GREETINGS TO EVERYONE

May 2021

Here we are once again preparing for our upcoming Reunion. This will be our 45th Annual Reunion which will be held in Pensacola, Florida. We have invited various members from within the 323rd BG.

Our Directory has no additions or updates for this edition. Thank you to everyone with your input to keep our directory up to date. With your continued assistance we can keep our directory current and we will continue to pass along all up-dates for our directory in the next newsletter.

So, if you know of any information, in our current directory that’s not correct please contact me preferably by email at georgecofaz@hotmail.com or you can call me at 480-577-6299 and leave a voice message and I will return your call as soon as possible.

We are having a great response on our newsletter being sent out to our members via email. If you currently do not receive the newsletter electronically please contact me and we will add you to our email list.

Our Mail Bag News

Di Urey – Mom is fine and doing well also looking forward to seeing everyone in Pensacola.
Here is the information and facts about our Reunion location, the Hotel we will be staying at this year is the Best Western in Navarre, FL. There will be no shuttle service available to and from the airport. So, I will be arriving on Sunday afternoon and renting a van to pick members up from the airport. So to maximize our time and minimize your wait time at the airport to be picked up, please let me know what time your plane arrives so that I can be there promptly to pick you up. Our hotel will be approximately 35 miles from the airport. For those driving to the hotel there is free parking.

Our room rates this year are $116.99 (no view of pool or ocean) or $125.99 (with a view of either pool or ocean). These rates do not include taxes, but it does include breakfast. These rates apply for up to 4 guests per room. You will need to make your reservation by calling (850) 939-9400. When making your reservation please use 454th Reunion for discounted rates. All reservations must be made by August 26th. Any rooms not reserved will be released and will be available on a first come first serve basis without discounted rate. Standard rates are $129.99 without view and $149.99 with view, so please make your reservations soon to lock in our discounted rates.

### Schedule of Events

**TOURS and EVENTS – Pensacola, FL. Reunion**

Once again this year there will be no scheduled tours. Our only scheduled event is our annual business meeting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon. Sep 27</td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Open Hospitality Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues. Sep 28</td>
<td></td>
<td>Open Day for local trips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Sep 29</td>
<td></td>
<td>Open Day for local trips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur. Sep 30</td>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Annual Business Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:45am</td>
<td>Completion of Annual Business Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Open of Hospitality Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:00pm</td>
<td>Close the Hospitality Room (or when vacant)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
454th Reunion– Pensacola, FL.

Arrival Date _____________________     Departure Date __________________

Registration Fee $10.00 (Complimentary Hospitality Room)

Total Enclosed # _____ x $_____ = _____ Make Checks to 454th BSA (may be paid at reunion)

Person Contact, Emergency

Name __________________________    Phone _____________________________

Free Shuttle Service – must call 480-577-6299 for pick up. Prefer a call or text with scheduled arrival time to prevent a delay of your pick up.

Southwest, American, Delta, United, and other airlines offer service to Pensacola International Airport

Hotel Accommodation Reservation – Pensacola, FL.
454th Bomb Squadron Assoc. Reunion (Code: 454th Reunion), 1-850-939-9400

Hotel Reservation Cut Off Date (to secure discounted rate) is Aug 26, 2021

Main Dates, Sep 27 Mon– Sep 30 Thur.           Best Western Navarre Waterfront
454th Bomb Squadron Assoc. (4 Nights)         8697 Navarre Pkwy.
                                              Navarre, FL. 32566
Room Rate Avail, Sep 26th – Oct 1st                 Hotel Direct 1-850-939-9400

The following information needed to make a reservation:
Name ____________________________
Phone #___________________________    # of persons in Room __ # beds, Rooms __
# of beds ________ and # of guests in room _______
Name, if shared room _______________
Arrival Date _____ Depart Date _____    A First Night’s Deposit Is Required

Hotel Parking Free of Charge

Please complete last page and return before August 30, 2021.

Do not return this page, use last page or attachment.
Final Flights & Obituaries

It is always a sad time when we lose loved ones. These are some more of our finest that we have the disappointing news to pass along to you. They will not be with us at our future reunions physically, but will be with us in spirit and their special stories they have shared with all of us. GOD BLESS!

Henry Hunter Fraser Jr.

1924 - 2020

Henry Hunter Fraser, Jr., age 95, of Morgan Estates in Geneseo, left to be with the Lord Sunday, September 20, 2020 at his residence. He was predeceased by his wife of 63 years, Harriette "Mimi" Fraser and his brother, James Fraser.

He is survived by his sons, Dr. Thomas (Dr. Janis) Fraser of Newton, MA, Robert (Linda) Fraser of Fairport, Steven Fraser of Pittsford, grandchildren, Stacey (Joseph) Mooney, Joseph Fraser, Whitney (Eli) Fraser, Dr. Hunter Fraser, great grandchildren, Joseph and Megan Mooney, Lia Fraser, sister in law, June Fraser of Mt. Morris, several nieces and nephews.

Hunter was born November 6, 1924 in Groveland, NY the son of Henry Hunter and Mary Elizabeth Buchanan Fraser Sr. He served in WWII in the US Army Air Corps, 323rd Bombardment Gourp, with the 454th Bombardment Squadron as a B-26 Bomber Pilot. Hunter earned his Bachelor's Degree from SUNY Geneseo and his Master's Degree from the University of Rochester. He retired from the Rochester City School System as a Superintendent after many devoted years to his students. Hunter enjoyed hiking with his wife, Mimi in Letchworth State Park and spent over 40 years enjoying his cottage at Silver Lake.
Athelia “Marceil” Roberson Esquivo

age 99 passed away peacefully on January 31, 2021. She was born on January 11, 1922 in Linden, Texas. During WWII she worked in Oak Ridge, TN from 1943 to 1945 on the Manhattan Project. She left Tennessee and moved to Houston where she worked at Uncle Ben’s Converted Rice starting in May 1946. She left Uncle Ben’s to start her own company Reliable Letter Service and at the same time started working for Charles Esquivo Bookkeeping Service. Marceil and Charles were married in 1951 and were married for 60 years. Charles was the love of her life. Charles and Marceil were part of the Greatest Generation. She was proceeded in death by Charles her beloved husband, her sisters Ione Morse, Audrey Patterson and her husband Ernest, Eva Farmer and her husband Raymond and her brother Juandell Roberson and his wife Nell. She is survived by her daughters Linda Richey and husband Dan, Cynthia Esquivo and Adriane “Adi” Esquivo; grandchildren, Shawn Jackson and wife Amanda, Kimberly Barton and her father Randy Barton, Christie Reed and husband Billy, Stacie Winters and their father Mike Charles; Great grandchildren, Shelby and husband Aubrey, Ashley and Dustin, Emaley, Makenna and husband Lukas, Cayden, Hunter, John, Hallie, Makayla, Ben; Great great-grandchildren Dylan, Grayson, Lukas, Beckett. Also including Mark Harty and wife JoAnn and Nancy Harty, numerous nieces and nephews, and the special family of Essie Berroud. Thank you to Seasons Hospice for being there for our momma the last 2 months. Momma and Daddy are finally able to hold hands again. She will be loved and deeply missed by all her family and friends. Momma was laid to rest at Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery on Friday March 5, 2021.

Gerry Dean of the 455th this crazy year included losing one of our Marauder veterans. My father, died of heart failure September 30, 2020. He was 96, which was amazing, as he had quite the adventurous life! He volunteered to test fly a German Spitfire (as he'd always had wanted to fly a fighter, he LIKED speed!). Unfortunately, the US mechanics hadn't quite repaired the captured plane, so when it stalled, he told me he unbuckled his
safety belt & stepped out on the wing. He was over the Black Forest and decided it wasn't really a good idea to parachute there, so got back in the plane. He said “I didn't buckle back in, and that's probably what saved me, as he was thrown out of the plane, and only “broke his back”. He came back home in a body cast & married my mother. This is only 1 if the incredible stories he would tell us when he would get in his story telling mode.

My Dad was a wonderful father, encouraging all 5 of his kids to explore the world, including our own backyards. My 2 older brothers are private pilots, my baby sister married a pilot, and I lived on a sailboat for 20 years. My mom (who is still living, age 97) joined my dad in all the ways they could think of to get up in the air... hot air balloons, a blimp, helicopters and more I can't remember! They also traveled the world; Japan, most of Europe, Australia... often staying with pilots from their B&B home stay book.

Dad was incredibly creative also: took up painting landscapes, woodworking, playing the saxophone, but flying was always his passion. He began writing his memoirs, and had begun the part about his flying when sadly he passed away. I feel he's still living the good life... sending me signs occasionally (the solo sax player, a substitute musician at my local farmers market, less than a month after he died; a mystery book I was reading around the same time that shared a pilots poem “out of the clear blue”; and a few other people interesting coincidences).

I believe he is happy in his new “home” above the clouds where he loved to be. Even though I miss him mightily, I think he still is showing me the way to happiness.

Obituary

‘Dabney,’ Lloyd Edgar Kisner, Jr., age 100 and a lifelong restaurateur, hunter, fisherman, centurion, and Uncle passed away on a snowy
morning, December 1, 2020 at Davis Memorial Hospital in Elkins, WV from declining health. For the past 2 years, Dabney was a resident of Colonial Place in Elkins, WV, but he spent the majority of his life in Pocahontas County in Durbin and Frank, WV. Dabney was born on January 13, 1920 in Frank, WV, son of the Lloyd Edgar Kisner, Sr. and Edna Mae Graham Kisner.

As a teenager, Dabney helped his father build Kisner’s Store Building where the family lived upstairs and ran the general store downstairs. He graduated from Green Bank High School where he played football.

In 1942, he entered Army Boot Camp and in 1943 received his “Wings” from flight school in Texas. In 1943 he flew his first mission from Earls Colne, England as a bombardier/navigator. After this mission he also was a co-pilot in a 5-man crew. On December 13, 1943 Dabney was shot down over Europe but it made it back to White Cliffs where the crew parachuted out. He landed in a minefield but US soldiers carried him on a stretcher unconscious to the hospital. On Dec. 24 he was released and on Christmas Day 1943 he flew another mission and then 48 more. On May 25, 1944 Dragon Wagon B-26 was shot down over Liege, Belgium. He was rescued by the Belgium Resistance and hidden in several locations over the next 5 months. He worked with the Belgium Resistance as he helped them identify the US airplanes or enemy planes at night by the sounds of the motors. He was often hidden behind a closet door or in an attic.

On September 7, 1944, Liege, Belgium was liberated. Dabney rode on a USA tank through town and finally saw the front of the house where he had been hidden in the attic. He was ordered to go to Paris for debriefing then returned to England.

Dabney was sent home on leave and he told the Statue of Liberty that she would never see him again. He never flew again. He reported back to the Base for training on the Norton System, but chose to come home with his Honorable Discharge as a Lieutenant. He was awarded two Purple Hearts, a Distinguished Service Cross, the Air Medal for heroic action while participating in aerial flight, two Caterpillar Pins, and a Special Award from the Belgium Red Cross.

On March 6, 1947 he married Irene Jones of Elkins, WV on her birthday. They were married for 52 years. Dabney and Reeney were part owners of the Bartow Drive-Inn but sold their share when they opened the Pocahontas Motel and Restaurant in 1953 at the top of Cheat Mountain, which they operated until the 1990’s. The restaurant was famous for the German pot roast and homemade pies. Reeney passed away in May of 1999.

Dabney hosted hunting groups including deer, raccoon, and bear hunters. He also raised hunting dogs for coon hunting. He was an avid fisherman and taught all his nieces and nephews how to fish. He spent hours making intricate fishing
ties. Dabney and Reeney moved to Olive, their mountain farm, when they retired. On this gentle farm, Dabney grew Christmas trees, raised peacocks and cared for his horses. Dabney believed in protecting the environment and preserving wildlife before it was fashionable.

In 2011, Dabney bought a home in Frank across the road from his family’s store. In 2018, he moved into assisted living at Colonial Place in Elkins, WV. On January 13, 2020 his family celebrated his 100th birthday with a party that honored his interesting life and adventures.

Dabney was a member of the Elks Club, the American Legion, the VFW and the Durbin United Methodist Church.

Dabney was the last surviving member of his immediate family and was preceded in death by his parents, his sisters Marguerite (Peg) Widney, Geraldine (Gerry) Lawton, Pauline (Polly) Mams and his brother William (Bill) Kisner. Also, preceding him were his in-laws Dr. Franklin Widney, Eugene Lawton and Joseph Mams.

Surviving are in-laws, Edith Kisner and Carol and Carl (Shorty) Erickson, Jr. Nieces and Nephews include Rebecca and Fred Benton, Marsha and Don Wehr, Sarah and Joe Burch, Jay and Doreen Widney, Kevin Widney, John Lawton, Barbie Stewart, Kathryn Herbert, Cathy and Jeff Orndorff, Franny and Karl King, Frank and Robin Mams, Barbie and Ronnie Pugh, Ed Calain and others on the Jones side of the family as well as many great and great-great nieces and nephews. Dabney also had special friends including Dave and Martha Ann Burner.

The family is grateful for the excellent care that Dabney received at Colonial Place and the Davis Memorial Hospital.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic a small graveside service will be held at the Arbovale Cemetery in Arbovale, WV on Saturday, December 5 with Rev. David Fuller of the Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church at Green Bank officiating. A memorial service with military honors will be scheduled this summer.

Additional Notifications without Obituaries received:

Name: Date Received: Date of Passing:

None
**Missing Members**

This is a section where we will list the names and addresses for newsletters mailed out and returned. If you know someone on this list please contact me with an updated address or have them contact me direct if they wish. Their name will only appear in one newsletter after that if they have not been updated then they will be removed from our mailing list.

Mr. Robert L. Harwell  
2902 Highway 14 West  
Autaugaville, AL. 36003-2554

Mrs. Marilyn Solon  
4020 W 44th Street  
Minneapolis, MN. 55424-1033

**Financial Report**

Here is our financial report to date for 2021. We would like to thank everyone for their past contributions because that’s what keeps us going strong with our organization. I’m sure our next report will be much longer because as the year continues so will our contributions and expenses.

**Contributions Jan 1, 2021 – May 31, 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trest, Dennis</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zeigler, Mitchell &amp; Roberta and Harris, Karen in Memory if Cpt. Ransom, Robert P.</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McLeod, R. Stan</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloomberg, Rebecca</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$490.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If there were contributions from January 1, 2021 to May 31, 2021 sent that are not posted please contact me (George Cornett) at information listed below.

If you wish to make a contribution to the 454th Bomb Squadron Association please send to 454th BSA c/o George Cornett 8250 E. Obispo Ave. Mesa AZ 85212-1618.
The below balance does not include the cost printing for this Newsletter and mailing.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance as of Jan. 1, 2021</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,599.29</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contributions</strong></td>
<td><strong>$490.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reunion Monies Rcvd.</strong></td>
<td><strong>$0.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Received</strong></td>
<td><strong>$490.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$412.29</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,677.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Our Elected Board Members**

*Current Board Members: Previous Board Members:*

President ________ Vacant
1st Vice-President ___ Howard Cross
2nd Vice-President ___ Frankie Mancuso
3rd Vice-President ___ Robert “Bob” Johnson
Secretay/Treasurer ___ George Cornett
Historian___________ Roy Bozych
Sergeant-at-Arms ___ Merlin McDonald

President__________ Frank Johnson
1st Vice-President____ Howard Cross
2nd Vice-President__ Frankie Mancuso
3rd Vice-President____ Bob Johnson
Secretay/Treasurer__George Cornett
Historian___________ Roy Bozych
Sergeant-at-Arms ____ David Garvin

George Cornett
8250 E Obispo Avenue
Mesa, AZ 85212-1618
480-577-6299
gorgecofaz@hotmail.com
We look forward to seeing everyone in Pensacola, FL. for another great reunion.

Take Care and Best Wishes!
Lost and Found

Through the years I have had a lot of interesting correspondence and emails come across my desk. A couple of weeks ago I got one that was really intriguing. It was from Paul McKnight from the UK. Paul lives near Beaulieu, England. Beaulieu is located in the southeastern tip of the UK. The 323rd BG was stationed there from July 21, 1944 to August 25, 1944. The bomb group moved down there to be able to provide better support to the Allied ground troops after D-Day.

During his free time Paul likes to grab his metal detector and go searching for little lost treasures. On one recent exhibition to Calshot Beach which is about ten miles from Beaulieu, Paul found a class ring from Ellington Airfield in Texas. During WWII Ellington was used for advanced twin engine training. Currently the thought is that when stationed at Beaulieu one of our pilots went to the beach for some R & R. While at the beach the class ring and our pilot became separated. Seventy seven years later along comes Paul with his handy dandy metal detector and voila one lost ring is now found.

So now the search is on! There weren’t any names or initials inside the ring. Just a class date 43-G. So there isn’t a lot of information to go on. We are currently in the process of trying to get a graduation class listing for the 43-G class of Ellington field. Stay tuned for future developments.

If anyone has a copy of the class book for the 43-G graduating class from Ellington Field please contact me. Paul would really like to reunite the ring with the pilot’s family. Plus depending on what happened to the pilot this ring could have tremendous sentimental value to his family!
The 323rd Bomb Group was stationed in England from May 12, 1943 to August 25, 1944. Of course most of that time was spent at Earls Colne. Obviously much has been written about our time there. And there were plenty of pictures taken while based there. With almost half our time spent in Europe at Earls Colne, during WWII it became like a second home.

The 323rd BG was a tactical bomb group. That is its job was to support the advancing ground troops on the continent of Europe. After D-Day as the Allied troops moved further into Europe, the 323rd BG missions became longer and longer. To accommodate these missions and bring the fight closer to the enemy the 323rd BG moved from Earls Colne on the 21st of July 1944 to Beaulieu Station 408 in the southeast corner of England also known as the New Forest Area (https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk)

With the quick pace of the war the 323rd BG was only stationed at Beaulieu for just over a month. That is until August 26th when we moved to Lessay, France, A-20. But during that short period there still was a lot of history lived at Beaulieu. Now thanks to a couple of new friends from the Beaulieu area we will all get a chance to relive some of that history.

The first is Marc Heighway. Marc has an exceptional website dedicated to the airfield at Beaulieu. Many of the articles on his website cover the history of the 323rd BG while it was based at Beaulieu. Plus Marc has some extraordinary walking tours of Beaulieu in video form posted to his website. If you never get to visit England, his videos are the next best thing to visiting Beaulieu. Especially if you had a father, grandfather or uncle who was based at Beaulieu. Marc’s website is https://rafbeaulieu.co.uk

Our next new friend of the 323rd BG is Dan Steele. Dan’s website honors the men of both the RAF and the USAAF who served at Beaulieu. He pays particular attention to those airmen who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Dan’s website is https://rafbeaulieu.co.uk/honouring-the-airmen-of-raf-beaulieu

Our thanks go out to Jan Foster. Jan’s father was a lead Bombadier with the 456th Squadron. Jan was the first to find our new friends and bring their great websites to our attention. Thanks Jan!
**Flying in a B-26 Marauder**

For those of you who are on our e-mail update list you will have seen this article already. However this was such an excellent B-26 video I wanted to make sure everyone got to see it. And if you are not on our email list and would like to be send me your email address to historian@323bg.org. We never give out your email address to any other groups.

Most likely we will never get a chance to fly in a B-26 Marauder. Some of us at least were lucky enough to get inside one at reunions at The National Museum of the USAF in Dayton, Ohio. Plus the Fantasy of Flight Museum in Polk City, Florida.

The only B-26 Marauder capable of flight is the one located at the Flight Museum in Polk City, Florida. However it has not flown in a number of years. It is currently not airworthy. It would need major maintenance to become so.

A number of years ago when it was still flyable Kermit Weeks the owner of Fantasy of Flight and the last flying B-26 shot some exceptional video of his B-26 in flight and in the aircraft. This was the very last B-26 to fly out of MacDill Air Force base in Tampa, Florida. A few days ago he uploaded it to You Tube. The video opens with the B-26 in flight.

This was one of the early model Glenn Martin B-26 Marauders. It has some major differences from the models our Veterans flew. The propeller spinner hubs were larger. The wings were shorter. The tail was smaller. The guns were 30 caliber which were later upgraded to 50 caliber guns for more punch. Plus a list of other options the USAAF added to the later B-26 models.

As the video progresses you will see one of the crew “Walking the Props”. Instead of inline engines, pistons in a line next to each other in the engine block, the B-26 had radial engines. The pistons were in a circle around the propeller axle like the numbers on a clock face. Because of this arrangement, when the engines were not running the oil would settle to the bottom cylinders. The ground crew would need to “Walk the Props” to distribute the oil from the bottom cylinders to lubricate the top cylinders before starting the aircraft. This procedure would also keep the oil from fouling the bottom spark plugs when the engines started up.

The video is 12 minutes long. You may get a couple of commercial pop ups while it is running. The link is below.
Also, let’s not forget about the films “How to Fly the B-26 Airplane” plus “Building a Bomber” which shows the construction of the B-26 Martin Marauder at Middle River, Maryland. Both of these films can be found on You Tube.

**WWII Maps**

The advent of GPS has kind of made paper maps obsolete. I can remember back in the day being able to find state or regional maps in every gas station. Then there were the map atlas books/magazines printed by companies like Rand McNally, National Geographic or Micheline. And let’s not forget about the auto club. You would give them a call. Tell them where you wanted to go on vacation. Then the AAA would send you a booklet of mini-maps or trip tiks mapping out your route with the appropriate associated travel guide books.

I have always been fascinated by maps. Particularly the classic custom type maps. Some of them, especially the older ones are real works of art!

While doing some research I came across a website that contains thousands of maps of all kinds. Many of their maps have been digitized and are available to view on line. A lot of them can also be downloaded. It is the Osher Map Library website. The library itself is located at the University of Southern Maine. Their web address is listed at the end of the article.

Among the many maps in their collection and of course of interest to us are some “Classic” WWII era maps. There are the “Victory War Maps”, the WWII broadcaster Lowell Thomas war maps, and Rand McNally war maps just to name a few. There are literally pages of them. One of the more interesting ones I found was the “Michelin Battle of Normandy June to August 1944” map which covers D-Day and the Allied advances into Europe.

So if you like maps like I do then go to [https://oshermaps.org/](https://oshermaps.org/). Once on the home page plug in WWII or Michelin Battle of Normandy June to August 1944 Map into the search window and see what pops up.
Remember Ripley’s Believe It or Not? Back in the day when most major cities and towns had their own newspapers they would subscribe to syndicated columnists and cartoons for fill material for their newspapers. “Ripley’s Believe It or Not” was one of those syndicated cartoons. He started syndicating his cartoon series first in 1919 in the New York Globe and then in 1923 in the New York Evening Post. Each daily cartoon would contain strange but true facts like the one shown above which reads “President William McKinley was assassinated moments after removing a red carnation he wore for good luck”. At the height of his popularity his syndicated daily cartoon had 80 million readers. Today while the cartoon factoid isn’t seen much anymore, many of the oddities that Robert Ripley collected during his life are shown in about 28 of his museums scattered throughout the country.

Well this next item definitely belongs in that category. The headline reads “Two people are buried on a runway at a US airport where hundreds of planes land every day”.

On their way over to Europe most of our fathers, grandfathers and uncles would pick up a brand new B-26 Martin Marauder at Hunter Army Air Force base in Savannah, Georgia. From there they would fly it over to England via the Northern or Southern route depending on the time of year.

In 1942 with the war US war effort and training ramping up it became necessary to build a second air base named Chatham Field just eight miles north of Hunter AAFB. Chatham Field after the war would become Savannah Airport.

In order to handle the larger B-24’s that would be flying out of Chatham they found it necessary to extend the original east-west runway. However to do so would require paving over the Dotson family burial plot. The Dotson’s family were the farmers who originally owned the airfield land. Needless to say the family resisted moving the graves. Eventually the family relented and the graves were moved to the famous Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah, Georgia. That is all except for four graves. The
family believed the founders of the family, Richard and Catherine Dotson would not want to abandon their family homestead. So on the edge of runway 10 and 28 at Savannah International Airport lay the graves of Richard and Catherine Dotson. The graves of two other family members are in the grass next to the runway. Savannah International is the only airport in the entire world that has graves embedded in an active runway. Strange but true!

It is said the on certain evenings just at sundown two figures will appear alongside the runway. More details and pictures can be found at the website below:

Until next Time…

Keep ‘em Flying

Roy R. Bozych
49 E Lucas Dr.
Palos Hills, IL 60465-3100
708-870-6605
Historian@323bg.org

http://www.323bg.org
454th Squadron Order Form

- Pins are 1 inch in diameter
- Patches are 4 ½ inches in diameter and have an iron on backing

323rd BG Commemorative/Challenge Coin

- Coins are 1 ¾ inches in diameter, weigh .8 ounces and are made of brass with raised lettering. The front of the coin is highlighted with red, white and blue enamel.

Prices Include Shipping

Number of Pins ___ x $5 = $

Make Checks Payable

To

454th BSA

Patches ___ x $15 = $

Coins ___ x $20 = $

Total $

Name ____________________________________________

Street Address ____________________________________________ apt #______

City________________________State__________Zip Code__________

Phone ______________________ email ______________________

mail to: Roy Bozych
323rd BG Historian
49 E. Lucas Dr.
Palos Hills, IL 60465-3100

Phone 708-870-6605 email address historian@323bg.org