



95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation

The 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization whose purpose is to educate the public regarding the history of the 95th Bomb Group (H) and its role in the air campaign over central Europe during WWII.

Volume 1 Issue 3

October 2012

95th BG Veterans Gather in Cleveland



FRONT: Charlie Gallagher, Ed Yursky, Jack Bertram, Harry Hull, Bob Inman, Keith Murray, William "Dub" Vandegriffe
BACK: Curtis Stone, Bob Fay, Joe Cihon, Ben Roujansky, Irv Rothman, Herb Wilkov, John Walter (photo by Laney Baltazar)



Fourteen 95th veterans joined family and friends for the annual 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation reunion August 29 - September 3, 2012. Among the highlights of the reunion was the fly-in of the B-17 "Yankee Lady" for an exclusive event with the 95th. After the attendees had an opportunity to tour the parked plane, she then took three happy loads of passengers for a flight some called "a dream of a lifetime."

Left
95th Bomb Group Veterans pose with "an old girlfriend."
(photo by Sue Roujansky)

About the Foundation...

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Meg Brackney, Last Plane Down
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Our Mission

The mission of the 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation is to educate the public regarding the history of the 95th Bomb Group and its role in the air campaign over central Europe during World War II, to promote the study and recognition of the total involvement of the air crews and their related support units, and to provide and maintain appropriate recognition of all members of the 95th Bomb Group who gave up their lives in the successful effort to preserve freedom as their legacy to future generations.

The 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation is also charged with the maintenance and operation of the 95th Bomb Group Veterans Association's Memorials. These include, but are not limited to:

U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio
Pima Air Museum, Tucson, Arizona
Eighth Air Force Heritage Center, Savannah, Georgia
The Ring of Eight, Horham, England
Arlington Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia



The Missing Man is always with us.
95th veterans Irv Rothman and Bob Fay carry the Missing Man flag into a reunion event.

www.95thbg.org

Notes from the President...



Tom Cozens, President
Son of Bob Cozens
Pilot, 335th Squadron

For years I had listened to the vets and their families rave about Horham. They spoke of the humble hospitality of their British hosts, and of the unbelievable resurrection of the Red Feather Club. For me, Horham became a puzzle of pieces that included Redlingfield, hardstands, Glenn Miller, barracks, bombs, runways, a rural village, and passionate volunteers who honor the sacrifice of the nearly 600 Yanks who never came home. I dreamed of going to what is best described as the Mecca of the 95th with my father at my side to help me put the pieces into place. As my father's health started to decline a year ago, I knew that dream would not come true. Yet Dad encouraged Peggy and me to go see Horham after the Cleveland reunion.

James and Christine Mutton and Alan Johnson gave us the royal tour of the old airbase and the surrounding countryside. They even arranged for us to see Horham from the air. Their guided tours, coupled with what I was learning from Rob Morris's masterfully written account of the 95th, led to the pieces of the Horham puzzle falling into place.

Like so many of his generation, my dad never bragged about his accomplishments. He always considered himself part of a team, and that providence, as much as if not more than skill, was the reason he came home while so many did not. I knew that during our stay in Horham, a bench would be dedicated as a permanent memorial to my father. However, its place of prominence and its majestic beauty and dignity brought me to tears. The tears were for a mix of the pain of my loss and of the gratitude for the honor bestowed upon my father, but also for a measure of humility and perhaps a little embarrassment that I know came from my father. He would be the first to say that he was simply doing his duty and that the honor should go to his crew, his squadron, and particularly the ground crew. Although my father's name is on the bench, I will always see it as a tribute to the spirit of teamwork and commitment to duty and honor that embodied the 95th.

In This Issue	
YouToo	4
95th BG Unit History	5
Cleveland Reunion Photos	6
Research News	8
Red Feather Club Museum	10
Memorandum of Understanding	11
95th BG Memorial Service	12
Leaving Formation	13
In Loving Memory In Honor Of	14
A Letter for Our Widows	15
Membership News 95th BG Hospital Museum	16
Our 95th Family - Horham	17
A Granddaughter's Story	18
A Grandfather's Story	19
Treasurer's Report Red Feather Club	21
Horham Reunion Photos	22
Legacy Gift Form	24

Tom

Alan Johnson, Peggy and Tom Cozens and James Mutton at the Cozens Bench dedication. Bob Cozens was the Founding President of the 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation.



You Too: From our Members & Friends

To all my friends that I met at the 95th Bomb Group Reunion

I had the most wonderful time of my life! I felt right at home and as if I had known you ever since "Von" joined the BG.

Cleveland is a great city. My daughter and I both enjoyed seeing all the big buildings, The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, churches, all of the events that were so well put together, all the great stories, and sharing at the Fireside chats.

To all of the ones that worked so hard putting it together, my many thanks for a great job well done! This is the second reunion for me to have attended. The first one for both of us was in Wash. D.C. so long ago I don't remember the year.



I shall never forget any of you.

OXOXOXOX

Edith VonStade
Widow of Alex VonStade
Tail Gunner, 334th Squadron

Save these dates!

May 7, 2013
Last Plane Down Ceremony
Dayton, Ohio

June 20 - 26, 2013
95th BG Reunion - UK
Horham, England

October 10-14, 2013
95th BG Reunion - US
Orlando, Florida

*"Every day is
Veterans Day"*

Welcome New Members

George Bruckert
Lisle, Illinois

Vivian Prince
Tucson, Arizona

Gary & Cheryl Senkar
Cleveland, Ohio

Becky Wright
Hermann, Missouri

Guillermo Vasquez, Jr.
Lemon Grove, CA

It's worth a look!

See the full color version of this newsletter online at www.95thbg.org or on the 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation Group Facebook page

**Want to receive your
newsletter via email?**
Contact Janie McKnight at
editor@95thbg.org

The following is part of a letter Irv Rothman received, and posted in the Red Feather Club in Cleveland.

Among my chief interests is the music and career of the late bandleader and American musician, Major Glenn Miller (1904-1944). Major Glenn Miller performed at Horham, England on September 10, 1944. Another base, Knettishall (388th B.G.) was less than 15 or so miles away on August 25, 1944. I believe both were 200th mission celebrations.

I'm respectfully wondering if you could post this letter ... in hopes of asking any 95th B.G. vets if they might have memories, photos, etc. of the 200th mission celebration and of listening to the Major Glenn Miller AAF band in person? I would LOVE to add such memories and copies (not originals) of any 200th mission party photos, programs, etc. to my research. I will gladly pay for any costs in getting copy prints made. I'm also hoping that some of the fellows hopped on a bike or rode in a truck to catch the Miller AAF band at nearby Knettishall on August 25, 1944, as well.

I'm very thankful for your life and read with interest your story in this week's Plain Dealer. Where would we be as a country without men and women like you who answered our country's call?

Glenn Mittler
42614 Grandview Drive
Elyria, Ohio 44035-2106
glenn_mittler@yahoo.com

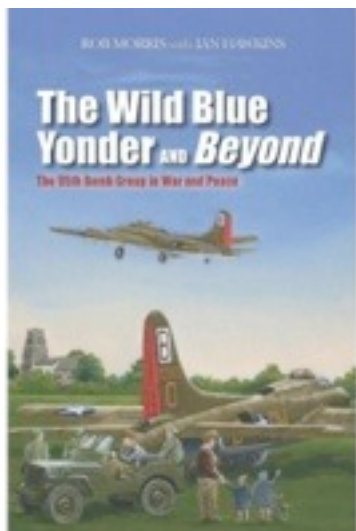
95th Bomb Group Unit History

The August release of 95th Bomb Group's Unit History, **Into the Wild Blue Yonder and Beyond**, was joyfully celebrated at our Cleveland reunion, with author Rob Morris on hand to autograph copies in the Red Feather Club. Reunion attendees who had read the book confirmed that we had reached our goal: "To communicate the story of the 95th Bomb Group to future generations." Along with *Contrails I and II* and *B-17's Over Berlin*, the 95th should have a dynamic presence on the Internet and on



Bob Rosenzweig (L) with author Rob Morris at the book signing.
(photo provided by Bob Rosenzweig)

Gift Giving Made Easy!



www.amazon.com

or through your local bookstore

It's more than a gift...
It's a legacy!

bookshelves of stores and libraries across the USA. Websites selling these products give us worldwide exposure and availability.

Our vision is to tell more of the 95th story to the contemporary public and to future generations. This could be done via electronic media (i.e., a supplemental DVD or through our website) or the more ambitious project of creating a documentary using existing materials, including film footage of veterans that has been taken at our reunions through the years.

Michael Darter
Co-chair, Unit History
Brother of Eugene Darter, MIA
Radio Operator, 412th Squadron

Nancy McK Smith
Co-chair, Unit History
Daughter of Dave McKnight
Pilot, 335th Squadron

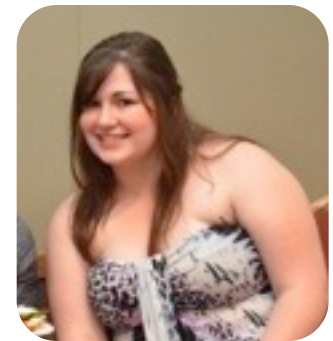
In recognition and honor of all
the 95th Bomb Group Veterans
whose stories we never heard.

Cleveland rocked ...

Photo by Sue Roujansky



Photos by Laney Baltazar
Family of Adam Hinojos
457th Sub Depot



Looking for more reunion photos?
Join the 95th BG Memorials Foundation Facebook group page.



... and the good times rolled!



Photo by Bob Rosenzweig



After 5 years of finding terrific venues, planning outstanding activities, and solving an abundance of problems that accompany any undertaking of this scale, Brad Petrella is

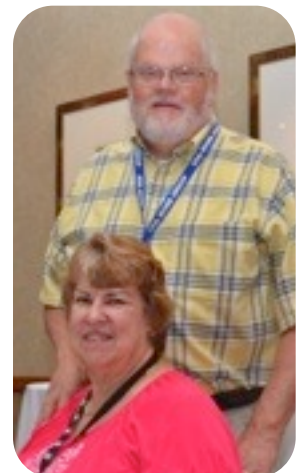
passing the torch of Reunion Chair to the ready, willing, and able Vanna Walker.



Thank you, Brad, for giving us so many years of happy memories! You filled the role with enthusiasm, style, and amazing attention to detail that made us all feel special. Just one more request: Any chance you could arrange for that fabulous Cleveland DJ to come to Orlando next year?



"Major Vanna Walker reporting for duty, sir."



Research News...

Over the past year, several volunteers worked to complete the significant goal of collecting the final set of 95th BG mission reports from the National Archives. These mission reports have been processed and have enabled us to bring our missions database up-to-date. In the next few months, the searchable database on the 95th BG website will be updated with this complete set of information.

Over the past year the research team has had great success in tracking down 95th BG veterans and/or their relatives as part of their Veterans Outreach program. As a result of this effort we have collected over 300 new wartime photographs as well as new veteran interviews and stories.

Additionally, we worked diligently to track down veterans in an effort to identify the men in the flight and ground crew photos that were already posted on the website. Over the past 2 years, we have located and posted over 130 additional flight crew photos on the website. Over the same period we have doubled the number of ground crew photos.

On a daily basis the research team responds to information requests from 95th BG veterans, their families, other historians, and authors. Thanks to our extensive Missions, Personnel, and Aircraft databases, we can provide the appropriate information in almost all cases. In one case we were able to resolve a wartime mystery based upon information that a veteran's widow provided. In three cases this past year we have enjoyed the wonderful experience of reconnecting flight crew mates who had not spoken since the war. They were quite excited to have the opportunity to talk to their long-lost comrades-in-arms after all these years. In other cases we have provided veterans with photos of their crew that they did not have.

The research team works diligently to post new photos and stories on the 95th BG website, to make it accurate and helpful for those interested in the history of the 95th BG and the men that served in it. We have received countless verbal and written thanks from individuals who have found the website and our research team to be extremely helpful in addressing their inquiries. They all commend us for our efforts to honor the men of the 95th Bomb Group.



Can you help match the following names with the faces pictured above in the Arthur Hensler crew?

2Lt	Arthur C. Hensler Jr	Pilot	POW	(Back Left)
2Lt	Robert C. Gilchrist	Co-Pilot	EVD	
2Lt	William L. Lohmann	Navigator	KIA	
2Lt	Paul E. Gregory	Bombardier	EVD	
S/Sgt	Max (NMI) Gottlieb	Radio Operator	EVD	
T/Sgt	Elmer C. Gilcrease	Top Turret/Engineer	EVD	
S/Sgt	Francis J. McDermott	Ball Turret Gunner	POW	
S/Sgt	Paul W. Appleby	Right Waist Gunner	POW	
Sgt	Jack B. Hyatt	Left Waist Gunner	POW	(Front Left)
S/Sgt	Charles J. Higgins	Tail Gunner	EVD	

Research Help Needed

The Research Team is in need of dedicated volunteers to assist in tracking down 95th veterans and their families. No prior research experience is necessary - just a willingness to persevere in the search for historical information while our greatest resources, our 95th veterans, are still with us.

If you would like to assist in this endeavor, please contact Rod Hupp.

rhupp@csc.com

703-966-0949

Can you help identify this crew?



We received 3 photos that seem to be related. They all appear to have been taken in at the same time. There are two photos of the same crew standing in front of aircraft 42-6080 which had noseart of "Mary Ruth The WeWa Special." By my take, the plane looks new as well as the crew. This aircraft was obtained by the 95th Bomb Group on September 3, 1943. It flew its first mission on September 23, 1943 so this would be an early crew of the 95th BG, probably starting to fly combat missions in the September/October 1943 time frame.

This aircraft flew 27 missions predominantly in the 335th and 336th Bomb Squadrons, so the crew would likely be in the same squadrons.

Please contact me if you can help identify any of these men.

Rod Hupp
Son of Doral Hupp, POW
Ball Turret, 412th Squadron



The Red Feather Club Museum

On behalf of our Association, I am pleased to report yet another successful year. Our visitor numbers have again increased to our Museum, the Red Feather Club. An event has been held at the site nearly every month. Children from Wilby Primary School spent the whole day learning about the 95th, the base, the Military Police, and flying a mission in our B17 constructed solely for young people to experience the crew positions.

All proceeds have been audited by the Charities Commission and have been subsequently spent at the Red Feather Club. The Museum has been expanded, and new display cases have been either purchased or constructed with all items either donated or purchased going on display. The museum only displays 95th Bomb Group items - this has been our criteria from day one. Our team wished the museum to be unique.



The Heritage Association has again this year unveiled another Memorial, which honours the Fallen Brothers of the 95th. **(Shown at left with veterans Ben Roujansky and Bob Fay, and RAF Lt. Col. Paul Cairney.)** The Memorial lists all those who were Killed in Action, Killed in Service, and Missing, listing the date, crew position, the plane, and mission. This had been a team effort from both sides of the Atlantic with Rod Hupp and Ray Howlett working together to ensure all information was correct. The dedication coincided with the reunion in May when 35 visitors attended from the United States with veterans Ben Roujansky and Bob Fay unveiling the memorial. The Heritage Association raised \$3750 to help with costs to visit Horham to those who qualified. We plan to offer such funding to those wishing to return to Horham in 2013. Our team has plans already in progress for a reunion in June 2013 with many changes, which I am sure you will find are for the better.

The Red Feather Club has hosted many events and other groups who have visited the Museum, all of which have expressed that we are one of the best museums they have visited. Both our Councils have again worked closely with us and have given outstanding support and recognition for our efforts. Also I would like to take this opportunity to thank our veterans, their families, the Board of the Memorials Foundation, and all our members for all their generous donations and support over the past year. All Heritage Association stateside duties are carried out by our team's new addition, liaison Grace Hammesfahr.

Our elected committee meets nearly every month. We have recruited some younger members to join our committee, which ensures that the Heritage Association continues to expand and to secure the future ahead. We even have our own band, all dressed in uniform, complete with 95th band stands. Also we have the 95th Wallopers, a softball team who play matches against our now resident 1285th Military Police Snowdrops. A true social aspect has evolved. This has helped recruit not only volunteers, but has helped ensure a positive future ahead. We have so much more to offer than many museums - it is not all about hard work. The Red Feather Club figures in many people's diaries as a place to meet friends old and new and experience a unique atmosphere. Our team is convinced this aspect will play a large part in preserving the legacy of these brave men.

The Heritage Association's objectives are to continue to promote the 95th Bomb Group, to preserve the history, and to maintain a Living Memorial to honour the brave men of the 95th. I again would like to take this opportunity to invite all 95th veterans and their families to visit the Red Feather Club museum, which is solely dedicated to the 95th. I remind you all, this museum is your museum, the one and only in the world!

James Mutton, Chair
95th BG Heritage Association
www.95thbg-horham.com

Memorandum of Understanding



Illustration by Paul Dillon

The 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association, Horham UK (the Association) and **The 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation, Inc.**, Tucson, Arizona (the Foundation) mutually desire to maintain and enhance their close working relationship in the furtherance of

- a. Making the public aware of the history of the 95th Bomb Group (H), and
- b. Preserving the legacy of the men who served with the 95th in World War II.

Recognizing that:

- a. The Association and the Foundation are both chartered as public charities in their respective countries, and share many common goals,
- b. The Heritage Association's Red Feather Club has been recognized by the Foundation as the 95th Bomb Group Official Public Museum, and
- c. The Red Feather Club has been designated by the Foundation as the official repository for 95th Bomb Group (H) artifacts in the UK,

the parties to this agreement have agreed to work together in furtherance of their mutual interests in the following specific areas:

1. Voting membership on each other's Board/Advisory Committee.
2. Exchange of Minutes from Meetings as held, by email.
3. Exchange of Financial Reports annually.
4. Developing and implementing Joint Projects.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) shall commence on the date signed by both parties.

Either party may terminate this MOU at any time upon written notice to the other party.

Each party to this MOU reserves the right to determine the practicality or sustainability of any proposals, requirements, or tasks associated with this MOU.

This MOU can be amended at any time by mutual agreement of both parties. The party desiring consideration of an amendment will so notify the other party in writing, and the other party shall respond within thirty days.

Tom Cozens, President
95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation, Inc.

James Mutton, Chairman
95th Bomb Group Heritage Association

95th BG Memorial Service

Perhaps the most meaningful event at our reunions is the Memorial Breakfast and Service, conducted with reverence and grace by our own Nina Rothman, Para-Rabbinic and wife of veteran Irv Rothman. It is here that we honor those who were MIA's, Evaders, POW's, and of course those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. There is also the opportunity for individuals to remember veterans, after which Nina reads the names of the 95th veterans who have Left Formation in the past year. Below are two selections from this year's Memorial Service in Cleveland, Ohio.



We Will Remember Them

In the rising of the sun, and in its going down,
We will remember them.
In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,
We will remember them.
In the opening buds and in the rebirth of spring,
We will remember them.
In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn,
We will remember them.
In the beginning of the year and when it ends,
We will remember them.
When we are lost and sick at heart,
We will remember them.
When we have joys we learn to share,
We will remember them.
For as long as we live, they too shall live,
For they are now a part of us,
as we remember them.

A Prayer for our Country

We pray for all who hold positions of leadership and responsibility in our national life. Let Your blessing rest upon them and make them responsive to Your will, so that our nation may be to the world an example of freedom and compassion. Deepen our love for our country, and our desire to serve it. Strengthen our power of self-sacrifice for our nation's welfare.

Teach us to uphold its good name by our own right conduct. Cause us to see clearly that the well-being of our nation is in the hands of all its citizens. Imbue us with zeal for the cause of justice in our land and in all lands. Help us always to keep our homes safe from affliction, strife, and war.

Amen



LEAVING FORMATION

Since our last newsletter, we have learned of the following 95th veterans who have Left Formation:

Patrick D. Bevill	4/8/2012	Edward J. Kurczewski	4/12/2012
Alfred L. Bisnett	7/16/2012	Donald C. Matthews	2/17/2012
Roy W. Brosi	11/10/2011	Leonard C. McReynolds	6/27/2012
Walter P. Bucklin	4/9/2012	Birch G. McVay	4/3/2012
Oran D. Evans, Sr.	5/12/2012	Anthony N. Molino	7/30/2012
Bernard C. Fall	3/25/2012	Roland "Jerry" Moore	4/28/2012
John J. Fisher, Jr	7/11/2012	Lloyd G. Oehlert	9/11/2010
John E. Funck	8/10/2012	Joseph P. O'Toole	7/26/2011
John T. Grasso	7/19/2012	Dr. Herman L. Peace	2/25/2012
Anthony Hamlik	11/24/2011	Lyle W. Porter	11/20/2011
Thomas H. Holbrook	2/13/2010	Manuel Rey	8/2/2012
Joseph T. Hollamon	7/23/2012	McElton Skaggs	12/26/2011
Claude M. Hollyfield	9/14/2012	Manuel Souza	2/8/2011
Randolph I. Johnson	8/11/2012	Bryon O. Steele	6/29/2012
Delmer A. Jonas	4/5/2012	George H. Stewart	3/1/2012
Edward J. Keller	4/22/2012	John E. Sutton	5/12/2012
David R. Kile	4/19/2012	Arthur Thomas	3/12/2011
		John C. Thomas	4/24/2011



"...we honor all, when we honor the Missing Man flag."

In Loving Memory & In Honor Of

Our treasurer, Nancy Freemantle, reports that since our last newsletter, the Foundation has received donations "In Honor Of" living veterans, and "In Loving Memory" of those who have Left Formation.

In Honor Of

Jack Bertram
Marvin Casady
Charles Gallagher
Stanley Griffiths
Harry Hull
Lt. Phil Janney
Fred Kennie
John Walter



In Loving Memory

Harry P. Aslagson
George Asprocolas
Jane Basenberg
Jack Beckleman
Mary Bell Blagg
Eldon Broman
Leland F. Cowan
Robert Cozens
Ted DeHart
Jack Hyatt, Sr.
Dan Jaworski
Harold Lippert
Valgene Mathews
Dave McKnight
Robert Paul McMurtry

Leonard McReynolds
Art Mendias
Edward Morrison
Tom O'Hara
Raymond M. Olsen
Carlo Prince
Fred Rosenzweig
Ellis Scripture
Bob Spinnenweber
Robert Stewart
George Sulick
Guillermo "Bill" Vasquez
J.D. Waddell, Jr.
Lou Westerburg
All Veterans lost in 2012

Help Keep the Legacy Alive!

- Remember a veteran every day
- Donate [Into the Wild Blue Yonder and Beyond](#) to your public and school libraries (ordering information on page 5)
- Give your loved ones a Legacy Gift Membership to the 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation (see back page)
- Notify the Foundation of any photos or memorabilia you are willing to donate or share
- Include the Foundation in your estate plan



Military Funeral Honors is a way of expressing the Nation's gratitude to our veterans who gave so much to defend our freedom. To make arrangements for Military Funeral Honors, call your nearest Air Force Base. They will be happy to connect you to their Honor Guard. More information can be found at:

www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh

A Letter to All Our Widows

I am Jackie DeHart, widow of Ted DeHart, and I have been attending the 95th State-side reunions and the Horham reunions for the past 4 years. I have travelled to these reunions by myself and have thoroughly enjoyed the trips. To all of our other widows who have not made these trips, I would like to urge you to give it some thought. It is a great connection to your past and I have found the trips back and forth just great for my ego. I AM NOT some frail little old lady who has to stay put at home because of my age. I am inviting all of you to try it once - you'll like it. Most of my friends cannot believe that I make these trips by myself - but, as I tell them, what is there to it? I go to the airport, get on an airplane, and arrive at my destination! Look forward to seeing more of you ladies at the next reunion (or two).



Jackie DeHart, Widow Liaison
Widow of Ted DeHart
Tail Gunner, 412th Squadron
(Photo by Bob Rosenzweig)

Any questions, ask me!
Jackie
teddehart1@cox.net

242 W. Calle Frambuesa
Green Valley, AZ 85614
Phone: 520-207-0957

Member Liaison

Linda Endris is our Member Liaison, sending out periodic emails with birthdays and news about our veterans and widows. If you would like to receive these monthly updates, please contact Linda.



Linda Endris, Member Liaison
Daughter of Ed Charles
Navigator, 336th Squadron

Linda Endris
225 Buffalo Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46217
Phone: 317-881-0219
ljendris@att.net

Thank you...

to Jackie DeHart and everyone who is assisting her in being in touch with 95th widows. Jackie has divided the roster with the following individuals making contact with "their widows."

Ann Cook (A - C)
Beth Rosenzweig (D - G)
Jackie DeHart (H - K)
Peggy Rothman (L - M)
Ben Roujansky (N - R)
Meg Brackney (S - Z)

If you are a widow, and would like to be contacted, please let Jackie know.



John Mollison, Membership Chair
Son-in-law of Ted DeHart,
Tail Gunner, 412th Squadron

Membership News

What a great time we all had in Cleveland! Kudos to the team led by Brad Petrella for hosting such a grand reunion.

The 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation grew from the vision, support, and generosity of its founding members, our honored and cherished veterans, and continues today through the active involvement of their families and friends. The challenge to carry on the legacy of the 95th Bomb Group (H) and to educate new generations about the important contributions made to securing freedom in World War II now falls to those of us who firmly believe in the lessons of our past by honoring the men of the 95th Bomb Group.

Your membership in the 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation is essential in providing the support to care for the six memorial sites; continue to publish the 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation Newsletter; send birthday, get well, and condolence cards to our veterans and widows; and expand the research and education efforts that are the mission of today's Foundation. Membership is such a small financial commitment to support the work of the 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation.

In January you will receive our annual dues letter and I ask that you continue the great support you have shown all these years and encourage your family and friends to join this great organization. It is a solemn way to honor the memory and accomplishments of the brave men of the 95th who, in their youth, stood up to one of the greatest tyrants the world has ever known and said, "No More!" To these "ordinary men" countless generations across the world owe their precious freedoms.

CHANGES?

Help us keep our records up to date. If you have a change in address or status, please let John know.

**John Mollison
Membership Chair
996 Pelham Drive
Keswick, VA 22947**

membership@95thbg.org

Phone: 434-295-3167

95th BG Hospital Museum

The Hospital Museum has gone green. The installation of an array of PV panels and a wind turbine will enable us to heat the Museum through the winter months to keep the exhibits and buildings dry. The problem has been the walls are only one brick thick, which allows the cold and damp to get in. We have had to pack away everything each winter into one room which was heated. Now we will fit electric heaters all around but they will be on wheels so they can be put away in the summer as they would spoil the 1940's look.

We have had a good turnout on open days this year, mainly because of the small cafe. The Naval cadets from Yarmouth have been camping here several times this year in May. They brought their band along, which is brilliant. Their ages range from 6 to 18 years.



(Photo by Nancy McK Smith)

Tony Albrow

www.hospitalmuseum.co.uk

Our 95th Family

Memories of a Child from Horham

As an 11-year-old in 1942, we were in the middle of World War II, and of course we were used to seeing the B-17's taking off from Horham airbase where they were stationed. Each morning we would count them out and then in the evening we would count them back in again, looking for flares either red or green.

My father, William Whatling, would go to the village pub in Redlingfield almost every night for a pint. It was during this time that he met this tall handsome GI from Texas. My father brought him to our home so that he could have a home to go to whenever he wanted. He became one of the family and called Mum and Dad "Mom and Pop."

The GI who was part of our home, his name was Jack Hyatt, Sr. Jack would ride his bicycle to our home when he was not flying. He was a waist gunner in the B-17. I remember his eyelashes were frozen off, but he was always joking about it as nothing bothered him. Always smiling and joking, my father and Jack would get on their bikes and hit the pubs in other villages.

One evening when we were counting the planes home, there was one missing. Yes, it was our Jack's plane. We were all very upset, not knowing what happened to him. And then....several (17) months later, I was looking out of the window, and there was Jack coming up the path. We could not believe our eyes. He was allowed to come back because he had a letter from England. He told them he had family here and so they let him come to see us before heading to the USA. He had been shot down over Holland, taken prisoner, and then sent to Stalag 15 in Germany until liberated. He spent his 21st birthday in Germany.

He was just a teenager when we met him, although by age only, as he was more like 18 going on 40. They do not make them like that anymore. We lost Jack for many years, until in

Every family function I can remember up until the day we were reunited, Jack Hyatt's name was always spoken with great affection. But we never dreamed that one day



Jack Hyatt suited up for his 9th and final mission, the day he was shot down and became a POW. (Photos provided by Jack Hyatt, Jr.)

1987 my sister bought her son a book titled Operational Record of the 95th Bomb Group by Paul Andrews. Jack's name was mentioned in this book. It was by contacting another author, Ian Hawkins, who was also mentioned in the book, that we were then able to track Jack down.

In 1992 he came back to England, but alas my parents had passed away. However, he was able to reunite with my brother David, my sisters Evie and Joan, and Evie's family - Dennis, Maureen, Mick, and Simon. He was so pleased to meet Evie's son Dennis whom he used to push around in a pram all those years ago, and also to visit the Red Feather Club and Horham and Redlingfield where my parents had lived.

we would be reunited with Jack and his family. He had even kept my mother's letters after all these years.

From then on, my family regularly visited Jack and his family in Texas, and likewise Jack and his family regularly visited us here in England. Jack had a son, Jack Hyatt, Jr., who is with you today on this occasion. He also has two sisters, Debbie and Faye. It is wonderful to be able to walk down memory lane, and be united with these memories, and still have Jack as part of our family.

Sheila Whatling Oniu
Family and Friend, Horham UK
Jack Hyatt, POW
Waist Gunner, 412th Squadron

*This was read at the Horham
reunion in May by Sheila Whatling
Oniu. Jack Hyatt, Jr. was in
attendance.*

A Granddaughter's Story...

I always knew that my grandfather, Stanley Alan Griffiths, fought in the war. My dad used to tell my brother, sister, and me stories about our grandfather – the aircraft he flew, the countries he was stationed in, and where he flew missions. So I always knew that my grandfather fought in World War II. Growing up in a military family, it just seemed natural that he did; my attitude was like, “Who didn’t?” It wasn’t until I was in college that I realized that I did not know what my grandfather did in the war, and more importantly, what he thought about his involvement in World War II.

I realized that just knowing that my grandfather was a navigator on B-17s (and later, a bombardier on B-29s) wasn’t enough; I needed to know more: where he went, what he did on his missions, what he experienced, and why, after completing his missions in Europe, did he volunteer for service in the Pacific?

Setting the interview up wasn’t easy; my grandparents live on the West Coast, while I live on the East Coast. In addition to the three-hour time difference, the interview was conducted over speakerphone. It wasn’t the best choice in terms of recording clarity, but it was the simplest way for us to talk and record the interview at the same time. My purpose was to keep a recording for the family, and create copies for safekeeping at repositories such as the 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation, and the Smithsonian Institution.

I conducted two oral history interviews with my grandfather over the course of a month: one focused on his experiences in Europe, and the other was about his time in the Pacific. During the

course of the interviews, I learned amazing things about my grandfather. He told me about flying over the coast in Normandy, and bombing the defenses ahead of the scheduled American invasion. Recalling D-Day he said, “There were

thousands of planes in the sky.” I can only imagine what an incredible sight that must have been.

My grandfather told me about missions to Russia, where he and the rest of his crew were warmly welcomed by the Russians, who held a party in the Americans’ honor. Of this experience, my grandfather wrote a letter to his father in Seattle, Washington that was later published in a local newspaper. In the article, my grandfather is quoted as saying, “I hope we never have to fight the Russians; they are just like us.”

My interviews with my grandfather were enlightening, and personally enriching. I feel closer to him, even though he and I live on different coasts; and I am

grateful that he shared his stories with me. I can now place my grandfather with important events in our nation’s history – knowledge that I wish I’d had when I was learning about the war in school. Because knowing that my grandfather was present for D-Day, saw the *Enola Gay* while he was stationed on Tinian, and flew over the *U.S.S. Missouri* while the peace treaty with Japan was being signed, personalizes history – makes it so much more real than words on a page ever could. What’s more, my grandfather’s stories are preserved for ages to come, and I think that’s the best heirloom a family can have.

Colleen Griffiths
Granddaughter of Stanley A. Griffiths



Stanley Griffiths
Bombardier, 412th Squadron
(photo provided by Colleen Griffiths)

A Grandfather's Story...

The following are excerpts of an oral history given by Stan Griffiths, who served in the Army Air Corps from 1942 through 1948, recorded by his granddaughter, Colleen Griffiths, on September 24, 2009. Stan and his wife, Erma, shared the entries in the diary he began on May 23, 1944 (actual diary entries are shown in italics), along with Stan's comments of additional memories they triggered.

Things are beginning to happen. A single jerry bomber bombarded our base during the morning. A B-17 crashed about one and one-fourth miles from our barracks. My first experience seeing pieces of a B-17 falling to earth from a very high altitude.

Mission 2: *I have a very rough time seeing two B-17s off lead group go down in flames just five minutes inside France. Two more chutes went down over the target. Fell to pieces right in front of us.*

Mission 3: *Saw a B-24 and B-17 collide in air at 15,000 feet. Horrible sight to see after going through hell, seeing men killed over own field.*

Mission 4: *The co-pilot and I had to fly with another crew today. We flew the first B-17 to complete 50 missions in the 8th Air Force.*

Mission 5: *Our target today was Osnabruck, Germany. The flak was heavy but not too bad. Terrified I'm getting used to it.*

Mission 6: *Made two runs on the target. The second time they threw the book at us. Several rockets came up to us but no harm done. Back on the runway, ran out of gas. The Lord was watching over.*

Mission 7: *Today the invasion started. We took off in the dark with heavy overcast to bomb the coast ahead of invasion troops. Thousands of planes in the sky.*

Mission 8: *Bombed a rail junction just ahead of the church. What a sight. Been up for over 24 hours. Three B-24s were shot down.*

Mission 10: *Tried to lure the enemy into the sky but no luck. Sure glad they didn't show up today—no escort for the formation, was scattered all over hell. Finally bombed our target.*

Mission 11: *Hit an airfield in Belgium today. Before leaving England saw one of our boys go down with number two engine on fire. Plane exploded when it hit the water.*

Mission 12: *Target was Hanover, Germany. Knocked several holes in ships, and some of the men from our element were wounded. Saw another ship go down over the North Sea because of wing fire.*

Mission 13: *Went to Berlin and hit a large factory producing engines for FW-190. The flak was heavy and one bombardier was killed in our group. Number three engine was hit and we had to fether it, drop out of formation, and come back on our own.*

Mission 14: *A piece of flak came right through the fiberglass in the nose. Scared the devil out of me. Our spare gunner was killed in one ship in our group. Saw a plane explode on take-off this morning. Getting used to it by now—I've seen so many planes take off, something's just got to happen.*

Went to London again for the third time. Decided to sweat out the buzz bombs again.

Stan describes "buzz bombs": "They're like a rocket. You could hear this buzz, like a diesel truck going uphill. The engine would stop, you'd hear a silence, and then in a few seconds you'd hear an explosion."

Mission 15: *Took off at 0320 in formation for almost two hours of darkness. The sky was full of flares—a very beautiful sight. Saw a couple of planes blow up again.*

Mission 16: *A small piece of flak came through the nose and hit my flak suit. Bombs stuck in the bomb bay so I had to kick them out just as we left the target.*

Stan explains how he did this: "I had to move back in the bomb bay with a screwdriver, and pop the shackle to release the bombs. The bomb bay isn't that big, and you don't have much room to dance. I ran out of oxygen; all you feel is the vacuum so as soon as I got the bombs kicked out I had to hurry out of the bomb bay and the engineer handed me his oxygen mask. I took a few breaths of that so I could recover and use my own mask, and I was okay."

Mission 17: *We had to take a target of opportunity, our target being Stuttgart, Germany. Had a mixed load of incinerators and other sorts of explosives.*

(Continued on following page)

A Grandfather's Story... (continued from previous page)

Mission 18: *We received one big hole in the wing. Was very accurate, can't see how they missed us when they were so close.*

Mission 19: *Our target was Schweinfurt, Germany. The flak was heavy as hell. We watched one of our boys go down, saw 7 chutes come out.*

Mission 22: *Target was Hamburg, Germany—oil refinery, and it was plenty rough. One of our ships blew up just a few miles away from target. Nine chutes were counted.*

Mission 23: *Hit target in factory at Poland. Continued on to Poltava, Russia. The Russians gave us good food, meat, and tents for tonight. Saw what was left of the 45th Combat Wing on the field.*

Stan elaborates on the 45th Combat Wing: "It was one of the first wings to go to Russia. We lost 21 B-17s that night. And when we flew there on the next mission you could see all the bomb craters and all the B-17s that were bulldozed into areas outside the airfield. It was horrible."

Mission 27: *Attacked an airfield at Venlo, Holland carrying 38 100-pound bombs. Flak was very light today going over our target. Saw two planes blow up over heavy flak areas.*

Stan remembers: "On this mission I got to sit in the pilot's seat and fly the B-17. It gave me a little feel for it in case we were on a mission and I had to take over, or anything else."



Salvia crew (photo provided by Colleen Griffiths)

Mission 28: *We got several large holes. One went through the wing and fuselage both. Saw one plane go down burning, another was burning as they left the target area, and still another exploded a few miles past. Our group lost four ships altogether, three from the 412 squadron. I think I'm accepting death by now because flak doesn't bother me so much.*

When asked how he coped with seeing planes get shot down and people killed, Stan explains: "You're scared, but it seemed like you didn't have time to be scared, there was so much going on in the air. I saw the planes go down and I just shook my head. I couldn't do anything about it."

Mission 29: *Bad weather all the way to target, so was unable to reach it until the 13th plane was recalled. Lost our group on the way back in clouds, so came back alone.*

Mission 30: *Target was Brest, France. No flak, no fighters. Had to bomb from 9,000 feet—carried fragment bombs, 30 in all. Hit enemy installations.*

Mission 31: *Target was Stuttgart, Germany. On the way back I traded places with an upper turret gunner. We got off course hitting heavy flak. Nose was hit pretty bad, the engineer got wounded sitting in my seat. The lead ship went down over England so we took the lead. All the ships in our group got hit badly.*

Mission 32: *Target was an oil refinery. Flak over the target was heavy. Saw one plane explode over target. Four more went down on fire and exploded about ten miles from target.*

Stan elaborates: "The next day we bombed a truck factory. On that particular mission, one engine of the lead ship caught on fire and they fell out of range. The colonel gave the order to bail out. The pilot got the fire out and hollered at the colonel, Don't jump! I got the fire out! Four of the guys had already jumped and the enemy had fired on the guys going down on the parachute. We thought that was terrible."

Mission 34: *Left six ships and crew in Russia, 18 altogether. Almost lost the colonel; his plane was on fire but they got it out. One man bailed out. In Italy today, sweating it out. Our last mission home.*

Mission 35: *We made it, finally. Didn't carry any bombs, just headed straight home. Found out entire crew is finished except the navigator. Got drunk for the first time in my life tonight. This is the end of my diary, my combat story.*

(The full transcription can be found on our website: www.95thbg.org)

From our Treasurer

As Grace Hammesfahr would say, "We've got money." However, we have a little less money each year, and your Board of Directors is looking at ways to change the heading of our fine ship.

The chart below shows the membership income for 2010, 2011, our best estimate for year-end 2012, and our proposals for the 2013 Budget, subject to Board approval. Our mission is to ensure that we remain a viable organization well into the future.



Nancy Freemantle, Treasurer
Daughter of Ray Olsen
457th Sub Depot

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Distribute your newsletter to friends and family and encourage them to join (or give them a Legacy Gift Membership)
- Donate In Loving Memory/In Honor Of a special veteran in your life
- If you are a Life Member, veteran, or widow, pay annual dues in the spirit of sustainability
- Help underwrite a special project
- Include the 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation in your estate planning.

Income	2010	2011	2012	2013
Membership Dues	\$6309	\$3260	\$2500	\$4000
In Loving Memory/In Honor Of	\$1191	\$1222	\$1800	\$2500

The Red Feather Club



Irv & Nina Rothman
(photo by Laney Baltazar)

The Red Feather Club is unique among all 95th entities as it requires no financial support, committee meetings, legal consultation, or peer review techniques. We are grateful that all the reunion chairpeople have been totally cooperative in making sure the Club has good space in which to serve our reunion attendees.

Since 1998 the Red Feather Club has been operating in a manner which has enabled it to donate significant dollars first to the Association and, in recent years, to the Memorials Foundation. Although the crew which operates the Club has not kept specific records, it estimates that over those 14 years of operation more than \$3,000 has been given, thanks to the generosity of our members, families, and friends.

Looking to "the next 95 years?" With good health to all who are staffing the Club, with help from men and women of the 95th when requested, and with the continued generosity of our people, the Red Feather Club should be able to meet the needs of our Association as the years roll by.

Irv, Nina, Gary, and Peggy Rothman

Horham Reunion 2012



Photos by Sue Roujansky
Daughter of Ben Roujansky
Radio Operator, 336th Squadron





Photos by Bob Rosenzweig
Son of Fred Rosenzweig,
Pilot, 334th Squadron



Thank You...

to our UK friends, the
95th Bomb Group
Heritage Association,
for being such
great hosts this year
and every year!



95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation, Inc.
7014 E. Golf Links Road #328
Tucson, AZ 85730-1064 USA

SHARE THE LEGACY...GIVE a GIFT MEMBERSHIP

New members receive a new member packet which includes:



- Welcome Letter
- Membership Card(s)
- CD with highlights of our 2010 Washington DC reunion, compliments of Michael Baltazar, grandson of Adam Hinojos
- Our current roster
- Our latest newsletter

Simply fill out the form below and mail with your check to:

Nancy Freemantle, Treasurer

P.O. Box 6154

Eureka, CA 95502

(Make checks payable to 95th BG Memorials Foundation)

(Please print)

This is a gift from: _____

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Amount enclosed: ___ \$25/Individual ___ \$45/Household

**Memberships keep us flying...
Thank you for helping to keep the legacy alive!**