

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 WWI.

Volume 5 Issue 3

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"Justice with Victory"

95th BG Memorial Room Rededication – Tucson AZ



All photos by Laney Baltazar and Janie McKnight

by Mike Darter

The "Mission Tucson" Rededication was held on October 8, 2016 and was indeed an extraordinary event. The 390th Museum was packed with well over 200 attendees with many seated but many standing between the front of the 95th BG Memorial Room and the B-17 named *I'll Be Around*. The Veterans of the 95th and 390th BG were seated right in front of the podium and large screen and music speakers.

(Continued on page 3)

Notes from the President



Gerald Grove Son of Ronald W. Grove 335th Tail Gunner

W - O - W! That's a short description of what many of our membership witnessed at our just-past reunion in Tucson, AZ (October 5th through 9th). From the wonderful experience of meeting and visiting with our precious 95th veterans; making new friends with the USAF's 912th Refueling Squadron-whose lineage comes from our own 412th Bomb Squadron; through Thursday's Meet & Greet followed by a delightful

Fireside Chat including a presentation from our friends on the European continent; the following day's visit to Davis Monthan Air Force Base; that afternoon's informative panel discussion; the evening's joint banquet dinner & dance with our sister group the 390th; the always-touching Memorial Service the next morning; that afternoon's grand reopening of the 95th Memorial Room headlined by our guest speaker, Professor Donald L. Miller—author of *Masters of the Air*; and the last day's lovely Arizona Sonora Desert Museum tour, this was a reunion that was special in every way!

We were honored to have nine 95th BG veterans available during the reunion! The attendance of Joseph Cihon, Leo Makelky, Elmer "Lucky" McGinty, Dick "Salvo" Saucier, Larry Stevens, Warren Stewart, John Walter, Charles Wentzell, and Warren Wylie made our grand reopening of the 95th BG Memorial Room inside the 390th Memorial Museum at Pima Air & Space Museum all the more special. Lieutenant Colonel David Garon and a select group of 912th Refueling Squadron servicemen and women bridged the USAF generations with their participation at our reunion. The added exclamation point was being able to share this reunion with our fellow 13th Combat Wing Bomb Group and Museum facility host, the 390th, their special veterans in attendance, and their membership!

The overwhelming number of reactions overheard when the doors opened to our renovated Memorial Room were how beautiful, moving, and educational this memorial to our 95th BG veterans had become. The result is an outstanding job of transitioning this 95th BG memorial from its original reverent, touching, somber beginning to an educational, moving, and interactive environment—a testimony to the contributing membership and supporters of the storied 95th Bomb Group (H)!

The Fireside Chat was a wonderful mix of current 95th friends from Belgium sharing their stories of honoring the memory of our servicemen, an update to 95th BG MIA efforts, and a touching video of a 95th BG pre-mission briefing, all highlighted by our veterans in attendance sharing some of their special memories from WW2 service in the 95th. Belgian friends Luc Zaman and Marleen Piot provided a loving presentation of cemeteries where our hallowed servicemen rest in eternity, as well as sharing a beautiful presentation of a memorial in Tournai, developed by Jacques de Ceuninck.

The panel discussion brought together five people from among our membership: John Walter, a 95th veteran pilot; Rob Morris, our recent 95th unit history author and high school history teacher; Margaret Blagg, daughter of the late 95th veteran Joe Blagg, who led the design effort of the renovated Tucson Memorial Room; James Mutton, our gracious "cousin" from Horham's Red Feather Club Museum; and Mike Darter, author and brother of 95th MIA Eugene Darter, lost on his first mission to Germany. Their comments and interaction provided a nice blend of who this Foundation honors and why.

Words can never really express the full impact of our Memorial Service. The memory of the 95th veterans, those lost in conflict as well as those who returned from WW2 and have since passed, is honored as we hear their names repeated by following generations. As one of our 390th friends pointed out at the joint service, an individual can pass away twice—once when they pass from this earthly existence and again if they are forgotten ... we will remember them. One cannot attend this annual event at our reunion and not come away touched forever by the sacrifices of these then-young men.

Last, our 95th BG Memorials Foundation's Reunion Committee will be performing their due diligence in the coming weeks to determine the feasibility of New Orleans as our 2017 reunion site. It is likely we'd target a calendar schedule similar to our justpast reunion in Tucson. I hope to see many of you at either or both reunions next year!

Justice – Honor – Victory

Gerald

Memorial continued from page 1

Michael Darter, VP 95th BG, brought the group to attention for the presentation of the flag. The National Anthem was sung by the world-famous Manhattan Dolls with their beautiful harmony and dressed in clothes of the WWII era. Nina Rothman gave a beautiful invocation and blessing on the new 95th Memorial Room. Michael Darter then welcomed everyone to this "once in a lifetime" event for the 95th BG.



390th Memorial Museum, Tucson, Arizona

"Welcome to everyone, especially our wonderful

Veterans of the 95th and 390th BGs and our English friends who live near the old 95th Air Force base at Horham, England, and have recreated a living museum there to honor the veterans and to tell their story. Thank you all so much for attending this special re-dedication of the 95th Bomb Group Memorial, here in the fantastic 390th Bomb Group Museum! We in the 95th Bomb Group are very grateful to the 390th Bomb Group for their gracious invitation in the mid-1990's to be a part of their museum and for their strong continuing support.

"This rededication follows a major renovation of the entire 390th Museum and a complete renovation of the existing 95th Bomb Group's memorial to ALL those who served at the base at Horham, England. We especially give our highest honor to the 642 young Americans who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom today. That represents one young man lost out of every 11 who served on the base (similar to the entire 8th Air Force), a far higher loss percentage than the other services in WWII (such as the Army and Marines) due to the excessive dangers they faced. So today we truly are honoring all those who served with great distinction and bravery.

"We are very happy and proud that through great generosity the 95th BG Memorials Foundation has raised \$500,000 to rebuild the 95th Memorial Room as well as to set up an endowment fund that will maintain this and all of our other memorials around the country and we thank again ALL of those who gave so generously!"

The Manhattan Dolls then sang that incredible Lee Greenwood song "God Bless the USA." This song was chosen specifically for the words that honored the men of the 95th BG who died and also those who survived.

And I'm proud to be an American Where at least I know I'm free *And I won't forget the men who died* Who gave that right to me

And I gladly stand up Next to you and defend her still today Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land God bless the USA



390th Reunion Pin 2016

This beautiful rendition brought tears to many of those in attendance (thank you so much to those who donated specially to bring the Dolls to the re-dedication). Then our very own history Prof. Phil Samponaro introduced our keynote speaker. Phil noted that Prof. Donald Miller is a New York Times bestselling author, widely known for his works on World War II. One such title is Masters of the Air: America's Bomber Boys Who Fought the Air War Against Nazi Germany (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2007). In Masters of the Air, Miller tells the definitive account of the young men of the U.S. Army Air Forces and their aerial campaign against Hitler's Fortress Europe from bases in England.

Prof. Donald Miller then gave an incredible presentation illustrated with photos of many aspects of the air war over Europe in which the 95th and 390th BGs took a major role. Miller masterfully reconstructed life in wartime Britain as well as in the German prison camps where tens of thousands of flyboy POWs spent part of the war. He described the upcoming HBO miniseries based upon Masters of the Air, produced by Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks, which promises to be an amazing display of the heroism of the airmen who bravely fought over Europe and the ground crews who supported them. Miller described all of the unbelievable

things that could and did happen to young men fighting at 25,000 feet against the German Air Force and hundreds of flak

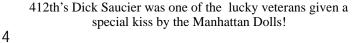
batteries on the ground. It made all of us even more appreciate what these 95th and 390th veterans

accomplished to preserve our freedoms. Don has become very familiar with the 95th and 390th Bomb Groups, having taken his own tours to England and visiting Horham and Parham the past two years.

The Manhattan Dolls then sang the familiar Army-Air Corps Song "Off we go into the wild blue yonder, climbing high into the sun...." that brought back many deep memories to the vets, followed immediately by Boogie-Woogie, which certainly got the veterans and everyone tapping their feet and enjoying the happy ending!

Up and away into the wild blue yonder....

Brad Petrella, Margaret Blagg and Tom Cozens give a "thumbs up!"



Welcome to tory of the 95th Bomb Group (H)











336th Waist Gunner Lucky McGinty cutting the ribbon at the entrance to the Memorial Room

Finally, there was a Ribbon Cutting by the 95th Veterans assisted by Margaret Blagg and Janie McKnight at the entrance door to the Memorial. Then, the doors were opened and the veterans led the way into the fantastic new 95th Tucson Memorial Room. They were followed by many other attendees the rest of the afternoon, and many returned on Sunday to spend more time in the Memorial. There have been so many wonderful comments on the Tucson Memorial.

We were all just simply breathless after the rededication ceremony—it had finally happened!

The 95th Tucson Memorial is absolutely remarkable and outstanding, as stated by Prof. Miller several times, the veterans, and the other attendees. This memorial will be there for decades to tell the story of what over 7,000 young men and women accomplished at Horham, England, as part of the 8th Air Force that helped bring the most tragic and bloody war in the history of the world to a close with victory. Justice with Victory!



The Vets got a front row seat



Veteran Larry Stevens



Veteran Lucky McGinty with Linda Ellingson



Favorite of many, the interactive database

95th – 390th Reunion A Grand Success By Mike Darter, 95th BG Memorials Foundation VP and 95th Representative to the 390th Memorial Museum Board of Directors

The newly designed 95th Memorial Room is a wonderful tribute to the men of the 95th Bomb Group. When asked what we thought of the renovation, our immediate response was "It's alive now." On the wall leading to the Memorial Room entrance, airplanes of the 13th Combat Wing point visitors directly toward the doorway. Inside the room, they can learn the story of the 95th Bomb Group through photos, text panels, and a few carefully selected artifacts. The John Rayson 1st Berlin mission mural remains a quiet place of contemplation, and the interactive monitors offer visitors the opportunity to research the database and provide feedback to the Foundation. The renovations of both the 390th Memorial Museum and the 95th Bomb Group Memorial Room are win-win for both groups! The rededication of this room is a testament to the commitment of the 95th BG Memorials Foundation to educate the public about the sacrifices that were made so that others may live in freedom.

CONGRATULATIONS AND KUDOS to everyone who helped make the joint $95^{\text{th}} - 390^{\text{th}}$ Reunion such a grand success. In particular, we would like to thank:

- Vanna Walker and her team from the 95th and Mary Truitt from the 390th, our Joint Reunion Representatives, for planning and coordinating the event.
- Margaret Blagg and Janie McKnight from the 95th for overseeing the design and installation of exhibits in the beautifully renovated 95th BG Memorial Room. This was a HUGE effort for which we are all very grateful!
- Gerald Grove, 95th BG Memorials Foundation President, for the timeless effort that was needed to get everyone "on board" for the joint event. Allan Moller, 390th BG Museum Board President, for his help in facilitating and coordinating the joint event.
- Our UK friends James Mutton from the Red Feather Club, Horham, UK and Peter and Kath Kindred from the 390th's sister museum in Framlingham UK for honoring us with their visit.
- Wally Scales, Executive Director of the 390th Memorial Museum, Jodi Gonzales, their Director of Development, and Emily Caldwell, Administrative Assistant, and volunteers and docents of the museum for the work they did in helping the 95th restore the 95th memorial and for working with the Joint Reunion Representatives.
- Our guest speaker, Donald I. Miller, author of *Masters of the Air*, *America's Bomber Boys Who Fought the Air War Against Nazi Germany* for his fantastic presentation at the rededication.
- The Manhattan Dolls for their stirring renditions of *The National Anthem, God Bless the USA*, and *The Army-Air Corps Song*. The vets were especially pleased with the special kisses planted on their heads and cheeks from the Dolls, and one was overheard saying he was not washing his face for several days!

TUCSON REUNION FUN

Here is a great group of photos that depict the fun we all had at this reunion. The Rededication of the 95th Memorial Room was definitely the highlight of the events. There were well over 150 people attending including 11-14 Veterans and Widows. Once again, the Reunion Committee put together a memorable time. Thank you for all your hard work.

All photos by Laney Baltazar and Janie McKnight



Vets with 912th at Davis Monthan



Rick Mangan, Drix Rixmann and Rob Morris



Gracie Hammesfahr clan



Veterans Larry Stevens and Charles Wentzell



Attentive listening at the Fireside Chat



Veteran John Walter



Linda and Neil Tillman



Nina Rothman clan



Dottie and Kyle Mattina



Rod Hupp and Ann Cook



MJ Lippert and the 912th Boys



Marlene Piot, Luc Zaman, Bunny & Paul Dillon, Rosie & David Livesay



Veteran Joe Cihon and his son



Pennie and Larry Walker with Rob Morris

Courage and Sacrifice

The story of ten young men flying a B-17G named "I'll Get By" out of Horham, England as part of the 412th Bomb Squadron, 95th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force during World War II.

Partial Newspaper copy (Google translation) from Ouest, France 16 August 2014. Submitted by Jack Wormington, nephew of Robert Baber.

On Thursday, a monument dedicated to American airmen killed August 2, 1944 was inaugurated in the presence of numerous bearers, mayors of neighboring municipalities, veterans, and villagers.

"I am particularly touched by the fact that among us there is an entire American family coming specially from Los Angeles to attend the ceremony," said Patrice Martin, Mayor. "This is Jack Wormington, a former brigadier general in the Air Force and nephew of Robert Baber, the pilot of the bomber; the wife of Mr. Wormington, Peggie; their son

John and daughter-in-law Megan; their daughter Kate; their granddaughter Sarah, 9; and their grandson Nate, 4."

"Fighters have not been untouched by this conflict. Among them were the crew of a B17 bomber made up of young people smiling, as we shall see in the photo that appears on the stele. According to tradition, they named their aircraft and called it 'I'll Get By.' My research has taught me that 'I'll get by' is the title of an American song of the 40s, which may have inspired the

members of the crew. But what is interesting is the translation of this phrase into French: 'I'll come out and I will return.'"

"On 2 August 1944, back from a mission, the plane was hit by German anti-aircraft defense. One wing caught fire. The plane lost altitude, but the pilots did their utmost to keep the aircraft in flight as long as possible and the order was given to the other members of the crew to jump. Their lives were saved, but seven members stayed behind. Their names: Captain Robert Baber; Lts. Raymond Dallas, Frank Sohm, and Jasper Kaylor; Sergeants Oscar Walrod and Robert Hill; Captain Elmer Bockman; and Sergeants Donald Phillips, Barney Lipkin, and Walter Collyer survived and were made POWs."

"Today, these men are part of the history of our town and I am pleased that on this 70th anniversary of D-Day, we honor their memory. May we pay a solemn tribute to their courage and sacrifice because they have helped at the beginning of the victory of freedom. I would like to thank Michel Duperron and his wife, and Mr. Huard. It is through their commitment that the construction of this monument was made possible."



Name	Crew Position	Fate
Robert O. Baber	Pilot	KIA
Jasper W. Kaylor	Co-Pilot	KIA
Raymond D. Dallas	Navigator	KIA
Frank T. Sohm	Bombardier	KIA
Robert V. Hill	Radio Operator	KIA
Oscar C. Walrod	Top Turret/Engineer	KIA.
Donald W. Phillips	Ball Turret Gunner	POW
Barney (NMI) Lipkin	Left Waist Gunner	POW
Walter J. Collyer	Tail Gunner	POW
Elmer E. Bockman	Command Pilot	KIA

July 19, 1945 Alliance, Ohio

Mrs. Baber,

I have been wanting to write to you for a long time. As you know, it would be hard for a boy who has been with your son for a long time to tell his mother that there is not much hope for him.

As you know he was my pilot, and as far as I know he was the cause of us getting out of the plane, he held it under control long enough for at least a few to get out.

It was about 5:00 Aug. 2, we were going over the front line near Caen, France, 20,000 ft. Your Son was on his 27th mission. When we started we were so sure of getting back. Our plane was hit vory hard and started to spinn then it flew straight for at least a minute, I was the first one out. I was captured the minute I hit the ground. I ask the German's how many parachutes came out of the ship. They told me three then it blew up. Mrs. Baber I do want you to know what happened to your Son. As you know the Government does not tell you very much. Most of our crew finished up and went home, but I would not fly with any other pilot, and we were going to finish up together.

That is about the end of the story the other two fellows that got out met with me about 10 minutes after it happened. We were in the same prison camp. One of the fellows in our crew that finished up back in August was going to stop and see you, but he must of forgot to because he never stopped to tell my parents anything.

Mrs. Baber if there is anything more I can tell you will you let me know. I sure hate to tell anyone, I do not even talk about the accident anymore. But if there is any thing I can do or tell you, write will you.

Sincerely yours, /s/ Don Phillips

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

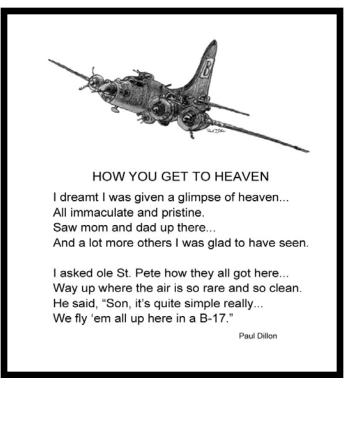
Joe W. Blagg Roger Carlsen S/Sgt Eugene Darter Myron Doxon John E. Funck Charlie Gallagher Adam & Annie Hinojos Harry Hull's Grandson Robert G. Johnson Billie Bob Layl Harold Lippert Matt & Elena McEntee Dave & Grace McKnight Raymond Olsen Guillermo "Bill" Vasquez Lou Westerburg

In Honor Of

Jack Bertram Charlie Besser Frank P. Hawk Harry Hull

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"



LEFT FORMATION

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

Name			Unit	Position	Date of Death
Charles	A.	Besser	335	Pilot	June 16, 2016
Abraham	A.	Bodenstein	335	Ball Turret	June 21, 2016
Roger	Α.	Carlsen	336	Radio Operator	July 28, 2016
Frank	R.	Dean	335	Co-Pilot	September 3, 2016
Robert	W.	Dillon	335	Pilot	October 17, 2016
James (Jin	n)L.	Fournier	334	Bombardier	July 22, 2016
Arthur	E.	Galchutt	334	Ball Turret	October 15, 2015
George	R.	Holm		Waist Gunner	February 5, 2016
Neal	L.	Jacobson	335	Operations	September 18, 2016
John	J.	Layden	336	Pilot	June 7, 2016
William	C.	Lindley	412	Pilot	August 4, 2016
Arden	L.	Quesinberry	336	Togglier	October 22, 2016
Gerald	C.	Schlichenmayer	412	Ball Turret	September 2, 2016



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

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

The 95th Legacy Squadron: Building a legacy for the future

"Like the man with the legacy of the carob trees, when asked when would it bear fruit. It was planted like the trees of his father; they were planted so his children and grandchildren would be able to eat the fruit of these trees." Nina Rothman shared with us this Jewish folktale and it truly describes why The Legacy Squadron was established (*The 95th Newsletter, February 2013, page 5*). It was established as a planned giving program to give you the opportunity to remember and honor our heroes by providing our 95th family the ability to maintain memorials established in the United States and to build a legacy for future generations.

We created "A Very Special Tree" in The Memorial Room in Tucson, AZ. We now have a place in the U.S. that provides the story of these valiant men of the 95th in a way that is not only personal, but a living history we can all access, especially for future generations. It embraces our objective and purpose to educate the public regarding the history of the 95th Bomb Group and its role in the air campaign over central Europe during WWII. It remains a place of honor, an appropriate recognition of all members of the 95th Bomb Group and a place of reverence for those who gave up their lives as they valiantly fought to free the world from a tyrannical dictator.

The 95th Legacy Squadron provides a way for the development, maintenance, and operation of the 95th Bomb Group Veterans Association's Memorials. These include, but are not limited to, the U.S. Air Force Academy – Colorado Springs, CO; the National Museum of the USAF, Wright-Patterson AFB – Dayton, OH; the Ring of Eight in St Mary's Church – Horham, England (maintenance is now covered by the 95th Heritage Association – Horham, England); the Arlington National Cemetery – Arlington, VA; the Memorial Room in the 390th BG Memorial Museum, Pima County Air & Space Museum – Tucson, AZ; and the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum – Pooler, GA. Other activities include maintaining our web site as well as developing enhancements to it.

Planned giving can be as simple as giving a one-time donation or bequeathing a dollar amount or percentage of your estate to the 95th BGMF in your will. This will ensure that others will know of your commitment to the 95th and will help encourage others to participate too!

We have an opportunity to continue the planting of "Very Special Trees" or simply put, continue building a legacy for future generations! A legacy where our 95th heroes will never be forgotten! We believe that these endeavors are important today and even more important for future generations. By remembering the 95th in our estate or giving donation/ donations, we build such a legacy that flourishes! Like a "Special Tree" that grows strong, the 95th Bomb Group will be remembered and enjoyed far into the future. Plus it's a 5013c corporation so it is tax deductible.

Rosie Livesay Proud daughter of: SSgt Guillermo "Bill" A Vasquez Waist Gunner, 412th Bomb Squadron



Thank You Mission Tucson Donors!

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95th Bomb Group Heritage Association 390th Memorial Museum Communication Arts Multimedia, Inc. DCI Management FedEx Great Projections Inc.

– Donor list continued on next page –

Thanks to You, Mission Accomplished!

We all know that every successful mission is dependent on the group effort – large and small, every contribution makes a difference in the outcome. When we first realized what Mission Tucson was going to involve, it seemed a daunting task. But in true 95th form, when the word went out, over 200 of our members and friends answered the call.

Like any other mission, Mission Tucson had many underpinnings. The lead crews gave us direction, the ground crew gave us confidence, and the aircrews flew a tight formation straight to our target of \$500,000. Happily we can say, "Mission Accomplished!" Thank you!

As co-chairs of the Mission Tucson Committee, we would also like to thank the Mission Tucson team who gave countless hours in running this campaign: Mike Darter, Nancy Freemantle, Toby Mumford, Michele Slade, and Nancy McK Smith. It has been a privilege and a joy to work together in rededicating the 95th Bomb Group Memorial Room, and establishing an endowment for taking care of all our memorials.



Margaret Blagg & Janie McKnight

Our project partners all went above and beyond the call of duty! These

include the 95th BG Heritage Association, the 390th Memorial Museum, Communications Arts Multimedia, Inc., DCI Management, FedEX, and Great Projections Inc.

A special thanks goes to Rod Hupp, whose countless hours of creating a searchable database is now a reality in the museum and on our website.

Margaret Blagg & Janie McKnight

Thank You Mission Tucson Donors!

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Dr. Walter Powell In loving memory of Paul R. Baird **Charles and Margaret Price** Thomas Pyra Gary Quinlan Karen S. Redding In loving memory of Col. Harry W. Redding Red Feather Club (US Reunions) Linda Renfro In honor or Jack Bertram Harold J. Rensch Frances Roberts In loving memory of Donald R. Roberts, Lt. Col. Ronald W. Robinson Wanda Rodgers Bob and Beth Rosenzweig In memory of Fred Rosenzweig Irv and Nina Rothman In memory of Irv Rothman The Harry P. Aslagson Family Ianie and Russ McKnight Brad Petrella The Ben Roujansky Family David Saffer Phil Samponaro In memory of Allen E. Snyder Antonio Savoca Phil Schasker Peggy and Jay Schatz Carol and Dwight Schultz In loving memory of Carl Voss Dan Sergi John K. Smith Melvin and Dena Spencer **Richard Spork** In memory of Barbara Spork (Starns) and the Leo G. Hammy crew Janelle Sterling Larry Stevens Mike Stevens In memory of Leonard Styczynski Maynard "Dick" Stewart Jim Stirwalt and Allan Stirwalt In memory of Capt. Harry A. Stirwalt, USAF Susan Strickland Chris Striebich J. Nadean Thornhill Linda Jo and Neil Tillman In loving memory of Linda's father, Ross Earl "Bud" Garletts Barbara W. Trent In loving memory of Leo E. Whalen Joe R. Urice Mary and William "Dub" Vandegriff Larry and Pennie Walker In loving memory of Keith Murray John C. Walter The Family and Friends of Louis R. Westerburg Dick Westerburg Dottie Mattina Pam Westerburg Trey Westerburg Afton Westerburg Moore Cory Moore Andy Moore Kyle Mattina Kevin Mattina Cody Mattina Mindy Jones **Rick Holiman** Max E. Wilson In honor of the Wilson crew Rollie C. Wilson Becky Wright Donna Wright Edward H. Yursky

YOUTOO: From our Members & Facebook Friends

From Robbe Meers

9 October 1943, on a bombing mission to Marienburg, Germany, B-17F, tail number 230377, nicknamed *Rodger the Lodger II* did not return from that mission. Today, 73 years later, we remember S/ Sgt James Ralph Anderson, 412th Bomb Squadron, 95th Bomb Group (Heavy) who was the tail gunner on this B-17F. So we went to the Netherlands American Cemetery and memorial today where I adopted the name of James Ralph Anderson. R.I.P. James.

From Donna Ruhling Bonning

I've been poring over old wartime newspapers saved by Lt. Leonard B. Fuller's parents. Leonard was a fighter pilot who was killed in action on 7 July 1944. The newspapers back then were loaded with notices and ads dealing with the War. This little tidbit for saving scrap rubber was interesting. I now know how many old tires it takes to outfit a Flying Fortress.

From Candy Michael

It was a wonderful reunion. Thank you to all who worked hard to make this happen! It was great to see my dad, Larry Stevens, and mom, Henrietta, visiting with longtime friend and fellow crew member Leo Makelky. Many new friendships were made and many new stories were told. We look forward to next year! Thanks to this reunion, our families reunited as though we were never apart.

From Tony 95th Bomb Group Hospital Museum

We at the 95th Hospital Museum will be celebrating our 20th year open to the public in 2017.

Four years ago, we added a small tea room. This has been the best thing we have done to boost funds - I have never made so many cups of tea in my life!

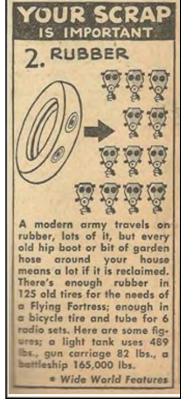
In 2016 we appeared on a TV programme called *Salvage Hunters* which is shown all over the UK, Europe, and Canada (not sure about the USA). Many people who have seen us on TV have called to book a visit – even some from Holland and France.

In August 2016, we hired out the Museum to a film company; this brought in some money to help with maintenance.

Early in 2017 we plan to have the whole outside of the buildings decorated.



Tony and Val Albrow and friends outside the 95th BG Hospital Museum.



YOUTOO: From our Members & Facebook Friends

France Honors Leo Makelky

Leo Makelky was front-page news in the Minot (ND) Daily News recently, after receiving the *Knight of the Legion of Honor* award from the French government. A letter from Vincent Floreani, the consul general of France, read:

"It is a great honor to present you with the Knight of the Legion of Honor medal. Through this award, the French government pays tribute to the soldiers who did so much for France and Western Europe. 70 years ago, you gave your youth to France and the French people. Many of your fellow soldiers did not return but they remain in our hearts. Thanks to your courage and to our American friends and allies, France and Europe have been living in peace for the past seven decades. You saved us. We will never forget. For us, the French people, you are a hero. Gratitude and remembrance are forever in our souls."



Leo Makelky and Family



The Legion of Honor award was created by Napoleon, and is the highest honor that France bestows on persons who have done remarkable deeds for France.

"This is the ultimate medal to give to a soldier in France," remarked Makelky. "The medal will go to all living GIs that had anything to do with World War II in France."

Makelky flew 35 missions as a ball turret gunner with the 95th Bomb Group, and 14 of them were over France. Most of his missions were in the B-17 named "Full House." He and fellow crew member Larry Stevens have kept in touch over the years. They are the only living crew of "Full House," and both attended the Tucson reunion last month.

www.facebook.com/groups/95thBG/

Where the 95th story continues to be told

YOUTOO: From our Members & Facebook Friends

THANK YOU JANIE MCKNIGHT FOR YOUR DEDICATION

A perfectly worded thank-you to my predecessor, Janie McKnight, as Editor of the 95th Newsletter, by John Mollison. He covers all of our sentiments and gratitude for her hard work.

Janie,

Thank you for all you have done with the newsletter. It's a tremendous amount of work and is received gratefully by the hundreds of 95^{th} members who cherish every word printed in each one. I thank you for your caring spirit and your gracious ways – a real pro in every sense of the word.



Janie McKnight passes the baton to Peggy Cozens

A Comedy of Errors By James T. Hammond (Facebook – December 25, 2015)

Daniel Melvin's post about the mission on Christmas Day, 1944, reminded me of the account for my dad's crew for the same mission. (Tom Hammond was the co-pilot on the crew of Vic Radke, mentioned in Daniel's post.)

Mission No. 33: Christmas Day Over Germany There was no let-up on Monday, December 25 – Christmas Day. A 6:45-hour flight to Badmunster turned into a comedy of errors.

The target of the 95th was a rail bridge. The day's orders sent numerous small flights of Fortresses against communications centers and rail bridges west of the Rhine. Allied troops were approaching the Rhine and beginning to probe the German homeland.

"Clear target. Primary not hit," Vic wrote in his log book.

"We were flying a brand-new airplane," Scotty (Scott Alexander, the navigator) said. The weather had cleared enough to launch a mission, but not enough to guarantee clear skies for all of the dozens of targets marked on mission maps. Vic's crew arrived over Germany to find a massive cloud formation blocking their path to their target. Vic put the new airplane with its powerful new engines into a steep climb to clear the obstacle and find their primary target. Others in the formation could not keep up as he pushed it above 32,000 feet. Bomb-laden B-17s usually were limited to about 27,000 feet. When Vic pushed the plane over the top of the cloud formation into clear air, the crew found they were all alone. The new plane had left its formation behind.

"So, we said, bomb something. We picked out a village with railroad tracks and bombed the rail yard," Scotty said. The Operations Officer's report stated that due to a bombing malfunction in the lead aircraft, the formation became disorganized and only seven aircraft were over the target. All 11 aircraft, however, were in the target area, and were credited with sorties. Lt. Donald Van Patten, the lead navigator, said in his report that when he opened the bomb bay doors, the bombs fell out. Vic's report stated that once the lead navigator's bombs fell out prematurely, the formation broke up, "and I was alone in the elements," he wrote. They observed their combination of high explosive and magnesium fire bombs hitting a highway instead of the railroad targets.



95TH BG Reunion April 20th–26th 2017 HORHAM, England

Intro by Gerald

Next April 20th to 26th, our Horham friends with the 95th BG Heritage Association will be conducting their annual reunion. If you've never been to one, let me strongly encourage you to try to find a way to make one of these events soon. You'll not return to the States without a bushel of memories and a new appreciation for what our precious veterans experienced—the love of our British cousins for our men and women is just as strong as ever. I guarantee you'll be touched in ways you can't imagine!

Thursday 20th April 2017: Pick-up from Premier Inn, Bath Road, London (LHR). Travel to Madingley U.S. Cemetery and on to Café for lunch, onward travel to Park Hotel, Diss, or host families.

Friday 21st **April 2017**: Leisure day. For those staying at the Park Hotel, we can supply train timetables and places to visit in the area, if they wish. Welcome Evening at Red Feather Club.

Saturday 22nd April 2017: Local Jeep Run (Jeep volunteers' dependant). Afternoon at club. Dance.

Sunday 23rd April 2017: Church service. Lunch. Afternoon tea.

Monday 24th April 2017: Trip to Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse, Norfolk. Evening Meal on way home (Country Pub).

<u>**Tuesday 25th April 2017:**</u> Coastal trip (weather permitting). Farewell get-together at Red Feather Club.

Wednesday 26th April 2017: Return home.

For more information email Beverley Abbott beverley1960@hotmail.co.uk





8th Air Force

13th Combat Wing

95th

Bomb Group



334th Squadron



Squadron



336th

Squadron



412th Squadron

19

Membership in the 95th – A Generational Imperative

from John Mollison

The 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation exists because the veterans of the 95th chose, along with their wives, to keep alive the camaraderie born of their combat experience and to honor the sacrifice of their brothers-in-arms. They built the 95th from the ground up, gathered year after year for reunions, established memorials to honor their missing crew mates, and built a tradition of honor they passed on to their children. This LEGACY evolved into the 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation and that mantle and mission has been carried forward by many of us—their direct descendants.

We are approaching another milestone in the history of the 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation. The first-generation LEGACY members of the 95th are now reaching a point in our lives where we are nearing the age of our parents when they began the discussion of passing on the Foundation to us.

So, what are we to do? Do we let decades of hard work on the part of our veterans, and now us, slide slowly into history or do we, as did our parents before us, begin the process of the generational transfer of the Foundation LEGACY?

We have a challenge in front of us. Are we up to the task of recruiting the next generation who will care for the memory of their grandfathers and great-grandfathers and to educate future generations of Americans about the tremendous contribution and sacrifice made by the heroic men of the 95th?

Now is the time to engage the second-generation LEGACY members in a convincing dialogue that will lead to their active involvement with the 95th so that in a few years we will have built the next generation of leadership and support for the Foundation.

One of the first and easiest ways to do this will be to give, as a gift, membership in the association. We need to take them to a reunion, engage their curiosity, provide both intrinsic and material value for membership, and mentor them to be ready to step up to their generation's challenge.

The gift of membership will be the easy part—the work will be in getting them involved as active members in the 95th. We need to help them "Catch the Magic" of the 95th. If they can get to England, to the 95th Memorial Room at Tucson, or to one of the reunions, it will be a first step for them.

Let's take our first step now and begin talking to our children and their children about the men and mission of the 95th and take them to the next reunion. We need to help them "have some skin in the game" by giving them the opportunity to share what they know about the exploits of their "Greatest Generation" ancestor with the membership of the 95th. Perhaps we have a session at a reunion where the grandchildren can talk about what they have learned about their grandfather. Help them to develop pride in the accomplishments of their family. That same DNA that led their grandfathers and great-grandfathers to step up to something greater than themselves has been passed on to them—let's lead them on the journey to find it!

If you have ideas or suggestions to help in the generational transfer, please pass them on to a board member or just email them to <u>membership@95thbg.org</u> and we'll get them to the board of directors.

Membership Application/Ren	ewal Form	Gift Membership			
 Veteran Widow Relative Friend of 95th 		First	MI Last		
Name of Veteran Related to: Veteran's Unit		Address			
First MI Last		City	State Postal Code		
Address		Phone	Email Address		
City State	Postal Code				
		Gift Membershi	<u>a</u>		
Phone Email Address		First	MI Last		
Membership Options I am a Lifetim Individual/Gift \$25.00 Household/G		Address			
Individual or Household Total	\$	City	State Postal Code		
Individual or Household Gift Total NOTE: Add Name and Address for gift recipient/s	\$	Phone	Email Address		
Donation* to Support the 95 th Foundat *Donation is Tax Deductible to the extent allowed by law.	tion				
In Loving Memory (List names here and in ne	ext column)	In Loving Memo	ory (Cont.)		
In Honor Of: (List names here and in next colu	mn)				
	\$				
Donation to Support the 95 th BGMF \$		In Honor Of: (Co	ont.)		
Total Membership/Donation \$			in online through 🦻 PayPal :		
<u>Make Checks Payable To:</u> 95 th Bomb Group Memorials Foundatio	on	choose	95thbg.org, click on About Us, your membership level,		
Mail to: Nancy Freemantle, Treasu PO Box 6154 Eureka, CA 95502	rer		d click on Subscribe . easy, secure, and fast.		



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

Shop the



8th Air Force - Horham Patches



95th BG Squadron Patches



Red Feather Crest





Notecards



Small Rectangular B-17 Patch



95th Sticker

95th Mug



Lined Nylon Shell with Square B



95th Full Zip Fleece



Red Feather Crest Pin



Canvas Low Profile Hat



Black & White Summer Mesh Hat



95th T-shirt



Original Red Feather Shield Pin



Red Feather

Pin

Canvas Low Profile Hat



5" x 8" Notepads



Polar Fleece Jacket with **Red Feather Shield**



Polo Shirt (Men's & Women's)



Hooded Sweatshirt

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	\$5				
	Small rectangular B-17 patch	\$6				
	Pins: Circle your choice: Red Feather Crest Original Red Feather Shield Red Feather B-17	\$10				
	"You Can Make It, Friend" 10-pack notecards with envelopes	\$10				
	Coffee Mug with 95th Crest	\$10				
	Square B black & white summer mesh hat	\$20				
	Canvas low profile hat:Circle your choice:Pink with B-17Olive with Square BKhaki with Square BBlack with B-17Khaki with B-17	\$20				
	95th Bomb Group window sticker	\$5				
	95th Bomb Group Notepads (package of 5)	\$20				
	Men's hooded sweatshirt (with Square B and B-17) Circle your choice: L XL XXL	\$35				
	Men's crew neck sweatshirt (with Square B and B-17) ** Circle your choice: S M L XL XXL	\$25				
	Polo Shirt Circle your choices: Men's S M L XL XXL XXXL Gray Navy Burgundy Women's S M L XL XXL Teal Pink Yellow Blue Lavender					
	Men's Polar Fleece Jacket Circle your choices: S M L XL XXL Polar fleece w/Red Feather shield Nylon shell & polar fleece lined w/Square B					
	Navy T-shirt (95th Crest with US and UK Flags) Circle your choices: S M L XL XXL Men's Women's Youth					
	Square B/B-17 Unisex t-shirts (gray) ** S M L XL XXL	\$15				
	Unisex black full zip sweatshirt S M L XL XXL	\$40				
		TOTAL				

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

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

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

Make checks payable to 95th BG Memorials Foundation

Free Shipping in USA!



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

Give them a gift of the 95th Legacy

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 on page 21 and mail with your check to: Nancy Freemantle, Treasurer P.O. Box 6154 Eureka, CA 95502

