



# 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 4 Issue 1

February 2015

"Justice with Victory"

---

## Preview of Coming Attractions!



Our monument at Dayton will be a centerpiece of the 95th reunion in May 2015. Planned and financed entirely by 95th veterans beginning in 1986, the monument stands as a memorial to their comrades who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in the 95th Bomb Group during World War II. It is also a testament to the surviving veterans and their postwar teamwork, excellent planning, successful fundraising, and problem solving.

(See related story on page 10)

# Notes from the President



Gerald Grove  
Son of Ronald W. Grove  
335<sup>th</sup> Tail Gunner

## Board of Directors

Gerald Grove, President

[president@95thbg.org](mailto:president@95thbg.org)

Mike Darter, Vice President

[vicepresident@95thbg.org](mailto:vicepresident@95thbg.org)

Nancy Freemantle, Treasurer

[treasurer@95thbg.org](mailto:treasurer@95thbg.org)

Rosie Livesay, Secretary

[secretary@95thbg.org](mailto:secretary@95thbg.org)

Jack Bertram, Veteran

[bertramic@embarqmail.com](mailto:bertramic@embarqmail.com)

Jackie DeHart, Widow Liaison

[teddehart1@cox.net](mailto:teddehart1@cox.net)

Pennie Walker, Director

[pwalker@Nexion-Health.com](mailto:pwalker@Nexion-Health.com)

John Mollison, Membership

[membership@95thbg.org](mailto:membership@95thbg.org)

Bob Rosenzweig, Director

[bob.rosenzweig@me.com](mailto:bob.rosenzweig@me.com)

Ann Cook, PX

[px@95thbg.org](mailto:px@95thbg.org)

Allan Moller, 390th Memorial Museum

[asm110@earthlink.net](mailto:asm110@earthlink.net)

James Mutton, 95<sup>th</sup> BG Heritage Assn.

[jamesmutton@suffolkonline.net](mailto:jamesmutton@suffolkonline.net)

## Committee Chairs

Memorials/Repository: Nancy Smith

[nancy3563@gmail.com](mailto:nancy3563@gmail.com)

Lead researcher: Phil Samponaro

[history@95thbg.org](mailto:history@95thbg.org)

Reunions, Vanna Walker

[reunions@95thbg.org](mailto:reunions@95thbg.org)

Member Liaison: Linda Endris

[ljendris@att.net](mailto:ljendris@att.net)

As we begin this New Year, I would like to thank all of the volunteers, committee members, media contributors, and persons interested in the legacy of the 95<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group for their time, labor, and input on projects that honored our 95<sup>th</sup> BG veterans and the Memorials Foundation throughout 2014!

A look at the calendar reminds us that we are rapidly moving toward our May 6<sup>th</sup> through May 10<sup>th</sup> reunion in the Dayton, OH area this year, where we will celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our “Last Plane Down” ceremony at the National Museum of the United States Air Force (on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015). I’m hopeful that many of you are planning to attend the events scheduled as we gather in the Midwest this year—I can assure you that each of our reunions has provided lasting memories for every attendee and this year will be no different.

I’d also like to take a moment to provide a few comments pertaining to three of our 95<sup>th</sup> BG Memorials here in the U.S. The Memorials Foundation is very fortunate that through the foresight and dedication of our 95<sup>th</sup> BG veterans we have three of our poignant memorials geographically located in the East (at the Mighty 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Museum in Pooler, GA), in the Midwest (at the National Museum of the USAF in Fairfield, OH), and in the West (at the 390<sup>th</sup> BG Memorial Museum in Tucson, AZ) of our unique nation. These varying geographic locations can be convenient for the 95<sup>th</sup> BG veterans throughout the U.S. as travel can become more of a challenge as time marches onward.

Through our Mission Tucson project, the Memorials Foundation is focused on updating our reverent memorial room. The initial plans are not designed to create a competing museum environment, but rather a facility that will attract current and future generations to the 95<sup>th</sup> BG veterans’ incredible story. Currently this memorial is closed to the public and only the large mural by John Rayson, depicting the March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1944 mission to Berlin, remains displayable as a tribute to our 95<sup>th</sup> BG veterans.

Our Board of Directors has received input on this project from a number of our membership via surveys, letters, and phone calls. Through the varied points of view thus far received, it is my belief that our membership collectively agrees on the need for this 95<sup>th</sup> BG memorial room to be updated. The Memorials Foundation will not contract for any changes that are not within funds set aside for this specific project—and that is the reason for our upcoming fundraising drive, which will include businesses, foundations, grants, interested individuals, and our membership.

I hope that each of you will take the time to share your thoughts on this project with the Board of Directors as soon as possible. For those who’ve already done so, thank you very much for your constructive input and ideas! I’m looking forward to seeing many of you at our reunion in May and hopefully meeting some new faces from our extended 95<sup>th</sup> BG family!

*Justice - Honor - Victory*  
*Gerald*

# You Too:

## From our Members & Friends

**Sent to Rod Hupp, Research Team:**

Rod,  
 Last fall you helped me research 42-102450 (Paisano) and you really provided a lot of info, and I wanted to thank you again. Your help was invaluable in helping me and my son learn more about the pilot and crew and the sacrifice the men of the 95<sup>th</sup>, as well as countless others, made for our country. We now live in the house where the pilot, Lt. Robert Duncan (Paisano's pilot) grew up. As a part of the research we did for my son's Cub Scout project, we learned a lot and were able to pay tribute to Lt. Duncan with a front-page article in our (and his) hometown newspaper on Veteran's Day 2012 (please see link below).  
 Thanks again,  
 Geoff Gleaton

[http://thetandd.com/news/local/memories-of-pilot-s-sacrifice-come-with-home/article\\_4e30b190-2bc1-11e2-939a-001a4bcf887a.html](http://thetandd.com/news/local/memories-of-pilot-s-sacrifice-come-with-home/article_4e30b190-2bc1-11e2-939a-001a4bcf887a.html)

**Editor's Note:** An adapted version of the article by Richard Walker and published in the Orangeburg Times and Democrat can be found on page 18.

**Sent to Linda Endris, Member Liaison:**

I am JoAnn (Everett) Taylor. I was at my mother's house today and saw your card to her. I wanted to introduce myself to you. I have always wanted to be in touch with some of the families of the 95th Bomb Group. My father was Bill Everett. My email is [jnntaylor072@gmail.com](mailto:jnntaylor072@gmail.com). Would love to hear from anyone involved with the 95th BG.

JoAnn (Everett) Taylor  
 8 Winslow Road  
 Newtown, CT 06470

**From Jackie DeHart, Widow Liaison:**

I think the widows are most happy and appreciative of the many, many cards they receive from the 95th. (After all, we are family!) My heartfelt thanks to Linda (Endris) and my "helpers"—Ann Cook, Beth Rosenzweig, Peggy Rothman, Ben Roujansky, and Meg Brackney. Just sorry that we are kept busy with sympathy cards!

My love to you all,  
 Jackie

### Stay Connected!

*"We love hearing from you!"*

Linda Endris  
 Member Liaison  
[ljendris@att.net](mailto:ljendris@att.net)  
 225 Buffalo Drive  
 Indianapolis, IN 46217  
 Phone: 317-881-0219



Jackie DeHart  
 Widow Liaison  
 teddehart1@cox.net  
 242 W. Calle Frambuesa  
 Green Valley, AZ 85614  
 Phone: 502-207-0957



Phil Samponaro  
 Research/Historian  
[history@95thbg.org](mailto:history@95thbg.org)  
 4721 Beaver Pond Drive  
 Brownsville, TX 78520  
 Phone: 956-882-7447



Janie McKnight  
 Newsletter Editor  
[editor@95thbg.org](mailto:editor@95thbg.org)  
 1231 Brockie Drive  
 York, PA 17403  
 Phone: 717-873-0348



8th  
 Air Force



13th  
 Combat Wing



95th  
 Bomb Group



334th  
 Squadron



335th  
 Squadron



336th  
 Squadron



412th  
 Squadron

# You Too: From our Members & Friends

## Sent to Rod Hupp, Research

Dear Mr. Hupp:

I have been perusing the 95th BG site with interest for most of today. I found your name in the most recent newsletter, looking for 95th members.

My interest was sparked by a tenant of ours, John S. (Jack) Wood, who recently passed away on Friday, 29 August, 2014. In recent months he was at an assisted living facility. But since the fall of 2011 when we bought the house where he rented a small apartment within, he and I became good friends.

I was able to get bits and pieces of his WWII experiences, especially when he found out that I had an uncle who was also a flight engineer like Jack, but was assigned to B-29s over the Pacific. Although my uncle was killed over Japan during the bombing of Tokyo, Jack was able to give me a glimpse of what life might have been during those missions.

When Jack passed away, he had no family left. His wife had predeceased him by 25 years, and they had no children. There was a local couple who looked after him and his finances in this last year, but his death was quiet, and there was no memorial service, nor an obituary.

Here are two photos of Jack's Squadron. In the second photo (shown below), which Jack was particularly proud of, because of the cigarette and the bottle of Russian vodka, he is second row, second from left.



Jack was particularly proud of this photo, because of the cigarette and the bottle of Russian vodka. He is second row, second from left.

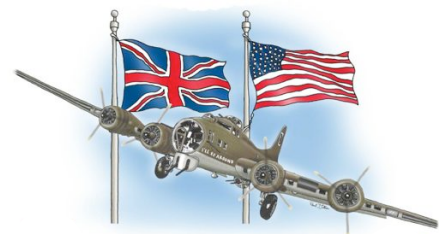
When I found this photo on the internet and asked about the unnamed Russians, that's when all the stories began. What a wonderful man. He died just short of his 91st birthday.

Jack was predeceased by his wife and the love of his life, Lillian, in 1992. He served as a Flight Engineer/Top Turret Gunner in the 412th Squadron, and flew at least 32 missions over Europe during the war, including six over Normandy, France, two of which were on D-Day. Jack had many stories of his B-17 experiences, but was modest about his awards, which included more than one Purple Heart. After the war, Jack returned to upstate New York, and settled in the Mineville area near Lake Champlain. He was a Substation Maintenance Supervisor for the Niagara-Mohawk Power Company, and owned a 400-acre forested homestead until his retirement, at which point he moved to Crown Point, NY, where he lived for the final 25 years of his life. Jack was an avid wildlife painter and ornithology expert. He knew everything about the local birds of the area, which he enjoyed observing on a daily basis from his window on Bridge Road, overlooking Lake Champlain. Jack was a gentle soul, and will be missed dearly.

Sincerely,  
Sue Tandy

Dr. Susan M. Tandy  
Professor, Retired  
Department of Physical Education  
United States Military Academy  
West Point, NY

## "Save the Dates!"



### The Horham U.K. Reunion

Thursday 10 September to  
Wednesday 16 September

*We hope to see old friends & new at  
our September 2015 reunion!*

**Linda Woodward & Beverley Abbott**  
**UK Reunion Chairs**

# From our membership chair...

I want to thank the many of you who responded to our 2015 Membership Drive by renewing your memberships and I welcome those new members who have joined the 95<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Memorials Foundation family. Your support is essential in keeping the 95<sup>th</sup> vibrant and moving forward.

This past year we lost many of our beloved veterans, widows, and wives of veterans. Those leaving formation have given us a legacy to continue and as their numbers decrease we should work to increase the numbers of members who will carry their memory and hard work into the future. It is important that those of us who are first-generation descendants of our veterans

help our children and grandchildren to understand the sacrifices of their grandfathers and great-grandfathers in securing freedom for the world. I was pleased to see that great-grandchildren of our vets are beginning to receive gift memberships in the 95<sup>th</sup>. This is a mighty step forward. Our remaining veterans and widows continue to support the 95<sup>th</sup> through their contributions and membership and it is only fitting that we carry on this tradition.

Please make the extra effort this year to get your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren engaged with the 95<sup>th</sup>. Take them to the reunion. It is one great way to pique



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

their interest—especially since we are going to Dayton where the USAF Museum displays hundreds of aircraft and artifacts. This is a chance to really help educate our next generation of family into the mission and traditions of the 95<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Memorials Foundation.

John Mollison

**Please let John know if you have a change of address or status:**

John Mollison  
2605 Featherstone Court  
Arlington, TX 76001  
membership@95thbg.org  
Phone: 402-650-4135

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

(See back page for membership form)



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

# 95th BG Memorials Foundation Reunion

## In Honor of the Last Plane Down

May 6–May 10, 2015, Dayton, Ohio



Vanna Walker  
Daughter of S.C. Walker  
Pilot, 336th Squadron

2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the Last Plane Down, an event that is commemorated each year at the 95th Memorial in the garden of the National Museum of the United States Air Force. To honor this special date, this year's reunion will be held in Dayton, Ohio, the home of the oldest and largest military aviation museum in the world!

**Wednesday, May 6:** The 95th family reunion kicks off at the 6:00 p.m. Meet and Greet reception.

**Thursday, May 7:** We honor the crew of the last plane to be shot down on that fateful day 70 years ago. After the memorial service, we will enjoy a day at the museum along with lunch. Dinner will be on your own, followed by a Fireside Chat.



**Friday, May 8:** We start the day with the Memorial Breakfast, then have the rest of the day to explore the area on our own. Within 5 minutes of the hotel are the Oregon Arts District (Dayton's original arts and entertainment district); the 2nd Street Market, where local growers, bakers, culinary specialists, and artisans fill a historic freight house; RiverScape Metro Park, with its interactive fountains and landscaped gardens; the Packard Museum; and the Dayton Art Institute. That night we will dance the night away at the Gala Dinner and Dance.

**Saturday, May 9:** We will visit the Champaign Aviation Museum, where they are rebuilding a B-17, the *Champaign Lady*. They have fully restored several aircraft to flying status, like the B-25, *Champaign Gal*, and a Stinson 10A. We will enjoy lunch and an afternoon at the museum. Saturday evening the Mother's Day Dinner will recognize the strength and hard work of all of the mothers in our 95th family, followed by a Fireside Chat.



**Getting there:** If you fly into Dayton International Airport, the Crowne Plaza Dayton will provide complimentary shuttle service to/from Dayton International Airport. This is based on availability and should be scheduled with the hotel's front desk in advance. Please call the hotel at 937-224-0800 to arrange your transportation. If you are driving, the hotel rate includes complimentary valet parking.

**Our hotel:** We have a great room rate at \$112/night plus tax. This includes breakfast for all registered persons staying in the room. Reservations MUST be made by April 12th, so book early!

*I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Dayton!*



### CROWNE PLAZA – DAYTON

33 East 5th Street | Dayton, Ohio 45402  
Reservations: 973-229-9835 | After Hours: 800-689-5586

### Hotel Booking Deadline Is April 12, 2015 (No Exceptions)

*When making reservations, you must request the  
95th Bomb Group Reunion rate*

The Red Feather Club  
will be open for business.  
See you there!

You can book online at <http://www.cpd Dayton.com>.  
On the reservation page, select the dates, click "Book Now"  
and select "Group Code." Enter code BGM and click "Apply."

**Special note to board members:** the Board Meeting will be on May 6th at 3:30 p.m.



# 95th BG Memorials Foundation Reunion

Dayton, Ohio    May 6 – 10, 2015



Guest 1 (Please Print)			Guest 2 (Please Print)			
Name			Name			
Street			Street			
City, State, Zip			City, State, Zip			
Email			Email			
Phone			Phone			
Relationship to 95th			Relationship to 95th			
Vet's Name, Unit Crew Position Aircraft:			Vet's Name, Unit Crew Position Aircraft:			
Guest 3 (Please Print)			Guest 4 (Please Print)			
Name			Name			
Street			Street			
City, State, Zip			City, State, Zip			
Email			Email			
Phone			Phone			
Relationship to 95th			Relationship to 95th			
Vet's Name, Unit Crew Position Aircraft:			Vet's Name, Unit Crew Position Aircraft:			
DAY	ACTIVITY & TIME	Adult/Child	GUEST 1	GUEST 2	GUEST 3	GUEST 4
Wed	Meet & Greet Reception 6pm – 8pm	\$18/9				
Thu	Last Plane Down/USAF Museum/Lunch 8am – 3pm	\$35/25				
Fri	Memorial Breakfast 8:30am – 10:30am (Included for hotel guests, but we need a count. Please mark X if staying at hotel)	additional \$16.50/9				
Fri	Gala Dinner Dance 6pm – 11pm	\$60/\$20				
Sat	Champaign Aviation Museum/Lunch 10am – 4:30pm	\$50/35				
Sat	Mother's Day Dinner 6pm – 8pm	\$35/20				
Per Person Reunion Registration (Required unless a student)		\$65				
<b>TOTAL FOR EACH GUEST</b>						
<b>TOTAL FOR ALL GUESTS</b>		\$	Special needs, requests, dietary requirements:    Make checks payable to 95th BG Memorials Foundation and mark "Dayton Reunion" in the memo  Send to:  <b>Beth Rosenzweig</b> <b>95th BG Reunion Committee</b> <b>513 NE 205th St.</b> <b>Shoreline, WA 98155-1043</b>			
<b>Not a member yet? Join us!</b> Individual: \$25    Household: \$45		\$				
<b>Donation 'In Loving Memory' or 'In Honor Of'</b> Name:		\$				
<b>TOTAL DUE by APRIL 15</b> Registrations, Membership, Donation		\$				
Arrival Date:	Airline:	Driving?				
Arrival Time:	Flight #:					



Nancy Freemantle  
Daughter of  
TSgt Raymond M. Olsen  
457<sup>th</sup> SubDepot

## From our treasurer...

It's that time of year again! Membership dues statements were sent out at the end of December. If you haven't paid your dues, there is still time! Memberships are \$25 for an individual or \$45 for a household. Many members choose to make donations along with their dues In Honor Of (Living) or In Loving Memory (Deceased) of our loved ones. Another great way to teach others about our mission is to give a gift membership to the Foundation. I started with a gift membership from my father

in 2005. The Membership Renewal Form sent to you has space for you to make your donations or gifts, or you can use the form on the back of this newsletter. Or simply go to our website, [www.95thbg.org](http://www.95thbg.org), and hit the "Join" or "Donate" button in the right-hand corner.

We have recently signed up with AmazonSmile, which is part of Amazon.com. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same prices as on Amazon.com. However, Amazon will donate .5% of your purchases to the 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation. When you sign in to AmazonSmile, you will be given the opportunity to choose which organization to support. The 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation is one of those groups! Donations can also be made through PayPal. Links to both AmazonSmile and PayPal can be found on our website [www.95thbg.org](http://www.95thbg.org).

Currently, the Foundation has \$39,909 in our checking account. An additional account has been set up for the Mission Tucson Fund.

It continues to be a pleasure to serve as the Foundation's Treasurer. I look forward to meeting many of you at our reunions!

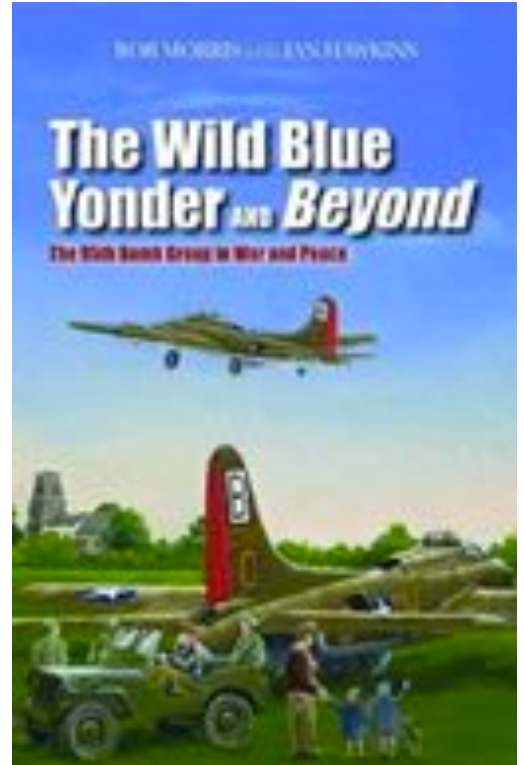
Nancy


## Haven't Read the 95th Bomb Group Unit History Yet?

Rob Morris has written a comprehensive and reader-friendly account of the 95th Bomb Group in war and in peace.

*A must-read for all lovers of the 95th!*

**Available at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)**





**Welcome to amazon smile**  
Prime

You shop. Amazon gives.


- Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to **95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same Amazon Prime benefits.
- Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com).

Every little bit helps!

Hello, **Janie**

Your shopping will support **95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation**

[Start shopping](#) [Select a different charity](#)





# Mission Tucson

The Mission Tucson Fundraising Committee has been doing its due diligence in determining the support for the renovation plans of our Memorial Room in the 390th Memorial Museum at Pima Air and Space Museum in Tucson, AZ. Thank you to all those who returned our survey! We are grateful for your support, your ideas, and yes, even your concerns. As a result of your input, we have submitted a report and recommendation to the Board of Directors that we proceed with the fundraising campaign to raise \$500,000, which, pending Board approval, will begin this spring.

This is an exciting time for the 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation—a time for us to say thank you in a very tangible way to the veterans who gave so much to ensure our freedom. Please watch for details and give careful consideration to how you, either as an individual or as a family, would like to contribute to this mission.

## Mission Tucson Fundraising Team

Mike Darter, Chair    Margaret Blagg  
Nancy Freemantle    Janie McKnight  
John Mollison    Toby Mumford    Nancy Smith

## Interested in Becoming a Historical Sleuth?

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  
Phil Samponaro at  
history@95thbg.org  
956-882-7447**



## Twitter Update

**Editor's Note:** It isn't necessary to have a Twitter account to access this bit of 95th history. Simply log in to [www.95thbg.org](http://www.95thbg.org) and click on the Twitter button at the top right side of the home page.

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the 95th Bomb Group's arrival in England, Russ Askey is posting vintage Twitter updates on the day each mission was flown. The updates include links to copies of actual mission files, and complete crew lists for each mission. If you are a Twitter user, you can find the updates at "95th Bomb Group (H)@95thBG." Russ recently reported that 95th BG Twitter followers now number over 200, and some of our followers are "re-tweeting" to their followers—as a result, some of the 95th Twitter updates/mission files are reaching over 1,000 people.

In addition to the Twitter updates, a dedicated website has been created: <https://sites.google.com/site/95thbgarchives/>. This site contains the mission files and crew lists, organized by month and year, and is updated as the missions are flown.

The mission files that are now available online for all to see are the result of the combined effort of many volunteers from the 95th BG Memorials Foundation. It is hoped that making these documents available will help promote the study of the 95th Bomb Group and its involvement in the air war over Europe, and at the same time provide appropriate recognition of all those who served with the 95th.



Russ Askey  
95th BG Research Team  
Son of Russell E. Askey  
Navigator, 336th Squadron

# **A Tale of Two Monuments: One built from the ground up by our vets; Another awaiting approval from the Belgian government**

by Nancy McKnight Smith, Memorials/Repository Chair

According to the *Memorials of the 95th Bomb Group* booklet:

The Dayton project began in 1986 when a member of the 95th Bomb Group Veterans' Association looked into the situation of the then-new museum at Wright Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio and recommended that the Association "...accept the Museum's offer for a site...."

There were two stages in the 1987 plan:

1. "To build a standing memorial with attached plaques to honor and memorialize the role of the 95th Bomb Group," to tell the story.
2. "To create a memorial walkway to honor those men who had lost their lives in action against the enemy."



David McKnight, President of the 95th BG Veterans Association, delivering the dedication speech on September 17, 1988.

But there were challenges for the veterans who were working on this memorial. There was money to raise, as well as problems to solve with regard to the monument itself. Apparently, raising the needed funds went smoothly; however, figuring out the appropriate dimensions of the monument and the structure of the space vis-à-vis the memorial bricks were issues that had to be addressed by those veterans.

There was also the issue of the memorial bricks. The Air Force Museum did not approve the walkway until 1993. At that point the veterans' greatest concern was the integrity of the KIA list and the spelling of the names. Paul Andrews, author of *The Operational Record of the 95<sup>th</sup>*, assisted the veterans in resolving these questions.

Next, the proper placement of the bricks in the form of an eagle was essential to the concept and the dignity of the design. Finally, red-colored bricks were used to designate those men Killed in Action (KIA) while a buff color was used for the bricks of donors.

On May 7, 1995 the completed memorial was dedicated and presented to the Air Force Museum. That date was chosen because it is the date in 1945 of the last 95th mission, a Chowhound Mission during which 11 airmen lost their lives; this was the last B-17 lost in the war by the 8th Air Force. The war officially ended the next day. Since 1995 there has been a memorial service on May 7 at the monument each year to commemorate the event and to honor these brave men.

Leadership of these memorial events had been largely in the hands of Jim Lewis, who eventually handed down the responsibility to his daughter Megan Brackney and her husband Kevin. Nina Rothman has served as chaplain in recent years. This year the monument and the memorial service will be the centerpiece of the annual reunion of the 95th Foundation.

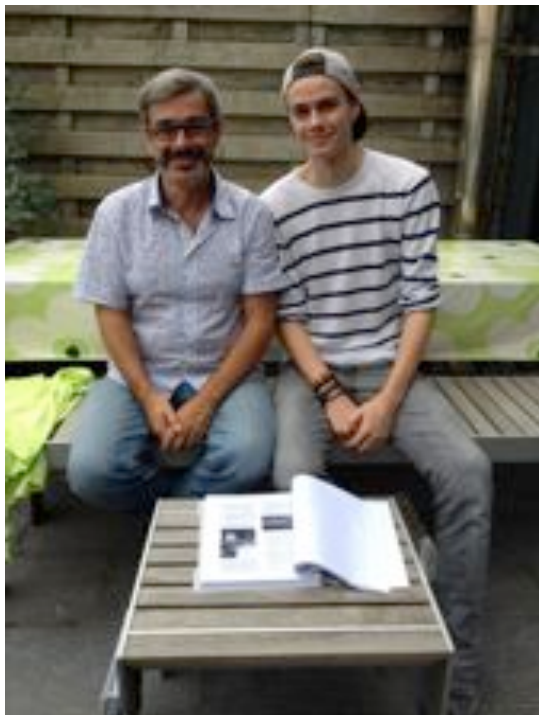
In the history of the Dayton Monument one leader stands out before all others: Francis Hapner was a driving and creative force behind the creation of the Dayton Memorial. He was a navigator who came to England with the original cadre—and he wrote the following poem that captures the spirit of our work to remember the men of the 95th:



Francis Hapner, far right, is shown with workers placing the KIA list inside the granite column

At about the same time our veterans were working on this project, the 95th and one of its crews was heavy on the mind of a young Belgian woman named Francine Vangilberen. When she was 10 years old she witnessed the last combat crash of a 95th plane at the end of the war on April 6, 1945, in the forest south of Brussels. (As opposed to the “Last Plane Down” memorialized at Dayton, a plane from a non-combat Chowhound flight downed on May 7, 1945.) All her life she thought about the plane and the lives lost. When her son Jürgen was old enough to understand, she told the story to him and he became caught up in the details as if he had witnessed it himself.

As a result Jürgen Nijs has written a book that follows the history of the plane Aircraft 2107204 and of its crew. He has met the families of all of the crew members and has been able to help them achieve closure beyond the MIA message they received long ago. Most dramatically, the son of one of the crew members sailed his boat across the Atlantic, docked in Oostende, Belgium near where Jürgen and his family live, and drove with Jürgen to the forest where the plane came to rest.



(Pictured above is Jürgen Nijs and his older son Johannes as well as a copy of his book. Some members of the 95th may remember Jürgen from his presentation at the Washington reunion in 2004. He received many leads for his research from the veterans who attended that meeting.)

### **The Combat Game**

By Francis S. Hapner

*You can't explain  
The combat game.  
We learned to live  
With cloudy skies,  
The lonely nights,  
The bitter cold  
And darkened lights,  
The constant danger  
From flak and fighters.*

*But we were never ready  
For that dreaded day  
When sudden death  
Took you away  
You were gone.  
In your memory  
We carried on.  
Fate had spared us  
Another day.*

*Rest in peace,  
Brave young warriors.  
Your valiant efforts  
Were not in vain.  
Your gift to freedom  
Will not be forgotten  
Nor will your name.*

### **Aircraft 2107204 - Mission #311**

Robert L. Davis	Pilot	KIA
Lawrence H. Morgan	Co-Pilot	KIA
John D. Coalson	Navigator	KIA
Albert J. Fascenelli	Radio Operator	KIA
Archie L. Stice	Top Turret/Engineer	KIA
Dale J. Kennedy	Ball Turret Gunner	KIA
William G. Ballou	Waist Gunner	KIA
Jacob (NMI) Brooks	Tail Gunner	KIA
Frederick T. Gunnard	Unknown Position	KIA

Jürgen has appealed to the Belgian government to place a memorial marker at that location to honor the men and the effort they represented, but so far with no success.

However, Jürgen's book is in itself a monument to those men. It is completed, but because it is written in Jürgen's language, Dutch, it awaits translation before wider circulation.

# 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 Loving Memory

Harry Aslagson  
Bob & Pat Cozens  
Ted DeHart  
Gerald B. Engler  
Carol J. Fenimore  
Vergene "W" Ford  
Charlie Gallagher  
Sidney Goldstein-Gracen  
Adam & Annie Hinojos (2)  
Adam Hinojos  
Manuel Houllis  
William "Bill" H. Isbell, Sr.  
Edwin A. Jacobsen  
Mary "Mae" Jacobsen  
Phil Janney  
Edward F. Kelly  
Charlie Lajeskie  
Harold F. Lippert  
M.H. "Mac" Makawicz  
Valgene Mathews

Grace & Dave McKnight (2)  
Raymond M. Olsen  
Donald T. Paulson  
Silvio "Pat" Pettinelli  
Ronald Piper  
Hal Powers  
Fred Rosenzweig  
Norman A. Schmitt  
Bob Spinnenweber  
Bryce L. Stone  
John A. Storie  
Halcott B. Thomas  
Carl Voss  
Lt. Col. Sylvanus C. Walker  
Ray B. Waters  
Leo & Eleanor Whalen  
Kenneth Wright

## In Honor Of

Paul Baird  
Jack Bertram  
Edward G. Cunningham  
Harry Hull  
Ernest F. Parker  
Curtis C. Stone



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](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh)

## 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

*"We will remember them"*

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



# LEFT FORMATION

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

Name	Unit	Position	Date of Death
John M. Barker	336 <sup>th</sup>	Co-Pilot	November 17, 2014
Neal F. Connelley	95 <sup>th</sup> BG	Operations	October 26, 2014
J. N. Edgar	336 <sup>th</sup>	Radio Operator	January 18, 2015
Sam C. Feld	334 <sup>th</sup>	Bombardier	September 3, 2014
George E. Fraudin	335 <sup>th</sup>	Radio Operator	October 15, 2014
Willis E. Harlow	336 <sup>th</sup>	Ground Crew	July 18, 2014
Edison "Phil" Janney	334 <sup>th</sup>	Bombardier	January 17, 2014
Joseph P. Kinni	334 <sup>th</sup>	Ground Crew	February 24, 2014
Frank A. Martin	412 <sup>th</sup>	Tail Gunner	January 4, 2015
Harry J. Oestreich	336 <sup>th</sup>	Tail Gunner	November 5, 2014
Ronald E. Piper	336 <sup>th</sup>	Co-Pilot	July 26, 2014
Delmar D. Schulz	334 <sup>th</sup>	Pilot	September 28, 2014
Halcott B. Thomas	336 <sup>th</sup>	Pilot	September 17, 2014
Ray B. Waters	335 <sup>th</sup>	Tail Gunner	December 28, 2014
Richard J. Wiercioch	412 <sup>th</sup>	Ball Turret	Sometime in 2013
John S. Wood	412 <sup>th</sup>	Engineer/Top Turret	August 29, 2014



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

## The Ties That Bind: The 95th and the Power of Social Media

by Phil Samponaro

Our Facebook page continues to connect 95th family and friends as well as to bring out images and stories previously unknown to the Memorials Foundation. Recently, for example, Nancy Myers shared a treasure trove of photos from her late father, George Myers, who served as the 95th's Protestant chaplain from the early days in Rapid City through the end of the war at Horham. Likewise, Mark Erickson, son of 334th co-pilot Ernest Anders Erickson, continues to wow the membership with his late dad's wartime photos and documents.



The 334th's Thomas M. "Batch" Bachuzewski crew.

Mark, a San Francisco-based artist, and I regularly communicate about his 95th ties both on Facebook and behind the scenes via e-mail. One of the many memorable accounts that he has shared focuses on his good friendship of almost thirty years with John Barnes, whose father John Robert Barnes flew with the group as a 335th navigator. Mark remembers well how he and John met and became friends. As he relates, both men were working back in the 1980's on separate construction jobs in San Francisco. (Mark, who had received his master's degree in painting at the San Francisco Art Institute, found there was "way more money in construction work than in painting at the time.") Both worked in adjacent buildings on Clementina Street, located in the South of Market District. One day, John came by Mark's job site and asked to borrow his skill saw. Mark obliged despite the fit thrown by his crew chief, "a cranky Chicago redneck." Mark's courtesy led to the two of them grabbing a beer a few days later at the Hotel Utah, a local bar. The two men began chatting about their lives. They discovered all sorts of coincidences between them, including a similar taste in music and both having been art majors when at university. They talked about family and found that they had both grown up with Air Corps fathers; that reality meant more similar life experiences when younger.

They noticed one difference, though, immediately: John grew up on the East Coast and Mark on the West Coast. "In some ways," concludes Mark, "opposites become coincidences of similarity." How correct Mark is. That day at the Hotel Utah the conversation drifted onto stories of their fathers' USAAF experiences in World War II and they were surprised to realize that both dads had flown B-17s with the 95th. John's father, who was from Philadelphia, flew on the 335th's 46838, aka "The Spirit of Martinez." Mark's dad, a North Dakota native, co-piloted another 1944 B-17, the 334th's 46085, aka "The Lili of the Lamplight." The earlier serial number on Ernest Erickson's aircraft found a parallel in the two men's service records: Erickson was at Horham between March and September 1944 and Barnes slightly later, from January to June 1945. Both men were born in 1922. There were also other "coincidences of similarity" to be seen from apparent opposites. Both veterans partook in the GI Bill and studied at university. John's father went to Penn State, Mark's dad to the University of Colorado. John's father became the Director of Pathology at the DuPont Corporation on the East Coast and retired in 1978. Ernest Erickson became an aircraft/jet designer at the Skunk Works at Lockheed Aircraft out West. He retired in 1987. Both men were avid collectors, Erickson enjoying coins and Barnes focusing on stamps. Each veteran loved woodworking. Each bought an assortment of classic American cars, including two Ford legends of the mid-1960's, the Falcon and the Mustang.



The 335th's Frank Calicura crew.

The more the veterans' sons talked over a beer almost three decades ago, the more coincidences came up. "A strong friendship was created that day," Mark recalls. The bonds have grown deeper over the years with John helping Mark remodel his studios in the Bay Area through his skilled carpentry. The passing of their fathers around the same time—John's in 2011 and Mark's in 2013—have further strengthened the

ties between them. With their dads having left formation, both John and Mark have taken an increased interest in the war, the Air Corps, B-17s, and Horham. Mark, who is fortunate to have all of his father's personal effects, began looking through his parents' belongings in 2014. He was often overwhelmed by the scores of wartime photos and letters that he had never seen before. Ernest's letters home detail his life as a co-pilot, his time in Horham, "flak passes" in London, specific missions, and a young man's humor that was often nestled between the serious stories of war. Through the writings, Mark got to know "a side of my father that truly showed how young he was, to be handling such intense experiences, 20-22 years old at the time." Mark is working on a book about his father's time in the 95th, "Aviator's Dream: The Man from Painted Woods," all the while steadfastly sharing his dad's story and photos on Facebook.



The combat mess (on the same site as the Red Feather Club) after the war. As base expert Ray Howlett points out, this site also housed the combat showers, quartermaster, PX, and the dry cleaners, in addition to a few other smaller buildings.

Mark often mentions his buddy John and John's father. The start of 2015 in fact found John down in Mark's Venice, CA, beach house. To celebrate the occasion, Mark posted these post-war photos of Station 119. The images were taken by James Titus, tail gunner on John Barnes' crew, during a return visit to Horham and show the lingering beauty and history of the base long after it was shut down.



The gymnasium, chapel, and cinema with projection room after the war. In the background is the consolidated mess (dining room).

with the 95th through Facebook (and also with the Heritage Association, which recently featured a piece on Ernest's jacket in the Winter 2014–2015 edition of its newsletter). The Memorials Foundation is confident that Mark's contributions are a good omen of what other 95th families will continue to offer us all through the power of social media.

We are grateful to Mark for becoming so active



View from the control tower toward the technical site, the night flying equipment store (triple-door building), and the floodlight tractor & trailer shed next door, circa late 1940s. The building at extreme right is the Norden bomb sight store and repair shop.



Postwar scene of the 412th site where 16-foot Nissen huts comprised five sergeants' quarters. Barely visible behind the middle hut is a latrine. In the background is a Thorne building, a wooden frame that was covered in bitumen-coated paper. This structure was one of five officers' quarters on the site. On the right side of the picture is a barracks hut. To the far right is the end of the cinema building.

All photos are courtesy of Mark Erickson.  
Special thanks to Ray Howlett in the UK  
who identified the scenes.



Station 119's radio shack after the war.

# Geraldine Hanson-Delbern Marshall

Geraldine Hanson-Delbern/Marshall is the surviving widow of 2nd Lt. Frederick A. Delbern KIA/MIA December 16, 1943. Aunt Geri and Fred were both from Duluth, Minnesota. Geri was introduced to Fred through her brother, Floyd Hanson, around 1939 in Duluth. Fred was a few years older than Geri and excelled in most sports, especially football. He also had a great voice and was in the a capella choir. Fred loved flying from an early age and was a pilot in his late teens and early college years. Geri still fondly remembers him flying around Duluth in a Piper Cub during those early years. After high school Fred attended the University of Minnesota on an athletic scholarship and was on their football team. His dream was to become a high school teacher and coach.

Geri and Fred were married on May 2, 1942 at St. Clements Catholic Church in Duluth, MN. Shortly after their marriage the war was starting to intensify and Fred enlisted. After a short time in the enlisted ranks he was transferred to the officers training program and pilot training. Geri says that, because he had gone to college and held a private pilot's license, the Army Air Corps thought he should be a military pilot. In researching Fred's military records we found that he was issued two service numbers: one as an enlisted member and the second as an officer. To this day Aunt Geri can give you his officer's service number without prompts—after 72-plus years.

As was the norm during those early war years the married service members were allowed to have their young wives follow them from training base to training base. Geri lived in wartime housing and hotels in Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and Washington. The last time Geri saw Fred was in Spokane, Washington. He then went to



Nebraska with his assembled crew and they were issued cold weather gear and additional equipment before they were off to England. Geri then traveled back to Duluth, MN to a life of working and waiting for Fred to return.

Fred did not return. Lt. Frederick A. Delbern was killed in action on December 16, 1943. There has been much research completed on that fateful flight of Lt. Fred Delbern. Michael I. Darter, brother of the Radio Operator on the "Lonesome Polecat II," has written two books on the subject: "Fateful Flight of the Lonesome Polecat II" and "Gone with the Wind He Said." In Rob Morris's "The Wild Blue Yonder and Beyond" there were several mentions about Aunt Geri and The Lonesome Polecat II.

Approximately one year after Fred was declared missing, Geri started receiving his benefits. She stopped the checks and returned the few she had received because she thought "the country needed the money worse than she did." She continued to hope and pray that Fred, the love of her life, would be found alive but after many years remarried in the late 1940's. After her second husband's death a few years ago we reactivated her VA benefits and she is now able to support herself completely on her own.

One other touching story happened after the war. Geri took a Greyhound type bus and visited several of the seven surviving crew members and their families. A few years ago on her birthday the son of one of the surviving crew (now deceased) called her to wish her a happy birthday. I was in her apartment when he called and it was a very touching call. Geri related many things about the gentleman's father as she knew him quite well from her days with Fred on the various training bases. Geri even remembered the meal they had the Sunday she visited the family in their home in Ohio in the mid 1940's (baked chicken, gravy, creamed peas, and a nice dessert).

Geri had kept all of Fred's war memorabilia as well as every piece of correspondence received from the old "War Department." She had never opened his Purple Heart awarded posthumously, which was still in the old brown paper mailing wrap. All of the memorabilia has been recently donated to the Richard I. Bong Veterans Historical Center in Superior, WI.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AUNT GERI—  
96 years old on 1-22-2015

Charles Hanson, nephew  
2271 Thell Road  
Wrenshall, MN 55797  
218-384-3218  
[emhanson@aol.com](mailto:emhanson@aol.com)



Geri with the Frederick A. Delbern display  
at the Bong Veterans Historical Center in  
Superior WI





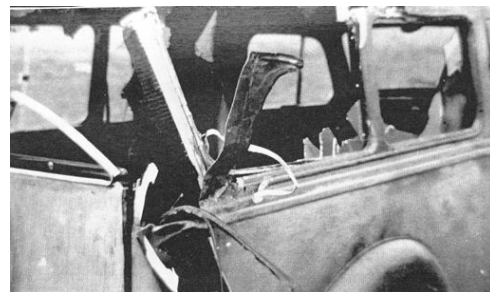
## A Close Call

In November 1943 and all through the war, I was working in our family grocery and drapery business. At that time, because of food rationing in the U.K., I was making regular visits to the Eye Food Office with "points" which we were using for edibles.

On November 16, 1943, I was going to Eye with said points, delivering groceries to our customers living on the

drome at Horham at that time. I was granted a pass for all gates. I had to use the perimeter to drive by the main runway and thence to the road to Eye. This is when I saw the B-17 coming towards me.

Obviously, I drove well over onto the grass to escape the oncoming aircraft. The next thing I knew there was a terrific crash and the propeller of the B-17 ripped the side of my delivery van. The impact fortunately meant that my head went forward. The photos show the damage.



Fortunately Mrs. Sharp escaped any bodily harm, but the same cannot be said for her vehicle.

Mrs. Marjorie Ward Sharp

(Marjorie Sharp passed away three years ago and was the aunt of Alan and David Johnson.)

NO.	DATE	FROM	TO	REMARKS	TIME	VS. NO.	REMARKS
1	10-24-43	KASSEL, GERMANY	WIMBORNE, ENGLAND	10:00	11-02	10000	10000
2	10-25-43	WIMBORNE, ENGLAND	WIMBORNE, ENGLAND	10:00	11-02	10000	10000
3	10-25-43	COLOGNE, GERMANY	WIMBORNE, ENGLAND	10:00	11-02	10000	10000
4	10-27-43	COLOGNE, GERMANY	WIMBORNE, ENGLAND	10:00	11-02	10000	10000
5	10-25-43	HAMBURG, GERMANY	WIMBORNE, ENGLAND	10:00	11-02	10000	10000
6	11-2-43	HAMBURG, GERMANY	WIMBORNE, ENGLAND	10:00	11-02	10000	10000
7	11-4-43	WIMBORNE, GERMANY	WIMBORNE, ENGLAND	10:00	11-02	10000	10000
8	11-5-43	WIMBORNE, GERMANY	WIMBORNE, ENGLAND	10:00	11-02	10000	10000
9	11-11-43	KOELN, GERMANY	WIMBORNE, ENGLAND	10:00	11-02	10000	10000
10	11-11-43	KOELN, GERMANY	WIMBORNE, ENGLAND	10:00	11-02	10000	10000
11	11-17-43	HAMBURG, GERMANY	WIMBORNE, ENGLAND	10:00	11-02	10000	10000
12	11-30-43	WIMBORNE, GERMANY	WIMBORNE, ENGLAND	10:00	11-02	10000	10000
13	12-1-43	WIMBORNE, GERMANY	WIMBORNE, ENGLAND	10:00	11-02	10000	10000
14	12-3-43	WIMBORNE, GERMANY	WIMBORNE, ENGLAND	10:00	11-02	10000	10000
15	12-10-43	WIMBORNE, GERMANY	WIMBORNE, ENGLAND	10:00	11-02	10000	10000
16	12-10-43	WIMBORNE, GERMANY	WIMBORNE, ENGLAND	10:00	11-02	10000	10000
17	12-10-43	WIMBORNE, GERMANY	WIMBORNE, ENGLAND	10:00	11-02	10000	10000
18	12-10-43	WIMBORNE, GERMANY	WIMBORNE, ENGLAND	10:00	11-02	10000	10000
19	12-10-43	WIMBORNE, GERMANY	WIMBORNE, ENGLAND	10:00	11-02	10000	10000
20	12-10-43	WIMBORNE, GERMANY	WIMBORNE, ENGLAND	10:00	11-02	10000	10000
21	12-10-43	WIMBORNE, GERMANY	WIMBORNE, ENGLAND	10:00	11-02	10000	10000
22	12-10-43	WIMBORNE, GERMANY	WIMBORNE, ENGLAND	10:00	11-02	10000	10000
23	12-10-43	WIMBORNE, GERMANY	WIMBORNE, ENGLAND	10:00	11-02	10000	10000
24	12-10-43	WIMBORNE, GERMANY	WIMBORNE, ENGLAND	10:00	11-02	10000	10000

## Research Team Looking for Historical Documents

Recently we were provided with a number of great wartime photos and documents from Jesus Gomez, a ball turret gunner with the 335th Bomb Squadron. One official-looking document he provided listed all his combat missions, which included aircraft numbers and more importantly, aircraft nicknames/nose art information.

The aircraft nicknames/nose art information is very valuable in our documentation attempts for our 95th Bomb

Group B-17s. We were able to document nose art for several new aircraft based upon the missions list he provided.

We would very much like to acquire copies of similar documents from other 95th BG veterans to assist with our historical research.

Please forward copies of these valuable documents to Phil Samponaro at [history@95thbg.org](mailto:history@95thbg.org). Should you wish to mail the copies, please send them to Phil at History Department, UT-Brownsville, 1 West University Boulevard, Brownsville, TX 78520. You may also call him at (956) 882-7447 with any questions.

We look forward to hearing from you!



[www.95thbg.org](http://www.95thbg.org)  
Like us on Facebook  
Follow us on Twitter

# Memories of a Pilot's Sacrifice Come With Home

Editor's note: This article was written by Richard Walker and appeared in the Orangeburg, S.C. Times and Democrat on Veteran's Day 2012. The following is an edited version and is used with permission.

Robert Duncan was just 19 years old when he found himself behind the wheel of a bomber. A second lieutenant, Duncan was piloting the Paisano, a B-17G "Flying Fortress" on its way to Brunswick (Braunschweig), Germany. Everyone in the U.S. 8th Air Force knew the Paisano. It had been the first American bomber over Berlin 10 months earlier. When the bombers returned that windy afternoon in March 1945, the Paisano wasn't among them. No word had been received from Duncan or any of the crew. The big war bird was missing.

In November 2011, Geoff and Charlene Gleaton, along with their two sons, moved into a Broughton Street house. The previous owner said a tradition goes with the house and the new buyer should consider keeping that going. The brick and wood two-story house was sold by Robert Duncan's family in 1979. It came with the stipulation that the buyer maintain a marker in Memorial Park Cemetery. On the three-piece granite and brick structure are the names of nine men, the center bearing the name of Lt. Robert L. Duncan. There are no remains with the marker. The instructions were simple: maintain it, take care of it.

Agreeing to the unusual request wasn't a problem for the Gleatons. They were more curious than put off by the plea to maintain the marker of a complete stranger. The Gleatons did some research and discovered they were now living in the childhood home of Duncan. While Geoff dug more into Duncan's past, his 7-year-old son Thomas was given a Scouts project to complete. The project called for the Tiger Cub to learn about how life in the past compared to life today. It wasn't difficult to conclude the best life to study was that of the man who grew up in Thomas's own bedroom almost 80 years ago. "It's really a fascinating and very humbling story," Geoff Gleaton said.

Robert Duncan was born on July 4, 1925 in Orangeburg and in 1935 moved into the newly built Broughton Street house. He spent at least a year in

college before enlisting for service on Feb. 26, 1943. Duncan trained at Freeman Field in Indiana and graduated in April 1944. He went on to train for B-17s and was shipped to England in December, assigned to the 335th Squadron, 95th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force. Duncan flew 10 missions in February and March 1945 in bombers with nicknames that included Worry Bird and Belligerent Beauty. Over Frankfurt during his second mission, Duncan's B-17 suffered some damage from German 88 guns. A week later, more damage. But on Feb. 25, Worry Bird suffered major damage, according to Duncan's military records. In spite of the damage, she still made it home. The Orangeburg

bomber pilot would fly four more missions over the next week. Then came mission number 10.

For this sortie, Duncan and his crew would be flying a B-17 named Paisano. The crew knew the significance of the first American bomber to unleash its devastation on Berlin. On March 3, 1945 the Paisano lifted off from its windy airbase in England on its way to Brunswick, Germany where a chemical plant was the target.

According to military records, all of the bombers in the flight made it to the target. Not all returned.

Back in Orangeburg at the Duncan residence, Spurgeon and Mary Louise Duncan received a packet in the mail. The packet contained a stack of letters they had written to their son. The letters were being returned.

There was no clear explanation why. Robert's address had been scratched through. However, in handwriting that wasn't Robert's, one word was written on the side: "Missing."

There are a couple of versions as to what happened. One says that over Germany, Duncan's plane drifted into another. The other version is the opposite, that another bomber struck the Paisano. Both versions are similar in their conclusion: the big Paisano rolled over, going down after the collision. No parachutes were reported. The operational record for Duncan's bomber simply read, "Failed to return, mid-air collision."

*Continued on next page*



Nine months after the letters to their son had been sent back to them, the Duncans received a telegram from the War Department. It confirmed Lt. Duncan had been declared dead. In 1950 the Duncans received another telegram from the newly renamed Department of Defense. It said that along with several other members of the Paisano's crew, Robert's remains had been recovered from the crash site. He and the others would be interred at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in Missouri. The remains of the crew couldn't be separated sufficiently to make individual identification possible.



But the rediscovery of Duncan's life is ongoing. A Cub Scout project and a house that came with a promise have brought back to life some dusty files and faded photos of an Orangeburg youth who in just a few short years left his home, put away his childhood, and as a man died for his country. "I catch myself coming down the stairs sometimes and I think, 'Robert came down these same stairs and saw exactly what I was looking at,' the same stairs, same steps, same door," Geoff said. "The fact his room is now my boy's room, that makes all of us very proud." Geoff realizes it's a lot for a family to absorb, much more so for his two young sons—the house, the marker, Lt. Duncan, and a mission over a land so far away in both distance and time. "But I'm going to make sure they appreciate the sacrifice Lt. Duncan and others have made for our country," Geoff said. "I think about everything he did and about everything he missed out on. It's a sad story because I know how tragic it ends."

*Want to see this newsletter in color? Sign up for email delivery, or check out our website and Facebook group page.*

Website: [www.95thbg.org](http://www.95thbg.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/95thBG/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/95thBG/)

Twitter: [twitter.com/95thBG](https://twitter.com/95thBG)

# Can you help identify these men?

## James McFee Crew (335<sup>th</sup> BS)

James E. McFee (Pilot)  
Gordon C. Preller (Co-Pilot)  
Frederick E. Frei (Navigator)  
Zemria V. Sizemore (Bombardier)  
George E. Fraudin (Radio Operator)  
Thomas J. Miller (Top Turret/Engineer)  
Roosevelt P. Richard (Ball Turret Gunner)  
Thomas H. Mullen (Waist Gunner)  
William G. Martin (Waist Gunner)  
Howard M. Byrne (Tail Gunner)



## Louis Reno Crew (334<sup>th</sup> BS)

Back Row (L-R)  
Unknown, Unknown, Unknown,  
Dale C. Morgan (Navigator), Robert  
N. Moon (Co-Pilot), Louis G. Reno  
(Pilot)

Front Row (L-R)  
Unknown, Unknown, Edgar M.  
Hickey (Radio Operator), John P.  
Bigley (Waist Gunner)

Unknowns may be: William V.  
Gadek (Bombardier), Harry A.  
Shade (Top Turret/Engineer),  
Dewey J. Cox (Ball Turret Gunner),  
Eugene Downey (Waist Gunner),  
James W. Leithead (Tail Gunner)



[www.facebook.com/groups/95thBG/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/95thBG/)

*Where the 95th story continues to be told*



Phil Samponaro  
Lead Researcher &  
Keeper of our Facebook page

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

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

Thanks!  
Phil  
[history@95thbg.org](mailto:history@95thbg.org)  
956-882-7447



**Joseph Holt Crew (336<sup>th</sup> BS)**

Front Row (L-R)  
William W. Furnish (Co-Pilot),  
Joseph B. Holt, Jr. (Pilot),  
Lyle F. Dallman (Navigator),  
Cleve D. Waters (Bombardier)

Back Row – Unidentified

**Harry Bickard Crew (335<sup>th</sup> BS)**

There is no pilot or crew information for this image. The Foundation's only lead is that Bickard appears as a co-pilot on his personnel sheet, with neither plane nor pilot association listed.





Ann Cook, PX Chair  
Daughter of  
"Mac" Makarewicz  
Ball Turret Gunner  
336th Squadron

# 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 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 95<sup>th</sup> 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!**