

THE RAGGED IRREGULAR



322nd BS



323rd BS



Supporting Units



324th BS



401st BS

Vol. 42 No. 3

91st Bombardment Group (H)

July 2009

Madingley Memorial Ceremony - 25 May 2009

Our weather forecasters predicted that the weather for the Monday 25th May was going to be heavy rain with thunderstorms, so one made sure that waterproof clothing was in the car. Fortunately, they were wrong, as we had a just a few spots which made for a pleasant change after the last three years.

Upon arriving at the Cemetery I always check to see of the Group's wreath is there, which also gives me the opportunity to obtain the Group's wreath number.

For the majority of the readers of the Ragged Irregular I will just run through the Order of Service that may be the format covered where ever the Memorial Service is celebrated throughout the world. We all stand to greet the Official Party which included Jonna Doolittle-Hoppes the grand daughter of General Doolittle, USAF.

After the arrival of the Official Party the Colours are Posted by a Guard of Honour from RAF Mildenhall. This was followed by British and American National Anthems.

Lt Col David E Stookey, Commander, 100th Communications Squadron as Master of Ceremonies gave the introduction. He was followed by Mr Richard LeBaron, Charges d'affaires ad interim at the American Embassy in London, who gave Welcome remarks. The Invocation was given by the Chaplain of the 100th Air Refuelling Wing, RAF Mildenhall, Major Stuart King.

The Opening Remarks came from Mr Hugh Duberly, Her Majest's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire. Then Jonna Doolittle-Hoppes gave the Address. This was followed by Cemetery History. Then that magic moment when all the Veterans are asked to stand and duly receive the applause of the congregation.

This is followed by a Moment of Silence. The American Service men who have been standing out of sight behind the Wall of the Missing enter carrying wreaths. This is a very impressive sight with well over one hundred wreaths brought in to line up along the length of the Wall of the Missing. Those laying wreaths are then called forward and

take their place in front of the wreath carrier who has their wreath. Upon the order **Presenters Please Take Your Flowers** they step forward to receive their wreath. The 91st BG(H) MA wreath carrier this year was a very young looking Corporal. Wreath carriers are not confined to Non Commission personnel as Officers are also among the wreath carriers.



The Master of Ceremonies then asked Mr Duberly, Major General Zamzow, representing the Third Air Force and Mr LeBaron to lay their wreaths this is followed by the laying of all the other wreaths. We then stand for a Moment of Silence and a Prayer of Remembrance.

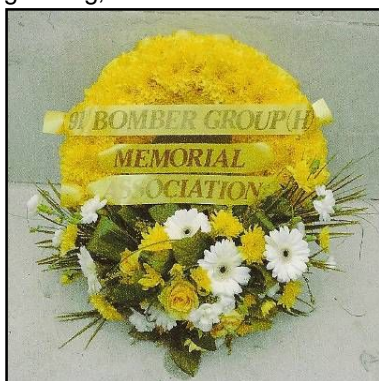
Then came the Fly-By, which this year's was by a KC-135 from RAF Mildehall. Sadly the Boeing B-17 *Sally B* was unable to make it. We all turn to face the Flag Pole to witness the firing of Volleys / Taps. Finally the Missing Man Formation by F-15C's from RAF Lakenheath.

May I mention that some airmen and air women from RAF Lakenheath have just returned from Iraq and I did notice bouquets of flowers placed by the Wall of the Missing as tributes to personnel who have paid the supreme sacrifice in that theatre of operations.

It is for me an honour and privilege to be able to represent the 91st BG(H) Memorial

Association at this Service and lay the Group's wreath. Thank you.

Kind Regards, Vince Hemmings



President's Corner**Jim Shepherd**

I had the privilege of talking to Gen. James McPartlin (Ret) about the future of the 91st BGMA and what we plan to accomplish. I told him we are working with the Planes of Fame Museum to expand our Memorial to the 91st. We will provide memorabilia that includes books, videos and original leather jackets. We discussed the continued effort to place more information on the web page. We believe the 91st Bomb Group web page is currently the largest web page of any military group and we have many more stories and photos to add.

Suzi & I visited Jack and Jan Gaffney. They gave us a complete set of Ragged Irregulars for donation to the Planes of Fame Museum in Chino, California. The museum plans to build a research library that will include our newsletters.

Vince Hemmings sent pictures of the Memorial Day Ceremony on 25 May 2009 at the Madingley Cemetery near Cambridge, England. One picture shows the Wreath donated by the 91st BGMA placed along the Wall of Missing. We are very thankful for Vince's continued support.

I had dinner with David & Linda Crow, from England, and truly enjoyed their company and friendship. David filled me in on the Prop Memorial at Bassingbourn and that it is in great condition. Like Vince Hemmings, David & Linda are true friends of the 91st Bomb Group Memorial Association.

I am pleased to announce our web page is growing in size with new crew photos, B-17 Photo History and a "Scrapbook of Memories". A list of "a list of Folded Wings" is 25 percent complete and will be a great benefit for research when finished. Later this year, we plan to add the R/I's to the web page, starting with the issue covering the first reunion in October 1967.

The 1967 Memphis reunion had a re-dedication ceremony of the *Memphis Belle*. A list of 150 attendees included: George Birdsong, Paul Chryst, Jack Gaffney, Joe Franke, Joe Harlick, George Parks, Joe Weinstock and Stanley Wray. George Parks was the West Coast Division Chairman and Paul Chryst the East Coast Division Chairman. Maj. Gen. Stanley E. Wray (Ret) was President. This was 42 years ago! Noting that Joe Harlick was at the very first reunion and at the last reunion in 2008. Over those 42 years, Joe helped so many members, historians, authors and family members with his collection of photos.

We are continuously in e-mail communication with people around the world. We are finding out more and more that the people of Europe and England really appreciate the sacrifice made by so many during WWII. There are increasing numbers of historians in Europe who wish to know the truth of many of the events of WWII and are especially interested in the crash sites and the stories of the crews involved.

A new addition to the web page is the 91st Blog. Visitors are asking questions and leaving wonderful statements regarding their life during the war. Thanks to "The Mike Banta Ring of Veterans & Historians", many questions are answered. I continue to find that working with "Living History" (Veterans of the 91st) is overwhelmingly rewarding. If you can, visit the 91st Blog listed on the web page and read the questions, answers and comments.

Since my back surgery, my physical condition is improving daily. As many of you know our Ring Leader, Mike Banta, had back surgery last year and then had a hip replacement.

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Please send obituaries to Jody Kelly.

Deadline for submissions to the R/I is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

91st Bomb Group E-mail Ring

b17banta@aol.com

91st on the Web

www.91stbombgroup.com
www.bombsqd323rd.com

Veeps Views**Mick Hanou**

This quarter was a bit rough for me with the passing of Joe Harlick, one of my dearest friends in the organization. I shall miss him very much. On the other hand, I had the distinct pleasure of speaking with George Parks who is still doing well at age 95, and who shared some very interesting stories of the early days of the 91st. Not to belabor it, but a quick reminder on my views. Preserve your history by telling your stories to the Next Generation and grandkids (and others). The "Ring" continues to be a good way to share and a source of information and stories/anecdotes. (The address is in the officer's column on page 2.)

Themes in my past columns have asked you to secure your memorabilia with your descendents. Though I hadn't mentioned it previously, I urge you to discuss with them in such a manner as to preserve context of the memorabilia - what its use was, what is important about it, was it a "lucky charm", etc. History "lives" when context is preserved. If you don't have an interested descendent, then consider donations to the Tower Museum, Bassingbourn or our small but growing collection of artifacts intended for the museum at Chino (which many of you saw at Reunion 2008). Hopefully, we can get some display cases there and wish to be able to fill them with your history.



My twin daughters did complete their project and on Memorial Day, 2009, a bronze plaque was mounted on the Veteran's Hall. See what can happen as a result of you engaging the youngsters at Reunion 2008! And, as a proud father, I must share that Alyssa's team California took 3rd

place in the Nation in Constitutional Civics Debate, with the finals being held in the House Congressional Hearing rooms in D.C. (Google: "We The People"). She has been accepted at UC Santa Barbara. Mandy was honored for her GPA greater than 4.0, and will be attending UC Davis.

May was the start of air show season here, beginning with the Chino Air Show. A magnificent display of Grumman aircraft (Duck, F3F, Wildcat, 2 Hellcats, 3 Tigercats, 5 Bearcats, and 3 Avengers) were followed by numerous Army Air Corp aircraft (P-38, P-40, P-47, P-51, P-63, B-25), and others. It was quite an outstanding show. Remember my P-38 flight at reunion 2008? Well this time I went in a Corsair!

For Memorial Day the Collings Foundation arrived at "my" Livermore stop. We again had a great turn-out, which the crew loved as it had been a slow year to that point. It takes funds to keep *Nine-O-Nine* flying and we did our part. Our Ramp Boss is a gourmet chef, so we had a great BBQ. David Lomasney (new Full Member) and Leonard Contreras visited.

My next event will be my annual travel to volunteer at the Duxford Air Show, England. I will again stop and pay my tributes to the 91st Memorial, visit with Chris Murphy, and check on the Tower.

Best wishes to all and your families.

Collings' Nine-O-Nine Schedule

7/3 - 7/6	Fort Collins, CO Ft Collins-Loveland Municipal
7/6 - 7/8	Pueblo, CO Pueblo Memorial
7/8 - 7/10	Salina, KS Salina Municipal
7/10-7/12	Kansas City, MO Charles Wheeler Downtown
7/13 - 7/15	Omaha, NE Eppley Airfield
7/15 - 7/17	St. Paul, MN Holman Field
7/17 - 7/20	Minneapolis, MN Anoka County-Blaine
7/20 - 7/22	Sheboygan, WI Sheboygan County Memorial
7/22 - 7/24	Waukegan, IL Waukegan Regional
7/24 - 7/26	West Chicago, IL Dupage
7/27 - 7/29	Valparaiso, IN Porter County Municipal
7/29 - 7/31	Kankakee, IL Greater Kankakee
7/31 - 8/3	Chicago, IL Chicago Executive
8/3 - 8/5	Fort Wayne, IN Fort Wayne Intl
8/5 - 8/7	Dayton, OH Dayton-Wright Brothers
8/7 - 8/10	Akron, OH Akron-Canton Regional
8/10 - 8/12	TBD
8/12 - 8/14	Altoona, PA Altoona-Blair County
8/14 - 8/17	Trenton, NJ Trenton Mercer

Did you receive the April R/I?

Due to a printing problem, some people did not receive the April newsletter. If you did not receive your R/I, contact Gary Hall for a copy by email: raggedirregular@gmail.com; mail: 1054 Sunrise Dr, Woodbury, MN 55125; or phone: (651) 260-2397.

More "No Short Story"

By Bill Uphoff

[Editor's note: This is a follow up to previous R/I articles "324th's Rhapsody in Red's Substitute Set Record" from November 1994 and "324th's "946's" Short Career No Short Story!" in April 1995. The 324th's B-17 43-38946, believed to have been sabotaged, crashed taking off on its first mission. In all, the Eighth Air Force lost ten bombers on takeoff that day. The crew of "946" were the only to survive.]

On the early morning of December 24, 1944, I was on "Stand Down" and in the process of straightening up our room when I heard engines running up. Looking out the window, I saw what looked like poor flying weather, low ceiling and poor visibility. I decided to head down to the tower to see what was cooking. There I found the mission for the day was on and the squadrons were taxiing out for takeoff. Shortly thereafter, the red flair went up and the roar of engines sounded as the B-17s started down the runway on their take off roll.

Several aircraft had entered the overcast when I thought I heard someone call "Mayday" and could faintly see a B-17 come out of the overcast and continue to descend. I ran down the tower steps, jumped into a jeep with another officer and headed in the direction of where the plane went down.

We finally saw the Fort on its belly in a newly plowed field. We jumped out of the jeep and ran over to see if we could be of any assistance. The first thing I saw was a crew member either sitting or leaning on the wing and the rest of the crew standing around the plane appearing to be in shock from the experience they had just gone through. I remember calling to them to get away from the plane as it might catch fire or explode if any of the gas lines or fuel tanks were ruptured. By this time, the fire truck and ambulance had arrived followed by many other vehicles in tow. Shortly thereafter, I felt it was time to leave and let those with more experience do their job.

On our way back to the jeep, we came across a 500 lb bomb broken in half with the black pellets spilled out in a pile on the ground. This reminded me, as a boy on the Fourth of July, when a fuse came out of a small firecracker, we would break it in half and light the black powder. We knew this was not a place for us, so we continued across the newly plowed field to our jeep.

Not far from the bomb, my eye caught something shining in the mud. My curiosity got the best of me, so I went over and picked up the muddy object. I brushed some mud off and found I had the lenses of a Norden Bomb Sight. These lenses obviously belonged to the 324th's "946" B-17's bomb sight. I took the lenses back

to my room, cleaned them up and brought them home with me.

The lenses have been on display along with some of my other memorabilia a number of times at the Florida Chapter of the 8th AFHS reunions. One of these days I will donate it all to the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum in Georgia along with the "No Short Story".



PX SALE ITEMS – MUST GO!!!



Light blue polo shirt. 100% combed cotton with "91st Bomb Group (H)", "Bassingbourn, England" and a 91st B-17 tail embroidered on the left breast. *Large and X-Large only.* Originally \$15.00, they are now a steal at \$5.00.



91st Bomb Group fanny pack. An easy to use hands-free belt bag, blue with the 91st logo. Reduced from \$7.50, now only \$3.50 each.



License plate frame. Chrome plated, with yellow "91st Bomb Group (H) USAAF" lettering on a blue background. These were \$10.00, reduced to \$5.00 each.

The items above do not include the \$5.25 shipping and handling fee. We offer FREE delivery to the Minneapolis, MN Rally Round July 16 - 19, 2009.

Please send order information and a check (include shipping & handling) made out to "91st BGMA" to:

Suzi Shepherd
20670 Via Augusto
Yorba Linda, CA 92887

Mike Banta's Web Ring [email: b17banta@aol.com]**Patrick N. Boggs**

Hi, My Dad was in the 8th Air Force, 91st Bombardment Group, 324th Bombardment Squadron. His name was Patrick N. Boggs. I thought he was a pilot but my sister said he was a Navigator. He is deceased now but I would like to find out the name of his plane and if anyone knew him or has any pictures of his plane with him in front of it. I would appreciate it.

Thank you,

Rita Boggs Davis phone: (864)718-3123
PO Box 821 email: rbdnar@hotmail.com
West Union, SC 29696

Bassingbourn and the Howes family

It is ironic that the day the Gerald Massie Photos of Mrs. Howe and the goslings appeared on my computer, I also received a letter from David Crow in England. David was a young boy during the time we were putting in time at Bassingbourn. He watched our Flying Fortresses go and come back (sometimes limping) He was very good friend of the Howes Family and still is.

While we were there, Reg and Hettie Howes would hide a few fresh eggs and fresh milk for us. All English produce was supposed to go to the English Government to be distributed where needed. We become friends with them by gift packages of chocolate, cookies, sugar, butter, soap, tobacco, etc. Photographs also are a very good trading material. After the *Memphis Belle* returned to USA we had good photos of the King and Queen. We made an 11 x 14 inch enlargement of the Queen and gave it to them. I will attach a photo of one of those gift packages. Also Reg brought the Photo Lab a roast chicken near the end of the war, look for that photo also. David Crow had seen my photos of the family and wanted to correct me on some spelling. I had the last name spelled Hewes and should be Howes. Mr. Howes first name was Reg not John etc. I appreciate his information so I can get the captions straight.

In 1978 Jenny and I traveled to England the same time as Paul Chryst had a tour group over there. We were lucky enough to find John (their Son) and he took us to see Hettie, then living near Cambridge. She still had the photo of the Queen on her wall. Jenny took off her neck piece which had the 91st Bomb Group emblem on it and made her an honorary member of the 91st by placing it around her neck. David Crow informed us that both Reg and Hettie have passed away. Richard (John's Son) and wife Pam live in the old farm house and still run a dairy farm. John and his wife Betty built a house

near by. David also told me that Betty recently passed away following a short illness. Audrey (the daughter in the photo) lives in Caxton. David and John get together often.

Joe Harlick



Hettie, Reg and Audrey Howes look at the Photo Lab Christmas gift package – 1944.
Thanks for saving fresh eggs and milk for us.



Jack Palmer, Joe Harlick, Charles Bowers and Don Caldwell.
Chicken and song in the Greasy Spoon.

[As Jenny, Jim, Mick and Ed have already shared in this issue, Joe Harlick is known to all in the 91st BGMA as a friend and integral part of the association. Whenever someone contacted Mike Banta's web ring with a question, Joe seemed to always help answer with a photo. We all miss you Joe. Gary]

91st BGMA Directory Corrections

PAGE	NAME	REASON FOR CORRECTION	CORRECTIONS & ADDITIONS
1	Harry Ackerman	Mailing address change	C/O Sally Casey 2665 Pinehurst Dr Grapevine, TX 76051-2421
1	James Bard Jr	City misspelled	Westminster
2	Martin Belovin	New Address	2701 North Course Dr APT 1010 Pompano Beach, FL 33069-3036
3	Clyde Burdick	New Address	6280 Drake Settlement Rd Bury, NY 14028-9718
3	Jim Burleson	Remove member	Deceased
4	George Burnette	New Member	350 Bridle Creek Dr Monroe, OH 45050
4	Uwe Carstens	First name misspelled	Uwe
4	Curtis Campbell	New Member	2924 E 200 North RD Hoopeston, IL 60942-1463
5	Mrs Dora Coupe	New Address	280 Middle Holland Rd Apt 801 Holland, PA 18966-4804
6	James J Cullen	Remove member	Deceased
7	Robert T Dean	New Address	PO Box 3696 Ocean City, MD 21843-3696
7	Herbert Egender	Membership & Squadron correction	322 LM
7	Eugene Eddy	New Address	5553 Hamlet Ln Fort Myers, FL 33919-2739
8	James D Fletcher	Street & zip code correction	19607 N 140th Ave Sun City West, AZ 85375-5657
8	Donald L Frans	New Address	5519 S Collins St #131 Arlington, TX 76018-1705
8	Elizabeth Fox	First name misspelled	Elizabeth
9	Nevin E Fritch	New Address	2655 Nebraska Ave Apt 304 Palm Harbor, FL 34684-2630
10	Lester Grove	Membership correction	LM
10	Lloyd Guzek	Membership correction	AL
10	Stuart Gilbertson	New Address	13810 Community Dr #307 Burnsville, MN 55337-5501
10	Mark Gillman	Remove member	Deceased
10	Mrs Dorothy Gillman	New Member	3545 Devon Dr Falls Church, VA 22042
10	Howard Groombridge	New Address	5108 34th St Ct W Bradenton, FL 34210-3200
11	Mrs Jenny Harlick	Address correction	700 Black Lake Blvd #321
12	Granville (Bud) Houchins	New Address	8780 Long Rd Ostrander, OH 43061-9518
12	John Howland	New Address	4704 Broadway #157 San Antonio, TX 78209-6216
13	Paul Jessop	Zip code correction	80905-4106
14	David M Kobel	New Address	2350 NW Rolling Green Dr APT A Corvallis, OR 97330
15	Olon Leathers	New Member	4402 E Patricia St Tucson, AZ 85712-1613
15	Ardyce Lechner	Number & street change	6410 Golf View Pl
15	Charles J Leiman	New Address	800 Southerley Rd #414 Towson, MD 21286-8403
16	Cindy Hensley McCain	New Address	4201 N 45th Ave Phoenix, AZ 85031-2109
16	Maurice Markway	New Address	3108 W Truman Blvd Apt 112 Jefferson City, MO 65109-4916
17	Roger Moore	State & zip code correction	WV 26003-1733

17	Alan N Morey	New Address	c/o Daino 6174 Hemingway Rd Jamesville, NY 13078-6451
17	Joseph M McPhie	Remove member	Deceased
18	Julian Murdoch	New Address	165 Ketton Xing Duluth, GA 30097-7140
18	John R Paget	New Address	2220 Mable Ave Denver, CO 80229-5124
18	Jesse Paget	Should be John Paget	
18	Andrew S Murray	New Member	21303 Colonist Way Morrison, CO 80465-2805
18	Claude Murray	Remove member	No forwarding address
19	Stephan Pena	City misspelled	Barningham
19	Jean Powers	New Address	110 Berkshire Rd Elyria, OH 44035-2910
20	Charlotte Rice	New Address	PO Box 606 Sherman, NY 14781-1606
21	Robert Schilly	Street name misspelled	357 Old Emanuel Church Rd
22	Osborne Stone	Membership correction	LM
22	Steve Smith	City misspelled	Alamogordo
23	Karl Thompson	Remove member	Deceased
23	Mrs Virginia Thompson	New Member	18755 W Bernardo Dr, #154 HCC San Diego, CA 92127-3000
23	James D Tuttle (401st)	New Member	10904 176th Circle NE #2323 Remond, WA 98052-7218
24	William Uphoff	City misspelled	Jupiter
24	Leslie R Walshaw	New Address	208 Mustang Court Roseville, CA 95747-8049
24	Edward Waters	New Address	C/O Victoria Goodykoontz 333 Demain Ave Morgantown, WV 26501-6031
24	Roy C Wentz Sr	Remove member	Deceased
25	William Wheeler	First name misspelled	William
25	Leo Wilhelm	Remove member	Deceased
25	James Willey	Remove member	Deceased
25	Mrs Eloise Willey	New Member	613 14th ST Nederland, TX 77627-3939
25	David E Williams	New Member	10632 Peach Ave California City, CA 93505

Correction

Page 6 of the April R/I referred to the "Mont de Marson" memorial. The memorial should have been identified as the Mont de Marsan Memorial.

Minneapolis Rally Round

The 91st BG Rally Round will be held in Minneapolis July 16 – 19, 2009. If you wish to attend, see details in the April R/I or call Gary Hall at (651)260-2397.

Searching for a B-17

Submitted by Bob Dickson

The 91st Missile Wing, headquartered at Minot AFB in Minot, ND is a military descendant of the 91st Bomb

Group. The wing maintains a fleet of 150 Minuteman III missiles located in underground launch facilities scattered across the northwest part of the state.

The wing has plans to build a new operations building. They would like to have a B-17 on static display alongside a Minuteman III missile in front of the new building. They propose to paint the B-17 with the markings of the *Memphis Belle*, the 91st BG's most famous plane. If anyone knows the whereabouts of an available B-17 or partial airframe, the folks at Minot AFB would like to know about it.

If you have any information to help in this search, please send to:

Lt. Col. Scott D. Edwards
Deputy Commander, 91st Operations Group
300 Minuteman Dr
Minot AFB, ND 58705-5016

Tentative 2010 Reunion Schedule

Tuesday, September 28 through Saturday, October 2, 2010 are the dates. Dayton, OH and the National Museum of the United States Air Force is the location. Ed Gates has been busy lining up each day's activities. Mark your calendars and watch future issues of the R/I for more information.

Wednesday, 29 Sep

Morning Trail of History stop and go bus tour. Visits the Wright Brother's bicycle shop, the original 1905 Wright Flyer III in Carillon Park and the Wright Brother's Memorial overlooking Huffman Prairie Flying Field.

Afternoon Visit NMUSAF.

Evening Reception with "free" snacks and bar in Hospitality Room.

Possible showing of Chris Murphy's film about Basingbourn.

Thursday, 30 Sep

Morning Wright Field research and development labs.

Afternoon SunWatch, tour a 13th century American Indian Village / Archeological Park.

-or-

Visit NMUSAF.

Evening Possible visit to Norm Stuckey's farm where he raises Clydesdales.

Friday, 1 Oct

Morning Aviation Trail Visitor Center & Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center and Aviation Trail Parachute Museum.

-or-

Urbana Airport restoration project of a B-17 with Norm Burmaster (limited to first 50 who sign-up due to space available).

-or-

Visit NMUSAF.

Afternoon *Memphis Belle* restoration and other NMUSAF work in progress.

May donate the 91st BGMA archives at this time.

Evening Barbeque on Museum grounds and Fly-over.

Saturday, 2 Oct

Morning Business Meeting (and spouse's tour).

Afternoon Re-enactment of mission briefing (and possibly de-briefing).

Evening Banquet

Sunday, 3 Oct

Morning Depart about 1000 for Newport, KY for a two hour brunch cruise with Dixie Land band on the River Queen or Belle of Cincinnati.

(For those who fly into Cincinnati, the airport is in Kentucky. You may want to check out of your Dayton rooms and spend Sunday night in Cincinnati. We may arrange special rates.)

Donations

George Fredrickson	50.00
Donald R Wilson	50.00
In Memory of Howard (Bud) Wilson (323 rd)	
Donald R Wilson	50.00
In Honor of Earl Williamson (323 rd)	
David E Williams	40.00
Chester R Knowles Jr	25.00
Lisa A Hammerly	25.00
Lloyd Guzek	20.00
Eugene W Eddy	20.00
Ralph H Danekas	20.00
James L Waymire	20.00
Mrs Paul L Zimmerman	15.00
George D Kelly	15.00
Richard P Melcher	15.00
Frank S Ripa	15.00
Eugene H Sell	15.00
Richard O Pridemore	10.00
Joseph Vukovich	10.00
Robert F Dealey	10.00
Arthur W Rowe	10.00
James Sikich	10.00
Wallace J Harpster	10.00
Raymond R Choye	10.00
Lenora S Peacock	10.00
Ralph D Simin	10.00
John R Waldron	10.00
John H Mitchell	10.00
Jim Vaught	10.00
In Memory of Joe Harlick	
Dr Greg Varhall	7.75
Steve Smith	5.00

91st BGMA Board Meeting - May 9, 2009, 9:00 – 9:55 AM PST

Attendees: Jim Shepherd, Mick Hanou, Jody Kelly, Gary Hall and Ed Gates.

Joe Harlick's Collection: Ed and Mick

- Joe and Jenny's son Allan is scanning 1300 photographs in addition to 600 already scanned. Allan hopes to respond to requests from the Ring.
- Ed is the guardian of Joe's collection of books, lithographs and photos. When it is time for them to be donated it will be in Jenny Harlick's name.
- Allan and Jenny have requested that there is no distribution of any of the collection until they have inventoried it. Mick has digital photos that he had planned to donate to Chino, but Jenny and Allan asked that this not be done at this time.
- Joe donated two CD's of 111 and 142 photos to the Tower Museum at Bassingbourn from which they were authorized to make and sell copies of individual prints. Mick contacted Chris at the Tower and has informed them of Joe's passing and will keep them informed as to the distribution of any of the photos. Mick suggested that when it is time to donate other photos we make certain that we have copies of all of the negatives.
- Ed will contact Gen. Charlie Metcalf of the National Museum of the Air Force to see if they can set up an electronic source file like Joe and Jenny maintained. He hopes that they will provide copies at nominal fees at least to 91st BGMA members.

2010 Reunion: Ed

- Committee conference call scheduled for June 27.
- Ed working on a break down of the costs.

91st Space Wing, Minot: Ed and Jim

- Ed has been in contact with the new commander in regards to the *Nine-O-Nine* award and he will be available to present the award.
- Ed has asked the 91st SW Historian (Dan DeForest) if they would be interested in displaying Joe Harlick's uniform in connection with the photo display in the Airmen's Proficiency Center.
- Jim reported that Minot Air Force base is trying to locate a B-17 to display as the *Memphis Belle*. Bob Dickson has been trying to assist in the search.

Madingley Cemetery Display: Ed

- Vince Hemmings acquired photos from Joe, crew lists and other items for a display regarding the March 1943 Hamm mission. The display will be put up sometime this summer.

Ray Bowden's Book on Meresburg: Mick and Jim

- There are currently 6 copies of the book in the PX inventory. More on their way across the pond.

Ragged Irregular: Gary

- A new printer will be used to produce the July newsletter.

- Jim suggested a PX "Hot Items" list for future issues.
- Jody will submit directory updates to correct errors and provide address changes to our membership.

Directory and Membership Cards: Jody

- The directory has been mailed to most of the members. It was a race to beat the postage increase, but Jody was able to enlist five volunteers to assist.
- The cost to print and mail the directory was \$2,280 and \$253 for the membership cards. The previous directory cost \$9,000. The savings may be due to the utilization of volunteers.
- Jody is hopeful the recent mailing of directories and membership cards will help clean up the addresses on our database.
- Gary will provide a PDF version of the directory to Mike Banta.

Treasury/Membership Report: Jody

- The treasury total is \$39,244. \$22,665 CD, \$9,165 checking \$7,414 Putnam.
- There are currently 359 Life, 357 Full and 15 Public Relations members.
- 142 membership past due reminder letters sent.

Rally Round: Gary

- Reservations are slow, but will keep the board updated with an attendance count.

Chino 91st Bomb Group Display: Jim

- A budget of \$5,000 is needed for 91st Bomb Group displays at the Planes of Fame Air Museum in Chino, CA. Ed questioned why we would pay the museum when we were donating the items. Mick explained the cost is for construction of display cases.
- Discussion on how to display the RI. Mick will be in Chino next week and will check into archives. He has access to a PDF machine and can scan the RI.
- Ed suggested that we check to see if any members have made a cross reference of names, missions, aircraft, etc. of past copies of the RI.

Website: Jim

- Have much information to publish on the website. We have been paying for immediate work, but still searching for volunteers to assist.
- Adding a "Folded Wings" database.
- It is a goal to have all of the crash and grave sites overseas included on the site.

PX: Jim

- Specials will be used in order to move inventory that currently is not selling.
- Jody believes there will be an increase in PX sells once the website can accept credit cards.

Memorial Wreaths: Ed and Jody

- Ed stated we need to make certain that Vince Hemmings and the others caring for gravesites overseas are being reimbursed for the wreaths.
- The books show about \$400.00 was sent overseas for the wreaths last year. Jody will check with Ace to see how the payment was handled in the past.

Non-Profit Status: Jim and Jody

- The 91st Bomb Group Memorial Association is not set up as a military non-profit 501(c)(17) as stated in our bylaws. The IRS has confirmed the 91st BGMA is a regular 501(c)(3) non-profit.
- Mick will correct the misprint in the by-laws.

Folded Wings (continued from page 12)

Tommy Thompson during briefing

★ Karl W "Tommy" Thompson 322nd Age 90

Rancho Mernardo, CA, February 10, 2009

Reported by his son Greg

Tommy was born in Los Angeles in 1918, graduated from South Gate High School in 1936, after which he completed two years at UCLA.

Overseas 20 months with a 30-day leave after the 10-month period, Lt. Col. Thompson led a combat wing on missions over Germany prior to V-E Day. With nearly 50 missions to his credit, he holds the Croix de Guerre, presented by the French government; Soldier's medal for heroism outside the line of duty; Distinguished Flying Cross, and Air Medal with Oak Leaf clusters." Later in the Air Force Reserve, Tommy was promoted to Colonel in 1961.

Tommy is survived by his wife of 65 years, Virginia, and his sons Gregory and Stephen.

★ Robert C Gruetter 401st Age 86

Front Royal, VA, February 21, 2009

Reported by his son Robert

Robert was born in Cleveland, OH January 25, 1923.



Robert served in the 91st Bomb Group during WWII. He flew 30 missions aboard *Times A-Wastin'* as her radioman and as a gunner.

He returned to Chicago after the war, attended college and worked for Johnson & Johnson as an industrial engineer until his retirement in 1987 when he moved to Virginia. He married his wife Josephine in 1945 and they remained together until her passing in 2006. He is survived by his son Robert W.

★ John H Roten 323rd Age 89

Knoxville, TN, March 20, 2009

Reported by his daughter Suzanne

John was an unassuming American hero, like so many others of his generation. He served as a navigator on a B-17 bomber in the 8th Air Force during WWII, and survived 2 ½ years in a German POW camp. He served his country again as an Air Force navigator during the Korean War.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Jeanne Roten. He is survived by his daughter Suzanne (Mike) Roten; his son Jack (Dawn) Roten; and two grandchildren.

★ James J Cullen 323rd Age 83

Thousand Oaks, CA, April 8, 2006

From the Los Angeles Times

Born May 28, 1922 in Akron, Ohio, passed away peacefully on April 8, 2006 in Thousand Oaks, CA. after a long illness.



An Air Force veteran of World War II and the Korean conflict. Mr. Cullen spent twenty one months as a prisoner of war in Germany when his B-17 was shot down in August 1943,

on his fifteenth bombing mission.

In later years, Cullen published two novels, a World War II memoir and selected short stories for children based on the poetry of Homer and Virgil.

He is survived by his devoted companion, Shirley Cobb; his loving children, daughters, Christine Wallace and Conee Johnson, A son, John Cullen, and five grandchildren.

✪ Robert G Elroy 322nd Age 83

Lake Arrowhead, CA, March 31, 2006



Reported by his wife Gloria

Bob flew 25 missions as a member of the 91st Bomb Group as a gunner on the B-17 *Wee Willie*.

He was a woodshop teacher for 21 years at Jordan High School in Los Angeles. Bob was a kind and generous man who would help anyone who needed a hand. Later in

life he visited classrooms to talk to the students about his military service during WWII. He was a proud Veteran who often wore his Air Force jacket.

He is survived by his wife, Gloria; two sons, Glen and Brian; and two granddaughters.

✪ Mark H Gilman 324th Age 92

Falls Church, VA, February 19, 2009



Reported by his wife Dottie

Mark was born in Bridgeton, NJ. His career in and out of uniform with the Army Air Corp and the United States Air Force spanned four decades.

He left Stanford University to join the Army Air Corps. After receiving his wings in 1942, he flew B-17s from Bassingbourn, England. He and his

crew returned to the United States for a War Bond drive. After the war, he flew in the Berlin Airlift and with the Strategic Air Command. He moved into the Information career field with assignments that included recruiting service, USAFE Director of Information, SAF/OIs Public Information Division Chief and as Assistant Director of Information.

Mark is survived by his wife of 53 years, Dottie; son Robin (Lynn); two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

✪ John Butler 401st Age 90

Washington, IA, April 12, 2009

Reported by Richard Hamilton

John Butler was first a sergeant in the 30th Infantry before he transferred to the Army Air Corps, 91st Bomb Group, where he served as second lieutenant. On July 20, 1944, while on his sixth mission as bombardier on *Destiny's Child* on a raid over Leipzig, Germany, the B-17 took fire from enemy aircraft. A witness reported later that the right wing was severed at about Number 4 engine position and Butler's plane was the first to go down. Four crew were killed in action and the remaining crew, including Butler, bailed out as the plane went down. He was captured by the Germans and was held as prisoner in Stalag Luft 3 until April, 1945. He kept a

diary of his experiences in the camp on a roll of toilet paper. A typed transcript is part of the "buseum" a converted school bus that acts as a traveling exhibit of Iowa soldiers in POW camps.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Wilma Wolf Butler, whom he married February 29, 1944, almost five months before he was shot down and captured. He also leaves three daughters Mary (Gary) Martin, Patricia (Michael) Filer, Anne (Jim) Harrison; seven grandchildren; thirteen great grandchildren and one brother, James Butler and wife Maureen of Sun City, AZ.

✪ Dan Boswell Jordan 323rd Age 90

Colorado Springs, CO, March 17, 2009

Reported by his wife Vivian



Dan was born April 4, 1918 in Warm Springs, Georgia.

A WWII veteran, he received the Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Presidential Unit Citation and the Distinguished Flying Cross. Starting in 1954, he devoted his life to the Masonic Order culminating in 1974

the office of Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Dan is survived by his wife, Vivian; his daughters Nancy, Dana (Bill) Tygret, Sherry (Dan) Gavito; three grandchildren and one great-grandson.

✪ Lyle W Cook 323rd Age 90

Bakersfield, CA, June 2, 2009

Reported by his Whit Hill



Lyle was born Clifton, Kansas on July 9, 1918.

Lyle was a veteran of WWII serving in the Air Force with the 91st Bomb Group (H) in Europe. After returning from the war he moved to Bakersfield, CA where he met and married Alice Pruitt. Lyle was employed in the auto

industry retiring from Gene Winer Cadillac after 35 years of service as Parts Manager.

Survivors include daughters, Paula (Tom) Allamprese Suzanne (Milton) Bachman; three granddaughters; and one great-grandson.

✪ Leo Wilhelm 324th Age 91

Chesterfield, MO, January 4, 2009

From the St Louis Post-Dispatch

Survived by daughters Fae (Dan) Kelley and Brenda (Robert) Baker; and two grandsons.

THE RAGGED IRREGULAR is published quarterly in January, April, July and October. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep alive the Spirit of the 91st Bomb Group (H) and to maintain the fellowship of those who fought together in World War II from AF Station 121 in Bassingbourn, England from 1942-1945. Editor Gary Hall

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July 2009

THE RAGGED IRREGULAR

Page 12

Folded Wings:

★ Joseph Harlick 324th Age 87

Olympia, WA, April 7, 2009

Reported by his wife Jenny

Joe was born April 28, 1921.



Joe served with the 91st Bomb Group at Bassingbourn in the photo unit, his primary assignment maintaining strike cameras. He loaded and unloaded film in the B-17's and developed wet prints to see if the targets were hit. He flew 7 combat missions to help solve camera

and film problems plaguing the Eighth Air Force. He photographed many crash scenes, including *Old Faithful*. Joe carried his own personal camera covering events, visiting celebrities, and B-17 nose art.

Returning stateside in 1945, Joseph built the Resort Photo and Art Studio at Hot Springs, Montana which he and Jenny operated for 10 years. He worked in Technical Photography at Boeing Co. Seattle, WA for the next 26 years, retiring in 1983.

Joe was active in the VFW and a member of the Elks for 45 years. Son Jay, who served 2 years in Germany,

died 1988. Joe and Jay are laid to rest at the Tahoma National Veteran's Cemetery side by side in number 91 and 92 in the columbarium wall.

He is survived by wife Jenny of 61 years, son Allan and wife Susan, granddaughter Marjorie, many nieces, nephews and relatives.

[Comments from Ed Gates]

Joe left most of his personal effects in England at the end of the war so that he could bring back to the U.S. photographic negatives and prints providing the base for probably the largest private collection of Eighth Air Force bomb group photography. Joe and Jenny provided free service to people and publications around the world for some 60 years. Much of the collection will be offered to the National Museum of the USAF with the 91st Bomb Group Memorial Association's archives in 2010.

Folded Wings continued on page 10