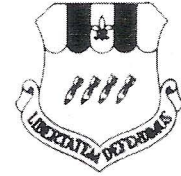


GROUP



*** We were the 1st, and still serving ***

WING



SECOND BOMBARDMENT ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

"Second to None"

www.2ndbombgroup.org

Volume 29, No. 3, Summer 2013



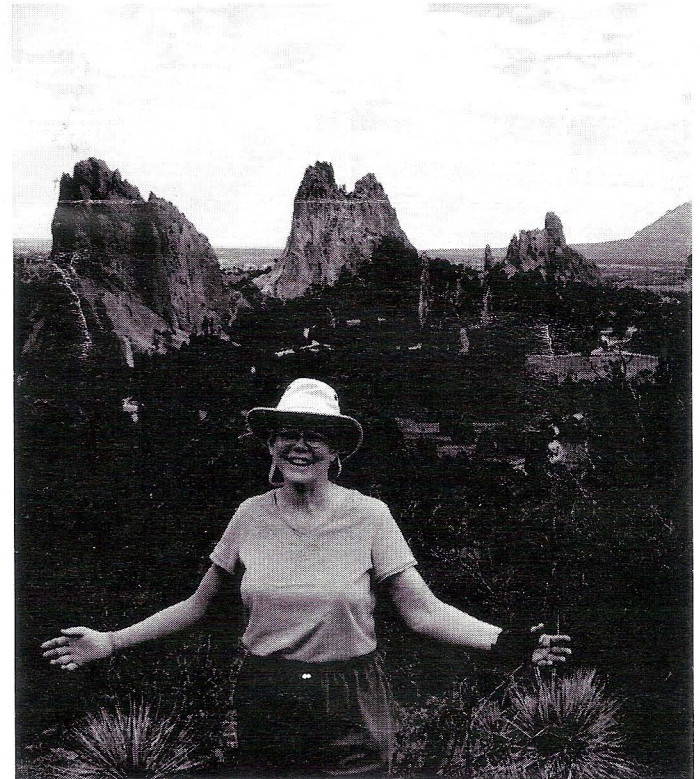
2nd Bombardment Association President, 2012 to 2013

Nancy Claire Martin passed away unexpectedly on March 26th 2013. She was a cancer survivor of 12 years and her heart just gave out. She died peacefully at home. She was a faithful attendee of the 2nd Bombardment Association reunions for the past 15 years or more along with her father Earl and step mother Anne and sometime attendee's brother and nephew Rodney and Paul. She served the Association as a director and was the current President, an honor that she cherished.

Her father was her lifelong hero. Most of you know him as the long time Editor of the Association newsletter and B-17 pilot and POW. To her he was a role model and example of a life lived well. Earl preceded Nancy to heaven two days shy of one year.

Nancy's passions were her Faith, Family and Travel. She became a member of the 7 Continent Club with a trip to Antarctica some 20 years ago. She made trips to Russia and China well before they were common tourist destinations. She traveled to Iceland, Australia, South Africa Syria, Scotland, Brazil, and India and most of the places in between. Very few have seen more of this world than she. She was a career nurse serving 20 plus years as a supervisor in the Durham NC VA hospital. She thoroughly enjoyed caring for our veterans.

We all miss Nancy and Earl. But we know where they are and it is a better place.

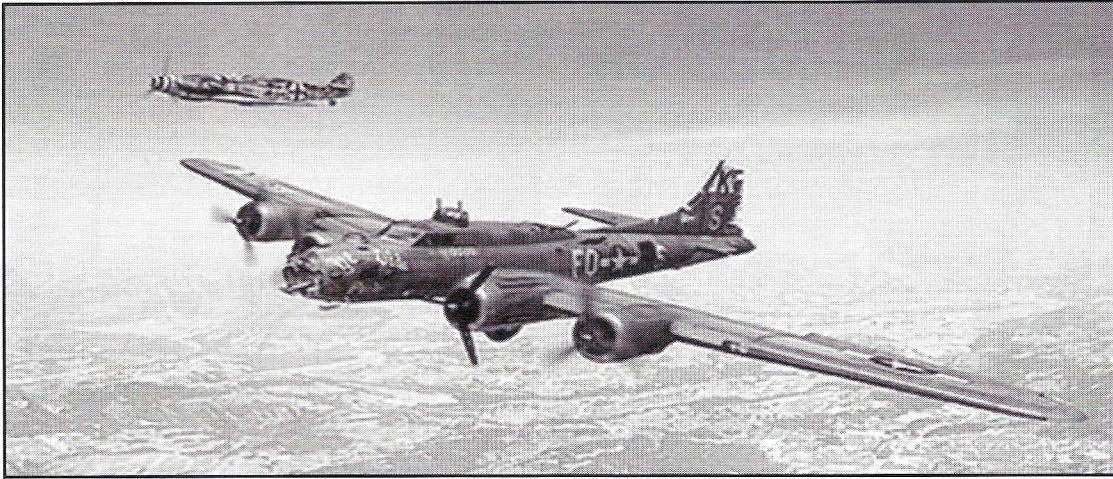


With thanks to Rod Martin

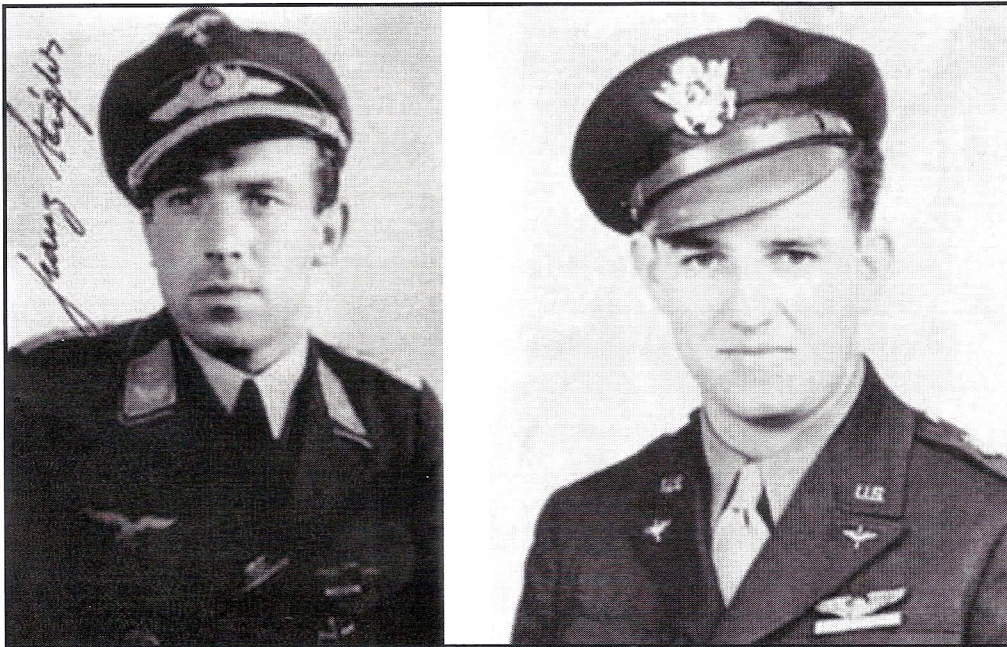
Please see the newsletter insert for our 2BA Reunion scheduled for November 6 to 10, 2013. Join us in paying tribute to the World War II veterans and members of the 2nd Bombardment Association and their families. Share your memories and pass your experiences on to the family members that attend.

Charlie Brown's B-17 - A Remarkable Story

Look carefully at the photo of the B-17 and note how shot up it is - one engine is dead; the tail, horizontal stabilizer, and nose are shot up. It looks like it is ready to fall out of the sky. (This is a painting done by an artist from the description of both pilots many years later.) Then realize that flying next to it is a German ME-109 fighter. Now read the story below. I think you'll be surprised.....



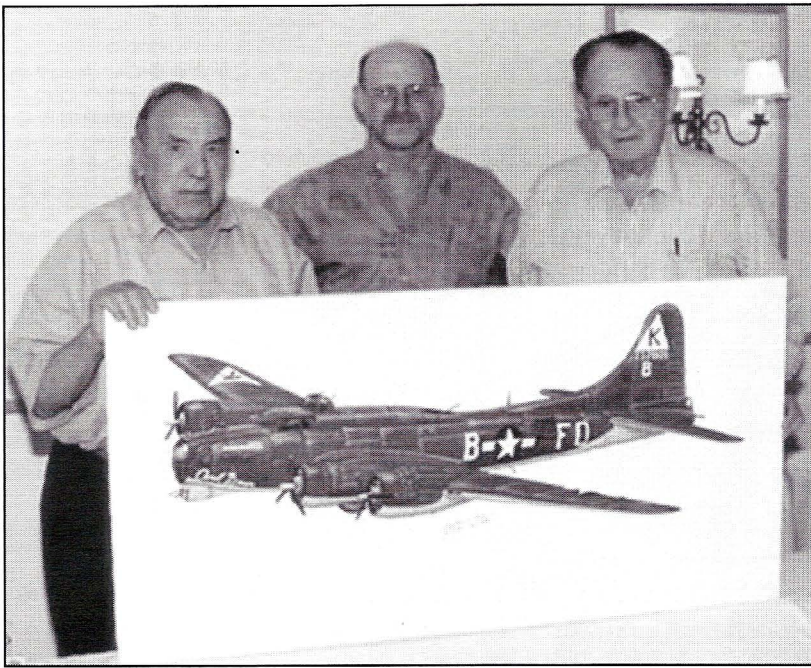
Charlie Brown was a B-17 Flying Fortress pilot with the 379th Bomb Group at Kimbolton, England. His B-17 was called 'Ye Old Pub' and was heavily damaged, having been hit by flak and fighters. The compass was damaged which caused them to fly deeper over enemy territory instead of heading home to Kimbolton. After the B-17 flew over an enemy airfield, a German pilot named Franz Steigler was ordered to take off and shoot down the B-17. When he got near the B-17, he could not believe his eyes. In his words, he 'had never seen a plane in such a bad state'. The tail and rear section was severely damaged, and the tail gunner wounded. The top gunner was all over the top of the fuselage. The nose was smashed and there were holes everywhere. Despite having ammunition, Franz flew to the side of the B-17 and looked at Charlie Brown, the pilot. Brown was scared and struggling to control his damaged and blood-stained plane.



BF-109 pilot Franz Steigler

B-17 pilot Charlie Brown

Aware that they had no idea where they were going, Franz waved at Charlie to turn 180 degrees. Franz escorted and guided the stricken plane to, and slightly over, the North Sea towards England. He then saluted Charlie Brown and turned away, back to Europe. When Franz landed he told the CO that the plane had been shot down over the sea, and never told the truth to anybody. Charlie Brown and the remains of his crew told all at their briefing, but were ordered never to talk about it.



(L-R) German Ace Franz Stigler, artist Ernie Boyett and B-17 pilot Charlie Brown

More than 40 years later, Charlie Brown wanted to find the Luftwaffe pilot who saved the crew. After years of research, Franz was found. He had never talked about the incident, not even at post-war reunions. They met in the USA at a 379th Bomber Group reunion, together with 25 people who are alive now - all because Franz never fired his guns that day.

When asked why he didn't shoot them down, Stigler later said, "I didn't have the heart to finish those brave men. I flew beside them for a long time. They were trying desperately to get home and I was going to let them

do that. I could not have shot at them. It would have been the same as shooting at a man in a parachute." Both men died in 2008.

This is a true story <http://www.snopes.com/military/charliebrown.asp>

Books and Patches

SQUADRON PATCHES

You can order the following patches for \$9.00 each including postage:

QTY	PATCH	PRICE	TOTAL
	49 th Squadron	9.00	
	96 th Squadron	9.00	
	2 nd Bomb Group (only 1 left)	9.00	

THE SECOND WAS FIRST, by Charles Richards, has sold out. If there is interest in placing a new order, please contact Lew Waters.

You can place an order for the patches by completing and sending this form to:

Lew Waters

1909 Wedgewood Cir.

Springfield OH 45503

937-629-0897

enon2212@sbcglobal.net

Make Checks payable to: Lewis H. Waters

Fifteenth Air Force

The Fifteenth was established in November 1943 as part of the United States Army Air Forces in the World War II Mediterranean Theater of Operations. The first commander was General Jimmy Doolittle. In its eighteen months of existence the 15th AF, operating principally from airfields in southern Italy, destroyed all gasoline production within its range in Southern Europe; knocked out all the major aircraft factories in its sphere; and destroyed 6,282 enemy aircraft in the air and on the ground.

The Fifteenth dropped 303,842 tons of bombs on enemy targets in 12 countries of Europe. Its combat personnel made 148,955 heavy bomber sorties and 87,732 fighter sorties against the enemy. The most vital of the Fifteenth's operations was the Ploesti, Romania complex of oil refineries, which contributed about 30% of the entire Axis oil supply. The cost was 237 heavies (15 of them RAF) and 39 escort fighters. More than 2,200 American Airmen were lost. But the results were good. At the end of the campaign the refineries were reduced to only 10% of their normal rate of activity. Production of aircraft declined from 650 to 250 per month. The 15th was also attacking enemy communications and transportation systems far behind enemy lines.

A unique sidelight of 15th's operations had been the rescue and repatriation of air crews shot down in enemy territory. No other air force has undertaken escape operations in so many countries. The Fifteenth returned 5,650 personnel by air, surface vessel and on foot through enemy lines. In more than 300 planned "reunion" operations men were safely brought back from Italy, Tunisia, France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Greece, Albania, Bulgaria, Rumania & Yugoslavia.

Honor Flight Recognized by National Aviation Hall of Fame

By Barrie Barber, Dayton OH

Honor Flight Network joins the ranks of Earth orbiting and moon walking astronauts, the Tuskegee Airmen and the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders at the National Aviation Hall of Fame. The organization that flies veterans to Washington, D.C., from throughout the nation to tour monuments and memorials in the nation's capital was chosen for the Milton Caniff "Spirit of Aviation" award, the Aviation Hall of Fame has announced. "Just to even mention us for the same award is so humbling I cannot believe we are going to be joining those ranks," said Earl Morse, founder of Honor Flight. "It is so humbling for all of us in the program."

Honor Flight first took wing in 2005 when six planes flew a dozen World War II veterans out of the Springfield-Buckley Municipal Airport to Washington, D.C., to see the memorial to the war they served in. Since then, the program based in Springfield has expanded exponentially. Honor Flight has flown about 100,000 veterans from nearly 120 "hubs" to Washington, D.C., since the first flight lifted off from the Miami Valley, said Morse of Honor Flight. "It's speaks loud and clear to the commitment of thousands of volunteers across the nation that are doing everything we can to get veterans to their memorial before they pass away," the physician's assistant and Air Force retiree said.

Honor Flight received the award Dec. 17, 2012, at an Aviation Trail Inc. ceremony honoring the 109th anniversary of the Wright Brothers first flight at Kitty Hawk in North Carolina. "It's been a huge campaign and so many veterans and their families have benefited from it and continue to," said Ron Kaplan, National Aviation Hall of Fame enshrinement director. "They really are a worthy group to be added to that roster." The Hall of Fame has given the award every year since 1981.

Please consider donating to this worthwhile organization.

Go to www.HonorFlight.org and click on "donate", or send a check to:

Honor Flight, Inc.
Attn.: Diane Gresse
300 E. Auburn Ave.
Springfield, OH 45505

SHERATON FOUR POINTS HOTEL
6401 Veterans Memorial Blvd.
Metairie, LA 70003

DATES: NOVEMBER 6 to NOVEMBER 10

Reservations can be made by calling Reservations 504-648-2939 Monday thru Friday
Or 1-888-627-9017 anytime and ask for the 2nd Bomb Group Association room rate of \$109.
You can also email Michelle.carington@fourpointsnola.com

Hotel offers shuttle service to/from the airport, free parking, free wifi, and discounted breakfast

Reservations must be made by October 6th to honor the group rate (regular hotel rates will apply after that date).

Hospitality Room will be available from Wednesday to Saturday night.

Tours will board approximately 15 minutes prior to the departure times listed.

The American Legion is supplying extra wheelchairs for those that may need one.

AGENDA

Wednesday, November 06

4.00 – 8.00pm

7.00pm

Arrival Day

Registration/Check In

(Registration Desk will be open as needed throughout reunion)

Hospitality Room Open

Thursday, November 07

10.00am – 2.00pm

NEW ORLEANS HARBOR STEAMBOAT CRUISE WITH LUNCH

Two hour steamboat cruise on the Mississippi River from New Orleans, with a Creole Lunch. You will see one of the world's most active ports, a it can best be seen from the river aboard New Orleans' only authentic Steamboat. Your cruise from the heart of the French Quarter takes you back when cotton was king and life was as slow and graceful as the current on the Mississippi.

Hospitality Suite Open

6.00pm – 7.00pm

Dinner (either Chicken Creole, Taco Bar, or Chicken Fajita, with dessert)
\$13 per person

Friday, November 08

9.00am – 3.00pm

WWII DAY MUSEUM TOUR WITH TRANSPORTATION

**9.30am Goup Arrival – Self visit US Freedom Pavilion
11.00am Beyond All Boundaries in Solomon Victory Theater.
12.00pm Box Lunch in Museum function space
Self visit Museum galleries.
Return to Hotel**

Hospitality Suite Open

6.00pm – 7.00pm

**Dinner (Chicken Creole, Taco Bar, or Chicken Fajita, with dessert)
\$13.00 per person**

Saturday, November 9

8.00am – 2.00pm

NEW ORLEANS HISTORY AND CITY TOUR

**Tour includes some of the affect and progress made after Katrina
~ 1 hour leisure stop for lunch* in the French Quarter/Bourbon Street,
A Professional Tour Guide and Escort at any and all stops.
*not included in price.**

Hospitality Suite Open

3.00pm – 4.00pm

General Business Meeting (place TBA)

6.00pm – 10.00pm

Reception with Cash Bar

Banquet Dinner

Choose between three entrée's

Chicken Florentine

Smoked Brisket with Horse Radish Cream Sauce

Vegetable Fettuccini (no extra veggi's with this dish)

Served with Southern Style Green Beans, Red Roasted Potato's

Southern Style Breaded Pudding, Ice Tea, and Coffee

\$30 per person

Sunday, November 10

AU REVOIR, SEE YOU NEXT YEAR

REGISTRATION
2nd BOMBARDMENT REUNION GROUP
November 6 -10, 2013

First Name _____ Last Name _____
 Spouse or Guest(s): _____
 First Name _____ Last Name _____
 First Name _____ Last Name _____
 Address _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
 Email _____ Squadron Number _____

	Number of Persons	x	Cost Per Person	=	Cost
Daily Full Breakfast	_____		@\$12 per day	=	_____
Light Dinner on Thursday Night	_____		@\$14.00	=	_____
Light Dinner on Friday Night	_____		@\$14.00	=	_____
 New Orleans Steamboat lunch cruise	 _____		 @\$55.00	 =	 _____
 WWII DDay Museum Tour					
Veteran	_____		@\$38.00	=	_____
Other	_____		@\$59.00	=	_____
 New Orleans City/History Tour (lunch not included)	 _____		 @\$35.00	 =	 _____
 Banquet:					
Choose: Chicken Florentine	_____		@\$30.00	=	_____
Beef Brisket	_____		@\$30.00	=	_____
Fettuccini Alfredo	_____		@\$30.00	=	_____
 Registration Fee	 _____		 @\$18.00	 =	 _____
Each attendee must pay this registration fee					

Please tell us about any special needs or health issues: _____

Send this form and a check (made payable to LeGrand Travel) for the total amount to:
 LeGrand Travel, Attn: Penny LeGrand
 11231 N Platte Dr, Oro Valley, AZ 85737

Contact Penny at 520-907-1404 or pennylg@msn.com

Refund Policy: There will be no refunds after October 5th.

Second Bombardment Association
A Veterans Organization of the
2nd Bomb Group & Bomb Wing

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Second Bombardment Association
www.2ndbombgroup.org
MEMBER APPLICATION

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ 9 Digit Zip _____ - _____

Phone Number _____ e-Mail _____

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Dues — \$25.00 per 2 years

If WWII — Tell us Squadron No. _____

Make checks payable to:

Membership — 2 years — \$25.00 \$ _____

SECOND BOMBARDMENT ASSN.

Mail to: Second Bombardment Assn.

c/o Matt Bryner

8386 Fenton Way

Arvada, CO 80003