

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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ISSUE NO. 3

WINTER 2013

THE WWII
VETERANS OF
THE 388th
REMEMBERS
OUR FELLOW
AMERICANS
WHO LOST THEIR
LIVES



OKC 2013



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<http://www.388bg.org> (Database)
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From the President's Desk

To the 388th BG family

Thanks you for the opportunity to serve the organization as President. As we saw this years highly successful event in Oklahoma City, there still is significant enthusiasm and attendance. Hats off to Jenifer Wammack and family for their herculean effort assuring all went off without a hitch, particularly in the middle of a Government shutdown and resulting challenging Hotel / Tour arrangements. Also hats off to all the board members that assisted Jennifer and me in assuring all the bases were covered. Their past experience with contracts, attendance sign-up trends, contacts with support organizations and energetic enthusiasm were invaluable.

Next years venue, including Hill Air Force base and the hosting by our legacy, the 388th Fighter Wing will be great fun and a bell weather for the future. Let's encourage more 3rd generation participation during the August event. Having Steve Butner's family present this year was a treasure and the Grandkids participation in the banquet a special experience.

At our board meeting and our annual meeting we focused on "Who we are" and where the organization is going.

The overwhelming conclusion was that the reunion is about our original members, that we can continue that focus as we move forward. Rick Thompson, our new president challenged us to contact as many veterans and family as possible around the holidays and is setting up a Phone call organization to allow that to happen. As we saw this year we had some new members and original members attending for the first time. The phone call awareness program may help maintain and even increase membership

To the original membersGentleman, my Father wanted to pass on that he missed you and being part of the festivities. I was able to show him video and many stills of all the activity. Again, thank you all for the support and giving me the opportunity to serve. I look forward to seeing you all in Ogden Utah next year.

All The Best,

Ben Forrest Jr.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS



2014 Reunion will be in Layton, Utah, (Hill AFB)
August 27 - 30, 2014

Knettishall 2014

This is a "save the date" notice for a trip to Knettishall in July 2014. I am focusing on the weekend of July 12 when Duxford Museum will have its annual air show of WWII vintage aircraft. I am planning a 3 day sight-seeing tour to see the air show, visit Knettishall (the air field and memorial) and the Hill Top Farm Museum (Dave Sarson's museum dedicated to the 388th). Also we will take in the 100th BG Museum at Thorpe Abbot which has a beautifully restored control tower.

The idea of this tour is to give you a concentrated dose of 8th Air Force and the 388th BG for 3 days. You can plan an extended visit to other parts of England either before or after the tour. More details will follow.

Nothing is definite at this time. If you are interested, please let me know rlhengg@gmail.com

Thank You For Your Donations

General Fund

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Paul and Frances Ammons | Al Lewis |
| Anthony and Donna Smith | Jack Vann |
| Barbara & Joseph McAllister | Joseph Hild |
| Drew & Jammy Willingham | Kelly Moore |
| Jim & Shirley Morrow | Ben Forrest jr |
| Dave & Esta Stewart | Kyung Jeong |
| George & Gail Staley | Maxine Smith |
| Jory Vanderburg | Steve Butner |
| William Rowling | Dottie Blasdel |
| Col Scott & Staci Long | Wayne Daniels |
| 50/50 Raffle for \$600 | Joseph Coyner |
| | Charley Meyer |

REMINISCE

A Canadian goose was grazing on a knoll in our field. The grass was high. I wondered how this bird was going to fly out of there. Not to worry, it made it and quite gracefully too. This brought me back to my B17 Flying Fortress days. Loaded with heavy bombs and with all four engines revved up we lumbered down the runway gaining speed. It seemed like forever. Finally a sense of the tires leaving the runway. A sense of being airborne. Only then do we uncross our fingers. And then, like the Canadian geese, we rise and seek our place in the formation.

Ernest E. Dobson
Radio Operator
561st Squadron



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.

Historian



MECHANICS

One of the most challenging support groups of the 388th were the mechanics who were responsible for keeping the planes in flying condition. In addition to doing normal maintenance on aircraft that were pushed to their limits, the mechanics had to get badly damaged aircraft back to combat readiness in the shortest amount of time. They would patch holes, replace engines and propellers, repair damaged systems as well as clean up blood. This was done outdoors in all kinds of weather at the hardstand. A nearby tent would provide a small bit of shelter.

Each squadron had its complement of mechanics that were organized into crews. The crew consisted of a crew chief and four or five others. The mechanics specialized in a number of areas - engine or propeller repair, radio and electrical systems, hydraulics. Each crew was responsible for an aircraft but the crews would work together as needed.

Unfortunately we have little information on the mechanics and would like to get more. We do have many mechanics identified and their squadron but for most of them do not know their crew. Any information that you can provide me will be much appreciated.

Dick Henggeler
Historian@388thbg.org



HEROES



Ralph Boyer



Wayne Daniels



Tom Dennis Sr.



Tom Eubanks



Joe Hild



Alvin Lewis



Tom Mc Elherne



Charles Meyer



Charles Neff



James Ragland



Bruce Riehart



William Rowling



Donald Scott



Alfred Soo



Bittner Snead



George Stanley



David Stewart



Jack Vann



Drew Willingham



Charles Woodford



James Zographos

2013 REUNION ATTENDING HEROES

Dear 388th Bombers,

On a recent trip with my husband to Oklahoma City, we happened to be staying in the same hotel that was hosting your reunion. We saw the signs welcoming you to OKC and looked on with great pride as you met together in the center court area. It is with disappointment that we did not approach each of you personally to thank you for the service you have shown to our Country. We are grateful for the freedoms you have helped preserve and pray that they are never taken for granted.

With deepest respect,
Robin and Casey McLaughlin
Ventura, California



World War II vets visit Tinker



Twenty World War II veterans of the 388th Bombardment Group, and approximately 65 of their family members, toured Tinker AFB on Oct. 3 and ate lunch at the Tinker Club. Afterward, the aviators posed for a group photo. Then-Lt. Charles Neff, a bombardier who had never flown an airplane but miraculously guided a crippled B-17 Flying Fortress from Berlin back to its home base in England and landed the aircraft without crashing, is sitting at the far right, holding a cane.

Mike W. Ray
Staff Writer

Today they walk with canes or get pushed in wheelchairs. But 70 years ago the members of the 388th Bombardment Group were young men in their late teens or early 20s, risking their lives flying in B-17s on bombing missions over Nazi-occupied Europe.

Twenty surviving veterans of the Army Air Corps unit, along with about 65 family members, visited Tinker AFB last week in conjunction with the 388th Bomb Group Association's 64th annual reunion. "It's unusual for a unit to maintain this kind of coherence," said Ben

Forrest Jr., outgoing president of the organization.

The visitors got a "windshield tour" of the base on a pair of chartered buses, escorted by members of the 72nd Air Base Wing Security Forces Squadron, and afterward they ate lunch at the Tinker Club. After the meal they were treated to a flyover by a B-17 from the Commemorative Air Force. The reunion concluded with a banquet Saturday night at an Oklahoma City hotel.

"We are especially pleased to know you wanted to come to Tinker Air Force Base," Col. Christopher Azzano, 72nd ABW and Tinker installation commander, told the entourage at the Tinker Club. "And thank you for the legacy you have left for our generation," he continued.



"We so much appreciate your service."

The colonel noted that Tinker was established in 1941 and is named for Maj. Gen. Clarence L. Tinker, an Oklahoman and Native American who lost his life while leading a group of bombers on a mission against the Japanese in the vicinity of Wake Island on June 7, 1942.

Colonel Azzano revealed that his father was a crew chief on a B-25 Mitchell bomber in World War II. Renzo Azzano, now 91, a first-generation American son of Italian immigrants, enlisted in the Army Air Corps after Pearl Harbor.

The 388th BG, a unit of the 8th Air Force, originated in 1942, according to Mr. Forrest, of Bellevue, Wash. The 388th still exists but has evolved into a fighter wing based at Hill AFB in Utah, he related.

History records that some 30,000 members of the Army Air Forces died in the European and Mediterranean theaters of operation. About 14,000 were wounded — many sustained frostbite from numbing temperatures as low as 50-below while flying in uninsulated airplanes at altitudes of 25-30,000 feet — and approximately 33,000 were captured and spent some time as prisoners of war. Only German U-boat submariners had a higher rate of casualties during the war.

The 388th flew more than 300 combat missions between July 17, 1943, and May 20, 1945, records reflect. The missions were focused primarily on targets in Germany and France, but some of the missions went to Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Ledgers show that 12,731 B-17 Flying Fortresses were built, and 4,754 of them — including 142 from the 388th Bombardment Group — were shot down, crashed or simply went missing in the European Theater of Operations.

About half of the 20 surviving members of the 388th who attended the reunion in Oklahoma City were captured during the war, said Henry Curvat of Jacksonville, Fla., past president of the 388th Bomb Group Association. His adopted father, Col. Wayne Daniels, was shot down on his third mission and spent the remainder of the war in a POW camp.

"Every day, they didn't know whether they were coming back," said Mr. Forrest, himself a naval and commercial aviator.

For example, the first 388 BG crew shot down in combat were on their first mission. And Mr. Forrest's father, now 90 and living in a nursing home, was a ball turret gunner on a Flying Fortress that had a harrowing experience on a bombing run over Berlin on March 29, 1944.

With the pilot and co-pilot both wounded, bombardier/navigator Charles Neff, who had never flown an airplane, took control of their plummeting, crippled B-17 — which was named "Borrowed Time". Lieutenant Neff leveled off at 9,000 feet and managed to steer the aircraft back to their home base in England via an unplanned, alternate route. He performed the first-ever landing of a B-17 on autopilot, and brought the aircraft down intact, albeit two hours behind schedule. The entire 10-man crew survived.

Mr. Neff, 88, said he finally was sent home after completing 35 bombing missions across Europe, including two on D-day, June 6, 1944.

The 65th reunion of the 388th Bomb Group Association will be held next year in Ogden, Utah, home of Hill AFB, said Rick Thompson of Cincinnati, Ohio, the incoming president.



388th Bomb Group Association

Income Expense FY - 2013

7/1/2012 through 6/30/2013

9/30/2013

Page 1

| Category | 7/1/2012- 6/30/2013 |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| INFLOWS | |
| Donation | |
| General Fund | 7,830.25 |
| Dues | 900.00 |
| TOTAL General Fund | 8,730.25 |
| Memorial Fund | 200.00 |
| PUS | 72.00 |
| TOTAL Donation | 9,002.25 |
| Interest Inc | 11.07 |
| PX | 877.00 |
| Challenge Coin | |
| Expense | -173.53 |
| Receipts | 1,469.35 |
| TOTAL Challenge Coin | 1,295.82 |
| Purchase Expense | -2,001.21 |
| Sales Revenue | 145.00 |
| TOTAL PX | 316.61 |
| Reunion Registration 2012 | 24,881.00 |
| TOTAL INFLOWS | 34,210.93 |
| OUTFLOWS | |
| Memorial | |
| Insurance & Maintenance | 1,571.00 |
| TOTAL Memorial | 1,571.00 |
| Misc. | 0.00 |
| Corporate | 61.25 |
| Other | 162.10 |
| TOTAL Misc. | 223.35 |
| Newsletter | |
| Postage | 1,379.91 |
| Printing | 2,550.00 |
| Returns | 58.97 |
| TOTAL Newsletter | 3,988.88 |
| Reunion 2012 | |
| Bar | 244.05 |
| Events | |



388th Bomb Group Association

Income Expense FY - 2013

7/1/2012 through 6/30/2013

9/30/2013

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| Category | 7/1/2012- 6/30/2013 |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Dinner | 4,581.50 |
| Museum&Lunch | 2,367.50 |
| Riverboat | 5,245.00 |
| Transportation | 6,660.00 |
| TOTAL Events | 18,854.00 |
| Hospitality Room | -1,288.38 |
| Hotel | 98.68 |
| Misc | 1,619.26 |
| Registration | |
| refund | 887.65 |
| TOTAL Registration | 887.65 |
| ReunionExp | |
| Supplies | 167.23 |
| TOTAL ReunionExp | 167.23 |
| TOTAL Reunion 2012 | 20,582.49 |
| Reunion 2013 | |
| Events | |
| Transportaion | 600.00 |
| TOTAL Events | 600.00 |
| TOTAL Reunion 2013 | 600.00 |
| Reunion 2014 | |
| Site Evaluation | 1,243.60 |
| TOTAL Reunion 2014 | 1,243.60 |
| Shipping | 254.42 |
| Website | 112.74 |
| TOTAL OUTFLOWS | 28,576.48 |
| OVERALL TOTAL | 5,634.45 |



TAPS



RICHARD N. CARTER

Richard Neil (Dick) Carter, of Trenton MI, 90, died May 20 after a brief illness.

The former president of the 388th Bombardment Group (H) Assn. served in the 860th Squadron as an airplane instrument mechanic from 1942 to 1945.

Mr. Carter joined for the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the Detroit area from 1948 to 1953. In 1950 he earned a Bachelor of Commercial Science (Accounting) degree from Southeastern University. After leaving the FBI in 1953 he started his own business as a Certified Public Accountant.

He was an active member of VFW Post 7310, and American Legion Post 217. He is survived by five nieces and nephews, among other family members.

Interment was held at Plum Grove Cemetery, Union, MI.



Carter

JOSEPH D. HAYDEN

Joseph Dale "Curley" Hayden passed away September 10. The longtime Goodland, KS resident was 89. Toggelier on the Jim Jamison crew in the 561st Sqd., he flew 20 missions between November 1944 and February 1945.

Born in Edsen, KS, Mr. Hayden entered the service following his high school graduation in Fort Collins, CO. After the war he made his



Hayden

home in Goodland.

Mr. Hayden was a retired postal carrier. Memberships included the First United Methodist Church, Elks Club, VFW and American Legion.

Survivors include Shirley, his wife of 54 years; daughters Shyrl Luea Ellis and Susan Hall; son Bill, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Burial was held at Goodland Cemetery.

HAROLD A. JOHNSON, JR.

Harold A. (Hal) Johnson, Jr. 90, passed away August 26 in Farragut, TN. He was a pilot in the 563rd Sqd., flying 30 missions between March and May 1945, primarily in the B-17 Miss Mac. He received the Air Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters.

Born in Port Washington, NY, Mr. Johnson attended Brown University prior to enlisting in the Army Air Corps. After his return, he graduated from Yale University, class of 1945W.

As marketing director for the Milliken Co., his 39-year career took him and his family to New York, Connecticut, South Carolina and Georgia. He retired in 1984.

Mr. Johnson is survived by Dorothy, his wife of 69 years; daughters Linda Weber, Barbara Bose, and Annie Gray; sons Hal II and Peter; 11 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Services with full military honors were held at Click Funeral Home Farragut Chapel.



Johnson



TAPS



HENRY VICTOR NATIONS

Henry Victor Nations, lifelong resident of St. Louis, MO, passed away April 18. He was 92.

Mr. Nations, a navigator in the 561st Sqd., had two tours of duty between April 1944 and March 1945. He flew his first 32 missions with pilot Stanley Hanuschak, another five with Casey Sulkowski, and his final 16 with Don Ong. Awards included two DFCs, Air Medal with six oak leaf clusters, and five campaign ribbons, including the Normandy Invasion.

Mr. Nations was in the postal service for 36 years, rising to manager of one of the largest customer service offices in St. Louis.

He was active in the National Assn. of Postal Supervisions, St. Luke's United Methodist Church and the Abigail Freedom Masonic Lodge, and was the recipient of the R-9 School Bell Award for contributions to the Mehlville School District.

Survivors include his wife Marjorie; daughters Leslie Pawlowski and Mary Curry; son Robert, seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Interment was held at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis.

RUSSELL J. ROSSMAN

Col. Russell John Rossman, Sr. passed away Sept. 16 at the Mount Nittany Medical Center in State College, PA. He was 89.

A co-pilot in the 561st Sqd., he flew 39 missions between May and Sept. 1944

on the Floyd Doherty crew, primarily in the aircraft Star Dust.

After graduating from East Penns Valley High School, Col. Rossman worked briefly at Martin Marietta in Baltimore, MD before enlisting in the Army Air Corps in June 1942.

Pursuing the military as a career, he flew an additional seven missions during the Korean War. Military service afforded the opportunity for higher education, enabling him to receive a BS from the University of Maryland and a Master of Commerce degree from the University of Richmond.

He retired in 1973 with the rank of Colonel after 31 years in the Air Force, joined Penn State as an assistant internal auditor. He retired from that position in 1990. Memberships included the Park Forest Village United Methodist Church, the American Legion, the State College Lions Club and the Order of Daedalians.

Survivors include sons Russell, Jr. and Ronald; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Col. Russell was preceded in death by his wife Phyllis; they had been married for 50 years.

Col. Rossman was buried with full military honors at Vairview Cemetery in Millheim, PA.



Rossman



Rossman

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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.

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Email: secretary@388thbg.org or stoneyandgail@gmail.com