

# Ball of Fire QUARTERLY EXPRESS



NEWSLETTER OF THE 93<sup>rd</sup> BOMB GROUP  
2nd Air Division, 8th Air Force, Hardwick, England  
[www.93bg.com](http://www.93bg.com)

Vol. 26 No. 4

Winter 2018

## Happy Holidays



93<sup>rd</sup> BG 2018 Reunion attendees at the WW2 Memorial

## Table of Contents

2018 Reunion Photo .....	1
President's Corner.....	3
Information on 2019 Reunion.....	4
Annual Meeting Minutes.....	6
Funny thing happened on way to the Capitol ( June Eck).....	7
Upcoming 2019 England Reunion .....	8
2018 Reunion Financial Results.....	8
Army Air Corps or Army Air Forces? Which is correct?.....	9
Greetings from the 93rd BG Historian (Request for information).....	10
Newsletter Editor.....	11
93rd BG Website.....	12
Hardwick Documentary.....	12
PX.....	14
Membership.....	14
93rd BG Ball of Fire Quarterly Express Subscription Form.....	15

## DIRECTORY

### 2016 - 2018 OFFICERS

#### President – **JIM ROOT**

15359 Red Fox Walk, West Olive, MI 49460  
616-399-5990; [jamesdavidroot@aol.com](mailto:jamesdavidroot@aol.com)

#### Vice President (Reunion Coordinator) – **JOHN MARX**

109 Clearview St., Beaver Falls, PA 15010  
412-327-1909; [109clearview@gmail.com](mailto:109clearview@gmail.com)

#### Secretary - **PAM KAWASHIMA**

5698 Brookhurst Ct, San Jose, CA 95129  
408-253-6129 [pkawashima@outlook.com](mailto:pkawashima@outlook.com)

#### Treasurer – **WALLY BROWN**

717 Pinebrook Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23462  
757-376-9813; [weddingshooter@verizon.net](mailto:weddingshooter@verizon.net)

#### Membership – **JEAN KOZNAREK**

2644 W. Park Blvd., Shaker Heights, OH 44120  
216-702-8430; [jnkoz54@aol.com](mailto:jnkoz54@aol.com)  
[member93bg@aol.com](mailto:member93bg@aol.com)

#### Historian – **DON MORRISON**

1375 West Comet Rd, Clinton, OH 44216  
Home 330-882-2536; Cell 330-415-2222  
[doniac1967@sbcglobal.net](mailto:doniac1967@sbcglobal.net)

#### Ball of Fire, Editor – **DON MORRISON** (See Historian)

#### Technology Manager – **MICHAEL SELLERS**

565 Carroll St. Apt #4, Brooklyn, NY 11215  
917-975-7162; [mtsellers@mac.com](mailto:mtsellers@mac.com)

### VETERAN'S ADVISORY BOARD

#### **GEORGE MCLEAN**

### Other Critical Roles

#### Assistant Treasurer - **NANCY GRIMES STRANGER**

783 N. Sedona Court, Grand Junction, CO 81506  
970-945-2883; [nancystranger@hotmail.com](mailto:nancystranger@hotmail.com)

#### PX Manager – **PETER ASCH**

979 South Ridge Ct., Traverse City, MI 49696  
231-933-8405 [pcasch@charter.net](mailto:pcasch@charter.net)

#### Ball of Fire "Mailman"- **GEORGE JUNG**

Distribution Support  
2420 Route 17 A, Goshen, NY 10924  
845-346-6551 [bofmailman@gmail.com](mailto:bofmailman@gmail.com)

#### Reunion Registration - **JOANNE SARGENT**

1458 Locust St., Denver, CO 80220  
303-945-5418; [joyridecp@msn.com](mailto:joyridecp@msn.com)

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

WOW what a fabulous 93<sup>rd</sup> BGA reunion in Washington DC! 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! The Education Sessions were very well received and great education for all of us! The hotel, food, Memorabilia Room, film showing, Smithsonian Museums, 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 93<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group original Veterans for attending and sharing their stories with us! The optional tour to Antietam and Gettysburg was also a highlight.

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

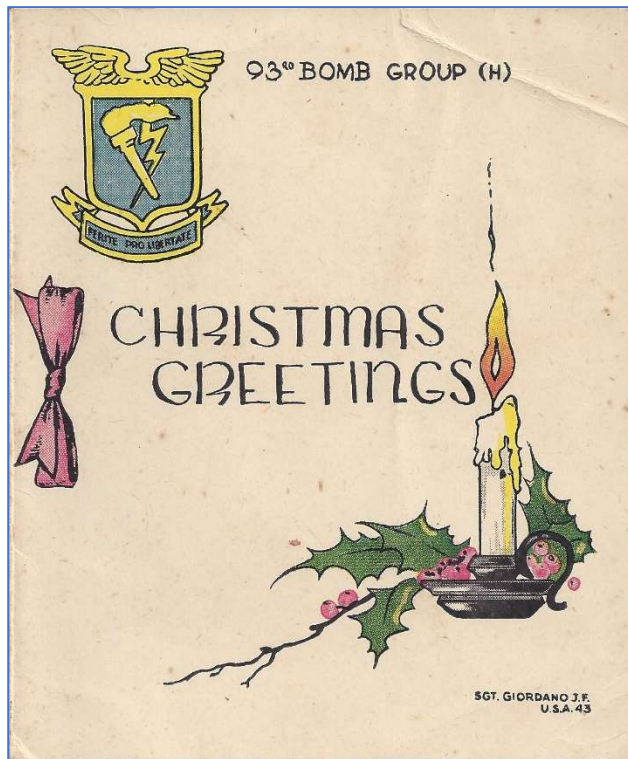
Our Officers continue to meet on a regular monthly basis, and are focused on ensuring our member experience is the best it can be, especially for carrying on the legacy of our Veterans!

We also continue to see growing numbers of people joining the (3) Facebook pages tied to the 93<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group. 93<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Group has 691 members, 93<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Group (H) Ted's Travelling Circus has 272 members, and Station 104 home of the 93<sup>rd</sup> BG (H) Hardwick UK has 449 members. Some members are duplicates in all groups, but many are new 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> generation family members of 93<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group who 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!

Thanks again to everyone who made the 2018 Washington DC reunion very special and so successful!

See you in Detroit in 2019!

Jim Root  
President, 93<sup>rd</sup> BGA







Exterior view of Sheraton



Inside Sheraton



Inside Henry Ford Museum

## 93<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group Association 2019 Reunion Dearborn, Michigan October 10 – 14, 2019

Our 2019 Reunion takes place in the vicinity of Dearborn, Michigan offering a wide range of exciting activities and a great opportunity to renew friendships. We have selected the Sheraton Detroit Metro Airport Hotel located within two miles of the Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW). The hotel's address is:

**Sheraton Detroit Metro Airport  
8000 Merriman Road  
Romulus, MI 48174**

Enjoy door-to-door service with 24-hour complimentary airport shuttle, Offering shuttle service to and from Detroit Metro Airport (DTW), our hotel is just a short drive from premier area attractions, restaurants, casinos, and shopping.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** The 11-story hotel contains 359 guestrooms and suites with complimentary high-speed Internet Access in guestrooms, meeting rooms, lobbies and restaurants, 50-inch LCD television with 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 mini - refrigerator. Daily newspaper available.



**SERVICES & FACILITIES:** In-room dining; complimentary business center and support services; complimentary shuttle to/from airport, assistive devices for persons with disabilities; ATM and Essentials Shop; safety-deposit boxes in the guestrooms; laundry/dry cleaning off site; and complimentary parking.

**RESTAURANTS & BARS:** Two restaurants: Cultivate and Connections with the 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 pool; 24-hour fitness center offers free weights, treadmills, stair steppers and stationary bicycles



Our room rate is \$104.00 plus tax of 14% per night (\$118.56 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, contact the Sheraton Central Reservations by phone at **1-866-961-3982**. Be sure to identify your affiliation with the **93rd Bomb Group**. Or use the following link:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1542212420653&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

If you have difficulty, please call or email our in-hotel contact: Ashley Cyrus, sales coordinator, at 734-713-0552 or email: [Ashley.cyrus@sheratondtw.com](mailto:Ashley.cyrus@sheratondtw.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 Bombardment Group Annual Meeting  
October 20, 2018 National Capitol Area  
DRAFT**

President Jim Root called the meeting to order at 9:43 a.m.

**The Minutes of the 2017 Reunion** in San Antonio were presented and approved.

Jim reviewed communications from within and outside the 93<sup>rd</sup>. We maintain contact with other WWII organizations and he called attention to officers' meetings which are held monthly, our website, and our "Ball of Fire" newsletter.

**Membership Report** Jim Root

Jim gave the membership report in the absence of Jean Koznarek. We have a total of 228 members which includes 36 veterans and 25 new members. Jean has also eliminated Donor Perfect software and moved to the less expensive Excel spreadsheet.

**Financial Report** Wally Brown

Treasurer Wally Brown presented the 2017-2018 financial report. He reported a fund starting balance as of October, 2017 of \$20,593. We had income over the past year of \$69,777 which includes \$24,372 for the film fundraiser. With expenses of \$14,536 (including deposits and advances for the WDC 2018 reunion) we have an ending, current balance of \$75,834. Projected total expenses for the WDC 2018 reunion are \$32,001, leaving a reunion balance of \$3,358.

Wally reported that he has merged the reunion fund with the general fund.

The financial report was moved and approved.

The books were audited by Becky Burch, Wayne Baker and Steve Senatore.

**"Ball of Fire" Report** Don Morrison and George Jung

Don emphasized the need to keep sending articles and George noted that we are about 50/50 on email copies versus mailed copies of our newsletter.

**Historian's Report** Don Morrison

Don continues to get requests from families looking for information on their veterans. He monitors social media, especially Facebook, for information. He searches for 93rd stuff on the internet and auction sites, etc., and has his own collection, but also supports the museum at Hardwick with artifacts. He continues to research the men and aircraft of our Bomb Group and has spent time this year supporting Michael Sellers with his work on the film.

**Website** Michael Sellers

Michael shared some of his thoughts on updating the website. He is considering making it more interactive, updating films and photos, enhancing search and research tools, and creating a searchable "Ted's Travelling Circus." He would also like to have an option to pay for reunions on line through the site, as well as monthly updates through a newsletter.

**Hardwick 104 Film** Michael Sellers

All is ready for showing the "rough cut" of the film after tonight's banquet. In the post production phase, Michael would like to add more graphics and more archival films along with final color and audio mix. Other tasks include photo rights and clearances. Distribution options include Netflix, Amazon, and PBS. There could also be road shows which would include military bases.

**"Hot Stuff" Update** Jim Root

In the absence of Jim Lux, Jim reviewed the monument dedication in Iceland. He thanked the 93rd donors, and both Jim Lux and Nancy Stranger for their efforts in making this incredible project happen.

**Report on the 2018 Reunion** John Marx

Our Reunion Coordinator presented the numbers from our current Reunion. Pending final accounting, we had 78 attendees, including three veterans. The receipts totaled \$31,800 and expenses were \$29,895 leaving a balance of \$5,605.

### **2019 Reunion Update** John Marx

The dates will be October 10-14, 2019 in the Detroit, Michigan area. We will be staying at the Sheraton with a shuttle to the airport. Cost, including breakfast, is \$118.56 and it has on-site dining. It will include visits to the Yankee Air Museum and the Henry Ford Museum. John stated that it will be our 19th reunion. In addition, during those years, there were four trips to Hardwick and also a trip to Iceland.

### **Selection of the 2020 Reunion Site** John Marx

John reviewed some of the criteria used in site selection which includes: an association with the 93rd, an aviation focus, easy access by air, meeting accommodations at reasonable rates, and rotation through different regions of the country. The cities under consideration were, Seattle, Salt Lake City, Savannah, Pensacola, Tucson, and San Diego. After the voting process, **Salt Lake City was chosen as our 2020 site.**

### **Election of Officers** Jim Root

The current slate of officers was recommended for reelection with the exception of Secretary Nick Timmer, who is retiring after six years. Pam Kawashima was nominated to take his place. It was moved to reelect the slate of candidates as presented. The motion passed. Jim noted that JoAnne Sargent will be the Assistant Reunion Coordinator.

### **Member Input** Jim Root

Jim asked for comments and there was a short discussion about strategies for recruiting new members and keeping them once they join. Perhaps the movie could have a tag line for membership. Jim thanked the veterans for their attendance and mentioned the incredible experience of watching them lay a wreath at the "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier."

Jim announced that the Timberlake Award would be presented at the memorial dinner this evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29

Respectfully Submitted,

Nick Timmer, Secretary

### **Funny thing happened on the way to the Capitol....**

October 20, 2018

While going through the security screening process at the entrance to the Capitol, I was behind June Eck. She was fussing with removing bracelets, rings, and other jewelry as well as emptying the contents of her purse while the security guard looked on. She was getting a little flustered and thought the process was a bit much. I mentioned to her that clearly she looked suspicious, to which the security guard said, You're wearing lanyards that say "**Bomb Group**". It never occurred to us. We got a good chuckle out of that.

Wally Brown





## UPCOMING REUNION OPPORTUNITY

**2019 Hardwick, England:** We are in the final stages of planning a Mini reunion for Memorial Day weekend 2019 in Norwich with trips to Hardwick and Cambridge (Madingley) cemetery. I have a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn Express Norwich for a rate of 92.95 BPS per room per night for a double or twin room. Family rooms (depending on the age of the child) would be 20 BPS for the extra person. It is critical that you confirm your interest to me by January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019, so I can get a final head count. If you have any questions please call or email me. Don Morrison (phone 330-415-2222 or [Doniac1967@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Doniac1967@sbcglobal.net))



## 2018 Reunion Financial Results

The 2018 Reunion concluded with a balance of \$3,358 in the reunion fund. This is a reduction of \$340 from the beginning balance. This minor shortfall was largely due to unanticipated transportation costs. Our goal is to generate receipts adequate to cover all reunion expenses. The total expenses were \$32,001 slightly more than our receipts of \$31,661. The difference was about 1%. We had 82 attendees including three 93<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group veterans. The results follow:

Title	Sub Amount	Totals
Beginning Balance		\$3,700
Receipts @\$385 per person plus optional trips		\$31,661
Expenditures		
Food & Beverage	\$23,081	
Transportation	\$7,885	
Shipping	\$93	
Registration	\$168	
Miscellaneous	\$775	
Total Expenses		\$32,001
Ending Balance		\$3,358



## Army Air Corps or Army Air Forces? Which is correct?

By John Marx

Recently a reader of the *Military Officer*, the quarterly news magazine of the Military Officer's Association of America, pointed out my incorrect use of "Army Air Corps" when announcing our 2018 reunion. I have always used "Army Air Corps" and "Army Air Forces" interchangeably and have probably offended our veterans inadvertently. To any who noted my mistake please accept my sincere apology. As I thought about this topic, I realized that I might not be alone and an explanation would be in order. So here goes.

The United States Army Air Corps (USAAC) was created from the Air Service on 2 July 1926 as a part of the United States Army. The USAAC was the forerunner of the United States Air Force and the immediate predecessor of the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) established in 1941. The USAAC ended on 9 March 1942.

The USAAC became the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) on June 20, 1941 to signify greater autonomy from the Army's command structure. It remained as a combat arm of the Army until 1947, when the Department of the Air Force was established by the National Defense Act of 1947. The USAAF, like the other combat arms was empowered to create large force units that could be assigned to either independent missions or to the theaters of war under unified command. Thus, the AAF created its numbered air forces, equivalent to infantry or armored armies and naval fleets.



The 93<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Group was a part of the United States Army Air Forces from its inception. Although some use of the term "Army Air Corps" continued after 1942 the correct term was always the **Army Air Forces**. Now you know!



United States  
Air Service



United States  
Army Air Corps



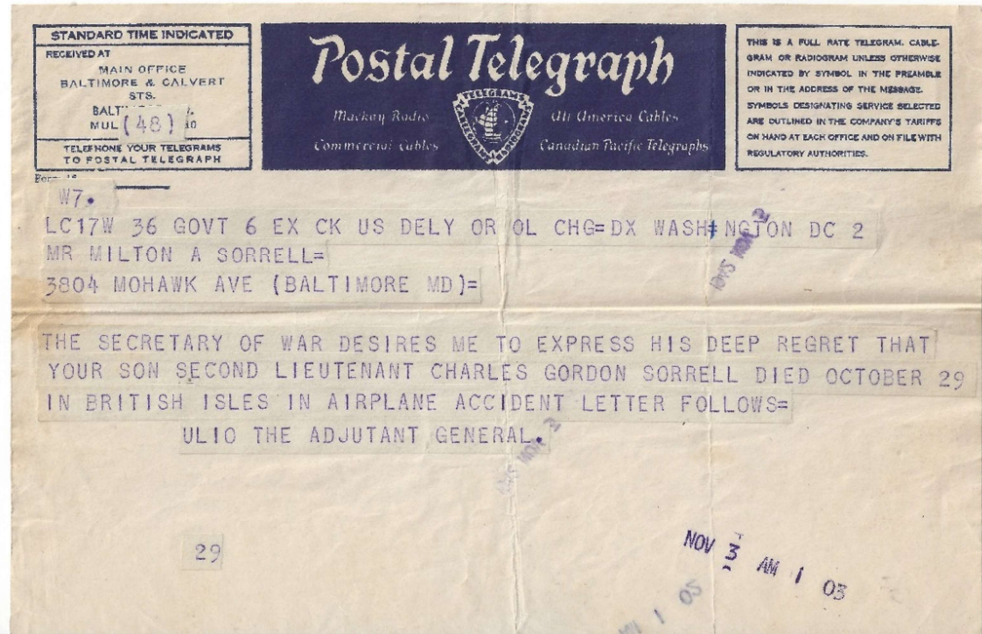
United States  
Army Air Force



United States  
Air Force

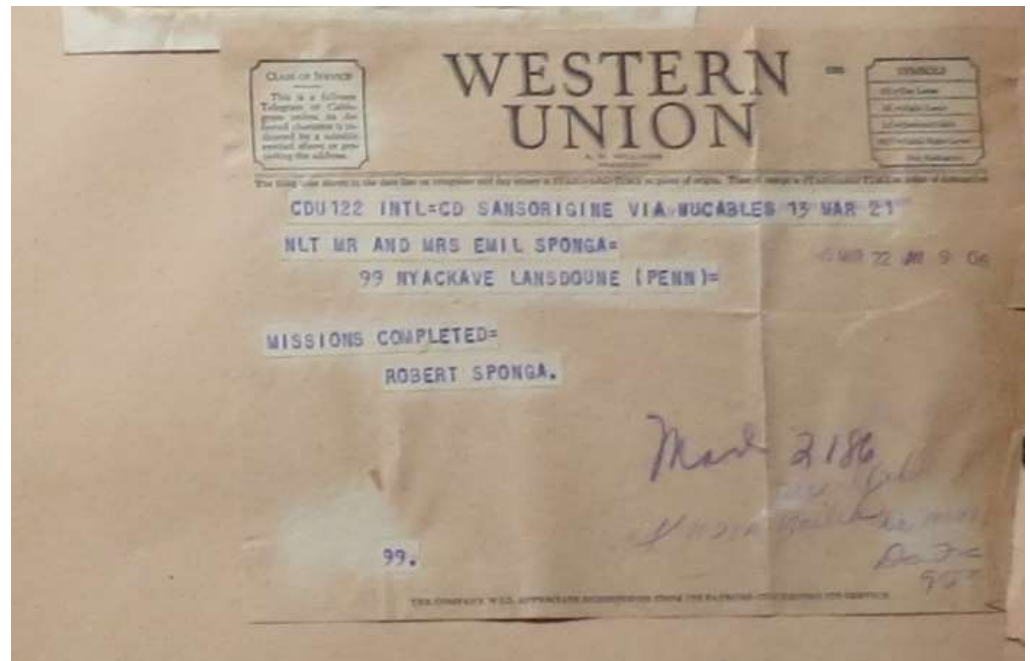
## GREETINGS FROM THE 93<sup>RD</sup> BG HISTORIAN!

I have recently purchased 2 very different 93<sup>rd</sup> BG collection. Both collections contained telegrams but each tells a very different story. One family received the news of the death of their son while the other family learned their son had completed his missions. One family's ultimate sorrow and one family's joy. Even after 70 years, when you read these you can feel the emotions the family felt.



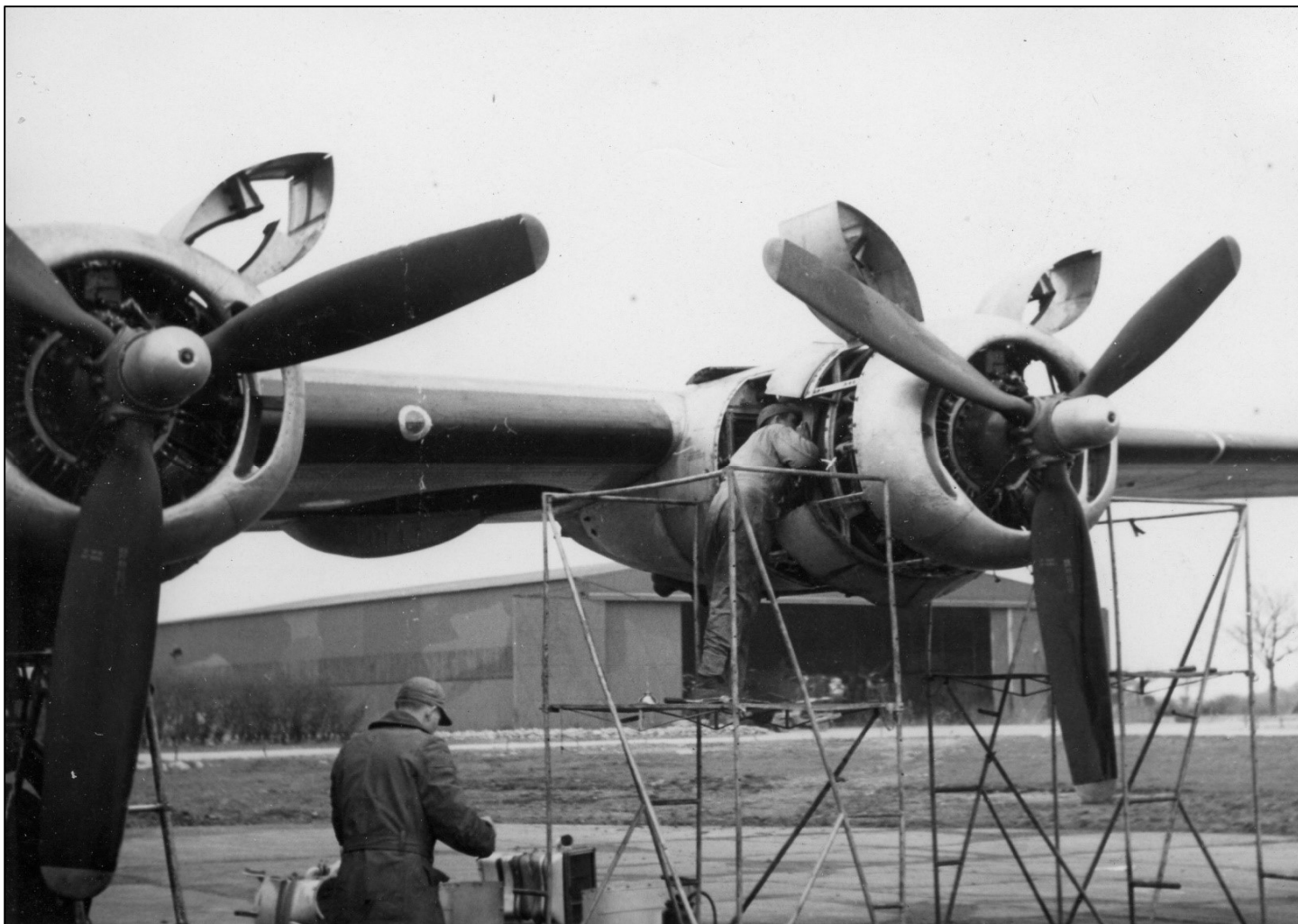
Notice of C. G. Sorrell (Gordon) being killed on October 29, 1942 in an aircraft accident.

Notice of Robert Sponga completing his missions



### FREE Memorabilia cataloging and Research

I am willing to scan any documents, records and photos of a 93<sup>rd</sup> 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 CD copies for family members. I have done this for several veterans over the years. My contact info is shown in the Officer Directory.



**Ground crew performing engine maintenance on a 329<sup>th</sup> BS aircraft just south of the southern hangar**

**Message from the Editor**

I am always looking for any articles about any event that involved the 93<sup>rd</sup> 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.

If you have any questions regarding the 93<sup>rd</sup> BG, please contact me an email/letter/ call with your question or topic for a mini research project. I will do my best to research an answer and publish it in the newsletter.

*Cheers,*

*Don Morrison*



## 93RD WEBSITE & FILM PROJECT

As of today we have had 111,705 visitors to the 93rd website!

Please take a look at the homepage of the 93<sup>rd</sup> website. Photos have been posted from the recent reunion in the National Capital Region. The reunion was a great success and you can definitely tell by looking at the photos! Also if anyone cares to share photos they took at the reunion please contact me directly and I can setup a folder where you will be able to upload and share your photos. If anyone is interested in a link to see all the shared photos please reach out to me directly also. The photos up on the website are just a selection of what was taken.

We also web casted the reunion this year. We have done it in the past and decided to bring the option back to members or people who have a general interest in the group that can't attend. A few issues bubbled up with our hotel not providing the correct amount of bandwidth for our broadcast but we were able to tweak a few settings and at least get a signal out. Because of the investment of some new equipment the webcast will continue on for reunions to come! Please look at how many people watched during the all of the web casted events in the chart below.

### Hardwick Aerodrome 104 documentary update















I'd like to personally thank everyone who attended the "Sneak Preview" of the 93rd's documentary currently in production. We had about 100 people in attendance and most were donors of the film. I was very happy to be able to show a complete rough cut of the project. It has been a very long road to get to this stage and I was happy to be able to share it with everyone.

Currently the film is going through its final paces to reach a "Locked Cut". This process started right after the reunion and is still currently underway. The preview screening at the reunion was about 84 minutes long (without credits at the end). I would like to cut 10 minutes from the film and make it more attractive to an average viewer who may not be connected to our group but might be interested in the stories and the history. Pockets of information in the film might be so specific that we (93<sup>rd</sup> members) would get certain references of the groups history but an average audience member might not. It will also make the film more attractive to a PBS screening or on popular streaming services like Netflix. A final stage will be getting all rights and clearances for photos and films. We have started that process with a few pieces of media but a full indexing of the film needs to occur.

If you haven't already, please follow our page on Facebook to get updates or go to the film's direct website.

Thank you again to all the veterans, family members and friends that are supporting this project.

Michael Sellers  
93rd BG Technology Manager  
Director/Producer "Hardwick Aerodrome 104" documentary  
[mtsellers@mac.com](mailto:mtsellers@mac.com)  
[www.93bg.com](http://www.93bg.com)  
[www.hardwickfilm.com](http://www.hardwickfilm.com)

	Educational Session #1 28 days ago	 38
	Veterans' Q&A 28 days ago	 27
	Arlington, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier & Joint Base Andrews 27 days ago	 219
	Annual Business Meeting 27 days ago	 23
	Annual Memorial Dinner 26 days ago	 37
	Educational Session #2 26 days ago	 70
	Welcome Dinner 28 days ago	 59

Web casted events and number of viewers.



An audience of over 100 people watching the "Sneak Preview" the 93rd documentary.



Michael and his family attending the preview of the 93rd documentary.

Left to Right - Suzanne Yong-Sellers, Charlotte Sellers, Michael Sellers, Peggy Sellers, Jim Sellers, Terri and John Propst

## **POST EXCHANGE (PX)**

### **PX CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

With Fall upon us and the holidays just around the corner, several things are part of the season for the 93<sup>rd</sup> BGA. The Reunion in Washington, D.C. was a great success. It is one of the things that makes being a member so much fun. People saw old friends and made new ones. There were poignant moments and some business executed including the showing of the film, "Hardwick: Aerodrome 104". Mostly smiles were seen all over.

The other thing that is part of the Fall season is the membership renewal drive. If your membership expires on December 31, 2019, I have sent you a letter with a membership form. Please renew your membership soon if you haven't already. Many have which is great to see.

As you know being a part of the 93<sup>rd</sup> BGA is like being a part of a family. We are all connected through our WWII veterans and their stories, whether a relative or a friend. We also welcome people interested in WWII and the 93<sup>rd</sup> BGA.

Our mission is to be dedicated to preserving the legacy of the men and women who served in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Group, 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force during WWII. We also support the programs and efforts of the Memorial Trust of the 2ADA Memorial Library in Norwich, England and the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum in Savannah, Georgia.

If you have any questions regarding the status of your membership or know someone who is interested in becoming a member, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your memberships and support of the 93<sup>rd</sup> BGA.

Jean Koznarek  
member93bg@aol.com





## 93<sup>rd</sup> BGA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Year 2019**

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

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name of 93<sup>rd</sup> 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 (2019 & 2020)	\$45 \$ _____
Tax deductible Donation	\$ _____ (The 93 <sup>rd</sup> is a 501(c)(3) Organization)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

\_\_\_\_ Please MAIL newsletter \_\_\_\_ Please E-MAIL newsletter

**\_\_\_\_ Yes! I would like to volunteer to help the 93<sup>rd</sup> BGA and my skill is:**

**Make checks payable to: 93<sup>rd</sup> BOMB GROUP**

(You may also pay by PayPal through the 93<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group website, 93bg.com)

Mail to: Jean Koznarek  
93<sup>rd</sup> 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.*