

# Ball of Fire QUARTERLY EXPRESS



NEWSLETTER OF THE 93<sup>rd</sup> BOMB GROUP  
2nd Air Division, 8th Air Force, Hardwick, England  
[www.93bg.com](http://www.93bg.com)

Vol. 24 No. 1

Spring 2016

## 93<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group Reunion October 13 - 16, 2016 San Antonio, Texas



Our 2016 Reunion takes place in San Antonio, Texas offering a wide range of exciting activities and a great opportunity to renew friendships. We have selected the DoubleTree by Hilton, San Antonio Airport located within a mile of the San Antonio International Airport (SAT). The hotel's address is:

**DoubleTree by Hilton  
San Antonio Airport  
37 NE Loop 410  
San Antonio, TX 78216**

### Hotel at a Glance:

Enjoy a warm welcome and feel cared for from the moment you arrive at the San Antonio hotel featuring dramatic Spanish colonial architecture.

- Ø *Our DoubleTree by Hilton hotel offers stylish guest rooms and comforting amenities. Enjoy a signature chocolate chip cookie, and know that this welcoming gift is only a taste of the warm, personal service you will experience at DoubleTree by Hilton.*
- Ø *Located just minutes from San Antonio International Airport (SAT) on Interstate 410 across from the upscale North Star Shopping Mall, our DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel San Antonio Airport offers close proximity to the downtown area and many major attractions and business centers. Discover the Alamo and other historic missions, the famous River Walk, and San Antonio Convention Center with ease from our convenient San Antonio hotel, offering a complimentary shuttle service to the airport and nearby businesses.*
- Ø *The hotel offers a 24-hour business center offering complimentary internet access and printing.*
- Ø *Relax in the beautiful Spanish courtyard featuring peaceful fountains and an outdoor pool and whirlpool, or rejuvenate in our fully equipped fitness center.*
- Ø *Indulge in a delicious meal at the award-winning Cascabel Restaurant, serving eclectic Southwestern cuisine in a casual atmosphere or unwind at the trendy Cascabel Bar, serving all your favorite specialty drinks.*

We have negotiated a room rate of \$99.00 plus tax of 16.75% per night (\$115.58 inclusive) for Thursday – Sunday night. 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 schedule.

Each attendee is responsible to make your hotel reservations. For Reservations contact the hotel directly by phone: **1-210-366-2424** or at **1-800-445-8667**. Be sure to identify your affiliation with the **93<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group**.

In addition to the hotel cost, a registration fee covers the cost of four evening meals, three breakfasts, three lunches, bus transportation, and activity entrance fees. A registration form will be included in the next issue of the BOFQE.



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## President's Corner

I hope everyone is having a great winter, as we look forward to springtime! Hard to believe how fast time flies! The 93<sup>rd</sup> Executive Officers and key members are hard at work with many initiatives. This is a very busy year for us! Here are some highlights:

1. **Hardwick 104 Film Project:** Michael Sellers is hard at work with the interviewing, data collection, and production steps, fundraising has been a tremendous success to support the budget, and the reunion Film Premier planning is under way. A great group of members are working to ensure the Film is a tremendous success! A special thanks to George Jung and his sister, Karyn, for providing matching donation funds in memory of their father!
2. **San Antonio Reunion planning:** John Marx and the reunion committee, along with input from many others, and the input from the Omaha reunion survey, are well on the way to ensuring another successful reunion this year. We encourage everyone to mark your calendar for October 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, and plan on attending!
3. **93<sup>rd</sup> BG Association Long-Term Strategy:** The Officers and key committee members are collecting information, looking at alternatives and ideas, for ensuring the legacy of the 93<sup>rd</sup> BG continues far into the future. This has been looked at before, resulting in the transition of the Executive leadership being passed on to the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation. Now we are looking at the next level of strategy at the request of our Veterans, and will present our recommendations to the Veterans and our members at the reunion in San Antonio. Make sure you attend the business meeting at the Reunion in October!
4. **Election year for 93<sup>rd</sup> BG Association Officers:** Per our By-Laws, this year we will be nominating and voting on the next 2 year positions for the Executive Officers. One position that will be vacated is that of Treasurer, as Jim Guddal has decided to give someone else a chance to volunteer and participate as our Group Treasurer! We would like to take the opportunity to thank Jim for his 8 + years of dedicated service to the 93<sup>rd</sup> BG Association as Treasurer! See the "Help Wanted Ad" further in this BOF.
5. **"Hot Stuff Project":** Fundraising and support of the Hot Stuff Project continues, with tremendous work by Jim Lux to plan the memorial dedication in Iceland in 2018. Keep informed with Jim's newsletter, and be sure to support the fundraising effort!

As you can see, a very active and busy year! I would like to thank everyone for the help, and support as we work through the rest of this exciting year!

Also, the Executive Officers, at the recommendation of Don Morrison, agreed to adjust the issue timing of the BOF newsletter. To better align with our reunion activities, the BOF will be sent out quarterly in February, May, August, and November of every year.

Lastly, I want to recognize how blessed the 93<sup>rd</sup> BG Association is to have great historical information on the service of our Veterans during World War 2! I recently have been reading through past issues of the BOF. Past issues of the BOF from the initial issue in 1993 are posted on our website. I would encourage each of you to take some time to read or re-read past issues. There is a wealth of information, stories, letters, photos, and family connections that will help continue our legacy. Paul Steichen, Cal Davidson, JoAnne Sargent, and now Don Morrison and George Jung, have done an excellent job to preserve the 93<sup>rd</sup> BG History as told through the over 80 issues of the BOF.

Along with our Veteran's firsthand accounts, Ted's Travelling Circus, our memorabilia collection, personal stories, documented video's and photos, Historian's collections, and our collective base of knowledge, the 93<sup>rd</sup> BG WILL and CAN "live long and prosper" ( to steal a phrase from Star Trek)!

See you in San Antonio in October!

Jim Root, President

# THE RETURN OF "THE NIGHT RAIDER" OR THE LIBERATORS CAN DO IT TOO!



At 0830 hours on 26 February, 1943, this Squadron took off to join other Groups in the bombing of Bremen, Germany. Captain B H. Fleenor, in the "Night Raider", was flying left wing in the first element of the Squadron. The Squadron tacked on to the 44<sup>th</sup> Group over Shipdam and the formation proceeded to Cromer to rendezvous with the B-17s of the 1<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Wing. After the formation circled Cromer several times, the B-17s were sighted well out over the North Sea.

The formation left the English Coast at 20,000 feet and began climbing to 28,000 feet which was reached before crossing the Frisian Islands. As the formation crossed the Frisian Islands, Tunnel Gunner Sgt. T. J. Kilmer and Right Waist Gunner E. W. Dawley passed out due to lack of oxygen. Some FW 190s were attacking the formation from the rear at this time. As the formation began to get flak, the fighter attacks slacked off until the formation was out of range of the flak. Then the fighter attacks began again, continuing until the formation entered the flak area around Wilhelmshaven. Bremen was not attacked as a ten tenths overcast obscured that city. The flak over Wilhelmshaven was very accurate.

Just after Captain Fleenor had released his bombs the supercharger on the number 2 engine ran away (probably due to flak damage) and the full power of that engine was lost. The loss of some of the power of the number 2 engine caused the "Night Raider" to begin to lose its place in the formation which was descending at 200 miles per hour. Crossing over the Frisian Islands again, the

formation was engaged by flak and Captain Fleenor's ship was hit under the rear turret. This burst of flak took out the hydraulic line to the rear turret and it had to be manually operated from that point on.

As the "Night Raider" fell back from the formation, the enemy fighters—to use Captain Fleenor's own words, "Drove us further from the formation much the same a steer is cut out of a herd of cattle."

Knowing that the fighters would pick out the one ship for attacks, Captain Fleenor sent the radio operator, S/Sgt. Robert T. Jungbluth, to the rear of the ship as one waist gunner and the tunnel gunner were unconscious. Arriving in the rear of the plane Jungbluth found Sgt. Kilmer just breathing.

Immediately Jungbluth put another oxygen mask on Kilmer and began artificial respiration, continuing until Kilmer was breathing normally once more. Jungbluth then manned the right waist gun and began shooting at the enemy fighters.

About this time there were twenty (a conservative estimate) enemy fighters attacking the "Night Raider" including ME 109s, ME 110s, ME 210s, JU 88s and FW 190s. Continuous attacks were made from all directions, above and below, sometimes as many as five fighters attacking at the same time. During this running fight of about thirty or forty minutes S/Sgt. Jungbluth and T/Sgt. Szabo each knocked down an enemy plane. By turning his aircraft into each attack, if possible, Captain Fleenor was able to cut the effect of the enemy fire to a minimum. The rear of the ship was hit a great deal more than the rest; although, the number one supercharger, number 2 engine, and the carburetor or the number 3 engine were hit. Throughout this fight, attacks were coming so fast that the gunners did not have time to observe many results of their fire.

Seeing a cumulus cloud ahead with tops at 8,000 feet and base at about 2,000 feet Captain Fleenor immediately headed the "Night Raider" in that direction.

Just after the sighting of the cloud, a 20 MM cannon shell burst near the waist gunners, seriously wounding Jungbluth. Sgts. Elmer and Dawley were sufficiently revived by this time to operate the waist guns and they continued the fight. By this time Sgt. Bates' hands were frozen so that he could no longer manually operate the tail turret. Bates then came forward and began giving first aid to Jungbluth and Szabo. Attacks continued until the "Night Raider" reached the cloud. During those attacks, Sgt. Dawley shot down a ME 110. Continuous accurate firing by Lts. Ellis and Pinner in the nose and by Sgt. Nelson in the top turret prevented the fighters from closing a number of times. The top turret was spinning like a top and tracers were seen to enter several enemy fighters but there was no time to observe the results.

On entering the cloud Captain Fleenor put the "Night Raider" in a dive and descended to 1,000 feet coming out of the clouds at about 2,000 feet. At this time the number two engine was out and feathered and number three engine was vibrating a great deal. Lt. Ellis immediately began navigating again and gave Captain Fleenor a course for England. Sometime during the fight, Lt. Ellis received a scalp wound from a piece of bursting 20 MM Cannon shell. He didn't even know it until the fighters were gone.

Captain Fleenor checked his gas supply and had only 150 gallons left as the tanks had been riddled. Lt. Ellis' navigation proved sound and the Coast of England was soon sighted. Just as the "Night Raider" crossed over the Coast the engines still running stopped (one had already stopped and was feathered). Captain Fleenor sighted a R.A.F. fighter Airdrome about two miles ahead. Making a complete circle of the field, Captain Fleenor brought the "Night Raider" in with no flaps and with the landing gear up as the hydraulic system was shot away. A dead stick landing in a Liberator shows Captain Fleenor's great skill as a pilot. Any four engine bomber pilot will confirm this. Later it was discovered that both main tires were flat and it was fortunate that the gear could not be lowered. The men in the rear of the ship, who were not injured, cradled the wounded men in their arms to break the shock of landing. However, there was no shock as Captain Fleenor, with the able assistance of his co-pilot, Lt. James Leary, made a perfect "belly" landing. The crew said it was one of the smoothest landings that they had ever experienced. The wounded were immediately rushed to the hospital in Norwich.

After seeing the extent of the damage it is almost incredible to believe that the "Night Raider" was able to stay in the air as long as it did. There were seventeen cannon holes in the plane and no one knows how many thirty caliber holes; a conservative estimate is well over three hundred.

**\*The photos were found in an online auction by Don Morrison and the text is a direct transcription of the story found in the National Archive.**

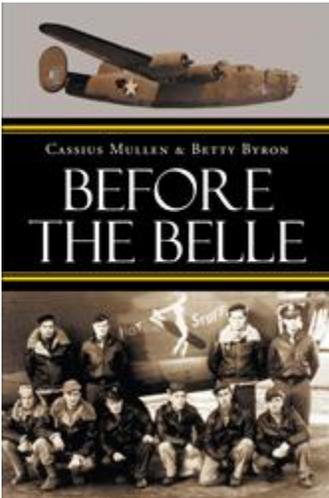
### **TREASURER'S NOTES**

Post Exchange Inventory (PX)	1,625	1,504
Total Current Assets	48,533	65,387
LIABILITIES	-397	0
TOTAL ASSETS & FUND BALANCE	48,136	65,387
<b>STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS</b>		
Cash Basis		
	October 2013 through September 2014	
	October 2014 through September 2015	
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
<b>Receipts</b>		
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	1,461	2,395
Total Receipts	24,716	37,968
<b>Disbursements</b>		
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	\$ 493	0
Dues, Licenses and Permits	0	50
Print – Book Prnts & 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	0	9,412
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.		

### **HELP WANTED AD – 93<sup>rd</sup> BG Association Treasurer**

Jim Guddal has provided over 8 years of dedicated and loyal volunteer service to the 93<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group, as Association Treasurer! He has decided to step down after this year's term, so we are in need of financial help! If you, or anyone you know in the 93<sup>rd</sup> BG Association has an interest in becoming our Treasurer, please contact Jim Root. It would be helpful if you have an accounting background, experience with tax preparation, and/or public fund raising. We thank Jim for his years of service, and for taking the 93<sup>rd</sup> BG Association through the last 8 years of membership growth, fund raising projects, and legal tax concerns as a non-profit organization!

**Before The Belle**  
**By Cassius Mullen & Betty Byron**  
**Reviewed by John Marx, VP, 93<sup>rd</sup> BG**



Billed as an historic narrative, Before the Belle, is a fascinating account of the men and their plane, Hot Stuff, who completed more missions than any other plane in the early days of the European war. When the call went out for the plane and crew with the most missions to return to the United States for a War Bond Drive, Hot Stuff, was chosen. With 31 missions credited to date, Hot Stuff, was well ahead of the other B-24 and B-17s. The authors have woven dialogue among the crew and others into the story giving it an immediacy and personal touch not found in a regular history. This dialogue gives an idea of what life among a bomber crew may have been like.

The book was carefully researched and provides a great overview of the war and Hot Stuff's role from the beginning. The reader is introduced to the crew and eventually to their plane as the account progresses. The narrative also introduces Lieutenant General Frank Andrews, the Commander of all American Forces in the European Theater explaining his friendship with Col. Ted Timberlake, the Commander of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group. When the decision was made to send Hot Stuff and her crew back to the states for the War Bond Drive, preparations began. At the same time, General Andrews had an urgent requirement to return to the United States. The normal Air Transport route being deemed too slow, General Andrews, a rated B-24 pilot decided to fly as the copilot and bump many of the crew members to accommodate his staff. The trip to Iceland did not follow the normal routing resulting in confusion on everyone's part. The account of the return trip identifies several errors contributing to a disaster in Iceland when weather conditions prevented landing at several airfields resulting in a tragic mountainside crash. All aboard were killed except for the tail gunner who was trapped in the wreckage for twenty-seven hours.

The tail gunner's story is a fascinating tale in its own right. Staff Sergeant George Eisel of Columbus, Ohio was an excellent shot with eight unofficial kills of enemy aircraft to his credit. Early in his deployment, Eisel was loaned to another crew as a temporary replacement. That mission ended unhappily in a crash which Eisel survived. George Eisel survived not one but two crashes in B-24s. He was a superb gunner and a valued crew member.

Each mission is detailed beginning with the October 21, 1942 Lorient raid to bomb German submarine pens. Four antisubmarine missions, and raids into France followed immediately after. On Dec 13, 1942, missions in North Africa, the Mediterranean region to include Sicily and Italy began. The 25<sup>th</sup> mission was on Feb 7, 1943 to Naples, Italy. Returning to England at the end of February, the crew was not scheduled for another mission until Mar 17<sup>th</sup>. After three missions to Germany, Hot Stuff's last mission was flown on Mar 31, 1943 to Rotterdam. The crew was given a 30-day stand down. On Apr 27, the pilot was told to prepare to return to the Zone of the Interior (the United States) with six passengers. The mission ended tragically on May 3, 1943 with the crash.

Our very own, Jim Lux, has played a prominent role in gaining Hot Stuff the recognition that is long overdue. His efforts to secure a place in history for the gallant crew are presented. The authors have announced that they will donate \$5.00 of every book sale to the Hot Stuff Memorial Project. The book is published by Page Publishing with a 2015 copyright and is available for \$18.95 from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Google Play and iTunes.

## Hot Stuff Memorial Monument Project Update



Fund raising for the Memorial Monument Project has now exceeded \$50,000!

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Jacobson/*Hot Stuff* Memorial Golf Tournament fund raiser will be held on June 27, 2016 at Lost Creek Country Club in Austin, Texas. United Heritage Charity Foundation located in Austin, Texas is sponsoring the tournament. Roger Beasley Mazda, a local Austin car dealership, is providing a Mazda Miata as a prize for a hole-in-one and LaRue Architects of Austin is sponsoring a \$10,000 prize for a hole-in-one on a second hole. The winning team will receive a ride in the World War II B-25 Mitchell bomber *Yellow Rose*. Teams and individuals can sign up for the tournament on the *Hot Stuff*/Gen. Andrews website at: [www.b24hotstuff.wikispaces.com](http://www.b24hotstuff.wikispaces.com)

Sculptor Terry Hinde has completed the centerpiece of the *Hot Stuff*/Gen. Andrews Memorial Monument, a stainless steel model of the B-24 Liberator *Hot Stuff* with an 8 foot wingspan. He did an incredible job!





Icelandair is going to ship the *Hot Stuff* model to Keflavik, Iceland free of charge. It will be put on display in the lobby at Keflavik International Airport and other locations until the stone portion of the monument is completed.

The book *Before The Belle* is now available on Amazon.com and at Barnes & Noble. There are several excellent reviews of the book on Amazon.com.

**Thank you for your donation to the *Hot Stuff*/Gen. Andrews Memorial Monument Project.**

You will receive a copy of Ted's Travelling Circus with a donation of \$250 or more. This rare book is a comprehensive history of the 93rd Bombardment Group in World War II.



**Hot Stuff/Gen. Andrews  
Memorial Monument Donation Form**  
(Print and cut out)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check Payable To:  
93rd Bombardment Group Association.

Send to: 93rd Bombardment Group Association  
995 Cottonwood Lane  
Glenwood Springs, Colorado 91601

Donations may be made through PayPal on the  
Hot Stuff/Gen. Andrews website at:  
[www.b24hotstuff.wikispaces.com](http://www.b24hotstuff.wikispaces.com)



## Folded Wings

Lt. William Fitzsimmons, Bombardier, aircraft 121215 Lucky 409<sup>Th</sup> BS . He passed away Feb 1992. From Vanessa Fitzsimmons, daughter.



Vernon J Harriman on the Frank Eiben crew 0-BITCH-U AIRY-MARY 93 BG 409 BS. He passed away in 2008

Larry P Jean Nov 1924 to May 31 1978 He was on the Tucker and Fernley Smith crew. He was a radio man/ waist gunner. From Phil Jean, son

Reuben Kenneth Chewning, 93, passed away on December 1, 2015. He flew 35 missions as a pilot with the 93<sup>rd</sup>.

**They will be missed!!!!**



## Greetings from the 93<sup>rd</sup> BG Historian!

I am often asked how I became interested in the 93<sup>rd</sup> BG. Well, there is no easy answer to that question. I cannot remember a time when I did not love airplanes. Along with that love of airplanes, I always was greatly interested in my grandfather's WW2 experiences. My Grandfather (Melvin Morrison) was a waist gunner in the 328<sup>th</sup> BS and flew 30 missions from March to September 1944.

My father told me my grandfather did not really talk much about the war until I came along and began to ask him questions. He really never talked much about fighting, but would talk about life on the base and flying. He did tell me one of Pappy's (Arthur Dipasquale) favorite sayings when the flak or fighters got bad, "Boys things are looking up".

I am sure he grew tired of me asking to see his memorabilia from the war. He kept the few faded photos and patches that he had held on to in an old cigar box. We would sit at the dining room table and he would pull out each photo and tell me about them. His stories were about the good times and his fellow airmen, what their nicknames were and where they were from. Many of the details had been lost over time. He had lost touch with all of his crewmates. My grandfather worked as a pipefitter in the rubber factories in Akron, Ohio. He worked many overtime hours to provide for his family. There was once a call from Dave Wright and Pappy to come to New York to have a mini reunion. Sadly, he declined due to the cost and working the weekend shifts. He always regretted that decision. As a kid, I would sit and look at the photos of their faces as I listened to his stories and imagine what it was like to fly in the B-24 and hang out with the guys. They had nicknames like Knobby, Pappy, Jake, and Gay. These colorful names only spiked my interest. These young men were my imaginary friends. Then there was the "girl". She was called the "Big Fat Butterfly" and was painted on the side of the B-24 they flew from Kansas to England. She was painted in the typical style of nose art--partially nude with stockings and butterfly wings. Since my grandpa would not let me keep one of the photos, I drew a copy for myself. I would say I did a good job, but my mother did not see the humor! You must remember I was only about 10 years old.

Sometimes, when I would pull out a photo, he would get quiet before he would tell me a story about flying or USAAF "army" life. Then the stories all changed when he told me that three of the men in the photos had died in a plane crash on one of their missions. My plans of meeting these imaginary friends when I grew up was shattered. They were to remain forever young and yet still my friends. At that point, I decided to find the other 6 survivors for me and my grandpa. This was long before the Internet, and I got into hot water with my dad when the phone bill arrived after a month of after-school calls. I was on a quest to find Dave Wright in Georgia. Do you have any idea of how many Wrights live in Georgia? Due to the high cost, I was slightly slowed in my search activities. I remained determined and by the time I was 20 years old, I had

found all of the crewman or their next of kin. Pappy (Arthur DiPasquale) who had been a close friend of Grandpa's died a few years before. Karl Anderson had also passed away. I found the families of the three who were killed and was able to share the photos and stories with their families. This continual search and discovery only opened more questions. Before I knew it, I wanted to know everything I could find about grandpa's wartime experiences and the 93<sup>rd</sup> BG. So now you know why I do what I do.

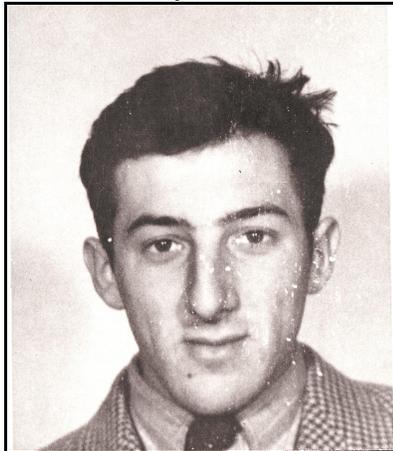
In the end, I became "real" friends with five of the crew including grandpa. However, the young men in the faded photos will always be my "imaginary" friends!

### Gomer Sneddon Crew

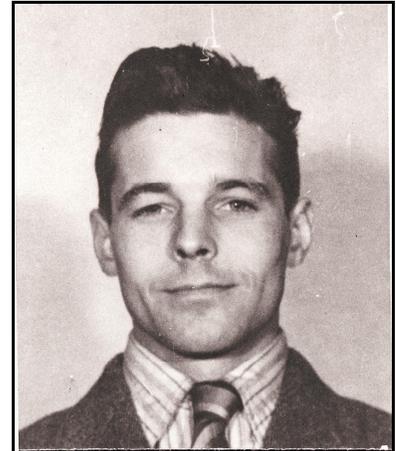
The men of Gomer Sneddon Crew from stateside training up to the crash on March 3, 1944. They flew overseas on "Big Fat Butterfly" (42-64166), which was taken from the crew and assigned to the 44<sup>th</sup> BG. They crashed in a B-24J serial number 42-99939.



Stanley Jacobson



Salvatore Cambria



John O'Brien

All three were killed on March 3, 1944



D. Wright, M. Morrison, G. Davis & M. Naberezny



A. DiPasquale & M. Morrison



S. Jacobson, G. Sneddon and K. Anderson  
J. O'Brien

### **FREE Memorabilia Cataloging and Research**

I am willing to scan any documents, records and photos of a 93<sup>rd</sup> 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**

Looking for any information on the nose art of "Nancy Lee" and "Miss America" of the 93<sup>rd</sup> BG. Any clues are helpful! If you can provide any information on the above items, please contact me.

*Cheers,*

*Don Morrison*

# 93rd Website & Film Project

## 93rd Website Update

A huge milestone has been reached!!! We have surpassed 100,000 people visiting [www.93bg.com](http://www.93bg.com). At the time of writing this article 100,092 people have visited the 93rd BG website since its redesign in November 2009. A visitor recently was logged all the way from Republic of Mozambique in Africa!! It's great to see that the website is continuing to educate people about the 93rd BG.

## Hardwick Documentary (Update)

We have reached our goal for the budget of the Hardwick film!!! Due to great early contributions at the 2015 Omaha reunion and an excellent matching campaign put on by George Jung and Karyn Senatore (sister to George) we have reached a total of \$44,000 - initially we were seeking a budget of \$30,000. This far exceeds what everyone was expecting and we thank everyone who made contributions. Please visit the homepage of the 93rd's website for a list of donors. You can still donate today if you are interested!! We also have a rewards program for specific levels of donations given so please see that on the website as well. Thank you!!!!

One final step before editing begins on the documentary is to interview key people to support the story of the 93rd BG and recount the activities at the 93rd's 2015 England reunion. From a sunny valley in Santa Paula, CA to the busy streets of New York City I have interviewed 6 people. I have one more interview I'd like to get, but while I'm setting that up I'm currently solidifying the outline for the edit and organizing all the footage. From now until mid-summer I will be working towards a rough cut of the documentary. At that point the executive committee will watch the rough cut and give notes. I'll then incorporate the notes and work towards a fine cut for the film. The goal is to have a finished film for the 93rd's 2016 San Antonio reunion. Cross your fingers!! Thank you to all the people I have interviewed - everything looks great and can't wait to incorporate your interviews into the film.

If you would like to keep up with the film's progress please visit the Hardwick Aerodrome 104 Facebook page. I periodically post updates so you can follow along and see the stages the film is at. If you haven't seen the promotional film you can find this on the Facebook page for the film or go to the 93rd's website and look for the link on the homepage.

Michael Sellers  
Webmaster / Hardwick Documentary  
[www.93bg.com](http://www.93bg.com) / [www.facebook.com/hardwickdoc](http://www.facebook.com/hardwickdoc)



## Membership

Membership is continuing to connect with existing members and reaching out to prospective members. We hope you will join us in communicating our mission to others.

In January 2016 we will be sending out renewal notices to those members whose membership expires in 2015. For those of you who do not receive a notice, it is because your membership is paid through at least 12/31/2016.

As members have paid, an acknowledgement letter has been sent to confirm receipt of the payment and note the expiration date. If you do not know what your expiration date is and would like to verify it, please feel free to contact Jean Koznarek, Membership chair, at [member93bg@aol.com](mailto:member93bg@aol.com).

We would also like to welcome the New Members who have joined the 93rd BGA in 2015.

Anne Barry Mullen	Gordon Lew
Amber Breitzman	Mary McGuire
Elisa Carter	Will Paine
John Duran	Lindsay Phillips
Brianna Guthrie	Reid Phillips
Willard Hunzeker – veteran	Karyn Jung Senatore
Sharon Ilstrup	James Sherman
Stephen Johnson	Bruce Spencer
Gaines & Cathy Johnston	Dru Swaim
Hans Kraeger	David Youngblood

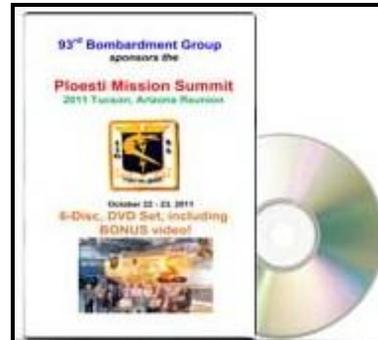
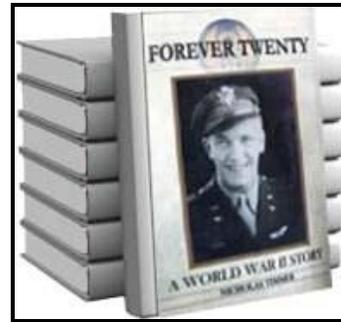
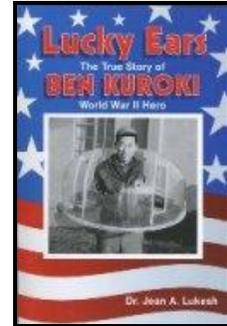
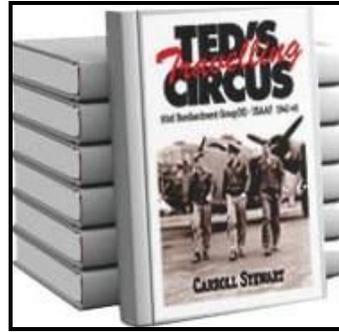
We hope to see you at our reunion in San Antonio, TX in 2016. It is always a wonderful time meeting old and new friends, learning more about the 93rd BG and our veterans.

Thank you for the donations we have received with membership payments. Your generosity is always appreciated.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding your membership at the above email address.

Jean Koznarek

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

### COFFEE & THERMAL TRAVEL MUGS

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

### PUZZLES

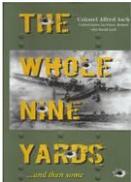
Jigsaw puzzles with colorful "Ball of Fire III" image over Ploesti. Comes with stand.	\$22	\$42
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### SUNCATCHERS

93 <sup>rd</sup> BG Replica of Memorial stained glass window at Mighty 8 <sup>th</sup> Museum Chapel – with suction cup	\$14	\$25
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### BOOKS by 93<sup>rd</sup> BG Authors

<i>Ted's Travelling Circus</i> by Cal Stewart ( <i>member price</i> )	\$69.95	\$134.00
<i>Ploesti</i> by Cal Stewart and James Dugan	(See 93 <sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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, 93<sup>rd</sup> BG PX  
979 South Ridge Ct., Traverse City, MI 49696  
231 933 8405 email [pcasch@charter.net](mailto:pcasch@charter.net)

**93<sup>rd</sup> BG MEMBERSHIP FORM &  
BALL OF FIRE QUARTERLY EXPRESS SUBSCRIPTION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Year 2016**

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name of 93<sup>rd</sup> 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<sup>st</sup> time Child or grandchild (2016 only) \$20 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tax deductible Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (The 93<sup>rd</sup> is a 501(c)(3) Organization)

**GRAND TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ *Please MAIL newsletter* \_\_\_ *Please E-MAIL newsletter*

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

**Mail to: Jean Koznarek  
93<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group Assn.  
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**