

451st Bomb Group Newsletter No. 12 May 2018



Published for the preservation of our 451st heritage. Printing and mailing of the Newsletter is funded solely by donation which should be mailed to:

451st Bomb Group
c/o Susan Tudor Prince
14 Reservation Road
Andover, MA 01810

Cell: 978.866.0024 Email: kittyflea@hotmail.com

A MESSAGE FROM SUSAN:

Hello 451st and 455th Members, family and friends.

It is hard to believe that the 2018 joint Bomb Group reunion is fast approaching.

The dates are Sept. 13-16 in Dayton, Ohio.

Dave Blake from the 461st BG is again planning this year's reunion, which will be very special.

Please be sure to reserve your room(s) no later than August 16. There is no cancellation penalty if you cancel no later than 24 hours before your check in day. Last year, there were several individuals who had to stay at a nearby hotel due to the number of folks attending. We do not want to see that happen and are encouraging you to reserve your room ASAP.

The National Museum of the United States Air Force is one not to be missed.

My brother, Jonathan, is working on the speaker presentations, which are always popular and a living history lesson.

I want to thank you all for the support I receive from you, as well as your generous donations. The donations allow us to print and mail the newsletter.

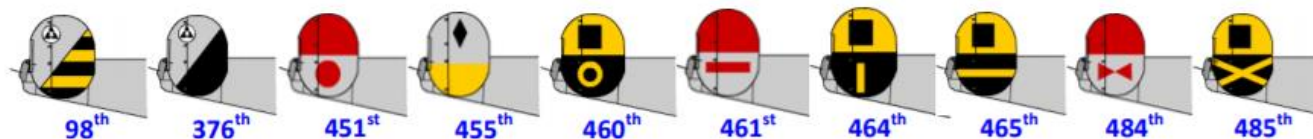
I wish you all a happy and healthy 2018.

I hope to you in Dayton.

Susan

2018 BOMB GROUPS JOINT REUNION

**98th, 376th, 451st, 455th, 460th, 461st, 464th, 465th, 484th & 485th
BOMBARDMENT GROUPS (H)**



Thursday, September 13th – Sunday, September 16th.

The 2018 Reunion will be held at Dayton, Ohio. The full itinerary is listed below.

REUNION OVERVIEW

Thursday, 13th September

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM | Early Registration – Hospitality Room will be open.
Hospitality room will feature heavy hors d'oeuvres and beverages. |
| 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM | Hotel welcome reception with veggie/fruit/cheese trays. Coffee & punch will be served |
| 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM | Reunion Welcome Meeting |

Friday, 14th September

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 8:00 AM - 3:45 PM | Optional Tour – National Museum of United States Air Force. Lunch is not included.
Hospitality Room will be open for those not on tour |
| 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM | Evening Sit Down Dinner including 451 st & 455 th B.G.s <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30 PM - Cash Bar * • 6:30 PM - Sit Down Dinner |

Saturday, 15th September

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM | Hospitality Room will be open |
| TBD | Veteran led presentations & discussions |
| 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM | Gala Banquet - All Bomb Groups. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30 PM - Cash Bar* • 6:30 PM - Sit Down Dinner |

Sunday, 16th September

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM | Hosted Church Service by Rev. Bob Oliver from the 376 th |
| 10:15 AM – 3:45 PM | Return visit to National United States Air Force Museum
Buses depart for hotel at 1:15, 2:30 & 3:45 PM |

	Lunch is not provided. or
10:15 AM – 2:30 PM	Alternate tour of Dayton Art Institute with stop at Second Street Market for shopping. Return to Hotel is 2:30 PM
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Lunch is not provided. Optional Casual Farewell Dinner

*Registration & dinner fees do not include the tours or cash bars.

REUNION HOTEL

Crown Plaza
33 E 5th St, Dayton OH 45402
Front desk phone: 937-224-0800

- Hotel is the Crown Plaza located at: 33 E 5th St, Dayton, OH 45402 | Phone: 937-224-0800
- Single, Double or Handicap Accessible rooms are all \$114 per night (plus taxes) which includes hot breakfast buffet.
- TO RESERVE CALL 1-800-689-5586 AND MENTION THE BOMB GROUPS REUNION.
- All walks in this hotel are short but if you have mobility issues, be sure and ask them to house you close to the elevators. Handicap accessible rooms are available. Please ask if you need these accommodations.
- Complimentary airport shuttle is available but you'll need to call the hotel in advance with your flight information to reserve a ride to the hotel.
- Group rates are good from 9/8—9/20, 2018
- There are no overflow hotel options available in downtown Dayton so make sure to get your room reserved.
- Cancellations may be made without penalty prior to 24 hours of check-in day.

REUNION ITINERARY

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH – National Museum of United States Air Force

- Friday morning, we will depart the hotel at 8:00AM for a short drive to the AF Museum. Another bus trip will be made from the hotel to the museum a little later in the morning for those who might want a little later start.

- Upon arrival we will be allowed some private time with ropes down visiting the B-24 “Strawberry Bitch”, an original B-24D that was assigned to the 376th BG, “Flash” Gordon Byfield, Pilot, one of our participating veterans and bomb groups.
- At 9:15AM we will move to the Carney Auditorium for a special presentation of commemorative Presidential Unit Citation medals to each of our veterans by a General officer from Wright-Patterson AFB.
- Also in the Carney Auditorium, we will then have the traditional Military Memorial Ceremony, conducted by Chaplain/Captain Chris Cairns, Grandson of the last CO of the 485th BG and Reunion Chaplain.
 - As a part of this Memorial ceremony a multi part wreath will be presented. This wreath as a whole will represent the combined effort of our bomb groups that worked together in the Fifteenth Air Force to secure victory over the Axis powers during WWII. The wreath will have removable sections with each section representing one of our individual Bomb Groups.
 - The individual group members can then take their part of the wreath to their respective marker in the Memorial Gardens outside on the museum grounds (each of our groups has a marker in that garden) to conduct any type of ceremony they desire.
- Following that, everyone will be free to tour the museum at will.
- Lunch is on your own today.
- Buses will leave the museum at 1:15, 2:30 & 3:45PM to return to the hotel.
- Friday evening will feature our Individual Group Banquets as we have done in the past.
- Social hour will begin at 5:30PM with a cash bar in the commons area.
- Dinner will be served at 6:30PM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH - Speaker Program

- Saturday will feature an expanded program of Veteran speakers, discussion panels or speakers from outside our organization. It will be a day when we “stay in house”.
- Everyone can relax, visit, attend the speaker presentations or do whatever their heart desires.
- Lunch is on your own today. In addition to the hotel restaurant, there are numerous places within 1 or 1 ½ block of the hotel. A list of local restaurants can be found in your registration packet.
- Saturday evening will feature our all groups Banquet.
- Social hour will begin at 5:30PM with a cash bar in the ball room.
- Dinner will be served at 6:30PM
- After dinner entertainment will be scheduled and details made known closer to reunion time as the information becomes available.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH - Return to National Museum of United States Air Force

- We will leave at 10:15AM to return to the museum for more exploration.
- This museum is huge.
- Lunch is on your own at the museum.
- A bus will depart the museum at 1:15, 2:30 & 3:45PM to return to the hotel.
- There will also be an alternative tour Sunday that will depart the hotel for the Dayton Art Institute at 10:15AM and then continue on to the Second Street Market at 12:30PM for shopping and lunch on your own.
- Departure for a return to the hotel will be at 2:30PM.
- Sunday evening will feature our Farewell dinner which will be served at 6:30PM

REUNION REGISTRATION

Reunion registration form is on the last page of the newsletter.

Please return the completed registration form with payment no later than **September 1st**.

Mail your completed registration form to:

451st B.G.
c/o Susan Tudor Prince
14 Reservation Rd,
Andover, MA 01810

DONATIONS

We truly appreciate your generosity and support – without it, we would not be able to provide this newsletter.

Should you desire to honor a crew mate or family member, please send the full name and duty position of the person being honored. Please send to:

451st B.G.
c/o Susan Tudor Prince
14 Reservation Rd,
Andover, MA 01810

Tribute contributions recently received:

Donor	In Tribute To
Briggs, Blaine	451st B.G.
Burlingame, William	451st B.G.
Prince, Susan	Win Jones, Top Turret Gunner
Wood, Dorothy Cloud (daughter)	Robert Cloud, Technical Sgt., Radio Operator/Gunner
Yates, Jane (Wife)	In memory of Lt. Robert M. Finehout, Pilot

LAST FLYBY

Here are the death notifications received since our December 2017 Newsletter:

451st Member	Squadron	Duty Position	DOD
Cook, John	724 th	Mechanic	09.01.2017
Fessler, John	725 th	Armament Section	12.26.2017
Vann, George B.	724 th	Tail Gunner	01.25.2017

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

If you have a write-up of your war time experience, song, poem, letter or diary entry that you or a family member is willing to share for possible inclusion in a future newsletter, we encourage you to email (kittyflea@hotmail.com) or send a copy to Susan Tudor Prince, 14 Reservation Road, Andover, MA 01810.

GEORGE BENNETT VANN

Private George Bennett Vann, Basic Training Graduate, Army Air Corps in Miami Beach, Florida, January, 1944.

He was born Friday, 13 July 1923, in Murfreesboro, North Carolina.

His Duty Position was a Tail Gunner in a B-24J Heavy Bomber, 42-78647.

All Enlisted Air Crew Members had to be Sergeants (E-4) or higher; SSgt: Staff Sergeant (E-5) or Sgt: Sergeant (E-4)

Nose (Armory) Gunner, Sgt. Robert Galleger (2), was the only married crewmember.

All were either 20 or 21 years old. George Vann was 21.

Pilot 2nd Lt Kenneth Elliott (2) was the only one who made the Air Force a Career.

After the War, All the Air Crew members kept in constant contact. They bonded together in a comradery that exists until this day.

Bombardier 2nd Lieutenant (Lt) Victor Barber and Co-Pilot, 2nd Lt Larry Arnold are still with us.

This is a picture of new Crew, Number 113, matched with brand new US Army Air Corps B-24J Heavy Bomber 42-78647, at Offutt Army Air Field, Nebraska, late summer, 1944. They were assigned to the 724th Squadron.

CREW 113**Top (Back Row) L to R**

Bombardier

Pilot

Navigator

Co-Pilot

2nd Lt Victor Barber

2nd Lt Kenneth Elliott

Flight Officer William Farris

2nd Lt Larry Arnold

(1) Living, in South Florida

(2) Deceased

(3) Deceased

(4) Living, in Illinois

Bottom (Front Row) L to R

Waist Gunner/Engineer

Nose Gunner

Tail Gunner

Waist Gunner/Radio Operator

Ball Gunner

Top Turret Gunner

SSgt. Gerald Shea

Sgt. Robert Galleger

Sgt. George Bennett Vann

Sgt. William Mullenbruck

Sgt. Hank Zoldowski

Sgt. Perry Davie

(1) Deceased

(2) Deceased

(3) Deceased

(4) Deceased

(5) Deceased

(6) Deceased

451st WEB SITE

Jonathan Tudor is actively adding content to the 451st web site. The URL is: <http://451st.org/>

The site includes;

- Photos
- Rosters
- Veteran stories
- Mission history
- News Letter Archive
- Ad Lib Archive
- Reunion Information

The Ad-Lib was the original publication of the 451st Bomb Group compiled and published by former Bomb Group Manager Bob Karstensen from 1978 – 2011.

Adding the Ad Lib's to the web site is a work in-progress.

Jonathan does not have copies of the initial Ad Libs, No 1 through 11. If you have some or all of these Ad Libs and would be willing to loan them to Jonathan, that would be much appreciated. He would scan the newsletters and post the images to the web. The originals would be returned to you.

Please contact Jonathan if you can assist with the missing Ad Libs.

You can also help by supplying pictures and stories that can be added to the site.

Jonathan Tudor can be contacted at:

Email b24xtrajoker@gmail.com

Phone: 207.730.0465

Address: 222 East Promenade #6, Portland ME 04101

FROM THE ARCHIVES – THE ISLAND OF VIS

Introduction by Jonathan Tudor - Vis is a small Croatian island in the Adriatic Sea, one half the size of Washington DC. It is located approximately 125 miles north of Castelluccio, where the 451st operated from in WWII. This island has always interested me due to its significance to our crews as a landing area for planes unable to make it back to base.

The article appeared in Ad Lib Issue 39 produced by Bob Karstensen. Below is an excerpt from that original article.

“The coordinates, latitude 43⁰, 10’ North, longitude 16⁰, 8’ East, has a special meaning to the 451st Bomb Group air crews. These coordinates define the location of the Isle of Vis (pronounced Vees). Vis played an important role in the history of World War II by providing a safe haven for Fifteenth Air Force air crews returning from missions to Austria, Poland, Hungary and other targets; some with malfunctioning or badly damaged aircraft, or those not having enough fuel to make it safely back to our base. On one especially hectic day, 37 B-24s landed at Vis. The first use of Vis by the 451st is not recorded in our files, nor the total number of 451st aircraft that sought sanctuary there. But the numbers have to be significant. On many occasions the aircraft would have to be left on the island for repairs, sometimes to be scrapped or just a stop made to refuel. When an aircraft had to be left behind, crews would sometimes return with a plane from another Group or be taken to Bari by boat.

While mainly remembered by the 451st as a port in a storm, Vis was much more than just that, and very unusual in a number of ways. It was manned by individuals from the US Army Air Forces, the British Royal Air Force and tech representatives working together for a common cause. Vis was not only a place where damaged or out of fuel aircraft could land, it was also used as an operational base for Allied aircraft.

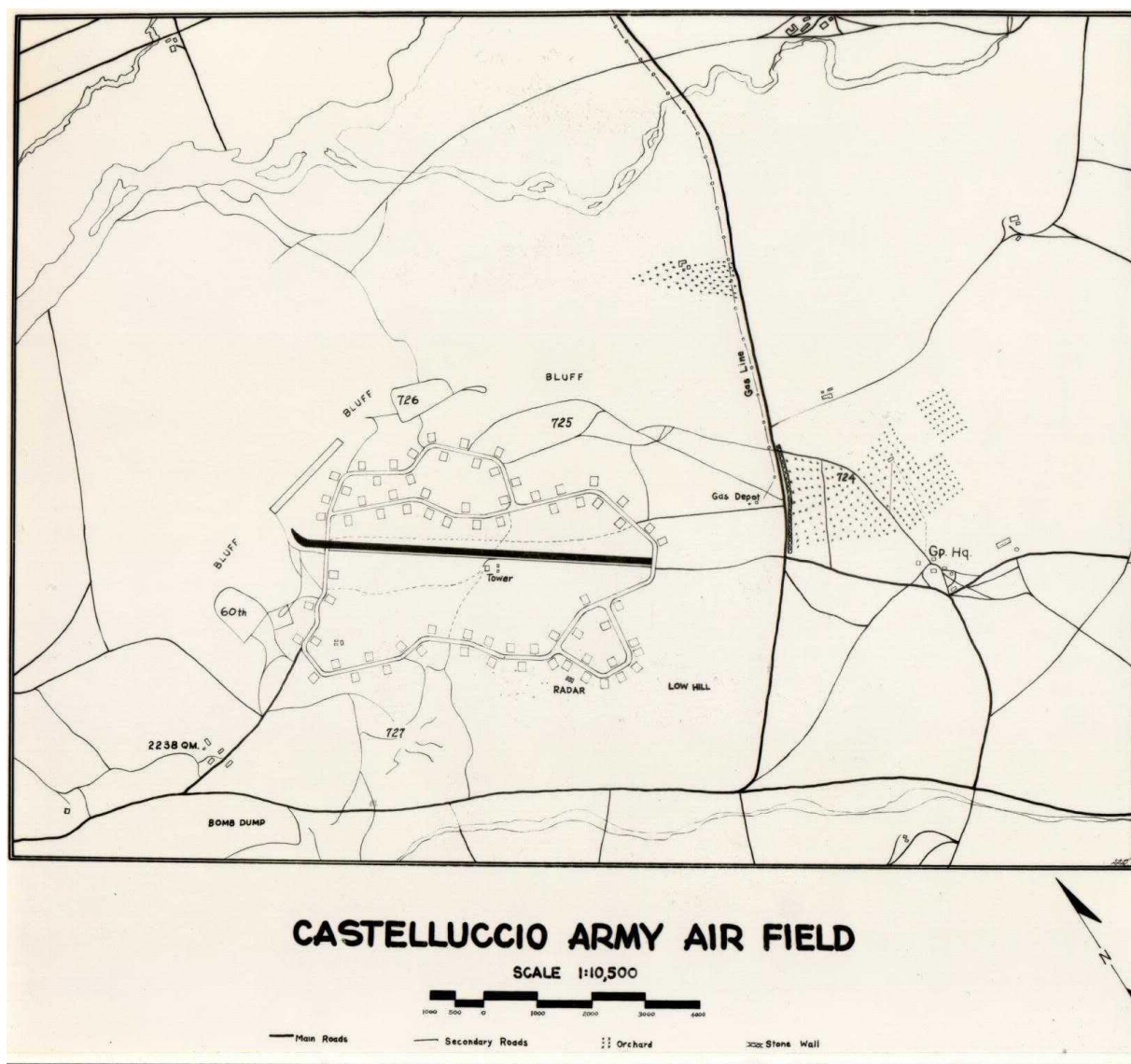
Yugoslavia was invaded by the Germans on 6 April 1941, with its surrender on 17 April. An agreement was reached whereby the territory was partitioned, with a new Croat State established under Italian control. Vis was liberated by Tito’s Partisan’s in September 1943 and was later used by Tito as a base for direct operations against German troops in Yugoslavia. The Allies requested and were given permission by Vrhovni Stab NOVJ (Supreme Command of Yugoslav Partisan Forces) to build and equip an emergency landing strip and base on the island of Via.

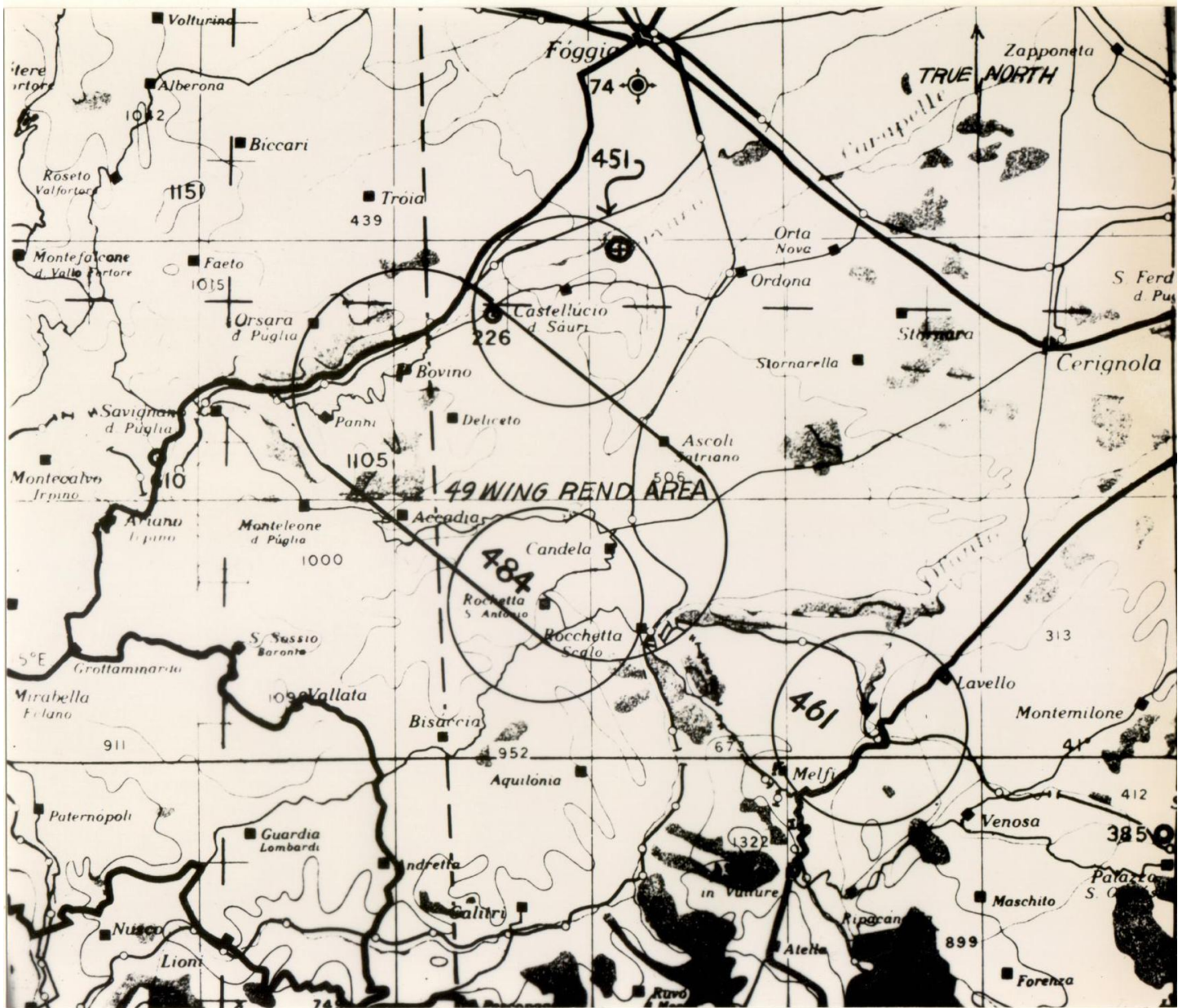
In January 1944, a British Commando Unit arrived on Vis with a radio station for communications with US and British aircraft. In April 1944, a 3,500’ steel matting runway was constructed along with hardstands, defense, and other facilities to service and repair aircraft. The runway on Vis was situated on a flat area between low rocky mountains, bordered by farm homes, barns and vineyards.

The accommodations were not luxurious, but adequate. Vis was home to a variety of aircraft and units over a period of time.

In early May 1944, a Squadron of Spitfires was based at Vis for defense. However, German aircraft never reached Vis. Eventually, Vis was equipped with salvage teams, first aid and medical personnel, a fire fighting unit, aircraft repair teams, a hospital, heavy truck and bulldozer units for removing crashed planes from the airstrip. From July to September 1944, 215 Allied aircraft landed on Vis, of which 204 were repaired and flown out. ...The Island of Vis will be remembered by many for its contribution to winning the air war in Europe and the Balkans...."

451st AIRFIELD LOCATION

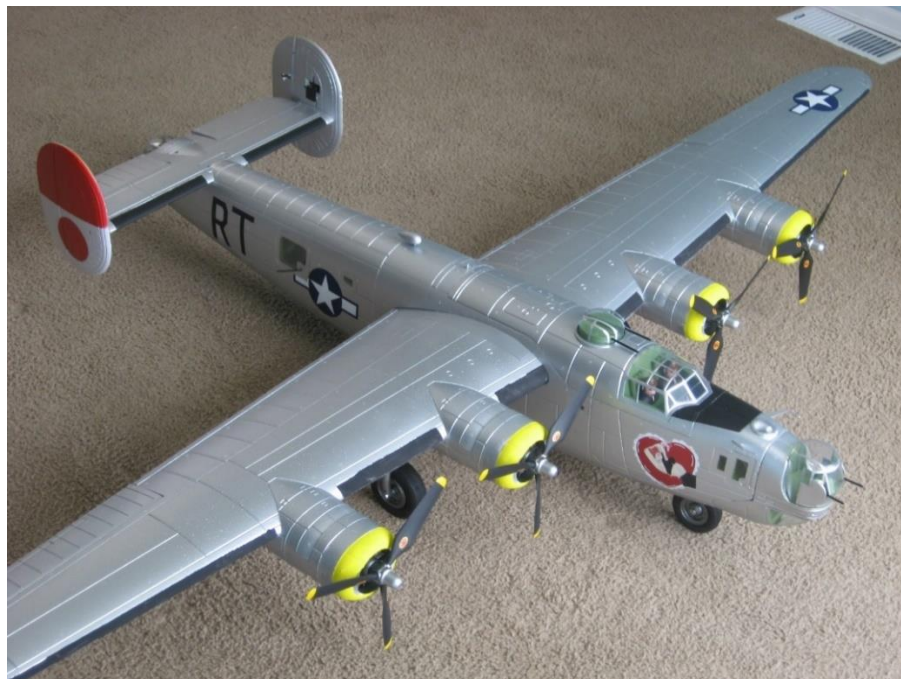




WES NELSON B24 MODELS

Per Wes Nelson, a great way to get more familiar with the B24 is to build a model.

He has built a radio controlled B24 model. It is factory made of Styrofoam, has a 78" wingspan and has 4 electric motors. He changed the tail markings to the 451st colors but the "RT" and the nose art are from another bomb group. He hasn't flown it yet as weather here in Colorado hasn't been conducive to the maiden flight of a model of such beauty.



NATHAN MCKINNEY – SEEING THE B24 IN PERSON

Recently, the Collings Foundation Wings of Freedom tour came to Waco Texas. Nathan McKinney, his sister, and son, Mike went to see the B24. Nathan was able to spend time talking to the B24 crew. The crew loved talking to him.

Nathan McKinney & B-24 Witchcraft



The Wings of Freedom Tour showcases World War II planes and provides private flights. It is a real treat to see these planes in person. Listed below is a partial schedule of the sights for the Wings of Freedom tour sights. Please be sure to check it out if coming to city near you.

Visit the website for a complete list of events, date/times and admission fees:

<http://www.collingsfoundation.org/events/category/wings-of-freedom-tour/>

City	Location	Date(s)
Camarillo, CA	Camarillo Airport	May 4 th – 6 th
Santa Ana, CA	John Wayne Airport	May 9 th – 13 th
Mountain View, CA	Moffett Federal Airport	May 18 th – 26 th
Livermore, CA	Livermore Municipal Airport	May 27 th – 28 th
Ft Collins, CO	Fort Collins-Loveland Aiport	July 13 th
Akron-Canton, OH	Akron-Canton Regional Airport	August 10 th -12 th
Cape May, NJ	Cape May Country Airport	August 31 st – Sept. 5 th

BOMB GROUPS REUNION**September 13—16, 2018 Dayton, Ohio**

Veteran's Highest Rank Attained _____

Name _____ Group _____ Squadron _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Names as they are to appear on name tags: _____

Registration fee	# people _____ @ \$25.00 each	Sub Total \$ _____
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH—Tour National Museum of the US Air Force—and Military Memorial Ceremony

people _____ @ \$15.00 each Sub Total \$ _____

Individual Group Dinners

Prime Rib	# people _____ @ \$41.00 each	Sub Total \$ _____
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Grilled Salmon	# people _____ @ \$37.00 each	Sub Total \$ _____
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Eggplant Parmesan	# people _____ @ \$30.00 each	Sub Total \$ _____
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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH**All Groups Banquet**

New York Strip	# people _____ @ \$41.00 each	Sub Total \$ _____
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Rosemary Lemon Chicken	# people _____ @ \$34.50 each	Sub Total \$ _____
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Pasta Primavera	# people _____ @ \$30.00 each	Sub Total \$ _____
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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH

Return to National Museum of the US Air Force	# people _____ @ \$15.00 each	Sub Total \$ _____
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Lunch on your own today.

Dayton Art Institute with lunch (on your own) and shopping at

Second Street Market	# people _____ @ \$10.00 each	Sub Total \$ _____
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Taste of Italy Buffet	# people _____ @ \$37.00 each	Sub Total \$ _____
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Do you need a wheelchair? Yes _____ No _____	GRAND TOTAL \$ _____
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Emergency Contact _____ Phone # _____

Please send this form along with your check payable to 451 Bomb Group Reunion no later than September 1st to:

Susan Prince | 14 Reservation Road | Andover, MA 01810

Susan Tudor Prince
451st Bomb Group
14 Reservation Road
Andover, MA 01810