



N 96TH BOMB GROUP NEWSLETTER

April 2024

ISSUE NO. 81



Our Colors Have Returned

More information on Unit Colors in Presidents's Corner and Meanwhile Back at the Old Base

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President's Corner



Hello friends!

I hope you have had a great start to 2024.

I hope that many of you watched the Masters of the Air series. I see a lot of discussion on various social media about this. How exciting for this history that is so dear and important to 96th BG families and friends to be brought back to mainstream attention. A special welcome to all of our new members who have joined after viewing MOTA and taken an interest in researching their loved ones' service during WWII!

I would like to mention the upcoming 2024 8th Air Force Historical Society Reunion. This year's Reunion will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana - the dates are September 25th - 29th, 2024. The reunion hotel is The Higgins by Hilton. Unfortunately, the reunion rooms at The Higgins are already sold out. However, there is good news too - there is a second hotel with reunion room rates, a Hilton Garden Inn, about three blocks from The Higgins Hotel. As always, the 96th BGA will have a Hospitality Suite for members to gather and share information. This year, we will be joined by three other bomb groups in a spacious room that will give us an opportunity to meet and find commonality in our experiences.

One of the major attractions for this reunion will be the proximity of the National WWII Museum - it is literally across the street from the Higgins Hotel. As with past reunions, there are tour options as a part of your registration. One interesting 'tour' selection this year is the purchase of a membership to the National WWII Museum. This membership, extended thru 12.31.25, will allow you to visit the museum at your own pace, and to revisit areas of particular interest.

I encourage all of our members to consider attending this reunion - you will meet other people with a similar family history/interest. You will probably learn a few things, and you may be able to help another family learn more about their veteran or his service.

All reunion registration and other information can be found on the 8th AFHS website, at 8thafhs.org.

Next up, I'd like to let you know that the 96th BGA is pursuing a re-printing of the '*Snetterton Falcons*' book. The original book was written and published in 1989 by Robert Doherty and Geoff Ward. This book has a great monthly history of the 96th, including rosters of new aircrews, missions flown, casualties incurred, and pictures throughout of the 96th's time in England. This book has long been out of print - copies occasionally surface on eBay, and the prices can be very high.

96th BGA Board member Anita Sybesma is leading the task of having an original '*Snetterton Falcons*' book scanned and prepared for printing. The digital file will then be transmitted to a couple of on-line print services. Once that is complete, the book will be available for order through Amazon and an equivalent in Europe. This new version of the book will be 'print-on-demand' - there will be no inventory of books anywhere - when someone orders a copy, the print service will print it and it will be shipped very quickly thereafter.

This project is underway but there are still many tasks to be

completed - we will let you know more details (cost, ordering, etc.) when the book is available to purchase.

Additional Note about '*Snetterton Falcons*': If you'd like a PDF version of the 2-book collection now, you can purchase a thumb drive with a scanned copy of both the blue '*Snetterton Falcons*' and the red '*Snetterton Falcons II*' books. See page 12 or go to the 96th BGA website at 96bg.org for the link to the order form.

Another project undertaken this past year, as reported in the last newsletter was the purchase of an original 'unit colors' flag. As you might imagine, a silk flag that is approximately 80 years old is a delicate item. The Board has transferred the flag to the 96th BG Museum in England. The next step will be working with a conservator to determine any necessary preservation, and then creating the best possible display for the flag.

If you would like to donate to support this effort - either to help cover the original purchase or fund the upcoming work with a conservator, we would welcome that. Please make your checks payable to "96th BGA", and on the memo line, please note 'for 96th BG flag'. Thank You in advance for your support!

As I mentioned in my message in our previous newsletter, the Board had the goal to transition this newsletter subscription to an email version as the basic normal level, with an additional fee assessed for mailing of a hard copy newsletter. That goal was voted into reality at the recent Annual Meeting of the 96th BGA. Starting July 1st, 2024, the current dues rate of \$25 per year will cover an email version of this newsletter. Anyone desiring a hard copy version of the newsletter will have an annual dues rate of \$30 per year.

Many of you already receive the newsletter in PDF version via email. One significant benefit of this version of our newsletter is the inclusion of color photos. The hard copy newsletter is black and white only, as it has always been.

I would like to make it very clear that the 96th BGA will continue to provide WWII veterans, surviving spouses, and Life members with a hard copy of the newsletter at no additional cost as they currently do.

Finally, the 2023 Annual Meeting of the 96th Bomb Group Association was held on February 24th of this year. You can find the minutes from that meeting elsewhere in this newsletter. This meeting was held remotely via Zoom.

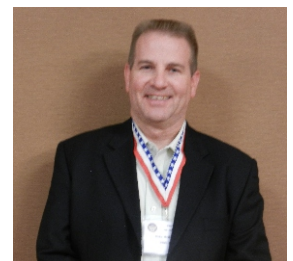
For the 2024 Annual Meeting, I would love to have an actual meeting with people all in one room at one time. If we have a sufficient attendance at the 8th AFHS Reunion, I would like to have our Annual Meeting then as has happened until the last two years. The reunion schedule is pretty full and tight, so that is another consideration we will review. If a live meeting isn't feasible, we will have an on-line meeting closer to the end of the calendar year.

That is all for now!

As I mention each time - if you'd really like to connect, visit or call a veteran.

Thank You for your time!

Mike McIlraith



Meanwhile Back at the Old Base



We are really hoping that 2024 sees an increase in visitors to the museum, with the release of the Spielberg/Hanks series “Masters of the Air.” Since January we have already seen an increase in veterans’ family members showing renewed interest in their loved ones through requests for information.



The 96th BGA and BG Museum need your help and support. In August last year the association purchased the original 96th BG unit colors at the cost of \$3,000. This flag can be seen in the 100th Mission party photo, next to General Doolittle addressing the group that night. The flag needs preservation work and framing before it can go on display in the museum. To this end, we are looking for monetary donations to fund the purchase and preservation of the flag. Please make your donation payable to 96th BGA for any amount and mail to Susan Hinchman (her address is on the back of the Newsletter) and write '96th BG Flag' in the memo line. Many thanks in advance for your support in preserving a very unique piece of history.



Within the next month we will be bringing home to the museum a sizeable piece of fuselage with the aircraft ID letters BX-G, an engine cowling, flap, radio operators window, dinghy sail and other small items from the two aircraft that collided on the morning of January, 29th 1945 over North Lopham approx. 6.5 miles from Snetterton. This fatal collision was between A/C 44-6137 of 2nd Lt. George Peretti’s crew of the 337th BS and A/C 43-38746 of 2nd Lt. Alex Philiprovitch’s crew of the 338th BS. All 18 men perished that morning and both crews had only been at Snetterton for a matter of weeks. Wreckage from the two planes was strewn for miles and live bombs had to be disposed of by bomb disposal teams in the village street. The museum would like to be able to add crew photos to this display so if anyone knows of these please contact us. We are very grateful to the 388th BG Museum at Market Weston and Roger Doggett for organizing for these items to come home. They will be one of the new displays for 2024 along with uniform items kindly donated last August.



Plaque placed by the 96th BGA at the North Lopham War Memorial in November of 2002 honoring all 18 men who died in the mid-air collision January 29th, 1945.

We are holding a few fund-raising events this year including a 1940s Dance at the Red Feather Club at Horham and a quiz in October at the Garnier Hall, Eccles next to the old base. We are also hoping to attend The American's day at Duxford in July and other local events with the new museum PR stand, telling the stories of the 96th BG and promoting the museum.

On Sunday, November 10th, there will be a service in Quidenham Church to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the dedication of the American chapel window. November 10th is also Remembrance Sunday in England so a fitting day to have this service. I will be inviting service personnel from local US Air Force bases to attend.



(Continued on page 4)

We are in the early planning stages of the 2025 Return to Snetterton Tour.

Here is a brief outline of the possible itinerary:
(items are subject to change)

Wednesday August 13th- Everyone to make their own way to Norwich. There will be a Meet and Greet meeting that evening at one of the venues.

We would recommend the following hotels:

Maids Head, Tombland, Norwich

Holiday Inn Carrow Road, Norwich

Thursday August 14th- Visit to Bury St Edmunds, which is a market town that dates back to the 11th century and has a wonderful cathedral and gardens. It also has many links to the 8th Army Air Force in World War II.



Friday August 15th- Day-tour of Snetterton Heath Base, visiting the museum, lunch. Trip to 100th BG Museum then on to the 95th BG Red Feather Club for a meal and 1940's themed party.



Saturday August 16th- Free day

Sunday August 17th- 96th BG Museum main Open Day event.



Monday August 18th- Visit Madingley Cemetery and Duxford Air Museum.



To be included in further notices and information on this Tour and VE day Celebration, please e-mail your interest and contact information to Susan Hinchman at bhiv@one.net.

Here's to the 96th!
Best wishes to you all,
Jill Tebble
96th BG Museum Curator
jill.1967@btinternet.com

COME ONE, COME ALL!!

If you are planning a visit to England this year, be sure to include a tour of the
96th Bomb Group Museum!

Telling the stories of the service members from the ground to the air, you can learn the history of the 96th Bomb Group where it actually happened -- situated on the site of what was the base hospital

The 96th BG Museum will be open on the following dates from 10AM until 4PM:

Sunday April 21, 2024

Sunday May 19, 2024

Sunday June 16, 2024

Sunday July 21, 2024

Sunday August 18, 2024 (our main Open Day)

Sunday September 15, 2024



Please note: Private tours can also be arranged for any Saturday or Sunday during the year if a veteran's family member is visiting the UK.

Prior to your visit, please contact Jill Tebble, the 96th BG Museum Curator, at 96thbombgroupmuseum@gmail.com

A Chat From Your Chaplain

What's in a name? Everything!

My name is Stanley Irvin Hand Jr.. It is the same as my father's name, Stan Hand, Sr.. He went to serve in the 8th Air Force in Norwich, England in April 1943. I was born the following month in May. I first met him a year and a half later. My name reminds me of an eye, the middle initial to my name. Interestingly, I became an ophthalmologist and dealt with medical eye issues and surgery my entire professional career. What about the names, Christian, Israel, Mohammed? They all have a connotation and points of reference.

When Moses saw the burning bush, he was confronted with an assignment to lead the Jewish nation out of Egypt and their 400 years of bondage. He asked God, "whom shall I say sent me"? The answer was "tell them I AM sent you. I AM the creator God. I AM the great Shepherd, I AM the one who lays down his life for the sheep. I AM the bread of life. I AM the resurrection and the life.

There are numerous "I AM" statements that identify our God throughout the New Testament....I Am the Way, the Truth, the Life, the Vine, the Door, the Alpha, and the Omega, the Gate, I AM righteousness, I AM the law, and the Word. I AM the light of the world. There are others that you can find that describe the Almighty.

The name Joshua is synonymous with Jesus and means salvation. Jesus said, "If you love me, you will obey me." Call on His name, the name of Yahweh, and you shall be saved. In this day of turmoil and division in our world, we need to remember the significance of His name! We need to cry out to Him, not in vain, but in penitence and reverence. Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God, Almighty!

Thinking of His names brings to my mind several old hymns of the faith. You may recall some of these, All Hail the Power of Jesus Name, His Name Is Wonderful, Glorious is His Name, and lastly, Jesus is the Sweetest Name I Know.

The most important question of the hour is this...is YOUR name written in the Lamb's book of life? When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there. I pray as your chaplain, that I will see you there on the other side in Heaven. Jesus promises that, when we call on his name, He will respond. Don't delay. Time is of the essence!

Your Chaplain,

Stan Hand, Jr., M.D.

Stanley I. Hand, Jr., M.D.



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

Address your correspondence for our Chaplain to:

Dr. Stanley I. Hand, Jr. MD
1016 Ridgecrest Road
Orlando, FL 32806

Mobile: (321)-662-3305

E-mail: stanhand306@gmail.com



Diary of 2nd Lt William P Jones 338th Bombardier Part 2 By Bill Ford

The second installment of Lt Jones' diary picks up with his crew's first five missions beginning on July 7, 1944. They also got their first-48 hour pass to London!

"Mission I – July 7, 1944 Today we went on our first mission. They woke us up about 12:30 AM for briefing at 1:15 AM. We took off at 5:15 for our target. The target was a synthetic oil plant at Bohlen, Germany about six miles from Leipzig. We carried ten five hundred pound bombs.

The trip over the channel and Holland was uneventful. After we passed the Zuider Zee we began encountering occasional bursts of flak. Just before we reached the target we passed near Berlin which was thoroughly covered by a smokescreen. The flak at the target was light and very inaccurate. That was probably caused by the fact that another group of 17's passed over it just before we did so the flak was still timed for their altitude which was 3000 feet below ours. The flak worried me but I was too busy watching the lead ship to be very scared. Our ship wasn't touched and no one from our group was injured.

After leaving the target we saw a Fort and two P-51's go down. We also saw a German observation plane crash and explode. Two chutes were seen leaving the ship. Our altitude for this trip was 26,000 and the temperature was -28°C. The whole trip took seven hours and forty-five minutes.

Mission II – July 8, 1944 This morning we were awakened at 1AM for briefing at 1:30.

We took off at 3:20 AM carrying ten five hundred pound bombs. Our target was a buzz bomb assembly plant at La Isle Adam, France about 12 miles from Paris.

We were in flak from the minute we hit France till we left. It was really deadly. All of it was at our altitude. About the fifth burst fired at us hit the number one engine of the lead ship causing him to abort. We were flying number three position in the lead squadron so we had a ringside seat for that. We then cruised around France for a half an hour semi-leaderless. When we did get a leader and found our target it was covered in clouds so bad we couldn't bomb. We hit another "no-ball target", a buzz bomb launching ramp, with reported excellent results.

Very shortly after bombs away, while we were still in heavy flak, a thumb-size piece of an 88mm shell

smashed through the plexiglass in front of my face sending splinters of glass everywhere. For a couple of minutes I was sure I was dead or mortally wounded. Upon close examination I found that my prayers had been answered. I wasn't even scratched.

All the time we were over enemy territory we were in flak and it was so intense and so awful accurate that I was scared stiff. I was scared and I'm not afraid to admit it. I think anyone would have been scared in all those thousands of oily black puffs.

The English coast on our return trip was the most beautiful sight I've seen since reaching the ETO. When we landed and started looking we found only three flak holes in our ship, only three but that's three too many. No one on our crew was hurt but Jerry Johnson's radio operator was hit in the ankle.

We made this trip at 26,000 with a temperature of -33°C. The mission took six hours and fifteen minutes.

Mission III – July 11, 1944 Today Munich had the privilege of enjoying a visit from us. Our target was supposed to be an automotive factory there but due to a solid overcast of clouds we couldn't see that target so we just area bombed the city. Each ship carried ten five hundred-pound bombs. I fear that we must have killed quite a number of Germans today.

The flak at the target was heavy but it was very inaccurate. Most of it exploded several hundred feet below us. They began getting the range after "bombs away" though.

This trip threw great temptation in our path. After leaving Munich we were about eight miles from Switzerland. How I'd like to have gone there. No excuse offered itself though.

All of Europe was concealed under a heavy layer of clouds today. We flew over Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Germany and Austria.

The entire trip lasted nine hours and forty minutes. For eight of those hours we were on oxygen. We bombed from 27,000 feet at a temperature of -35°C.

Fighter cover was the best I've seen yet. We encountered no enemy fighters and no planes were lost to flak. We saw two planes from another group ditch in the English Channel on the return trip.

Mission IV – July 12, 1944 Back to Munich again today because we missed the target yesterday. Not the town but the factory we were after. I fear we didn't connect today either for the clouds over Europe were as bad as yesterday. There were 1100 bombers after Munich yesterday and just about as many today.

The flak today was much heavier than yesterday but it was mostly to the right of our course. We saw one B-17 go down over the target area. It wasn't from our group though.

On the way to the target our element leader lagged behind so much I began to be seriously worried about the possibility of a fighter attack. I finally persuaded Pop to take the lead away from him. He did but he didn't like it at all. He was afraid he would get in trouble and besides it was a difficult position to fly.

Today we carried four five-hundred pound demos and six five-hundred pound incendiary clusters each containing 110 small incendiary bombs. That should have done a fair job on Munich.

Today's trip took ten hours flat. That's entirely too long for me. We were on oxygen for over eight hours and thirty minutes. We bombed from 26,000 feet at a temperature of -33°C.

Tomorrow we are supposed to go on pass but I'll bet we go to Munich.

Mission V – July 16, 1944 Sunday, today we went back to Munich again trying for the same target. Someday we may actually get that target.

The weather at the target was so bad today we couldn't bomb even with pathfinder ships. Instead we paid a friendly social call to Stuttgart. We were supposedly trying to hit a marshalling yard there but

personally I doubt if we came within a mile of it. From what I've seen so far, I believe precision bombing is a lost art.

The trip was uneventful. The flak at the target was heavy but very inaccurate. They had a lot of rockets there though and those things annoy me considerably. On our return trip we encountered some very accurate flak over Holland. In that encounter two pieces tore through the glass on the upper turret. Fortunately, SGT. Miller wasn't there at the time.

The trip took nine hours. We were on oxygen seven hours. We bombed from 25,000 feet using four five-hundred pound GP's and six five-hundred pound incendiary aimable clusters.

Last night we returned from forty-eight hours in London. I saw several good shows while I was there – “Arsenic and Lace”, “Cover Girl” and “For Whom the Bell Tolls”. Any pleasure I might have had from the trip was thoroughly spoiled by the buzz bombs. One landed within a block of Liverpool Station while I was there waiting for the train. Everyone hit the floor in a hurry when they heard it. If I wasn't the first to go down I was one of the first.”

To be continued in the next newsletter.....



Picadilly Circus During the war years- hence the statue of Eros is boarded up. If you look closely you will find at least three taxis in the right-hand side of the picture, It's not time for blackout conditions but even in the day time taxis were scarce during the war. Photo from February 2004 Issue No. 44 page 22-23 Ramrod to London.

49th Annual 8th AFHS Reunion Ontario, CA October 18 - 22, 2023



Reported by Stan Hand

October 18-21 was the 49th reunion of the Mighty Eighth Air Force. On Thursday, October 19, 2023 three bus loads traveled to March Field Air Museum for a very informative day. The displays of planes, paintings and memorabilia brought to light the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform. Numerous exhibits, including a mock up of the Kitty Hawk surrounded us.

There was an interesting exhibit of Gen. "Hap" Arnold's office and his uniform with the history of his exploits to the 8th Air Force.



There was a B-17 on the tarmac that was available for all who desired to climb inside. I made it to the front and sat in the pilot seat where my father had sat for his 27 Missions.

We were able to examine the machine gun port side, where the whole 9 yards of the 50-caliber bullets were released. And a KC-135 was on the tarmac to remind me of my days of active duty at McCoy as a flight surgeon. The 306 at McCoy did air refueling missions of a B-52. I was privileged to witness this on board. That was an experience I will never forget! For lunch we had a delicious Italian menu complemented with free coffee, cookies and commemorative mugs. Soda drinks and beer were also offered free of charge. Many thanks to those who contributed. DVDs of the flying B-17 were also graciously given to the members. The Riverdale band serenaded us with World War II tunes to create a very nostalgic atmosphere. After lunch, we reloaded the buses and headed to the Planes of Fame museum. The displays there were in immaculate condition and provided a lot of history for our members. We came back to our hotel, hot and tired, but ready to experience our reunion dinner with our different groups. There were only a handful of the 96th represented in our hospitality suite. Jeannette Batton, Melissa McIlraith, Lisa Woods, Joanne and I represented you. Hopefully, more will attend the New Orleans 50th reunion coming up next year. On Friday, October 20, our buses traveled to Chino,

California and Palm Springs Air Museum, where the displays, military library, 4000 models, World War II books, and fabulous still flying aircraft were a sight to behold! The tarmac yielded a B-29 which my dad flew into the eye of hurricanes with the hurricane hunters. The Red Baron, the World War I biplane was also on display complete with a Snoopy dog.



The Memphis Belle, used in the movie, was an immaculate B-17. The Norden bombsight displayed, when utilized together with the Pathfinder system, used in my father's squadron greatly enhanced targeting accuracy. My dad returned from England to teach other crew members at Langley Field after he had flown his 27th mission. He fully expected to return to England, but they kept him at Langley Field. The Stealth Bomber required an insulated hanger all its own. Talk about impressive!! That evening the different bomb groups joined up to have individual dinners together.

On the morning of Saturday, October 21, only two buses left the hotel bound for downtown LA. Our tour guide led us through numerous points of interest. We stopped at the farmers market for lunch and shopping. We re-boarded the buses headed for Hollywood Boulevard. We walked the streets and looked at the numerous stars on the sidewalk of familiar celebrities. We took pictures as we passed by Grauman's Theater, Ripley's Believe It or Not, the El Capitan and Pantages theaters and marveled at the many sites of vendors along the boulevard.



Tom Cruise



Stan, Debra Kujawa and Joanne

We arrived back at the hotel in time to prepare for the Gala dinner. Many thanks to Debra Kujawa and volunteers for all their efforts to make this a successful meeting. The 102 and 103 year old veterans, along with current military flying personnel of the B-21, plus active duty airmen along with other veterans in uniform made the evening extremely memorable. New friendships were made, and old friendships renewed. We are already looking forward to next year. **Don't miss it!**



96th Bomb Group Association

General Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2024

The meeting was held via Zoom to allow the greatest number of members to participate

President Mike McIlraith called the meeting to order at approximately 1:03 pm Central.

Board Members present: Mike McIlraith, Lydia Anderson, Sue Hinchman, Rebecca Lutz, Dale Budde, Anita Sybesma, Randy DeMars, Walter Powell and Jill Tebble.

Meeting Attendees: Melissa McIlraith, Michael Kessinger, Derek Reynolds, Richard Ruben, Lewis Brawn, Daniel Kocik, Dave Bockstanz, Diane and Don Graeter, Alfie Tebble, Bill Ford, Brandon Powell, Merideth Larsen, Laura Edge, Bruce Wiese, Peggy Davis, Ann Gerber, Steve Seal, Rob Hershfield and Jeannette Batton.

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes: Rebecca Lutz made a motion to accept the Minutes of the December 10, 2022 General Meeting Minutes as published in the February 2023 Newsletter, with a second by Jill Tebble. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Sue Hinchman reported on the Bomb Group's financial condition and displayed a copy of the current financial report on the Zoom meeting screen for review. Susan reported that the 96th had collected almost \$3,600 in dues in 2023, which is a 27% increase over dues collected in the previous year. Donations received totaled over \$2,200, which includes \$1,500 earmarked for Bomb Group Museum and \$150 toward the purchase of the flag. with other donations unspecified.

In 2023, the 96th sent a donation of a little over \$2,500 to the Museum and we anticipate sending an additional contribution in 2024. Costs incurred by the Museum are typically for maintenance and repairs. We have established with our museum curator, Jill Tebble, a quarterly review of expenditures flowing through their bank account.

We welcomed 6 new members in 2023, but sadly 9 members passed away. but we added six more members in 2024. The 96th flag was purchased in August 2023, for a cost of a little more than \$3,000. This flag will soon be transported to England for conservation and display at the Museum and any contributions are welcome.

Costs for publishing and mailing the 2 Newsletters dropped in 2023 to less than \$2,100, a 10% decrease in 2 years' time due to the increase in members receiving digital Newsletters. However, due to the ever increasing postage costs and to create further incentives for receiving the Newsletter digitally, the 96th Board proposes dues increase from \$25 to \$30 effective July 1, 2024, for paper copies of the Newsletter. Dues will remain at \$25 for members receiving the digital newsletter. The change will affect only Annual Members, not Life members, which includes all WWII Veterans and their surviving spouses. Dues paid by July 1, 2024, will not be subject to the increase. Walter Powell made a motion to increase the dues, seconded by Lydia Anderson. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Jill Tebble, seconded by Randy DeMars, to accept the 2022 Treasurer's Report, as published in the February 2023 Newsletter. The motion passed unanimously, and the Report was accepted.

Newsletter Report: Dale Budde reported that the Newsletter is scheduled for release in April, as the previous schedule of February and August was disrupted by Covid, and he hopes we can go completely digital in the future.

Silver Dream Plaques: Rebecca Lutz reported that there have been 207 plaques installed at the Silver Dream, several plaques are in process, and she has been contacted by members who will be sending her additional requests. If possible, she will send these plaques to Walter Powell, who will be able to hand deliver them to Jill Tebble in England, saving postage and expensive English Duty fees.

Sue Hinchman added that we don't know what the conservation cost will be for the flag, but after receiving an additional \$50 in 2024, we have only received a total of \$200 in donations. We hope more will come in after the Newsletter is published. Jill explained, for those who did not have the details, that we purchased the Quartermaster's flag which was created sometime between July 1942 and December 1945. She has been in communication with a curator in Virginia who has a contact in England she will be corresponding with.

Melissa McIlraith asked about the feasibility of Pay Pal or Venmo for members to pay dues or make contributions. Sue said they wanted too much personal information which she was not comfortable with, and the Board agreed. She is going to look into the use of Zelle, as our bank accepts Zelle money and there is no charge.

Return to Snetterton trip in 2025: Jill Tebble presented the provisional itinerary:

August 13, 2025 - Arrive in Norwich

August 14 - Bury St. Edmonds

August 15 - Tour the Base, Museum and Quidenham Church and possibly the 100th Bomb Group. They hope we can also have lunch in the old 96th Hospital ward again. That evening there will be a 1940's Theme dance and meal at the 95th Bomb Group.

August 16 - Free day in Norwich.

August 17 – 96th Bomb Group Open Day will feature the same activities and displays as last year.

August 18 - Cambridge American Cemetery at Maddingly and the American Air Museum at Duxford.

Jill is open to any other suggestions and ideas that the tour could accommodate up to 50 people. She has also identified 2 hotels which will be easier to coordinate pick-up and drop-off. Lewis Braun is also working on designs for more 96th merchandise as he did in 2023.

Jill also mentioned that on November 10, 2024 is the 80th Anniversary of dedication of the 96th Bomb Group window at the church in Quidenham.

2024 8th AFHS Reunion: Mike McIlraith reported that the reunion is in New Orleans this year and the Higgins Hotel is full, but the Hilton Garden Inn is the overflow hotel. He also stated that the 96th will be sharing a Hospitality Suite with 3 other Bomb groups this year. The 2025 reunion will be in October in Colorado Springs.

Museum Update: Jill Tebble reported that the weights at the flag poles at the Silver Dream will be replaced so flags can go up, but the flags, will need to be replaced next year.

Snetterton Falcon Reprint: The Board would like to have the blue Snetterton Falcon reprinted, which would then be available to anyone to purchase. Anita Sybesma has been working with potential publishers who would print the book, which would be available through Amazon for sale in the United States as well as the United Kingdom. Details are to be worked out and a contract needs to be signed. We will still be able to sell digital copies.

Mike McIlraith also mentioned that the 4 elected Board Members terms expire this year and, other Directors are appointed. If there are enough members present in New Orleans an election will be held at that time. If not, perhaps an election can be held over Zoom at a later date. If anyone is interested, they should let the Board know.

Walter Powell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bill Ford, motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:20p.m. Central.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Lutz, Recording Secretary

March 1, 2024

96th Bomb Group Association

Treasurer's Report

1.1.2023 - 12.31.2023



**BEGINNING BALANCE AS OF 1.1.2023--US BANK CHECKING ACCOUNT
INCOME THRU 12.31.23:**

\$15,674.92 *

Membership Dues Received 1.1.2023 - 12.31.2023	\$3,350.00
Receipts from Sale of Digitized Snetterton 2-Book Coll'n, incl. \$75 in Dues	\$150.00
Receipts from Sale of Silver Dream Plaques	\$300.00
Undesignated Donations Received from Friends/Membership	\$575.00
Donations Designated from Members for 96th BG Museum	\$1,500.00
Donations Designated from Members for 96th BG Flag	\$150.00
Monies Rec'd.--"Return to Snetterton" Trip Registration Fees, incl. \$150 in Dues	\$4,638.00
Monies Rec'd.--"Return to Snetterton" Clothing Merchandise Purchases--April 2023	\$708.50
Interest earned in Checking Account 1.1.2023 - 12.31.2023	\$0.73

Total Income

\$11,372.23

EXPENSES/OUTLAYS THRU 12.31.2023:

State of Illinois NFP Filing Fee (ck #1050) -- 1.20.2023	\$10.00
February 2023 Newsletter #79 & Flash Drive Mailings--D. Budde (ck #1051) -- 2.25.2023	\$1,109.89
Wire Transfer to 96th BG Museum, incl. \$5,685.25 RTS Trip Expenses & Clothing Merchandise & \$2,514.75 96th BG Museum Donation--4.20.23	\$8,200.00
Wire Transfer Fees--4.20.23 & 5.12.23	\$86.00
Reimburse Plaque Charges--R. Lutz (ck #1052 & 1053)-6.13.23 & 8.7.23	\$234.90
Exchange of U.S.\$ to BPS£ to Reimburse 96th BG Museum--Outdoor Bench (£129) & Meeting Room Rental (£150)-7.26.23	\$388.22
October 2023 Newsletter #80 & Flash Drive Mailings--D. Budde (ck # 1054)-10.27.23	\$980.40
Reimburse purchase of 96th BG Flag--M. McIlraith (ck. #1055)-10.30.23	<u>\$3,048.00</u>

Total Expenses/Outlays

\$14,057.41

NET INCOME (LOSS) THRU 12.31.2023 (Income less Expenses)

(\$2,685.18)

NET ASSETS IN US BANK CHECKING ACCOUNT 12.31.2023:

\$12,989.74 >

TOTAL DONATIONS TO 96th BG MUSEUM--2023

\$2,514.75

NET FUNDS ON DEPOSIT -- LLOYDS BANK ENGLAND AS OF 12.31.2023

(ACCOUNT USED FOR 96th BOMB GROUP MUSEUM ACTIVITIES/MAINTENANCE

£2,451.10 ^

NET FUNDS ON DEPOSIT -- AXA BANK BELGIUM AS OF 12.31.2023

(ACCOUNT USED FOR EUROPEAN SALE/EXPENSES OF DIGITIZED SNETTERTON 2-BOOK COLLECTION

€ 356.96 <

CURRENT 96TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP:

2023 DOMESTIC LIFE MEMBERS (Paid Initial Dues @ Joining)	51
2023 DOMESTIC ANNUAL MEMBERS (Pay Dues Annually)	<u>181</u>
TOTAL CURRENT DOMESTIC MEMBERSHIP	232
INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS	<u>21</u>
TOTAL CURRENT 96TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP	<u><u>253</u></u>

CURRENT WWII VETERAN/WIDOW MEMBERSHIP:

WWII VETERANS	3
WIDOWS OF WWII VETERANS	<u>31</u>
TOTAL WWII VETERAN/WIDOW MEMBERSHIP	<u><u>34</u></u>

* -- Agrees with US BANK NON-PROFIT INTEREST-BEARING CHECKING ACCOUNT 12.31.2022 Statement Balance

> -- Agrees with US Bank 12.31.2023 Checking Account Statement Balance

^ -- Agrees with Lloyds Bank 12.31.23 Checking Account Statement Balance

< -- Agrees with Axa Bank Belgium Account Statement Balance

Notes:

State of Illinois Not-For-Profit status is "Active" -- Filed 1.17.24

Agent Name: Dale Budde (agent needs to reside in Illinois)

IRS Filing Submitted January 16, 2024 Form 990-N to maintain Tax Exempt Status with Federal Government

Prepared by Susan Hinchman 1.18.24

1.1.2023 - 12.31.2023

BULLETIN BOARD



2024 ORDER FORM SNETTERTON FALCONS CD/FLASH DRIVE

This digitized two-volume collection includes the enhanced *Snetterton Falcons* book and *Snetterton Falcons II – In the Nest And On The Wing*, in either CD or flash drive format. Upon receipt of this form and payment, we will send your choice of either the CD or flash drive. Reproduction of this book collection has been with the permission of the authors and the publisher. Net proceeds (after reproduction and postage costs) will be used to support the Snetterton Heath 96th Bomb Group Museum at New Eccles Hall School and the St. Andrews Church, located in Quidenham, England, where the Memorial Window is located.

To order this digitized collection, please complete the form below and mail with your check payment. **Please make checks payable to 96th Bomb Group Association.**

If making payment via **Zelle**, please send to: 96thbombgroup@gmail.com and provide a brief description of the payment in the message box. Then send this order form to the email address noted above.

→ **NOTE: Effective July 1, 2024**, dues will increase to \$30 for current members receiving a hard copy of the Newsletter.

Please mail form and payment to:

Susan Hinchman, Sec'y/Treas.
96th Bomb Group Association
706 Miami View Court
Loveland, OH 45140

Snetterton Falcons – Digital^

Please print clearly and legibly

- \$25.00 CD for current paid 2024 members
- \$25.00 Flash Drive for current paid 2024 members
- \$50.00 2024 Membership Renewal & CD *
- \$50.00 2024 Membership Renewal & Flash Drive *
- \$50.00 CD (non-member)
- \$50.00 Flash Drive (non-member)
- \$25.00 (2024 dues)

^We realize there are those who would like to make a copy for a family member; however, we would ask that you be respectful of the 96th Bomb Group, and other purchasers, by only making one additional copy from each purchase. If you wish to make more than one additional copy, please purchase an additional CD or flash drive for each additional copy.

Total: \$ _____

Your Name: _____

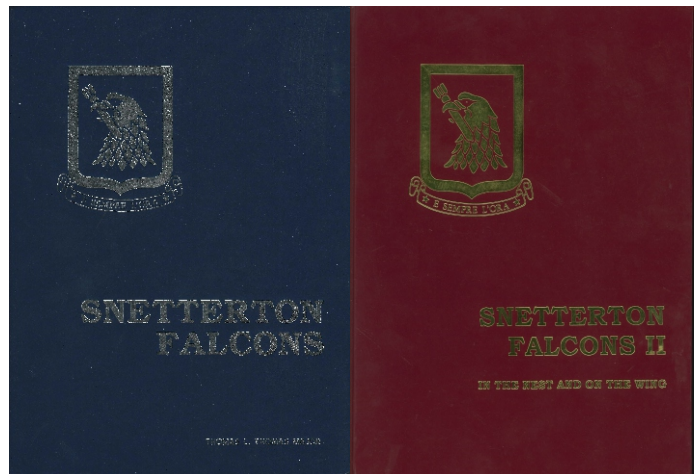
Address: _____

City: _____

State & Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____



I would like to become a member of the 96th Bomb Group Association (dues are \$25 per year). I have included below information regarding my connection to the 96th Bomb Group:

Service Member's Name _____ Relationship _____

Squadron _____ Number of Missions _____ Position _____ Ground Crew _____

Other crew members or information you feel might be useful to the 96th: _____

*- For new members, first year's dues are included in the price of the CD or Flash Drive. Membership includes a digitized version (in color) of the semi-annual Newsletter sent to your email address.

ELECTRONIC PAYMENT VIA ZELLE IS HERE!

Effective immediately, the 96th BGA is now registered with Zelle for you to make payment of any sort to the 96th BGA. Over 1,300 financial institutions offer this peer-to-peer service. US Bank (the financial institution for the 96th) offers free access to Zelle. Payments to the 96th can include dues, donations, purchasing of "Snetterton Falcons" CD's or flash drives, and Silver Dream plaques or note cards.

A new email address has been created for the purpose of Zelle. You will need to use it for your payment to be processed. It is: 96thbombgroup@gmail.com.

Here's how to use Zelle:

1. Make sure your bank account is registered to use Zelle.
2. **Check to learn if your bank/credit union charges a fee for Zelle's use.**
3. You will need to enter the 96th BGA's receiving email address: 96thbombgroup@gmail.com.
4. For proper credit, make sure to include your full name in your transaction along with the payment purpose in the message box. If a donation, please include its intention (e.g., 96th BG Museum, 96th BG flag, Snetterton Falcons reprinting, or general purpose).
5. **Accuracy in entering your information is critical for the successful processing of your transaction.** Please be aware once you send a payment, it can't be cancelled (if the erroneous recipient is already registered with Zelle). The funds will transfer within minutes so you must be sure to enter our receiving email address accurately.
6. Be sure to follow up by emailing to 96thbombgroup@gmail.com any supporting documentation (i.e., membership forms with updated contact information or any order forms).

I hope you find the use of Zelle to be convenient, safe, and easy.

96th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION - SILVER DREAM NOTE CARDS ORDER FORM AND 2024 DUES PAYMENT

The 96th Bomb Group Association is excited to announce the opportunity to purchase Note Cards displaying an image of the Silver Dream, the iconic memorial erected at Snetterton Heath to honor those who served so courageously with the 96th during WWII. These Note Cards are 5"x7" in size and will be sold in packs of 10 cards and 10 envelopes at a price of \$20, postage included. Net proceeds (after printing and postage charges) are used to support the 96th Bomb Group Museum in Snetterton, England.

To order these Note Cards, please complete the form below and mail with your check or money order payment.

Please make checks payable to 96th Bomb Group Association.

Please mail form and payment to:

Susan Hinchman, Sec'y/Treas.
96th Bomb Group Association
706 Miami View Court
Loveland, OH 45140

Indicate number of packs of note Cards requested to purchase (\$20/pack)

For annual members, indicate whether you would like to pay your 2024 96th BGA dues at this time (\$25/year)

(Note: Dues may also be paid in advance for future years.)

Please print clearly and legibly

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State & Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

NOTE: Please be sure to include your email address as this is the most effective way to reach you if there is a question on your order. The 96th BGA does not sell or share email addresses beyond our membership.

Quantity	Per Unit Cost	Total
	\$20.00	
	\$25.00	
Grand Total		





The Silver Dream

Our Fortress flies again at Snetterton Heath, Station 138,
The Falcons' Nest.


At the very top is a B-17 climbing away on a mission. Supporting the B-17 are four columns, representing contrails coming back from the engines. Those four columns increase in size as they reach the ground and are representative of the support needed to put the B-17 up there. Each column represents one of the four squadrons comprising the 96th Bomb Group.

The Memorial at Snetterton Heath as designed by Martin Rance is constructed of stainless steel by Sinclair Steel Fabrications and is located along the old North South runway serving as the entrance road to the Octagon Motorsports racing circuit track.

The plinth is inscribed with these words:

DEDICATED TO ALL PERSONNEL
OF THE
96TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
8TH U.S.A.A.F.
WHO SERVED ON
THIS AIRFIELD



NOTE: If making a payment via Zelle, please send to: 96thbombgroup@gmail.com and provide a brief description of the payment in the Zelle message box. Then send this completed order form to the email address noted above.

Memorial Plaques at the Silver Dream



The plaques are 4 x 6 inches and engraved with name, position, squadron, and if the Veteran was a Prisoner of War or Killed in Action. Over 207 plaques have been installed on the fence surrounding the Silver Dream Memorial, which is a very impressive sight. It would be great to have a plaque for each of our Veterans.

Please complete one order form below for each plaque which will cost \$30.00 including shipping cost. Include your personal information so you may be contacted with any questions about your order. If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Lutz at rlutz4000@gmail.com or call 512-238-8581.

CPT. THOMAS H. BARTON
PILOT
339TH SQUADRON

2ND LT. GLENN A HARRISON
CO-PILOT
339TH SQUADRON
POW - JUNE 20, 1944

S/SGT. CHARLES P. WILDER
WAIST GUNNER
337TH SQUADRON
KIA - DECEMBER 16, 1943

Veteran's Information for the Silver Dream Plaque:
(Please print clearly and legibly)

Name of Veteran: _____

Rank while at Snetterton: _____

Position: _____

Squadron: _____

POW - Date: _____

or

KIA - Date: _____

Your Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Relationship to Veteran: _____

Please indicate your payment method: _____ Check _____ Zelle

Mail this form with a check for \$30 payable to the 96th Bomb Group Association at the address below:
Rebecca Lutz, 2104 Saint Andrews Drive, Round Rock, Texas 78664

If making payment via Zelle, please send to: 96tbombgroup@gmail.com
and provide a brief description of the payment in the message box.
Then send this order form to: rlutz4000@gmail.com.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Since October, 2023

Blaine Atkinson
 Casey Bonner
 Ben Hinchman V
 Neal T. Hurst
 Jeffrey A. Huston
 Frank D. Kruk
 Daniel E. Kocik
 Meredith Larsen
 Edward Lipski
 Jillian McElroy
 Brandon Powell
 Brian Reigner
 Richard Ruben
 Marc Salzberg
 B/Gen Thomas J. Scanlan, Jr. Ret.
 Jordan Schreppel
 Lucas Short
 Steve Seal
 Steven Sloma

PO Box 687, Soda Springs, ID 83276
 6658 Orchard Hwy, Manistee, MI 49660
 350 Peerman Place, Corpus Christi, TX 78411
 110 Rusty Ct. Williamsburg, VA 23185
 PO Box 52207, Tulsa, OK 74152-0207
 9111 N. Mango Ave., Morton Grove, IL 60053
 18551 Buzzard Hollow RD, Gordonsville, VA 22942
 2602 Carmelita Ave., Belmont, CA 94002
 381 Wexley Drive, Newtown, PA 18940
 1869 Shenkel Road, Pottstown PA 19465
 3367 Top Flite Lane, Mason, OH 45040
 758 Hinchley Run, West Chester, PA 19382
 15 New Street, Charleston, SC 29401
 535 Links Drive East, Oceanside, NY 11572
 17254 Arrowhead Springs Trail, Littleton, CO 80127
 6426 Stage Road, Utica, NY, 13502
 207 East Kent Avenue, Missoula, MT 59801
 501 Wood Duck Way, Locust Grove, GA 30248
 655 Steinman Drive, Lancaster, PA 17603

Eugene K. Atkinson 339th WG
Son of Thomas Ryan Bonner 337th ENG
Grandson of Roy E. Brockman 338th P

Son of Fred A. Huston 337th B
Son of Ted J. Kruk 338th R

Grandson of Edward J. Kocik 338th WG
Related Ralph Munoz 339th B
Henry James Sullivan 337th P

Granddaughter of Frank McElroy 413th WG
Grandson of Henry S. Flowers 413th R

Grandson-in-law of Roy E. Brockman 338th P
Son of Manuel Ruben 413th R

Son-in-law of Benjamin Sonnenschein 339th N
Son of Thomas J. Scanlan 337th CP

Grandson of Robert P. Schreppel 338th WG
Grandson of Roland Eugene Short 338th B
Grandson of Robert L. Seal 338th WG
John J. Harter 338th R

All members are encouraged to invite 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.

Dues are \$25.00 per year payable to: 96th Bomb Group Association, 706 Miami View Court, Loveland, OH 45140
If paying dues via Zelle, please send to: 96thbombgroup@gmail.com and provide a brief description of the payment in the message box.

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ + _____
 Phone # A/C _____ - _____ - _____ Email Address: _____
 Service Member's Name _____ Relation _____
 Squadron _____ Number of Missions _____ Position _____ Ground Crew _____
 Other Crew Members or information that you feel might be useful to the 96th: _____

-- For current members, check here if you would like to receive the digital (in color) 96th BGA Newsletter via email rather than hardcopy via US Postal Service. Please provide your up-to-date email address in the space provided above. New Members will receive two digital Newsletters (in color) sent to your email address.

NOTE: Effective July 1, 2024, dues will increase to \$30 per year for members receiving a hard copy of the Newsletter. Rev.3.24



YOUR 2024 DUES SHOULD BE PAID NOW
 This may be your last *Newsletter!*
 unless you are a Life Member
 Send your **\$25 annual dues**
\$30 to receive printed copy Newsletter
To: Susan Hinchman
 96th Bomb Group Association
 706 Miami View Court
 Loveland, Ohio 45140
(Make checks payable to 96th BGA)
(Annual Dues were raised to \$25 at General Meeting October 18, 2019)
Due January 1st each year.



UPCOMING MEETINGS



8th Air Force Historical Society
50th Anniversary Reunion
New Orleans - September 25-29, 2024
 at the **Higgins Hotel**, which is directly across the street from
 The National World War II Museum.
51st Annual Reunion
and the 50th Anniversary of our Society
Colorado Springs, CO, October 1-5, 2025
 at the **Double Tree by Hilton**.
 Colorado Springs is home to the United States Air Force Academy.
 Complete Reunion information, available on line at: www.8thafhs.org

WHERE TO CALL OR WRITE



PRESIDENT (2024)

Michael (Mike) McIlraith (Terri)
253 Rainbow Dr., #15332
Livingston, TX 77399
817-944-2640
mmc@flash.net

VICE PRESIDENT (2024)

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Austin, TX 78749-5911
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lha1015@hotmail.com

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706 Miami View Court
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513-324-3702
bhiv@one.net

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mmc@flash.net

Web address:

<https://www.96bg.org/>

* Denotes Deceased Past Presidents

Texts and/or photos are sincerely solicited. If requested, photos will be returned. The Editor reserves the right to edit text. June 30, 2024 is the deadline for the August 2024 issue.

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

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*Marbury Councill (Carolyn)
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Orlando, FL 32806
(321) 662-3305
stanhand306@gmail.com



Final Mission

*Those Who Served Their Country
With Honor and Distinction*

Myers, Faye J.

Spouse of Robert V. Meyers 413th Ball Turret

Wells, Mary Alice

Spouse of Glen Wells 338th Radio Operator

*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: Susan Hinchman Secretary/Treasurer, address on this page.*

96th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION
706 Miami View Court • Loveland, OH 45140



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Carol Stream, IL
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"It is Always the Hour"