

49

The 447th Bombardment Group
and Attached Units

Celebrate Victory in Europe

and

Nineteen months of cordial Anglo-American friendship and co-operation

★ ★ with a ★ ★

★ 2nd Anniversary Celebration ★

★ ★ June 10, 1945, at Rattlesden ★ ★

The Officers and Men of this Station
cordially invite you to attend the festivities.

Entertainment begins at 2 p.m. Dancing starts at 7.30 p.m.

PLEASE BRING THIS CARD FOR ADMITTANCE.

JOY, PRIDE

AND REMORSE

MORE TERRIBLE THAN ALL THE WORDS

War is more terrible than all the words of men can say; more terrible than a man's mind can comprehend.

It is the corpse of a friend; one moment ago a living human being with thoughts, hopes, and a future—just exactly like yourself—now nothing.

It is the eyes of men after battle, like muddy water, lightless.

It is cities—labor of generations lost—now dusty piles of broken stones and splintered wood—dead.

It is the total pain of a hundred million parted loved ones—some for always.

It is the impossibility of planning a future; uncertainty that mocks every hoping dream.

Remember! It is the reality of these things—not the words.

* * *

And when it is in your mind so strongly that you can never forget, then seek how you can best keep peace. Work at this hard with every tool of thought and love you have. Do not rest until you can say to every man who ever died for man's happiness: "You did not die in vain."

Men in Bombers

FIGHTER pilots get emotion because their work is quick and it ends before the emotion has time to end, and the emotion is still with them when they climb out of their planes. A fighter pilot can get drunk at his work, emotionally drunk, but a heavy bomber pilot just works, an aerial taxi driver he calls himself ruefully, a freight engineer and he just works and the men who fly with him just work. Long-range heavy bombardment takes hours, three and four hours going and three and four hours returning, and that is too long for emotion to last. There is brief emotion when the enemy closes in and there is the feeling of combat, vicarious for everyone except the men at the guns at the moment, and the bombardier gets it briefly when he squeezes and the bombs cascade out, but those moments are lost in the long monotony of the mission, the hours of steady, noisy airplane pounding in the air, the deadly drugging effect of the engines on nerves, the long times, one hour, two hours, three hours, four hours, on oxygen, the careful, precise, non-amusing, can't be done improperly stream of things that the pilot, the engineer, the radio man, the navigator have to do, the sitting and waiting, ears aching, head rocking, mind-alert hours, sometimes tilting mentally forward for something that may never come, pitching mentally over when it does not come. Men who fly bombers and who fly in bombers come out of their airplanes exhausted and bored in a way no one was ever bored before. Men who fly in bombers are not really older than the men who fly in other kinds of airplanes; they just look that way.

Elliott Arnold, in "Tomorrow Will Sing." (Duell, Sloan & Pearce.)

THE

447TH BOMB GROUP

AND ATTACHED UNITS

UPON COMPLETING 258 COMBAT MISSIONS

ANNOUNCES ITS

2ND ANNIVERSARY

10 JUNE, 1945



Souvenir Program

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COL. HUNTER HARRIS, Jr.
Original Commanding Officer.



LT. COL. LOUIS G. THORUP
Commanding Officer.



COL. Wm. J. WRIGGLESWORTH
Former Commanding Officer

Upon this, the second anniversary of the organization of the 447th Bombardment Group, we have emerged victorious from a great battle against the enemy. This victory was made possible by the determination and devotion to duty of the members of the Armed Forces and by the Allied spirit of co-operation. The 447th Group, with its attached units, has contributed in a large measure to the success of this great battle and has acquitted itself proudly and with honors.

On behalf of myself and the former Commanding Officers of this Group, I wish to express thanks and admiration to every member of this command. The Ground and Staff Personnel have displayed a co-operation and devotion to duty that is the epitome of exemplary accomplishment. Through their long and arduous hours of effort, the intricate problems of supply, maintenance, and administration have been solved, culminating in the successful accomplishment of our assigned tasks. The Flying Personnel, because of their gallantry and courage, were never turned back from their objective by the enemy. They carried on despite severe weather conditions, fierce opposition, and often times heavy losses to deal the devastating blows which spelled defeat to Nazi Germany.

I desire to express, in behalf of every Rattlesden man, our appreciation for the invaluable aid and many courtesies extended to us by our hosts, the gallant people of Britain, during our sojourn here. The imprint of this enduring hospitality will remain in our thoughts for many years to come.

LOUIS G. THORUP,
Lieutenant Colonel, Air Corps,
Commanding.

Program

PART I.

- 1230-1330 Softball Game - Bomb Box Municipal Park
(Brass All-Stars v. Herringbone Twill All-Stars)
- 1400-1445 Opening of the Festivities - Hangar No. 1
(Official Addresses)
- 1445-1520 Swing-phony Concert - Hangar No. 1
(Featuring the 3rd Division Band)
- 1520-1620 "Happy-Go-Lucky" - Hangar No. 1
(An hour of fun with the USO)
- 1630-1715 London Revue - Hangar No. 1
(Gals, Variety, and Gals from the London Stage)
- 1715-1800 Refreshment Hour -
(Take your guest to your Squadron Pub,
or G.I. or Officers' Club, Bub ! !)
- 1800-1930 Banquet Dinner -
(All mess halls are open for you and your guest)

MENU

- Juicy "Colorado" Steak
- French Fried Potatoes (Chips)
- Green Peas
- Russian Salad
- Coffee Rolls and Butter
- Ice-cream and Cake

PART II.

FIVE DANCES

- 1930 For Enlisted Men and Guests - At the Gymnasium, Aero Club Consolidated Mess.
- For Officers and Guests - At the Officers' Club, Ground Officers' Mess.