



# 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.

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“Justice with Victory”



*Words by Gerald Grove/Photos by Laney Balthazar*

Our just-completed 2017 reunion in New Orleans certainly had a variety of events ... including the weather threat of a hurricane named Nate! Thankfully, in the New Orleans area, Nate did not materialize into the serious hurricane threat that the national media portrayed. We were able to enjoy the company and comments of 95<sup>th</sup> BG veterans Ray Hobbs, Elmer “Lucky” McGinty, and John Walter during the Fireside Chats on Thursday and Friday night, as well as informal conversations held at the Red Feather Club (RFC). Our PX, co-located with the RFC, did brisk business throughout the reunion. Ann Steward, a guest from the UK who manages “The Friendly Invasion” initiative among hotels, restaurants, WW2 airfields, and sight-seeing locations in the East

Anglia area, spoke briefly and shared touching videos with our group, as well.

The intrepid 95<sup>th</sup> BG Memorials Foundation reunion fought through the weather adversity, though, with a fun-loving time had by all in attendance! The Crowne Plaza New Orleans—Airport was a gracious host in the face of the hurricane threat, allowing many of us to arrive early and stay late. The planned itinerary, which included a “meet and greet” on Thursday evening, visits to the French Quarter (Friday), the National WW2 Museum (Saturday), and our dinner-dance (Saturday night), went off without a hitch due to the planning and hard work of your Reunion Committee, led by Vanna Walker.

*(cont. next page)*

The Fireside Chats were a wonderful mix of our 95<sup>th</sup> BG veterans recalling memories of their service in WW2; our 95<sup>th</sup> BG Belgian friends, Luc Zaman and Marleen Piot, sharing a presentation honoring the memory of our servicemen; a brief presentation and videos from Ann Steward, UK, of “The Friendly Invasion”; a panel discussion; and a presentation from this past Memorial Day by John Walter. The panel discussion brought

together 95<sup>th</sup> BG veterans Ray Hobbs and, in both a fitting and bittersweet tribute, the pre-recorded voice of the late Ben Roujansky, Foundation members Nancy McKnight Smith, Phil Samponaro, and Gerald Grove. The theme of the panel was “Defining the 95<sup>th</sup>.”  
*(cont. next page)*



John Walter with Emily & MJ Lippert at Fireside Chat



Veteran Ray Hobbs at Fireside Chat



Veteran “Lucky” McGinty at Fireside Chat



Sandy Scott, Laney Balthazar & JoAnn Hinojos



Ann Steward, UK, talking about “The Friendly Invasion”



US-UK conversations back row: Mike & Mason Standard, Veteran “Lucky” McGinty, Front: Marleen Piot, Veteran Ray Hobbs, Luc Zaman, & Darren Smith

The Saturday morning Memorial Service was an incredibly touching celebration of life, as always; words simply cannot express the sentiment and emotion that accompany our reunions. The memory of the 95<sup>th</sup> 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 ... 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. *(cont. next page)*



Veterans “Lucky” McGinty, Ray Hobbs & John Walter carrying the Missing Man Flag



Our new President, Toby Mumford



Kayo Aslagson



Michael Dillon & Dan Melvin



Deb Roberts & Nancy McKnight Smith



Ninett Clegg, Rita Clegg & Marcia Moyer

The uniqueness of New Orleans provided for a fabulous transition from the solemn Memorial Service to the boarding of the buses for the National WW2 Museum—a traditional Dixieland jazz band ushered us out of our

hotel meeting room to the buses; but not without the effervescent Mrs. M.J. Lippert having an opportunity to dance with our 95<sup>th</sup> BG veterans to the musical ensemble!  
*(cont. next page)*



Chlorine Dodds, Patty Gardner, & Patrice Basham



Nancy Freemantle, David & Rosie Livesay



Harry Aslagson, 95th BG, feet L to R, Nadine Moeller, Jody Thompson & Kayo Aslagson



My Gal Sal, B-17 at the National WWII Museum



Becky Grove & James Mutton



Veteran John Walter dancing with MJ Lippert to the sounds of the live Dixieland Band

The weather situation did impact our reunion a bit. Our friends from the 912<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing were not able to join us, the Coast Guard cancelled water-borne events in the New Orleans area for Sunday, and a few of our attendees were compelled to leave a day or two early.

Since Nate disrupted the originally planned river cruise and jazz brunch aboard the Riverboat Natchez, reunion

attendees spread out in small groups and individually to experience additional sites in the New Orleans area; a few of those improvised visits included plantation tours, Swamp Airboat tours, trolley car riding, Hop On–Hop Off tours, and just general tourist sight-seeing. Local restaurants were kept busy with small groups trying out a variety of the local cuisine!



Beignets and more Beignets at Cafe du Monde



Bob & Michele Slade being New Orleans



Vanna Walker & Michele Slade Reunion Pros



Dottie & Kyle Mattina showing us all how to do it



WWII museum, Grandson of Veteran William J. Middleton, Bill Middleton, Ronald & Juliane Jilinski, Marjorie & Todd Gunvalson



Shanna Moran & Trevor Money

# Notes from the President



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

Our THANKS to all the intrepid folks who faced the weather uncertainty of Hurricane Nate, making our 2017 reunion of the 95<sup>th</sup> BG Memorials Foundation in New Orleans, LA, a most unique event! Although Nate did impact the reunion a bit (the Coast Guard nixed the Riverboat Natchez Jazz Brunch cruise on Sunday), this reunion brought together our “extended family” where

we enjoyed recollections of our attending 95<sup>th</sup> BG veterans – Ray Hobbs, Elmer “Lucky” McGinty, and John Walter; the National WW2 Museum; our Memorial Service to the 95<sup>th</sup> BG; the Fireside Chats; the Red Feather Club; the PX; our Dinner–Dance; the French Quarter; and general sight-seeing in the New Orleans area.

Our 95<sup>th</sup> BG Memorials Foundation’s Reunion Committee, led by Vanna Walker, will be performing their due diligence in the coming weeks as they begin preparations for a Philadelphia, PA area reunion in 2018. It is likely we’ll target a calendar schedule similar to that of our just-past reunion in New Orleans. We hope to see many of you at next year’s reunion!

Changes were made to the 95<sup>th</sup> BG Memorials Foundation Board of Directors as the reunion ended. Incoming officers include H. Griffin “Toby” Mumford (president), Phil Samponaro (vice president), and Becky Wright (secretary). Nancy Freemantle has graciously agreed to remain as treasurer during this coming year, as the Nominating Committee looks to the membership for a new treasurer. In addition to these officers, the Board

now consists of Ann Cook, Dan Dodds, Linda Endris, David Livesay, Allan Moller, Beth Rosenzweig, Nina Rothman, Jody Thompson, Vanna Walker, and Dick Westerburg. The Memorials Foundation counts on its extended family’s involvement and commitment to the legacy of our 95<sup>th</sup> BG veterans. The continuing evolution of our Board of Directors is very important to that future. A particular focus in these immediate years will be more involvement from the “Next, Next Generation”—the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of these veterans to whom we owe so much.

I believe I can speak for outgoing vice president, Mike Darter, and long-time secretary (10 years!) Rosie Livesay by simply telling each of you what a humbling and incredible honor it has been to serve the 95<sup>th</sup> BG veterans, their legacy, and this membership. The Foundation’s mission is straightforward and clear: honor the legacy of the 95<sup>th</sup> BG veterans, educate the public of the service and sacrifice of these then-young men in WW2, and oversee the official Memorials of the Foundation. Thank you for having given us that opportunity!

There are many opportunities within the 95<sup>th</sup> BG Memorials Foundation to serve and honor the legacy of our 95<sup>th</sup> BG veterans. Please consider volunteering as a member of one of our several Foundation Committees or Affiliates and/or becoming part of our governing Board of Directors. Just go to our website (<http://95thbg.org/j3migr/>), click on the “About Us” tab, select “Contact Us” from the dropdown, and reach out to any Committee chairperson or Board member to express your interest. Or contact us directly via email at [president@95thbg.org](mailto:president@95thbg.org) to discuss the Memorials Foundation. Here’s to our future and that of the 13<sup>th</sup> Combat Bombardment Wing!

*Justice – Honor – Victory*

*Gerald*

# You Too: From our Members & Facebook Friends

## A message from Christopher Walsh, son of 412th co-pilot Ken Walsh.

“My father, Kenneth B. Walsh (1922–1980), was in the 95th stationed in Horham in 1944–45. Later he became an artist and founded a successful commercial art business in New York City. Still later he began to paint in Montauk, at the eastern tip of Long Island, and built a house and lived there until his death. After years of planning and effort, I finally gathered a lot of his work, held two exhibitions this spring/summer, and created a book of his work and website. The site is [KennethBWalshArt.com](http://KennethBWalshArt.com).

“The website includes a gallery of his work, as well as the essays that appear in the associated book, which is offered via the site. The essays by myself and my brother Jonathan will provide a lot of biographical information. Jonathan’s essay in particular includes wonderful insight into our father’s military service.”

For more information, there is a meaningful article about this 412th co-pilot and artist Ken Walsh by his son Christopher, recently published in the East Hampton [NY] Star.

To read it and see more of his art, go to: <http://east.easthamptonstar.com/170525/prodigal-father>



## Changes to the 95<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Heritage Association and Red Feather Club Museum in Horham, England

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you of recent events at the 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association and Red Feather Club Museum.

Chairman James Mutton has resigned for personal reasons and his resignation has been accepted by the committee. The committee thanked him for his years of work and awarded him an honorary life membership in the association in recognition. A revamped committee has now taken over the task of operating the Red Feather Club with seven members each taking on different aspects: Reg Bradley, buildings maintenance; Alan Johnson, grounds maintenance; Gary Lamoureux, bar and PX liaison; Alan Roper, Beverley Abbott, and Linda Woodward, administration; and Quentin Brundle, museum.

We realize these changes may come as a surprise but we would like to reassure you all that we continue to be dedicated to preserving and promoting the history and heritage of Horham Airfield and the 95th Bomb Group and honoring those who served.

# You Too: From our Members & Facebook Friends

## Search for Eugene Goes On

By Michael Darter

I thought that the publication of the second edition of my book "Gone With The Wind, He Said" in 2014 would end my long search to find my brother S/Sgt. Eugene Darter. He was last seen severely wounded being pulled out into the Wadden Sea near Texel Island by his parachute in a fierce storm by a 17-year-old young Dutch man named Cornelius Ellen. How naive was that thought! Two major events occurred this year that have opened up two other leads in this very old cold case investigation.

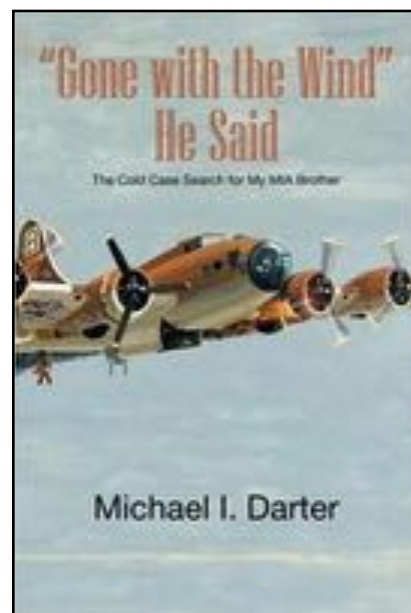
When we were at Cambridge American Cemetery this April, the Superintendent told me that the U.S. government had changed their policy 180 degrees and were now exhuming "Unknown" U.S. grave sites there and at some other American ABMC cemeteries around the world. This was a total shock to me, as in the past it took months of intense pressure and much more to get the government to exhume a grave site like this (think impossible). The remains of the "unknowns" are then sent to a U.S. laboratory for DNA and other identification and then a search is made for family members (they have my DNA). Although I have searched through all of the known X-files for "unknowns" buried in the U.K. or the Netherlands American Cemeteries, a mix-up of remains could have easily occurred and there are several stories of this happening. X-files are often incomplete in their

description of where the "unknown" was found and the details of the remains (but if you want to increase your appreciation of what our service men and women went through, just read a few X-files about how they died).

The other event that occurred was on Texel Island in early May where a dear friend of mine, Hans Eelman, kindly contacted the Dutch Maritime Police and told them the story of what happened on December 16, 1943. They became very interested. They came to my hotel, took my DNA, and entered it into their large database of "unknowns" in Northern Holland, but sadly there was no match. But, the lead investigator John Welzenbagh took this "very cold case" personally and has been actively searching cemetery records (around the Wadden Sea and North Sea areas) for any "unknowns" that may have washed up on the shores, or that were picked up up by fishing boats or Nazi patrol boats and buried in local cemeteries. Others are helping him. Obviously, this is another very long shot, but there have been amazing recoveries before, they are still going on, and the technology is there to obtain usable DNA from 75-year-old remains. So who knows, someday a call may come asking if I know of a S/Sgt. Eugene F. Darter, 95<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, who is now ready to come home at last!



S/Sgt. Eugene F. Darter



Mike's book about his MIA brother



# You Too: From our Members & Facebook Friends

## Can you Identify Any of the Men Named Below?

**Posted by Tim Pitts:**

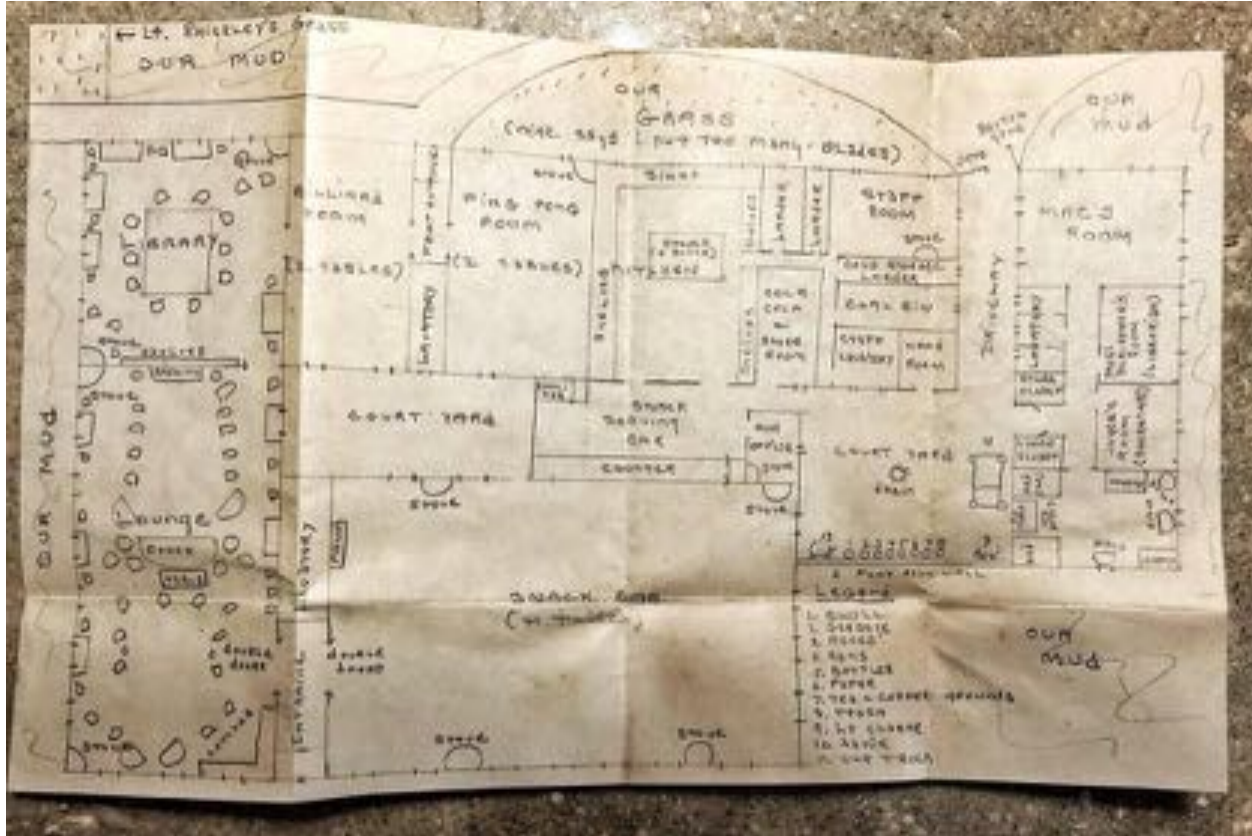
My mother, Fitje Pitts, served with the Red Cross attached to the 95<sup>th</sup>, from July to November 1943. On October 6, 1943 she wrote a letter to her parents. This passage from that letter is particularly interesting:

“I wish I could describe some of the men to you. Freddy, for example, a very young, very nervous little gunner borrows Jean’s [Plageman] St. Christopher every time he goes on a mission; & Ralph, a bottom turret gunner who is terrified that everyone will bail out and forget to tell him as he can’t see what is going on; Lucky, a gunner who has had two brothers killed in the war & thinks it is quite a paradox that two years ago he was teaching Sunday school; Ralph & Scottie who have been together in 24 different outfits & are now top & bottom turret gunner on the same plane & arrange it so one never goes without the other; Cyclone, a tail gunner who is growing his beard so his face won’t freeze; etc.”

I am looking for anyone who might have been there at the time who can identify any of the men mentioned in her letter. please email to [editor@95thbg.org](mailto:editor@95thbg.org).

**Also Posted by Tim Pitts:**

In early July 1943, my mother, Fitje Pitts, who was with the Red Cross, was assigned to the 95th Bomb Group at Horham. The director was Jean Plageman. They opened and ran the base Red Cross Club. My mother stayed with the group until being reassigned to IX Bomber Command in November. On September 13, 1943, she enclosed this drawing of the club, and environs, in a letter to her parents.



# You Too: From our Members & Facebook Friends

## Our Very Own Amazing Grace Hammesfahr turns 90!

Grace has given so much to the 95th BG over the years. Below are just a few of her contributions:

- Grace was the only “civilian” to serve on the 95th BG Veterans Association Board when she took Dave Dorsey’s place as treasurer.
- She was the first treasurer of the 95th BG Memorials Foundation, and served in that position for 10 years. She was also the de facto membership chair during this time, responding to every piece of correspondence with a handwritten reply.
- She compiled an extensive survey from the veterans.
- She is the administrator of the bricks at Wright Patterson.
- After the death of Ron Webb, she was in charge of the PX.
- She was an early advocate for supporting the initial efforts of the 95th BG Heritage Association.
- She serves as the liaison officer for the 95th BG Heritage Association and distributes their newsletters to U.S. members.
- She’s a mover and a shaker, and a lover of all things 95th, especially her brother David T. McKnight!
- She is the one and only amazing Grace!



A young Grace



Grace sharing something important to the 95th



Margaret Blagg with Grace at Horham ready for a jeep ride



8th  
Air Force



13th  
Combat Wing



95th  
Bomb Group



334th  
Squadron



335th  
Squadron



336th  
Squadron



412th  
Squadron

# 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

Bud Acklen  
Harry & Margaret Aslagson  
Col. Ed Burnham  
Bob & Pat Cozens  
S/Sgt. Eugene F. Darter (MIA)  
Fred Delbern (MIA)  
Col. Robert W. Dillon  
Myron Doxon  
Dick Ennis  
Charlie Gallagher  
Adam & Annie Hinojos  
Captain Billy Bob Layl  
Harold Lippert  
M.H. “Mac” Makarawicz  
Captain Dan Mangan  
Joe Mattina  
Dave & Grace McKnight  
Leonard (Mac) & Helen McReynolds  
William J. Middleton (Co-Pilot)  
Don Neff (MIA)  
W.O. Noble  
Raymond M. Olsen  
Joseph Ray Perry  
Rongstad Crew  
Benjamin “Rojo” Roujansky  
Jean Sherman  
William “Dub” Vandegriff  
Guillermo “Bill” A. Vasquez  
Art Watson  
Lou Westerburg

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

*“We will remember them”*

## In Honor Of

Veterans of the 95th Bomb Group  
Jack Bertram  
Frank P. Hawk  
Raymond M. Hobbs  
Harry Hull  
Ed Yursky



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



# LEFT FORMATION

Harvey	G.	Cox	334 <sup>th</sup>	Co-Pilot	November 13, 2017
Dean	L.	Fenimore	334 <sup>th</sup>	Armorer	July 21, 2017
Richard "Frank"	F.	Knox	95 <sup>th</sup>	Communications	July 13, 2017
Thomas "Tom"	J.	Landwehr	335 <sup>th</sup>	Navigator	October 28, 2017
Benjamin "Ben"		Roujansky	336 <sup>th</sup>	Radio Operator	September 30, 2017
George	L.	Rudloff	334 <sup>th</sup>	Co-Pilot	July 10, 2017
Ralph	P.	Sloane	334 <sup>th</sup>	Pilot	November 16, 2015
Eugene	C.	Slusher	412 <sup>th</sup>	Co-Pilot	January 15, 2016
John	K.	Smith	334 <sup>th</sup>	Bombardier	May 14, 2017
Roy	E.	Squyres	412 <sup>th</sup>	Pilot	July 24, 2017
Gilbert	R.	Van Brocklin, Jr.	335 <sup>th</sup>	Bombardier	May 1, 2017
William "Dub"	M.	Vandegriff	412 <sup>th</sup>	Radio Operator	June 25, 2017
William	J.	Conner	334 <sup>th</sup>	Co-Pilot	October 26, 2017
Richard	A.	Fischette	336 <sup>th</sup>	Navigator	April 10, 2017



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

# 75 Years On: Remembering the Friendly Invasion

An ITV Report

2 May 2017

[Reprinted with permission from <http://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2017-05-02/75-years-on-remembering-the-friendly-invasion/>, Victoria Lampard, ITV]

**75 years ago** villages and towns across the region became home to thousands of US Servicemen and women who came here to help in the fight against Nazi Germany.

For those living in the surrounding villages they got to experience a whole new world of big bands, jitterbug dances, Coca-Cola, and candy.

Ray Hobbs from Utah was just 21 when, as a member of the 95th Bomb Group, he flew B17s from Horham airfield near Eye in Suffolk [England]. *(cont. next page)*



US airmen were eventually stationed at more than 70 sites across the Anglia region  
*Photo: 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association*

*75 years ago continued*

*"I didn't know where East Anglia was at all. It was really strange and one of the fellas said this lady does laundry so the time I was here she did my laundry. She did it very well. I can't remember how much it was but it wasn't very much but she was very, very appreciative to have it and I did the naughtiest thing. I bought a dozen eggs from her and she says 'Don't say a word because I'm not supposed to sell an egg.'"*

*—Ray Hobbs, Veteran*

It was from Grafton Underwood airfield in Northamptonshire that the Eighth US Army Air Force mounted its first heavy bombing raid over Nazi occupied territory in August 1942.

Over the next year thousands of US airmen arrived, eventually being stationed at more than 70 sites across the region, bringing with them a new way of life for the locals living in the surrounding villages.

*"We had jam on turkey. We thought it was. It was cranberry sauce but we'd never heard of that. Our village was about 100 people and then all of a sudden 3,000."*

*—Alan Johnson (grew up near Horham airfield)*



Ray Hobbs from Utah was just 21 when he flew B17s from Horham airfield *Credit: ITV News Anglia*

The airfields across the region became small American towns, with their own hospitals, bakeries, and cinemas to cater for the 3,000 or so people living on them.

What was once a hive of activity is now eerily quiet, with runways and Nissen huts being lost to nature. *(cont. next page)*

75 years ago continued

*“After Pearl Harbour, the United States came into the war and they committed to a strategic bombing campaign. We realised we would have to have a great many new large airfields constructed. We had some that had already been constructed in East Anglia ready for RAF, Royal Air Force Bomber command, so they decided they’d use some of those initially but then they realised they’d have to build a great number more and there were some 60,000 civilian employees that were involved. Ten of the bases were built entirely by the Americans. It was the biggest civil engineering project in the whole history of Great Britain.”*

*—Malcolm Osborn, Historian and Author*



Nissen huts on what was Thorpe Abbots airfield on the Norfolk-Suffolk border Credit: ITV News

The small American towns have faded over the years but near Shipdham near Dereham in Norfolk they’ve managed to save some of the artwork of the 44<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group. It was left on the walls of derelict huts and what was the officers’ mess.

*“Before they used to go on operations it’s said they used to kiss her on the lips and that’s probably why her lips are a bit worn out. When we saw it, it just seemed criminal that it should sit there and be washed away. We were very pleased to have the opportunity to save them.”—Barry Adams, Owner*

*(cont. next page)*



A mural created by USAAF airmen stationed at Shipdham near Dereham in Norfolk  
*Credit: ITV News Anglia*

When the GIs returned to America, they'd stolen the hearts of hundreds of local women. Many of them got married and left this region to start a new life in the United States. 93-year-old Iris Oakley from Essex met Sergeant James Benekee in Norwich. He was based at Horham airfield in Suffolk and within three months they were married.

*"He asked me to marry him and he said, I don't want your answer now because he said it's a big decision and I said yes, Yes I will. We had to meet the chaplain and we had to meet the commanding officer and they do their best to talk you out of it. His mother wasn't very happy. This is just a war time thing you know this shouldn't be and he said if I don't marry her now I'll come back after the war and marry her."—Iris Oakley*

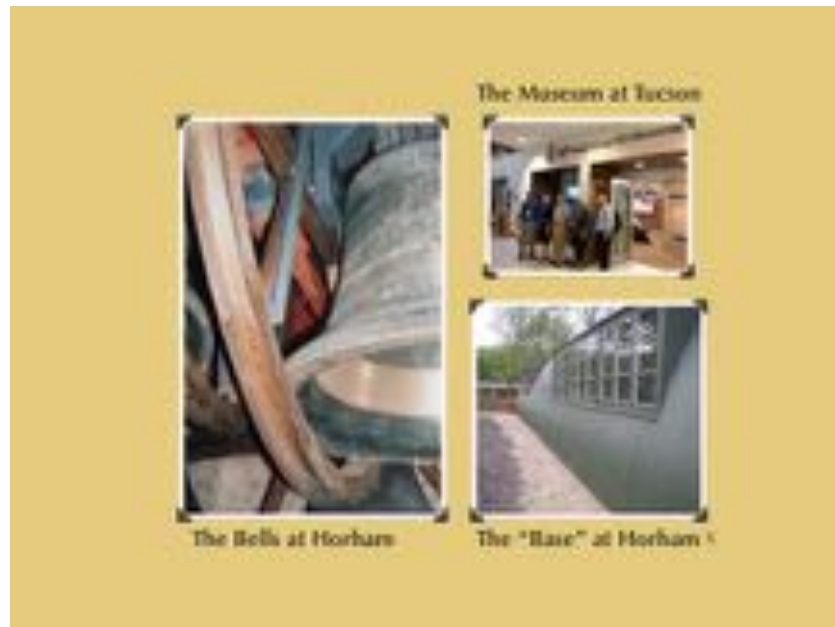


*Sergeant James Benekee and Iris Oakley married within three months*

Not everyone got their happily ever after. With interracial marriage illegal in around 30 American states, relationships between black GIs and their white British girlfriends often didn't last. Some children have never known their fathers.



# DEFINING the 95th Bomb Group (H) Memorials Foundation and its LEGACY



*by Nancy McKnight Smith*

The 95th is a spectacular organization. Recently its members raised \$500,000 to refurbish/update its museum.

Over the years its UK partners have built their museum from “the ground up” and their WWII facilities from rubble (with very little funding).

At the same time, we the present-day (Legacy) members of the 95th Memorials Foundation and Heritage Association are separated from each other by oceans, countless miles, and several generations. What explains these and other extraordinary accomplishments?

The dictionary defines LEGACY as “something handed down from one generation to the next.”

So what is the Veterans’ LEGACY to us, how did THEY do it, and how do WE do it?

They left us a legacy of

**INCLUSION  
COMMUNICATION  
COLLABORATION  
and  
CARING**

...values/attributes that characterize successful organizations throughout history and throughout the world. Let’s look at some examples of the 95<sup>th</sup>’s history as they reflect these characteristics.

## **INCLUSION**

How do we include everyone?

- Rank is forgotten. Airmen or Ground Crew—it doesn't matter.
- Active Members come from different countries and generations.
- They come from outside the families of the 95th Vets.
- Young people assume adult roles in the organization.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Our Veterans, like many of their WWII comrades, typically did not communicate about the war when they came home. But 20–25 years later when they started coming to reunions, they DID talk about the war. The Legacy members asked them to participate in our oral histories program (these tapes are stored for the future in the Library of Congress). Later the Legacy members also implemented the Fireside Chats at the reunions. The stories the Veterans told to the reunion attendees had an additional advantage over oral histories: there were two-way communication possibilities!

Communication also came in the form of:

- Newsletters
- Annual meetings/reunions
- Museums
- Phone calls, emails, etc.
- Individual publications
- Memorial services
- Representation on our “sister groups” (Heritage and 390th Associations) governing boards
- Informal unit history: Contrails and Contrails II
- Research projects at the Archives in DC
- Published books by individuals and groups: *Courage, Honor, Victory* (reissued as *B-17's over Berlin*)
- Websites: [www.95thbg.org](http://www.95thbg.org) and [www.95thbg-horham.com](http://www.95thbg-horham.com)
- Published Unit History: *Into the Wild Blue Yonder and Beyond*
- Memorial Booklet (now available on the website)

## **COLLABORATION AND TEAMWORK**

Surely no B-17 crew flew successfully without working like a team, and neither did the 95<sup>th</sup>.



## Defining continued

Bob Cozens teamed up with Veterans and Legacy members to create the 95th Memorials Foundation out of the 95th Association, thus establishing an organization that could be sustained over the years. He also teamed up with Legacy members as they began to assume leadership in the organization.



Photo by Paul Cook



Without the teamwork and collaboration that existed between the 95th and the 390th there would no doubt have been no memorial museum at Tucson! Col. Joe Moller served in both units—and he did not forget the 95th with his generous gesture of friendship in welcoming us to be part of the 390th Museum at Pima in Tucson, Arizona.

Finally, a successful organization is a **CARING ORGANIZATION**. Remembering their fallen comrades was a chief goal of the Veterans of the 95th. So, they created memorials:

## THE OFFICIAL MEMORIALS

- The Bells in Horham, England
- The Display in the 8th Air Force Museum in Savannah, GA
- The Plaque at Arlington National Cemetery
- The Plaque at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO
- The Memorial Room at the 390th Museum in Tucson, AZ
- The Memorial and Bricks at Dayton, OH



## Defining continued

The Veterans collaborated to create a stunning memorial at Dayton, complete with over 1,000 memorial bricks. Now the Legacy members from Dayton, and elsewhere, team up to keep the annual memorial ceremony and the monument alive.



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

Also, it was because of our Veterans' caring commitment to the people of Horham that they and their children have worked so hard to memorialize the Veterans.

The Veterans of the 95<sup>th</sup> understood the power of **inclusion, communication, collaboration, teamwork, and genuine caring for others**. And we do too! We honor those men, our Veterans—and we owe it to them to continue to work diligently in the light of their values so that no one will be called on again to make their sacrifice.

In recent years a new program has been implemented to keep everyone apprised of the status of Veterans and the membership at large (e.g., birthdays, anniversaries, etc.). This digital communication allows us to signal our support and our caring for each other.



A 95<sup>th</sup> airman playing Santa for the children of Horham in 1943

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONCERNING 2018 DUES**

The Board of Directors voted, at the New Orleans reunion board meeting, to increase annual dues. The following options for dues in 2018 were approved in October:

**Individual \$35 + \$10 for printed newsletter**

**Family \$55 + \$10 for printed newsletter**

***Note: Veterans and Widows do not have to pay dues or pay for the newsletter.***

While the 95<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Memorials Foundation dues have remained steady for many years, this increase reflects the reality of supporting the increasing annual costs of running the organization. In the age of electronic mail, we are able to provide the newsletter via email, on the 95<sup>th</sup> Facebook page, and on the 95<sup>th</sup> website. The cost of printing and mailing continues to increase each year. Even now over 100 members of the 95<sup>th</sup> receive the newsletter, published in February, June, and November, by way of electronic delivery. Receiving the newsletter electronically will help to keep our costs down and will provide you with permanent access to the informative newsletter by saving it electronically. Contact our Membership Committee Chairman, John Mollison, at [membership@95thbg.org](mailto:membership@95thbg.org) if you wish begin receiving your newsletter electronically.

You will receive the Annual Membership Drive mailing in January. You are encouraged to join the 95<sup>th</sup> as dues-paying members.

## Not a Member of the 95<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Memorials Foundation? Become One Now!



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

Years ago the veterans who fought so valiantly during World War II as members of the 95<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group gathered together to keep the memory of the sacrifices of their brothers in arms alive and celebrated. They founded this organization that we now know as the 95<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Memorials Foundation (BGMF). They never wanted anyone to forget their tremendous sacrifice and with deep and abiding trust they handed the association over to their children. **We are now the keepers of that sacred trust.**

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 will educate future generations of Americans about the tremendous contribution and sacrifice made by the heroic men of the 95<sup>th</sup>?

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

### Here are some sobering numbers as of October 2017:

<b>Total Members of the 95<sup>th</sup> BGMF:</b>	<b>758</b>
<b>Veterans &amp; Widows</b>	<b>244 (Do Not Pay Dues)</b>
<b>U.S. &amp; International Members Total</b>	<b>514</b>
<b>Dues-Paying Members</b>	<b>196</b>
<b>Non-Dues-Paying Members</b>	<b>318</b>

**Everyone who is in the 95<sup>th</sup> BGMF Directory receives newsletters (either printed or electronic version) and the expense of just this portion of the overall cost of operating the 95<sup>th</sup> is borne by only 26% of the total dues-paying membership. Let each one of us make the effort to expand our membership by encouraging payment of annual dues from those who are already members of the 95<sup>th</sup> and by attracting new members who are supportive of the mission of the 95<sup>th</sup>.**

The gift of membership will be the easy part—the work will be in getting them involved as active members in the 95<sup>th</sup>. We need to help them “Catch the Magic” of the 95<sup>th</sup>. If they can get to England, to the 95<sup>th</sup> 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 95<sup>th</sup>, 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 95<sup>th</sup>. 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 email them to [membership@95thbg.org](mailto:membership@95thbg.org) and we’ll get them to the board of directors. Watch for your annual membership drive letter in January and renew your membership in the 95<sup>th</sup>.



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

# Shop the PX



8th Air Force - Horham Patches



95th BG Squadron Patches



Red Feather  
Crest Pin



Original Red  
Feather Shield Pin



Red Feather  
Pin



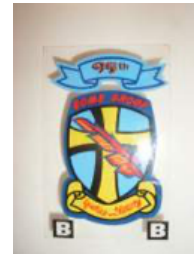
Red Feather Crest



Small Rectangular B-17 Patch



Notecards



95th Sticker



95th Mug



Canvas Low  
Profile Hat



Canvas Low  
Profile Hat



Black & White  
Summer Mesh Hat



5" x 8" Notepads



Polo Shirt (Men's & Women's)



Lined Nylon Shell with  
Square B



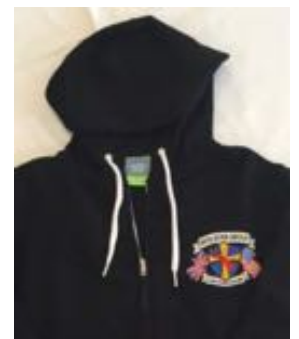
95th T-shirt



Polar Fleece Jacket with  
Red Feather Shield



Hooded Sweatshirt



95th Full Zip Fleece

Special Order

Special Order

# 95th BG Memorials Foundation PX Order Form

Name:						
Address:						
City/State/Zip:						
Phone: (      )		e-mail:				
Quantity	Description				Cost each	Total cost
	<b>Patches:</b>		<b>Circle your choice:</b>		\$5	
	334th	335th	336th	412th	8th Air Force-Horham	Red Feather crest
	Small rectangular B-17 patch				\$6	
	<b>Pins:</b>		<b>Circle your choice:</b>		\$10	
	Red Feather Crest	Original Red Feather Shield	Red Feather	B-17		
	<b>“You Can Make It, Friend” 10-pack notecards with envelopes</b>				\$10	
	<b>Coffee Mug with 95th Crest</b>				\$10	
	<b>Square B black &amp; white summer mesh hat</b>				\$20	
	<b>Canvas low profile hat:</b>		<b>Circle your choice:</b>		\$20	
	Olive with Square B	Khaki with Square B	Black with B-17	Khaki with B-17	Pink with B-17	
	<b>95th Bomb Group window sticker</b>				\$5	
	<b>95th Bomb Group Notepads (package of 5)</b>				\$20	
	<b>Men’s hooded sweatshirt (with Square B and B-17)</b>				\$35	
	Circle your choice: L XL XXL					
	<b>Men’s crew neck sweatshirt (with Square B and B-17) **</b>				\$25	
	Circle your choice: S M L XL XXL					
	<b>Polo Shirt</b>		<b>Circle your choices:</b>		\$40	
	Men’s	S	M	L	XL – XXXL	Gray Navy Burgundy
	Women’s	S	M	L	XL – XXL	Teal Pink Yellow Blue Lavender
	<b>Men’s Polar fleece jacket</b>		<b>Circle your choices:</b>		\$75	
	Polar fleece w/Red Feather shield	Nylon shell & polar fleece lined w/Square B				
	<b>Navy T-shirt (95th Crest with US and UK Flags)</b>				\$20	
	Circle your choices: S M L XL – XXL					
	Men’s	Women’s	Youth			
	<b>Square B/B-17 Unisex t-shirts (gray) **</b>		S	M	L	XL XXL
	<b>Unisex black full zip sweatshirt</b>		S	M	L	XL XXL
					<b>TOTAL</b>	

**\*\* 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 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:     \$35 Individual /email     \$55 Household/email  
                                   \$45 Individual/printed     \$65 Household/printed

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