



Attlebridge Notes



January 2019

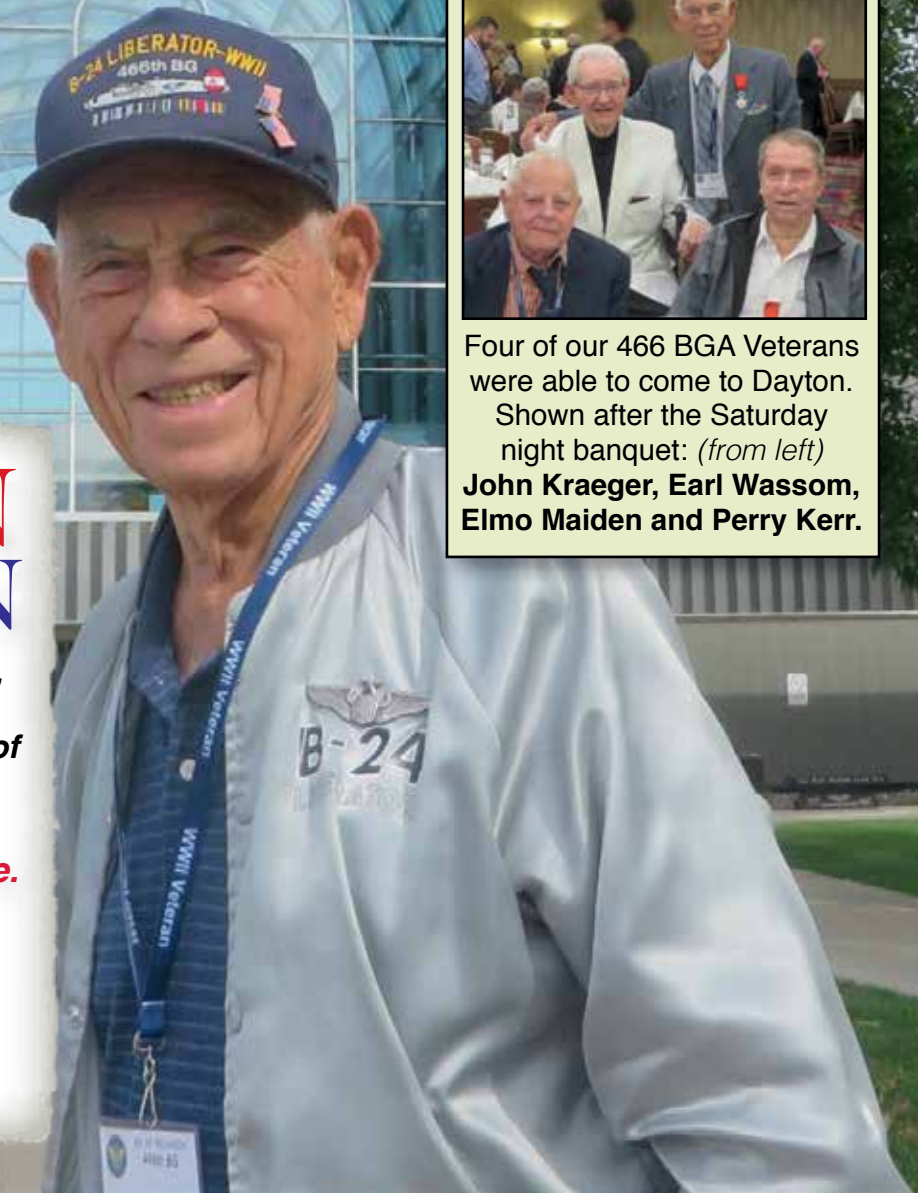
Dayton, Ohio
The Birthplace
of Aviation



Four of our 466 BGA Veterans were able to come to Dayton. Shown after the Saturday night banquet: (from left) John Kraeger, Earl Wassom, Elmo Maiden and Perry Kerr.

DAYTON REUNION

On Friday, October 12, 2018, members of the 8th Air Force Historical Society spent much of the day discovering the **National Museum of the United States Air Force**. 466 Bomb Group Association member Veteran Elmo Maiden and friends enjoyed the day. **Inside: Read more about the reunion!**



From the President



Welcome to the new year. Our first Attlebridge Notes of 2019 is here to bring you news of past and future events of the 466th BG. Our thanks for all who contribute financially to keep this publication operating. Please keep it up and send your donations to our treasurer, Bill Curtis.

Leaving our Board this year is Les Sharrock, who has our thanks for his service to the 466th BG. Les, who proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps, was the first non-WWII veteran to serve as our president.

In this issue, you can learn about Henry Steinway's greatest achievement (below), as well as stories and people of the 466th.

Frank & Barb Youngquist

Our 2019 reunion will be in St. Louis, Oct. 16 through 19. Speaking of reunions, my son, Major Marcus Youngquist, asked me when the Eighth's reunion would be back in Savannah, GA. Since the airport is very close to the Mighty Eighth's Museum, he said he would fly a C-17 there for all at the reunion to tour. I hope our board will consider this for 2020, since Savannah is a great historic city and the home of the Mighty Eighth.

Let's all have a safe and healthy 2019.

Respectfully, Frank Youngquist



A Letter to the Editors: I'm writing to let you know my father, Daniel Cahalane, passed away January 7 at the age of 94. Dad had flown with the Harken crew, on "The Falcon" but predominately on the "Jennie," on as many as 29 missions. This past February I had to bring Dad back from Florida to the Cincinnati area for care. During that time I shared Facebook posts from your page. Also, my brother and I would read the newsletters to him. He was surprised that such a thing existed. More surprised to see the photos of the Jennie on the cover of the January 2018 issue, and the crew on Page 10 in the Summer 2018 issue. I wanted to let you know such information means quite a lot to those who were there during such a significant war.

- Kind Regards, Dennis Cahalane

Photo Credits: Helen & Steve Jordon, and thanks also to Tom Maiden, Cynthia Wassom, Beverly Tomb and Jim Melnyk.

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A Steinway on the Battlefield

Professor Garik Pederson interviewed Henry Steinway, founder of the legendary Steinway & Sons Piano Company, shortly before his death. When Pederson asked the 93-year-old what achievements he was especially proud of during his career, he replied the Victory Vertical Project.

After Pearl Harbor, Steinway was unable to produce pianos since the raw materials were diverted for the war effort. Instead, he hit on the idea of building small, lightweight, inexpensive uprights that could be shipped overseas for use by the troops or USO performers. Called "Victory Verticals" or "G.I. Steinways," they contained only 33 pounds of metal, about a tenth as much as a normal Steinway. They were often advertised as delivered by a Flying Fortress and sometimes were air-dropped by C-47s onto battlefields to provide a bit of relaxation.



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Marcia and Jim Melnyk with Paul Hindle, center, at the Visitors Centre at Attlebridge Airfield in England, September 13, 2018.



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Welcome to our new board member - Marcia Yannizze Melnyk

Marcia and Jim Melnyk of Rowley, MA, have been coming to our reunions for the last two years. Marcia is a former research librarian and lecturer at the New England Historic Genealogical Society. Marcia's research background inspired her to find out more about Jim's late father, Mike Melnyk, who was ground support at the 466th. The meticulous detail kept by Chuck Thorson (TAPS, this issue) has assisted Marcia's searches, which took her and Jim to Attlebridge this last fall. Marcia keeps binders of information about the 466th Veterans and posts "Soldier of the Day" profiles on her Facebook page. *More on page 21-*

Secretary's Report, 466th Bomb Group Association 2018 Board Meeting

Crowne Plaza Dayton, OH, our Hospitality Room, Friday, October 12, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.

Attendees: Board Members (10): Frank Youngquist, President; Beverly Baynes Tomb, Secretary; Bill Curtis, Treasurer; Helen and Steve Jordon, newsletter co-editors; Elmo Maiden, veteran; Perry Kerr, veteran; Martha Curtis, Taps editor; Tom Maiden, David Smith, Earl Wassom (at reunion but missed meeting.) Other attendees (2): Jim & Marcia Melnyk. Board members absent (4): Harold Dietz, Les Sharrock, Jim Haseman (ill), Chris Brassfield (in U.K.).

President Frank Youngquist called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

Old Business

1 - Attlebridge Notes: The board thanked Helen and Steve Jordon for their work as co-editors of two more excellent issues of Attlebridge Notes. Deadlines for content for 2019 newsletters: December 15, 2018, and June 15, 2019. Concerns about cost were discussed. The goal is to continue a quality newsletter while our WWII veterans can enjoy it.

2 - Reprinted "Attlebridge Arsenal": Bill Curtis still has 263 books in climate controlled storage. The board approved sending a free book in 2019 to each of the 20-30 small flight museums listed by the 8th AF Historical Society Board. Books are available for purchase from Bill Curtis and from 3rd party sellers on amazon.com. Members are encouraged to purchase and help sell our book!

3 - Annual Donations: For 2018, the Board voted to donate funds to Paul Hindle for the 466th BG Visitors' Centre project, where a group of extremely generous local people are volunteering time and equipment to restore buildings and grounds on the Attlebridge base to be used to honor and remember the service and sacrifices of our veterans of the 466th BG. The annual donation to Cathy Thomson to support the 466th BG memorabilia collection was continued.

4 - In 2017, the board funded airfare to England for Bill & Martha Curtis so they could work with Paul Hindle to capture Attlebridge footage and stories from Brits who remember the 466th. The video was screened in our Hospitality Room after our Rendezvous dinner on Friday night to hearty applause.

5 - Reinstating non-profit status: Work in process being led by Bill Curtis. Bob Books, 8th AFHS former board member, has offered assistance for this critical work, which impacts donations.

New Business

1 - The Board elected Marcia Melnyk as a new member of the Board.

2 - The 466th BGA and the 8th AFHS Reunions will be held in St. Louis, MO, on Oct. 16-20, 2019.

3 - As of July 2018, we have 652 members, steady since June 2017. Thanks to John Cashman for maintaining our member list, and to Martha Curtis for contacting widows & children to keep them with us!

Submitted by Beverly Baynes Tomb, Secretary, 466th Bomb Group Association, January 17, 2018

Do we have your E-MAIL address?

Our database for the 466th BGA currently has very few email addresses. If you would like to hear from us via email, either as a way to get the Attlebridge Notes in pdf format or possibly for interim updates from the board, please send your email address to: Secretary466thBGA@gmail.com



466th Bomb Group Association

Treasurer's Report January 1-Dec.31, 2018

Bank Balance January 1	\$18,366.67
INCOME	
Non Dues (25 Donors) up from 15	\$1403.00
Book Sales \$ 964.80 15 Books Sold	
VISITOR CENTER	400.00

Total Income \$ 2767.80

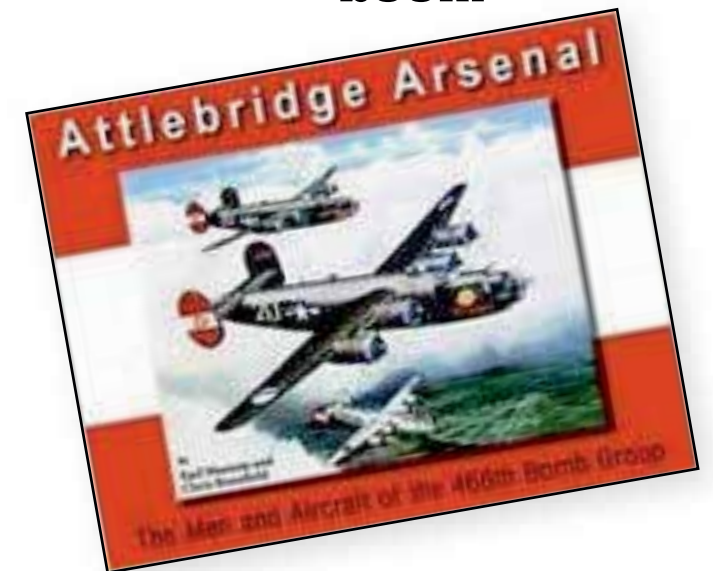
EXPENSES

Florida-Inc Fee	61.25
Newsletter	3809.23
Book Storage	912.00
Book Postage	222.07
Memorial Flowers (MAY)(Nov)	163.62
Office	180.41
Donations (Attlebridge Visitor center & C. Thomson)	1532.56

TOTAL Expenses \$7398.14

Bank Balance 01/01/19 - \$13505.68
(some donations haven't cleared)

**Do you have YOUR
copy of this vital
book?**



With crew photos, names, facts, figures all from Attlebridge Field during WWII, every member of the 466th BGA needs a copy of this. Everyone in your family needs one, and your local library needs one!

\$58 each

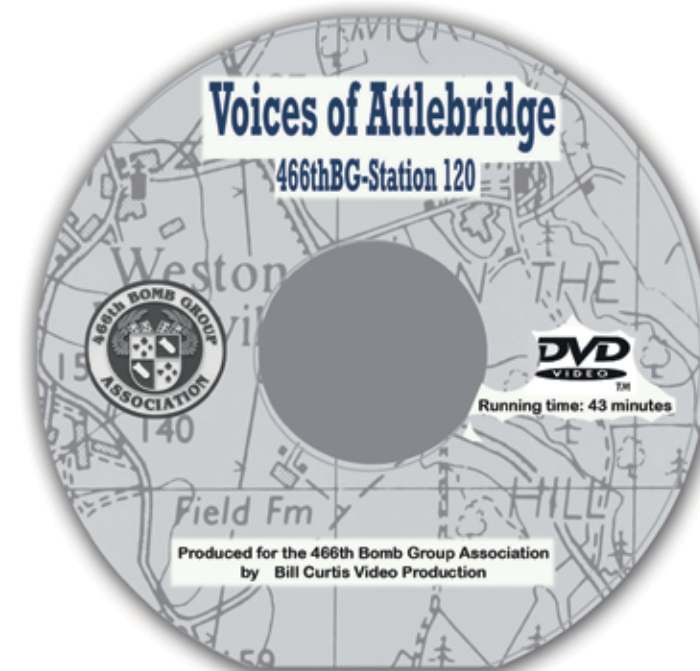
Send to Bill Curtis' address below

New 466th Video

In 2017 a group of local residents, who had grown up near Attlebridge Air Station shared their memories of wartime. To children it was a magical time with those friendly American airmen but also sad times of loss and always the ever-present fear of German airplanes overhead. From interviews recorded in 2012 and 2017, these are the "Voices of Attlebridge."

This video is available from Bill Curtis:
bcurtis419@juno.com, (785-766-3351)

ONLY \$20 including postage (in paper mailer)
Copies in printed hard-shelled box - \$30
Portion of all sales will go to 466thBGA



**Send checks-only:
Bill Curtis 115 West Ariel Ave. Foley, AL 36535**



Ann Reeve, Eyewitness

*Our Correspondent
Who Grew Up
at Attlebridge*

Food Shortages in WWII



I am writing this in December, just before Christmas and all that the holiday entails with its modern excesses. Our thoughts are invariably with food -- the cakes, pies, puddings and dishes which are part of our traditional Christmas fare. This leads me to thinking about the food rationing which was experienced during and just after the war. Not everyone had access to those lovely, kind GIs who might produce a jar of peanut butter or some chocolate from the pockets of their flying jackets. (Don't ask where they got it from).

We were all well aware of the U-boat activity in the North Atlantic preventing the transport of food from the USA to Europe with the intention of starving us into submission.

Rationing of food began in January 1940 and continued until 1954. There were variations and reductions in allowances as the war progressed. We were issued Ration Books containing the coupons which had to be exchanged for our goods.

As an example, the weekly ration for each adult at one point would consist of 2 oz. butter, 4 oz. bacon, 4 oz. margarine, 4 oz. cooking fat/lard, 8 oz. sugar, 2 oz. cheese (that's not even a sandwich for me now), 2 oz. tea, 1 fresh egg, plus 12 oz. sweets/chocolate per month. Meat was rationed by price, but it amounted to around 1 lb. meat in weight. Offal was not always rationed, so liver, lights, tripe and all sorts of innards were given fancy names and cooked with plenty of onions. (Yuk, but better than going hungry. No time for picky eaters then.) Very little fruit was available, and even now, in my 70s, I much prefer vegetables, but I have learnt to love mangoes.

Those of us living in the countryside probably fared better than the city dwellers. My late father-in-law was a market gardener, and he would barter some vegetables for some meat from one of his market trading colleagues -- not allowed, but it happened. We could sometimes obtain a rabbit or a pheasant, but poaching laws were strict, so don't get caught. Everyone grew their own veg and would keep a few chickens and sometimes even a pig. Flower-growing was considered a waste of garden and was frowned upon.



I remember my mother making a faux marzipan for a Christmas cake using soya flour, sugar, eggs and lots of almond essence and yellow food colouring. There are stories of people having fake wedding cakes made from decorated cardboard drums. Looked good in the photos, I imagine. For many years after the war my mother, when going food shopping at the supermarket, would still refer to "getting the rations." Clothing also was rationed, as you can see from the old clothing coupon book shown here. I haven't got any food coupons but they were similar. I expect they were all used!

Last Saturday my husband Toni and I went to Attlebridge airfield to see the progress made by Paul Hindle and his Awesome Gang. Visitors will know that they are very fond of bacon in a bread roll, so I took them a couple of catering packs of bacon, 6 kilos in all or just over 13 lb. if you still speak English. I worked it out that under wartime conditions, that would be Paul's ration of bacon for about a year!

Get "Attlebridge Notes" by e-mail!!!

To ALL Members of the 466th Bomb Group Association:

The biggest expense of the 466th BGA is the printing and mailing of our bi-annual newsletter, "Attlebridge Notes." Many organizations are moving from printed mailings to delivery by e-mail. If you would like to help pare down our costs or would not mind having less paper come into your home, please let us know and send us your e-mail address so that we can be sure that you receive the digital file. Contact secretary Beverly Tomb: Secretary466thBGA@gmail.com



Visiting Attlebridge and...

by Beverly Baynes Tomb

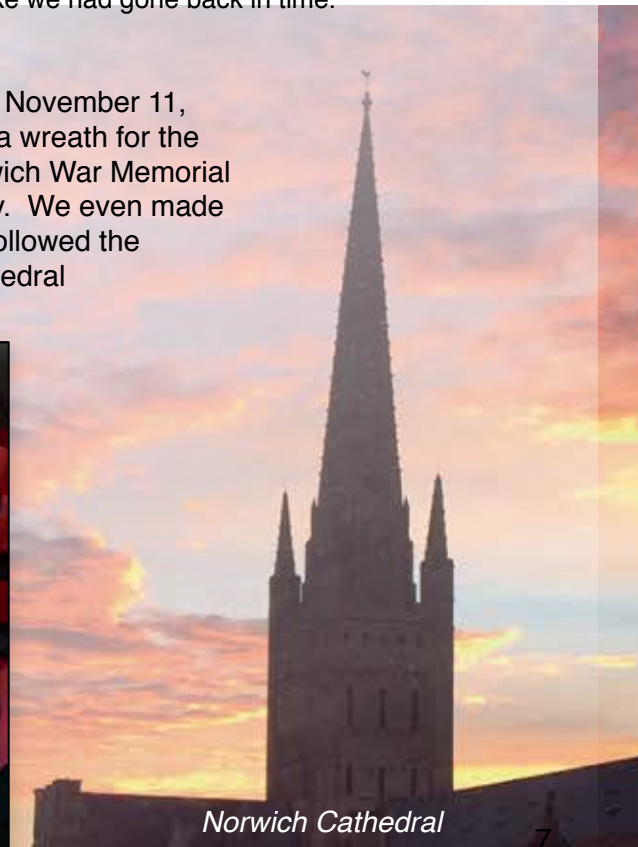
With the responsibility as a Governor of the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library Trust comes the joy of a required trip to Norwich, England, each November for the Annual General Meeting (AGM). In 2018, unlike other years, Sir John White and WWII veteran Allan Hallett (389thBG) came along! Our "Friendly Invasion" group included my husband Doug, veteran Allan Hallett, his daughters and a son-in-law.



On Remembrance Saturday, November 10, at the 389th BG base in Hethel, Cathy Thomson and Beverly placed a wreath for the 466th BG. Paul Hindle brought his "Official Jeep of the 466th BG in the U.K." (left), and Paul Mansfield now has a 466thBG Jeep, too. They joined other military vehicles, helping us feel like we had gone back in time.



On Remembrance Sunday, November 11, Beverly helped Allan place a wreath for the 2nd Air Division at the Norwich War Memorial in a big, city-wide ceremony. We even made it onto local TV! Next, we followed the parade to the Norwich Cathedral Remembrance service.



Norwich Cathedral



Monday, November 12, was the Trust AGM. Although most of the Trust Governors are British, we had an impressive group of Americans attending. L to R: American Scholar Francis Agnoli, Governor Joe Dzenowagis, DAR member Laurie Atkins, Governor from U.S. Embassy Scott Riedmann, 2AD veteran Allan Hallett, American Scholar Michael Strinden, Governor from Heritage League Beverly Tomb, Joan Dzenowagis, new Governor Kathy Watt and Douglas Tomb.

Tuesday, November 13, was "466th BG Day" and visits with Sir John White and with Paul Hindle. The Friendly Invasion group taxied to Salle Park, where Sir John took us on a tour of Salle Farm behind a tractor. After lunch, Beverly, Allan, Doug and Sir John were excited to visit the Attlebridge base to see the progress at the Visitors Center Project, and to meet some of the dedicated people who are helping Paul Hindle make the dream a reality. L to R: Paul Hindle, Lisa Savory-Mansfield, Beverly Baynes Tomb, Paul Mansfield, Allan Hallett, Sir John White, Peter Woodcock, and Toni Ford.

As Paul drove us back to the Maid's Head Hotel, we stopped with Sir John at the 466th BG Memorial at Frans Green to remember the sacrifices of so many from the Group during WWII, and to admire the beautiful Veterans Day wreath funded by the 466th BG Association.

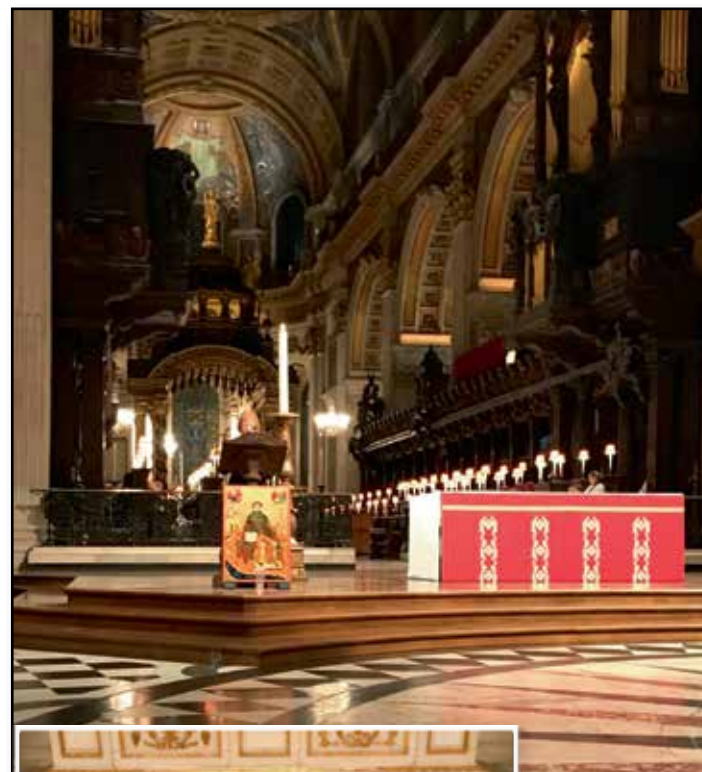


Photo: St Paul's Cathedral



Photo: St Paul's Cathedral

Thursday, November 15, was a very special Remembrance Service in London to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the dedication of the American Chapel at St. Paul's Cathedral. Your secretary had the honor of a lifetime, being asked to read the 2nd Bible Lesson (John 15: 9-17) during the service. The Duchess of Gloucester and U.S. Ambassador Robert Johnson were among the dignitaries attending and placing wreaths in the American Chapel by the Roll of Honor.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

By Bill Curtis

In Dayton, we met a 466th veteran who had never attended a reunion. A good friend drove him down on Saturday afternoon, from near Columbus, to drop in for a few hours to meet with us.



Bob Wehenmeyer ran the Safety Equipment office for the 786th. His office was located in the building that Paul is renovating for our 466th Visitors Center. Paul Hindle had been asking me if any of our veterans knew what the building had been used for, and Bob looked at the photo and said, "That's my building!" Bob supervised a six-man crew responsible for checking the safety equipment on each aircraft before every mission. They provided life rafts, fire extinguishers and oxygen tanks.

He told me that over time they made modifications to the life rafts. The early life rafts were not very effective because they tended to drift away from the aircraft before the crew could get to them. The solution to the problem was to have them stored away in the wing where they would be released and inflated during a water landing. There was a cord attached between the airplane and the raft to keep it from floating away. Unfortunately it was discovered that crewmen could get to the raft but they had no access to a knife to free the life raft from the sinking airplane.



By Steve Jordon, Co-Editor

Dayton, Ohio, site of the 2018 reunion of World War II's Mighty 8th Air Force veterans and their friends and families, had everything out in front — but hidden stories as well.

We saw the graves of Orville and Wilbur Wright, the brothers who are the fathers of modern aviation. Their name is attached to Wright Field, later Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Just across the street from the reunion venue, the Crowne Plaza Dayton, David Black's 1996 sculpture, "Flyover," celebrates the brothers' creativity and accomplishments and is exactly as long as their first powered-heavier-than-air flight.

Reunion-goers enjoyed the flavors of Esther Price Candies and maybe Hickory Bar-B-Q. We learned that household advice maven Erma Bombeck was from Dayton. We heard first-hand from Uwe Benkel, a German whose passion is returning the remains of Allied airmen who died in crashes in his homeland 70-plus years ago. We watched as the hearty remaining Vets lit remembrance candles during the Saturday evening banquet, with Col. Edward Wexler, former 8th AFHS Board Member, presiding.

The special treat, and the reason the event took place in Dayton, was a day-long visit to the National Museum of the United States Air Force. The World War II section was laden with memorabilia, from a B-17 and a B-24 to patches, uniforms, diaries and souvenirs.

I think my father, Ken Jordon, co-pilot on the Welsh crew of the 466th, would have been at home. After all, he flew 30 missions from Attlebridge, the start of a 30-year Air Force career as a pilot and leader of men and women. His aircraft included the Black Cat, which became the last U.S. bomber lost in Europe, a few weeks after my father left England for home. He attended a reunion in Colorado Springs years ago, but was gone before my brothers, David and Brian, and wife, Helen, began showing up at these gatherings. How we wish we had come with him earlier!

- cont'd.....

44th Annual

October 10-14, 2018

8th AFHS Reunion

Dayton, Ohio

More photos on the next pages....



Uwe Benkel



Elmo is always in the Wright place at the right time!



Benjamin J. Jones, President of the 8th Air Force Historical Society

The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force has so much to take in. Here is the B-24 and, below, a replica of one of the Nissen huts where our Veterans lived, ate and worked at Attlebridge.



Earl Wassom was on the WWII Veterans Q&A Panel



Martha Horney Curtis & Beverly Baynes Tomb, daughters of 466th BG Veterans



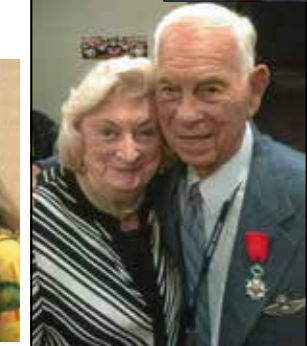
During the Rendezvous Dinner, we watched Bill Curtis's new video, "Voices of Attlebridge." Thank you, Bill!

466th BGA Hospitality Suite

Friendships are formed and renewed in the hotel's Hospitality Suites. Clockwise: Mary Steadman of Texas, center, Vicki & Kurt Warning of Arizona, David Smith of Texas. Veterans of the 466th Bomb Group, John Kraeger, Perry Kerr, Earl Wassom and Elmo Maiden, enjoy meeting new people, and we learn so much about the Veterans. It's the best part of the Reunion!



Above: Beverly, Earl, Frank Youngquist, Cindy, Barb Youngquist



Cindy Wassom & Elmo Maiden have been pals for years!

Martha and Bill Curtis, center below, enjoy Marcia and Jim Melnyk in the 466th BGA Hospitality Room.



Beverly Baynes Tomb at the 466th BG Memorial outside the AF Museum



A guest in our Hospitality Suite was Robert Doolan of Cincinnati, 92nd BG. Helen Jordon had interviewed him in 2014.

Bob Doolan and his daughter, Patti Schoberg

Perry Kerr and his daughter, Pamela Kerr Janwich



Martha, Tom Maiden, Beverly, Bill, Elmo, Frank, Marcia, Steve & Helen Jordon



cont'd.... On a person-to-person level, the hospitality rooms hosted by each Bomb Group were the heart of the reunion, as usual. Exchanging stories with the veterans and meeting new and old friends is a big reason Helen and I have such great times at the annual reunions. Visitors from outside the 466th Bomb Group, such as Kurt and Vicki Warning of Oracle, Arizona, added spice to the rooms, but the main attractions this year were our own Vets: Perry Kerr, Elmo Maiden, John Kraeger and Earl Wassom. Two of John's grandsons, Nolan and Travis Jones, came with him. It makes you think about generations that wouldn't be here at all if the twists and turns of war had turned out differently, and also of the missing generations never born to the men who died.

What about the hidden stories?

Outside the main museum building, a few people visited the re-created WW II-style base facility, with a Nissen hut, a control tower, a weather station and a crew briefing room complete with an aircraft status board.

Also outside the museum, there's a tree and a marker dedicated to each bomb group. The 466th's marker dedicates the tree to the 333 members who died serving in the war, and lists the basic facts:
 231 combat missions from Attlebridge, England
 171 POWs
 8 evaded capture
 27 were interned
 First mission, 22 March 1944
 Last mission, 25 April 1945

A few steps from the Wright Brothers' graves lies Paul Laurence Dunbar, 1872-1906, born to freed slaves, who grew up and made his home in Dayton. One of first influential black poets in American literature, he worked as editor of the Dayton Tattler, a black newspaper published by Orville Wright. His gravestone bears part of one of his works, created in the vernacular of slavery:

*Lay me down beneaf de willers in de grass,
 Whah de branch 'll go a-singin' as it pass.
 An' w'en I's a-layin' 'low,
 I kin hyeah it as it go,
 Singin' "Sleep, my honey, tek yo' res' at las'."*

Please remember: the 466th Bomb Group Association does not require dues for membership. But, it takes money to keep it running, to keep the Attlebridge Notes coming to your mailbox, and more. Many organizations are going strictly online. If you would prefer to receive Attlebridge Notes by e-mail, make sure we have your proper e-mail address. We know that many of you do prefer to have the photos and stories in your hands. Please remember the 466th BGA with your donations. Again, if you have a chance, visit the airfield near Norwich, UK, for an authentic taste of the lives that your fathers, grandfathers, uncles and friends had during WWII. Unforgettable!

From across the USA!
Our 466th Veterans in Dayton!



Veteran Earl Wassom, Kentucky, and his wife, Cynthia, were accompanied this year by their son, Reggie.



Veteran John Kraeger, Chicago, is lucky to have grandsons Travis Jones, left, and Nolan Jones accompany him to Dayton. Last year John's grandson Neill Getty was with him. Thanks to the future 466th BGA folks who share their heroes with us!



466th Veteran Perry Kerr & his daughter, Pamela, went for a walk near our hotel, viewing "Flyover," a huge sculpture that replicates the exact distance and arc of the first flight of Orville & Wilbur Wright.



Veteran Elmo Maiden, California, has a special necktie! With son Tom Maiden and 466th First Lady Barb Youngquist.



Veteran Perry Kerr, Texas, with his daughter, Pamela, and wife, Joyce



Circled 466th Veterans, L-R: Earl Wassom, Elmo Maiden, Perry Kerr & John Kraeger



Here are 50 of the 60+ Veterans who attended the Reunion in Dayton.





Across the Pond....

Paul Hindle's brilliant news from Attlebridge



Attlebridge

Contact: Paul Hindle
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eileenhindle@talktalk.net
or on Facebook

The 466th Bomb Group Visitor Centre project is progressing very well, with the Latrine-Toilet block nearly finished, as you can see in the photos. The electricity supply is connected to the building but just needs the wiring pulled through the conduit to the switches. This expensive work is being done by Mark Eams, who lived near the airfield as a young lad. Mark is a builder and also an electrical contractor. He and work colleague Richard are kindly doing this for "FREE." This probably would have cost us £1,500 or more, so a BIG THANK YOU to Mark and his company, Contract Electrical Services Ltd. of Norwich.

More News!

We now know where all four Squadron Operations Building are or were. The 787th Squadron building is long gone but was directly behind 785th and 786th buildings. The concrete floor was found under 9 inches of soil recently by Lisa, Paul and Keith. They also found the concrete floor of a Latrine-Shower block. They cleaned out the drain, and it still works.

The photographs show this area with self-sown sycamore trees growing on top of the concrete floors. Our plan is to clear all the soil and rubble to expose the foundations and floors of the buildings that were part of the Locker-Drying/ Room facility.

This we now realise was a special place. It was a busy area with hundreds of guys using it, mainly aircrews. So this is why we need to preserve, rebuild and repair all we can in memory of all who served at Attlebridge 120. This is a wonderful project to be involved with, but we need your **HELP!** if you can?

If you would like to donate money to the project, please use PayPal to eileenhindle@talktalk.net

A big thank-you to Green Label Poultry Ltd and the late Bernard Matthews family for their help and cooperation in this "Awesome" project.

Many thanks, Paul Hindle project manager

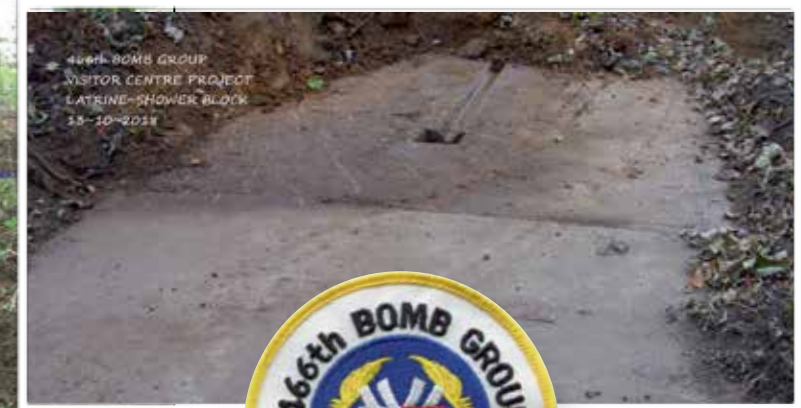


Ken Howard, whose brother John served at Attlebridge, shares this amazing photo from the top of "Laden Maiden," which shows the Locker-Drying Rooms area, plus all those huge barrack huts. Ken has shared with us 4 albums of his brother's photos, many of which I've not seen before. I have been buzzing looking through them and working out where they were taken. --Paul



These Russian terrier military guard dogs have been regular visitors. The dogs are facing the Visitor Centre area with the airfield behind.

Above: A replica of a 50-caliber machine gun that Terry Chapman has given to the Visitors Centre. At left, Terry is holding the gun. Terry and his wife, Linda, are WWII re-enactors and they just love visiting the airfield.





Across the Pond....

Paul Hindle's plan to restore the 466th Bomb Group "Visitor Centre" at Attlebridge

EXTRA!



Contact: Paul Hindle
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England
eileenhindle@talktalk.net
or on Facebook



Breaking News!

Over the Christmas & New Year Holiday I had a meeting with Martin Newman (Director) at Green Label Poultry Ltd. He told me the brilliant news that we now have permission to use all four buildings that are/were connected with the Air Crews locker-drying rooms facility. This is a huge step forward for the project, as we know two of buildings were 785th & 786th operations offices. These will be restored back to how we think they would have been 1944-45.

The best building of them all has four rooms joined by a corridor. I believe this was the 784th operations office, which will now be the main "Visitor Centre" building: room (1). At the front we will have tables and chairs for Tea's, Coffee and food. Room (2) will be the Kitchen. Rooms 3 & 4 will be for memorabilia and photograph displays.

The last few weeks we have been working hard knocking out bricked-up windows and doors to take this wonderful old war-time building back to how it was. Lisa and Paul's friend kindly gave us some metal Crittall windows which are exactly the same size and pattern as the old ones in the building. How lucky is that?

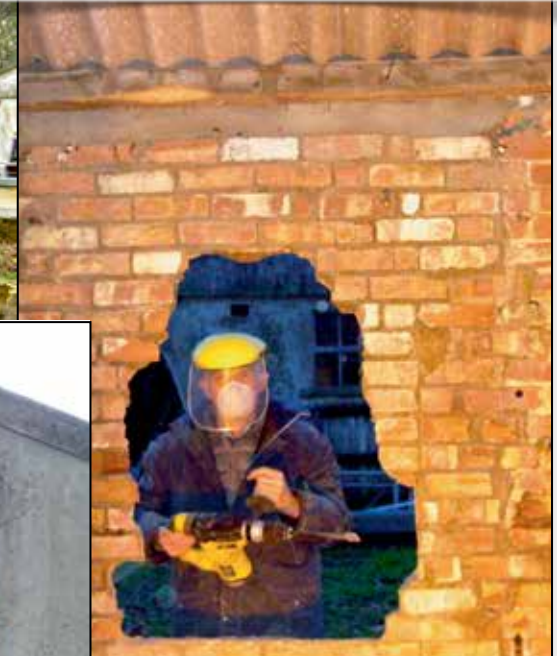
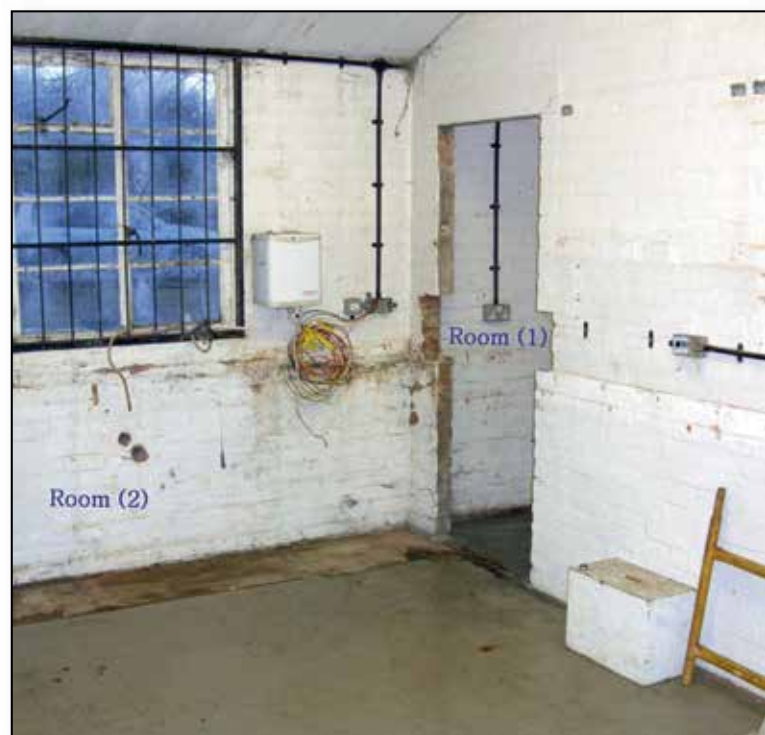
I have bought out of my own money an old Dumper Truck as we have tons of soil and rubble to shift. Keith, my main volunteer, has a small digger, so now our tasks will be much easier using the the dump truck instead of wheel barrows.

We hope to have the inside finished by June, ready for when the Heritage League of the Second Air Division USAAF are due in Norwich for their reunion.

Myself and our small crew of volunteers feel it's a privilege and a honour to be working on this project, which will be "Awesome" when finished. But we need your HELP! to complete this huge task, which is The 466th Bomb Group "Visitor Centre" project at Attlebridge 120.

If you would like to donate, please use PayPal: eileenhindle@talktalk.net

Many thanks, **Paul Hindle, project Manager**



Editors' note: Having visited Attlebridge in 2014, we encourage each of you to make the trip to Norwich and experience this yourself! Your life will never be the same!

Clockwise from above: Looking into Room 2 from Room 1; volunteers at work in Room 4; working in the dark.

TAPS



If you know 466th veterans or their family members who should receive the Attlebridge Notes, or know about one of our veterans who has died, please contact Beverly Baynes Tomb or Martha Curtis to update our mailing list and our TAPS record. See Page 3 for their contact information. AND, if you have an e-mail address, please let us know.

Here we remember veterans of the 466th BG who have passed.

We are very grateful for their sons and daughters who have notified us that their fathers have died. Not only is that helpful for the upkeep of our BGA records, but also it supplies details of their service and later lives that we might not know otherwise. We hope to share information that will be beneficial to the world's understanding of what their dads did to win the war and to guarantee the freedom of the next generations. We also would like to express our sympathy to the families represented here and to the veterans who served with them. It is an honor to salute these men.

Martha Horney Curtis, Crew #633 daughter

TAPS - January 2019

Daniel Cahalane, Cincinnati, OH, January 7, 2019, Crews #546/#471, Radio Operator
Dan served with the Robert Harken crew from August, 1944 until January 28, 1945. Their first 20 missions were with the 785th Squadron and the last ten, as a lead crew, with the 784th. The crew was put together at Muroc Army Airfield in CA, (now Edwards AFB) and flew four different planes, including "The Falcon" and "Jennie." Despite battle damage and returning to base alone on one mission, tail gunner Samuel "Red" Estes wrote in his diary: "We are like a bad penny. We always come back." Unfortunately, Estes was the only crew member who did not survive their tour of duty at Station 120. He died from lack of oxygen on their December 4 mission and was buried in Belgium. After the war, Dan came home to southern Ohio, married Carol, and had 3 sons. His career was with General Motors Fisher Body in Hamilton, OH, in accounting management. After Carol's death and with his retirement, he moved to Florida, where he enjoyed fishing, golfing and cycling. In the last year he moved back to Ohio to be near his sons and lived in an assisted living facility. He is survived by his second wife, Margaret, his sons and seven grandchildren. Dan was 94.



Daniel Cahalane

Henry L. Ciocci, Yarmouth Port, MA, September 13, 2018, Crew #758, Gunner
Henry served as a Staff Sergeant in the Army Air Corps from 1943 to 1945. He flew 34 missions with the Robert Applin crew "Able Mabel," "The Joker" and "Lady" from Oct. 5, 1944, until March 25, 1945. He received multiple decorations, including the Distinguished Flying Cross. The radio operator on Henry's crew was Barkev (Barky) Hovesepian, the original Vice President of the 466th BGA. On the crew's mission to Nuremberg, they lost an engine, and flak damage was later described as making their craft look like "Swiss cheese." They refueled at an emergency base in France and then prepared to ditch in the English Channel, but made it to RAF Manston's emergency runway. After the war, Henry returned to Springfield, MA, went to college and spent 40-plus years in the beauty industry, first at J.H. Breck Co. and then his own business, Clifford's Beauty Supply. His passion was skiing, which took him all over the U.S., Canada and Europe. His first wife, Rena, died in 1992. His second wife, Dorothy, and two sons survive him.



Henry L. Ciocci

Melvin H. Everding, Loganville, GA, September 4, 2017, Crew #408, Navigator
Melvin flew his first mission with the Frank Cotner crew on March 23, 1944. On their 11th mission, on April 29 over Berlin, their plane, "Playboy," was severely damaged and one gunner was killed. The others bailed out over Holland. Two crew members were able to escape and evade, but Everding and six others were made POWs. Melvin was a POW until April 1945 and received the Purple Heart. Back home in Missouri, he married Ruth, a union that lasted 75 years, until his death at age 99. They had two daughters. He retired from the Carpenters Union and was active in the Masonic Lodge, the DAV and the St. Louis Ex-POW organization. He is buried at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery near St. Louis.

TAPS

Glenn Utah Hill, Fairfield, IA, September 25, 2018, Crew #665, Nose Gunner
Glenn flew with the Jessie McKnight crew, completing 36 missions from October 6, 1944, to March 31, 1945, most often in "Parson's Chariot." The crew's time at Attlebridge was extended by horrible weather cancelling so many missions. Glenn grew up on a farm in Missouri. During the Great Depression, he worked with the Civilian Conservation Corps, where he met his wife, Halleen. Shortly after their marriage, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps. When he returned home, his civilian career was with Loudon Machinery Company. Halleen preceded him in death. He is survived by his second wife, Emma, and his son, Douglas K. Hill. He is buried at Evergreen Cemetery in Fairfield, IA.

Frank Harrison Spurlock, Kansas City, MO, March 15, 2018, Crew #562, Radio Operator
Frank arrived at Attlebridge in September 1944 with the Albert Reynolds crew. Before they flew their first combat mission, they did a "truckin'" mission that month, delivering gasoline to Patton's army. Their 35 combat missions began October 5 and ended March 30, 1945, flying "The Falcon," "Generator Jenny" and an unnamed plane. Spurlock was a budding journalist, keeping a detailed daily diary of his time in England. John Woolnough used that document and a diary by Claude Meconis for much of the text of "Attlebridge Diaries -- The History of the 466th Bomb Group."



Frank Spurlock

Frank was a lifelong resident of Kansas City and worked 42 years at the Kansas City Star, including service as Sunday Opinion Editor. He wrote dozens of feature articles, many travel-related, including one about his search for his old war-time air base in England. After scouring the English countryside in a rental car, he finally came upon the site, which had been turned into an enormous turkey farm! One of Frank's last articles, a Veterans Day letter, was included in the summer 2018 issue of "Attlebridge Notes." Frank was active in his community, involved with civil rights causes, job programs for youth and fair housing concerns. He was an elder in the Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, KS. His first wife, Nancy, died in 1976. His present wife, Gloria, survives him.

Charles A. "Chuck" Thorsen, Cook County, IL, August 17, 2018, Ground Support
Chuck Thorsen arrived in Attlebridge in September 1943 after a stormy Atlantic crossing. Ground personnel arrived long before the air crews. The information that he shared with his family in later years was that he was responsible for various clerical items, such as consolidating daily status reports detailing crew deaths and missing and lists of aircraft parts, aircraft, crews and personnel needed. His son said that to his father, "His service was nothing special and not worth talking about." But because of Chuck's devotion to serve his country and to his job well, 466th and 8th AF historians have access to important records. For instance, his meticulous daily reports enable 466th Board Member Marcia Melnyk to recognize a "Soldier of the Day" on her Facebook page, which features those who served at Station 120. Chuck was a family man, devoted to his wife and seven children. He volunteered in his church, schools and with youth. His business was Auto Truck Steel Body Company in Chicago. He was a long-term resident of several suburban Chicago communities. At 99 years and 2 days, he was buried at All Saints Catholic Cemetery in Des Plaines, IL.



Chuck Thorsen

James H. "Sonny" Walston, Jr., Dallas, TX, August 13, 2017, Squadron #786, Asst. Crew Chief
Jim enlisted in the Army Air Corps with much-needed experience, namely, post-high school training at Fort Worth in aviation mechanics. His father was an airplane mechanic in World War I, which pointed toward Jim's own interest and career. His plane at Attlebridge was "Laden Maiden." After the war, Jim settled in Dallas and earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Texas A&M. He worked with Charles Vought for 37 years at an aircraft structural testing lab. His last project before retiring was the B-2 Stealth Bomber. After retiring, he assisted in the Commemorative Air Force's restoration of the B-24 "Diamond Lil."



Jim Walston

Jim was a 70-year member of Cliff Temple Baptist Church, where he met Glenna Jean, his wife of 67 years. She preceded him in death. His three children and their families survive him. Jim Walston, a recipient of the French Legion of Honor, is buried at the Dallas Fort Worth National Cemetery.

A Friend of the 466 BG

We were notified about the passing **Fred W. Talley**, Hawthorne, CA, January 26, 2013, 453rd BG, a friend of the 466th, by his daughter, Stephanie. Fred was a Technical Sergeant and radio operator with the 453rd BG near Attlebridge -- Old Buckingham, known as "Old Buck," one of the bases where Jimmy Stewart served as an Executive Officer. Fred flew 27 missions and was awarded the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters. At home, he worked for the telephone company for more than 40 years. A member of the 466 BGA, he is survived by his wife, Carole, and three children.



784th Engineering Division with Jim's father in the front row, 16th from the left.

Meet the Melnyks

People find the 466th Bomb Group by various paths. Jim and Marcia Melnyk of Rowley, MA, tell their story of a book, an English name's odd pronunciation and a B-24 named "Cindy." Jim & Marcia came to their first 8th AFHS reunion in 2017 in New Orleans



Jim and Marcia Melnyk share their stories:

Jim:

Our journey to the 466th BG started with Martin Bowman's "B-24 Combat Missions," a book that Marcia gave me eight or nine years ago on B-24s in Europe. I would pick up the large-format "coffee table" book occasionally to look at the photos and read the captions, then put it back on the shelf. A few years ago I pulled it down from the book shelf with the intent to read it cover-to-cover. I was almost to the end when Bowman mentioned Norwich and the bases in that area. I was suddenly a young boy and could hear the voice of my father, Mike Melnyk: Even though the name was spelled N-o-r-w-i-c-h, he told me, the English he met during the war dropped the "w" and pronounced it "Nor'ich." And he had told me that when he turned 21 in England, he walked to town to get his first beer. Clearly, the name Nor'ich was important to him, so I assumed he had walked to Norwich. I searched the Internet and found a map of the U.S. bases in the Norwich area. If my dad walked to town for that beer, then the logical place to start was the closest one to the center of the city. I clicked on the American Air Museum of Britain web site and began working my way through hundreds of photos until I saw one of the B-24 "Cindy." Eureka! On the shelf above my desk is a photo of "Cindy," and in front of her is my father and a friend of his, kneeling on the revetment pavement. I had struck gold! I found a group photo of the 784th Engineering Division with my father in the front row, 16th from the left. Prior to this find, I didn't know where in England my father served or his bomb group. Now that I had found these photos on this web site, I knew about the 466th BG, all the squadrons, and about Attlebridge. In a matter of minutes, I had gone from information poor to having found a treasure chest. With a little more searching I found more information on the 466th, which led me to our, now, good friend Paul Hindle. A little more searching put me in touch with Elmo Maiden, which led me to the 466th Bomb Group Association. *Finally, within about six months of reading the Bowman book, Marcia and I were in Norwich, a trip that has just continued with one thing leading to another.*

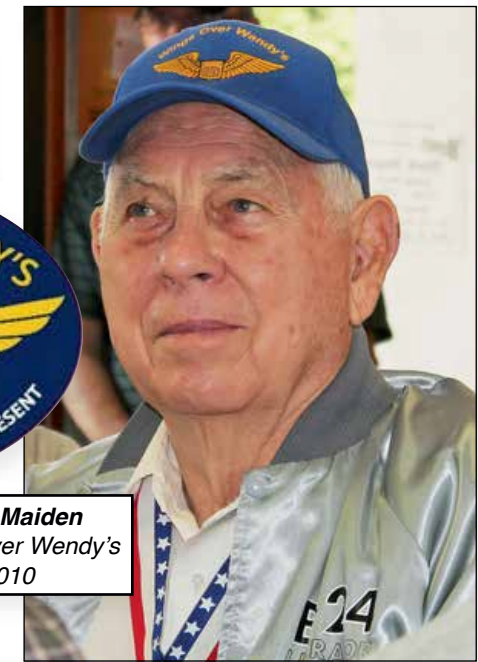
Marcia:

I had searched for nearly 20 years to find where my late father-in-law had served in WWII. When Jim found the photo of "Cindy," I asked him to write a small piece for a newsletter I write for a genealogical society. I soon got an email from a long-time friend, Arthur Palladino, an older Italian gentleman, who told me that he flew out of Attlebridge and also was stationed there! I interviewed Arthur and heard his stories, including the tale of his plane's shoot-down on Aug. 15, 1944. Four men on his crew were killed, one evaded capture, and the other five were taken as POWs. After Arthur passed away in March 2017, I flew to California to interview his radio operator, the man who evaded with a Dutch family. I also interviewed the navigator by phone.



I began looking for other records on the 466th BG and, having done years of work with the National Archives, I talked to one of the archivists. He then put me in touch with the archivist in St. Louis. She told me that the "Daily Reports" from WWII were available on digital microfilm. I quickly ordered the two rolls. Once I began extracting the information, I was hooked! Having been a professional genealogist, instructor and author for nearly 30 years, I knew I could further the research into the 466th BG men. I learn so much from other members, the veterans, and the stories the men tell about the war. I feel so blessed to know these veterans and to be able to tell their stories to the world. I want to be sure that they are all known and honored for their service. *The 466th BG will always be in my heart.*

Mike Melnyk, right, and a friend kneel in front of the B-24 "Cindy" at Attlebridge.



Elmo Maiden
Wings Over Wendy's
2010

Wings Over Wendy's

Wings Over Wendy's is a group of veterans, veteran supporters, aviation and military aficionados that honors all veterans past and present. They meet every Monday morning, 52 weeks per year. WOW started in 2001 in the West Hills Wendy's Restaurant. They have only missed one Monday, when the restaurant was closed for Christmas. Elmo Maiden, a 466th Bomb Group Veteran, was one of the founders of WOW. Elmo is pictured above with his daughter, Nancy Shattuck, and his son, Tom Maiden. Southern California Veterans are lucky!

Thank you to Harlis Brend
for many of these photos!

WOW meets at:
Wendy's Restaurant
22611 Ventura Blvd.
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

Nothing Can Beat the Army Air Force!



Photo by Harlis Brend

Elmo Maiden and Art Sherman

Cárdenas, 2018 Veterans Day Forum November 11, 2018



Photo by Karl Mayer
Elmo Maiden cutting the cake with the Congressman

Memorial Day Parade May 28, 2018

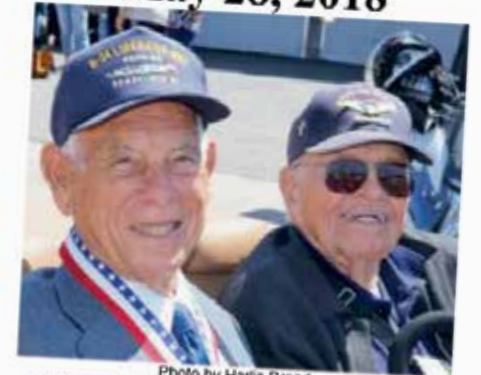


Photo by Harlis Brend

On May 28, 2018, Wings Over Wendy's had a prominent participation in the 29th Annual Canoga Park Memorial Day Parade. Bill Ratner organized the military events in the parade. Elmo Maiden and Don Foster were the Grand Marshalls. We had two trucks in the Parade and 50 Wings Over Wendy's participated.

These three articles are from the Wings Over Wendy's newsletters...



Update for the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library, Norwich

By Richard Middleton, Memorial Trust Governor



The entrance to the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library is beyond general bookshelves in the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library.



Two events focused the attention of the Memorial Library Trust Governors during 2018.

First was the departure of Libby Morgan after 10 years as the Trust Librarian. She has accepted a promotion within the Norfolk Library Service, leaving us in September. Secondly, at the Trust AGM in November 2018, the Governors decided that the time was right to initiate a project to update the fabric of the Memorial Library and also to examine the best way to tell the 2nd Air Division's story for the next generation.



Richard Middleton

Libby oversaw the introduction of the American fiction collection, widening the Library's subject material and making it truly a Library of American life and culture, as well as a serious military book collection. She developed a website; introduced social media; set up the 2AD Blog and 2AD Dialogue newsletter; and was fully involved in the cataloguing and archive digitization, making the Library available to anybody in the world, especially Americans. She also developed local school visits and external lectures. In short, she has helped us carry out our remit from the veterans to "inspire succeeding generations and to be a place of cultural exchange between the people of America and East Anglia." Libby always remembered that the Memorial Library was set up by the veterans in memory of their fallen comrades and went out of her way to help them and their families.

We have appointed an outstanding replacement: Orla Kennelly, who stood out from among 40 applicants. She is a Community Librarian with wide experience in the heritage sector and a strong desire to know more about the 2nd Air Division and its people.

The Trust's finances are healthy and it is more than 15 years since the existing Memorial Library was inaugurated on Nov. 7, 2001. The Memorial Library Refurbishment Project will not only examine physical changes to the Memorial Library, but also find ways to use digitised material to tell the story of the 2nd Air Division clearly and imaginatively. The Governors appointed an experienced Project Manager to help the Trust oversee the work. The Trust will ensure that it is carried out in a manner that is sensitive to the memory and wishes of the veterans.

Other activities include plans to digitize much of the remaining archive material and some new collections. The Library staff completed a full programme of events and lectures, many in conjunction with the University of East Anglia. The 2018 Walker Lecture was given by Professor Scott Lucas of the University of Birmingham. Two new American Scholars are at the Library: Michael Strinden, a Ph.D. student in the Faculty of Medicine and Health, and Francis Agnoli, a Ph.D student in Film, Television and Media Studies. The Walker Scholar for 2018 is Emma Goodyear, who is studying American Literature and will spend a year at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Governor Ron Packowitz, representing the U.S. Embassy, has been posted to Afghanistan, and Scott Riedmann is his replacement. Also leaving us is Mike Longe, the Governor's representative for the Digitization Project. Other new Governors are Thomas Courtauld, and Catherine Watt.



We thank Libby Morgan, left, for her contributions to the Memorial Library over the past 10 years and we welcome Orla Kennelly, right, new librarian at the Memorial Library
Beverly Baynes Tomb for the 466th BGA



Contributions to the Memorial Library by Bernard Matthews are recognized with the name of the reading area. Matthews purchased the Attlebridge base after the war for his turkey farm.



466th BGA Secretary Beverly Baynes Tomb stands by the 466th banner, which hangs with the other bomb group banners in the Library.

FROM THE EDITORS



Reg's RB-47H in the USAF Museum In Dayton



Helen & Reg at the Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum near Omaha. Above, Reg in younger days.



Steve by the Lubyanka prison in Moscow, August 2012.

From Steve Jordon -

There's a hidden Dayton story I'd like to tell, about an airplane that was a successor to the strategic warfare practices originated by the 8th Air Force and other WW II Allies. Actually, this story was right in front of everyone who went to the museum: A lovingly restored RB-47H in the museum's Cold War section. Among the men who flew that exact aircraft is retired Air Force Gen. Regis Urschler, who some of you met when the reunion took place in Omaha in 2015. His crew of six — including three "Crows," or electronic warfare officers — flew this RB-47H and its sister craft from Alaska, Greenland, England, Japan, Turkey and elsewhere to "ferret" out the Soviet Union's radar network and monitor its missile technology. The "R" in the plane's name stands for Reconnaissance, a critical activity during the war that, to tell the truth, wasn't always "Cold." Another RB-47H, flying in international Arctic waters north of the USSR on July 1, 1960, was shot down by a Soviet MiG. Four of the six crew members were killed; the navigator and co-pilot, Captains

John R. McKone and Freeman B. Olmstead, ejected and were picked up by a Soviet trawler. They were held in Lubyanka prison in Moscow, facing possible execution for espionage. After seven months, they were released in January 1961. The Dayton museum displays items given to McKone and Olmstead by the Soviets during their imprisonment. They wore that very clothing on the day they were released. Olmstead died in 2016 and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Reg Urschler was there, as was Olmstead's widow, Gail. On another day, a MiG might have shot down Reg's RB-47H. Instead, it was acquired by the museum in 1998 from the City of Salina, Kansas, and restored to its 1960 appearance by museum personnel, going on display in 2003.



An RB-47 ready for duty.

WOW! What a year! We had a great time in Dayton, seeing sites that were personal and special to each of us. Helen was born in Dayton in 1946, while her dad was working at Wright Field as a scientist. Steve was born in 1946, too, not far away in Parkersburg, WV. We both ended up in Omaha, the center of our universe, but were able this year to visit our kids in Ellicott City, MD, and Madison, WI, as well as attend family weddings in Texas and Seattle. We both are in various musical groups, and Steve is now *RETIRED* after 51 years as a reporter at the Omaha World-Herald. An additional highlight every year is being with the Veterans of the 466th Bomb Group Association, and the great folks who support the Association. It gives us a wonderful connection to the life that Steve's dad, Col. Harold K. "Ken" Jordon, must have had when he was stationed at Attlebridge, and brings new people to our lives every year. Please keep in touch!

Helen & Steve Jordon, Attlebridge Notes Editors
2719 N. 48th Street, Omaha, NE 68104
402-639-6197, hsjordon@aol.com

Dayton highlights: Miami Valley Hospital, where Helen was born, and her home apartments on Forrer Boulevard.



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

From 466th Bomb Group Association
Beverly Baynes Tomb
2122 Grayson Place
Falls Church, VA 22043

Attlebridge Notes is printed solely for members of the 466th Bomb Group Association and associates thereof, for their information and entertainment. All information is amassed by Attlebridge Notes.



**MEET ME IN
ST. LOUIS!**
SAVE THE DATE!

45th Annual
8th Air Force Historical Society Reunion

October 16-20, 2019

Sheraton Westport Chalet

**Details in March 2019 8th Air Force Historical Society News
and online: www.8thAFHSNews**