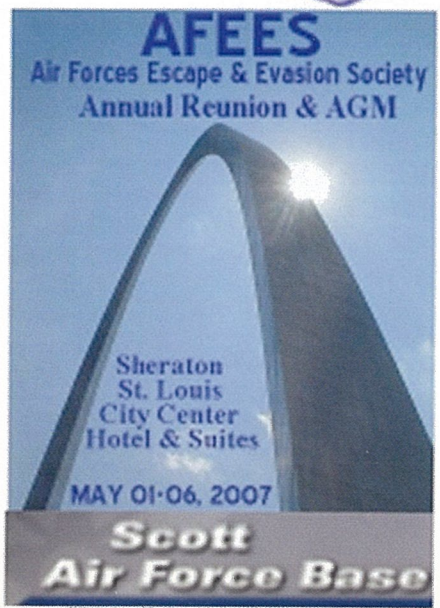


Reunions

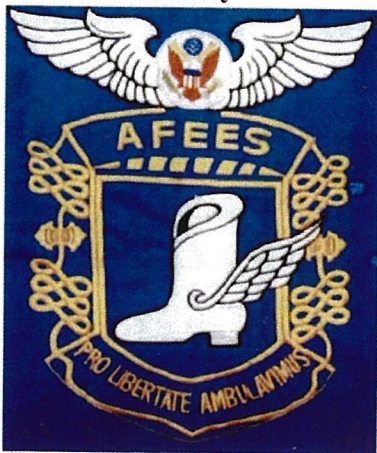
- 2009 Dayton, Ohio
- 2008 Savannah, GA.
- 2007 St Louis, MO.
- 2006 Albuquerque, NM
- 2005 New Orleans, La.



**National Museum 2009
of the US Air Force®**

AFEES

Air Forces Escape and Evasion
Society



14 May 2005
Park Plaza Hotel
New Orleans, Louisiana

BANQUET AGENDA

POST THE COLORS	Navy Color Guard
WELCOME	Richard Smith
INVOCATION	Navy Chaplain
INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND AFEES MEMBERS/ FIRST TIMERS	Richard Smith
DINNER	
BREAK	
COMMENTS	Lt. Gen. Duncan McNabb
PRESENTATION - CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION - D-DAY MUSEUM	
RAFFLE DRAWING	Frank Lashinsky
RECOGNITION OF HELPERS	Richard Smith
RETIRE THE COLORS	Navy Color Guard
ADJOURNMENT	Richard Smith



The 'Big Easy' awaits us.

Annual AFEES Reunion & AGM
New Orleans, La., May 12-15, 2005
Park Plaza Hotel, 1500 Canal St.
(formerly The Radisson)

Reunion Rate: \$90 inclusive
(Reunion Registration Form on Page 17)

All times and events are subject to change!

Daily schedules will be posted at Hospitality Room and Registration Table

Reunion Schedule

(Subject to Change)

Wednesday, 11 May 2005

Registration begins near Praline Restaurant
Hospitality Suite Opens for Reunion

Thursday, 12 May

Hospitality Suite Open
Personal Concierge on Duty
in Hospitality Suite during reunion
Board of Directors Meeting, 1700

WELCOMING BUFFET DINNER

(Reception 1815; Dinner 1900)
Cash Bar

A MESSAGE FOR HELPERS

Extra nights at the Park Plaza Hotel are not included in the account which AFEES provides for your hospitality. You will be responsible for more than three nights at the hotel.

Should a Helper require an aide because of physical handicap, AFEES will cover the aide's room and reunion package.

As usual, AFEES will cover both the Helper and spouse. Additional members of the Helpers' party will be expected to handle their own expenses.

Friday, 13 May

D-Day Museum Tour
(Arrangements to be determined)
EVENING FREE

Saturday, 14 May

Memorial Service, 0945
General Assembly, 1115
BOD Meeting follows
FREE AFTERNOON

ANNUAL BANQUET

(Reception 1815; Dinner 1900)
Cash Bar

Sunday, 15 May

Farewell Breakfast Buffet, 0730-0930

For Reunion Information, Contact:

Yvonne Daley, 1962 Brae-Moor Drive,
Dunedin, FL 34698, Ph. 727-734-9573
OR

Francene Weyland, 11644 SW Egret Circle,
Unit 101, Lake Suzy, FL 34269-8732
Ph.: 941-624-2646

For information on New Orleans attractions and favorite restaurants, contact the Convention Hospitality Service at 1-800-233-2628, ext. 71
<<http://www.conventionhospitalityservices.com>

METRO



FRIENDS & ALLIES

Allied airmen shot down over western Europe in World War II and the people on the ground who helped them gather in New Orleans to give thanks and swap war stories.

WWII
VETERAN

D
DAY

THE NATIONAL
D-DAY MUSEUM
NEW ORLEANS

America's National
World War II Museum

FRIENDS & ALLIES

Allied airmen shot down over western Europe in World War II and the people on the ground who helped them gather in New Orleans to give thanks and swap war stories.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON; AP FILE PHOTO (ABOVE)

Richard Smith, left, was shot down over enemy territory during World War II and was helped to safety by people like Yvonne Daley-Brusselmans, right. They are among the 165 people who are in New Orleans this weekend for a reunion.

By Lynne Jensen
Staff writer

Their lives were brought together by improbable accidents of war: Allied airmen who parachuted out of burning planes over western Europe and the French and Belgian families who defied the Nazi occupation and risked execution to give the men shelter.

Almost as improbable as those wartime encounters, airmen and rescuers alike found themselves reunited in the past few days in a downtown New Orleans hotel, swapping stories.



Yvonne Brusselmans, shown with her mother, Anne, helped harbor Allied airmen who found themselves behind enemy lines during World War II. One of Anne Brusselmans' duties was to interrogate soldiers and sniff out spies.

Richard Smith, an 84-year-old veteran from Battle Lake, Minn., was piloting a B-17 bomber about 50 miles north of Paris when the aircraft was shot down on Dec. 30, 1943, and he and his crew of nine bailed out.

After parachuting to the ground, "I was able to get up and run," Smith said, regaling a handful of the 165 gathered for the reunion of a group called the U.S. Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society.

The first person he encountered, Smith said, was "an old Frenchman with two oxen and

See **ALLIES**, B-2

Children discover wartime secret

ALLIES, from B-1

a plow. He pointed one way and said 'comrade' and he pointed the other way and said 'Allemands' (Germans). Well I didn't know the meaning of 'Allemands,' but I could understand 'comrade.'

Smith ran in the direction the farmer indicated and fetched up in a forest about a half-mile away. There he hid, waiting for dark. In due course, "Three young Frenchmen came up, and each had a handgun and sack of clothes. And I became a civilian right there."

Smith slipped on the clothing and was moved several times into small safe houses, staying until people living around the houses "got curious," Smith said.

Path to freedom

After two weeks on the run, Smith arrived in Paris, where he was taken in by French citizens and "a dear little old English lady who didn't get out of Paris in time."

"She gave us some tea," he said. "Then she made a phone call and said, 'Go out the door, turn right, go down to the Arc de Triumph and you'll see a man with newspaper in his side pocket, and so you will follow him, you on one side of the street and him on the other.'"

The man with the newspaper led Smith to the doorway of a safe haven where Smith and a fellow American airman hid for two weeks.

"Then one morning, the best-looking young French girl you ever saw in your life came into my bedroom and shook me and said, 'You're leaving today.'"

Smith was put on a train and told to follow "a young lady walking down the middle aisle of the train with a leather trench coat on and knee-high rubber boots," he said. When he rose from his seat to follow her, to his surprise, so did six strangers. She took the seven men to her mother's house on the Atlantic coast, where the soldiers piled into one bedroom. Two days later they got word that the British were coming.

"After nightfall, 25 of us met in a house in this little town," Smith said. "We were given instructions to walk single-file with one hand on one another's shoulders so that we would not get separated. We marched through barnyards and pig sties to lose the scent of any dogs that were patrolling."

At midnight, the group came to a "pretty good-sized cliff" then entered a cave where they saw a blinking blue light. Soon, rowboats, one packed with clothes and medicine, came into the cave and the Americans were taken to a waiting Royal Navy gunboat and on to Portsmouth, England.

Close encounter

Perhaps the most vivid detail of Smith's whole ordeal was captured in a split-second vignette about the very outset of his adventure:

"I'm going down, and I go through this cloud," Smith said, recalling his descent by parachute. "I pull the ripcord and I'm hanging there at about 4,000 feet and I hear this (enemy) airplane coming, and this guy tips up on the wing and I thought, 'You dirty bugger, you're not going to shoot me hanging from this parachute are you?' And he comes pretty close and I could see his face and with his left hand he waved and I thought, 'Well, what the hell, if you're not mad I'm not mad,' so I waved back."

Laughter filled the room at the Park Plaza Hotel, where the AFES group is meeting through Sunday morning.

Among them is Yvonne Daley-Brusselmans, a 73-year-old Belgian native who, as a young girl, was part of a family that risked death to shelter and assist Allied servicemen.

"I'm a proud American now," said Daley-Brusselmans, who became a U.S. citizen in 2001 and lives in Dunedin, Fla.

She was 12 when the minister of her family's church in Brussels knocked on their door.

"My mother spoke very good English, and he needed someone to translate some of the British pamphlets that were dropped," Daley-Brusselmans said.

Anne Brusselmans agreed to translate and to shelter a British airman. By the end of the war, her family had sheltered 32 airmen and her mother is credited with helping more than 130 Allied servicemen in various ways, her daughter said.

Secret uncovered

For a while, Daley-Brussel-

mans and her younger brother, Jacques, who spoke French, were told that the strange-sounding young men staying at their house were Flemish cousins.

Then came the day when, rushing into the basement to take shelter during an air raid, she found a box containing "all of the false papers and pictures of these airmen," she said. "This is a secret. You keep quiet," her mother warned.

One of Anne Brusselmans' duties was to interrogate the airmen, her daughter said. "It was easy to recognize a genuine airman from a mole by getting the crew to corroborate" information, Daley-Brusselmans said.

Daley-Brusselmans recalled the day Germans barged into her family home while a French army soldier was hiding in her brother's bedroom.

"It took me 30 years to get over this German in full uniform with a gun in my face waking me up," she said. Her mother scared off the Germans by telling them her son had typhoid fever, Daley-Brusselmans said.

The first thing the Germans would do when they came into your home was to feel the radio, Daley-Brusselmans said. "If it was warm, they knew you were listening to the BBC," she said. "If you had warning they were coming you would turn it to a German station immediately."

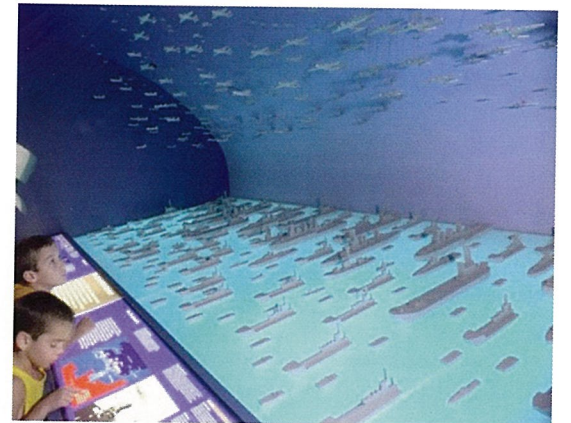
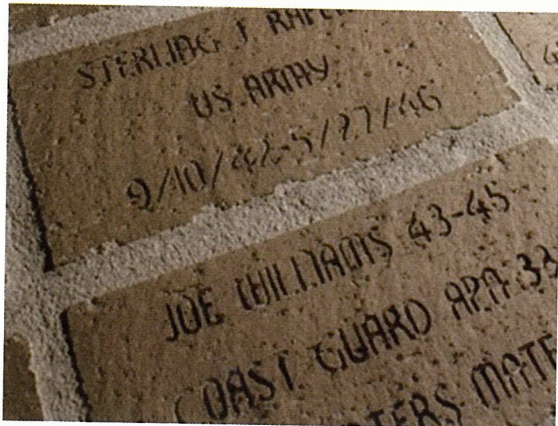
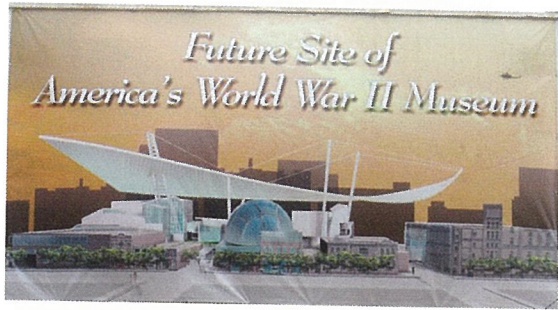
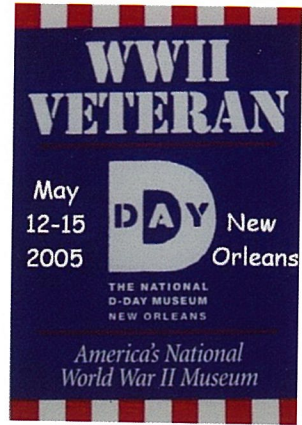
Daley-Brusselmans said her father, Julien, "played a very important role because he kept the facade." He kept his job as a clerk with the gas company in Brussels and he spent his holidays, his vacation, by biking 100 miles to a farm and working for food to feed the airmen, she said.

Daley-Brusselmans has written a book about her family's war experiences called "Belgium Rendez-Vous 127" (127 was her address).

Before her death, Anne Brusselmans appeared on TV shows such as "This Is Your Life" and "To Tell the Truth" and was reunited with many of the Allied airmen she had helped.

Credit should be given to the underground helpers and to the many people "who came from all over the Allied world to give us freedom," Daley-Brusselmans said. "We'd be speaking German right now if they had not come."

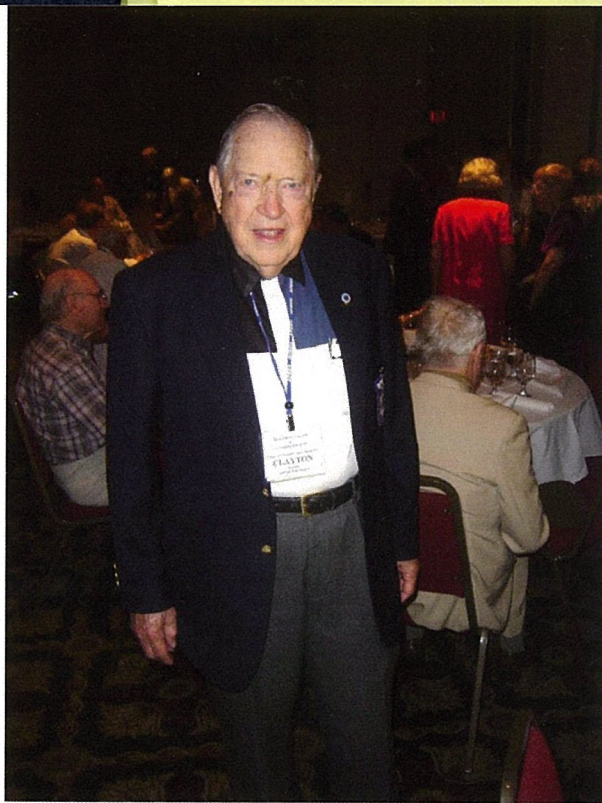
Lynne Jensen can be reached at jensen@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3310.



*Thursday Night Welcome
Buffet Dinner
12 May 2005*









Saturday
14 May 2005
Lighting the Candles

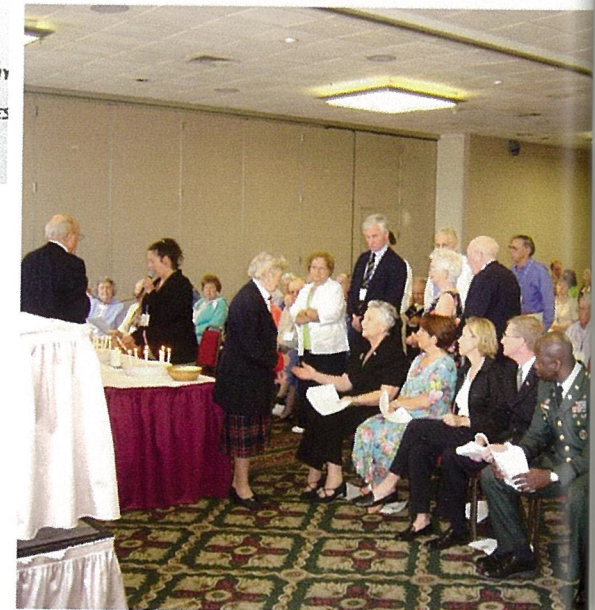
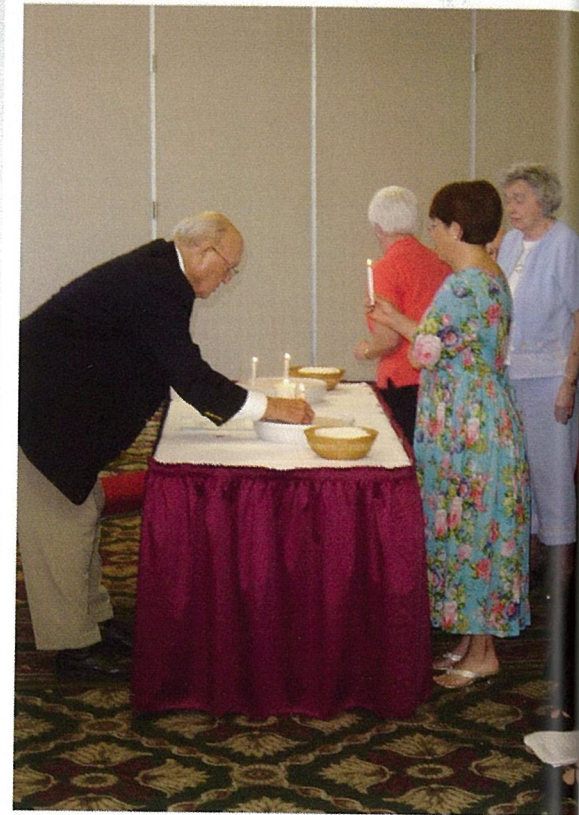


MEMORIAL SERVICE

HE LIVED TO BEAR HIS COUNTRY'S ARMS.
HE DIED TO SAVE ITS HONOR.
HE WAS A SOLDIER - AND HE KNEW A SOLDIER'S DUTY.
HIS SACRIFICE WILL HELP TO KEEP AGLOW
THE FLAMING TORCH THAT LIGHTS OUR LIVES ...
THAT MILLIONS YET UNBORN
MAY KNOW THE PRICELESS JOY OF LIBERTY.
AND WE WHO PAY HIM HOMAGE,
AND REVERE HIS MEMORY,
IN SOLEMN PRIDE REDEDICATE OURSELVES.
TO A COMPLETE FULFILLMENT OF THE TASK FOR WHICH HE SO
GALLANTLY HAS PLACED HIS LIFE UPON
THE ALTAR OF MAN'S FREEDOM.

H.H. ARNOLD, GENERAL, U.S. ARMY
COMMANDING GENERAL ARMY AIR FORCES

FROM THE MIGHTY EIGHTH HERITAGE MUSEUM, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

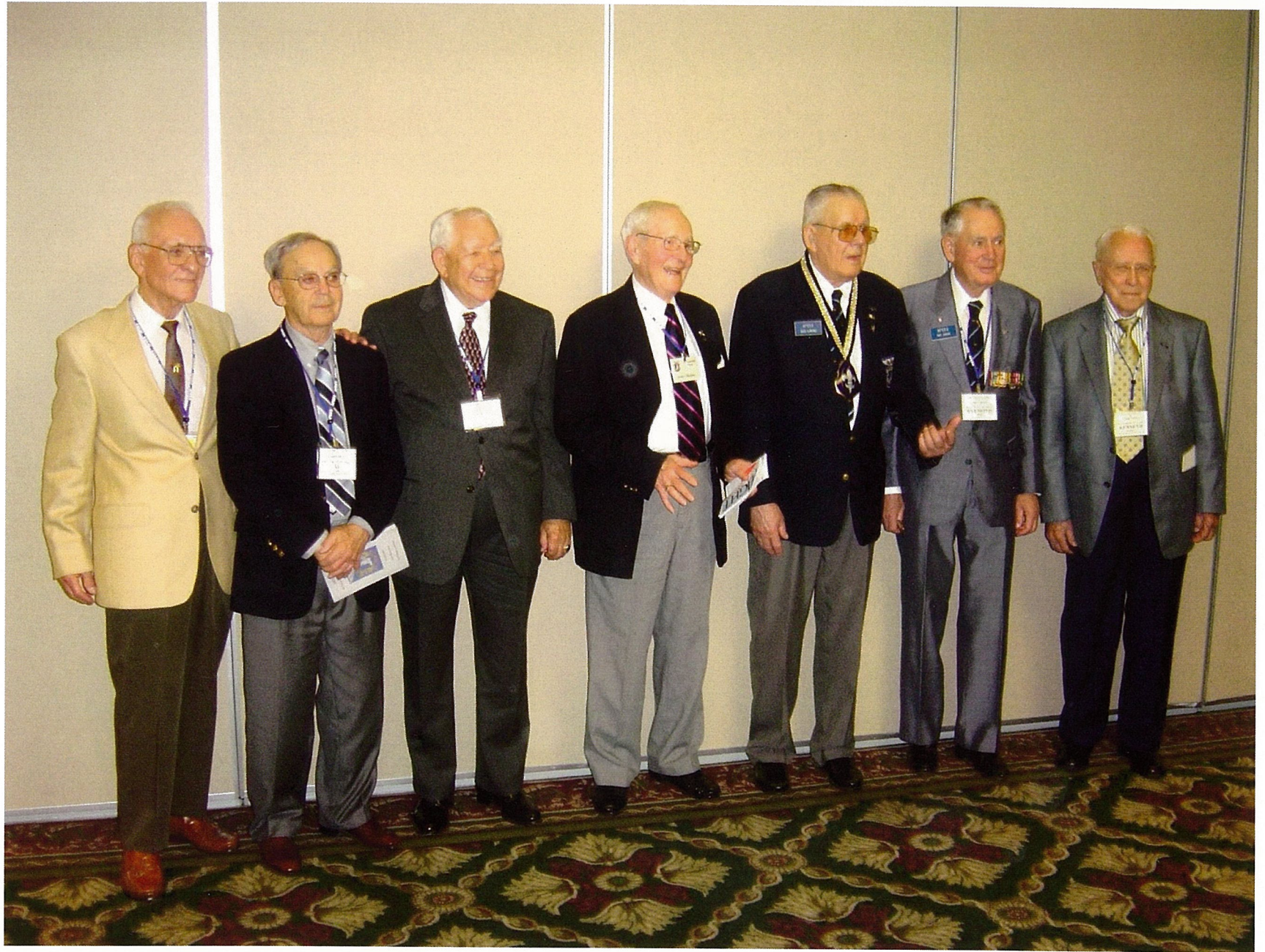


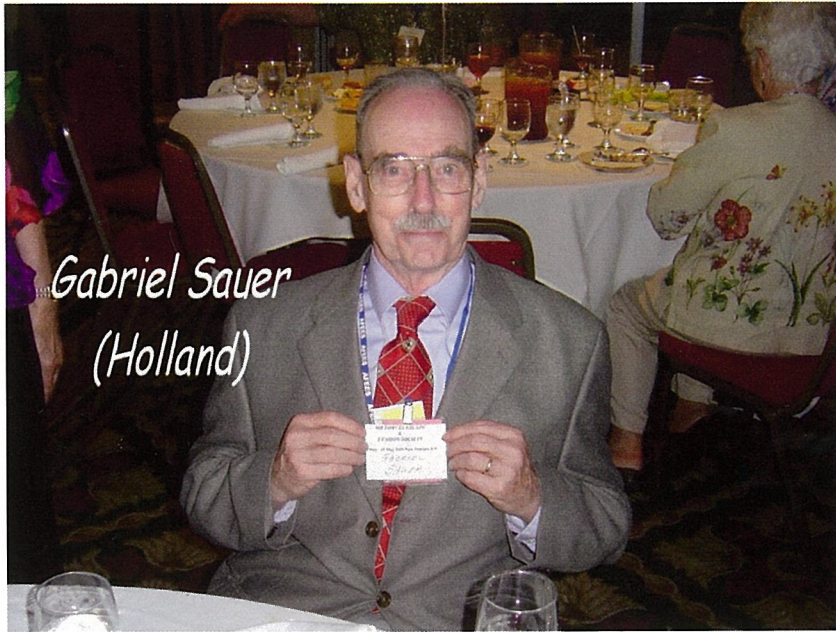


*Saturday Night Annual Banquet
14 May 2005*









*Gabriel Sauer
(Holland)*



*Helen Nauta-Barge
(Holland)*

*Pietje Van Veen
(Holland)*



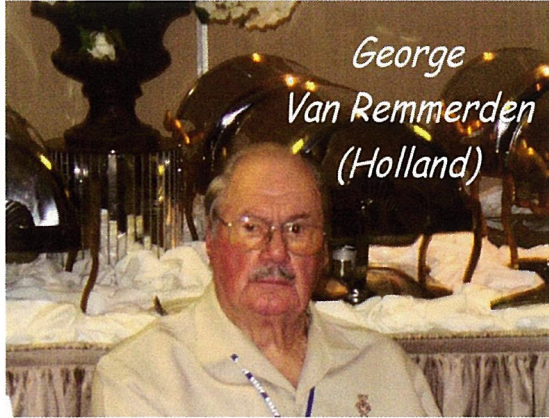
*Victor Schutters
(Belgium)*



*Maita Floyd
(France)*



*Milodrag Pesic
(Yugoslavia)*



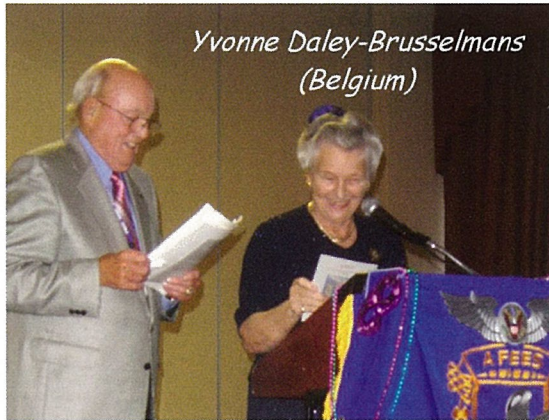
*George
Van Remmerden
(Holland)*



*George
Van Remmerden
(Holland)*



*Ann Feith
(Holland)*



*Yvonne Daley-Brusselmans
(Belgium)*



*Marguerite Fraser
(France)*



*Rosalie Schantz
(Belgium)*



Peter Hakim (Belgium)

