



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 3 Issue 2

October 2014

"Justice with Victory"



A jeep tour to the 100th Bomb Group in Thorpe Abbots was one of many wonderful events during the 200th Mission Party reunion

200th Mission Party Reunion

Our sincerest thanks to the 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association who planned, hosted, and once again pulled off "the best reunion ever!" More photos of this extraordinary week with our 95th family in the UK can be seen on pages 18 and 19 of this newsletter and on our Facebook Group page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/95thBG/>).

"To those who did not return, the best memorial is the fellowship of our two countries, which by their valour they created and by their sacrifice they have preserved."

Winston Churchill

Notes from the President

2014 Board of Directors

Gerald Grove, President
president@95thbg.org

Mike Darter, Vice President
vicepresident@95thbg.org

Nancy Freemantle, Treasurer
treasurer@95thbg.org

Rosie Livesay, Secretary
secretary@95thbg.org

Jack Bertram, Veteran
bertramic@embarqmail.com

Jackie DeHart, Widow Liaison
teddehart1@cox.net

Pennie Walker, Director
pwalker@Nexion-Health.com

John Mollison, Membership
membership@95thbg.org

Bob Rosenzweig, Director
bob.rosenzweig@me.com

Ann Cook, PX
px@95thbg.org

Allan Moller, 390th Memorial Museum
asm110@earthlink.net

James Mutton, 95th BG Heritage Assn.
jamesmutton@suffolkonline.net

Committee Chairs

Memorials/Repository: Nancy Smith
nancy3563@gmail.com

Research: Phil Samponaro
philip.samponaro@utb.edu

Vanna Walker, Reunions
reunions@95thbg.org

Member Liaison: Linda Endris
ljendris@att.net

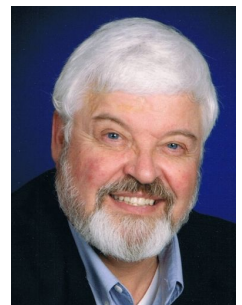
The Board of Directors and officers of the 95th BG Memorials Foundation are interested in members' input and comments pertaining to how we can better promote the primary mission of the Foundation, encourage more participation in the Foundation's committees, as well as develop plans to increase our Foundation's membership. We encourage members to provide feedback to Board members and officers at any time. Our Board continues to look to our membership for help in locating a volunteer to lead our Electronic Media Committee.

The initial update to the 95th BG Memorials Foundation's website is in its final stage and our Facebook fans have increased over 250% (from 319 to 820, at this writing) in a little more than a year's time. Our Membership Committee is hopeful that those Facebook fans who are not currently dues-paying members of the 95th BG Memorials Foundation will consider joining our organization this year.

From September 4th through the 11th some 30 of our membership, including veterans Bob Fay and Herb Wilkov, their wives Gloria and Sandy, as well as Mary Jane (MJ) Lippert, widow of veteran Harold Lippert, attended the 95th BG's 200th Mission reunion at Horham, UK. The event was hosted by our friends of the 95th BG Heritage Association, led by Linda Woodward and Beverley Abbott. All the attendees enjoyed a full slate of activities, including stops at Tiptree Jam Factory & Tea Room, Helmingham Hall & Gardens, as well as a visit to the seaside village of Southwold. One of the 95th BG's outstanding supporters, USAF Master Sergeant Andrew Wilder, made special arrangements for our group to tour the USAF base at RAF Mildenhall.

Other highlights of the reunion at Horham were the 1940's-era dance, Cream Tea, and our farewell dinner held at the Red Feather Club in Horham; a vintage WWII vehicle tour to the 100th BG museum in Thorpe Abbots; and an afternoon with our friends at the 390th BG museum in Parham. There were very touching wreath-laying ceremonies by Bob Fay and Herb Wilkov at our sister groups of the 13th Combat Bombardment Wing, the Rongstad crew memorial at Redlingfield, including a beautiful thanksgiving service at St. Mary's Church in Horham, as well as the playing of taps and a wreath-laying at our 95th BG Memorial across from the church.

Please consider making plans to attend our next 95th BG Memorials Foundation stateside reunion, May 6th through 10th, 2015, as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the "Last Plane Down" ceremony at the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Fairfield, OH, near Dayton. Our reunion committee is putting together a wonderful program that should be very enjoyable and quite touching. You won't want to miss this special gathering in the heartland of the U.S.!



Gerald Grove
Son of
335th tail gunner,
Ronald W. Grove

Justice - Honor - Victory

Gerald

Mission Tucson – A Memorial Tribute

“The various displays celebrate the individuals and events that were fundamental to our lives and mission in the air war...To be in this room is to relive the experience, the joys, the adventure and, of course, the fears and sadness of those days so long ago.”

[From *Memorials of the 95th Bomb Group (H)*
by Maynard D. Stewart and H. Griffin Mumford]

Two years ago, when 95th BGMF President Tom Cozens received the call from the 390th Memorial Museum in Tucson that they were beginning a major renovation project and our room would have to be closed for the duration of the work, he alerted Vice President Brad Petrella and Memorials Committee Chair Margaret Blagg. It became clear, in further talks with the 390th, that our Memorial Room would be greatly affected by the 390th's project, so an ad hoc committee was formed to determine what would need to be done. Membership Committee Chair John Mollison subsequently joined Tom, Brad, and Margaret on the committee.

The first thought was to repair the time-worn damage and deal with new construction constraints—in other words, to put the room back as it had been established in 1996. A lowered ceiling would necessitate some changes, but we thought it could be done. Behind this position was a strong feeling of commitment to what the veterans had created as a specific memorial.

However, as the group continued to talk, we came to see an opportunity to address our beloved, but dated, exhibit. We realized that while we had a big challenge, we actually had an even larger opportunity to create a modern memorial room that would better tell the story of the valiant men of the 95th in a very personal way, by including more photographs and quotes from the men, for example. For the first time, 95th BG artifacts could be shown in the room. We could also connect visitors to the Red Feather Club Museum in

Horham, the 95th BGMF's official museum in the United Kingdom.

This direction to provide more information for the visitor is perfectly aligned with the stated purpose of the 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation: *“The exclusive object and purpose will be to educate the public regarding the history of the 95th Bombardment Group (H) and its role in the air campaign over central Europe during WWII.”* We also believe it is a fitting memorial tribute to all the men of the 95th.

Our memorial room update is guided by the concept that today's youth, and those future generations who will never know these brave men, can learn about, interact with, and understand their sacrifices in a meaningful and accessible manner through state-of-the-art audiovisual technology in the renovated room. We plan to create a more interactive and relevant museum experience while continuing to honor the memory and the sacrifice of the men of the 95th Bomb Group as respectfully as in the original memorial.



The Memorial Room as it looks today

These concepts, developed over months of thoughtful dialogue, informed the proposed design for the updated exhibit that was unveiled at the 2013 Reunion in Orlando, adopted by the Board, and re-presented at the 2014 Reunion in San Diego. We are very excited about the project, which will reach hundreds of thousands of visitors annually in Tucson. All that is necessary to get Mission Tucson off the ground is a successful fundraising campaign. Shortly, you will be hearing from the Foundation about the campaign, and we ask each of you to enlist your families in helping us open the doors in Tucson once again.

Nancy McKnight Smith, Chair
Memorials and Repository Committee

Margaret Blagg, former Chair,
Memorials and Repository Committee

You Too: From our Members & Friends

Can You Identify Any of These Men?



I need some help with identifying this soldier who was in a photo of my father's crew taken Sept. 18, 1944 in Poltava. I have tried to sharpen the detail of this man in a drawing for my project. Identification is a long shot, but we'll see if anyone recognizes him. Kenneth C. Melvin, my father, had an ON BOARD on the second leg of this mission, Szolnok, Hungary. The soldier's name was Douglas G. Forbush. Thanks for any help.

Daniel Melvin
Son of Lt. Kenneth C. Melvin
danmelvin2626@gmail.com

This photo may have been taken at the 1988 Veterans Association reunion in Cincinnati, Ohio



www.95thbg.org
Like us on Facebook
Follow us on Twitter

You Too: From our Members & Friends

After the reunion, our Belgian friend, Luc Zaman, posted the following on our 95th BG Facebook page:

A: 70 years ago 10 men left in a B17 the airfield at Horham. They were killed in action during their mission to Hanover.

B: Last week my wife and I joined the reunion at Horham. We had so a wonderful time and we learned to know so much new friends both English and American that we can say:

C: The 10 guys did not die for nothing, even after 70 years they are still building bridges.

Luc and his wife, Marleen Piot (pictured at right) have adopted 95th BG veteran Frederick J. Zapatka at the cemetery in Margratan, Belgium.



Keep the Legacy Alive

- Remember a veteran every day
- Donate [B-17's Over Berlin](#) and/or [Into the Wild Blue Yonder and Beyond](#) to your public and school libraries
- 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

Do You Have News You'd Like to Share?

We'd love to hear from you!

Send your stories, photos,
and notes to:

editor@95thbg.org

or mail to:

Janie McKnight
1231 Brockie Drive
York, PA 17403

www.facebook.com/groups/95thBG/



Where the 95th story continues to be told

"Diana"

My dad was a mechanic in the 95th BG and named me after the B-17 "Diana." I've been researching the crew of the "Diana" and would like to be in touch with any descendants. I am also interested in any other photos of "Diana" that aren't already on the website.

Diana Vickery
Daughter of Paul Albert Foley
Aircraft Mechanic
335th Squadron
NewsieQ@sbcglobal.net

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

From our membership chair...

I would like to thank everyone who continues to support the 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation through our annual membership program. Your financial support is critical to the 95th as we look to our future and build upon the legacy given to us by our veterans and their spouses. I challenge us to increase our membership support as we move toward 2015. It is the best way that we, the descendants and family members of 95th veterans, can continue to honor their amazing contribution to freedom and pass the lessons of their generation to our children and future generations.



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

In January 2015 you will receive the 95th BG Memorials Foundation annual dues letter. Please take the time to fill out the membership form and mail it in. You can also go online to www.95thbg.org and pay your dues safely and securely through the 95th PayPal link with your credit card.



**We want
YOU
to share the
95th legacy**

(See back page for
membership form)



Changes?

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

**John Mollison
Membership Chair
2605 Featherstone Court
Arlington, TX 76001**

**membership@95thbg.org
Phone: 402-650-4135**

95TH Plane Parts Returned to Base Hospital Museum

Tony Albrow of the 95th Hospital Museum in Denham UK was recently contacted by a museum in Germany asking if he would be interested in wreckage from a B-17 that was shot down over Beilen, Holland on March 6, 1944 on a mission to bomb Berlin. In 1991, the Dutch had arranged a dig at the site to see what was remaining. They found three engines, which were cleaned up and exhibited in a German museum for ten years. Then it was all put in storage.



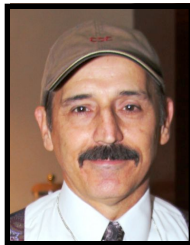
The plane was a B-17G, serial number 42-3129, a 95th Bomb Group aircraft in the 334th Bomb Squadron. It had nicknames of Junior and She's My Gal II. Now visitors to the 95th Hospital Museum can view the three engines, one landing gear, dinghy, fuel tank, a flack vest, A2 jacket, and many more small items that have made a very interesting display.

**Tony and Val Albrow
www.95thhospitalmuseum.co.uk**

New Lead Researcher Named

After ten years and thousands of volunteer research hours, Rod Hupp has retired as our lead researcher. We're delighted that he will continue to serve as chair of the research committee. Thank you, Rod, for your extraordinary contributions in preserving the rich history of the 95th Bomb Group.

Phil Samponaro, history professor and 95th BG Facebook guru, has agreed to take over as the Foundation's lead researcher. Phil also holds the position of group historian for our sister group, the 95th BG Heritage Association in the UK. Our two research teams have worked closely for many years, and Phil's joint role will provide continuity of research efforts for the 95th on both sides of the Atlantic. (You can find Phil's photo and contact information on page 8 of this issue.)



Rod Hupp

Website Update

www.95thbg.org

The Foundation is pleased to announce that its website has been updated to the latest software and with a new design.



Russ Askey

Users should still be able to access the database using any links that have been bookmarked from the old site. You will note that the new site uses "people-friendly" links, and the updated features will make database access easy. Please take a few minutes to look at the new site, which we hope you will enjoy!

Sincere thanks to Russ Askey and Rod Hupp for all their work here. The update could not have happened without the endless resolve that both Russ and Rod put into this effort.

SAVE THE DATES!

May 6–May 10, 2015, Dayton, Ohio 95th BG Memorials Foundation 2015 Reunion

2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, and our annual 95th BG Memorials Foundation reunion will focus on the 70th anniversary of the Last Plane Down. Every year on the morning of May 7th in the Memorial Gardens beside the National United States Air Force Museum, the 95th BG Memorials Foundation has a ceremony to commemorate this event. This ceremony honors the 95th Bomb Group crew who flew the last B-17 lost in World War II, as well as all 95th veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice during the war. More reunion details will be available after the first of the year, but here are some of the plans that are in the works:

- 70th Anniversary celebration of the Last Plane Down (Thursday May 7, 2015 at 10:15 a.m.)
- Visit to the National United States Air Force Museum
- Visit to the Champaign Aviation Museum, home of the "Champaign Lady" (a B-17 that is being restored to flying condition)
- Time on your own to enjoy the area. Tour Orville Wright's home, or visit the Dayton Art Institute or the Packard Museum. Dayton is home to 19 parks within the Five Rivers MetroParks system. Some highlights include Cox Arboretum and native Butterfly House; the historic farm at Carriage Hill; Riverscape, offering bike rentals and excellent migratory bird watching; and Wergerzyn Gardens, which offers formal gardens nature trails, and an interactive Children's Discovery Garden.
- Fireside Chats, the Dinner Dance, and the Memorial Breakfast



Vanna Walker
Reunion Chair

Can you help identify these men?



John Sundberg Crew

Lt	John L. Sundberg	Pilot	EVD
2Lt	John P. Moyer	Co-Pilot	POW
2Lt	William K. McNatt	Navigator	EVD
2Lt	Claude S. Livingston	Bombardier	POW
T/Sgt	Anthony L. Carlone	Radio Operator	KIA
S/Sgt	James R. Holcomb	Radio Operator	
T/Sgt	Joe Kesterson	Top Turret/Engineer	
T/Sgt	Lester E. Schwab	Top Turret/Engineer	POW
T/Sgt	Emerson L. Davies	Ball Turret Gunner	POW
S/Sgt	Franklin G. Barrett	Right Waist Gunner	POW
S/Sgt	Leroy A. Funk	Left Waist Gunner	EVD
S/Sgt	Joseph M. Aquino	Tail Gunner	EVD



Phil Samponaro
Lead Researcher

In the photos on these two pages we have the names of the crew members, but we don't know which name matches the person in the photo.

If you can help us identify any of these crewmen, please contact me.

Thanks!

Phil

philip.samponaro@utb.edu

956-882-7447



Jonathan Bullard Crew (All KIA)

Lt	Jonathan H. Bullard	Pilot
2Lt	William J. Moore	Co-Pilot
2Lt	William (NMI) Holmes	Navigator
2Lt	Darrell L. Stevens	Bombardier
T/Sgt	Pierre L. Bordelon	Radio Operator
T/Sgt	Everett M. Casselman	Top Turret/Engineer
S/Sgt	Philip M. Reed	Ball Turret Gunner
S/Sgt	Austin N. Herten	Right Waist Gunner
S/Sgt	John E. Gioiosa	Left Waist Gunner
S/Sgt	Lorenzo (NMI) Jarrett	Tail Gunner



William R. McPherson's Crew

Back Row (L-R): William R. McPherson, Pilot; David F. Prees, Co-Pilot; Kenneth V. Winegar, Navigator; Rex A. Rice, Bombardier

Front Row: Unidentified (consists of Patrick C. Mungon, Radio Operator; Joseph B. Wilbert, Top Turret Gunner/Engineer; Edward J. L. Wall, Ball Turret Gunner; Lawrence C. Long, Waist Gunner; Earl J. Underwood, Tail Gunner; Laurence E. Doyle, Waist Gunner)



John P. Caspers' Crew

Lt	John P. Caspers	Pilot	RTD	S/Sgt	Joseph (NMI) Beinor	Right Waist Gunner	
Lt	Shirley L. Callaway	Co-Pilot	RTD	S/Sgt	Ralph E. Griffin	Left Waist Gunner	
Lt	Robert (NMI) Clowes	Navigator	RTD	S/Sgt	Charles O. Witbeck	Left Waist Gunner	KIA
Lt	Duncan (NMI) MacGregor	Bombardier	RTD	S/Sgt	Dean E. Abbe	Tail Gunner	
T/Sgt	Peter D. Trotta	Radio Operator		S/Sgt	Joseph J. Cooke	Tail Gunner	KIA
Lt	John W. Evans	Top Turret/Engineer	RTD				
S/Sgt	Edward J. Castana	Ball Turret Gunner	WIA				

In Loving Memory & In Honor Of

Our treasurer, Nancy Freemantle, reports that in 2014, 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, Harry Hull & Crews
Paul Baird
Jack Bertram
Robert Capen
Jesse Edgar
Richard Farden
Robert Fay
James Galbraith
Frank P. Hawk
Harry Hull
Lt. Phil Janney
George Lukens
Keith Murray
Ernest F. Parker
Irv Rothman
Benjamin Roujansky
Curtis C. Stone
William "Dub" Vandegriff
Freeman Walker
John Walter
Herb Wilkov
Kenneth Wright
Ed Yursky

Military Funeral Honors

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

In Loving Memory

All Who Trained at Dyersburg
Joe W. Blagg
Peter Boyes
Frederick W. Brady
Eldon Broman
William "Ed" Charles
Bob & Pat Cozens
Eugene Darter
Leonard Dawson
Ted DeHart
Lt. Frank W. Derenberg
Deshazio Crew of the 334th
Ssgt Raymond W. Detweiler
Myron Doxon
Gerald Engler
Burt Evans
Carol Fenimore
Charlie Gallagher
Sidney Goldstein Gracen
Edward D. Grant Jr.
Hiram Griffin
Ronald W. Grove
William R. Gunning
Leo M. Higgins
Adam & Annie Hinojos
Seaborn E. Jones
John (Jack) Kille
Billy Bob Layl (Dr. & Captain)
Edwin LeCorchick
Nelda LeCorchick
Charlie Lejeskie
Harold Lippert
Charles Luciano
Stewart McConnell
Dave & Grace McKnight
Robert Paul McMurtry
M.H. "Mac" Makarawicz

Arnold L. Malkin
John D. Martin
Valgene Mathews
Maurice Messenger
Julian Meyer
Col. Harry Griffin Mumford
James V. Murphy
Max D. Murray
Raymond M. Olsen
Donald T. Paulson
George J. Peck
Silvio "Pat" Petinelli
Brad Petrella Sr.
Francis X. Pierce
Harold M. Powers
Carlo Prince
Richard Robinson
Joseph Roderick
Fred Rodgers
Jay Schatz
Kathy Schlichenmayer
Norman Arthur Schmitt
Arthur W. Schuessler
Ellis Scripture
Lola May Ski
Charles Smiley
Bryce L. Stone
David M. Taylor
Guillermo A. Vasquez
Carl Voss
Art Watson
Lou Westerburg
Leo & Eleanor Whalen
Robert E. Wisner
Kenneth Wright

"We will remember them"



LEFT FORMATION

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

Name	Unit	Position	Date of Death
Jasper "Clyde" C. Crowley	334 th	Waist Gunner	July 31, 2014
Gerald B. Engler	334 th	Waist Gunner	July 15, 2014
Mel "Emanuel" J. Glyman	335 th	Radio Operator	May 12, 2013
Edward D. Grant, Jr.	412 th	Pilot	June 20, 2013
Edwin "Ed" A. Jacobsen	336 th	Pilot	July 23, 2014
Leroy F. Perry	412 th	Co-Pilot	July 24, 2014
Richard W. Portmann	336 th	Navigator	November 16, 2008
Robert B. Turner	336 th	Co-Pilot	May 19 2014
A.J. Watson	335 th	Navigator	May 12, 2014
James W. Williams	336 th	Co-Pilot	May 28, 2011



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

Memorials/Repository



Nancy Smith

Memorials/Repository Chair

Note: In coming newsletters, Nancy will showcase various memorials that have been established by groups and communities in honor of 95th Bomb Group veterans.

TOURNAI, BELGIUM: Before his retirement Jacques De Ceuninck was a police detective with the Tournai, Belgium Police Department. His professional skills were very useful to him as he put together the puzzle of the fallen 95th plane in Kain, a suburb of the city of Tournai.

All his life Jacques had heard the story of what happened on January 28, 1945 when a plane from the 95th Bomb Group was badly damaged during Mission #269 to Duisburg, Germany and lost power over Belgium while returning to base. The plane was on a path to come down on the church and the school, but instead was brought down in a field nearby by the courageous pilot Lt. Robert Mercer after his crew had safely ejected. Robert Mercer died in the crash.



Eddie Lennon, nephew of the pilot, addresses the crowd along with Jacques De Ceuninck, organizer of the memorial

speakers that day were the nephew of the pilot and his daughter, who traveled from the USA to express their gratitude for the extraordinary remembrance.

Officials and citizens continue to come together at the monument each year in May to express their gratitude to the pilot Robert Mercer who made the ultimate sacrifice after saving his crew.



In gratitude to Robert Mercer, Jacques arranged for a monument to be erected in the yard of the church. Hundreds of people attended the unveiling in May 22, 2008. Not only were there Belgian officials, but schoolchildren, American military personnel, citizens of Kain from years gone by who remembered the accident, and representatives of the 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation and the 95th Heritage Association, as well as the contemporary inhabitants of the town. Notable among the



The Red Feather Club Museum

There were a number of firsts at the Red Feather Club over summer and early autumn as well as the regular open days, dances, quiz night, group visits, and what many believe was the best-ever reunion.

In July, a Jump Jive & Wail dance commemorated the re-activation of the 95th Bombardment Wing in 1952. That Sunday the RFC's first Americana Day saw hundreds of visitors who experienced the delights of American heritage and the legacy of the men who were based at Horham in the 1940s. Members of the Rangers Re-Enactment group teamed up with the 95th's resident re-enactors Liberation '44 to create a Deep South display complete with vintage John Deere tractor, moonshine-making equipment, and a tune or two on the banjo courtesy of Millie Green.

Later that month the Red Feather Club was proud to be one of only a handful of UK venues to stage a play about WWII by a group of visiting American youngsters. The 13 children are from the Northwest School, Seattle, Washington (home of the Boeing B-17). Three faculty members accompanied the 13- to 17-year-olds: Tamara Bunnell, Laura Ferri, who wrote and directed the play, and her husband.

On the morning before the performance the youngsters and teachers spent three hours in the Red Feather Club museum so they could incorporate incidents and characters from the 95th's history and stories of villagers and evacuees into the play. The original Crates of

Thunder used material from interviews with Eighth Army Air Force veterans, men and women who worked on B-17s at Boeing, and others who experienced the American side of the war. The play—like the Red Feather Club itself—honoured the sacrifices among and co-operation between the people of the UK and US.

There was also a weekend in September with a guided walk around the WWII airfield, a swing dance, and a vintage softball match. The guided walk, part of the Eighth in the East project, was developed in partnership with the University of East Anglia and took in parts of the airfield not usually open to the public. The three-and-a-half-mile "walk through history" was the first in what is hoped will be a series of walks around former USAAF bases in the eastern region.

The Eighth in the East is working with communities across the Eastern Counties to explore the history of the 8th United States Army Air Force in the East of England. It is supporting the work of volunteers who care for this heritage, encouraging new blood into museums, developing resources for visitors and future generations, developing people's skills, and bringing communities together through this shared past.

That evening there was a 40s and 50s Swing Dance and the next day the 95th's vintage baseball team the Wallopers took on Yoxford Boy Mustangs in an exhibition match.

www.95thbg-horham.com



New Building Dedicated

Shown here behind the 95th Memorial

The latest addition to the Red Feather Club is a multi-purpose building opposite the main entrance to the complex.

Using the original concrete pad and advice from an expert on WWII airfield buildings, the latest Nissen (or Quonset) hut now provides the 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association with an archive research room with a library, an archive storage room, a war-time office, a meeting room and visitor centre, and a general storage room. It has freed up the old office in the main buildings to become the brand-new, fully fitted PX.

It is named the McKnight Building in honour of Col. David T. McKnight, one of the founding fathers of the 95th and a true hero of the group, and his family for all their work on behalf of the 95th.

The building was officially opened in a moving ceremony during the September reunion by Col. McKnight's sister Grace Hammesfahr, son Russ and his wife Janie, daughter Nancy, and nephew Ernie Hammesfahr.

A plaque inside the door reads: "This building is dedicated to David T. McKnight and all of the McKnight family who have served the 95th Bomb Group tirelessly since its founding in 1942."



Kehoe's Jacket

Editor's note: This edited version of "Kehoe's Jacket" was researched and written by Beth Rosenzweig, daughter-in-law of Fred Rosenzweig, pilot in the 334th squadron. When her husband, Bob, and his three brothers agreed to give the jacket to the Red Feather Club museum, Beth decided to write this story from their perspective.

The airman's jacket Dad brought back from England in 1945 had the name "Kehoe" stenciled on the inside of it. When we asked Dad why he had Kehoe's jacket, his quick reply was, "He doesn't need it; he's dead." His cryptic answer did not

encourage any further questions on the subject. We each took our turn wearing the "cool" jacket to high school and when it no longer fit any of us, it was relegated to the collection of WWII keepsakes we cherished as much as our father's stories of being a B-17 pilot with the 95th Bomb Group. To this day our family refers to the jacket, now a little worse for wear, as "Kehoe's Jacket."

In October, 1944, when Dad and his crew arrived at Station 119 in Horham, England and moved into their quarters with the 334th Squadron, he did not have an A-2 jacket. By some means, he acquired a jacket that had been left there by an airman who did not return to the base. He wore it as his own, attaching his own name to the front. The jacket came home with him in March 1945 when he became a member of "The Lucky Bastards Club"—those who had completed their 35 missions and were sent back to the States.

Years passed and we joined the ranks of those who wished to know more about that time in history when "the greatest generation" was called upon to fight and sometimes sacrifice their lives for freedom from tyranny. We know now that the crews that flew out of the numerous bases dotting the English countryside were close-knit—as close as or closer than brothers. The losses sustained at each airfield were heartfelt by everyone, as the planes that had been counted taking off were counted as they returned. To get close to anyone in a different crew meant to risk the mental anguish of loss, if they failed to return. The property of

those who did not return was quickly disposed of to make room for the replacement crew. The items distributed were no longer needed, because the owners were "dead" (not returning). This was simply a true statement and not intended to be harsh or unsympathetic. The crews remaining or "replacing" needed to move on to the next mission with singular focus on their task.

The boys that left home returned as men. We knew them only as fathers and uncles and grandfathers—not as soldiers or heroes. They did not start telling their stories until many had passed and now we covet answers to our questions from those who remain. It is with great determination that we sift through the recorded crumbs to be able to tell the stories of those whom we never knew, but we cannot forget. William James Kehoe is one of these.

The only thing we know for certain, if anything can be certain, is found in the Operational Record of the 95th Bomb Group (H), compiled by Paul M. Andrews as a supplement to the book Courage * Honor * Victory, by Ian Hawkins.

Lt. William J. Kehoe is recorded as being wounded in action (WIA) after a mission to Politz on August 25, 1944. He was the Bombardier on the McCulley crew that was attached to the 334th Squadron.



On that morning, 32 planes were counted leaving Horham field. Those counting the returning planes recorded only 28 with 14 sustaining battle damage (BD). Later, in the record, Kehoe is listed as KIA on October 17, 1944. But this is jumping ahead of the story.

Searching the Operational Record we find the pilot code for A. McCulley (M05) first recorded as flying a mission on July 6, 1944. Between July 6 and October 17 his crew flew 27 successful missions. The mission on October 17 was their 28th. Assuming the crew remained intact the whole time, the members of the crew were:

Pilot – 1st Lt. Arvil E. McCulley
 Co-Pilot – 1st Lt. Jean S. Ericson
 Navigator – 1st Lt. Joseph F. Kunze
 Bombardier – 1st Lt. William J. Kehoe
 Top Turret Gunner – T/Sgt. Andrew J. Sweeney
 Radio Operator – T/Sgt. Robert A. Owen
 Ball Turret Gunner – S/Sgt. Raymond C. Peck
 Waist Gunner – S/Sgt. Wilhelm J. Hussong
 Tail Gunner – S/Sgt. Sam Jelsomeno

Their missions were flown in various B-17s always identified by a 5- to 7-digit number. Some of the planes assigned to them had nicknames and nose art: Ten Aces, Pride of New Mexico, Patty Ann, Full House, Paisano, Chicken Ship, Flak Evader, Ole Worrybird, and the one listed missing in action (MIA) on October 17, 1944 – Stormy Weather. The targets were as varied as the plane names; Kolleda-Merseberg, Munich, Regensburg, Hamburg, Rahmel, Trzebinia, Toulouse, Politz, Husum, Bremen, Stuttgart, Mainz, Dusseldorf, and finally, Cologne.

The mission notes for their final flight briefly describe the situation: At 0900, plane #338595 was over Cologne. With number two and three engines damaged by flak, as well as a fire in the left wing, the aircraft left the formation and jettisoned the bombs. With the exception of William J. Kehoe, the Bombardier, who was killed in action (KIA), the entire crew bailed out of the plane and were taken as prisoners of war (POWs) and sent to one of several POW camps. Of the 38 planes that took off that day from Horham, 11 of the 35 that returned had battle damage (BD). Of the three that failed to return, two landed on the continent (LOC) in Belgium and were returned to England for continued service. The third, McCulley's plane, was

recorded as missing in action (MIA).



According to the Missing Air Crew Report that was signed on 17 October, 1944 by Capt. David E. Olsson, Assistant Operations Officer at Horham, and the Casualty Questionnaire reports written by the surviving crew members after their liberation, the following account of their final flight has been reconstructed: The McCulley crew was flying the lead plane of the high squadron on a mission to bomb the railroad yards at Cologne. The time was approximately 9:00 A.M. and the plane was flying at 27,000 feet. Bombardier Kehoe announced over the intercom that they were approaching the target and began the bomb run. While on the bomb run the plane was hit by flak in the 2nd and 3rd engines. The Top Turret Gunner, Sweeney, reported that Kehoe asked him to crank down the bomb bay doors and he called Kehoe as soon as they were down. Kehoe's final responsibility was to jettison the bomb load. With the left wing and part of the fuselage on fire, the crew began to bail out within 3 minutes of being hit by flak. The aircraft dropped out of the formation and lost altitude fast. Five men were seen to bail out with one chute opening immediately. The aircraft then disappeared into the clouds over Cologne and was not observed

again. The Co-Pilot reported that he observed Kehoe's parachute leg strap getting caught on the door handle. Ericson attempted to untangle the strap, but the door handle broke, releasing Kehoe. Ericson removed the door and reported that when he bailed out he saw no other parachutes.

In the Report on Capture of Members of Enemy Air Forces, dated 25 October 44 (translated from German into English), the plane came down near the small town of Engelskirchen near Stiefelhage about 30 km east of Cologne. The plane was 98% destroyed, but was able to be identified by the numbers on the tail assembly and that "parts of an unidentified body found at the place of the crash were buried at once right there." In the Casualty Reports, written from memory after their liberation from 6-7 months in the harsh conditions of their captivity, crew members could only speculate as to the reason for the demise of Lt. Kehoe. One crewman thought that as he (Kehoe) bailed out he may have been hit by the open bomb bay doors, another thought he may have parachuted safely but was killed by German civilians on the ground, and several suggested that his parachute did not open. The Co-Pilot, Ericson, reported seeing Kehoe exit the plane, in good condition, yet human remains were found at the crash site. While we cannot reconcile this conflicting information, what is known for certain is that William James Kehoe's life was sacrificed on October 17, 1944 in service to his country and the Allied forces.

The mortal remains of Lt. Kehoe were eventually returned to his family and a stone marker in the Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery in Baltimore, Maryland commemorates his service and passing. However, the memory of William James Kehoe lives on in the hearts and minds of his family and those of us who never knew him, but will never forget him.



Ann Cook, PX Chair

Shop the PX



95th BG Squadron Patches



8th Air Force - Horham Patches



Red Feather Crest



Small Rectangular B-17 Patch



Red Feather Crest Pin



Original Red Feather Shield Pin



Red Feather Pin



Notecards



Travel Mug



95th Sticker



Black & White Summer Mesh Hat



Canvas Low Profile Hat



Hooded Sweatshirt



3/4 Zip Sweatshirt



Polar Fleece Jacket with Red Feather Shield



Lined Nylon Shell with Square B



70th Anniversary T-Shirt

95th BG Memorials Foundation PX Order Form

Name:			
Address:			
City/State/Zip:			
Phone: ()		e-mail:	
Quantity	Description	Cost each	Total cost
	Patches: Circle your choice: 334th 335th 336th 412th 8th Air Force-Horham Red Feather crest	\$4.50	
	Small rectangular B-17 patch	\$5.50	
	Pins: Circle your choice: Red Feather Crest Original Red Feather Shield Red Feather	\$9	
	B-17 pin	\$15	
	16 ounce stainless steel travel mug	\$9	
	"You Can Make It Friend " 10-pack notecards with envelopes	\$9	
	Square B black & white summer mesh hat	\$15.75	
	Canvas low profile hat: Circle your choice: Olive with Square B Khaki with Square B Black with B-17 Khaki with B-17	\$18	
	95th Bomb Group window sticker	\$2.50	
	95th Bomb Group Notepads (package of 5)	\$20	
	Hooded sweatshirt (with Square B and B-17) **	\$35	
	Crew neck sweatshirt (with Square B and B-17) **	\$25	
	1/4 zip embroidered sweatshirt (with Red Feather shield) **	\$49	
	Polar fleece jacket ** Circle your choice Polar fleece w/Red Feather shield Nylon shell & polar fleece lined w/Square B	\$70	
	70th Anniversary t-shirt (white – men's crew-neck & women's v-neck) ** Circle your choice: Men's S M L XL Women's S M L XL	\$12	
	Unisex t-shirts (grey) ** Circle your choice: With Square B With B-17	\$12	
		TOTAL	\$

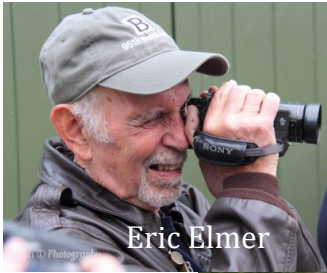
Mail your check and a copy of this order form to:

** **Clothing stock is limited**
 Please check with Ann
 for sizes & availability.
 phone: 989-239-3627
 email: px@95thbg.org

Ann Cook, PX Chair
 4839 Allen Road
 Webberville, MI 48892-9783

Make checks payable to
95th BG Memorials Foundation
Free Shipping in USA!

200th Mission Party Reunion



Andy Garner & Lee Martin
Jeep Tour Patrol



Another warm welcome at the Red Feather Club



These could be
our 95th boys



VIP treatment by the USAF
stationed at RAF Mildenhall



The Wallopettes
Hit ~ Run ~ Score!



Gloria rides again!



Wreath Laying Ceremony
with USAF Honor Guard
from RAF Mildenhall

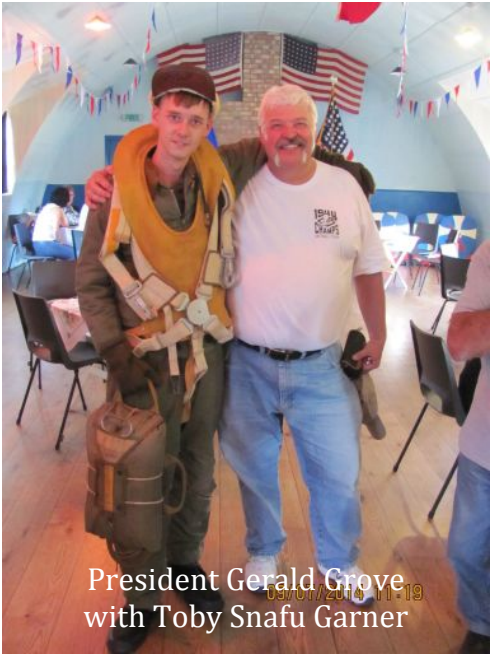


Veterans Herb Wilkov & Bob Fay
carry the Missing Man Flag

**September 4 - 11, 2014
Horham UK**



Americans or Brits?
1944 or 2014?



President Gerald Grove
with Toby Snafu Garner

We'll meet again,
Don't know where,
Don't know when,
But I know we'll
meet again some sunny day.



—From *We'll Meet Again* by Ross Parker and Hughie Charles



Veteran Bob Fay getting a
boom lesson in a KC-135



UK reunion co-chairs
Beverly Abbott & Linda Woodward



95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation, Inc.
 c/o 390th Memorial Museum
 6000 East Valencia Road
 Tucson, AZ 85756-9403 USA

Share the legacy...give a gift membership



If you are a veteran, widow, son, or daughter, please talk to your children and grandchildren about the legacy of the 95th Bomb Group. There is no better gift you can give than to make them a member of this proud and historic organization.

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: _____

Recipient's Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

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

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