



FORTRESS FOR FREEDOM



388TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

**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

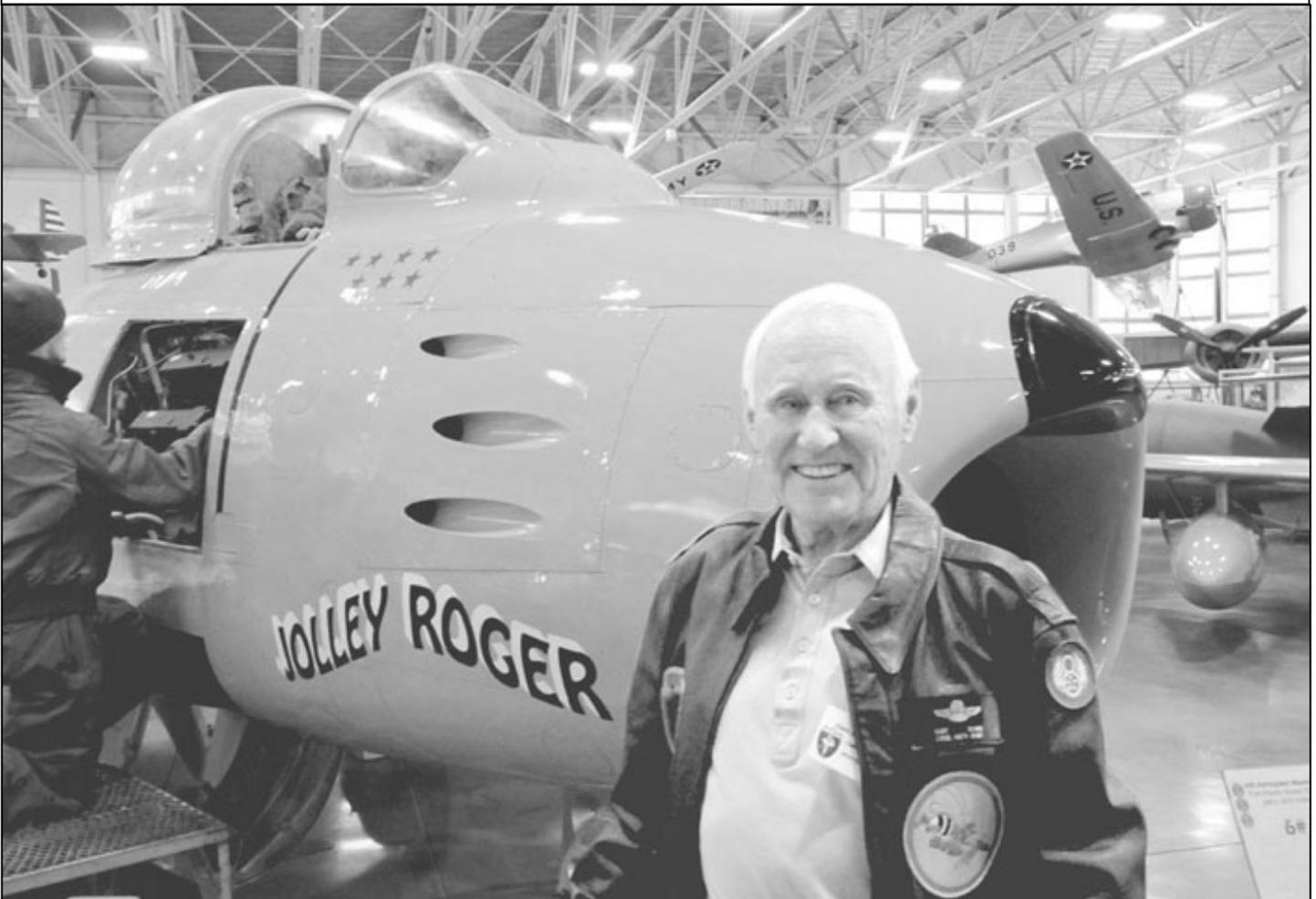
388th Bombardment Group Headquarters

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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WINTER 2008



Cliff Bewig, Co-Pilot 563rd Squadron, at Hill Aerospace Museum, one of the highlights of the Association's 59th annual reunion.

THE 388TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Welcome New Members

Theresa Baethke, *daughter of Ray Baethke, 560th Sqd.*

Bill Blasdell, *son of Herb and Dottie Blasdell (561st Sqd.)*

Paul Cummings, *friend of David Stewart, 561st Sqd.*

Barbara Dennis, *daughter-in-law of Tom Dennis, 561st Sqd.*

Tom Dennis, Jr., *son of Tom Dennis, 561st Sqd.*

Anthony Facos, *son of James Facos, 562nd Sqd.*

Bob Peters, *son of Marvin Peters, 563rd Sqd.*

Philip White, *son of Maurice White, 560th Sqd.*

Thank You for Your Donations

Robert Baker

Jack Clemer

Catherine Ferguson

Ben Forrest, Sr.

D.B.Kelley

Don Marble

David Miller

Mary Moffitt

Kelly Moore

Paul Patten

Bob Shroats

Jack Vann

Sam Wallis

Ray York

James Zographos

Bits 'n Pieces

A quick review of the box to the left will show that we have a number of new officers and directors.

The Secretary receives address changes, dues renewals and obituaries.

The Treasurer receives all donations.

When considering a donation, please remember that we have two separate funds – *General and Memorial*. The Memorial Fund pays for the insurance and maintenance of the 388th BG Memorial in Coney Weston and for the insurance of our museum, the 388th Collection at Hillside Farm. To earmark donations to the Memorial Fund, you must write "Memorial" in the memo section of your check; otherwise, it will be defaulted to the General fund.

Unless otherwise stated, all checks should be made payable to *388th BG Assn.*

Annual Memberships are renewable in the Spring, and are technically delinquent on March 30. Because the announcement in the Spring issue of the dues renewal period has historically resulted in delayed payments, we're giving a heads-up in this issue. Annual members, please take a moment to pay your \$10 renewal now.

Two names not yet appearing in the Officer's box are those of Tom Dennis Sr. and his son Tom Dennis Jr. Beginning with the Summer 2009 issue, Tom Sr. will be the new Newsletter Editor; to be assisted by Tom Jr. Until Feb. 28, please continue sending articles to the current Newsletter Editor.

The PX is closed for remodeling and is scheduled to re-open in the spring.

Knettishall Tales with resume in the spring with our contributor James Zographos. *Knettishall Tales* is a wonderful avenue for vets to share brief recollections; we hope you will all consider contributing.

From the President's Desk

As I see it, there are three distinct categories of members:

- The Veterans: for obvious and natural reasons, inevitably a shrinking number of our ranks. Wives of veterans are included in this category.
- The Inheritors: children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of veterans.
- The Joiners: all other members.

It is incumbent on particularly the last two categories to fulfill the purpose and goals of the Association. This is a good moment to reiterate the reasons for our Association's existence:

To preserve for all times the history, friendships, memories and incidents of the members of the 388th Bombardment Group (H) during World War II, by publishing a quarterly newsletter, and endeavoring to hold periodic reunions of our fellow members.

The accumulated historical events of the 388th Bomb Group, comprised of books, the newsletters, minutes from the reunions, as well as recently added documentation, must be preserved, perpetuated and actively cared for. Here it would be timely to support our historian Dick Henggeler's appeal:

"I would ask all of you to direct people to send me copies of 388th items, photos, logs, memories, magazine articles, etc."

How would this best be realized? The most basic requirement is a sufficient number of committed and devoted members. The attraction of membership must be, that by joining, you can take a step into history! Grandchildren and great-grandchildren will experience stories of grandfathers and great-grandfathers that TV does not tell. For veteran members, to enroll younger generations will greatly help in this endeavor.

The inheritors, those that already are members as children of veterans, represent a potentially very strong group of enrollers of new members. We have enjoyed seeing children at our meetings. As they grow, let them bring their friends, and their parents to our next meeting.

And then, the joiners ... I would classify myself as a joiner. When my interest was triggered in the history of one particular B-17G, that of Chuck Wallace and his crew, I was encouraged by Bob Simmon to become an Associate member, something that very profoundly changed my life. Now that membership is "liberalized," let us invite our friends and relatives to become members and share in this wonderful fellowship.

The Internet age works in our favor. Communication is instant and reasonably priced. This is definitely an area where the younger generation's skills surpass those of the older, and where their skills should be capitalized on. We must all whet their appetite and desire to know more of the history of World War II and the role that the 388th played in that epic battle.

And now, I hear the question – how?

- We could form "heritage crews" – 10, maximum 11 members in each crew. Group numbering to be selected by the elected Group leader, no age limit up or down, no gender restrictions.

Each group would set their own objectives, which could, for instance, be: as complete as possible collection of photographs,



Senior Director Alan Reese passes the gavel to George Sundblad.

or a slide presentation of the missions of the crew, or tape-recorded veteran interviews.

At each reunion a number of crews would be allotted time for a presentation.

Each crew would be free to designate crew assignments, i.e. pilot, co-pilot, bombardier within the crew.

At the final night banquet, a lottery would draw a winner for a B-17 ride (i.e. Collings Foundation). The cost of this ride, plus eventual travel expenses, should be paid for by the Association.

- Volunteering speeches and presentations to Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, Inner Wheel and similar clubs. Here the production of a PowerPoint or DVD presentation, highlighting the achievements of the 388th, would be helpful.
- I am quite sure there exists within this group, one or more computer knowledgeable "nerds" that would be proud to edit such a production. Here again, personal satisfaction and appreciation from the Board could be the reward – or why not another B-17G ride?

A brief news item in our newsletter, listing such presentations, and the response of the audience, would stimulate "copy cat" activities by other members in different areas of our great country. A readymade DVD can be easily and inexpensively shipped, and audiovisual equipment can be rented.

These are some ideas, kicked around by one person. If they would trigger any ideas in your mind, now or later, submit them to the Board, and we will evaluate and hopefully implement some of them.

As your incoming President, I ask for your support in the efforts to keep the 388th Bomb Group (H) Association a vital and living and dynamic group, willing to honor such a splendid group of veterans.


George Sundblad

The Mission Diary of Ranold Musolf

T/Sgt. Ranold Craig Musolf was engineer/top turret gunner on the Sarten crew in the 561st Sqd. The full crew was:

*Jack E. Sarten, pilot
John H. Pointer, co-pilot
James A. Delaney, Jr., bombardier
Joseph Briskin, navigator
Ranold C. Musolf, engineer
Larry L. O'Sullivan, radio operator
John C. O'Grady, ball turret gunner
Charles R. Bissell, waist gunner
Winston T. Mills, tail gunner*

T/Sgt. Musolf was just 21 when, on the August 16, 1944 mission to Leitz, another plane slammed into Lt. Sarten's a/c 44-6123 Girl of My Dreams, shearing off her tail and sending her crew plummeting to their deaths.

His diary was among the personal effects returned to his family. Thanks to his brother Neale, who has donated a transcript to our archives, we can get an insider's view of missions from pre- D-Day into mid-August, when the 8th AF was focusing on invasion support and destroying Nazi fuel production, among other strategies.

The diary of Ranold Musolf is being presented in two parts, concluding in the spring 2009 issue. Certain entries have been annotated.

Boarded the boat April 23, 1944. Red Cross gave us coffee and donuts. Sailed the 24th. Drank Pepsi-Cola and ate cookies, for the food was so bad. Lived in an old refrigerator room. Arrived May 6 at Liverpool, England. From the Red Cross we got cigarettes, donuts and coffee. Went to Stone. Lived in a girls' dormitory. Had rooms and bath. Had one pass. From there went to the Wash for refresher gunnery.

June 5 Target was No Ball

Went to Cape Griz Nez. Only had 2 hours sleep before going. Was on the northern French coast. A no ball target. Had some flak. Made two runs on the target. Ball turret gunner passed out at 26,000 ft. because his oxygen mask came off while trying to fix turret. Got up at 11 that night for briefing. Still had no sleep. [The term Noball refers to a V-1 or V-2 missile launch site.]

June 6, Morning Target was a No Ball

Went to 10 miles north of Caen, France. Took off early in the morning. Our group led the whole Eighth Air Force. We were the first wave in. Dropped our bombs two minutes before the ground forces went in. So many clouds, couldn't see anything. Had some flak and rockets. Sky was full of Forts. Came back and ate. Told to get ready for another mission in the afternoon.

June 6, Afternoon

Target: Communications and Transportation

Went to France (Pont L'Evêque). Hit right in the middle of it. Guess we left it in ruins. Coming back saw boats going across the Channel. Saw hundreds of C-47s pulling gliders across. Landed at a Limey base because short of fuel. Had a rocket just



T/Sgt. Ranold Craig Musolf of Dansville, MI

miss our tail. One went between our wing and tail. The waist-gunners put their flak suits on in a hurry when this happened. Got back to the base the 7th.

June 8 Target: Railroad Bridge

Went to Tours, France—Bombed bridge and missed. Had flak to the left of us on English coast. Saw hundreds of boats with barrage balloons above them. Was a swell mission. Whole crew was on the ball.

June 11 Target: Railroad Bridge

Went to Pontaubault, France. Bombed a three span railroad bridge on the river Seine. Missed the bridge. Had about two rockets. Was an easy mission.

June 12

Went on a scheduled abortion. Pilot got the cramps at 16,000 ft. above the base. Came down to 3,000 ft. at the rate of 2,000 ft. a minute. Pilot had the G.I.s. Didn't have a toilet in the ship so the pilot used the right waist gunner's helmet in bomb bay.

June 14 Target: Air Field

Went to St. Trond, France. Was scheduled to abort. Guns were in ship so we had to take them out and clean them. Ship was missing from the formation so we took its place. Bombed air field. Blew the field to pieces. My right gun jammed. Couldn't fix it. Had some post graduates shoot flak at us from Brussels. Coming back some crazy pilot pulled up into another ship and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Diary, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

and smashed 3 ft. of wing with his tail. Made it curl right up. Crazy fools. Fly all over the formation anyway.

June 18 Target: Oil Refinery

Went to Bremen, Germany. Got up at 12:00 and took off about 4. Bombed oil refinery. Sky was full of flak. Was everywhere one looked. Had flak for 30 minutes.

June 20 Target: Synthetic Oil Refinery

Went to Magdeburg, Germany. Flak was so thick we could walk on it. Had 3 flak holes. The first battle damage we have had. Part of the Plexiglas hit the bombardier in the knee. The piece of flak hit the navigator's flak helmet and spun it on his head.

One ship didn't come back. One ship landed on the runway and gear failed. Burned the tires off and skidded into a field on its belly. We hit the target a direct hit. Saw flame and smoke roll up thousands of feet. Everywhere we looked we could see smoke, rolling up from other synthetic oil targets which other planes had bombed, high in the sky. Got complimented by the generals of the Eighth Air Force for the swell job. Sky was full of bombers.

[The ship that didn't come back was #42-32004, "Pride of the Yanks," flown by Lt. Joseph Patrick. The ship that belly-landed was #43-37523, flown by Lt. Charles Maring.]

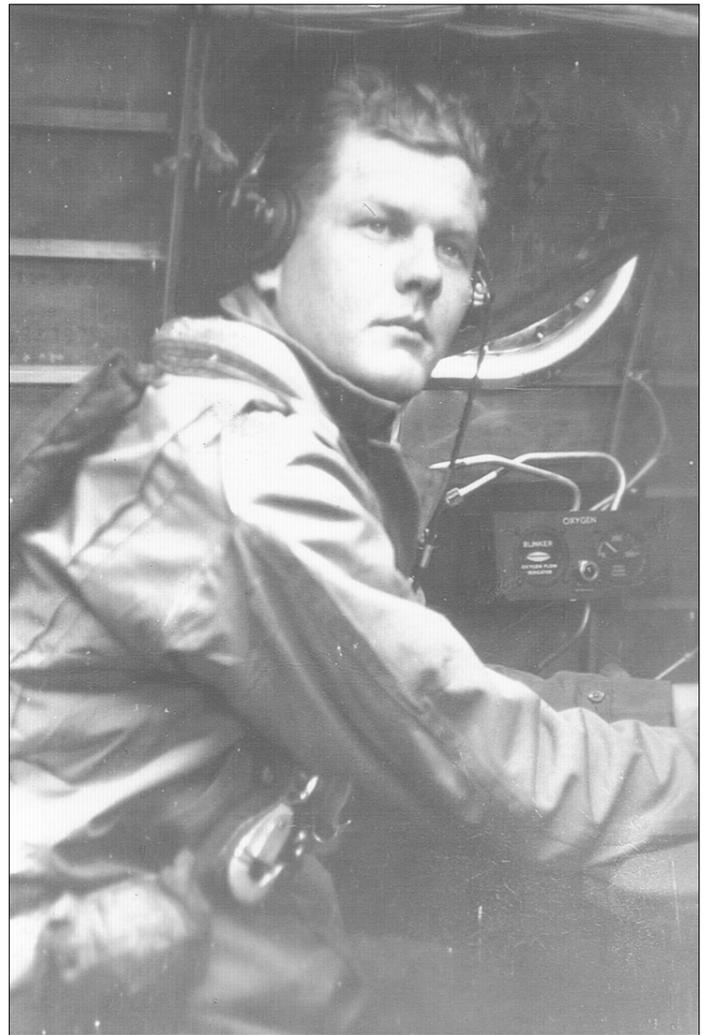


Capt. Charles Maring, second from left, chats with co-pilot Scott Johnson following his aircraft's bumpy landing on June 20, 1944. Also shown are John Hanken, bombardier; Del Worms, navigator; and Willis Genrich, engineer.

As Maring would later relate, "Flak and/or fighters caused extensive damage. Hits in the right wing knocked out engines no. 3 and 4 and the hydraulic and electrical systems. Hits in the tail disabled most rudder control, plus others in the underside of the nose caused further control and fuel problems.

"No. 2 engine began acting up as we approached the runway with gear cranked down and, as luck would have it, the plane landing in front of us blew both tires.

"With no power to go anywhere else and the runway closed, we took to the fields."



Radio Operator T/Sgt. Larry O'Sullivan of St. Louis, MO

June 22 Target: Oil Dump

Went to Paris, France. Saw two bunches of boats lined up on French coast. Had quite a lot of flak at Paris. Ran right through a bunch of 24s at the I.P. Two FW-190s came out of the clouds. One attacked. He made a slow roll as he came through. Nobody fired. Bombardier had his guns stowed. He came slow close I could almost see his face. Dropped the bombs on the dump. Wasn't too good a job. At Paris saw one B-17 go down and blow up. Nobody got out.

June 23 Target: Railroad Bridge

Went to LaFerta, France. No flak at target. Some on way to target and on way out. Made four runs on target. Missed target. Brought one 2,000 bomb back just holding in the rack.

[The official target name was Nanteuil.]

June 25

Went to Eijoutiers, France. Made run over target at 3,000 ft., then one at 500 ft., then on the next run of 500 ft., we dropped them. Hole hill of 5 acres was covered. Got two holes in wing as we left French coast. Not much flak but they were post graduates with the guns. Mission 9 hours and 25 minutes.

[This was the first of the three missions in support of the Maquis. Eymoutiers is the correct spelling of the location, a Maquis stronghold in France's Haute-Vienne.]

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Diary, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

July 5

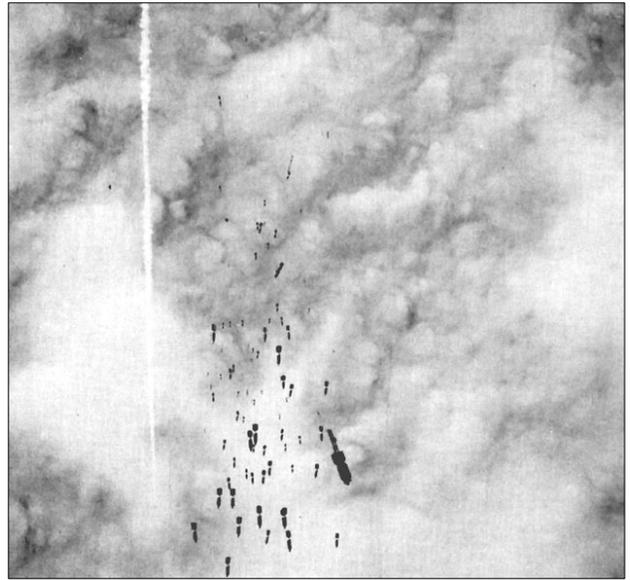
Got up at 8:15 in the morning. Was a practice mission. Flew all over England. Was a large formation. Best one I have seen. Tail gunner kept kidding radio operator because he couldn't find the VHF set. Said we were checking out radio operator.

July 6 Target: No Ball

Went to St. Omer, France. Got up at 2 in the morning. Briefed at 3:00, was to go to Germany. Laid on ramp until after take-off. Pilot finally came and told us mission was changed. Got to target. First burst of flak was called out low. Next burst, tail gunner said, "I'm hit. Don't know how bad." Flak in next burst knocked out 3rd and 4th engines of lead ship of 2nd element. It peeled off and dropped its bombs.

A new crew almost hit us in the excitement if the ball turret guns had been pointing down. Bombardier patched tail gunner up. Brought bombs back—couldn't see target. Lead ship feathered No. 2. Dropped bombs in Channel. Another crew dropped theirs. No sense in dropping them; they weren't in any trouble. When we landed we were stopped by ambulance. They took the tail gunner to hospital.

We had 25 holes. Could feel ship lurch every time flak hit us. Had holes from wing tip to wing tip—from nose to tail. Some were only 18 inches from ball turret. Tail gunner's oxygen had



Along with their bombs, Pathfinder Force aircraft also released white smoke markers, such as this one, over the target. One German defensive tactic was to shoot up markers of their own, far away from the target area, in hopes that the ploy would trick the bombers into dropping their payloads erroneously. Such a technique was often referred to by airmen as "white flak."



S/Sgt. Winston Mills of Ketchum, OK took over as tail gunner after Gerald Bauer was wounded on July 19.

been knocked out by the piece of flak that hit him. Radio operator lost bomber code out chaff chute over England. *[The 2nd element lead ship mentioned was #42-97105, flown by Lt. David Thayer. It returned safely to base.]*

July 7 Target: Oil Refinery

Went to Machau, south of Leipzig, Germany. Had a spare gunner for tail gunner. Got near target. We could see Berlin. As we got nearer we could see smoke rolling high in the sky from other targets that had been hit. Flak was everywhere. Could hear on radio other formations were being attacked by fighters.

Just before we hit target we made a 360-degree turn. Target had already been shacked. We dropped our bombs on it though. They said our bombs didn't hit it, but plowed up field. That was S-2 report. Saw one ship go down in flames just off bomb run. Saw B-17 spinning down. Later one chute was open when I spotted it. Brought its nose up and stalled. Saw seven chutes in all open. They lit in woods. Soon as they hit, chutes disappeared. When ship hit it blew up.

Heard one ship calling for fighter help. Had 2 engines out. Had 1,000 planes in target area. 36 bombers lost, 114 enemy fighters shot down. Our formation reported 2 ME-109s but we didn't see them. New crew must have mistaken P-51s for ME-109s. Supposed to have been biggest battle since D-Day although we didn't see any sky battle or fighters. *[The official name for this target was Bohlen.]*

July 10

Went on practice mission. Flew all over Southern England. Lt. Sarten led one of the elements. Large formation.

Editor: The conclusion of "The Diary of Ranold Musolf" will be published in the spring 2009 issue.

At 87, Pilot Takes His Flying Leap

By Keith Darcé, © San Diego Union Tribune
All Photos © Peggy Peattie, San Diego Union-Tribune

September 15, 2008
OTAY MESA –

After missing a chance to sky-dive during World War II, Harold Bigelow of San Diego finally took the plunge yesterday afternoon – to celebrate his 87th birthday.

“I did it,” Bigelow exclaimed as family and friends crowded around him after he touched down strapped to a sky-diving



Hal Bigelow as a cadet.

instructor on the edge of Brown Field airport in Otay Mesa.

He kissed his wife, Maxine, then hugged several of his grandchildren who, moments earlier, had watched him jump 10,500 feet from a Cessna.

Pacific Coast Skydiving owner Andy Rowell, who made the jump strapped to Bigelow's back, said the veteran bomber pilot was one of the oldest people with whom he has jumped in tandem.

Bigelow, a native of Olympia, WA, originally considered jumping from a plane in 1944 while piloting

B-17 bombing missions over Germany.

A plan had been drawn up to take out submarine pens by crashing a stripped-down B-17 packed with fuel into the concrete structures that served as protective bunkers for the subs. The mission required a pilot to guide the bomber toward the target, then jump from the plane just before the aircraft crashed.

“I thought, ‘Gee, that would be one of the things I could do, and I could do it on purpose,’ ” Bigelow said.

He asked to be transferred to the unit assigned to the mission, but he was turned down. Bigelow continued to fly bombers, completing 47 missions without losing a crew member or an aircraft engine.

After the war, Bigelow re-enlisted with the Air Force and served for 22 more years, including assignments in England, France, Iceland and several locations in



Hal Bigelow gives friends and family the thumbs-up.

California. He retired from the military in 1967 and taught industrial education at a high school in the Bay Area for 15 years.

Bigelow and his wife, a retired nurse, moved into a high-rise condominium in downtown San Diego in 2003 to be closer to two of their children who live in Cardiff and Rancho Peñasquitos.

The Bigelows, who celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary in February, have

three other children and 11 grandchildren.

When Maxine, 83, asked her husband what he wanted to do to celebrate his Sept. 2 birthday, he immediately thought of sky-diving.

Maxine said she had no reservations about the jump. “He has always wanted to do this, and I said, ‘You’re not getting any younger so you might as well.’ Seemingly, these things are very safe,” she said.

Bigelow asked his wife to join him on the jump, but she declined.

At the landing site moments after the jump, Maxine said she could tell that her husband had had the time of his life.

“He really enjoyed it,” she said. “That’s all I wanted ... but I don’t want to go through this again.”

So, how does Bigelow follow up this birthday adventure? His daughter, Susan Julien, already has an idea.

“I’ve always wanted to hang glide,” Julien said. “If I do it, maybe I’ll challenge him to do it with me.”



Riding in tandem, Hal readies for a safe landing.



Veterans of the 388th Bomb Group gather for a photo at the Association's 59th annual banquet.

Hill AFB Rolls Out Red Carpet for Vets by Henry Curvat

With photos by Henry and Betty Curvat, David and Esta Stewart and Chuck Lawson

As we reflect on this year's reunion our thoughts run rampant. But the one which continues to jump out, front and center, is the gathering of all the Bomb Group veterans coming together at the banquet to have their picture taken. Not only did we realize our goal of honoring all these men, but as we looked around and considered the preceding three days, some other thoughts began to emerge. In larger numbers each year we see more children, grandchildren, family, and friends join us for the reunion and many go on to become members of the Association. The relevance and meaning of these men's service becomes more important as we recognize the magnitude of their sacrifice.

This year was the culmination of what turned into a three-year project of bringing the 388th Bombardment Group (H) and the modern day 388th Fighter Wing together so the continuation of a great tradition might be honored and recognized. Participation from preceding eras of today's Fighter Wing, the Fighter Bomber Wing and Tactical Fighter Wing brought more history and tradition together so it might be recognized. Even more prominent was the pride and privilege displayed by the Fighter Wing officers and airmen who had the opportunity to share time and interact with the great men of the bomb group. They are true heroes.

It is difficult to imagine what our world would be like today had so many not volunteered to serve when the United States was drawn into the war. Such thoughts validate the need to continue our efforts to share these memories with future generations. The unwillingness to allow the memory of all who have served to become extinct is a worthy cause.

What a privilege it is to have the opportunity to share a moment in time with these great men. How proud we are to be members of this Association when appearing at an informal meeting such as the Mormon Tabernacle Choir rehearsal, the director stops, announces the attendance of the bomb group members, and the whole auditorium breaks out in a standing ovation for these true patriots.

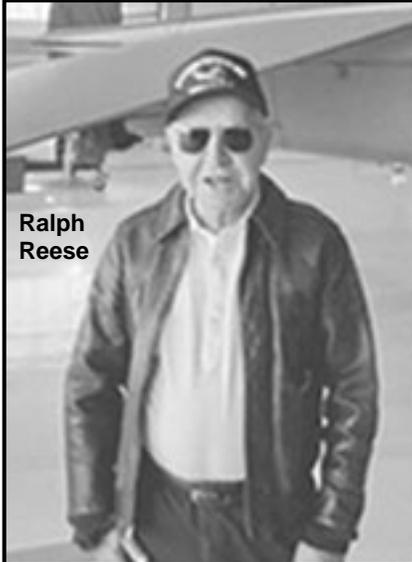
Jim Petersen, president of the Wendover Museum, spoke to us about the Wendover bombing range and the part it played in the

training of 388th BG members as well as many others. He was able to get a great interview with our member, Robert Baker, who trained at Wendover and can give a first hand account of the experience. Jim, his son Tom, and Jack Peake are diligent in their efforts, as are we, to preserve and recognize the valor of, not only the BG members, but all WWII veterans.

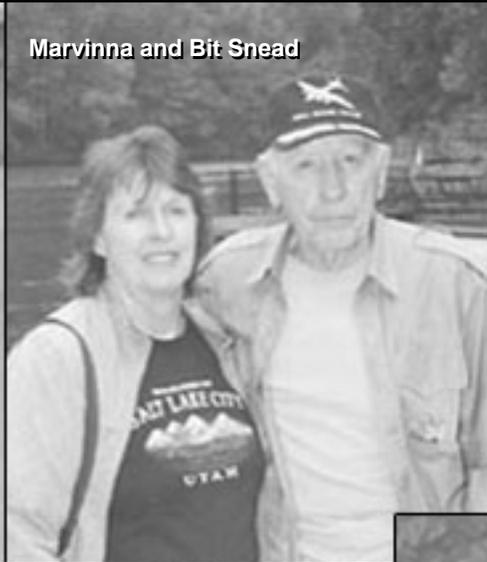
Today the 388th Bombardment Group (H) flag hangs in the WWII chapel located at Hill Aerospace Museum. During the dedication, members of each era shared a glimpse into the life of service they volunteered for. It was an emotional time to recall for each of them, vivid and with no regret. This too will serve to carry on the memories of bomb group members.

Of course there are many thanks and acknowledgements which need to be expressed, not the least of which goes to the 388th Fighter Wing. For the past 18 months Lt. Col. Scott Dennis, his predecessors and all his staff have rolled out the red carpet for us. Their desire to recognize and honor the bomb group members has been priority number one. They, as do we, recognize the roots and beginning of the 388th. Chaplain Stu Boyd, a retired Brigadier General, graciously contributed his time to help honor these men. Can we ever find enough time to spend in the museums scheduled into our tours? Though it may not be as large in square footage, I believe the Hill Aerospace Museum rivals Wright-Patterson in Dayton. So much to see! Now, thanks to Stacy Heik, the 388th Bombardment Group (H) has a new display. The beautiful a cappella voices of "T-minus5" at the chapel service. Of course, taps for those who made the supreme sacrifice. Clearfield and North Ridge High Association turns a page, and the younger members begin to fulfill the necessary duties, I truly believe there is but one unified goal. That is to carry on the legacy which began in 1942, known as the 388th Bombardment Group (H).

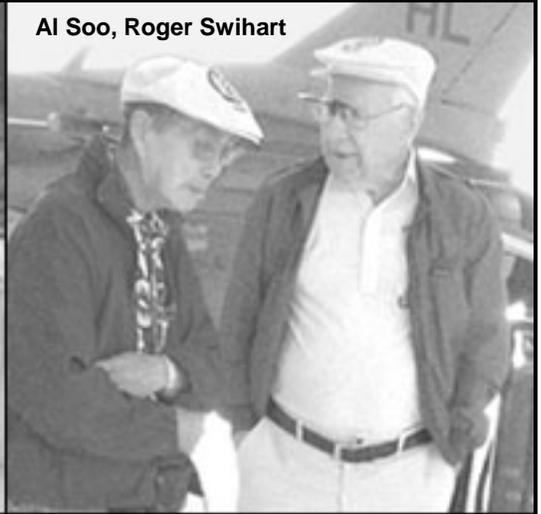
We look forward to carrying on the tradition. Thank you to all who helped us plan and present this year's reunion. We'll make every effort to bring just as much excitement, enjoyment, and entertainment to Kissimmee.



Ralph Reese



Marvinna and Bit Sneed



Al Soo, Roger Swihart



Joe and Doris Hill with grandson Steve Butner



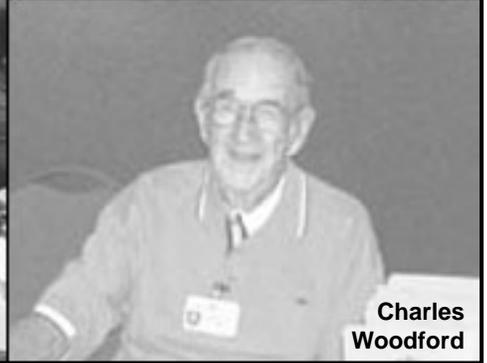
Eugene Forti and Friend



At Hill AFB



Lt. Col. Scott Dennis



Charles Woodford

Minutes of the 388th Bombardment Group (H) Association, Inc.

59th Meeting of the General Membership

August 30, 2008

Ogden, Utah

The 59th Meeting of the 388th Bombardment Group (H) Association, Inc. General Membership was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

Following the flag salute led by President George Sundblad, the invocation was presented by Jim Cotton.

Prior to the beginning of business, Parliamentarian Jack Clemer announced to the group that, with the resignation of President August Bolino, 1st Vice President George Sundblad had assumed the office.

Minutes

A motion to waive the reading of the 2008 meeting minutes was seconded and carried by majority vote.

Treasurer's Report

Secretary/Treasurer Bit Snead announced that the current Treasury figure, with \$9,000 to the Marriott Hotel still outstanding, was \$40,630.24. While the Association operates on a July 1 – June 31 fiscal year, for several years the reporting to the membership has been done on a calendar basis, with a full report to be published annually in the spring issue of the newsletter.

Board Business

Citing the old Indian adage "Everything that resists change must die," President George Sundblad gave the floor to Parliamentarian Jack Clemer, who announced his resignation after 20 years of service to the Association. George said the Association is actively seeking a volunteer to fill the position.

Newsletter Editor Jan Pack announced her resignation and introduced her successor Tom Dennis, Sr., to be assisted in this capacity by his son Tom Dennis, Jr. Jan said that for transition purposes she would continue in the position through the Spring 2009 issue, with the Dennises assuming the editorship beginning with the Summer 2009 issue.

George Sundblad announced Bit Snead's decision to retire as Secretary while retaining the position of Treasurer. Linda Soo has volunteered to serve in this position. As the bylaws call for confirmation by the membership, Linda was officially elected by majority vote following a motion and second.

George then announced Roger Swihart's resignation as Corporate Agent. Upon Roger's recommendation, Alan Reese (outgoing Senior Director) has agreed to assume the position. Again, per the bylaws, a confirmation vote, preceded by a motion and second, was taken and the appointment was approved.

The Board submitted for vote a recommended change in the bylaws involving a restructuring of duties of the Secretary and Newsletter Editor. The specific recommendation was that Newsletter Editor responsibility line items (4): "Update all

computer listings of the membership pertaining to address changes, telephone number changes, membership data changes, payment of dues, deaths of members and adding new members;" and (5): "Furnish current computer listings to the Governing Board as required" be changed to Secretary responsibility line items (8) and (9), respectively. Having been seconded and voted on, the motion carried.

New Officers

Nominations were opened for the three incoming Board positions: 1st Vice President (which rotates to President and then Senior Director), 2nd Vice President and Director. The names of James Morrow, Christine Siess, James Cotton and David Miller were put forward.

Following the bylaws, positions are filled in order of the number of votes received. The votes being tallied, new officer positions were announced as follows:

1st Vice President: James Morrow
2nd Vice President: David Miller
Director: Christine Siess

All new positions were to take effect upon installation at the Saturday evening Banquet.

Reunion Venue

Reunion Coordinator Henry Curvat announced that Lexington, KY had been selected as the 2010 reunion venue.

From the Floor

Greg Staples, new associate, said that this was his first reunion and that he hoped to meet anyone who had known his father, Donald Staples, 560th Sqd.

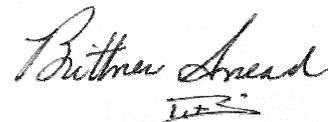
Foster Rodda asked about attendance figures. With exact figures not at hand, it was reported that of the approximately 140 attendees, roughly 83 were members and associates, and the remaining being friends, family and other supporters.

In response to a question regarding the PX, Marvinna Snead reported that the PX is under new management and is in the process of being revamped.

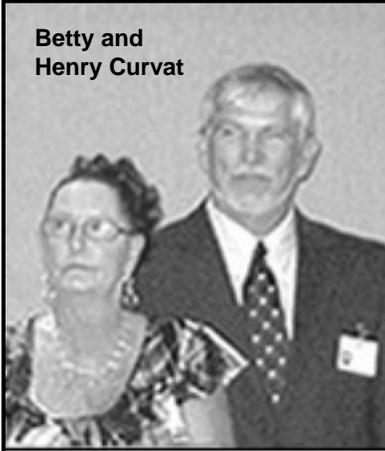
Alan Reese asked that members who have not already done so provide their email addresses for the membership database. These and other membership data should be sent directly to incoming Secretary Linda Soo.

No further business being presented, a motion to adjourn was seconded and carried by majority. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bittner F. Snead, Secretary



Betty and Henry Curvat



Dick Henggeler, James Morrow



Ruth and Marvin Peters



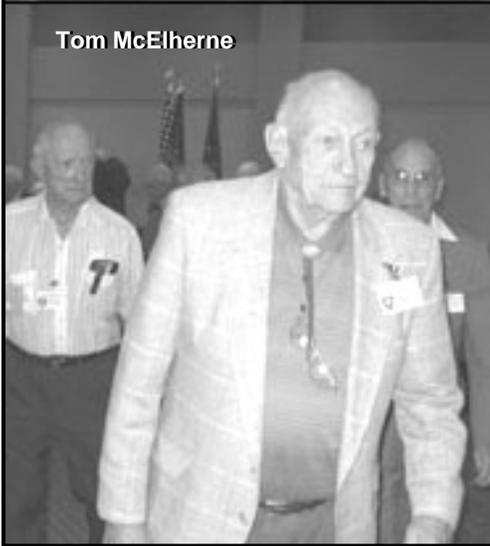
Lynn and Helen Hill



Esta and David Stewart, James and Joyce Cotton



Cliff Bewig, Rachell and Joel Rary



Tom McElherne



Gloria and Marvin Horn, Olga and Ed Gilroy

The Dedication Ceremony

Dictionaries define a fortress as:

Stronghold, especially a large and permanent fortification, sometimes including a town

and, militarily:

Any work erected to strengthen a position against attack.

The 388th BG (H) banner rewrites these definitions. "Fortress for Freedom," with its clever double meaning, rather sought out the enemy in pursuit of freedom, freeing the imprisoned peoples from torturous enslavement of body and mind. Thousands of Fortresses, in vivid battles, ultimately brought the most prized and cherished property ... freedom.

Let us all thank the 388th Bombardment Group (H) veterans for their service and let us never forget their sacrifice.

George Sundblad
President, 388th BG Assn.



388th BG (H)
Display Case at
Hill Aerospace Museum



Jack Clemer,
Wayne Daniels



Mormon Tabernacle
Choir Rehearsal



Color Guard
At the Banquet



Henry Curvat, Tom Dennis Jr.,
Bit Snead, Tom Dennis Sr.



Carol Ann and
Neil Walker



Jack Vann with daughter-in-law Joann and son Basil



Maxine Smith and granddaughter
Sandra Smith-Somyak



Marian and Charles Meyer



Gerald and
Christine Seiss



Bobbie and Neal McIntyre,
Foss and Donna Rodda



Martha and Donald Scott

In the Beginning: A Behind the Scenes View of the Reunion

By Wayne Daniels

The 2008 reunion in Ogden was the culmination of a lengthy process of planning to produce an interesting, memorable reunion. The design of this reunion centered on providing an interface between those of us who represent the past history of the 388th Bomb Group in the Army Air Corps, and the members of the 388th Fighter Wing (FW), who are writing the history of the current US Air Force.

This process began three years ago with an invitation I extended, as President of the Board that year, to the new 388th Fighter Wing Commander Colonel Robert Beletic and his staff to join with us at our reunion in Albuquerque.

Col. Beletic sent his Director of Staff, Lt. Colonel Doug Alston and 388th FW historian Jory Vanderberg to our reunion. They met with us, briefed us on their organization and mission, interviewed many of our members, and returned with a mission to bring us to Hill AFB for a reunion. Colonel Beletic invited us to be the guest of the 388th FW.

The planning of the reunion began, and the interactions continued until the 388th Bomb Group 2008 Reunion became a reality.

The reunion planners, Henry and Betty Curvat worked diligently and enthusiastically to provide fine accommodations at a very reasonable cost, and arrange tours and other activities, with the attention to detail needed to produce another memorable reunion, following from those produced under the lengthy service of Bit and Marvinna Sned.

The process also involved my function as liaison between the 388th Bomb Group Association Board, the 388th Fighter Wing (FW) and the Hill Aerospace Museum. Several trips were made to Ogden, one with Dick Henggeler, our Historian, to advise on the design of a 388th Bomb Group exhibit to be completed before the reunion. Discussions with the Curator, Tom Hill, and the Director, Scott Wirz, lead to a view of this as an intermediate step to the development of a companion exhibit incorporating the Museum's B-17. Such a project would involve professional display design and construction in order to better present our WWII experience.

An improved 388th FW display, to include the 388th Fighter-Bomber Wing and the Tactical Fighter Wing, was also in the design phase. Together, these displays are intended to support the concept of an all-eras 388th, tying together the long history of the 388th from its inception in WWII to date. The Hill Aerospace Museum is a logical place for this to take place, due to its ties with the 388th FW, the major flying tenant at Hill AFB, and its link to the earliest days of the 388th Bomb Group at nearby Wendover Field.

Editor: Congratulations to Wayne Daniels on completion of his two-year service as liaison between the Association Board and officials of the 388th FW at Hill AFB.

Mail Call



John and Roselyn Hoff with best man Bill Atkinson

I am responding to picture B on the “look familiar?” page of the fall 2008 newsletter. That’s William J. Atkinson, CO of the 563rd Sqd., appropriately named “Wild Bill.” Col. Cox selected him to be the CO after Maj. Bill Harrell was shot down on his sixth mission. He and his Ops officer Jason Campbell were the “Gin Rummy Kings” of the 563rd hut.

It is a rare picture, for I never saw Maj. Atkinson wearing a flighter; he always wore an overseas cap. Cocked on his head, this was certainly not an official photo.

Little did I realize that when I first met him, Bill Atkinson would become a special person – a special friend in my life in the years that followed. I first met Bill as a Captain, Instructor Pilot in a B-17, me a 2nd Lt. B-24 pilot. I had just flown a brand new B-24 from Mitchel Field in Hempstead, NY to England, and was assigned on arrival to the 388th BG.

After I flew 13 missions, Maj. Atkinson (then Sqd. Commander, 563rd) selected me to be Command Pilot, 1st Lt. He promoted me to Captain, and I finished with 25 missions.

The 388th was at Sioux Falls when the war ended in August 1945, and we both were assigned to the Air Transport Command at Long Beach. We were together as pilots on a Douglas C-54 to Puerto Rico.

Maj. Bill Atkinson served as best man at my December, 1945 wedding at the Fliers Chapel in Riverside, CA. His last assignment was at Robins AFB, GA. He is now deceased.

Today, I have a lot of great memories, meeting a great officer like Major Atkinson, assisting him in delivering 388th bombs to Germany, and assisting them with their urban renewal program.

I am sure God wanted our paths to cross, for Bill changed my life in so many ways. From check-out in a B-17, to best man at my wedding, he was a great man, a great friend that I shall never forget.

God rest his soul.

John W. Hoff, Major General USAF (Ret.)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Mail Call, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all 388thers!
Hope you all had a great reunion.

After all these years, to be asked to represent the 388th BG at the Madingley Memorial has been is a great honor and I look forward to continuing to place your wreath in the coming years. The Memorial Committee lost two great fellows with the passings of David Calcutt and George Stebbings. Thankfully, we now have Tony Goff as chairman and have resumed regular meetings.

We had about two weeks of sun this summer, followed by cold, wet weather – sometimes we would see a month of rainfall in a single day. At one point, the Memorial area was under about 12 inches of water which had flowed down the road from Coney Weston. My son David has been helping me clear away the mud.

We're dealing with our own recession over here – diesel fuel is now over £6 per gallon, which has driven grocery costs sky high.

Our *Sally B* continues to have engine problems which will have to be sorted out. In the meantime, we have enjoyed seeing *The Liberty Belle*, one of the Duxford "Flying Legends" in the skies above East Anglia. The pilot's grandfather used to fly with the 390th BG from Parham Airfield in Framlingham.

Again, many thanks for a lifetime of friendship. I wish you all good health and good luck.

Percy Prentice

The 34th annual reunion of the Eighth AF Historical Society was held August 2-6 in Savannah, GA. Approximately 640 WWII veterans, family and friends gathered to enjoy fellowship and to recall the adventures of the Mighty Eighth in WWII. The 388th Bomb Group had two veterans in attendance.

There were 38 bomb groups and four fighter groups represent-ed. Several bomb groups attended for the first time. Realizing that holding their own reunions was pointless with low attendance and costly expenditures for a very few people, several groups attended this meeting for the first time, some in very large numbers.

Highlight of this reunion was a visit to the Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum, a world-class museum that depicts the history of the Eighth AF and its part in WWII. Under the leadership of Dr. Walter Brown, CEO, the museum is alive and well. New programs and exhibits have been installed and a well-trained staff, both paid and volunteer, join to preserve and show our heritage. This museum is a must see for both veterans and their relatives.

One great achievement has been the formation and rapid growth of the 2nd Generation program under the leadership of Earl Wassom.

This is a group of family, friends, and men and women who are interested in 8th AF history and have created a group intent in keeping the heritage and history of the Mighty Eighth alive. Presently on the Board of Directors of the Historical Society, out of 10 positions, are nine elected 2nd Generation members.

Next year's reunion will be held Aug. 18-22 in Cincinnati, OH, which is in close proximity to Wright-Patterson AFB.

Larry Goldstein

Taps



Charles Iffland

Charles J. Iffland, 88, passed away April 3 in Norwalk, CT, where he had resided for 55 years. Co-pilot on the Rolland Sears crew, 560th Sqd., he flew 38 missions between Sept. 1944 and March 1945.

He was later called to serve with the USAF during the Korean Conflict. Awards included the Air Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters, and the EAME Service Medal.

Mr. Iffland was a pilot for Eastern Airlines for 35 years, retiring in 1979 as a Captain. He was a member of St. Thomas the Apostle and of the Shorehaven Country Club.

Burial with full military honors was held at St. John Cemetery, Norwalk, Ct. Mr. Iffland is survived by his wife Jane.

John Marcinik

John Marcinik of Independence, OH passed away on July 6. He was a sheet metal worker during his service with the 388th BG.

Survivors include his wife Josephine and daughter Janet.

Clyde Richardson

Clyde C. Richardson, Lt. General USAF Reserve (Ret.), passed away Sept. 8 in Summerhill, PA at age 88.

Navigator on the Frank Hennessey crew in the 562nd Sqd., he and Lt. Hennessey evaded capture, with the help of French citizens, for 49 days after their plane was downed by flak on the Jan. 29, 1944 mission to Frankfurt, Germany. They returned to England on March 22. Four other crew members were killed in the crash; the remaining four were taken POW.

Lt. Gen. Richardson was a retired inspector of the Johnston Works of the U.S. Steel Corp. Memberships included the Reserve Officers Assn., Air Force Escape and Evasion Society, 8th AF Historical Society, and American Legion.

Survivors include his wife Virginia; son Clyde, daughters Ruth Cehelnik, Anne Marie Johnston and Rita Louise DeFrank; step-daughters Lynn Simmons and Sally Joe Hughes; 10 grandchildren, 11 step-grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren and 26 step-great-grandchildren.

Lt. Gen. Richardson was buried with military honors at St Bartholomew's Church Cemetery in Wilmore, PA.

William Vanderhaak

William Edward (Bill) Vanderhaak, 84, passed away July 27 at his home in Palmyra, VA. He was engineer/top turret gunner with Elwood Nelson's crew in the 563rd Sqd., flying in *Classy Chassy*. He was awarded the DFC as well as four Air Medals.

Following the war Mr. Vanderhaak attended the University of Illinois, later to devote his years in the service of hospital administration at Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital in New York, the Royal Victorian Hospital in Quebec, and Valley Health Systems in California.

Mr. Vanderhaak was inurned at Arlington National Cemetery. A memorial service was held in Temecula, CA for family and friends on the West Coast.

Mr. Vanderhaak was preceded in death by his first wife, Charlotte, 15 years ago. Survivors include his wife Dottie; daughters Renee and Lauren, son W. Peter; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**388TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION, INC.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

DATE _____ NAME _____

WIFE/HUSBAND _____ PHONE _____

STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

SQUADRON _____ POSITION _____ AIRCRAFT NAME _____

PILOT _____ NO MISSIONS _____ POW (DATE) _____ STALAG LUFT _____

ANNUAL DUES (\$10.00) _____ LIFE MEMBERSHIP (\$50.00) _____ DONATION _____

ASSOCIATE ANNUAL DUES (\$10.00) _____ ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP (\$50.00) _____

IF APPLYING FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP:

NAME OF RELATION WHO IS/WAS IN THE 388TH _____

RELATIONSHIP TO YOU _____

(Please fill in known information above, SQUADRON through POW information, for relative.)

MAIL TO: LINDA SOO, SECRETARY
388TH BOMB GROUP ASSN.
3013 MOUNT BAKER CIRCLE
OAK HARBOR, WA 98277

EMAIL: linda388@fiddlybits.com

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