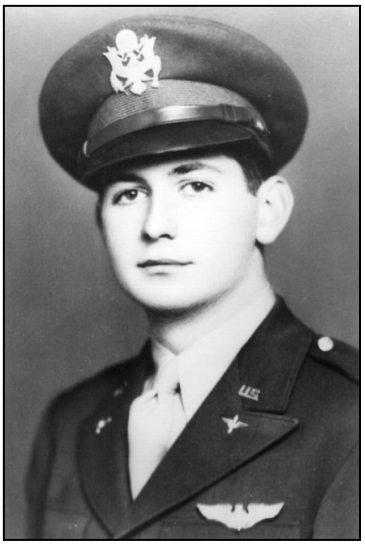
Ball *of* Fire QUARTERLY *EXPRESS*

NEWSLETTER OF THE 93rd BOMB GROUP
2nd Air Division, 8th Air Force, Hardwick, England
www.93bg.com

Vol. 26 No. 1 Spring 2018

Second Lieutenant William W. Harth, Jr. remains identified



On August 1, 1943, the 93rd Bomb Group was one of five groups participating in the low-level attack on the Ploesti oil fields in Romania. Operation Tidal Wave was very costly. Of the thirty-nine 93rd B-24s that took off from Benghazi, thirty-four reached the target. Only fifteen came away from the target in formation and of those, only five escaped with little damage. One B-24D shot down was Hell's Angels piloted by LT Roy C. Harms. Of the 10 crewmen, one, SGT Jack W. Reed, survived by parachuting from 300 feet. Reed, the engineer landed on the refinery grounds, was severely injured and taken prisoner. The others, LT Earl F. Ferguson, co-pilot; LT William W. Harth, Jr., Bombardier; LT Albert W. Stahl, Navigator; SGT Ralph E. Richardson, radio; SGT Winfield V. Long, tail gunner; SGTs John Shufritz, Arnold M. Holen, and Michael Doka, all gunners; were killed. On November 13, 2017 the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency released a statement as follows:

Airman Killed During World War II Accounted For (Harth, W.)

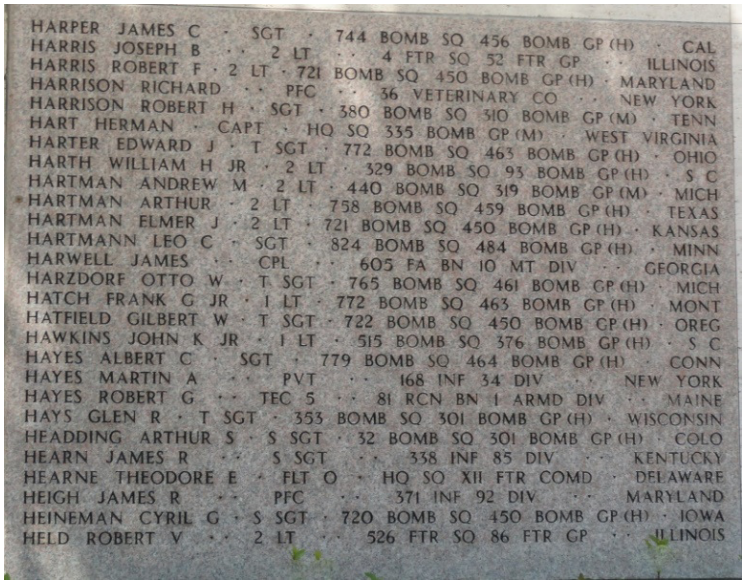
Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. William H. Harth, Jr., killed during World War II, has now been accounted for.

In the summer of 1943, Harth was a bombardier assigned to the 329th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 93rd Bombardment Group (Heavy), which was known as "The Traveling Circus." He served on a B-24D aircraft, nicknamed "Hell's Angels," when he was participating in a historic mission, which was the first large-scale, low-altitude attack by U.S. heavy bomber aircraft on Ploesti, Romania, code-named Operation TIDAL WAVE. On Aug. 1, 1943, as Harth's aircraft approached Ploesti, it was hit by German anti-aircraft fire. Harth was killed when the aircraft crashed.

Interment services are pending; more details will be released 7-10 days prior to scheduled funeral services.

Harth's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at an American Battle Monuments Commission site along with the others who are missing from the World War II. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

For more information about DPAA, visit www.dpaa.mil, find us on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa, or call 703-699-1420.



HARPER JAMES C · SGT · 744 BOMB SQ 456 BOMB GP (H) · CAL
HARRIS JOSEPH B · 2 LT · 4 FTR SQ 52 FTR GP · ILLINOIS
HARRIS ROBERT F · 2 LT · 721 BOMB SQ 450 BOMB GP (H) · MARYLAND
HARRISON RICHARD · PFC · 36 VETERINARY CO · NEW YORK
HARRISON ROBERT H · SGT · 380 BOMB SQ 310 BOMB GP (M) · TENN
HART HERMAN · CAPT · HQ SQ 335 BOMB GP (M) · WEST VIRGINIA
HARTER EDWARD J · T SGT · 772 BOMB SQ 463 BOMB GP (H) · OHIO
HARTH WILLIAM H JR · 2 LT · 329 BOMB SQ 93 BOMB GP (H) · S C
HARTMAN ANDREW M · 2 LT · 440 BOMB SQ 319 BOMB GP (M) · MICH
HARTMAN ARTHUR · 2 LT · 758 BOMB SQ 459 BOMB GP (H) · TEXAS
HARTMAN ELMER J · 2 LT · 721 BOMB SQ 450 BOMB GP (H) · KANSAS
HARTMANN LEO C · SGT · 824 BOMB SQ 484 BOMB GP (H) · MINN
HARWELL JAMES · CPL · 605 FA BN 10 MT DIV · GEORGIA
HARZDORF OTTO W · T SGT · 765 BOMB SQ 461 BOMB GP (H) · MICH
HATCH FRANK G JR · 1 LT · 772 BOMB SQ 463 BOMB GP (H) · MONT
HATFIELD GILBERT W · T SGT · 722 BOMB SQ 450 BOMB GP (H) · OREG
HAWKINS JOHN K JR · 1 LT · 515 BOMB SQ 376 BOMB GP (H) · S C
HAYES ALBERT C · SGT · 779 BOMB SQ 464 BOMB GP (H) · CONN
HAYES MARTIN A · PVT · 168 INF 34 DIV · NEW YORK
HAYES ROBERT G · TEC 5 · 81 RCN BN 1 ARMD DIV · MAINE
HAYS GLEN R · T SGT · 353 BOMB SQ 301 BOMB GP (H) · WISCONSIN
HEADDING ARTHUR S · S SGT · 32 BOMB SQ 301 BOMB GP (H) · COLO
HEARN JAMES R · S SGT · 338 INF 85 DIV · KENTUCKY
HEARNE THEODORE E · FLT O · HQ SQ XII FTR COMD · DELAWARE
HEIGH JAMES R · PFC · 371 INF 92 DIV · MARYLAND
HEINEMAN CYRIL G · S SGT · 720 BOMB SQ 450 BOMB GP (H) · IOWA
HELD ROBERT V · 2 LT · 526 FTR SQ 86 FTR GP · ILLINOIS

The Romanian government took responsibility for recovering the remains of the many airmen killed in the raid. Whenever possible, the remains were identified and buried. Any remains that could not be identified were provided an appropriate burial in a grave marked unknown. After the war, the remains were returned to United States control. When the remains were identified, the next of kin were contacted and given the option of returning the remains to the United States or reinterring them in one of the American Military Cemeteries throughout Europe. The unknown remains were reinterred in the Ardennes Military Cemetery in Belgium. All missing-in-action were memorialized at one of the American Military Cemeteries overseas. In the case of 2LT Harth, he was memorialized on a stone wall at the American Military Cemetery near Florence, Italy on the "Tablets of the Missing." His remains were disinterred and processed for identification based on new and better science available today. One of the best tools is comparison of DNA with known samples from family members. Mr. Jim Bell, Mortuary Affairs – Identifications, Past Conflict Repatriations Branch, U.S. Army Human Resources Command, 1600 Spearhead Division Avenue, Dept 450 Fort Knox, KY 40122 notified the 93rd and asked for assistance in providing more information to 2LT Harth's family. Mr. Bell made the initial notification to the family and is assisting them with returning the remains and reinterring them in the cemetery of their choice. 2LT Harth will be buried in Columbia, SC, his hometown this spring. Specific funeral arrangements are not available at this time but we do plan to have a 93rd BG Association representative at the funeral. 1LT Harms' family was instrumental in providing photos of 2LT Harth and the crew for the Harth family who did not have photos available. The crew is pictured above with 1LT Harms - first from the left, 2LT Harth - third from left and SGT Reed -fifth from the left all in the front row. Our hope is that, in the future, additional crew members will be identified. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's mission is to account for our service members from all wars. The 93rd has an important role to play in accounting for those men still unidentified. When "Ted's Travelling Circus" was printed in 1996, there were 181 men listed as missing by the American Battle Monuments Commission. The work continues until all missing are identified. As an organization, we are committed to help the government and families of the missing in any way possible.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy New Year to all of our Veterans, members, and friends of the 93rd BGA family! January is almost over already, however, there is a lot of work going on with a very busy year ahead of us! The Officers and key members continue to meet every month. We are working on the reunion planning in Washington DC, many tasks associated with continuing the Film production, driving our Film fundraising efforts with a new special committee, getting ready for the trip to Iceland (in support of the Hot Stuff and General Andrews memorial dedication), Education session planning, membership planning & renewals, and making plans to assist with the internment of a 93rd BG Missing in Action veteran, whose remains have been located and positively identified after 74 years. Also, this year will be time to elect Officers for the BGA at our annual reunion. Myself and our Veterans are appreciative of all of the volunteer hours that go into making our association a great one!

There are many detailed updates throughout this issue of the BOF on all of this work, so please take time to read through each page!

As always, I strongly encourage you to get a copy and read "Ted's Travelling Circus", our 93rd Bomb Group history book, if you haven't already! It is a chronological history of the 93rd BG and is a tremendous wealth of knowledge. Also, take advantage of the social media connections of 93rd Bomb Group family and friends primarily through our Facebook page! Join and "follow" the group as we have over 700 members now, and new topics and information is shared on a regular basis! And finally, keep a check on our website, www.93bg.com, as there are regular updates there as well!

Enjoy this issue of the Ball of Fire, and any suggestions or feedback are always welcome!

See you in Washington D.C!

Jim Root
President, 93rd BGA

DNA REGISTRY UNLOCKS KEY TO FALLEN SERVICEMEMBERS' IDENTITIES

DNA is a substance within every person's cells that provides a personal blueprint, known as a DNA profile. The Defense Department is gathering DNA samples from all servicemembers to ensure that if a soldier, sailor, airman, Marine or Coast Guardsman is ever killed in service, his or her remains will never go unidentified. The goal is to never again have to bury a U.S. servicemember in a "Tomb of the Unknowns" or to keep families wondering about the fate of their loved ones.

DoD has been building its DNA registry since 1992, shortly after breakthroughs in DNA technologies made it feasible to use blood samples or saliva swipes to make positive identifications. Since then, DoD has amassed the world's largest inventory of DNA samples.

In addition to providing DNA samples to identify troops serving today, the DoD DNA Registry is helping to unlock the mystery of missing servicemembers from past conflicts. Working closely with the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, with headquarters at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, the staff at the DNA Registry is applying new technology to help identify remains of troops killed during the Vietnam War, Korean War, World War II and even earlier conflicts.

One of the newest advances in DNA technology, using mitochondrial DNA that's stored in the body's cytoplasm, is proving particularly helpful in identifying remains that have degraded over time and due to environmental exposure. Remains buried in National Cemetery's that are currently unknown may be able to be identified using the latest technology.

Rayann Marx ("niece-in-law" of 1LT Robert W. Marx, 409th Squadron) and her family have provided DNA samples with the hope of someday identifying her uncle's remains. Corporal Raymond Nelle who is missing in action from the Korean War and was last seen on Nov 2, 1950 in an area now in North Korea. If the United States and North Korea ever normalize relations, our government plans to recover his remains. Since Raymond wasn't married and had no children, Rayann's aunts, Raymond's sisters and his nephews have all provided DNA samples for inclusion in the registry. His parents were deceased prior to the start of the program or they would have been asked to provide samples, too. The family was encouraged to provide as many different samples as possible.

Family members of service members missing-in-action from World War II are encouraged to provide a DNA sample to aid in the identification of remains recovered from the battlefield or disinterred from an unknown's grave. The sample can provide the evidence necessary to make a positive identification. The 93rd Bomb Group Association is committed to encouraging relatives to take a simple saliva sample using an Army provided kit.

If you are a relative, contact the Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Branch and a case manager will be assigned. The Case Manager will coordinate DNA kits to be mailed for you and your family. He will need to know as much personal information as available regarding your missing/unidentified relative to research his case. The Case Manager also provides information regarding your relative and the status of any ongoing investigation. The government contact information is as follows:

Casualty & Mortuary Affairs Branch
U.S. Army Human Resources Command
1600 Spearhead Div. Ave.
Fort Knox, KY 40122-5400
Work: 800-892-2490

The Casualty & Mortuary Affairs office conduct annual family updates around the country. Your Case Manager provides a schedule and pertinent information for those who desire to attend. Rayann and John Marx have attended 5 or 6 updates beginning in 1998. Because of the political conditions in North Korea, no progress has been made yet, but Rayann hopes to attend her uncle's funeral someday.

93rd Bomb Group Association Reunion
October 18 - 22, 2018
National Capital Region
Herndon, Virginia

Our 2018 Reunion takes place in the National Capital Region offering a wide range of exciting activities and a great opportunity to renew friendships. We have selected the Hyatt Regency, Dulles located within two miles of the Dulles International Airport (IAD). The hotel's address is:

Hyatt Regency Dulles
2300 Dulles Corner Boulevard
Herndon, VA 20171

Located 8-10 minutes from Washington Dulles International and a 30-minute Metro ride to DC, the hotel is conveniently located. Enjoy door-to-door service with complimentary airport shuttle, which also runs by the bustling Reston Town Center.

ACCOMMODATIONS: 316 guestrooms, including 6 suites/parlors, 259 kings/queens, 65 double/doubles all with cozy sitting area; 26 allergy friendly suites featuring the latest hypoallergenic technology. All accommodations offer: free Wi-Fi available in guestrooms and lobbies and restaurants, excluding meeting spaces, 37-inch LCD television with 60 HD channels, workstations with ergonomic designed chairs, voicemail, speaker phones with message waiting light, data ports, full bath amenities and hair dryer, iron, ironing board & individual climate control, alarm clock radio, coffeemaker and in-room refrigerator. Daily newspaper available.

SERVICES & FACILITIES: In-room dining; complimentary business center and support services; complimentary shuttle to/from airport–4:15 am to 12:30 am; multilingual staff and currency exchange; assistive devices for persons with disabilities; ATM and Sundries Shop; safety-deposit boxes at front desk; laundry/dry cleaning; complimentary parking

RESTAURANTS & BARS: highest quality cuisine; creative chefs craft the menus based on fresh, local ingredients; coffees, pastries and to-go items; lobby bar with light-fare and cocktails

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES: heated indoor lap pool; 24-hour fitness center offers free weights, exercise cycles, steppers, and rowers; bicycle and jogging paths

Our room rate is $124.00 plus tax of 12% per night ($138.88 inclusive) for Thursday – Sunday night. The room rate includes breakfast for two. Breakfast for additional guests is $10.00 per day. For those who want to arrive early or remain afterwards, the hotel has extended the rate for three days prior and three days after the reunion.
Attendees are responsible to make their own hotel reservations. For Reservations, visit the Booking Website established for the 93rd at:

https://aws.passkey.com/e/49490591

or contact the Hyatt Central Reservations by phone at 1-404-592-6422. Be sure to identify your affiliation with the 93rd Bomb Group. If you have difficulty, please call or email the in-hotel contact: Alisa Corrales, at 1-703-793-6872, email alisa.corrales@hyatt.com. Please make your reservations at the earliest opportunity!
In addition to the hotel cost, a registration fee covers the cost of our lunches, evening meals, transportation, memorabilia room, and program activities. A registration form will be included in a future issue of the BOFQE.

A draft schedule is provided for your planning. As a draft, all questions, comments and suggestions are welcome.

DRAFT Reunion Schedule

Day 1 – Thursday – October 18

12:00 – 5 PM	Registration / Memorabilia Room Setup – Everyone is welcome!
2 – 3:30 PM	Officers' Meeting - Boardroom
6 – 8 PM	Welcome Dinner & Attendee Introductions – Cirrus Ballroom
8 – 9 PM	93rd BG Missing in Action Report – Cirrus Ballroom

Day 2 – Friday – October 19

7:30 – 9 AM	Breakfast - Hotel
9:00 – 10:30 AM	Education Session #1 – Cirrus Ballroom
10:30 – 12:00 AM	Veterans' Q&A – Cirrus Ballroom
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Buffet Lunch– Cirrus Ballroom
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Veterans Only Roundtable - Boardroom
1:15 – 2:00 PM	Transportation to Arlington National Cemetery
2:00 – 3:30 PM	2:30 - 93rd Bomb Group Living Memorial/ 3:00 - Changing of the Guard, Tomb of the Unknowns 3:15 - Wreath Laying, Tomb of the Unknowns
3:30 – 5:30 PM	Air Force Memorial (stop) and Marine Corps Memorial (Iwo Jima) (drive by)
5:30 – 6:00 PM	Transportation to Dining venue
6:00 – 8:00 PM	Dinner - TBD
8:00 – 8:30 PM	Transportation to hotel

Day 3 – Saturday – October 20

7:30 – 9 AM	Breakfast – Hotel
9:30 – 11:30 AM	Business Meeting – Cirrus Ballroom
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Transportation to Washington, D.C. with Box Lunch en route
1:00 – 1:45 PM	WWII Memorial, group photo option
1:45 – 2:30 PM	Lincoln, Vietnam Memorials
2:30 – 2:45 PM	Transportation to Capitol
2:45 – 4:15 PM	Capitol Tour, group photo option
4:15 – 5:00 PM	Transportation to Hyatt Regency
6:30 – 7:45 PM	Memorial Dinner – Cirrus Ballroom
8:00 – 9:30 PM	"Hardwick Aerodrome 104" – Cirrus Ballroom

Day 4 – Sunday – October 21

7:30 – 9 AM	Breakfast at Hotel
8:30 – 9:30 AM	Religious Service (non-denominational) – Cirrus Ballroom
10:00 – 11:30 AM	Educational Session #2 – Cirrus Ballroom
11:45 – 12:00 AM	Transportation to Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Lunch – On your own
12:00 – 3:45 PM	Visit Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center
3:45 – 4:00 PM	Transportation to Hotel
4:00 PM	Bus Returns to Hotel
1 – 6 PM	Memorabilia Room
6 – 8 PM	Dinner - Hotel
8 PM - Closing	Memorabilia Room Pack-up – Everyone is welcome!

Day 5 – Monday – October 22

6 – 9 AM	Breakfast at Hotel

Questions, comments and suggestions are welcome to this draft schedule.
Please contact John Marx, 109clearview@gmail.com or 412-327-1909.

93rd Bomb Group Reunion Extension
October 22 - 24, 2018
Antietam and Gettysburg National Battlefields
Maryland and Virginia (Draft)

Oct 22, Monday

9 AM – Depart Hyatt Regency via van/bus
10 – 11 AM – Tour Antietam National Battlefield visitor's center
11 AM - 1 PM – Tour Battlefield
1 – 2 PM – Lunch
2 – 3:30 PM – Travel to Gettysburg
3:30 - 6 PM – Tour Gettysburg National Battlefield Visitor's Center Museum, Film and Cyclorama
6:00 PM – Hotel Check – In
6:30 – 8 PM – Dinner

Oct 23, Tuesday

9 – 10:30 AM – Visit David Wills House Museum
11:15 AM – Travel to Visitor's Center
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM - Lunch at Visitor's Center
12:30 – 4 PM – Tour Gettysburg National Battlefield Park with Licensed Battlefield Guide
4:30 PM Arrive at hotel
6 – 8 PM – Dinner

Oct 24, Wednesday – Depart for home

9:30 AM – Check out and depart Gettysburg for Dulles International Airport (IAD)
11:30 AM – Arrive at Airport

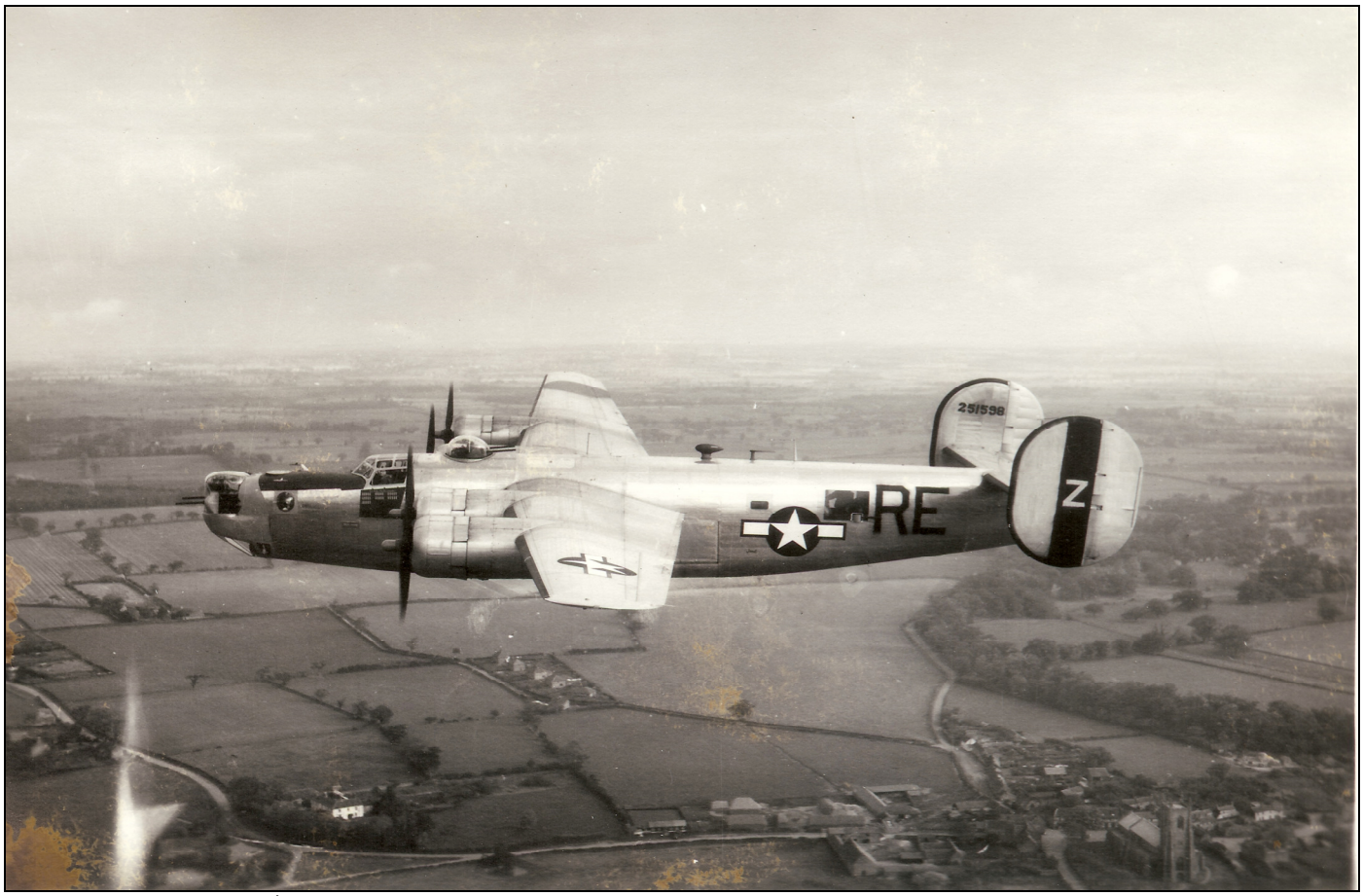
Eight people have expressed interest to date—enough to proceed with planning. If interested in attending the Extension, please contact John Marx at 412-327-1909 or 109clearview@gmail.com.

UPCOMING REUNION OPPORTUNITIES

2018 - Dedication of the Hot Stuff Memorial: All are encouraged to travel to Iceland for the dedication to be held on the 75th Anniversary of the "Hot Stuff" crash that took place on May 3, 1943. After a lengthy fund raising drive spearheaded by Jim Lux, we will gather with United States and Iceland officials, the crew's family members and others for the Memorial dedication on May 3, 2018 to remember the tragic accident 75 years before. If you would like more information please express your interest to Jim Lux at hotstuff.memorial@gmail.com.

***2019 Hardwick, England*:** We are looking at the idea of a trip back to Norwich and Hardwick in May of 2019. Please let Don Morrison (phone 330-415-2222 or Doniac1967@sbcglobal.net) know if you are interested in this trip.

2019 - Dearborn, MI: At our annual Business Meeting in New Orleans, the attendees voted to visit the Dearborn, Michigan area. Located near Detroit, MI and serviced by the Detroit International Airport (DTW). Visits to the Yankee Air Museum in Ypsilanti to see how a B-24 was built and the significant contributions of "Rosie the Riveter." Other potential tours include an excursion to the Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village. Planning will begin soon. Anticipate dates in October 2019.



42-51598 RE Z 329th BS built by Ford at Willow Run Plant now the home of the Yankee Air Museum

93rd BOMBARDMENT GROUP ASSOCIATION

TO ALL 93RD BGA VETERANS, MEMBERS & FRIENDS!

The Association wishes to thank you for your generous support for the documentary film, **Hardwick Aerodrome, 104** so far. With your financial and creative support, we have come very far with our production, but we need to ask for your HELP again.

We are currently on budget based on our estimates of 2 years ago. However, as we move into the final portion of the film, we estimate the continuing expenses for post-production and legal support costs will be an additional $20,000.

This world-class documentary film about Hardwick and the 93rd Bomb Group, includes vintage footage, interviews with veterans and family members, new video taken at Hardwick and stories of the daring missions of the 93rd. Using state of the art film techniques, we can see what Hardwick looks like before and after the War.

Frankenbite Productions, owned by our own, Michael Sellers, is nearly complete with the production of the film. In conjunction with many other resources and talent, including the 93rd BGA Officers and key members, the collaborative product is entertaining, informative and compelling. The rough cut film was shown at the National WWII Museum, at our New Orleans reunion on September 28, 2017!

To honor the heritage and maintain the legacy of the 93rd Bombardment Group, distribution of this film is key. Further distribution to public venues, such as PBS, major networks, the internet, or public sale of the DVD requires legal considerations. Proper due diligence needs to be followed and is the cause for the legal costs. Estimated legal fees alone may be $10,000.

We are asking for your additional support by donating any amount to the project, either through our websites, www.93bg.com, OR www.hardwickfilm.com, (view the film info & updates here!) OR checks may be made payable to *93rd BG Association-Film* and sent directly to:

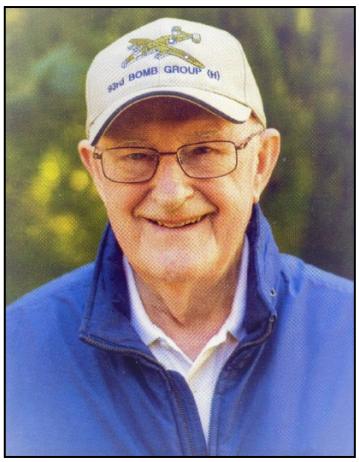
Wally Brown, Treasurer, 717 Pinebrook Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23462

As a THANK YOU, there will be SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR DONATIONS TO THE HARDWICK FILM PROJECT as follows:

Donation of $250 to $499 - Choice of Vet's books listed on web site
Donation of $500 to $999 - A 93rd embroidered hat (blue or khaki)
Donation of $1,000 to $1,499 - A copy of Ted's Travelling Circus Book
Donation of $1,500 to $2,499 - A copy of Ted's, a 93rd hat or B-24 Travel Mug
Donation of $2,500 or more - A copy of Ted's, a 93rd hat and a B-24 Travel Mug

Thank You for helping the 93rd BGA – from our veterans and members!

FOLDED WINGS



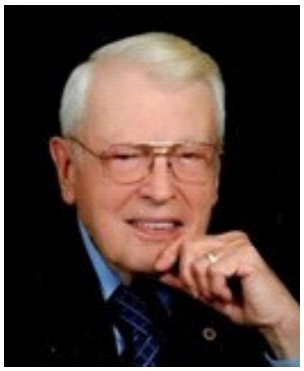
LtCol Raymond O. Eck, USAF (Retired) June 9, 1923 – Jan 24, 2018

The 93rd Bomb Group Association lost another member of the "greatest generation." Ray Eck served in the 329th Bombardment Squadron, 93rd Bombardment Group (Heavy), as a radio operator/gunner completing 27 missions. He joined the 93rd in August of 1944. After completing his service, Ray went to work for Westinghouse Electric. In June 1950 he returned to active duty completing 28 years of service with tours around the world including Brazil and Korea. Much of his career was spent in the Strategic Air Command. He achieved the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and retired in 1972. After completing a Master's Degree in Counselor Education at Penn State, he joined the teaching faculty at Castle Heights Military Academy in Lebanon, Tennessee, where he was the assistant superintendent and taught math retiring again in 1985.

Surviving is his wife, June Lois (Hurko) Evans-Eck, with whom he would have celebrated 10 years of marriage on March 1. Surviving in addition to June are his daughters, Raylene M. Hennip (Richard), of Loveland, CO., Donna L. Blumenfeld (James), of Lincoft, NJ, Barbara E. Tosi (David), of and Myra L. Holloway (George), both of York, PA; a stepson, Raymond B. *"Chuck"* Evans (Susan), and a stepdaughter, Deborah A. Grove (John), both of Williamsport, PA; eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Over the years, the 93rd has been blessed to meet many of Ray's family at our annual reunions.

The Eck's joined several of our England trips visiting Norwich, Hardwick Airfield and the American Military Cemetery near Cambridge. Ray was honored to raise the American flag at the airfield and to lay the Memorial wreath at the cemetery as part of the Memorial Day services. Ray served as one of our veteran advisors and was a trusted confidant and friend to all. He was eager to talk with his fellow veterans and shared many stories and tales of life in the 93rd. He loved to meet people and share fun and laughter with all. Ray leaves a wonderful legacy of accomplishment and a loving family. He will be greatly missed!

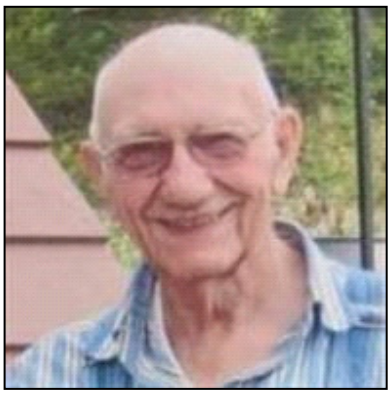
John, William Richardson, Ray Eck at Hardwick



Carmen Fox 1921 - 2017 SHELBY Ohio: Carmen Joseph Fox, age 95, longtime Shelby resident, died Thursday, May 11, 2017 at Brookwood Place at Brethren Care Village in Ashland.

Carmen was born August 22, 1921 in Lancaster, Ohio, the son of the late Lawrence and Norah (O'Neill) Fox. He was a 1939 graduate of Saint Mary High School in Lancaster. Carmen was a WWII veteran of the United States Army Air Corps serving from 1942-1945. He flew 26 missions with the 93rd Bomb group as a radio operator in a B-24 from England over the European Theatre. At the time of his honorable discharge, Carmen was a first lieutenant and had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Following his service, Carmen

attended The Ohio State University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture in 1949. From 1949-1969 Carmen worked for Sealtest Dairy Products as the plant manager, a job that brought he and his wife, Ellen, to Shelby. He then worked for Dairy Farm Products from 1969-1986 until his retirement. Carmen was an active member of Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church where he had been an usher and taught CCD in addition to many volunteer hours for different church events. Since the age of 18, 77 total years, Carmen had been a member of the Knights of Columbus. He was active with several councils throughout his life with the majority being with Shelby Council #1968 where he was currently the oldest member and had been awarded Family Man of the Year. He also loved caring for his apple trees on his property. Surviving are 6 children: Ted (Dianne) Fox of Marengo, Denis (Kathy) Fox of Ashland, Leonard (Kathy) Fox of Shelby, Sheila Fox (Chuck Lynd) of Delaware, Karen Fox Esbenshade of Ashland, Victor (Jeanne) Fox of Dublin; 20 grandchildren; 27 great grandchildren; 3 brothers: Hugh Fox of Lancaster, Pat (Dolly) Fox of Columbia, Missouri, Paul (Loretta) Fox of London; and a sister: Sr. Mary Jo Fox, OP of Columbus. On September 23, 1946 he married Ellen Cecelia (Shaw) Fox who preceded him in death on January 22, 2006, in addition to a daughter: Mary Fox; and 3 brothers: Joseph Fox, Larry Fox, and Jack Fox.



Albert H. "Bert" Karels, age 92 of rural Henderson died on Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at his Jessenland Township home. Military honors were rendered at the Brown Cemetery, Henderson, Minnesota. He was born on December 29, 1924 in Lakota, Iowa to John and Dena (Honken) Karels. He attended Bancroft High School, Bancroft, Iowa. Bert entered the U.S. Army-Air Force and served in Europe during World War II. He married his high school sweetheart, Viola Johnson, on May 12, 1945 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Bancroft, Iowa. They lived in Minneapolis briefly and returned to Bancroft, Iowa. In January of 1957 they moved to a small farm near Henderson, Minnesota where they raised 9 children. Bert operated Bert's Plumbing and Heating in Henderson, Minnesota for many years and worked for Continental Machine Company in Savage. After his wife's death in 1995 he married Arline vonLehe on September 12, 1996 in Nashua, Iowa. He was a member of the American Legion Post # 74 in Henderson and St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Henderson. He is survived by his wife, Arline Children; Randy (Carlene) Karels of St. Thomas, Bryan (Diane) Karels of Isle, Wendy Bradley of Napa, CA, Bruce of Spokane, WA, Wesley (Debra) Karels of LeSueur, Karen Karels of LeSueur, Eric (Lynn) Karels of Henderson, and Nanette Casey of LeSueur. 15 Grandchildren, 11 Great-grandchildren Sister-in- law, Arlene (Mrs. Otto) Karels of Lakota, IA Step-Children; Sue (Fred) Wintermantel, Larry (Lisa) vonLehe, Jan vonLehe, Donna (Paul Santo) vonLehe and 9 step-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Viola; Son, Brent; Grandson, Bryce Albert Karels; 5 brothers and 2 sisters.

Carol Shubeck October 26, 1921- July 27, 2017

(Wife of Fred Shubeck 328th BS Pilot) Each summer Carol helped her dad on the farm mowing and raking hay and cultivating with horses. She graduated as Salutatorian one year early. Carol attended Concordia College in Moorhead, MN one year and graduated from North Dakota State University in 1942 with a Bachelor of Science degree.

Carol taught junior high and high school science and chemistry at Enderlin, ND for half a year prior to graduation. She taught home economics at Alexandria, MN from 1942-1946. Johnson Lumber Co. in Toledo, Oregon building houses for defense workers.

Carol married Fred Shubeck October 21, 1950.

She served as local 4H club leader in Brookings and Clay County in South Dakota for over 20 years. She taught Sunday school, was involved with WELCA, was a Women's Extension Club member for over 40 years and was a member of the Dalesburg Scandinavian Association. She liked to fix up and paint farm buildings and enjoyed visiting friends and residents at Bethesda Home in Beresford.

Carol also liked to entertain people, do crossword puzzles, and go to grandkid and church events. Being a descendant of the Pilgrims that came to America on the Mayflower she enjoyed studying genealogy. She is survived by her husband of 66 years, Fred Shubeck of Beresford; son, Paul (Carol) Shubeck of Beresford; daughter, Mary (Don) Josko of Sioux Falls; seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Gerald Veteto September 1, 1952 – December 14, 2017
One of our own 2nd generation volunteers passed away last month. Gerald Veteto was an active member of the 93rd Bomb Group Association serving in a variety of capacities. He was the son of Hearol Veteto, a bombardier in the 328th Squadron. Hearol led our first Educational Sessions geared to reach the children—the third and fourth generations. The sessions were very popular with not only the kids but the adults as well. Gerald took over from his Dad and continued the sessions for several years. He also served as our Vice President and, most recently, on the Reunion Committee. Due to illness, Gerald was unable to attend the 2017 reunion; nevertheless, he coordinated the registration and finances contributing to the reunion's success.

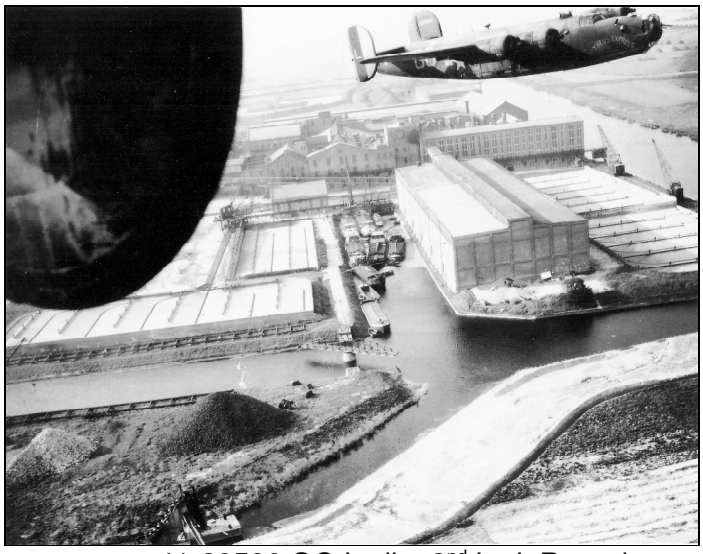
Gerald is survived by his wife, Lisa, his Mom, Maxine, his children, Jessica, David, and Erin as well as eight grandchildren. As a man of strong faith, Gerald made his family a top priority. As a born and bred Texan from San Antonio, Gerald attend Texas A&M and the University of Texas. He taught middle and high school and found great joy in coaching soccer, being named the Express News Soccer Coach of the Year in 2007. He retired from teaching in 2010. Gerald was a great friend of the 93rd and his smile and encouragement will be sadly missed.

They will be missed!

GREETINGS FROM THE 93RD BG HISTORIAN!

Supply Mission to Holland September 18, 1944

42-50353 AG B Pilot 1st Lt C. Vasquez being loading



41-29586 GO L pilot 2nd Lt J. Rosacker "US Express" on way to the target

Over the drop zone in 41-29437 GO H "Ma's Worry" Piloted by 1st LT F. Adams

FREE Memorabilia cataloging and Research

I am willing to scan any documents, records and photos of a 93rd BG veteran and return ALL of the original items (unharmed) along with CDs of all scans/jpeg images, along with any additional information I can add regarding names, plane serial #, artwork and places. There is NO charge for this service! I can also make extra CDs copies for family members. I have done this for several veterans over the years. My contact info is shown in the Officer Directory.

Message from the Editor

I am always looking for any articles about any event that involved the 93rd BG. These can be short stories written by the veteran or family. If it is interesting to you most likely it will be interesting to all of us too! This is YOUR Ball of Fire Newsletter. Please send any article submittals or Letters to the editor to my attention for inclusion in future Newsletters.

Cheers, Don Morrison

HOT STUFF MEMORIAL MONUMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Hot Stuff Monument Dedication on Schedule

The *Hot Stuff*/Gen. Andrews monument will be dedicated near the crash site in Grindavik, Iceland on May 3, 2018 the 75th anniversary of the accident. The dedication will include a memorial service that will take place at the Andrews Theater in Keflavik after the dedication.

Many family members of *Hot Stuff's* crew and passengers will attend the ceremonies. A large contingency from the 93rd BG Association will also attend. Jim Root, President of the 93rd BGA, will be one of the guest speakers.

I will be visiting Iceland for a week beginning February 25th to finalize plans for the dedication. Many Icelanders are involved in the planning and helping make this a very special event.

Lt. Col. Jeremy Saunders, USAF Defense Attaché to Iceland, is working to have Air Force aircraft participate in the dedication ceremony. USAF Chief of Chaplains, Maj. Gen. Dondi Costin, has confirmed his attendance and will participate in the ceremonies.

Hjalmar Arnason, Managing Director of Keilir Aviation Academy, has been instrumental in organizing and managing the event. He plans to have Keilir aircraft participate in the ceremonies. Iceland's Coast Guard plans to include a helicopter fly-by.

A special thank you goes to all who donated money and supported the Memorial Monument Project, especially to the 93rd BGA for believing in me and helping make it happen. Nancy Stranger did an outstanding job of managing the monument fund.

The effort the get recognition for the crew of *Hot Stuff* for being the first heavy bomber in the 8th Air Force to complete 25 missions began eight years ago and was expanded to include reviving the legacy of Lt. Gen. Frank Maxwell Andrews. In 2012, it was Icelanders, Thorsteinn and Olafur Marteinsson, who document World War II crash sites in Iceland in their spare time, suggested there should be a monument honoring those who died and now it's about to happen!

Contact for additional information:
Jim Lux
Home: 512-327-1750 Cell: 512-731-8024
Hotstuff.memorial@gmail.com

93RD WEBSITE & FILM PROJECT

93rd Bomb Group website update

As of today we have had 106,942 visitors to the 93rd website! Some visitors to the site were tracked all the way from Chittagong, Bangladesh! Please look for a new video on the homepage (bottom right). If you ever wanted to see Hardwick from the air - check it out!

In the months ahead please click onto the homepage to see fundraising efforts for the production of Hardwick: Aerodrome 104 documentary. A new committee has been formed and currently they are organizing efforts to get information to members and friends that would like to continue to support the film. Additional money is needed for rights, clearances and graphics!

Date: 1/21/2018, 12:58 PM, AST
Name: Al Miller
Email: cajunajm@att.net
Location: United States
Number: 181

Does anyone have any contact of the family of Sgt. John Hallissey?

Date: 8/3/2017, 5:08 PM, AST
Name: Adrian S. Pye
Email: adrian.s.pye@gmail.com
Location: United Kingdom
Number: 180

I have a list of names of men lost in a 409 93BG Liberator which crashed in the small Suffolk village of South Cove. Do you have any information about the aircraft and the day in 1943 when this accident occured, please?
The names of the crew are as follows:
TUCKER, Marvin L 0-2057461 2/Lt
HORASANIAN, Haig 0-2074432 2/Lt
PITT, Wade L 0-2062285 2/Lt
JOHNSON, Edward F 33226027 Cpl
MARTIN, Jay W 37632502 Cpl
GRAY, Leon L 13172229 Cpl
JONES, Oliver C Jr 13075961 Cpl
STONE, Ray H 35222366 Cpl
WILLIAMS, Farris E 38697702 Cpl

In the last issue of the Ball of Fire I mentioned that the Message Board is occasionally used by people interested in our group and also seeking information on friends and family. In case you have not visited the site recently here are a couple recent posts. Who knows, you might be able to provide information!

Hardwick Aerodrome 104 documentary update

Currently I am finishing up notes on the first hour of the documentary. This would be the version that members and friends saw at the 93rd BG reunion in New Orleans. Most of my own notes and notes from members and friends are on the subject of “time” and getting to the core of the documentary quicker. I think I have accomplished that and now I am moving on to finish the rest of the film. The next section I’ll be working on is the third “History” section which will start with the D-Day invasion. Recently I interviewed Glenn Martin from Houston, TX (photo right) and he has some great comments being on the base as the invasion was underway. I’m looking forward to incorporating his comments into the film!

Michael Sellers
93rd BG Webmaster
Director, Hardwick Aerodrome 104 documentary
www.93bg.com
www.hardwickfilm.com

POST EXCHANGE (PX)

PX CLOSED UNTIL APRIL 2018

MEMBERSHIP

The 2017 Membership renewal drive is still in progress and we are coming close to full renewal. I would like to encourage any of you who have questions about the status of your membership to contact me. If your membership was expiring 12/31/17 or a year earlier, you should have received a letter from me reminding you it is time renew in the Fall. Though the membership year is based on the calendar year, it is never too late to join or renew. Please feel free to invite family members and interested friends to join our dedicated group.

Also, please notice the form includes a place for members to indicate if they would like to volunteer their expertise. We know we have lots of ability in our organization and would like to include anyone who would like to participate. Just contact me at member93bg@aol.com if you want to help us out.

Thanks for your help and keep those memberships coming in!

Jean Koznarek

93rd BGA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Year 2018

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ **State**_____ **Zip**_____

Phone Number_____ **Email Address**_____

93rd BG Connection: (please circle appropriate) **Vet is/was-self, father, uncle, grandpa** or
I am a Historian/friend.

Name of 93rd veteran_____ **Rank**_____

Squadron_____ **Time period in Service:**_____**19**_____**to**_____**19**_____

Airplane Name(s)_____ **Pilot(s)**_____

Crew Chief(s)_____**Comments (list crew if known)**_____

_____

(*use back side for more info*)

Annual Membership	**$25**	**$**_____	
2 year discount rate (2018 & 2019)	**$45**	**$**_____	
Tax deductible Donation		**$**_____	(The 93rd is a 501(c)(3) Organization)
	TOTAL	**$**_____	

___*Please MAIL newsletter* ___*Please E-MAIL newsletter*

_____Yes! I would like to volunteer to help the 93rd BGA and my skill is:

_____

Make checks payable to: 93rd BOMB GROUP
(You may also pay by PayPal through the 93rd Bomb Group website, 93bg.com)

Mail to: Jean Koznarek
93rd Bomb Group Ass'n.
2644 West Park Blvd.
Shaker Hts., OH 44120

KEEP OUR HISTORY ALIVE!

Consider a membership for a friend or family member.
(Make a copy of this form for additional memberships. Thank You!)

Please note, membership is on a calendar year.