

Ball of Fire QUARTERLY EXPRESS



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

Vol. 27 No. 1

Spring 2019

2018 Timberlake Awards!

This is considered to be the “highest” honor awarded by the 93rd BGA, and is a tribute and recognition for your commitment and dedicated service! It is named in honor of the Commanding Officer of the 93rd Bomb Group during World War II, General Edward “Ted” Timberlake.

Nick Timmer

On behalf of our Veterans, Members, and Friends, we would like to recognize your outstanding work and support as our association Secretary. Your help in guiding us through our transition to the 2nd generation of Officers, and your valuable input in support of continuing the legacy of the 93rd Bomb Group, is greatly appreciated!

J. Root, N. Timmer, C. Timberlake (Grandson of Lt. General Timberlake)



Nancy Stranger

On behalf of our Veterans, Members, and Friends, we would like to recognize your outstanding work and support as our Assistant Treasurer. Your help and support of the General Andrews and Hot Stuff Memorial project over the past 6 years has been outstanding! Your work to ensure the financial support needed for this project, along with assistance to Jim Lux, is greatly appreciated!

Michael Cudlitz

On behalf of our Veterans, Members, and Friends, we would like to recognize your outstanding work and support with the making of our documentary film. Your gracious support in narrating our film, is a tremendous honor for us, and it is greatly appreciated! The success of the film includes your work directly with Michael Sellers, and the 93rd Bomb group.



Again, thank you for your support of all World War II veterans and the work that you do!

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy New Year to the 93rd Bombardment Group Association family! Hope your year has started off well!

We continue to work on details of this year's reunion in Detroit area. See more info on how it is shaping up, later in the BOF!

Our Officers also continue to meet on a regular monthly basis, and are focused on ensuring our member experience is the best it can be, especially for carrying on the legacy of our Veterans!

Michael has done an exceptional job in moving into the final phases of film production on "*Return to Hardwick.*" We are excited to start planning for showings at film festivals, and looking at national recognition and viewing. Thanks for everyone's work and support of the film!

If you haven't been on our website lately, check it out! Open any browser, and go to www.93bg.com. The homepage has "tabs" you can click on to open different sections. On the left-hand side there is a section on membership information, newsletters (older BOF), reunions, special projects, museums, history research, and a "contact us" tab. Also, in the center are different news items of interest. (6) more sections across the bottom and right-hand side include Post exchange, media, folded wings, featured film, reunion photos, and a featured veteran. We have had over 112,375 visitors to the website over the years!!

Extremely important is the "Message Board" tab, located in the upper left-hand side. This tab allows you to see information, questions, or responses to anyone outside the group, who is on the site, possibly for the first time. Although, many of the officers try to post answers to questions, anyone can respond! So keep an eye on the message board, and help keep the information, memories, and legacy alive!!

A lot of work goes into maintaining our website, so thanks to everyone who works on it, and checks it, especially Michael, our Technology Manager!
See you in Detroit!

Jim Root
President, 93rd BGA

UPCOMING REUNION OPPORTUNITY

Hardwick, England: The 2019 Hardwick reunion has been cancelled. Colin and I are looking towards May 2020 for a reunion. Please keep it in mind as you make your vacation plans. 2020 will be the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe. If you have any question, please contact Don Morrison. Contact info is shown in the Officer Directory.



Exterior view of Sheraton



Inside Sheraton



The Henry Ford Museum

93rd Bomb Group Association 2019 Reunion

Dearborn, Michigan

October 10 – 14, 2019

Our 2019 Reunion takes place in the vicinity of Detroit and Ypsilanti, Michigan and offers a wide range of exciting activities and a great opportunity to renew friendships. We have selected the Sheraton Detroit Metro Airport Hotel located within two miles of the Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW). The hotel's address is:

**Sheraton Detroit Metro Airport
8000 Merriman Road
Romulus, MI 48174**

Enjoy door-to-door service with 24-hour complimentary airport shuttle, offering shuttle service to and from Detroit Metro Airport (DTW), our hotel is just a short drive from the Yankee Air Museum and The Henry Ford museum.

ACCOMMODATIONS: The 11-story hotel contains 359 guestrooms and suites with complimentary high-speed Internet Access in guestrooms, meeting rooms, lobbies and restaurants, 50-inch LCD television with HD channels, full bath amenities and hair dryer, iron, ironing board & individual climate control, alarm clock radio, coffeemaker and in-room mini - refrigerator. Daily newspaper available.



SERVICES & FACILITIES: In-room dining; complimentary business center and support services; complimentary shuttle to/from airport, assistive devices for persons with disabilities; ATM and Essentials Shop; safety-deposit boxes in the guestrooms; laundry/dry cleaning off site; and complimentary parking



RESTAURANTS & BARS: Two restaurants: Cultivate and Connections with the highest quality cuisine. Creative chefs craft the menus based on fresh, local ingredients; coffees, pastries and to-go items; lobby bar with light-fare and cocktails

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES: heated indoor pool; 24-hour fitness center offers free weights, treadmills, stair steppers and stationary bicycles



Our room rate is \$104.00 plus tax of 14% per night (\$118.56 inclusive) for Thursday – Sunday night. The room rate includes breakfast for two. Breakfast for additional guests is \$10.00 per day. For those who want to arrive early or remain afterwards, the hotel has extended the rate for three days prior and three days after the reunion.

Attendees are responsible to make their own hotel reservations. For Reservations, contact the Sheraton Central Reservations by phone at **1-866-961-3982**. Be sure to identify your affiliation with the **93rd Bomb Group**. Or use the following link:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1542212420653&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

If you have difficulty, please call or email our in-hotel contact: Ashley Cyrus, sales coordinator, at 734-713-0552 or email: Ashley.cyrus@sheratondtw.com.

Please make your reservations at the earliest opportunity!

In addition to the hotel cost, a registration fee covers the cost of our lunches, evening meals, transportation, memorabilia room, and program activities. A registration form will be included in a future issue of the BOFQE. The draft schedule follows:

93rd Bomb Group Reunion

Draft Schedule

Day 1 – Thursday – October 10

10 AM – 5 PM	Registration / Memorabilia Room Setup – Everyone is welcome!
2 – 3:30 PM	Officers' Meeting
6 – 8 PM	Welcome Dinner - Attendee Introductions
8 – 10 PM	Memorabilia Room Open

Day 2 – Friday – October 11

7:30 – 9 AM	Breakfast - Hotel
9:00 – 10:30 AM	Educational Session #1– Hotel
10:45 – 11:15 AM	Transportation to Ypsilanti
11:15 AM – 12:45 PM	Group 1 – Bomber Restaurant (Lunch – On your own), Group 2 – Yankee Air Museum
12:45 – 1:00 PM	Group 1 travels to the museum; Group 2 travels to the restaurant
1:00– 2:30 PM	Group 1 – Yankee Air Museum, Group 2 – Bomber Restaurant (Lunch – On your own)
2:30 -2:45 PM	Both groups travel EMU
3:00 – 5:00 PM	Eastern Michigan University – “Return to Hardwick” Screening
5:30 – 6:00 PM	Return to Hotel
6:00 – 8:00 PM	Dinner - Hotel
8:00 – 10:00 PM	Memorabilia Room Open

Day 3 – Saturday – October 12

7:30 – 9 AM	Breakfast – Hotel
9:30 – 11:30 AM	Business Meeting - Hotel
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Buffet Lunch – Hotel
1:30 - 2:30 PM	Veterans' Q&A
2:45 – 4:30 PM	Educational Session #2
5:30 – 6:00 PM	Reception
6:00 – 8:00 PM	Memorial Dinner at Hotel
8:00 – 10:00 PM	Memorabilia Room Open

Day 4 – Sunday – October 13

7:30 – 9 AM	Breakfast at Hotel
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Religious Service (non-denominational)
10:30 – 11:00 AM	Travel to The Henry Ford Museum
11:00 – 4:30 PM	Tour Museum (Lunch – On your own)
4:30 5:00 PM	Return to Hotel
6 – 8 PM	Dinner - Hotel
8 PM - Closing	Memorabilia Room Pack-up – Everyone is welcome!

Day 5 – Monday – October 14

6 – 9 AM	Breakfast at Hotel
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The Yankee Air Museum

The 93rd Bomb Group supports the museum's efforts to preserve and restore a portion of the Willow Run B-24 Plant where at peak production a new plane was produced every hour. The story of the Yankee Air Museum begins when Henry Ford built the plant to build B-24s. This was the first airplane manufacturing facility built using Ford's mass production techniques; a leading technological innovation of the time. Many of the planes the 93rd flew were built at Willow Run. The Rosie the Riveter exhibit focuses on the significant contributions of "Rosie the Riveter's" to the war effort. Learn how a B-24 was built and how both men and women helped win World War II for the United States in various ways. Many exhibits and displays relating to WWII including the Norden and Sperry bombsights, a B-24 cockpit and top turret, a B-24 instrument panel, a Link Trainer, an Army Half-Track vehicle, and exhibits relating to the Tuskegee Airmen and the WASPs (Women Air Service Pilots) are available to educate and illuminate our understanding.



C-47 Skytrain – Flyable

Static Aircraft Displays

The museum has a growing inventory of static aircraft displays. These aircraft are on display both inside and outside of the Museum, as well as at the Storage/Restoration facilities.

- SPAD XIII (Replica)
- PS-2 Franklin Glider
- TG-3 Glider
- Blanik L-13 Glider
- F-84F Thunderstreak
- RF-84F Thunderflash
- F-86D Sabre Dog
- O-2 Skymaster
- F-100C Super Sabre
- A-4C Skyhawk
- I-26 Glider
- AH-1J Cobra
- F-4C Phantom II
- UH-1D Iroquois ('Huey')
- F-101B Voodoo
- AN-2R Antonov
- B-52D Stratofortress
- T-33A Shooting Star
- RB-57A Canberra
- DHC-4D Caribou
- PB4Y-2 Privateer
- EC-121 Warning Star
- SBD Dauntless

Opportunity – Opportunity – Opportunity – Opportunity – Opportunity

Are you interested in riding in a WWII era airplane?

North American B-25 Mitchell



B-25 "Yankee Warrior"

The B-25 Mitchell is an American twin-engine, medium bomber manufactured by North American Aviation. The plane was named in honor of Major General William "Billy" Mitchell, a pioneer of U.S. military aviation. Used by many Allied air forces, the B-25 served in every theater of World War II and after the war ended many remained in service, operating across four decades. Produced in numerous variants, nearly 10,000 Mitchells rolled from NAA factories. These included a few limited models, such as the United States Marine Corps' PBJ-1 patrol bomber and the United States Army Air Forces' F-10 reconnaissance aircraft and AT-24 trainers.

Maximum speed: 271.97 mph
Range: 1,350 miles
Maiden flight: Aug 19, 1940
Length: 52' 11"
Wingspan: 67' 7"
Cruising speed: 230 mph

The B-25 pictured above is available for flights lasting 25 minutes from departure to arrival at a cost of \$400 per person. A discount is offered if the maximum number of seven passengers.

If interested in this opportunity contact John Marx, 412-327-1909 for additional details and to sign up.

Opportunity – Opportunity – Opportunity – Opportunity – Opportunity



Voted "Best Breakfast" in Washtenaw County by Current Magazine June 2018! We are your American aviation-themed breakfast and lunch diner at 306 East Michigan Avenue in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Open 7AM to 3PM daily.

The restaurant's theme is tied to the B-24 bombers that were made during World War II at the nearby Willow Run bomber plant. Our classic American breakfasts dishes are favorites for locals and visitors alike.

The Bomber opened in 1936 as Baldwin's Diner. In the 1940s the name became "The Bomber"; later changed to Bob's Barbecue in the mid- 1970s. In 1986, the name Bomber returned, and the current owner's John Sebestyen and Johanna McCoy purchased it in 1995. Annually, the restaurant celebrates "Rosie the Riveter Day." Last year 13 women who worked on the B-24 line joined the celebration. Roses are spread in profusion to celebrate!



The Henry Ford Museum



Trace the history of the auto and our fascination with it along with other American inventions through the collection of Henry Ford's estate, which includes such memorabilia as the chair Abraham Lincoln sat in when he was assassinated and the limo in which John F. Kennedy was shot.

The Henry Ford (also known as the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation and Greenfield Village, and as the Edison Institute) is a large indoor and outdoor history museum complex and a National Historic Landmark in the Detroit suburb of Dearborn, Michigan, United States. The museum collection contains in addition to the presidential limousine of John F. Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln's chair from Ford's Theatre; Thomas Edison's laboratory, the Wright Brothers' bicycle shop, the Rosa Parks bus, and many other historical exhibits. It is the largest indoor-outdoor museum complex in the United States and is visited by over 1.7 million people each year. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1981. Aviation related items include:



1903 Wright Flyer



1926 Fokker flown over the North Pole by Richard E. Byrd

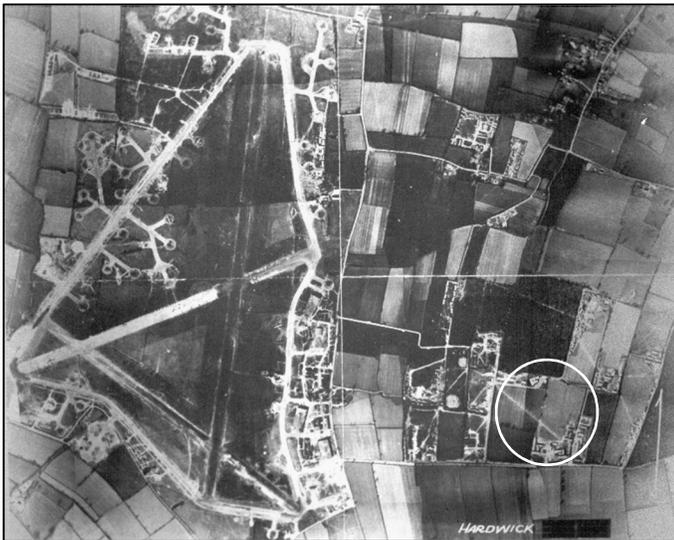


1939 Northwest Airlines Douglas

GREETINGS FROM THE 93RD BG HISTORIAN!

Movie Night

Did you ever wonder what they did in their free time between the daily activities of the war. Going to the movies must have been a popular idea. The base theater was called "*The Sad Sacks Flicker Shack*". The number of men assigned to the 93rd BG as of January 1, 1945 was 3,165 and there were 28,750 in attendance at showings, which works out to approximately 9 showings/man. There was also a Christmas Show for local children, but it is not clear if this attendance was included in the total attendance calculation.



The location of the theater was along the southern edge of the base. It was located about 850 feet at a heading of 170 degrees (south) from the CO hut and the 93rd BG memorial. (See aerial photo at the left with it circled in white) Nothing of the building survives today.

However, in the May 2017 Google Earth image the ghostly image of the Theater, walking path and other buildings are visible. (See image to the right) These crop patterns are due to differences in the soil composition. This phenomenon is used for locating ancient structures.



This is the only known photo of the theater from the ground. The Sad Sack Flicker Shack sign is thought to be installed on the wall facing the camera. The singular dark painted roof panel is shown in both images. (See white circle)

This Office of Special Service Memo from Frank J. Riordan Jr., Captian Air Corps dated January 1, 1945 summarizes the feature and short films shown in December 1944. I often wonder what it was like to be at Hardwick during the war years. So I am planning on watching a few of these films that the veterans would have watched so long ago.

I hope you have enjoyed this research into this subject. If you have any information or photos about the theater, please contact me.

HEADQUARTERS 93d. BOMB GROUP (H)		Y/FJR
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL SERVICE		
AAF 104	APO 558	
1 January, 1945		
SUBJECT: Summary Of Events		
TO :	Commanding Officer, 93d. Bomb Group(H), AAF 104, APO 558, U.S. Army.	
1. The following is a summary of the activities on this station during the month of December, 1944:		
a. Movies at the Sad Sack's Flicker Shack:		
Feature	Short	Date
Murder In Thornton Square	The Flee	1-2
You Cann't Ration Love	Dondal Duck	3
Wing And A Prayer	Mouse Of Tomorrow	4-5
Sabin In The Sky	The Rookie Bear	6-7
Sweet And Lowdown	All About Dogs	8-9
The Sky's The Limit	King Of Keyboards	10
Thousands Cheer	none	11-12
The Uninvited	Musical	13-14
Little Nelly Kelly	The Alley Cat	15-16
Tarzan's Desert Victory	Indian Signs	17
Target For Today	The Little Mouse	18
Minnistry Of Fear	Musical	19
White Cliffs Of Dover	Yes and No	20-21
The Hard Way	Hi Hi	22-23
Ladies In Washington	Gandy Goose	24
My Favorite Wife	Who Do	25
Best Foot Forward	Officer's Pooch	26
Mark Twain	What About Daddy	27-28
Good Girls Go To Paris	Hot Foot	29&30
Make Your Own Bed	Musical	31
26 films received during the month.		
69 showings to an attendance of 28,750.		
8 news shown during month.		
7 training films shown.		
1 Kid's Show for Christmas		
Future bookings made for Jan, and Feb., 1945.		
Movies were much better during December.		

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 CDs 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 copies for family members. I have done this for several veterans over the years. My contact info is shown in the Officer Directory.

Message from the Editor

I am always looking for any articles about any event that involved the 93rd BG. These can be short stories written by the veteran or family. If it is interesting to you most likely it will be interesting to all of us too! This is YOUR Ball of Fire Newsletter. Please send any article submittals or Letters to the editor to my attention for inclusion in future Newsletters.

If you have any questions regarding the 93rd BG, please contact me an email/letter/ call with your question or topic for a mini research project. I will do my best to research an answer and publish it in the newsletter.

Cheers,

Don Morrison

93RD WEBSITE & FILM PROJECT

We currently have had 112,359 visitors to the 93rd website. Looking at the statistical map we recently had a visitor all the way from Wuhu, Anhui, China!

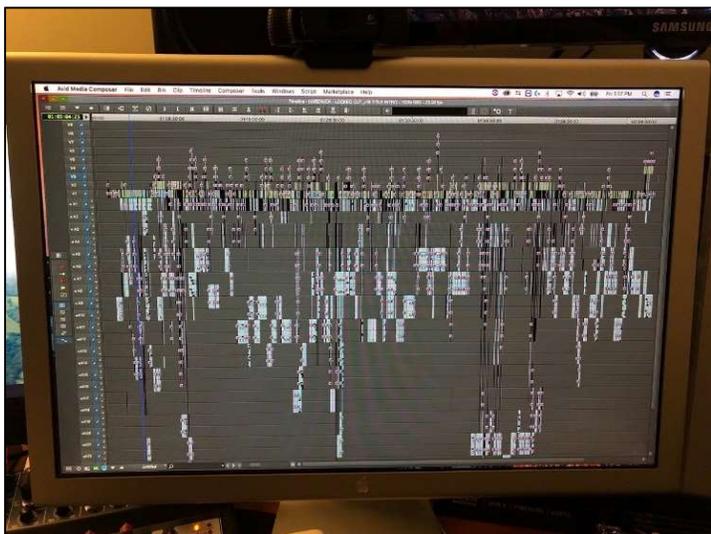
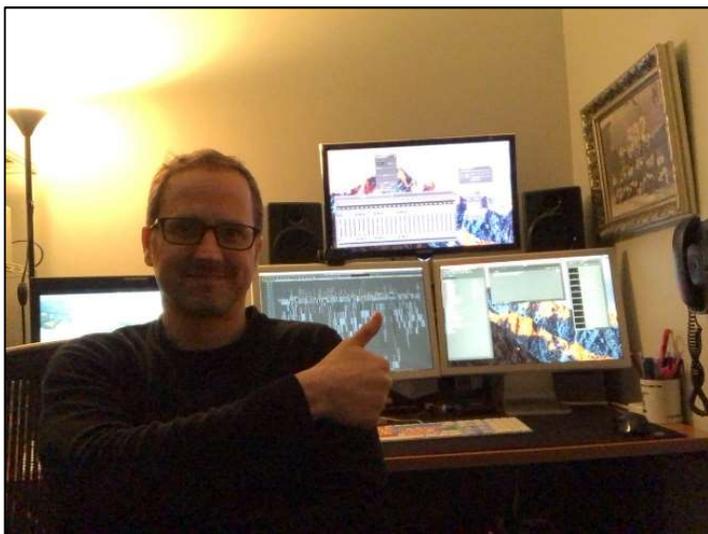
Please check out the 93rd's website and notice a new search bar on the homepage. A few technical issues are being worked out but for the most part it can be very handy to search the website for information you might be looking for. If you want to find out if a relative is listed anywhere on the website - enter their name and a list pops up in the search bar. If a name doesn't pop up and you think your relative should be listed on the Roll of Honor or the Folded Wings sections for example - please contact the Ball of Fire editor and we can add your relatives name.

Hardwick Documentary Update

A few big things have happened with the Hardwick documentary since the last publishing of the Ball of Fire newsletter. The first big announcement is that the film has official been "locked". This means that editing on the film has been stopped. Over the last few months since our reunion screening in October members of the 93rd Bomb Group Association, friends and professionals I'm associated with, and some unbiased viewers have given me notes and adjustments to make the film the best it can be. It has also been a great time to catch pacing issues or historical errors in the film. The second announcement is that we have officially changed the name of the documentary. The new title of the film is *Return To Hardwick*. The title was changed from *Hardwick Aerodrome 104* to *Return to Hardwick* to give more context to what a viewer might be expecting from the film. Also, the title is a great juxtaposition to the opening sequence where 93rd veteran Ed Reilly recounts his visit back to Hardwick 30 years after the war (like so many veterans have done and are still doing) and as the film unfolds we find ourselves watching a new generation returning to Hardwick.

The next steps are to finalize all rights and clearances to films and photos used in the project. We have many rights secured but another month of dotting the "i's" and crossing the "t's" is necessary. The film will also be prepped to enter the color-correct and audio mixing phases.

I urge all of you to go to www.hardwickfilm.com and see the redesign of the film's website. On the website a box will pop-up asking for an email address. Please sign-up and get monthly updates on the project. We hope to be having public screenings this summer!



Michael Sellers
Producer/Director
Return To Hardwick
www.hardwickfilm.com

POST EXCHANGE (PX)

PX CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

MEMBERSHIP

A week ago, I went on a tour of the local steel mill with my husband and several friends. It was an amazing day. As we went through the various buildings and saw the different steps of steel making, it was notable that we saw very few people. Most of the process was done by robots! As recently as 15-20 years ago there were thousands of people making steel.

It made me go down a thought path to the past. I began thinking of all the thousands of people who worked in the B-24 plants making the bombers that our men would fly to fight the Third Reich. All the hard and dangerous work that went into winning the War both in the battle and here at home.

The reunion this year will be in the Detroit area where thousands of bombers were manufactured. I am sure it will be a fascinating time with our old and new friends of the 93rd BGA.

At this moment we have 220+ members, several of whom are our veterans. They remember what went on at that time in history and are happy to share their experiences with us. This is one of the unique aspects of being part of our group. Since our mission is to continue the legacy of the men and women of the 93rd, new members are key.

I hope you will join us in the Detroit area and bring family and friends. We always have a good time. I look forward to meeting new people and recruiting new members.

As always, if you have any questions regarding your membership status, please feel free to contact me.

Jean Koznarek
member93bg@aol.com



93rd BGA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Year 2019

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

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

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) _____

(use back side for more info)

Annual Membership	\$25 \$ _____	
2 year discount rate (2019 & 2020)	\$45 \$ _____	
Tax deductible Donation	\$ _____	(The 93 rd is a 501(c)(3) Organization)
TOTAL	\$ _____	

___ Please MAIL newsletter ___ Please E-MAIL newsletter

___ Yes! I would like to volunteer to help the 93rd BGA and my skill is:

Make checks payable to: 93rd BOMB GROUP

(You may also pay by PayPal through the 93rd Bomb Group website, 93bg.com)

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!**)

Please note, membership is on a calendar year.