

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

VOLUME 70

ISSUE NO. 4

WINTER 2014

*Happy
Holidays*

The 388th BG Board

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From the President's Desk

It is November 11th, Veteran's Day, as I write this message- the day for celebration of all our living war veterans. We are so honored to have a significant number of WWII 388th BG veterans with us. I am thinking of all those who, roughly 70 years ago, put their lives on hold, the lives that they knew at the time, to serve and protect our country's freedom and that of others. It is not just today, but daily, that we also think of those who are currently serving in the armed forces and all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. We honor and respect all those in our membership who have served our great country, both in wartime and in peace. We encourage our members to remain in contact with our friends and colleagues in the 388th Fighter Wing at Hill AFB who made us so welcome at our last reunion and generously spent time with us.

As the President's gavel was passed to me at our 65th 388th BG reunion banquet in Layton, Utah this past September, I was still lingering on the fine words of Colonel Lance Landrum, Commander of the 388th Fighter Wing, in his address. What an honor this is and I am very grateful for this opportunity. Thanks also to those who have come to my side to assist. I pledge to do my best to perform my duties, guide the association, and sustain and grow our programs. I want to acknowledge Rick Thompson for his fine leadership and for doing such a terrific job this past year as President, as well as the Board of Directors, association officers, reunion organizers, and everyone who works behind the scenes to help make us strong.

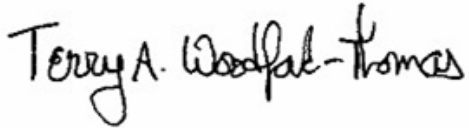
Let this be a great year for the 388th Bomb Group Association with all of its current members and those new individuals that we bring into our organization. In January, we look forward to the dedication of the City of Savannah B17 aircraft at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum in Pooler, Georgia that has been restored using donations from our association. We are energized about the development of a new 388th BG kiosk at the Hill Air Force Base Museum, the creation of a new college scholarship fund for our young people on behalf of the 388th BG, and more. In addition, it is our wish to build up our funds to perpetually sustain our 388th



Knettishall Memorial in England, and I encourage all of our members to contribute generously to our Knettishall Memorial Fund for the future.

This year promises to be exciting and eventful. We appreciate your involvement and continued support.

Warm wishes all around,



Terry Woodford-Thomas

SPREAD THE WORD

New 388th BG Association College Scholarship Program

In January 2015, applications will be available for high school students who are sons, daughters, or grandchildren of 388th Bomb Group Association Members to win a \$1,000 scholarship for the college or university of their choice. One award will be given every year. The purpose of this program is to bring young people into closer connection with the (1) the history of the 388th during WWII, our 388th veterans, their missions, their patriotism, their courage and their sacrifices made in the name of freedom, and (2) to better understand the valor and dedication shown by servicemen and servicewomen in the armed forces on the global front and at home.

Who is eligible? High school juniors and seniors who are family of 388th BG Association members, and planning to attend an institute of higher education within the next 2 years.

What is required? A three-page, ~ 1,500-word essay on the topic, "The 388th: Past and Present- Answering Our Nation's Call" to be submitted in both hard copy and electronic form. A cover letter is advised. As you think about your writing, there are many areas to explore and include in your essay. Zero in on something that is meaningful to you and your family. You may want to research about a specific crew, a base or base event, specific targets, specific sorties, the roles of the air and ground crews, B17

NEW MEMBERS

563rd Squadron

Stephen L. Chan
son in law of Thomas E. Linzee

DONATIONS

Barbara McAllister
Judy Frazier
Harold Rosenn
Ruth Tabor

Trending WEB Links

2014 Reunion Videos

<http://www.388thbg.org/2014reunion/2014.htm>

2014 Reunion TV Interview

www.ksl.com/?sid=31341901&nid=148&fm=latest_videos

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/388th>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/388th/> (secret site, private)

Websites

www.388thbg.org
www.388bg.info

Museums

www.mightyeighth.org
www.hill.af.mil/library/museum

Hill Air Force Base

www.hill.af.mil
www.facebook.com/hill.af.mil

***Correction in Fall 2014 issue:
Alexander Linzee Drastal**



388th PX



HATS
\$15.00 each



POLO SHIRTS
\$25.00



**KOOZIE AND
LANYARD**
\$2.00 each



RHINESTONE PIN
\$12.50

Each of the above items is plus shipping costs.

All items above are available for order from Christy Wammack. I encourage all of you to send Christy an email (xxxxclw@yahoo.com) or call her (928-581-1010) and let her know what other items you would like to see in our PX or to place an order. Also many of you saw Col. Long's wife, Staci, with a 388th pin. It is now available as shown.



COIN \$8.00 each
KEYCHAIN \$10.00 each
VELVET BOX \$4.00 each
Shipping \$3.00/up to 5 coins
\$8.00 for 6 coins or up to two gift boxes.

Make checks out to: 388th Bomb Group Assn
Mail to:
Greg Staples
4715 W. Larchwood Court, Spokane, WA 99208
All profits go to our Memorial in Knettishall.

plane mechanics, what a mission briefing was like, or compare 388th aircraft today with those used during WWII, just to give a few examples.

What are the evaluation criteria? More details will be sent to you, but briefly, the highest scoring essays will be written with personal integrity, creativity, originality, clarity, and accuracy, with appropriate references, citations, and sources given, using a variety of media and resources. Communication with 388th BG veterans and active duty 388th FW servicemen and servicewomen is very strongly encouraged.

How will the selection be made? A dedicated scholarship committee composed of internal and external reviewers including 388th veterans, association members, and secondary and post secondary level educators, will read and score the essays, and make the final selection. During this process, the writer's name will not appear on the final copy of the essay.

When will the award be presented? The scholarship award will be announced during the summer preceding the Annual 388th BG Reunion, which this year, will take place in the Crystal City, VA/Washington DC area. The presentation will take place at the reunion banquet to which the recipient will be invited and honored. Attendance of the awardee will not be required, but is highly encouraged.

How do I start? Contact Terry Woodford-Thomas with your inquiries and intentions, and an application and further details will be sent to you. The deadline to receive all applications and essays will be April 2015.

Terry Woodford-Thomas
President, 388th Bomb Group Association, Inc.
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St. Louis, MO 63105
Tel: 314-587-1436
tthomas@danforthcenter.org



SAVE THE DATE:

SEPT 2nd thru the 5th, 2015

We're heading to Washington D.C. to celebrate and honor our Veterans at the Memorial that was built to honor all of them.



So come one, come all ...Veterans, wives, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren! We have great plans for your visit...and a few surprises too! Let's make the 388th 2015 Reunion the best yet! And what a great place to do it. Educational for kids, informative for adults and **FUN** for all! See you there!



Black Monday: Remembering the POWs and MIAs of the 388th Bomb Group's Stuttgart Mission

Commentary by Lt. Col. Terrence G. Popravak, Jr.,
USAF (Retired)

388 FW, 1993-1996

9/24/2014 - HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah -- Seventy one years ago this month, the 388th Bomb Group fought a savage air battle against the German Luftwaffe in the wartime skies over Europe during the Eighth Air Force mission to Stuttgart, Germany on Sept. 6, 1943. Of the 21 B-17 Flying Fortress heavy bombers the 388th flew that day, 11 did not return to base at Knetishall Airfield after this mission. It was the worst single day for the 388th in the unit's entire history. So on this 71st anniversary of that fateful mission, we remember Black Monday for National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

In the summer of 1943, enemy fighters strongly opposed 8th Air Force bombing raids going deeper into Germany, and losses mounted alarmingly. The Stuttgart mission followed the epic August 17, 1943, "double strike" mission against Regensburg and Schweinfurt in which 60 Flying Fortresses were lost, 20% of the attacking force - another 100 bombers were written off for battle damage. Fortunately, the 388th only lost one B-17 on this rough mission; 10 other 388th aircraft were damaged by flak and two aircrew were wounded.

The mission to Stuttgart took place about two months into the 388th's combat service in the European Theater of Operations, and was Mission 19 for the group - 287 more were to follow. The target was the SKF instrument bearing plants, reportedly then the most important strategic target in Germany, after the ball-bearing factories in Schweinfurt, Germany.

On this "Black Monday," the 388th was

one of the low groups in the 15-group bomber stream, and with the others flew through marginal weather to get to the target. The group met little opposition en route, with escort fighters brushing off early enemy fighter attacks. But later anti-aircraft fire, beginning at the Initial Point (IP) and into the target area at Stuttgart, accounted for at least two of the group's B-17 losses; one fell to flak just short of the target.

Clouds obscured the Stuttgart area, and the lead group led the stream on a circuitous course trying to find a break in the clouds to identify the target. After four bomb runs, twenty of the group's 21 Flying Fortresses dropped their bombs on a target of opportunity at the lead group's signal; unfortunately due to the weather the results were poor, and the mission didn't get any better, especially for the 388th.

Fighters began attacking in earnest around the IP, and mercilessly hammered the bombers after they finally hit the target and turned for home. Most of the group's losses were to enemy fighters; 388th veteran Ed Huntzinger wrote that there were "...about 150 enemy aircraft attacking our formation, consisting of FW190's, Me109's, Me110's, and Me210's with a few Ju88's." Four more 388th aircraft came down in Germany, while five more fell across France.

One aircraft flew to Dubendorf in neutral Switzerland rather than hazard a return across deadly, fighter-infested skies. All six aircraft from the group's 563rd Bomb Squadron were lost - wiped out in its position as the low squadron position in a low group. In return, the 388th was later credited with 15 enemy fighters shot down. The Stuttgart mission was costly; of the 45 heavy bombers lost, some 17 percent of the attacking force, 11 were suffered by the 388th Bomb Group. Gone were the Flying Fortresses named "Impa-



tient Virgin II," "In God We Trust," "Lone Wolf," "Patricia," "Shack Up," "Shedowanna," "Silver Dollar," "Sky Shy / "Wenatchee Special," "Slightly Dangerous," "Wolfpack," and one other ship. Of the more than 200 men who flew this mission, 108 were initially reported as missing in action.

The day after the painful Stuttgart raid, the group received this message from Headquarters, VIII Bomber Command:

"The 388th Bombardment Group suffered heavy losses yesterday. The spirit of the Group in bearing these losses and coming back with fighting hearts is a matter of great gratification to me. I wish you would give the Group Commander my commendation to the 388th Bombardment Group for their excellent spirit and confidence in the greatness of the task they are now performing."

The message was signed by Major General Ira C. Eaker, Commander, VIII Bomber Command. It was endorsed by Colonel Curtis E. LeMay, Commander, 4th Combat Wing, who added his own encouragement to the group.

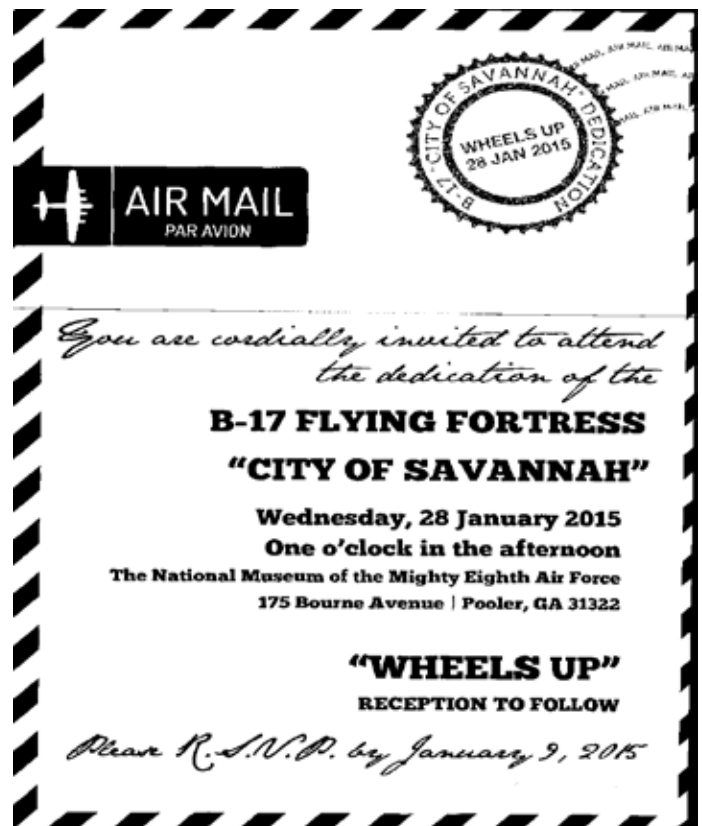
Subsequently, it was determined that 30 men were killed in action; six more were listed as MIA or otherwise unknown in status. Some 60 aircrew were taken prisoner, and ten were prisoners of another kind, interned in Switzerland; four airmen were able to evade capture and eventually returned to friendly territory. Of all those men earlier reported missing, apparently only one remains so today, 2nd Lt. Elmer F. Schulz, a co-pilot in the group's 560th Bomb Squadron.

Aside from the graves of those lost that day, few traces of "Black Monday" remain today. However, there is an outstanding monument to the five members of the Karnezis crew who were lost aboard "Slightly Dangerous," in the little French village of Champigny sur Yonne, about 60 miles southeast of Paris. Also remembered is the one civilian casualty on the ground from the

fallen Fortress, Ms. Marie Dumant. Of the Karnezis crew, three airmen were taken as POWs, two successfully evaded capture, but the five who didn't make it rest together near one another in the village's cemetery, their graves neatly kept and their sacrifice commemorated every September 6th by grateful French citizens. This burial of the Karnezis crew in Champigny is the exception to the rule, for most American battle casualties of 20th century wars buried abroad are interred overseas in large American Battle Monuments Commission cemeteries.

As we commemorate our Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action on this POW/MIA Day, let us remember the dozens of POWs and one man yet MIA from the 388th Bomb Group's "Black Monday" mission to Stuttgart. May their courage and sacrifice inspire those who serve today, as we remember that freedom isn't free.

Photos of this story can be found at:
<http://www.388fw.acc.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123425940>



FOR
FORTRESS FOR FREEDOM

WELCOME TO THE 388TH BOMB GROUP 65TH ANNUAL REUNION!



70 YEARS AGO,
they helped
save the world

— Excerpt from Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's message
to Normandy invasion troops the night before D-Day

THE DAY THAT CHANGED WORLD WAR II – FROM LOCAL MEN WHO WERE THERE

Hill Air Force Base







Hill Museum



The Journey





Banquet











Hospitality Room



Minutes of the 388th Bomb Group (H) Association 65th Meeting of the General Membership

**August 30, 2014
Layton, UT**

Opening comments and Flag salute led by President Rick Thompson

Invocation: James Cotton

A. Reports from Liaisons

1. Jim Morrow liaison with Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum, present, updated the membership on the status of the renovation efforts on the City of Savannah B17. It is nearer completion and a dedication ceremony will be held at the Mighty Eighth AF Museum, Savannah, GA., on January 28, 2016. All are encouraged to attend.
2. Jan Pack Singer liaison with our 388th Memorial Trustees in England was unable to attend this year's reunion but submitted a written report which was entered into the record.
3. Wayne Daniels liaison with the 388th Fighter Wing and other 388th successor units was able to attend and submitted a written report which was entered into the record.

B. PX Report – Product sales continue to increase and support the BG association treasury. If there are items that you would like to see offered through the PX, please notify Christy Wammack.

C. 2015/2016 Reunions

1. Update for 2015 Reunion Washington, DC.
2. Discussion of sites for 2016 Reunion. Seeking a host city in which a B17 is located.
3. Elizabeth Ann Turley, daughter of Bill Turley 563rd squadron, has agreed to become a reunion planner and begin planning the 2016 reunion.

D. Reports from Officers and Directors

1. Secretary – Interim Betty Curvat
2. Treasurer – Tom Dennis, Jr
3. Newsletter Editor – Steve Butner
4. Senior Director – Ben Forrest Jr.
5. Director-at-Large – Jim Zographis (absent)
6. Corporate Agent – Rickard Sundblad (absent)
7. Historian – Dick Henggeler (absent)
8. Parliamentarian – Kelly Moore (absent)
9. Vice-Presidents - 1st Terry Woodford-Thomas
10. Vice-Presidents – 2nd Scott Long

E. Old Business Items

1. Efforts to update original members contact data.
2. Follow up with Hill Aerospace Museum and 388th Fighter Wing Historian on Enhancements to 388th BG display with interactive Kiosks.

F. New Business Items

1. Elected 1st Vice-President, Scott Long, 2nd Vice-President, David Miller, Secretary, Carol Drastal. All other officers were re-nominated and elected for another year.
2. To seek contributions for England Trust Fund and invest the current funds so that the association's England Memorial Fund will survive in perpetuity.
3. A motion was made and approved that the association would establish a Scholarship fund. The first scholarship would be awarded at the 2015 Annual reunion in Washington DC. Donations were received to fund the first three years of the scholarship fund.
4. Funding was approved to extend an invitation to the trustees of the England Memorial and Museum to help deferred the cost of having them attend the 2015 Reunion if possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10am



Come See Us in Our Nation's Capital

It's hard to believe that 2014 is near an end and it will be only 8 short months before we are all together again in Washington DC for the 388th Bomb Group Associations 66th consecutive annual reunion. That hasn't happened by accident. It is the fun, joy, and happiness that we all feel in our own way of paying tribute to the Original Members.

In the next issue you will get the Registration Form to fill out and begin preparations for another outstanding year of fun and entertainment. The Saturday evening banquet will be another wonderful event. An invitation has been issued to the Trustees of the England Memorial and Museum in Knettishall. While nothing is confirmed yet we are hopeful that some if not all will be able to make it. Can you imagine a reunion between Percy Prentice and all the Original members that were stationed on the base? As soon as we know if they can make it you will too!!!

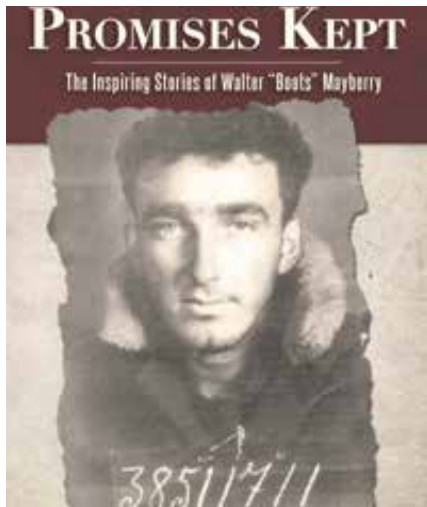
This past year at the annual meeting approval was received to establish a new Scholarship Fund for children & grandchildren of members. During the banquet the 1st Scholarship will be awarded to the winner. Terry Woodford Thomas, the 388th Bomb Group Associations 1st female President, has been hard at work final-

izing the requirements and review committee members that will be choosing the winner.

In part, Article I of the bi-laws of the 388th Bomb Group Association state that the purpose of the Association is "To preserve for all time the history, friendships, memories and incidents of the members of the 388th Bombardment Group (H) during World War II". Every year when each of us begins planning to attend the annual reunions we are taking part in that preservation of the heroic history these men lived. Through the Knettishall memorial, museum, and volunteers in England, "City of Savannah" B-17 at the Mighty 8th AF Museum in Savannah, GA., the 388th Bomb Group Associations display in the Hill Aerospace Museum, the newly adopted Scholarship Fund, to the current day servicemen & women that carry on the legacy of the 388th at Hill AF Base in the Fighter Wing, we too have a chance to share in their history. It's an honor to have that privilege. So start making plans to be in our Nation's Capital Sept. 2-5, 2015. Bring YOUR children and grandchildren and savor the moment making some of your own family memories!

SEE YOU IN WASHINGTON DC





POW: Promises Kept

by Walter Boots Mayberry
as told to Linda Apple

A huge black cloud filled with metallic splinters burst under the bomber and caused it to rock violently, tearing holes in the aluminum fuselage. Two bursts hit close. The third hit the in-board engine on the right wing and it burst into flame. All was searing smoke and screaming metal and roaring flame.

Boots bailed out of the disintegrating plane, falling head first. When he pulled the ripcord it jerked him up with such force it shattered two vertebrae in his neck. His hands were paralyzed and he couldn't guide his parachute. Boots floated helplessly to earth under the billowing thirty-foot silk canopy.

All around him was a cacophony of anti-aircraft fire. Shrapnel and wreckage from destroyed airplanes hurtled past him. Fear and dread filled his mind. What if this wreckage hits me or my parachute and drags me down to certain death? In the deafening noise of all this melee, he cried out, "God, help me!"

What Boots endured in the German POW camps would test the limits of any man. But near death, he finds hope at his most hopeless and discovers the strength to survive. Through his life, the promises he kept gave meaning and purpose to his life and inspired countless others.

TAPS



PAUL T. DIXON

Paul T. Dixon, 91, passed away March 7, 2012 in Anchorage Alaska. He served in the 563rd Sqd. from June 1943 to June 1945, first as a ground mechanic and later as a flight engineer, participating in Chowhound and POW missions.



Dixon

Following the war, Mr. Dixon joined the Civil Aeronautics Administration, working in Denver, CO; Goodland, KS; and Heron, SD. His last assignment for the CAA, in 1950, was in Anchorage, AK where he worked as an aircraft mechanic and managed the aviation parts division at Merrill Field. He became executive assistant to the director of aeronautics in the Alaska territorial government's division of aviation, helping oversee operation of 276 airports and facilities. After Alaska's admission to the Union in 1959 Mr. Dixon was appointed manager of all public airports, excepting the two international airports in Anchorage and Fairbanks.

In the mid-1960s Mr. Dixon became a management consultant in the transitioning of Alaska's catholic mission schools, the Yupik Eskimo people's efforts toward self-governing and the design and creation of native corporations.

His foundational work eventually became part of the Native Land Claims Act of 1971. The story of his role in Alaska's development culminated in the release of the book Mission of Change in Western Alaska, published in 2012.

Mr. Dixon is survived by Hallie, his wife of 67 years; 11 grandchildren, 29 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. Interment with full military honors was held at Anchorage City Cemetery.

388TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION (THE)
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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) ☐ Lifetime Membership (\$50.00) ☐ Donation
☐ Associate Annual Dues (\$10.00) ☐ Associate Lifetime Membership (\$50.00)

If paying for an Associate Membership:

Name of relation who is/was in the 388th _____

Relationship to you _____ ☐ (☒ box if you have prior military service.)

Please fill in known information above, Squadron through POW information, for relative.

Mail to: Carol Anne Linzee Chan, Secretary, 388th Bomb Group Assn., Inc.
1266 Dawnridge Drive, El Cajon, CA 92021 Email: secretary@388thbg.org or Cadrastal@gmail.com