



75th
ANNIVERSARY



N 96TH BOMB GROUP NEWSLETTER

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Memorial Day 2017 May 28 the American Cemetery Margraten in the Netherlands. Rene Bosma with Dutch Flag Jeannette Batton, David Strickland and Jodie Batton Strickland with American Flag. Nadine Huylebroeck and husband Wim Jacobs with Belgian Flag.

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President's Corner



Greetings to Everyone!

I hope this issue of the newsletter finds you and your loved ones well. Summer is in full swing – I hope yours is fun and safe and relaxing!

The next reunion of the 8th AFHS will occur September 27th through October 1st in New Orleans. that is only about 11 weeks from when I am writing this note – it will be here before we know it! I hope you will consider attending. Each reunion I have attended has been fun and educational, and they always seem to end too soon. This year, the National Museum of WWII will be a prominent part of the activities. It is the tour destination during the week, and the Gala Banquet on Saturday night will be held at the Museum.

Please know that the main reunion hotel is already completely booked. The alternate hotel is a new Best Western Plus, only 1-1/2 miles away. There are instructions for booking a hotel room, as well as for registering for the reunion (two separate operations!) on the reunion page of the 8th AFHS website – www.8thafhs.org.

As I have mentioned before, the purpose of the 96th Bomb Group Association is to preserve the memory of the men of the 96th BG and their efforts from January 1942 to the end of 1945 – the Greatest Generation indeed! I would like to highlight two men who have been instrumental in this effort:

In the U.S. - Mr. Dale Budde has been faithfully and tirelessly producing this newsletter for many years. He obtains articles from many sources, he keeps track of 96th BGA members who might be doing something interesting and then he requests, cajoles and uses light arm twisting to get info and photos of trips, memories, special events and etc.

He also puts up with rookie Presidents who might be a bit random in their communications.

One of Dale's projects has been obtaining a complete set of all 96th BGA newsletters. He recently completed that quest, and he is now working on

scanning all newsletters in to computer PDF format so these can be available electronically at some point in the future.

Dale is also working diligently on a project that should result in the *Snetterton Falcons* book being scanned into PDF format so that amazing information can be available for all to see and research.

Did you know that Dale has no direct connection through a relative to the 96th BGA? Dale was very close friends with Mr. Tom Thomas who was a very active leader of this group for many years. From that friendship, Dale became involved, and he is now an indispensable member of our group.

Thank You Dale for all you do – it is truly appreciated.

And across the pond - if you have ever had the chance to visit England and the Norfolk region, you may have been able to visit the 96th BG Museum on the grounds of the original 96th airbase at Snetterton Heath near Norwich.

There have been several people who have been helpful and involved in the creation and preservation of this museum – today I'd like to highlight Mr. Geoff Ward.

If you have ever been blessed to meet Geoff, and his lovely wife Margaret, then you know what truly wonderful and considerate people they are. Geoff has been involved with the 96th BGA Museum for 40 years!

You may know that the Museum resides in an original metal 'Quonset Hut' type building. You may also know that this building is on the grounds of the Eccles Hall School – Geoff has acted as a liaison between the 96th BGA Museum and the school for many years. As you will read in Geoff's note elsewhere in this newsletter, there has been a recent change at the school, which will require a little more coordination to visit the school, and Geoff is on top of that for us and the Museum.

The Museum contains priceless artifacts and several dioramas of how the men of the 96th would have lived during the war. There is also aircraft nose art reproduced and painted by Margaret near the ceiling, and many photos. A recreation of the original mission tally board for the group is prominently displayed. Also prominently displayed in a Roll of Honor listing the names of all of the 96th BGA men who were killed during the course of the war.

(continued on page 5)

Meanwhile Back at the Old Base



News from England

The main item for this edition of the news from England is that the New Eccles Hall School, which as you all know is the home of our museum, has been sold to a new company – Aurua. Of course our main concern is for the security of the museum.

During negotiations earlier this year I was invited to meet with Sean Simington and two representatives from Aurua to discuss the future of the museum. We were assured that they were in favour of retaining the museum building as they realised it was an important part of the 96th BG history and should be preserved.

A new contract is being negotiated and it will state that the museum building will remain the responsibility of the school and the contents will continue to belong to the 96th BG Association.

Stricter regulations are now being put into operation regarding access during school term hours. We will now have to produce public liability insurance to cover for visitors. We are now in the process of obtaining quotes for this, which will incur additional costs for us. When the new contract is ready to be signed after we have supplied insurance cover, we will send copies over to the 96th Board of Directors for their approval before we sign on their behalf. In future all visitors to the museum must be accompanied and escorted by a DBS checked member of the Association. A DBS certificate, which in Britain concerns members of many organisations involving contact with children, proving the individual does not have a criminal record. To give us full cover for this we will have to have at least two of our members in addition to myself to make sure we can cover if others are not available.

If you are intending to make a future visit to the museum, please inform either the school reception or myself, or any of our members, in good time for us to make arrangements for your visit to insure that someone who is authorised to be there to escort you, as you will not be allowed on the premises unescorted.

Better quality flags for the airfield memorial have been purchased and have been flown on special occasions so far on the 4th of July and at the International Motor Cycle race meeting at the race track, where over

40,000 people attended. Steven Wills, who is now one of our members and has a motor sport business on the old airfield site, has volunteered to ensure that the flags are flown for special occasions.

It has been decided on advice from the flag manufacturers that it is unadvisable for flags, regardless of the quality, to be flown in winds above a certain force, which will involve shredding. Due to the open location on the airfield site as it is subject to strong winds, we have decided not to fly them at all times, which will cause unwanted damage and entail us to have to frequently replace them.



Jean Wills, in the white jacket, served as host at our New Eccles School 96th Bomb Group Museum for our American visitors in May

We had a party of American visitors who were on a tour of USAAF airfields in May of this year, plus an evening visit from members of Attleborough church. Both visits brought very favourable comment for what we have achieved with the museum.

American Memorial Day at Cambridge American cemetery was well attended by our British members this year, plus our dear friends Rebecca and Jerry Lutz, who were on a visit to England. I told Rebecca that it would be appropriate for her to present the wreath on behalf of the group. Rebecca was overwhelmed at the suggestion and presented our wreath. A report on the day has been written by Rebecca and sent for the newsletter. As we had so many attending this year we hired a coach to take us. Our driver for the day was our friend Viv Richie, who some of you will know has taken us on tours in the past.

There is now a micro brewery based in one of the old buildings on the Tech site. We visited with Rebecca and Jerry and were all treated to a pint of their best ale. It makes one wonder what the outcome would have been if it had been there during the war. I know the legend is that the Officers bar always had the reputation of being well stocked, but I'm sure they would have had a hard time producing enough beer for the boys, who would have drunk the place dry in no time.

(continued on page 4)

This will be my last News from England. After much consideration and soul searching I have decided to hand over some of my responsibilities to our younger members. It has been almost forty years of my involvement with the 96th and I feel it now time to stand back a little. Jill Tebble (Patrick) will now take over as treasurer and much of the admin duties. Jill has been a member since she was sixteen years old and has always been a dedicated member of the association. Jean Wills will be taking over with our publicity and newsletter duties. Jean has been involved in the publishing and advertising business, and has produced our outstanding 96th Bomb Group brochure. I'm confident. Stephen Wills, Jean's son, will take over some of the museum duties and as he lives and works on the old base, he will be on hand to help out with escorting visitors.

I am most grateful to Jean, Jill and Steven for their willingness to relieve me of some of the workload and to all our other English members who have supported me over so many years. It has always been a great pleasure and honour to have dedicated such a great part of my life to the 96th. I certainly am not deserting the association and will continue to be involved with the museum and researching the group history. I will always be grateful to you all for the friendship and affection shown me over the past years and I will never forget the wonderful times Margaret and I have spent at



Rebecca Lutz Geoff and Margaret Ward with 96th wreath at Madingly American Memorial Day Ceremony May 2010.

countless reunions and your hospitality and chance to see so many wonderful parts of your great country. And we shall forever treasure the lasting friendships of those past and present veterans and their families forever.

Sincere thanks and best wishes to you all.

“To the 96th”

Geoff Ward

Flags for Snetterton to commemorate our Veterans

by Rebecca Lutz

At our last reunion in St. Louis, there was a suggestion that 96th BG members would like to purchase the flags for the Silver Dream Memorial in honor and memory of our Dads, Uncles, or other Veterans we would like to honor.



Captain Thomas H. Barton

During our recent trip to England, Jerry and I, of course, took the opportunity to visit Snetterton with Geoff. While there, to begin this program of remembrance, I gave Geoff funds to purchase American and British flags which will be flown in memory of my Dad, Captain Thomas H. Barton, on special occasions and holidays. My Dad was a B-17 Pilot stationed at Snetterton in May 1944 and left in March 1945, after completing 28 missions, with his final mission in Project Aphrodite on December 5, 1944.

Geoff can purchase very nice flags for 50 to 60 British Pound Sterling, so if you would like to participate in this program, just send the Dollar equivalent to the Treasurer and funds will be sent to England.

If you can supply a photograph and a little history of the Veteran being honored, this will be included in the recognition of these contributions in the 96th Newsletter.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at twolutz@att.net or 512-238-8581 and I can give you more details.



The Silver Dream Memorial

A Chat From Your Chaplain

I remain as always most grateful that time and the Lord have been so kind to me. I was so looking forward to New Orleans and sharing in the fellowship and friendship of the 96th Bomb Group once again, but alas I will not be able to make it again this year.

I am staying active and made a recent trip to Eglin Air Force Base to visit the Air Force Armament Museum. The 96th still lives on her as an active unit. See the store in this Newsletter that I shared with Dale Budde and his wife during their visit here in Santa Rosa Beach.

The prayer on the right is another of the things I have collected or come across in my readings, Bible study groups and daily life. I hope you enjoy it and that it will bring some understanding of the wonders of our Lord.

Remember there's power in prayer, and kindly pray for all of our membership and their families

In God we trust, and take our refuge!



Bill Thorns

Release

Heavenly Father,

I release to You the burdens that I have been carrying, burdens that You never intended for me to carry. I cast all my cares upon You - all my worries, all my fears. You have told me to not be too anxious about anything, but rather to bring everything to You in prayer with thankfulness.

Father, calm my restless spirit, quiet my anxious heart, still my troubling thoughts with assurance that You are in control. I let go my grip upon the things I have been hanging onto, with opened hands I come to You. I release to Your will all that I am trying to manipulate; I release to Your authority all that I am trying to control; I release to Your timing all that I have been striving to make happen.

I thank You for Your promise to sustain me, preserve me, and guard all that I have entrusted to Your keeping. Protect my heart and mind with Your peace, the peace that passes all understanding. Father, may Your will be done in my life.

Amen.

*Bill as our Chaplain tries to write a personal letter on the behalf of the 96th Bomb Group to the family of all our members that have flown their **Final Mission**. You can help him and the 96th Bomb Group by letting him know in a timely manner of a members passing and the address to which he might send the letter.*

Address your correspondence for our Chaplain to:

William (Bill) Thorns
164 West Hewett Road #241
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

Phone (850)-660-1805
E-mail b17fertilemyrtle@att.net



(President's Corner continued from page 2)

Geoff has been instrumental in gathering and curating all of these materials. He has also been very involved in revamping the museum over the years.

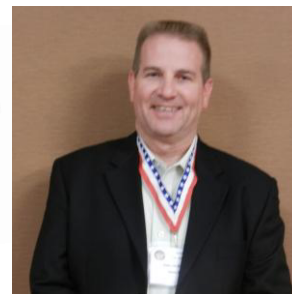
Geoff was just a lad during the war years, and he has recounted his memories of watching the aircraft, and seeing those Yanks and their friendly invasion of his countryside.

Geoff - Thank You for all of your efforts, your hard work, your dedication, and everything you have done for this group - you are greatly appreciated!!!

As I mentioned last time - if you'd really like to connect, visit or call a veteran. It could be a member of the 96th BG, or a retired or current member of any of the Armed Forces. Let them know you are thinking of them, ask them a question about their service, or just say "Thank You for your service". It would mean a lot, and I know you'd get something out of it too!

Thank You for your time!

Mike McIlraith



President - 96th BGA

P.S. Are you a paid member of the 96th BGA? And are you a paid member of the 8th AFHS? If you are, please make sure you are current on your dues with each organization. And if you aren't, please consider joining both groups - I think you'll be glad you did.



96th Bomb Group Recipients French Legion of Honor

Marbury L. Councell Jr.	337th
Salvatore "Sal" Cracolici	338th
Joseph Garber	338th
Joseph O. Ingram Jr.	337th
Lloyd Mitchell	413th
Stanley A. Peterson	338th
James A. Rich Jr.	338th
Henry "Ed" Tessien	413th
William M. "Bill" Thorns	338th
Rudolph Villalobos	413th
Frank A. Wiswall	413th
Richard P. Woodson, III	337th

Listed above are those members of the 96th Bomb Group known to have received the French Legion of Honor. If you have received this award and are not listed please let the Newsletter Editor know so you may be included in the future.

If you believe you may be eligible for this award you can find more complete information on the 8th Air Force Historical Society web page link at www.8thafhs.org/reunion/french.htm. You will be able to download the actual application forms from this link and begin gathering the information you will need to apply. Should you need help with where to find the information that you will need Joe Garber an award recipient and his wife Joan would be glad to assist you. They can be e-mailed at paljoe2@aol.com or phoned at 386-672-5359. Also Bill Thorns an award recipient would be glad to assist. His contact information can be found on the last page in "Where to Call or Write."

How to request being awarded the French Legion of Honor

The Legion of Honor is France's most distinguished decoration and it can be bestowed to recognize the special contribution and act of bravery while fighting for the liberation of our country during WWII. The decision to honor World War II combatants applies only to living veterans who served on French territory and in French territorial waters and airspace from 1944-1945.

The medal will not be awarded posthumously.

In order to study your request you must provide the following documents:

1. Proposal Memory Form - Attach the form completed in block letters and print legibly (with a detailed personal narrative related to your campaigns in France in which you participated, indicating the dates and locations where you fought, the divisions or units you belonged to and your functions).

2. Honorable Discharge Papers — Attach a copy (do not send originals) of both sides of yours showing proof of service in France between June 6, 1944 and May 8, 1945.

3. A copy of any of the following decorations you or your unit may have been awarded is also required: Bronze Star, Silver Star, Purple Heart, Congressional medal, French Croix de Guerre/French Fourragere.

4. All information (newspaper articles, books, etc describing your actions in France during WWII.

5. Mail to one of the French Consulates on the list below. Please note that upon receipt of these documents your file will be submitted to our Embassy in Washington DC. and then to the Grand Chancellery of the Legion of Honor in Paris, France, for a final decision after a close study of the veteran's record by a committee. The review of application for the Legion of Honor may take over a year. Please don't call: applicants will be contacted directly if any questions or problems arise.

If your request is accepted you will have to go to one of the French Consulates to receive the medal.

FRENCH CONSULATES IN THE U.S.

Consulat Général de France
4101 Reservoir Road
Washington DC 20007

Consulat Général de France
934 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Consulat Général de France
Park Square Building, Suite 750
31, Saint James Avenue
Boston MA 02116

Consulat Général de France
The Lenox Building
3399 Peachtree Rd NE, Ste 500
Atlanta, GA 30326

Consulat Général de France
Espirito Santo Plaza, Suite 1050,
1395 Brickell Avenue
Miami FL 33131

Consulat Général de France
205 North Michigan Avenue, Suite
3700
Chicago, IL, 60601

Consulat Général de France
777 Post Oak Boulevard, Suite 600
Houston, TX 77056

Consulat Général de France
1340 Poydras Street- Suite 1710
New Orleans LA 70112

Consulat Général de France
10390 Santa Monica Blvd. Suite 410
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Consulat Général de France
88 Keamy St. Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94108

Salvatore Cracolici



General Ducret thanks WWII Veteran, Mr. Salvatore Cracolici, for having fought on French soil to liberate France

Photo Sue Fox Moyer Second Schweinfurt Memorial Association

Salvatore Cracolici was presented the French Legion of Honor on December 16, 2016 by French General Ducret in a ceremony taking place at the Tampa Yacht and Country Club Tampa, Florida.

Julee MacDonald, secretary of the Second Schweinfurt Memorial Association, extended congratulations to Sal Cracolici upon receiving the French Legion of Honor in an April posting on their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ssma43/>)

The posting also included Sal's personal description of the ceremony.



"The ceremony at the Legion of Honor presentation was great. The French did a wonderful presentation. The French detachment at central command at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, sent all the French officers and their French general to give the medals out. I was not used to having a general kiss me on both cheeks."

Sal was 19 years of age in September of 1943 when he arrived as a Right Waist Gunner with the crew of 2/Lt. Rowland J. Jones to the 96th Bomb Group and the 338th Squadron flying from Snetterton Heath Air Base. They were one of 46 crews arriving in September to

double the strength of the base. As a New Crew they received an unusual welcome on October 7th as described in the *Snetterton Falcons* excerpt below.

Just seven days later on October 14, 1943, still a young crew, they would fly as the number 6 ship in the high squadron in Mission #115 of the 8th Air Force and #48 of the 96th to Schweinfurt, Germany. This second Schweinfurt mission would become known as Black Thursday.

Sal and the rest of the Roland Jones crew went on to complete 25 missions by March of 1945 most "before fighter escort to targets" he remembers.

Sal resides in Dunedin, Florida and will be 93 in August. Congratulations on your award and "Happy Birthday".

Send him your congratulations and greetings at salcracolici@yahoo.com.



Sal and his niece, Amber Armentrout

#44 OCTOBER 4, '43: SAARBRUCKEN, GERMANY

A day's rest and 35 planes were off to these marshalling yards. In all, 289 bombers of the 8th attacked a multiplicity of targets which included Frankfurt, Wiesbaden, and Sauerlauten, St. Dizier and Saaraguemines.

All three Bomb Divisions participated in these attacks along a line south from Frankfurt to Saarbrucken. Fortunately for the 96th, their target was quite visible. History shows that the 8th and the Luftwaffe started the fierce October battles today. The 1BD incurred most of its 8 losses (5) in the Frankfurt- Wiesbaden area. Before the day was over, the 8th lost 16 bombers. The 45th CBW suffered no losses at all.

New crewmen continued a growing sense of confidence and optimism.

The 5th and 6th passed uneventfully. Excitement rippled through the squadrons when a mission was called for Bremen on the 7th. Then it was scrubbed. But the air base received a whole handful of excitement that night.

Down on the flight line, Sal Cracolici, a waist gunner from one of the 338th crews, herd the walling air raid signal mix with the loud drone of a low flying German plane. He watched the entire base light up as bright as day under the slowly descending parachute flares. As the night reverberated to the anti-aircraft guns. Sal joined the rushing crowd that scampered toward the base-shelters. The invaders escaped unharmed: no bombs were dropped. It was later suggested that the German Intelligence had gotten the word about the 96th doubling its strength and the hypothesis was that the intruder was taking photos of the base by the light of the flares. Whatever the truth, there was no denying the fact that many who had previously scoffed at Snetterton's bomb shelters were converted tonight.

Memorial Day

28 May 2017

Netherlands American Cemetery Margraten

by Jeannette Batton

A special day, Memorial Day, to honor my grand uncle Charles Paul Wilder, who is on the Wall of the Missing at Margraten Cemetery. His body along with the entire crew is still in the Wadden Zee (Wadden Sea) off the Dutch coast in their B-17 *Blonde Bomber*. Theirs was one of seven 96th Bomb Group air craft lost on December 16, 1943 on a mission to Bremen, Germany.

It was a honor to be allowed to lay a wreath during the formal Memorial Day Ceremony representing the 8th Air Force Historical Society and 96th Bomb Group.

I was so excited. I had new Uniforms tailored and the first Sgt at March ARB inspected me as a favor to make sure I didn't miss any corrections or changes to uniform codes. Can't embarrass myself or the 96th.



Jeannette Batton representing the 96th Bomb Group and the Eighth Air Force Historical Society at the Netherlands American Cemetery, Margraten with the wreath she presented.



Jeannette Batton with cousin Jodie Batton Strickland indicate the location of their Grand Uncle Charler Paul Wilder's name on the Wall of Remembrance.

I left for Europe together with my cousin Jodie Batton Strickland and her husband David to share the experience on May 18. The next ten days were a whirlwind of activity, Before the Margraten ceremony we also attended a ceremony at the Ardennes American Cemetery and Henri-Chapelle American cemetery on Saturday.

Sunday at Margraten to my great surprise I met Mrs. Heidi H. J. Weekers the lady from Höngen, Germany who has adopted my grand uncles name on the wall. She had been trying to locate me for years.

My thanks to Wim Jacobs and Kristof De Geyter, their wives and to the Adopt A Grave organization for all of their support to me as well as adopting graves of WWII vets. Also to Rene Bosma and his wife who supported us. Rene Bosma is writing book about the downed aircraft in the area where my Uncle Charles Paul Wilder plane went down.



Heidi H. J. Weekers and Jeannette Batton met for the first time on Memorial Day at Netherlands American Cemetery, Margraten.

Memorial Day 2017

Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial

Madingley, England

By Rebecca Lutz

On May 29th of this year, I had the honor of participating in the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial at Madingley, England. The cemetery contains the remains of 3,812 of our military dead; 5,127 names are on the Wall of the Missing. It was such an honor and privilege to represent the 96th Bomb Group in laying the wreath in memory of the 96th Bomb Group members who are buried in the cemetery or are listed on the Wall of the Missing. It is a beautiful cemetery which this year recognized the “75th Anniversary of the Friendly Invasion” of Americans to England during World War II.



Rebecca Lutz with 96th Wreath.



The 96th Bomb Group Wreath one of the 112 here at the wall of remembrance third from left placed by Rebecca.

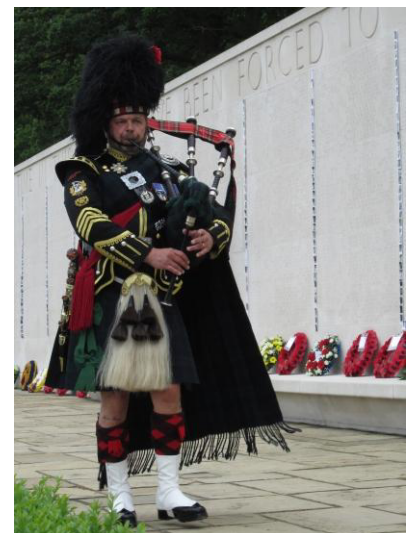
There were 112 wreaths laid in honor of those deceased and missing, brought in by representatives of the American Air Force and Navy, who then handed off each wreath to those of us representing our Bomb Groups and related organizations. It is a very somber and moving ceremony.

To close the ceremony, there was a “flyover” by a Piper Cub from the 100th Air Refueling Wing, which flew over the cemetery 3 times dropping paper poppies, the International remembrance flower. This was the first time this had been done since the early 1960s and they were beautiful falling and spreading all over the cemetery with a white Cross or Star of David marker on each grave, which were also decorated with a British and American flag.



Imagine the view across the whole cemetery that all these little red poppies would have created for those in attendance.

There were 12 of us in our group, including 10 of our dear English friends who have been so supportive of the 96th Bomb Group and Museum over many years. We had a delicious pub lunch after the ceremony at the Bird in Hand, across the street from Mildenhall Air Force Base, which was a delightful end to a very special day, the memory of which I will treasure forever.



A piper plays tribute

Nancy Meshko Memorial Mission Complete

Nancy Meshko together with her son Jay, Granddaughter Nichole, Great grandson Max and Great granddaughter Ruby Jaye were present for the Memorial Day Ceremony at historic Lowery Air Force Base to dedicate the new bricks being added to the Runway of Honor

The four bricks pictured at the right commemorate the 96th Bomb Group, Nancy's husband George, fellow 96th'er Wayne Whitlock and the Mighty 8th Air Force



The Runway of Honor is located under the B-52 rising in takeoff and departing the Rockies. Bordered by runway lights, the Runway of Honor is comprised of commemorative bricks inscribed with names of Veterans, aviators, family, friends, events and organizations. These bricks will forever link us to the past and present of our aviation history



The position of the four bricks shown here at the left is marked with the white outline in the photograph at the right.

Also pictured are Nancy and her two great grandchildren.

Thank you again Nancy for this fine remembrance of the 96th Bomb Group and its Veterans. George would approve.



Nancy Meshko's son Jay with her great granddaughter Ruby Jaye and great grandson Max

Unique Relationships Guarantee Memory



The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) a Federal public body was created in 1923 by the American Congress. It administers, operates and maintains 26 permanent American military cemeteries and 29 federal memorial, monuments and markers, which are located in 16 foreign countries, the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the British Dependency of Gibraltar; three of the memorials are located within the United States. These cemeteries and memorials, most of which commemorate the service and sacrifice of Americans who served in World War I and World War II, are among the most beautiful and meticulously maintained shrines in the world.

To find information on a specific veteran go to the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) website www.abmc.gov and open the tab **Search ABMC Burials** enter his name and look at which cemetery he is buried in or listed at the wall of the Missing in Europe.

The addresses of the cemeteries are also listed on the ABMC website on the tab **Cemeteries & Memorials**.

Those of most interest for finding Army Air Corps Veterans from World War II are:

Belgium	- Ardennes American cemetery - Henri-Chapelle American cemetery
England	- Cambridge American cemetery
France	- Brittany American cemetery - Epinal American cemetery - Lorraine American cemetery - Normandy American cemetery
Luxembourg	- Luxembourg American cemetery
Netherlands	- Netherlands American cemetery

A truly unique phenomenon has occurred centered around all of these cemeteries throughout Europe individual citizens and communities have taken it upon themselves to adopt the graves of the American fallen in appreciation of the sacrifices made for their freedom.

The American Battle Monuments Commission is completely independent of these various grave adoption organizations.

If you are interested in adopting a grave or finding out if one has been adopted, when you know the name of the cemetery, you can contact them and ask them to provide the name of which organization is affiliated with the adoption of graves at that cemetery. Each cemetery can have a different adoption program. These organizations can provide information to family members and the person who has adopted the grave.

Jennette Batton says of the adopters "Such amazing people and wonderful support. I sure hope people all over the US find out about the Adopt a Grave Program. Those people are so sincere about honoring the veterans and their families. They want to find the family members to offer assistance and information and show them around the battle areas and historical places."

Read here specifically about Margraten where Jeannette laid the wreath and view its web pages. All Graves and names of the missing have been adopted at Margraten. Checkout the other organizations web page contacts on the Bulliten Board page 18.

Netherlands American Cemetery

The Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial is the only American military cemetery in the Netherlands. The cemetery site has a rich historical background, lying near the famous Cologne-Boulogne highway built by the Romans and used by Caesar during his campaign in that area. The highway was also used by Charlemagne, Charles V, Napoleon, and Kaiser Wilhelm II. In May 1940 Hitler's legions advanced over the route of the old Roman highway, overwhelming the Low Countries. In September 1944, German troops once more used the highway for their withdrawal from the countries occupied for four years.

The cemetery's tall memorial tower can be seen before reaching the site, which covers 65.5 acres. From the cemetery entrance visitors are led to the Court of Honor with its pool reflecting the tower. At the base of the tower facing the reflecting pool is a statue representing women who have suffered loss. To the right and left, respectively, are the visitor building and the map room containing three large, engraved operations maps with texts depicting the military operations of the American armed forces. Stretching along the sides of the court are Tablets of the Missing on which are recorded 1,722 names. Rosettes mark the names of those since recovered and identified.

Within the tower is a chapel. The light fixture in the chapel and the altar candelabra and flower bowl were presented by the government of the Netherlands and by the local provincial administration. Beyond the tower is a burial area divided into 16 plots, where rest 8,301 of our military dead, their headstones set in long curves. A wide, tree-lined mall leads to the flagstaff that crowns the crest.

Unique to the cemetery is the connection with the Dutch people. Since 1945 members of the local community have adopted the grave sites of our fallen. They bring flowers to the cemetery and research the life of the service member as a way to honor their sacrifice. Today, the Foundation for Adopting Graves: <http://www.adoptiegraven-margraten.nl> manages this program. With a similar intention the Foundation United Adopters American War Graves created a program known as The Faces of Margraten: <http://www.thefacesofmargraten.com/>. This group collects photos of our fallen, and sponsors a bi-annual event at the cemetery during Dutch Memorial Day weekend. More than 4,100 photos were on display next to headstones and the Walls of the Missing, bringing visitors face-to-face with their liberators. With your help, we will be able to give many more of our liberators a face, more than 70 years after the end of World War II.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 96TH BOMB GROUP POST WWII

By Bill Thorns

Many of our veterans and second and third generation members are curious about how our association came into being after WWII. Fortunately, our original commanding officer, General Archie Old, Jr. held the first post WWII reunion at Altus AFB in 1956. This was followed by another reunion in 1961 at Dyess AFB. On both of these occasions, an enterprising non-com- radio operator', Robert Owens made it a point to attend these reunions. Bob Owens became a POW, Nov. 25, 1944 on the Mersberg, Germany mission, in essence, he started the association by gleaning all he could from contacts at the two early reunions. As a "one man" operation he started the nucleus, and brought many crew members into contact with each other, and under his leadership, we became the **96th Bomb Group Memorial Association**.



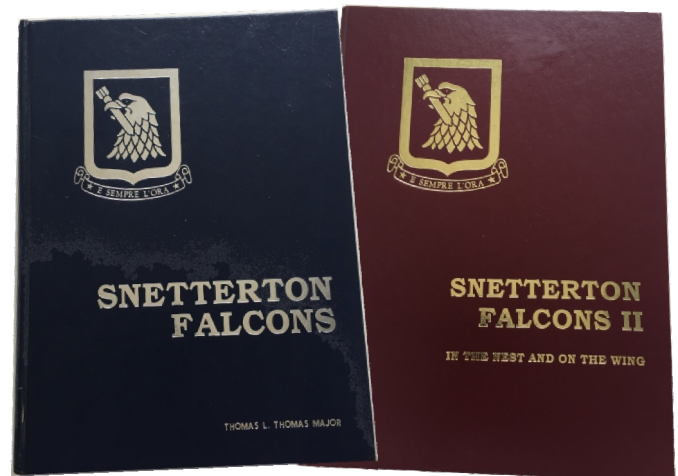
In the meantime, the 8th Air Force Historical Society was founded in Florida by John Woolnough in 1974. This grew into a tremendous group of some 20,000 plus members at its peak, which held stateside reunions every year in a different city. It was at the St. Paul, MN reunion in 1981 that some, of us as 96er's attended, with limited memory, I can name a few, Tom Thomas, Bob Doherty, Marbury Councell, Bill Thorns, and Dick Funk. There was considerable discussion about the future, and since Owens, Thomas and Thorns lived in the Chicago area, we were to meet and see what could be done to help Owens with the growth of our organization. Efforts in that respect were fruitless, and so, when we met in Cincinnati in 1982, an election was conducted, and a slate of officers was elected. A meeting after the election determined that the membership wanted a non-profit organization, articles of incorporation, and by-laws as a start. In due time this all came to pass, and we officially became the **96th Bomb Group Association**.



PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE 96TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION:

1) 1986 October reunion Sherman Small was appointed and elected as our Museum Curator.

2) 1989 The concept of a 96th BGA history was talked about from day one. Our two talented authors, Bob Doherty and Geoff Ward volunteered and what a trying and momentous project, but wow, look what we have from their efforts! From very poor records and five years later evolved our magnificent "*Snetterton Falcons*", a history book to the nth Degree, second to none. The First edition in 1989, then an enhanced edition with corrections. Another gigantic effort by our co-authors, Bob and Geoff was to publish "*Snetterton Falcons II, in the nest and on the wing*", a pictorial gem of the men and machines that made it possible for the air crewman to complete their missions, and return. Bob Doherty's poetic expertise/comments were a marvelous and welcome addition to this work!



3) 1990 Through the efforts of our English friends and families, Sean Simington, head master of Eccles School, the Ward, Patrick, Holmes, Bannon families and others, and under the leadership of curator Sherman Small, we dedicated our museum at Eccles School May 19, 1990.

4) 1992 Tex Shields and Tom Thomas worked together for our 50th Anniversary in 1992 in Abilene, Texas, at Dyess AFB. Tex did a magnificent job of scheduling and coordinating all facets, ably assisted by his wife, Mary.



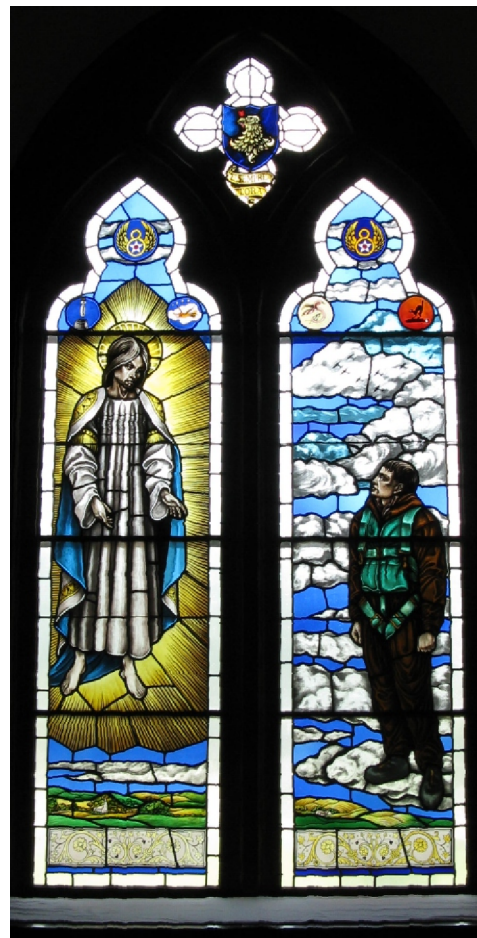
5) In 1995, after attending a reunion in Chicago, the 96th. Boarded a chartered bus for Dayton, Ohio to dedicate a plaque placed in 1993 and plant a tree at the memorial gardens of the Wright Patterson Air Force Base Museum, memorializing our 967 men who made the supreme sacrifice this figure differs from that of our history due to corrections made later.



6) In 1944, due to the efforts of flight surgeon, Dr. Herb Allen, designer Sgt. Gerald Athey, a stained glass window was installed in a restored chapel of a 12th Century Church, St. Andrews in the local village of Quidenham as a memorial to our fallen 96th. Heroes. Dedicated, November 12, 1944. A visit here was always on our agenda during reunions.

7) May 1996 Sometime shortly after with the opening of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum in Pooler, Georgia, Stan Peterson was chosen to chair a committee with the awesome task of raising \$27,000.00 to replicate our stained glass window for future installation in the Fallen Eagles Chapel to be constructed on the site. The window was installed and dedicated in April of 1998

8) On September 8, 2001. Our monstrous "SilverDream" memorial was dedicated by president Marbury Councill on our old air base, Snetterton Heath. Designed by Martin Rance of Eccles School, and tediously produced in England it stands tall and majestic, again, memorializing our fallen buddies.



Replica of the St. Andrews Memorial window installed and dedicated in April of 1998



The "Silver Dream" memorial showing the new fencing which has recently been erected for us by **Motorsport Vision**, owners of the race circuit. Our grateful thanks to Jamie Hopper, manager of the circuit and his staff for providing this for us, I am sure you will agree this certainly enhances the outlook of the memorial.

9) 2006 Reunion Banner makes first appearance in Dayton, Ohio September 13th - 17th. A gift from Jack Griswold manufactured by his Grandson Grandon Griswold from art work by Joe Jones. Joe had created a commemorative poster for the Arlington Virginia Reunion in 2005 and a special decal for Jack that inspired the banner. It has been the back drop for many photographs good times in our hospitality suite



ARTWORK: JOE JONES

The 96th Lives On

At Eglin Air Force Base As 96th Test Wing (AFMC)

Here is what some of you Ancestry Buffs would call our Family Tree from our beginning in 1942 right up to today. Seventy-five years later and still going strong.

Lineage. Established as 96 Bombardment Group, Heavy, on 28 Jan 1942. Activated on 15 Jul 1942. Inactivated on 21 Dec 1945. Redesignated as 96 Bombardment Group, Very Heavy, on 13 May 1947. Activated in the Reserve on 29 May 1947. Inactivated on 27 Jun 1949. Consolidated (31 Jan 1984) with the 96 Bombardment Wing, Heavy, which was established on 23 Mar 1953. Redesignated as 96 Bombardment Wing, Medium, on 6 Nov 1953. Activated on 18 Nov 1953. Redesignated as: 96 Strategic Aerospace Wing on 1 Apr 1962; 96 Bombardment Wing, Heavy, on 31 Mar 1972; 96 Wing on 1 Sep 1991. Inactivated on 1 Oct 1993. Redesignated as 96 Air Base Wing on 10 Mar 1994. Activated on 15 Mar 1994; Redesignated 96 Test Wing on 18 July 2012.

Assignments. Second Air Force, 15 Jul 1942-c. 4 Apr 1943; 4 Bombardment Wing (later, 4 Combat Bombardment Wing), c. 14 Apr 1943 (attached to: 401 Provisional Combat Wing, 6- 19 Jun 1943; 403 Provisional Combat Wing, 20 Jun-13 Sep 1943); 45 Combat Bombardment Wing, 14 Sep 1943; 3 Air Division, 18 Jun 1945; 1 Air Division, 12 Aug 1945; 3 Air Division, 28 Sep-12 Dec 1945; New York Port of Embarkation, 20-21 Dec 1945. 19 Bombardment Wing (later, 19 Air Division, Bombardment), 29 May 1947-27 Jun 1949. Eighth Air Force, 18 Nov 1953; Fifteenth Air Force, 1 Apr 1955 (attached to 3 Air Division, 10 Jan-7 Apr 1957); 819 Air (later, 819 Strategic Aerospace) Division, 3 Sep 1957; 19 Air Division, 2 Jul 1966; 12 Air Division, 1 Jul 1973; Fifteenth Air Force, 15 Jul 1988; Eighth Air Force, 1 Sep 1991- 1 Oct 1993. Air Force Development Test Center (later, Air Armament Center), 15 Mar 1994-.2012; Air Force Test Center, 1 Oct 2012- Present.

Stations. Salt Lake City AAB, UT, 15 Jul 1942; Gowen Field, ID, 6 Aug 1942; Walla Walla AAB, WA, 14 Aug 1942 (ground echelon), 1 Sep 1942 (air echelon); Rapid City AAB, SD, 30 Sep 1942; Pocatello AAB, ID, 1 Nov 1942; Pyote AAB, TX, 3 Jan-Mar 1943; Great Saline, England, May 1943; Snetterton Heath, England, 12 Jun 1943-12 Dec 1945; Camp Kilmer, NJ, 20-21 Dec 1945. Gunter Field (later, AFB), AL, 29 May 1947-27 Jun 1949. Altus AFB, OK, 18 Nov 1953; Dyess AFB, TX, 8 Sep 1957-1 Oct 1993. Eglin AFB, FL, 15 Mar 1994- Present.

Operations. Activated in Jul 1942 and manned in early Aug, the 96 Bombardment Group spent the next six months training with B-17s and as an operational training unit. Entered combat in May 1943 and functioned primarily as a strategic bombardment organization throughout the war. Attacked shipyards, harbors, railroad yards, airdromes, oil refineries, aircraft factories, and other industrial targets in Germany, France, Holland, Belgium, Norway, Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia. Received a Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) for withstanding severe assault by



96th Test Wing Emblem

The 96th Test Wing crest is imbued with blue and yellow as they are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The falcon's head heraldically denotes the organization's bombardment function and also symbolizes the unit's hot pursuit of mission accomplishments. The red drop bomb is the color of fire and denotes martial prowess, boldness and hardiness. The motto of the 96th Test Wing; *E SEMPRE L'ORA*, "It is Always the Hour," refers to the 96 BG's ability to bomb around the clock without fighter support during WWII.

Emblem. Approved on 18 Feb 1943

enemy fighters to bomb the vital aircraft factories at Regensburg on 17 Aug 1943. Received another DUC for leading components of the 45 Combat Bombardment Wing, Heavy, a great distance through heavy clouds and intense antiaircraft fire to raid important aircraft component factories in Poland on 9 Apr 1944. In addition to strategic operations, missions included bombing coastal defenses, railway bridges, gun emplacements, and field batteries in the battle area prior to and during the invasion of Normandy in Jun 1944; attacked enemy positions in support of the breakthrough at St. Lo in Jul 1944; aided the campaign in France in Aug by striking roads and road junctions and dropping supplies to French resistance members; and attacked, during the early months of 1945, the transport centers supplying German armies on the western front. After V-E Day, flew food to Holland and redeployed personnel to French Morocco, Ireland, France, and Germany. Briefly active in the Reserve from May 1947-Jun 1949; conducted routine training activities. Although the wing was established in Nov 1953, its headquarters and components were not manned until Mar 1954; the 96 Air Base Group, whose commander served additional duty as wing commander, controlled the few manned units. Began air refueling operations in Mar 1954 and bombardment training in Apr 1955 in support of SAC's global commitments. Deployed to Guam, Jan-Apr 1957. Controlled a strategic airlift squadron, Sep 1959-Mar 1961, and an Atlas missile squadron, Jul 1961-Mar 1965. The first Atlas missile went on alert in Apr 1962. During several months in 1970 and in 1972-1973, all wing aircraft, crews, and most support personnel were loaned to other SAC organizations in the Far East or Southeast Asia for combat operations. From 1980, the wing's KC-135A aircraft regularly deployed to Europe, Alaska, and the Pacific to support SAC tanker task force requirements. Became the first wing to operate the B-1B,

after the arrival of the first aircraft in Jun 1985. In Oct 1986, B-1Bs assumed SAC alert duties for the first time. Wing KC-135 tankers provided refueling support to units involved in the invasion of Panama, Dec 1989. Ferried personnel and equipment to Guam for further movement to Southwest Asia, in Aug 1990. Single KC-135s provided refueling support throughout Southwest Asia, Aug 1990-Mar 1991. Ended bombardment mission and inactivated in Oct 1993. Provided services and support for the Air Force Development Test Center (later, Air Armament Center) and its tenant organizations, Mar 1994-.

Aircraft/Missiles. B-17, 1942-1945. AT-6, 1947-1949; AT-11, 1947-1949. KC-97, 1954- 1956, 1956-1958; B-47, 1955-1963; C-124, 1959-1961; Atlas, 1962-1965; B-52, 1963-1970, 1970-1972, 1973-1985; KC-135, 1965-1970, 1970-1972, 1973-1993; B-1B, 1985-1993, A-10, 2012-2014 ,UH-1N, 2012-Present, F-16, 2012-Present, F-15, 2012- Present,

AT-38B, 2012-Present , NC-130, 2012-Present, C-12J, 2012-Present.

Campaign Streamers. World War II: Air Offensive, Europe; Normandy; Northern France; Rhineland; ArdennesAlsace; Central Europe.

Decorations. Distinguished Unit Citations: Germany, 17 Aug 1943; Poznan, Poland, 9 Apr 1944. Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards: 1 Jan 1959-31 Dec 1960; 1 Jul 1974-30 Jun 1975; 30 May 1990-29 May 1992; 1 Dec 1994-30 Nov 1995; 1 Jan 2001-31 Dec 2002.

Editor's Note

The information here was copied from the Eglin Air Force Base web page <http://www.eglin.af.mil/> (About Us/ History/ Linage) some copy pertaining to Operational Components and Commanders has been excluded but may be viewed in its entirety on the web page.

Highly Recommended



Air Force Armament Museum

The Air Force Armament Museum at Eglin Air Force Base is located in Florida's panhandle just northeast of Fort Walton Beach and only a few miles from Bill Thorns in his new residence in Santa Rosa Beach.

Bill thinks for anyone with 96th ties it is a must see. It includes a good history of the WWII days and pays those of us who served then a good tribute as well as detailing the next 75 years of the 96th's history.



George Jones, Museum Director, and Bill Thorns at the museum.



Bill in front of one of the displays detailing the 96th Bomb Group and its days at Snetterton Heath.

Did you know that the 96th were the first to Fly the B-1B bomber when it became operational in 1985? Bill said that was just one of many things he learned here.



Bill and his daughter Sarah Conroy visit the static display of a B-17 with 96th markings including a Square  on the tail

Rum Boogie Crew Beginnings

Discover how the search for living relatives of the ten member crew of a World War II B-17 got started.

By Vicki Ekmark



Rear L/R Sgt. George T. Gant, Gunner, Sgt. Richard J. Postier, Radio Operator and Waist, Sgt. Charles F. Goyette, Assistant Radio Operator and Gunner, Sgt. Ellis P. Savoie, Engineer and Gunner, Sgt. George P. Wyherek, Ball Turret Gunner. Front L/R Lieutenant Lloyd J. Fickler, Co-Pilot, 2nd Lt. Harry J. Miller, Navigator, 1st Lt. James H. Sanders, Pilot, Sgt. Alvin Neff, Tail Gunner, Not pictured the photographer 2nd Lt. William H. Spencer, Bombardier Snetterton Heath England 1943

Seven years ago, I typed my dad's name into a computer search engine and hit enter. The results showed a post from Kathleen on an Army Air Force forum site wanting information about the crew her uncle flew with during World War II. She had listed each of the crew members' names – one of which turned out to be Alvin Neff – my father. As I considered her post that day, a lot of things crossed my mind. First was a big question - why hadn't I asked my dad more about his service in the war while he was still alive?



Alvin Neff and daughter Vicki Ekmark on her sixth birthday.

After some time researching the members of Dad's crew and having several conversations with my brother, Steve, who had listened to Dad's stories about the war, an idea came to me. Maybe it wasn't too late to honor the service that my father had given, and maybe since I now knew one relative of one crew member, I could find more. As I started to locate relatives of other crew members, I decided I would find a relative for every crew member. I hoped this might make up for what I hadn't done when Dad was alive.

I collected a lot of information and decided the best way to honor the memory and sacrifice of the Rum Boogie crew would be to build a website about them, even though I didn't have a clue how to do that. Now, seven years later, I have found a living relative for each of the crew members and collected much information about their lives. And although the website is still under construction, I feel it's time to start sharing their amazing stories.



Lloyd Fickler dad's Copilot, left, and my dad, Alvin Neff, at the 8th Air Force Reunion October 4-9, 1989 in Denver.

Editors Note:

Beginning with our next issue Vicki Ekmark has agreed to share with us over the next several issues the saga of the ten men who composed the crew of the Rum Boogie as she has learned it from not just military records but from the members of the families of each man..

These are not so much war stories or the recounting of the 25 missions they flew together but the story of these men and the lives they lived after the war which like all our veterans made them members of "The Greatest Generation".

You can see her work in progress and share your comments with her through the following social media:

Web Page	https://www.rumboogiecrew.com/
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/rumboogiecrew
E - mail	ekmarv62@hotmail.com
Twitter	https://twitter.com/rumboogiecrew?lang=en
Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/rumboogiecrew/

E-Mail

Subject: Dad's French Legion of Honor Medal

Date: 7/26/2017

From: faharrison@aol.com

To: dlbudde@aol.com

Hi Dale,

Good news! Dad has received the French Legion of Honor Medal! Hurray! The Medal was sent to him in the mail and the awards ceremony will be sometime in September. I'll keep you posted on the details. I know you also asked for Dad to write up something about what he has done since the war but I'm afraid he hasn't been able to write anything. He's doing as well as can be expected for 97 but things are a bit of a struggle. Is there something else we could do? Thanks so much for everything Dale - hopefully the news is in time for the deadline for the Newsletter. Talk with you and hopefully see you in New Orleans.



Glen Harrison on his 97th

Alison

Editor's note:

I was glad to hear of Glen Harrison's receipt of the French Medal of Honor and also have received information that Jesse Resse has also received the award and that both expect the formal presentation in the near future. Look for details and pictures in the February *Newsletter*

Glen is not able to travel anymore so his presentation will be in St. Louis and Jesse's will be in Chicago. Glenn, Jr., Nancy, Walter and Alison will be in New Orleans and look forward to seeing many of you there.

Subject Issue #35 Newsletter

On Mar 21, 2017

From: John Nickel <medic264@gmail.com>

Good day.

My Father has a copy of issue 35 of the 96th newsletter. Are you still looking for this? If so please send the address and we will be glad to donate it.

Thanks

John Nickel Jr

On Mar 21, 2017

Dale L Budde <dlbudde@aol.com> replied

Great news. I will return it when I get home from FL.

Do you have a picture of your Dad, current and when in the service? A little information about him now to share in the news letter.

See the Bulletin Board page 18 to see what John sent.

Subject: 338th Sgt. James Kelly Smith

Date: 8/6/2017

From: blsmith4740@gmail.com

To: dlbudde@aol.com

Hello Dale,

My name is Bradley Smith from Atlanta. My uncle **Sergeant James "Kelly" Smith**, served with the 338th all during the war and retired from the Army living in Columbus GA or next to it, Phoenix Alabama (Ft. Benning).

I know he served with the unit the whole time and was with munitions, Sgt. loading B-17s with bombs. I wish I could find more information on him other than Ancestry.com. I wish I could find more on him with the 96th, 338th. He was really a very kind man now buried in Atlanta at a historical cemetery.

Here are a couple of photos of him. If I could find more information on his service, I would be most proud. I do know a couple of his stories, one loading a B-17 with bombs when one fell from a rack. He said when it hit the pavement, they looked at each other for a moment when one spoke up, "So.... this is what's it like when your dead....". They chuckled and went back to work. You must have some humor.

Thank you for anything you can do.

Best regards,

Bradley Smith blsmith4740@gmail.com



Sergeant James "Kelly" Smith 338th Bomb Loader
(One of the photos the location of Sam's Laundry unknown)
Can anyone help Bradley learn more about his uncle?

BULLETIN BOARD



SPECIAL NOTICE

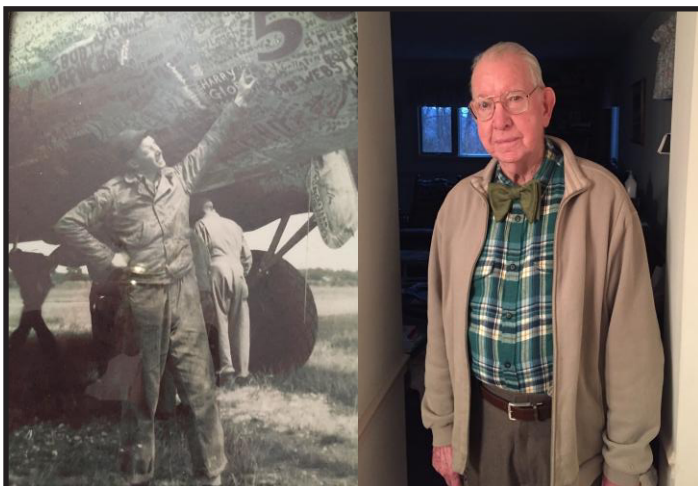
Rooms for Reunion in New Orleans Sept. 26 – Oct. 1, 2017

Due to the large turn out, the Hilton has already **sold out** of rooms for the reunion dates. Donna Lee, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) is currently taking names for a rooming list at the Best Western Plus a new hotel, about 1.5 miles from the Hilton. It's a cheaper rate at \$109+tax/night and includes complimentary breakfast, airport shuttle, and parking. Both hotels will help shuttle folks back and forth as much as possible. The tour buses will pick up from both hotels. Folks confirmed at the overflow hotel should **NOT** sign up for a meal package since there is free breakfast at the Best Western. People can purchase the separately priced dinners. Our first priority is to get as many WWII Veterans moved back over to the Hilton when cancellations occur.

AFR will contact people approximately 4-6 weeks before the reunion to reconfirm the reservation and obtain the credit card info at that time to guarantee the room. For now, Donna will need the following, preferably emailed to DonnaLee@afri.com for a paper trail:

- Name for the room reservation
- Specific bed type preferred (not guaranteed)
- Arrival/Departure Dates
- Address
- Phone
- WWII Group
- Is the attendee a WWII Veteran?

If you are holding a room at the Hilton that's no longer needed, please do NOT cancel it directly with the Hilton. We urge you to email Donna at AFR (DonnaLee@afri.com) the name, confirmation number, and dates for her to cancel it. This way, we can ensure that the room stays in our block and used by someone wanting to be at the Hilton. Donna will request a name change and obtain new credit card info for the guarantee. She's already helped several veterans obtain rooms at the Hilton through this process. If necessary, Donna can be reached by phone at 706-356-1905. Thanks for your cooperation, and thanks for helping another veteran!



THEN and NOW John F. Nickel, Crew Chief 413th Squadron with 5 Grand at Snetterton left and today at his residence, 76 Briarwood Terrace, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009. Drop him a line and share your memories of the 5 Grand.

Thank you John and John Jr. for sharing these photos and for Issue # 35 of the Newsletter

96th Bomb Group Library

Janet Strizic, our librarian, will not be transporting the Library to the reunion. Be sure to check out the many titles and valuable resources that are available. You might just like to check one out and take it home. If you have books that you borrowed in St. Louis please bring them with you or return them by mail to Janet.

A complete list of our holdings was printed in Issue No.64 February 2015 of the Newsletter and can be viewed on line at www.96bg.org. To borrow your choice by mail contact

Janet Strizic
10303 N. Ellendale Road
Edgerton, WI 53534
(608) 290-3611
rainorshine101@yahoo.com



BEFORE YOU RECYCLE THIS NEWSLETTER...

Please consider donating it to your local School, VFW, or American Legion.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Since February , 2017



Vicki Ekmark	1605 South Euclid Ave., Boise, ID 83706	<i>Daughter of Alvin Neff 337th TG</i>
Benjamin and Susan Hinchman IV	706 Miami View Court, Loveland, OH 45140	
John Warren Powell	P.O. Box 365, Runnemede, NJ 08078	
Derek Reynolds	1323 Forest Place, Villa Rica, GA 30180	
Mrs. Heidi H. J. Weekers	Binderstrasse 28, D52538 Selfkant - Höngen, Germany	

All of our members are encourage to invite their family members, relatives and friends to join us. They will receive two issues of our Newsletter each year. We hope they will find them informative as well as give them an understanding of what the 96th Bomb Group and its members contributed to World War II.

Membership is open to anyone not just our veterans and families.

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ + _____
 Phone # A/C _____ - _____ - _____ E-mail address: _____
 Squadron _____ Number of Missions _____ Position _____ Ground Crew _____
 Other crew members or information that you feel might be useful to the 96th: _____

Dues are \$20.00 per year payable to: 96th Bomb Group Association, 31 Brinckerhoff Avenue, New Canaan, CT 06840

YOUR 2017 DUES SHOULD BE PAID NOW



This may be your last *Newsletter!*
 if not unless you are a Life Member
 Send your **\$20 annual dues**

To: Daniel Bradley
 96th Bomb Group Association
 31 Brinckerhoff Avenue
 New Canaan, CT 06840

(Annual Dues were raised to \$20 at General Meeting September 2002)
 Due January 1st each year.

SNOWBIRDS, VACATIONERS BEWARE
BE SURE TO LET Dan Bradley KNOW
YOUR WHEREABOUTS.
To Insure YOU RECEIVE YOUR
NEWSLETTER



UPCOMING MEETINGS



96th Bomb Group Reunion 2017

with the

8th Air Force Historical Society

43rd Annual Reunion

New Orleans, LA

September 27 - October 1, 2017

HILTON NEW ORLEANS AIRPORT

901 AIRLINE DRIVE

KENNER, LA 70119 USA

TEL: +1-504-469-5000 FAX: +1-504-466-5473

<http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/louisiana/hilton-new-orleans-airport-MSYAHHH/index.html>

Complete program and reunion information in the February issue or in June 2017 8th Air Force News also on line at: 8thafhs.org

WHERE TO CALL OR WRITE



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PHOTOGRAPHER

Richard Hill

Texts and/or photos are sincerely solicited. If requested, photos will be returned. The Editor reserves the right to edit text. December 31, 2017 is the deadline for the February 2018 issue.

96th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION
31 Brinckerhoff Avenue • New Canaan, CT 06840



Final Mission

Those Who Served Their Country

With Honor and Distinction

Waters, Kenneth T.

413th CP/P

*We will print the names of all deceased 96th airmen sent to us whether or not they are current members of the 96th BGA.
We will also print the names of members of other Bomb Groups if they are current members of the 96th BGA. Written notification is required.
Send to: Daniel Bradley/Treasurer, address on this page.*

FIRST CLASS
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