

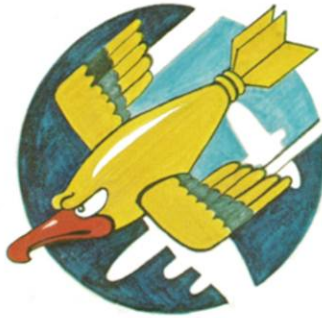
THE RAGGED IRREGULAR



322nd BS



323rd BS



Supporting Units



324th BS



401st BS

Vol. 47 No. 3

91st Bombardment Group (H)

July 2014

91st BGMA well represented in San Francisco



[clockwise from above] Reunion attendees gather in front of *Nine-O-Nine* at Moffett Federal Airfield on Friday, May 23rd. The group also toured the Moffett Field Historical Society Museum and were treated to a delicious barbecue lunch prepared by Charles "Chef Grizzly" Adams the same day.





2014 91st BGMA Board: Janet Larocco, Larry Ruth, Mick Hanou, Jody Kelly, Tom Freer, and Gary Hall

President's Corner

Mick Hanou

Reunion 2014 was so much fun for everyone! Before the event, we were all focused on the planning and preparation, but now we can enjoy lots of wonderful memories.

I am honored to have hosted the Reunion and wish we could do it all over again. First of all, my thanks to all of you who attended for making it such a great event. Every attendee worked together and looked out for one another. And many thanks to those of you who "volunteered" for duty when I needed a hand to cover something and to those who pitched in with vans when needed. You made it easy and that made the days' events great for all! Many thanks to Jody for handling registration. Thanks to those of you who helped with the Hospitality Suite – Rochelle, Gary, Tom, Craig, Bob, Larry, Lanelle - I appreciate the numerous trips to the store, the long hours and the esprit de corps. Gary and Tom not only handled the PX but also made significant contributions, Gary with the wooden plaques and coasters and Tom donating the veterans' hats and prints of "Easy Does It". Jake's Thursday event was well attended and my thanks to him and to Bill, Ted, and others who added some additional insights to the roles played by all. Thanks to Janet for arranging the remarkable Banquet Speaker and to Jacque for ministering at that event. Those who brought the theme to life by wearing flight jackets, and bringing memorabilia to share (especially George Bruckert in full gear) really added to the experience.

Business Meeting: Our Treasurer's report indicates the organization is financially healthy. We came pretty close to target between revenue and expenses for the Reunion. I am pleased the Board decided Veterans and spouses could attend the Banquet and some other events for free. Gary has continued to handle the Ragged Irregular, which is one of the finest newsletters published by WWII veteran groups. Janet reported on her efforts on creating an index for the Ragged Irregular

book by Havelaar and on her collection of 400 photos of 91BG veterans (representing but a fraction of those who served). With technology, we were fortunate at this meeting to have Chris and Amy Murphy from the Tower Museum Bassingbourn on Skype and onscreen to report on the activities at the base, especially regarding the Prop Memorial. They have really done a great job as curators of improving the Museum, in the style of Vince Hemmings. The re-election of officers was reported, with Tom Freer moving to 1st VP and Larry Ruth joining the Board as 2nd VP.

We are very glad so many of our nonagenarian friends attended. Discussion was lively. With regard to an Associate becoming a Full Member, the three-year wait rule in the by-laws was explained (as a way the founders wished to assure commitment) and discussed. The Board has welcomed three new Full Members since the last Reunion. Due to the current base situation, a motion was made to have the Prop Memorial be cared for by the Tower Museum organization rather than the Friends of the 91st. Without going into much detail, the reasoning is that the Tower personnel are more familiar with the Base and are onsite. Counter-argument is that David Crow has cared for the Prop for a long time and should continue, despite health issues. After some debate, the motion was deferred for further discussion. Chris and Amy have indicated they will yield to what the Veterans desire and are not pushing any position. I, too, will maintain a neutral stance, always in the best interest of what the 91st Veterans want. **ACTION: some attendees were asked to provide position papers. Furthermore, 91st Veterans are asked to send opinions on the matter to me for presentation to the Board.**

We commemorate the 70th anniversary of D-Day and thank all veterans who participated. My thanks, as always, since that endeavor started the liberation of

Europe – and my parents – from Nazi occupation. I attended the 50th anniversary in 1994 and it was quite an event – I was able to ride in the parade with numerous restored vehicles. I have not attended recently as I go to Duxford each year for their air show in July. I'll be going again in a few weeks and will meet with Tower representatives, as I have ever since I first met Vince there. More to report in the October issue – enjoy all the photos of our reunion in this one.

Regards, Mick Hanou

From the Editor's Desk...

During the business meeting at the San Francisco reunion, it was mentioned that members have really enjoyed the combat stories recently published in the newsletter. If you have a story regarding your time in the Army Air Corps which you'd like to share, please do so! This is your newsletter and I am happy to make your stories available to the group. You may submit stories via email, US Mail, or phone. Contact information is located on the right under "Editor".



Basil waving from the window of his old office.

I had every intention of wrapping the newsletter the weekend of July 13th, but a last minute stop of The Wings of Freedom Tour in Minneapolis dashed those plans. It's always nice to see *Nine-O-Nine* in Minneapolis, but it was a treat spending time with 91st veteran Basil Hackleman. Basil flew 15 missions on the original *Nine-O-Nine* (which met its demise in Kingman, AZ after the war) and is a familiar face at several Collings Foundation stops. He left his home in Springfield, MO at 2 a.m. in order to meet the planes when they landed in Minneapolis!

There was a great turnout for the San Francisco reunion, but I do know many of you could not make the trip although you were there in spirit. I hope you are able to enjoy the event through the many photos included in this issue.

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Please send Folded Wings information to Jody Kelly.

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

91st BG E-mail Ring

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91st on the Web

www.91stbombgroup.com
www.bombsqd323rd.com
www.facebook.com/groups/91stBGMA

***Nine-O-Nine* Wings of Freedom Schedule**

For more information on the tour stops, please call (978)562-9182 or visit www.collingsfoundation.org.

- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| 8/8 - 8/10 | Lexington, KY |
| 8/15 - 8/17 | Altoona, PA |
| 8/20 - 8/25 | Belmar, NJ |
| 8/27 - 8/29 | Cape May, NJ |
| 8/29 - 9/1 | Farmingdale, NY |
| 9/17 - 9/19 | Hyannis, MA |
| 9/19 - 9/21 | Worcester, MA |
| 9/24 - 9/28 | White Plains, NY |
| 10/1 - 10/3 | Morristown, NJ |
| 10/3 - 10/5 | Westminster, MD |

Second quarter donations remain strong!

THANK YOU to our 2014 2nd quarter donors! The 91st Bomb Group Memorial Association received \$4,746.05 in donations for the second quarter of 2014. \$2,530 was earmarked for the Planes of Fame Memorial Wall and \$2,216.05 for the organization.

As of June 10th, Jim Shepherd reports we need \$4,200 to complete the Memorial Wall at the Planes of Fame Air Museum in Chino, CA. Once the wall is in place, the process of hanging pictures, displaying artifacts, and telling the story of the 91st Bomb Group via a time line will begin. For more information on this project, contact Jim Shepherd at (714) 504-4970 or email: jshep91@earthlink.net.

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Tom Freer

Clyde Maddox Sr and the Board of the
Capt. Fletcher E. Adams 357th Fighter
Group Museum.

Michel Lugez and Alain Charles -
Officers of The American Memorial
Association of St Nazaire

In Honor of

*Harold R DeBolt
Dottie DeBolt*

*Crew members of The Qualified Quail
Patrick Milward*

*Veterans at the reunion banquet
Rebecca Belmont*

In Memory of

*Greg Norwood son of T/Sgt Ellsworth
(Mike) Norwood
Christine Norwood*

*Claude (Mack) Williams 323rd
Mrs Patricia Williams*

*Harold H Humm ball turret gunner
Sleepytime Gal - KIA 6/21/44
Andrew Stemple
Terry Stemple*

*Hazen J Wilson
Mrs Margaret Ferrara*

*M/SGT Marvin Estes Nichols
Mrs Marvin Nichols*

*Ralph Simin
Tim Buell
Gregg Gilles
John & Patricia Ellis
Bobby Johnson*



Several reunion attendees took flights on *Nine-O-Nine* while at Moffett Federal Airfield. In this photo, Jake Howland and his son Johnny sit at the navigator's station while in flight.



David Tyson, Jake Howland, and Dr. Tony Tyson with a picture destined for the Memorial Wall at the Planes of Fame Air Museum in Chino, CA. In the picture is PFF [Path Finder Force] bomber *Sunkist Special*, pilot Jim Tyson, Gee navigator Jake Howland, and Mickey radar operator John Spierling.

David Tyson is an ex-Eagle Captain in the Naval Air Force and carrier pilot. Dr. Tony Tyson is the director of the LSST [Large Synoptic Survey Telescope] project as well as a Professor of Physics at University of California, Davis. David and Tony are nephews of Jake's pilot Jim Tyson.

Thursday evening, Jake showed a presentation he put together regarding the use of Pathfinders on the D-Day bombing of Gold Beach. Jake's presentation is online: www.youtube.com/watch?v=paDPIVmMcEw

Dr. Tony Tyson gave a talk on Friday evening on the multimillion dollar LSST project scheduled to go into operation around 2020. He presented a pamphlet titled DISCOVER "Movie Camera to the Stars". It is a mind boggling description of the fantastic power of the 3.2 billion pixel camera that will take 600,000 pictures of objects in space.



Ace Johnson interviewed by KCBS during the barbecue at Moffett.

With no knowledge of the event he was covering, cameraman Guy Hall was assigned to the interview 30 minutes ahead of time. Guy is the son of 91st veteran Henry "Hank" Hall. Hank flew with the 322nd Squadron, but was not able to attend the reunion.



322nd Squadron
 Ernest R (Bob) Kelley, Mel Dart
 Don Freer, Frank Farr



323rd Squadron
 Ted Skawieski, Don Murray
 Melvin Schissler, Frank Farr



324th Squadron
 John (Jake) Howland, Asay (Ace) Johnson
 Kenneth Smith, Andrew Caswell



401st Squadron
 Conrad Lohoefer, R. Clifford Vrooman
 William Hanna, Ben Camerino



[Standing] Don Freer, Ernest R (Bob) Kelley, Asay (Ace) Johnson, Ted Skawienski, Kenneth Smith, John (Jake) Howland, Conrad Lohoefer, Frank Farr, Mel Dart, Don Murray, R. Clifford Vrooman

[Seated] Melvin Schissler, Andrew Caswell, William Hanna, Ben Camerino



Prisoners of War

Andrew Caswell, Asay (Ace) Johnson, Don Murray
Don Freer, Frank Farr



Honored Guest

Air Commodore Ken McCann
United Kingdom's Air Attaché to the US

Muir Woods National Monument



San Francisco Bay Dinner Cruise



Qualified Quail crew information needed

Joseph R. Lyons and crew with *Qualified Quail*.

Can you identify any of the crew members?

Patrick Milward is finishing a book on B-17 #42-97851 *Qualified Quail*. He is looking for photos of crews who flew missions on *Qualified Quail*. Patrick has asked if anyone can identify the crew members in the picture provided with this notice. Patrick is looking for crew photos for the following pilots:

2nd Lt. Ray T. Cable
 2nd Lt. Robert E. Hardister Jr.
 2nd Lt. Joseph R. Lyons
 Capt. William H. Arthur
 1st Lt. Ralph H. Danekas
 1st Lt. Richard R. Sullenberger
 1st Lt. Gregory E. Good
 2nd Lt. S. E. Rice
 2nd Lt. John J. Ondrovic
 1st Lt. Hooper R. Maplesden
 1st Lt. Neil R. Gehret
 Lt. Hanford J. Rustand
 1st Lt. Harold E. Kirby
 1st Lt. Harold R. DeBolt

If you have a picture or information to share, Patrick's email address is patrick.milward@gmail.com. If you are not able to contact Patrick via email, please contact Gary Hall (address and phone number on page 3) and your information will be forwarded to Patrick.

Folded Wings (continued from page 12)

✪ **Gladyes V (Jack) Wallace 324th Age 88**

January 21, 2014, Hayward, CA

Reported by his son-in-law Del Hild



Jack flew his first 10 missions as a waist gunner on *Shirley Jean* in 1944. He finished out his 25 additional missions as a tail gunner and flew with Captain Lindahl's crew. Jack served at Nellis AFB in Las Vegas, NV as an instructor before his discharge from the Air Force.

Predeceased by his beloved wife of 43 years, Mary, Jack is survived by his son, Don (Linda), daughter, Vicki (Del) Hild, 3 granddaughters and 4 great-grandchildren.

✪ **Harry E Privett 322nd Age 88**

June 22, 2010, Muncie, IL

✪ **John R Bell 323rd Age 90**

July 12, 2009, Prescott, AZ



John was a bombardier in the 91st Bomb Group. On a mission to Hamm March 4, 1943, he was shot down on B-17 *Stupen-Taket*. Only John and George Engle bailed out of the plane, spending the remainder of the war as prisoners of war.

✪ **Russell W Wilson 324th Age 91**

January 11, 2014, Hatboro, PA

Reported by his son David

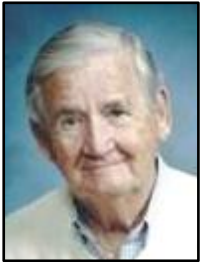


Russell had various duties in conjunction with B-17s. He was a mechanic, gunner, engine tester, and also worked with the bomb bays in getting the bombs deployed. He really enjoyed telling the stories of his experiences from 25 bombing missions.

Russell married Maureen in Baldock, England in October, 1944. They were married for 49 years when she passed away. He is survived by his son David (Santee); three grandchildren; and one great-grand daughter. He was predeceased by his son Paul.

✪ **James R “Dick” Dempsey 401st Age 92**

July 29, 2013, Dayton, OH



Dick served his country as a B-17 pilot. After flying 15 successful missions, he was shot down over Berlin in 1944. He was a prisoner of war for 14 months at Stalag Luft III.

Dick was preceded in death by the love of his life, his beautiful wife Marie. He is survived by his daughter

Karen (Edward) Volke; son, Michael; two grandsons; and two great-grandchildren.

✪ **Raymond C Krall 401st Age 93**

February 13, 2014, Toledo, OH

Reported by his wife Rita

Ray served his country as an aerial gunner on Robert Hardister’s crew. He flew 35 missions and was the recipient of the Air Medal with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters.

Surviving are his loving wife of 63 years, Rita, his brother Jerry (Helen) Krall, his sisters: Bernadine Smigielski, Patricia (Carl) Kowalski and Shirley (Ronald) Sabin; sister in law: Patricia Krall. Also surviving are 47 nieces and nephews as well as numerous great nieces and great nephews.

✪ **Henry Neil Haeckl 401st Age 97**

January 15, 2014, Napa, CA

Reported by Patrick Milward

Neil served as a flight engineer / top turret gunner on Robert Hardister’s crew. He flew 26 missions in the European theater before being honorably discharged. He was recalled for service again in the Korean War.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon; and three of four children: Patricia Kumher, Judith Marlton and Anthony N. Haeckl. His daughter, Linda Haeckl, preceded him in death. Neil has 12 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren

✪ **Richard P Melcher 401st Age 87**

November 26, 2012, Appleton, WI

Dick served his country during WWII as a tail gunner in the 91st Bomb Group.

Dick was preceded in death by Dorothy, his wife of 60 wonderful years.

✪ **Joseph Fragale 323rd Age 84**

July 2, 2010, Cottonwood, AZ



Joseph served his country as an aerial gunner. He received the European-African Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with three bronze stars and an Air Medal with three bronze clusters.

He leaves his wife, Joyce; a son Tony (Lori); a daughter Lauri (Brent) Wilt; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

✪ **Bennett M Fischer 322nd Age 84**

September 18, 2008, Vinton, IA

Reported by his friend Jeff Tilson



Bennett flew twenty missions as a bombardier over Europe, including two Berlin raids, Munich, and the infamous Dresden raid. He reached the rank of Captain and was awarded the Air Medal with two clusters.

Bennett is survived by his wife, Yvonne; three sons, Ross (Sue), Robert (Linda), and Thomas (Julie); eight grandchildren.

✪ **John T Zajac 322nd Age 89**

April 29, 2013, Hegewisch, IL

John served during WWII as a ball turret gunner. He was a devoted member of the Stanley J. Sukta Post 5414-VFW of Hegewisch, where he served as past Commander, and currently served as Quarter Master.

John was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 62 years, Florence; and son, John. He is survived by sons: Bob (Donna), Mick (Lori); daughter, Stephanie Matkovich; eight grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and great-great-grandchildren.

✪ **Ralph H Danekas 401st Age 90**

August 9, 2011, Spokane, WA



Ralph served his county as a B-17 pilot in WWII.

He was preceded in death by his wife Dorothy. He is survived by his son Kirk (Ami), daughter Lexie (Karl) Kupers, and daughter Debbie Danekas; three grandchildren; and five 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:

✪ **Edward E Causey 323rd Age 94**

April 7, 2014, Dunstable, UK

Reported by his great-nephew Antony Sherlock



Edward departed for England on the 5th September 1942 on the Queen Mary. Arriving at Bassingbourn, he got on with his duties and made life-long friendships.

As a release, he always enjoyed the dances, especially the Glenn Miller Band. At a dance in Luton, he met a local girl Phyllis Woodward, who was to be the love of his life. They were married in December 1944 and eventually settled in Dunstable. He regularly attended reunions and never missed his copy of the Ragged Irregular. Sadly Phyllis predeceased him in 1999, but he remained in Dunstable for the rest of his life, only 30 miles from Bassingbourn.

He is survived by his niece and her extended family in the UK and by nephews and nieces and their extended family in the US.

✪ **Curtis W Campbell 324th Age 92**

March 27, 2014, Hoopeston, IL



Curt served in the Army Air Corps from Oct. 29, 1942, until Sept. 25, 1945. He was a prisoner of war for 14 months at Stalag Luft XVII-B near Krems, Austria.

Curt was preceded in death by his wife Virginia. He is survived by one daughter, Donna (Jim) Bushong; one son, C. J. Campbell; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.