



# 2nd Bombardment Association "Second to None"

[www.2ndbombgroup.org](http://www.2ndbombgroup.org)



**Volume 32, No. 1 2016**



## Message from President Karen Nelson

Dear Veterans and Friends of the 2nd Bomb Group,

For those of you who attended our last reunion in Shreveport, Louisiana, we had a LOT of fun, didn't we? We met new members including two veterans. We laughed and reminisced and ate wonderful food. We were given a very special briefing at a secure cyber-espionage facility (one of the highlights of the reunion). We were treated like royalty at Barksdale.

For those who were unable to attend, we missed you. We really did. General Peyton Cole, his wife Ann, our own Bonnie Hellums and her husband Carel Stith spent a great deal of time making sure that our final reunion, at the home of the 2nd Bomb Group, would be memorable. I thank each of them and the outstanding service members we met. I can assure each and every one of you that the airmen and women at Barksdale are a credit to the United States of America. They truly make us proud.

As most of you know, due to the ages and various medical conditions of many of our veterans, their spouses and caregivers, we will no longer have reunions. However, the website is active and will remain so, under the excellent care of Sid Underwood. Todd Weiler, our Historian, will continue to gather stories and information. Please look for his article in this newsletter. The Board of Directors will continue to oversee 2nd Bomb Group issues and concerns. We added two new members, retired General Bradley Butler, and Jan Coyle, Lew Waters' daughter. Many of you know Jan from her accompanying her father to a great number of our reunions. We are delighted to welcome them.

On a personal note, my father, Art Winkler, found a photograph, which is below, of the 429th Squadron flight crew with which he trained at MacDill AFB in Florida. They trained together for about six months. My father remembers this;

Stanton was from one of the southern states. He played the piano but had never taken any lessons. He bought an accordion in Italy and taught himself to play that, too.

Ballenger was from Illinois. Martucci was from the East Coast. Maguire was from Brooklyn. Esdorn was from Georgia or one of the Carolinas. Once they arrived in Italy, and on Sergeant Martucci's second mission, he wound up in Switzerland as a POW. The pilot, Lt. Barrett, also wound up in Switzerland but flew more missions prior to becoming a POW.

In Italy, the enlisted men were billeted in the same tent. Here's a story from my Dad;

"John Maguire came into the tent one night and gave me a hundred dollars. He told me that he'd won it in a poker game and wanted me to hold it for him because he had a mission the next day. So, the mission came and went

**See President's Comments on Page 2**

### Inside this edition...

- Last Newsletter unless you request a hardcopy!
- 2015 Reunion highlights at Barksdale, AFB Shreveport, La.
- How and where to send your memorabilia or information for the 2nd Bomb Group Archives
- The future of the 2nd Bomb group.
- New 2nd Bomb Group Treasurer
- The future of the 2nd Bomb group.

but the plane was all shot up and very, very badly damaged. It was Sweet Pea. Someone in the area told me that McGuire was dead.

I went to the orderly room, gave them the hundred dollars and told them to send it to his mother. The orderlies said he wasn't dead. He was in the hospital in Foggia. The first chance the crew had, we went to see McGuire in the hospital, gave him the hundred dollars and told him that now he could take care of it. He was in the hospital for a long time".

My father found a terrific book about prisoners of war in Switzerland, "Shot from the Sky, American POWs in Switzerland" by Cathryn J. Prince, Naval Institute Press, 291 Wood Rd. , Annapolis, MD 21402, Published in 2005

You may or may not know about Switzerland's close affiliation with Germany during the war, but this book gives an up-close-and-personal look at a mostly unknown story. It's assumed that Switzerland, as a neutral country, would be exactly that. The true story is far different.

Many of you may have seen the movie "Unbroken". If you haven't read the book, I encourage you to do so. The movie stops well short of the remarkable, life-affirming transformation by the protagonist, Louis Zamperini. I don't often use this letter to make requests of our loyal followers, but the book "Unbroken", is perhaps, something which should be read by every high school or college student. Thank you for indulging me.

One last request, which is generated by your Board's indecision about printing newsletters, after this edition. It costs about five hundred dollars (give or take a little) for each newsletter with printing and mailing. We would definitely like to maintain our website since it is a VERY valuable resource for us and those interested in the 2nd Bomb Group and WWII. If we produce one newsletter per year, we need money to do that. Do you think our members would each contribute twenty-five dollars towards maintaining the newsletter? Is a newsletter something you enjoy? Would you like to receive one a year? Please let anyone on the Board know your thoughts.

Our Treasurer can accept payments by check or credit card. If you don't think a newsletter is necessary, then we will stick with the internet and website. The Board's thought was that many of our veterans don't often use the internet. We definitely want to think, first, of our veterans. Please let us know which option you prefer-one newsletter per year, with contributions from our members and friends, or, internet/website only.

Also, please look for a template in this newsletter for



McDill Training crew, #213 The airmen are as follows; Left to right standing; Lt. Barrett, pilot, Lt. Stuart Johnson-co-pilot, Lt. McAdam-navigator, Staff Sgt. Art Winkler-engineer, Left to right kneeling Sgt. Ballinger-asst. engineer, Staff Sgt. Stanton-radio operator, Sgt. Martucci-asst. radio operator, Staff Sgt. Maguire-armorer, Sgt. Esdorn-asst. armorer. Missing from the photo, Lt. Gish, bombardier

submitting information for our website. We welcome contributions from those who are kind and willing to send us letters, service records, flight logs and other documents which are of interest to us and to researchers. Sid and Todd can give you further information.

On a slightly different topic, Pat Kennelly and Linda Gartz, Board members, are working on a historical document, which we would dearly like to see made into a movie, about the 2nd Bomb Group and Mission 263. This is in the very earliest stages so please don't check your local movie listings just yet.

Thank you, all. It is a pleasure and a privilege to continue as your President. It was a happy/sad final banquet in Shreveport, knowing that we wouldn't get to see each other again. I treasure the time I have had with each you and look forward to continuing our association online (and with newsletters, if you think you could support that). If any of you are in the Washington, DC area, please give me a call.

Very kind regards to all,  
Karen Nelson  
President, 2nd Bombardment Association

## HEADS UP!

### This may be your Last Newsletter to get mailed to you unless you act now!

The cost of printing and mailing you this newsletter is the largest expense for this organization. It costs \$500 - \$700 to print and mail a 12 page newsletter. To save funds for other expenses, we are asking all internet users to download the newsletter electronically.

The pictures are in color, the pages can be zoomed for weak eyes and we can go to larger editions with more information. But you must act now!

Contact our 2nd Bomb Group Historian (308M14@GMAIL.COM) or call him to request a hard copy! (414) 688-6401 if you are UNABLE to use a computer or receive e-mailed information.

We need those that have computers to help us as much as possible to help Keep 'em flying! ★



# Last Reunion a Bitter-Sweet moment

by Todd Weiler, Editor & Historian

It is hard to put into words the gamut of emotions that comes from saying goodbye to so many friends. Each year we would get together, just like a family and our reunions would take us all across the country. We would renew those friendships, share some good times, and look longingly into the eyes of each other appreciative that we made it again...one more year. Thanks to the invaluable service of our veterans, most places respected your service and rolled out the red carpet for a hero's welcome.

But like the true heroes, those that did not return, fate deals us a handful of reality. Our youth is fleeting. If we are healthy our spouse may not be. The economics of getting a good price with the promise of a large number of attendees slowly slipped from our grasp. Hence came 2015 and the reality that this would be the last reunion of the 2nd Bomb Group Association.

Well, if we are going to go out, we thought we should go out big. And nothing is more reaffirming than the sacrifice and path secured by the WWII veterans to see the fruits of their labors by visiting the pinnacle of aviation supremacy, that of the Barksdale Air Force Base.

The Barksdale Air Force Base is home to the Air Force Global Strike Command. This former Louisiana cotton field now grows some of the most powerful and lethal reaching forces in the free world. It is also home to the legacy squadrons that our veterans served in to allow this place to become a reality. Still flying, but in B-52's, are the 20th and 96th Squadrons both based here under the 2nd Wing. It is also home to the 49th Squadron now configured as the test and evaluation squadron under the 53rd Wing, (429th Bomb Squadron was inactivated in January 1962.)

True to form the southern sun came out for an October heat wave to help give us a warm southern hospitality greeting. Unfortunately the hotel gamblers love their dice to be cool so it was a mixed bag of sweaters and shorts in the lobby.

As the group began to arrive it was little like Disney World and Las Vegas. The hotel was on the shore and the Sam's Town casino was actually a boat permanently moored to the wall. It has a certified full time captain, but never leaves the dock. How do I apply for that job?

Shreveport is a military town built in the heart of cotton country. The economy is tied to the ups and downs of military spending and agriculture. Like all mid-to large cities it is always trying to reinvent itself. Thanks to its prosperity, it had plenty of history to share and fascinating things to explore.

On Wednesday, much of the day was spent filling up the hotel and shuttling in folks from the airport. A light sandwich style dinner with soup was served and surprisingly Spicy good.

Thursday morning came bright and warm. Nothing has changed, as it still resembles an effort to heard wet cats on to the bus. Next stop, downtown Shreveport.

Our first stop of the day was the Strand Theater. This lovely matron made her debut in 1925 and was air-conditioned. Calling itself the Official State Theatre of Louisiana it's listed on the National Register of Historic Places. After a 7-year restoration project the aged building was restored using old photographs to faithfully copy the ornate artwork on the walls to the dazzling crystal chandelier that



Barksdale salutes the final reunion of the 2nd Bombardment Association by lining up the group in front of the current defenders of liberty, the legendary B-52's. Our legendary WWII veterans are located in the middle with their family, friends and current command staff filling in the line for a most memorable tribute to the greatest generation ever.

takes center stage over the voluminous hall. It is a treasure that has been recognized nationally first by USA Weekend and the AMC Magazine as one of the top 5 glitziest theatres for live performance anywhere in the country. Then we got a special behind the scenes tour as we were allowed to walk out on stage and see what it was like to face the crowd. A few jaws were seen to drop.

Back on the bus and a tour around town ended at the Piccadilly Restaurant at lunchtime. (Wasn't Col. Frank Savage's plane named Piccadilly Lilly?) This southern food smorgasbord had about a 50 ft. counter loaded with every imaginable food from all across the south to typical American lunch fare to please any chowhound. More than one person's eyes were bigger than their stomach as everything was very reasonably priced and overly generous in proportions. I loved the hush puppies and catfish!



After everyone had his or her fill it was off to the Bossier City Municipal complex. Shreveport and Bossier City might have been one city had not a river divided them. The one thing that does unite them is a special memorial located at the heart of the Fire and Police services buildings.

Here you will find one of the rare locations where actual debris from the New York World Trade Towers is a centerpiece of a 911 memorial to commemorate the 2,990 casualties of which 343 firefighters, 37 Port Authority Security officers, 23 police officers and 167 in the aircrafts. The somber markers record the losses on 9/11/2001 at the Pentagon and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania as well. It is a very moving display reminding all that freedom is never free.

From Bossier City hall we headed for the Cyber Innovation Center.

See Last Reunion continued on Page 4





The Cyber Innovation Park is few miles away and across from Barksdale A.F.B. Its striking building profile rekindled my interest in the movie "The Planet of the Apes" where the crown of the Statue of Liberty is poking out of the ground.

No monkeys in here. In fact, it is perhaps the "everest" of human thought. It is a complex merging industry, academia, government and research all in the pursuit of cybernetics. It is a planned community that some day in the future may become the third sibling to Shreveport and Bossier City.

Everyone had to submit information for a background check prior to admission months before hand. Having two retired Air Force Generals in your company helped with our poor Czech friend Vlastimil Hela get through the red tape of entry.

This is where all things computer are developed, networked, researched, tested and is cutting edge for all things digital. Key amongst them are cyber threats and security. While strategically located next to Barksdale, folks here had hoped that it would become the national hub for all things related to cyber security and defense. But the government perhaps hedged its bets by not placing all their eggs in one basket. It would have made an obvious "two for target".

So I can't show you any pictures, but I assure it was right out of any sci-fi movie you might have seen. We only visited conference rooms but that was impressive enough along with their PowerPoint explaining all their connections in government, academia, and industry. Some of the brightest minds will soon be calling this home.

As the bus headed back we could see B-52's taking off and landing at nearby Barksdale. The next day, Friday it would be our "target of the day".

Another tasty Italian style sandwich and soup dinner was enjoyed back at the hotel. I played the slides from past reunions and my friend Vlastimil Hela spoke to the group in an impromptu format. Vlastimil was with us in Colorado Springs in 2013 and Washington D.C. in 2008. Vlastimil's relatives hid airman Edward Sallings after being shot down on Mission #263 over Czechoslovakia. Sallings did so well he hid in plain sight as a deaf and mute CZ relative. Vlastimil wrote a book about it called "Hey Joe" and another book covering all the WWII events in the southern Moravia area of what is now the Czech Republic for the 70th commemorations held there in 2014.

Friday was the day we had been waiting for...a tour of Barksdale A.F.B. home of the Buccaneers! Another perfect day of warm southern sunshine greeted us.

As we drove across town folks strained to look out the windows for the occasional B-52 passing overhead. Another

wait at the gate. Retired General Payton Cole was with us and as past base commander of the 2nd wing arranged a great tour. Once past the gate we either got a nice drive around tour of the base or else we were lost. I never did find out. Where's a navigator when you need him?

Finally we stopped at the building where a group of B-52's were parked on the tarmac. Another wait as we were cleared through security and the current base commander Col. Kristen E. Goodwin and her staff joined us.



I began to wonder how these vets must feel walking on the tarmac again, huge bombers with their tail feathers up to salute them, that "military smell" of fuel oil and other exotic odors, here with family, here in peace, here one last time.

Once again the wet cat syndrome hit as the military folks tried their best with this group. We finally got in one long line a little less than parade formation, but none the less a line. Before us was a scissor lift and a pair of photographers rising up to get a birds eye view of all these colorful turkeys, I mean silver eagles, on the runway. "Click, click, click" was heard. "Eyes up here! Eyes up here!" was shouted out. After a few crazy moments we had the perfect final family reunion photo. A moment frozen in my mind as the rarest of my life. I couldn't believe I was here. Thankfully, I got the picture to prove it.

After some rare personal group photos from the flight line the group boarded the bus and headed over to the Barksdale Global Power Museum (BGPM). There inside was a replica of a WWII era mission briefing Quonset hut. Arranged all across the ceiling and walls were tribute memorabilia from all the legacy squadrons and bomb groups at Barksdale.



L to R: Art Winkler, Loy Dickinson, Col. Kristen Goodwin (Base Commander), Myran Spillers, Dick Forest, Vince Warner, and Lew Waters





One of those items was a bomb silhouette written with "2nd Bombardment Group 'Liberty We Defend' 412 Missions". Next came an unusual explicatory program of what goes on at Barksdale and who are the new warriors. The airmen and airwomen came up to the podium, shared the name, rank, area of interest, job at Barksdale, a piece of the base's mission statement and a personal note. (Hint: Their pets are a high priority!) It was a unique way to hear in their own words, the conviction of their values, the desire of their professional goals, how they view their job and the sense of readiness to do their duties faithfully no matter what the challenge.

Base commander Col. Kristin Goodwin, dare I say potentially the most heavily armed woman in the world, closed the remarks thanking the vets and assuring them the trail they blazed will not be forgotten and the torch is being passed to a very capable generation.

From the Quonset hut the group shuttled over to the to the Barksdale Global Power Museum (BGPM). In 2013 efforts began in increase the public education about Barksdale through the museum, besides the large static display of aircraft outside, the museum is setting out to collect and display more artifacts which includes the legacy squadrons for the 2BG. This is also way the board has decided to work with the BGPM in directing veteran's families to consider donating their items here. We hope to build a template that anyone can use to scan and post photos or information that can be indexed and shared with all seeking such things. (See our website.)



Vets Byrle Spillers and Vince Warner pose with a 250 lb. bomb honoring 20th Sqdn.

The building has room to fill up such with artifacts and private/military connection will hopefully bring to fruition many new things that can help tell the story of our honored 2BG veterans. Right now it mostly had paintings. It would be wonderful to see the "real deal".

From the BGPM the group shuttled over to the to the Barksdale Club, a.k.a., the officers club. This 5 star facility gave our hotel a run for its money. The olive drab green and wood wainscoting around the dining room was complimented with nicely wood framed illustrations and photos of beautify military aircraft. Everything from vintage planes to modern bombers decorated the wall. It was a museum in itself.

As for our wait staff, it was supplemented by non-other than some of the active airmen from Barksdale. Some of them I know, like Captain Kerry Baker, who in 2014 designed many of the special graphics that went on to MY BABY II the B-52 to commemorate the first plane shot down on Mission #263 in CZ. Also serving was Col. Dave Webb who flew a B-52 as a part of the NATO days in 2013 to the Czech Republic and connected with our Czech historians Roman Susil and Vlastimil Hela.

Vlastimil heard this was our last reunion and changed his business travel plans to come visit instead. He marked the lunch at Barksdale with a special bottle of Plum brandy called Slivovitz. All I can say is plum trees grow in CZ like dandelions in the U.S. Every CZ family takes advantage of that by making some of their own family "recipe". If you are lying on your death bed and you need that little boost to push you over the rainbow bridge, take a shot of Slivovitz. You will see thunder and lightning...with rainbows! LOL!

Vlastimil shared a special bottle. It was from his son Libor's wedding to Jana in 2013. What better family tradition than at a reunion to mark the special event. Some how, shot glasses appeared and the slivovitz disappeared amazingly fast.



Sampling the traditional Czech toast are Col. Dave Webb, Vlastimil Hela, Capt. Kerry Baker, Gen. Bradley Butler, and Navigator Vince Werner braving the shot Slivovitz!

Spirits were high, but somehow we realized we had missed a very important opportunity. We drove by a B-17 and we failed to get a picture with the veterans next to it. So after spreading some catnip around the buses to manage the group, we headed over to the static displays of aircraft as we headed home.

See Last Reunion continued on Page 6



Leaving the air-conditioned comfort of the Barksdale Club was tough, but we were on a serious mission. We needed to pose for some pictures next to the war birds. It was a bit of a task to ask our 90+ aged vets to stand in the 80+ temps, but they soldiered on thankfully.

The museum has all kinds of the classic aircraft in static display outside, including "our little friend" the P-51 fighter, our brothers, the B-24, B-52 bombers, and a SR-71 Blackbird. But of course our favorite is the B-17.



Our 2015 Reunion vets (l to r) Vince Warner 496th Nav., Loy Dickinson, 20th Nav., Byrle Spillers 20th U.T., Lew Waters (seated) 20th T.G., Art Winkler, 429th U.T. and Richard Forst 96th Radio.

Painted in the colors of the 8th Air Force (we'll have to work on that) stood the grand old gal "Miss Liberty". We gathered up the veterans that joined us for this leg of the trip for a picture.

The one thing I notice when our vets stand in front of a B-17, they are always smiling...and I'll wager the plane is smiling back. One wonders if it was a proud mother with her chicks sheltered under her wing or if it was this guardian gang of ten men who protected their mothership from harm. The bond between a man and machine was no greater than that of these vets and the wings that gave them the strength to carry on and lift their spirits even in the darkest of hours.

We couldn't let such a wonderful day go with perfect lighting to get a group shot with all the family and friends. After a few grumbles, everyone finally settled into place and we got the whole family in one shot. The wonderful museum



staff suffered through numerous iphones, digital cameras and video camera as we squinted into the sun hoping getting a good look at our faces.

The warm weather of the day was wearing on our group. We split the buses into two. Those that wanted to go back and spend more time in the BGPM could, the remainder headed back to the hotel for some R & R before the evening dinner.

One of the "non-itinerary" special treat items was a tour of the "Bamboo Bomber" restored and flown by Terry Sullivan to honor his father Michael, a living 429th Squadron member.



Terry Sullivan's "Bamboo Bomber" brings back memories of "Sky King" and much more. The restored plane is all decked out in the colors of the 2BG and the 429th Sqdn. It was a great unexpected treat to have this less than a mile from the reunion. His dad Michael is a 429th bombardier. He's holding the pup!

The Bamboo Bomber got its name from the mid rib stringer that runs from wing tip to wing tip right through the cabin. Lacking aluminum for a strong and light material in the 1940's, a laminate build up of spruce, not bamboo, gave the plane the wing loading strength it needed and the name that it never forgot. I can't think of any wood name that goes with "bomber" but bamboo...can you?.

The plane was located just a mile from the hotel at the downtown airport. Terry's father, Michael Sullivan, was a 429th bombardier. The 1943 Cessna UC-78B Bobcat was marked with the Sq/BG markings of the 2nd/429th. We don't know if the 2nd BG ever had a UC-78B, but they do now. Terry and his wife have flown the plane to the EAA annual fly in Oshkosh, WI. What an exciting journey that must be!

The final day in Shreveport was a tour of the RW Norton Art Gallery and Gardens. An Art Museum with 400 paintings set in a botanical park.

The group got a personal guide to provide an introduction to the museum and a brief summary of what we would find. It was one of the rare art museums where you could take pictures just no flash.

It has the most extensive collection of Charlie Russell Western sculptures and paintings in the world. They were most impressive and were mixed in with other media types from paintings to posters to huge murals showing the rugged west and the unspoiled vistas of the new wilderness.

Also timely for our group was a display of WWI propaganda posters urging the public to enlist and for America to "wake up" to the problems growing off shore over in Europe. Name-calling and exaggeration haven't fallen far from the propaganda tree in 100 years.





It was a very complete museum for this part of the country and a true hidden gem I would encourage others to visit in the future.

Surrounding the R.W. Norton Art Gallery are 40 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds and botanical gardens, where tens of thousands of plants. The gardens are set among gentle swells of land, shaded by tall columns of venerable pines and oaks. Southern Living named it "one of the South's favorite spots".

The shade from the sun provided a comfortable break from the heat and was perfect for taking in the bubbling streams and colorful flora still popping in fall. The winding trails twisted around and back and forth. Each turn suggested another "Kodak moment." Thank goodness for digital chips. Another bus ride back and some walked around town in the afternoon. The river is "casino row" so one can try their luck at more than one spot.

Meanwhile back at the hotel the final banquet of the final reunion was being prepared. As a special honor, young officers from Barksdale were invited to join us. Each table had at least one officer dining with them. It was a great experience having the "greatest" generation share stories with the "next" generation. One could feel the heat from the torch as it was being passed with such reverence and respect. The only challenge was the poor vets with the hearing aids...a casualty of all those flying hours with minimal or no hearing protection. Pity the poor top turret gunners with twin 50 cal's just banging away inches from your ears.

This was also a rare opportunity for Vlastimil Hela to share his gratitude on behalf of his country for the service of our vets. He explained how the commemorations held in his country are so important to the Czech people. He expressed how ironic world events again are setting the stage for a confrontation right at his doorstep. He thanked the Air Force



Gen. Peyton Cole standing with three Officers from Barksdale that joined us for dinner. In the foreground, our 2nd Bomb group Association veterans that made it to this reunion. Byrle Spillers 20th U.T., Vince Warner 496th Nav., Loy Dickinson 20th Nav., Richard Forst 96th Radio, Lew Waters 20th T.G., and Art Winkler, 429th U.T.

service men and women for being the deterrent that will stand between those that would take freedoms away again.

It is a difficult thing for Americans to appreciate how fragile freedom really is. For the Czech's to lose it three times in one generation is a lesson they must share with the world. On my first visit there in 2007, this point was vividly made. After a few shots of slivovitz, my CZ friends were driving me home from a mountainside hunting lodge located on a road with no crash barriers. They said, "You know, we can sing our national anthem in three languages...Czech, German and Russian." And they sang it in all three while I was watching the road whiz by wondering what verse will be the last thing I hear as we go over the cliff?

Penny LaGrand brought a wonderful cake with the 2nd Bomb Group decoration on the top. Dick Forst took the honors of cutting it up for everyone to enjoy.

As the hour grew long, the young officers of Barksdale and the elder vets of the 2BG shared their stories up to about 11 P.M. You could tell, we were trying to make it last longer.

Finally Gen. Bradley Butler was alone with the young crew. He was having a father son-daughter chat with them. They were rattling off a torrent of military alphabet soup abbreviations that only they could understand. But when and where else do you get to talk to a retired Air Force General who can answer your very direct question that could change your future.

And so it ended. The last reunion. A point in time that history may or may not remember. I hope this effort will help preserve that memory...and that we may never forget. ☆



The last picture, of the last reunion, at the last hour, of the 2nd Bomb Group. Gen. Bradley Butler shares his knowledge with the young warriors and the "old guard" passes the torch on to the next standard bearers for the 2nd Bomb group.

## News from the internet you might have missed

by Sid Underwood, 2nd Bomb Group Webmaster

*One of the great powers of the internet is its weakness. As the younger generation grows more connected, the older generation can't keep up. Knowing many of you do not have a computer or access to the internet, we are trying to bring you news that normally is available on the internet, but you might have missed. People are posting requests for information that you might have. So here is a compilation of the latest requests that we hope you can respond to by call or letter.*

### 2nd Bomb History from around the world

2nd Bomb Member and Italian WWII historian Giancarlo Garelo has posted an update on the recovery of wreckage of a B-17 from Amendola on a mission to bomb Turin that crashed and all but one escaped into the hands of the partisans. You may be interested. More so if you can read Italian. (View the page from a computer and use Google Translate and you will understand the story. <http://www.gracpiacenza.com/b-17-cairo-montenotte.html>)

Regards, Giancarlo Garelo

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Subject: Requesting Information - Lt. Talmage W. Trevathan - Pilot 96th Bomb Squadron

My uncle was Lt. Talmage W. Trevathan, a B-17 pilot in the 96th Bomb Squadron with the 2nd Bomb Group during WWII. Would it be possible to put a message on your bulletin board asking for information or pictures from any surviving crew members or their relatives. Would appreciate any help you might be able to give me.

Respectfully, Neil McKee [wnmckee@gmail.com](mailto:wnmckee@gmail.com)

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Posted 2/20/16

Subject: Requesting Information - 2nd Lt. G.W. Ellerman - Co Pilot 20th Bomb Squadron

My father was a 2nd. Lieutenant B-17 Co- Pilot in Amendola with the 2nd Bomb Group during WWII. Would it be possible to put a message on your bulletin board asking for information or pictures from any surviving crew members or their relatives. Would appreciate any help you might be able to give me.

Respectfully, George W. Ellerman Jr. 513-451-3503  
Cincinnati, Ohio [gellerma1155@yahoo.com](mailto:gellerma1155@yahoo.com)

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Subject: Requesting Information - Cpl. Donald Bruce Torpy - Right Waist Gunner 49th Bomb Squadron

I appreciate your website and have a request for pictures or information pertaining to cousin Donald Bruce Torpy. I am seeking pictures of my cousin (Donald) Bruce Torpy,

## 2nd Bomb Group gets interim Treasurer

by Karen Nelson, President 2nd Bomb Group

We have a change to our Board. Matt Bryner, who has served as Treasurer for many years, has asked to resign. We are incredibly grateful and thankful for all of his efforts. Our member list and dues accounts are in excellent shape. Matt's efforts cannot be overstated. He really did a fabulous job. Thank you, Matt.

Karol Shupe, Loy Dickinson's wife, has graciously offered to become the new Treasurer. Please look for correspondence from Karol regarding your dues. We will now be able to accept credit cards for payment. Dues are still only \$25.00 for two years.

Please consider giving gifts of membership to family and friends. If you have any questions, Karol can be reached at [kstravel@denvertest.com](mailto:kstravel@denvertest.com). We also need to remember that Karol has offered to hold the office on a temporary basis, so we still need a permanent Treasurer. The job isn't difficult. Please consider volunteering. You would have the grateful thanks of the entire organization. ★



Loy and Karol Dickinson. Karol has volunteered to be the interim 2nd BG Treasurer

right waist gunner with 2nd Bomb Group, or perhaps pictures of Torpy and his Air Crew #42-29638 Any and all information or pictures provided will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks! Kathryn Willard Conway [conwaykd@gmail.com](mailto:conwaykd@gmail.com)

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Subject: Unidentified Photo - Possible 429th Crewman

My late father in law (George W Hess) served in the 429th during WWII and was stationed in Montana for a while. While my husband and I were going through some items in my mother in law's house we discovered a professional photograph of a young soldier. There was no identification on the picture, but it was taken at Fullmer's Studio in Havre, Montana. I am enclosing a scan of the picture. If there is anyone you know who recognizes this man, I would be happy to send the picture to them. I'm sure it would mean more to family.

Sincerely,  
Rochelle Hess  
[rhess333@yahoo.com](mailto:rhess333@yahoo.com)





## Global Power Museum ready to accept 2nd Bomb Group Memorabilia

The Barksdale Global Power Museum at Barksdale AFB is now working with 2BG Association to handle any WWII artifacts, records, or memorabilia that our member families wish to donate.

The Barksdale Global Power Museum (BGPM) is a relatively new museum and is interested in donations of memorabilia that 2nd Bomb vets might have. When we toured the museum last October a few 2nd Bomb Group items were on display.

So if your family is no longer interested in the items you may have, or you have not found a local source to accept the things in your possession, consider donating them to the BGPM. Before you send anything, contact the museum below so they can assess what you are sending and even if they are allowed to accept your item(s).

As always the most coveted items are group photos that have the names of airmen on them and other in theater photos with a date and location listed on them. It is getting harder and harder to view these things as photos fade so it would be best if you had access to a photo scanner and can digitize them before they are gone. Most printers these days have scanner functions and do a fantastic job of capturing the colors and black & white.

If approved to send the items, please include an index and as much information as possible. Especially include who sent it so they can contact you for a follow-up.

As for flight jackets and other clothing, please take a picture of it and describe its condition. Many of the jackets are marginal and it may be they already have a specimen that fits their needs. Check first BEFORE sending.

Documents are another item of questionable value. If they are routine transfer papers, etc. then they may not want them. But if organized in way to trace a person through the war it might have a value. Likewise, letters home from key locations or diaries that contain chronological history are of high value typically.

If you have other items, again, please call the BGPM

Here is the contact information.

**Amy K. Russell, Civ, DAF**  
**Barksdale Global Power Museum Director**  
88 Shreveport Rd  
Barksdale AFB, LA 71110  
(318)456-5553  
[amy.russell.1@us.af.mil](mailto:amy.russell.1@us.af.mil)

In addition, Sid Underwood our 2nd Bomb Group webmaster has created a template for anyone to use to post a photo or any document that you wish to post on our website. Go to ([www.2ndbombgroup.org](http://www.2ndbombgroup.org)) and click on ARCHIVES link. A WORD template will open up and you can paste the photo or information into the document and send it to Sid Underwood at his email: [sidunderwood@prodigy.net](mailto:sidunderwood@prodigy.net)  
Thanks! ★

## Low Waters Honored in local media

If one of the faces below look familiar, it should. It is none other than 2nd Bomb Group's Low Waters who was

mentioned in a pair of news articles recalling their contributions to the WWII effort and their roles in the many battles they endured. Way to go Lew! ★

### COMMUNITY COMMENTARY

## WWII veterans honored at recent Urbana event

By Randy Ark  
Contributing Writer

The Champaign Aviation Museum Gala, held at Grimes Airfield in Urbana on April 18, celebrated the anniversary of the famous Doolittle Raid of 1942.

Earlier in the week, I was invited to this event by WWII B-17 tail gunner Lewis Waters. He paid my way, and I drove. It was an exhilarating evening and a prestigious gathering of veterans and pilots.

The guest speaker was Clarence Emil "Bud" Anderson. Born in January of 1922, Anderson said he had always been interested in flying, and discovered he had a "knack" when it came to piloting an airplane.

Anderson flew two tours of combat against the Luftwaffe in Europe while with the 363rd Fighter Squadron of the 357th Fighter Group, based at RAF Leiston, England, and was the group's third leading ace, with 16½ aerial victories.

His P-51 Mustang, nicknamed "Old Crow" (after the whiskey of the same name), carried him safely through 116 missions without being hit by fire from enemy aircraft, and without Anderson's ever having to turn back for



Randy Ark, a former combat medic, says he was in the midst of people he admires.

any reason. He returned to the United States in February of 1945 as a major.

Anderson gave an excellent talk about WWII and his flying experiences. There is also a book he co-authored about his experiences, "To Fly and Fight."

There was a B-25 and a P-51 flyover, which we all exited the hangar to witness. It was a beautiful evening and a momentous flyover. Waters said that he teared up watching and hearing the sounds of that P-51. Those fighters were integral in escorting the bombers on their missions. I later met the pilot of the B-25, Dave Shiffer.

Joining us at our table were a couple from Algiers who had witnessed the war at age 11 under the watchful eyes of the Vichy government. The man



WWII B-17 tail gunner Lewis Waters (left) and Dave Shiffer attend the Champaign Aviation Museum Gala at Grimes Airfield in Urbana, which celebrated the anniversary of the famous Doolittle Raid of 1942. Shiffer piloted a B-25 during the event. CONTRIBUTED

told us about those times and also of the American landings. The couple now reside in West Liberty.

Next to them sat Jim Martin, a 101st Airborne WWII veteran who parachuted from a C-47 behind German lines on D-Day. I asked him the air-

speed of the C-47 and the height. He told me the airspeed was 130 mph and that the height was 450 feet. I then asked what the airspeed was supposed to be, and he said 90 mph.

The fellow next to him asked Martin if he had seen the HBO se-

ries "Band of Brothers." He said that he had and that they had done pretty well with the events portrayed, but he added, "We never cussed like that, though." I had heard those same remarks from veterans who watched another HBO series called

APRIL 25, 2015

"The Pacific." There were introductions of all the WWII veterans, then all other veterans who were in attendance.

I took note of one lady introduced as a WWII nurse. Later, I went to her table and sat down and introduced myself. I told her that as a former combat medic, I had a tremendously high regard for war nurses, knowing how much difference their presence made in the lives of the men they cared for.

Her eyes softened and became wet as I related the comments of men whom I spoke with after treating them and sending them to field hospitals. She gave me a hug and I kissed her on the cheek.

Those are "God Moments" to me, when I embrace those whom I have come to admire and appreciate over time. I have a connection with those folks and with all veterans in general, a connection like no other.

I was honored to be there with Waters, and I was honored to be among so many folks who appreciate our history—and the men and flying machines that helped make that history.

### REMEMBERING GREATNESS



Lewis Waters, a retired insurance underwriter from Springfield, received the Purple Heart because of his World War II wounds. BILL LOCKE/STAFF

## Ohioans played major roles in WWII battles

By Barrie Barber  
Staff Writer

THE WAR IN EUROPE IS ENDED: SURRENDER IS UNCONDITIONAL. V-E WILL BE PROCLAIMED TODAY. OUR TROOPS ON OKINAWA GAIN

ONLINE EXTRAS AT [SPRINGFIELDNEWSUN.COM](http://SPRINGFIELDNEWSUN.COM)  
Videos: Local World War II veterans tell their stories about the Greatest Generation and WWII 70 years later.  
Interactive guide: The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force has a lot of stories from WWII, we'll show you some of the key ones in our guide.  
Quiz: Can you name notable WWII aircraft from their silhouettes?

Local veterans look back as 70th anniversary of V-E Day approaches.

Army Air Corps B-17 gunner Lewis Waters was wounded but survived four anti-aircraft barrages on American bomber formations over Europe. Navy sailor Bayser G. Kirk hunted German U-boats in the Atlantic and survived Japanese kamikaze attacks in the Pacific.

Charles P. Royster was a Tuskegee Airman who kept Army Air Corps fighter planes flying into battle. They are emblematic of the "Greatest Generation" who lived through the Great Depression, joined more than 16 million other American service members who served in uniform and survived and fought through the

WWII continued on A10

## 2nd Bomb Group stops reunions but we are still carrying on. Here's how you can help

The 2nd Bomb group is no longer able to host its own reunion but we are continuing to operate our website and answer the daily questions about who we are and who served with us. There are things you can do to help

Sending memorabilia and artifacts no longer wanted by family to Global Power Museum

Help Develop a 2nd Bomb Group Fund raising page utilizing credit cards and other donation outreach efforts.

Reach out to other "war generation veterans of the 2nd Bomb group to solicit membership Koren war, Vietnam War, Iraq, Etc. The 2nd Bomb WING group is still in existence and we need to connect all generations of airmen/airwomen and their families.

Keep Paying your dues. The funds we collect are helping use to remain in contact with you. Some of you are unable to connect on-line and we will continue to send your a hard copy, but realize the cost. The digital version of this newsletter is loaded with color and you won't see that unless you log in and see us on the internet.

Got a scanner and willing to help digitize? Some photo libraries are being lost because we can't stop father time from taking our memories and images away. Can you help? Contact us. ✨

## 15th Air Force Reunion Planned for October 13-16, 2016 Dallas Texas

Hughes Glantzberg has been the web master of the Fifteenth Air Force website and has been tirelessly working to build a 15th Air Force Reunion. We talked about joining this a number of years ago but we got out of sync with the group as they would end up selecting places we had already been to our were going to the year after. Hence we never really were interested. So now 2nd Bomb Group is out of the Reunion business, but there may be people who are interested in going.

We will continue to provide 2nd Bomb Group members with updates about pending reunions that they may be interested in going to or are perhaps closer to where they live and cake the journey.

It would be logical that as the Bomb Groups shrink that they would consolidate under the 15th Air Force. So until enough people consolidate they are just calling it the For now we're just calling it the 2016 Reunion.

## Folded Wings In Memoriam....2nd Bomb Group Veterans that have passed recently

Eliot B. Spiess, June 17, 2015, 96th Squadron

James Pfeiffer, June 18, 2015, 429th Squadron

Edward P. Perry, June 25, 2015, 429th Squadron

Robert E. Nelson, June 28, 2015, 20th Squadron

Frank Naro, July 10, 2015, 96th Squadron

Thomas E. Andersen April 29, 2016 429th Squadron

Clarence W. Godecke, May 7, 2016, 20th Squadron

Please keep these men and all veterans in your prayers. Family, please forward all member obits to 2nd Bomb Association to be honored on our website. ✨



Thomas P. Anderson sent us this photo of Thomas P. Anderson his father at his 90th birthday. The fancy cake was complete with a B-17 on top, the 15th Air Force patch and the 429th Squadron patch underneath that. Thomas flew 27 combat missions beginning in October 26th, 1944 including getting shot out of formation on 4/1/45 and landing in Hungary.

Hughes has created the attached files for you to use. The Registration Form is pretty much generic although it says 451st and 455th. 2nd Bomb Group people should feel free to sign up with it. The 2016 Reunion document gives you the details about the reunion.

They have trips planned to the Cavanaugh Flight Museum, 6th Floor Museum and the Dallas Holocaust Museum.

Here are the links to the event and you can get the details from the 1th Air Force Web site.

[http://15thaf.org/49th\\_BW/451st\\_BG/Reunion/Reunion.html](http://15thaf.org/49th_BW/451st_BG/Reunion/Reunion.html)

The Registration Form is also online at:  
[http://15thaf.org/49th\\_BW/451st\\_BG/Reunion/PDFs/2016%20Registration%20Form.pdf](http://15thaf.org/49th_BW/451st_BG/Reunion/PDFs/2016%20Registration%20Form.pdf)

For further information contact Hughes Glantzberg at [hughes@glantzberg.us](mailto:hughes@glantzberg.us) or (970) 209-2788. Good luck to all attendees and thanks for the invite! ✨

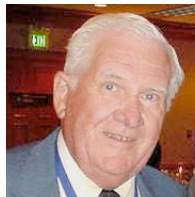


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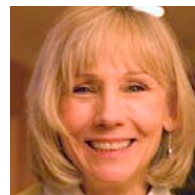


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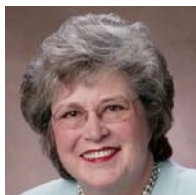
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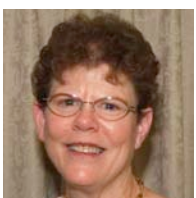
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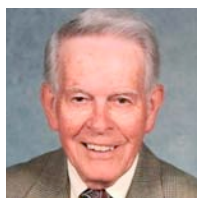
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**A Veterans Organization of the**  
**2nd Bomb Group and Bomb Wing**  
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*This is your last newsletter unless you contact Todd Weiler  
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Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Dues – \$25 for 2 years

If WWII Vet – Tell us Squadron No. \_\_\_\_\_

If family of Vet, name of Veteran? \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SECOND BOMBARDMENT ASSOCIATION**

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