

Ball of Fire QUARTERLY EXPRESS



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

Vol. 23 No. 2

Summer 2015

REUNION SPECIAL

**93rd Bomb Group Reunion
October 1 - 5, 2015
Omaha, Nebraska**



Our 2015 Reunion takes place in Omaha, NE offering a wide range of exciting activities and a great opportunity to renew our friendships. The dates were selected to take advantage of the early fall weather and avoid cooler days towards month's end. We have selected the Aksarben Suites, Omaha, located within 9 miles of the Eppley Airfield, Omaha (OMA).

Step #1 - Make hotel reservations now, but not later than September 10th to obtain the group rate.

Our Sales and Catering Manager: Teri Schaefer

Hotel: Askarben Suites

7270 Cedar Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68124

Website: www.askarbensuitesomaha.com

Phone: 1-402-397-5141

Room Rate: \$89.00 for suite, plus 18.16% tax/occupancy fees
(Rate good from Monday, 9/28 – Wednesday 10/8)

Includes:

Complimentary airport shuttle with prior arrangement

Full breakfast buffet up to 2 persons per room

Complimentary parking

Complimentary internet access

Living areas with sofa beds and separate bedrooms

Flat-screen HDTVs

Full-sized refrigerators and microwaves

Balconies

Indoor heated swimming pool

Fitness center

Tell the reservation clerk you are with the **93 Bombardment Group** to secure the group rate. **If you are arriving by air, the hotel shuttle will pick you up if you provide your scheduled arrival date and time in advance.**

Cutoff date: September 10th

Contact me with questions/comments! **John Marx 412-327-1909**

Step #2 - Complete Registration Form below, **for each attendee**, and submit with your check not later than September 10th. Make your check payable to **93rd Bombardment Group Association**.

Step #3 - Make travel arrangements to arrive in time for registration between 2:00 - 5:00 PM on Thursday, October 1. The Manager's reception begins at 5:00 PM and our Welcome dinner starts at 6:00 PM.

Step #4 - Mail completed forms (one for each attendee) to:

Joe and Phyllis Duran
309 E. Santa Paula St.
Santa Paula, CA 93060
Phone: (805) 525-4681
Email: dogpatchraider@gmail.com

REUNION FEE REFUND POLICY

Last minute cancellations can cause significant loss to the 93rd Bomb Group Association. This loss results because we must guarantee your attendance to the hotel relative to all meals and other related costs. When you don't show, we still get charged for meals and other charges related to those meals.

We recognize that there will always be unforeseen events beyond your control, and we truly regret your personal inconvenience. However, your executive committee has decided that we must stay with our policy of "pay as you go" for reunion costs.

We have reviewed the choices: we can either add an extra amount to everyone's fees to cover last minute cancellations, or we can set a deadline date for cancellations after which the fees paid cannot be refunded.

In order to keep our reunion fees as low as possible, your executive committee has chosen the deadline date choice. Therefore, a deadline date, based on hotel contract requirements for each reunion will be provided to you at the time you make your reservations, and included in our reunion announcements in the Ball of Fire.

Omaha Reunion Fee Refund Policy: *No refund will be made after Sep 10th.*



REGISTRATION FORM

One per guest

Name: _____

Address: _____

(Street)

(City)

(State)

(Zip)

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

(Someone not traveling with you) (Name) (Phone Number)

Meal choices: Circle one entrée and dessert per meal (Descriptions follow):

(If Special need is circled, please identify the special dietary need)

Thursday Dinner:

- 1. Airline Chicken 2. Pork Tenderloin 3. Vegetarian 4. Special need _____
- 1. Carrot Cake 2. Key Lime Pie

Friday Dinner:

- 1. Weiner Schnitzel 2. Vegetarian 3. Special Need _____

Saturday Box Lunch:

- 1. Turkey 2. Vegetarian 3. Special need _____

Saturday Dinner:

- 1. New York Strip 2. Asian Salmon 3. Vegetarian. 4. Special Need _____
- 1. Chocolate Cake 2. Cheesecake

Calculate your registration fee:

The registration fee includes: Dinner for 4 evenings, 2 lunches, Transportation, Memorabilia room, Color Guard Dinners, outside speakers, Education sessions, business meeting, snacks **The reservation fee does not include your hotel rooms**

Basic registration fee: \$250 times number of guests _____ = **Total**

enclosed _____

Please complete form and enclose check payable to the 93rd Bomb Group for the total amount.

Food Descriptions

Thursday

Airline Chicken: Garlic and Parsley Marinated Airline Chicken Breast, Potatoes Puree, Asparagus Bundle with Carrot and Bordelaise Sauce

Grilled Pork Tenderloin: 8 oz Pan Seared Pork Tenderloin with Red Wine Demi, Green Beans Bundle with Carrot and Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Carrot Cake: Layers of Spice Cake with Walnuts, Carrots, and Pineapple topped with a Cream Cheese Frosting and decorated with chopped Walnuts

Key Lime Pie: Tart Key Lime on top of a Cookie Crust and finished with a Whipped Topping and toasted Coconut

Saturday

Prime New York Strip: Grilled 10 oz NY Strip topped with Fine Herb Butter, accompanied with Twice Baked Potatoes, Green Bean Bundle with Carrot

Asian Salmon: Pan Seared Asian Salmon with Speatzle, Mushroom, Grape Tomato, Green Beans and finished with Crème Fraiche and Lemon Beurre Blanc Sauce

Chocolate Cake: Rich Chocolate Cake topped with Whipped Cream and Chocolate Sauce

New York Style Cheesecake: Rich and creamy New York Style Cheesecake, topped with your choice of Strawberry, Chocolate or Blueberry topping

Sunday

Buffet:

Caesar Salad with parmesan Cheese and Croutons

Fettuccine Alfredo

Vegetarian Lasagna

Italian Style Vegetables and Baked Italian Breadsticks

Coffee or Ice Tea

Schedule

Day 1 – Thursday, Oct 1st

10 AM – 5 PM	Registration/ Memorabilia Room Setup – Everyone is welcome!
2 – 3 PM	Officer's Meeting - Heartland
5 – 6 PM	Reception - Lobby
6 – 8 PM	Welcome Dinner - Heartland
8 PM - Closing	Memorabilia Room – Executive Place

Day 2 – Friday, Oct 2nd

6 – 9 AM	Breakfast
9:30 AM	Depart for 14100 Crawford St., Boys Town
10 AM – Noon	Tour Father Flanagan's Boys Town
Noon – 1 PM	Lunch (On Your Own) – Boys Town Café
1 – 1:30 PM	Return to Hotel
2 – 3:30 PM	Big Week Presentation #1 - Heartland
5:30 PM	Depart for German-American Society, 3717 S. 120th Street
6 – 8:45 PM	Octoberfest
8:45 – 9:15 PM	Return to Hotel
9:00 PM – Closing	Memorabilia Room - Executive Place

Day 3 – Saturday, Oct 3rd

7 – 10 AM	Breakfast
9 – 11 AM	Business Meeting - Heartland
11 AM – 5 PM	Memorabilia Room – Executive Place
12 – 1 PM	Box Lunch - Heartland
2 – 3:30 PM	Big Week Presentation #2 – Heartland
6 – 8 PM	Memorial Dinner - Ballroom
8 PM - Closing	Memorabilia Room – Executive Place

Day 4 – Sunday, Oct 4th

7 – 10 AM	Breakfast
8:30 – 9:30 AM	Religious Service (non-denominational) – Heartland
Morning arrangement	Omaha Tour – On your own – Hotel Shuttle with prior arrangement
10 AM – 6 PM	Memorabilia Room – Executive Place
12 – 1 PM	Buffet Lunch - Heartland
1:30 PM – 3 PM	Big Week Presentation #3 (Veteran's Stories/History) – Heartland
6 – 8 PM	Casual (Soup & Salad) Dinner - Heartland
8 PM - Closing	Memorabilia Room Pack-up – Everyone is welcome!

Day 5 – Monday, Oct 5th

6 – 9 AM	Breakfast
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231 652-2309; timmer@netpenny.net

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231 933 8405 pcasch@charter.net

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doniac1967@sbcglobal.net

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(See Historian)

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Convention/Reunion Coordinator – **JOHN MARX**

(see Vice President)

VETERAN'S ADVISORY BOARD

FERNLEY SMITH
GEORGE MCLEAN
RAY ECK

REUNION COMMITTEE

JOE & PHYLLIS DURAN

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

FRED WIER

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

BILL SARGENT

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

President's Corner

There are only 2 ½ more months until we all meet again in Omaha!! John Marx is doing an excellent job of planning this year's reunion. I hope all can attend, along with our newest members as well! As you will read in the newsletter, a program is being planned on "Big Week", and the 93rd's participation. Spread the word!

Tremendous work continues in many ways throughout the 93rdBG Association. Here are just a few:

We recently received notification of an open house at the Willow Run B-24 Bomber plant, recently taken over by the Yankee Air Museum, in Ypsilanti, Michigan. The plant was saved from demolition, due to generous donations, including the 93rd BG Association! Next step is complete renovation.

Generous donations continue to flow in, supporting the effort to memorialize "Hot Stuff, led by Jim Lux.

A fabulous reunion was held in England in May, touring Hardwick, Norwich, and surrounding areas!

Pre-production work, and filming for the Hardwick film project is near completion, and ready for the next steps! Kudo's to Michael Sellers, Don Morrison, Colin Mann, and all who helped with this great project so far! Look for a way to support this project later in the newsletter.

The 93rd BG website was re-issued under new format.

Have a great rest of the summer, and we will see you in October in Omaha!

Jim Root



42-40371 Bar O of the 409th BS

This plane was transfer to the 44th BG and was lost on Ploesti 1st of August 1943

93rd BG Reunion in England

The 93rd Bomb Group held a mini reunion over the Memorial Day weekend. We had great turnout of veterans (Leland Spencer and Vernon Swaim) and family members. There were 30 Americans in attendance along with Alex and Colin. This reunion attendance was almost twice the 2011 reunion with many going to the airfield for the first time! We had a wonderful time seeing the sites of Norwich, spending the day at the airfield and museum, IWM Duxford and lastly the Memorial Day Service at Madingley American Cemetery. We would like to thank all of our English friends for making us feel so welcome.

We hope everyone had a great time and made many lasting memories!

Cheers,

Don and Colin



The attendees of the reunion in front of one of the Museums hut



Reid Phillips, David Woodrow and Vernon Swaim visiting



OUR VETS! Leland Spencer and Vernon Swaim during the Reunion

Greetings from the 93rd BG Historian!

FREE Memorabilia cataloging and Research

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

Looking for Information

Glenn Miller concert September 1944

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

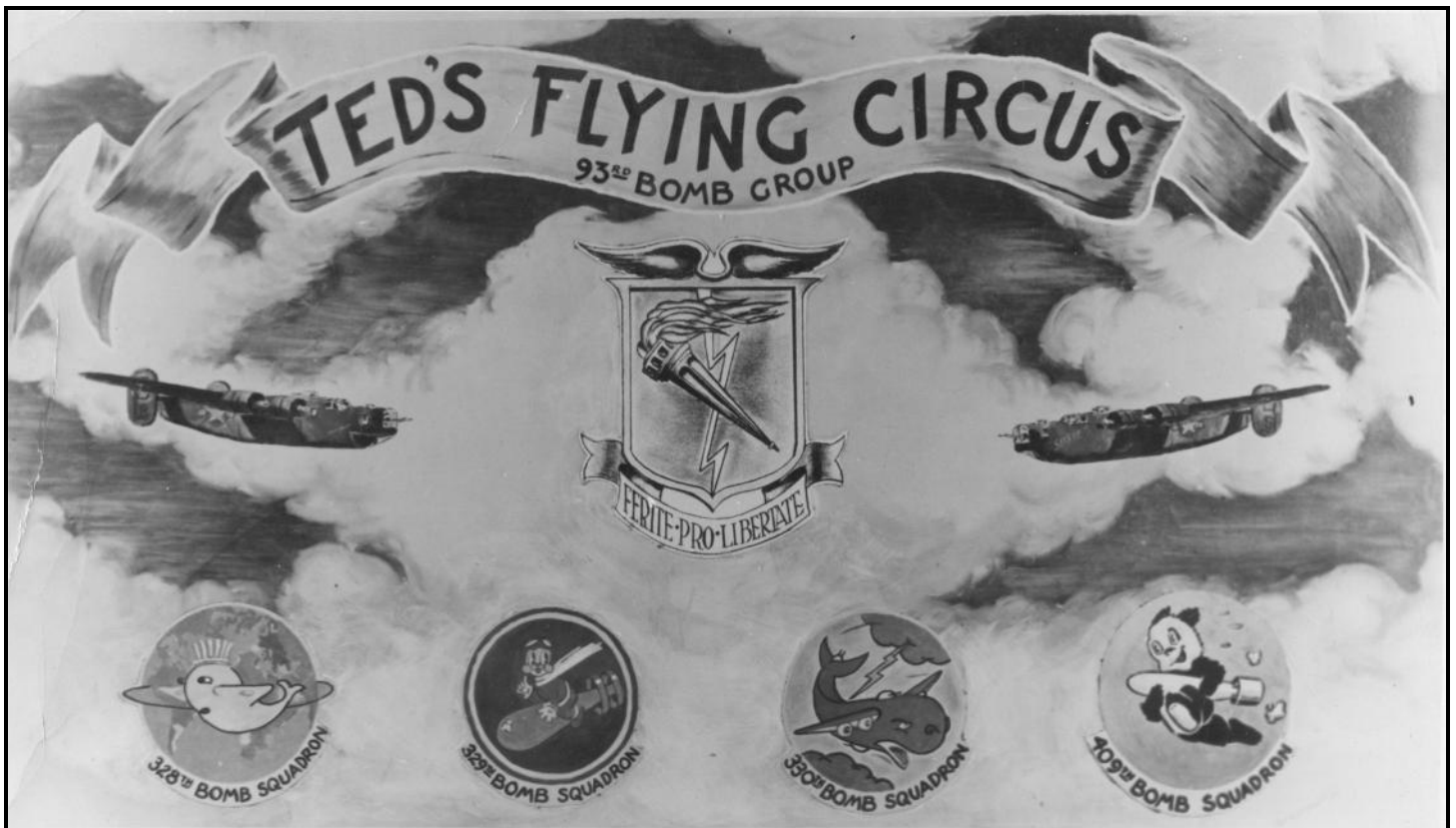
Control Tower

Please also send any information, photos or recollections about the activities that took place in and around the control tower.

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

Cheers,

Don Morrison



93rd Website

At the time of writing this article 94,689 people have visited the 93rd BG website since its redesign in November 2009. A visitor recently was logged all the way from San Fernando, Trinidad And Tobago! We have had a great response to the website overhaul that happened earlier this year. The site moves much smoother and for the Webmaster (that's me!) it's easier to update. If you don't know - the site is monitored by statcounter.com - this is a free service that gathers up statistics for the website. It's one of the reasons we know how many people visit the site and from where (hence the first paragraph of this article). One interesting fact is that the most popular page visited on the site is the history of the 93rd. I really do think it's important to have this information available on a website like this so people literally around the world can make a couple of clicks and learn about this great group. And the stats don't lie!

People are reading and understanding what this group did during the war and hopefully in the future, when the group might dwindle in numbers, we can still keep a resource like this alive.

Hardwick Documentary (Update)

We had a successful shoot in England! All three days of the 93rd BG reunion was captured and then an additional 4 days were captured of our excellent hosts Don and Colin touring us around old Hardwick airfield. The goal is to create a teaser (3 to 5 minutes) for the Omaha reunion in October to get people interested and raise some finishing funds for the project. I'd like to thank the 93rd BG Association for providing the funds for the shooting portion of the documentary. Also I'd like to thank local filmmaker Nik Coleman and his assistant, Lace Ormond. Nik provided great support with camera gear and sound equipment. We would not have been able to do this project without his help - and how lucky we were that he only lived 10 minutes from Hardwick airfield!

Please look out for a fundraising page in this issue of the newsletter. The funds raised will help complete the project in a timely manner and continue to spread the word about this great organization. To keep up on all the activities of the documentary I highly suggest you visit the Facebook page for the project - you can see photos and videos and other updates! See the link below.

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



Michael working hard during the Reunion!

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



”Hardwick Aerodrome 104: Home of the 93rd Bombardment Group “

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

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

It will include:

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

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

OUR FUNDRAISING NEED IS \$15,000!

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

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

E-mail address:

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

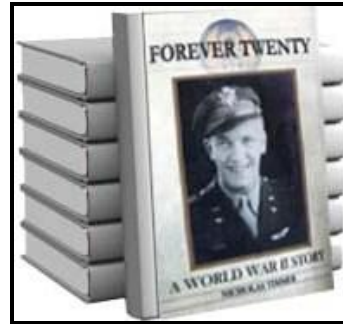
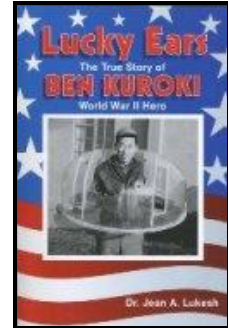
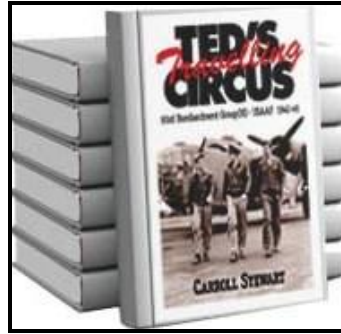
Credit/PayPal (go to

www.93bg.com website)

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

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

Post Exchange (PX)



Your Post Exchange (PX) Order Form

CAPS & VISORS

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

COFFEE & THERMAL TRAVEL MUGS

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

PUZZLES

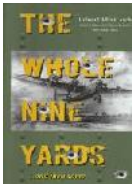
Jigsaw puzzles with colorful "Ball of Fire III" image over Ploesti. Comes with stand.	\$22	\$42
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SUNCATCHERS

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Grand Total _____

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

Year 2015

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

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

Name of 93rd veteran _____ Rank _____

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

Airplane Name(s) _____ Pilot(s) _____

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

Thanks!

(use back side for more info)

Annual Membership (2015 only)	\$25 \$ _____
2 year discount rate (2015 & 2016)	\$45 \$ _____
1 st time Child or grandchild (2015 only)	\$20 \$ _____
Tax deductible Donation	\$ _____ (The 93 rd is a 501(c)(3) Organization)
<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>	\$ _____

Please MAIL newsletter Please E-MAIL newsletter

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

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

KEEP OUR HISTORY ALIVE!

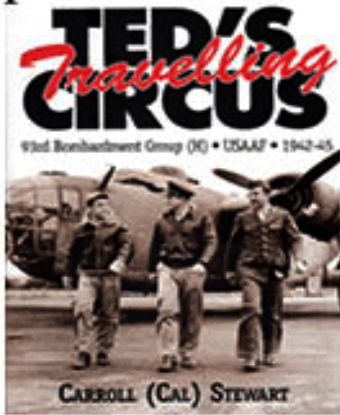
Consider a membership for a friend or family member.
(Make a copy of this form for additional memberships. **Thank You!**)

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

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

Hot Stuff Update

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

Donate



Briefing time