



Fortress for Freedom



388TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION

**8th Air Force, 3rd Air Division, 45th Combat Wing
Station 136, Knettishall England, 1943-1945**

333 Total Missions

306 Combat Missions, 19 Aphrodite Missions, 5 Chowhound Missions, 1 POW Mission, 2 Revival Missions

388th Bombardment Group Headquarters

Station 136 Weather Detachment, Fersfield Air Base (Aphrodite Project), 434th Headquarters Squadron,
860th Squadron, 684th Squadron, 434th Air Service Group, 1211th Quartermaster Company, 1284th Military Police Company,
273rd Medical Dispensary 1751st Ordnance Supply and Maintenance Company, 2019th Engineering and Fire Fighting Platoon,
452nd Sub Depot, 29th Station Complement, 587th Postal Unit, 877th Chemical Company, 214th Finance Detachment
560th Bombardment Squadron, 561st Bombardment Squadron, 562nd Bombardment Squadron, 563rd Bombardment Squadron

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Dressed in authentic WWII flight clothing, modern-day U.S. airmen salute the *Sally B*, whose fly-past was one of three July 14 events hosted by the 388th BG Memorial Trustee Committee to pay tribute to all those whose names appear on the extended Memorial.

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From the President's Desk

To **Honor, Respect, and Remember** the sacrifices and service of those who served in the 388th Bomb Group during W.W. II. That has been my **Goal**. It is what my predecessors have done so successfully as will my successors. That's the vision of the 388th BG Assoc. Excitedly I can say we are Winning.

In what has arguably been some of the most economically challenging times this country has seen since the great depression our membership has been exceptionally generous. I believe there are many reason for this. Is it the realization that we must never forget those who answered the call against tyranny? Could it be the fact that the 388th lives on today and continues to defend our freedom? Or is it simply because they are the **Greatest Generation!** Regardless of what the reason might be the Association membership understands their mission. And the Association continues to preserve the **Legacy** of the 388th.

The financial requirements of the Association are great. Maintenance and preservation of the Memorial in England, restoration of the City of Savannah, expansion and enhancements of the 388th display of Hill Aerospace museum are critical in telling the 388th story. But there are other needs as well. Needs that can only be filled by individuals. Volunteers who are willing to donate a little of their personal time, talent, and skill so collectively, the Association can carry on its tradition.

So as Tom Dennis Sr., Newsletter Editor, and Linda Soo Rains, Secretary / Reunion Chair have expressed a desire to pass the torch in their respective positions, please give some thought to serving if your particular set of skills might fit these needs or be of interest. There are alternative ways you can do your part to help carry on the tradition!

As I close the book on the last chapter of my presidency, I am saddened. At the same time I am excited at the prospects of passing the torch to such qualified individuals. I can tell you that the opening chapter looks very exciting. Ben. Forest Jr. is very enthusiastic about the prospects and opportunities which lie ahead.

Finally some very special thanks. First to my wife Betty. Those of you who know us know that we are seldom apart. It is only with her support, encouragement, and help that I, we, the Association, have been able to accomplish so much. To Jennifer Wammack for taking that step and volunteering to be a Reunion Planner. Along with Linda Soo we were all able to create another fabulous reunion. Most of all, to the members of the 388th Bomb Group Association. It has been an **Honor** and a **Privilege** to represent you.

Thank you! *Henry Curvat*

To all. It is with great respect that I receive the gavel from Henry Curvat as the President of the 388th Bomb Group Association. I am dedicated to continuing the tradition so ably maintained by Henry over the past year. His enthusiasm and organizational excellence led to what appears to be the most successful reunion in many years. As many of you are aware, my Dad, Ben Sr. suffered a stroke on the eve of the reunion so we could not attend. He is doing fine, in good humor and is very well cared for at the Pacific Regent facility in Bellevue, Washington. We appreciate all the expressions of good will and support.

I look forward to working on a successful reunion next year in Oklahoma City. We are already assured of significant civic and military support. More to come in the next newsletter. Take care and please stay in touch with your ideas, observations and concerns.

Warm Regards,

Ben Forrest Jr.

The Lighter Side



When planning my wedding in England to the love of my life, Pat, I went to see Col. Cox to ask if there was any way I could invite some of the enlisted men I knew, to a small reception at the Officer's Club. Col. Cox shook his head and said that he was already getting a lot of flak for being too lenient, so he just didn't think this was possible.

As I started to leave his office, Col. Cox said, "Wait a minute, how many men are we talking about here? I replied, "About nine."

That's when Col. Cox told me that we were short bartenders in the Officer's Club. "Go get nine more bartenders for the Club", he ordered.

All my enlisted friends came with an apron around their waists. But I'm sure the only drinks they mixed that night were their own!



One of my fellow crew members that I always went on pass with, on our 48 hour passes, was a farm boy from West Virginia. I mention this because I was from New York City. This was a strange friendship, big city and country farm boys.

Our co-pilot was a man of my uniform size and our Bombardier was my pal's size. In our state side training, they gave each of us their cadet blouse. We were both T/Sgt and had our chevrons sewn on. The difference between an Officer's blouse and the Cadet blouse was the commission stripe on the sleeve.

When we were in England, early in '43, the 8th Air Force authorized a blue patch to be worn under the Wings. This indicated that we were flight crew. Ground crews would often buy or borrow a set of wings to impress the ladies. Class A dress uniforms were required when on pass. One night while on pass, we were challenged by two MP's and when they flashed their lights on us they questioned the odd blouse that we were wearing. My friend immediately answered, "See this blue patch, we are part of a secret squadron." Evidently the answer satisfied the MP's as they moved on. This was a triumph of 'country' over 'big city'. Many years after the war, when we met at a reunion, we recalled the incident and had a good laugh.

Enjoying the 'Lighter Side', how about sending your story in? We all appreciate sharing a laugh.

Send or email yours to the Newsletter editor.

Harry Bell, Waist Gunner 560th Squadron

Gregory B. Rowling, son of William Rowling,	560th
Sears, Lowell, son of Rolland Sears,	560th/561st
Virginia Schabacker, daughter of Frank J Smith,	561st
Carolyn Underwood, great-niece of David Stewart,	561st
Karen Buckland, daughter of Donald W. Wisser,	561st
Jim Buckland, son-in-law of Donald W. Wisser,	561st
Eleanor McGinn, friend of William Wells,	561st
Ryan Lusk, great-grandson of David Stewart,	561st
JoAnne Miller, daughter of Norman C. Heywood,	562nd
Ed O'Malley, friend of Wayne Daniels,	563rd
Susan Quick, daughter of Harold Quick,	563rd
James Quick, grandson of Harold Quick,	563rd
Col. Scott Long, 388th Wing Commander at Hill A. F. Base	
Jory Vanderburg, 388th Historian at Hill Air Force Base	

Thank you for your donations

General Fund

Eleanor McGinn	Harold A. Johnson	
Carolyn Underwood	David/Esta Stewart	Tony Smith
Paul Kaufman	Jim Cotton	Bill Rohner
George Staley	Edwin Garver	Jack Vann
Tom Dennis Sr	Wayne Daniels	Terry Harris
Albert Weidenbusch	Joseph Rosenbaum	Ben Forrest
Charles Meyer	Col Scott and Staci Long	
Charles Neff	Barbara McAllister	I C Fitschen
Bob One	Harold Johnson	Ken Warlker
Eleanor McGinn	Harry Sprague	Dick Carter
Frances Ammons	Christine Siess	Neal Musolf
Bobbie McIntyre	Richard Obenschain	Wm. Worthen

Lowell Sears in Honor of Roland Sears

Several Anonymous Donations

Memorial Fund

388th Bomb Group Foundation

Anonymous – in honor of Charles "Woody" Woodford and in memory of Frank J "Smitty" Smith – P.U.S.

Mike Baker

If I missed anyone that made a donation I apologize. Please notify me and I will be sure you are included in the next issue.

388th Sites

By Dick Henggeler, Historian



Over time three locations have become special to the 388th. Each location represents a different aspect and provides its own insights.

Knettishall – Probably the most significant location is Knettishall, England, where the 388th was located during combat. The 388th spent a few months at Gowen Field, ID and Wendover Field, UT training before transitioning to Station 136 in East Anglia. To many of the combat crews Knettishall is all that they know. After the war, the 388th was decommissioned.

Today very little of the original base remains. Dave Sarson maintains the Hill Top Farm Museum which holds many interesting 388th related items. And there is the 388th Memorial which pays tribute to those brave men.

Mighty Eighth Museum – The Eighth Air Force was created in Savannah, Georgia in 1942 and today The Mighty Eighth Museum is there as a memorial and educational site. It is an excellent museum that captures the magnitude of the effort of the air war fought from England.

The 388th is one of the many bomb groups represented at the museum. 388th references are scattered around the museum but the stories of the other bomb groups could just as easily belong to the 388th. The visitor certainly comes away with a better understanding of what those boys had to go through

Hill Air Force Base – Hill Air Force Base has lately become more associated with the 388th. It is the home of today's 388th Fighter Wing which flies F-16 fighters. This unit is the direct descendent of the 388th Bombardment Group of WWII. Both units are proud to be associated with each other.

At the base, is the Hill Air Force Museum which houses a vast collection of Air Force aircraft including a B-17. There is also a static display there, dedicated to the 388th. This site will continue to remind visitors of the role played by the 388th so many years ago, when tyranny was about to conquer.

Dog Tags Inspire Search

Historian Finds Family of Cambria WWII Vet
© *Beaver Dam Daily Citizen*, Amanda Lutey, Staff Reporter

CAMBRIA – Two British men, Stan Atkinson and Bob Hargreaves, spend Sunday afternoons searching fields where they live in Thetford, England with metal detectors.

On previous searches, they've unearthed belt buckles a hat bridge, dog tags belong to British servicemen and more. One Sunday in August while searching near Knettishall, a World War II Airbase, one discovered a Roman buckle with a pin and the other found a set of American dog tags.



Atkinson cleaned the dog tags and discovered they belonged to a Wayne C. Williams. The tags listed Williams' serial number, next of kin, and his hometown—Cambria, Wis.

Atkinson typed Cambria, WIS., into a search engine and was directed to the Web site for the village of Cambria. He e-mailed village clerk Lois Frank, who put him in touch with historian Jay Williams.

Jay Williams, who is not related, used the name of Wayne C. Williams' next of kin, his father Clifford, to find out what happened to Wayne. He found Clifford Williams' obituary from 1964, which listed Wayne Williams as living in Ohio with his wife and four sons. Wayne C. Williams was the only son of Clifford and his first wife, Elizabeth. Wayne Williams graduated from Cambria High School in 1936.



"Wayne's cousin was Fay Lockhart," said Jay Williams, "Who is now Fay Miller, living in Middleton."

Jay Williams contacted Miller, who put him in touch with one of Wayne's sons, Rick Williams, living in Oxford, Mich. He learned that Wayne Williams has died, but also heard some family history.

Wayne Williams met his wife, Irene, at a USO dance in St. Louis. They married before he was shipped out. He was serving in England in the 8th Army Air Corp in 1944.

Jay Williams said he has stayed in touch with Atkinson, who was happy to learn that Wayne Williams survived the war and had a family, and that the dog tags would be returned to his family.

"The world would be a different place if not for men like Wayne," Atkinson wrote.

Editor's Note: 2nd Lt. Wayne C. Williams was a member of the 561st ground echelon.

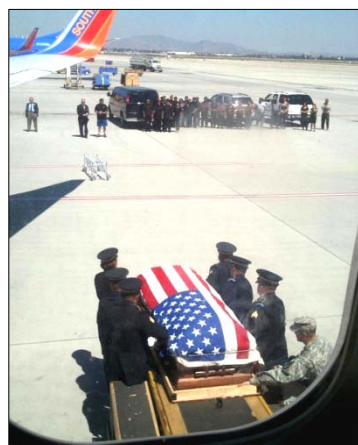
BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE...

Whenever we see a serviceman or woman in uniform, we try to take the opportunity to thank them for their service, letting them know how much we appreciate what they are doing. When we see someone with a WWII Veteran hat on, we make it a point to go up and ask them where they served and thank them for their service. Recently, we were sitting enjoying the sunshine in an outdoor café on Catalina Island, when we notice a gentleman sitting at the next table with just such a hat. He lit up with the opportunity to share his experience with us. Turned out he was a pilot and flew his missions in the Pacific. We have to admit that much of our attempts to show our appreciation has grown over the years since our involvement with the 388th Association. Being around our 388th Vets has only increased our appreciation and gratitude to those who serve our country in this way.

After visiting with some of our *388th Bomb Group Association* friends in Arizona recently, we boarded our flight in Phoenix to return home. We noticed, upon boarding, that there was a young serviceman sitting up front fully decked out in his dress uniform, white gloves and all.

As soon as the doors of the plane were closed, the pilot made an announcement explaining the serviceman's presence. He said, "We have the honor and privilege of escorting one of our Fallen Hero's to his final resting place." This young man in full dress uniform was there to escort him home. After a moment of silence, the entire planeload of passengers broke out in applause.

In the silence that followed the applause, I couldn't help but wonder if anyone had shown such appreciation to this young man while he was still alive? Was he made aware of just how important he was to us? Did



anyone ever come up to him, shake his hand and say a grateful "Thank You"? I sincerely hope so.

Once we landed, the pilot came on once again and requested that we remain in our seats while the serviceman got off and

while a short ceremony took place. As we looked out the window, we could see six servicemen standing at attention. There was a large group of people standing in the background, presumably the family and friends of the fallen serviceman. Another serviceman in fatigues entered the cargo hold via the ramp with a U.S. flag to drape the coffin. The six servicemen approached the ramp and waited for the coffin to be lowered carefully down to them. After carrying the coffin to an awaiting stand, they retreated several steps while another serviceman escorted, what appeared to be the mother and siblings of the fallen serviceman.



As she laid her arms and head on the coffin and sobbed, sniffles could be heard up and down the rows of our plane. Tears trickled down many a passenger's cheeks, and I am not ashamed to say, mine included.

Once the coffin was carried to the awaiting hearse, the hostess announced that we were free to depart the plane. I will never forget how silent it was as everyone exited the plane.

Not only will we continue to honor our 388th Veterans, and all veterans, for their service and commitment to our country and our freedom, but we will make it a point to show our appreciation to our current servicemen and women in every way we can. Our veterans fought for freedom and many of them paid the ultimate price. But the fight for freedom around the world continues. And like that young serviceman on our plane, the price continues to be high. Let us all take the time to show our appreciation to our brave hero's before it's too late.



Trustees Host 388th Remembrance

The 388th Bomb Group was honored with a day of remembrance and celebration, marked by three separate events, on Saturday, July 14. Some 250 attendees, which in addition to local residents, included the Vice-Commanders and some American military families from both RAF Lakenheath (USAF 48th Fighter Wing) and RAF Mildenhall (USAF 100th Air Refueling Wing), and military vehicle enthusiasts.

Hosted by the 388th Memorial Trustee Committee, the events—a rededication of the Memorial, a fly-past by the *Sally B* at the airfield, and a reception at the 388th Collection at Hillside Farm—followed five months of planning by Committee Chair Tony Goff, Deborah Sarson and Clive Stevens.

The official rededication of the 388th Memorial with its new wing stones—began shortly after the arrival of a convoy of 25 WWII military vehicles which had departed from Eye Airfield earlier in the morning, with all drivers dressed in appropriate military garb.

After the peal of an air raid siren brought the crowd to attention, the rededication began with the reading of the W. B. Yeats poem “An Irish Airman Foresees His Death.”



An opening prayer by the Rev. David Messer sets the tone for the ceremony.



All stand for the arrival of the flag of the United States.



Col. Mark Ciero of the USAF 48th FW, RAF Lakenheath, salutes the fallen of the 388th BG.



388th Bomb Group losses are personified by modern-day U.S. airmen from RAF Lakenheath in authentic WWII dress.

Ceremony Opens Day's Events

The poem was followed by a prayer by the Rev. David Messer of St. Mary's Church, and then the posting of colors by an honor guard from Lakenheath. After remarks by the Rev. Messer, Dick Henggeler, 388th BG Association Historian, offered excerpts from the Gettysburg Address. The new wing stones were then unveiled and dedicated.

After the hymn "Amazing Grace," sung by a local chorale, and remarks by Clive Stevens, a series of vignettes on the deaths of 14 388th BG airmen was read by Tony Goff and Olivia Leydenfrost, whose late father Robert had flown as a 560th Squadron toggler. The poignancy of the losses was further accentuated by the sudden, silent appearance of four modern-day airmen, dressed in authentic WWII flying clothing, as they took their posts beside the Memorial.

At the completion of the readings, wreaths were laid by representatives of the 388th Memorial Trustee Committee, RAFs Lakenheath and Mildenhall, and the Royal British Legion. The ceremonies were concluded with a moment of silence and a closing prayer.

For the day's next event, the group headed to the old 388th BG airfield, nearly a mile away. The military convoy led the way, escorted by motorcycle outriders and followed by attendees who were transported by hired coach.

As they waited for the arrival of *Sally B*, the last operational B-17 in Great Britain, attendees were treated to complimentary coffee and donuts (the Memorial Committee's homage to the Red Cross women at Knettishall). After an air raid siren signaled her sighting, the *Sally B* made her appearance, coming in at 500 feet above the ground. In all, the aircraft made twelve passes over the field, some as low as 200 feet, one with bomb bays doors open and one with smoke simulating a damaged engine, before returning to her base at Duxford.

The day's events closed with a reception at the 388th Collection at Hillside Farm, with curator Dave Sarson speaking about the Collection's many artifacts and their acquisition.

A video of the day's activities, filmed by a local television crew, is being edited and will be available to the Association on DVD.



The 25-vehicle convoy arrives at the airfield for the *Sally B* fly-past.



The *Sally B* banks sharply in one of her 12 passes made over the airfield.



Dick Henggeler and Olivia Leydenfrost in front of the cameras at the 388th Collection at Hillside Farm.

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE 388th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION AT THE ANNUAL MEETING IN SAVANNA, GA.

Key changes in personnel have occurred at the Wing, with the arrival of Colonel Scott Long as Wing Commander. Colonel Scott Zobrist has been promoted and transferred, the third commander to make Brigadier General since I have been our liaison with the Wing. Each has shown an interest in establishing and maintaining an interaction between the Fighter Wing and the original 388th Bomber Group, both in our reunions and in displays at the Hill Aerospace Museum. Colonel Long plans to join us in Savanna.

Jory Vanderburg has returned to the responsibility of Wing Historian. He will also join us here in Savanna, and will conduct interviews of our members. The Fighter Wing continues to maintain its interest in an active relationship between our two organizations.

Since the installation of our newly designed display at the Hill Aerospace Museum in 2008, the Curator and Director of the Museum and I have met to consider how this static display might be enhanced to better tell the story of the 388th Bomb Group, through a means to interactively access our history and the stories of our members. The mission of the Hill Aerospace Museum is to tell the Air Force story; ours is to tell the 388th Bomb Group story.

To accomplish these objectives, the Museum has entered into a program of installing interactive displays, and proposes to apply this approach to the history of the 388th from its inception as the 388th Bomb Group to the present 388th Fighter Wing (a story within the Air Force story). In this design concept of the Museum Exhibit Project, kiosks provide touch-screen selection and viewing of a wide range of information from a programmed data base. The 388th Bomb Group information would be derived from our Group data base. The Museum performs much of the work of building new displays, but funding support is needed in this effort, which requires outside contracting.

The Bomb Group display we dedicated at our Ogden Reunion was designed in a collaborative effort between Dick Henggeler and Stacie Heick, a graduate student working on her Master's degree at Weber State College in Ogden. It was built by the staff and volunteers at the Museum, with the support and involvement of the Wing throughout the process.

This is an opportune time to define the funding support, (within our limited funds), we are prepared to provide to enhance our ability to tell the 388th Bomb Group story at the Hill Aerospace Museum. This museum is located on the home base of the 388th Fighter Wing for many years, where it is likely to remain.

If 388th Bomb Group Association funds are approved, the first step will be to secure more specific information from Hill Aerospace Museum management, in conjunction with the Fighter Wing Historian, eventuating in a written description of the proposed new displays, or modification of existing displays, to be designed and installed. More specifically, to identify the cost of the proposed 388th Bomb Group portion of the exhibit project. This will include the cost for hardware and software design, and the anticipated time factor for the steps in the project. From this basis, we can negotiate, and reach a formal agreement with the Museum.

Wayne Daniels

I believe that each museum display and memorial is an investment in preserving our legacy. The recent enhancement of our memorial in England was well worth its cost, and is in the right place to ground the legacy of those who perished under the 388th banner. The City of Savannah is a jewel, in the setting of a Museum representing the largest Air Force in history, of which we were a part. This was also a wise investment in preserving our legacy. We can take pride in the continued designation of 388th for successor Air Force units, an honor bestowed on few bomber groups of WW II. An enhanced presence in the Hill Aerospace Museum alongside the modern 388th Fighter Wing is an investment in the active continuation of our legacy into the future.

388th Bomb Group Association U.K. Liaison Report 2011-12 Activities of the 388th Memorial Trustees Committee

The 388th Memorial Trustees Committee is comprised of five members: Tony Goff (chair), Dave Sarson, Deborah Sarson, John Wallace and Percy Prentice. Dave Sarson is also curator of the 388th Collection at Hillside Farm, a two-building museum which houses artifacts and memorabilia of the bomb group.

The Committee's Mission Statement reads:

The purpose of the Trustees Committee is to protect the interests of the 388th BG Association with regard to the Memorial, ensure the site is maintained, that the Memorial has adequate insurance and that it is kept in good order.

In that respect the Committee will keep the Association informed of all matters which it considers might affect the Memorial, and will take instructions from the Association whenever so required.

Wherever possible, and at the request of the Association, the Committee will endeavor to represent the interests of the Association within the U.K. in any other matters in which it can help the Association achieve its objectives.

In addition to its oversight responsibilities, the Committee, with advance notification either to Tony Goff or Dave Sarson, coordinates visits by former 388th Bomb Group members and their families to ensure a rounded and memorable experience. Along with visits to the Memorial and Museum, guests are given tours of the airfield and local area to point out former 388th sites, and are treated to a stop at the Swan public house.

The Committee also represents the 388th Bomb Group at the annual Memorial Day Service at the Cambridge American Cemetery.

Insurance for both the Memorial and Collection is funded by the 388th Bomb Group Association.

Since last year's report to the Board, visitors who received the benefit of the Committee's hosting services included Doug Morrison (navigator, 561st Squadron) and his son; Janice Adams, daughter of Ben Adams (waist gunner, 563rd Squadron), and her husband Frank; Al Soo (navigator, 563rd Squadron) with his daughter and son-in-law Cynthia and Tim Lew, and daughter and partner Charmaine and Richard Stanger; Lorraine Watson Sooma, daughter of James Watson (engineer, 563rd Squadron), and her husband Sam; and Charles Woodford (tail gunner, 561st Squadron), his daughter Terry Woodford-Thomas and grandsons Joe and Nathan.

Another visitor was Dr. Vernon Williams, director of the East Anglian War Project at Abilene Christian University, Abilene, Texas. In addition to its American visitors, the Collection has received visits from local history groups including from nearby Garboldisham and Coney Weston along with a tour by local WWII history enthusiasts.

Earlier this year the Collection received an interesting artifact . a latrine door with the words "Sad Sack" painted across the front. The door had been stored in a local farmer's barn for many years and, apart from signs of wormwood infestation, is in surprisingly good condition. Best method of display at the Collection will be determined after all pest eradication is completed.

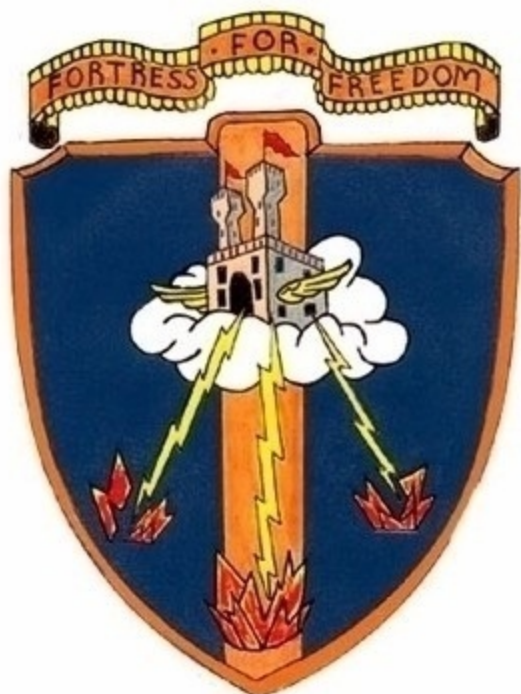
As part of Britain's year-long commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Eighth Air Force's arrival in East Anglia, Dave Sarson met with the curator of the Diss Museum and offered the temporary loan of several 388th Bomb Group artifacts. The loan will be in effect until October.

The Committee's greatest effort of the year, five months in the planning, was the July 14 rededication of the 388th Bomb Group Memorial, whose two wing stones were installed in May 2011. The event, organized by Committee Chair Tony Goff with assistance by Clive Stevens (military convoy) and Deborah Sarson (event safety) including volunteer coordination which included a fly-past by the B-17 **Sally B** and a reception at the 388th Collection at Hillside Farm.

Jan Pack-Singer

Full Text and Photos of this event on Pages 6 & 7

388th Bombardment Group



Annual Memorial

September 2012

Milton C. Casebere, 561st
Arthur C. Gordon, 563rd
Sam F. Hartman, 96th BG
Ralph E. Henderson, 561st
Lawrence G. Locker, 561st
Sawyer "C.S." Needham, Jr. 560th
Roscoe M. Shaffer 563rd
Francis J. (Hank) Henggeler, 563rd
William R. Mackey, 561st
James E. Paul, 563rd
William F. Rellstab, Jr. 562nd
Paul Arbon, 561st
Earnest H. Head, Jr., 562nd
George Carlton Sevy, 562nd
James S. Stroeder, 561st

Thomas E. Linzee, Sr., 563rd
Joseph N. Davern, 560th
Michael P. Maietta, 563rd
James R. McCalla, 560th
Joseph L. Savadel, 563rd
Edward H. Stachyra, 560th
Richard H. Thompson, 563rd
James B. Warner, 563rd
Lawrence Andrysko, 560th
Boardman Reed, 562nd
William B. Wells, 561st
John Walter Wyman, 560th
Foster "Foss" Rodda, 561st
Donald W. Wisser, 561st
Louis Tilley, 560th

To all those we have lost over the years we offer this simple Toast...

"Until We Meet Again"

Taps

BOARDMAN C. REED

Boardman Colwell "B.C." Reed, 99, of Chico, CA, died March 16. He served as 562nd Squadron Commander in 1943. Recalled to active duty during the Korean Conflict, he served as Squadron Commander in the 5th AF, K-18 Airfield at Kangnung, and retired as Lt. Colonel.

The Reverend Canon Reed was ordained an Episcopal priest in 1958, and ministered in Northern, Central, and Southern California. After his retirement as priest with the honorary title of Canon, he founded St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church in Chico. Memberships included the VFW, OX5 Aviation Pioneers, and Order of Daedalians. He was chaplain and member of the Military Officers Air National Guard Assn. of America and was active with Beale AFB Museum.

The Reverend Canon Reed is survived by his wife Lorraine of 50 years; a daughter, stepdaughter, two stepsons, nine grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. A Requiem Mass was held at St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church.



Reed

FOSTER O. RODDA

Foster Owen "Foss" Rodda, 93, of Shoreline, WA died May 14. As navigator on the Hal Poland crew in the 561st Sqd., he flew 29 missions between Sept. 1943 and Feb. 1944.

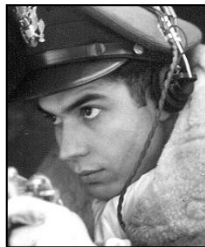
Born and raised in Upper Darby, PA, Mr. Rodda graduated from Pierce Business College, Philadelphia, in 1939 and enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1942. Awards included the DFC and Air Medal.

His combat tour was followed by a short stint with the 4th Ferry Group in Memphis, TN, and then an assignment to the office of the Assistant Chief of Staff Training in New York City, where he had oversight and evaluation of all Air Force navigational training aids.

Reactivated from reserve duty with the Pennsylvania Air National Guard in 1951, he flew B-29s during the Korean Conflict. In 1971 he accepted a position as administrator of the medical staff at Group Health Cooperative in Seattle, WA, and remained in that role until his retirement in 1984.

Mr. Rodda was a board member and served as president for four years of the Princess Louisa International Society, an organization which raises funds to maintain and develop the Princess Louis Inlet Marine Park on the British Columbia Coast. He was a member of the Seattle Yacht Club and was active in the First Free Methodist Church.

Survivors include Donna, his wife of 70 years, son David; son-in-law Brad, his daughter and granddaughter; and one great-granddaughter. Mr. Rodda was predeceased by his daughter Lynn in 1980. A memorial service with military honors was held at the First Free Methodist Church in Seattle.



Rodda

LOUIS TILLEY

Louis Tilley, longtime resident of New Orleans and Slidell, LA, passed away May 2 at age 96. Co-pilot in the George Little crew in the 560th Sqd., he flew 43 missions between April and August 1944. Awards included the DFC and Air Medal.

Born in Maplewood, NJ, Mr. Tilley married shortly after graduating from high school. He and his wife Mary had three sons before her death shortly prior to the U.S. entry into WWII. After the liberation of Paris Lt. Tilley met and married his second wife, Madeleine Planchon.

Mr. Tilley moved his family first to New Orleans and later to Slidell, where he owned and operated Gulf Coast Towing Co. For several years, his company held the contract to tow Apollo rockets from the Michoud Plant in New Orleans to the Stennis Space Center in Mississippi.

After retiring and moving to Cape Coral, FL, Mr. Tilly became involved in real estate and in building sailboats for the Tropic Star line. He also joined Mel Fisher Treasure Salvors and donated the proceeds from his share of treasures found to the Miami Historical Museum. He also founded Brighten the Corners, a trust that provides college funding to worthy high school students.

Mr. Tilley is survived by his wife Madeleine, daughter Michele Fry; sons Orlando and David, nine grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son Frederick.

Interment was held at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Slidell, LA.



Tilley

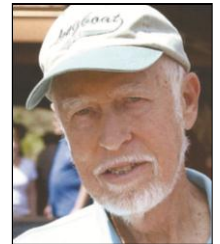
WILLIAM B. WELLS

William B. Wells of Centerport, NY, died May 21 at age 90.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, Mr. Wells enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942. He flew 35 missions as a radio operator with the Majeska and Voertman crews of the 561st Sqd.

Mr. Wells graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute as a Civil Engineer in 1949, and joined the William L. Crow Construction Co. In 1952 he joined the John V. Schaefer Construction Co. He bought the company a few years later and headed the company until his retirement in 1999.

Mr. Wells is survived by Eleanor McGinn, his partner of 22 years; and sons Billy and Peter. Interment with military honors was held at Calverton National Cemetery, Long Island, NY.



Wells

JOHN W. WYMAN

John Walter Wyman, 90, of Rumford, ME, passed away June 13. He was ball turret gunner in the 560th Sqd. with the Victor Olson crew. On Sept. 28, 1944, his 28th mission, the crew was shot down over Merseburg in *Reuel's Revenge*. He survived the Stalag Luft IV death march from January through May 1945, when the prisoners were liberated on the road somewhere in Germany. Awards included a Purple Heart, Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters, EAME Medal with three service stars and a Maine Silver Star.

Mr. Wyman worked as a construction foreman at the local paper mill and then around the country until his retirement in 1985. He was active in the VFW and American Legion. Survivors include Rita, his wife of 69 years; daughter Jean, sons John, Jeffrey, James and Jerry, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Burial was at St. Johns Cemetery in Andover, ME.



Wyman

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