

Ball of Fire QUARTERLY EXPRESS



NEWSLETTER OF THE 93rd BOMB GROUP
2nd Air Division, 8th Air Force, Hardwick, England
www.93bg.com

Vol. 23 No. 3

Fall 2015

Greetings from Omaha 2015 93BG Association Reunion Attendees



**2016 Reunion
October 13 – 16, 2016
San Antonio, Texas**

Next year, the 93rd Bomb Group Association will hold its 16th separate reunion at the Doubletree by Hilton, San Antonio Airport. Some features for your consideration:

- * Average October temperatures: 61 – 83 degrees
- * King, Queen or 2 Doubles - \$99.00
 - * Includes Complimentary Airport Shuttle
 - * On site Dining – Cascabel Restaurant
 - * Meeting Room and Hospitality Room on Same Floor
 - * Spanish style courtyard with outdoor pool
 - * Complimentary parking
- * Located about 8 miles from Alamo and Riverwalk



Mark your calendars and plan to be a part of the 2016 reunion. More information to follow in future editions.



Remember the Alamo

Table of Contents

President's Corner.....	4
Hot Stuff Memorial News.....	5
Folded Wings.....	6
News From the Eck Family.....	16
93 rd BG Reunion Omaha NE	17
Annual Meeting Minutes.....	18
Treasurer's Report.....	21
Greetings from the 93 rd BG Historian (Request for information).....	24
93rd BG Website.....	25
Hardwick Documentary.....	26
Post Exchange (PX).....	28
Your Post Exchange (PX) Order Form.....	29
93 rd BG Ball of Fire Quarterly Express Subscription Form.....	30

DIRECTORY

2014 - 2016 OFFICERS

President – **JIM ROOT**

15359 Red Fox Walk, West Olive, MI 49460
616-399-5990; jamesdavidroot@aol.com

Vice President – **JOHN MARX**

109 Clearview St., Beaver Falls, PA 15010
724-843-3897; 109clearview@verizon.net

Secretary - **NICK TIMMER**

5615 Circle Dr. Newaygo, MI 49337
231 652-2309; timmer@netpenny.net

Treasurer – **JIM GUDDAL**

P.O. Box 47336, Plymouth, MN 55447
763-694-9058; jguddal@yahoo.com

Membership – **JEAN KOZNAREK**

2644 W. Park Blvd., Shaker Heights, OH 44120
216-702-8430; jkoz54@aol.com
member93bg@aol.com

Assistant Treasurer - **NANCY GRIMES STRANGER**

970-945-2883; nancystranger@hotmail.com
783 N. Sedona Court, Grand Junction, CO 81506

OTHER CRITICAL ROLES

Web Master – **MICHAEL SELLERS**

565 Carroll St. Apt #4, Brooklyn, NY 11215
917-975-7162; mtsellers@mac.com

PX Manager – **PETER ASCH**

979 South Ridge Ct., Traverse City, MI 49696
231 933 8405 pcasch@charter.net

Historian – **DON MORRISON**

1375 West Comet Rd, Clinton, OH 44216
Home 330-882-2536; Cell 330-415-2222
doniac1967@sbcglobal.net

Ball of Fire, Editor – **DON MORRISON** (See Historian)

Ball of Fire "Mailman"- **GEORGE JUNG**

Distribution Support
2420 Route 17 A, Goshen, NY 10924
845 346 6551 bofmailman@gmail.com

Convention/Reunion Coordinator – **JOHN MARX** (see Vice President)

VETERAN'S ADVISORY BOARD

FERNLEY SMITH
GEORGE MCLEAN
RAY ECK

REUNION COMMITTEE

JOE & PHYLLIS DURAN
309 E. Santa Paula St., Santa Paula, CA 93060
805-525-4681; dogpatchraider@gmail.com

FRED WIER

16 Woodfield Rd., Wellesley, MA 02482
781-235-0253; fredwier@verizon.net

BILL SARGENT

1458 Locust St., Denver, CO 80220
303-945-5418; joyridecp@msn.com

President's Corner

Well, another fabulous reunion this year! Thank you to our veterans, our attendees, our executive team, and special thanks to John Marx for the planning and “up front” work to make it happen! We had a total of 86 attendees throughout the reunion, including 10 veterans! It was great to see our 93rd family so active and able to carry on the 93rd legacy!

You can read more about the results of the reunion events further in this BOF issue and on the website (www.93bg.com).

You never know how a mutual connection can be made at our reunions – especially face-to-face! One example is my sister Beth (Root) King, sitting on the bus, going to Boys Town, early in the reunion, and right in front of us a new attendee, Gail (Brannan) Mailloux were introducing themselves. Then my sister said “Gail, I spent the night in your house, the 1st couple of nights of college at Fayetteville, Arkansas, in 1964”!! Gail said “I must have been only 8 or 9”! Talk about another “WOW” moment! Due to our mutual father's being in the 93rd BG, our dad had arranged for Beth to stay there when she first came to college! Beth described the house, location, family members, cars, etc.... It is another great example of the extended 2nd generation “93d BG family”! Gail had also been to the Hardwick reunion in May, and talked about her experience there!

Be looking in your mailbox in the next 4 weeks for the 8” X 10” group photo print, and a highlight DVD!

Thanks again to a great team and membership! See you next year in San Antonio!

Jim Root



Hotstuff/Gen. Andrews Memorial Monument News

Great News! There is now more than \$47,000 in the *Hot Stuff* / Gen. Andrews Memorial Monument Fund.

The monument fund received significant donations from two Iceland companies, ProPack and ISAVIA. At a time when it seems America is being blamed for all the world's ills, it is wonderful to know there are people in Iceland, Sweden and France supporting a project honoring Americans.

Sculptor Terry Hinde is making great progress on the stainless steel sculpture of the B-24 Liberator *Hot Stuff*. It will have an eight foot wing span and weigh close to four hundred pounds when completed in December 2015. It will be the centerpiece of the *Hot Stuff*/Gen. Andrews Memorial monument. Terry will be including a piece of stainless steel recovered from *Hot Stuff* in the model.

It is known that Lt. Gen. Andrews was in line for promotion when he died. Andrews was from Nashville, Tennessee. His promotion to general posthumously would not be setting a precedent. Gen. Billy Mitchell, considered one of the fathers of the United States Air Force, was promoted posthumously by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The book, *BEFORE THE BELLE* a historical narrative about *Hot Stuff* written by Cassius and Betty Mullen is finished. It is scheduled for release in late October and will be available for purchase at Barnes and Noble, Amazon.com, iTunes and Googleplay. Jim will send out a special announcement as soon as the date of release is established. Cash and Betty will donate a percentage the proceeds from the book to the Memorial Monument Fund. The book will make an excellent Christmas gift!

A letter will be sent to Tennessee Senators Bob Corker and Lamar Alexander requesting their help in having Lt. Gen. Andrews receive his fourth star posthumously. Jim sent an email to retired military and *Hot Stuff* family members asking them for their support for the project and he received an overwhelmingly positive response. Their names will be included in the letter. If you would to have your name added to the list, send your request to Jim via email at: hotstuff.memorial@gmail.com.

You can help by writing letters or by using the content of the attached letter and sending it to your Congressmen. Feel free to use Jim's name, address, email address and telephone number in the letter for further information:

James C. Lux
Manager, Memorial Monument Project
Member, 93rd Bombardment Group
Association
1409 Thaddeus Cove
Austin, TX 78746
hotstuff.memorial@gmail.com
Phone: 512-327-1750



Folded Wings

Ben Kuroki



Joe Duran and Ben Kuroki

Ben Kuroki folded his wings on September 1, 2015

Ben was a Nebraska-born Nisei. He would be the only Japanese American to fight in all four theaters during WWII. First as a gunner with 93rd BG, 409th SQ . One of their more memorable missions would be the low level Ploesti mission, Aug.1, 1943. He served a total of 58 missions 30 with the 93rd against Hitler, and 28 in the South Pacific against Japan. He would say that his 59th mission was the toughest. That one was to speak out against bigotry and racism at home.

Ben was a man of quite dignity, a very humble man. Probably one of the most humble men I've ever met. He also had an endearing sense of humor. On the other side, he had an immense determination to prove his loyalty to his Country. Even when that meant it had to be tried by fire, and it was. This attribute of his personality also carried over into his relationships with family and friends. If you ever needed to have someone watch your back, Ben would be the man.

In Ben's later years he received many honors and accolades of which he was always a little awe struck and humbled by. He was always quick to acknowledge others he felt who also needed recognition. Always recognizing the 93rd BG for their part. Honor where honor was due!

He was an extremely appreciative person, grateful for a wonderful life.

This man profoundly touched our lives. Thank you Ben for sharing your life lessons with us, you will always be our inspiration. Truly, Ben was one of our Most Honorable Sons. Until we met again.

Donald Barry



Phot of the John Faulkner crew. Don Barry is in the front, third from the left

Donald P. Barry of Webster, MA died August 1st, 2015 after a brief illness. Don was a member of the 93rd Bomb Group and served as a wing gunner on a B-24. He was a member of John Faulkner's crew and is the last surviving member of that crew. His crew flew 33 missions over Germany during the war. Following WWII, Don returned to MA and married his high school sweetheart and together they raised five children.

In October of 2014 Don attended his first and only reunion of the 93rd Bomb Group and thoroughly enjoyed it. He had hoped to return to Hardwick with the group this past spring but was not well enough to go.

His time in the Army Air Corps and serving during the war with his crew was a very important time in his life and he kept in contact with all the crew members and as his daughter I was fortunate enough to meet some of them over the years. He was good, kind and honest man and he will be missed.

Submitted by daughter, Anne Barry Mullen

John Sargent



John G. Sargent, 92, passed away peacefully at home on May 5, 2015 surrounded by his wife of 64 years and three children. John was a commemorated veteran, businessman, farmer, loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. His life on earth touched many and he was truly part of the greatest generation.

John was born on January 9, 1923 in Pasco, WA. to John T. and Mary Sargent. When he was a child the family moved to Salmon Creek, WA. There his life of farming began and he and his 10 siblings helped around the farm. In 1941 he graduated from Battle Ground High School. After graduating, John joined the war effort and entered the Army Air Corp and was a flight engineer aboard the B-24 Liberator with the 93rd Bombardment Group, Westover Field, England. While in service John earned several awards and declarations including the Air Medal, Flying Cross, three Oak Leaf Clusters, and award for efficiency. Though he served with honor and valor he never let his war effort define him.

After his discharge he enrolled at Washington State College earning a degree in Ag and Education. It was at WSC he met his life partner Marjorie McHugo. Promising to graduate prior to marriage he earned his degree on May 28th, 1950 and wed on May 29th. After his marriage, John and his new bride moved to Buckley, WA where he taught agriculture at Buckley High School. There he began his family where Colleen and Shirley were born. In 1956 the opportunity to move to Mt. Vernon, WA as a County Agent arose. It was here a lifetime love of the Skagit Valley began. Son Richard was born in 1963 and soon thereafter the family moved to Othello, WA to begin the irrigation business, which would bring water to the Columbia Basin. This business eventually expanded to pioneer the center-pivot irrigation system. Sargent Manufacturing would grow and ship pivots world-wide, bringing agriculture not only to the Northwest but to the Middle East transforming desert in Saudi Arabia and Libya to life. Though Othello provided many friends and great memories the Skagit Valley was where he wanted to retire.

John worked hard with the business and it was his pride, but his love was hunting, fishing and crabbing. This love kept him close to his childhood friends and those friendships carried into the sunset of his life. Favorite times were spent at Buoy 10, Tunk Mountain, Salmon Bank and the numerous lakes and fields of the Columbia Basin. A day of hunting and fishing was not complete without the storytelling afterwards and light wagering in between. Another talent or love was his farming and gardening. His gardens were bountiful and he was happy to share his harvest with friends, family and the senior center. His agricultural interests also included three tree farms with one becoming his final residence which also include figs, kiwi, various fruit trees and honey bees. John also loved to play bridge. He was a passionate bridge player and his weekly bridge sessions with his partners were significant.

John was part of a large family that included seven brothers and four sisters. He is preceded in death by his mother Mary and Father John Sargent and siblings Stanley, Ada, Louise, Ruth, Ona, Kenneth, Earle, and Harry. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie J. Sargent; brothers Herbert (Newberg, OR) and Gene (Burlington, WA); and children Colleen Sargent (Anacortes, WA); Shirley (Dennis) Brooks (Pasco, WA) and Richard (Nancy) Sargent (Richland, WA); and four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren

Submitted by Marge Sargent.

JAMES L. ADAMS



SHREVEPORT, LA- James L. Adams, born September 26, 1920 and passed this life January 9, 2015 at the age of 94.

He was a B-24 bomber pilot between 1942-1945 in the 2nd Air Division, 8th Army Air Corp, and 93rd Bomb Group. He first flew out of North Africa until finally stationed in Norwich, England where he flew 34 combat missions over Western Europe, including "D" Day. Amongst his numerous medals, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, Presidential and Air Forces Commendation medals, he qualified for France's Liberation medal, but never sought recognition. Like many of his generation, he rarely spoke of the war and what they went through. Only in his later years did he reveal stories of missions he'd carry with him forever. He retired a Lt. Colonel from the Air Force Reserve.

After the war he and mom settled in Shreveport and lovingly raised four boys: Jimmy, David, Tommy and Mark. Dad had several passions...talking, playing tennis, quail hunting, talking, his family and the outdoors in general and not necessarily in that order. Did we mention talking? If it was quail season the dogs knew it and so did Dad. No telling how many pointers and setters we had over a period of about 70 years. There was always a dog or three in the backyard pen.....and bless her heart, mom put up with Dad and his dogs. If indeed there is

a "dog heaven", they'll be waiting for him to whistle up and hit the fields. Till his late 80's, Dad could out walk any man that hunted with him, including his boys. He was an avid tennis player and was on the courts until he was 93. He played college tennis and won the state doubles championships late in his 40's and 50's. In his late 80's and early 90's, it was not unusual for Dad's playing partners and opponents to be 10-20 years younger.

John Cloninger



John Andy Cloninger, 96, of York, died Monday, September 29, 2014.

Mr. Cloninger was, a neighbor who passed away last September at age 96. Based on the newsletters and others items in the home, it appears that he had been a member of the 93rd. I just thought I would let you know of his passing in case your organization hadn't been informed. I think Mr. Cloninger was originally from North Carolina, but he and his wife spent their last years on Lake Wylie in upstate South Carolina. He retired from Duke Power and was an active and respected member of our community. He was the widower of Dorothy Queen Cloninger. Surviving are his children Robert A. "Andy" Cloninger (Patti) and Dorothy Cloninger McKinney (Rick), and five grandchildren.

Submitted by David McSwain

Charles I. Graves

Charles Graves (409thsquadron) passed away last week (May 24) at 95 years old. He very proud of his time serving. It left an indelible mark on him as did the United Kingdom.

After WWII he started working for Delta Airlines and continued there until he retired. He used the flight benefits that one receives when working for an airline to the fullest. All 5 of his kids have taken multiple trips to England over the years and it was always a special trip to visit the old base in Hardwick.

To see some of the pictures from his collection taken during the War, go to <http://tinyurl.com/pzzi2uc>



- Submitted by his son, Michael Graves

Bill R. Story

Bill R. Story, engineer/gunner on the E.L. Marks crew



The Edwin L. Marks crew with "Naughty Nan." Bill R. Story is in the back row on the right end. This picture was made the day the crew received their DFCs in August, 1944. The Edwin L, 1944.

Submitted by cousin, Frank Story

Donald Albert Hedden Feb 11, 1926 – July 24, 2015



Donald Albert Hedden was my Grandfather who grew up in Independence, Missouri and always had a love a flying. He attended ROTC classes at William Christman High school and had aspirations of joining the Army Air Corps. Don did not want to miss the opportunity to do his part during the war and took the oath of service as soon as he had enough credits to graduate. In fact, he missed the graduation ceremony with the Class of 1944 while attending basic training.

After basic training, Private Hedden headed off to Brownsville, TX to learn the art of aerial gunnery. He told me stories of how the Soldiers would train in the back of moving trucks while shooting clay pigeons with a shotgun. Upon graduation of gunnery, my Grandfather was off to Pueblo, Colorado where his B-24 crew assembled and he was assigned as a ball turret gunner. The crew spent their time in Colorado learning crew-coordination techniques and flying under the Royal Gorge Bridge. The most significant story I remember from his time in Colorado was in regards to the safety strap of the ball turret. The ball turret

gunner could not wear a parachute in his position and had to lean against a strap that separated him from the turret hatch. Apparently, this strap was not very comfortable and Don did not like to use it. Prior to a training flight, his conscience to do the right thing got the best of him and he secured the strap. On that flight the hatch came open at 15,000 feet and the strap was secured every flight following.

Forbes Field Topeka was the final duty position in the United States before the crew began the trek overseas. An overnight stay in Goose Bay led to a basketball injury and a busted up ankle. My grandfather refused to receive any medical attention for fear of getting separated from his crew. He said it was very painful the next morning as the crew walked under each wing pushing the props to prime the cold engines. The crew was assigned to the 93rd Bomb Group 409th Bomb Squadron upon arrival to England. By this time, it was late March 1945 and the air war in Europe was nearly over, but my Grandfather was still able to get in a couple hundred-flight hours.

SGT Hedden came home in May 1945 only to be recalled into service and sent to occupied Japan. Here he served as acting First Sergeant of a P-51 unit at Johnson Airfield. Grandpa learned to play golf in Japan and loved to play after the war. He worked at General Motors for 35 years and raised three daughters. I knew him as the Grandfather who always took me to air shows and let me watch the Benny Hill Show. Donald A. Hedden died July 24th, 2015 at the age of 89. I cherish the time I had with him and I am proud that he inspired me to join the military and serve in Army Aviation as a CH-47 Chinook Flight Engineer. I will never forget his service and I honor him with a display of his crew photo and bomber helmet (complete with oxygen mask and goggles).



Front row left to right: Donald Hedden (Ball T), Summers (Nose gun), Gilmore (Radio), Weigel (Top T), Hoyson (Tail), Bucher (Eng)
Back row: Charles Jacobson (Nav), Charles Martin (Pilot), James M. Bertschi (Co-pilot), Randra (Bombadier)

William H. Francis

Obituary from Binghamton Press & Sun Bulletin:

William H. Francis, 94, formerly of Chenango Bridge, New York, passed away peacefully on September 15, 2015 in Wilmington, North Carolina. He was predeceased by his loving wife of 66 years Phyllis Francis, son Gary Francis. Survived by his loving children; Daughter Linda Gagnon and Husband Frank, Wilmington, NC; Son Mark Francis and wife Amy, of Abingdon, MD; Daughter Cynthia Koltz and Husband Gerald of Chenango Bridge, NY; Grandchildren: Adam Gagnon, Nicole (Gagnon) McBryde; Austin and Luke Francis; Dr. Tracy Francis-Nguyen, Matthew Francis; Patrick, Jessica, and Danielle Koltz; Hannah Fonti and Six Great-Grandchildren. Bill enjoyed visiting and spending time with family whenever possible. He enjoyed playing golf, bowling, skiing, hunting and snowmobiling. He was president of Francis Construction and Specialty Supply for 33 years. He served in the Air Force during WWII as a Tail gunner with the 93RD BOMB Group and received the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air medal with four oak leaf clusters and the presidential citation. In celebration of his life, Memorial Services will be held at Chenango Valley Cemetery Binghamton, New York on September 25, 2015 at 2:00 PM where he will be laid to rest next to his wife Phyllis and son Gary.



Submitted by David Wentzel, Carolinas Aviation Museum

Anthony Rapp

Harvey Barnard

Edwin E. Wagner

Charles M. (Pat) Murphy

Jim Soper

Roy F. Neary

Donald Whited

Harold Roehrs

Howard Thompson

Samuel Zearfoss

Morton Macks

They will be missed!!!!



The Air Force tradition continues in the Eck Family



2nd Lt Mark C. Holloway graduated SUMMA CUM LAUDE in Aerospace Engineering from Syracuse University May 10, 2015. He received the OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN AEROSPACE ENGINEERING endowed by I.A.Hotze, BEE '43. Mark was a cadet in the AFROTC program all four years at Syracuse. Lt. Holloway was sworn into the USAF by his grandfather (Raymond O. Eck, LtCol USAF Ret,) in a private ceremony just prior to graduation. Both grandfathers pinned his bars on during the regular graduation ceremony. Lt. Holloway is currently undergoing pilot training at Vance AFB, Enid, OK

2015 Reunion Results Omaha, Nebraska

With a range of 68 to 81 attendees throughout the weekend, the reunion far exceeded our planning number of 50 generating a larger excess than anticipated. Our goal is for our expenses to equal our registration fees, but never to lose money. The 2015 results follow:

Registration	\$17839.90
Misc. Income	\$10.00
Total Income	<u>\$17,849.90</u>

Expenses

Food and Beverage	11,595.97
Transportation	1,024.00
Boys Town	147.00
Oktoberfest	2,066.55
Printing/Posters	193.18
Supplies	308.59
Shipping	281.43
Total Expense	<u>\$15,616.72</u>

Excess **\$2,233.18**

93rd Bombardment Group Annual Meeting

October 3, 2015 – Omaha, NE

President Jim Root called the meeting to order at 9:00 and introduced the officers.

The minutes of the 2014 Annual Reunion were distributed. There were no corrections and the minutes were moved and approved.

Membership Jean Koznarek

Our membership count stands at 247. Jean noted that this is an increase of 15 over last year and includes 85 veterans. Sixteen have folded their wings.

Communications Jim Root

Jim reviewed the officer's meeting of October 1 and gave an update on the Heritage League.

Treasurer's Report Jim Guddal

Jim distributed the annual financial report of the 93rd BG. Our total assets and fund balance stands at \$65,387.00 which is up substantially from 2014. The increase is due primarily to an increase in donations for ongoing projects. He also emphasized the group's 501C3 status which allows for tax deductible donations.

Ball of Fire George Jung/Don Morrison

All is going well with our publication and critiques, suggestions and submissions are always welcome. George mentioned that mailed copies cost \$2.00 per issue.

Historian's Report Don Morrison

Don monitors the web (facebook,etc.) for items related to the history of the 93rd. He does his best to respond to inquiries about persons and events related to our group and encourages those who contact him to become members of the 93rd.

Hardwick Reunion 2015 Don Morrison

The group that went to England in May 2015 totaled 30 – twice the number that went in 2011. On Saturday the group toured the Norwich area, and Hardwick on Sunday with a dinner in the hangar.

On Monday they attended the Memorial Day Service at American Military Cemetery in Madingley, near Cambridge.

Hardwick Documentary Video Project Michael Sellers

Michael reviewed progress to date. \$12,500 was approved thus far for the project and the executive committee approved the outline. With that beginning, permits for filming in England were received and Michael and Don Morrison went to England with the reunion group and stayed an extra four days. They filmed at the reunion (including veteran interviews) and at Hardwick and other airfields. They hired local crews for travel assistance and audio and used a drone to get footage from above.

There is still much to be done which includes:

- Raising approximately \$15,000 to complete the project
- Editing the footage into an Intro, a Prologue, and three Acts
- Interviewing more veterans
- Securing music licenses, graphics work and sound effects, etc.
- Making decisions that have to be made on the distribution of the film
- It is hoped that a rough cut of the film will be ready for the 2016 San Antonio Reunion.

Hot Stuff Project Report Jim Lux

- Jim emphasized that all funds raised go to the “Hot Stuff” project. No expenses are deducted and \$48,000 has been raised so far. Jim expressed appreciation to Nancy Strange and Scott Stuart for their help with the project.
- The monument to “Hot Stuff” is scheduled to be dedicated on May 3, 2018 in Iceland – the 75th Anniversary of the crash. Artist Terry Hind is building a stainless steel model of the plane which has an eight foot wing span and weighs 400 pounds. It will be the centerpiece of the Memorial and should be completed this December at a cost of \$36,000.
- A book is being written about “Hot Stuff” called “Before the Belle” and is due out soon. Fund raising continues both here and in Iceland.

2015 Reunion Update John Marx

John provided an overview of the current reunion including a financial projection. All is going well and the finances are looking good. 68 people will take part in the entire reunion with another 13 attending part time.

New Business

- Officer's Meeting Report

Jim Root stated that the officers are engaged in discussions about how future dynamics will affect the 93rd BG, one example being the declining participation of our veterans. These discussions include the possibility of closer ties with other veterans' groups.

- 2016 93rd BG Reunion Report

John Marx gave an update on preparations for our 2016 Reunion in San Antonio. He received seven proposals from hotels and selected the Doubletree by Hilton, San Antonio Airport, one mile from the airport. It has the amenities that will meet our needs. The dates for the reunion are October 13-16, 2016.

- Selection of the 2017 Reunion City

John Marx and Jim Root led a discussion of the pros and cons of proposed 2017 Reunion cities. Proposed sites were; Sacramento, CA, Ft Meyers, FL, New Orleans, LA, Dearborn, MI, Huntsville, AL, and Washington, D.C. New Orleans with its expanded WWII Museum was chosen as the 2017 city.

- Iceland

Phyllis Duran moved and Joe Duran supported a motion to explore a 93rd BG trip to Iceland in 2018 to coincide with the dedication of the "Hot Stuff" Memorial. Motion passed. The trip could possibly be tied to a Hardwick reunion.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted

Nick Timmer, Secretary

2017

2017 Reunion City Decided: At our annual Business Meeting in Omaha, the members voted to return to New Orleans, LA for the second time. The 93rd visited there in 2003 in order to go to the then newly opened D-Day Museum. In the intervening years, New Orleans experienced the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and has remade itself into an even more exciting place to visit. The D-Day Museum has expanded and is now called The National WW II Museum with many new exhibits and a 4-D IMAX type experience. We are considering partnering with the 8th Air Force Historical Society and holding a joint reunion. We are in the very preliminary planning stages, but it isn't too early to begin dreaming about Bourbon Street, [beignets](#) (locally pronounced like "ben-yays"), and jambalaya.

TREASURER'S NOTES

Dear friends, there are three subjects I am reporting on for this BOF. 1) the 93rd's current financial condition; 2) Charitable Donations; and 3) Current Projects.

We continue to receive dues payments, including many prepaid for 2016. Thank you to all those who took the two-year payment approach which saved additional mailing costs.

Item 1) I am very pleased to report that the **state of the finances** of this fine organization are in good shape. Revenue comes primarily from member dues and is supplemented by sales from your **PX** (post exchange) which carries a wide variety of products. You can check these out on the PX page at the end of this BOF. At this year's reunion in Omaha, the PX took in almost \$600. Also, we had a successful **Silent Auction** with the proceeds dedicated to the Hardwick Film Project. **Thanks to Phyllis and Joe Duran for donating a book with B-24 illustrations and color photos for the auction and Congratulations to winner Gail Mailloux.**

Item 2) Charitable donations to the 93rd Bomb Group Ass'n are an integral part of our existence. We are a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization which generally allows contributions to the 93rd to be considered as deductible for federal and state tax purposes. Over the years, the generosity of our members has allowed the 93rd to accomplish a number of significant projects all seeking to preserve its legacy into the future for new generations to learn.

For the last fiscal year ended September 30, 2015, our members donated over \$26,000. The majority of those donations were designated to the "Hot Stuff" memorial project which will be discussed in more detail elsewhere in this BOF.

The 93rd BG Ass'n is also considering alternatives for charitable giving. Please refer to the page Titled **Donating to the 93rd BG Association** for additional information.

Item 3) Current Projects – In addition to the "Hot Stuff" memorial, we are focusing on one other major project, producing a documentary of the Hardwick Aero-Drome, the 93rd's WWII air base located in England.

At present, the project cost is estimated at \$30,000. Of this amount, the members have approved underwriting \$12,500 plus donations rec'd of \$2,500 leaving \$15,000 to be raised. Considering the enthusiasm this film is generating, we are confident we will be able to accomplish our goal, hopefully by the end of this year. **Realistically, we definitely need your help to get there!**

Thanks for listening!

Jim Guddal

10/2015

You will find the Annual Financial Report following this article.

93rd Bombardment Group Association
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND FUND BALANCE

Cash Basis	As of September 30, 2014 and 2015	
	Sep 30, 2014	Sep 30, 2015
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/ Savings		
Center National Bank Savings	20,542	14,566
Center National Bank Checking	1,190	1,880
Reunion Fund	1,500	1,500
PayPal Balance	165	n
Wells Fargo MM Savings	<u>23,511</u>	<u>45,937</u>
Total Checking/Savings	46,908	63,883
Post Exchange Inventory (PX)	<u>1,625</u>	<u>1,504</u>
Total Current Assets	48,533	65,387
LIABILITIES	<u>-397</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL ASSETS & FUND BALANCE	48,136	65,387

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Cash Basis	October 2013 through September 2014	
	October 2014 through September 2015	
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Receipts		
Donations (Projects & Hot Stuff)	17,294	26,422
Interest	39	24
Member Dues	3,785	6,085
Reunion Excess Proceeds	2,137	3,042
PX Sales & Books	<u>1,461</u>	<u>2,395</u>
Total Receipts	24,716	37,968
Disbursements		
Bank Charges	33	0
Delivery & Postage & Shipping	517	125
Newsletter Publishing	2,464	1,820
Membership & Office Svcs	1,200	567
Website Maintenance	755	166
Data Base Software	492	492
Gifts to ~ Hardwick & Others	8,493	0
Dues, Licenses and Permits	0	50
Print – Book Pmts & Calendars	464	397
PX Purchases	232	684
Webcast Equipment Lease	2,000	1,000
Reunion & Web Cast	0	1,501
Hot Stuff Expense	0	1,403
Reunion Supplies & Expense	1,915	2,853
D & O Insurance	247	247
Hardwick Film Project	<u>0</u>	<u>9,412</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>18,812</u>	<u>20,717</u>
Net Receipts (Disbursements)	<u>5,904</u>	<u>17,251</u>

Statements are not audited or reviewed.

DONATING TO THE 93RD BG ASSOCIATION

A 501(c)(3) Organization

We have always had a very generous membership when it comes to raising the funds needed for special projects. Here are the major projects we have completed in recent years.

- Stain Glass Memorial Window in the Chapel at Savannah, GA
- Security System for the museums at Hardwick Aerodrome England
- Veterans' Archiving of Memorabilia at the Mighty 8th Museum
- Major Donation for the purchase of the last B-24 assembly building located at Ford's Willow Run being reconstructed into a major museum
- Current: Hardwick Aerodrome 104 Documentary Film & Hot Stuff Memorial

Previously, as donations were received, we credited them to the project(s) then underway. That process has worked very well. Going forward, in support of our mission of education and preserving the great legacy of the 93rd, we are offering a second alternative, **LEGACY PLANNING AND GIVING**. A plainer way of saying this is asking our members and other interested parties to name us in your or their will. Legacy Planning and Giving is a way for you to include the 93rd in your **long term estate planning**. This topic came up at the recent 93rd reunion at Omaha with the following result. Fernley and Joannie Smith donated and have pledged to periodically make additional donations. Their desire is that these dollars not go to annual operations, but, be earmarked for special projects, both now and into the future. (Actually, annual member dues typically cover annual costs of operating the 93rd organization.) As Treasurer, I have set up a specific account for Fernley and Joannie. As their donations arrive, their account will be credited. Annually, a receipt will be issued to them and other donors.

For any questions about Legacy Planning and Giving, please contact Jim Guddal, Treasurer at (763) 694-9058 or jguddal@yahoo.com. To make a donation, see the "Fundraising Page".

SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR DONATIONS TO THE HARDWICK FILM PROJECT

Donation of \$250 to \$499	Choice of Vet's books listed on web site
Donation of \$500 to \$999	A 93 rd embroidered hat (blue or khaki)
Donation of \$1,000 to \$1,499	A copy of Ted's Travelling Circus Book
Donation of \$1,500 to \$2,499	A copy of Ted's, a 93 rd hat or B-24 Travel Mug
Donation of \$2,500 or more	A copy of Ted's, a 93 rd hat and a B-24 Travel Mug

Also, check for an upcoming update on the 93BG website for an interesting way to make your donation to the Hardwick Film Project worth even more.

The Hot Stuff Memorial Project details are listed separately in this Ball of Fire newsletter

Greetings from the 93rd BG Historian!

FREE Memorabilia cataloging and Research

I am willing to scan any documents, records and photos of a 93rd BG veteran and return ALL of the original items (unharmed) along with CD's of all scans/jpeg images along with any additional information I can add regarding names, plane serial # /artwork and places. There is NO charge for this service! I can also make extra CD's copies for family members. I have done this for several veterans over the years. My contact info is shown in the Officer Directory.

Looking for Information

Glenn Miller concert September 1944

I am looking for any information, photos or recollections about the concert that was held at Hardwick.

Sgt. John Hallissey, killed 6/13/44 after crashing in Scotland enroute to US.

His dogtag was recovered recently at the crash site, and the finder would like to return it to his family.

If you can provide any information on the above items, please contact me.

*Cheers,
Don Morrison*



42-100359 329th BS (DKM collection)

93rd Website

At the time of writing this article 97,802 people have visited the 93rd BG website since its redesign in November 2009. A visitor recently was logged all the way from Rio De Janeiro, Brazil!

This year at the 93rd BG reunion in Omaha, NE the group continued to move forward with the documentary project "Hardwick Aerodrome 104" (read more about the project below). The 93rd website now features a promotional film for the project and a page dedicated to donate to the project. We previewed the 8 minute film at this year's reunion and it got rave reviews! Veterans and members of the group are even more excited about the project. Please visit www.93bg.com and check it out today.

The group webcasted this year's reunion also. Highlights included a 3 day educational session on "Big Week" and the importance of it's affects with the outcome of the war. The third day was really special - all 10 veterans told personal stories that were very insightful and proved once again that these were special men that served. Please look for a re-broadcast of the 2015 reunion on the 93rd website soon.

Here are some viewer statistics (chart below) from the 4-Day webcast compared to the last 2 years. From my observation the number of Unique Views (a unique computer clicking on to watch) are bit higher from last year. Particularly, the numbers for the Memorial Dinner were 42 views last year and 51 this year. This number is even higher from the Memorial Dinner in 2013 which was 40 views (in 2013 the Memorial dinner was on Sunday not Saturday like 2014 and 2015). Increased advertisement this year helped get more viewers but for San Antonio we should try to keep this momentum and gain even more.

Total Views: Shows how many viewers (computers) have watched the stream since the broadcast for that day began. If you stop and restart your broadcast, this number will return to zero. Reconnecting within two minutes will keep the total number intact. This number is cumulative so you will never see a downward trend. This number is not unique viewers.

Unique Views: If a viewer (computer) watches the stream for a while, leaves and comes back, that same viewer can be counted twice in the total viewer number. Unique Views is the total number of unique computers that clicked on to watch the webcast that day.

Bomb Group 93rd Webcast	Unique Views	Bomb Group 93rd Webcast	Unique Views	Bomb Group 93rd Webcast	Unique Views
Datetime	Views	Datetime	Views	Datetime	Views
10.17.2013	26	10.16.2014	20	10.1.2015	28
10.18.2013	18	10.17.2014	19	10.2.2015	30
10.19.2013	53	10.18.2014	42	10.3.2015	51
10.20.2013	40	10.19.2014	21	10.4.2015	22

Bomb Group 93rd Webcast	Total Views	Bomb Group 93rd Webcast	Total Views	Bomb Group 93rd Webcast	Total Views
Datetime	Views	Datetime	Views	Datetime	Views
10.17.2013	61	10.16.2014	31	10.1.2015	39
10.18.2013	34	10.17.2014	42	10.2.2015	59
10.19.2013	129	10.18.2014	80	10.3.2015	93
10.20.2013	76	10.19.2014	37	10.4.2015	31

Hardwick Documentary (Update)

An 8 minute film was screened by veterans and members at the welcoming dinner Thursday evening. I was very happy with the response and looking forward to putting the larger piece together. A few sit-down interviews are left to shoot but with the England footage from this year's reunion and veteran interviews from the 2014 Dayton reunion, production is complete. Currently the project is in post-production and seeking donations for finishing funds that will be combined with money the 93rd BG has approved already to start production on the film. We are seeking \$15,000 in finishing funds to complete the film by Fall of 2016. The group plans to screen the film in San Antonio at the 2016 93rd BG reunion. Again, please visit www.93bg.com to view the promotional film and donate if you can! This project will be a great resource for future generations to learn about the 93rd Bombardment Group.

Michael Sellers
Webmaster / Hardwick Documentary
www.93bg.com
www.facebook.com/hardwickdoc



Ellie Marx visits the 93rd Bomb Group Memorial Plaque and American Holly Tree at Arlington National Cemetery on October 10th

**Fundraising Opportunity for the
93rd BGA Film Project**



"Hardwick Aerodrome 104: Home of the 93rd Bombardment Group"

The 93rd BG Association is working on a significant and exciting project to document the Hardwick Aerodrome 104. This airbase was home to the 93rd Bombardment Group, which was part of the Mighty 8th Air Force (Army Air Corps) and the 2nd Air Division during World War II.

This high-definition DVD film is full color and is being professionally produced.

It will include:

- Interviews with veterans,
- Interviews with family members,
- Vintage and current footage,
- Complete photos of the airbase operations.

Although the 93rd Bombardment Group Association has underwritten more than half the cost of this project, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

OUR FUNDRAISING NEED IS \$15,000!

"I want to do my part in providing a lasting memory of the 93rd Bomb Group, through a contribution of \$ _____, to the "Hardwick Aerodrome: 104" film project!

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

E-mail address:

Method of payment enclosed (circle one): Check/MO Cash

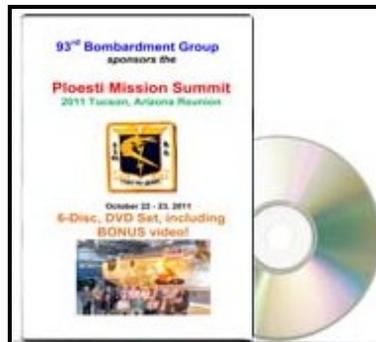
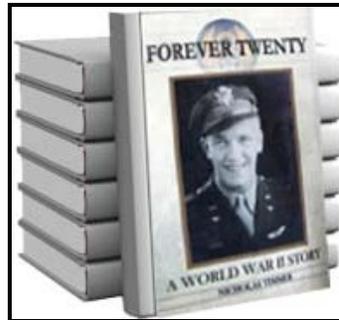
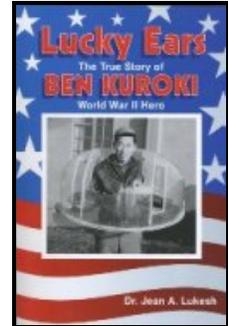
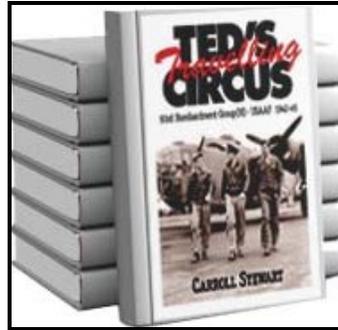
Credit/PayPal (go to

www.93bg.com website)

Mail to: 93rd BGA, C/O Jim Guddal, P.O. Box 47336, Plymouth, MN 55447

The 93rd BG Association is a non-profit organization, and donations are tax exempt!

Post Exchange (PX)



Your Post Exchange (PX) Order Form

CAPS & VISORS

	<u>Qty 1</u>	<u>Qty 2</u>
Navy Blue with embroidered B-24, 93 rd BG and Ted's Travelling Circus on adjustable strap	\$24	\$45
Khaki with "Ball of Fire III" B-24 plus 93 rd BG and Ted's Travelling Circus on adjustable strap	\$19	\$35
Visors w embroidered 93 rd BG and three gold victory stars – choose white or navy blue	\$16	\$28

COFFEE & THERMAL TRAVEL MUGS

Ceramic Coffee mugs with 93 rd blue shield	\$15	\$28
Stainless Steel Travel Mugs with B-24 medallion (NEW and very nice!)	\$22	\$42

PUZZLES

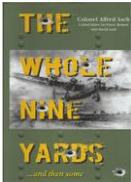
Jigsaw puzzles with colorful "Ball of Fire III" image over Ploesti. Comes with stand.	\$22	\$42
---	------	------

SUNCATCHERS

93 rd BG Replica of Memorial stained glass window at Mighty 8 th Museum Chapel – with suction cup	\$14	\$25
---	------	------

BOOKS by 93rd BG Authors

<i>Ted's Travelling Circus</i> by Cal Stewart (member price)	\$69.95	\$134.00
<i>Ploesti</i> by Cal Stewart and James Dugan	(See 93 rd Web site & Amazon)	
<i>Above the Clouds</i> by Wayne Baker	\$24.95	\$47.50
<i>Lucky Ears The True Story of Ben Kuroki</i> *** Limited autographed edition! Order today! ***	\$13	\$24
<i>Forever Twenty</i> by Nicholas Timmer	\$21.95	\$42.00



NEW!! "The Whole Nine Yards", The Life of Col. Alfred Asch. (Ordering information pending. Please contact David Asch at: (615) 400-8617 or e-mail: davidasch@aol.com for additional information.

DVDS – Ploesti Summit 5 Disc set with Bonus DVD of Vet's panel on the way it was!
Member price (\$30); Non member price (\$45)

*****All product prices include handling and shipping charges*****

Pay by check or money with the Coupon below. Pay by PayPal on 93BG website by using the Donation Tab in the Membership section. Mail Coupon to Peter Asch, PX Mgr to complete the order. Thank you!

Item purchased	Qty	X	Price each	=	\$ Total
1. _____					
2. _____					
3. _____					
4. _____					

Grand Total _____

Mail orders to: Peter Asch, 93rd BG PX
979 South Ridge Ct., Traverse City, MI 49696
231 933 8405 email pcasch@charter.net

**93rd BG MEMBERSHIP FORM &
BALL OF FIRE QUARTERLY EXPRESS SUBSCRIPTION FORM**

Name _____

Address _____

Year 2016

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

93rd BG Connection: (please circle appropriate) **Vet is/was-father, uncle, grandpa or I am a Historian.**

Name of 93rd veteran _____ Rank _____

Squadron _____ Time period in Service: _____ 19 _____ to _____ 19 _____

Airplane Name(s) _____ Pilot(s) _____

Crew Chief(s) _____ Comments (list crew if known) _____

Thanks!

(use back side for more info)

Annual Membership (2016 only)	\$25 \$ _____
2 year discount rate (2016 & 2017)	\$45 \$ _____
1 st time Child or grandchild (2016 only)	\$20 \$ _____
Tax deductible Donation	\$ _____ (The 93 rd is a 501(c)(3) Organization)
<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>	\$ _____

___ Please MAIL newsletter ___ Please E-MAIL newsletter

Make checks payable to: 93rd BOMB GROUP (Also pay by PayPal through the 93rd Bomb Group website)

Mail to: Jean Koznarek
93rd Bomb Group Ass'n.
2644 West Park Blvd.
Shaker Hts., OH 44120

KEEP OUR HISTORY ALIVE!

Consider a membership for a friend or family member.
(Make a copy of this form for additional memberships. Thank You!)

The PX: We have in stock, coffee & stainless travel mugs, caps with B-24 image, visors, Memorial Window Sun catcher replicas, books & Ploesti DVDs. Go to the PX page in the BOF for ordering information or contact Peter Asch – pcasch@charter.net.

PLEASE NOTE – MEMBERSHIP IS ON A CALENDAR YEAR BASIS – DUES ARE PAYABLE IN JANUARY