



95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation

The 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization whose purpose is to educate the public regarding the history of the 95th Bomb Group (H) and its role in the air campaign over central Europe during WWII.

Volume 6 Issue 2

June 2017

“Justice with Victory”

912th Naming Dedication “I’ll Be Around”

Dedication by Toby Mumford

Most men who went into WWII and who were members of that group Tom Brokaw called the “Greatest Generation” were not very open or talkative about their war experiences. I found that very true of my father, Col. Grif Mumford. He did, however, write his remembrances of the 95th BG in his 1990 contribution to a book published that same year titled *B-17s Over Berlin – Personal Stories from the 95th Bomb Group (H)*, edited by Ian Hawkins.

Allow me to share a few comments by Grif in his remembrances.

Quote

“4 March 1944. 28,000 feet over Berlin. The first of many...God it’s cold. Outside air temperature gauge shows minus 65 degrees. Finally, Bombs Away – the sweetest words on any mission.



The three that unveiled the nose art were: Mr. Toby Mumford (son of Lt Col Harry “Grif” Mumford who led the first daylight bombing of Berlin) SSgt David Peterson, Dedicated Crew Chief for aircraft 57-2603 and Laurence (Larry) Stevens, B-17 tail gunner, 412th



Veteran Larry Stevens, daughter Candy Michael, S. Sgt David Peterson, Toby Mumford, Lt. Col. Dave Garon

What a great crew I have the good fortune to fly with today. Certainly makes a Commander’s job easier. Al Brown has fine-tuned his crew as well as any I have flown with – well disciplined, great esprit, and with each prepared to go the limit and then a little something extra thrown in. Today certainly

I'll Be Around cont.

proves that the significance of this mission; could be a turning point of the war.

Fighter attacks and flak over Berlin so heavy it could be walked upon – is enough to make one anxious to get out of this wieners and kraut land and back to Jolly Old....**We made it**... Wonder what old Iron Ass LeMay will think of the show his boys put on today.” End quote (Gen. LeMay was the CO of the 13th Air Wing)

Every member of this Berlin Mission would have been quick to tell you that their safe return was due in great part to the support they received from the P51 fighter pilots from the 357th Fighter Group that delivered the cover they seriously needed. Should be noted as well that Chuck Yeager, a member of the 357th, got his first fighter combat kill during this Berlin Mission.

“4 March 1944 was a long day...Out at 0930 and return at 1750. The cold was not unusual and one of the biggest threats to the airmen was frostbite. But the exhilaration of a successful mission quickly diminishes the flight hardships.”

Where did it start for the 95th Bomb Group and the 412th Squadron? Well the 95th began its activation, organization, and manning at Geiger Field, Spokane, Washington, in October 1942. With further training in Rapid City, SD before the group flew their aircraft to England via Florida, South America, and across the southern Atlantic to North Africa and finally assembled the Bomb Group on March 1943, in Alconbury, England.

Capt. Grif Mumford was the first Sq. Commander of the 412th Sq. He would maintain that position through all of his requisite bombing missions. As he attained the rank of Lt. Col. he would become the Group Ops Officer and then the Group Air Exec. for the 95th.

Grif noted in his remembrances that it was hard for him to move out of the 412th to these new duties. He had become very close to his air crews as they racked up mission after mission. Each had close friends that survived and equally close friends who were killed in action. These pilots and crews were all young men, 18 to 30. Dad was only 26 on the Berlin Mission and he was the oldest person in *I'll Be Around*. These young men sacrificed everything during the war effort. There were more airmen of the Army Air Corps lost in WWII than there were Marines lost. The 95th BG had a total of 386 B-17s come through that group, of which 162 were lost in action, with an additional 60 forced to land in mostly enemy territory. Needless to say, there were many POWs from the 95th occupying German camps.



Veteran Larry Stevens (l) and Toby Mumford (r) at the 912th ARS's nose art dedication
Photo Lt Col Dave Garon.

As squadron commander, Grif's involvement with the aircraft *I'll Be Around* was not as intimate as the regular permanent crew, whose pilot was Lt. Al Brown. As luck would have it, this aircraft was the one that Dad would fly in as the Mission Commander on March 4, 1944, when he led that First American Daylight Bombing of Berlin. This successful Berlin Mission would be honored with a Third Presidential Citation for the 95th BG, more than any other Bomb Group in the 8th Air Force.

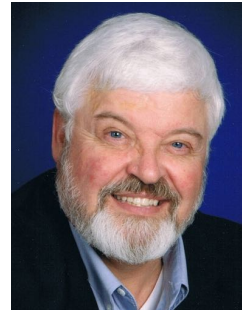
It is the aircraft that Grif would be forever associated with during his tour of duty with the 95th in Horham, England, which had become the HQ for the 95th after moving from Alconbury.

I know that Dad, Al Brown's entire crew, and the airmen of the 95th would be extremely proud of the fact that today the 912th and the 412th Squadrons have this special relationship. With this dedication, the 912th Squadron celebrates the accomplishments of all those men of the 95th and honors an historic Berlin Mission by naming one of your aircraft "I'll Be Around." On behalf of all the airmen of the 95th, the long line of members of the 412th, and the crew of *I'll Be Around* – I together with the other members of the Board of Directors of the 95th Memorials Foundation thank the 912th Squadron.

Thank you Lt. Col. Garon, your staff, and crew personnel for including me and one of Grif's grandsons, Donald Mumford, in this dedication. I thank each of you for your service to our country.

Notes from the President

There were poignant reminders of the price paid by our veterans during WW2 amongst the just-past Memorial Day weekend observations, the dedication and rededication of memorials to 95th BG crews in France and Belgium (Aaron Conover crew and Robert Mercer crew, respectively) as well as ceremonies at Cambridge American Cemetery, and the recent 2017 Horham reunion on the grounds of the former station 119 in Suffolk. I trust that each of our 95th BG members found a few minutes to reflect on the legacy left to us by these then-young men, many of whom gave their last full measure of devotion.



Gerald Grove
Son of Ronald W. Grove
335th Tail Gunner

I'm hopeful that many of our 95th BG extended families are planning to attend this year's 95th BG reunion in New Orleans, LA, October 4th through 9th. As the agenda continues to fill in, we'll be planning for time at the World War 2 Museum, a riverboat cruise, a visit to the French Quarter, and a number of other events to make your 95th BG reunion trip worthwhile. This beautiful city of the South has much to offer during our stay!

You may now make your hotel reservations via the link below or by calling [800-227-6963](tel:800-227-6963). If you use the 1-800 phone number, please reference code "GMZ" in order to receive the group rate. It is strongly suggested that you make hotel reservations before September 1st for the group rate. Following is the link for making reservations on-line: <https://aws.passkey.com/go/95thBGMF>

I ask that you also consider submitting your New Orleans reunion registration before September 1st in order for our Reunion Committee to accurately plan for our group events. The reunion registration form can be found on our website (<http://www.95thbg.org>) and on our official Facebook page.

We have many opportunities within the 95th BG Memorials Foundation to serve and honor the legacy of our 95th BG veterans. Please consider volunteering as a member of one of our several Foundation Committees or Affiliates and/or becoming part of our governing Board of Directors. Just have a look at our website, under the "About Us" tab, using the "Contacts" dropdown menu, and reach out to any Committee chairperson or Board member to express your interest, or contact me directly via email at president@95thbg.org to discuss the Memorials Foundation.

As our Membership Committee chairperson, John Mollison, has urged each of us, please reach out to someone new this year and ask them to join the 95th BG Memorials Foundation's membership, or consider "paying it forward" by funding a new invitee's first annual dues membership. So far this year, we have seen a slight increase in family memberships; this is a wonderful trend as the Board of Directors continues to search for ways to engage following generations in the work of honoring the legacy of our 95th BG veterans.

It is my belief that our social media fans who've not already become members should consider joining the 95th BG Memorials Foundation membership – the only 8th AF Bomb Group to earn three Distinguished Unit Citations in WW2. For an individual, it will likely be the best \$25 you'll invest in 2017, including tax deductibility status as the Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) organization.

Justice – Honor – Victory

Gerald



Circling Back to Horham



Ray Hobbs and James Mutton

For Ray Hobbs, our only 95th BG veteran at the reunion, one can only imagine the memories and emotions that flooded back into his life for the week of April 20 through 26. Visiting with Ray and listening to his recollections and stories of life during the last weeks of WW2 was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. As a 95th BG pilot, Ray was fortunate enough to be a part of the Chowhound missions flown by the 13th Combat Wing – whereby our special veterans were giving back as the war ended by supplying the starving Dutch people with food and supplies dropped at low level.

This year's Horham reunion began with a visit to Cambridge, followed by a touching tour of the Cambridge American Cemetery where a number of our 95th BG lay, having given their last full measure of devotion during WW2. Our own Ray Hobbs assisted with lowering the Stars and Stripes as they closed the Cemetery. We then traveled to our lodging accommodations in Diss (or to the Horham Community Centre for those with home-stay families). The next day included a visit to the seaside village of Southwold for sightseeing and shopping, followed by an incredible welcome at the Red Feather Club on the grounds of the former WW2 airbase for the 95th BG, Station 119 at Horham.



Sage Schloss and Marley Harris, great-grandson of Veteran Ray Olsen



Sage Schloss, great-grandson of Veteran Brad Petrella Sr.



Linda Endris and Alan Johnson

Horham continued

The following day included a Jeep and WW2 vehicle tour around the old air base, followed by a wreath laying ceremony at Redlingfield, then a lovely dinner and dance at the Red Feather Club that evening. Sunday began with a beautiful wreath laying at the 95th BG memorial in Horham, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at St. Mary's Church across from the striking black marble memorial to the 95th BG in Horham. After a light lunch, the balance of the day was spent in and around the Red Feather Club museum, with our British friends and supporters, as well as walking about the old air base.

Monday provided an open day for the reunion attendees to visit and sightsee on their own, as well as take a deep breath and prepare for a heartfelt farewell ceremony on Tuesday evening. We spent Tuesday visiting Wymondham Abbey, taking a railroad journey to Dereham for lunch, visiting the Gressenhall museum, and then attending the farewell gathering and evening tea at the Red Feather Club.



Jeep trip



Barney Finch who installed sister database to ours in Tucson.



Linda Woodward, Veteran Ray Hobbs and Beverley Abbott



Ray Hobbs with Colonel Thomas "Tom" D. Torkelson, the commander of the 100th Air Refueling Wing, Mildenhall, in St. Mary's. photo: Darren Smith

Horham continued



Russ and Jesse McKnight with Alan Johnson



Red Feather Club



Phil Mutton, John and Kate Kirkum



Gayle Bradley Weiss and James Mutton

When Harry Met Ray

It all started when Brad Petrella jumped in on a 3-way email conversation among a British photo restoration expert who restored Brad Sr.'s photo collection, Mark Erickson, and Wyn Harrison, a dear friend of WWII Royal Air Force Warrant Officer Harry Irons. Brad alerted Wyn that the 95th was having a reunion at Horham in a few weeks. "I'll be happy to show you and Harry around and introduce you to my friends," Brad chimed in. The rest is history: two men from the "Greatest Generation" – one American and one British – met years after their individual epic wartime experiences.

Warrant Officer Harry Irons, who joined the RAF in 1940 at the age of 16 as a rear gunner flying in Lancasters, meets Ray Hobbs, our then 22-year-old B-17 pilot from the 95th. The two distinguished veterans who served as allies defeating Nazi Germany enjoyed each other's company in the Red Feather Club 73 years later. A full accounting of Harry's wartime experiences is available from Russ McKnight if interested.



Veterans Ray Hobbs and Harry Irons

A Fireside Chat with Ed and Fred

By Ed Davidson

My good friend, Fred Kennie, has flown west and now sits with folded wings to welcome us at the gates of eternity. Fred always had a hearty greeting – “Cheerio.” He was a man resolute in his principles with an innate power to make friends wherever he went.

We met in June 1942 at Maxwell Field, Alabama – two teenagers who had enlisted in the Army Air Corps for the “duration plus six months.” It was here that Jim Bellingham (1916–1999) came into our lives. Jim was in his mid-twenties with prior military time. The three of us, with others, were assigned to Class 43-C, which meant that if all went as planned, we would graduate from flying school in March 1943 with our silver pilot wings and gold lieutenant bars.

After we completed preflight training at Maxwell Field, we moved to Decatur, Alabama for sixty hours of flight training in the Stearman PT-17. Then, on to Walnut Ridge, Arkansas for an additional 70 hours’ flight training in the Vultee BT-13.

Our first parting came in January 1943 when Jim and I were assigned multi-engine training while Fred went to single-engine advanced training. After receiving his commission, Fred went through B-17 combat crew training as copilot and his crew was assigned as a replacement crew for the 95th Bomb Group at Horham, England.

October 10, 1943, Munster, Germany – While flying on his 7th combat mission, Fred’s aircraft “Patsy Ann III” was fatally damaged and the crew was forced to bail out. Fred floated safely to the earth in his parachute, was able to escape immediate capture, and evaded for about ten days. Fred was discovered hiding in a haystack and the farmer and his family were forced to alert the Germans. Before Fred was taken as prisoner of war, he was able to give his wristwatch to the farmer, Anton Vortman.

Fred then went to Dulag Luft near Frankfort, Germany for the customary week in solitary confinement with daily interrogations. Then it was on to Stalag Luft 1 at Barth, Germany on the Baltic coast north of Berlin. Fred was one of the first American air officers to be incarcerated there in November 1943. His assigned location was South Compound, Barrack 2, Room 7.

Jim Bellingham, flying a B-17 with the 2nd Bomb Group from North Africa, was shot down on his 7th combat mission in late December 1943 and he joined Fred at Stalag Luft 1, South Compound, Barrack 2, Room 3.

We meet again!

Fred and Jim were waiting for me when I arrived at the gates of Stalag Luft 1 in mid-January 1944 after I was shot down on my 7th combat mission. I was assigned South Compound, Barrack 2, Room 3. We were in the same Barrack!

April 30, 1945 – Most of the German troops left Stalag Luft 1 and went toward the British lines near Luebeck, Germany.

May 1, 1945 – Russian troops arrived and liberated our prisoner of war camp.

May 13, 1945 – B-17s arrived from England and we flew back to freedom; well, back to Allied Military Control, at Camp Lucky Strike in France.



Tom Crosby, ex POW, Navy and Ed Davidson

Fireside chat continued

We said goodbye there, with promises to keep in touch. Fred returned to Belle Vernon, PA, attended Purdue University, and continued flying with the Reserves. Shortly after the death of his wife, June, Fred went to San Diego to visit Jim Bellingham. Fred moved to San Diego in early 1952 and worked for Convair as a Logistics and Contract Administrator. It was here that he met and married Marge Bruce and raised two children, Janis K. Hynd, San Diego, and Robert Kennie, now of Manassas, VA.



Fred Kennie's daughter Jan Hynd

May 1973 together again!

My employment with American Airlines brought me to San Diego – and there they were...waiting for me!

May 1992 – I was honored to join Fred when he returned to Horham, England for the 50-year anniversary of the Eighth Air Force in England. We did the 95th Bomb Group reunion activities at Horham, England, and then flew to Amsterdam where we met Jim Bellingham. We rented a car and drove to Enschede, Netherlands, to visit the farm where Fred had been captured. It was a touching ceremony as Anton Vortman's son returned Fred's wristwatch to him. We continued our road trip and visited the Stalag Luft 1 location where a small park and plaque dedicate the site. Our trip then took us south to Munich, then to visit "the Eagle's Nest." We traveled back west through Austria and Switzerland and north to Frankfurt and our return home.

Jim Bellingham died April 28, 1999; Marge died in 2002 and her ashes are scattered off Hawaii. In 2005 Fred married Beulah Umholtz, a widow lady he had known since his days at Convair. Beulah is currently living with her daughters in Utah.

So long, my friend, so long..... Rest in Peace.

Kudos to the Mission Tucson Committee

Our Mission Tucson Fundraising Campaign was a rousing success! The Mission Tucson Committee has worked diligently since 2013 to make our Memorial Room at the Pima Air Museum in Tucson, Arizona, come to fruition. The stated purpose of the fundraising campaign was to finance the rebuilding of the Memorial Room and create a fund to care for the remaining memorials in perpetuity. The fundraising campaign raised over \$456,000 with more pledged over the next few years. We have expended approximately \$354,000 toward the Tucson Memorial Room. That leaves approximately \$102,000 that will be placed in a fund to maintain all the official memorials of the 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation. Outstanding pledges will be placed in the fund as they are received.

As Treasurer, I would like to thank the Mission Tucson Committee, including Margaret Blagg who so generously shared her museum expertise in creating the design of the memorial, and the Fundraising Team for their hard work over the past few years to make this a reality. Janie McKnight, Michele Slade, Mike Darter, Nancy Smith, and Toby Mumford put in countless hours on this project, and continue to be a dependable source of information and support for me.

As a member of the 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation and a daughter of a 95th Veteran, I am thrilled by the gorgeous memorial room I saw in Tucson in October! It truly is an incredible work telling the story of the courageous men of the 95th!

Nancy Freemantle

YouToo: From our Members & Facebook Friends

Do you remember him?

My name is Gaylen D. Grody. My husband, Wayne W. Grody, is the nephew of William H. Grody who was part of the 95th Bomb Group, a 412th navigator, and perished on July 29, 1944. His name is printed on the Wall of the Missing in Margraten American Cemetery in the Netherlands.

His name on the Wall of the Missing has been adopted by a gentleman named Johan Biesman from Belgium. We had the good fortune of visiting the American Cemetery and meeting Johan a year and a half ago, and since then, we have kept in touch and exchanged information and photos of William with him.

I'm writing today because Johan actually found a series of photos chronicling the 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation in Tucson from its last meeting in 2016. He sent them to me in a Dropbox file. We didn't know this group existed until now!

Now we're all curious if anyone remembers William Grody, or may have served with him? Of course, everyone in his plane (nicknamed the Exterminator) died near Lathen, Germany. But we are still wondering if his name may sound familiar to anyone in your group?

I can be reached through this email, gaylendg@gmail.com. Thank you so much for your patience with us.

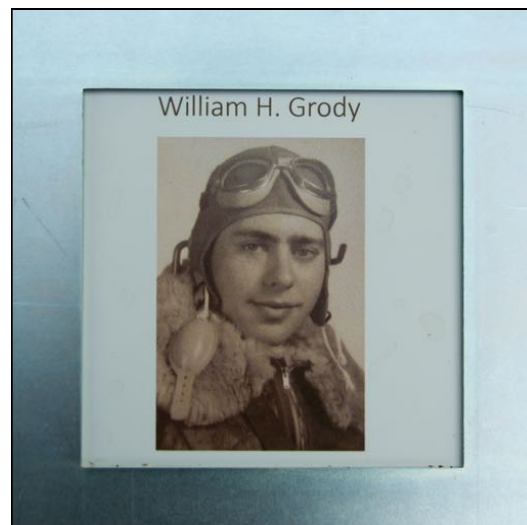
Best regards,

Gaylen

I'm attaching the list of crewmen from a letter that we have from William, sent to his parents, from the airbase in England.

CREW:

Lt. F. D. Hodges - pilot
Lt. J. W. Peacock - co-pilot
Lt. E. L. Moody - bombardier
T/Sgt W. L. Brown - engineer (top turret)
T/Sgt R. Shafer - radio operator
S/Sgt J. D. Kyees - waist gunner
S/Sgt L. R. Brooks - ball turret gunner
S/Sgt L. Burleigh - waist gunner
S/Sgt E. Weaver - tail gunner



Want to see your
95th BG Memorials Foundation
newsletters in color?

Sign up for email delivery!

Contact John Mollison at
membership@95thbg.org

In Loving Memory & In Honor Of

Our treasurer, Nancy Freemantle, reports that since our last newsletter, the Foundation has received donations "In Honor Of" living veterans, and "In Loving Memory" of those who have Left Formation.

In Loving Memory

Harry & Margaret Aslagson
Harry P. Aslagson
Eldon Broman
William "Ed" Charles
Lt. Col. Robert Cozens
James Robert Davis
Red Dillon
Gerald Engler
Eugene Fletcher
Joseph C. Freeze
John E. Funck
Charlie Gallagher
John H. Gibson
Sidney Goldstein-Gracen
Hiram Griffin
Matthew Haebig
Robert W. Hare
Bruce D. Henderson
James (Hank) Henrietta
Adam Hinojos
Adam & Annie Hinojos
George C. Hood
Edwin A. Jacobsen
Randy Johnson
John (Jack) Kille
Walter H. Krava
Billie Bob Layl (Dr & Capt.)
Bill Lindley
Charles Luciano
M.H. "Mac" Makarawicz
Frank A. Martin
Valgene Mathews
Dave & Grace McKnight
David T. McKnight
Robert Paul McMurtry
Julian Meyer
William J. Middleton

Col. Harry Griffin Mumford
Richard Jarvis Munfo
Lt. John W. Murphy
Joseph E. Mutz
Donald T. Paulson
William F. Pennebaker
Joseph Ray Perry
Silvio "Pat" Pettinelli
Harold M. Powers
Nicholas Prisco
Col. Harry W. Redding
Richard Robinson
Fred Rodgers
Carol Roujansky
Ann Shaffer
John A. Storie
Carl Voss
Lt. Col. Sylvanus C. Walker
Leo & Eleanor Whalen
Rollie C. Wilson

In Honor Of

Jack Bertram
Robert Inman
Fred Kennie
Ernest F. Parker
Melvin Spencer
Ed Yursky

In recognition and
honor of all the
95th Bomb Group
Veterans whose stories
we never heard.

Keep the Legacy Alive

- Remember a veteran every day
- Donate **B-17's Over Berlin** and/or **Into the Wild Blue Yonder and Beyond** to your public and school libraries
- Give your loved ones a Legacy Gift Membership to the 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation (see back page)
- Notify the Foundation of any photos or memorabilia you are willing to donate or share
- Include the Foundation in your estate plan

"We will remember them"



LEFT FORMATION

Since our last newsletter, we have learned of the following 95th veterans who have Left Formation:

Robert	L.	Bruns	336th	Tail Gunner	December 27, 2016
Robert "Bob"		Capen	335th	Ball Turret	April 20, 2017
Merle "Red"	E.	Garrett	336th	Waist Gunner	March 19, 2017
Thomas	C.	Gibson	336th	Pilot	January 15, 2017
John	W.	Gross	336th	Pilot	March 2, 2017
James	L.	Hutchings	412th	Pilot	January 6, 2017
Robert	H.	Inman	334th	Navigator	April 13, 2017
Leo	P.	Makelky	412th	Ball Turret	March 17, 2017
Allan	F.	Nelson	412th	Top Turret	April 6, 2016
Joseph "Ray"	R.	Perry	336th	Tail Gunner	April 27, 2017
Albert "Bud"	S.	Porter	412th	Ball Turret	March 22, 2017
Max	H.	Rammell	336th	Tail Gunner	March 19, 2017
Harold	J.	Rensch	334th	Co-Pilot	January 21, 2017
Joseph	A.	Reznick	336th	Ball Turret	January 6, 2017
Rollie	C.	Wilson	334th	Tail Gunner	February 16, 2017
William	T	Rourke	335th	Pilot	January 8, 2009
Richard	H.	Wright	335th	Pilot	May 14, 2013



"...we honor all when we honor the Missing Man flag."

You Too: From our Members & Facebook Friends

VOLUNTEER NEEDED:

I would like to see if anyone would like to volunteer to assist with a major initiative to have an individual photo of each member of the 95th BG in the Tucson museum database.

Specifically, I would like someone to get access to the photo database and for all men who do not have an individual photo, but who are in a crew or group photo, that person would crop out a photo of the person from the crew photo. That way when you select a named person a photo of that person would show up. I did that at the Tucson reunion for all the veterans that were there so when they brought up their record there was a photo of them. A guy at the reunion said he was good with Photoshop and photo editing, etc. but I did not get his name.

Just an idea of mine. Please contact me if you can help.

Rod Hupp
rodhupp52@verizon.net



Remembering Lt. Ernest Anders Erickson

My dad, Lt. Ernest Anders Erickson, told me often of certain missions that he recalled more than others. He was from North Dakota, and St. Paul, Minnesota along with Minneapolis were the closest big cities he and his friends would go to on some weekends in 1939 through 1941. He told me the story of Theodore Hamm, a German immigrant who took over a brewery in St. Paul, renamed it, and eventually turned it into what my father recalled as a teenager growing up in Bismarck. On his 7th mission on April 22, 1944, the tides, as they were, took their ship over Hamm, Germany. So there he was heading to Hamm, Germany, maybe thinking of a nice cold beer, along with multiple other bombers and fighters dispatched to hit a marshaling yard in Hamm.

He was flying the "Gen'ril Oop" (42-31993) and safely returned to Horham from that mission with only minor damage from flak and German fighters. Just two days later on April 24, 1944 with another crew onboard, after leaving their target area their #1 engine feathered and #2 was smoking, so the "Gen'ril Oop" left formation and ended up landing in Switzerland. The crew of ten spent the rest of the war interned in Dubendorf, Switzerland.

I did this tribute to my dad, using a couple of his B-17 models and one of the smallest of my three B-17s, along

with a small Empire State Building in reference to his original flight from Langley, Virginia to Roosevelt Field in New York and his stay in NYC at the Commodore Hotel. He then flew from NYC to Maine, then Greenland and Iceland, before he ended up at his combat assignment at Horham Airfield. So 4/22/44, like his birthdate of 8/4/22, are numbers he recalled to me. He loved to tell me when I was a kid how to recall his birthdate by taking the 22 and doubling that and then doubling that to get August 4th, 1922. Made me laugh and as it turned out I could never forget his birthday.



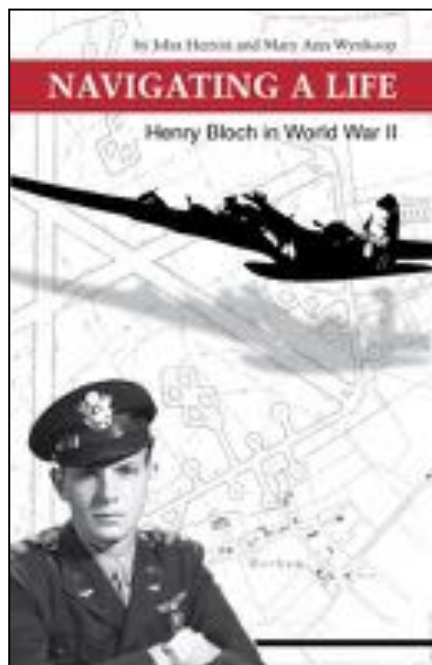
Lt. Ernest Anders Erickson

Mark Erickson

You can read about all 35 of his missions here: http://markerickson.com/Family_History/Ernest_Erickson/Lt.%20Ernest%20Anders%20Erickson-95thBG-334th%20Sq.pdf

New biography recounts entrepreneur Henry Bloch's role as a B-17 navigator in World War II

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Once upon a time, America's Tax Man was America's Airman.



Henry Bloch, founder of H&R Block, enlisted in the Army Air Corps shortly after the Pearl Harbor attack and was trained as a navigator for bomber missions. He flew 32 missions over Europe as a navigator on a B-17 Flying Fortress. His first mission was the third-ever raid over Berlin by the Allies.

Bloch's wartime experiences, and the impact those experiences had on shaping his postwar business career, is

the topic of a new book from BkMk Press at the [University of Missouri-Kansas City](#).

Navigating a Life: Henry Bloch in World War II, is written by John Herron, UMKC associate professor of History, and Mary Ann Wynkoop, retired director of UMKC's American Studies program. Herron also serves as associate dean of the UMKC College of Arts and Sciences and associate director of the UMKC Honors College.

"Henry's wartime experiences, and how he remembers them, prove that in many ways, the Second World War was the event of his life. How the war cuts through his career is the subject of this small volume," Herron writes in the book's acknowledgments.

Bloch and Herron will discuss the book, and how Bloch's wartime experiences helped shape his business career, at a special book release program at the Plaza Branch of the Kansas City Public Library. The session is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 29 at the Plaza Branch, 4801 Main St. Additional information about the event can be found on the Kansas City Public Library's [website](#).

"I feel a special sense of pride about UMKC's involvement with 'Navigating a Life.' Henry Bloch has been one of our



Henry Bloch, 412th Navigator

university's most steadfast and generous supporters, and has done so much for our community – and as this book reveals, so much for our nation as well," said UMKC Chancellor Leo E. Morton. "It is an honor to have this book, written by current and retired faculty members and published by our publishing house, so closely identified with our university."

The book opens with Bloch as a student at the University of Michigan when the Pearl Harbor attack launched the U.S. into the expanding global war. Upon his enlistment, he was sent to San Antonio for training, and then stationed with the Eighth Air Force, 95th Bomb Group, at Horham, England. The narrative sees him through his combat missions, his return to the U.S. to learn cutting-edge business management practices through a special program for military officers at Harvard Business School, his return to Kansas City upon discharge at war's end, and concludes with the founding of H&R Block.

The book includes a foreword by Air Force Gen. (ret.) Richard B. Myers, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and currently president of Kansas State University.

"This book is about the American spirit, embodied in the men and women who fought in World War II. Henry Bloch, through his early life and his decision to join the fight for freedom, especially exemplifies this spirit," Myers writes. "Through Henry, we also learn the remarkable impact these brave men and women had on the past seventy years of American history."

Myers sums up the impact of Bloch's wartime service on his business success this way:

"Henry Bloch came back to America a changed man. He was still the optimistic, intellectually curious, and persistent person he was when he left. But ... Henry was no longer afraid; he was not afraid to fail and was no longer self-limiting in what

Bloch, continued page 14

Henry Bloch, continued

he would attempt. WWII forever altered his views of risk taking. As the book makes clear, there would be no H & R Bloch without his experiences in military training and combat above the European continent.”

Bloch rarely discussed his wartime experiences over most of his postwar life. As his four children wrote in a note in the book, “He rarely uttered a word about his war experience. He understood his military experiences as his duty, a responsibility to protect his nation’s freedom. Why, Dad thought, should he then brag about something that millions like him were expected to do? Fulfilling an obligation was not considered bravery or heroism.”

But as the number of surviving members of the “Greatest Generation” dwindled, Bloch felt an obligation to history.

“That war was a singular moment in human history. Forces of great evil were vanquished, and it ushered in a period of American greatness on the world stage. My role in it was minor, but every thread in that tapestry has meaning and deserves memory,” he said.

“Navigating a Life” is published by BkMk Press, the UMKC publishing house. Copies can be purchased from the [BkMk website](#). All proceeds from sales of the book will go to BkMk and the UMKC Department of History.



www.facebook.com/groups/95thBG/

Where the 95th story continues to be told

Can You Help Identify These Men?



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Membership – The Key to the Future of the 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation



John Mollison,
Son-in-law of Ted DeHart,
Tail Gunner, 412th
Squadron

Membership is your passport to sharing the exciting mission of the 95th with your families and future generations of Americans. The individual (\$25) or household (\$45) membership dues allow your foundation to provide you with very interesting and informative newsletters, organize and set up our annual reunions, and maintain the six memorials dedicated to honoring the bravery and sacrifices of those heroic men who, together with all the armed forces of our nation, defeated Nazi aggression in Europe during World War II.

We ask you to join your fellow members of the 95th if you have not done so in the past. The time is now to stake your claim to ensuring the future of our organization by becoming a member. Give gift memberships to second and third generations of our veterans' families. Now is the time to create a culture of belonging so that we can ensure that the legacy given us so generously and through much sacrifice is not lost on the dust heap of history. Make this

the year that you become an active member of the 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation!

Thank you for reading this and thank you in advance for becoming an active and dues-paying member of the 95th.

John Mollison, Chairman, Membership Committee

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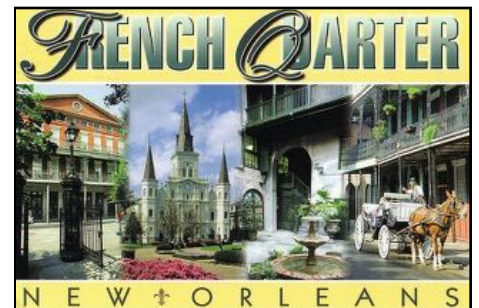
95TH BG MEMORIALS FOUNDATION REUNION 2017

Join us in **New Orleans!** The 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation arrives along the banks of the Mighty Mississippi in New Orleans, Louisiana for the Columbus Day weekend of October 5th–9th, 2017. (Board of Directors members and those interested in participating should arrive by Wednesday night, October 4th for morning meetings on October 5th.) We will be at the Crowne Plaza New Orleans Airport, which offers complimentary airport shuttle service for our flyers as well as free parking for those coming in on four wheels. And that's not all! We also receive two complimentary breakfasts for each room per day (additional breakfasts can be purchased for \$10 each) plus free in-room Internet access. All this at the great rate of \$129 plus tax. The hotel is surrounded by nearby shopping conveniences and alternative dining options for those on-your-own meal times. Get your reservations early! Just call 800-227-6963 and ask for the 95th BGMF Annual Reunion rate.

Come with your 95th family and friends to visit the National WWII Museum. As their website explains, “The National WWII Museum tells the story of the American Experience in *the war that changed the world*—why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today—so that all generations will understand the price of freedom and be inspired by what they learn.” Designated by Congress as the official WWII museum of the United States, the National WWII Museum is on a six-acre campus, where five soaring pavilions house historical exhibits, on-site restoration work, a period dinner theater, and restaurants.



We will also take part of a day to visit the French Quarter where there are many options for different tastes. You can explore Jackson Square where the Pontalba Apartments offer retail shops, museums, galleries, and restaurants on the ground level, and for well over a half-century, there has been an open-air artist colony. Or you can venture out to enjoy other sights and tastes of New Orleans like Café Du Monde (right across the street from Jackson Square). There is even a vintage inspired women's clothing boutique a few blocks away called “Trashy Diva” that carries mostly 1940's style dresses, shoes, and other accessories!



Of course, we will be enjoying meeting and greeting everyone on Thursday evening along with a fireside chat. During the reunion, we will have our second annual Panel Discussion and Fireside Chat; our annual Memorial Service will allow us to honor all of those whom we have lost; and you'll want to put on your dancing shoes for the annual Gala Dinner/Dance. We will always remember any evening in the Red Feather Club hosted by the Irv Rothman family! And, don't forget that the Makarewicz girls will have the PX open at various times throughout the reunion for a little 95th swag, so bring your spare cash and lots of 95th Pride!

And why not share Sunday brunch with a jazz band on a steamboat? What a way to finish a fun visit with the 95th family! So, watch your email and mail, not to mention the 95th website, www.95thbg.org, for more details and the Registration Form, and WE'LL SEE YOU IN NEW ORLEANS!

RESERVE TODAY!

October 5th–9th, 2017

CROWNE PLAZA - AIRPORT NEW ORLEANS

800-227-6963 ASK FOR: 95th BGMF Annual Reunion rate



95th BG Memorials Foundation Reunion

New Orleans LA October 5 – 9, 2017



Guest 1 (Please Print)	Guest 2 (Please Print)
Name	Name
Street	Street
City, State, Zip	City, State, Zip
Email	Email
Phone	Phone
Relationship to 95th (Include Vet's Name, Squadron, Position)	Relationship to 95th (Include Vet's Name, Squadron, Position)
Guest 3 (Please Print)	Guest 4 (Please Print)
Name	Name
Street	Street
City, State, Zip	City, State, Zip
Email	Email
Phone	Phone
Relationship to 95th (Include Vet's Name, Squadron, Position)	Relationship to 95th (Include Vet's Name, Squadron, Position)

DAY	ACTIVITY & TIME	COST	GUEST 1	GUEST 2	GUEST 3	GUEST 4
Thu	Meet & Greet Reception 6pm – 7:30pm	\$30				
Fri	Memorial Breakfast 8:00am – 10:30am (Included for hotel guests, but we need a count. Please mark X if staying at hotel)	\$16				
Fri	Trip to the French Quarter (Lunch on your own)	\$17				
Sat	World War II Museum (Includes movie and early/late bus) Lunch on your own	\$39				
Sat	Dinner Dance 6:30pm – 11:30pm Cocktail hour cash bar starts at 5:30pm	\$60				
Sun	Natchez Steamboat Jazz Cruise and Brunch (Includes bus)	\$58				
Per Person Reunion Registration (Required) This fee covers additional hotel costs (i.e meeting rooms, AV equipment, etc.)		\$45 (before Sept. 1) \$70 (after Sept 1)*				
Total for each guest <i>*Veterans are exempt from late registration fee</i>		\$265 (before Sept. 1) \$290 (after Sept 1)*				
TOTAL FOR ALL GUESTS		\$	Special needs, requests, dietary requirements:			
<i>Not a member yet? Join us!</i> <i>Individual: \$25 Household: \$45</i>		\$				
Donation: ___ In Loving Memory ___ In Honor Of Name:		\$	<p style="text-align: center;">Make checks payable to 95th BG Memorials Foundation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mail to: Beth Rosenzweig, Asst. Treasurer 95th BG Memorials Foundation P.O. Box 55984 Seattle, WA 98155</p>			
TOTAL DUE by SEPTEMBER 1 <small>Cancellation Policy: Full refund if prior to Sept. 1 or medical/family emergency If after Sept. 1, refund will not include the registration fee</small>		\$				



Ann Cook, PX Chair
Daughter of
"Mac" Makarewicz
Ball Turret Gunner
336th Squadron

Shop the PX



8th Air Force - Horham Patches



95th BG Squadron Patches



Red Feather Crest



Small Rectangular B-17 Patch



Red Feather
Crest Pin



Original Red
Feather Shield Pin



Red Feather
Pin



Notecards



95th Sticker



95th Mug



Canvas Low
Profile Hat



Canvas Low
Profile Hat



Black & White
Summer Mesh Hat



5" x 8" Notepads



Polo Shirt (Men's & Women's)



Lined Nylon Shell with
Square B



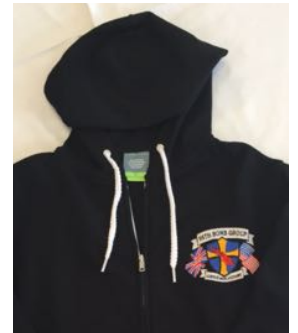
95th T-shirt



Polar Fleece Jacket with
Red Feather Shield



Hooded Sweatshirt



95th Full Zip Fleece



95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation, Inc.
 c/o 390th Memorial Museum
 6000 East Valencia Road
 Tucson, AZ 85756-9403 USA

Give them a gift of the 95th Legacy



If you are a veteran, widow, son, or daughter, please talk to your children and grandchildren about the legacy of the 95th Bomb Group. There is no better gift you can give than to make them a member of this proud and historic organization.

Simply fill out the form below and mail with your check to:

Nancy Freemantle, Treasurer
P.O. Box 6154
Eureka, CA 95502

(Make checks payable to 95th BG Memorials Foundation)



This is a gift is from: _____

Recipient's Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Amount enclosed: ___ \$25/Individual ___ \$45/Household

Memberships keep us flying...Thank you for helping to keep the legacy alive!