

# THE RAGGED IRREGULAR



322nd BS



323rd BS



Supporting Units



324th BS



401st BS

Vol. 47 No. 4

91st Bombardment Group (H)

October 2014

## Chow-hound 70th Anniversary Ceremony



**In memory of the American Airmen who died for our freedom, 8 August 1944**

A memorial to the crewmembers of *Chow-hound* in the town of Lonlay-l'Abbaye, France. Story on page 4.

**President's Corner****Mick Hanou**

As I sat to write this, I was struck by the number of interconnections that can occur when my mind wanders. Today, September 18th, is the 70th anniversary of Operation Market Garden and also the day the Scots vote on their referendum. What's the connection? The port of Antwerp had been liberated undamaged and use of this asset would have shortened the supply lines to the front significantly. Unfortunately, the approach down the Scheldt River was still blocked by strong German positions at Vlissingen (Flushing). Because Monty made the ill-advised attempt of going towards Arnhem rather than securing the Scheldt, the Allies had significant supply problems and had to cease their advance elsewhere, thus lengthening the war. On November 1, 1944, the Allies landed at Flushing (Operation Infatuate) and the Scottish 52nd Lowland Regiment advanced to liberate my Mother in Middelburg. Hence the connection, at least in my mind.

What does this have to do with the 91st? Middelburg, Walcheren was a common navigation point for the 8th and my Mom's birthday was November 2. So that was a long-winded muse on my real point – let's all take a moment on November 2, 2014 to remember the 70th anniversary of the raid on Merseburg by the 91st Bomb Group (Heavy); one of your roughest! Last thought – my Dad saw the bomber stream go over that day from his location on the ground as a displaced laborer.

I made my annual trip to England for the Duxford Air Show and took the opportunity to meet with Chris Murphy. He is curator of the Tower Museum Bassingbourn and along with his wife Amy they do an incredible job of maintaining the primary Museum to the 91st Bomb Group. There have been some issues lately as the activity on the Army Base currently precludes fund raising activities such as hanger dances. We discussed the Prop Memorial and the Tower, the latter which is always in need of upkeep as it is now about 87 years old. The Air Show was great as always, though hampered by inclement weather – no surprise but worse than usual.

Our Board met August 23rd. Our finances are in good order after the Reunion. We greatly appreciate all donations to date! The amount collected to have a 91st BG display at Chino has exceeded its target, so there will be no further solicitations until some advance on the project has been made. We are restocking the PX as it was depleted and are ordering more polo shirts. We discussed the Prop Memorial: We recognize the efforts of David Crow and the Friends of the 91st. The Tower position on this is it is up to the Veterans. To summarize what most of them lean towards – leave status quo as is but eventually, when David is no longer able to maintain, it makes sense for it to be under the auspices of the Tower Museum as it is on site and has closer communication with base personnel. This position is similar to what Vince Hemmings and I discussed years ago when I spent a

week with him touring bases. We will keep you posted, but for now nothing changes.

Jim and I agreed that I would undertake the President position back in September 2012, when I had planned to retire. Well, some things changed but I am finally retired after 38 years! This allows me greater time to devote to the 91st BGMA and I'll be working on the PX and other efforts. One thing I did do recently was review two books intended for publication. I applaud the two Authors' work (Patrick Milward and Richard Allison – see page 6) and historical accuracy. They appreciated that I was able to lend some small improvements but I enjoyed even more what I learned about particular details about their subject matter. We had some very good discussions!

Remember November 2nd, honor our veterans every day but especially November 11, and best wishes to all over the Holiday Season.

Regards, Mick Hanou

**91st BGMA Officers****President****Mick Hanou**

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Please send Folded Wings information to Jody Kelly.

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January Ragged Irregular submissions must be received by  
**December 15th.**

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[www.91stbombgroup.com](http://www.91stbombgroup.com)  
[www.bombsqd323rd.com](http://www.bombsqd323rd.com)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/91stBGMA](http://www.facebook.com/groups/91stBGMA)

## WWII bomber vet receives Distinguished Flying Cross medal 70 years after missions over Germany

by Gus Burns of MLive.com, published April 21, 2014, used with permission

FARMINGTON HILLS, MI - Seventy years have passed since 93-year-old Alfred P. Murphy operated with his B-17 bomber flying fortress crew dropping explosives on the Axis enemy targets in World War II.

Murphy and another veteran who lives in Sacramento are the only two remaining crew members from their 91st Bomb Group in the 322nd Bomb Squadron.

Uniformed National Guard Military Police Officer James Stevens, 18, proudly delivered his great-grandfather a long overdue medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross, for his participation in the war effort.

"Good afternoon, and welcome to my home," Murphy said to the crowd of over 100 from a meeting area at his Rochester Hills senior living facility. "You're in my dining room."

Murphy, wearing a black suit, thanked his family, children, managers at his American House living center who helped plan the event and the military.

"It warms my heart to see my great-grandson in the uniform of the National Guard today ... and to see the flag passed from generation to generation" to "all those men and women" who "fight and defend our liberty and way of life here in America," Murphy said.

"I was given advice today to be brief and stay alive," Murphy joked. "I'm still alive."

Murphy, a poet, concluded his speech by saying, "I would like to describe to you how it was over 70 years ago when my brother and I went to war together."

He talked of the four-engine bomber planes manned by nine crew members that flew above the enemy five miles high loaded with tons of bombs and 50-caliber guns.

Murphy spoke about the attacks his crew commenced on Merseburg, Germany, an industrial town that he compared to Detroit in the U.S.

"It was our number one priority target my whole time overseas," Murphy said in an interview prior to Monday's event. "The closest thing I can compare it to is the Ford Rouge Plant. It was a massive industrial complex that turned out something on the order of 5 percent of the Nazi war production. Detroit was the arsenal of Democracy. Well, Merseburg was their arsenal."

During one deadly mission over Merseburg, Murphy said six bombers containing half his [squadron] perished.

Murphy, a father of two, grandfather of four and great-grandfather of five, now spends most of his time relaxing with friends and family.

"We just relax, watch ball games ... he likes to joke around a lot," said Murphy's great-grandson. "He likes to eat, that's for sure. He likes ribs."



Alfred P. Murphy, left, receives the Flying Cross from Col. Philip Sheridan, of the Selfridge National Guard Base, 127 Wing, for his heroism in flight for the United States in World War II. Family and friends gathered at the American House in Rochester Hills, Monday, April 21, 2014, for the ceremony, many remarking that the award had been a long time coming. Murphy concluded the ceremony with a speech.

*Katie Bailey | MLive.com*

Mark Murphy, Alfred Murphy's son, said his father shared some of his war experience with him growing up, not the death and destruction but the "fun, flowery" side of war, "friends and chums" going into London for a beer or the time Murphy fell off his motorbike on the way to a briefing, his son used as examples.

Mark Murphy said his father still has a sharp mind, is strong -- he does sit-ups daily -- and still occasionally hit golf balls, though he can't see where they go any more.

The father and son began looking up information on the Ragged Irregulars, a nickname for the 91st Bomb Group, a couple years ago and located the only other known surviving member [of his crew] in Sacramento.

It's during that visit that the idea for Murphy to apply for the Distinguished Flying Cross arose. Nearly two years later, the medal was pinned on Murphy's lapel.

## ***Chow-hound* 70th Anniversary (continued from page 1)**

Submitted by Pat Frazier

On August 8th, 2014 ceremonies were held in Lonlay-l'Abbaye, France to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the B-17 *Chow-hound* crash. 15 family members of TSgt. Blake Treece and Sgt. Richard Collins attended the ceremonies. Other participants included representatives of the 732nd Airlift Squadron (McGuire Air Force Base), A.N.S.A. (the Normandy Association for Air Remembrance) and the French Veterans Association. Mayor Christian Derouet officiated. Although there were light showers, the event was very memorable. Our thanks to Mayor Derouet and Jacques Paris of A.N.S.A.



John Collins reading the incident report.

The ceremonies started at the Crash Site where John Collins read the official incident report detailing the events of the crash. Nine red roses, one for each crew member, were placed on the Crash Site by representatives of A.N.S.A. and 732nd AS.

A stop was made at the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Lehec for a toast with Calvados. The wing of the *Chow-hound* landed in the field of the Lehec's farm and remained there until it was repatriated by the 732nd AS in 2011. The 732nd presented Mrs. Lehec with the squad pin.



The group marched from the Abbey to the town square, where Mark Dimon, Mayor Derouet, and John Collins laid flowers at the memorial for the *Chow-hound* Crew. Mayor Derouet gave a speech recognizing the nine *Chow-hound* crewmembers.

The entourage then proceeded to the Community Center behind the Abbey for refreshments (including biscuits from Biscuiterie de l'Abbaye).



Placing roses at the *Chow-hound* crash site.



[above] Crewmember families with Mayor Derouet.

[left] The toast at the Lehec farm.



[above] Mayor Derouet addresses those gathered.

[below] Mark Dimon, Mayor Derouet, and John Collins placing flowers on the memorial.



Pat Frazier and Mark Dimon presented Jacques Paris, President of A.N.S.A. with a photo of the *Chow-hound* Nose Art signed by family members of the crew and a photo of the *Chow-hound* in flight.



Visit <http://tinyurl.com/chowhound70> for more photos of the event.

## Ninety First Bomb Group PX

Order Form (mailing instructions on page 6)

Qty	Item	Unit Cost	Total
<b>Clothing</b>			
___	T-Shirt, gray, small B-17 front, Jub Jub Bird back (please circle size - S , M , L , XL , XXL )	\$20	___
___	Polo, white, Jub Jub Bird front (please circle size - S , M )	\$28	___
<b>Caps</b>			
___	Blue, Jub Jub Bird front, B-17 on side	\$12	___
___	Blue, Jub Jub Bird front, B-17 on side, WWII VETERAN on back	\$12	___
___	Blue, Jub Jub Bird front	\$12	___
___	Blue, Jub Jub Bird front, 2002 Tacoma 60th Reunion on side	\$10	___
<b>Books</b>			
___	Merseburg: Blood, Flak & Oil	\$35	___
___	Ray Bowden overseas	\$47	___
___	Plane Names & Fancy Noses	\$65	___
___	Ray Bowden overseas	\$75	___
___	Wray's Ragged Irregulars 1942-43 (Unbound)	\$10	___
___	Lt. Carlton Brechler overseas	\$17	___
___	Wray's Ragged Irregulars 1942-43 (Bound)	\$20	___
___	Lt. Carlton Brechler overseas	\$27	___
___	Mission to Berlin	\$20	___
___	Robert F Dorr		
<b>Patches &amp; Pins</b>			
___	4" embroidered patch		
___	322nd Squadron	\$7	___
___	323rd Squadron	\$7	___
___	324th Squadron	\$7	___
___	401st Squadron	\$7	___
___	91st Group	\$7	___
___	3/4" Lapel pins		
___	322nd Squadron	\$6	___
___	323rd Squadron	\$6	___
___	324th Squadron	\$6	___
___	401st Squadron	\$6	___
___	441st Sub Depot	\$6	___
___	91st Group – Jub Jub Bird	\$6	___
___	91st Group – Triangle A red B-17 tail	\$6	___
<b>Stickers</b>			
___	Bumper stickers		
___	322nd Squadron	\$2	___
___	323rd Squadron	\$2	___
___	324th Squadron	\$2	___
___	401st Squadron	\$2	___
___	91st Group	\$2	___
___	Round window stickers		
___	91st Group	\$2	___
___	Window decal triangle A with 91st BGMA		
___	8" decal	\$15	___
___	12" decal	\$15	___
<b>License Plates</b>			
___	91st BG (H) plate, red with white lettering	\$20	___
___	Warning Low Flying 91st'er plate, yellow w/black	\$20	___
___	91st Bomb Group (H) license plate holder	\$10	___
<b>Miscellaneous</b>			
___	DVD – Flying the Atlantic. Howland.	\$8	___
___	DVD – The Memphis Belle. Air Force Film of the Belle and her crew. Partially in color. 52 minutes.	\$15	___
___	Fanny Pack, navy, with Jub Jub Bird	\$8	___
___	91st Shield, Jub Jub Bird in wood, 9 1/4" high	\$50	___
___	91st Coaster, Jub Jub Bird in wood, set of 4	\$25	___

Cost of items ordered

Mailing charge

Total

\$7

### Ninety First Bomb Group PX

Mailing Instructions (order form on page 5)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

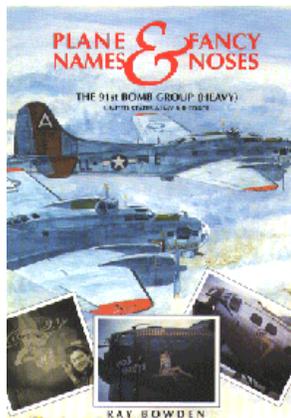
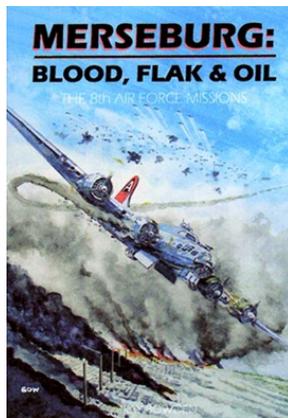
Make check payable to "91st BGMA". Mail the completed order form and check to:

Mick Hanou  
607 Blossom Ct.  
Pleasanton, CA 94566

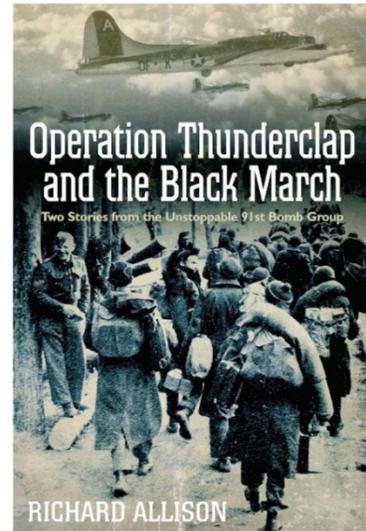


A sampling of the PX items available on page 5.

[Clockwise from top] 91st Shield, 91st Coaster, Ray Bowden's books Merseburg: Blood, Flak & Oil and Plane Names & Fancy Noses, 91st Bomb Group (H) license plate holder / 91st BG (H) plate, Triangle A window decal.



### Operation Thunderclap and the Black March



*Operation Thunderclap and the Black March – Two Stories from the Unstoppable 91st Bomb Group* follows the journeys of Paul Lynch and Addison Bartush who trained together in Gulfport, MS and were both assigned to the 91st in the fall of 1944. Addison would fly 31 missions through the remainder of the war, but Paul would be shot down and captured on his first mission. The story details the men's lives as one lived through Operation Thunderclap and the other survived being taken prisoner and forced on the Black March.

The book written by Richard Allison is due for publication this month. It is available from Amazon and many other booksellers. A portion of the book's royalties will be donated to the 91st BG.

### Wings of Freedom Schedule

For more information on B-17 *Nine-O-Nine* tour stops, please visit [www.collingsfoundation.org](http://www.collingsfoundation.org) or call (978)562-9182.

- 10/13 - 10/15 Burlington, NC  
Burlington-Alamance Regional Airport
- 10/15 - 10/17 Hickory, NC  
Hickory Regional Airport
- 10/17 - 10/19 Greenville, SC  
Greenville Downtown Airport
- 10/20 - 10/22 Florence, SC  
Florence Regional Airport
- 10/30 - 11/2 Perry, GA  
Perry-Houston County Airport

## PRAYER of an AMERICAN AIRMAN



1Lt Paul Chryst returning from a mission

Dear God, listen while I begin my prayer to you. As I start, I do not find it difficult to express my thoughts. Phrases of truth, constructed in my mind, easily find their way through my heart and on to you.

Bless us, Lord and Savior, not only we men in this bomber; but every man up here in your cold blue backyard of clouds. We're climbing now; higher and higher to the sun – feeling more and more, your Holy presence.

Slowly, but steadily, we continue to approach enemy territory. Here we ask for safe guidance – as well as forgiveness. Please, dear God, help steer us through the flak-filled course in and out. Protect us in this vast sky en route and from the enemy fighters who lie in wait, like unto the tiger stalking his prey in the jungle.

Forgive us also, for what we are about to do; the spreading of death, horror, and destruction among a people – forced by crazed leaders to continue a war of bloodshed, hunger, disease, and continual strife.

God grant, through Thy loving kindness and grace, that someday soon – we may all return to our homes and loved ones. Those who are single, to their girls and sweethearts; those of us who are married – to our wives, waiting in anxiety and impatience. Those who have neither, but yearn for the guardian love of a mother or a father. Those who have no parents or friends, but yearn, fight, and die for a Nation that will live forever for freedom, justice and equality.

Some of us, it is true, may not be so fortunate to come back. But we, who are still left to carry on the struggle, know that they have not died in vain – that their souls and spirits will shine brightly in the heavens at night –

watching over us who remain to lead the struggle onward toward final victory.

Humble and insignificant as we may appear now, high in this unfriendly sky above the crazy patch quilt of enemy soil below us, we do solemnly ask that Thou grant us this prayer of the American airman.

Amen.

By Paul Chryst  
1Lt Bombardier  
B-17 91st Bomb Group (H)  
8th Air Force  
Somewhere Over England  
Nov 2, 1944.

## Folded Wings (continued from page 8)

### ✪ Alfred J Lanfear 322nd Age 96

July 12, 2014, Queensbury, NY



Alfred served as an Intelligence staff officer with the 91st Bomb Group. He was honorably discharged from the Army Air Corps after receiving a European Theater of Operations Ribbon and six Bronze Service Stars for his dedicated service.

Alfred is survived by his loving wife of 69 years, Teresa.

### ✪ Adolf P (A.P.) Miller Jr 324th Age 92

September 24, 2014, Texarkana, TX



A.P. served as a B-17 pilot in the 91st Bomb Group. On November 26, 1944, his B-17 was shot down on a mission to bomb a railroad viaduct near Altenbeken, Germany. He was held as a prisoner of war at Stalag Luft I for the remainder of the war. Upon return, he met Neta Faye Tittle whom he would marry in 1947.

A.P. was preceded in death by his wife, Neta Faye; and daughter, Marilyn Faye. He is survived by one daughter Carolyn (Richard) Fant; two sons Paul (Bonnie), and Van (Ann); nine 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

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**Folded Wings:**

☛ **Paul Chryst 401st Age 93**

July 31, 2014, Pottstown, PA



Reported by his daughter Robin Paul enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1942. He became a bombardier and was assigned to the 91st Bomb Group. He finished 35 missions, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, the French Legion Medal of Honor, and other awards.

He retired from the Active Reserve in 1969 having served more than 27 years of Federal Service. Paul was a past president of the 91st Bomb Group Memorial Association and will be remembered for the many Back to Bassingbourn tours he led over the years.

Paul is survived by his wife Nancy; two sons, Paul, and Carl; a daughter, Robin Klokis; and three grandchildren.

☛ **Bruno D Lombardi 323rd Age 89**

September 3, 2014, Petaluma, CA



Bruno was a tail gunner in the 91st Bomb Group. Shot down November 2nd, 1944 on his 13th mission, he was a prisoner of war until liberated from Nuremberg in 1945.

Bruno was preceded in death by his first wife Evelyn in 2000; and two sons Donald (Sandy) and Michael. He is survived by his loving wife and companion Marilyn; two daughters, Janet Bastoni (Steven) and Claudia Bettinelli (late Harold); four step children, Lisa V. Smith, Norman Valmasoi (Victoria), Michael Valmasoi (Diane), Janice Valmasoi (Jim Bliska); 11 grandchildren; and ten great grandchildren.

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**Folded Wings continued on page 7**