

Bushy Tales

Dedicated to all who attended London Central High School
at Bushy Park, London England from
1952 to 1962



Issue #7

July 2026

Volume #26

Gary Schroeder (55), Founding Editor (1936-2016)
Bill Rumble, Co-Editor email: BushyTales1@verizon.net
Pat Terpening (58) Owen, Co-Founder and Co-Editor email: nemoamasa@sbcglobal.net
Visit the Bushy Park Website at <http://www.bushypark.org/>

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES



1953 – Marcia (Craver) Thomas
txstarmt@aol.com



1958 – Pat (Terpening) Owen
nemoamasa@sbcglobal.net

1954 – *Betsy (Neff) Cote (d. 2024)*

1959 – *John “Mike” Hall (d. 2024)*

1955 – *Nancie Anderson (d. 2016)*



1960 – Ren Briggs
rpbjr42@gmail.com



1956 – Edie (Williams) Wingate
WingW@aol.com



1961 – Betsy (Schley) Slepetz
bslepetz@comcast.net

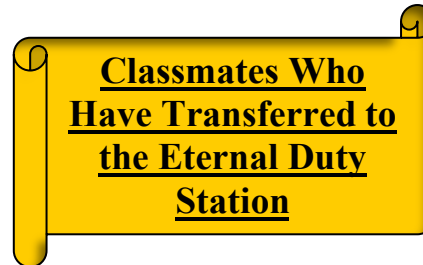


1957 – William Douglas
rwmdouglas@gmail.com



1962 – Dona (Hale) Ritchie
Dona.Ritchie@att.net

A little reminder to all –if/when you change your email address, please let Pat Terpening (58) Owen nemoamasa@sbcglobal.net or me know, if you want to continue to receive the newsletter. Too many times we only find out when you send us an email saying you haven't received the newsletter in few months. Thanks, guys.



Chauncey Kathryn Love (61)

Minden, LA Memorial services for Chauncey Kathryn Love will be held Monday, March 19, 2018 at 2 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Minden, Louisiana with Rev. Terry Love officiating. The family will receive friends at 1 p.m. Monday at the church until service time. Chauncey was born March 11, 1943 in Shreveport, Louisiana and entered into rest March 16, 2018 in Bossier City, Louisiana. She is survived by her husband, Mickey Love of Minden, sons, Jeff Love and wife Mary Beth of Niceville, Florida and Chris Love of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, daughter, Holley Love of Minden, sister, Suzanne Horton and husband Jim of Baton Rouge, brother, Tommy Holden, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to St Jude Children's Hospital. Rose-Neath Funeral Home 211 Murrell Street Minden, Louisiana 71055

Kathy's father transferred to the Pentagon in Arlington County, Virginia for several years and Kathy attended Wakefield High School, transferring out in the summer of 1960, after her Junior year, but made a lasting impression on a number of her classmates who fondly remember her to this day.

###



Dorothy Ann “Dot” (Smith) Lalla, 79, Southington, CT, passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 19, 2024 at the Southington Care Center. She was the beloved wife of Alexander A. Lalla for 61 years.

Dorothy was born in Clifton, South Carolina on September 26, 1944 to the late Ward and Mae (Wright) Smith and had been a longtime Southington resident. As the daughter of a career military service man, she had the opportunity to see many different parts of the world in her younger years. She worked as a telephone operator at SNET and enjoyed camping in Clinton with her family. She was an excellent baker and “Grandma Dot’s Cheesecake” will never be forgotten. Dot was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and sister who will be deeply missed.

In addition to her husband Al, she is survived by three children; John Lalla and wife Nancy of Southington, Mark Lalla of Burlington, Susie Shallow of Plainville and Deborah Reinhard and husband John of Cheshire, 5 grandchildren; John Lalla of Plantsville, Christina Reinhard and Michael Pattison of Cheshire, Kyle Lalla and husband Tim Molnar of Plainville, Kevin Lalla of Hartford and Rebecca Stonkus and husband John Tucker of Torrington and one cherished great-

granddaughter, Ella Mae. She is also survived by her sister, Norma Jean Blanton of SC and many nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her sister, Peggy Hinnenkamp.

Dot's family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the entire staff at the Southington Care Center for their kindness and the excellent care they provided.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Dot's memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 (<https://www.stjude.org/>).

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at St. Dominic's Church, 1050 Flanders Rd., Southington. Burial will follow in St. Thomas Cemetery, Southington. Calling hours will be held before the Mass from 9 – 10:30 a.m. at the Plantsville Funeral Home, 975 S. Main St., Plantsville. For online condolences and directions, please visit www.plantsvillefuneralhome.com

Memories of Bushy Park

Robert Harrold (60) maintains a Bushy Park website at this link: BushyPark.org Among the things you can see at this website is a "Guestbook", in which many website visitors have left comments. There are many entries, dating back to April 2007. Here is a direct link: [Bushy Park Guest Book](#)



Letters to the Editor



Babs Odbert (60) Lizotte

Babs Lizotte at 80 years old.
1960 Graduate.



###



Patti Fawbush (58) Webb

I loved what you wrote about our friend, Pete. I remember him well. Henry and I visited him at the Abby. We went to chapel with him. He came to Nashville for a conference at Opryland Hotel, and we picked him up. We took him to our favorite Bar-B-Q place for ribs!! I sure miss his Christmas stories.

Patti

###



Lindsay Ervin (60)

Hi Pat and Bill,

Thanks for all your hard work. I'm sure everybody receiving these monthly letters loves to hear about those we knew when we were at Bushy Park. I've been living in Lovettsville, VA , with my family for two years now. I've recently had contact with two friends from Bushy, Julie Williams Balloun and Mike "Willie" Perkins. They are both doing well, and it was good to hear from them. I have been doing Golf Course Design for many years and still do. If anybody needs information about my company, or if they are involved in any golf course design or renovations, please go to ASGCA.ORG and look for Lindsay Ervin in the member search; you will find all the information about my company and me. Best to all of you who attended Bushy Park.

Lindsay Ervin

###



Edwina Edwards (61) Whitehead

Dear Bill,

Several years ago, I finally dug into my father's old footlocker where photos, newspaper clippings, letters, V-Mail, and other mementos were stored. With both parents long since passed, I had nothing but vague memories to inform me. As I read those letters and V-Mail, I was inspired and curious to find out more about my father's WWII experience. With what little I knew, I began to research and record, and came up with the following record of my father's service in England during WWII. I hope you enjoy it.

Edwina Edwards Whitehead '61

**

In My Father's Footsteps in WW II

In late 1954, my father, a career Air Force enlisted man, was assigned to a 4-year tour in England. My mother and I joined him in April 1955. That tour, like the former one in Japan, proved to be some of my most rewarding years with experiences that have enriched my life to this day.



As a 10-year-old, I had watched the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on our neighbor's 17-inch cathode ray tube TV in 1953 and was thrilled by the pomp and regal elegance of the British culture. With high expectations, I was not disappointed when I began to explore the kingdom's ancient sites. As an added bonus, I learned that my American school for the next 3 years was located at Bushy Park, the WW2 headquarters of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, a place where crucial decisions were made in the conduct of the war.

In our first year in England, Daddy took Mother and me to his former "camp" where he served from Sept. 1942 until, at least, Nov. 1944. As I was only 13 years-old at the time of our visit, I did not fully understand the significance of the site and did not remember the name of the camp or the area of England where it was located. Even after several visits to England in my adult years, the location of Daddy's former "home" was a mystery to me.

However, after a recent probe into an old footlocker stored in my garage, I discovered a number of old V-Mail letters from my father to my mother that, along with other found documents, gradually revealed the location of my father's English home, the location where Daddy had taken us so long ago. For those who do not know, V-Mail, short for Victory Mail was a hybrid mail process used by the United States during the Second World War as the primary and secure method to correspond with soldiers stationed overseas. As part of a national security measure, each outgoing letter, whether regular mail or V-Mail, which passed through military post offices was carefully censored for confidential material. V-Mail letter sheets were sent through a series of machines that flattened

the paper and prepared it to be shrunk onto microfilm. After carefully arranging the letters in chronological order by date, my father's years in England began to be revealed.

Daddy first arrived at Membury, Berkshire, England in Sept. 1942. He was with the 153rd Liaison Squadron, a reconnaissance group with light airplanes that, in Nov. 1942, was placed at Station 471, Keevil Airfield, 4 miles east of Trowbridge, Wiltshire, England, where he served in the supply section. <https://www.416th.com/2911.html>



RAF Keevil (Royal Ordnance Survey Photo)

Steeple Ashton, a small “one-pub town,” was on one side of the field, and Keevil, a similar tiny town, was on the other side of the field. The RAF also used the field to test late-model Spitfire fighter aircraft. The 153rd was later changed to the 2911th Bomb Squadron, a squadron attached to the 67th Tactical Reconnaissance Group. Daddy's group was later changed back to the 153rd.



Boreham Airfield, England

Daddy's last letter (Nov. 27, 1944) shows another designation. It reads, “161 Rep. Co., 131 Rep. Bn. AAF.” If my research is correct, it was a “replacement” company located at RAF Station Boreham near Chelmsford in Essex. But, because my research is limited and incomplete, I cannot be sure of this fact. Daddy's curious note at the top of his letter, “Somewhere in England,” may have been his way of telling Mother that he had moved to another camp.

With reverence to the memory of so many young men who served and died in the war, I began to read what my father wrote in the hope that I might understand his mindset during that unequalled experience. I discovered that, like most of those young men, his requests were for the basics—letters from home, personal necessities, financial concerns, photos of the wife and new baby, news about friends and family and things that would help him escape the loneliness and fear of being in a foreign country during wartime.

Before his arrival in England, Daddy had enlisted in the Army Air Corps. in Meridian, MS, on Oct. 15, 1940. I guess that he did his basic training at Key Field in Meridian and, then, transferred to numerous camps stateside between Dec. 1941 and Sept. 1942. Among them were Wilmington, N. C., Camp Livingston, LA. (now closed), Camp Beauregard, LA. (later renamed Esler Field), and Trenton, N. J. After that, his return address was an APO number, so I do not know where he was before he embarked for England. What I am sure of is that, in April 1942, he either had a furlough to Meridian, or Mother was able to join him where he was stationed. It was at that time that I was conceived! Mother and Daddy had married on Oct. 5, 1940, the same month he had enlisted.

1942:

The first of my father's V-Mail letters was written on Sept. 18, 1942. However, I have other regular letters (not V-Mail), including a Western Union telegram dated Sept. 19, 1942, stating, “All well and safe. Please don't worry. Love and kisses, Edwin Edwards.” His following letter, postmarked Sept. 17, 1942, confirms his arrival in England. “I can't say where we are located,” he said, “but I don't think it's a military secret to say this is a beautiful country.” I was curious as to why some of his letters were not processed as V-Mail, even though they were stamped and signed by a military censor. His letter of Oct. 14, 1942, revealed that he was trying to see which method would arrive quicker. I guess that V-Mail was the better way as I found only 4 or 5 regular letters after that.

I first thought it odd that in his early letters in Sept. 1942 he was a bit formal in his address to my mother (“Dear Totsy,” Mother's nickname, or “Dear Earlene”) and his closing (“Love, EEE or

Edwin Edwards"). Beginning in Oct. 1942, however, he began his letters with, "My darling Wife," and ended with "I love you, Jim." I suspected that, in the beginning, he was concerned about the censors reading his sweet-talk to his wife. My suspicion was confirmed in his letter of Oct. 14, 1942, when he said, "As you already know, all my mail is censored. I can't say, or don't want to talk about personal things as much (as) I would if it wasn't censored." Apparently, after that, he was no longer concerned.

In most of his letters in late 1942, Daddy mentions "Jr." He and Mother were anticipating my arrival and were, obviously, thinking boy. There was even a Christmas card that he addressed to "E. E. Edwards, Jr." and signed it, "Dad." His letter of Dec. 22, 1942, indicates that I was expected any day. "Speaking of Jr., it's about time for him to arrive in the world. I hope you two won't have any trouble and don't stay in the hospital for long."



In the same letter, Daddy includes a clipping from the armed forces newspaper. "I am sending you a clipping from the Stars and Stripes. That observer outfit seems to like brats. It's easy to guess that was us." It was, indeed, Daddy's squadron, and he talks about the child in a later letter in 1943.

June 18, 1943: "The baby boy that our squadron adopted gave us a short visit a few days ago. An American Red Cross woman was with him and his mother. They stayed during lunch time."

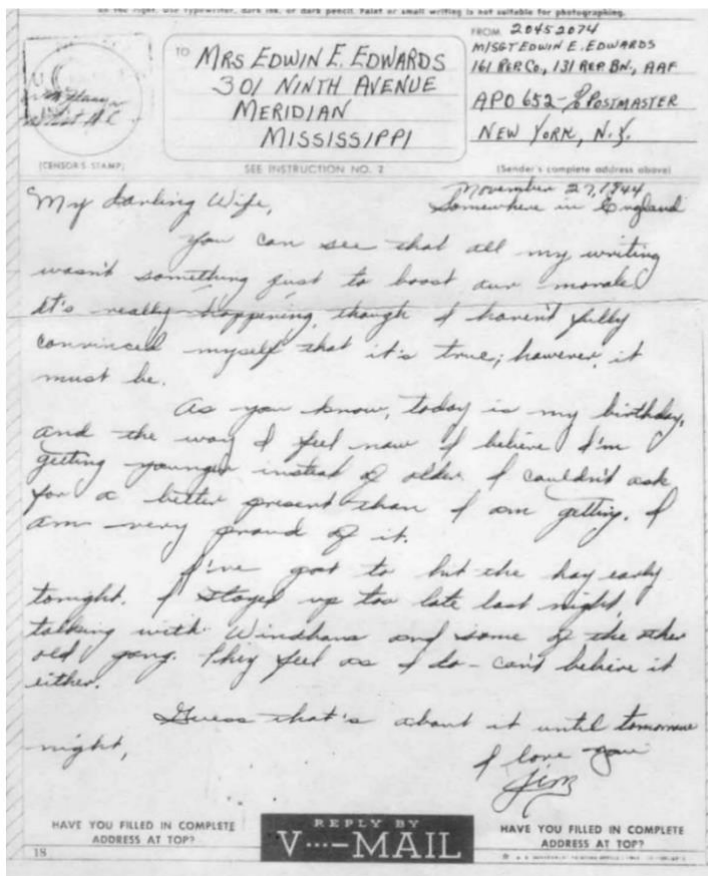
If you are unfamiliar with the term, "Brat," you may be surprised to learn that it is not as pejorative as one might think. BRAT originated as an acronym for British Regiment Attached Traveler and was assigned to families who were able to travel abroad with a soldier. Eventually, it just referred to military children. The term stuck, and was adopted in many places around the world, including the U.S.

1943:

January of 1943 was the month of my birth, and most of the letters that year included me in the conversation. Yet, many of his letters were about what he did on his days off, such as visiting nearby Bath, or mundane things like washing clothes. Daddy also talked a lot about his and Mother's finances.

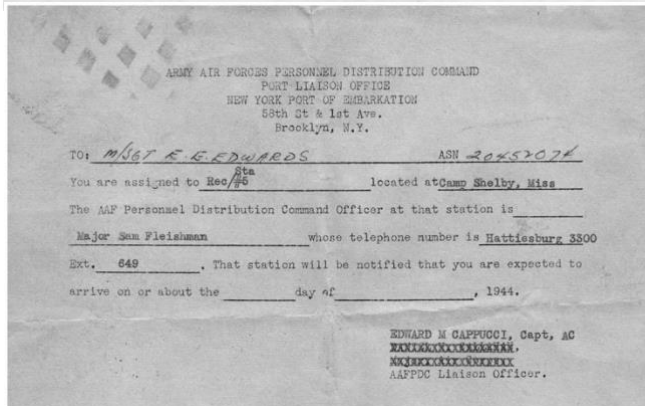
1944:

I have found very few V-Mail letters from 1944 (3 in January and 2 in February and a final one in November) and only one regular letter in January. I have a vague recollection of Daddy telling me that he had been on the continent and had experienced some shelling. He said, "I was very scared." I can only guess where he was or why. I found a slip of paper, dated Sept. 5, 1944, on which the Adjutant General's seal designates "Paris" as a location. I don't remember any further conversation on the subject, but an absence from his former English post and the scarcity of letters could indicate a different assignment. I only remember a few items that he brought home—a cuckoo clock, a German beer stein, a Nazi gravy ladle, and a bottle of Chanel #5 perfume. The liberation of Paris had occurred on Aug. 25, 1944, after 4 years of occupation by the Germans, so the purchase of German and French memorabilia would make sense. On the other hand, those items could have been purchased between 1948 and 1949 when Daddy was in Germany during the Berlin Airlift. If only I had known the questions to ask when my father was alive.



November 27, 1944:

This is the last of Daddy's V-Mail letters prior to the end of the war. It was written on his birthday. His company designation and APO had changed, and I can only assume that his location had changed as well. He reveals only that he is "Somewhere in England." D-Day had occurred on June 6, 1944, just 5 plus months before this letter. But something was changing. "You can see that all my writing wasn't something just to boost our moral. It's really happening, though I haven't fully convinced myself that it's true; however, it must be." He had stayed up late the night before talking with his old gang who had enlisted with him. "They feel as I do—can't believe it either."



From other papers I found, I learned that Daddy returned home the following month, December 1944, after fulfilling his 4-year obligation. On a departure schedule sheet dated December 21, 1944, Daddy was instructed that he would leave the New York Port of Embarkation at Camp Kilmer, New Brunswick, New Jersey on December 23, 1944. From there, he would travel by train to his next assignment, Camp Shelby in Mississippi. Shelby was designated as Rec. Station #5.

630
to
800
M only
- in morning

R E S T R I C T E D

ARMY SERVICE FORGES
New York Port of Embarkation
Camp Kilmer
New Brunswick, New Jersey

JGF/rgs

OKI

DEPARTURE SCHEDULE NUMBER 298-D

21 December 1944

TO: ALL CONCERNED.

The following schedule for 23 December 1944 is published for information only. Final instructions will be furnished by Post Transportation Officer at 1000 hours, 23 December 1944, in Bldg. 102.

TRAIN NO. 2-D TRACK NO. 4

Return Bedding - - - - - 0800
Trash & Ash Trucks Arrive Area (Units Furnish Details) - - 1155-1255
Special Mealtime - - - - - None
Box Lunches - - - - - None
Baggage Trucks Arrive in Area - - - - - 1355
Troops Form in Area - - - - - 1410
Troops Depart Area - - - - - 1440
Troops Arrive Railhead - - - - - 1500
Train Departs - - - - - 1530

RECEPTION STATION GROUP	AREA	OFF.	W.O.	N.	E.M.
<u>FT DIX</u>					
E 84-2	1	24	-	-	51
E 85-2	"	33	-	-	37
E 86-2	"	16	-	-	25
E 87-2	"	19	-	-	40
<u>FT MEADE</u>					
E 84-3	"	5	-	-	9
E 85-3	"	3	-	-	7
E 86-3	"	6	-	-	6
E 87-3	"	5	-	-	7
<u>FT BRAGG</u>					
E 84-4	"	3	-	-	6
E 85-4	"	2	-	-	4
E 86-4	"	3	-	-	4
E 87-4	"	3	-	-	2
<u>CP SHELBY</u>					
E 84-5	"	-	-	-	3
E 85-5	"	1	-	-	9
E 86-5	"	3	-	-	2
E 87-5	"	-	-	-	4
<u>FT McPHERSON</u>					
E 84-15	"	2	-	-	11
E 85-15	"	7	-	-	8
E 86-15	"	8	-	-	3
E 87-15	"	9	-	-	10

The tentative car assignment for the above groups is as follows:

- Car A - - - - - Cp Shelby
- " B & C - - - - Ft McPherson
- " D - - - - - Ft Bragg
- " E - - - - - Ft Meade
- Cars F, G, H & I - Ft Dix

The above schedule does not include Miscellaneous Group Personnel, who may be added prior to departure.

By order of Colonel RUTLEDGE:

J. G. Peters
J. G. PETERS,
Lt. Col., T.C.,
Chief, Operations Div.

R E S T R I C T E D



1945 Timeline: The War in Europe After D-Day

Seventy-five years ago, the Allied armies of World War II launched the largest land, air, and sea operation ever undertaken, called "Overlord." On D-Day, a force more than 150,000 troops strong invaded occupied France to fight the German army. A timeline of events following D-Day:

*"U.S. Army troops wade ashore on Normandy's Omaha Beach during the D-Day landings.
National Archives"*

June 6, 1944: An Allied force of more than 150,000 troops, 5,000 ships, and 800 aircraft assaulted 50 miles of northern France's Normandy coastline. More than 4,000 Allied troops die, and 6,000 are wounded, but the Allies succeed in breaching Hitler's coastal defense of France.

June 26, 1944: The Allies capture the French port of Cherbourg; the Germans are on the retreat.

August 25, 1944: Allied troops, with the help of the French resistance led by Gen. Charles de Gaulle, liberated Paris after four years of German occupation.

Dec. 16, 1944: The Battle of the Bulge, the last German offensive on the Western Front, begins. Hitler orders a quarter-million troops across Luxembourg to push back the Allied forces. German troops advance 50 miles into the Allied lines, creating a deadly "bulge" into Allied defenses.

Jan. 16, 1945: The Battle of the Bulge ends with a defeat and retreat for Germany as its supplies grow short and its forces are overcome by Allied resistance.

Feb. 4, 1945: U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin meet at Yalta in the Crimea. The U.S. and Britain agree to allow Stalin to control Eastern Europe after the war ends.

March 1945: German forces retreat into Germany as U.S. troops cross the Rhine on the country's Western Front.

April 30, 1945: As Soviet forces from the Eastern Front encircle Berlin, Hitler, in a bombproof bunker, poisons his mistress, Eva Braun, and shoots himself. Their bodies are hastily cremated in a garden.

May 7, 1945: U.S. Gen. Dwight Eisenhower accepts Germany's unconditional surrender at Reims, France. At midnight on

May 8, 1945: The war in Europe is officially over.

<https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1922306>

--FINIS--