

# 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) or [www.93rdbombardmentgroup.com](http://www.93rdbombardmentgroup.com)

Vol. 19 No. 4

Winter 2011

## Tucson Reunion 2011



Front: Bill and MaryAnn Neumann, William Brown, Joanie and Fernley Smith, Lew Brown, Mariam and Wayne Baker, Steve Rudnyk.

Back: Bud and Charal Winnett, John and Bea Sullivan, Richard Trousdale, Jim McClain (389thBG), Earl Zimmerman (389th BG), Vernon Swaim, John Cadle and Jeanine Mcambly, (Pima museum member?), George McLean, June and Raymond Eck, Joyce Goodfriend (widow of Frank Goodfriend), Alberta DelGuidice (widow of Louie DelGuidice), Henry Nykamp



Not in the group photo - Joe Schwarzgruber

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## President's Corner

Once again, the Christmas season is upon us seemingly within days of the conclusion of our reunion. The rush of holidays, Halloween, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving lead us into the shopping frenzy and holiday party season without a moment to pause and reflect. Jim Root did a fabulous job leading the reunion planning and coordination effort. He was ably assisted by his brother, Bob and sister, Beth. The Durans, Guddals, Sargents, and many others played critical roles in presenting another outstanding 93<sup>rd</sup> BG Reunion. Our team is a team of champions and it is a pleasure to work with them from year to year.

In addition to the regular agenda, a Ploesti Summit was added with invitations extended to the four other Bomb Groups who participated in the raid. This symposium took place within the context of the larger reunion, providing an excellent review and many eye witness accounts of the events surrounding the Ploesti raid. Jim Guddal, Joe Duran and Jim Root collaborated extensively to make sure both events were smoothly integrated.

Men from the other bomb groups told us that their groups have decided to stop holding reunions altogether. Because of the great experience we had with our new friends from the other groups, we have decided to invite other bomb groups who no longer conduct separate reunions to join us at our reunions. For those who decide to join us, we will welcome them with open arms and do all we can to make them feel comfortable among new friends.

For me the highlight of the reunion was our banquet and dance under the wings of the B-24, Bungay Buckaroo. The Pima Air Museum hosted the event and gave our group special permission to have a dinner in the hanger

with the B-24. Due to significant challenges, their caterers have asked not to serve meals there. We were the last group to be granted permission. The 446<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group sponsors the aircraft and has their Roll of Honor mounted on the wall near the airplane which is marked with the 446<sup>th</sup> group's colors. My uncle, 1LT Robert L. Marx flew the majority of his missions with the 446<sup>th</sup> transferring to the 93<sup>rd</sup> only three weeks before he and his crew were killed during takeoff on December 19<sup>th</sup> 1944. As a part of the program, I told Uncle Bob's story and pointed out that all of his crew's names appear on the 446<sup>th</sup> Roll of Honor as well as on the 93<sup>rd</sup>'s. I don't know how many crews appear on two different groups Honor Rolls, but I count the double recognition as a double honor.

Congratulations to the Mike and Suzanne Sellers on the birth of their daughter, Charlotte, on November 27th. I heard a rumor that there is an upcoming video due out soon titled, "Charlotte's First Month" filmed, edited and produced by Michael. Congratulations to Jim and Peggy Sellers, proud grandparents and John and Bea Sullivan, proud great grandparents. We plan to groom Charlotte to take over her Dad's filming in a few years.

The planning is underway for our 12<sup>th</sup> 93<sup>rd</sup> BG Reunion to be held in Seattle, WA next fall. More detail is provided elsewhere in this BOFQE. Anyone living in the Seattle/Tacoma area is welcome to help us finalize the details. John Cadle has already provided valuable assistance and is willing to continue, but would welcome additional help. Contact Jim Root if you are interested. His number is 616-218-0787. He lives in the Eastern Time zone. His email is [JamesDavidRoot@aol.com](mailto:JamesDavidRoot@aol.com).

John Marx

### 93<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Group Association

#### Annual Meeting

October 23, 2011

John Marx, President

#### Call to order (10:00 AM)

- a. Greeting and opening remarks
- b. Discussed membership
- c. Discussed the group's interface with other organization such as Mighty 8<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Division, Heritage League.
- d. Covered 2010 minutes and asked to have them approved. They were approved as presented.

#### Financial Report

Jim Guddal / Reading and explanation of the report.

- a. Covered how Reunion Fund is separate from the General Fund.
- b. Reviewed Profit/Loss Statement. (See attached)
- c. Discussed PX
- d. Matching Fund to Mighty 8th Air Force Museum for Ploesti Exhibit.
- e. Report was approved.
- f. The Audit Committee consisting of Ray Eck and Nick Timmer found records in order. Their report was presented to President John Marx and Group.

g. *Discussed dues and the change from anniversary dues to annual dues.*

**Ball of Fire** **BOFQE Editor/JoAnne Sargent**

a. *Discussed concerns of privacy issues on Web Page and elimination of personal information being posted.*

**Historian Report** **Don Morrison/Read by John Marx**

- a. *Discuss the success of mini Reunion in Hardwick, England, Co- Chaired by Colin Mann.*
- b. *Discussed increase of requests for information on research of family members of the 93<sup>rd</sup>.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> ADA Report** **John Lee/Read by John Marx**

- a. *Update on 2nd ADA and their Reunion held in Sept. 2011.*
- b. *The 2ADA 2012 Reunion will be held in Chicago.*
- c. *John Lee will continue to represent the 93<sup>rd</sup> as Vice President to the 2<sup>nd</sup> ADA.*

**Reunion Chairman Report** **Jim Root, Executive Vice President**

- a. *Reunion Report costs and attendees.*
- b. *Explanation on how we plan for the Reunions.*

**Hardwick Reunion Report** **Alberta DelGuidice**

a. *Discussed how memorable the event was and how grateful we are to our friends at Hardwick.*

**New Business**

- a. *Discussion of return visit to Hardwick, England in 2013 or 2014. /John Marx*
- b. *Discussion of the concept of possible sponsorship with the Commemorative Air Force in the restoration and refurbishing of their B-24, Old 927. /Jim Root*
- c. *Motion was passed to continue looking into cost and possibilities of the 93<sup>rd</sup> involvement.*
- d. *More information on subject to be reported on at the next Reunion.*

**2012 Reunion** **Jim Root/Coordinator**

- a. *Seattle/Tacoma, WA Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012*
- b. *Theme: Never Forget*

**2013 Reunion Location Proposals** **John Marx**

*The following sites were presented for consideration:*

- a. *Hartford, Ct -17 votes- selected for 2013!*
- b. *Salt Lake City, UT*
- c. *Washington, DC -9 votes*
- d. *Orlando, FL*
- e. *Dayton, OH*
- f. *Detroit, MI -12 votes*

**Motion and 2nd to Adjourn Meeting at 10:40 AM**

**Where We've Been and Where We are Going!**

<b>93<sup>rd</sup> BG Reunions</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Location</b>
2001	Savannah, GA
2002	Colorado Springs, CO
2003	New Orleans, LA
2004	Dayton, OH
2005	San Diego, CA
2006	Savannah, GA
2007	Twin Cities, MN
2008	Dallas/Fort Worth, TX
2009	Shreveport, LA
2010	Savannah, GA
2011	Tucson, AZ
2012	Seattle, WA
2013	Hartford, CT

*Since 2001, the 93<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group Association has held separate reunions around the country. Prior to 2001, the 93<sup>rd</sup> like many other groups, held their reunions in conjunction with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Division Association. In the interest of having more time for group activities, the decision was made to split from the 2ADA. Many of our members attend the 2ADA reunion as well as the 93<sup>rd</sup>'s reunion. We have held 11 separate reunions as reflected in the table. The 2012 and 2013 locations are also included in the table. We vote at the annual business meeting for the location two years hence providing ample time to develop the schedule, select the hotel, and make the arrangements. Each year six candidate cities are nominated. This year our six candidates were Hartford, CT, Salt Lake City, UT, National Capital Region, Orlando, FL, Dayton, OH, and Detroit, MI – Hartford was chosen.*

## 2012 Reunion Summary/Highlights from Tucson, Arizona

WOW, what a terrific reunion in Tucson, Arizona in October for the 93<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Group Association!!! There were so many successes; it is hard to name them all. First, a big thank you to everyone who helped with the planning, organizing, and then working at the reunion itself! I could not have done it without you! Next, a huge "thank you" to all of the participants!! We always tentatively plan for 50 to 60 attendees, however, we had a final count throughout the weekend of 107! This included veterans, family members, guests, and extras. Fabulous turnout! And we truly are "one big, extended family"!

The food was delicious, all of our events went very smoothly, the education sessions of our veterans speaking to us about their experiences, the separate Ploesti Summit, the memorabilia room, and the Tom Patrick swing band playing with us at dinner under the B-24 at Pima, were all highlights of the weekend! What a gorgeous setting in Tucson, and the weather was perfect. It was a joy to meet new members, and to reunite with our veterans and their families once again.

### Update on 2012 93<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Group Reunion – Seattle, WA

Plans are under way for the 2012 93<sup>rd</sup> BG annual reunion in Seattle, Washington.

**When:** Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup> – Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012

**Hotel:** Embassy Suites Seattle Tacoma International Airport

**Potential Events under review:** Museum of Flight, Boeing Plant tour, Bremerton Historic Ships & Naval Museum, Naval Undersea Museum, Flying Heritage

If you missed it, check out the photos or videos! You can still go to [www.edgetonphoto.com](http://www.edgetonphoto.com), to purchase professional photos taken at the Pima dinner under the B-24 by Michael Edgeton. Pricing is discounted, and there are a lot to choose from.

Financially, we received a total of \$24,993 in registrations, revenue, and donations, and expenses totaled \$24,102. So once again, we were able to come in slightly under budget, without having to supplement any funds from the 93<sup>rd</sup> BG Association general fund.

However, even as good as this reunion turned out, if you have suggestions for improvements, or how to make the schedule even more flexible, please contact me at 616-218-0787, [jamesdavidroot@aol.com](mailto:jamesdavidroot@aol.com), or 15359 Red Fox Walk, West Olive, MI 49460.

Thanks again, and we will see all of you in Seattle in 2012!

Jim Root, 93<sup>rd</sup> BG Vice President & Reunion Coordinator

Collection, Seattle Veterans Museum, Fort Lewis Military Museum, Pike Place Market, Space Needle, Joint Lewis McChord Base, Westfield Southcenter shopping, or historic downtown Seattle.

We are also considering an "optional – a la cart" style of events (pick & choose) from the above, and another in-hotel special mission education session again! It will be tons of fun and another great reunion!!! See you in Seattle! More information to follow soon, and watch for updates on our website, [www.93bg.com](http://www.93bg.com).

Jim Root

### 93rd Musical Members Invitation

At past reunions Emma Marx has serenaded us with wonderful violin music. Kent Jacquith and Emma are working on music for the next reunion in Seattle. Are there other members "In the Mood" to be part of the entertainment?

"Musicians wanted, old or otherwise, for some fun by getting together for some music. If you still have your old trumpet, clarinet, saxophone, flute or the like, get it out,

dust it off, oil it up and see what comes out the other end! We are not looking to start up another Glen Miller band, but just to see what might work for a tune or two at a reunion. Think about it."

Kent Jacquith

2633 SW Obsidian #15, Redmond, OR 97756  
541-923-4319; [gajk38@bendbroadband.com](mailto:gajk38@bendbroadband.com)

### "The Ploesti Summit" In The Rear View Mirror

The Chapter has closed on the 2011 Reunion and what a time it was! Our "education" component was a study of the August 1, 1943 low level bombing mission over the Ploesti, Romania oil fields called "Tidal Wave". The audience's interest was piqued by excellent presentations by Lt. Col. Dee Friesen, USAF (Ret) and Col. Bill Gunn USAF (Ret). A well researched presentation by Dee on the background and mission facts started things rolling on Day One and Bill provided

the facts of the events of August 1944 when 38 modified B-17s rescued over 1,100 men from the POW camp at Bucharest, Romania. Included were 110 fliers from the 1943 low level raid who had been interred at the "Velvet Cage", the name given the camp at Timisul Del Sol. Of special significance re Bill's report was the fact that his father, Col James Gunn was the responsible officer who organized and executed the POW rescue named "Operation Reunion". We were very fortunate to have

Dee and Bill be part of the Summit and we wholeheartedly thank them!

**Our panel of veterans was superb**, keeping our audience on the edge of their seats! Just listening to the guys tell their stories, one couldn't help being propelled into the very airplane positions of the pilots, gunners, bombardiers, radio men and navigators as they flew over the target at less than 250 feet. Our most sincere thanks to panelists: 93<sup>rd</sup> BG's Lew Brown (returned to base) and Leo Sharp (POW); 389<sup>th</sup> vets Earl Zimmerman (interred in Turkey) and James McClain (returned to base); 97<sup>th</sup> BG Lewis Sleeper (1944 POW in Bucharest).

To expand our panel of men "who were there", we utilized conference calling to hook up with 98<sup>th</sup> BG Bob Sternfels, pilot of that famous B-24 **The Sandman** as she emerged from a cloud of smoke having just dodged a smoke stack while in "harms way". Our conversation with Bob was very significant as he was able to talk about key players in this ill fated mission before those men left us. Col. Jacob Smart and Col. Keith Compton were both in the middle of much controversy concerning both the planning and execution of the mission.

On Day Two, we teleconferenced Ernie Poulson and Al Romano, both of the 389<sup>th</sup> BG and survivors of crashed **Chatanooga Choo Choo**. This B-24 landed on the Estate of Romanian Princess Caradja who saved the survivors from capture by the Germans. ( I recommend

the book "**The Princess and the POW**" by navigator Richard Britt as a first hand history of POW life at **Timisul** and the important role played by the Princess during their thirteen months in captivity.)

Of great interest was the testimony of guest Lewis Sleeper who flew with the **15<sup>th</sup> AF 97<sup>th</sup> BG**. Lewis was shot down April 1944 while flying high level over Ploesti in a B-17. Lewis commented on his experience at the **Bucharest POW** camp and also about the rescue in August 1944.

During the course of tracking down veterans for our panel, I had the opportunity to talk to Col. Charles McGee of the **332 FG**. On the days of the rescue in 1944, Col. McGee was flying a P-51 Mustang with a Red Tail. The **Tuskegee Airman** were flying escort to make sure these brave airman made it back to Italy safely.

**Our special thanks goes out to all of our panelists in residence and those over the airwaves. Your contribution to the Summit was very much appreciated!**

Not to be overlooked are two airmen from the **44<sup>th</sup> BG** that I talked with about the mission. Thanks to vets Frank Suponic and Bill Reese for providing some of the history while POWs at **Timisul** for 13 months. They were roommates with our own 93<sup>rd</sup> vet Mack Fitzgerald. Thanks guys! Sorry you couldn't be with us!

**For you folks wanting to learn more about this historic mission, here is a partial book list. Ploesti is one of the most written about missions of WWII.**

Title	Author(s)
RESCUE FROM PLOESTI –The Harry Fritz Story	William G. Williams
INTO THE FIRE	Duane Shultz
BURNING HITLERS BLACK GOLD	Frank Way and Major Robert Sternfels
PLOESTI – The Great Ground Battle of 1 August 1943 **	James Dugan and Carroll (Cal) Stewart
PLOESTI RAID – Through The Lens	Roger A. Freeman
TARGET PLOESTI	Leroy W. Newby
TED'S TRAVELLING CIRCUS **	Carroll (Cal) Stewart

\*\* Available from the 93<sup>rd</sup> BG website: [www.93bg.com](http://www.93bg.com)

Jim Guddal, Summit Coordinator (Special Thanks to Joe Duran, my Summit Co-coordinator, and to Phyllis Duran and Corinne Guddal who were behind the scene handling book and DVD sales.)

**\*\*\*YOUR PX IN PREVIEW\*\*\* EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA! COMING TO YOUR PX SOON!**

A 4 DVD set of the 93rd Bombardment Group PLOESTI SUMMIT held Tucson, AZ 10/22/11 – 10/23/11. Disc 1 replays the pre-recorded historical videos of the mission, real films, interviews, and the Col. Gunn Project "Operation Reunion" from August 1944. Disc 2 - 4 has actual panel discussions and conference calls with Ploesti Mission veterans who lived it! Q & A's in person. Coming soon! Availability expected the end of January, 2012! Price per set: \$\$TBD.

This will be a terrific historical keepsake that you can pass on to others!!!

Reserve your copy now! Send to Jim Guddal P O Box 47336 Plymouth, MN 55447 or email at [jguddal@yahoo.com](mailto:jguddal@yahoo.com).

## Treasurer's Notes

Dear friends, there are four subjects I am reporting on for this BOF. 1) PX operations; 2) Net Disbursements; and 3) 2012 Dues option: 4) Donation to the Mighty 8th Museum.

We continue to receive dues payments, including many prepaid for 2012. The postcard "reminder" has really helped folks stay current. Thanks everyone for keeping up!

**Item 1)** The Financial Statements as shown in this BOF, show that the PX spent more than it took in. This outcome occurs when we have purchased inventory that was not sold by the end of the year. Next year, we could sell all of our inventory and not spend as much in buying replacements. Therefore, we would show more in PX sales than in purchases.

**Item 2)** Net Disbursements of \$-1,679 simply means that we spent more than we took in. In 2010, we took in a lot of 2011 prepaid dues. Therefore, the Sept. 30, 2010 shows a surplus. We would have a surplus in 2011 if the prepaid dues received in 2010 were added to 2011.

**Item 3)** Some members have asked about "lifetime memberships" or paying ahead. A few years

ago, we considered "Lifetime", but, declined to set it up. However, to provide accommodation to those of our members who would like to pay two years at a time, **beginning January 1, 2012, we will offer members an option to pay for 2012 and 2013 at a discounted amount of \$45.** Each member not already paid for 2012 will receive a postcard in January 2012 with payment information. Those members who have prepaid 2012, will have an opportunity for a dues discount in 2013. Thanks in advance for your help on this new dues payment option!

**Item 4)** Finally, I am very pleased to report that the \$2,000 your association sent to the Mighty 8<sup>th</sup> AF Museum in Savannah, GA made it possible for them to finish the Ploesti Exhibit including painting a mural, building a display case and funding completion of an "audio dome" to tell visitors the story of the August 1, 1943 low level mission. The Museum gave the 93<sup>rd</sup> proper acknowledgement. **Thanks to everyone who gave!!!**

Thanks for listening!  
Jim Guddal, December 2011

## 93rd Bombardment Group Association STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND FUND BALANCE

10/18/2011

Cash Basis

As of September 30, 2010 and 2011

	<u>Sep 30,10</u>	<u>Sep 30,11</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets		
Checking/ Savings		
Center National Bank Cert. Dep.	14,000	5,000
Center National Bank Savings	13,349	18,383
Center National Bank Checking	3,550	4,689
Donation Fund	0	0
Reunion Fund	1,000	1,401
PayPal Balance	217	24
Total Checking/Savings	32,116	29,497
Post Exchange Inventory (PX)	268	1,357
Total Current Assets	32,116	30,854
 <b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>TOTAL ASSETS &amp; FUND BALANCE</b>		
	32,384	30,854

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

10/18/2011

Cash Basis

October 2009 through September 2010

October 2010 through September 2011

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
<i>Receipts/Disbursements</i>		
<i>Receipts</i>		
Donations	4,835	2,719
Interest	218	268
Member Dues	4,965	6,500
Reunion Excess Proceeds	2,300	2,000
PX Sales & Books	498	<u>3,401</u>
<i>Total Receipts</i>	<u>12,816</u>	<u>14,888</u>
<i>Disbursements</i>		
Bank Charges	0	55
Delivery	0	19
Newsletter Publishing	3,023	5,214
Postage	84	827
Website Maintenance	931	377
Data Base Software	251	1,317
Gift to Hardwick	250	0
Gift to Mighty 8th Museum	0	2,000
Dues,Licenses and Permits	25	105
Print - Book Pmts to Publishers	80	1,337
Printing and Reproduction BOF	458	0
PX Purchases	268	2,143
Shipping: supplies & costs	0	941
Reunion Deposits (2011)	0	1,800
Reunion Supplies (2010)	<u>0</u>	<u>432</u>
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	<u>5,370</u>	<u>16,567</u>
<i>Net Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>7,446</u>	<u>-1,679</u>

Statements are not audited or reviewed.

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

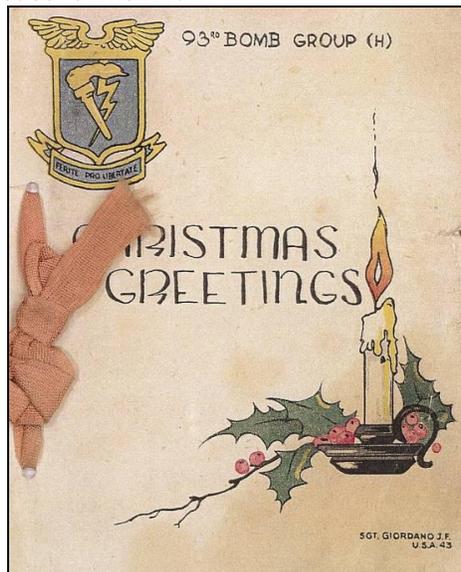
### 328th Bomb Squadron Sign

This photo of the 328<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron sign at Hardwick was taken in late 44 or early 45. Pictured are (L to R) Melvin Morrison, John Beamer and Gaylord Davis. After S/Sgt. Morrison finish combat duty in Sept 44, he remained with the 93<sup>rd</sup> in supply until returning to USA in early 45. Gaylord and Melvin were on Lt Gomer Sneddon crew and crashed on March 3, 1944. Gaylord was removed from flight duty following the crash. The second photo shows the sign and background better. I believe I have determined its location on the base but would like additional photos or any recollections of it, to be sure. Any detail is helpful.



### Christmas Greetings from 93<sup>rd</sup> BG (1943 style)

This Christmas Greetings card was made by Sgt. Joe Giordano of the 409<sup>th</sup> BS for Christmas 1943. If you have any other cards or artwork of 93<sup>rd</sup> BG personnel, please let me know.



### Winter scene at Hardwick

This photo was taken during the winter of 1944/45 and shows a B-24 of the 409th BS. The aircraft is 42-94814, Letter G. In the flight records that I have, I was able to find 7 missions in December 44 and January 45. They were: William Schmoller (12/11, 24 & 30/44), Donald Gaston (12/12/44 & 1/5/45) and Frank Eiben (12/25/44 & 1/6/45).



### **Book**

*I have found a new option for the 93rd Bomb Group Photo History. I do not need any money now! However, I do need a reply with the number of books so I can determine the quantity to print and final price. It should be approximately \$50. Please call, email or write to me at the contact information shown below.*

Cheers,

Don Morrison ([don.morrison@beis.com](mailto:don.morrison@beis.com))

93<sup>rd</sup> BG Association Historian

1375 West Comet Rd, Clinton, OH 44216

Cell (330) 819-6409 Home (330) 882-2536

### **93<sup>rd</sup> BG Tee shirts for sale**



*Due to interest by members who were unable to attend the reunion in England 2011, I have made arrangements to make additional shirts of this design. It is time to show your pride in the 93<sup>rd</sup> BG. The shirts have a B-24H (42-51078) of the 328<sup>th</sup> BS and the yellow tail was matched to an actual paint chip from a 93<sup>rd</sup> BG aircraft. The artwork was developed from an actual photo. The shirts are 50/50 preshrunk and available in standard sizes (S, M L XL). Please call if you have any questions or would like more than 2 shirts. Make checks payable to Don Morrison and write "shirt" on the memo line. Delivery will be approximately 3 to 4 weeks after deadline.*

*Price per shirt is \$12.00*

*USPS Flat rate Priority postage for 1 or 2 shirts is \$5*

*Therefore, 1shirt for \$17 or 2 shirts for \$29*

**Deadline for order is February 17, 2012**

Don Morrison

1375 West Comet Rd

Clinton, OH 44216

Cell (330) 819-6409 Home (330) 882-2536

[Doniac1967@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Doniac1967@sbcglobal.net)

## Report to 93<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group John Lee VP 2<sup>nd</sup> ADA

The 63<sup>rd</sup> reunion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ADA was held aboard the Royal Caribbean Enchantment of the Seas. The fourteen year old ship had been refurbished with a beautiful "Centrum" area. There people could gather to listen to music, jazz to classical or dance and take photos. It was here that the Veterans gathered for the annual Group photo.

There were 105 people at the reunion. The total membership of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ADA as of September 2011 is 1586. The Business meeting was held and it was decided to continue "one more year". The next reunion will be in Chicago where the 2<sup>nd</sup> ADA had its start. Richard Robert was elected President for 2012. Matthew Martin, 2<sup>nd</sup> ADA Memorial Trust Governor reported that the Trust is in good shape even though the market has been having problems. Donations continue to come in to the Library and the Library is one of the busiest in England. Libby Morgan, Trust Librarian, reported the number of visitors to the Library was a bit lower than past year but our book issue figures continue to rise and the total number of hits on the website has increased by 10,675. I am happy to report that I have also received a letter from Libby since returning home listing two books (see below) which have been purchased in memory of all who served in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group during World War II.

During my term of office I have encourage more active participation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation. It was

apparent the need for this during each meeting as our "acting" Secretary Irene Herner took notes and actively helped to ensure Roberts Rules were followed as various discussions were held. Our own 93<sup>rd</sup> Jim Guddal is now "acting" treasurer and will be a big assist to Earl Zimmerman in the coming year I'm sure.

Before this reunion I had had some concerns about my health and decided not to continue in the role of Group Relations Officer for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ADA. Those health issues have been resolved and I will be willing to continue to serve as VP for the 93<sup>rd</sup> if you continue to want to appoint that position.

Since returning home we have had a great deal of family activity surrounding a special birthday for Betty. For this reason we felt the trip to our 93<sup>rd</sup> reunion would be a bit too much. We will sincerely miss being there with all of you and will look forward to 2012. Meanwhile I urge any of you who are able to think about a visit to Norwich to see the Library and go back to Hardwick. Both of these locations offer a great deal of history about the role the 93<sup>rd</sup> played during WW II.

Books in memory of all who served in the 93<sup>rd</sup>  
**Baisden, Chuck Flying Tiger to Air Commando**  
**(Enlisted man's story of over twenty years of service to his country).**

**Gorn, Elliott J. The Manly Art: Bare-Knuckle Fighting in America**

### 93rd Website & Documentary Films

#### 93rd Website Update

At the time of writing this article 33,283 people have visited the 93rd BG website since it's redesign in November 2009. A visitor recently was logged all the way from Bandung, Jawa Barat, Indonesia. Please look on the homepage for new information in the FEATURED VETERAN and FEATURED PHOTO sections.

#### The Memorial Project - DVD for sale

At the reunion last year in Savannah, GA the 93rd BG dedicated a stained glass window at the Mighty Eighth Air Force museum for its fallen heroes. The entire reunion and memorial service was documented and is now available on DVD for \$10. Please look for an order form in this issue of the Ball of Fire or download an order form from the [www.93bg.com](http://www.93bg.com) homepage.

#### "Thoughts for the Future" DVD still available

This film reminds you of the contribution the 8th Air Force and it's bomb groups courageously gave towards the war effort and how so many years later, groups like the 93rd are still meeting and remembering. DVDs are

\$10 and Bluray discs are \$13 - included as a bonus is the film Liberators Over Europe. This film is a complete summary of the 8th Air Force's operation in Europe and contains footage of many bomb groups in the East Anglia area during the war. It even shows Maj. Gen. William E. Kepner personally donate the initial check to the Lord Mayor of Norwich for the construction of the 2nd Air Division Memorial Wing. This is a very clean transfer from an original print at the National Archives.

Also please visit the website [www.thoughtsforthefuture.com](http://www.thoughtsforthefuture.com) for more information. You may also download an order form from the 93rd BG website homepage, visit the Thoughts for the Future website or look for an order form in this newsletter. If enough copies are sold of the film - a donation will go back to the 93rd BG association.

Thank You,  
[www.93bg.com](http://www.93bg.com)  
[www.thoughtsforthefuture.com](http://www.thoughtsforthefuture.com)  
Michael Sellers, 93rd BG Webmaster

# THE MEMORIAL PROJECT - DVD

93RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP  
SAVANNAH, GA 2010

OUR 93RD BOMB GROUP FAMILY RAISED \$15,000 DOLLARS TO CREATE AND INSTALL A STAINED GLASS WINDOW IN THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE MUSEUM CHAPEL. THE WINDOW MEMORIALIZES THE MEMORY OF THOSE WHO FOUGHT IN THE 93RD BOMB GROUP DURING WWII BUT UNFORTUNATELY DIDN'T RETURN HOME. THIS FILM DOCUMENTS THE 93RD DURING ITS SAVANNAH 2010 / "ONE MORE MISSION" REUNION AND THE MEMORIAL SERVICE DEDICATING THE STAINED GLASS.



FRANKENBITE PRODUCTIONS AND THE 93RD BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION PRESENTS  
"THE MEMORIAL PROJECT - 93RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP, SAVANNAH 2010"  
2ND CAMERA BY NICOLE GILLIAM MUSIC BY SCOREKEEPERS EDITED AND DIRECTED BY MICHAEL SELLERS

THE MEMORIAL PROJECT **Stained Glass Window Dedication**  
a film by Michael Sellers

**ORDER FORM**

NAME

EMAIL

STREET ADDRESS

PHONE

CITY

STATE

ZIP

Michael Sellers  
565 Carroll St.  
Apt. #4  
Brooklyn, NY 11215

In the white box fill in quantity for desired format

DVD (\$10 each)

## Thoughts for the Future

*This film was shown at the 2010 reunion during the Stained Glass Dedication Dinner.*

Directed and Edited by Michael Sellers

*During World War II, allied forces from airbases in England strategically bombed Germany to weaken its grip on Europe. As in the Pacific, the European theatre of war was costly and deadly. The United States military assigned most of the heavy bombing in Europe to the 8th Air Force. Bombing of German targets eventually allowed Allied troops on the ground to break through German defenses to help win the war. Many members of bomb groups still meet today at reunions set up across the country some 65+ years later. This film follows one such group, the 93rd Bomb Group.*

*A donation will be made to the 93rd Bomb Group if overall demand is large enough.*

**Thoughts for the Future**  
a film by Michael Sellers

Shown at the dedication dinner!

**ORDER FORM**

NAME

EMAIL

STREET ADDRESS

PHONE

CITY

STATE

ZIP

Please send this order form with check or money order to:

Michael Sellers  
565 Carroll St.  
Apt. #4  
Brooklyn, NY 11215

In the white boxes fill in quantity for desired format

DVD (\$10 each)

Blu-RayHD (\$13 each)

## News From Across the Pond (England)

Date: Fri, 18 Nov 2011 16:02:52 +0000  
From: crowitch@btinternet.com  
To: joyridecp@msn.com; bricamera@mindspring.com; "starrynights1"@comcast.net; don.morrison@beis.com; rhammans@gmail.com; joyridecp@msn.com; paulwilson389@yahoo.co.uk; skrisley@aol.com; trevorbond@live.co.uk; user4723@comcast.net  
Subject: The friend of the Second Air Division

*The friend of the Second Air Division*

*Hi my friends, I'm just dropping you a unofficial line to keep you in the picture.*

*At the last AGM it was decided to wind the Friends of the Second Air Division Memorial up. We could not get members to become an Officer on the committee, and the Officers serving had all been on the committee ten years plus and it was becoming harder to get anything done with less people helping and the same few getting all the work load.*

*At the AGM, a vote was taken and it was decided that closing was the only option as we had tried to recruit new office and members over the last five year with no luck.*

*The funds of the Friends has been handed over to the Governors of the memorial library as stated in the Friends constitution and the Charity Commission informed of our closure. It was a sad night after 29 years to take and see the vote with only one member voting against closure. I was called back out of retirement to chair the meeting (I had stood down at the start of the year due to ill health ) as they had no Chairman or VC and could get no one to take the positions.*

*Okay, here's the good news! We are all here still and we will still be helping returning veterans and their families. We will be run under a new name at some point doing much the same things but without the charity status so less paper work, and we won't be taking funding or sending newsletters. It will be a group of friends helping the old bases and our friends from the USA.*

*So. that's about all I can tell you all at this time. This is not a statement from the Friends, this is me just keeping my friends in the picture as I don't think anyone from the Friends is left to send out a letter.*

*Your Friend,*

*Colin Mann*

*While visiting the Hardwick airfield searching for the crash site of Bill Sargent's father, 1st Lt. William G. Rueckert, pilot, who was killed along with four other airmen, May 1, 1944, Bill met Jean and David Woodrow, owners of the farm and airfield at Topcroft. During the 2005 93rd BG reunion Bill and JoAnne attended the service at the Topcroft Church. They were inadvertently left stranded at the church (the bus left for the farm). But fate intervened and they were given a ride to the farm by then pregnant Allison (Jean and David's daughter-in-law). Allison and Stuart Woodrow decided to name their first born, William. Bill has continued to keep in close contact with the Woodrow family.*

*Below is an excerpt from Jean's last letter 11-19-2011:*

*We had a very memorable Remembrance Sunday this year. The weather dawned, very sunny the Autumn leaves hung with beautiful Autumn colours. The church was full, and as you see from the photos, your father's purple heart\* was shown under the memorial plaque. The sermon by our wonderful parson, told the congregation the moving story of how it came to Topcroft Church, there was complete silence as she spoke, not a sound, in the stillness of the congregation, the sacrifice*

*your father gave, we were all greatly moved, the bugler played the last post and we stood in silence to revere all these brave boys who gave their all, our own little William, spent the morning painting on his own the picture of the poppies you see him holding, he then laid it in front of the memorial, and bowed, we were very proud of him. I had told him the reason why this was an important day, he said he wanted to do this especially for his American "Uncle Bill", he remembers his bus ride with you. I took these photos in the church for you to have and to let you see how proud William was to show you, even at his young age that he wants to continue to preserve the history of the 93rd base at Hardwick the home of so many young men at such a historical time in their lives. After the service we then had a short service, up the farm around the memorial where the two minute silence was observed, while a plane flew overhead dropped 10,000 poppies over the people standing heads bowed, it was a perfect drop, sometimes the wind can be a problem, this year the weather was almost like summer, we then all went inside the hall and had a lunch, this was memorial day (November 13th).*

*\*Bill donated a replica of his father's purple heart during the 93rd reunion in May 2011.*



Parson Liz and young William holding the purple heart under the 93rd BG memorial plaque at Topcroft Church. William holding his painting of the poppies for Remembrance Day, Nov. 13, 2011.

## Folded Wings

### **Black, George G., April 15, 1966**

*(email from son, Michael)*

1st Lt. George G. Black flew with 328th BS, 93rd BG, 8th AF. He passed away on 04/15/1966. By the time he left the AF he was a Captain.

### **Grimes, Donald, December 11, 2011**



*It is with deep sadness that I share the news that another of our very special friends and original 93rd Veterans has folded his wings on December 11, 2011 in Sheridan, Wyoming. Don Grimes served with the 329th SQ. 1940 to 1945. Don was Chuck Merrill's radio operator on Thar She Blows for most of his tour in the European Theatre. He was also a Ploesti Veteran and was on the 1st bomber to land in Switzerland and interred there for 22 months when his plane Death Dealer was shot down. Don was very special to us. One of the most generous and kind men we have had the pleasure to know. His help while we were researching Uncle Joe Avendano's Military History can never be repaid.*

*Joe had the chance to speak with Don after our 93rd Reunion in Tucson, AZ. He was so excited that his daughter Nancy Stranger was able to be there with us. Don had hoped to make the Reunion this year but was unable to due to health reasons. One of the last things Don said to Joe was to keep up the good work. We will deeply miss him.*

*Phyllis and Joe Duran*

### **Heller, Robert H., October 20, 2011**

Robert H. Heller, 88, of 2318 West Lake Road, Penn Yan, NY passed away on Thursday, October 20, 2011 at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hospital.

He was born August 30, 1923 to Fred E. and Zylpha M. Straw Heller in Elmira, New York.

Bob was a World War II veteran and served as a B24 pilot in the Army Air Force. He attended Cornell University on the G. I. Bill and received a Bachelor degree in Mechanical Engineering.

He worked as an engineer for Barnard & Maybeck Engineers in Rochester, NY.

Bob was a member of the Penn Yan First Presbyterian Church. He was a member of the Penn Yan Municipal Board and Penn Yan Kiwanis Club. He was a 65 year member of the American Legion.

Surviving are his wife of 17 years, Daisy B. Heller; daughter, Laurie Gillette; son, Stephen (Susan) Heller; step-children, BJ (Elizabeth) Morgan of Belmont, MA, Paul Morgan of Victor, and Jennifer (Stephen) Payne of Falls Church, VA; grandchildren, Krista Gillette, Jared

*(Laci) Heller, and Megan Heller; step-grandchildren, Vanessa and Grace Morgan and Mary and Simon Payne; great-granddaughter, Bailey Heller; and brother, Fred Heller of Warsaw.*

*Bob was predeceased by his first wife, Joyce S. Heller; brother and sister-in-law, Frank (Fran) Heller; and sister-in-law, Loretta Heller.*

**Kingston, Joseph R., March 25, 1955**

*(Note from grandson, Joseph R. Kingston Jr.)*



*Joseph R. Kingston entered active service Jan. 23 1943 and was trained as a bombardier. He became an instructor for bombardiers in B-24s and B-29 aircraft at Chattam Field in Georgia. Joseph flew on missions in the ETO from Sept. 15, 1943- March 29, 1944, serving in the 93rd BG 330 BS. He completed 25 missions in the ETO and finish the war in the US. He continued to serve in the Air Force and Air Force Reserves until his death in 1955. He and his crew were returning from a training flight in a B-47 when his plane crashed and killed all 3 on board.*

*Joseph flew on Flying wolves, Heavenly Days, Doity Bold, Bucket of Bolts, Buck Fifty Job, Sweater Gal, Tail numbers 309 & 116. Pilots Arthur Williamson, Henry Segars, Richard Sundstrom and Robert Depke.*

**Kraeger, Donald N.**

*(email from nephew, Hans Kraeger)*



*T/Sgt. Donald N. Kraeger "Uncle Pat" was my father's uncle and a great man. He was born April 30, 1921 and passed away on November 2, 1993 at 72 years of age. Two pictures are attached for your review. I believe Uncle Pat is the guy in the middle of the front row. The other picture is of a certificate of an award for successfully completing 21 bombing missions from July, 20, 1944 to April 16, 1945 in squadron 409 a few weeks ago. If you cannot read it, I can transcribe and email the details of each mission. I do know a few things Uncle Pat shared with my father. First, I know that Uncle Pat was involved in at least one mission to bomb Hitler. The mission was successful in eliminating Hitler's bunker, but unfortunately*

*Hitler was not in that bunker at the time. Second, Uncle Pat's plane was hit by enemy fire and they turned toward Great Britain. He and some others survived the emergency landing.*

**Lenhart, Burton, December 5, 2011**



*It is with a heavy and saddened heart that I write to let everyone one know that our dear friend Burt Lenhart folded his wings on Monday night, December 5,2011. Burt was the Radio Operator on William Brown's crew serving from July 1944 to April 1945. He had 35 missions with the 93rd Bombardment Group,328th Squadron. Burt was a regular at the 93rd Reunions, up until the last couple of years when his health prevented him from traveling. Joe and I will always remember his big smile and his warm gentle manner. I don't think Burt ever met a stranger and that wonderful smile was shared with all.*

*Phyllis Duran*

**McCann, Eugene, September 20, 2011**

*It is with a sadden heart that I covey this message, another of our beloved Veterans has folded*

*his wings. Eugene M. McCann passed this morning at 3:00AM, September 20, 2011.*

Many of you will remember Gene from our Reunion in Savannah GA in 2006 and again in the Twin Cities in 2007. I remember how excited Gene was in Savannah, being that it was his very first Reunion and what a wonderful time he had. His family had surprised him with the trip to the Reunion.

Eugene McCann, enlisted 10 March 1942 in Portland Oregon. He became a part of Dave Forsman's Crew and was shipped to England in 1944, 93rd Bombardment Group 409<sup>th</sup> squadron. Gene served as

the Radio Operator/ Gunner on the Flying Mouse. He flew 35 missions.

Gene received the Good Conduct Medal, European-Africa-Middle Eastern Service Medal, Air Medal, with one Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Purple Heart for a wound received on March 18, 1945.

Joe and I will remember Gene as a kind and generous man with a wonderful sense of humor.

Phyllis Duran

### Strombom, Frederick A., November 11, 2011



Fred enlisted the Army Air Force on December 14, 1942, at 19 years of age and was called to active duty on March 12, 1943. He received his military training in Texas, California, Arizona, and Colorado and was then commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. He boarded the Queen Elizabeth on June 19, 1944, and sailed to England, arriving there on June 25, 1944. He flew 30 combat missions in the European Theater as a B-24 co-pilot with the 2nd Air Division, 8th Air Force, 93rd Bomb Group, 330th Bomb Squadron, based at Hardwick Air Force Base in Norwich, England where he was stationed from June 25, 1944, until May 25, 1945. He flew his first mission one day after his 21st birthday. He was awarded three air medals and 3 battle stars in 1944, received two air medals and two battle stars in 1945, and holds an EAME Theater Medal. He participated in the campaigns in Normandy, Ardennes, Northern France, and Central Europe. He was discharged on December 8, 1945 as a 1st Lieutenant. He then served in the Army Reserves and the Air National Guard where he became a helicopter pilot, retiring as a Captain in 1968.

### The Greatest Generation Foundation

The Greatest Generations Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to honoring veterans by offering them closure and by preserving their stories through the avenue of youth education. TGGF does this by conducting a number of programs such as Connecting Generations, a program that pairs veterans with college-age students and takes them to the airfields of East England and the battlefields of Normandy to offer the veterans closure and give the students the opportunity to meet the men who fought to preserve their freedoms nearly seven decades ago. Other

programs, like American Hero Day, are more domestic and take veterans into elementary and high schools in the greater Denver area to give the students the chance to hear from the veterans, and to gain a better understanding on what the veterans' experienced during war. Through these programs and others like them, TGGF works to preserve the stories and legacy of those who fought to defend the freedoms we enjoy today. To learn more about The Greatest Generations Foundation, visit our website at [www.tggf.org](http://www.tggf.org), or call us at (303) 331-1944.



D-Day, 2011



West J. Roberts  
Vice President of Programs  
The Greatest Generations Foundation  
210 University Blvd., Suite 500  
Denver, CO 80206  
303-331-1944  
[www.tggf.us](http://www.tggf.us)

## Membership Corner



Membership Guy Jim Guddal met recently with S/Sgt Bert Karels of Henderson MN and 1st Lt. Glen Brandenburg at Glen's residence in Eden Prairie, MN for some Christmas Cheer and wonderful conversation about their days with the 328<sup>th</sup>. Bert flew as nose gunner on Sleepy Time Gal and Ma's Worry. His pilot was Emmet Monroe. As bombardier/navigator Glen also flew Ma's Worry with Pilot Leon Bernard. Both men survived 35 missions over Europe. Wives Margaret Brandenburg and Arlene Karels also attended and provided some history. (Glen is seated on the right in the picture)

**Footnote:** According to 93<sup>rd</sup> Historian Don Morrison, Sleepy Time Gal crashed in Scotland on route to the USA. Ma's Worry returned to the US and was scrapped.

## New Members Roll Call

We welcome the following new members into the 93<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group Association Family!!!

<b>Member (Vets are in Bold &amp; **)</b>	<b>Connection to 93<sup>rd</sup> BG</b>
George G. Black Jr	Pending
Bernadine Taylor Mikkelson	Pending
Robyn Phillips	Daughter of Vernon Swaim
William and Elaine Hudnell	Lloyd E. Hudnell
Joseph R. Kingston Jr.	Grandson of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Joseph R. Kingston, 330 <sup>th</sup> died in plane crash 1955 while in USAF Reserves. Flew on Flying wolves, Heavenly Days, Doity Bold, Bucket of Bolts, Buck Fifty Job, Sweater Gal, Tail numbers 309 & 116. Pilots Arthur Williamson, Henry Segars, Richard Sundstrom and Robert Depke.

**IF YOU BECAME A MEMBER IN THE LAST QUARTER OF 2011 AND ARE NOT LISTED ABOVE, LET US KNOW.** [jguddal@yahoo.com](mailto:jguddal@yahoo.com) 12/2011

### "Notes & Quotes" Reunions and Such

Jim M – "Thank you for a very enjoyable, informative and entertaining weekend. You and your associates did a great job putting this event together. It was the best Bomb Group event of its' kind I've attended."

Dennis C – "Thank you for the wonderful reunion we attended in Tucson. The hospitality shown us was exemplary and we enjoyed not only the programs but meeting so many great people. Thanks again!"

George M – "I wish to thank you and all the others who spent so much time and effort in making the reunion a success. Having 94 non-vets there speaks volumes."

#### Quotes

Will Rogers – "I never met a man I didn't like"

#### Looking for a crew

George Tkachuk of Rocky River, OH is searching for his twin brother's crew. T.sgt John Tkachuk flew with the

329<sup>th</sup> from July '42 to Dec '43 when he was KIA. If you have any info, please call George at (440) 333-5578.

#### The question everyone is asking

How many bicycles were there at Hardwick at any given time? If you have the ball park answer, do let us know.

#### Ploesti POW Rescue Trivia

The Tuskegee Airman who flew P-51 escort for the 38 B-17s that flew 1100 men out of Bucharest Romania in August 1944 did not know the mission they were on until many decades later. They flew out of Foggia and the rescue planes flew out of a different base in Italy. This according to one of the original P-51 pilots.

**Vets, please send any anecdotes about your service time that others might enjoy hearing about. And veteran's wives or girl friends left at home or in service at that time, we'd like to hear from you as well.**

Submitted by Jim Guddal ( [jguddal@yahoo.com](mailto:jguddal@yahoo.com) )

## Letters to the Editor

From: vmwalzel@att.net  
To: joyridecp@msn.com  
Subject: Alfred Holen  
Date: Sun, 18 Sep 2011 00:58:47 -0500

I saw your request for information about Alfred M. Holen in the 93rd BG newsletter and can give you a limited amount of information that might help you.

Alfred was a gunner on the crew of Lt. Roy C. Harms on 1 August 1943 when they were shot down on a mission to bomb oil refineries in Ploesti, Rumania. This was an infamous low-level raid that resulted in the loss of many planes and crews and didn't achieve satisfactory results in shutting down these facilities.

I do not have the name or serial number of the plane but you might try to get a copy of the MACR (Missing Air Crew Report) These reports are free of charge. Contact [Lynn.Gamma@MAXWELL.AF.MIL](mailto:Lynn.Gamma@MAXWELL.AF.MIL). Give her the names of Harms and Holen and she will be able to find the report. This was fairly early in the war and MACRs were not always generated, but I have seen them from this time period.

The crew that day were all KIA except the engineer-top turret gunner, Sgt Jack W. Reed, who became a POW.  
Roy C. Harms (P)  
Earl F. Ferguson (CP)  
William H. Harth (N)  
Albert W. Stahl (B)  
Ralph E. Richardson (gunner)  
Winfield V. Long (gunner)  
John Shufritz (gunner)  
Michael Doka (gunner)  
Arnold M. Holen (gunner)  
Jack W. Reed (top turret-engineer) POW

Maybe you will get some help from others with the 93rd BG, but there is not much I can add. I encourage you to get the MACR, but be patient as it sometimes takes a little time to receive it. There may not be much information in it and it will be from observations of other crews that witnessed the downing and possibly that of Jack Reed could have been added after he was released from the POW camp.

Wish I could help more but hope you will find some answers from some source.  
Regards,  
Vic Walzel

////////////////////////////////////  
Date: Wed, 5 Oct 2011 13:31:47 -0700

From: kszabo1@yahoo.com  
Subject: 93 BG Request  
To: joyridecp@msn.com  
Hello!

I was looking for more info on my grandfather's service and was told you may be able to help. Here is what we have so far.

Charles T. Cleaton (went by Tommy or C.T. Cleaton)  
Cleveland, OH  
93rd Bomb Group, 329th Sqdn.  
Bombardier and Radio Operator

////////////////////////////////////  
Went to Hardwick in July, 1943  
Goff was the pilot. I have a picture labeled Goff's Crew. He flew the following missions with the 392nd before we believe being transferred to the 93rd BG.  
OCT 1943: 8 (#529), 18 (#500)

NOV 1943: 3 (#529), 16 (#529), 18 (#529), 26 (#529)

DEC 1943: 11 (#599), 24 (#529), 30 (#529)  
Any additional info you have would be greatly appreciated!  
Kristen

////////////////////////////////////  
To: [joyridecp@msn.com](mailto:joyridecp@msn.com)

Subject: mailing list question

From: [thorbyn@aol.com](mailto:thorbyn@aol.com)

Date: Tue, 6 Dec 2011 19:43:49 -0500

Hello, my name is Joseph Kingston Jr. I have recently joined the 93rd as a second generation of a 93rd vet. My grandfather, Joseph R. Kingston flew with the 93rd as a part of the 330. It was suggested to me to ask you to see if any of the members of my grandfathers crew might still be on your mailing lists. I have the following names as members of his crew. I checked the folded wings section of the website, and saw none of these names on it. I was hoping that it might be possible to try and get in touch with any possible surviving members of his crew.

////////////////////////////////////  
-Noethiger, Thomas F. - **not on 93rd mailing list**  
-McAnsh, John W. - **not on 93rd mailing list**  
-Tercezkevicz, Nicholas - **not on 93rd mailing list**  
-Byrd, Hardy W. - **not on 93rd mailing list**  
-Muirhead, Robert A. - **not on 93rd mailing list**  
-Dawson, Donald L. - **not on 93rd mailing list**  
-Mahoney, John M. - **not on 93rd mailing list**  
-Segars, Henry K. - **not on 93rd mailing list**  
-Sundstrom, Richard C. - **not on 93rd mailing list**  
-Depke, Robert, - **not on 93rd mailing list**  
-Hlavaty, Jody B. - **not on 93rd mailing list**

Thank you for your time and help.  
Joseph R. Kingston Jr. (grandson)

(Also see info in Folded Wings section)

-Williamson, Arthur - **not on 93rd mailing list**  
-Spaulding, John R. - **not on 93rd mailing list**

From: wgeigle@valleytel.net  
Subject: 93 BG  
Date: Thu, 22 Dec 2011 23:24:26 -0600  
To: joyridecp@msn.com

Looking for information on my father's crew. They bailed out over Switzerland/German border March 15, 1944 following a mission to Friedrichshaven. Captured near Dornbirn/Lustanau. Spent time in Stalag Luft 4 and 6. Fathers name Wayne Moeller. Crew members: Julius Rosenfeld, Stewart VanderVeen, Secar Harris (pilot)

John O'Neill, Marshall Ward, Leask Herman, Joseph Helms, Clyde Forrester

Waynette Geigle  
[wgeigle@valleytel.net](mailto:wgeigle@valleytel.net)  
W-605-889-2831

From: jlux@austin.rr.com  
To: ;  
Subject: Fw: Great News!  
Date: Tue, 15 Nov 2011 16:23:50 -0600  
Subject: Great News!

Friends,

I have some great news! The Museum of the USAF will unveil a new display when the B-17 Memphis Belle restoration project is complete. The theme of the display is: "Bombers who completed 25 missions in World War II." The Memphis Belle will be the center piece but two other bombers will also be represented. One will be the B-17 Hells Angel and the other will be the 93rd Bomb Group's HOT STUFF. Yes, I said HOT STUFF! I received an email from museum Director, Lt. Gen. Jack Hudson (USAF retired) confirming that HOT STUFF will

be included in the display.

I want to thank all of you who helped me with photos and documents in what turned out to be a two year effort to get recognition for HOT STUFF, her crew (including my friend Bob Jacobson) and the 93rd BG.

I attached the story of Hot Stuff written by my friend, Brig. Gen. (USAF, retired) Dick Baughn for those of you who haven't read it. It was published in the USAF magazine, "The Wright Stuff"

I will keep you posted on any updates as planning for the display progresses.

Thanks again for your help.

Jim

Hot Stuff and her crew were the first heavy bomber to complete 25 missions in WWII.



From: hubbard@dakotacom.net  
Subject: Re: 93rd  
Date: Thu, 10 Nov 2011 10:29:21 -0700  
To: joyridecp@msn.com

Dear Bill,

Thanks so much for the DVD. The reunion was great and I know that my grandson Toby really enjoyed being exposed so much living history. At the dinner at the B-24, he and I got to sit with Leo Sharp and his grandson.

Leo is an inspiration to us, so cheerful and positive after all he's been through.

Perhaps you and Joanne might like the attached photomontage, with the picture of Honkey-Tonk Gal taken in Libya by my uncle just before the Ploesti mission. The picture of Mack Fitzgerald is from the 2003 reunion. Leo says Mack is doing fine.

Regards,  
Bill



Front row left to right: Jack Reed (waist gunner), Howard Ford (radio), Mack Fitzgerald (engineer-top-turret), Wm. K. Little (? bombardier; died after crash-landing), John English (gunner).  
Back row (L-R): Leo Sharp (waist gunner), Hubert H. Womble (pilot), Arthur W. Thompson (navigator), Lawrence H. Lancashire (copilot).  
James Barker (waist gunner) not included in photo.  
Photo by Charles S. Young (1943); IDs by Mack Fitzgerald (2001).



Mack Fitzgerald 2003



Leo Sharp 2011

Recipe Corner

Recipe by Becky Burch

Salty Pecans  
(origin of recipe.....from Daddy's sister, Peggy Jett)

1/2 cup vegetable oil  
1/4 cup white corn syrup

Pecans

Mix the oil and syrup well. Stir in pecans coating evenly.  
Spread in flat pan and bake for one hour at 225 degrees.  
Drain on brown paper grocery sack. Salt to taste.

POST EXCHANGE (PX)



## Your Post Exchange (PX)

### CAPS & VISORS

	Qty 1	Qty 2
1) Navy Blue w embroidered B-24, 93 <sup>rd</sup> BG & Ted's Travelling Circus on adjustable strap	\$24	\$45
2) Khaki with "Ball of Fire III" B-24 plus 93 <sup>rd</sup> BG & Ted's Travelling Circus on adjustable strap	\$19	\$35
3) Visors w embroidered 93 <sup>rd</sup> BG and three gold victory stars – choose white or navy blue	\$16	\$30

### COFFEE & THERMAL TRAVEL MUGS

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

### PUZZLES

6) Jigsaw puzzles w colorful "Ball of Fire III" B-24 on mission over Ploesti oil field. Comes w stand. (These are customized exclusively for the 93 <sup>rd</sup> )	\$22	\$42
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### SUNCATCHER

7) 93 <sup>rd</sup> BG Replica of Memorial stain glass window at Mighty 8 <sup>th</sup> Museum Chapel – w suction cup	\$14	\$25
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### BOOKS by 93<sup>rd</sup> BG Authors

Ted's Travelling Circus by Cal Stewart (**member price**)      \$69.95    \$134.00

Ploesti by Cal Stewart and James Dugan (See 93<sup>rd</sup> Web site & Amazon)

Above the Clouds by Wayne Baker      \$24.95    \$47.50

Lucky Ears The True Story of Ben Kuroki (\$9.99 avail at Amazon & Barnes & Noble)

**NEW!-Forever Twenty** by Nicholas Timmer      \$21.95    \$42.00

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

Pay by check or money order with Coupon below to the 93<sup>rd</sup> BG. Pay by PayPal on 93BG website by using the Donation Tab in the Membership Section. Then mail or fax the Coupon to PX Mgr Jim Guddal to complete the order. Thank you!

Item purchased	Qty	X	Price each	=	\$ Total
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
<i>Grand Total</i>					

Mail orders to: Jim Guddal, 93<sup>rd</sup> BG PX, P O Box 47336 Plymouth MN 55447

Or, Fax your order to: 763.694.9065

**93<sup>rd</sup> BG BALL OF FIRE QUARTERLY EXPRESS SUBSCRIPTION FORM**  
**PLEASE NOTE – STARTING IN 2010, MEMBERSHIP WAS CHANGED TO A CALENDAR YEAR BASIS**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Year 2012**

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

Connection to the 93<sup>rd</sup> BG:

Name of 93<sup>rd</sup> veteran \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Squadron \_\_\_\_\_ Time period in Service: \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_

Airplane Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Pilot(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Thanks!

*(use back side for more info)*

Annual Membership (2012 only) \$25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2 year discount rate (2012 & 2013) \$45 \_\_\_\_\_

Child or grandchild special (2012 only) \$20 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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The 93<sup>rd</sup> is a 501(c)(3)  
Organization.

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Mail to: Jim Guddal  
93<sup>rd</sup> BG  
P.O. Box 47336  
Plymouth, MN 55447

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 & travel mugs, caps with B-24 image, visors, BOF III B-24 puzzles, Sun catcher replicas of memorial window & books. Go to the PX page in the BOF for ordering information or contact Jim Guddal "jguddal@yahoo.com"