

THE RAGGED IRREGULAR



322nd BS



323rd BS



Supporting Units



324th BS



401st BS

Vol. 46 No. 3

91st Bombardment Group (H)

July 2013



Sally B overflies the Madingley Memorial Day service. Photo by Max Werner.

Dear Friends,

Just a brief note to let you know that Memorial Day was celebrated at Madingley American Cemetery as usual. For once it took place under a cloudless blue sky, and the site was packed. A total of 97 wreaths were laid. In place of the late Vince Hemmings, I laid the 91st Bomb Group (H) wreath.

The flypast was carried out by the recently formed 'Eagle Squadron' display team, and consisted of the four types the original Eagles flew - Spitfire; Hurricane; P-47 Thunderbolt and P-51 Mustang.

They were led by the B-17 *Sally B*. Having made two passes over the ceremony, the formation flew a Round Robin over a number of the wartime USAAC/USAF bases throughout East Anglia.

Among the speakers were Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of the County, Hugh Duberly; Dep Chief of Mission US Embassy, Mr Mark Tokola and the American Battle Monuments Commission Commissioner Mr Richard Klass.

Regards, Ray Leach

President's Corner**Mick Hanou**

Greetings. The Chino Rally Round was well attended and we had a wonderful show – with 5 P-38 Lightnings flying in formation together and individually and numerous other warbirds flying as well. I was able to swap my flight-line security position over to the veterans' tent and so got a chance to meet many of those who attended. It had been a long time since I had seen Ace Johnson or Paul Limm and I enjoyed having a chance to catch up with them; as well as Jake Howland, Ted Skawienski, and Frank Farr.

Planning for the 2014 reunion in San Francisco is underway. The dates will be May 21 - 26 (includes the long weekend), so mark your calendars accordingly. I have yet to secure the hotel but have a rough idea of itinerary. I plan a day outing in San Francisco city and surrounding areas, including some coastal redwoods at Muir Woods. One day will be devoted to visiting the Collings Foundation B-17, B-24, and P-51. Still working the details, but I have arranged the opportunity to take day flights in the aircraft around the Bay. For those not flying, that afternoon will be at the nearby air museum. We'll likely cap that evening with a dinner cruise around the Bay. One day for the business meeting in the morning, and an afternoon event TBD, and then the evening banquet. Other possibilities include a visit to the USS Hornet aircraft carrier and naval museum. Memorial Day will be a bonus day for those who want to see the B-17 again and the Berring Auto museum.



Class of 2013 Bomber Crew Camp (photo courtesy Collings Foundation)

This marked the 21st year that we have brought the Collings Foundation aircraft to the local airport on Memorial Day. The weather was a bit cool and windy so we didn't get as many other aircraft attending as in the past. After the visit, I went to Stockton to participate in "bomber camp". I did this not for the opportunity to shoot guns, but rather to gain a bit of insight to what you wonderful veterans did when so young. There were full briefings on each position and I learned a lot about radio procedures, navigation, and how the Norden bombsight works. There was practice on a gunnery range, learning to lead targets with a genuine WWII truck with turret mounted on it. The second day was devoted to loading a set of 250lb cement bombs into the B-17 and making a bomb run over a target. This was my chance to ride in positions I hadn't before. I was able to get into the ball turret and see the underside of the B-17 in flight. It scared the heck out of me when the 50 caliber guns went off (blanks). Boy, those make a lot of noise! Surprised the pilot as well; with the instruments shaking a bit. Highlight for me was watching the bomb bays open and a stick of 5 bombs come out at short interval. We came pretty close – showing what a working Norden can do!

And, I must mention how proud I am of my twin daughters who are graduating UC Santa Barbara and UC Davis as I write this. Both have jobs already lined up and we couldn't be more proud of them. Thanks to all of you for making our world safe (freeing my parents) and providing the solid foundations of our society through the decades after the war so they can enjoy what we have today.

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Please send Folded Wings information to Jody Kelly.

October R/I submissions must be received by **September 15th**.

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www.facebook.com/groups/91stBGMA



91st Veteran Basil Hackleman flying *Nine-O-Nine* over Texas earlier this year. Basil flew his first 11 missions on the original *Nine-O-Nine*.

Wings of Freedom Tour Schedule

The Collings Foundation P-51, B-24 and B-17 *Nine-O-Nine* continue the 2013 Wings of Freedom Tour. The tour's current schedule is below, but for more up to date information visit www.collingsfoundation.org or contact them by phone at (978) 562-9182.

8/2 - 8/4	Evansville Regional Airport, Evansville, IN
8/5 - 8/7	Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport, Dayton, OH
8/7 - 8/9	Burke Lakefront Airport, Cleveland, OH
8/9 - 8/11	Akron-Canton Regional Airport, Akron, OH
8/12 - 8/14	Butler County Airport, Butler, PA
8/14 - 8/16	Altoona-Blair County Airport, Altoona, PA
8/16 - 8/18	Lancaster Airport, Lancaster, PA
8/21 - 8/23	Trenton Mercer Airport, Trenton, NJ
8/23 - 8/26	Monmouth Executive Airport, Belmar, NJ
8/27 - 8/30	Millville Municipal Airport, Millville, NJ
8/30 - 9/2	Cape May County Airport, Cape May, NJ
9/3 - 9/6	Morristown Municipal Airport, Morristown, NJ
9/6 - 9/8	Waterbury-Oxford Airport, Oxford, CT
9/11 - 9/13	Orange Municipal Airport, Orange, MA
9/13 - 9/15	Worcester Regional Airport, Worcester, MA
9/20 - 9/22	Beverly Municipal Airport, Beverly, MA
9/25 - 9/27	Barnstable Municipal Airport, Hyannis, MA





Dear 91st BGMA Friends,

It is with sadness that we have been made aware of the recent claims that the Tower Museum is being threatened with closure and that our lease has been terminated. We would like to confirm that our lease remains in place, we have not been given any notification or indication from our Landlords that the lease is going to be terminated and until such time as we do, it is business as usual for the Tower Museum.

We would like to request again, that if anyone has any concerns about the future of the Tower Museum they contact us directly; we are always more than happy to have a chat with anyone who contacts us. And we would like to take this opportunity to again assure the 91st Bomb Group and RAF veterans - in whose memory the Tower stands - and their families who have supported us over the years and continue to support us now, that we are and will continue to work tirelessly to preserve and honour their memories.

We really appreciate and have been touched deeply by the level of support that has been evident in the many emails we have received over the past few days, but would ask people, for the time being, please allow the team at the Tower Museum to deal with any issues that may arise at Basingbourn. Again, please let us confirm to you, that we have not been given any notification or indication that our lease is going to be terminated or the future of the Tower Museum is threatened in any way, so any suggested / proposed letters or emails (of support) to various Government Departments / Councils / Political organisations etc. are at this time not required. However, should the time come when we need that support we will be certain to let you all know and hope that we can work together collectively to take any necessary action.

In closing, we have said this many times before in the past and would like to reiterate it again now, if anyone wants to know what is happening at the Tower Museum please contact the Tower Museum - the Directors are "on the ground" at the Museum every day of the week and

should any changes in circumstances arise at any time, we are here and will make sure we have up-to-the-minute information to share with our supporters across the world.

Amy Murphy

Amy Murphy
On behalf of the Directors of the Tower Museum



The Stars and Stripes and Union Jack flying on the lawn outside the Tower Museum.



Rally Round 2013 – May 3 & 4 – Chino, CA



[Clockwise from upper left] ♦ Jody watches as Frank signs a print for the Chino Air Museum. ♦ Prime seating for the airshow. ♦ Jim organizing the troops. ♦ Mick recruiting some next-next-gen members, ♦ Suzi and Jake at breakfast. ♦ Jake and John at the airshow. ♦ Rochelle and Jake after dinner. ♦ Gary and Ace attempt to Skype with the Tower Museum.



91st BGMA Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, June 22, 2013

Conference Call at 9:00 AM PST

Board Members Attending:

Mick Hanou, President
 Jody Kelly, 1st Vice President
 Tom Freer, 2nd Vice President
 Gary Hall, Editor

Others Attending:

Chris and Amy Murphy, Tower Museum
 Rochelle Treziok

Financial (Jody)

- 588 total members: LM 156, FM 119, AL 189, AM 91, AFM 18, PR 15. 275 Original 91st BG veterans and 298 Associates.
- 72 FM and 54 AM members are behind on dues. Reach out letters will be sent. Newsletter is discontinued if dues have not been paid.

Ragged Irregular (Gary)

- The RI cost remains steady at \$600 to print and mail.
- We are benefitting from a relationship between FedEx and US Bank, Gary's employer. FedEx provides a discount on printing, amounting to \$600 in savings a quarter. Recently, the Post Office made some mailing requirement changes that would have doubled the printing cost. FedEx renegotiated the contract with US Bank to shield the 91st BGMA from the cost increase.
- Still encouraging people to receive the RI via email.

Tower Museum (Chris and Amy)

- Number of people visiting the museum is increasing.
- Waiting to hear from the Ministry of Defense regarding Bassingbourn Barracks. A decision should be made by September.
- Business as usual for the museum as the lease remains in place.

PX (Tom)

- Inventory taken after Chino. Mick has some of the items, Gary has the remainder.
- Will contact Susie Shepherd regarding contacts for restocking items.
- Doug Chandler will be contacted regarding ideas for 91st BGMA signs.

Reunion (Mick)

- Rough idea for the agenda (President's Corner).
- Will contact Justin Suan regarding an Air Base visit.

Thank you for another stellar quarter! 91st BGMA received \$3,420 in donations.

Kenneth S Smith
 Edward E Causey
 Barrie J Railton
 Arvin Battersby
 John Shinn
 Dennis C Beasley
 Lisa A Hammerly

In Memory Of

*Joe A Totusek 322nd
 Mrs. Ellen Totusek*

*Edgar L Harrell 401st
 Gary Hall*

Folded Wings (continued from page 8)

✪ James E McCoy 401st Age 89

Lakewood, CO, May 20, 2013

Reported by his daughter Yova



Jim served as a flight engineer / top turret gunner for the 401st BS. He earned the rank of T/Sgt. He flew in *Qualified Quail*, *General Ike*, and *Ragged But Right*. He completed 35 missions. He was awarded the EAME Theater Service Medal with 3 Bronze Stars, and the Air Medal with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters. He parachuted from *Qualified Quail* after the rest of the crew and after lightening the load. The pilot and co-pilot stayed with and landed the plane in a field near Valenciennes, France.

Jim was preceded in death by his son James B. He is survived by his wife of almost 65 years, Beth, daughters, Yova and Sharon, and three grandchildren.

✪ Roy J Griesbach 401st Age 95

Appleton, WI, May 11, 2013

Reported by David Peck



Roy served his country during World War II as a B-17 pilot, successfully flying 34 missions. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross as well as numerous other commendations before returning home. He finished his military service as a stateside flight instructor.

Roy married the former Dorothy Zink in 1944; she preceded him in death in 1982. He is survived by four children: Constance Paskell; Douglas (Marie) Griesbach; Karen (Steve) O'Brien; and Mary Griesbach; seven grandchildren; and sixteen great-grandchildren.

★ **John Meredith Watts 324th Age 97**

Bozeman, MT, January 9, 2013



Reported by his daughter Saralyn
Motivated by patriotic fervor, Meredith enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1941. While stationed at Stockton Air Base in California, Meredith met his future wife Barbara Graham on a picnic, December 7, 1941, but word of the bombing at Pearl Harbor sent him hurrying back to the base. After a whirlwind courtship, Meredith and Barbara married, and then endured a long separation while he was stationed in England. During the war, Meredith served in the Judge Advocates General's Corps, and after the war, in the Air Force Reserve until he retired at 65, with the rank of Colonel.

Meredith lost his beloved wife, Barbara, in 2002. He is survived by his daughter Saralyn Sebern; his son John (Priscilla Weaver); his daughter Virginia Watts (Ron Chase); 5 grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

★ **Sidney O Barnsley 322nd Age 89**

Meredith, NH, March 6, 2013



Sidney joined the Army Air Corps in 1943 and served as B-17 pilot and saw duty in England. He married Carla Bergren on June 25, 1944.

Sidney was predeceased by Carla, his wife of 66 years. He is survived by his children: Sandra Berks Hicks (Ron Belanger), Gordon Barnsley, Clifford Barnsley, Bradford Barnsley (Mary) and Melinda (Maryann); as well as 6 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

★ **Phil N Darby 323rd Age 89**

Santa Barbara, CA, February 2, 2013



Reported by his wife Doris
Phil proudly served in the Army Air Corps during WWII as a B-17 pilot stationed at Bassingbourn, England. His airplane, *Outhouse Mouse*, was part of the 91st Bomb Group and completed 139 missions.

Phil is survived by his wife Doris; sons Philip Nathan Darby III, John (Lisa) Darby; daughter Nancy Darby (David) Walker; 5 grandchildren; and 1 great-grandchild.

★ **Lester (Bud) E Grove 401st Age 92**

Apache Junction, AZ, June 22, 2011



Reported by his daughter Judy
Bud flew 35 missions as a waist gunner with the 91st Bomb Group.

Bud was preceded in death by his son Robert. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Gwen Grove; his daughter Judy Lubas (Tom); 3 grandsons; and 6 great-grandchildren.

★ **William F Campbell 401st Age 92**

Colorado Springs, CO, January 23, 2013



Reported by his daughter Laurel
Bill entered the Army Air Corps in 1942 and served on B-17's during World War II. Following the war, he worked in airline administration and returned to active duty flying medium bombers during the Korean War. Afterward, he flew jet interceptors in Alaska. He holds the Distinguished

Flying Cross, Bronze Star, four Air Medals, Vietnamese Service Medal and was cited for Valor during WWII. He was an ROTC instructor at the University of the South in Sewanee, TN, flew VIP's with Special Air missions and was Assistant Air Attaché at the US Embassy in Ottawa, Canada. He retired from the Air Force with 30 years of service. Col. Campbell became the Officer in Charge of Air Force Junior ROTC program at Midview High School in Grafton, OH from 1976 – 1985, where he touched the lives of many young men and women cadets who went through his program.

Bill was preceded in death by his beloved Audrey in 2006. Together they had 5 children – Michael (Sally); Joseph (Judy); Cynthia; Bill (Dana) and Laurel Campbell-Zinck (Mike Zinck). He had seven grandchildren.

★ **Jack H Proctor 401st Age 88**

Aitkin, MN, February 29, 2012



Jack entered the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942 and served until 1945 as a navigator. He flew 25 bombing missions and participated in Operation Revival, the liberation of POWs from Stalag Luft I.

He is survived by his wife, Carol; sons Kim (Marjorie) Proctor, Todd (Linda) Proctor; four grandchildren; and four 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:

☪ Joseph S Fegeley Jr 323rd Age 89

Sellersville, PA, June 28, 2010



Reported by his son Mike

Joe enlisted in the Army after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, an experience that would last into late 1945. After basic, he was assigned to the 463 Ordnance Co. AVN (B) stationed at MacDill Field. He was transferred to the newly formed 91st and was assigned to the 323rd Bomb Squadron in Walla Walla.

during the Schweinfurt Mission was something he did not talk about much. He went on to other positions such as Crew Chief and Instructor.

He was very proud to have been a member of the 91st 323rd Squadron and often spoke specifically of being a "Pioneer" member that helped create the legacy.

Joe was preceded in death, by his wife Mary of 53 years and his oldest son Richard Fegeley. He is survived by his daughter Carolyn Orth and son Michael S. Fegeley, 8 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Our family honors his service, celebrates his accomplishments and continues a tradition of military service today.

He was sent to England in September of 1942 in support the first nine B-17's and crews sent over. His letters indicated "somewhere in England", that went on to be RAF Kimbolton and then RAF Bassingbourn. He was assigned to #41-24524 *The Eagle's Wrath* where he was an armorer, ground crewmember and back-up waist gunner. He flew six early missions, mostly over France and Belgium. The loss of the *Eagle's Wrath*

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Folded Wings continued on page 6