

Ball of Fire QUARTERLY EXPRESS



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

Vol. 25 No. 4

Winter 2017

2017 TIMBERLAKE AWARDS



Michael Sellers

Don Morrison



Colin Mann

Colin Mann: On behalf of the 93rd Bomb Group Association, it is my pleasure to recognize your many contributions over the years to the association, as our Hardwick “caretaker” and liaison! Without question, your dedication to the organization and its mission has been an inspiration to us all! Your ability to help guide the BGA and our Veterans, during group tours and individual visits, has been outstanding and is very much appreciated! Your personal volunteer time is fabulous! Also, your contribution to support, host, co-lead, and provide assistance during the early stages of the production of our film, **Hardwick Aerodrome 104**, has been a great representation of your dedication and loyalty to the 93rd BGA. Your hard work in support of the film is paying off, with the production of a world-class film, documenting our history!

Don Morrison: On behalf of the 93rd Bomb Group Association, it is my pleasure to recognize your many contributions over the years to the association, as our Historian! Without question, your dedication to the organization and its mission has been an inspiration to us all! Your ability to help guide the BGA and our Veterans to higher levels of technical information, knowledge, and history has been outstanding and is very much appreciated! Also, your contribution to conceptualize, co-lead, and support the production of our film, **Hardwick Aerodrome 104**, has been a great representation of your dedication and loyalty to the 93rd BGA. Your hard work in support of the film is paying off, with the production of a world-class film, documenting our history!

Micheal Sellers: On behalf of the 93rd Bomb Group Association, it is my pleasure to recognize your many contributions over the years to the association, as our Technical Manager! Without question, your dedication to the organization and its mission has been an inspiration to us all! Your ability to help guide the BGA and our Veterans to higher levels of technical expertise, through management of our website, reunion live streaming, Facebook/social media support and membership support, has been outstanding and is very much appreciated! Also, your contribution to conceptualize, co-lead, create, and produce our film, **Hardwick Aerodrome 104**, has been a great representation of your dedication and loyalty to the 93rd BGA. Your hard work in support of the film is paying off, with the production of a world-class film, documenting our history! Your grandfather, and all of us are very proud of the volunteer work you are doing!

As we conduct this reunion in New Orleans, we are thrilled to be able to recognize your contributions by awarding you the 2017, 93rd BGA Timberlake award, in honor of General Ted Timberlake. We can't begin to thank you enough for all you have done over the years. From all of our Veterans, and our members, we salute you and thank you!!

Jim Root
93rd BGA President



General Timberlake at Hardwick

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

WOW what a fabulous 93rd BGA reunion in New Orleans! Overall, everything went very well, and the great up-front planning paid off! It was nice to see everyone who returned again, plus meet the new attendees! Even though the Education Sessions were long, they were very well received! The hotel, food, Memorabilia room, Film showing, World War II Museum, optional tours, and all other events went very smoothly.

Thank you to everyone who helped plan the reunion, thank you to all that attended, and helped during the reunion, and thank you to everyone who sent us feedback! A special thank you to our 93rd Bomb Group original Veterans for attending and sharing their stories with us!

We have already begun to work on details of next year's reunion in Washington D.C. and your feedback is important to the planning of an even better reunion.

Our Officers continue to meet on a regular monthly basis, and are focused on ensuring our member experience is the best it can be, especially for carrying on the legacy of our Veterans!

We also continue to see growing numbers of people joining our Facebook page. We are up to 611 members. Many new 2nd or 3rd generation family members of 93rd Bomb Group have posted information or asked questions. It is quite interesting and fun to see who we connect with on social media! If you are not a member, you should consider joining our Facebook page! You just create a Facebook account, and "join" the 93rd bombardment group "page"!

See you in Washington D.C!

Jim Root
President, 93rd BGA





93rd Bomb Group Reunion October 18 - 21, 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 short Metro ride to DC, the Herndon, VA 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 social spaces like lobbies and restaurants, excluding meeting spaces • 37-inch LCD television with 60 HD channels • Oversized workstation 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 • Hyatt Fast Board™ • 1-800-CHECK-IN® • In-room dining • Complimentary business center and support services • Complimentary shuttle to/from airport—4:15 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. • 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 • Elements: for the highest quality cuisine, our creative chefs craft the menus based on fresh, local ingredients from Northern Virginia • Express-O'S: coffees, pastries and to-go items • Lobby Bar: light fare and cocktails

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES • Heated indoor lap pool with deck seating • 24-hour fitness center offers free weights, exercise cycles, steppers, rowers, bicycle paths, and jogging paths

We have negotiated a room rate of \$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. 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 schedule.

Each attendee is responsible to make your 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 our 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.



93rd Bomb Group Reunion Extension

October 21 - 23, 2018

Antietam and Gettysburg National Battlefields

Maryland and Virginia

After the 2018 reunion concludes an extension is under consideration if enough people are interested. The schedule would be as follows:

Oct 21, 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 22, Tuesday

9 – 10:30 AM – Visit David Wills House Museum
11 AM - Check out and depart hotel via Van/Bus
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 PM - Depart Gettysburg for Northern Virginia
6 PM – Dinner enroute
6:30 PM – Arrive at Hotel (TBD)



Oct 23, Wednesday – Depart for home



There were 14 people who expressed interest at this year's reunion—enough to proceed with planning. We welcome all who want to take part. If interested in attending the Extension, please contact John Marx at 412-327-1909 or 109clearview2@verizon.net as soon as possible.

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.

2018 or 2019 Hardwick, England: We are looking at the idea of a trip back to Norwich and Hardwick in May of 2018 or 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.



2017 Reunion 93rd Veteran attendees
Bill Brown, Bud Winnett, Henry Nykamp, Glenn Martin, George McLean



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!

DEBRIEFING

This section will bring to light short stories about certain missions or events as recalled by our 93rd Bomb Group Veterans.

“I was a guest of the German vermach from June 19, 1944 until April 29, 1945”

Memoirs By 1st Lt. Robert W. Brown – Springfield, MO September 2015 as told to Jim Guddal



The Setting: On the 19th of June 1944, 8th Air Force Liberator B-24J “Able Mabel” SN 42-110081 was hit by a German 88 anti aircraft shell just behind #4 engine upon arriving at the IP over Brugge, Belgium. Their mission was to Pas de Calais to bomb the V-2 rocket launchers. The night before, the Germans had moved an artillery unit up from Northern France. She lost a wing and crashed. Seven men survived and were taken prisoner. Three men did not survive including the author’s uncle Floyd R. Cook, Co-pilot on this mission. This is 1st Lt. Pilot Robert Browns’ story of his survival at Stalag Luft III (located 100 miles southeast of Berlin, Germany at Zagan, Poland), the March of January 1945 and his time at Stalag Luft VIIA located at Mooseburg, Germany. Bob’s camp was liberated by the Allied Forces on April 29, 1945. He flew on a Noorduyt Norseman (small Canadian built plane) to Paris and then hitchhiked to Le Havre France. After delousing, he was given \$75 and then waited for two weeks to board a “liberty” ship for America. Being he was a 1st Lt., he was put in charge of 500 men. Bob was discharged in December 1945 at Kelly Field San Antonio, TX with destination St. Louis, MO to meet his wife Florence. They had been married February 18, 1943. (March 15, 1944 was the 1st mission for the Able Mabel crew. This mission was #28 for most of the crew. Two men including the bombardier had been replaced from the original crew)

Prisoner of War

(1st Lt. Brown’s remarks are shown in italics)

Stalag Luft III was the location of the famous “Great Escape” made famous by the 1963 movie starring James Garner, Steve McQueen, Charles Bronson, James Coburn and Richard Attenborough. The escape occurred March 24, 1944 just three months before Brown arrived.

June 19, 1944 - What were the actions taken by you as soon as you knew the airplane had been hit? *Rang the bell to exit, cut #1 throttle to balance & straighten out the plane*
Who was first on the scene of the crash after you landed on the ground? *Sgt. Pulley and I landed on a farm not near the crash site and about 200 yards from a house. We talked to a Belgium couple but they could not help. An older man in a German uniform came up on a bicycle. Soon a truck came up w 16 year old kids (Hitler youth) and took us prisoner. The bombardier, Kavanaugh, landed in a cornfield and avoided capture for about 3 days. Some of the crew were hiding but then given up by locals.*
Were any of the crew close by and did you form up as a group? *Only Pulley and me at the farm*
Were you interrogated by the German army and where? *Yes, taken south of Brussels by train to a dulaag and put in separate rooms for questioning. I was asked about “glider bombs”.*
Did the SS question you? *No*
How were the living conditions where you were questioned? *Small rooms but, comfortable*
How did you travel to Luft III? *Train*
Were there any incidents during the trip to Luft III? *Saw my first jet (German ME-262)*
Describe what happened when you arrived at Luft III? *Checked in and assigned quarters*

Were there only officers at Luft III? *Had some enlisted men for heating water, etc.*
 Did you see any of the rest of the crew at III? *Not at Luft III. (Officers primarily)*
 What were the living quarters like? *As in the pictures, clean and bare*
 What food was served and was there enough to eat? *None & no*
 What did you weigh when you arrived at III? *Don't recall*
 What did you weigh when you were liberated in 1945? *Don't recall*
 Describe the German security measures at III? *Guards in towers, concentration wire & dogs*
 Did you meet any of the men that participated in the Great Escape of 1943? *No, although they were still counting us twice a day*
 Did anyone try to escape while you were at III? *Xmas of 1944 six men went under the snow in sheets*
 Did you receive Red Cross packages? *½ pkg per man once per week*
 Did you hear from Florence or any other family members? *Some mail; very little*
 Were you free to write to anyone? *Yes*
 Did the Germans sensor your letters? *Yes*
 Did any prisoner have or build a radio? *Yes. I understood it was in a loaf of bread*
 Who was in charge of the building you were in? *Maj. Miller (center building)*
 Did you have any roommates? *Six in all*
 How did you spend the hours while a prisoner? *Reading, exercising, making pots from tin*
 Were you able to practice your faith? *Yes*
 Did you do any POW art? *No*
 Was there any concern that the Germans might have a "mole" among the POWs? *Yes*
 Were there any air raids by the Allies over your camp? *No*
 How was Christmas of 1944 celebrated by the men? *Eating what we had. We made chocolate pie*
 Do you recall any special moment during that Christmas or any other American holiday such as Thanksgiving?
Yes Any special food sent by the Red Cross? No
 Besides Americans, what other countries were represented at III? *Allies Russia, Australia and Canada*
 What did you think about mostly? *Liberation? Life after the War? Florence? Parents? All of above*
 Did you have other family members in the war? *No*
 What reading material was available? *Some magazines & books*
 How did you do laundry? *By hand*
 What news did the Germans allow to get thru? *We had radio from England*
 Did you hear about President's Roosevelt's death while at III? *No, we had left in January 1945*
The March of January 1945 – History records show that due to the Russians coming in from the East, Hitler ordered all POWs from Luft III moved from Poland into Germany because he wanted to have hostages for bargaining with the Allies. The winter of 1944 was one of Europe's worst in 40 years.
"I was in the center compound at Stalag Luft III. Just after Christmas 1944 we had a big 10" snow and two of the Kriegeres escaped by putting sheets over their bodies and crawling to the wire and cutting their way out. Four more tried it and were caught going out and then the search was for the other two. Next day we started hearing the guns of the Russians and they told us to get ready. They opened up the Red Cross store room and told us to help ourselves. I got 10 cartons of cigarettes and placed them one pack thick between my sweater and my shirt to keep me warm and to have for trading purposes. I also indulged in cheese and powdered milk. There were about 10,000 Kriegeres in all five of the compounds. I had a cardboard suit case for my front and another pack on my back. We marched out at 3am. Soldiers and dogs were guarding us. I just got into line when the milk and cheese hit me. Regardless of the dogs etc., I stepped away from the line and dropped my pants to relieve myself. We walked around for about 10 days sleeping in little churches and in hay stacks. We finally came to a little town, I think it was Spermburg and our bunch was put into a 2 story block square pottery building. We stayed there for some time and then were put on those small 40x8 train cars and were sent to Munich. It took several days and when we stopped, sometimes people would bring us hot water and we would make powdered coffee. We got to Munich and all the rail yards were tore up. We finally got through and went on to Mooseburg to an old concentration camp. We were there until Patton's tanks came and the European war was ended. For us it was April 29, 1945.
At Luft III I never did hear about any more tunnels. However, we were separated from the English. Some of the English had been there for 4 years. In 1943 when the 8th AF hit Regensburg and Schweinfurt, the ball bearing plants, they lost a lot of planes and Luft III had to be enlarged to handle the American prisoners. At the time we evacuated Luft III there were 5 compounds and 10,000 men."

As best as you can remember, please describe the March from Luft III to Mooseburg (close to Switzerland) and the events that occurred along the way. *We walked out in snow and slept where we could, in churches, etc.*

Did you have shoes and warm clothing? *Yes*

Did you have to march on foot, in trucks, trains? *Yes, all of them*

Were there any acts of kindness on the part of the soldiers guarding you during the march? *Yes*

What event was scary? *Planes hitting trains to Mooseburg*

Did any men lose faith that they would be rescued? *Not that I knew of*

Mooseburg

Describe the events at Mooseburg Luft VII after arriving in late January or early February 1945.

Cleaning us and then letting us in

Was there any news of how the war was going upon arrival at VII? *Yes, by radio*

What were the first hints that the war was changing or that the Germans were losing? *Radio*

Were some men designated to offer support and comfort to other men who were worried about escaping, liberation and their future? *Yes and liberation materials*

Please describe the events leading up to liberation from Luft VII. *Small planes flying over, tanks in town, US Flag went up*

Do you recall which army units rescued your group? *Patton's tanks*

Did the rescuers bring along food and clothes? *No*

What was your state of health upon liberation? *OK*

Did you go to Dachau to see the ovens? *No*

How long did it take to return to the 93rd base in England? *Never went back*

POSTSCRIPT: After the war, Bob returned to his boyhood city of Springfield, MO. He joined the Air Force Reserve serving 22 years retiring in 1967 as a Major. He also became active in the POW Association. Bob worked for the Missouri Highway Patrol for 30 years beginning March 1st of 1948 retiring March 1st 1978 as a Sergeant. Bob and Florence had 66 wonderful years together and enjoyed traveling, square dancing, fishing and raising two boys, 8 grandchildren, 24 great grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren. Maj. Robert W. Brown passed away April 25, 2016 at age 98. I miss him.

Jim Guddal

Plymouth, MN

2017 REUNION SUMMARY

New Orleans Reunion Financial Results September 27 - October 1, 2017

Registration Income		\$27,715
Expenses:		
Registration	398	
Food & Beverage	14,064	
Transportation	3,725	
Audio Visual	409	
Shipping	759	
WW II Museum	5,960	
Natchez Steamboat	1,334	
Subtotal	<u>\$26,649</u>	
Gain		\$1,066

Each year the Reunion is planned and priced to cover all expenses so that the General Fund doesn't have to be used. This year's results are excellent since a gain is recorded and the general fund was not used. There were 5 veterans present with 66 people overall in attendance.

93RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP ANNUAL MEETING

September 30, 2017 New Orleans, LA

Draft, not yet approved by membership

President Jim Root called the meeting to order at 9:42AM and reviewed the meeting agenda.

The minutes of the 2016 annual meeting were presented. There being no additions or corrections the minutes were moved and approved.

Jim reviewed communications both inside and outside the 93rd. He reminded attendees that the officers meet monthly and that our Facebook and website is active. Much of the outside communication this year has been with the WWII Museum in planning for the Reunion.

Financial Report Wally Brown

Wally presented the 2016-17 financial report. Our fund balance stands at \$22,616.04 which reflects an upfront cost for the current reunion of \$6153.00. This amount will be "refunded" to the General Fund, when all reunion receivables are posted.

"Ball of Fire" Report Don Morrison and George Jung

Don urges that he be sent articles of interest for inclusion in the B.O.F.

Historian's Report Don Morrison

Don continues to answer questions from families searching for information on their veterans, and uses the National Archives to aid in finding individual information. He also searches the internet and social media for 93rd stuff which he often purchases with personal funds. He uses some of it to help the Hardwick Museum with their displays and has also provided factual details, photos, and footage for the Hardwick film. Research into the men, aircraft and the base at Hardwick is on-going.

Membership Report Jean Koznarek

Jean noted that there are 204 members of the 93rd of whom 60 are veterans. This includes 22 new members so far in 2017. Jean asked that our brochure be used to invite family and friends to become members. She has a data base of names and addresses but needs members to keep her up to date on changes. She also stated that while Donor Perfect may be good for fund raising for major projects, we should use our own data base for managing our membership. She & Jim Root are investigating "free" software for this purpose. She reviewed the new names on our list of "Folded Wings".

93rd BGA Website Report Michael Sellers

Michael updates the website page regularly and welcomes suggestions for improvement. He urges everyone to use the message board. He stated that the "page under construction" link has been there for some time and he plans to remove it.

Hardwick Aerodrome 104 Film Update Michael Sellers

In the pre-production realm, Michael is involved in discussions for the possibility of PBS streaming. These discussions are on-going with a goal to make it happen. He is acquiring archival films and photos to continue to enhance his production and is looking to editing and fundraising in the post production phase. Other areas of work include: continue to update the story, graphics, special effects, legal rights and clearances, and music rights. He projects a 70 minute film and needs all of us to focus on fund raising for the final phase of the project.

Film Ownership Agreement Jim Root

Jim reported that an agreement between the 93rd BGA and Frankenbite Productions had been reached. Both parties will have a 50/50 ownership of the film. The agreement also covers: budget and costs, donated property, sale of DVDs, copyrights, and publications.

Long Term Strategy Update Jim Root

Jim reported that good progress is being made on our long term strategy goals. In progress is our focus on membership retention, and a technical manager to help with social media and other aspects related to our need to keep current with our technology. Not successful was our goal to hold a joint reunion with the 8th AFHS. There were too many factors out of our control to make that happen.

“Hot Stuff” Memorial Project Jim Lux

Jim noted that fundraising for the memorial has been a great success and gave thanks to the efforts of Nancy Stranger who was an integral part of the project. Everything is on schedule for the May 3rd 2018 dedication in Iceland, and so far 68 have signed on for the tour. The model of the plane is in storage in Iceland compliments of Icelandair. Jim showed photos of how the monument will look when dedicated with its black granite base telling the “Hot Stuff” story. He expects that the Pentagon will lend its support for the dedication as well as the 8th Air Force. He continues to advocate for General Andrews’s promotion from 3 to 4 star general and noted that pieces of “Hot Stuff” have been sent to Joint Base Andrews for display.

2017 and 2018 Reunion Reports John Marx

John estimates a balance of \$2291.00 revenue over costs for the New Orleans Reunion. October 18-21 are the dates for the 2018 Reunion in the National Capitol Area. The hotel is the Hyatt Regency at Dulles at a cost of \$124.00 + tax a night includes breakfast. Possible pre and post reunion tours include the battlefields of Gettysburg and Antietam.

2019 Reunion Location John Marx

John presented and discussed the following locations for the 2019 reunion: Sacramento, CA; Las Vegas, NV; Savannah, GA; Dearborn, MI; Tucson, AZ, and San Diego, CA. After a selection process Dearborn, Michigan was chosen by those present, for 2019!

The Ted Timberlake Award Jim Root

Jim reported that the Ted Timberlake Award presented to those for their commitment to the 93rd would be awarded at the Memorial dinner on Saturday night.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57AM.

Respectfully Submitted
Nick Timmer, Secretary

FOLDED WINGS

Barthelmess, Robert P. (Major Retired) was born May 6, 1922 in Portland, Oregon and died Sept 23, 2016. Burial at Miramar National Cemetery San Diego, California. During World War II he served as a B-24 pilot with the 328th Bomb Squadron of the 93rd Bomb Wing and completed 45 missions, far more than the average. Robert stayed in the military and retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1965 after a distinguished 21-year career. His significant decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, EAME Campaign Medal and the French Legion of Honor award on Feb 27th 2014. Bob and his wife Shirley lived in San Diego, CA.



Trousdale, Richard Ray (Dick) of Scottsdale, AZ, passed away on July 10, 2017. He served during WWII in the 8th Air Force as a radio operator and gunner, flying 35 missions over Germany. Dick spent many years working for Honeywell and later Enterprise. He enjoyed playing golf and attending yearly Air Force reunions with his crew mates known as Kerler's Crew. He is survived by two sons, Gary and Jerry Trousdale of Phoenix, AZ, and a brother, Jon Trousdale in Iowa. He will be interned in his home state of Iowa with military recognition. Published in The Arizona Republic on July 29, 2017

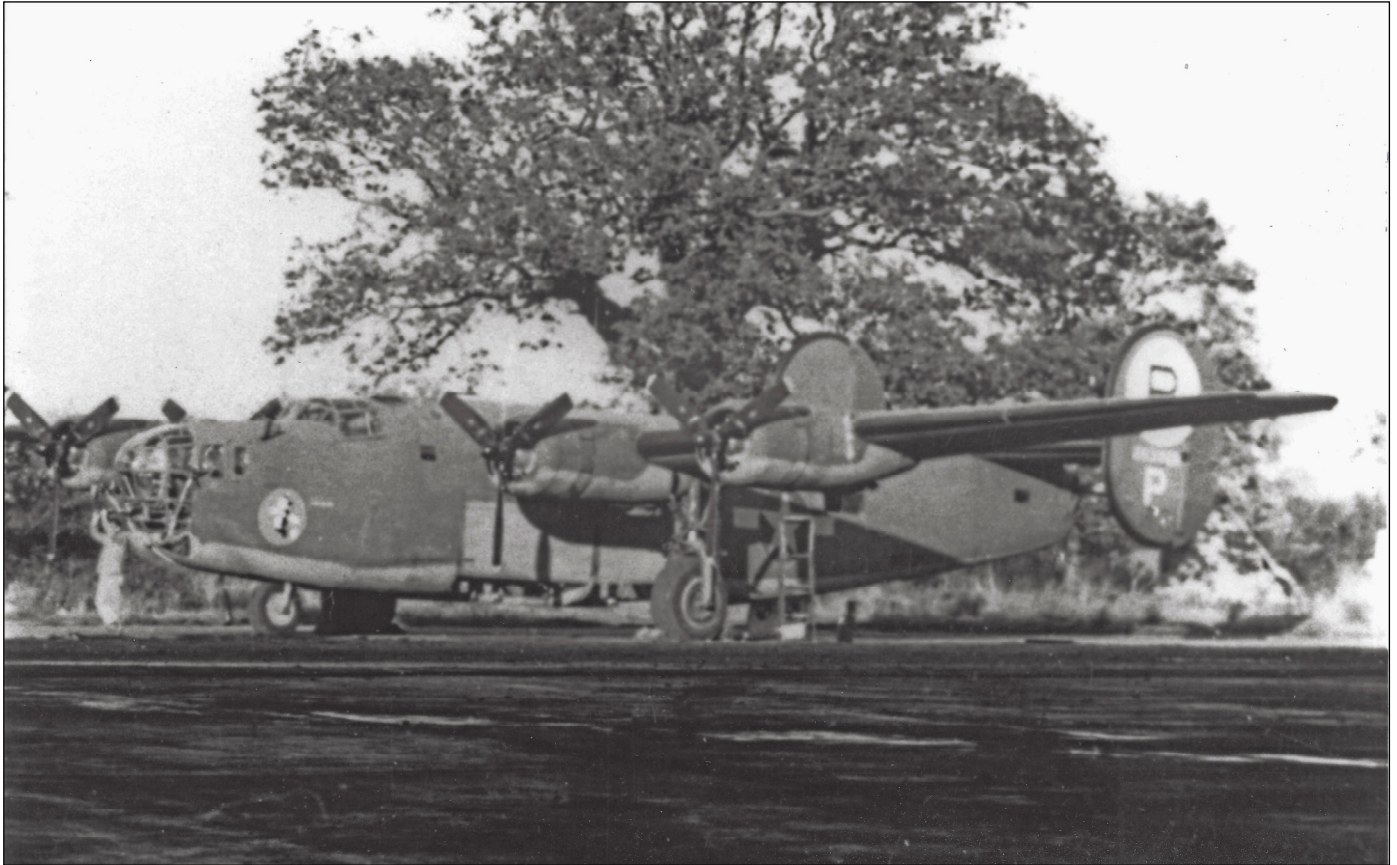
Lanman, William A. (Bill) of Richmond, Indiana 1919 to 1946. William enlisted on Oct 7, 1940. He was the Navigator on R.J.D. Johnson crew and flew 30 missions from December 11, 1943 to Nov 29, 1944. He was wounded on the March 11, 1944 mission. He was the 328th Squadron navigator for 3 months. He was killed in a C-47 crash in the South Pacific in 1946. The photo shows Bill after finishing his last mission.



They will be missed!

GREETINGS FROM THE 93RD BG HISTORIAN!

42-63969 409th BS Letter P



Recently, I was contacted by a group in Holland who researches lost aircraft. They have asked if I have a photo of the aircraft and the crew. Sadly, I do not have a crew photo. I do have this photo that was taken during the fall of 1943 at Hardwick. It was lost on Dec 22, 1943 with the entire crew KIA. If you have any information on the crew, please contact me.

Pilot, Grady Hunt; **Co Pilot**, Joseph Congelli; **Nav**, Thomas Curry; **Bomb**, Leslie Matthews;
Eng TT, Ruben Galindo; **Radio**, George Murry; **Waist**, Roy Cook; **Waist**, Theodore Blanchard;
Tail, James Bennett

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.

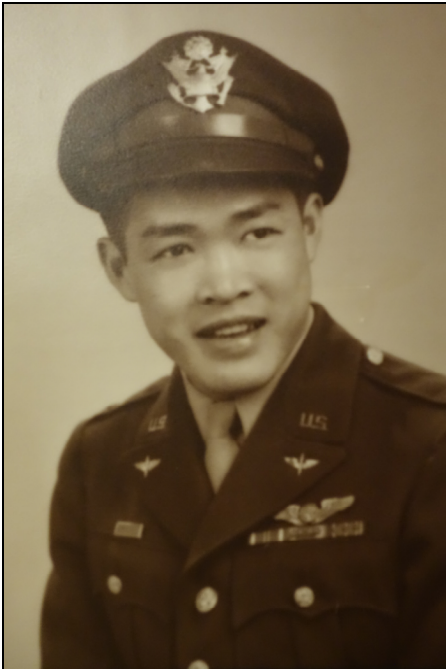
Cheers, Don Morrison

VETERAN HISTORY

1st Lt. Forrest H. Lam
Lead Navigator
by daughter Pam Kawashima

People have asked me why I have interest in the 93rd BG. It was such a significant part of my dad's life; I wanted to understand what he did, and maybe get a small flavor of what it was like to be involved in the European theatre of WWII. My dad was 1st Lt. Forrest Lam, lead navigator and occasional bombardier of B-24 bombers in the 93rd and flew in 30 combat missions before coming home. After growing up a Chinese-American in the hustle and bustle of San Francisco's Chinatown, he enlisted in the Army Air Corp. in early 1944 at the age of 21.

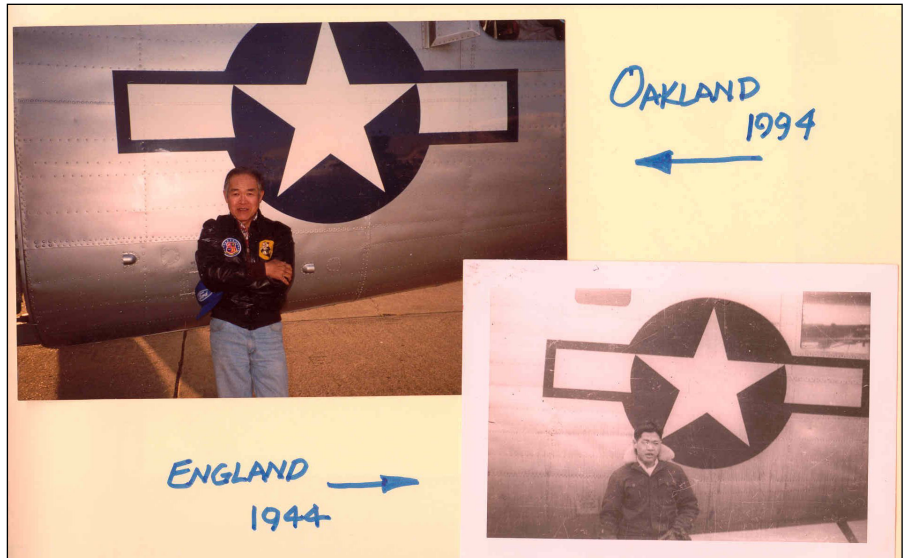
When we asked Dad about being in the service, he was a man of few words. He talked about feeling invincible until watching his wing man go down and only sometimes, would he see parachutes come out of these planes. He spoke of being so nervous while getting shot at by flak, he could barely put on a parachute when told to do so. He talked about getting steak and eggs for breakfast before a mission (as an officer), like it was his last breakfast. Being a weekend photographer, he made a scrapbook of many photos of crewmen and flights I was always intrigued by. Dad had some friends that he continued to stay in touch with after the war, some of whom I have met or corresponded with their adult children via the 93rd BG facebook page.



To support his family, my dad worked for the Alameda Navel Air Station in the east bay of CA in the missile shop depot and then avionics. I grew up going to local air shows and aircraft carrier open houses. It was something I continued to do as an adult with our own boys.

I had seen the Ball of Fire (BOF) newsletters that my dad saved and read cover-to-cover at his house. It wasn't until 2014 when I took an interest to attend a reunion. My husband and I have since attended three reunions in the US and one in Hardwick in 2015 with our two boys and nephew. All have been priceless experiences. I wish my dad were here to share it with us. Of course, looking at the older BOF newsletters now, I see correspondence with many folks and families that I have met at reunions.

I wanted to share that my dad had the unusual experience to be awarded the DFC (Distinguished Flying Cross) 51 years after a mission in Germany. In case you didn't know, this was the second highest award of recognition at the time, second to the Medal of Honor. He was told by his commanding officer that he would be given the DFC after a particular mission. In this mission of three squadrons to Eschiweiler in West Germany, my dad was lead navigator and successfully led the group to the target and headed back to base in Hardwick, England.



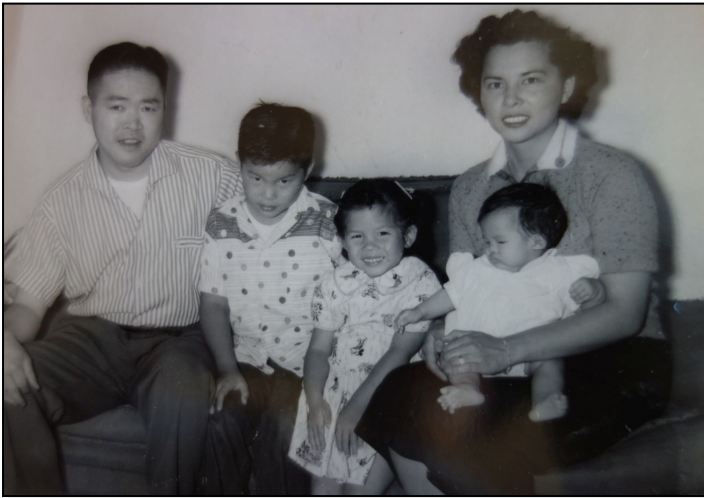
An expected storm on their way back home caused their base to close and all three squadrons were to divert to different bases. By this time, the ceiling was down to 1,000 feet. They were "socked in". As lead navigator, my dad was directed to lead his squadron to a small Polish RAF base 100 miles out of the way. After changing course, my dad led the squadron at an altitude of 200 feet above ground level at 200 MPH ground speed. To complicate matters, the storm rendered radio communications ineffective, flying at night under heavy rainfall making it difficult to locate landmarks or checkpoints. The navigation equipment, or "G-Box" was ineffective at this low altitude and aircraft in formation were indicating low on fuel. My dad was successful working the "G-Box" as best he could with only enough fuel for a straight in approach to the RAF base.



The DFC was never issued. Seeing others in the BOF newsletter receiving awards years after the war, made my dad track down his then commanding officer and see if he could do anything for him. After some correspondence and discussion, Colonel Therman Brown told my dad to pick the closest air base and he would make it happen.

That base was Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, CA. This was about 50 miles from my dad's home, coincidentally, less than 5 miles from where my mom grew up in Suisun, CA. They scheduled the award ceremony in August of 1995. We have a lot of family in CA so my dad was able to invite whomever he wanted to the award ceremony. When the organizer asked how many chairs we wanted set up for the ceremony, my mom replied, "I don't know, 40?" and they said they had never had that many folks join before but it would not be a problem. We had over 35 family members join. The award ceremony was complete with a flyover. Afterwards, we had a terrific dinner at the Officers Club.

I had asked my dad how they would have issued the DFC during the war and he replied that they would have given him a handshake of congratulations. This was a much better way albeit 51 years late, where we all had a wonderful day that we could enjoy and share with him. He loved it. To our surprise, there were reporters and photographers there and it was on the front page of the local papers the next day! When asked what he thought when they landed safely, he replied that he was just "doing my job".



Like other veterans after the war, my dad had the same goals as many. He wanted the American dream of a happy family, home ownership and secure employment. With my mom, they raised us four kids and enjoyed three grandsons before his untimely passing from a sudden stroke in 1997. I cannot imagine my life without my dad when I think of how much he influenced me and my career in engineering, my passion for cars, my many hobbies, cooking, my quest for the best meal, music, and especially the value of family. I miss him dearly everyday. I'm happy to have so many great memories of him. Thanks, Pop, love and miss you so much!

HOT STUFF MEMORIAL MONUMENT PROJECT UPDATE



Final Design

Hot Stuff Memorial Monument on Schedule

The *Hot Stuff* Memorial Monument Dedication will take place on May 3, 2017, less than six months away. If you plan to attend, you are urged to **make your hotel and airline reservations as soon as possible.**

You can register for the monument dedication tour with GT-Travel online at: <https://www.gttravel.is/imdt/>

The United States Air Force will be well represented at the monument. Those planning to attend include:
 USAF Chief of Staff, Gen. David Goldfein
 11th Wing and Joint Base Andrews Commander, Col. John Teichert
 USAF Defense Attaché to Iceland, Lt. Col. Jeremy Saunders

A special thank you to S:helgason, the monument company building the monument and Grafa & grjót ehf, the Iceland company who will do the installation. They are donating a 20 foot by 10 foot base around the monument and two security barriers.

Details on the monument dedication, memorial service and banquet will be provided as they become available in upcoming newsletters. View the latest *Hot Stuff*/Gen. Andrews Newsletter online at:
<https://indd.adobe.com/view/377038df-4694-41e3-853a-851c7ff25e8a>

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 106,216 visitors to the 93rd website. It's amazing how so many people around the world end up clicking onto the site and get updates about our annual reunions and the projects we are working on. At the 2017 reunion in New Orleans I mentioned in the business meeting that we hope to redesign the "Media Cache" section of the site. We have lots of films and photos that can be updated in this section so people can continue to learn more and more about the group.

Also at the reunion I reminded everyone about the "Message Board" that people from all over post to. To get to this section on the website look at the top left at the icon that looks like a sticky note - click that and you will be taken to the Message Board. If you get a chance please look at the many messages people have posted and see if you might be able to help them with their questions. If you want to message people back use the email they attached to the posting.

Hardwick Aerodrome 104 documentary update

The screening of the "work in progress" edit at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans went great! We had an excellent turn out and everyone really felt like the project was moving in the right direction. We were able to screen an hour of the current edit and I explained to the audience that the next 30 to 40 minutes of the film (which would complete the film) should be done by next Summer/Fall. A lot is still left to finish like writing the next history section and getting rights to all the photos and films. Please look for updates in future issues of the Ball Of Fire as we get closer to the Washington, D.C. reunion in 2018.

Some people got the last minute update at the reunion but I can repeat the story here. A month before the screening I had emailed our narrator, actor Michael Cudlitz and asked if he would be able to record voice over for the current cut which I would show at the reunion. Due to his schedule he said it would be tough but would try and get in touch on when he could do it. A week before the reunion he said it would be impossible and I was preparing to just leave my dry and "unprofessional" voice as a place holder in the film. Getting ready to finalize the film days before the reunion I got a call on my phone - it was Michael. He said you want me to do the voiceover - I said yes - he said "I'm in town - in your town"! I was pleasantly surprised and just by chance already had a voiceover room booked the next day to record other actors.

He came in **the next day (and by the way he has** never charged us a cent) and we got everything we needed. I hope Michael can show up at the next reunion so we can all thank him in person for his awesome contribution to the film. See Michael in the photo attached.



Thank you!

Michael Sellers

www.93bg.com www.hardwickfilm.com

POST EXCHANGE (PX)

PX CLOSED UNTIL APRIL 2018

MEMBERSHIP

The 2018 Membership Drive is in full swing and the renewals are flying in!

If your membership is expiring on December 31, 2017, I have sent you a letter with a membership form in the mail. They were dropped off at the post office the last week of October so you should have received it already. If you have any questions about the status of your membership, please feel free to contact me at member93bg@aol.com.

If you have a brochure for the 93rd BGA, please use it to recruit someone you know to become a new member.

There have been a few members whose addresses on file are apparently are incorrect. We would like to update this information, so if you can help us, let us know. They are:

Robert Pisto
Carson Roberts
Dru Swaim
Kendra Trexler

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!



93rd BGA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Year 2018

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.