



PANTANELLA NEWS

Volume 4, Issue 1

Winter 2019

464TH BOMB GROUP

Special Interest Items

- Don't miss the 2018 Dayton reunion recap highlighted in this issue.
- Complete Group financial information now available.
- News Flash—the Group Now has Non-Profit Status.
- The updated Group website is now live! Check It Out!

Inside this issue:

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Visit us on the Web:
www.the464th.org

WELCOME COMMENTS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

The 464th Bomb Group 2018 Dayton reunion was another truly memorable event. Thirty five people including three veterans, two family members of veterans representing eleven fallen heroes attended our second combined bomb group reunion. Veterans Fred Gonroff, Luke McLaurine, and Carl Will made the reunion a truly special event. We are pleased that veterans Fred Gonroff and Luke McLaurine were able to attend their very first reunion. The 464th Bomb Group joined forces with nine of the fifteen B24(H) bomb groups in the Fifteenth Army Air Force. In all twenty seven veterans and nearly three hundred people attended the reunion Saturday banquet. Active duty Army Chaplain Captain Cairns once again led a poignant memorial service in true military fashion

honoring our Fallen Heroes. Another highlight of the reunion was the visit to the United States Air Force Museum. However, surely the most gratifying outcome of events from September 13th thru September 17th, 2018 was the time shared together with veterans, their families and families of fallen heroes sharing many stories and memories of the Army Air Corp and service in Pantanella, Italy. It was an honor to continue the legacy of those who answered the call and served so bravely in Europe affording us the freedoms we all enjoy today. Though the reunion is now but a pleasant memory it certainly won't soon be forgotten. Thanks to the many veterans, family and friends for supporting the reunion and donating to the group.

Tom Will
BG President

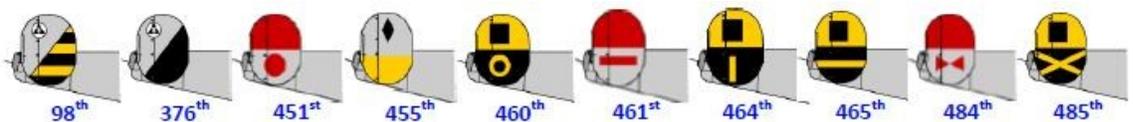


European Theater of Operation, Pantanella Air Field Home of the 15th Air Force 464th & 465th Bomb Groups.



REUNION ROUND UP—DAYTON SEPTEMBER 13th, 2018

Twenty seven proud veterans across the ten different Bomb Groups came together with family and friends for the 2018 reunion. Lt. Gen. C. D. Moore II, USAF (Retired) presented commemorative Presidential Unit Citation Medals to the veterans preceding a Memorial Service held in the USAF Museum's Carney Auditorium.



COMBINED BOMB GROUP 2018 DAYTON REUNION PICTURE GALLERY



Thirty five members from the 464th BG attended the four-day combined bomb group reunion at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dayton, Ohio, September 13th thru September 17th, 2018. In all nearly three hundred people including twenty seven veterans from across ten bomb groups participated in yet another great reunion.

Pictured Left are 464th BG Veterans Luke L. McLaurine, Carl Will and Fred Gonroff



Daughter Robin Davis with Veteran Luke McLaurine pause for a USAF Museum picture

Presidential Unit Citation medals presented by Lt. Gen. C.D. Moore II, USAF, (Retired) to the veterans of ten different Fifteenth Army Air Force B-24(H) Bomb Groups.



Fifteen Army Air Veterans attend the USAF Museum Memorial Service Medal Ceremony



Robin Davis, Luke McLaurine and Dave Davis



Veteran Carl Will and Family



Veteran Fred Gonroff with sons Brian and Greg



The 464th BG Dinner Venue—Thanks Sharon!



Beautiful Historical display of the Shoo Shoo Baby crew prepared by Jan Engle



The Missing Man Table Honors Fallen Heroes



Our Poignant Memorial Ceremony at USAF Museum Memorial Park Friday Morning



The 464th BG Memorial Plaque and wreath laid on the marker



Veterans Carl Will and Fred Gonroff pay respects to the 464th Memorial Plaque & wreath

Dayton Ohio Reunion Business Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2018

Crowne Plaza Hotel | Dayton, OH

President Tom Will welcomed thirty five guests to the 464th Bomb Group and the second combined BG reunion dinner and Business Meeting.

Don Krynovich led the Pledge of Allegiance before the Friday 464th business meeting and group dinner. Veterans Fred Gonroff, Luke McLaurine, and Carl Will were recognized and introduced their family members then shared memories of their time in Pantanella, Italy. The experience of connecting with our veterans and relatives was most rewarding as we shared in the mutual love and respect our fathers had for each other.

Tom then read the list of our Bomb Group's Fallen Heroes and conducted a moving Missing Man Ceremony complete with the round table and all its symbolic elements. The Dayton Missing Man table occupied a special place of dignity and honor. Don

Krynovich offered the Benediction before a wonderful dinner together.

Our Business Meeting continued Saturday morning as we recognized family members of veterans unable to attend, and family of fallen heroes. Tom recognized twelve 464th veterans who attended past reunions but were unable to travel to the 2018 reunion and provided a sheet with contact information so everyone could reach out to those veterans.

Garrett Hass provided the Treasurers report and thanked Sharon Goode for her assistance and dedication. The checking account balance was reported at \$1,834.37 before reunion expense payments such as mugs and Saturday lunch expense. Garrett reminded the group that our tax-exempt status continues to afford cost savings in mailing newsletters. Finally Garrett thanked the group for \$675 in donations received prior to the reunion.

Jaelyne Hathaway, group secretary and historian, thanked the group for their thoughts and prayers on the passing of her father, Stillman Harding, and offered some insights into the secretarial position and report.

The Group then voted to do away with the membership application form, welcoming all that share group values and encouraging donations instead. We were fortunate to have our webmaster, Hughes Glantzberg, President of the 461st Bomb Group, make a presentation on our new website's traffic. On behalf of the group Tom thanked Hughes for all that he does to promote our group thru the website.

The 464th Bomb Group was well represented at the Dayton reunion where twenty seven veterans from across ten Bomb Groups and nearly three hundred people assembled to continue the reunion tradition and working to maintain the legacy of these brave men.

The 464th Bomb Group Website Three Year Performance Update

<http://www.the464th.org>

...Page Views, Unique Page Visits and Returning Visits all Show Good Growth and Acceptance



Remembering Our 464th BG Founding Members...



George R. Krynovich
5 November 1923 –
8 October 2016



Stillman J. Harding
24 October 1918 –
23 March 2017

Remember Their Sacrifice...

It is not out of heedlessness or cowardice that the Germans keep abandoning immense numbers of tanks and armored vehicles by the roadsides of France. These tanks and trucks are out of gasoline.

General H. M. Arnold, Oct 1944

In Memoriam — Remembering Veterans Who Flew their Last Sortie

776th Squadron

Kenneth E. Bailey	10/31/2016
Duane Buckmaster	09/05/2017
Simon Davis	02/12/2014
Kenneth C. Hunt	10/28/2010
John R. Gottschalk	02/12/2003
Alene Kay	04/13/2016
Morgan R. Kelly	11/25/2017
Walter Kuzmak	06/15/2018
William P. Mercer	11/08/2002
Gordon D. Partridge	01/15/2010
Angelo Pietronegro	04/05/2010
John D. Porter	03/01/2018
Didio Saavedra	04/14/2003
Elvera Sabol	10/07/2014
James Sowell	01/05/2017
True Tower	12/18/2015
Howard E. Walker	05/22/2009

778th Squadron

Charles Banchiere	11/16/2016
Edsel E Bishop	09/06/2015
Roland Bunker	02/12/2015
Denman L. Cloudt	03/08/2015
Harold A. Cole	12/21/2017
Howard J. Farling	04/06/2017
John E. Fitzpatrick	11/13/2015
Stillman J. Harding	03/23/2017
Herschel L. Higdon	2016
George Krynovich	10/08/2016
John R. Lonsdorf	03/05/2000
John K. McGovern	04/07/2015
William A. Pace	09/21/2012
Frank Snyder	05/24/2010
Philip H. Stewart	05/13/2001
Phillip D. Turner	06/14/2001
David H. Walker	10/01/2017
William Woehrmann	06/06/2008
Werner Ziehm	12/22/2015

Headquarters

Alfred Nicholson	2017
Melvin J. Sykes	5/22/2017

777th Squadron

John F. Dersch	07/27/2012
Harold Lee Hayes	08/08/2015
George Kroll	03/23/2018
John Luque	05/29/2006
Guy R. Martin	04/15/2010
Max Miller	01/19/2013
William G. Moore, Jr.	03/18/2012
John B. Ryan	11/03/2001
Charles W. Schild	09/30/2006
Daniel W. Sherman, Jr.	01/24/2012
Bernd 'Bernie' Simon	09/03/2014
Frank L. Stevens	02/25/2009
Walter Walden	09/11/1998
Harry Whiteus	12/14/1999
Charles Stanley	06/08/2004

779th Squadron

Robert H. Fabrey	08/20/2015
Leigh R. Freeman	10/20/1973
James Winton Hall	02/25/2016
William T. Hedge	01/20/2010
John E. Marsh	09/15/2015
Edward L. McNally	02/17/2010
Morton Modlin	01/27/2014
William Myers	05/05/2013
Frank T. Price	12/16/1995
William G. Shoemaker	11/19/1999
Manuel Vieira	08/29/2015
Joseph L. Weber	09/05/2002

Squadron Unknown

William Hanna	11/14/2010
Robert Kimmel	01/09/2018
William Lentz	01/09/2016
Glen Reynolds	03/06/2014
John Ritter	02/21/2010
Frank Rydzinski	10/07/2014
Glen Sandberg	05/29/1999
Clarence Sherwood	05/03/2010
Robert Straub	2016

***“Flying the Last
Sortie...
Missing from
our ranks but
never ever
forgotten”***



The Missing Man Table



Plan to join us in September for the 2019 Dallas Texas Bomb Group reunion to help remember and pay tribute to these great men recently added to our Last Sortie List.

A Business Update from Our Bomb Group Treasurer

Hello BG Members,
Our 2018 Dayton reunion was an amazing time with our new friends from the nine other 15th AF bomb groups. It was great to share stories and pictures with the other BG group members. As for our financial situation, we broke even on our expenses and income for the 2018 reunion. Our goal is to

make all reunions self sustaining by having income from donations and the reunion fees pay for each reunion. Your donations are greatly appreciated to help fund the reunions. We can always use your help. We are selling shirts and other items to help offset the cost of the annual newsletter. This will help

keep the newsletter self sustaining as well. I look forward to seeing everyone in Dallas, Texas for the 2019 reunion. One of my favorite events at the reunion was going thru the U.S. Air Force Museum with the Air Force One aircraft and a the static B-24 display!

Garrett Haas, Treasurer



BG Veterans are United States of America Patriots

Dayton, Ohio 2018 Reunion Financial Recap

Here is a Summary of the Dayton Reunion Income & Expense (PR Promotional Items—Shirts, Plaques & Mugs)

\$4,190.00	\$4,190.00	\$ 0.00	\$1,374.00	\$1,545.00	\$171.00
Reunion Expense	Reunion Income	Net Total	PR Item Expense	PR Item Income	Net Total

464th BG Financial Report Profit & Loss January 2018 thru December 2018

Revenue		Expenses	
Direct Public Support	\$1,649.00	Business Registration Fees	-\$10.00
Reunion Fees Collected	\$4,190.00	Reunion Registration Payments	\$4,190.00
Shirts, Plaques & Mugs	\$1,545.00	Promo Items Shirts, Plaques & Mugs	\$1,374.00
		Office Expense, Printing and Mailing	\$516.00
		Reunion Luncheon & Misc. Expense	\$228.00
Total Income	\$7,384.00	Total Expense	\$6,298.00

2018 Net Income

\$1,086.00

Cash On Hand

\$2,752.00

December 31, 2018

Financial Notes: All reunion registration fees collected are passed thru to cover actual expenses at the combined group event. Promotional items on hand include two plaques, twenty three mugs and four shirts available for sale at the Dallas reunion. Donations support newsletters, the group website, reunion registration mailings, reunion luncheons and dinner extras. Donations are needed and very much appreciated!

Jan Engle, Daughter of Major W. G. Shoemaker, Pilot, B24(H) Shoo Shoo Baby

In the past few months, I had the honor of connecting with nine family members of the original Shoo Shoo Baby ten man crew families and ground crew chief Smoky Halonen's sons Keith and Phil. Sadly, Keith was not in good health, but he offered what he had regarding the Shoo Shoo Baby. The experience of connecting with relatives of the crew was most rewarding as we shared the mutual love and respect our fathers had for each other. In meeting so many members and families of the 464th at our reunions and hearing their stories, I hope that telling this story will inspire others to do the same. The following article is dedicated to crew chief MSgt. Lester 'Smoky' Halonen and his ground crew, Sgt. Millard 'Windy' Windham, and Sgt. Sterling Lawrence for their dedication and skills that kept the Shoo Shoo Baby in A-1 flying condition while serving in the 15th Air Force, 464th Bomb Group and 779th Squadron. Excerpts were taken from both originals and The Tower news article.

A Salute to the Ground Crew

"47 Missions – Never an Early Return and Still Going Strong" | Author Unknown

See [Page 7](#) for the Story of the 'Shoo Shoo Baby' and Her Ground Crew



'Without the work of the ground crew, our pilots would march without a gun...'

COMBINED BOMB GROUP 2019 REUNION HOTEL INFORMATION



Wyndham Garden Of North Dallas
 2645 Lyndon B Johnson Freeway
 Dallas, TX, 75234

Hotel reservations are now being accepted. While reunion details are still being finalized plan to make your hotel reservations early, reservations must be made by August 16, 2019. **Watch the website for the registration form posting—reunion invitations and forms will be mailed out in the spring timeframe.**

SAVE THE DATE!

2019 ANNUAL REUNION

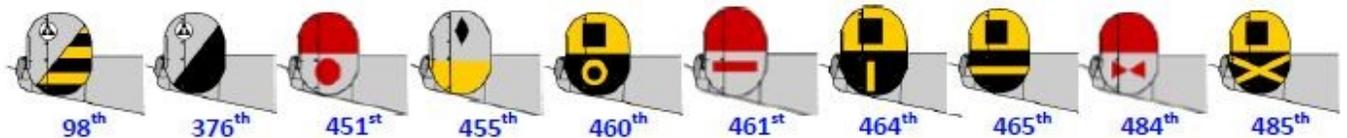


DALLAS, TX
 SEPTEMBER 19-22, 2019

Wyndham Garden of North Dallas
 2645 Lyndon B Johnson Freeway
 Dallas, TX 75234

The North Dallas suburb of Farmer's Branch is offering a cash incentive for our group. The room cost has been reduced to \$71.20 per night, plus applicable tax. More info coming soon! Check your groups website for updates.

You can make hotel reservations by calling The Wyndham Dallas Reservations Manager Kharin Hanes at the hotel's in-house reservations desk (214) 239-3654 Monday to Friday between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Central Standard Time. Mention you are reserving with the 2019 Bombardment Reunion to receive the group rate. If you have mobility issues, ask Kharin for an accessible room with the shortest walking distance to the hotel lobby.



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH — Arrival day and reunion check in. The hospitality room and registration desk will be open as guests arrive

✦ At 7:00 PM The All Group Welcome Meeting convenes to review the upcoming schedule and events for the Dallas BG Reunion.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH — Dallas areas activities to be announced, visit the website as details are finalized

✦ At 5:30 gather for the 464th Bomb Group Dinner beginning with a Social Hour then pictures at our Tail Insignia following dinner.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST — A focus on our Veterans.

✦ Saturday morning begins at 9:00 AM with the 464th BG Business Meeting followed by a 464th lunch.

✦ Saturday evening All Groups Banquet—Social Hour at 5:30 PM in the ball room with a cash bar and Dinner served at 6:30 PM.

✦ After dinner entertainment program to be announced as the program details are finalized closer to the reunion.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND — Church Service, Tours and our Farewell Dinner.

You Spoke We Listened...Survey Results Explained

We had good response to this year's survey. The survey was designed to let us know how we are doing maintaining the identity of our bomb group and to help shape future reunions. The 464th BG Dayton reunion survey report includes individual responses, comments and a detailed analysis of results. Key takeaways from this year's survey include:

- ◆ Top shelf reunion, it's all about the World War II Veterans
- ◆ Good location, cost and tours especially Air Force Museum
- ◆ Memorial Service & 464th dinner big hits, nearly perfect ratings
- ◆ Meals offered room for improvement – taste and portion sizes
- ◆ Excellent Saturday buffet luncheon also saved time & expense
- ◆ Hotel elevator size, availability and responsiveness was an issue

SURVEY QUESTION	SCORE
✦ Reunion City Location	4.3
✦ Hotel Accomodations	3.7
✦ Meal Selections	3.9
✦ Reunion Cost	4.4
✦ Transportation	4.5
✦ Combined Group Functions	4.4
✦ 464th Bomb Group Dinner	4.8
✦ Memorial Service	4.8
✦ Hospitality Room	4.4
✦ Registration Process	4.6
✦ Tour Selections	4.7
✦ Communications	4.6

Scores Based on a Five Point Scale with 5 Being Best

The Story of B24(H) Liberator 'Shoo Shoo Baby' and Her Ground Crew



Shoo Shoo Baby Crew Chief Halonen

"She doesn't wear any medals, gets no overseas ribbons...no rest leaves, not even a pass...but she's a soldier with plenty of combat experience." She is the 15th AAF B-24 named *Shoo Shoo Baby*, a patched up, olive drab painted job that has flown 47 missions against the Germans over many targets from France to Germany to the oil fields of Ploesti, Rumania.

Master Sergeant Lester W. (Smoky) Halonen, 30, is her crew chief, a guy who 'babies' the *BABY* and sees that she's ready to go every morning when the planes take off with a load of worry and destruction for Adolph and his boys.

Halonen hails from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where his wife, Melvyn, resides. Prior to entering the army in January '42, he attended Cudahy Vocational School where he studied mechanics and electricity and attributes much of the success of the *Shoo Shoo Baby's* record of never having an early return from a mission to the classrooms of Cudahy. The other mechanic who works day and night on the ship is Sgt. Sterling N. Lawrence.

Seven swastikas decorate the side of their plane...one for each German fighter that failed to return to Hermann Goering's Luftwaffe. Halonen and Lawrence check everything after every mission...not even a dirty spark plug is too insignificant to be remedied. Proof of the fact of their watchful eye is that only two engine changes have been made since the ship started operations. One gas tank had to be released, only because the original was shot off by flak of Weiner Neustadt. There were more than 400 patches on the ship.



Painting Swastikas on the Baby...

"Fifteenth Army Air Force in Italy" SSgt Joseph E Stewart

On Aug. 16, 1944 the plane flew over Vienna and experienced heavy flak. All turbos were knocked out, 40 ME 109's attacked the plane as it was forced to leave the formation. She received a direct hit on the tail turret, knocking out all bullet proof glass, the right Tokyo tank was hit, left flap shot in two, right aileron control, elevator control and elevator trim controls were shot out. The

crippled Liberator returned and set down at the base. The engineering officer thought it would take two days or more before the ship could fly again. SSgt. Halonen (Smoky) and Sgt. Millard Windham (Windy) started right in to work. A blackout was called because German planes were in the vicinity. Working with no lights, but luckily a full moon, the mechanics worked all night long. Morning came and another ship was needed...the *Shoo Shoo Baby* flew.

Smoky Halonen received the Bronze Star for keeping the plane classified in A-1 condition and for devising a method that extended the life of the engines from approximately two hundred hours to over five hundred hours.

On behalf of us whose fathers flew many missions in the *Shoo Shoo Baby*, we are forever indebted to Master Sergeant Smoky Halonen, Sergeant Windy Wyndham and Sergeant Sterling Lawrence for keeping the '*Baby*' flying and her crew safe.



Celebrating Victory in Europe



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We're on the web!

www.the464th.org



The mission of the 464th Bomb Group is to recognize and honor the service of the brave men who answered the call of duty during World War II and served their country so valiantly in the 15th Army Air Corp based in Pantanella, Italy. Bomb Group reunions were started in 1955 first by the 778th Squadron and then in 1968 expanded to include all four flight squadrons and Headquarters operations. To date thirty seven reunions have been held in cities from coast to coast and points north to south. Hosted by veteran families, reunions are always a fun gathering affording veterans the opportunity to share their stories and family and friends a chance to learn about war time experiences and most importantly to thank our veterans. Bomb Group newsletters work to foster communications and connect with those unable to attend the reunions.

DALLAS TX 2019 REUNION

Plan to make your hotel reservation for this year's reunion early—NO LATER THAN August 16th, 20189.

Reunion notices and registration packets will be mailed in May to those on our BG roster. Also registration eMails will be sent to everyone on our eMail list. Look for the registration form to be posted on the 464th BG's website—the registration form can be printed and mailed to the address shown at the left. Additional interest this year with limited overflow hotels makes **early registrations a must!**



A Special Thanks to our Supporters...

The 464th Bomb Group does not have annual dues. Newsletters and other administrative costs are funded solely by contributions from reunion attendees as well as those not able to attend. For those planning to join the group at this year's reunion in Dallas make sure to complete and submit the registration form. If you are unable to attend the 2019 reunion consider making a contribution for continued group support.

Mail registration forms and contributions to the group's primary mailing address shown in the banner on left.

THANK YOU DONORS

- Jan Engle
- Sharon Goode
- Jaelynn Hathaway
- Teresa Karazim
- Doris Kuzmak
- Mary (Richardt) Madrid
- Joe Osentoski
- Alton Perington
- Tom Ritenour
- Jack Rohner
- Champ Vinet
- Patricia Walker
- Carl Will
- Patricia Will
- Tom Will

Thank you for your continued interest in the 464th Bomb Group honoring our Veterans and the legacy of the Greatest Generation! See everyone in Dallas!



From the collection of John R. Gottschalk. Pictured L-R Tony

Ed Note: We need your help! If your address changes or you know a veteran or spouse who should be receiving newsletters please contact one of the officers. We strive to keep the 464th BG roster and mailing lists current to control expense. There are 250 names on our mailing list and 160 people on our email list. Sending BG newsletters electronically helps keep our costs down.