

April 2010

## GREETINGS TO EVERYONE

Wow, here we are preparing for our upcoming reunion already; this will be our 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion (2010) in historical Norfolk, Virginia. We have received some great news - 455<sup>th</sup> BS and the 344<sup>th</sup> BG will be joining us this year. We are looking forward to seeing everyone once again as we have created some special friendships.

I would like to insure our Directory is up to date, so if you know of anything in our current directory that is incorrect please contact me preferably by email at [kville93@cox.net](mailto:kville93@cox.net) or you can call me at 480-984-3676 and leave a voice message and I can return your call as soon as possible. Your email addresses are very important to us because it will enable us to provide you with instant information and reduce our operating costs too. I will have new directories to be passed out to attending members and sons & daughters at our Norfolk Reunion. Members, who are unable to attend, may request a new directory and it will be mailed with your November Newsletter. August 31, 2010 is the cut off for new information to be inserted into the directory.

## Our Mail Bag News

Frank & CJ Mancuso – Were very appreciative of the card we sent to them and they are looking forward to seeing us in Norfolk.

Frank Mancuso, Jr. – Called to let us know that he really appreciated the card and he is looking forward to seeing us in Norfolk.

Frank & Delores Johnson – Sent a note thanking us for the card and letting us know that they can no longer drive to the reunions but, they are hoping their daughter will accompany (drive) them to Norfolk.

Lisa Izdepski – Sent us her regrets for not attending the Colorado Springs reunion but she is looking forward to seeing everyone in Norfolk.

George Spradling – Sends us his regrets, he will not attend Norfolk due to distance and just can't get around very well anymore.

## **454<sup>th</sup> B.S. 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion at Norfolk, Virginia**

Here is the information and facts about our Reunion location, our Hotel we will be staying at this year is the Holiday Inn Select. It is located just 2 miles from Norfolk International Airport with 100% non-smoking facility with free shuttle service from/to airport and other destinations within 5 miles of Hotel (service not available during peak traffic periods); along with free parking for those who maybe driving or renting a vehicle during your visit. We also have major shopping and restaurants within 1 mile (Super Wal-Mart, Super Target, Walgreen's and many others).

## **Registration Mail In Deadline Aug 25, 2010**

### **Schedule of Events**

**Wednesday Sep 22<sup>nd</sup> 2:00pm Registration/Hospitality Room Opens**

*\*The tours require minimum of 30 participants, fully refundable if minimum number not achieved; within 30 days only refundable if medical emergency; operators not responsible for delay, injury and/or cancel due to mechanical problems and/or "Acts of God" incidents and conditions*

**Thursday Sep 23<sup>rd</sup>      Norfolk City Highlights Tour - Thurs. Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Noon – 4:00pm      \$38ea.**

This tour includes a nice sampling of downtown Norfolk highlights. We will see the inner harbor, travel by Chrysler art museum, see Armed Forces War Memorial, a visit to General Macarthur’s Memorial, see the historical Ghent district, and visit the Navy Yard where many ships moored (Includes - Coach, Driver, Guide, Fees, light walking).

**Friday Sep 24<sup>th</sup>      Nautical Museum, Harbor Boat Tour - Fri. Sept 24<sup>th</sup>  
11:30-4:30p      \$45ea.**

On the tour, we first make a visit to Norfolk’s Nautical Museum, here there are numerous exhibits depicting the history of ships; your visit also includes being able to board and see the famous battle ship “Wisconsin”; there is a small snack bar in the museum for your convenience; at about 1:30p we’ll make our way (only a short ways) to the Harbor Rover, the excursion ship that takes us about the inner harbor to see many sites. The tour is fully narrated; you will get an excellent view of the Norfolk Navy yard on this tour, there are sodas, water, numerous small snacks available on board (Includes - Motor Coach, Fees, Nautical Museum Boat excursion, Driver, Mod Walking).

**Special Dinner/Entertainment Evening - Fri. Sept 24<sup>th</sup> 6:00 – 9:00pm      \$39ea.**

Tonight you will be attending a special dinner / entertainment event right in our hotel. You will enjoy a pleasant dinner and then a very special musical entertainment experience. We will have a nice style 3 course meal that will be followed by our entertainment. It’s convenient, and sure to be a fun time for all. (Dinner, Entertainment, right at the Hotel).

**Saturday Sep 25<sup>th</sup>      9:30am      Executive Board Meeting  
10:00am      Business Meeting  
6:00pm      Cocktail Hour / Cash Bar  
7:00pm      Farewell Dinner/Entertainment**

**Farewell Dinner Evening      6:00 – 10:00pm      \$38ea.**

Tonight we will have our traditional farewell for this reunion, cocktails, a nice dinner, with a musical background; After a relaxing day around our hotel, we will have this event. The cocktail hour will start at 6:00pm, the dinner (a 3 course meal, duet entrée meal) will be at 7:00pm. A wonderful time to see all your friends, and say farewell till next year, it’s sure to be a night to remember, see you there in your dress ups (Dinner event at Hotel).

**10:00pm      Banquet Room Closes**

10:00pm – 12:00a.m. Hospitality Room Open

**454<sup>th</sup> Air Force Unit Reunion Registration – Norfolk, Virginia 2010**

Mail to: 454<sup>th</sup> BSA

C/O George Cornett

8250 E. Obispo Ave

Mesa, AZ 85212

Inquiries, call George Cornett (480)-984-3676

Please complete attachment 2 and return by August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Name Tag Names \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Wife's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

---

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_

Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee		\$10	x	_____	=	_____
Norfolk Highlights Tour	Sep 23 <sup>rd</sup>	\$38	x	_____	=	_____
Nautical Museum Tour	Sep 24 <sup>th</sup>	\$45	x	_____	=	_____
Special Group Dinner/Event	Sep 24 <sup>th</sup>	\$39	x	_____	=	_____
Farwell Eve, Dinner/Event	Sep 25 <sup>th</sup>	\$37	x	_____	=	_____
<b>Total</b>						_____

**-OR-**

All the above \$169 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Note- No Registration Fee for members who only attend the Banquet.

**Make Checks Payable to 454<sup>th</sup> BSA**

(Full Refunds\*, if cancel prior reunion)

\* See Tour Description Details

Free Airport Shuttle Service (Go to the hotel call board, request pick up)

Or you can call hotel direct at (757) 213-2231

**Hotel Accommodation Reservation – Norfolk, Virginia 2010  
(Contact Holiday Inn Select Hotel as listed below address)**

**The Main Dates are Sept 22 (Wed) - Sept 25 (Sat)  
454th/ Air Force Reunion – 2010  
Room Rate Avail, Sept 19 – Sept 27**

**Holiday Inn Select  
1570 North Military Highway  
Norfolk, Virginia 23502  
(757) 213-2231**

**If mailing use attachment 1**

**The following information needed to make a reservation - up 4 in room same rate**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ # of persons in Room \_\_\_ # beds, Rooms \_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Check in, at 3pm Check Out, Noon  
Name, if shared room \_\_\_\_\_ \* Rate \$89 per room + 13% + \$1 RmTx  
Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Depart Date \_\_\_\_\_ First Nights Deposit is \$101.57  
Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_\_  
Parking at Hotel Free of Charge \*\* Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
with convenient access to hotel lobby \*\* (if mail reservation into hotel)

**(Be sure to Mention, 454<sup>th</sup> Air Force Group Rate–Avail Dates of Sept 19 to Sept 27)**

**\* Hotel Reservation Cut Off Date (to secure \$89 Rate) is August 25, 2010  
(If book by phone, call the hotel direct (757) 213-2231, ask for reservations)**

**Final Flights & Obituaries**

It is always a sad time when we lose loved ones. These are some of our finest that we have the disappointing news to pass along to you. They will not be with us at our future reunions physically, but will be with us in spirit and will be discussed about their special stories they have shared with all of us. **GOD BLESS to all of them**

**John Franklin Longfellow Meigs** – of Orland, Maine passed August 10, 2006 and was best known by his hometown as Frank or Pinky. He had a wonderful life, after WW II with the 454<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron in the 323<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group. Pinky lived most of his life on middle coast of Maine. Pinky worked at the paper mill on the Penobscot River in Bucksport where he achieved the position of Master Millwright. He also served with the Orland Fire Department as chief and in any other capacity needed for many years. He was a fish warden, responsible for the Alewife Fishery on the Narramissic Stream. Pinky was also a member of the town zoning board and was active in the Masons and the Order of the Eastern Star. In the 1980s he was relied on by his fellow “elderly” neighbors for ride to their medical appointments and assisted with their

paperwork. Pinky was a kind and thoughtful father to one son, nine stepchildren and many grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was typical of his generation, we think.

**Arthur L. Noble** – passed July 7, 2009 was 88 years old and was a Veteran of WW II (with the 454<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron of the 323<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group) as well as, the Korean War and the Viet Nam war. Art was laid to rest in Arlington cemetery in Section 70 at site 1899. He was also a member of the 454<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron Association and will be missed by his family, friends and his 454<sup>th</sup> extended family.

**Edwin C. Labrenze** – age 88 of Oxford Wisconsin died November 2, 2009 at Divine Savior Hospital on Portage, Wisconsin. Burial will be at the Oxford Village Cemetery with Military Honors provided by the Neenah Valley Memorial VFW Post 6003 of Oxford. Elwin was born July 3, 1921 in Oxford Township, Marquette County, Wisconsin the son of Paul and Hazel (Herrick) Labrenze. He served in the Army Air Corps as a as a Staff Sergeant and a Radar Mechanic. Elwin attended Northwestern Bible College and Northwestern Seminary. His first job as a minister was in the Meltonville, Iowa area for 8 ½ years, He worked at the Oxford Convalescent Home for 13 years and for the Postal Service in the Montello, Madison and Portage area for 17 years.

Elwin is survived by his daughters, Judy (David) Maxwell of Colorado Springs, CO and Arlene (Stanley) Larson of Oxford; son-in-law Mike LaVole of Colorado Springs, CO; sisters, Lois Labrenze of Kentwood, MI and Ester (Erwin) Himsel of Verona, WI; grandchildren, Heidi (Dean) Morrell, John (Jessica) Maxwell, Nathan (Pam) Maxwell and Stephanie Larson; great-grandchildren, Greg, Ester, Jenna, Chloe, Zander and Christopher. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Thelma and daughter Lucinda.

**Edwin Stewart, Jr.** – passed January 15, 2010. He was 89 years old and survived by his wife Ursula; three daughters, Margaret, Barbara and JoAnne; and one granddaughter Ava.

**Oscar Zweig** – passed January 26, 2010

Who helped start Penn Camera, a photographic supplies store in Washington DC area, died at a hospital in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He had septicemia and bacterial pneumonia. Oscar founded Penn Camera in 1953 with two of his brothers. It has become a chain of stores in the Washington area still ran by his family. He retired in 1971 and a few years later moved from Silver Spring to Pompano Beach, Fl.

Oscar was a native Washingtonian and a 1936 graduate of Roosevelt High School. He attended the University of Maryland and George Washington University. During WW II, he served in the Army Air Forces as a navigator and co-pilot on missions over France and Germany. His decorations included the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Purple Heart and six awards of the Air Medal. His past memberships included Norbeck Country Club in Rockville and Adas Israel Congregation, a Conservative synagogue in Washington and the 454<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron

Association. Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Norma Garfinkel Zweig of Pompano Beach; three children, Larry Zweig of Silver Spring, Bruce Zweig of San Francisco and Maxine Zweig of Fort Lauderdale; a brother, and a granddaughter.



**Fred H. Cross, Sr.** – passed away February 21, 2010. Services were held February 24, 2010 at Trinity United Methodist Church, interment with full military honors. Fred was born in Marion, South Carolina and was the son of the late Washington Howard and Lucia Coit Cross. He graduated from the Marion County Schools and the University of South Carolina with a degree in Accounting. During WW II with the Army Air Corps 323<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group 454<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron and flew over Europe in B-26 bombers. He was awarded the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, an Air Medal and the Bronze Star. After college graduation, he worked in North Africa from 1951 to 1953 constructing air bases during the Korean War. In 1955, he and Hugh Leatherman organized Florence Concrete Products Company where he served as CEO until his death. In 1957, he purchased Sumter-Stress Crete, and in 1974 purchased Pee Dee Block Company in Marion. In 1983, he constructed a piling plant

in Moncks Corner, SC. Fred was a very civic-minded person. He served the Pee Dee community in many capacities to include serving on numerous boards such as the Florence Lions Club, Bog Brothers Association, Florence Chamber of Commerce, Boy Scouts of America, McLeod Regional Medical Foundation, Darlington County Youth Home, and the United Way. He was a devoted member of the Trinity United Methodist Church where he served as Finance Committee Chairman and on the Board or Stewards for many years. He was a past president of the Carolinas Concrete Masonry Association and served as Southern Regional Chairman of the Pre-stressed Concrete Institute. He was named the SC Business of the Year in 1985. He was humbled and honored in his lifetime by numerous awards and achievements. He was known for his dry sense of humor and his kind, charitable heart. Survivors include his son Howard Cross and wife Sherry of Florence, his daughter Cathy Cross Kirby and husband C.C. of Darlington; four grandchildren, Catherine Elizabeth Cross, Caroline Susan Cross, Blakely Coy Kirby, and Lanie Esther Kirby. He was predeceased by his loving wife of 51 years, Catherine Sansbury Cross.

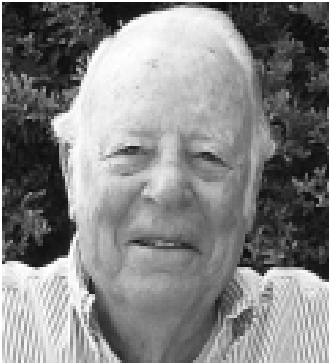


**THOMPSON, Earle A.**, 88, of Tampa, passed away February 25, 2010, after a brief illness. He was born in Roanoke, Va., December 30, 1921, to Will and Alma Thompson. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1940 and retired as a U.S. Air Force master sergeant in 1963, after serving in World War II and Korea. After retiring from the Air Force in Savannah, Ga., he moved back to Tampa and began a career with the City of Tampa, retiring after 20 years of service. Earle originally came to Tampa in 1942 as a member of the 323rd Bomb Group, joining the 454th Bomb Squadron at MacDill Field. Training difficulties with the B-26 medium bomber were legendary, earning the nickname of "One a day in Tampa Bay." The group then moved on to air bases in England, France and Germany. Earle then served in Japan during the Korean conflict and returned to MacDill and the Tampa area to begin off duty part time bartending at the Palma Ceia Country Club. Following his full retirement he was very active with the "Flying Wolves" 454<sup>th</sup> bomb squadron reunions, always looking forward to making the annual trip to their gatherings. Earle was preceded in death by his wives, Joan and Vera. He is survived by his sons and their wives, Randy and Sue and Rick and Barbie. He also leaves behind three grandchildren, Kathy Holt, and Michael and Lisa Thompson. He will also be missed by his great-grand-daughters, Jenna, Jillian, and Jessica Holt. His remaining family in Virginia will miss "Uncle Earle," along with his sister-in-law, Mildred Thompson. A memorial service with military honors will be conducted at 12:30 p.m. Friday, March 5, at the Bay Pines National Cemetery Pinellas County, Fla.

**RUTH COTTINGHAM** (Age 82) A long-time resident of Alexandria, VA (1968-2005), passed away March 17, 2010 in Las Vegas, NV. She was born Frances Ruth Heller on August 31, 1927 in Greenville, SC to Fred and Dorothy (Horne) Heller. She was a loving and devoted Air Force wife, mother, grandmother and friend. Ruth was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, Paul; her son, Paul, Jr.; and her sister, Ann Brandl. She is survived by her daughters, Marsha (Hollis) Babb of Alabama and Karen (Gregg) Denzler of Nevada; son, John (Kelly) Cottingham of Virginia; six grandchildren, Melissa, Kaitlyn, Adam, Ian, Graeme and Harris; sisters-in-law, Ruth Mead and Hazle Cottingham; nieces, nephews and many friends. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery.

**Harriette Fraser** – A long time resident of Genoseo, NY passed away May 1, 2010 was the wife of Hunter Fraser a long time member of the 454<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron Association. Hunter was also a member of Frank A Johnson's (our previous sec/treas) flight crew during WW II.





Leo G. Fehlman, Jr. took his final flight on April 9, 2010. Loving father of Greg of San Rafael, Jim of Novato, Charlie of San Rafael, John of San Rafael, and the late Katherine Leo; is also survived by three grandchildren; his sister Betty Ann Cannon; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. A native of Honolulu, HI, age 87. He served in the U.S. Army Air Force during WW II. Leo graduated from UC Berkley in 1949 and became an insurance Sales Agent/Underwriter for over 40 years in Honolulu, San Francisco and the west coast. He was a member of the Elks, 454<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron Association, B-26

Marauders Historical Society and Quiet Birdmen. Leo also enjoyed fishing, spear fishing, bodysurfing and ballroom dancing. He always had many friends where ever he lived, close and afar. If desired donations in his memory may be made to your local hospice.

## **Missing Members**

This is a new section that we will be running now and in future Newsletters, this section will be for newsletters mail out and returned. If you know someone on this list please contact me with an updated address or have them contact me direct if they wish. There name will only appear in one newsletter after that if they have not been updated then they will be removed from our mailing list.

Ms. Dorothy Brevard  
Mr. Kenneth B. Buffaloe  
Ms. Catherine Bushi  
Ms. Onie Dawson  
Mr. Sheldon Eichel  
Ms. Pearlyn Gosslin  
Ms. Frances Hall  
Mr. Forey Huthinson  
Mr. Marvin Kruisenga  
Mr. Thomas Miller

Ms. Suzanne Morrison  
Ms. Jean Morrison  
Mr. John Morton  
Mr. Stirling Schrock  
Mr. William F. Sims  
Mr. Floyd Stockwell  
Ms. Andrea & Martha Stolen  
Ms. Amanda Thomas  
Mr. Wilbur Yates  
Mr. William Zoller

If you can assist with updated information it will be greatly appreciated.

## **Financial Report**

Here is our financial report to date for 2010. We would like to thank everyone for their past contributions because that's what keeps us going strong with our organization. I'm sure our next report will be much longer because as the year continues so will our contributions and expenses.

### **Contributions Oct 2009 – April 2010**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Rcvd</b>
McDonald, Howard & Lois	\$50.00	10/08/09
McDonald, Merlin	\$50.00	10/10/09
Cross, Fred	\$50.00	10/10/09
Cross, Howard	\$58.00	10/10/09
LeVan, Von & Donna	\$50.00	10/10/09
Urey, Brad & Dottie	\$100.00	10/10/09
Devlin, Tom & Maxine	\$150.00	10/10/09
McEachin, Scott & Debbie	\$100.00	10/10/09
Polanko, Debbie	\$50.00	10/10/09
Thompson, Earle	\$50.00	10/10/09
Fehlman, Leo	\$50.00	10/07/09
Richey, Dan & Linda	\$100.00	10/17/09
Syslo, Ben	\$100.00	10/19/09
Sams, James	\$50.00	12/13/09
Caezza, Joe	\$35.00	04/27/09
Nethero, Ann	\$35.00	12/13/09
Roosa, Terri	\$35.00	12/13/09
Spradling, George	\$100.00	1/6/10
Johnson, Frank & Delores	\$50.00	3/4/10
Izdepski, Lisa	\$100.00	3/19/10
Cornett, George & Mary	\$100.00	4/28/10

If there were contributions from last reunion to May 1, 2010 sent that are not posted please contact me (George Cornett) at below address or call me at 480-984-3676.

If you wish to make a contribution to the 454<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron Association please send to 454<sup>th</sup> BSA c/o George Cornett 8250 E. Obispo Ave. Mesa AZ 85212-1618.

The below balance does not include postage for the April 2010 Newsletter mailing.

<b>Balance as of Jan. 1, 2009</b>	<b>\$7,033.75</b>
<b>Contributions</b>	\$420.00
<b>Reunion Monies Rcvd.</b>	\$0.00
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>\$420.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	\$50.32
<b>Balance (As of 5-1-10)</b>	<b>\$7,403.43</b>

**Our Elected Officials**

President \_\_\_\_\_ Leo G. Fehlman  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President \_\_\_\_\_ Dan Richey  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President \_\_\_\_\_ Howard Cross  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President \_\_\_\_\_ Scott McEachin  
 Secretary/Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_ George Cornett  
 Historian \_\_\_\_\_ Roy Bozych  
 Sergeant-at-Arms \_\_\_\_\_ Michael "Buzz" Thompson  
 Previous President \_\_\_\_\_ Max VanAusdal

**Notes Area**



# HISTORIAN'S HANGER

Roy Bozych - Squadron Historian



*Spring 2010*

## **Marauder Mystery!**



Photo Courtesy of the National Museum of the USAF

Since the 1970's hunters in the south central part of Florida have reported seeing the wreckage of a B-26 Martin Marauder in a swamp on the Avon Park Air Force Range that was untouched and in excellent condition. Teams of men from the US Air Force were sent into the swap to look for the B-26 but were never able to find it. The reports and searches continued all the way

through the 90's but the results were always the same, "No Joy!" no wreckage found. However, events were about to change.

First a little background information. The Avon Park Air Force Range or APAFR got its start during WWII. It was then known as Avon Park Army Air Field. Located just east of Avon Park Florida and encompassing about 218,000 acres of swamp and marsh during the war, it was used by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Air Force to train air crews in air-to-ground bombing. I'm sure many of our fine Veterans got to take advantage of APAFR's resources while they were in training at MacDill AFB.

In June of 2009 the grandson of the hunter who originally reported discovering the wreckage in the 70's contacted APAFR Commander Lt. Col. Charles "Buck" MacLaughlin to provide additional details about the crash sites location. Another trip back to the swamp this time with 10 Air Force Reservists, but this elusive Marauder was still not ready to give up her secret hiding place to Colonel MacLaughlin yet.

The next week Colonel MacLaughlin formed another search team. Going into the Florida swamp with him this time were Kathy Couturier, Cultural Resource Manager/archaeologist, the grandson of the hunter who originally found the wreckage in the 70's, eight Army National Guardsmen and four members of the

War Bird Hunters. With gung-ho attitudes, the group equipped themselves with water, knives, machetes, ropes, guns, radios and on one of the hottest days of the year (110 degree heat index) proceeded into the swamp. To say they were loaded for bear was an understatement, though since this is Florida I suppose loaded for gator would be more appropriate.

After two hours of hiking through some of the worst swamp vegetation imaginable, the group was wet, dirty, exhausted and still had nothing to show for their efforts. Kathy nevertheless wanted to search on. "Just one more hammock" she said. Hammocks are dense stands of tree and vegetation, like little islands that rise only a few inches above the swamp from the decomposition of their own leaves.

Several hammocks later and Kathy was still urging them on. "Just one more!" Now it's been said about Kathy she has the tenacity of a heat seeking missile chasing down its target. Once she locks on, she just doesn't let go until the objective has been acquired. Finally, Col. MacLaughlin said "One more hammock and I'm done!"

Suddenly there it was lying on the ground, a rudder pedal, a few more feet and a piece of a B-26 fuselage, a few more and a 50 caliber machine gun. This was it, the missing Marauder! The group spent the next couple of hours combing through the overgrowth looking for additional parts. They could pick out one motor and additional parts of the fuselage but nothing with any readable serial numbers. There was also a large impact crater that was full of water that they suspect contained the cockpit. Oh yes, that crater was also the home of two very large alligators! Finally it was time to go. Exhausted but very pleased Kathy locked the coordinates of the site into her GPS and with the rest of the group head home.

Since then the EOD (Explosive Ordinance Disposal) has been out to the site to insure it was safe and there were no live bombs or ammunition in the area. They gave it the all clear. Unfortunately Mother Nature hasn't been as obliging. Prior to 2009, Florida had several of the driest seasons on record. Remember all of those forest fires down there that were in the news? Well, now the tables have turned. An El Nino in the Pacific Ocean during the winter of 2008 to 2009 reversed that trend. And last winter was pretty much the same, leaving the swamps knee deep in water making it impossible to do any further excavation of the site. Furthermore with this summer's rainy season fast approaching, it looks like it will be till at least this coming winter before any real archeological work at the site can begin. That's provided of course that there isn't another wet winter.

With the information they gathered thus far, they believe this was a B-26C Marauder that was returning from a training mission in 1943 when it crashed. Glenn Martin produced 1,210 of these planes at its Omaha, Nebraska plant. The “C” model was basically the same as the B-26B-10 model that was produced in the Baltimore, Maryland plant.

For now the area had been closed off and will not be reopened until proper documentation of the site can be completed. Until then, this Marauder still clings to her cloak of mystery under the watchful eyes of two guard gators!

### **Lt. Col. Frank A. Kappeler and The Doolittle Raiders**



This past April 16<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup> The National Museum of the US Air Force was host to the 68<sup>th</sup> reunion of the Doolittle Raiders. The event was celebrated by one of the largest flyovers of existing B-25's in the world. 17 B-25's participated in the occasion. In addition special events, autograph sessions and speeches were held at the museum with a special dinner on Friday night. Four of the eighth surviving members participated in a private

ceremony where the surviving members toasted their departed comrades with the legendary set of 80 engraved silver goblets. The goblets of those members who died during the year are then turned face down.

Many of our second and third generation members probably don't know that one of the Doolittle Raiders was later assigned to the 323<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group 454<sup>th</sup> Squadron. Frank Kappeler (pictured above) was the navigator of the 11<sup>th</sup> B-25 to take off of the Hornet on April 18, 1942. His B-25, serial number 40-2249 was called “Hari Karier” and their target was Yokohama. The pilot was Capt. C. Ross Greening. As with the other Doolittle Raiders, Frank had to bail out of his B-25 when it ran out of fuel and crashed NE of Chunchow, China.

Even though he was a Navigator with the 454<sup>th</sup> Squadron, the picture above shows then Capt. Kappeler sitting in the Co-Pilots seat of a 455<sup>th</sup> B-26 serial Number 41-34736, radio call sign YU-M called “Expectantly Yours”. This picture was taken at Earls Colne, England on July 16, 1943 just before the 323<sup>rd</sup> BG's first mission in the ETO to the Abbeville Marshaling Yards in France.

On July 19<sup>th</sup>, 1943 The Stars and Stripes Newspaper had the following article about that mission:

## **"NAZI FLAK IS TOUGHER" TOKYO RAIDER DECIDES**

England, July 18--The lead bombardier in the formation of mediums which Friday made Eight Air Support's first attack of the war was Capt. Frank Kappeler...who bombed Tokyo last year from one of the B-25s which Maj. Gen. James Doolittle led over Japan.

"We didn't see any anti-aircraft fire over Japan and we were over the Island for 45 minutes," Kappeler said. "We were only over France 11 minutes and there was plenty. It's tougher here".

A point of history here; the 323<sup>rd</sup> BG was part of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force until the fall of 1943. I had the pleasure of speaking with Frank a couple of weeks before the reunion. Unfortunately since Frank now resides in California it was just too far for him to travel for the reunion.

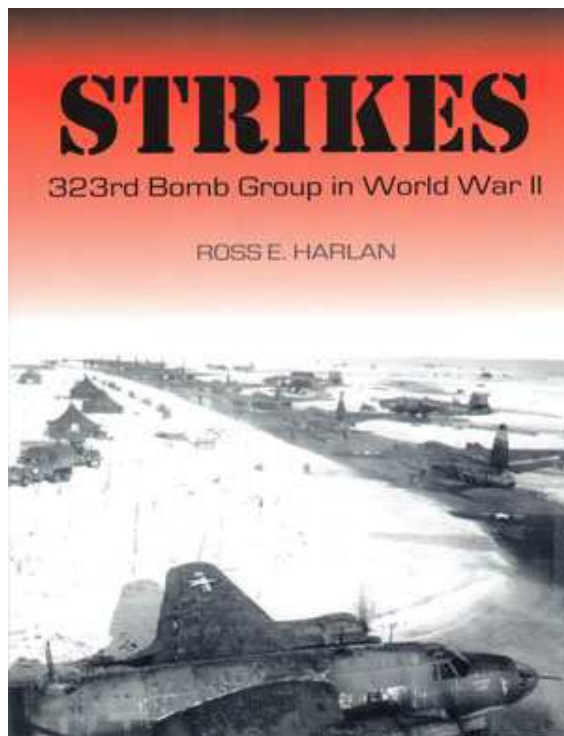
For those of you who are on the 323<sup>rd</sup> BG e-mailing list, I sent out an e-mail with a link to some great pictures of the B-25s that participated in the fly over.

One of the things that I really love about the position of being historian for the 454<sup>th</sup> Squadron and the 323<sup>rd</sup> BG is that you just don't know what great surprise is waiting around the corner for you. One morning a few weeks ago I was sitting at my desk answering e-mail requests when I got a call from a movie producer. Guess what, he wants to make a movie that documents the history of the 323<sup>rd</sup> BG. Now, before you go out and rent that tux or formal gown for our gala premier, what he has in mind is pulling together all the color film that was shot of the 323<sup>rd</sup> BG during WWII and making that into one big movie that he will put on a DVD.

His name is Lars Anderson from Victory Films. Some of you may be already familiar with some of his work. He produced the film "The Ninth Air Force in Color" that has some great color clips of the 323<sup>rd</sup> BG. He has acted as historical consultant for Steven Spielberg, Steven Ambrose, Tom Hanks, and Tom Brokaw. Mr. Andersen was also a sponsored guest of Steven Ambrose and Steven Spielberg at the Hollywood premiere of "Saving Private Ryan".

Lars thinks that he will have the project completed before the end of the year. I will keep you advised.

## 323<sup>rd</sup> BG Books



Most of the e-mails I get every day are for research or information about specific individuals from the 323<sup>rd</sup> BG. However from time to time I also get requests for just general historical information about the 323<sup>rd</sup>. In essence, three books written about our Bomb Group cover our history in an excellent manor.

The first and without a doubt most comprehensive book was “Marauder Men An Account of the Martin Marauder” by the 454<sup>th</sup>’s very own John Moench. First released in 1989, it was so popular that it quickly sold out. There was a second, slightly updated reprint in 1999. And, as with the 1989 printing, this edition has also sold out. It is now only available through

such places as used book stores, e-bay, or Alibris usually for much more then its original price.

The second book is “Marauder” *Memoir of a B-26 Pilot in Europe in World War II* by Louis S. Rehr with Carleton R. Rehr and a forward by noted B-26 Historian Trevor J Allen. Covering the period from May, 1944 when Captain Rehr arrived in England to July, 1945 it talks about his missions, attacks by the German’s fighter jet the Me-262 and his position as Squadron Commander for the 323<sup>rd</sup>’s 456<sup>th</sup> Squadron. More comprehensive information is available at his website:

<http://marauderpilot.com>

The book runs \$39.95 not including shipping and be purchased at such places as, Amazon.com, Barns and Noble, McFarland Publishing or through his website.

Last but definitely not least is the book pictured above, “Strikes” *323 Bomb Group in World War II* by Ross E Harlan. “Strikes” is a general history of the 323<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group during WWII and is loaded with pictures. This is a soft cover updated version of Ross’s original book that came out in 1945 which has long since sold out. Since there was a continuing demand for the book by historians and military buffs, Ross had the book reissued in 2005. Regrettably Ross is no longer with us. He passed in May of 2007.



The book derives its name from the strike attack photos that were taken by select B-26s on each mission. These planes would start taking pictures as they completed their final turn onto the bomb run and until all the bombs had been released. The cover of the book shows the Marauders of the 323<sup>rd</sup> taxiing out to the runway from our base at Laon/Athies in Northern France during the “Battle of the Bulge”.

The book runs \$29.95 plus shipping and handling charges. The original 2005 printing now has been enhanced with an added forward and autograph by the 323<sup>rd</sup>'s own Maj. Gen. John O. Moench USAF (Ret.). It can be ordered through Amazon.Com or with the included order form which contains some additional details about the book.

For all you stamp collectors out there, don't miss the Bill Mauldin commemorate stamp that was issued at the beginning of this year. For those of you who never heard about Bill, he is a Pulitzer Prize winner and the creator of those great WWII cartoon characters, Willie and Joe that were published in the Stars and Stripes newspaper during the war. The cartoons chronicled the daily life of two GIs in the Army and were so popular that they were made into several books after the war. If you have never read one, pick up a copy. They are a great treat!

And finally enclosed with this newsletter you will also find some pages from the fall newsletter that were inadvertently missed due to a printing problem. These pages contain pictures from the stories about the return of the Rose bracelet, plus the dedication of the memorials to Lt. Hartley and crew from the 394<sup>th</sup> BG and for McDonald and crew from the 322<sup>nd</sup> BG.

Hope to see you all at the reunion this fall.

Until next Time...

*Keep 'em Flying*



Roy R. Bozych  
49 E Lucas Dr.  
Palos Hills. IL 60465-3100  
708-870-6605  
[Historian@323bg.org](mailto:Historian@323bg.org)  
<http://www.323bg.org>

# Etang-Bertrand, France

## 41-31968 Memorial Dedication

### June 5, 2009



Glenn Martin ID Plate



Field where ID plate was found



Mayor of Etang-Bertrand



Color Guard



9th U.S.A.A.I.  
322 DG - 430 HQ  
En souvenir de  
R-26 "MARAUDER" 41-31968  
-laeste for alle-  
Qui s'ecrasa à cet endroit  
-le 11 avril 1964-  
Capturés  
Lt Alton K. MCKINALEY  
T4 Merlin T. JOHNSON  
17991 James W. GAIL DAWAY  
S888 Frank W. LALONE  
Sgt Nathan L. DAVIS  
Evadé  
S888 Waldo W. SHORNS





# St.Péravy-la-Colombe France

42-96210 Memorial Dedication  
June 12, 2009



## Crew

1st Lt. Howard Hartley      2nd Lt. William White  
S/Sgt. Lynn T. Cameron      2nd Lt. Charles F. Waddell  
T/Sgt. Elmer J. Neis      S/Sgt. James L. Picard

## 50th Mission



Colors Presentation



Wreath Laying + Moment of Silence



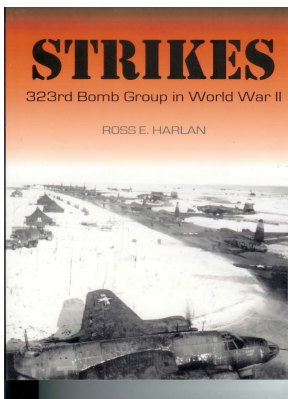


Sgt. Paul E Rose  
394th BG 584th BS



October 8, 2009  
Santa Fe





## Courage and Sacrifice

Lt Col. Ross E. Harlan tells the exciting story of his World War II Bomb Group (B-26 Marauders), the redoubtable 323<sup>rd</sup>, which provided crucial support for ground forces in the D-Day invasion and was instrumental in stopping the German advance in the Battle of the Bulge. The original edition of *Strikes*, published in 1945, provided a detailed chronicle of the Group's training and missions, with a wealth of information about targets and results. Included were 122 action photographs taken by bomb crews of the targets as the bombs fell. The 1945 edition is now sought after by historians. This new edition retains the original narrative with added material.

The chapters are organized by the Group's locations, moving from training at Tampa, Florida, and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, then across the Atlantic to England, to initial air missions in occupied France, and finally to the heart of darkness itself, Nazi Germany. In the new edition, the narrative is supplemented by human interest photographs and a "Scrapbook" of news clippings, military documents, obituaries, and a revealing letter by one of the great pilots in the Group. In addition to the 122 previously classified strike-attack photos in print nowhere else, the book has 22 maps and 62 other vintage photos.

*Strikes* is of great interest to the military buff, and it is a gold mine of information for the military historian. This is a tale about and a tribute to "The Greatest Generation," whose courageous sacrifices helped save civilization.

### STRIKES

323<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group in World War II  
Flying B-26 Marauders  
By Ross E Harlan

160 pg Perfect Binding  
ISBN 0-9766463-2-3  
Price now  
\$29.95 plus \$5.95 S/H

Includes full-page  
Endorsement by  
Maj. Gen. John O. Moench  
USAF (Ret.)  
Historian & Author

Oklahoma Cavanal Publishers  
c/o Margaret B Harlan  
3737 N College, Apt 317  
Bethany, OK 73008  
(405)440-1267

### ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY

A GREAT GIFT FOR THE MILITARY OR HISTORY BUFF IN YOUR LIFE



YES, I want to share this unique and informative book. Send me \_\_\_\_ copies of *Strikes: 323<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group in World War II* at \$29.95 plus \$5.95 each for shipping and handling. Please allow three to four weeks for delivery.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

My check or money order for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed

Mail to: Oklahoma Cavanal Publishers, c/o Margaret B Harlan, 3737 N College Ave, Apt 317, Bethany, OK 73008



# The March of the Marauder Men

It began on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 1941 with the 22<sup>nd</sup> Bombardment Group (M) departing Langley Field for battle against the Japanese and ended in Europe four years later with the B-26 Marauders pounding the German forces. From battles stretching from the Pacific to Alaska and the Aleutians, to North Africa and the Mediterranean, and thence across Europe, the Martin B-26 Marauders and the B-26 Marauder Men established a record that was admired both nationally and internationally.

Now, with more than a half century having passed, the last of the Marauder Men are fading from view. These heroes, not just of America but also of the armed forces of Australia, England, South Africa and France, have left for those who follow a tremendous record of sacrifice and achievement -- the primary elements thereof being found in the books that illustrate for those who were not there what it was really like to have been there -- and, for coming individuals, to set forth performance goals for their future.

While writers try, no single book can depict the entirety of the extended accomplishments of the Marauder Men. In addition, neither words nor pictures can reveal the sounds and smell of battle and death, the cold of winter, the heat of the desert, the environment of the jungle, or the loss of friends and companions. No matter how viewed, war is ugly -- it tears civilizations apart while leading to otherwise unheard of levels of violence.

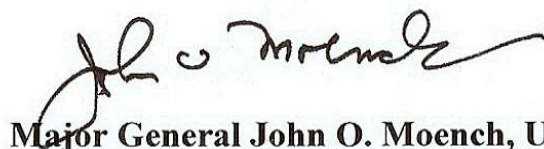
In *Strikes*, Ross E. Harlan relates the march of the 323<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Group (M) from its date of organization in the United States through the surrender of Germany. As background to the cover photograph of *Strikes*, we had struggled through a week of freezing cold and terrible weather conditions, too terrible to get our B-26s aloft. Before this weather closed down our flying, the group's last mission took place on December 15<sup>th</sup> when Lawrence McNally and I led two 15 aircraft box formations against a German defense position at R uthen, Germany. During the following days, under the cover of dense fog-shrouded weather, the Germans broke through the allied lines and were rapidly advancing in the direction of our base at Laon-Athies. We were quickly alerted that, if the German advance could not be stopped, we were to retreat. None of us wanted that -- we wanted to fight. Actually, several pilots volunteered to fly single B-26s through the near-to-total lack of visibility in an attempt to strike at the advancing German forces.

Then, on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, the weather changed and the runways and taxiways, along with the aircraft, were cleared of ice and snow, and the B-26 Marauders at all bases started engines and roared into battle. The German fighter opposition that day was strong and, when the Marauder counter attack of the 23<sup>rd</sup> was over, the Ninth Air Force had lost 41 B-26 Marauders, 166 were battle damaged, two men were known killed and 227 were missing, while 30 were wounded.

In the following days, the 323<sup>rd</sup> Group launched one or two missions every day with, from the 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>, the Ninth Air Force flying 69 group missions for a total of 2,196 bombing sorties. In all allied units, both ground and air, the counter attack was costly, but, entering 1945, the battle had turned against the Germans.

*Strikes* joins other great B-26 Marauder histories that tell the stories of the Marauder Men -- it belongs in every associated library, archive or personal collection -- it is an irreplaceable "collector" item of ever-lasting historical value and increasing worth.

I am honored and proud to be able to endorse it.



Major General John O. Moench, USAF (Ret)  
B-26 Marauder historian and author