

# **Ball of Fire** QUARTERLY EXPRESS



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

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Fall 2020

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

As most of you know by now, the 2020 Annual Reunion planned for October is postponed until 2021. Mark your calendars now for October 14 – 17<sup>th</sup> 2021 in Salt Lake City. Our updated contract is in final negotiations, and we will have the same rates and concessions as we had for this year. If you have made reservations for this year, the hotel will cancel them automatically. Reservations for next year can be made beginning in February. We have decided to conduct our 2022 reunion in Boston, MA preserving the decision we made at last year's annual business meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact John Marx at [109clearview@gmail.com](mailto:109clearview@gmail.com) or 412-327-1909.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

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**VETERAN'S ADVISORY BOARD**

**GEORGE MCLEAN**

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I Hope everyone is safe and practicing social distancing and hand washing – this COVID-19 pandemic is crazy! It continues to turn the world upside down!

Your officers continue to have a lot of work going on in support of the 93<sup>rd</sup> BGA. Below are the updated highlights of what we are working on (look for more details in this issue of the BOF, for some of these):

- **Reunion planning (US)**– Another fantastic reunion is being planned for **October, 2021** in Salt Lake City, UT! It will be another fun reunion for the 93<sup>rd</sup> BGA family – hope you can join us! Per my “Special Announcement” dated July 16, we decided to postpone the 2020 reunion. The required 93<sup>rd</sup> BGA annual business meeting will be conducted on October 17, 2020 as previously announced, via “ZOOM” on the internet for social meetings. More information and the business meeting agenda, will follow.
- **“Return to Hardwick”** – We continue to have great success with the film distribution! Look for the film update later in this BOF. Thank you, again, to everyone who donated, and/or volunteered to make this a world class documentary we are all proud of!
- **93<sup>rd</sup> BGA PX** – We are looking for ideas on what products you would like to see in the PX? If you have suggestions please contact myself or Pete Asch!
- **93<sup>rd</sup> BGA projects** – Per our reunion business meeting, we are still in process of investigating (4) potential projects that the BGA could work on in support of our mission. This includes developing proposed concepts, costs, and timing, to see which project(s) would be appropriate for us to move forward with. These are:
  - 1) enhancing the 93<sup>rd</sup> BG memorial located at the US Air Force Museum in Dayton, OH,
  - 2) scanning/cataloging 93<sup>rd</sup> BG wartime daily logs for better searchability,
  - 3) provide support and resources to paint the exterior and/or expand the Museum at Hardwick
  - 4) explore annual fundraising options for the 93<sup>rd</sup> BGA, necessary to carry on our stated purpose (right now, our only source of revenue to the general fund, is through membership fees and donations).Sub-committees and volunteers are assigned to help with all four, but if you have a particular interest, and want to help, please contact me!  
More information will be provided at our annual business meeting!
- **Alignment with other WW II groups** – We have initiated exploratory conversations with the Heritage League to determine if there is any interest or benefit in combining some activities or events, particularly our annual reunions. We had a great first meeting and generated some worthwhile ideas on how to help each other out. We will continue to pursue this.

I am pleased to announce an appointment to the BGA Officers: Kenna Payne is the new 93<sup>rd</sup> BGA Treasurer. You can read her introduction later in the BOF. She has a great accounting background with non-profit groups!

We thank Wally Brown for all of his help and support as our Treasurer for the past 4 years!

Be sure to check our websites, at [www.hardwickfilm.com](http://www.hardwickfilm.com) and our 93<sup>rd</sup> BGA website, [www.93bg.com](http://www.93bg.com). Have a great fall, stay safe, and hopefully, we will “see you” at our 93<sup>rd</sup> BGA annual business meeting on Saturday, October 17, 2020 via “ZOOM”, and also in Salt Lake City in October, 2021!

Jim Root  
President, 93<sup>rd</sup> BGA

## **INTRODUCTION OF KENNA (LEE) (ROOT) PAYNE, TREASURER**

Born at the West Point Military Academy post hospital and raised in upstate New York, our new Treasurer is the daughter of Major Kenneth Weeks Root, Jr., and is named for him. (Yes, President Jim Root is her brother!) She is the third of six children of Ken and Helen (Slawson), and lived on the family farm until she finished college and moved to Richmond, VA. She has a Bachelor in Science degree in Accounting from Ithaca College. In Richmond, she worked with Price Waterhouse, an international public accounting firm. She has also worked for a stock brokerage member firm of the New York stock Exchange and for a consulting and recordkeeping company for qualified retirement plans. She retired in July 2014 from her last position as the CFO for the state-wide membership organization for architects in Virginia.

Now that she's retired, she can focus on the things she really enjoys! The most serious hobby is music – she plays piano and organ and conducts the choir at her home Presbyterian church, sings in the 150-voice Richmond Symphony Chorus, and another small group of eighteen friends who sing for fun and to help groups raise money for worthy causes. The pandemic has really messed up this hobby!

She is active in the governance of the Presbyterian Church, and serves as the chair of the primary administrative committee at her local presbytery.

She is the Treasurer of the Richmond Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (since 2014), chaired the June 2017 Regional AGO Convention held in Richmond, and now serves on the national AGO Committee for Conventions.

Travel, cooking, sewing, gardening, and reading also take turns at grabbing her attention.

She married a Virginia boy 35 years ago, and learned to love the University of Virginia sports teams – Wahoo Wah!. She still gets goose bumps at the thought that the men's basketball and lacrosse teams are still the National Champions (from the spring of 2019).

She is delighted to be serving the 93<sup>rd</sup> BGA as its Treasurer, and looks forward to many years of service to the group.

### **VE DAY +75 YEARS HARDWICK 2020**

**Hardwick, England May 28 to 31, 2021** Colin and I are looking towards a Mini Reunion over the May 28-31, 2021 weekend. If you have any question, please contact Don Morrison. Contact info is shown in the Officer Directory.



## FOLDED WINGS

*Barberton Herald, Barberton OH; Dec 1, 1944*  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Edward T. "Ted" Charles Jr, 25 who had completed 30 missions as a bombardier and Navigator over Europe was killed Wednesday morning in a plane crash near Salina, Kansas. Only son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward P. Charles of Barberton Ohio, he leaves his wife, the former Louvain Harris of Burkburnett, TX whom he married in August 1942. Winner of the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with



4 oak leaf clusters. He returned to the United States last June following 10 months overseas. During his career with the heavies, he participated in the assaults on Berlin (3), Achmer, Gotha (twice) Ludwigshaven (twice), Brunswick (twice), Tutow (twice), Handorf and targets in the Pas De Calais area.

*\*Based on D. Morrison (93<sup>rd</sup> BG Historian) research, 21 of his 30 Missions have been found within the December, 1943 to May, 1944 time frame while in the 409<sup>th</sup> BS. Based on the Obituary he was in the ETO from September, 1943 to June, 1944. The crew for 20 of the 21 missions found so far are with Lt Charles Forth crew. He was on Lt. Forth crew on May 19, 1944 when they made an emergency landing due to a loss of the Hydraulic system (No flaps or landing gear) due to heavy flak during 3 bombs runs over Brunswick. Luckily, the landing gear was manually lowered and they made a safe landing at Woodbridge. Based on the damage description, the aircraft for May 19, 1944 was 42-100336*



Lt Forth Crew. Due to the quality of the Obituary photo, I am unable to make a positive Identification of Lt Charles.

**He will be missed!**

## **GREETINGS FROM THE 93<sup>RD</sup> BG HISTORIAN!**

I am currently working on several research project for families and memorials. If you have any information such as photos, wartime paperwork such as orders, diaries, or letters, please let me know. No clue is too small!

### **Aircraft research projects**

42-94971 "Fart Sack Time" I am trying to verify name and serial # linkage.

42-95024 "Gypsy Queen" I am trying to verify name and serial number linkage.

42-95527 "4-F" I know this was the name of the aircraft after it was in the 93<sup>rd</sup> BG. Need to determine if it was present while at the 93<sup>rd</sup> BG.

"Sandra Ann" Unknown Serial # B-24, Olive Drab finish during early 1944 of the 329<sup>th</sup> BS

### **Veteran research Projects**

Paul Beta 409<sup>th</sup> BS

Karl Eisele Jr 409<sup>th</sup> BS

Richard Baginski 328<sup>th</sup> BS

Chester Irzyk 328<sup>th</sup> BS

Edward Charles 409<sup>th</sup> BS see Folded wings

Joseph Gurski 328 and 329<sup>th</sup> BS

Ernest George 329<sup>th</sup> BS spring 1944 on the Lt John Blackis crew

### **Search for 93<sup>rd</sup> BG items**

*I am looking for any photos, diaries, records or other items from the time at Hardwick. If you know of any items, please let me know as I would like to get copies to further my research into the 93<sup>rd</sup> BG. Please do not assume that I already have it. Every time I see a collection, I find something new!*

### **FREE Memorabilia cataloging and Research**

I am willing to scan any documents, records and photos of a 93<sup>rd</sup> BG veteran and return ALL of the original items (unharmed) along with CDs 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 copies for family members. I have done this for several veterans over the years. My contact info is shown in the Officer Directory.

If you have any questions regarding the 93<sup>rd</sup> BG, please contact me with an email/letter/call with your question or topic for a mini research project. I will do my best to research an answer and publish it in the newsletter.

*Cheers, Don Morrison*

# 93RD FILM PROJECT

## 93<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group website update

It's been 11 years since I modernized the 93rd Bomb Group website! Back in 2009, some of our 93rd veterans were running the site, and I was proud to continue the work that they started. What foresight they had to jump on the world wide web and let people know about the group and their history from WWII. Now that the *Return to Hardwick* documentary has been completed and currently available for everyone to see, I'm going to switch gears and work on updating our current website. Please stay tuned.

Currently I have updated the "Featured Veterans" section on the homepage. The featured veteran is Ben Kuroki. The Smithsonian National Air and Space museum put out a great article about Ben and the current COVID-19 pandemic. I thank 93rd member George Jung for posting this up on Facebook originally. The article crosses issues that we are dealing with today and juxtaposes them with Ben's career during WWII. Check it out if you have time.

## Return To Hardwick documentary update

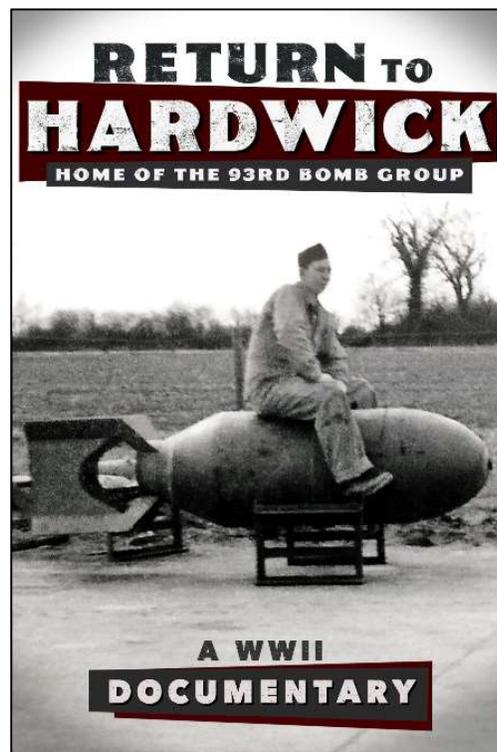
Our documentary *Return To Hardwick* has been available for purchase digitally (iTunes, Amazon, VUDU) and on DVD/Blu-ray (Amazon, Walmart, Best Buy, Target) for two months now! Our distributor tells us that it will be available for another month on transactional platforms and then switch to subscription platforms like AmazonPrime. Please go to [www.hardwickfilm.com](http://www.hardwickfilm.com) for the latest information.

I also have started reaching out to our distributor to discuss foreign distribution. I'd like to make the film available first in the UK and expand to other territories. We have been getting a lot of interest of course from our UK friends over social media, now that the film is available. We are going to work hard to get this done.

Trivia!!

Did you know at the last minute before our June 9th release we updated our poster for all VOD platforms and the cover of the DVD/Blu-ray? Why? We needed to catch the eye of a lot of potential viewers that might know nothing about Hardwick or the 93rd Bomb Group. We were lucky enough to get a photo collection from John Marr (this collection is also used in the film). John is the son of Stanley L. Marr who was in the 93rd Bomb Group. It just happens to be that one photo of Stanley sitting on a bomb is quite "eye-catching" to say the least. You can see the original photo also before it was cropped.

Thank You!  
Michael Sellers  
93rd BG Technology Manager  
Director/Producer "Return To Hardwick"



## 93RD PX

The 93rd BGA PX will be going under a complete renovation over the next several months. A committee is being formed to review and improve the PX process, product offering, budgeting, and ease of use. A limited amount of product, including Ted's Travelling Circus books will be available during this time. We appreciate your cooperation during this time frame.

### CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Grace and peace be to you all. I hope that you and your families are doing well and enjoying a wonderful summer, even in this strange time that we're living in. I am sorry that we will not be able to get together this Fall in Salt Lake City and will miss the camaraderie, fellowship, stories and history lessons, but will look forward to getting back together next year with you all.

In this time of uncertainty and worry, I take comfort in the words found in Phillipians 4, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds."

As always, I will continue to pray for our group, but if there are special needs that you would like to share, either with me or with our group as a whole, I hope that you will contact me. You can reach me either through my group email, [bofmailman@gmail.com](mailto:bofmailman@gmail.com), or my personal email, [gjung@hvc.rr.com](mailto:gjung@hvc.rr.com). Stay healthy and be safe.

Blessings to you all,  
George Jung, Chaplain

### MEMBERSHIP

This Fall is going to be strange for us. We won't be gathering in Salt Lake City for our reunion. Though we will hold our business meeting virtually, I won't be able to hear you laugh at the jokes I crack.

The one thing we will be doing as usual this Fall is the membership renewal drive. **If your membership expires on 12/31/2020, I will be sending you a letter asking for your dues.** I will be mailing those letters by the end of September. Keep an eye out for it. If you need to renew, and I don't hear from you, a reminder will be sent.

Over the years, many of you have sent notes, comments and information about your veteran. I have always appreciated them. Please feel free to continue contacting me with any comments or questions.

Have a great Fall and please stay healthy.

Jean Koznarek  
Membership Chair



93BG.COM

# MEMBERSHIP FORM 2020

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Crew Chief(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Comments (list crew if known) \_\_\_\_\_

*(use back side for more info)*

Annual Membership	\$25 \$ _____	
2 year discount rate (2021 & 2022)	\$45 \$ _____	
Tax deductible Donation	\$ _____	(The 93 <sup>rd</sup> is a 501(c)(3) Organization)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>	

\_\_\_ *Please MAIL newsletter* \_\_\_ *Please E-MAIL newsletter*  
*Please note, membership is on a calendar year.*

**Make checks payable to: 93<sup>rd</sup> BOMB GROUP**  
(We encourage you to pay by PayPal through the 93<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group website, 93bg.com)

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

Copy this form for family and friends to become members. Thank you!

\_\_\_ **Yes! I would like to volunteer to help the 93<sup>rd</sup> BGA and my skill is:**

**KEEP OUR HISTORY ALIVE!**