

THE RAGGED IRREGULAR



322nd BS



323rd BS



Supporting Units



324th BS



401st BS

Vol. 42 No. 4

91st Bombardment Group (H)

October 2009

Nine-O-Nine Highlights Minneapolis Rally Round



Attending 91st veterans Bob Dickson 322nd, Don Freer 322nd, Jack Proctor 401st and Don Murray 323rd

Unseasonably cool weather settled over Minnesota in time to greet the rally participants. Despite the cold, the group was in for a special weekend.

Early conversation led to the discovery of a "Barth connection" amongst the four veterans. Bob Dickson, Don Freer and Don Murray had all been shot down and held prisoner at Stalag Luft I in Barth. Jack Proctor was part of the 91st entourage who flew evacuation missions to Barth rescuing POWs at the end of the war. The shared experience was the topic of many discussions and developed camaraderie between the men.

The Collings Foundation's Wing of Freedom Tour was wrapping up a stop at Saint Paul's Holman Field. On display were their B-17 *Nine-O-Nine*, B-24 *Witchcraft* and P-51 *Betty Jane*. Collings treated our group with unfettered access to the aircraft. After milling around, a few photo ops and sharing of war tales, it was time to move on. The group minus three of our veterans left

Saint Paul by car to watch the WWII aircraft land at another local airport.

Those left in Saint Paul were in for a VIP ride. Bob, Don and Don flew aboard *Nine-O-Nine* from Holman to the next tour stop at the Anoka-Blaine airport. The two airports are only 14 nautical miles apart, but the smiles upon arrival said the trip was anything but short. While disembarking, the B-17's passengers were greeted with the sound of applause and cheers.

Special thanks to Hunter Chaney and Jim Harley with the Collings Foundation, Craig Schiller from Golden Wings Flying Museum and Randy Penrod of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society of MN. A few phone calls to this group allowed the flight between stops. Everyone mentioned has a deep appreciation for the service and sacrifices made by our veterans.

Jim Harley appears to live dangerously as he promised a ride on the B-24. He was warned that although the passengers were not spring chickens, collectively they could probably take him.



The group with *Nine-O-Nine* at Holman Field

President's Corner**Jim Shepherd**

The 91st Bomb Group web page will soon be 11 years old and we continue to update and add more history every day. We have over a year's backlog of items to add and more coming in almost every day. The web page has had over 750,000 visitors during this time and we believe the web page is the most complete of any Army Air Corp group of World War II.

Help is needed to pay for time required to manage the web page. I do not ask of payment for myself, but for those who help add items. We need your help with donations to the WEB PAGE FUND. Remember, your donation is tax deductible because the group is a non-profit organization. I donate \$40.00 per month to help a little, but we need a maximum effort and many donated dollars. Please do what you can and send your checks to our Treasurer, Jody Kelly.

Gary Hall did an incredible job planning and organizing the Rally Round in Minneapolis and made 3 veterans very happy with a short flight on a B-17. Don Freer said the last time he crawled out of a B-17 he was a free man, that was 64 years ago.

We need everyone's help with the Reunion 2010 in Dayton Ohio. We are trying to get an idea on how many might attend or how many are planning on attending at this time. You can advise one of the officers and the information will be passed on to Ed Gates who is organizing the event.

I just received a letter regarding the passing of Daniel Goldstein, 322nd, from Phoenix. He was very considerate in wanting to help the 91st Bomb Group Memorial Association continue and named the group as a beneficiary. His donation is listed at \$1,000.00. This is such a wonderful gift and the association is grateful for his contribution.

After having back surgery March 30, I'm becoming more active and will schedule a conference with the Planes of Fame Museum in Chino California. The 91st has a display there and after receiving many more items, we will be adding them to the museum. Display cases will be required and they are working on a research center. Of concern, are the Ragged Irregular newsletters. I have a full set, thanks to Jack Gaffney and we are working to have them all on the web page for review and you should be able to print copies.

Suzi and I had an interesting experience while on vacation. A gentleman from Ohio starting talking about WWII and how the Americans bombed the Germans. Suzi fired back that he didn't know what he was talking about and that I was a historian and would set him straight! I found out he was so misinformed that it was hard for him to accept the truth. The Gentlemen of the 91st have taught me much and has made my son, Jim Jr., a believer in real history.

We have all listened to programs that play down the importance of the bombing of Europe. A cassette tape was given to me and the narrator was a British gentleman who outlined why the bombing was so important to the war effort. I plan to have the cassette copied to a CD and will make them available to the group.

Jim Shepherd

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Please send obituaries to Jody Kelly.

Submissions for the January R/I need to be received before December 15th.

91st Bomb Group E-mail Ring

b17banta@aol.com

91st on the Web

www.91stbombgroup.com
www.bombsqd323rd.com

Veeps Views

Mick Hanou

My annual visit to the Duxford Air Show was quite enjoyable, as usual. Unfortunately, the B-17 *Sally B* was down with an engine problem and didn't fly. The French B-17 *Pink Lady* did do a nice display with some low flights and steep turns.

Also, on the ground was a re-enactment crew, including George Bruckert. George has been to a number of 91st BGMA reunions and his group will be staging a reenactment briefing at the 2010 reunion. Now is a good time to start thinking about coming to Dayton next year and encourage your family to participate as well.

There was an astounding display of precision flying by three P-51 Mustangs. Their wings stayed within feet of each other through loops and rolls. They're known as the "Horsemen" and you can Google "P-51 Horsemen" or "Air Show Buzz" to see videos.

Chris Murphy, the Tower Museum curator came to the show as my guest. The Tower is in good hands with Chris - an enthusiastic supporter of your 91st BG. Lastly, a trip to England would not be complete without paying my respects to the Prop Memorial at Bassingbourn. It looks in good shape.



Photos (clockwise from top): *Pink Lady* on final; Mick, George and two other re-enactors; Bassingbourn Prop Memorial; P-51 Horsemen Team

Collings' *Nine-O-Nine* Schedule

- 10/2 - 10/5 Norwood, MA
Norwood Memorial
- 10/5 - 10/7 Lincoln, RI
North Central State
- 10/7 - 10/9 Windsor Locks, CT
Bradley International
- 10/9 - 10/12 Newburgh, NY
Stewart Intl.
- 10/13 - 10/16 Caldwell, NJ
Essex County
- 10/16 - 10/19 Westminster, MD
Carroll County Regional
- 10/19 - 10/22 Salisbury, MD
Salisbury-Ocean City
Wicomico Regional
- 10/22 - 10/25 Warrenton, VA
Warrenton-Fauquier
- 10/26 - 10/28 Staunton, VA
Shenandoah Valley Regional
- 10/28 - 10/30 Lynchburg, VA
Lynchburg Regional
- 10/30 - 11/2 Lexington, NC
Davidson County
- 11/2 - 11/4 Johnson City, TN
Tri-Cities Regional
- 11/4 - 11/6 Athens, TN
McMinn County

For more information on the Wings of Freedom Tour, please visit www.collingsfoundation.org or call (978) 562-9182.

***Pink Lady* and the 91st** – by Gary Hall

Bill Schilly Sr attended the 2008 Reunion with a photo of a B-17 he ferried to England during the war. The plane was delivered to the Burtonwood supply base, with Bill and his crew continuing on to Bassingbourn. B-17 44-8846 was later assigned to the 351st Bomb Group and completed six missions.

Yves Carnot, a French 91st BGMA member, also attended the 2008 Reunion with a photo of himself in WWII flight gear posing in front of B-17 44-8846, now known as *Pink Lady*. The Fortress Bill flew to Europe is still actively flown out of France.

While *Pink Lady* never served with the 91st, the plane has definite ties to two 91st BGMA members.

No Excuse for Not Attending Reunion 2010 at NMUSAF – by Ed Gates

Don't let your cane or walker needs be an excuse for not attending Reunion 2010 at the National Museum of the United States Air Force (NMUSAF).

Half of the events will be at the NMUSAF including a visit to the restoration of the *Memphis Belle*, a reenactment of a mission briefing (2 Nov 44), a private 91st BGMA visit to *Shoo, Shoo, Shoo Baby* and/or Air Force One, 3 hour tour of the full Museum, presentation of the 91st BGMA Archives to the Museum and possibly a barbeque and fly-over on the NMUSAF grounds.

We will have transport to the Museum entrance. Our Museum contact assures me that they will have over 60 electric carts plus numerous wheel chairs. We are visiting after the summer season so they should have no trouble accommodating anybody who needs to use them. We will also have some volunteers to push wheelchairs if you need someone. Since my Daddy never bought me a toy car (Depression, etc.), I'm loving the electric carts! It should be easy and inexpensive to get around. No charge for the NMUSAF.

See you in Dayton September 28 – October 2, 2010! We may even be able to "fly" formation.

The "Other Loss" on Mission to Bordeaux-Merignac – by Ed Gates

The item in The Ragged Irregular for April 2009, page 6, from "The Ring" reports a contact from our beloved friend in England, Vince Hemmings, who included a picture of the memorial to the crew of *Oklahoma Okie* erected by our French friends in Mont de Marsan including Christian Levaufre.

It also mentions that we lost "another aircraft that day." That was *The Black Swan* carrying Verne Woods and others. Those who attended the 2008 reunion in California had the opportunity to meet Yves Carnot who was active in uncovering the crash site and erecting a memorial. The story of his search for info on *The Black Swan* and the help provided by a member of the U.S. Embassy in Paris was carried in the State Department Foreign Service publication in 2005 or so.

On my 2006 visit to France in behalf of the 91st BGMA I had hoped to get to the crash site of *The Black Swan*, but it was too far from my visit with Alain Charles, President of the American Memorial Association (AMA) in the Lorient/ St. Nazaire area. The AMA under the leadership of Michel Lugez for two decades documented

the crash sites of over 1,000 US Army Air Force aircraft in France including 778 from the 8th Air Force and many from the 91st BG(H). They are building a web site to provide all the info collected in English and French, www.b17-france.org. You will have a chance to meet Alain in Dayton at our 2010 Reunion; he will have a presentation - probably in the Hospitality Room.

Patient Care Group Scam

The Department of Veterans Affairs has received reports that veterans are being contacted by a "Patient Care Group" that is claiming they are helping to administer the VA's prescription medicine program. The "Patient Care Group" is saying the VA recently changed its pharmacy billing procedures, therefore a personal credit card number is now required for prescription payments in advance of filling those prescriptions. This is a scam! Do not provide credit card information over the phone to anyone who claims they represent the VA! The VA has not changed their pharmacy procedures, and they do not call and ask veterans to disclose personal financial information over the phone. If you should receive such a call, do not give them any information. Tell them you are busy and try to get a name and callback number. Report that information to your local police.

91st BGMA Board Meeting

August 15, 2009, 9:00 – 10:15 AM PST

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

By-law changes: Mick

- By-laws need to be corrected to show organization as a 501 (c) (3) in place of 501 (c) (19). The changes need to be published in the RI.

Treasury report: Jody

- \$6,235.89 in the checking account, CD \$22,699.21 and \$7,419.93 in the Putman account. Total \$36,355.03.
- 735 current members. 208 Life Members, 242 Full Members, 272 Associate Members and 13 Public Relations members. 450 members are 91st veterans. 342 are dues paying members.
- Confirmed we are following article 3 Section 5 a & b of the 91st BGMA bylaws. The article provides an Associate Life membership to the surviving spouse of a deceased Life Member or a complimentary Associate Member for 2 years to the surviving spouse of a deceased Associate Member.
- Refunding PX orders that could not be met due to supplies of the polo shirts selling out.

Website and Chino Museum: Jim

- Adding information to the website. Hope to have RI archives available on the website in a few months.
- Board members asked their thoughts on contributing displays to the Chino Museum. Ed is concerned Chino's only interest is the 91st donating money. Mick added that Chino's main interest is in the 91st and they would like to see displays. He said that they have the space but need the display cases. Chino is also looking into obtaining an archivist.

Tower Museum: Mick

- Chris has space for the RI in an office next to the hanger and has requested a complete set. Chris is missing some of the issues, so Mick will contact Chris for the dates of the missing issues and will send to it to Gary.

2010 Reunion: Ed

- The Holiday Inn in Dayton has provided the best rate of \$84.00 per night. They are willing to accommodate the group and will provide free shuttle service. The hotel is eight miles from the airport and only seven miles from the museum. The only disadvantage is that the banquet room only holds 250 people.
- The hotel in Fairborn was more expensive, but they offer a free reception.
- Have been in contact with Norm Stuckey regarding the possibility of him hosting a barbeque on his farm. Unfortunately, Norm is not in the position to host such a large group.
- George Bruckert plans to do a reenactment of a debriefing and suggests that we get an entire crew to participate.
- Would like to show Chris Murphy's Bassingbourn film in the hospitality suite.

Minot AFB: Ed

- Joe Harlick's uniform and camera will be shipped to the Minot Air Museum for display.
- *Nine-O-Nine* award to be given July. We hope to have any living crew members and their spouses present.

Ragged Irregular: Gary

- A new printer was used for the July RI. Very happy with the quality of the newsletter.
- Working with the Post Office to insure the quickest delivery for the least cost.
- People who have requested email only copies of the RI will not receive a paper copy starting with the January 2010 issue.

Dutch 16-year-old honored for care of U.S. soldiers' graves – by Marianne Hale (News-Enterprise)

Sebastiaan Vonk does not know where he's going to put the awards he received in Kentucky. He has to figure out how to get them back to his home in Holland first.

U.S. Army officials recognized the 16-year-old Vonk on Thursday at the Patton Museum for his care of U.S. soldiers' graves in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Vonk adopts graves of World War II veterans. Grave adoption includes visiting soldiers' graves a few times each year and sometimes bringing them flowers, Vonk said.



Sebastiaan at 91ster Richard Wertheim's grave.

Among the mementos he'll take home are an American flag, certificates of recognition and proof that he is now a Kentucky Colonel.

Vonk thinks he might need more luggage to get it all back to Holland.

Vonk said he's been interested in wars for several years. He learned about adopting World War II veterans' graves on the Internet and decided he wanted to honor soldiers who fought for Europe's freedom.

World War II veterans attended Vonk's recognition event along with family members of World War II veteran Charles Brinkley, whose grave Vonk cares for.

Brinkley's stepson, a Kentuckian, first contacted Vonk about taking care of Brinkley's grave.

Vonk said he didn't realize how much his work meant to the family until he met them in person.

One of Brinkley's daughters, Faye Brinkley-McManus, said her family thought Sebastiaan was an adult. Through e-mail, they learned he was 16.

McManus said she was even more impressed with Vonk when they met face-to-face.

"It was an awesome moment," she said.

Vonk said the recognition he's received was a surprise.

"It's strange," he said. "You don't expect it."

Vonk said he thinks someone has to do something very special to be honored.

He said it seems he must be special because of all the recognition he recently received.

91st BGMA Directory Corrections

Page	Name	Reason for correction	Corrections and Additions
2	Anna Blackburn	Deceased	
3	Clyde R Burdick	New Address	6280 Drake Settlement Rd Burt, NY 14028-9718
4	Arnold Burton	New Address	825 3rd Ave Geneva, IL 60134-1463
7	Kay Duzynski	New Member	1672 7th St E St Paul, MN 55106-4204
7	Lt Col Scott D Edwards	New Member	300 Minuteman Dr Minot AFB, ND 58705-5016
8	John W Emerson	Deceased	
9	Charles R Giauque	Zip code correction	17584-9401
9	Vassil Georgeff	New Address	844 Cambridge Blvd Apt #303 O Fallon, IL 62269-1979
10	Robert J Goon	Apartment & zip code correction	Apt 103 75090-2536
10	Daniel Goldstein	Deceased	
13	John Irak Jr	New Address	c/o Chicagoland Christian Village 6685 E 117th Ave Rm 319 Crown Point, IN 46307-7808
15	Janet Larocco	New Address	406 S Payne St Alexandria, VA 22314-5911
16	Maurice Markway	Zip Code Correction	65109-4918
17	Allan N Morey	New Address	6174 Hemingway Rd Jamesville, NY 13078-6451
17	Virginia McGavern	First Name Misspelled	Virginia
18	Julian Murdoch	Deceased	
18	Warren Nix	Deceased	
18	Gregory Norwood	Street number correction	8001 Soloman Dr
19	Jean M. Powers	New Address	110 Berkshire Rd Elyria, OH 44035-2910
21	Bridget Schoenherr	New Member (Robert Modell's daughter)	1345 Redwood Dr Windsor, CO 80550
23	Terry Stemple	City Name Misspelled	Mogadore
23	Andrew Stemple	New Address	6219 East Inglewood St Mesa, AZ 85205-3681
23	Carol Tracy	New Associate Member (Daniel Goldstein's daughter)	907 W Beck Ln Phoenix, AZ 85023
24	Edward Waters	New Address	333 Demain Ave Morgantown, WV 26501-6031
24	Les Walshaw	Deceased	
25	Celia Whittaker	New Associate Member (Kenneth & Anna Blackburn's daughter)	605 Platt St Niles, MI 49120-1532

Civilians Buried in Madingley Cemetery

Sometime in the nineteen eighties I received a letter, from a member of a family asking if I knew of a relation who served in the 91st BG(H) and had married an English lady, had a child and either both or one of them were killed in an air raid in London. I visited the National Archives in Kew, London and was unable to find any evidence of anyone with that name listed in there.

Recently I was visiting the American Military Cemetery at Madingley and was shown a list of thirty-two civilians who are buried in the Cemetery. These names consist of four children, three/four ladies and twenty four/five gentlemen. At the end of 1946 the Cemetery had some sixty civilians buried there but some were returned to America.

I left the letter with the Tower Museum when I retired. After all this time I am unable to remember the person's name and I recently spoke with Ray Jude and Chris Murphy when I attended the Doolittle book launch at Bassingbourn Barracks asking if they would be kind enough to locate this letter.

I wonder if someone can recognise anyone on this list or who can remember if a 91st BG(H) had this terrible experience.

Kind regards, Vince Hemmings

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Adams, Charles K | Husk, John (infant) |
| Berman, Harry | Jeffrey, Margaret |
| Brightman, George | Killough, William H |
| Bruhn, Arnold E | King, Charles J |
| Clarke, Arthur J | Kulick, Harold W |
| Disosway, John S | May, Stephen C (infant?) |
| Doubek, John K | McGrew, Walter E |
| Douthit, Herman | McNamara, Leo R |
| Edgar, William S | Montgomery, Virgin |
| Farrow, Wilmot H | Oglesby, Barton S |
| Fessenden, Chester | Ory, Clifton P JR (infant) |
| Foster, Hugh H | Richter, Ivan G (infant) |
| Frost, Everett H | Rea, Emily Harper |
| Golden, Glenn | Riess, Lewis W |
| Grundstrom, Edwin | Stretch, Dorothy |
| Gwyer, Kingsley V | Wetzel, Martin Jose |

Donations

Gary Hall (web page fund)	\$500.00
Vila Wilkinson	\$100.00
Col George W Mankel	\$50.00
LaVerne E Woods	\$15.25
Allan N Morey	\$10.00
Chasten L Bowen	\$10.00

Folded Wings (continued from page 8)

☛ **Daniel Goldstein 322nd Age 93**

Phoenix, AZ, May 4, 2009



Reported by his daughter Carol

Dan served in the Eighth Air Force as a radio operator/gunner on a B-17. He flew 19 missions over Europe and was shot down June 22nd, 1943 near Huls, Germany. The crew did not bail out and crash-landed with 3 engines out. Dad was a POW for the next two years at the infamous Stalag-17. He was part of the 300 mile death march from Krems, Austria to the Bavarian border, and was liberated by General Patton's troops. He returned home to the U.S. on Decoration Day, 1945.

Two weeks later, on June 17th, Daniel and Henrietta were married. They lived and loved happily ever after, until Mom's passing.

Dan is survived by two daughters Carol Tracy (Stu) and Susan Vannier (Dennis); son Kenneth Goldstein (Linda); many grandkids and great-grandkids.

☛ **Leslie R Walshaw 324th Age 83**

Roseville, CA, August 25, 2009



Reported by his son Scott

He was born in Spokane, Washington and after the untimely passing of his father, he returned to England with his mother, a World War I "war bride." Graduating from the Blue Diamond Military Academy in 1943 he entered the RAF, serving as a night fighter pilot flying the Douglas A-70 and the Bristol Beaufort, before transferring to the 8th Army Air Force in 1944. After completion of 35 missions flying B-17s with the 91st, he was sent back to the "states" and trained to fly a B-29. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal with three oak clusters for his wartime service. During this time he became a member of the "Caterpillar Club" and the "Lucky Bastards Club".

After returning to Spokane he married Beverly Nelson, with whom he had three sons. He was recalled to active duty and participated in the famous Berlin Airlift. He remained in the Air Force, retiring in the mid 1960s. With his second wife, Gloria, he began another career in logistics management with the Air Force.

Les is survived by his wife Gloria; her daughters, Sheriann Kutzera, Sandy Birch and Shelley Tang; his sons, Scott, John and Jim Walshaw; numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

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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Folded Wings:

☛ **William H Wheeler 401st Age 93**

Virginia Beach, VA, August 18, 2009

Reported by his son Peter



A native of Scarsdale, New York, Mr. Wheeler was commissioned in the US Army Air Force in July 1942 and in March 1943 and was assigned to combat duty as a B-17 pilot with the 91st Bomb Group. He was shot down on his 24th mission in August 1943 during the Schweinfurt raid. Col.

Wheeler was held as a prisoner of war for 21 months in Stalag Luft III.

After the war, Bill returned to England where he married the former Mary Chapman of London. They were deeply in love and devoted to each other in a wonderful marriage of more than 61 years. Col. Wheeler remained in the Air Force and continued a prestigious career as a bomber pilot through each generation of aircraft, including the B-47. He was an aircraft commander and then Deputy Wing Commander of the 100th Bomb Wing of the Strategic Air Command at Pease Air Force Base in New Hampshire until his retirement in 1965.

He authored and published two books about his war experiences: Bomber Pilot and Shootdown.

Bill is survived by his sister Ida; his two children: Dr. Anthony Wheeler (Dana) and Mr. Peter Wheeler (Jane); and 5 grandchildren.

☛ **William R Buzby 324th Age 86**

Bethlehem, PA, August 21, 2007

Reported by the VanArsdale Funeral Home

Bill was born in Somerville, NJ on October 8, 1920.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corp having served with the 91st Bomb Group during WWII.

He is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Barbara Richdale; sons, William Jr. (Mary), James (Patricia); daughter, Margaret Peggy Gerrish (John); and seven grandchildren.

Folded Wings continued on page 7