

THE AIR FORCES ESCAPE AND EVASION SOCIETY

1993 WINTER COMMUNICATIONS

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 4

MARIETTA, OHIO 45750



WORTHINGTON

200 Main Street • Fort Worth, Texas 76102

AIR FORCE ESCAPE & EVASION SOCIETY ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

SINGLE - DOUBLE OCCUPANCY \$78.00

TRIPLE OCCUPANCY \$93.00

QUAD OCCUPANCY \$108.00

SUBJECT TO APPLICABLE TAXES, CURRENTLY 13%

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

On Sunday November 21st, I returned from a week in France with Dick D'Amato, our travel agent, tying up the loose ends for our visit next May. Our reception in France was exceptionally warm and I can assure one and all that we will have a fantastic visit to at least three regions of France.

We reviewed the tentative plans for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Shelburne operations near Plouha and we are truly excited about the activities scheduled for May 14th 1994. Those of you who came out of France in January, February or March of 1944 will be happy to learn that the path we took from the house of Alphonse to the top of the cliff (through the mine field) has been rejuvenated and is now open to the public. It is now a beautiful promenade along the top of the hills overlooking the rugged Brittany coast.

Thanks to our Canadian friends, the French committee in the Loire Valley has gone all out to make our two days there an unforgettable experience. They have planned a visit to Chambord Castle, second in grandeur only to Versailles in all of France. We will have a gala dinner in one of the dining rooms of Chambord Castle as well as a surprise induction that will entertain and amuse each one of us.

Activities in Paris are being organized by Leslie Atkinson and one of the large French Veteran's organizations, ORA (Organization of Resistance of the Army). These activities include a visit to Mont Valerien, hallowed ground of the French resistance, a short visit to the American Military Cemetery, the Arch de Triumph, and a reception at the Paris City Hall. In addition, we will host a reception for our Helpers in the Hilton Hotel in Paris.

We have several cancellations, for reasons of health, therefore there are a few openings available. If you are interested in joining us, please call Ralph Patton at 1-412/343-8570 or Dick D'Amato at Tamrac Travel, 1-800/228-9690.

Ralph K. Patton, Chairman of the Board, A.F.E.E.S.

FROM DAVID GASTON ALFORD

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS September 4, 1993

Dear Mr. Dolph: My Husband David Gaston Alford is a member of your organization. He was shot down just inside Holland (5 miles from the German border) on 4 February 1944 and many of the Dutch underground helped him return to the Allied forces sometime in the fall of that year.

The last issue of AFEES Communications had a listing of Helpers of AFEES, and not one of those who risked their lives in hiding him appear there. I am inquiring how we can have them listed. Most of these men and women are now deceased, but some are not. In any case, we would like to see that they have the recognition they deserve as "Helpers" of Allied flyers with our organization.

If you would be kind enough to advise me how and to whom these names should be sent, I would appreciate it. Thank you.

Dorothy Alford.

Ed.Note: Dear Dorothy: It just happened you wrote to the right guy. the names of the following helpers are now listed as Dutch Helpers. It's a shame the names didn't get in our hands at an earlier date so those deceased could have received the recognition they so richly deserve.

THE HELPERS ARE:

G.VOSSELMAN, (deceased)

A gamekeeper on land owned by
Baron van den Heijden von Doornenburg

ALEXANDRIA van der HEIJDEN (deceased)

Spoke English fluently
fed Alford, brought him books and befriended him

ODA van der HEIJDEN

She knew the American was on their property
But didn't openly assist in his care.

HENK and JO GOSSELINK

Prins Clauslaan 19
7251 AS Vorden, Holland
Brought Alford to their barn for safety

WILLEM SPANHAAK (deceased)

Helped Alford out in the forest where he was
an assistant game keeper
After the war he organized a Boy Scout Troop
His widow and daughter, Helene still live in the
Huis den Bosch - Helverinckweg 2
7251 CD Vorden (Gelderland) Holland

CHRIS HUIBERTS (BOS) (deceased)

his widow LANI PHILIPPI-KRANENBORG is alive
van Lennepstraat 10
8023 BB Zwolle, Holland
Chris was the leader of the underground in the Vorden area.
He was discovered by the Germans just a few weeks before
the end of the war and executed.

His wife Lani was active in the Pilot Helper organization
and served as secretary for some time.

HAN HOLLANDER

A 16 year old courier in the Vorden area.
Zandvoor Terweg 54
2111 GX Aerdenhout, Holland

WILLEM van UEM
EMMASINGEL 73

7141 WK Groenlo, Holland
30 years later he and some friends dug up pieces
of downed aircraft and he made contact with Alford.

DAVID GASTON ALFORD (Cont'd)

From there he located the rest of his underground friends.

MR BUS - First name not given (deceased)

Brought Alford into their home and fed him. Found assistance for him to get to Amsterdam.

Mrs Bus was not married to Mr Bus at the time but they married later. They had ten children and some of them still operate the farm.

Wiegerinckweg 3

7137 HM Hievelde, Holland

JAN and THEA GOEDKOOP

Alford stayed with them in Amsterdam for five weeks later returned to join with Floyd Stegall, another flyer there. Together they were taken to Maastricht, Holland.

WIENIK EVERTS

Volunteered to escort Alford and Stegall to Maastricht and turned them over to Dr. von der Ley.

Everts and a friend ran the underground newspaper in addition printed and forged documents to help those in the underground.

DR. VON DER LEY (deceased)

A physician who lived in the business district of Maastricht. He had two American radios in his attic to listen to the BBC and to send weather information to England. He assisted many escapees and evadees. A very brave man, He represented Holland on the Dutch Olympic swimming team before the war. His widow (they were not married during the war) is still living at:

Bieslanderweg 142

6213 AM Maastricht, Holland

Ed. Note: How many more Helpers are there out there whom we have failed to recognize? All the above names are now in the Holland Helper files of my computer. It only takes a minute to do so. If you can remember a lost Helper, let me know.

**A.F.E.E.S. REUNION - SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

15 April through 19 April 1994

Friday, 15 April 1994

- 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration desk open.
- 11:00 a.m. Buses depart for the Fort Worth Stock Yards Entertainment Area. A walking/shopping tour and lunch on your own followed by a guided tour that will include a staged "old west gunfight".
- 3:00 p.m. Last bus departs from the Stock Yards for return to Worthington Hotel.
- 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Hospitality Room open.
- 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Opening meeting. Check announcement board at Registration desk for room number.
- 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Hospitality Room open so you can meet old friends and new friends.

Saturday, 16 April 1994

- Breakfast on your own - invite a helper.
- 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Registration desk open.
- 11:00 a.m. Buses depart for Meachum Field and tour of "Chuckie", one of the last flying B-17s.
- 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. Catered Texas Bar-B-Q under the wings of a beautiful "Queen of the Skies".
- 3:00 p.m. Buses return to Worthington Hotel.
- 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Hospitality Room open. Prepare items for the auction.

You are on your own for dinner on this Saturday night. Fort Worth has been designated as an "All American City" and you may wish to try some of the fine restaurants and entertainment areas, many of which are in easy walking distance of our Convention Hotel.

Sunday, 17 April 1994

- Breakfast on your own - invite a helper. If you desire to attend a church service, see announcement board for listings.
- 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Hospitality Room open. View the auction items.
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch, followed by the auction.
- 4:00 p.m. A local Indian story (in the works).
- The Hospitality Room will be open after the auction, until 6:00 p.m. You are on your own for the evening.

Monday, 18 April 1994

- On your own for breakfast and lunch - invite a helper.
- 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Business Meeting.
- 1:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting.
- The Hospitality Room and the P.X. will be open as needed. Please see Announcement Board at the Registration Desk for the hours.
- 6:00 p.m. Presentation of the Colors by Civil Air Patrol Cadets. Candle Lighting Ceremony, to be followed immediately by dinner.
- 7:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. "Pit Stop", announcements from the Board of Directors meeting and recognition of special guests.
- 9:00 p.m. to Midnight Dancing

Tuesday, 19 April 1994

- 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Buffet breakfast and departure.

HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME



WORTHINGTON

Page 4

Gracious Hospitality!

How can a guest, when just one of several thousand, receive treatment worthy of that claim?

We start small, concentrating on the little things. It is this attention to each fine detail that makes the big difference!

Our philosophy is do what we do well, then expand upon it. Our professional people make us special. People who chose to be here. People who are sincere!

No amount of marble, ebony or chrome can make a guest feel truly welcome. But by striving to be the best we can, the 650 of us can do magic!

We believe in what we do. It's the only way we can justify working so hard to please you, our guest.

We take pride in our accomplishments . . . and dash to the source of any problem before you've noticed anything askew.

Gracious Hospitality! Ideally it's something for which a hotel strives. And at the Worthington, wedged among red brick streets, gleaming office towers and renovated turn-of-the-century storefronts, our hotel occupies a site tailor-made for accessibility and it's the only reason for being.

WORTHINGTON

200 MAIN ST
FORT WORTH TX 76102-9920

REGISTRATION FOR A.F.E.E.S. REUNION

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

15 APRIL - 19 APRIL 1994

Mail your reservations in early! All reservation must be received by 11 March 1994.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE ZIP: _____

PHONE: (____) _____

ARRIVAL TIME: _____ ARRIVAL DATE: _____

MODE OF TRANSPORTATION _____

PRICES

Complete Reunion Package (per person): \$125.00 x ___ \$ _____
(Includes Registration and all individual events)

Individual Events (per person):

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Registration Fee. | \$25.00 x ___ \$ _____ |
| 2. Friday, 15 April - bus trip for shopping and sightseeing at Fort Worth Stock Yard Entertainment Area. | \$20.00 x ___ \$ _____ |
| 3. Saturday, 16 April - Bus trip and Texas Bar-B-Que under the wing of a live B-17 at Meachum Field. | \$25.00 x ___ \$ _____ |
| 4. Sunday, 17 April - lunch followed by the annual auction. | \$10.00 x ___ \$ _____ |
| 5. Monday, 18 April - Candle lighting ceremony to be followed by banquet and dancing. | \$40.00 x ___ \$ _____ |
| 6. Tuesday, 19 April - buffet breakfast prior to departure. | \$12.00 x ___ \$ _____ |
| TOTALS x ___ \$ _____ | |

Please make all checks payable to A.F.E.E.S. - 1994 REUNION. Mail reunion registration and check to:

Paul E. Kenney, Treasurer
5400 Post Road Pass
Stone Mountain, Georgia 30088
Phone (404) 343-8570

Please make your hotel reservation by using the enclosed reservation card or by calling the Worthington Hotel at 1 (800) 433-5677. Be sure to specify the A.F.E.E.S. 1994 Reunion, if you telephone. All reservations must be made by 11 March 1994, to insure availability.

NOTE: Helpers, please make your 1994 Reunion reservations through Paul Kenny. We look forward to seeing you all in Fort Worth, Texas (where the West begins).

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The glorious state of Texas
A way of life - A feeling!
Gentlemen of AFEES and
their ladies:



Jim Gobel Jr.

The holiday season and the many feelings of good cheer are with us once again and I hope each of you are blessed with good feelings, good friends, good family and good health. A.F.E.E.S. continues to be a healthy organization, made up of ladies and gentlemen willing to give of themselves, some-

times beyond their own limitations, for the benefit of others. that certainly describes our Helpers and our eternal thanks for their deeds unsung. It's hard to recall the time when we were warriors that suddenly found ourselves in the role of failures because of the victories of our opponents caused rarely by any action on our part. We were all "most lucky fellers" to have had the experiences we had, regardless of what we endured. "Heros"!!! Hell, we just hung on by our nails and hoped for the best. "Hope" was the greatest factor in our recovery. When you lost that you were in deepest trouble.

This holiday period finds the world, our world, still in chaos in sections of this globe deprived of religion, decency and toleration towards his fellow man. Some realists believe this is the nature of the beast but I believe that man, the human being, is better than all else the world or it wouldn't still be the big, blue beautiful place that it is.

Back to a little business. It is imperative we get some relief for Jeanette and Howard Harris in the PX. Jeanette and her husband are both ill, they missed the last reunion because of illness and were several weeks recovering. Because Jeanette's illness is chronic, they have to forgo the trip to Europe in the spring of 1944. A replacement or replacements has to be found. Isn't there some wily individual or individuals among our membership willing to take the PX over? Any member or members willing to take on the responsibility should call me pronto- or sooner!

Please communicate; we need your input and all work done by your officers and directors is willingly shared. Without mainstays such as Scotty David, Ralph Patton, Harry Dolph, Paul and Dorothy Kenny, to name some; we wouldn't be the organization we are. We all have limited resources-let's use them up. Joan and I send out love and good wishes to each and every one of you---Keep the faith!!

COMETE WEEKEND OCTOBER 23RD and 24TH

The veterans of the Comete line held their annual weekend in Brussels October 23rd and 24th. A.F.E.E.S. was represented by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Grimes.

The date for the Comete's annual weekend is chosen to commemorate the date when a number of its leaders were shot by the Germans for their work with the line.

Jean Greindl, chief of COMETE was killed on 7 September 1943 at the caserne d'etterbeek when allied bombs fell on the stable in which he was held prisoner.

The following were executed by the Germans at the Tir National in Brussels on the 20th of October 1943. Eric de Menten den horn, Emile Delbruyere, Albert Marchal, Henri Raskin, Ghislain Neybergh, Gaston Bidoul, Robert Robert-Jones, Geroges Marechal, Antoine Renaud and Edouard Verpraet.

The following members of Comete have died in the past year. Maitre Hubert Renault of Ohain, Madame Hannote of Rhumes, Rev. Pere Riquet of Paris, Madame Yvonne Bienfait of Cuesmes, Count Georges d'Oultremont of Wauthier-Braine, Mr. Roger Buchet of Woluwe St Lambert, Baron Melot of Namur, Madame Ann Brusselmans of Florida, Miss Couvreur of Brussels and Mr. Callebaut of Sole St Gery.

A memorial service in memory of all their deceased comrdes and Allied Airmen was held on Sunday October 24th at the Basilique de Koekelberg in Brussels.

TOULOUSE ANYONE?

Members of the French resistance who operated in the ciyt of Toulouse France during World War II are interested in locating American Airmen twho passed through their town enroutte to Andorra or Spain in 1943 and 1944.

Plans are vague at this time but we are discussing the possibility of commeration activities in the summer of 1994 in Toulouse.

If you passed through Toulouse, and are interested in the possibility of joining in commorating these dark but heroic days of WWII, please drop a note or phone to:

RALPH K. PATTON
720 Valleyview Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15243
Phone 412/343-8570

FRANCE IN 1994

THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL CANCELLATIONS FOR OUR TRIP TO FRANCE NEXT MAY! NOW IS THE TIME TO CONSIDER JOINING THE MEMBERS OF AFEES ON WHAT WILL PROBABLY BE THE LAST ORGANIZED PLIGRIMAGE TO EUROPE.

- DATES:** DEPART USA MAY 9TH - RETURN TO USA MAY 21ST.
- COST:** LAND COST PER PERSON \$1699 PLUS AIR FARE. AIR FARE VARIES WITH YOUR DEPARTURE CITY, I.E. NEW YORK OR EAST COAST CITIES MIGHT BE AS LOW AS \$500 AND WEST COAST CITIES MAY BE AS HIGH AS \$1000. CHECK WITH TAMARAC TRAVEL FOR LOWEST POSSIBLE FARE.
- INCLUDES:** BUS TRANSPORTAITON FROM LONDON ON MAY 10TH THRU MAY 19TH, INCLUDING CHANNEL CROSSING BY FERRY. 11 HOTEL NIGHTS (5 IN HILTON HOTELS), 12 BREAKFASTS, 6 DINNERS PLUS RECEPTIONS FOR HELPERS, AND WREATH LAYING CEREMONIES.
- FLEXIBILITY:** YOU ARE FREE TO GO EARLY AND STAY LATE: GO EARLY TO ENGLAND AND STAY ON THE CONTINENT AFTER MAY 21ST AS LONG AS YOU WISH. WE REGRET THAT JOINING THE GROUP ALONG THE WAY OR LEAVING IT BEFORE WE GET TO PARIS CANNOT BE ACCOMMODATED.
- ELIGIBILITY:** ANY MEMBER OF AFEES OR THE RAFEES (CANADIAN BRANCH), OR THEIR CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN WILL BE WELCOME. BEING SHOT DOWN OR PASSING THROUGH FRANCE IS NOT A PRE-REQUISITE.
- CONTACT:** RALPH K. PATTON - 1-412/343-8570
OR
TAMARAC TRAVEL - 1-800/228-9690

WILLIAM K. RICHMOND DIES

Nuangola, PA 18707-9191

11/20/93

Dear AFEES: This is to notify your membership that my husband, former F/O William K. Richmond passed away at home in Nuangola, PA on November 8th 1993 after a lengthy illness.

Bill served with the 442nd TC Group. It was during "Market Garden" when Dr. A. P. Cals and the underground gave him assistance necessary to lead him safely out of Schijndel, Holland. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Mary. Son, Thomas. Daughters Kathleen Platt and Ann Lear. Nine grandchildren. Was preceded in death by son William Perry Richmond in 1988. /S/ Mary Storm Richmond, 44 Meyers St. Nuangola, PA 18707-9191

AFEES APPRECIATION AWARD

PROUDLY PRESENTED TO

Lenora "Scotty" David

"For ten years of writing and searching to locate more than two thousand evaders and escapers in the interest of Helpers and fellow crew members. Her success has been responsible for recruiting most of the present membership of the AIR FORCES ESCAPE AND EVASION SOCIETY. Her work made it possible for many Helpers, pilots, and air crew members to be reunited for the first time in forty to fifty years."

AWARDED DURING THE ST. LOUIS REUNION, 1993



M. EMILE ROISEUX DIES

M. Emile Roiseux passed away in France on November 17, 1993. His alias during the war was "Le Plombier" (The plumber.) He was in charge of the camp near Porcheresse in the Ardennes. The evaders and escapers he helped reads like a "who's who" in the AFEES roster: Gil Millar, Gil Shawn, Ray Koch, James Cochran, Hank Gladys, Al Willis, Milo Blakely, Ken Griesel, George Vogle, Ted Simmons, Dick Kindig, Harold Ashman, William Elsberry, Bob Morgan, Alvis Roberts, Kevin Doyle, Charlie Mitchell, George Flather, Reggie Weeden, R. Morton, John Evans, D. A. Lloyd, C. Western, C. L. Weymouth, and Ray Slomowicz. May he rest in peace.

**PHILIP KAPLAN, AUTHOR, Author
WRITES**

Philip Kaplan (One last look, Their finest Hour, Little Friends, Round the Clock), etc. is preparing a book on the Allied prisoner of war experience in the European Theater of Operations. The book will include sections on escape and evasion, and he would appreciate hearing from anyone who would be willing to provide a detailed account of their related experience. Please contact: {Philip Kaplan, 88 JMR Circle, Hershey, PA 17033

**"THE EVADER", HARRY DOLPH'S
BOOK TO BE FEATURED IN THE
JANUARY ISSUE OF**



THE READER'S DIGEST ASSOCIATION, INC.
261 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10016

Eakin Publishing Company has informed your editor, Harry A. Dolph that his book "The Evader" will be featured in the January 1994 issue as its condensed book of the month.

Needless to say, this is the single most gratifying reward for my efforts to become a successful author, and I am grateful to both Mr. Eakin who thought the book was good enough to contact Reader's Digest, and to Reader's Digest who will now feature my work.

My thanks also to those of you in AFEES who bought the book and let me know it was a good book. My stack of letters in this regard are in the hundreds, and I thank you for them.

The book is still available from the AFEES PX and a second printing is now in the works.

Don't forget to get your copy of Reader's Digest early. I hope the book helps to keep the retailer's shelves empty.

Thank you again, Harry A. Dolph



BILL GRODI WRITES

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

October 26, 1993

Dear Harry: As per our phone conversation this date, I am enclosing some information I believe the AFEES would be interested in concerning the reunion of my crew and the French hosts that took place August 13th to 24th this year.

The reunion was organized by the Group Archeo (Jacques Lajoux, Pres.) and the Aero-Club Mirandais, (Jacques Leroux, Pres.) of Gimont and Saint-Martin France, respectively.

M. Rene Cartier, Mayor of Castelnaud Barbarens France, who helped organize 14 communities for receptions and financing, as the trip was cost free for us crew members and our wives.

As a result of their persistence and the help of AFEES and the VA all former crew members on the last mission have been located with the exception of one.

Four of us were able to attend the reunion; Jack Hughes, Copilot - Dell Kneal, Navigator - Denver Canaday, Waist Gunner - and myself along with our wives plus Jack Hughes daughter, Mary Beth who was most helpful as she has traveled extensively in France in her business. Two other crew members were unable to attend due to ill health; John Astyk, Radio Operator and Melvin Frazier, Ball Turret gunner. Unfortunately, Eugene Cavitt, Flight Engineer - George Elliott, Tail Gunner and Robert Really, Waist Gunner are deceased. No one has been able to locate Claude Sharpless, Togglier, who replaced our Bombardier on our last mission.

As you can tell from the enclosed program, there was a continuous round of receptions from morning to night with many communities and officials participating. To say the least we were all dumbfounded as to the immensity, interest and extent of this reunion. Virtually everyone who had assisted us (Resistance members, individuals or their relatives) during our trying period after being shot down were there to welcome us and exchange memories of that experience, in addition to the media, (newspapers and Television people).

Each couple stayed in individual homes with most gracious hosts partaking in meals and with all transportation provided.

We were taken to every location every crew member had been, including where we each landed after parachuting from the plane, who helped us, homes where we were hidden and every town we had been near.

We each have our individual stories and hopefully we can get together at the next AFEES reunion in 1994.

If you are interested in more details, names of French people, etc. I will be happy to furnish same as we are eternally grateful to these people.

The "Old Shillelagh 11 B-17 was shot down over southern France on August 24, 1943.

Sincerely, Wilmont C. (Bill) Grodi, pilot. 385th BG 551st BS
Ed. Note: Their reunion started on August 15th and ended on August 24th, nine full days and each day in a different town.



L-R B. Bill Grodi, Pilot - Denver Canaday, Waist Gunner

Jack Hughes, Copilot - Dell Kneal, Navigator

NEWSLETTER

FROM FRIENDS OF THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY LIBRARY

AIR FORCES ESCAPE AND EVASION SOCIETY

Recently, the Air Force Escape and Evasion Society (AFEES) has become affiliated with The Friends. Eventually, the archival holdings of the Society will be transferred to the Academy Library. In addition, the Chairman of the Society, Mr Ralph K. Patton, has donated to The Friends, his personal collection of Escape and Evasion materials. Included are one hundred books plus personal stories, newspaper articles and Escape and Evasion memorabilia. Mr. Patton further supported The Friends by becoming a Life Member.

Downed airmen who evaded capture and the Escape and Evasion people (Helpers) who aided them in World War II were involved in clandestine operations with the resistance network in Europe. These secret, dangerous operations and the people engaged in them, are not well publicized even after a half century has elapsed. The Escape and Evasion documents will present the cadets with a rare opportunity to write research papers without having to rely on interpretations found in published histories.

The Friends are deeply appreciative of the efforts of Lt Col J. W. Bradbury, USAF (Ret) a former Academy Professor of Political Science in negotiating with the AFEES. Brad was a copilot in Escape and Evasion operations. He is a staunch charter member of the Friends.

Ed. Note: In talking with Ralph about the above news item, he strongly suggests that those of you who have written your personal story and have not sent him a copy should do so as soon as possible so that it can be included in the Air Force Academy Library Archives. If you have any questions at all, please call him at 412/343-8570.



Francine and Russell Weyland



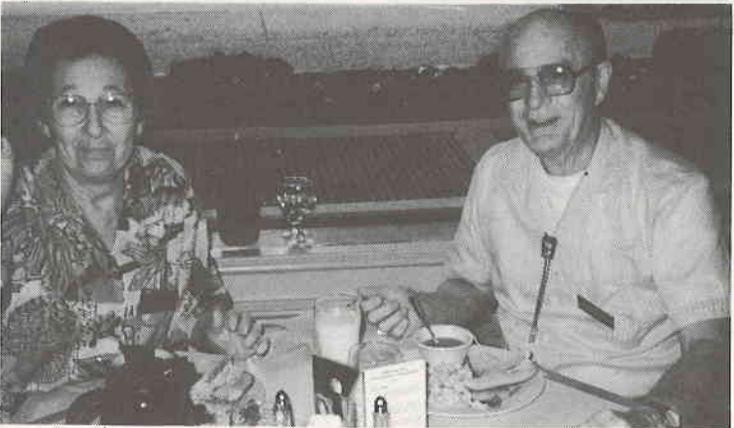
Seated, John and Etta Chernosky. Standing ???



Belgians Charlotte Ambach, Yvonne Daley, Ann Brusselmans and Lucy Flament



Anne Brusselmans, Chairman Ralph Patton & Yvonne Daley



Faye and Duane Lawhead



Harry Dolph, Peter van den Hurk, Joke Folmer & Nell Lind



Harry Dolph, Gil Millar, Ernst Scheuflele (Luftwaffe pilot)



Charlotte Ambach

OSS AND THE YUGOSLAV RESISTANCE

From Texas A & M University Press
YUGOSLAV CIVIL WAR OF 1940'S REASSESSED IN
NEW BOOK BASED ON DECLASSIFIED OSS
OPERATIONAL RECORDS.

In 1943, after training in intelligence gathering and sabotage, American liaison officers parachuted into Yugoslavia to help achieve Allied military objectives. They were members of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), formed in 1942, now recognized as the forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). These OSS officers soon discovered, however, that they had dropped in on a simmering civil war. That war was finally stifled when the Partisan forces of Josip-Broz Tito, a Croatian, prevailed. Now, with the fall of communism, old hatreds-hardened by atrocities of the 1940's war-have been free to erupt anew.

In his new book *OSS and the Yugoslav Resistance, 1943-1945* historian Kirk Ford, Jr., sheds new light on the motives behind Allied policy decisions and how they affected the postwar balance of power in Yugoslavia. Using the recently declassified operational records of the OSS, Ford presents the American liaison officers' eyewitness testimony to the political and military battles between the Partisans and Draza Mihailovich's Serbian Chetniks. In addition to his extensive research into the OSS archives, Ford corresponded with and interviewed hundreds of ex-OSS officers, collecting more than a thousand pages of material. His conclusions sometimes confirm the assessments of scholars who did not have access to the operational records, but his findings challenges traditional portrayals of Tito as Yugoslavia's "liberator" and Mihailovich as an Axis collaborator.

British Intelligence (Special Operations Executive Or. SOE) called the Allied shots in Yugoslavia, since the Middle East area was within their military theater. OSS served as the junior part-noire, providing information for SOE's use. As the time passed, the continuing civil war and ideological differences in the ranks of Allied intelligence hampered relations with the British and Yugoslav factions. Ford argues that Churchill and Roosevelt's decision to support Tito cannot be justified by contending that Mihailovich collaborated with the enemy.

After parachuting into Yugoslavia, some of the OSS officers, suspected by Partisans of being especially anti-Communist, were removed at the Partisans' demand. Lt. Joseph Veselinovich was removed, and when he tried to find out why, a town commissar accused Americans of assisting Chetniks on military missions. The commissar warned several airmen that if such missions continued, they would not get out alive. As Captain Temple fielding learned firsthand, the Partisans, dependent on the Allies for assistance but resentful and suspicious of their presence, turned their underground actions against the Allies.

For six days in November 1944, Fielding kept a journal in which he recorded how he was stalked by agents, whom he assumed were German or local terrorists. In Split (Dalmatia) on the night of November 23, Captain Fielding barricaded himself in the room of his surrounded hotel, only to discover that the wardrobe had a false panel. Partisan agents made their way into the trick closet, which Fielding had by then barricaded with the bed frame and mattress. All night he waited, with benzedrine, submachine gun, and the journal in which he scribbled the events. When the thugs slipped out for some reason, a British sergeant led Fielding to safety. Ford recounts many more episodes, related by the OSS, that suggest the Allies had adequate reason to be suspicious of their local partners.

As the OSS also knew, the Partisans looked with greater favor on the approaching Soviet troops than they did on the Allies who were present and supporting them. As Ford writes, "By late 1944, German forces in Yugoslavia were engaged in a desperate defensive struggle, not to hold on to the country but to extricate themselves from it. If, under the guise of anticommunism and through the promise of material support, they could neutralize or gain support from particular Chetnik formations, they were inclined to do so. Likewise, if the Chetniks could gain arms from a defeated enemy to use against another foe--the Partisans, they would do so" (p. 152).

As for the Partisans, OSS agents reported that they seemed much more interested in fighting the Chetniks than the Germans. As German forces weakened and pulled out, Partisans were able to move in without a fight, but their propaganda suggested they had "liberated" these areas. From the ranks of the OSS, the most telling confirmation of this came from John Hamilton (later known in the film industry as Sterling Hayden). Once outspokenly supportive of the Partisans, Hamilton in the fall of 1944 reported during his participation in mission HACIENDA that Partisan claims of holding liberated territory were "pure bunkum." He wrote that "the Partisan movement is not an expression of the people's will...Partisan territory is 'free' simply because the enemy does not care to use it all the time. When the enemy wants to, he marches in and the Partisans take to the hills. This leaves the farmer holding the bag. The Germans, or local Fascists, plunder his farm, rape his women, burn a few homes, and move on. Then the Partisans return and the cycle is ready to commence anew.

Ford concludes that history has been unjust in labeling the leaders of the Yugoslav factions as collaborators. Mihailovich, he argues, employed the same strategy used by Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin in the war; they bided their time and preserved alliances that would ultimately serve their larger goals. After the Allied victory, Tito's forces arrested Mihailovich for treason and war crimes, and he was executed by firing squad. American efforts to introduce favorable evidence or to prevent the execution failed. An organization of American airmen, some of whom had been treated like

prisoners by the Partisans after being downed in their territory, successfully lobbied for Mihailovich to be honored with a posthumous Medal of Freedom. Because of political and diplomatic tensions with Tito, however, the award was classified and kept secret for nearly twenty years.

KIRK FORD, JR., is a professor of history at Mississippi State College in Clinton. He earned his bachelor's degree from William Carey College (1966) in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and his master's degree and doctorate from the University of Southern Mississippi. **OSS and the Yugoslav Resistance** is his first book-length publication.

OSS and the Yugoslav Resistance, 1943-1945 (\$39.50 hardcover) is available from better booksellers or direct from Texas A&M University Press (800/826-8991). To obtain further information or arrange an interview with the author, contact the marketing department at Texas A&M University (409/845-1436).

Ed Note: Mr. Ford is a member of AFEES. The book review was sent in by Scotty David.

RAF ESCAPING SOCIETY (CANADA)

The Royal Air Forces Escaping Society (Canadian Branch) held a most successful 29th Anniversary Annual General meeting at the Royal Brock Hotel in Brockville, Ontario on September 19, 20, 21 and 22, 1993.

Honored Helper guests present were:

ANDRE FAUVRE and his sister RENEE JOUENNE, Helpers of Tom Lynch.

JEAN JACQUES PIOT and his wife YVONNE, RAFES representative in France and Helper of many Allied Airmen.

HENRI (RIK) CRAEGHS and his wife ADELE, Helper of Dick Garrity.

SERGE BERTIN and GILLES BERTIN, sons of GASTON and EMMA BERTIN, Helpers of Robert Furneaux and Fred Hagen.

AFEES members present: Howard and Jeanette Harris, Bill and Millie Lincoln, Tommy Thomas, Ralph and Bette Patton and Milt and Ada Goldfeder with daughter Carol.

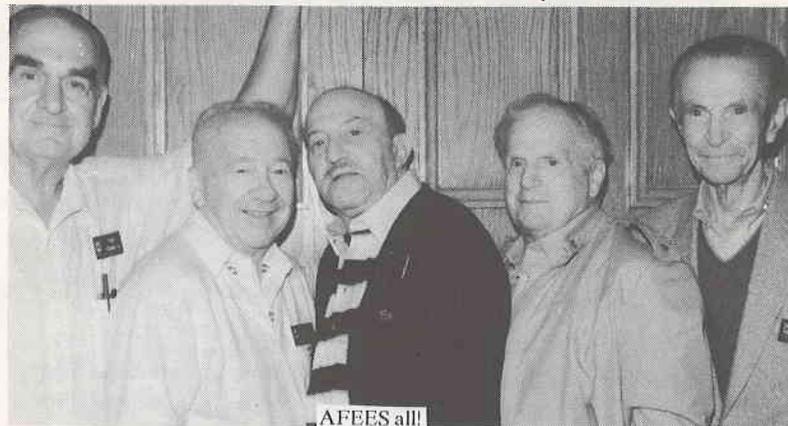
The guest speaker for the Gala Dinner was Lt. General Chester Hull, former senior operations officer of 6 Group.

A scenic boat tour of the Thousand islands was one of the memorable activities of a great Annual Meeting.

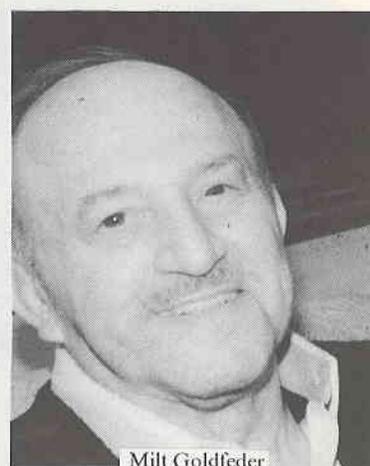
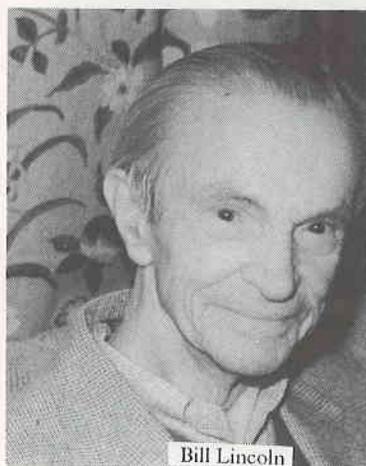
At the business meeting, Ralph Patton thanked RAFES members for their kind hospitality and invited all present to attend their AFEES meeting to be held in Fort Worth Texas April 15th to April 20th, 1994.

Ed. Note: An observation. It has been noted that very few AFEES members attend the RAFES meetings in Canada. We are honored invited guests each time they have a reunion, a reciprocation of our invitation to them each year. It is

suggested that if at all possible, we should try to attend.



In Canada-Tommy Thomas, Ralph Patton, Milt Goldfeder, Howard Harris, Bill Lincoln



PATTON WRITES TO GEN LYLE

October 22, 1993 - Dear General Lyle: Thank you very much for the good news of the progress on the 8th Air Force Heritage Center at Savannah Georgia. The Escape and Evasion Society welcomes the opportunity to participate in this project.

I am pleased to reiterate the promise that I have made to you on several occasions regarding the financial support that AFEES will offer the Heritage Center. It has been my understanding that the Escape and Evasion Society will have access to adequate space and electronic technology to tell the Escape and Evasion story in any facility erected at Savannah.

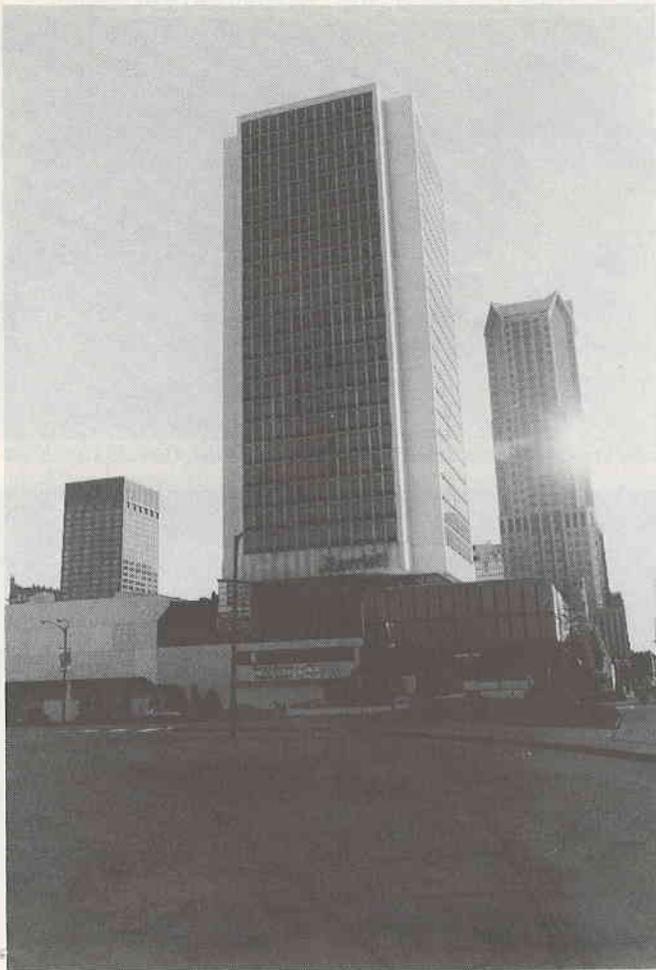
Given this understanding, I have consistently stated and now reiterate, that AFEES will contribute One hundred Thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) towards the project.

It is my understanding that the money will be due in 1996. We will start our fund raising campaign once the official ground breaking ceremonies have taken place.

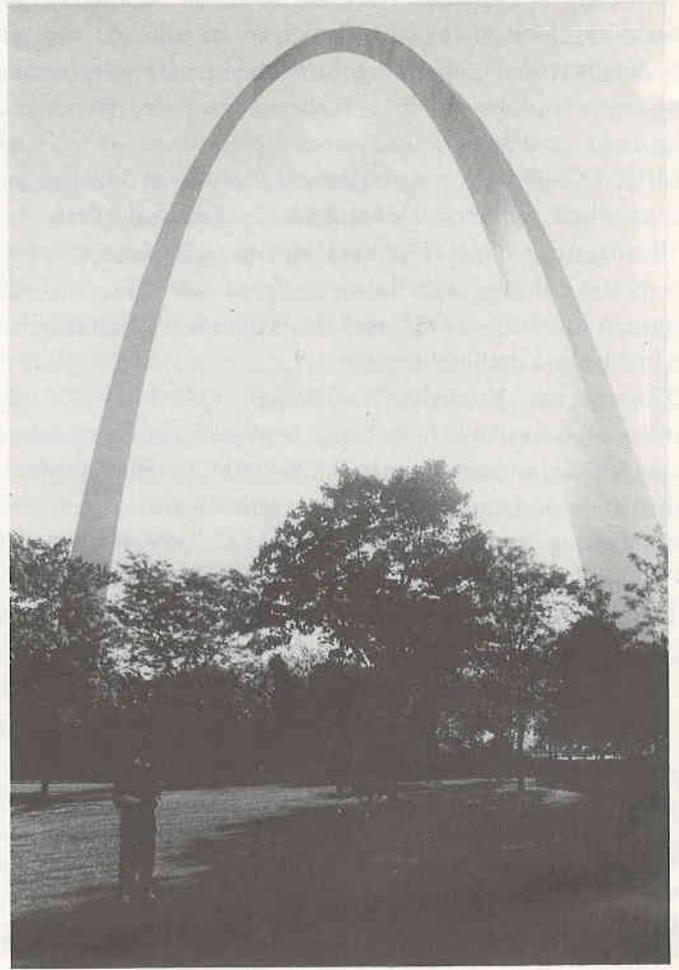
We look forward to working with you and the staff at the Heritage Center towards making it one of the most interesting WWII facilities in the world. Thanks for keeping us advised.

Sincerely, Ralph K. Patton, Chairman of the Board.

Ed. Note: WHEW! But this is do-able. If every paid up member starts to save a buck here and there, we can attain the hundred thousand with no sweat! Now for a Chairman.....



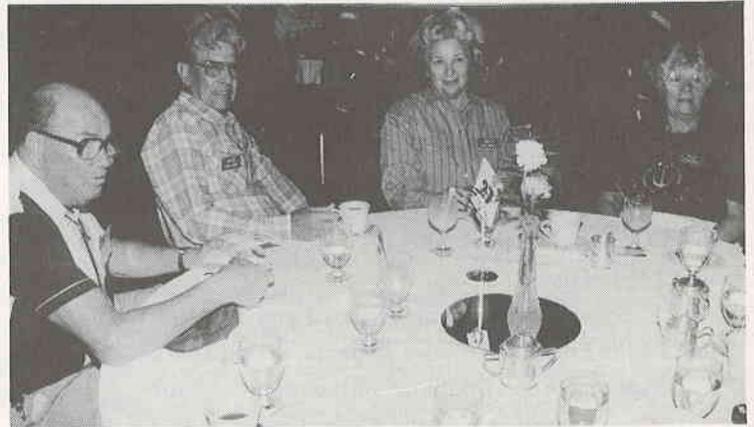
"Our home away from home in St. Louis"



"The archway to the west"



The St. Louis Mall, looking west



Mary & Bob Sweatt - Bill and Jessie Webb



The flag goes up! Audience appreciation.



Georgene Mayne & Bob Tucker

FROM RUSS WEYLAND

The "Auction Committee" is looking for some needed assistance during the auction. When you register at the next reunion, please let them know that you are available and willing to help them with their chores.

For those of you who bring items to the auction, if you have a story to tell about the item donated, please let Francine or Russell Weyland know the details. That way the item can be better described by the auctioneer and perhaps bring in an extra dollar or two.

After all, Russ says, "Every dollar the auction brings in is to help pay for our Helpers who attend the meetings."

Ed. Note: I know from the auctions held in the past that Russ is doing an excellent job for he donates all his time and energy for our Helpers. Thanks Russ for a job well done!

A LETTER OF APOLOGY FROM YOUR EDITOR

Under normal circumstances I would say "No excuse" for your copy of "COMMUNICATIONS" being so late for I am the editor and it is my fault!

However let me give you some of the facts.

As most of you know I have moved from Pasadena, Texas to Marietta, Ohio and then again from Marietta to Williamstown, West Virginia just across the Ohio river.

The reason we moved is that I'm retired, (ha ha) and gotta' depend on my wife Pat for "child support" (me). She has a new position with the Marietta School District as a Media Specialist for the six elementary schools. So, since I didn't want to stay in Pasadena, and live all alone, we decided to sell the old homestead and move to Marietta and live in a rented house.

After our house sold, we had found the house in Williamstown and promptly moved there and that's when all the troubles began!

The day after we moved in, with my Newsletter al-ready late because I hadn't received all the information I needed for it we had to go to Michigan for Christmas vacation. We cut it short, only staying there for five days and came home whereupon I put my computer together, started it up, and got nothing! Frantically, I called my mentor, Gil Millar and he decided there was no way for me to get it on line. At his suggestion, I took it to a computer store in Marietta. There the technician declared my hard-drive had crashed! Not only that but all the data I had stored in it went down the toilet!

I purchased a new hard-drive (250 megabytes \$300.00 installed) and DOS 6.2 which the technician also in-stalled for me. Back home, I loaded my AFEES backup files into the machine and called Gil who suggested that since he had a copy of Ralph Patton's back up files, he wanted to bring all the files up to date and then send them to me which he did.

He also sent me an updated copy of the font program I use in the Newsletter but for some reason couldn't be put in my database. I am at present awaiting some new font discs from him and then the Newsletter will be forthcoming. Again, I'm sorry.

I already have the post office permit so there will be no delay there and you should have received your copy quickly.

PATH FROM HOUSE OF ALPHONSE DEDICATED

On March 9, 1993 the mayor of Plouha, Mr. Derrien; the president of the friends of Reseau Shelburne, Mr. Herve Monjaret and the departmental president of Randemeus, Mr. Orhain, cut the ribbon reopening the path that evading airmen took from the House of Alphonse, through the mine field to the beach where MGB 503 picked them up in January, February and March, 1944.

At eleven p.m. on six moonless nights of January, February and March, 1994 up to twenty-six Allied Air-men would depart from "La Maison d'Alphonse" (the farmhouse of Marie and Jean Gicquel) to walk, indian file, the two kilometers along the top of the cliff that would bring them to the rendezvous point on the beach where the small boats from MGB 503 would pick them up. The pitch black night concealed these bands of Evaders and their French Helpers from the German sentries and patrols but it made it difficult to walk the rough terrain and made the mine field all the more dangerous.

During the war over one hundred thirty-five evading airmen crossed this rugged terrain without accident or mishap. The town of Plouha has spent considerable time and money to rehabilitate this path to freedom so that interested visitors may now enjoy the beauty of the May 14th visit to Plouha during the AFEES pilgrimage to France will be traversing this once seemingly impassable route to enjoy the truly beautiful Brittany coast and Beaches.

From Ralph Patton

Photo by Pierre Sibiril2



Mr. Derrien, Mayor of Plouha - Mr. Monjaret, department president of Randemeus and Mr. Orhain, who cut the ribbon reopening the path.

NOTICE - NOTICE - NOTICE

NEW ADDRESS - NEW ADDRESS

HARRY A. DOLPH, Editor
400 Columbia Avenue, P.O. Box 324
Williamstown, West Virginia 26187-0324
Phone 304/375-3899

"A FEW COMMENTS ABOUT DUES"

From Ralph K. Patton, Chairman of the Board

1. We have not been doing a direct billing for dues. We did have a special appeal for funds in 1989. Since then there have only been reminders printed in the "Communications" newsletter.

2. We operate on a calendar year basis and ask that dues be brought up to date and dues for 1994 be paid by February 15, 1994.

3. In 1993 the Board of Directors (with membership approval) increased the dues to \$20.00 per year. Therefore if you are paying back dues, please figure those at \$10.00 each year and pay 20.00 for 1993 and 1994.

4. Life Memberships are still only \$100.00 and that pays your dues for the rest of your life. Many of our members are now Life Members and appreciate not having to pay dues each year.

Dues are essential to cover the cost of the Newsletter for our membership and Helpers. The cost of printing and stationery have been pretty stable over the past few years but postage has been a variable and it is supposed to go up again soon! There are no paid employees! Contributions to the "Helper Fund" assist in hosting our Helpers after they arrive at our reunions.)

Please detach on this line

"DUES REMINDER"

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____



1994 DUES - \$20.00	\$20.00 _____
1993 DUES - \$20.00	\$ _____
BACK DUES @ \$10.00 PER YEAR	\$ _____
LIFE MEMBERSHIP @ \$100.00 FOR LIFE	\$ _____
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ _____
HELPER'S FUND	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

Please make your tax deductible check payable to A.F.E.E.S. and mail it with this completed form to:

CLAYTON C. DAVID, Past President
19 Oak Ridge Pond
Hannibal, MO 63401-9554

I enjoy the Communications Newsletter. Please keep it coming but I cannot afford the dues

A.F.E.E.S. PX PRICE LIST - 1993

DECALS, 4-1/2" EXTERIOR, SET OF SIX _____ \$ 2.00
 DECALS, 3-1/2" INTERIOR, SET OF SIX _____ 2.00

WINGED BOOT TIE-TACK W/CHAIN 3/4" PEWTER _____ 6.00
 WINGED BOOT TIE-TACK W/CHAIN 3/4" BLUE _____ 6.00

WINGED BOOT, CLOTH 1" (GREAT ON SHIRTS), TWO _____ 2 FOR 5.00
 WINGED BOOT LAPEL PIN, 3/4" PEWTER _____ 6.00
 WINGED BOOT LAPEL PIN, 1" PEWTER _____ 6.00

BLAZER PATCH, ROYAL BLUE ONLY _____ 10.00

A.F.E.E.S. CAR LICENSE PLATE _____ 10.00

OFFICIAL A.F.E.E.S. VISORED CAP, MESH BACK, NAVY _____ 12.00
 OFFICIAL A.F.E.E.S. VISORED CAP, MESH BACK, WHITE _____ 12.00
 OFFICIAL A.F.E.E.S. VISORED CAP, CLOSED BACK, NAVY ONLY _____ 12.00
 (ALL CAPS - ONE SIZE FITS ALL)

A.F.E.E.S. T-SHIRTS, SIZES S, M, L, XL, XXL _____ 18.00

BOOKS:

THE EVADER, HARRY A. DOLPH _____ 18.95
WOMEN OF THE RESISTANCE BY DR. MARGARET L. ROSSITER _____ 16.00

NEW ITEMS:

WRIST WATCH WITH A.F.E.E.S. LOGO ON FACE - QUARTZ MOVEMENT,
 LEATHER STRAP, EXCELLENT QUALITY, BOXED. _____ 49.95

NEW AFEES LOGO LAPEL PIN, BLUE AND SILVER - BEAUTIFUL! _____ 6.00

SHIPPING AND HANDLING CHARGES

\$1.50 PER ORDER

BOOKS - \$2.00 PER ORDER

ORDER FROM:

HOWARD M. HARRIS
 34 MAIN STREET
 WOLCOTT, NY 14590-1034
 TELEPHONE 315/594-2015

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO A.F.E.E.S.



A.F.E.E.S. MEMBERSHIP & LIFE-MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



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.

FROM: A.F.E.E.S. PUBLISHING
400 Columbia Avenue
Williamstown, West Virginia 26187
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

POSTMASTER: Forwarding
& Return Postage Guaranteed
A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
PAID
PERMIT #50
MARIETTA OH 45750

MS. MARY AKINS
560 MT HOOD DRIVE,
HEMET, CA 92343
USA



NOTICE - NOTICE - NOTICE

"COMMUNICATIONS" is printed solely for members of A.F.E.E.S. and A.F.E.E.S. Helpers. The publication is for their information and entertainment only. **ALL** items submitted for publication are amassed on the computers by A.F.E.E.S. Publishing, Harry A. Dolph, Editor at 400 Columbia Avenue, Williamstown, West Virginia 26187. Phone 304/375-3899

A special Non-Profit Mailing Permit has been obtained through the Marietta, Ohio Post Office, Official Permit Number 50. All news items and photos should be sent to the above address. Photos (returnable???) and specific data for publication should be submitted at least thirty days prior to the Publication date. I do carry an eraser on my pencil to mend my mistakes. So, if an occasional typo slips through, please inform A.F.E.E.S. Publishing of these errors so they can be corrected in the next issue.

HAVE A FINE YEAR - ALL DAY LONG! THANK YOU, A.F.E.E.S. PUBLISHING