel to yor feeling so we can get pgraphic topies relative aither the expatriation of them to the near Swisserland. Moreover on thi occasion, we shall be quite happy either of having come through Como town, could save himself from the nazi-fascist racings.

Thanking You from now about what You can do for the best success of our initiative.

Please do accept our best greetings.

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, /s/ Guisto Ultimo Perratta

JOINT SERVICES SURVIVAL, EVASION, RESISTANCE AND ESCAPE (SERE) AGENCY

HQ JSSA/TN

9018 Black Road, suite 101

Ft. Belvoir, VA 22060-5212

To: Harry A. Dolph

I was recently given a copy of the Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society newsletter. The stories and material it contained were excellent and of great interest professionally and personally. I would like to receive future issues and I have sent a check to Mr. David, Membership Director, to cover membership into the A.F.E.E.S.

I am currently working in the library and archives of the Joint Service SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance, Escape) Agency here at Ft. Belvoir. JSSA acts at the Executive Agent for Code of Conduct training throughout the DoD. Part of our training includes teaching military persons skills related to evasion and escape, as well as procedures for contacting and seeking help

from assisted evasion elements. Obviously the material we teach is our common core of interest.

For the past fourteen years I have been an instructor at the Air Force Survival School at Fairchild AFB, Washington. My current assignment involves doing research in SERE related issues and producing training materials to be used at the various DoD schools. I know the material published in your newsletters will be of great help and interest to me, our staff and our instructors.

I was writing to inquire about the A.F.E.E.S. own library/archives of written, video taped and oral histories. To enlarge and expand our records, I am trying to locate such material. We are particularly interested in firsthand accounts of evasion/escape and experiences with assisted evasion nets. Secondly we would be interested in getting copies if possible. I want to thank you for any help you can give me in this regard.

TERRY D. RUSSELL, T/Sgt USAF-NCOIC Library/Archives

390TH BOMB GROUP REUNION

The 390th Bomb Group Veterans Association, WWII Eighth Air Force, will hold its annual reunion in Spokane, Washington, September 12th to 18th, 1994. Contact Marshall Shore, 2616 E. 58th Lane, Spokane, Washington 99223. Phone 509/448-1501, or write 390th Bomb Group Veterans Association, P.O. Box 15087, Tucson, AZ 85708

FROM BILL MacVICAR

Bill MacVicar of Portland, Oregon, World War II member of the 390th Bomb Group in Framlingham, England wishes to locate other members of the Group who have not heretofore joined in Group activities in the last several years.

Annual reunions are being held and quarterly newsletters are being published. We shall appreciate hearing from members, relatives, friends, and survivors with information relating to Group members.

Please contact Bill MacVicar at 3311 NE 158th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97230, Phone 503/251-2977 ro 503/288-0207 days, or write to the 390th Bomb Group Veterans Association, P.O. Box 15087, Tucson, Arizona, 85708

Weidner, WWII rescuer of Jews, dies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former Dutch army Capt. John Henry Weidner, leader of the "Dutch-Paris" underground network that rescued hundreds of Jews and Allied airmen in Nazi-occupied Europe, is dead at age 81.

Weidner died from heart failure at his suburban Monterey Park home on Saturday, his wife, Naomi, said Sunday.

The organization Weidner helped form during World War II was credited with saving at least 1,000 people, including 800 Jews and more than 100 Allied airmen, by smuggling them into Spain and Switzerland.



Weidner

The exploits of Weidner, who immigrated to the United States in 1958, were recounted in Herbert Ford's 1966 book, *Flee the Captor*.

"He was concerned with people as individuals, not as masses," Ford said. "He always told me, had he been able to save just one person's life it would have been worth all the trouble he went through."

Weidner was honored last year at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. In Lancaster, Mass., Atlantic Union College founded The John Henry Weidner Center for the Cultivation of Altruistic Spirit.

The United States awarded Weidner the Medal of Freedom. He also received honors from Britain, The Netherlands, France, Belgium and Israel.

Norman Wendth, chairman of the Weidner Center's faculty committee,

said he asked Weidner why he was willing to risk his life to save others.

"He simply said that people needed help. It never struck him as strange or different," Wendth said. "He always assumed that anyone would have done it."

Weidner was in Paris when Germany invaded Holland in 1940. He tried to escape to England but was detained in Lyons. He then helped form the underground network, which operated with the help of more than 300 friends and relatives.

"To the extent that there is a special person, he was it," Wendth said.

The escape lines went from Holland through Belgium, France and Andorra to Spain, and through France to Switzerland.

Weidner was captured twice and tortured, but managed to escape.

51 1/2 YEARS LATER

WAYNE EVELAND GETS HIS DFC

Wayne says, "After 51 1/2 years - it really was a shocker! And, a great pleasure to me. Unfortunately, back in May 1942, I had been told by Col. C. V. Haynes (soon to be a Major General), that I was to receive a Silver Star. The war was young then and since Haynes knew I was a reserve officer, on loan to Pan Am of Africa, doubtless he believed I was eligible for a citation. But the wartime rules obviously precluded that - so I waited in vain. After all - I didn't know the rules precluded it either."

"So, when I received a phone call in December 1993 saying I would be awarded a DFC - and one or two oakleaf clusters to my Air Medal - I surely did not wish to - argue. No Way! After 50 years of waiting - I felt mighty lucky to be recognized at last. Of course I was also extremely lucky that back in 1943 the Personnel Officer of Pan Am had sent in a report mentioning my 74 passengers so I was able to corroborate the story."

"I'll give you a little background history of PAA/Africa, Ltd. President Roosevelt and Churchill had many agreements before the war. Most people are acquainted with the 50 destroyers and other "Lend-Lease" items. But some agreements were not publicized."

"One was an agreement that the U.S. would establish an airline across central Africa to Khartoum and Cairo, to help the desert troops receive supplies, to be unloaded on the west coast of Africa. Pan-Am was given the contract. Pan-Am of Africa was formed as a British subsidiary. Since the U.S. was still "neutral", no military pilots or personnel could be used. So the Air Corps made terminating active duty possible for any reservists who wished to volunteer. I was one. The Air Corps promised us active duty credit for PAA service as if no break in active duty had occurred. And we carried civilian passports in our PAA uniforms. Pay was one rank above our military rank, plus board. Maybe 50 to 75 pilots were involved, maybe more. 90 days or less, after receiving the contract, PAA had DC-3 (C-47's, C-53's) type aircraft flying across central Africa. And we were at war on December 7th, 1941."

"In the spring of 1942 the Japs had closed the Chinese port cities, also the port cities of Burma - and were on the threshold of invading India itself. Sick, wounded and refugees were assembling in northern Burma (at Mytymna) in hopes of air evacuation to India to escape the Japs. The 10th Air Force asked for volunteers from PAA/Africa to come and help. My copilot and I responded. We flew ammunition and gasoline in to Burma and China - and sick, wounded and refugees on the return trip to India. All loads were "overloads"! Our C-53's and C-47's were designed for about 26 passengers. Our average load was probably 40 - 50 passengers. On my trip of April 22, 1942, I carried 74 passengers plus a crew of two. That was presumed to be a world record for that type aircraft at that time. Those trips east to China and west to India became the

pioneer period of "the hump" route. There was no oxygen, little or no radio aids, and unreliable maps. The AVG (Flying Tigers) P-40's made good use of the gasoline and ammunition we brought them."

"In 1992 the Pentagon decided that the America Volunteer Groups now known as the original Flying Tigers, Pan American Airways, Africa, LTD, some American Airways personnel, and certain other civilian groups who had done combat service in WWII should be given official "Veteran" status. As a result of that action, some personnel records were reviewed - and that is where my record came in - with the DFC award as a result. My copilot, Leo Vines, of Massachusetts was likewise cited. I am sure some other citations will follow for others of the flight crews."

"In July 1942 I returned to the U.S. and Air Corps uniform. However they called me to duty as a 2nd Lieutenant, my permanent rank, instead of my temporary rank of 1st Lieutenant. Meanwhile my military classmates were by this time Captains and a few were Majors. My morale was less than exemplary."

"Before too long I became a squadron commander (B-17's) and went to England as C.O. of the 614th Bomb Squadron of the 401st Bomb Group. I was shot down - over France - on December 31, 1943 - but after about 3 months behind enemy lines, I evaded capture and returned to England where I was assigned as Assistant Operations officer of the 94th Combat Wing Headquarters."

"Harry, this is only background information. I am attaching a local press article. Between the two you can decide what is pertinent to your purposes. I know I have provided a lot more than you need or want. But perhaps from all this you can pick and choose, whatever you wish."

Yours, Wayne E.

Ed. Note: Col Wayne Eveland has supported the AFEES organization above and beyond the call of duty. He has exhausted all avenues known, to achieve recognition for evaders we all know we deserve. I have files of his correspondence to the Pentagon Brass only to meet a dead end.



Colonel Wayne Eveland

JACOB W. BRINN WRITES

March 10, 1994 - Dear Sir: Your latest copy of Winter Communications landed here today, and suddenly I came to the realization that I have never submitted the names of the French family that prevented my capture by German troops, on August 1st, 1944.

I enclose an article from a French newspaper that is twenty-five years old now. I will also enclose the interpretation of that letter in English.

I have lost contact with this family now for over 10 years. I have mailed letters to the old address but to no avail for they have been returned to me. I do know for a fact that Julien Menard has died and I would suspect that Adelaiade has also passed away for they always kept in touch with me. I have sent several letters to the daughter and the son whose names are Robert and Yvette. I do hope that you would make their names appear in your publications as they really went way out on a limb to save me. Very Truly Yours, Bill Brinn.

We are looking for: (from, ANGERS, FRANCE)

**JULIEN MENARD
ADELAIADE MENARD
ROBERT MENARD
YVETTE MENARD**

FROM ROBERT O. ANDERSON

Dear Harry: I am responding to your (Editor's) note on Page 3 of the 1993 Winter Communications (Volume 7, Number 4) about the helpers who may not have been recognized.

My crew (Powell) was shot down on the January 5, 1944 mission to Bordeaux (Ralph Patton and his crew members also went down on that raid.) Unlike many A.F.E.E.S. members - as I perceive their experiences from stories I've heard and read - I had great difficulty in making contact with the Resistance. For the first few weeks, therefore, I had to travel on my own.

I finally lucked out in the tiny village of Samadet southeast of Bordeaux. There a sympathetic bar maid began the process of getting me into the hands of the Resistance. In small and large ways many people ultimately assisted in my evasion and eventual escape. And as was necessary for obvious reasons of protecting all concerned, I never knew the names of most of them, e.g. the Samadet Gendarme Chief and the chauffeur who drove me to the trail where I began my final hike over the Pyrenees mountains into Spain. In a postwar sentimental return to the Samadet area I found out that most of them had been executed. I can adequately identify three individuals to whom I believe A.F.E.E.S. should give recognition. They are:

M. MANZANO DECEASED

Mme ALEXANDRE MANZANO WIDOW

Mlle ALICE PERRENX

M. ANDRE LAMARQUE

Ed. Note: Bob, these people are now in the computer records.

FROM LEON G. BALLARD

March 16, 94' - Dear Harry: Should have done this a month ago, but like everything else now days I tend to put off till later what I should be doing today.

Read your story "Evader" in Readers Digest and it brought back memories of my last mission over Europe on April 6, 1944. I still don't see how you guys could live with the Germans all around you and stay in the same place so long. My case was very different, we were on the move all the time.

You may remember me, I'm a former member of A.F.E.E.S. and flew out of north Africa then Foggia, Italy with the 463rd Bomb Group, 15th AF (B-17's) and came out south with the Partisans.

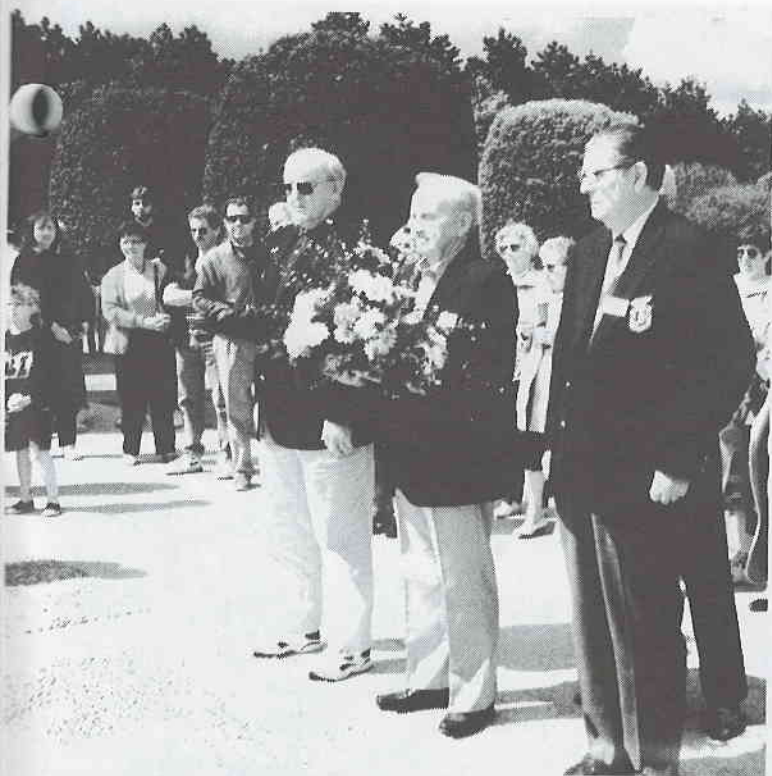
By the way, I found the story in the Winter Communications very interesting - the one by Kirk Ford, Jr. Not all accurate and a lot of bias - some of the things that caught my eye were - Tito was a Serbian, not Croatian, Mihailovich was friendly with the Germans and Italians as far back as 1941, and the part about the Germans kicking the Partisans around - at most the Partisans had 250,000 fighting members and the Germans had the 2nd Army, 1st Panzer Group, the 12th Army and the 40th Panzer Corps to do the job. Some odds, eh?

All of the Allied powers did acknowledge Tito. All the Yugoslavian people I saw thought they would have the same type of Government as we do in the United States after the war was over...and, Tito did too! But according to a fellow I met in Kansas City that had made more than 20 trips to Yugoslavia since the war and was a friend of Tito, said that Tito being a Serb couldn't get enough support from the rest of the country so he went "sort of" Communist. I'd like to ask Mr. Ford what happened to the B-25's the U.S.A. gave his friend Mihailovich.

Enough of that Harry. Good luck and keep on going.
L. "Bud" Ballard - 17951 N. Rt. V, Sturgeon, MO 65284



Harry Dolph's Helper, Sjoukje van der Hoop & Hubby Tom
Taken at their home in Chatham, Ontario Canada



Dick Smith, George Buckner and Paul Kenney lay a memorial wreath at The Normandy American Cemetery



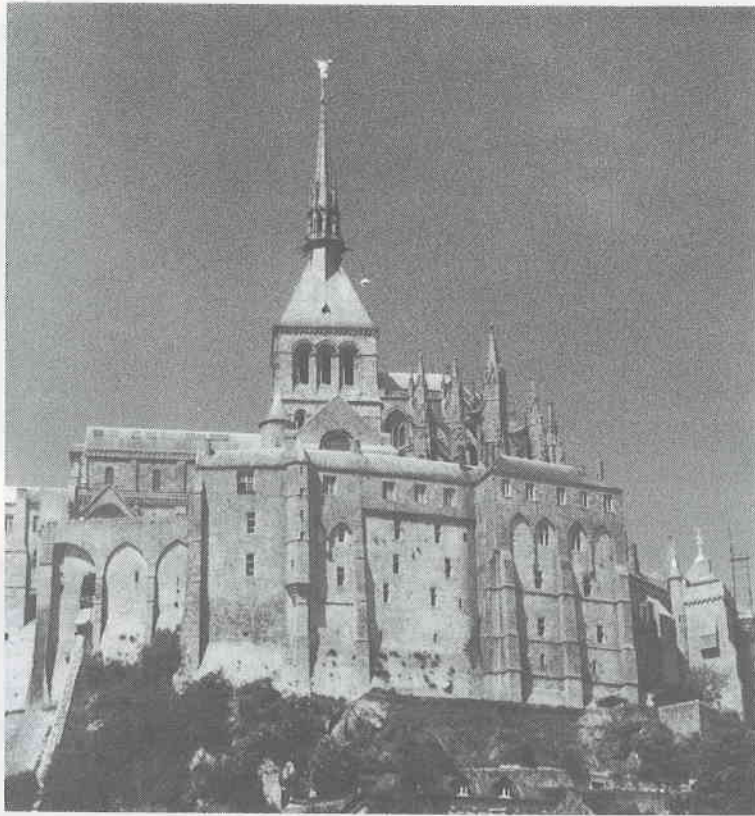
Ceremony before the memorial at the Forrest at Freteval



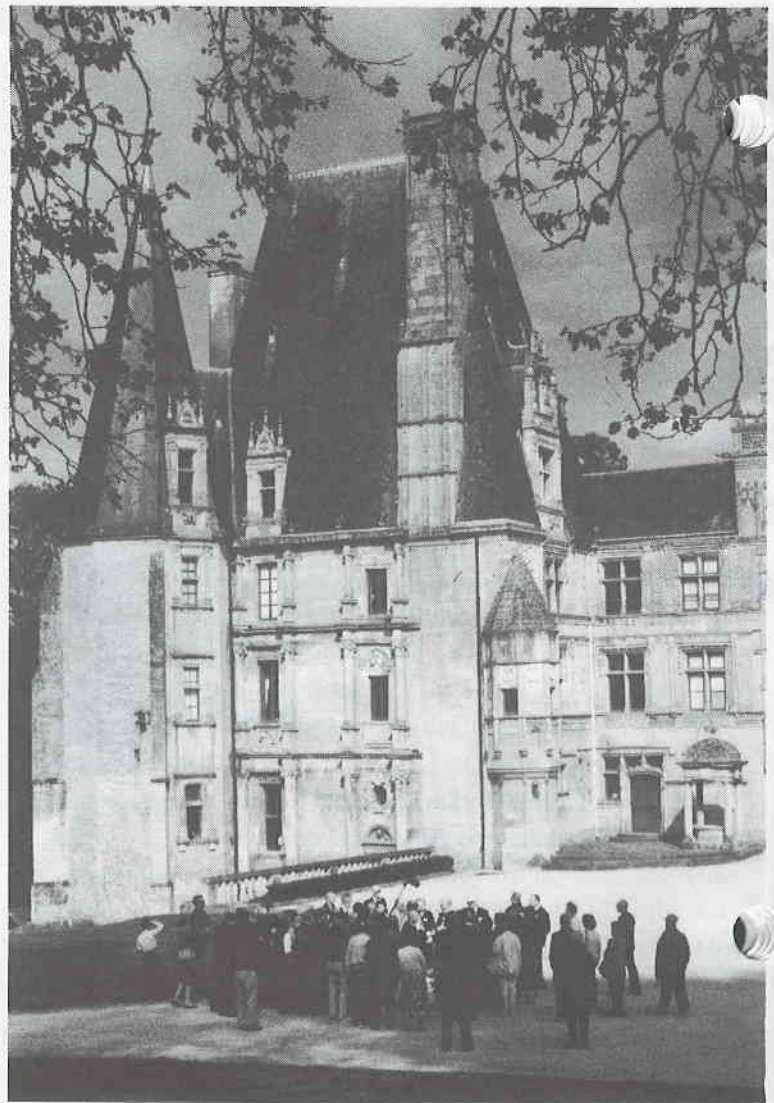
John & Ruth Oliphint sign the Book of Gold at the Arc de Triumph in Paris



Speeches in the rain at Plouha



Mont Saint Michael



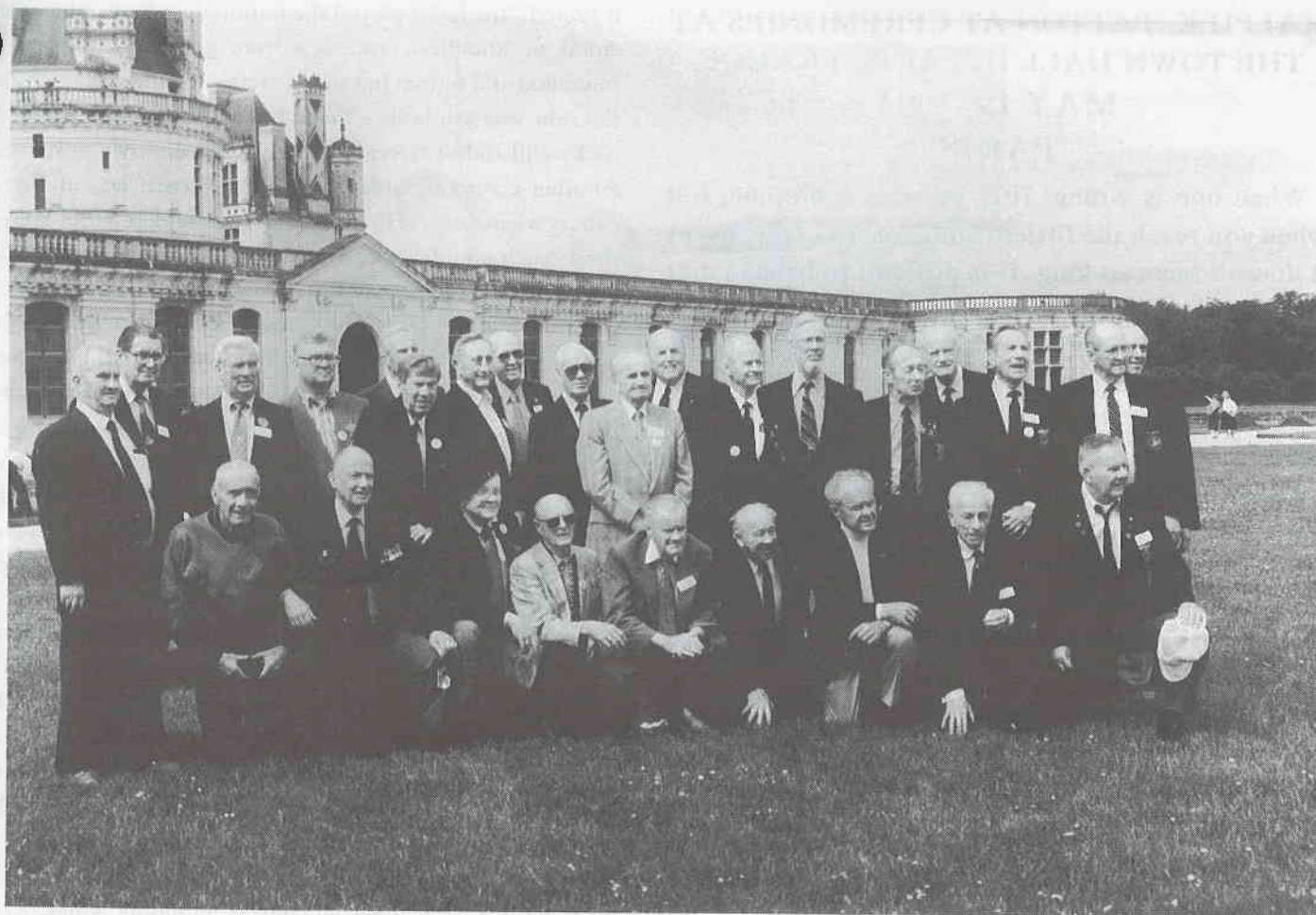
Chateau Fontaine Henri



Ralph Patton's Grandson, Christopher Wand, examines Medalion of the Knights of the Commanderie Des Gastronomes



AFEES Plaque near the beach at Plouha



**ESCAPERS/EVADERS IN FRONT OF
THE CHATEAU de CHAMBORD IN THE
LOIRE VALLEY OF FRANCE, MAY 16, 1994**

FRONT ROW, L. to R.: Manny Rogoff, Pittsburg, PA; Pierre Bauset, Lorraine (Montreal), Quebec; John Oliphint, Colorado Springs, CO; Duane Lawhead, Leesburg, FL; Arnold Pederson, Duluth, MN; Ralph Patton, Leader, Pittsburg, PA; Bill Davis, Ormond Beach, FL; Jacques Keshishian, Dover, DE; Warren Loring, Monument Beach, MA.

REAR ROW, L. to R.: Bill Mountain, Scranton, PA; Paul Kenney, Stone Mountain, GA; Burt Williams, Stow, OH; Eugene Anderson, Freeland, MI; John Watkins, South Surrey, British Columbia (south of Vancouver); (in front of John Watkins;) Ted Peterson, Bountiful, UT; Rudolph (Rudy) Augarten, Seal Beach CA; A.D. Roberts, Fort Worth, TX; David Warner, Melrose, MA; George Buckner, South Euclid, OH; Dick Smith, Palm Desert, CA; Ken Woodhouse, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Russell Jones, South Surrey, British Columbia; Bill Kidd, Beaconsfield, (Montreal), Quebec; Roy Scott, Etobicoke (Toronto), Ontario; Ed. Spevak, Watertown, SD; Warren Sutor, Kansas City, MO; George Padgett, Biarritz, France

ABSENT FROM THE PHOTO: Tommy Thomas, Mendham, NJ; Sidney Elskes, Spring, TX; Ernest Hugonnet, New York, NY; Joseph McMinn, Hamilton, TX; Morton Sherwood, Las Vegas, NV.

**REMARKS DELIVERED BY CHAIRMAN
RALPH K. PATTON AT CEREMONIES AT
THE TOWN HALL IN PARIS, FRANCE.**

MAY 19, 1994

PARIS

When one is young, fifty years is a lifetime, but when you reach the fiftieth anniversary of any event it doesn't seem so long. It is difficult to believe that fifty years ago many of us were on the run from the Nazi occupiers of your country. As young men in great difficulty we could never have dreamed that fifty years later we would be standing here in this beautiful "Hotel d'Ville" of Paris.

We are truly honored by this warm reception but we are somewhat embarrassed by being called "Liberators". Your liberators will be in Normandy on June 6th to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the start of their heroic effort to free occupied France.

We are here today to remember the fiftieth anniversary of our escape from occupied countries and to thank the courageous men and women who made it possible.

Our daily flights over western Europe prior to D Day were solid evidence to the people of the occupied countries that help was on the way. The great armadas of four engined bombers escorted by hundreds of speedy fighter planes surely inspired confidence that liberation was near.

At the same time, knowledge that resistance help was available if one should get shot down gave great comfort to Allied air crews. We needed each other.

We salute the brave men and women of the French Resistance who risked their lives to come to the assistance of allied Airmen. We want them to know that we former airmen have not forgotten what they did for us in 1943 and 1944.

PILGRIMAGE TO FRANCE

By Aylene Spevak

This was truly a "Sentimental Journey" and the memories will linger forever!! More than sixty happy A.F.E.E.S. travelers toured the beautiful French countryside, visited magnificent castles and chateaus, the spectacular Mont St. Michel and Chambord castle, honored and in turn were honored.

There were many solemn and moving moments - the ceremony and wreath laying at the American Military Cemetery and the tour of the Normandy battlefields. There were many "highlights", the day spent at Plouha and the ceremony at the

beach stirred our emotions. There were hundreds of people and it rained - the band played the national anthems, the military stood at attention, speeches were given, the colors presented and retired but no one retreated for shelter. Perhaps the rain was symbolic - those brave airmen who scaled that rocky cliff didn't retreat either - it was a moving experience. Another ceremony arranged by the French was at Freteval Forest where several in our group had hidden. Near Tours, in the French countryside, a ceremony was held complete with honor guard and several of the resistance were honored. At the conclusion of activities, parachutists dropped from the sky bearing the flags of the United States, Great Britain, Canada and France - it was very impressive. Another of the highlights was our visit to Mont Valerein - again the band, color guard, and military reminded us of the horrors of war. Here we were allowed behind the shiny brass doors to view the biers of those in the resistance who were executed by the Germans. Here is the American cemetery of World War One veterans. Again, wreaths were laid.

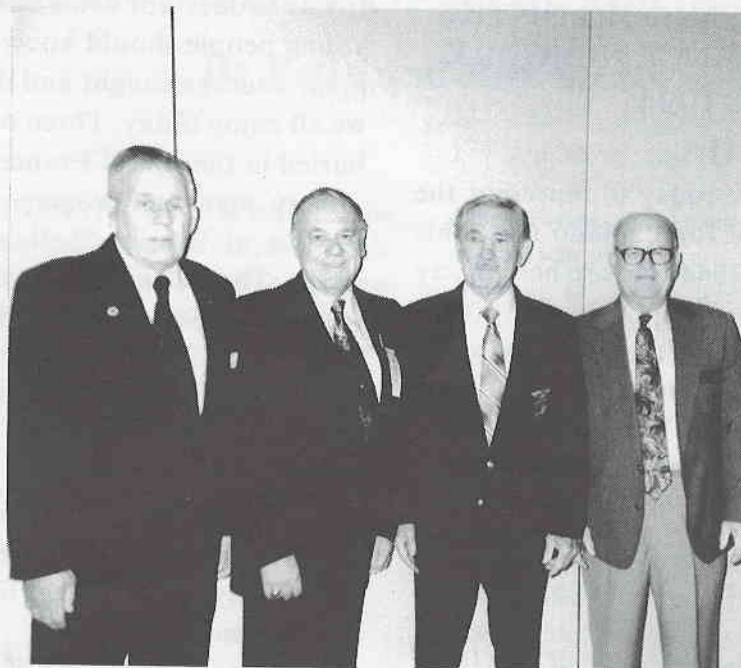
On the lighter side there were many festive occasions when we were wined and dined like royalty. We were guests of Isabel and Max De Brossia at the Chateau Fontaine Henri. (Isabel and Max were Mort Sherwood's helpers) for a champagne reception. It was the day of our fiftieth wedding anniversary, so the day was very special to us! At a beautiful banquet hall near Plouha several hundred guests enjoyed a delicious dinner beautifully prepared and served. The banquet at Chambord Castle is hard to describe. My notes tell me we had eleven courses including wines. At this moment our men were "Knighted" into The Commanderie des Gastronomes des chateau des Val de Loire et Valley de Loire and were given medals bedecked with ribbons, and Certificates. It was a fun evening.

There were many receptions, all included hors d'oeuvres and pastries (as only the French can prepare them) and champagne. We were honored by the Mayor of Paris at the Hotel De Ville (the term designates the Palace - not a hotel) a magnificent building with crystal chandeliers, Renaissance furniture, lavishly decorated with gilded moldings and gold-framed art - it was beautiful. At our hotel, the Hilton, we hosted a reception for our helpers and were reunited with many of the resistance. This was a time of great emotion and an out-pouring of mutual love and affection.

We felt very special to have CBS London Correspondent Tom Fenton and his crew accompany us from Cherbourg to Paris. Perhaps many who did not make the trip saw us on the CBS morning news as did many of our family and friends.

I am sure I speak for all of us who made this pilgrimage to France, that is one "WE WILL NEVER FORGET!"

Ed Note - Looks like this was a wonderful trip thanks to Dick D'Amato, our travel agent who made several advance trips making certain the itinerary was exactly as A.F.E.E.S. wanted it! Thanks, Dick...



**Freteval Evaders at the Fort Worth Reunion: Bud Loring,
Bob Coutoure, Ted Krol and John Goan**

This is the ESCADRILLE FRETEVAL FOREST

The Escadrille Soixante-Neuf was founded on June 9th, 1944 three days after General Eisenhower's Allied Armies had landed on the beaches of Normandy. It was started by Captain Jean de Blommaert, a Belgian officer of the British Intelligence Corps, on orders from London.

The original complement of the Escadrille comprised eighteen airmen. They included: Emmett Bone, Gene DiBetta, Guy Golden, Joe Gorrone, Don Hoilman, Marvin Goff, Bob Couture, Marian Knight, Jack Pearson, George Solomon, Tom Yankus, Lucky Wesloh, and Bill Yanzek of the U.S. Army Air Forces, Bill Brayley from the R.C.A.F., and Alan Speirs from the R.N.Z.A.F. Camp No 2 was founded on June 25th with an original layout crew of five men from camp No. 1.

Camp No. 2 was founded when Camp No. 1 became over populated with seventy or more Evadees. On Liberation Day, one hundred and fifty-two Evadees had been saved through the efforts of many, but especially those of Jean de Blommaert.

A Halifax bomber of RAF Bomber Command dropped supplies near Camp No. 2, just between the forest and the LeMans-Orleans Highway, on Friday July 7th. Liberation came for both camps on Sunday, August 13th, the liberating forces entering Cloyes and Busloup almost simultaneously. Units of the Fifth Armored Division, Third American Army came through and vehicles came into Busloup for transportation back through the lines.

By Bob Coutoure.

REMARKS DELIVERED BY CHAIRMAN
RALPH K. PATTON AT THE
ANNIVERSARY CEREMONIES OF THE
SHELBURNE RESISTANCE NETWORK
MAY 14, 1994
PLOUHA

I am very happy to be here today to represent the Allied airmen who departed for England from this beach in the dark nights of 1944. We are here to say to our dear friends of Réseau Shelburne and the 15th Motor Gunboat Flotilla that although fifty years have passed, we have not forgotten that they risked their lives to help us.

Fifty years ago we met here in the dark of night, surrounded by a ruthless enemy, today we meet here in broad daylight, surrounded by friends. Proof positive that our fight was just and that our victory was complete.

Fifty years ago we came here in fear of our lives, afraid to ask or to know the names of friends who were helping us. We had not heard of "Réseau Shelburne" or "Operation Bonaparte" nor did we know the names of the leaders who were telling us what to do. Since that time many books have been written explaining the origins, and naming the leaders of Réseau Shelburne. Today we all know that Dumais & LaBrosse, were the Canadian Leaders, that LaCornec, Mainguy and Huet were part of the French team that Marshall and Williams and Birkin and Bott were part of the motor gunboat team.

While history has recorded the names of the leaders of Réseau Shelburne, most of the names of the peasants and nobles, the priests and teachers, the doctors and lawyers and the farmers and city dwellers who came to the aid of Allied Airmen will remain unknown. More than one hundred French men and women risked their lives to help me.

Plouha is now regarded as the high line of the Réseau, a title it richly deserves, but we should not forget the hundreds of towns and villages where airmen were hidden for days or weeks or months before they arrived in Plouha. Towns from Paris to Plouray, from Lagnnnnet to Le Merzier, from Beauvais to Brest and Guingamp to Gourin.

We are here today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the most successful escape operation of World War II, Réseau Shelburne. We are not here to glorify war, we are here to keep alive that spirit of

friendship, forged during dangerous and difficult times, and to let our young people know that freedom does not come easily or without cost. Our young people should know that men and women of great courage fought and died for the freedom that we all enjoy today. Three of my crew members were buried in the soil of France.

Every man and woman who participated in the success of Réseau Shelburne volunteered for this duty. The Canadians of the British Military Intelligence Service volunteered to come into France, Canadian, British and American airmen volunteered to fly over occupied France, the Motor Gunboat crews of the British Navy volunteered for the clandestine missions into France, and the brave men and women of the French Resistance volunteered to come to the aid of we fallen airmen. All concerned voluntarily put his or her life on the line in the cause of freedom.

Next month hundreds of thousands of people will gather in Normandy to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the D Day landings. The veterans of these magnificent operations will return to visit the places they fought through in 1944. Kings and Queens and Presidents will pronounce forgettable platitudes for the thousands of reporters and TV cameras and for the millions of people throughout the world who will view these memorable proceedings on their television sets.

The D Day veterans will come to France next month for place to place visits. We have come here today, relatively few in number for face to face visits. We airmen are proud of our association with the brave men and women of Shelburne and the men of the 15th Motor Gunboat Flotilla. We sincerely hope that fifty years from now these plaques will remind the young people of that day that freedom does not come without sacrifice and that freedom is not without cost.

DEDEE DE JONGH

A report from Elizabeth Harrison of the RAFES in London indicates that Dedee de Jongh is not well. Elizabeth reports that Dedee is 75% blind and becomes very frustrated when she receives mail and doesn't know how to respond.

Dedee is the heroic leader of the Comet line responsible for escorting so many Allied flyers over the Pyrennes into Spain.

A CANADIAN'S VIEW OF THE TOUR OF FRANCE

By Betty and Roy Scott

Ralph Patton, the leader of "The Last Hurrah," as he has called the tour of France, deserves all the superlatives we can recall for his care in planning and executing a memorable visit to meet and honour, in the last organized way, people who were instrumental in our successful evasions. Clearly, Ralph regarded the tour as one of his most important contributions to the Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society in his decades-long exercise of leadership. It was important in that he was quoted as saying that he had made four trips to France prior to the actual tour in efforts to acquire answers to questions which were raised by him, by tour guides, and by others. It was also significant in that he brought his wife, Bette and his entire family.

Pierre Bauset, a former President of the Royal Air Forces Escaping Society (Canadian Branch), was also involved in planning some of our events and throughout the tour he demonstrated his complete bilingualism in French and English. Like the Canadian Branch members everywhere, we feel sure the American evaders deeply appreciate the complete readiness of Pierre to organize and help in every way in his many areas of expertise.

To Ralph, we very much appreciate your invitation to Canadian Branch members to accompany American evaders on the tour in the same way as Canadian Branch members have always been welcome to join the A.F.E.E.S. at their A.G.M.s in the U.S.A. A.F.E.E.S. members have also attended our A.G.M.s in goodly numbers and travelled with us on our tours.

The following Canadian Branch members were pleased to take part in the tour: Pierre and Monique Bauset, Lorraine (Montreal), Queb.; Russell and Margaret Jones, South Surrey B.C. (South of Vancouver); Bill and son Bob Kidd, Beaconsfield (Montreal), Queb.; Betty and Roy Scott, Etobicoke (Toronto), Ont.; John and Mary Watkins, S. Surrey, B.C.; and Ken Woodhouse, Saskatoon, Sask, accompanied by Bill and Kayla Pizzey.

There were many outstanding highlights on the tour but these are the ones we have selected.

We sensed the reverence at the ceremony which took place at the Omaha Beach cemetery. It was a poignant event and because of the size and beauty of the cemetery, likely represented the fallen comrades at the D-Day invasion and following battles along the beaches. History has recorded the invasion as the largest ever.

Also at Plouha, in the pouring rain, the majesty of the entire ceremony was deeply felt. Wherever we heard our National Anthem, "O Canada," along with the British, American and French National Anthems, we felt a stirring pride in the accomplishments of our country.

Near Tours, south of Paris, the memorial service at Chambon-Coulanges was inspiring in honour of members of the Resistance. At the end of the ceremony parachutists dropped with flags of our respective countries. Here we were delighted to meet "Michou," ordinarily called Micheline, one of the leaders of the Comet Escape Line. She was accompanied by her husband, Pierre Ugeux. "Michou" was her wartime Resistance name. She was awarded the George Cross at the end of the war. The Comet Line saved over 800 airmen. A great deal is written about her exploits during World War II in the literature. She was a guest of the Canadian Branch in 1972.

The day culminated with a banquet at Chambord Castle. What a spectacular event it was! We thoroughly enjoyed a 10 course dinner with a variety of wines followed by a fun ceremony. Each evader was called to the stage and was dubbed with a sword on each shoulder to be knighted in the traditional manner (shades of Queen Elizabeth I knighting Francis Drake "Sir" in 1581 in England). He was then presented with a gold-braded chain of office with a Limoges fleur-de-lis pendant and a large certificate with his citation beautifully printed on it with the title, "Chevalier a L'Honorable" above his name. At the end of the ceremony, speeches of thanks were given for an evening which was an outstandingly happy event.

In Paris we relaxed and engaged in sightseeing as well as honouring our Helpers at receptions. Jean-Jacques Piot, the French representative to the Royal Air Forces Escaping Society, held a reception at his luxurious apartment in central Paris for the Canadian contingent of evaders, some Helpers and a few other invited guests.

It was profoundly moving to sense the gratitude of the French people and especially that of our Helpers for the liberation of their country. On this tour, our "Last Hurrah," it was a truly magnificent opportunity to thank the Helpers, who took terrible risks, but who made our evasions possible and successful.

EUROPE 1994

Sixty seven happy AFEES members and families parted company in Paris on May 21st after a most successful eleven days honoring, and being honored in Western France and Paris. Some came home, some went on to visit helpers and some went on to tour but all went away happy.

With the possible exception of 1969 this was by far the best visit to Europe that AFEES has sponsored. The hotels were good, the food was excellent and the price was right. Dick d'Amato of Tamarac Travel deserves a "well done" for his outstanding effort in making this a very successful trip.

It takes a great number of people to make a trip like this a success but we should acknowledge the super effort of Leslie Atkinson in contacting helpers and in working with the organizers of the Paris activities.

Some of the people who made our trip possible, Pierre Bauset, Jean Jacques Piot, Gordon Carter, Herve Monjaret, Jacques Weber, Yves Malecot, Jean Halade and Serge Baudinot. In addition there were hundreds of mayors, politicians, army, navy and air force personnel representing France, Canada, England, and the U.S. "THANKS TO ONE AND ALL".

ROBERT W. ECKMAN PASSES



Robert W. Eckman, 71, of Phoenix, retired president of Noble Distributors, died Feb. 5, 1994. He was born in Calumet, Mich., and was a bombardier/navigator for the Army Air Forces during

World War II. He was a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Air Force Escape and Evasion Society and the 461st Bomb Group Association. Survivors include his wife, MaryElaine; daughters, Laura Eckman Atwell and Peggy Eckman; son, Mark Eckman; sister, Martha Schaub; and five grandchildren. Memorial services: noon Saturday, St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 2312 E. Campbell Ave. Contributions: Hospice of the Valley, 2601 E. Thomas Road, No. 100, Phoenix, AZ 85016, or Bob Eckman Scholarship Fund, c/o Gateway Community College, 108 N. 40th St., Phoenix, AZ 85016. Scottsdale Heritage Mortuary.

To Harry A. Dolph - Editor I am writing to let you know my husband Bob died on February 5th, 1994.

He enjoyed your magazine very much however I thought I could save you mailing any of the other issues.

He was a wonderful man in every way. Devoted to his family, his church and his country.

I will miss him forever.

Fondly,

Maryekaine Eckman

"WOW, THEY DID IT AGAIN!"

It seems that Claude Murray wrote to Clayton and Scott David requesting they assist in finding a pair of American airmen for some Dutch Helpers. Clayton David explains:

"There was nothing in our records about the men you were seeking for the Dutch, but we found them. Here is how we did it.: We found an R. R. Casstevens in the Ex POW Book. With the help of the telephone operator we got his number and on the second effort we made contact. He was not the right one, but he knew of a Ralph Casstevens in business 30 miles away and gave us that number. We talked to the son and got the essentials, but Ralph is in poor health, but expected home from the hospital in a few days. That gave us hope. Then we called Idaho and the operator had two people by the name of Sommer. The second one we tried was the right one."

Here is the information:

Estel "Eddy" Sommer	388th BG down 9 April 44 at
2990 Romrell Lane	Delph Holland - free 15
Idaho Falls, ID 83406	days. Captured in Belgium
Ph: 208/523-6925	POW Liberated 3 May 45.

Eddy is retired, in good health and interested in what we are trying to do.

Ralph Casstevens	He was down a long time but
R#1 - Box 1154	never captured. He was lib-
Hampton, NC 27020	erated but his son didn't
Ph: 910/468-2753	know his unit or dates.

WOW WE DID IT AGAIN!!!!

Sincerely, Clayton & Scotty

461ST BOMB GROUP REUNION

The 561st Bomb Group, 1943-1945 will hold its 1994 annual reunion at the holiday Inn, Hampton Coliseum, hampton, VA from October 14th to October 16th. Contact the Merimac Corporation at 1-800/292-1490 or write to Frank O'Bannon at P. O. Box 36600 Tuscon, AZ 86740-6600. Call if you got a nickel at 602/797-1439. Thanks, Frank..

JOHN L. "JACK" ATHERTON

Jack Atherton, a waist gunner on Ashley Ivey's B-17 died March 29, 1994 of cancer after a long illness. Jack is a member of A.F.E.E.S. from Sutherlin, Oregon.

P-51 MUSTANG PILOTS ASSN,

The 14th Annual Reunion of the P-51 Mustang Pilots Association will be held in Seattle, Washington, September 22nd through 25th, full information on Hotel and planned itinerary will be made available by Association Newsletter. Details and travel incormation available from the host member Bill Holloman at 206/525-1224

As an alternative information point, try Captain Pete Hardiman, Association President at 503/591-9312.

It is a very good conclusion to make that Bill Holloman will arrange an extremely good reunion so come and see for yourselves or contact Colonel Frank J. Grenon, President Emeritus, for more information at 508/658-9846. Frank

TO RALPH K. PATTON Chairman of the Board A.F.E.E.S.

16 February, 1994:

Dear Sir, it is with great joy that I received your letter dated February 3, 1994 and the "Citation of Remembrance" from the A.F.E.E.S.

On behalf of myself and the memory of the members of my family who gave their lives to defend our freedom and save the allied airmen from captivity, please accept my sincere thanks.

My cousin, Leon Javelot with eight of his comrades were arrested on September 14 1943, suffered horrible torture but none of them submitted.

They were beheaded with an axe at Munich on November 28th, 1944 - my cousin Leon used to say: "Better to die standing up than to live on our knees". As for me in 1943 at the age of sixteen I sacrificed my youth, my health, my studies; "but I have no regrets"

Your citation is a great honour for me and will serve as an example for my three sons.

Please accept my most sincere thoughts as well as all our friends members of the A.F.E.E.S..

Your French friend, Jean Grilles, 2 Hobby Road, MS1090, 4556 Buderim, Australie

JOE FRANK JONES JR. DIES

I am saddened to have to report the death of Joe Frank Jones Jr. who died in Savannah, Georgia Friday morning, January 14, 1994 after a lengthy illness.

We had all heard about Joe before we ever met him for he was the tail gunner and the only survivor of his B-17 crew after the tail section of the airplane was severed in a collision with another B-17 at an altitude of about 14,000 feet. Joe rode the tail section of his stricken bomber, "MR LUCKY, falling almost three miles to the ground and landing in Belgium. Joe was unconscious in a Belgian hospital for about a week after the collision, suffering a ruptured blood vessel in his stomach and with his tongue almost bitten off.

At the 14th annual reunion of the Air Forces Historical Society in Des Moines, Iowa, Joe was honored by the 8th AFHS by being selected to represent "All Aerial Gunners of World War II, and to receive a silver plate with the following inscription:

**OUTSTANDING GUNNERS AWARD
BRAVERY - SKILL
IN HONOR OF ALL THE AERIAL GUNNERS OF
THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE
IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO
VICTORY IN THE AIR WAR OVER EUROPE**

Presented to:

Joe Frank Jones, Jr.

15 October 1988

Des Moines, Iowa

Ed Note: Joew Frank Jones Jr. was made an associate member of the A.F.E.E.S. during our reunion in Savannah Georgia. He was personable and friendly with all of us. We are sorry to hear of his passing.

WHY WAS NEWSLETTER LATE?

Read on then you tell me!

I finally found out our Newsletter was held up by the Cincinnati, Ohio Post Office since that is the distribution point for bulk mail for this area of Ohio. (Marietta). I called the person in charge of Consumers Affairs and Claims who wrote me a letter advising me she would get to the bottom of my problem.

What appears to be the final letter and the bottom of my problem was received by me on this date 3/10/94.

Now read on...



United States
Postal Service

March 9, 1994

Harry Dolth
Air Forces Escape
400 Columbia Ave
PO Box 324
Williamstown WV 26187-0324

Dear Mr. Dolth:

This is in response to your recent report of delayed bulk mail.

The distribution system of the Postal Service is massive, and we sometimes disappoint our customers and ourselves. But, as a public service, we realize we have an obligation to hold the trust of our customers by providing good, reliable mail service, and we are working hard to maintain this commitment. Providing the best possible service at the lowest possible cost is our primary objective.

We can well understand your concern about your bulk mailing. Most of the time delivery service is performed within a satisfactory period. Nonetheless, there are occasional failures and we share our customers' disappointment when delays occur. However, in cases where service is provided, albeit not within the time frame expected, postage refunds cannot be made. When scheduling mailings, we ask bulk mailers to avoid mailing from the first to the fifth, and from the twenty-sixth to the end of each month, peak mailing periods when volume, particularly preferential mail, increases substantially. Scheduling becomes more critical during the latter part of the year.

Because of the seriousness of this matter, we want to ensure that a review is conducted. Accordingly, I have furnished information concerning the delayed mailing to our Quality Control Office for review.

In closing, I want to emphasize that the Postal Service listens carefully to its customers and we strive to resolve the deficiency brought to our attention. Thank you for taking the time to contact us about this problem.

Sincerely,

Richard F. Herron
Richard F. Herron
Manager, Consumer Affairs and Claims
Columbus Customer Service District
850 Twin Rivers Dr.
Columbus, OH 43216-9631

EAD06:RPHERRON:js:213

FROM THOMAS B. APPLEWHITE

I request that my wartime helpers be added to the roll of those who assisted us in our escape from enemy held territory.

PETER & NELLY de NOO

Well, Holland

ADRIAN & NEL de NOO

Zaltbommel, Holland

BERT & ANKY WIERINGA

Hoogeveen, Holland

Ed.Note: Tom, their names are now a part of our computer records as per your request. Thanx for giving them to us.

GIL MILLAR WRITES

In January, 1992, Gil Millar received a letter from Len Hossie, Secretary of the 432 Squadron, 6 Group, RCAF with a commentary on an award which had come into his possession.

Apparently in the summer of 1944 a Sergeant Jack Hamilton arrived at the Eastmoor, Yorkshire air base of 432 Squadron and by September he was flying missions with his crew in Halifax III heavies. In the course of their service with the Squadron, Jack was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal and was commissioned in October of 1944. With their tour of duty completed on February 2nd, 1945.

Len said that the DFM medal now was on his desk and is engraved CANR182184 Sergeant J. D. Hamilton, RCAF

After discharge Jack returned to Toronto and arthritis started to play havoc with him. He was hospitalized until released to his mother's care. He had married but his wife had left him.

Told that Arizona's climate might help him, he moved there and recovered enough to handle a job. He met and married a local widow who had a teenage son.

He continued to have health problems, developing cancer which eventually claimed his life.

To the best of Len's knowledge his wife had him buried in Apache Junction, just east of Phoenix, Arizona.

In the winter of 1990/1991, Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery of Vancouver, B.C. Canada were on vacation and happened on a garage sale in Apache Junction where they purchased a DFM. They were friends of a Canadian Air pilot, who had the medal equipped with new ribbons and refurbished and gave it to 432 Squadron which explains its place of honor on Len's desk.

Len asked Gil Millar in 1992 to see what he could do about finding the Hamilton grave.

Millar's solution was to check AFEES records and find someone who could provide on-site help. As he recalls he sicked Len onto Ira Allen, an AFEES member who spends part of the year in Utah and the rest in Arizona.

The latest (1994) on the story is that (?) Wright of 432 Squadron has been in Arizona and has located the grave marker which is properly identified and has R.C.A.F. carved on the marker. The plan is probably to place the DFM in the 432 Squadron section of the soon-to-be installed RCAF museum at Trenton, Ontario. Gil Millar has volunteered a uniform to that same museum.

We AFEES helped out our Canadian friends in a small way!

YOU DON'T SAY!

Once upon a time a lion ate a bull and he felt so good he just had to roar - and he roared and he roared. Upon hearing the lion, a hunter tracked him down and killed him with one shot!

THE MORAL TO THIS STORY

When you are full of bull, keep your mouth shut!

HELPER ALEXANDRE LAURENT

One of our Helpers is being honored. It concerns Alex Laurent of Triel-sur-Seine, France. Born February 13, 1899 who was awarded the Volunteer Fighter Cross for 14/18 by Colonel Jeanni.

Enlisted as a volunteer at 17 years of age, when his class was not drafted yet, he received a citation in behalf of his regiment then the Medal of Victory, and finally cited in the National Order - Knight of the Honorary Legion.

Living in Treil during the German occupation, he hides with him an American parachutist, being shot down above Hautil, on September 17th, 1943. Surprisingly, 38 years later, this American named James Armstrong comes to visit his rescuer with his spouse. Ever since then, becoming friends, they meet at regular times.

Time takes its course, Mr. Laurent earns the Honorary Diploma of the Veterans Order. His professional life is remarkable, for after elementary school graduation degree, he goes on with his active life and 45 years later, terminates a career as General President of Lesieur Oils Society and then is awarded the Gold Medal of Labor.

Today, he leads a peaceful retirement life on his Triel estate. This extraordinarily kind man is amazing with his exceptional shape and optimistic outlook on the future.

So testifies Mr. Mayor: "When I mentioned to him planting a Tree of Peace for the 25th anniversary celebration of Triel with the German town of Selingenstadt as twin cities, to my astonishment for a 14/18 veteran, he proposed to be invited to the ceremony, saying how much he appreciated this symbol of France-German understanding. An edifying example for Europe and Peace..."

Ed.Note: Printed excerpt from the translation in France.

DÉCORÉ DE LA CROIX DU COMBATTANT VOLONTAIRE À 95 ANS



Monsieur le Colonel Jeanni, Monsieur Ogier, Président du Département des Combattants Volontaires, décernent la Croix des Combattants Volontaires à Monsieur Laurent.

SIC TRANSIT GLORIA

"The World War II generation still has much to offer!"

Houston Chronicle, Houston, TX

From the inaugural podium to the pages of the national news magazines, the changing of the generational guard is being noted with words of eloquence and wisdom

The poignancy of this passing of the torch was captured in the scene of Bill and Hillary Clinton bidding goodbye to George and Barbara Bush from the Capitol steps as the Bushes boarded a Marine helicopter on the first leg of the journey home to Houston.

The generation that fought and won World War II said to be leaving the stage, making way in positions of leadership for its children, the baby-boom generation. Indeed many among the older generation are departing.

It is understandable that the American family should wax sentimental, perhaps even maudlin, over such a transition. This is, after all, a remarkable generation as William Strauss and Neil Howe have written, "No other generation this century has felt (or been) so Promethean, so godlike in its collective world-bending power."

But it would be premature to attach overly much to the bitter-sweet image of a generational ride into the sunset. Some of the commentary has had about it a requiem-like quality which ill-suits the occasion.

Those occasional funeral tones must surely draw a hale and hearty laugh from many of the men who survived battles at Midway, Guadalcanal, Normandy, Anzio and a hundred other places, and who carry on to this day in positions of prominence. It must also draw a knowing smile from the women who diapered their daughters and sons now entering positions of national leadership, and who are themselves vigorously pursuing careers and interests and causes.

Those who fought in World War II and reared the baby boomers are, for the most part into their 70's or older. But a good many of these men and women are anything but ready to beat and retreat from active life. Indeed, many, if not most, are leading productive lives, and have no intention of slowing down.

To which we say, more power to them. By their example and experience, they have much to offer to their nation, their own children and grandchildren.

It will be this nation's great loss if we are in too much of a hurry to commit the World War II generation to the history books, alongside the now yellowing photographs that record the achievements of their youth.

In their own youth, a quarter of a century later, the baby boomers symbolized by Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore were counseled never to trust anyone over 30. Most boomers, now well into their 40s, some with children

approaching 30, long ago learned the folly of that short-sighted advice.

They must surely recognize the similar folly in writing off those beyond retirement age. Apparently, Clinton does. For all of his talk of generational transition, the president has chosen Lloyd Bentsen, 72 and Warren Christopher, 68, for senior Cabinet positions.

Beyond the self-evident capabilities of these two individuals, there is something more broadly reassuring in those selections. They bespeak a respect for continuity that must undergird constructive change.

It has long been the American tendency to revere youth; often while discounting the virtues of age. That is perhaps the nature of our restless society, always looking for a new frontier, a brighter future over the horizon. But it is no less true that the cultures and societies that history reveres, themselves honor age.

As this country faces the challenges which Bill Clinton has identified, America will need all its resources. That should certainly include those, now a bit longer in the tooth, whose generation gave us the opportunity to do so.

"Do not go gently into that good night," the poet Dylan Thomas wrote. One suspects that the proud, strong generation that was raised in depression and grew to maturity in world war will not go gently. Nor should they be pushed by those following in their enormous footsteps.

Ed note: I'm now in my 77th year of this life. Most of my achievements have been during this decade. This editorial really hits home.

THE 466TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNION

The 466th Bomb Group Association will hold its
annual reunion from October 4th to 9th, 1994
at the Town and Country Resort in
San Diego, California.

For further information, contact:

LOU LOEVSKY
201/226-4624

(Coordinated with the 8th AFHS Reunion)

RAFEES NEWS LETTER QUOTES FROM ELIZABETH HARRISON

"My next parachute adventures is on June 14th and October 1st for two worthwhile charities.....

In the meantime, my right arm is in a plaster cast after some "keep fit" excercises: jumping out of an aircraft is obviously so much safer!"

Ed.Note: Elizabeth Harrison celebrated her 70th birthday by making a parachute jump.

484TH BOMB GROUP REUNION

The 484th Bomb Group of WWII will hold their 1994 reunion from November 7th to 11th on board the cruise ship "Ecstasy". Call Bud Markel at (310) 316-3330 for information and dial 1-(800) 228-6924 for stateroom reservations.

Carnival Cruise Line's "Ecstasy" will depart Miami, Florida on November 7th, 1944 for a 5 day, 4 night cruise to the Western Caribbean with stops at Playa Del Carmen-Cozumel, and Key West.

The cost is \$566.50 (includes port taxes) per person double occupancy. \$100.00 deposit per person required to secure a reservation.

For further information, please contact:

The 484th Bomb Group Association
1122 Ysabel Street
Redondo Beach, California 90277-4453-13
Phone (310) 316-3330

NEW BOOK, "HITLER'S SECRET ALLY, SWITZERLAND" BY DONALD A. WATERS

The book contains significant portions of intelligence, escape and evasion that transpired in and from the tiny alpine confederate. Also included are some obscure but important segments of the history of the Eighth Air Force and its attacks on Swiss targets. I am confident it will prove interesting and informative to all members of the Society.

The author, Donald A. Waters writes, "I have been a member of the Society for some time. During WWII I was a left seat pilot with Rosie Rosenthal's 350th Squadron of the 100th Bomb Group. That tour ended on July 13th, 1944 during my second trip to Munich."

"Near the end of the bomb run that day, three engines were damaged and my radio operator advised me the fuel was extremely low (an MACR reported fuel streaming from below both wings). I immediately headed for Switzerland and about thirty minutes later was promptly jumped by Swiss BF-109's. Somewhat in a hurry to get on the ground I bashed the plane into a Swiss apple orchard and spent the next five months as a "guest" of the Swiss Federal Council. On December 11, 1944, I managed (mostly rowing) a nocturnal and very wet ride across Lake Geneva and with the help of the French underground, and later the OSS, I made it back to the U.K."

"I spent the next twenty-one years in the Air Force, all the time alert to any information bearing on some of the strange events in Switzerland. Practically nothing was ever published. In 1980 I began seriously collecting information regarding Swiss war-time activities. Several years ago I began this book and now you can read the result."

"I hope our members find it as readable and exciting as the private reviews would suggest."

Ed note: Lt. Col. Waters sent me a galley copy of his book and I read it from cover to cover. He has put a tremendous amount of research into his efforts. The information divulged here for the first time to my knowledge, left me overwhelmed. The book (hardcover) is for sale at \$28.95 including S&H and taxes. It will be published by 5/1/94. Purchase autographed copy from the author:

Donald A. Waters
9485 Fortune Lane
La Mesa, CA 91941-4408

WHERE IS LIEUTENANT ROBERT HOOKE??

(Ralph Patton wants to know!)

I have recently been in communication with Mr. Michael LeBlanc of Acton, Ont. Canada who is doing research on German agents who infiltrated various escape lines. He is especially interested in Rene van Muylem, (alias Donald, alias Marland, alias Robert or alias van der Meerschaut), a German agent who worked out of Antwerp and was responsible for the arrest of seventy (70) allied airmen and over fifty (50) Belgian underground members. Van Mylem was paid one thousand (1,000) Belgian francs for each airman and resistance worker arrested.

Rene van Muylem was brought to justice by the alertness of Lt. Robert Hooke, an American airman who had been arrested by van Muylem in 1944. Lt. Hooke recognized van Muylem while van Muylem was working for the American Red Cross in Paris in 1945. Through the dogged persistence of Lt. Hooke, van Muylem was arrested and brought back to Brussels to stand trial. He was convicted of treason and executed in 1947. When confronted by some of those he had arrested, he simply stated, "I bet on the wrong horse". "You worked for your ideal." "I worked for mine: money".

Unfortunately we have very little information on Lt. Robert Hooke. Therefore we are shooting in the dark in trying to track him down. I hope that all units receiving this newsletter, especially the POW associations, will check their rosters to see if Robert Hooke is listed anywhere, dead or alive. Any information transmitted to me will be greatly appreciated.

RALPH K. PATTON

5000 Alden Dr.
Pittsburgh, PA 15220
Phone - 412/343-8570

450TH BOMB GROUP REUNION

The 450th Bomb Group (H) WWII will have its annual reunion from September 29, 1994 to October 2nd, 1994 in San Diego at the Marriott Mission Valley hotel. Contact Doid K. Raab, Reunion Director at 5695 Ireland Rd. N.E., Lancaster OH 43130 for further information or call him at 614/536-7635. Thank you, Doid K. Raab.

*Send info
1-519-555-1212
no listing for LeBlanc*

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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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