

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. 22 No. 3

Fall 2014

**Reminder on our Dayton, OH Reunion 2014:
Thursday, October 16th – Sunday night, October 19th**

Make your hotel reservations now!!! **Deadline is September 15th!!**

Please see the details on pages 7-10.

Registration on separate form.
Registration for 93rd BG reunion due September 15, 2014!!
Another great reunion is planned!! We want to see you there!!



Jim Root 616-218-0787

Celebrate VE plus 70 years in Norwich over Memorial Day Weekend 2015!
Mini Reunion in England

We will be holding a Mini 93rd BG reunion around Memorial Day in 2015. It would be a 3 day event ending on Memorial Day at the US Cemetery at Madingley (Cambridge). There may be an optional 2 day pre-reunion package for sightseeing around the Norwich area of NON 93rd BG/ WW2 places. This will be a similar plan to the 2011 England reunion. The hotel has been selected and is very nice and economical. More information will be in the next newsletter.



Memorial plaque at Hardwick Airfield



2nd Air Division Memorial Library

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DIRECTORY

2012 - 2014 OFFICERS

President – **JOHN MARX**
109 Clearview St., Beaver Falls, PA 15010
724-843-3897; 109clearview@verizon.net

President Emeritus – **PAUL STEICHEN**
1615 Birdhaven Way, Pittsburg, CA 94565

Vice President – **JIM ROOT**
15359 Red Fox Walk, West Olive, MI 49460
616-399-5990; jamesdavidroot@aol.com

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

Treasurer, Membership – **JIM GUDDAL**
P.O. Box 47336, Plymouth, MN 55447
763-694-9058; jguddal@yahoo.com

OTHER CRITICAL ROLES

Graphics/Media – **KENT JAQUITH**
2633 SW Obsidian #15, Redmond, OR 97756
541-923-4319; gajk38@bendbroadband.com

Web Master – **MICHAEL SELLERS**
565 Carroll St. Apt #4, Brooklyn, NY 11215
917-975-7162; mtsellers@mac.com

PX Mgr, Photographer – **BILL SARGENT**
1458 Locust St., Denver, CO 80220
303-945-5418; joyridecp@msn.com

Photographer – **JOE DURAN**
(see Reunion Committee)

Assistant Treasurer - **NANCY GRIMES STRANGER**
783 N. Sedona Court, Grand Junction, CO 81506
970-945-2883; nancystranger@hotmail.com

Editor of the Ball of Fire – **JOANNE SARGENT**
1458 Locust St., Denver, CO 80220
303-945-5418; editor93bg@hotmail.com

Convention/Reunion Coordinator – **JIM ROOT**
(see Executive Vice President)

Historian – **DON MORRISON**
1375 West Comet Rd, Clinton, OH 44216
Home 330-882-2536; Cell 330-819-6409
doniac1967@sbcglobal.net

VETERAN'S ADVISORY BOARD

FERNLEY SMITH
CAL DAVIDSON

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

KENT JAQUITH (see Graphics/Media)

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

President's Corner

As we approach the fall season, our thoughts return to the 93rds annual reunion. We are only two months away from gathering in Dayton, OH to renew old friendships and make new ones. Every year, we meet together to advance our goal to educate future generations about the history-making accomplishments of a brave group of men who risked their lives to rid the world of an evil tyrannical empire. There is no way to repay their bravery completely. But, a great way to begin is to study and learn what was done and express our gratitude. By now, you should be making your plans to attend what promises to be another great reunion. Imagine dining under the wings of a B2 and having exclusive access to the National Museum of the United States Air Force. The completely restored B-24 D on display flew missions with the 512th Bomb Squadron in North Africa from 1943-1944. One of less than a dozen surviving B-24s, this is a rare opportunity to see the aircraft the 93rd flew. Elsewhere in this issue, you will find everything you need to make your reservations and join us in Dayton.

A word for those of you who have never attended a reunion, what can I say to encourage you to attend? We are a unique group with a common interest in the 93rd from locations all around the United States and beyond. We spend four days together sharing old memories and making new ones. Our veterans are the most engaging people in the world—men who in their youth made history and gave us all the gift of freedom. Meeting a veteran is a special experience! Why don't you set aside those excuses and make plans to attend today. You won't regret your decision at all. I guarantee it!

The Treasurer's report contains several noteworthy items of interest to the group. The installation of a modern security system at the 93rd Museum in Hardwick, England is a major step forward in protecting and preserving the displays and equipment at the 93rd's wartime field. Don Morrison, our Historian, identified the need and generous donations from our members made it possible to complete this important project. Due to an unfavorable exchange rate for U.S. to pound conversions, our fundraising was a little short to the actual requirement. For those of you who missed a chance to donate before, this is a great time to step up and give now to offset the shortfall.

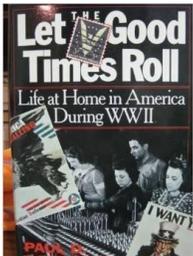
Finally, each year we conduct our annual business meeting when we have the opportunity to determine the organization's future course. Every other year, we elect officers to serve for the next two years. Our nominating committee is responsible for identifying candidates and providing people for the member's consideration. This year we will elect officers to serve from 2014-2016. Before we do so, I want to express my thanks to the outstanding group of men and women who have served so faithfully during this current term (2012-2014). We have accomplished much as a result of their leadership, and they make it easy to serve as the President.

We have a pressing need for a new Editor of the Ball of Fire Quarterly Express. After many years of dedicated service, JoAnne Sargent, is ending her role as her new job has placed extraordinary demands on her time. We have appreciated JoAnne so much as she has faithfully published an excellent newsletter quarter after quarter. This newsletter is her final edition. I salute JoAnne and thank her for all she has done to make the 93rd a success. Another reason to attend the reunion is to thank JoAnne in person for her work. We have advertised the open position in the two most recent Ball of Fire newsletters. So far, no one has stepped forward to take the helm. Are you the person we need? Our advertisement follows:

Help Wanted

Editor, Ball of Fire Quarterly Express

Due to a new job, JoAnne Sargent will not be able to continue as our Editor past October. She has done a fabulous job and will be a tough act to follow, but it is time for a new Editor to step forward. The position is responsible for publishing the BOFQE four times per year. The job description from the By-Laws states: **BALL OF FIRE QUARTERLY EXPRESS EDITOR. Shall prepare, publish and distribute the Ball of Fire Quarterly Express in a prompt and timely manner.** The position is an elected position with a two-year term that may be extended by additional two-year terms. JoAnne is willing to provide training and assistance to the new Editor to assure a smooth transition. Anyone one interested should contact John Marx for additional information. 109clearview@verizon.net or 412-327-1909.



In the last several issues, I have recommended some excellent books for your consideration. I would be remiss if I didn't add one more to your reading list. Currently, I am 7/8ths through Let the Good Times Roll, Life at Home in America during WWII by Paul D. Casdorff. Anyone who lived through the war or is a student of the war should read this excellent summary. Do you remember Borden's Elsie-the-Cow? She appeared first in 1944. Did you know that Reichmarshal Goring boasted, "If bombs ever drop on Germany, my name is Meyer."? And did you know that train wrecks were quite common taking many servicemen's lives before they ever left the U.S.? The book is a fascinating compilation of life during the war.

As always, I am interested in hearing from our members. Please communicate your thoughts with me by email, letter, or phone. My contact information is 109clearview@verizon.net; 109 Clearview St, Beaver Falls, PA 15010 or 724-843-3897.

John Marx, President

Treasurer's Notes

Dear friends, there are four subjects I am reporting on for this BOF. 1) The Yankee Air Museum; 2) Museum Security System at Hardwick in England; 3) 2014 Dues & Memberships; and 4) The state of the finances of the 93rd BF Association.

We continue to receive dues payments, including many prepaid for 2015. Thank you to all those who took the two-year payment approach which saved you some dollars and it also reduces our cost to send out friendly reminders. Thanks to everyone for keeping up!



Item 1) The **Yankee Air Museum** is the recipient of our donation of \$2,500 to be used in the preservation of one of the last WWII B-24 assembly buildings located at Willow Run Michigan. The 93rd Bomb Group now has 50 square feet to its credit. Please see the **PRESERVATION CERTIFICATE** displayed in this BOF.

Item 2) Just completed is the Hardwick Air Base **Museum Security System** which will secure the collection of WWII memorabilia kept there. Due to the strength of the British pound it will cost us a little more than was planned. Our own **Historian Don Morrison** visited there recently and inspected our investment. He gave it a "thumbs up". Our British friends are very pleased. Thanks Don for checking it out! P.S. Our cost overrun due to the weakness of the dollar compared to the British pound was just short of \$500.

Should any of our members wish to make a dedicated donation for a portion or all of the shortfall, the 93rd treasury would be very appreciative. It is tax deductible! Use PayPal through the 93rd web site or send your check payable to the 93rd BG Ass'n and mail to P O Box 47336, Plymouth, MN 55447 to make your donation. We thank you!!!

Item 3) Our membership is very responsive in sending in the annual dues. That is how we stay afloat when other similar organizations struggle as their membership declines. One of the reasons we are fine is because of new members. This last quarter, we have enrolled four new members. One is third generation, one is a 93rd veteran, one is the nephew of an existing Vet member and the fourth served with the 93rd Bomb Wing at Castle AFB in

CA. One of our outreach sources is the American Legion Magazine. Just this week, I have had two inquiries from men of the 389th BG. A few weeks ago, an inquiry came from a vet who served at Castle during the 1950's. Not everyone will become a member. However, we are still having the conversation.

At the end of the year the plan is to send out post card reminders to those who are paid through 12/31/2014.

Item 4) Finally, I am very pleased to report that the state of the finances of this fine organization are in good shape. Former Treasurer & Veteran **Calvin Davidson** did an excellent job while he was in charge and left a very respectable cash balance for we 2nd and 3rd generation to continue on with. **Thanks Cal, we salute you!**

One more thing! We have a very generous group of members. On a regular basis, donations of \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50 and \$100 or more come into your Treasury. It is through your generosity that we have been able to fund projects at Hardwick, the Mighty Eight Museum in Savannah, GA, The Yankee Air Museum at Willow Run Michigan and now, we are looking at doing a film on the air base at Hardwick England. All of these worthy projects help to honor the service of the men and women who dedicated themselves to preserving the freedom we enjoy today and also to create a platform from which to teach the younger generations and others about this very influential part of our history. **Thanks to all of you whom make these endeavors possible!!!**

Thanks for listening!
Jim Guddal, Treasurer 8/2014

Greetings from the 93rd BG Historian!

Recent visit to Hardwick July 2014

I had the luck of being in England on business in July 2014 so why not spend the weekend with friends (Colin and Alex) in lovely Dereham. On Saturday night, we were able to attend the Hanger dance. It is a fund raiser event that the Hammond family does to raise money for a local cancer project. If you are ever in the area, I highly recommend it as it is top notch affair! On Sunday we visited the museum for its open day. There was a huge turnout and cars were parked everywhere! I was great to see such activity around to base. I am also happy to report the security system is fully operational and is an awesome system protecting the collection and facility.

Looking for old diaries and documents of the 93rd BG

I am looking for any notes, diaries or documents that discuss activities, locations, men or aircraft (serial numbers, Letters, artwork names, flight crews, ground crew or its loss).

FREE Memorabilia cataloging and Research

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

Cheers,
Don Morrison
93rd BG Association Historian
1375 West Comet Rd
Clinton, OH 44216
Home (330) 882-2536
Cell (330) 819-6409
Doniac1967@sbcglobal.net

Nominating Committee Three Active Members Needed

Every two years our association elects members to fill eight positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Ball of Fire Quarterly Express Editor, Convention/Reunion Coordinator and Historian. We will nominate and elect officers at our annual meeting in October. A Special Committee is established by the President to develop recommendations. Our By-Laws state:

NOMINATING COMMITTEE. Shall nominate persons to fill officer vacancies caused by the expiration of term of office or vacated prior to expiration.

a. Shall consist of three active members in good standing appointed by the President. Every effort will be made to have at least one veteran serve.

b. The chairman of the committee shall be appointed by the President.

c. Nominee recommendations shall be made by the committee chairman to the Executive Committee for review and agreement before presenting them to the full membership for consideration.

If you are interested in serving, especially if you are a veteran, as a member of the Nominating Committee please contact John Marx for additional information. 109clearview@verizon.net or 412-327-1909

93rd BG Website

93rd Website Update

At the time of writing this article, 80,599 people have visited the 93rd BG website since it's redesign in November 2009. A visitor recently was logged all the way from Palermo, Sicilia, Italy. Please look for links on the homepage of the 93rd BG website for 2014 reunion registration and a new featured video and photos!

2014 Reunion Webcast

As mentioned in the last BOFQE the 93rd BG will be webcasting this year's reunion from Dayton, Ohio. For the last two reunions (Seattle 2012 and Hartford 2013) we broadcasted the reunion live over the internet for all veterans, members and family members to watch. It's was a great way to see what the group was doing (and eating!) It will be no different this year and I have even found a way to expand the viewing during the daytime.

Normally we could only broadcast dinners in the evening but due to the ever expanding technology available to us we will be able to show you the bus trips the 93rd will be taking. As more and more veterans and members of the 93rd find it hard to attend the reunions, watching the webcast at home can help people still feel involved in their 93rd BG family. Please look for the webcast schedule in this issue of the Ball of Fire.

To see the reunion all you will need to do is visit the 93rd BG website (www.93bg.com) during the reunion dates and start watching. Also to all Facebook users a dedicated page has been setup to watch the reunion webcast. Please look out for posts telling you where to click and watch - it's really is simple and free!

Michael Sellers, 93BG Webmaster
www.93bg.com



93rd Bomb Group WEBCAST - LIVE!



**Watch the 93rd BG 2014 reunion.
October 16th, 17th & 18th**

Go to www.93bg.com

or

Click on to the 93rd Facebook Page

SCHEDULE - DAYTON, OHIO

Thursday, October 16th

6pm - 8pm EST

Welcome Dinner and Guest Speaker

Friday, October 17th

9am-11am EST

National Museum of USAF tour

5:15pm-9pm EST

Group photos under B-24

Dinner at USAF Museum with 384 BG

Saturday, October 18th

9am - 11am EST

93rd BG public business meeting

2pm - 3:30pm EST

Education Session - Veteran stories

6pm - 8pm EST

Memorial Dinner

93rd Bomb Group Association Reunion 2014
Thursday, October 16, 2014 – Sunday, October 19, 2014
Dayton Marriott

Step #1 - Make hotel reservations now, but not later than **September 15th** to obtain the group rate. The hotel's address and phone number are shown below:

Our Sales Manager:	Bobby Ogles, Event Manager, direct 937-449-5578
Hotel:	The Dayton Marriott Hotel 1414 S. Patterson Boulevard, Dayton, OH 45409-1000
Room rate:	\$109.00 for single or double plus 13.25% tax and occupancy fees
Phone:	1 – 800 – 228 - 9290
Use code:	BOMS when reserving by phone above When reserving online, go to http://tinyurl.com/pp6vpnb
Cutoff date:	September 15, 2014 (so make your reservations early!!!)
Includes:	Full breakfast buffet up to 2 persons per room, complimentary parking in garage, complimentary Wi-Fi internet access, full service restaurant on site, and indoor heated swimming pool/fitness center.
NOTE:	Transportation to & from the airport (15 miles) is NOT included, and no hotel shuttle is available. Special needs for pick up of veterans can be arranged. Contact Jim Root or John Marx.
Website:	www.marriott.com/dayoh

Contact me with questions/comments! **Jim Root 616-218-0787**

Step #2 - Tell us that you are coming to the reunion and how many will be in your group. Must complete a form for all attendees! Optional activities as follows:

Option W: Sunday, October 19th: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
 Wright Brothers Museum Tour (includes lunch)
Additional \$50 per person

You can change your mind at any time before the formal registration concludes on **September 15th**. If you do not want to attend the optional activity, there will be additional education sessions at the hotel (see schedule).

Step #3 - Make travel arrangements to arrive in time for registration at **2:00 PM - 5:00 PM** on **Thursday October 16th**. Dinner reception at **5:00 PM** and the opening Welcome dinner starts promptly at **6:00 PM**.

Step #4 - Complete Registration Form below, **for each attendee**, and submit with your check not later than **September 15th**. Make check payable to **93rd Bombardment Group Association**.

Step #5 - Select food choices for meals on form below.

Plan to join us for a great time of 93rd BG Association family and fellowship in Dayton, OH! Bring a friend or family too!!!

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.

THE "VIV" PROGRAM

Dear Members,

VIV stands for "Very Important Veteran". We started this program in 2013 to provide a means of helping our senior members who are experiencing some "getting around" issues. Here is the way we intend VIV to work. An able bodied member(s) would be assigned to one of our older veterans (or spouse) to assist them from the time they arrive at the reunion city by plane, train, automobile or bus. The member(s) assigned to the Vet would be responsible for making sure the Vet and spouse (if applicable) receive the assistance needed to help them get around. Assistance would extend through the reunion meeting until the Vet left on Monday AM or the night before if that was the case. Of course, this service need not apply where a Vet or spouse attends with able bodied family or other companion.

If you would like to attend the Dayton, OH reunion in October this year, but are concerned about getting around, give one of our management team a call and discuss your concerns with them. We want to see as many of our senior members as possible attend the reunion. Also keep in mind that the Wright Patterson Museum (on our tour) has great facilities and much experience with guests who need a helping hand.

We look forward with great enthusiasm to seeing you in Dayton.

Jim Guddal, Membership

(763) 694-9058

jguddal@yahoo.com

**93RD BOMB GROUP REUNION - OCT 2014
DAYTON, OHIO**



Day 1 – Thursday, Oct 16

- 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Registration / Memorabilia Room Setup at hotel Tradewinds Room
- 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM Registration /Memorabilia open at hotel Tradewinds Room
- 2:00 PM Reunion Officers Meeting in Hospitality Room at hotel boardroom
- 5:00 PM – 5:30 PM Reception at hotel, Salon F/G/H
- 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Welcome Dinner at hotel, Salon F/G/H

Day 2 – Friday, Oct 17

- 7:00 AM Breakfast at hotel
- 8:30 AM Bus departs for National Museum of the USAF
- 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Tour WW2 Gallery, Cold War Exhibits
- 11:00 AM Re-board bus to Presidential Hanger
- 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Tour Presidential Hanger
- 12:30 PM Bus return to Hotel
- 12:45 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch buffet at Hotel, Salon F/G/H
- 4:45 PM Bus departs for National Museum of the USAF
- 5:15 PM – 6:45 PM Reception & Group Photo “under the B-24”
- 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Dinner & event at National Museum of USAF

Day 3 – Saturday, Oct 18

- 7:00 AM Breakfast at hotel
- 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Business Meeting at hotel, Salon F/G/H
- 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM Memorabilia Room
- 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
- 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM Lunch, Salon E
- 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM Education Session - 93rd Veteran Stories/History, Salon F/G/H
- 5:00 PM – 5:30 PM Reception at hotel, Salon F/G/H
- 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Memorial Dinner at Hotel, Salon F/G/H

Day 4 – Sunday, Oct 19

- 7:00 AM Breakfast at hotel
- 8:15 AM Religious Service (non-denominational at hotel)
- 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM Optional Tour of Wright Museum (includes lunch)
- 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM Education Session - Hardwick/93rd History, Don M., Salon F/G/H
- 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Memorabilia Room open
- 5:00 PM – 5:30 PM Reception at hotel, Salon F/G/H
- 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Light Dinner at hotel, Salon F/G/H

Hot Stuff Update by Jim Lux Hot Stuff Memorial Fund Project



Presentations to the Pima Air & Space Museum on July 11 & 12

Jim made a presentation to James Stemm, Curator of Collections at the Pima Air & Space Museum on Friday, July 11th, in an effort to convince him to consider a display featuring the story of the B-24 *Hot Stuff* and Lt. Gen. Andrews in the museum. Unfortunately, not unlike many other museums he has either contacted or visited there appeared to be little or no interest in having parts of any airplane displayed no matter how historic it might be. Jim was invited by Pima Curator of Education Mina Stafford to speak to museum visitors on Saturday. Caroline and Susan Rondeau, daughters of *Hot Stuff* engineer Grant Rondeau and members of their family attended the presentation. They brought along photos and documents their dad had accumulated for display. The presentation was well received.

The Veterans Museum and Memorial Center in Balboa Park in San Diego, California



The Veterans Museum and Memorial Center in Balboa Park has pieces of Hot Stuff Wreckage on display

On Monday, July 14th, Jim had a meeting with Will Hays, Chairman of the Veterans Museum and Memorial Park. Mr. Hays met with Jim even though the museum was closed on Monday. Jim gave him a presentation on the story of Hot Stuff and Lt. Gen. Andrew and showed him the video *Triumph and Tragedy*. Mr. Hays was most receptive and accepted pieces of Hot Stuff wreckage for display in the B-24 Liberator room in the museum.

The museum is located in a beautifully restored chapel. Mr. Hays was most gracious and gave Jim and Nancy a private tour of the museum. Several of the photographs of B-24s on display Jim recognized as bombers in the 93rd Bombardment Group including Tiggie Ann and Joisey Bounce.

The large bronze B-24 Liberator located on a pedestal in front of the museum honors those who flew and maintained them and the more than 45,000 men and women who built them at the Consolidated Aircraft Corporation plant in San Diego. There are also four bronze plaques with the names of the Bombardment Groups that were assigned B-24s in World War II. The 93rd Bombardment Group Association made a significant contribution toward the construction of the bronze B-24. Jim received an email two days later from Mr. Hays informing him that the Hot Stuff wreckage was already on display and was able to confirm that Hot Stuff was built in San Diego.



Jim (right) presented a copy of *Ted's Travelling Circus* to Mr. Will Hays (left) on behalf of Scott Stewart, son of author and 93rd Bomb Group, historian and Aide to Group Commander Ted Timberlake. If you are ever in San Diego be sure to visit the museum.



Great News! The Memorial Monument Fund Now Exceeds \$24,000!

In July the Memorial Monument Fund achieved as significant milestone reaching **more than a third of the \$70,000 goal.**

- Every donation of \$250 or more will receive a copy of "Ted's Travelling Circus," a comprehensive history of the 93rd Bomb Group.
- Donations are tax deductible.
- For more details, see following Donation page
- Refer everyone to the Hot Stuff web site at: www.b24hotstuff.wikispaces.com
- Brochures, and a PowerPoint presentation are available for making presentations.
- Jim Lux is available for Hot Stuff/ Gen. Andrews fund raiser presentations in the Central Texas area.

HOT STUFF MEMORIAL FUND PROJECT

Jim Lux, Project Coordinator

Nancy Stranger, 93rd Bomb Group Assistant Treasurer

Donations are now being accepted to create and build a memorial in recognition of "Hot Stuff," the first 8th Air Force heavy bomber to complete 25 missions in WWII. Four members of the original Hot Stuff crew died when the plane crashed into a mountainside in Iceland on May 4, 1943. In addition to crewmembers, others killed in the crash were Lt. General Frank M. Andrews, three members of his staff, two U.S. Army Chaplains, and a civilian who served as the U.S. Military Chief of Chaplains.

The deaths of Lt. General Frank M. Andrews and his staff created a crisis for American military leadership in Europe. Lt. General Dwight D. Eisenhower was eventually chosen to replace Andrews.

Jim Lux, of Austin, TX, is spearheading the fundraising efforts for the memorial. Jim has traveled to Iceland, viewed the site of the crash, and actually found some pieces of "Hot Stuff," which were shipped to the U.S., courtesy of Icelandair Airlines. Jim is available to speak to groups about the project. If you would like further information about the memorial project, or you would like Jim to speak about the project to a group, please contact him.

H: 512-327-1750

C: 512-731-8024

email: jlux@austin.rr.com

The National Museum of the United States Air Force has received various parts of the plane, thanks to Jim's efforts on this project. The Ambassador to Iceland, Luis Arreaga, Iceland government officials, and a number of retired U.S. military officers and enlisted personnel are supporting Jim on the project. To participate in this important memorial project, fill out the donor card below and submit with your check or money order. Please make your checks payable to the "93rd Bombardment Group Association," with a notation of "WWII B-24 Memorial." Send your a check or money order, along with the completed donor card, to the address noted on the card. Those who donate \$250 or more will receive a copy of the rare book "Ted's Travelling Circus." Our sincerest thank you for your support of this important project.

B-24 Liberator "Hot Stuff" Memorial Charitable Donation

Donation Amount: _____

Complete Name *(please print clearly)* _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
(street)



The 93rd Bombardment Group Association is a 501(c)(3) Non Profit Organization. Donations for the "Hot Stuff" memorial project are tax deductible. If you donate \$250 or more, you will receive a receipt from the organization for your tax records. A copy of your check is a sufficient record for donations smaller than \$250.

Mail check or money order to:

**93rd Bombardment Group Association
783 North Sedona Court
Grand Junction, Colorado 81506**

Folded Wings

Bernard, Leon Eli, July 7, 2014



Leon Eli Bernard passed away on Monday, July 07, 2014, at Moses Cone Hospital. He was born to Rosa and Abraham Bernard in High Point, N.C., in 1922. He was brother to Gilbert and Herman Bernard and Gertrude Taylor. He married his high school sweetheart, on December 5, 1943, and they were together for over 60 years until Mary's death in 2003. Leon was a First Lieutenant who served as a B-24 pilot in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He flew 35 missions over Europe. He received the Air Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross and five Oak Clusters as well as the EAME Ribbon with three Battle Stars.

After the service, he worked in High Point in the shoe business with his brother Gilbert. In 1950, Leon bought the shoe department in Prago-Guyes Department Store. He moved his family to Greensboro in 1957, where he lived until his death. In 1960 he went into the furniture business with Herman Bernard and spent over 30 years in business until his retirement in 1994. Leon played golf throughout his life, until his later years. After his retirement, he could be found at Starbucks every morning. He had a group of "Starbucks

Sunday" friends with whom he discussed sports and news. Leon was a big Carolina fan and along with Candy and Alan followed their games, in particular basketball. Leon also enjoyed a weekly poker game with his friends.

Leon and Mary spent time traveling to California to visit Alan, Mary Jo and Lisa and also to Philadelphia to visit Candy and Bob. While he was working, he and Mary enjoyed going to the furniture markets and visiting with the good friends they made there. They also enjoyed hobbies of collecting Heisey glass and specimen rocks. Leon also crafted jewelry from the gemstones that they bought.

Leon is survived by his daughter Candy and husband Bob, by his son Alan and wife Mary Jo, and his granddaughter, Lisa, by Mary's brother Homer Holton and by Herman's wife Zelda Bernard, as well as numbers of nieces and nephews.

Cable, Arthur Wesley, June 20, 2014



Dad fell on June 6, 2014, the seventieth anniversary of D-day. He cracked several ribs, partially deflated a lung and started some internal bleeding. He passed on June 20, after two surgical procedures and a final fight to regain his strength.

We buried him the next Wednesday, Mom, Brothers Douglas and John, Sister Suzanne and a number of cousins and neighbors and grandkids. There was a Color Guard and a bugler played Taps. There was a flag on his casket, the Air Forces emblem on his vault cover and Brother John played the Air Force Hymn from his cell phone.

We all memorialized this man who seventy years earlier had been flying his first missions out of Hardwick, who sixty years earlier had almost single-handedly built the house we all grew up in, who had been married to the former Margaret Barrington Winter for just shy of sixty years - whose own three brothers had served during *the War* - in the Army Medical Corps (Jack Winter died at Malmedy at the very beginning of the Battle of the Bulge), the Marines (George Winter served on Peleliu in the South Pacific) and the Coast Guard (Bill Winter escorted convoys across the North Atlantic), who worked forty-five years for

International Paper Company in New York City, who commuted, boated, flew a little and created that American Dream he had fought to make safe for all of us.

Arthur Wesley Cable (known as Wes), of Scarsdale, New York, arrived at Hardwick in the spring of '44. He had badgered his local Draft Board for months until he was finally chosen in September of 1942 (ensuring his job in International Paper's mailroom would be held for him if/when he returned - there was no such guarantee for volunteers). He had talked his way into the testing program for the Air Corps and qualified for aircraft mechanic's school. He then went on to badger and talk his way into the qualification tests for flight training and qualified as a Bombardier and beyond that on to the list for pilot training. Anyone who knew Dad would know that he was not much of a follower. If he was going to be in the Air Corps, he needed to fly and if he was to fly, needed to drive.

After training all over the States as part of the massive effort to bring the full might of the U. S. to bear on the Axis, he and his crew ferried a brand new Liberator across the Atlantic in the Spring of '44 (which they naively thought they'd get to keep on the other side) and reported to Hardwick and the 93rd BG and the 330th Squadron as replacements.

His first day at the base he witnessed two Liberators circling to land at different area fields collide and crash in flames - sobering, he said. His first mission was to Calais the day before D-Day as part of the successful effort to keep Hitler guessing as to where the invasion would come. He flew often over the next few months, the weather that summer of '44 cooperating with the bombing effort in support of the troops now on the ground in France. He flew fifteen missions in June alone - half of his required thirty. He would fly missions including those to Hamburg, Rheims, Politz, Berlin, Saarbrucken, Strassbourg and Dijon-Longvic, bombing rail yards, aerodromes, Buzz Bomb launch sites, synthetic oil

refineries, aero engine works and a Luftwaffe repair and fighter base. Never getting into London during his tour, he flew, slept and flew.



Again, not being much of a follower, he and his crew tested and qualified as a Lead Crew and led the 330th on a number of missions. If he was going to fly formation, he wanted to lead so he would be sure there wouldn't be screw ups like the time the Group was brought home over the sub pens on the French coast and blasted by the accurate AA guns there. Mostly piloting the *Maulin' Mallard*, a veteran plane pictured today at the Hardwick Museum and featured in model form at the 2nd Division Library in Norwich, he saw just about as much of the Luftwaffe as he wanted to (even a couple of rocket planes – ME-163s) but told us that they mostly kept their distance whenever our fighters were in the area. Flak, he told us was what would really cause him and his crew to hunker down and grit their teeth.

A paperwork snafu delayed his promotion to 1st Lt. so as he approached his thirtieth mission, he was offered the chance to volunteer for five *additional* missions to remain in

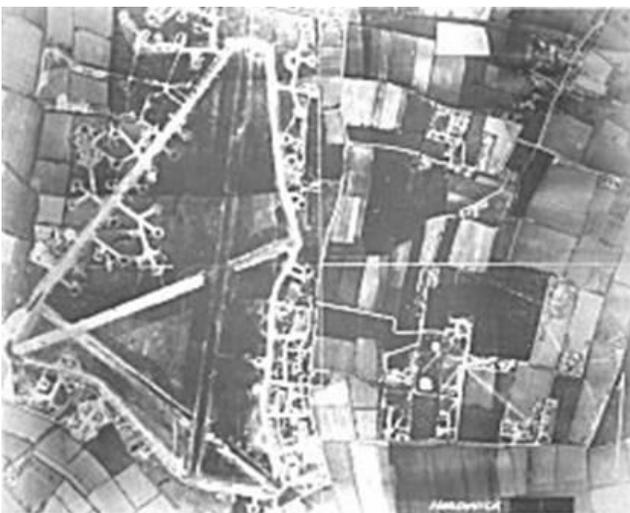
theatre long enough for his promotion to Captain to come through (a rank he was entitled to as a Lead Pilot). As he was contemplating this option, low level training for the resupply mission to support the troops surrounded while trying for "A Bridge Too Far" during Operation Market Garden was announced and he signed on. He thought flying B-24s down on the deck would be fun.

On that September 18th mission the 93rd put up 18 planes and led the entire Second Air Division. Dad flew as Deputy Lead to the plane of Capt. John Geer carrying C. O. Maj. Harry Segars as Mission Commander and Dad's best friend over there, Bombardier Capt. George Blankenship. Major Segars was the one who had offered Dad the option of volunteering for more missions to get his promotion to Captain.



The flight in, flying at tree top level and lower, was fun but the opportunity for any German soldier with a machine pistol to spray lead into the bellies of the lumbering Liberators as they streaked overhead was costly. On the approach to the target/drop zone, the lead plane of Geer/Segars started to smoke from two engines. Nearing the drop zone they pulled up and out of formation and Dad's plane took over the lead, successfully dropping much needed supplies to our ground troops.

Pulling up and away from the target Dad's right waist gunner called on the intercom and demanded to know why Dad was not doing anything to put out the fire that was coming in his window from the number three engine. Dad didn't know there was a fire but after a bit of an argument with the deputy command pilot flying as his co-pilot, got the engine shut down and feathered. They returned to Hardwick on three. Major Segars and Captain Geer and Captain Blankenship however were not as lucky. Trying to make it back across the channel to insure good treatment for wounded aboard, their plane was forced to ditch in the Channel. It broke apart and all but three of the gunners were lost. Dad decided to forgo the promotion and called it quits at thirty missions.



The only time Dad returned to Topcroft and Airfield Farm was when he and I traveled there fifty years later. We walked the remains of the runway with David Woodrow, toured the beginnings of the museum there and found the concrete pad his Quonset hut had once sat on. While he was with us, he and I got to fly in the last B-24 (The Collings Foundation's All American) and his name is painted proudly on its side. He created a fine family and a lasting legacy in his almost ninety-three years but watching him walk that field with David is something I'll never forget. We buried him with a small piece of that concrete we brought back from England on that trip.

Wes Cable, Jr.
Birmingham, Alabama

FANT, MURRAY G., AUGUST 1, 1998

My father Murray G. Fant flew with the 93 Bomb Group and died on 08/01/1998.

Murray G. Fant

Letters to the Editor

From: brian.parkin.gb@us.af.mil
To: joyridecp@msn.com
Subject: Visit May 2005
Date: Fri, 20 Jun 2014 12:42:23 +0000

Hi,

My wife Jane and I currently live at Oaktree Farm, Shelton Norfolk NR15 2SH in the UK, adjacent to Hardwick Airfield, although we are in the process of moving to Plymouth, Devon, UK.

In May 2005 a couple of guys called in at our smallholding looking for a girl who lived at a house called Brookside during WWII. We had only recently moved into the area and did not recognize the name of the house. It turned out that the older of the two men was called Johnny Fridell who had been stationed at Hardwick during the war and who had later received a letter from a girl Mabel who was 11 at the time. We were not able to help which was a pity, but saw a piece in the local paper about Jonny finding Mabel. It turned out she still lived in the same house only 1/2 mile from us!

We kept the cutting and I found it the other day when looking through some papers for the house sale.

I wondered whether you could pass on to Johnny the fact that Mabel died earlier this year, in the house in which she was born and lived.

It was nice for us to meet someone who had served at the base in WWII as curiously enough we found out later from my wife's father's flying log that he had flown in to Hardwick in a Lancaster during the war. He had been a Navigator in the RAF. The world though is a small place sometimes and paths cross.

Anyway, just some sad news that I hope you can pass on. Thanks.

Yours aye
Brian

Brian Parkin | Project Manager
Defence Infrastructure Organisation (United States Forces)
B680 RAF Mildenhall | RAF Mildenhall | BSE | IP28 8NF

Note: The Editor sent a letter to Johnny Fridell about Mabel.

From: beervanvermeer@kpnmail.nl
To: SJohnson@WSKG.org
CC: editor93bg@hotmail.com
Subject: 2/Lt. Joseph Congelli
Date: Sun, 29 Jun 2014 08:33:26 +0200
Dear Shane,

2/Lt. Joseph Congelli's B-24D # 42-63969, crashed 23-12-1943 in the vicinity of Piaam, Friesland, Holland.
Missing Air Crew Report (MACR) No.2173.

I have this MACR and all other information about Congelli and this crew.
Peter Cootjans can send me an email at :
beervanvermeer@kpnmail.nl
Or by phone : 06-40473693

Kind regards,

Jaap Vermeer (Member of the Dutch Empire – MDE)
Historian RAF & USAAF crashes – Holland & Europe
93rd BG Member

From: SJohnson@WSKG.org
To: editor93bg@hotmail.com
Date: Tue, 8 Jul 2014 14:07:48 -0400
Subject: Re: 93rd BG Newsletter Summer 2014 - PDF
Ms. Sargent,

Thank you for all of your help and for sending me a copy.

I wanted to let you know that I posted a written story on Lt. Congelli and the grave adoption program in the Netherlands. You can read it

here: <http://www.wskg.org/more/half-world-away-and-70-years-later-soldiers-sacrifice-remembered>

Please feel free to forward to anyone think might be interested in the story. There is also a StoryMap embedded within the page. If you follow along with the map you can listen to extended interviews with everyone I spoke with.

I plan on following up with the story, and would still like to speak with any veterans of the 409th Squadron or the 93rd Bomb Group. Thank you again for all of your help.

Best,

Shane Johnson

From: srsands@ec.rr.com
 Subject: 2D LIEUT 328 AAF BOMB SQ 93rd
 Date: Sat, 14 Jun 2014 12:33:36 -0400
 I have some questions. I have been doing research on a Donald Makley. I see him on the crew list of this plane, however his info is on his dog tags:
 Donald D Makley. 2nd line-35336471 T43. 3rd line-Hulda Makley. 4th line-427 E Spring . 5th line St Mary Ohio.

This is my great uncle on my grandmother's side. (her brother)

However, on the crew list of that plane, his serial number does not match. The first 5 or so of the crew have strange serial numbers that do not seem correct.

Newspaper submittal:
 Surnames: MAKLEY, Donald D.
 Father's Surnames: MAKLEY, Arthur
 Mother's Surnames: GERSTNER, Hulda
 Spouse's Surnames:
 Death Record Date: October 12, 1944
 Church:
 Village: , Township: , County: , State:
 Source: St, Marys Evenng Leader Tues. April 5, 1949
 Obituary / Additional Information: Funeral services for 2nd Lieut. Donald D. MAKLEY will be held at nine o'clock Saturday morning in the Holy Rosary Catholic church with the Father John J. Brinker officiating. Lieut. MAKLEY, son of Mrs. Hulda GERSTNER MAKLEY and the late Arthur MAKLEY, was killed October 12, 1944, in an airplane over Osnabruck, Germany. He was a member of the 328th Bomb Squadron, 93rd Bomb

Group, of the U.S. Army Air Force. He was born in St. Marys on October 8, 1921, his death occurring 4 days after his 23rd birthday. Surviving with the mother, who resides at 211 North Walnut street, are a brother, Robert, at home,; and a sister, Mrs. William (Joan) POPPE, of St. Marys. The American Legion Post No. 323 will have the military services and burial will be in Gethsemane. Friends may call at the Yoder and Son Funeral Home Thursday and Friday evenings. Lieut. MAKLEY's body will arrive Wednesday evening in St. Marys.

Date: Mon Nov 13 23:02:06 2000
 Thanks in advance if anyone can clarify for me....
 Stephanie

On his memorial site:
 Birth: Oct. 8, 1921 Death: Oct. 12, 1944

Inscription:
 DONALD D. MAKLEY
 OHIO
 2D LIEUT 328 AAF BOMB SQ
 WORLD WAR II
 OCT 8 1921 OCT 12, 1944
 MADE SUPREME SACRIFICE

Stephanie Gesler Sands
 IT Administrative Officer
 Wm. Fridrich Design
 Fridrichdesign.com
 o. 910.762.3993
 o2. 910.269.9282



New Members Roll Call

We welcome the following new members who joined during the last three months into the 93rd Bomb Group Association Family! **Welcome!!!**

VETERANS ARE SHOWN IN BOLD

Member	Connection to 93 rd BG
Stephanie Gesler Sands	Great niece of 2 Lt. Donald D. Makley 328 th Bomb Sqdn KIA over Osnabruck, Germany Oct. 12, 1944 at age 23. Airplane name and position unknown.
Walter J. Brown	Nephew of 1 st Lt. William (Bill) Brown of Omaha, NE and son of member Lee Brown.
Wes Cable Jr.	Son of long time member Arthur (Wes) Cable who passed away June 20, 2014. Arthur was a pilot in the 330 th and a lead crew.
Sgt. William E. Brack	Dr. Brack served with the 93 rd Bomb Wing, 328 th Sqdn at Castle AFB in CA from 12/56 to /12/62-Strategic Air Force. He flew B-52 "007" and others. His Crew Chief was Sgt A. Romero. Dr. Brack founded and currently operates My Chaplain, Inc. located in Kerrville, TX.

We are absolutely delighted to be joined by **Veterans (William Brack and Howard Hallgarth)** (See Howard's crew picture) who have been out there but maybe did not know of us. In recent months we have received inquiries from those Vets who served at Castle AFB at Merced, California during the Cold War. We all know members Bud and Charla Winnett (Castle 1951-54) who have attended our reunions for several years. As WWII B-24 bomb groups have disbanded we have made a policy to invite them to join us which many fellows and spouses have done. Our 2011 Ploesti Summit drew vets from at least 3 other groups. As I write this piece for the BOF, I am in communication with a 389th BG (with the 93rd at Ploesti) vet who may join us in Dayton, OH.

We are also very grateful that so many 2nd and 3rd generations are joining. **We offer the best avenue for family and friends trying to find out about their special family member who served with the 93rd.** Our members also include an increasing number of historians which we appreciate.

Remember, when an existing member buys a membership for their child or grandchild, the first year dues are only \$20. What a nice gift this makes!

IF YOU BECAME A MEMBER IN 2013 or '14 AND HAVE NOT BEEN LISTED IN A PREVIOUS BOF, LET US KNOW.
jguddal@yahoo.com (763) 694.9058 8/2014

Membership Corner

Introducing new member Pilot Lt. Colonel Howard Hallgarth and his crew.

Howard was a college sophomore in the Yakima, WA area during the start of WWII. When the AAC recruiters came to town, he thought it was time to enlist. It was 1942. By late 1943, Howard had completed flying school and became a pilot. A crew was formed and off to England they went eventually ending up at Hardwick and the 93rd Bomb Group. The 409th squadron would be their home for the duration of the war completing 35 missions in all. The original crew mustered out in 1945 after the war was over.

Howard spent most of his life in the Yakima, WA area where he served in the Reserves until the 1980's earning the rank of Lt. Colonel. Howard is married to Hermina Hallgarth.

Howard told me the toughest mission they flew was on to Stuttgart, Germany. Bombs had been dropped when the lead aircraft took a direct hit and exploded with only three men seen bailing out. It was a pretty bumpy ride.



From left to right

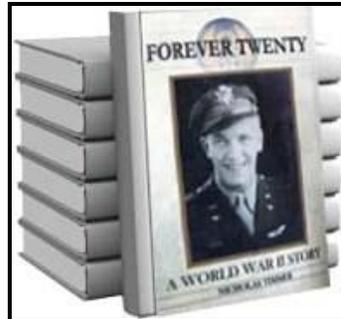
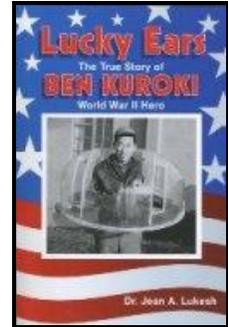
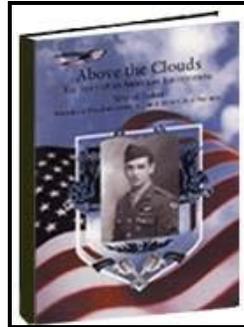
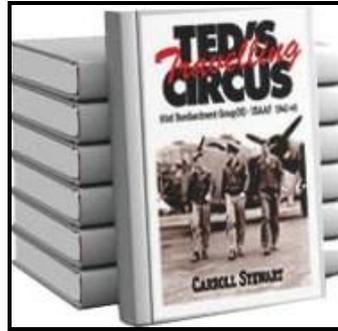
Standing row:
Nose gunner Julies Glicka
Ball turret Joe Chadwick
Navigator is unknown
Tail gunner Berne Riengold
Waist gunner Mike Dolata

Kneeling row:
Radio op Lindquist
Engineer Phillip Jones
Pilot Howard Hallgarth
Co-pilot Wilbur John Goss

The bombardier wasn't pictured and was assumed to be off with another crew mission which was typical of that position.

Submitted by Jim Guddal

Post Exchange (PX)



Your Post Exchange (PX) Order Form

CAPS & VISORS

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

COFFEE & THERMAL TRAVEL MUGS

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

PUZZLES

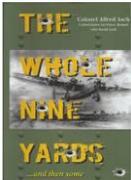
Jigsaw puzzles with colorful "Ball of Fire III" image over Ploesti. Comes with stand.	\$22	\$42
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SUNCATCHERS

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

<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 rd Web site & Amazon)	
<i>Above the Clouds</i> by Wayne Baker	\$24.95	\$47.50
<i>Lucky Ears The True Story of Ben Kuroki</i> *** Limited autographed edition! Order today! ***	\$13	\$24
<i>Forever Twenty</i> by Nicholas Timmer	\$21.95	\$42.00



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

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

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

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

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

Grand Total _____

Mail orders to: Bill Sargent, 93rd BG PX
1458 Locust St.
Denver, CO 82220
Email : joyridecp@msn.com

93rd BG BALL OF FIRE QUARTERLY EXPRESS SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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

Year 2014

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Connection to 93rd BG: Please circle: Veteran was father, uncle. 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 (2014 only) \$25 \$ _____

2 year discount rate (2014 & 2015) \$45 \$ _____

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The PX: We have in stock, coffee & stainless tvl 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 Bill Sargent- joyridecp@msn.com