

Ball of Fire QUARTERLY EXPRESS



NEWSLETTER OF THE 93rd BOMB GROUP

2nd Air Division, 8th Air Force, Hardwick, England

Vol. 17 No. 1

Spring 2009

President's Corner

As I write, I'm enjoying the gentle serenade of the greatest 40's music compliments of XM Radios 40's on 4. How wonderful to have a steady supply of the greatest music from our "Greatest Generation." For instance, at the moment, the Glenn Miller Army Air Force Band is performing the St. Louis Blues March. Twenty-four hours each day, a steady stream of outstanding music is available for our listening pleasure. I have to admit I occasionally set the dial to the 50's on 5 music for a quick dose of the music the greatest generation despised—well at least my parents didn't like rock and roll.

The last three months have been marked by significant progress on the transfer of duties from our veterans to the new 2nd generation officers. All officers have received the current version of the 93rd Bomb Group's By-laws and are becoming fully acquainted with their duties to our members. We are considering the current by-laws, approved in 2003, to determine if any revisions need to be proposed to the members at our annual business meeting. Our goal is to provide recommended changes to the membership in our next BOFQE well in advance of the reunion.

2008-2010 Officers

President	John Marx
President Emeritus	Paul Steichen
Executive Vice President	Gerald Veteto
Secretary	Paul Levine
Treasurer	Jim Guddal
Editor of the Ball of Fire	JoAnne Sargent
Associate Editor of BOF	Vacant
Conventions Director	John Marx
Associate Conventions Director	Kent Jaquith
Historian	Don Morrison
Associate Historian	Vacant

Our 2nd generation officers are committed to achieving the same teamwork as the 93rd Bomb Group was able to achieve from 1942-1945. We have a superb legacy to emulate and will strive to continue to bring honor to the 93rd!

Advisory Board

Past President	Fernley Smith
Vice President to the 2ADA	Charles Sill
Assistant VP to the 2ADA	Vacant
Past Treasure	Cal Davidson

Additional Critical Positions

Graphics/Media	Kent Jaquith
Documentary Project	Michael Sellers
Photographer	Bill Sargent
Webmaster	Michael Sellers
Reunion Committee	Phyllis & Joe Duran Fred Weir

A Nominating Committee appointed by the President will be established to recommend new officers for selection at our annual business meeting. As you can see, several positions are vacant and available. Officers are normally elected for a two-year term, but

any of the current officers who cannot continue for the 2nd year may resign creating additional vacancies. The Nominating Committee consists of three active members, two being veterans of WWII and one from the next generation. If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, contact me or let one of the other officer's know.

Our web page provides a high quality of information about our activities. Several new items recently posted are the photos from our 2008 Dallas Reunion and the current version of our by-laws. Michael Sellers is exploring newly available technology to further enhance the experience of our web page visitors. We believe the web page is one of the best tools available to the 2nd generation to "carry on the traditions and memories of the 93rd Bomb Group". I recommend you visit the web page and see some of the recent changes. The address is: www.93rdbombardmentgroup.com

Treasurer's Notes

****Scuttlebutt for fellow 93rd BG Vet's and Next Generations****

If Stars and Stripes were written today, what words would they use to describe key events, emergencies, recognition of important people, a new Spam© product and putting out the call for someone in need.

Well, here's the "skinny"! The event is the 93rd reunion in October. The new product, by the grace of you visionary Vet's is "next generations" beginning to manage the 93rd Association to carry on your LEGACY. The important person for purpose of this article is the dues collector, "yours truly". The need is the 93rd!

Now, I can't say we have an emergency, because the 93rd has a great crew keeping the engines running and we will have a few bucks for the next shindig. What is needed is "gas" to make it to the next destination and back. And, that's where yaw'l come

The 2009 Reunion takes place in Shreveport, LA and Barksdale AFB in October 2009. Our theme is "Back to the Beginning." The details are not finalized as of this writing but should be soon. Check the web page for the itinerary, registration forms, and hotel information in the weeks to come. The next issue of the BOFQE will contain all of the information to register. Barksdale is home to the Eighth Air Force Museum and one of the few remaining B-24s in the world. The "Louisiana Belle II" is a J model and is on static display along with many other historic aircraft flown by the United States over the last 75 years. This reunion promises to be an outstanding experience. Make plans to attend and renew your old friendships and make some new ones. The reunion dates are October 22 – October 26.

John Marx, President

in. (Sorry, I can't offer a free lunch).

As your new treasurer, my job is to keep track of the "green" and pay the bills. **Your job as a member of this prestigious outfit is to keep us solvent by keeping up with your dues, \$25 for 2009.** If you have lost track of whether you're up to date, **here's my deal!** Send me \$25 for 2009 and throw in a \$20 donation for the new 93rd Window in Savannah to cover any past dues. **Your 93rd BG Association became a 501(c)(3) Non Profit in 2007 and you can take a tax deduction.**

When you send your check, tell me what new words you came home with after the war was over. (Nice words only that can be published).

Jim Guddal, Treasurer

Thanks! With your support, the 93rd will keep flying!!

2nd Air Division Association Reunion

The reunion will be September 3-7 2009 at the Westin O'Hare, Chicago (Rosemont), Illinois. This may be the last reunion of the 2ADA. The Legacy Continuation Plan adopted by the 2ADA calls for continuing support for the Memorial Library, Norwich and the Mighty 8th Heritage Museum to come from the Heritage League of the 2ADA. I urge all the 93rd's second and third generation members to join the Heritage League. Cost is a reasonable \$15 per

year. Veterans can also join at no cost. The Heritage League needs all the interested members it can get. Further information can be found at: www.heritageleague.org

Charles Sill, 93rd Group VP, 2ADA

Update on 93rd BG Photo History Book

After working with Turner Publishing for several years on the 93rd BG Photo History, they had decided to cancel the book. Turner is in the process of returning all deposits at this time. I have heard that some people have already received their refunds. In the event you have moved since ordering the book,

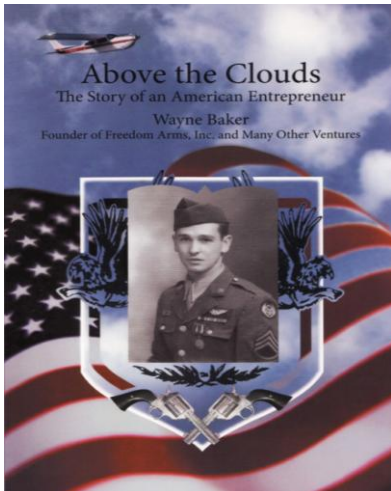
please contact Dina at 1 (800) 788-3350. I have already started discussions with another publisher of Military books. In the event that it works out, I will update everyone through the Newsletter.

Don Morrison, Historian

A Hero's Reunion Documentary

Michael Sellers is still actively working on his documentary "A Hero's Reunion". Back in the fall of '08 he successfully documented the Collings Foundation and survived a flight in their B-17 from Columbia, SC to Savannah, GA. While in Savannah he swung by the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum. He documented the grounds and had a wonderful interview with Dr. Walt Brown, M.D. the president of the museum and E.G. Shuler, Jr. (Lt. Gen., USAF, Ret.). Mr. Shuler was one of the founding fathers of the museum and Michael was at the right place at the right time to score an interview! During the holidays, Michael began work on a new portion of his documentary. He visited local schools in Jefferson

City, MO and interviewed high school teacher Lonnie Schneider who teaches U.S. history and middle school teacher Myra M. Eickmeyer who teaches U.S. Government. The focus is trying to understand how in depth educational institutions today teach students about WWII and if it's enough. Will the younger generations even know what happened 30 years from now? In the summer Michael and his wife Suzanne plan to take a European trip. A stop in Norwich is on the schedule! More update in the next issue. Continue to check out the website for the documentary (www.aherosreunion.com) and also visit www.93rdbombardmentgroup.com. New photos of the Dallas '08 reunion have been posted.



Above the Clouds: the Story of an American Entrepreneur, Wayne Baker

Founder of Freedom Arms, Inc., and Many Other Ventures

Most of us live on this earth bound by ideas and rules imposed on our minds by others or ourselves. My father lives his life above the clouds where nothing is impossible and where he sees endless possibilities. He never lets fear or doubt stop him from trying out new ideas. My father once said, "I've been able to invent a lot of things because no one ever told me I

couldn't. There was no one around to tell me it was impossible." He takes the impossible and makes it possible. And where is Mom in all of this? She is the co-pilot sitting right beside him where she has always been, helping to keep the flight as smooth as possible.

Christine Wilshaw, daughter

Lt. Col. Edward "Red" Weir

Down to Two Feet Altitude is an eyewitness account of the early U.S. Army Air Corps heavy bomber campaign over Europe and North Africa in WWII, as told through the eyes of a B-24 Liberator bomber navigator, Edward "Red" Weir, who faithfully logged entries into his personal war diary between 1942 – 1943, documenting his 25 combat missions. His last mission was the daring low-level raid on Hitler's "gas station," the huge oil refinery complex at Ploesti, Romania, on August 1st, 1943.

That raid holds the distinction to this day of being one of the most highly decorated single battles, per capita, of all the branches of U.S. military service in the nation's history of warfare.

James A. Wells

Stained Glass Memorial Project for the 8th AF Museum in Savannah

This project is to honor the memories of our 93rd Airmen. The total cost of this project is \$15,000 for the 3 Stained Glass Elements, including the Top Cathedral shaped window above the door and 2 separate panels in the upper portion of the new fiberglass door.

Memorial Project Update

On December 8, 2008, I visited the 8th Air Force Museum in Savannah. There I met with Brenda Elmgren, Chief Admin. Officer, Dr. Brown was unable to attend due to his ongoing battle with melanoma. Brenda confirmed that the new window and door were on hand and were scheduled to be installed in February.

As soon as this installation of the door and window are completed Aurora Glass will take precise final dimensions necessary to build a separate frame required to hold the stained glass securely. We then met with John Erickson, of Aurora Glass, at his studio and saw some of the excellent work they do along with the final outline of our own window. The scheduled time for Aurora to actually build the stained glass window is about three months. At this point, the 93rd must make a second \$5,000 payment to the museum. A final step of installation is planned to meet strict structural conformity required by the museum. When the museum accepts the window, we will receive notice, along with actual photos, at which time our final payment of \$5,000 will be due. Currently, this completion is expected around July, 2009.

While visiting, I was given a brief tour of the soon to be completed Fighting Sam exhibit and was greatly impressed with the technology allowing a visitor to actually have a "hands on" experience of an actual bombing run/the kids are going to LOVE this and so will the vets.

If you have not yet made your contribution to this beautiful memorial stained glass window honoring our 93rd vets, please give what you can, so that we can meet our obligations to the museum in a true 93rd Bomb Group fashion.

One final note, Dr. Brown's condition has required the museum to appoint a new Director, but typical of Dr. Brown, he has agreed to stay on as Vice President of the museum's top priority projects, which include "Fighting Sam", 93rd window, and B-17 installation. Please say a prayer for this gracious gentleman, who has ALWAYS been a great friend of the 93rd and certainly has done a wonderful job as President of the museum.

Fernley Smith, Past President

Memorial Project Financial Update

Hello Fellow 93rd BG Assoc. Members, Family and Friends,

The 93rd Stained Glass Project is humming along and progressing nicely at the 8th AF Museum in Savannah, Ga. I understand the Second phase of the project which includes the Door and the exterior tempered glass will be installed the week of March 23rd. We will be making our second payment to the museum in the amount of \$6000. Thus far, our 93rd BG Veterans, Families and Friends have donated approximately \$8770 to date.

The entire project will cost..... \$15,000
Payments made so far..... \$8,650
(including the \$6000 we will be paying for the door and exterior stained glass)

Net payments due for final phase.....\$6350

We are most grateful to those who have made a contribution, no matter how small or benevolent. When the stained glass project is complete and

ready for installation, we will make sure each person who donated will be inscribed in a nicely bound book and acknowledge those they are honoring.

I would ask if any 93rd member or friend who have not made a contribution thus far, to please do so (no matter how small or large), **the 93rd BG would be most grateful.** This project is **memorializing** what every proud 93rd BG man contributed to the Victory in Europe May 8th, 1945 which put an end to the tyranny of the Nazi regime, for which the modern world is forever grateful. **Please find it in your hearts to donate whatever you can.**

On behalf of all of the 93rd BG Association and its most cherished veterans, family members and friends, I wish each and every one of you good health, happiness, and peace.

Paul Levine, Secretary

93rd Bomb Group 2008 Stained Glass Memorial Project



I want to do my part to provide a lasting memory of the 93rd Bomb Group through a contribution to the Stained Glass Memorial Project at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum.

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

~~~~~

**Method of Payment**

Check (enclosed)

Debit/Credit Card

- Visa
- Mastercard
- Discover Card
- American Express

\_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number

\_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

I would like my debit/credit card charged for my donation:

- deducted all in one payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- deducted in \_\_\_\_\_ equal payments of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ each month for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

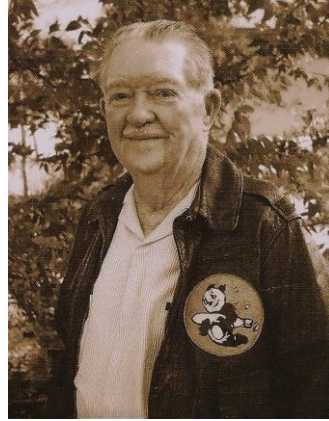
Mail to:  
**Stained Glass Memorial Donation**  
**Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum**  
 PO Box 1992  
 Savannah, GA 31402

## Folded Wings

### Lt Col (Ret) Edward "Red" Weir

*Lt Col (Ret) Edward "Red" Weir, WWII veteran of the 93rd Bombardment Group and participant in the great bombing raid over Ploesti, Romania in 1943, passed peacefully into the next life on the afternoon of February 9th, 2009, in Denton, TX, after a recent illness. A memorial service was held in Denton and he was interred at the National Cemetery in El Paso, TX.*

*We were grateful to have him with us at the Dallas 08 reunion. He was truly one of the best and will greatly missed, but never forgotten.*



### Bob McKeever

*Bob McKeever, an original 93rder from Barksdale days, was one of the many crew chiefs who kept us flying. He made one trip to Africa on detached service to the 389th Bomb Group as their ground personnel had not yet arrived. His last ship was 204 I, an H model, which completed 50 missions without an abort, had over 100 missions to her credit and when the war ended carried Bob home.*

*Bob was the secretary in the early years of the Bomb Group Reunions. Cal Davidson met Bob at one of their first gatherings in Savannah. Bob was a very friendly, easy going, laid back person with a friendly disposition and was highly regarded by all. Everyone liked and got along with Bob like two peas in a pod.*

*Cal Davidson*



### Peggy Stewart

*Margaret (Peggy) O'Mara Stewart of Millburn, NJ and wife of Cal Stewart served with the American Red Cross during 1944-1945. Her first overseas post was with the 93<sup>rd</sup> at Hardwick, Norwich, England. She later served with air and ground units on the Continent. Cal and Peggy had three children - Suzanne, Sally Ann, and Scott and five grandchildren. Peg loved the 93<sup>rd</sup> BG Association and we all loved her and she will be greatly missed.*



## Letters to the Editor

*I am seeking information and photos (aircraft name and or nose art). The aircraft is a B-24 L FO S.N. 44-49355 from the 329th BS Hardwick, England '44 to '45. The Clement crew of the 329th Bomber Squadron was stationed at Hardwick, England.*

*At some point the aircraft was part of the 707 bomber squadron of the 446th B.G. The crew was named after the pilot Joseph W. Clement Jr., sent over from Grenier Field, Manchester, NH on July 17 1944 on B-24 J S.N. 42-50724. At some point in time it was part of the 446th B.G. 706th B.S. The 446th B.G. was stationed at I believe Bungay and the 93rd B.G. 329th B.S. arrived there too. It was eventually sent to Hardwick, England only about 5 or so miles from Bungay. I think I got all that right? If you or any of your contacts could provide additional crew shots of 329th crew this would be helpful. Thank you for the update and all.*

*Claude Lowder*

*My father Carlton Frederick (Fritz) Taylor 1 LT RA served in the 93<sup>rd</sup> at the end of and after WW2. He was listed as "operations officer". I am curious to find any vet that may have known him. He was killed in an auto accident while on active service March of '46. I was 6 mos old at the time.*

*I am a vet also, US Army (Cpt. Military Intelligence 69-73).*

*It would be a thrill for me to correspond with any of his fellow servicemen.*

*Sincerely,  
Thaddeus W. Taylor III*

*The main information I'm looking for is a way to locate some of Ben Hall's descendants to whom I can give the original letters. Below is an (excerpt from) an email I sent to Stacy Peckham at the WW2 museum in New Orleans. She was very happy to get transcripts of the letters (I have attached those of Ben Hall to this email). If we can't locate any of Ben Hall's relatives my family has decided to send the originals to the museum. I have delayed doing that hoping we can find a relative of his who might appreciate the letters.*

*Last year I discovered some letters written to my parents during WWII by T/Sgt. B.P. Hall 14031995, 328 Bomb Sq. 93rd Bomb Gp and S/Sgt Joe H. Powell 14099748, Med. Det. 9th Inf. Regt. Sec. The letters (about 23 of them) cover a period from June 7, 1942 to August 15, 1945. My brothers and sisters would like to give the original letters to Ben and Joe's family. We would be very grateful if you can help us locate them. The Powell letters contain the most detailed information about D-day etc. The Hall letters have less detail due to censorship in pre-D-day England. He won the DFC with 3 oak clusters for landing a bomber after the pilot was killed. Both men were from Shreveport, La., which is where they worked with my Father.*

*Pat Melton*

*Hello, my name is Greg Wells and I am a retired Army Master Sergeant. Recently, I was talking to my next door neighbor and she was telling me a story about her dad being a B-24 tail gunner that was shot down over Yugoslavia. He parachuted and was helped by partisans. He is deceased. She has no other information other than what I have already given you. Is there anyway that you could check to see if you have any information concerning her step-dad. And if you don't have anything, could point me in the right direction.*

*Royal Bishoff Rall  
Souix Falls, SD  
Born: 1/11/16*

*Thank you!  
Greg Wells*