

THE RAGGED IRREGULAR



322nd BS



323rd BS



Supporting Units



324th BS



401st BS

Vol. 43 No. 3

91st Bombardment Group (H)

July 2010

MAXIMUM EFFORT – DAYTON, OH

All squadrons of the 91st Bomb Group to assemble September 29, 2010 at the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, OH.

If you have not done so, please fill out your registration form and mail with payment to Jody Kelly (address on form). The registration form is located in the center of this R/I and as an insert in the April 2010 issue. It is important to mail the form by August 6th to ensure our prices. Contact Jim Shepherd if you need an extra form.

Hotel reservations must be made by August 27th. We are staying at the Holiday Inn Dayton-Fairborn, 2800 Presidential Drive, Fairborn, Ohio 45324. Please call the hotel at (937)426-7800 and state you are with the 91st Bomb Group Reunion. Our rate is \$99.00 per night and includes breakfast.

There are several exceptional activities available to our group during our stay in Dayton. For exact times and prices, please check the registration form.



Reproduction of the Wright brothers' 1905 hangar and catapult at Huffman Prairie Flying Field which is part of Wednesday's events.

Wednesday's excursion is the Aviation Trail of History Stop and Go Bus Tour. You can choose between morning, lunch, afternoon or all day.

The morning will include a visit to the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center where you will see how the lives of aviation pioneers Orville and Wilbur Wright, and writer Paul Laurence Dunbar came together to weave a rich historical tapestry. A stop at the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum, featuring parachute artifacts which include equipment from the original Parachute Test Branch at McCook Field and Wright Field, predecessors to what is now Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Next, you'll visit The Wright Cycle Company, the fourth location of the Wright brothers' bicycle business, and the only one intact and at its original location. Enjoy the beautiful Carillon Historical Park and see the actual 1905 Wright Flyer III and other Dayton-made products.

We'll stop for lunch at the Amber Rose Restaurant specializing in homemade German, Polish, Hungarian, Russian and Italian cuisines.



Memphis Belle returning home.

The *Belle* is currently undergoing restoration in Dayton and will be part of the Air Force Museum tour Thursday during the reunion.

Continued on page 6

President's Corner**Jim Shepherd**

The 2010 Reunion will be a great opportunity to visit with the Veterans of the 91st and their families. The memories will never be forgotten and the laughter always there. Reunion dates are September 29 to October 3. Some exciting news, our entire group will have special viewing rights to the *Memphis Belle*. This is not standard procedure at the Air Force Museum!

The reunion registration form is in the R/I and available on our web page under Upcoming Events (www.91stbombgroup.com). Please call Jim Shepherd at 714-970-5540 if you would like an application mailed to you.

We appreciate all the generous Donations to upgrade the web page and we are racing with time to grow the web page into a Fantastic Historical Treasure. We are working to make it easier for people to donate through our web page using PayPal. All donations are payable to the 91st BGMA. Your donation of any amount is appreciated. There is no other WWII web page as complete with detailed information, almost 6,000 pages! Special thanks to the Mike Banta Ring of Veterans for the amazing work they do for all that request information.

All of the Ragged Irregular newsletters are being added to the web page by Jim Shepherd, Jr. What a wonderful addition to the web page! Right now, you can access copies of the R/I from the first issue printed in October 1968 through the October 1983 issue along with a few others. You should view the July 2008 Reunion issue as it is in living color. Every name listed in the R/I's will be available through a "Search" box on the web page. We have found the R/I's to be a treasure chest of information and want to make the stories available to everyone. Other items on the web page include; a Brief History of the 91st BG; Folded Wings history; and the up-to-date 91st Casualty List.

With the advancement of technology, we must consider additional improvements within our organization. It is now possible for you to receive the R/I by email in color. I now get my copy by email and print it in color and can make extra copies if I wish. This would help to reduce costly mailing expenses for the 91st. Please notify Jody Kelly if you wish to receive the R/I by electronic copy only. We hope to reduce the number of paper copies by January 2011.

We are working to upgrade the Prop Memorial at Bassingbourn by next spring. David Crow has been a great help and is extremely enthusiastic about upgrading the memorial. David has had a set-back with heart surgery, but is improving daily. We are grateful for his dedication. We are also working with MacDill Air Force Base in Florida to re-install the memorial plaque that has been moved from the entrance of the base.

We have a couple of new items in the PX!

CD book "Old Faithful" written by Rex Poulton and Forwarded by Brig. Gen. J. H. McPartlin. This is a wonderful book that has been donated to the 91st BGMA. Cost \$20.00 plus shipping.

CD by Sir Arthur Harris recorded April 1977 about the successes of the bombing of Germany. Cost \$5.00 plus shipping.

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Please send Folded Wings information to Jody Kelly.

Submissions for the October R/I need to be received before September 15th.

91st Bomb Group E-mail Ring

b17banta@aol.com

91st on the Web

www.91stbombgroup.com
www.bombsqd323rd.com

Veeps Views**Mick Hanou****Wings of Freedom Tour Schedule**

I'm looking forward to hearing your stories at the Reunion 2010 in Dayton, which promises to be great fun. I will be handling the Hospitality Suite again, opening on Wednesday and staying open as often as I can for your enjoyment. Please bring scrapbooks, photos, mementoes or anything else to share with attendees, as that has been quite a popular pastime for everyone.

The discussions around the tables are informative and interesting because it is YOUR stories we come to hear. Last reunion, Mike Yamada brought a full display of a B-17 cockpit and George Bruckert brought uniforms and items of interest which also prompted stories (and some flight instruction from Verne!).

As I have often said, please get your family interested in your history and pass your mementoes on to them first. However, if you have anything that you are intending to donate, Jim and I are finalizing arrangements for a display case at the Chino 91st BG display. We will be logging in donations at the reunion. We also want to record the history behind the donation as history is best preserved when the context is attached. If there is more than one item, we will keep the material together, again to preserve context. Jenny Harlick has graciously directed that Joe's photos and books reside at Chino.

And, speaking of stories, I quite appreciate the calls I have gotten from you 91st veterans. I really enjoy talking with you and hearing your history. So, please feel free to call me (evenings PST) and talk.

May was great fun for me because it is the time of year when I do most of my air show activities. I volunteered for security at the Chino air show, this year dedicated to Mustangs - 18 of them! And then I sponsored the Memorial Day stop of the Collings Foundation at Livermore Airport (18th year). The B-17 *Nine-O-Nine* is still flying well and representing the 91st BG to the public. Veterans and volunteers describe her history, what the markings mean, and generally communicate what you all did for our freedom. I took a few B-17 flights and also was lucky when Rob Collings took me up in their P-51C, which has dual controls in it. I got to fly her a bit and then Rob did aerobatics including various rolls, split-S, Immelmann, and loop. What a hoot!

See you soon, hope you are all well.

Mick

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Town / Airport</u>
7/7 - 7/9	Denver, CO Rocky Mountain Metro (Jefferson County)
7/9 - 7/11	Fort Collins, CO Ft. Collins-Loveland Municipal
7/12 - 7/14	Salina, KS Salina Municipal
7/14 - 7/16	Lawrence, KS Lawrence Municipal
7/16 - 7/19	Omaha, NE Eppley Airfield
7/19 - 7/21	TBD
7/21 - 7/23	Aurora, IL Aurora Municipal
7/23 - 7/26	Chicago, IL Chicago Executive
7/26 - 7/28	Valparaiso, IN Porter County Municipal
7/28 - 7/30	Griffith, IN Griffith-Merrillville
7/30 - 8/2	West Chicago, IL Dupage
8/2 - 8/4	Kankakee, IL Greater Kankakee

Collings Foundation's B-17 *Nine-O-Nine*, B-24 *Witchcraft* and P-51 *Betty Jane* are scheduled at all listed stops!

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



Rob Collings and Mick Hanou in *Betty Jane*

Memorial Day Remembrances from Across the Pond

Dutch Memorial Day at Opijnen - 4 May 2010

By Eric Dominicus



Opijnen, Holland is a one and a half hour drive from our hometown to attend the Memorial Service for the 91st BGMA.

At 6:30 PM we attended the church hall for a "meet and greet" with the guests. 7:30 PM was the beginning of the remembrance Service. The choir group Crescendo sang as we enter the church. Speeches were given by Mayor De Zeeuw of Neerijnen; Julie Ruterbories, US Consulate General Amsterdam; Kim Harrison, President of the American Women's Club of Amsterdam; Former Mayor Jansen (Historical recollections); and Dominee Verdijk (closing prayer).

At 7:50 we moved to the church yard. The church bells began to ring at 7:58 followed by two minutes of deep silence to remember the fallen comrades. A laying of flowers followed, represented by Mayor De Zeeuw of Neerijnen; Julie Ruterbories for the USA; Kim Harrison for AWCA; Eric Dominicus for the 91st BGMA; and Anoushka de Kock for her grandfather who witnessed the crash. The Choir group sang "God Bless America" and local citizens also laid flowers.

We proceeded to "t' Zandpad" (B-17 Memorial Monument) where Sherie and Greg Bruce (daughter and son of the co-pilot John Bruce) and Cheri Nichol (wife of Greg) lay flowers at the monument. Greg spoke for the Bruce family.

As always it's a great honor for my wife Inge and I to participate at the Memorial. We always feel and hope we can give something back to all of the brave Americans who fought for our freedom.

Cambridge American Cemetery - 31 May 2010

By Vince Hemmings

When Margaret and I started off for Madingley it was typical English weather for the Memorial Service, raining, misty and murky. We arrived at Madingley and the rain had turned to drizzle, but still very overcast. Checked to see if the wreath had arrived and it had,

then checked on a board to see where we were seated and found the Group's name missing from the board. So we found a seat half way down the Wall of the Missing which in fact turned out to be the ideal place as the wreath bearer carrying in the Group's wreath stopped within a few yards.

The Master of Ceremonies for the Service was Lieutenant Colonel Brett D. Pennington, Commander, 351st Air Refueling Squadron. The Invocation was given by Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel Frederick H. Viccellio, 100th Air Refueling Wing, RAF Mildenhall. He was followed by Rear Admiral Ronald H. Henderson, Junior US Defense Attaché, United Kingdom. Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Mr. Hugh Duberly gave the opening remarks. This was followed by the Cemetery History.

Then that moment of magic when the congregation recognizes the American Veterans arrived. It is always a pleasure to see these gentlemen. The wreath's bearers came to stand in front of the Wall of the Missing from both ends with an Air Force Officer standing in the middle giving the bearers their orders. The Prayer of Remembrance was given by Chaplain Viccello. Approximately 130 wreaths were laid and it was interesting to note that several wreaths were laid by the wreath bearers.

The flyby tribute was led by a MC-130H from the 352nd Special Operations Group and a KC-135R from the 100th Air Refueling Wing both from RAF Mildenhall. After the Firing of Taps, a flyby tribute by four F-15E's Missing Man Formation did not quite make a direct fly over. Sadly the Boeing B-17G *Sally B* did not arrive, but on the way home we did see her flying over her current base, the former RAF Duxford airfield, now the home of the Imperial War Museum. According to one of the Cemeteries staff about 1,500 people attended.



Ardennes American Cemetery - 29 May 2010

By Eric Dominicus



My wife Inge and I went to the American Cemetery at Neuville-en-Condroz in the Belgian Ardennes for the Memorial Day ceremony. 113 members of the 91st BG are buried in this cemetery.

As always before the ceremony starts, we visit the grave of Bert Stiles. Bert was a co-pilot with the 91st before he was killed in a Mustang fighter plane. He was a school friend of John Howland who published Bert's wartime memories in the book "Serenade to the Big Bird".

The ceremony started at 10:00 AM with a welcome from Mr. James B. Begg, President, American Overseas Memorial Day Association, Belgium. Two F-16 Falcons from the US Air Force presented a flyover. The Invocation was given by Monsignor Aloys Jousten, Bishop of Liège.

Tributes were delivered by Vice Admiral Richard K. Gallagher, United States Navy, U.S. Military Representative, NATO Military Committee (he has logged more than 4,000 flight hours in different aircraft); Mr. Arthur Cortis, mayor of Neupré; Mr. Howard W. Gutman, Ambassador of the United States of America to the kingdom of Belgium; and General Eric Shinseki, Secretary of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Singing Children of Rotheux sang both the Belgian and American National Anthems. The laying of the wreaths ceremony was followed by the Firing of Volleys, Taps and Raising of the Colors. A Memorial Prayer was offered by Mr. Steven Brummel and a benediction given by Chaplain (Major) Darin G. Olson.

I was pleased to see so many young people attend the ceremony. The American Boy Scouts represent every year at the ceremony. They are the future to keep this Memorial Day alive.

Afterward, Princess Astrid of the Kingdom of Belgium talked with some relatives who had flown in from the U.S. for the ceremony.

I had the opportunity to speak with a daughter of B-17 tail gunner who had been stationed in England. His plane was hit and eventually went down in the North Sea. Her father was listed as MIA and she has been looking for years to find more information. She went to the Cambridge American Cemetery and was told the name of her father was on the "Wall of Missing" at the cemetery in the Belgian Ardennes, a strange story.

It's a great Honor for us to participate in this ceremony for the 91st BGMA, we have the feeling we can give something back for those young and brave men.

Netherlands American Cemetery - 30 May 2010
By Ivo de Jong

Every year an impressive Memorial Day ceremony is held at the American Military Cemetery at Margraten, in the most southern tip of Holland. Here, 8,301 Americans have found their final resting place and 1,722 names are inscribed on the Walls of the Missing. This year saw the 65th ceremony since the cemetery was founded and for this special occasion Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands participated. She laid the first wreath on behalf of the Dutch government and its citizens. The American government was represented by the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs, General (Ret) Eric K. Shinseki, who laid the second wreath. As usual, Ivo de Jong laid a beautiful wreath on behalf of the 91st Bomb Group Association. Unfortunately, the ceremony was plagued by very bad weather, gusty winds and heavy rain, so the impressive 'missing man' formation flight by four Dutch and four American fighter aircraft was cancelled.

But, all in all, it was another solemn tribute to the American soldiers buried in Dutch soil.

Maximum Effort continued from page 1

The tour continues Wednesday afternoon with stops at the National Aviation Hall of Fame, the Wright Brothers Memorial and Huffman Prairie Flying Field where the Wright brothers spent a considerable amount of time developing a dependable, fully-controllable airplane.

Spend Thursday at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. The museum is allowing our entire group to participate in a behind the scenes tour of the *Memphis Belle* restoration! Normally this tour serves a very limited number of people, so this is something very special indeed. View many of the other exhibits which include a replica WWII control tower, countless planes, the Presidential Hanger and a flight jacket donated by 91st Bombardier Paul Chryst.



Champaign Lady under construction at the Champaign Aviation Museum in Urbana, OH. 91st BGMA associate member Norm Burmaster is involved with the restoration and will hosting our group Friday.

A short bus ride Friday morning will take us to Grimes Field in Urbana, OH. You'll be able to see the rebuild of B-17G 44-85813, now known as *Champaign Lady*, up close and personal. Lunch will be provided.

Saturday morning it's literally down to business as we have our biennial business meeting and lunch at the hotel. For those not attending the meeting, a trip is offered to Clifton Mill. Clifton offers a look back in history as many of the town's original buildings are intact and of the many area mills built in the 1800s, Clifton Mill is the only one still in operation today.

The 91st BGMA Banquet will take place Saturday at the Air Force Museum. An evening of excellent food, guest speakers, door prizes and great company, what more could you ask for? Make certain you don't miss this event!

Enjoy a relaxing end to the 2010 Reunion with a Sunday brunch cruise leaving from Newport, KY. For those with afternoon flights out of Cincinnati, the brunch cruise is on your way to the airport. If you're staying in Dayton another evening, transportation will be available from the hotel to the dock and back again. Newport is 70 miles from Dayton and 17 miles from the Cincinnati Airport. The boat begins boarding at 11:00 AM, leaves dock at noon and returns at 2:00 PM. Transportation will leave the Holiday Inn at 10:00 AM and return by 4:00 PM.

Don't forget the Hospitality Suite at the hotel! Generally this will be open between and after events. Mick Hanou is in charge and looking for volunteers to help. If you have bartending skills or even if you don't, I'm sure he can put you to work.

Quite a few things to see and do over a handful of days! All the activities aside, it will be nice to gather with the 91st family once again. We hope to see all of you in September!

Vote Soon, Vote Often

Hand in hand with the 2010 Reunion is the 2010 91st BGMA Election. No promises to fix the economy, pull troops out of Afghanistan or cap the oil leak from our candidates, but they will serve to protect the history, heritage and memory of the collective of individuals known as the 91st Bomb Group.

You will notice the position of Historian is open on the ballot. After serving one term as Historian, Steve Perri is resigning, but will be available to train a replacement if one steps forward. If you wish to write in a candidate for Historian or any other of the positions, please do so at this time. No candidates will be accepted at the biennial meeting in Dayton.

In order to hold a board position with the 91st BGMA, you must be a full member of the organization. If you are an associate member and are interested in becoming a full member, please contact any one of the current board members for more detailed information on becoming a full member.

Please take the time to find your ballot in the middle of this newsletter, cast your vote and send the ballot to Tom Freer at the address provided. So, "vote soon", but don't take the "vote often" seriously. Thank you!

91st Bomb Group Dayton Ohio Reunion 29 September to 3 October 2010

Please mail your Registration Form **no later than 6 August 2010** for receipt in California by 10 August 2010 to ensure transportation at these prices. Circle H if you have a handicapped pass or YES if we can list your room number in a locator for viewing by other attendees. Checks made payable to the 91st BGMA.

NAME: H / YES _____ Sqdn: _____

Tel: (____) ____ - _____ E-Mail _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Guest: H / YES _____ Guest: H / YES _____

****International visitors must provide the following with their reunion application: Name, Passport #, Expiration Date, Birth Date and Place of Birth.**

Registration Fee (for each person) _____ Adult/Child @ \$30 = _____

**Includes \$10 gift certificate for 91st BGMA PX during reunion (no cash back).

Activity: Wednesday 29 Sep. 9:00 AM Aviation Trail of History stop and go bus. Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center, Aviation Trail Parachute Museum, Wright Cycle Company, Carillon Historical Park, and then lunch at the Amber Rose Restaurant.

The above parks and lunch: \$32.00/Person X _____ = _____

The above parks only: \$16.00/Person X _____ = _____

The afternoon will include 5 parks including the Air Force Museum, National Aviation Hall of Fame, Wright Brothers Memorial (there could be an additional fee), Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center and Huffman Prairie Flying Field.

The afternoon bus trip only: \$9.00/Person X _____ = _____

***Hospitality room hours will be posted at hotel.**

Activity: Thursday 30 Sep. 8:30 AM United States Air Force Museum. All attendees will see the Memphis Belle restoration and the Presidential Hanger. Barbecue lunch at the Museum included.

\$34.00/Person X _____ = _____

The afternoon at the US Air Force Museum or return to hotel.

***Hospitality room hours will be posted at hotel.**

Activity: Friday 1 Oct. Urbana Airport B-17 Restoration Project. Associate member, Norm Burmaster, will be our host. Lunch included.

\$24.00/Person X _____ = _____

The afternoon is FREE time.

***Hospitality room hours will be posted at hotel.**

Activity: Saturday 2 Oct. Business Meeting and Lunch at Hotel

\$27.00/Person X _____ = _____

Spouses and other attendees can travel to Clifton Mill

\$25.00/Person X _____ = _____

Banquet at the Air Force Museum

\$40.00/Person X _____ = _____

Menu selection: (Both choices include a mixed green salad, rolls and dessert.)

#_____ Roast Sirloin of Beef with Red Wine and Demi-Glaze, Roasted Redskinned Potatoes and California Blend Veggie.

- or -

#_____ Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast with Roast Red Pepper Glaze, Roasted Redskinned Potatoes and California Blend Veggie.

*Hospitality room hours will be posted at hotel.

Activity: Sunday 3 Oct. 10:00 AM Newport, KY Brunch Cruise. There is nothing quite like a relaxing Sunday Brunch, especially one as delicious as this one. Dine on a hearty spread, then sit back and enjoy a perfectly relaxing afternoon. Take in the sights, listen to a Dixieland Jazz Band, linger in the sun and visit with the captain.

\$55.00/Person X _____ = _____

**At the last Rally-round in Minneapolis a Brunch Cruise was scheduled and it was one of the highlights of the trip.

Total for Registration and Activities \$_____

Hotel Information – Note: Reservations must be made before 27 August 2010.

HOLIDAY INN DAYTON-FAIRBORN
2800 Presidential Drive
Fairborn, Ohio 45324

Phone (937)426-7800 - Reservations requests must state 91st Bomb Group Reunion.

The rate is \$99.00 per night and includes breakfast.

Please do not cut this form. It makes filing cumbersome.

Make check payable to "91st BGMA".

Mail to: 91st BGMA, 3829 Sunset Lane, Oxnard, CA 93035

_____ Please do not write below this line _____

Date: _____ Check No. _____ Amount: _____ Cancellation: _____ Refund Date: _____

91st BGMA BALLOT Year 2010 Election of Officers

PRESIDENT

Jim Shepherd

Born in Oklahoma City 1935. Graduated High School 1953 in Inglewood, CA. Worked at North American Aviation. Joined USAF 1956 stationed at Castle AFB. Worked for Farmers Insurance Group for 47 years. Married Suzi Frye 1990 – Daughter of Wayne “Tex” Frye (323rd) who signed him up with the 91st BGMA in 1992. He is an associate life member and the publisher of the 91st Bomb Group web page. [President for 2006 to 2010 terms.]

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Mick Hanou

Has always been fascinated with WWII aircraft. As an adult he has continued his interest by helping with air shows and rose to Ramp Boss of major air shows. He had his first ride in the Collings Foundation’s *Nine-O-Nine* in 1992. He befriended George Birdsong and joined the 91st BGMA. He is a sponsor of *Nine-O-Nine* and helps keep this B-17 touring the USA. He became an Associate Life Member in 1997 and has attended all 91st Reunions since. [1st Vice President for 2006 to 2010 terms.]

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Robert Friedman

Enlisted Air Corps of US Army, August 1942. Graduated as Aerial Navigator and 2nd Lieutenant, March 1944. Flew 44 combat missions with the 323rd Squadron of the 91st Bomb Group. Stayed in the reserves until resignation as Captain in 1957. Served the 91st BGMA as President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President and managed the PX for 6 years. [2nd Vice President for 2006 to 2010 terms.]

SECRETARY / TREASURER

Jody Kelly

The daughter of Robert “Bob” Dickson, a pilot in the 91st Bomb Group. Over the past 30 years, she has worked in the accounting field as Controller, Director of Finance, etc. for companies in the Southern California and Arizona area. She is an associate life member who has attended all of the reunions since 2004 and several Rally Rounds and enjoys the camaraderie and friendship at these meetings. [Secretary / Treasurer for 2008 to 2010 term.]

HISTORIAN

Position is currently open.

EDITOR “THE RAGGED IRREGULAR”

Gary Hall

Grandson of Edgar Harrell, a ball turret gunner with the 401st Squadron of the 91st Bomb Group who was killed in action April 8, 1945. An associate life member of the 91st BGMA since 2001 with a mission to help keep the history of the 91st alive for future generations. [Editor for 2008 to 2010 term.]

There shall be no officer candidate nominations proposed at the General Membership Meeting in Ohio 2010. Send any write in nominations to: Tom Freer, 6380 Winstead Ct, Lisle, IL 60532

Mail to:

Tom Freer
6380 Winstead Ct
Lisle, IL 60532

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.

Looking for 91st non combat aircraft

I am a professional graphic / artist and I am preparing a sequel to my book "Assembly ships of the Mighty Eighth". At the moment I am working with color artwork of hack aircraft used by 8th and 9th USAAF.

I hope you will be able to help me - I am looking for any kind of pictures, information, crew list, accidents, extraordinary sorties etc, etc. of hack / communication / auxiliary / transport / ambulance planes used by 91st Bomb Group especially, as well as Headquarter Flight of the 1st Combat Wing and Headquarter Flight of the 1st Air Division.

Naturally, your knowledge and pictures about such aircraft used by any other Group will be greatly welcome.

My database shows the 91st BG assigned hack planes as below:

- P-47D #42-8442 used as formation monitor, no markings
- B-17E #41-9023 'Yankee Doodle' marked LG X
- 9023 No name, was in two Bomb Squadrons
 - 322nd with radio call letters LG X
 - 324th with call letters DF X
 - 14 05 42 Added to Air Force Inventory
 - 26 06 42 Arrived Overseas
 - 30 03 43 Gained by 91BG
 - 07 07 43 Base Air Depot #1, AF Burtonwood. Regained?
 - 24 05 44 Base Air Depot #1, AF Burtonwood. Regained 20 06 44
 - 21 02 45 Failed to Return, Landed on the Continent behind "friendly" lines. France Regained 22 02 45
 - 31 03 45 Failed to Return, Landed on the Continent behind "friendly" lines. Regained 03 04 45
 - 16 04 45 1st Scout Force. Regained 21 04 45
 - 03 06 45 Returned to the U. S. A. - See: NASA 22847 AC, 55433AC, 62753AC, 69537 AC
- L-4 #s/n unknown 'Pappy'
- UC-64A #44-70258 marked *G
- UC-78 #42-58434 marked *U
- A-35B #41-31313 marked *A (British serial FD124)
- I found information, that the 91st BG have on charge also another Vengeance #41-31323 (FD134), I have no picture to confirm it.

About hacks of the Headquarter Flight of the 1st Combat Wing:

- P-47D #42-75151 marked MX*L and small '1' within three triangles on red vertical fin
- UC-64A #43-5299 marked with small '1' within three triangles on red vertical fin
- Boston III AL397 marked *G

- B-17G #44-6014
- B-17G #44-8883
- L-4 #43-648 marked with small '1' within three triangles on red vertical fin

Please - if you are able - help me to complete the blank fields of list. My questions are:

- Serial number and any letter markings of 'Pappy'?
- Did the 91st BG have one or two A-35 Vengeances?
- Did the 91st BG have any other auxiliary aircraft, not mentioned above?
- Did the 1st CBW HQ have any other auxiliary aircraft, not mentioned above?
- If it is possible, other data as: period (date: taken on charge and struck off charge) when each of mentioned planes was with 91st BG, any MACR etc.?
- Pictures (photos, paintings or any other artwork or illustrations) of mentioned hack-planes?

Any, any help will be greatly appreciated.

Jacek Jackiewicz and Atelier Keczay
email: jkeczay@poczta.onet.pl

Looking for info on Walter P. Meader, KIA 22 May, 1944

Earlier to today, while searching the Internet to see if I could contact Mr. Albert R. Kuehl, flight leader on a bombing mission to damage Nazi German oil refineries and chemical plants at Ludwigshafen on the Upper Rhine on 27 May 1944, I found your newsletter and phoned its editor Gary Hall. He suggested I send an inquiry to all of you, in the hope that someone may have information on Sergeant Walter P. Meader, a waist gunner aboard Captain Kuehl's ship. This young man was killed by flak on that mission and was buried near the base in England.

On the Internet, I have found his name recorded for a number of bombing missions from November 1943 onwards, when Walter joined the 323rd squadron. Member of the Passamaquoddy Indian Tribe, he was raised at Pleasant Point, a small Indian reservation in coastal Maine, and was 17 or 18 when he enlisted. Although there were other casualties in his small tribe, Walter was the first to lose in life in combat in WWII.

Regarding Walter Meader and other Maine Indian combat veterans of WWII, I am in close contact with the Passamaquoddy and Penobscot tribes, and hope that one of you may have known this young tribesman who was sacrificed to help end a war that ended 65 years ago

Sincerely, Dr. Harald E.L. Prins
email: prins@ksu.edu

Bob Dickson at Night in the 40s Dance

My name is Rick Senffner and I am the Wing Leader at the Commemorative Air Force Arizona Wing and have been volunteering with the Arizona Wing since 1984. The Arizona Wing flies and maintains the B-17G *Sentimental Journey*. In 2007 we added the Chow Hound permanent exhibit honoring the crew of the B-17 *Chowhound* and the 91st Bomb Group. The exhibit consists of a tail of the 91st with triangle A and an original prop from the B-17 *Chowhound* that was shot down in 1944. Six panels give the history of the 91st and the losses they incurred. I take an extreme amount of pride keeping our B-17 *Sentimental Journey* flying for the public and the history of the 91st preserved at the Arizona Wing. Each March we hold our annual Night in the 40s Big Band Dance our B-17 *Sentimental Journey* is pulled in front of our museum and over 1,200 attend the dance.

I am a member of the 91st Bomb Group Memorial Association. My Uncle Steve Domladovac flew with the 91st in the autumn of 1943 as a navigator. Steve and the rest of his crew were lost on a mission to Solingen, Germany on 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. I feel very strongly about preserving Steve's memory and the memory of those who served and gave the lives in the war.

The 26 years that I have been involved at the Arizona Wing the evening of our Night in the 40s night ranks as one of the most special times I have had. It would be the first time I would meet and talk to a gentleman by the name of Bob Dickson - a man whose fate was entwined with my family's though until recently we did not know it.

I had written to the 91st BG Association letting them know about our event, told them how I got involved with the Arizona Wing and asked if any of their members would like to attend the dance. Jody Kelly, Bob Dickson's daughter, is the 91st BG treasurer and she forwarded the email to her Dad. Bob replied that he and his daughter Jody were coming to the dance from California.

Bob wrote to me and you see 66 years ago on December 1st 1943 in a formation with the 91st Bomb Group, Bob Dickson was a co-pilot on a B-17 that was flying next to a B-17 that carried my Uncle Steve as the

Navigator and Bob's best friend Harry Hollinger as the co-pilot. Bob told me that during the form up over the base my Uncle's and Bob's B-17s were switched in formation. The mission was to Leverkusen, Germany in the Ruhr and beyond the range of fighter escort. The German fighters knocked Bob's B-17 out of formation and Bob saw the B-17 go down that carried his best friend Harry and my Uncle Steve, taking the 10-man crew with it. Bob was able to bale out of his B-17 and spent the next 18 months as a POW.

This was the first time I had learned what happened to my uncle's plane on this mission 66 years ago. The reports that my mom received when Steve was reported missing was that his B-17 was damaged but heading for cloud cover. These reports were of Bob's B-17 since they were switched in formation and the reports of Bob's B-17 were of the fate that happened to my Uncle's B-17. The night of the dance I got to meet Bob for the first time and shake his hand. We talked about the mission that day in which the 91st lost 5 B-17s, 1/3 that went out on the mission, his friend

Harry that he lost and my Uncle Steve. Before the end of the night Bob's other daughter Diane and her husband showed up at the dance coming in from CA and they came in second on the swing dance contest!

It was an honor to meet Bob Dickson and learn about what happened on a winter's day on the 1st of December in 1943. Thank you Bob, Rick Senffner.



Rick Senffner and Bob Dickson



Night in the 40s Honor Guest Bob Dickson

91st BGMA Board Meeting

June 12, 2010, 9:07 – 9:55 AM PST

Attendees: Jim Shepherd, Mick Hanou, Bob Friedman, Jody Kelly, Steve Perri and Gary Hall.**Reunion: Jim**

- Finishing transportation details.
- Finalizing mission briefing reenactment plans with George Bruckert.
- Mick will be in charge of the Hospitality Suite.
- We need volunteers for the Registration Table.
- Mick suggested that Jim email the names of the volunteers and what events they will be working to the board members
- Steve working on the plans to visit the *Memphis Belle*.

Treasury Report: Jody

- 704 total members. 191 Life, 243 Full, 150 Associate Life, 107 Associate and 13 Public Relations memberships.
- 13 of the Associate Members have become Full Members. Mick will contact these members to see if they are interested in becoming more involved in the organization.
- Some unpaid dues, but working to contact members.
- \$1,989 in checking, \$22,623 in CD and \$7,423 in Putman. Total of \$32,036.

Historian: Steve Perri

- Steve will resign as Historian, but is available to train anyone who is interested in taking over the position.
- Gary Hall is interested in the historian position if someone would take over the Ragged Irregular.

Website: Jim

- Many of the R/I's are now on the website along with the Folded Wings. The rest are in the process and being scanned and added to the website.

Joe Harlick Photos: Mick

- Spoke with Jenny Harlick and she requested that Joe's photos, albums, etc... go to the Museum in Chino.
- The Board voted and approved the motion to pay for display cases at Chino not to exceed \$5,000.

Ragged Irregular: Gary

- The R/I will be mailed as a flat rather than a letter due to stricter postal standard. This will increase mailing costs, but will decrease prep costs and time.
- Will encourage members to receive electronic newsletter instead of paper to reduce costs.

91st BGMA Donations**\$100**

Thomas Guzek
Carol Tracy
Meredith Corp Match

Robert S Newman
Rick Tierney

\$20

Audrey Aims
Edward E Causey
Raymond R Choye
Richard Hensley
Mrs. Maria Johnson
Ray Kuenzler
Kenneth S Smith

\$60

Mrs. Eleanor L Wofford

\$50

Charles F Egender
Harold E Johnson
Laverne E Woods

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Lisa A Hammerly
Carol Kegel
Michael McCabe
John Zajac Jr

\$15

Kay Duzynski
Roy E Forsbacka
Richard P Melcher
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E Robert Kelley

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George Burnett
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James R (Dick) Dempsey
Edward J Dobrinski
Otto J Eggert
Gloria Elroy
James A Fullerton
Stuart K Gilbertson
Wallace J Harpster
Robert C Heller
James J Hoffman
Thayne I Johnson
George D Kelly
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Richard Soeller
Howard D Stebelton
Aurora Viarengo
John M Watts
George J Witt
Dominic Zurella

\$5

Thomas J Fitton
Thomas E Herbert

Folded Wings (continued from page 12)**☛ Donald F Niemeyer 322nd Age 87**

San Bernardino, CA, February 27, 2010

Reported by his son Dennis



Don was born March 31, in Corona, CA. After attending Valley College, where he played football, Don joined the US Army Air Corps, 91st Bomb Group and flew missions in B-17s over Normandy and France. Don and his high school sweetheart, Annie (Lura Ann Sheehan) married in San Bernardino on October 22, 1944.

Don graduated from the University of Redlands with a teaching degree. His first job was at Allesandro School; he retired from San Gorgonio High School in 1986.

Don was preceded in death by his wife, Annie, son Brian and his brother Robert. He leaves two sons, Dennis (Kathy) and Jim (Patti), six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

☛ Donald E McKee 324th Age 87

Williamsport, PA, August 31, 2009

Donald was born on June 4, 1922; in Williamsport, Pa. Mr. McKee graduated from Penn State University, then entered the Army Air Corps as the pilot of the B-17 *Yankee Belle*, and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions on numerous missions over Germany. In the early 1950s, Mr. McKee left the Air Force and joined IBM where he held numerous sales and management positions. In 1967, Mr. McKee joined the Xerox Corporation, and rose to the position of Executive Vice President prior to his retirement in 1976.

Mr. McKee married Norma Linton McKee in 1944. Mrs. McKee passed away in 1991.

☛ Thayne I Johnson 401st Age 86

Overland Park, KS, March 17, 2010

Thayne was born July 17, 1923, in Pleasanton, KS. He served in the US Army Air Corps during WWII and completed 35 combat missions over Germany as the flight engineer on a B-17. He attended Kansas State University, worked for General Motors, and spent most of his career in the auto industry.

Survivors include his wife of 63 years Mary Johnson, daughter Candy Kempf (David-deceased), son Clint Johnson (Julie), sister Ernestine Johnson, 7 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren.

☛ T C Hight 323rd Age 85

London, TX, February 21, 2010

Reported by his daughter Linnie



T.C. Hight was born June 14, 1924. He was a cowboy for several years before he was called to war.

He flew 28 combat missions as a flight maintenance gunner in a B-17 aircraft over enemy occupied territory of German and Czechoslovakia. He transferred fuel, checked instrument and engine performance by reading gauges, kept the flight log while airplane was in flight and fired a .50 caliber machine gun from top turret position when in combat. I think Daddy was the last survivor of his crew. He has had a model of a B-17 hanging in his living room for as long as I can remember. He never talked about the War until a few years ago, but started telling me and his grandchildren things that happened in the War. He was a proud man and was proud to serve his Country.

T.C. lived in London, Texas at the home place where he was raised. He lived a very happy life and still had a smile to share even in his last days.

T.C. was preceded in death by his wife Billy and son Danny. T.C. is survived by his daughter Linnie Norvell, five grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren.

☛ John Irak Jr 401st Age 90

Crown Point, IN, March 21, 2010

Reported by his wife Evelyn



John served his country as a Sergeant in the 91st Bomb Group at Bassingbourn, England during World War II. He loved his country and was proud to be an American, though his younger brother, Joseph, lost his life serving the same cause. In fact, if one were to believe him, John was pretty

much solely responsible for the eventual demise of Adolph Hitler.

John was retired from the New York Life Insurance Company after years of a very successful career in sales.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Evelyn; daughter, Janet (Art) Solomon; sons, John (Martha) Irak III, Joseph (Kristi) Irak; 8 grandchildren; and 5 great-grandchildren.

✪ Harold W Burts 324th Age 85

Scotts Valley, CA, January 15, 2010



Reported by his radio operator Cliff Schultz Harold, also known as 'Hal' was born June 29, 1924.

Hal served as a Bombardier on Frank Adams crew and later with J. C. Bowlan and crew. On December 24, 1944 AC DF-H (No Name) carrying the crew of *Rhapsody In Red* crashed on take off with a full load of bombs. The crew was in the radio room in crash position except Hal; he was standing when we hit the ground. The radio room door was open as he fell and the edge of the door cut off his ear. We all got out of the aircraft and sat on the wing tip. We saw blood on Hal's head and saw he was missing his ear. Our Ball Turret Gunner, Roy Bertrand ran back into the smoldering wreckage of the radio room and found Hal's ear and wrapped it back on. The doctor later was able to sew it back on and Hal could hear.

After WWII, Hal was married to Eileen for 65 years at the time of his passing.

✪ Jerold D Kethley 323rd Age 92

Shawnee, OK, August 22, 2009



Reported by his daughter Rebecca Born in 1917, Jerry was raised in Munday, TX, where his parents owned a jewelry store. He graduated from McMurry College in Abilene and began work at a jewelry store in Crane, TX. He married Billie Marie Allen in 1939.

Jerry joined the Army Air Corps and served as a bomber pilot. He piloted B-17 Flying Fortresses throughout his service and named each plane *Billie K* in honor of his wife. He was shot down on his 17th mission in August 1943 over Nazi Germany. He and his crew spent the next two years as prisoners of war, mostly interned in Stalag Luft III. Recruited within the POW camp for the skills he had learned repairing watches in his parents' jewelry store, he made compasses for the famous prisoner breakout portrayed in the 1963 film "The Great Escape."

Capt. Kethley was discharged at the war's end and briefly returned to McMurry College to teach chemistry and biology. He studied medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical College, spent two years as an intern and resident at the University of Michigan Hospital and a further two years in residency in general surgery at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas. Dr. Kethley arrived in Shawnee with wife Billie to start his

practice as a surgeon at the old Broadway Hospital in 1954. The couple had two children, son James Michael and daughter Rebecca Ann.

Dr. Kethley is survived by his sister Shirley (Frank) Roberson; his sister-in-laws Emily Sue Kethleyo, and Shirley Ann Haley; his daughter Rebecca (Marc) Migliazzo; daughter-in-law Tonia Kethley; as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

✪ Samuel W Harris 401st Age 86

Waco, TX, May 24, 2010



Reported by his family

Sam was born October 10, 1923. On May 17, 1946, he was united in marriage with Doris Loesch, a union that has lasted well over a half a century.

Sam was a decorated veteran of both WWII and the Korean War. He flew a 35-mission tour of duty with the 91st Bomb Group as a Radio Operator on *Little Patches*. He also served as a Radio Operator on C-47s, B-17s and SA-16s (Albatross), during the Korean War in the 3rd Air Rescue Squadron.

He graduated from Texas A & M University, moved to Wichita, where he was Field Rep for the Holstein Friesian Association in Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Texas. Moving back to the family farm in 1960, Sam and Doris operated Sunnymead Holstein Farm, dispersing the herd in 1968 due to health problems. Sam retired from Farmland Industries after 18 years as Territory Manager.

Survivors include Doris, a loving and devoted wife of over 64 years; son, Carter (Sheila); daughter, Jan (Mike) Wightman; and two grandsons.

✪ John (Jack) R Paget 401st Age 86

Denver, CO, April 26, 2010

Reported by his niece Cheri Feighner

John was born September 23, 1923 in Pasadena, CA. He was a tail gunner and became a POW after being shot down over Leipzig in July, 1944. He retired from the Air Force in 1964, worked for the California penal system, post office and started an accounting firm in Fallbrook, CA.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Norma L Paget; sons John and Paul Paget; daughter Deborah Harris; seven grandchildren; and several 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

Ragged Irregular
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Folded Wings:

☛ **John L Bunch 322nd Age 88**
New York, NY, March 30, 2010



Reported by his friend Michael Robbins
Capt. John Bunch was Bombardier on 43-38202, *Miss Slipstream*; shot down on 02 Nov 1944 and served as a POW. In one of the POW magazines a few years ago he told of entertaining his fellow prisoners on a piano that was furnished by the camp.

Following discharge John attended Indiana University, later to become a professional musician. He played with the bands of Woody Herman, Maynard Ferguson, Buddy Rich, Louie Bellson and others. For six years he was accompanist for singer Tony Bennett. In later years John worked as solo pianist or in small groups.

John is survived by his wife Cecily Gemmell.

☛ **Walter Salo 324th Age 87**
Wakefield, MI, January 26, 2010



Reported by his daughter Nancy
Wally was born June 30, 1922. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, was a prisoner of war and a Purple Heart recipient.

On January 6, 1944, Wally married Alice C. Pelshaw. She preceded him in death on April 10, 1999.

Wally was a retired diesel mechanic and heavy equipment operator.

He is survived by two daughters, Kay (Joe) DeFavero, and Nancy (Jerry) Slominski; two grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and a special friend, Betty Kahila.

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Folded Wings continued on page 10