

THE RAGGED IRREGULAR



322nd BS



323rd BS



Supporting Units



324th BS



401st BS

Vol. 47 No. 2

91st Bombardment Group (H)

April 2014

San Francisco Reunion – May 21 – 25, 2014

HOTEL:

Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1221 Chess Drive, Foster City, CA 94404. Telephone (800) 477-5700 or (650) 570-5700 and mention group name **91st Bomb Group Reunion** to insure you are booked into our reserved block of rooms.

The hotel offers free parking and a free shuttle to the San Francisco International Airport. To schedule a pickup from the airport, please call the hotel upon your arrival. For your return trip, the shuttle leaves the hotel hourly. The shuttle operates from 6 AM to 10 PM. The hotel is located 9 miles from the airport.

REGISTRATION:

A registration form was included in the January RI and is also available at www.91stbombgroup.com under heading Upcoming Events. If you need an additional copy of the form mailed to you, please contact Mick Hanou at (925) 425-3220.

Registration forms need to be received as soon as possible. If you have not done so already, please complete your registration form and return to Jody Kelly.

EVENTS:

Wednesday, May 21 - Reception and evening ice-breaker in the hospitality suite.

Thursday, May 22 - Day tour of San Francisco Muir Woods, Golden Gate Bridge, and Fisherman's Wharf. Evening presentation and discussion on Normandy and the D-Day landings at the hotel.

Friday, May 23 - Visit to Collings Foundation tour stop, Stanford, Moffet Field Museum, and NASA's Ames visitor center. Evening dinner cruise or relax in the hospitality suite.

Saturday, May 24 - Morning business meeting. Afternoon tour of the USS Hornet. Evening banquet at the hotel.

Sunday, May 25 - Morning departure of *Nine-O-Nine* from Moffett or a day trip to Monterey and Carmel.



... and then we turn right to heading 293 at Edwards.

Jody Kelly is working on a follow up story to Mike Banta's *The 91ster Who Was Shot Down Twice* which ran in the January 2014 newsletter. Jody has been looking into 96 survivors of crash landings, ditchings, and mid-air collisions to find only 46 of those men did not crash again. Odds were stacked ever so slightly against these men surviving the remainder war without another incident.

President's Corner**Mick Hanou**

We are getting closer to the Reunion date and are expecting a good number of attendees. Based on the room reservations and initial registrations, we have 73 people participating, including 15 veterans.

Thanks once again to all those who returned the surveys early. This allowed us to contract hotel rooms and form initial tour concepts. If not a hardship, I would appreciate if you could get the registration forms to Jody as soon as possible so we can finalize the types of transportation we need each day.

One bit of confusion on the registration form. Friday evening is a choice of staying at the hospitality suite - or - going on the Hornblower dinner cruise. Do not sign up for both.

We have one flight booked on Collings Foundation's B-17 *Nine-O-Nine* Friday. If you would like to take a flight on the B-17, please contact me soon to book the flight. I can be reached at (925) 425-3220.

The Thursday afternoon trip into San Francisco was specifically left unplanned. There are many options available to people and I figured you all have different interests. In the January *Ragged Irregular*, I described all the points of interest within walking distance of Fisherman's Wharf. If you plan on touring Alcatraz Island, you will need to schedule your tickets in advance. You can purchase tickets through Alcatraz Cruises www.alcatrazcruises.com online or by phone (415) 981-7625. Please schedule your departure after 12:30 PM and return before 4:00 PM.

If you have a handicap pass or placard, please bring it with you, so any of us with vans can park nearby. If you will be renting a van and cannot bring your handicap pass, you can request a free travel parking placard from the California Department of Motor Vehicles. An application is available on the web at apps.dmv.ca.gov/forms/reg/reg195.pdf.

If you happen to have a US National Parks pass, please bring it along to save the group money at Muir Woods National Monument.

Collings Foundation's Wings of Freedom Tour

4/23 - 4/25	Ramona, CA	5/25 - 5/27	Livermore, CA
4/25 - 4/27	Carlsbad, CA	5/28 - 5/30	Santa Rosa, CA
4/28 - 5/1	LaVerne, CA	5/30 - 6/1	Sacramento, CA
5/5 - 5/7	Camarillo, CA	6/2 - 6/4	Minden, NV
5/7 - 5/12	Santa Ana, CA	6/4 - 6/6	Reno, NV
5/12 - 5/14	Santa Barbara, CA	6/6 - 6/8	Concord, CA
5/14 - 5/16	Monterey, CA	6/13 - 6/15	Everett, WA
5/16 - 5/24	Mountain View, CA	6/20 - 6/22	Seattle, WA

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Please send Folded Wings information to Jody Kelly.

April R/I submissions must be received by **June 15th**.

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DE GEZICHTEN VAN MARGRATEN / THE FACES OF MARGRATEN

10.023 name, 10.023 gezichten / 10,023 name, 10,023 faces



Mission

The Stichting Verenigde Adoptanten Amerikaanse Oorlogsgraven (Foundation United Adopters American War Graves) would like to offer a unique tribute to the thousands who have been buried in the American War Cemetery and Memorial Netherlands in Margraten through the project "The Faces of Margraten." It hopes to do so in particular by giving their names a face in two different ways.

First of all, it would like to do so by continuing its work on its Fields of Honor – Database, in which information and photos of those buried in Margraten have been collected since 2009. All information in this database can be accessed online for free. Through the project "The Faces of Margraten," the foundation has the opportunity to further gather information and photos of soldiers who have not yet been added to the database and to complete the profiles of the soldiers who already can be found in the Fields of Honor – Database.

However, the project's main goal is to decorate as many graves and names on the Walls of the Missing with a personal photo of the soldier, to offer a face behind the name. Through this way, the foundation hopes to finally give our liberators a face, 70 years after the liberation of the province of Limburg. The foundation would like to do so on a special Day of Remembrance, either in September 2014 (linked to the 70th anniversary of the liberation) or in November 2014 (linked to the 70th anniversary of the first burial in the Margraten Cemetery). The exact program of this day and possible guests will have to be determined in cooperation with the different organizations and agencies that will be involved, like the American Battle Monuments Commission, the municipality of Eijden-Margraten, and the province of Limburg.

Currently, the foundation possesses personal photos of approximately 2,500 soldiers who either have been buried in or are memorialized on the Margraten Cemetery. It, therefore, is aware that it will not be possible to decorate each grave or name with a personal photo. Nevertheless, we hope that in the months prior to the Day of Remembrance another 1,000 photos can be found, leading to a total of 3,500 soldiers. In order to reach this goal, solid communication about the project in both the Netherlands and the United States is fundamental. By generating awareness of the project, the foundation hopes to reach adopters, relatives of soldiers, fellow researchers, and veterans' associations who all may have photos and information of those buried in Margraten.

The foundation considers it to be important to continuously reflect on the sacrifices made by these American soldiers as the current international context still shows us that freedom cannot be taken for granted. Being aware of the human costs of freedom is important in preventing possible conflicts in the future. The Stichting Verenigde Adoptanten Amerikaanse Oorlogsgraven hopes to enhance this awareness through this project. In particular for younger generations it is important to make them aware of the destruction of war. After all, they have never experienced World War Two or any other war, and the generation who has and can tell them about that war rapidly passes away. The foundation, therefore, also would like to actively involve schools in the proximity of the cemetery.

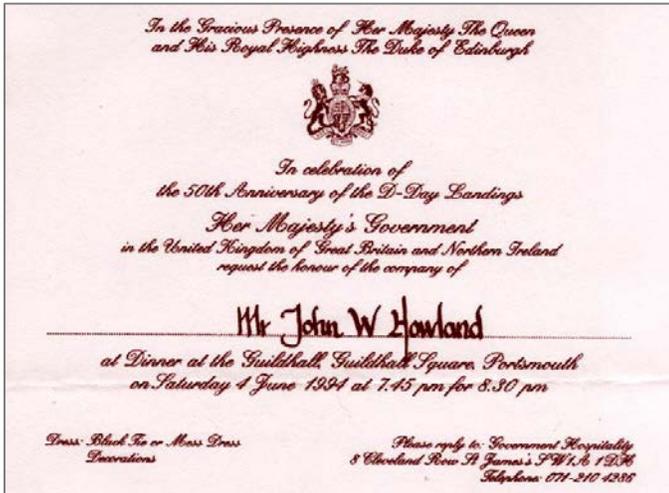
About

The project The Faces of Margraten is a project by the Dutch non-profit organization Stichting Verenigde Adoptanten Amerikaanse Oorlogsgraven (Foundation United Adopters American War Graves), whose aim it is to remember U.S. soldiers buried in various overseas American cemeteries. For more information please visit www.adoptiegraven.nl or visit our Fields of Honor - Database at www.fieldsofhonor-database.com.

The 50th Anniversary of D-Day

Submitted by Jake Howland

In 1994, the 91st Bomb Group received a request to attend the 50th anniversary of the D-Day invasion. The request specified "D-Day participants", so the list was narrowed down. Paul Limm was the person who put pressure on me since I had led a group of eighteen 381st BG B-17s attacking Gold Beach at 0705 hours as a Pathfinder Navigator from the 324th Squadron. I agreed to participate.



In due time, my invitation from the Queen of England arrived. More than seven hundred people were invited to a dinner party at Portsmouth in southern England. No hotel rooms were available, so I stayed as the guest of a gracious English family. They were most helpful and even guided me to a place where I could rent a suitable outfit for the occasion.

The banquet hall was packed with people. President Clinton, the Queen of Belgium, Lech Walesa from Poland, as well as French and Norwegian delegates were in attendance. In fact, representatives of all the allies were seated at the head table. Bill Clinton sat between Queen Elizabeth and the Queen of Belgium. Of course I was just part of the huge crowd, but I sat across the table from the retired commanding General of the U.S. Marine Corps. He and I hit it off. He topped our lively conversation off by saying perhaps we should stand and sing the Marine Corps hymn and the Air Force song. The general and I were having a blast. About 100 or more people had to be served in a separate dining room and watch the speakers on television, but I was fortunate to be in the main room. The Queen gave the main address and was typically royal and good. All in all, it was an evening of grandeur and I felt quite privileged to represent the 91st Bomb Group and the men who had done so much to help achieve victory.

The banquet was the main event of the 50th anniversary of D-Day, but a reception was planned the following day at a huge building right on the coast. After a good rest with my English hosts, I made my way to the shore and watched the Queen sail by in her yacht. There was a flyover of a B-17 and a C-47 and I was able to snap this picture. Of course the yacht is now a "thing of the past", but so are the planes. The reception was great. Scotch and beer flowed freely.



This pretty well wrapped up my visit to Portsmouth and the 50th D-Day anniversary, but I was not finished. I wanted to visit the grave of my roommate from navigation school who was killed in action on February 22, 1944 and buried in the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten, Holland. The following day I flew to Amsterdam, rented a car, and drove south to the town of Sittard, Holland which is located not far from Margraten.

The Netherlands American Cemetery at Margraten is the largest overseas American cemetery. After the war, a Dutch clerk named Joseph van Laar originated the "Adopt a Soldier" plan. The Dutch people adopted all 17,000 originally buried at the Netherlands Cemetery.

Annie and Lou Moers of Sittard adopted my friend Robert Wayne Jones and carefully tended his grave while the temporary marker was in place before the maintenance system was organized. I obtained the Moers' name and address and had the pleasure of personally writing to thank them for their attention. I also successfully requested a Certificate of Appreciation sent to them from the War Department for their efforts.

I stayed in a local hotel and called them. Lou Moers answered the phone and became quite excited. He just said, stay there and I will be there in ten minutes. He arrived and I learned that he had been wounded by a German artillery shell when they invaded Holland. He had very weak eyesight and could not drive, so he

walked everywhere. They were truly a gracious couple and proudly showed me my framed letter and the Certificate of Appreciation. They were true friends of the Americans who rescued them.



Although this finished the 50th anniversary of D-Day trip, I returned three years later to visit my son Johnny and his family. Johnny was working for the Department of Defense in Wiesbaden, Germany. Of course, we had to make a trip to Holland to meet and visit with the wonderful Moers family. I snapped this picture of my granddaughter Alison standing by the grave of my friend and navigation school roommate, Robert Wayne Jones.

Tower Museum, Basingbourn - 2014 Season

After a very long and busy winter, the Tower Museum opened April 13th to start off our 2014 season.

For anyone planning a visit to us this season, please show your appreciation to the Museum's Director and Curator, Chris and our volunteer Rob, who have clocked up 100's of hours over the closed period updating the RAF displays downstairs as volunteers they have taken "volunteering" to a whole new level and the Museum would not be the little gem it is, without them!

We look forward to seeing you all this season!

Open Dates:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| April - 13, 18, 21 | July - 13, 27 | September - 14, 28 |
| May - 05, 11, 25 | August - 10, 24 | October - 12, 26 |

Please note that the Museum will not be open at all in June due to volunteer holidays!

First quarter donations total \$7,845!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the 91st Bomb Group Memorial Association this quarter. Your donations have provided \$2,135 to the organization and \$5,410 has been raised towards the rebuild of the 91st Bomb Group Memorial at the Planes of Fame Air Museum in Chino, California.

The 91st BGMA uses funds received for memorial upkeep, website expenses, and publishing costs for the Ragged Irregular. The board of directors are all volunteers and do not receive monetary compensation from the memorial association.

The 91st Bomb Group has an established memorial at the Planes of Fame Museum in Chino, California. Jim Shepherd is spearheading a drive to raise \$12,500 to rebuild the memorial utilizing more space in the current hangar. The display will highlight several 91st Bomb Group planes and crews. New display cases are being built to showcase artifacts donated by 91st Bomb Group Veterans which are on loan to the museum. For more information on this project, contact Jim at (714) 504-4970 or email: jshep91@earthlink.net.

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In Memory Of

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 Kay Duzynski
 Kim Knutson

M/Sgt Rice C Linn
 Dan M Linn

Evelyn Mankel
Harold H While
Bombardier - Paper Dolly
 Col George W Mankel

Folded Wings (continued from page 8)

✪ **John C Flinn Jr 401st Age 94**

January 21, 2012, Cape Coral, FL



John joined the Army Air Corps in 1943 and was the co-pilot of *Destiny's Child*. He was a member of the 91st Bomb Group Memorial Association and served as secretary / treasurer in the late 70's.

John was preceded in death by his wife of 55 years Kathryn; and his son, John. He is survived by his daughter,

Rodlyn R. Woodward; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

✪ **Rural R Wood 323rd Age 54**

September 1, 1975, Ouachita Parish, LA



Reported by his son Ray Rural served with the 91st Bomb Group as Crew Chief on B-17s; *Blue Dreams*; *Miss Ouachita*; and *Nine-O-Nine*. He Entered the Army Air Corps in 1941 and retired in 1962.

Survivor by his son; Ray E. Wood, MSgt. USAF/ret; Vietnam Veteran.

✪ **William D Pulliam 401st Age 91**

October 4, 2012, Kansas City, MO

Reported by his son William

William served the 91st Bomb Group in the Photo Unit.

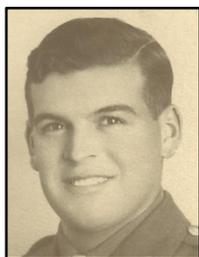
He was preceded in death by his wife, Rayeina of 64 years. He leaves behind three children, William D. II (Thada), Kathleen (Ken) Linscott, Ronald J. (Marilyn), seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Correction to July 2012 Ragged Irregular

✪ **Francis J Toccalino 324th Age 86**

Carmichael, CA, April 17, 2010

Reported by his daughter Clare Fletcher



Fran was a proud veteran of WWII, serving in the Army Air Corp in the European Theatre. He was a waist gunner on *Duke of Paducah*.

Beloved husband of 55 years to Milly. Loving father of Clare and Joseph.

✪ **Maurice F Markway 323rd Age 94**

February 9, 2014, Jefferson City, MO



Maurice joined the United States Army Air Corps and served a Captain in the 91st Bomb Group.

He was a charter member of the National World War II Museum, charter member of the Tribute to a Generation in Washington D.C., and was an Honor Flight participant.

✪ **Sebastiano F "Frank" Ripa 401st Age 93**

May 15, 2013, Washington, MO

Frank began his military career in the Massachusetts state guard. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps and was assigned to the 91st Bomb Group as a flight engineer. After a four year hiatus following WWII, Frank joined the Marine Corps. He retired after a long and illustrious career, earning seventeen medals and twenty-two ribbons. His military career spanned three decades, and three different war-zones: Europe during World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

He is survived by two step-sons, Dennis (Susie) Masterson and Van Masterson; three grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife Deane, and his second wife, Ruth.

✪ **Edward P Troy 323rd Age 90**

March 16, 2013, Houston, TX

Reported by his son Larry



Ed was a member of the Greatest Generation, but like most of his fellow members, he didn't like to talk about it. He enlisted at the age of 20 and flew with the 91st Bomb Group as a tail gunner. He was shot down and severely wounded on his 25th mission, the infamous August 17, 1943 Schweinfurt-Regensburg Raid.

During the raid, 60 out of 291 ships were lost and half of the lost crewmen became POWs. Ed was imprisoned in various Nazi hospitals and prison camps for thirteen months before repatriation in late 1944. He was recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with three oak clusters, Purple Heart, and POW Medal.

Ed is survived by his daughter, Patti Ann Payne, and son Larry (Charlotte).

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:

✪ **Sune Engelbrektson 401st Age 90**

November 26, 2013, Pleasantville, NY

Reported by his son Jon Engel



Sune came to the United States from Sweden in 1928. After graduating from high school he took his first job with Republic Aviation as a lead drafter and tool and die maker, here he discovered his love for the sky. Very soon into his aviation career he entered the military, was trained as a tail gunner and was assigned to the 91st Bomb Group. He

flew 35 missions earning the Air Medal with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters, and was discharged with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Sune was preceded in death by his wife Grace. He is survived by his daughter Grace (Gary); sons Joel and Jon (Margo); and two grandchildren.

✪ **Ralph D Simin 322nd Age 90**

March 26, 2014, Folsom, CA

Reported by his daughter-in-law Susan



Ralph served with the 91st Bomb Group, 8th Air Force in Bassingbourn, England as a pilot on the B-17. He piloted 10 successful bombing missions. A participant in Operation Revival, his 11th mission involved flying POW's from Germany back to England. He was the recipient of the European Theater of Operations

Ribbon with two Bronze Service Stars. Ralph had a 35-year career with NASA.

Ralph is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Betty and their two sons: Randal (Teresa), and Robert (Susan); grandfather of 4 granddaughters.