

THE RAGGED IRREGULAR



322nd BS



323rd BS



Supporting Units



324th BS



401st BS

Vol. 43 No. 1

91st Bombardment Group (H)

January 2010

2009 Veterans Day Memorial Service - American Military Cemetery, Madingley

When Margaret and I set off for the Memorial Service it was damp and there was fog, a typical November day. Carrying a Royal British Legion wreath of poppies, I reported to the Air Force 1st Lieutenant who was in charge of the Wreath Bearers. The Officer checked his list and told me to report to the bearer who had the number 34. I did and was handed a ticket with the number 34 on and the Order of Service. This was unprecedented to me. I applauded this method of wreath bearer and wreath layer meeting before the Service, as it gives on the opportunity to speak to the wreath bearer and thank him. There is a much more solemn atmosphere when standing in front of the Wall of the Missing.

We found our seats in the small marquee which was most welcome. Major Leonard T. Rose, Commander, 423rd Security Forces Squadron, was Master of Ceremony who introduced the Official Party. Among those present was Brigadier General (Ret.) Steven R. Hawkins who is the Director, European American Battle Monuments Commission, in Paris who has the Cemetery at Madingley under his command. The Service was well attended when one remembers that most War Memorial's in the country, has its own service and two minute's silence.

The 46 wreaths that were on the official list were a mixture of floral tributes and Royal British Legion wreath's of red poppies. The one I laid on behalf of the 91st BG(H) MA, was paid for by our very good friend, Paul Limm. I was rather pleased as the 91st BG(H) MA logo placed in the center, was a scanned copy of a cloth patch which came out exceptionally well. It looked great!

As I looked at the Wall of the Missing in front of me, I noticed the name of a 91ster. He was S/Sgt. Earl Miller, 401st BS who along with the rest of his crew, was missing on the mission to Wilhelmshaven on the 3rd November 1943. Just above his name was the name Major Alton [Glenn] Miller, AAF Band.

During the Service mention was made of the pristine condition that the Cemetery was in. With many trees in the Cemetery and the leaves falling at this time of the year, it is extremely difficult for David Bedford and his staff to keep the Cemetery in such a splendid condition.

Both Margaret and I came away with the same conclusion that it had been a very good service. For me, it was an honour and privilege to represent your Group on such an occasion.

Kind regards, Vince Hemmings.



Wreath Layers and Wreath Bearers at the Wall of the Missing

President's Corner**Jim Shepherd**

Happy New Year to All. 2010 should be an exciting year with the Reunion in September at the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton, Ohio. Past president Ed Gates has already accomplished most of the planning and we are in for a great time. As most of you know, the *Memphis Belle* is being rebuilt at the Museum and we will be allowed a first hand look at the progress. In the pictures I've received, it looks as though they are totally rebuilding the plane. The *Belle* should be in perfect condition within the next few years for permanent display at the museum. *Shoo Shoo Shoo Baby* is on display now and is listed on our web page under "Memorials Around the World".

This year we will begin adding more existing 91st memorials to our web page. The first addition will be the *Chow-hound* memorial at the Arizona Wing of the Commemorative Air Force Museum in Mesa, Arizona. The museum recently added a permanent exhibit honoring the crew of *Chow-hound* shot down August 8, 1944 and the 91st Bomb Group. The display consists of an original prop from *Chow-hound* recovered from the crash site and a mock B-17 tail



CAF AZ Wing *Chow-hound* display

painted with the Triangle A of the 91st. The museum is having their annual 40's Big Band Hanger Dance on March 20, 2010. Please contact me if you are interesting in attending this dance.

In November I had the opportunity to visit with Charlie Hudson. Charlie is 95 and

unable to walk, but was his same old self with his warm personality and great attitude. Everyone in the home where he lives knows Charlie as he is a personality there and gives talks to the residences of his adventures in life. He has had many according to his book, "Combat He Wrote". I remember back about 10 years ago, I tried to pay for Charlie's lunch and he would not let me. I was told if I wanted to argue with him, we should step outside and settle it. He paid! If anyone is interested in writing Charlie, his address is 911 S. 3rd St., Niles, MI 49120. I'm sure he would appreciate any contact.

We received seven microfilm rolls of 401st Bomb Squadron records from Rex Poulton in England. Rex wrote a book named "Old Faithful – A Flying Fortress" with the assistance of Brigadier General (Ret.) J. H. McPartlin USAF. The B-17 Flying Fortress *Old Faithful* crashed on return from a mission and avoided an English town saving the people on the ground. Currently, the book is only available on CD for viewing on a computer. It was done very well and I was quite impressed with the detail. Rex donated any proceeds from the sale of the book to the 91st. I'm not sure of the cost of the CD at this time. The microfilm rolls are being sent to Don Freer for review as he has a microfilm reader.

The donations to the web page are appreciated! Any additional donations will help us continue updating and adding to the site.

Jim Shepherd

91st BGMA Officers**President****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**

I recently encountered a number of veterans who were surprised at my interest in their role in WWII. I explained how they had liberated my parents and that really opened up the conversation. We had some great discussions of their service, and I wish I had my tape recorder with me to capture some of their stories. They were in support units, whose feats are not always as well documented as flight operations'. So, I learned a lot more about what goes on behind the operations. This reminded me of some discussions with Whit Hill and George Birdsong years ago on the installation of forward-firing machine guns in the noses of the B-17-F models. I find it interesting to learn about ground crew life, support staff, local conditions, and such things that you can't often find in books, as they weren't well documented. I'd like to learn more about the downed-aircraft recovery units.

I thanked the wives for their service on the Home Front and that got even more discussion going. It seems they are not often asked. So they shared stories about rationing and recycling, growing vegetables in gardens in the yard, how one of them had her first chance to work in a factory, and about their concern for husbands and brothers fighting overseas. One was even a nurse in the Navy so she had some interesting views of the conflicts from a lady's point of view.

So, on a recurring theme - I hope that you have told your family your stories and they have documented them in some way. We, of the "Next Generation", cannot preserve your history without such stories being shared. Hopefully your children or grandchildren are interested and you have made arrangements with family to retain memorabilia - and as important is the context of those memorabilia. Jim and I are making efforts to establish display cases at the 91st BG display in Chino for memorabilia you wish to donate. And I don't refer only to flight logs or official documents. We don't often see items from ground crew, office staff, or support units - their history is often not as fully documented. The paraphernalia, items, diaries, letters, and photos you saved - when placed in context - will prove very valuable to maintaining the history of your outfit. So, please retain these items, and their context, for family first. Then consider donating them to the main repositories of 91st BG history - the Tower Museum Bassingbourn and the growing 91st Display at Chino.

Hope to see you in Dayton!

Please pay your 2010 Dues by March 1st

A dues form is included in this quarter's R/I. If you wish to continue your 91st BGMA membership, please fill out and return the form so it is received before March 1st.

Collings' Nine-O-Nine Schedule

1/15 - 1/18	Pompano Beach, FL Pompano Beach Airpark
1/18 - 1/21	Stuart, FL Witham Field
1/21 - 1/25	Boca Raton, FL Boca Raton Airport
1/25 - 1/27	Fort Myers, FL Page Field Airport
1/27 - 1/29	Venice, FL Venice Municipal Airport
1/29 - 2/1	Clearwater, FL St Petersburg-Clearwater Intl.
2/1 - 2/3	Leesburg, FL Leesburg Intl. Airport
2/3 - 2/5	Ocala, FL Ocala Regional / Jim Taylor Field
2/5 - 2/7	Fernandina, Beach, FL Fernandina Beach Municipal
2/8 - 2/19	Maintenance Break
2/19 - 2/22	Keystone Heights, FL Keystone Airpark
2/22 - 2/24	Panama City, FL Panama City-Bay County Intl.
2/24 - 2/26	Gulf Shores, AL Jack Edwards Airport
2/26 - 3/1	New Orleans, LA Lakefront Airport
3/1 - 3/3	Tallulah, LA Vicksburg Tallulah Regional
3/3 - 3/5	Monroe, LA Monroe Regional Airport
3/5 - 3/8	Tyler, TX Tyler Regional Airport

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



Officers and Volunteers Needed!

With the 2010 Officer Elections and Dayton Reunion just around the corner, we are seeking motivated persons either interested in serving a two year term on the 91st BGMA Board of Directors or willing to assist the board members with tasks at hand.

To serve on the board, you must be a full member in good standing. Send your name, address, position of interest, squadron or unit in which you served (if applicable) and any information you consider appropriate for a brief profile to be published in support of your candidacy.

Your information may be mailed or emailed to:

Tom Freer
6380 Winstead Ct
Lisle, IL 60532
email: tmf1108@sbcglobal.net

Ballots and voting instructions will be included in the April R/I. Elected board members will be instated at the October 91st BGMA Reunion.

If you can help with any aspect of the 91st BGMA planning or day to day operations, please contact any one of the board members listed on page 2 of this issue.

The Arizona CAF Wing Proudly Presents A Night in the 40's

Rick Senffner, 91st BGMA member and Wing Leader at the Commemorative Air Force Arizona Wing, would like to extend an invitation to "A Night in the 40's".

The annual dance takes place March 20, 2010 at the Commemorative Air Force Arizona Wing Aviation Museum, Falcon Field Airport, 2017 North Greenfield Road, Mesa, Arizona 85215.

The museum is home base for the B-17 *Sentimental Journey*. Along with an anticipated crowd of 1,200, the plane will be in attendance and available for photo opportunities.

Please contact Jim Shepherd if you are planning on attending this event.



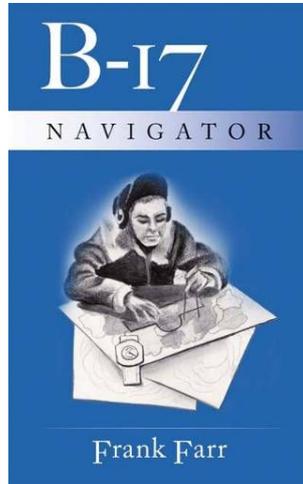
If you are unable to attend the dance, Rick would like to invite you to attend the museum any time you are in Mesa. He would be honored to provide a tour of the museum and *Sentimental Journey*.

Steve Domladovac, Rick's uncle, flew with the 91st in the autumn of 1943 as a navigator. Steve, along with his crew, were lost on a mission to Solingen, Germany in December, 1943. Steve is buried at the Ardennes American Cemetery in Belgium along with the pilot and tail gunner. The remainder of the crew is buried in Missouri. Rick is passionate about preserving Steve's memory and the memory of those who served and gave their lives in the war.

Recent Books by Our Members

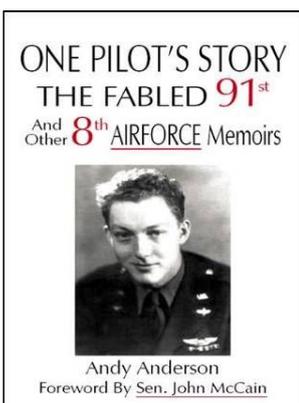
B-17 Navigator – Frank Farr

During World War II, the Army Air Corps had effective formulae for turning raw recruits, only a year or two out of high school, into flying officers - "officers and gentlemen." This is the story of one such recruit's transformation from college freshman into B-17 navigator, second lieutenant complete with silver wings and gold bars. Loving support from a nineteen-year old bride helped bring about the transformation. His adventure started at the Presidio of Monterey in California and moved through four different stops in Texas and a final three in Iowa and Nebraska before he was ready to cross the Atlantic and attack Hitler's "Festung Europa."



A preview of the book is available on the publisher's website www.authorhouse.com. You may order the book at www.authorhouse.com, www.amazon.com or by contacting Frank Farr by email: frank-farr@yahoo.com.

One Pilot's Story – Andy Anderson



This is a remarkable book. It is the real life story of a pilot of the famed 91st Bomb Group, the Memphis Belle Group, in World War II, and the missions flown in that Group by the author and his comrades. It follows him from the time his B-17 was shot down over the German-French border, he was rescued and hidden by villagers in the tiny village of Baslieuse, then escaped

through a Europe occupied by Nazi forces desperate to escape pursuing Allied armies.

The book chronicles, in fascinating detail, the life and training of those young men who made up the heroic 8th Air Force, and describes the affectionate relationship

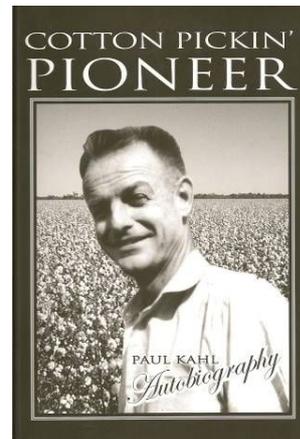
often maintained by their crews with that most famed heavy bomber of all time, the fabled B-17. It includes some of the most tragic stories as well as some of the wryest humor ever written about combat groups.

A heavy bomb group consists of 36 heavy bombers. The 91st lost 207 planes during its WWII combat time-32 during the author's flight tenure. Dr. Anderson uses the words of the extraordinary crews of those planes to describe the training they absorbed, the missions they flew, the results they achieved, the tragedy of watching their planes explode and their friends die, and the heroism that brought so many near fatally damaged planes home with their dead and wounded crews.

This is also a story of growing up in pre-war America, and of the growth and development of that sturdy character which enabled these young men and their children and grandchildren to help create today's world. God bless them, their achievements, and what their heroism made possible so that we could live in the world we do today.

The book can be found on most online book retailers.

Cotton Pickin' Pioneer – Paul Kahl



This is the story of Paul Kahl, his adventures growing up as a young working farm boy on his family farm in California to helping pioneer Australia's cotton industry today.

Follow his military service starting in the 1st Armored Division of the U S Army and his self imposed "transfer" to the Army Air Corp.

Paul flew 11 missions as a pilot with the 323rd Squadron before he was shot down in June of 1943. He spent the remainder of the war as a POW.

The book was published in 2006 by Cliff Lewis Publishing and is currently hard find. If you're interested in obtaining a copy, you may try contacting Paul at PO Box 10, WeeWaa, NSW 2388, Australia.

Donations to the 91st BGMA

TCF Foundation (Employer matching gift)	500.00	Mrs Ilse Weinberger	50.00
Morris Spielberg	200.00	Virginia Reeves	45.00
Adam Foti	100.00	Gordy Alton	40.00
C P Chima	100.00	Linda Bates	25.00
Donald Murray	100.00	Barrie Railton	20.00
Paul Kahl	100.00	Stephen Lada	15.00
Robert Dickson	100.00	Carrick Bradley	10.00
Zachary Bowman	100.00	Eleanor Ehret	10.00
Mary Jo Medick	50.00	Paul Limm	10.00

91st BGMA Directory Corrections

Page	Name	Reason for Correction	Corrections and Additions
1	Vivian Bannon	Deceased	
1	Alice L. Andolshek	New Address	500 Heartwood Dr Apt 106 Crosby, MN 56441-5611
2	Martin Belovin	Deceased	
3	Jack Bowen	New Address	2103 FM 2434 Weimar, TX 78962-3662
4	Neil Burrows	New Address	2 Lily Close Southfield Park, Bedford MK42 0RF United Kingdom
4	Harold Burts	New Address	100 Lockwood Ln Apt 150 Scotts Valley, CA 95066-3956
4	William Buzby	Deceased	
5	Paul Cook	New Associate Member	123 The Causeway Bassingbourn SG8 5LU United Kingdom
6	Ruth Cummins	New Address	72 Smoke Tree Ter Red Bank, NJ 07701-6723
6	Robert Dealey	New Address	5907 Ranch Lake Dr Magnolia, TX 77354-5034
7	George E. Dowell	Deceased	
7	Eugene Eddy	New Address	8343 San Marcos Ave Fort Myers, FL 33919-1020
8	Otis W. Farwell	Misspelling (Ottis)	
8	Dorothy Finch	New Address	7321 W. Alabama Dr Lakewood, CO 802-32-5513
8	Thomas J. Fitton	New Address	172 9th St Cochran, GA 31014-7824
8	Richard Fox	New Address	215 E. Queen St Edenton, NC 27932-1947
9	Charles Gates	Reinstated Member	3902 N Calle Entrada Tucson, AZ 85749-9378
11	Charles Hadd Sr.	New Address	PO Box 41884 Tucson, AZ 85717-1884
11	Mrs. Jenny Harlick	New Address	7406 Lake Breeze Dr Apt 313 Fort Myers, FL 33907-8023

12	Charles Hudson	New Address	C/O West Woods of Niles 1211 State Line Rd Niles, MI 49120
12	Leslie Hinds	New Address	401 Helen Greathouse Cir Apt 231 Midlands, TX 79707-6159
14	Michael Kunrod	Deceased	
15	Helen L. Limm	New Associate Life Member	1216 S. Saltair Ave #202 Los Angeles, CA 90025-1399
15	Harold Levin	Deceased	
16	Rudolph Malkin	New Address	300 W Ring Factory Rd RD OFC Bel Air, MD 21014-5487
17	Willis W. McQuain	New Address	8700 Post Oak Ln Apt 142 San Antonio, TX 78217-5167
17	Donald E. Mckee	New Address	143 W 4th St Ste 307 Williamsport, PA 17701-6120
18	Hilda Newton	Deceased	
18	John Ondrovic	New Address	14123 N Deer Ln Mead, WA 99021-9273
19	Michael F. Pungercar	New Address	PO Box 3819 Sunriver, OR 97707-0819
19	Leonard G. Parrott	New Full Member – 401st	4610 N Mueller Ave Bethany, OK 73008
20	Larry M. Roth	Address Correction	P.O. Box 547637
20	Charles Rongey Jr.	New Address	2063 Plateau Rd Clearwater, FL 33755-1258
20	Walter Salo	New Address	200 E Pierce St Apt 9 Wakefield, MI 49968-1358
21	Morris J. Shapiro	New Address	20680 Rawhide Rd Elkhorn, NE 68022-1828
22	Vivian Stellhorn	New Address	6510 S East St Apt 14 Indianapolis, IN 46227-2284
23	Bernard Swinburne	New Address	505 Gulf Shore Dr Unit 213 Destin, FL 32541-5062
23	Andy Tilbury	New Associate Member	17 Elm Tree Dr Bassingbourn, Royston, Hertfordshire SG8 5LU United Kingdom
24	Isle Weinberger	New Address	53 Emily Dr South Setauket, NY 11720-2017
24	Dr. Greg Varhall	New Address	2214 Creek Dr Alexandria, VA 22308-2721
24	Linda R. Varhall	New Address	2214 Creek Dr Alexandria, VA 22308-2721
24	Smiley Wagner	Deceased	
25	Earl Williamson	Zip Code Correction	935 N Pine Vivian, LA 71082-2011
25	William H. Wheeler	New Address	11818 Latigo Ln Oakton, VA 22124-2310
25	Claude (Mack) Williams	Deceased	
26	Dominic Zurella	New Address	4887 Westchester Dr Unit 4 Youngstown, OH 44515-6527

91st BGMA Board Meeting

October 31, 2009, 9:07 – 10:01 AM PST

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

PX Report: Jim

- Out of 322nd Squadron patches. Need to find out who the vendor was in order to place another order.
- Jody will email inventory sheet to verify what items we have in stock.

Treasury Report: Jody

- We currently have a total of \$36,686.46. \$6,500.60 in checking, \$22,704.90 in the CD and \$7,421.20 in the Putman Account.
- We currently have 733 members. 270 are Associate Members, 449 are Full and Life Members and there are 14 PR members. Jody said they are currently 343 dues paying members.
- Jim added that Jody and Gary are doing well in obtaining changes of addresses.

Ragged Irregular: Jim (filling in for Gary)

- Applications for new Officers will be included in the January issue.
- Jim, Jody and Mick are willing to continue their duties, and if Jim is unable to continue as President, Mick would be willing to take the office.
- There was a general discussion regarding the terms of office.
- Mick researched the By-Laws and found that there is no restriction on the terms of office and the only restriction is that an Officer cannot hold more than two offices.

Nine-O-Nine Team Spirit Award: Ed

- Ed said that award ceremony is currently scheduled to take place in March of 2010 at Minot but he is concerned about the weather that time of year and that no one from our group would want to attend.
- He said that he is not sure how the nominees will be screened but hopes that we will be involved in the process.
- Ed reported that our cost would be \$500 per year for the honorarium with a plaque of some sort. Ed will work on obtaining the information and email the results to the Board Members.
- Ed stated that he also hoping that there will be a permanent trophy in the display case at Minot, with is name of the awardees engraved on it. He has not yet heard back from the Master Sergeant to confirm.
- Ed suggested that we contact the Collings Foundation to see if they would also like to participate in the award ceremony.

Allan Charles of the French Association: Ed

- In 2006 the Board approved a \$1,000 donation to the association to assist in the website construction.
- Ed suggested to Allan that all of the information that the French Association has regarding the crash sites, would be the most interesting to our members.
- Allan will give a presentation at the reunion on Thursday or Friday night.
- The French Association was established after World War I to honor the Americans who assisted France in battle. Website is www.b17.france.org.

2010 Reunion: Ed

- Don and Tom Freer went to both the Holiday Inn North in Dayton and the Holiday Inn in Fairborn. Tom has reported back to Ed that the Holiday Inn in Fairborn is far superior to the Holiday Inn in Dayton.
- The hospitality room at Fairborn is large and has plenty of room for displays and for the bar set up. There is a special theatre that accommodates up to 150 people that will be perfect for Allan Charles presentation and the Tower Museum. Ed said that he is working with the National Park Service to also do a presentation about the Wright Bicycle Shop.
- The cost will be approximately \$90 per night and there is an option to include a hot breakfast for an additional cost of \$10.00 per room.
- Tom Freer is in the process of making arrangements for the transportation.
- Mick suggested that we contact the 8th Air Force Newsletter and other magazines to publicize the reunion. Ed will contact Mick as soon as the contract and exact details have been work out with the Holiday Inn in Fairborn and Mick will contact the magazines.
- Request to find out who will be attending the reunion in order to get an idea of numbers.

Financial Assistance to Veterans: Mick

- Mick proposed that we offer a discount to veterans or their surviving spouses to help defray the costs of attending the reunion. He suggested the discount should be \$100.00.
- There was a general discussion and it was decided to obtain a vote by all board members. Jim will send an email to all board members to vote on the proposal.

Steve Pena/Full Membership: Jim

- Jim stated that Steve Pena has requested the status of Full Membership. The board voted yes.

Daniel Goldberg Donation: Jim

- Received notice that Daniel Goldberg's will left a donation of \$1,000.00 to the 91st BGMA.

Mike Banta's Web Ring

Contact Mike Banta to join or ask questions of the Ring at email: B17banta@aol.com. If you'd like to comment on or answer any of the following and do not have email access, simply drop a line to the Ragged Irregular (address on page 2) and the information will be forwarded to Mike and the Ring.

Web Link to National Personnel Records Center

Sent by Jim Bard Jr.

Please pass on to other vets.

It's official; DD-214s are NOW Online.

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online:

<http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents.

Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records centers mailroom and processing time.

Please pass this information on to former military personnel you may know and their dependents.

Holiday Wreath at the Chow-hound crew gravesite

On Dec 12th, 5,000 volunteers placed over 15,000 wreaths at the base of the tombstones at Arlington National Cemetery. This is an annual event held at the cemetery and selected military cemeteries all over the country. Each year a specific section at Arlington is selected for the wreaths that have red ribbons. Military units, scouts, private citizens give their time that takes about 2 hours to honor our veterans in this most unique

manner. Normally, the older sections are selected because they have fewer visitors.

This year, thanks to the National Services Association, 1,000 wreaths were placed on the gravesites at Section 60. This section is an expansion of the cemetery where veterans from Iraq and the Afghan war are buried. In one part of the section, is a number of gravesites set aside for the remains of Americans were reported missing in action. Later, thanks to DNA and crash search teams, many of the missing were discovered and given military funerals at the Arlington. Near fresh graves is the burial site for the *Chow-hound crew*.

Since I was at the funeral for the crew, I visit the gravesite from time to time. Next to the site that has the names of the crew engraved on the large tombstone is the grave of a young lady who was killed in Iraq. She had been awarded the Silver Star - The price for freedom continues to be paid.

Tom Hovis, Member of the Ring and Associate member of the 91st BGMA. I presently live in nearby Fairfax, Va.

MACRs from '42-'47 are now online, for free

Almost every Missing Air Crew Report known to exist from '42-'47 is now online, for free, at Footnote.com.

Just go to this link

www.footnote.com/page/1918_wwii_missing_air_crew_reports

and type in the plane's tail number, or the MACR number, and it will take you to the section where one can view the MACR.

These records are from the National Archives. I had to send away and get my father's a few years ago, and now it is online for free. This is amazing, and sure shows the benefits of the internet for instant information.

I hope your Christmas was a good one, and all the best in the New Year.

Your friend,

Gordy

Geoff is looking for pics of *Nine-O-Nine* 1st pilots

Happy New Year,

I don't know if you remember but back in 2007 I contacted you as I had just started to write a book about *Nine-O-Nine*, your help then was really fantastic and resulted in one of the 91st veterans who flew on *Nine-O-Nine* writing the forward for the book.

The book is still progressing well although I do sometimes struggle to find enough time to have a good run at it but I was wondering if it would be possible to call on your help again please. At present I'm covering the missions that *Nine-O-Nine* flew using various sources of information including the Dailies from the 91st BG Association which are a great help as they identify the pilot for each mission.

It was on the subject of the different pilots that I am writing to you, more specifically pictures of them and their crews. The pilots I've identified so far that flew *Nine-O-Nine* are Lt. Hackleman, Lt. Samuelson, Lt. Klinger, Lt. Wilkinson, Lt. Thomas, Lt. Stunf, Lt. Miller, Lt. Riser.

With your contacts could you possibly see if you could get hold of any pictures of the above pilots and their crews?

Very best wishes,

Geoff Smith - geoff-smith@sky.com

Officials launch new Air Force community Web site

by Master Sgt. Stan Parker

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

Dec. 9, 2009

WASHINGTON (AFRNS) - Air Force officials have launched a new Web site to meet social and informational needs of Airmen, civilians, retirees and their families.

The entire Air Force family: all Airmen, married and single; spouses; children; Air Force civilians; and retirees are invited to log on to www.usafservices.com, the official community Web site of the Air Force. The Web site allows users to add friends, send messages and update their personal profiles to notify family and friends about themselves.

Registered users will find the site allows for real - time socializing through the use of private or public chats, according to Mrs. Eliza Nesmith, Airmen and family

services chief. Officials are not just optimistic based on the site's popularity, but also by feedback received regarding its functionality.

Additionally, users can join networks or create forums ranging in topics from deployed - spouse support to families with special needs.

"The new Web site is going to be very exciting and useful for Airmen and their families," said Ms. Nesmith. "We have about 2,200 users who are using the site right now, from an initial 600."

Although Airmen and families may be surprised by the absence of Air Force Crossroads, officials emphasized this important capability will continue to exist under the new domain.

Airmen will see advantages of the new site, particularly the new social networking feature, Ms. Nesmith said. The feature called "My Journal", under the "Share" tab functions much like Facebook and allows registered users to invite friends, join groups and post photos or videos. Like commercial sites, users can restrict access, allowing only those known to them to view their information and post messages.

Active duty, retirees, reservists, Guardsmen, Department of Defense employees and others who are enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System may register as users on the site.

Users will notice that the Web site does not require the use of a common access card, but under optimized security measures, users can create a unique account username and a 15 character password, Ms. Nesmith said. Despite increased security measures, the site will be accessible from government and personal computers, she added.

As this new site was launched, Air Force officials discontinued GI Mail. Over the past few years, officials have noticed the feature was an important tool for families to stay in touch, while others used it for their official mail or even to pay bills.

"We are very sensitive to drawing down that capability ... but the social networking and contact with family during a deployment is going to be an easy and important part of usafservices.com," Ms. Nesmith said, noting a messaging feature, forums and a real - time.

While there is no capability or contact list link between Air Force Crossroads/GI Mail and the new usafservices.com Web site, users can click on the webmaster link to solicit help.

"Once Airmen and their families get accustomed to using the Web site, they will find that it is a very user friendly site that will give them much more flexibility than they have had on similar Web sites," Ms. Nesmith said. "During this Year of the Air Force Family, we really want to take a look at policies and procedures and see what we can do better. This is one of them."

Senior leaders have designated July 2009 through July 2010 as the Year of the Air Force Family, maintaining their commitment and attention to Airmen and their families as a top priority. Airmen and Family Support is one of the four pillars on which the Year of the Air Force Family is built, including Health and Wellness, Education, Development and Employment and Airman and Family Housing. (Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Folded Wings (continued from page 8)

☛ **Paul H Reynolds Sr 322nd Age 85**

Asheville, NC, November 16, 2009

Reported by his wife Loretta



Paul was born on February 22, 1924 in Asheville. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Blondell Conner Reynolds.

Staff Sergeant Reynolds was part of the 322nd squad, 91st Bomb Group (H), 8th United States Army Air Force, Bassingbourn, United Kingdom, from September 2, 1944 – June 15, 1945, and served as a Combat Gunnery Instructor.

Paul is survived by his wife, Loretta Wilson Reynolds; siblings: Brian and Jeanne Harris, Caroline and Tony Smith, Warren and Claire Harris and Nolene and Frazier Smith; and two grandchildren.

☛ **Harold A Levin 401st Age 86**

Mequon, WI, July 17, 2008

Hal was a decorated World War II veteran who flew as a navigator with the 91st Bomb Group.

Beloved husband of Carol. Dear father of Lee (Michael Hirsch) Levin, Laurence (Elizabeth Davis) Levin, Susan Mayer, William (Wendy) Mayer and Debra (Don) May. Loving grandfather to eight grand-children.

☛ **Claude "Mack" Williams 323rd Age 89**

Cookeville, TN, October 28, 2009

Reported by his daughter Claudia Williams



Dr. Claude McKnight (Mack) Williams was a native of Gibson County and was born May 22, 1920, in Humboldt. Dr. Williams attended what was then called the University of Tennessee Junior College in Martin. Upon graduation, he volunteered in the Army Air Corps in 1941. He became a

B-17 pilot and flew out of the 8th Air Force in England. His plane was shot down on his 10th mission on March 8, 1944, and he then spent 14 months as a prisoner of war in Germany and was honorably discharged in December 1945 as a First Lieutenant.

His family includes his wife, Patricia Hicks Williams of Cookeville; a daughter, Claudia Williams of Nashville; two sons and daughters-in-law, Craig Williams M.D. and Robin Williams of Cape Girardeau, Mo., and Ken Williams, an attorney in Cookeville, and wife Cari Williams; and four grandchildren, Warren, Katie, Mack and Helen Williams.

☛ **Michael N Kunrod 323rd Age 86**

Colorado Springs, CO, August 17, 2008



Michael was born on December 19, 1921 in Eackley, PA. After high school, he served in the United States Army Air Corps attaining the rank of Master Sergeant. He married Velma Margaret Kunrod on January, 22, 1945 in Hastings. He was retired from the U.S. Civil Service at the United States Air Force Academy.

Mr. Kunrod is survived by his loving wife Velma; his daughters Carol (Charles) Prano and Linda (John) Iacobucci; five grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren.

As the R/I went to print...

We received news of Ed Gates' passing on January 8, 2010 after a battle with cancer. A full notice will be printed in the Folded Wings section of the April newsletter.

Folded Wings:

☛ **George "Ray" Barnes 323rd Age 85**

Sudbury, MA, October 29, 2009

Reported by his son Ronald Barnes



George was born in Portland, Maine in November of 1923 and raised in Boston, MA. Shortly after graduating from Roxbury Memorial High School in Boston, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and served his country in England where he was stationed at Bassingbourn Air Field. He was a

member of the 323rd Bomb Squadron of the 91st Bomb Group from 1942-1945, flew over 35 combat missions as an engineer gunner on the B-17 and attained the rank of Tech Sergeant.

He was a member of the Disabled American Veterans and the Jewish War Veterans. Ray had lost his wife of 54 years, Mary Barnes, in March of 2007 to lung cancer.

A resident of Framingham, MA for over 45 years, he is survived by his son Ronald Barnes, his daughter Janet (Paul) Bardash, and three grandchildren.

☛ **George E Dowell 323rd Age 92**

Knoxville, IL, October 22, 2009

Reported by his son-in-law Jim Rutledge



George was born January 26, 1917 in Disco, Illinois. He married Margaret J. Lyon on September 23, 1945 in Galesburg, Illinois. She preceded him in death on May 7, 1999.

He served in the United States Army Air Force from October 14, 1941 until September 8, 1945 during World War II as a mechanic stationed in England. He received the American Defense Service Ribbon, European African Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with 1 Silver and 2 Bronze Battle Stars, 5 Overseas Service Bars, 1 Service Stripe and the Good Conduct Medal.

Surviving are two daughters, Carolyn (Dennis) Anderson and Judy (Jim) Rutledge; two sons, Kenneth E. "Ken" (Corinne) Dowell and James Dowell; seven granddaughters; ten great grandchildren; one sister, Lois Copeland and one brother, Denzil Dowell

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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