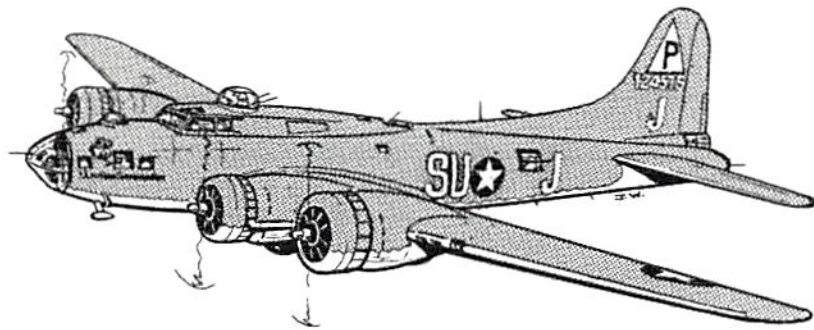


A Tribute to

Harvey Arthur Wick

And to his
Sister's Love & Dedication,
And the
People of Wargrave Honoring Art Wick
And The
B-17 "Sunrise Serenader" Crew



Born April 24, 1922

Chicora, Penna.

Died November 13, 1943

Wargrave, England

Aboard B-17 "Sunrise Serenader"

Compiled July 2015

by James Arthur Wick

Introduction

Index

- ❖ Art Wick & 8 Crewmates Die Saving the Town of Wargrave, England during WWII
- ❖ Sister Harriet Wick Staley's Quest to Recognize the Crew
- ❖ Wargrave & England say Thanks and Dedicate a Memorial in 2014
- ❖ Harvey Arthur Wick
- ❖ Planes, Crews, Honors and a Stained Glass Window
- ❖ Cambridge American Cemetery & Memorial
- ❖ Additional & Extra References & Material
- ❖ Web based Information including Pictures & Videos of the Dedication

T/Sgt. Harvey Arthur 'Art' Wick



1.

Come with me on a journey through time and place. The journey begins as my uncle Art Wick, a young man, just 21, loses his life heroically during World War II. His story and two others intertwine to properly remember and honor those who fought and valiantly died. Remarkably, their stories unfold over 7 decades.

Volumes, indeed libraries, have been written about war, including WWII. For those born since, it may be difficult to comprehend the social and political context of war as part of the public psyche. Our country was fully committed to winning WWII on 2 fronts, Asia and Europe. A level of commitment we have not experienced in any conflict since. Everyday life in the US was focused on the war effort. Rationing of goods and services was widespread for the sake of supplying the war effort and winning. People knew hardship, having suffered through the previous decade of the Great Depression. Hard work, service, and sacrifice were considered patriotic duties. Patriotism was widely celebrated during the War and for many years thereafter. Pride in country was a core value.

Imagine if you can Art, just 21, starting out on his own in life; joining the Army Air Corp., to do his part. He was sent to Wendover, Utah to Gunnery School, meeting young men from every corner of America. It had to be an incredible experience to ship out to England and be part of a B-17 crew. B-17, the Flying Fortress, was one of the biggest airplanes ever made up till that time. It flew high and it flew far with a significant payload of bombs. "I love this kind of work. It is really exciting and enjoyable if one but puts himself into it" he wrote in July 1943. Continuing, "I've not done anything great.... Just be a good soldier and do all I can to help win the war." Then on November 13th his B-17 was trying to return to base, damaged in a severe storm, with engines on fire, losing altitude. They had time to bail out. But, fully laden with bombs, their plane was heading straight for the village of Wargrave. Crashing there would have been a mass civilian casualty catastrophe, destroying a large part of their town. Can you imagine as the pilot, struggling for control of his plane, engines on fire, shouts to his crew something like this, "Boys, we're turning around. Crew! Prepare to drop the bombs in the river. We'll ditch in a field I see." Well, they made the turn, they dumped the bombs with minimal damage, but they never made the field and they broke up and crashed. Art, and 8 crewmates died, one survived. They lost their lives, but saved Wargrave.

Secrecy necessitated by the war, the general fog of war, and the bungling of bureaucracy were obstacles to Art's sister, Harriet Staley, the second story. It took years of effort, dozens of letters, and real grit to piece together the names of Art's B-17 "Sunrise Serenader" crewmates so they could be properly honored. Only one of the 10 man crew survived the crash that took her brother's life. But Harriet persevered. She, her husband, Jim, and their daughter, Pat Wagner, visited Wargrave, the surrounding area, Art's gravesite, and talked with an eyewitness to the crash, Jim Waldron, in 1985.

For the third intertwined story, imagine if you can, being a 14 year old Jim Waldron with your country at war for 4 years, hearing Nazi bombers overhead in 1941 bent on destroying your country; now hearing overhead Yank Army Air Force bombers every day and Royal Air Force bombers every night, by the dozens and hundreds, flying missions to Europe to defeat the Nazi's. Money was collected for a memorial in Wargrave, but wartime censorship precluded a proper memorial. Jim Waldron did not forget. He must have a fire of gratitude and passion ignited by the fiery crash and the loss of lives in 1943. Waldron later formed a historical society, laboriously gathered information, exchanged letters with Aunt Harriet and the families of the crew, hosted many family visitors, and designed the memorial dedicated November 13, 2014, 71 years after the crash.

His correspondents were gone and unfortunately we know of no relatives of Uncle Art who knew of and attended the dedication. I hope some of us can visit the memorial, pay respects, and reflect on these stories of our family hero.

The final page of this tribute includes internet links for more information.

One luncheon speaker's comments seemed so eloquent and simple: "For your tomorrow, we gave our today." I hope this tribute resonates in a very positive and heartwarming way with you.

James Arthur Wick, July 2015

Note: A special thank you to Pat Wagner, Jim Parker, & Bill McCarrier for information, photos & assistance in preparing this tribute.

Art Wick & 8 Crewmates Die Saving the Town of Wargrave, England during WWII



Wargrave aerial view - St James Church - Dedication Ceremony



MP/Home Sec. Theresa May, eyewitnesses Jim Waldron & Mary Burge

County Airman Sacrifices Life to Save English Town

Sgt. Wick of West Sunbury
One of Nine Who Died in
Saving Wargrave

Saturday, November 13, will be a day that the citizens of Wargrave, England, will never forget, because it was on this day that Technical Sergeant Harvey Arthur Wick of West Sunbury and eight other members of his bomber crew paid with their lives in order to save the English village from destruction as well as the lives of the townspeople. The heroic deed of Sergeant Wick and his men will no doubt be marked clearly on the records of Wargrave and the story of how these men saved the community from destruction will no doubt be told to the children of the town for many years to come.

It was a chilly English day when Sergeant Wick climbed aboard the bomber that was to take him over

occupied Europe on a bombing mission. Little did he realize that in a very short time, he and his pals would be required to make the greatest decision of their lives—whether to go to their death in a blazing bomber loaded with heavy explosives or to bail out of their plane and destroy a quiet English community.

Tells of Sacrifice

Just what these brave and heroic American airmen did is contained in a message sent to Sergeant Wick's father, Robert M. Wick of Center avenue, Chicora, by Lieut. E. Sharff who knew the Butler county hero well.

"All but one member of the crew of an American B-17 gave their lives Saturday to save this little village when their bomb-laden Fortress caught fire and had to be abandoned," Sharff wrote.

"They stayed on board their burning plane, steered it away from the town's houses and accurately released their entire load of explosives along the banks of a narrow river a split second before the plane blew up in the air."

Escapes With Ankle Injury

The sole survivor of the Fortress was blown out when the plane exploded. His parachute opened and he escaped with a sprained ankle. He was listed by the air force as Staff Sergeant Alan E. Purdy.

Villagers of Wargrave were convinced that the heroism, self-sacrifice and cool aiming of the airmen saved the village from being wiped out. As it was, the bombs did practically no damage to the town.

The local chief rescue officer said he was convinced the airmen could have bailed out in plenty of time, as they had previously sent a radio distress call.

Deliberately Stay Aboard

"In my opinion," he said, "the U.

and attacked enemy centers at the south end of the island.

Australia-based bombers ranged on a 1,200-mile round trip to blast Balikpapan, oil port on Borneo, setting off big explosions and fires among refineries and storage areas.

West Sunbury Airman Dies In Action Over England

Butler county's 44th member of the armed forces to die in the service was reported this morning when Robert M. Wick of Center avenue, Chicora, received a telegram that his son, Technical Sergeant Harvey Arthur Wick, was killed in action while serving with the U. S. Army Air Corps somewhere in England.

According to the official communication received from the adjutant general's office, Washington, D. C., Sergeant Wick was killed in action over Wargrave, England, on November 13. No details of the action were given.

The Butler county soldier who made his home at West Sunbury before he entered the service on March 13, 1942, had served at a number of air corps fields in this country before leaving for Iceland on the first leg of foreign service.

A letter received here from the sergeant, who was chief engineer on a bomber, told of his arrival in England prior to October 30.

He leaves his father, Robert M. both of Allegheny General hospital, Wick of Chicora; three brothers, Pittsburgh, Mrs. J. K. Parker of Robert A. of Aliquippa, C. Victor Chicora, Mrs. J. E. Ripper of Chillicothe, and James C. Wick of Cora; Miss Harriett V. Wick of West Sunbury; six sisters, Miss Valencia and Miss Helen Marie Olive Wick and Miss Ora B. Wick, Wick of Avella.



HARVEY ARTHUR WICK,
Technical Sergeant.

THE BUTLER EAGLE

S. fliers deliberately stayed on board to reach the riverside field and unload their bombs before making a crash landing. The proof is that although the river is only 60 yards wide, one bomb broke the river bank and landed in the water, and the rest landed in a straight line on both banks not more than 20 feet from the water, thus saving our lives.

"I believe the aim would have been more accurate still if the explosion of the plane had not marred the direction of the last three bombs."

County Airman Sacrifices Life to Save English Town Sgt. Wick of West Sunbury One of Nine Who Died in Saving Wargrave

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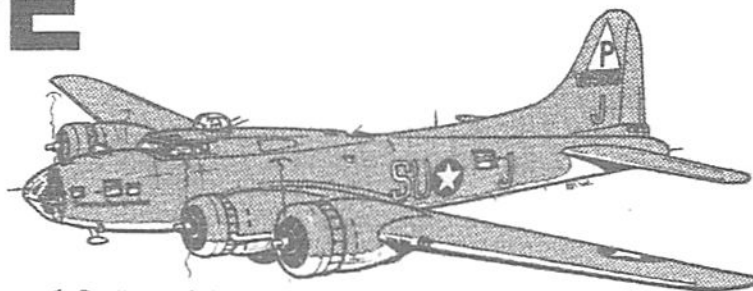
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WARGRAVE NEWS

No. 179 November 1993

50 years ago ... November 13th, 1943



WITH the war in Europe in its 4th year, Wargrave had been little affected by terrible events elsewhere.

This relative tranquillity was rudely shattered at 9.20 am this morning, 50 years ago; a dull windswept day, with low cloud.

We had all become used to the routine sound of heavy aircraft flying over in ever larger numbers, to carry out raids on occupied Europe. British aircraft at night, and the American 8th Air Force in daylight. A far cry from when German aircraft droned overhead on nights in 1941, to bomb Coventry and other cities.

Under the low cloud, an American B17F 'Flying Fortress' aircraft was seen approaching from the Henley direction, with smoke trailing from one of its four engines. The engine note was rising and falling, as if something was very wrong. It flew over Shiplake meadows towards the railway viaduct and Regatta course, turned round and jettisoned its bombs, which fell in a line right up to the river bank opposite Val Wyatt's boathouse in Willow Lane. Immediately after releasing its bombs, the flaming engine fell off, whereupon the aircraft reared up and broke in half with what seemed like a mid-air explosion. It literally disintegrated, with many items being distributed over a wide area.

The front portion with wings now well on fire fell over and over with increasing speed, to crash into fields between Wargrave Marsh and Willow Lane. A huge plume of smoke rose into the air. The rear portion of the aircraft fell nearer to the

Henley road by the Henncrton backwater, spilling some crew members into the field. Eight of the crew were killed instantly, the ninth was killed in the ball turret underneath, which fell separately into the River Thames at Shiplake, alongside the engine, and was not discovered until later.

Out of this smoke and debris, a single parachute opened very low over the river, and quickly swung into the trees to the north of Wargrave Manor; depositing the sole survivor, Radio Operator T/Sgt Allen B Purdy, who escaped with minor injuries.

Wargrave Fire Brigade attended the crash, with their chief fire officer Wilfred Maidment (of W H Easterling). By coincidence, one of the first on the scene was his son Clifford Maidment, who was in his grandfather's boathouse in Willow Lane at the time.

Allen Purdy was taken to Wargrave Manor, and subsequently returned to his base at Grafton Underwood near Kettering in Northants. It would appear that no less than four of these aircraft crashed on that same morning, all having flown into a thunder cloud with turbulence and heavy icing, which caused loss of control. Why the engine caught fire will never be known. In a letter to the United States soon after, Allen Purdy wrote as follows:

"We had so little warning, and when the ship exploded, we were very close to the ground. After the explosion, I found myself in part of the tail and had a few inches to go to fall over the edge. My parachute harness was hooked only across my chest, my leg straps were unbuckled. It just

happened that I was upside down when the parachute opened; had I been right side up, the force of the parachute opening would have pulled me right out of the harness."

At that time, little information was allowed for publication because of war-time censorship, but brief details of 'Wargrave's Lucky Escape' appeared in local papers, and even a London Daily. This lack of information continued after the war, when a fund collected for a memorial had to be donated to St. Paul's American memorial fund in London.

In 1973, having witnessed all this, I was asked to write an article in a Parish Newsletter, and soon realised how little was still known. There followed a long series of enquiries for two years; but with assistance from a couple of aviation history groups, I finally received a letter from the sole survivor in America in 1975.

His wife, Jean Purdy, subsequently called on us with one of his sons, with his list of crew members and a negative of the photograph published here. Jean Purdy has stayed with us twice since, and left a portion of Allen's parachute for posterity. Sadly Allen Purdy died of cancer in 1977, so never returned to Wargrave. The photograph and crew details were published in the *Henley Standard* in 1977, and also *St. Mary's Church Parish Magazine*, and some details are in the 1986 *Book of Wargrave*.

At the same time, Harriet Staley of Pennsylvania, USA, was put in touch with me concerning this crash, in which she lost her brother, Harvey Arthur Wick, the aircraft engineer and upper turret gunner. She managed to obtain an official crew list, and subsequently visited us with her husband and daughter to see the site in Willow Lane. 1985

A sister of another of the crew, Gloria Oakwood, also visited us, together with her husband and sister. They lost a brother, Ellsworth Calder, who was in the ball turret, and they came to Wargrave in 1987 and again this year.

In 1987 also, Dr Lane Gober of Texas called on us, and again with his father in 1992, having lost his uncle, Lt. Claude Gober, who was the aircraft's bombardier.

So what happened in 1943 became an on-going pilgrimage for relatives of those who lost their lives at that time. Vivienne and I are pleased to have been of some small consolation to them.

A Shiplake resident and schoolgirl at the time, Mary Burge, also saw this all at a closer distance, and committed it to a diary she had, complete with some very accurate sketches. Some of this was published in the *Henley Standard*. She also met Gloria Oakwood on her last two visits to Wargrave, and took them to the River Thames spot, where they lost their brother.

On this 50th Anniversary, it is fitting that we publish this photograph of the crew of the B17F 'Flying Fortress' aircraft, 124575 ('Sunrise Serenader') of the 544th Bombing Squadron, 384th Bomb Group, American 8th Air Force, who lost their lives in this village on November 13th, 1943.

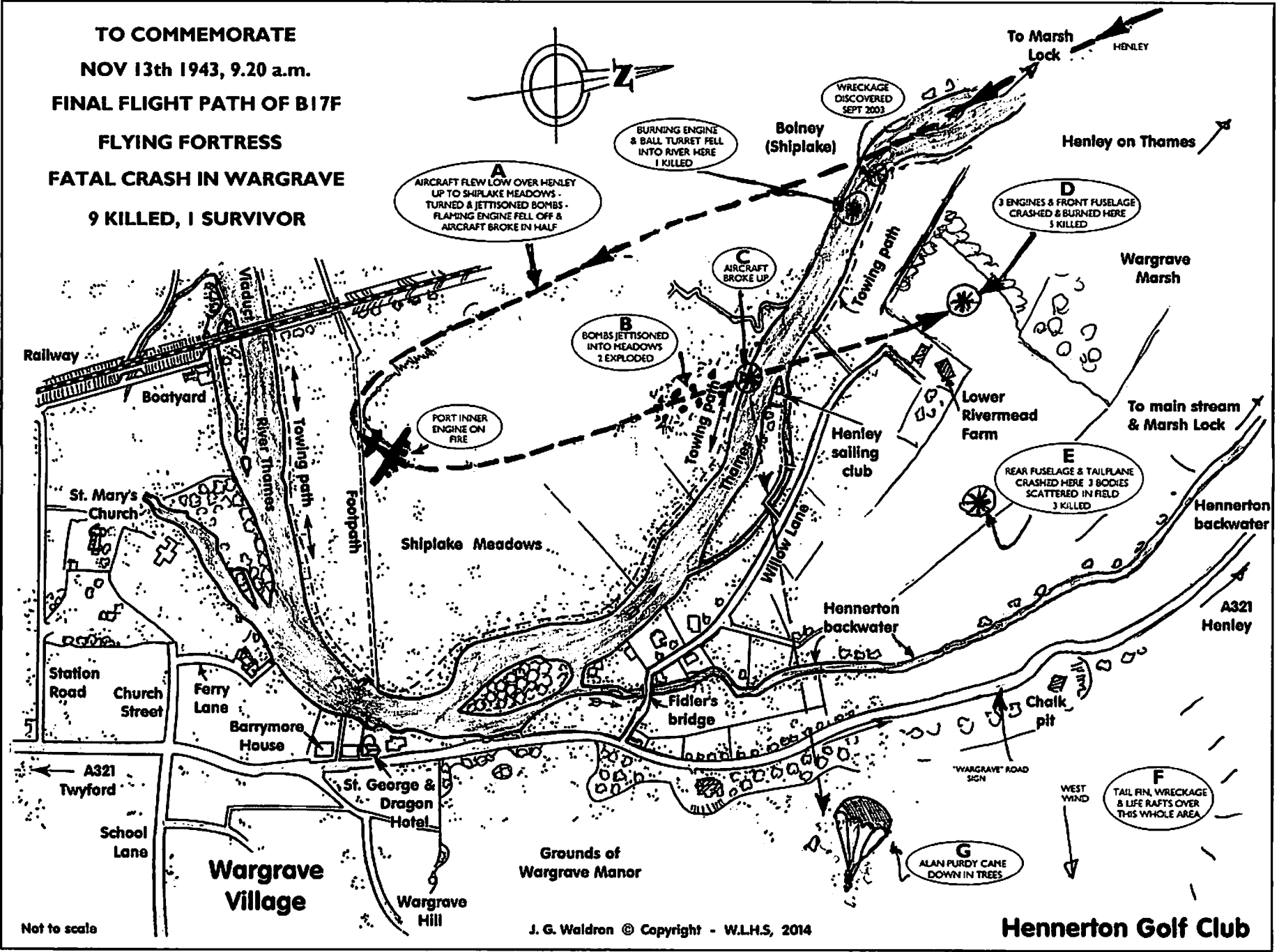
Jim Waldron 149 Victoria Road, Wargrave.



Pilot - 2nd Lt. Ralph J Connell
Co-Pilot - 2nd Lt. Albert H Doman
Bombardier - 2nd Lt. Claude Gober
Navigator - 2nd Lt. Lawrence H Angthuis
Gunner - S/Sgt William H McCully
Gunner - S/Sgt Robert G Bryant

Engineer - T/Sgt Harvey A Wick
Ball Turret - S/Sgt Ellsworth Calder
Rear Turret - S/Sgt Kenneth D Barr
Radio Operator & Sole Survivor (2nd row on right) - T/Sgt Allen B Purdy

TO COMMEMORATE
NOV 13th 1943, 9.20 a.m.
FINAL FLIGHT PATH OF B17F
FLYING FORTRESS
FATAL CRASH IN WARGRAVE
9 KILLED, 1 SURVIVOR



Not to scale

J. G. Waldron © Copyright - W.L.H.S, 2014

Hennerton Golf Club

Sister Harriet's Quest to
Recognize & Honor her
Brother and the Crew



Harriet Wick Staley

Harriet Virginia Wick Staley (1923-2004)

Honoring Art Wick in this tribute would be impossible if not for the dedication and determination of his sister, my aunt, Harriet Staley. Art was the 7th child of 10 and the older brother of Harriet, the 8th child in the family. During WWII, Harriet volunteered to write letters to servicemen fighting overseas. One of them was James Staley, whom she had known in high school. The correspondence turned into a proposal and the two were married seven months after he returned from duty.

The people of Wargrave were unable to secure the names of Art's crew, as mentioned in the introduction, which stymied creating a proper memorial. She corresponded with Jim Waldron, an eyewitness from Wargrave, gathering what facts and information was already available. Then, over a span of 13 years (no internet in those years), she tackled the Federal Bureaucracy! As mentioned, wartime censorship, the fog of war, and bureaucracy were all barriers. The Army Air Force was now the US Air Force and records transfers were sporadic at best. She wrote to the National Personnel Records folks more than once. Other agencies were contacted as well. Finally she got 3 names from one source and 5 from another. She forwarded these (along with Art's name and survivor Alan Purdy) to Jim Waldron, encouraging progress, described elsewhere in this tribute.

Harriet, husband Jim, and daughter Pat Wagner went to Wargrave in 1985. They met and talked with eye witness Jim Waldron, visited the crash site, paid respects at Art's graveside, and spent time at the Parish Church of St. James the Apostle with its remarkable stained glass window.

The caretaker let Harriet unlock the door with the huge key you see in the following photo.



Here she is posing with the stained glass tribute to the B-17 crews.



The caretaker was kind enough to let Harriet play a bit on the antique church organ.



One last picture of Jim & Harriet with their hosts.



Wargrave & England say Thanks & Dedicate a Memorial in 2014



The 10-man crew of the "Sunrise Serenader", taken at Sioux Falls Army Air Field in South Dakota in the summer of 1943. S/Sgt William H. McCulley (gunner) is on the left end of the middle row. All were killed except for T/Sgt Alan B. Purdy (radioman), who is at the right end of the middle row. Others: [back row, from left] 2nd Lt. Ralph J. Connell (pilot), 2nd Lt. __Cavanaugh (co-pilot), 2nd Lt. Claude Gober (bombardier), 2nd Lt. Lawrence H. Anghuis (navigator); [middle row] McCulley, S/Sgt Robert G. Bryant (gunner), T/Sgt Harvey Arthur Wick (engineer), Alan B. Purdy; [front row, from the left] T/Sgt Ellsworth Calder (ball turret), and S/Sgt Kenneth D. Barr (rear Turret)

Purdy supplied the names in a 1977 letter to Jim Waldron, explaining Lt. Cavanaugh was not on the Nov 13, 1943 mission, being replaced by Lt. Albert H. Doman, who was killed.

B17 Flying Fortress "Sunrise Serenader" Memorial Service
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYVG7HoTqrs>

Wargrave memorial for WW2 US bomber crash victims

13 November 2014



Maidenhead MP Theresa May unveiled the memorial with eyewitnesses Jim Waldron from Wargrave and Mary Burge from Shiplake

A memorial has been unveiled to the US crew of a World War Two plane which crashed by the River Thames in 1943.

Theresa May MP unveiled the memorial at Hennerton Golf Club in Wargrave, Berkshire with two eyewitnesses, who were 14 at the time of the crash.

The club overlooks the site in Wargrave and Shiplake, Oxfordshire, where the US B-17 bomber, nicknamed Sunrise Serenader, crashed.

Nine servicemen died and one survived when the plane exploded in the air.



The memorial plaque, designed by Mr Waldron, shows the flight path of the crashing plane over Shiplake and Wargrave

The explosion and crash on 13 November 1943 was witnessed by Jim Waldron from Wargrave and Mary Burge from Shiplake.

Mr Waldron, now 84, said: "It was on a Saturday, I was in the back bedroom and we heard this engine noise but didn't think anything of it.

"Then suddenly there were these loud crashes and bangs - two of the bombs had crashed into River Thames.

"I saw the plane heading towards Henley and then transform into a rolling ball of fire.

"Then the burning aircraft broke in half."



General Dieter Bareihs US Defence Attaché with MSgt Donald Grindstaff saluted the memorial

As a boy he saw the wreckage strewn across the area, which included live ammunition.

Brig Gen Dieter Bareihs, US Defense Attaché, and MSgt Donald Grindstaff of the US Air Force also attended.

The plaque, designed by Mr Waldron, shows the flight path of the crashing plane over Shiplake and Wargrave, where the bombs were jettisoned, where bits of the plane fell, where the survivor landed and where the nine died.

Just before the service began a T6 Texan built in 1944 flew across the site performing several victory rolls.

A part of the four engine Boeing plane was pulled out of the river in 2003.

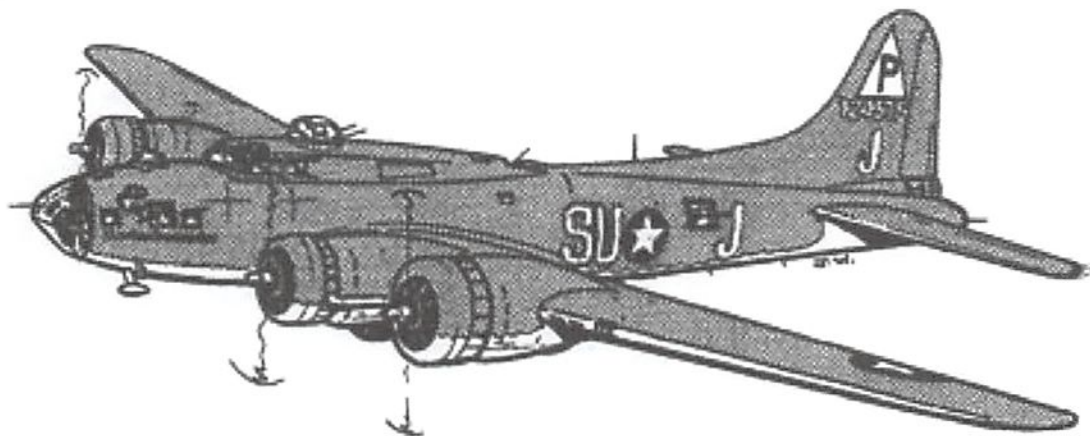
This and other artefacts, including some of the survivor's parachute, will be on display at the golf club

Note:

1. The Right Honorable Theresa May, is a Member of Parliament and serves as The Secretary of State for the Home Department; which is one of the four "Great Offices of State" in the United Kingdom. Her many responsibilities in 'internal affairs of England' include the National Security Services (MI5).
2. General Dieter Bareihs is a highly decorated U.S. Air Force Academy graduate, commissioned in 1989. General Bareihs is rated as a 'command pilot' and has over 3000 flight hours. His assignment at the time of the dedication was Senior Defense Official/Defense Attaché, London.



Order of Service



November 13th 2014

12.00 hours

Dedication of the Memorial
to the air crew of B17 Flying Fortress

Sunrise Serenader

SERVICE

*Led by the Reverend John Cook
Vicar of Wargrave with Knowl Hill*

Minister We are gathered here today to commemorate those who came from across the seas to join us in defending our common liberty, who in the course of duty laid down their lives on our behalf.

HYMN

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 O GOD, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home; | 4 A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun. |
| 2 Beneath the shadow of Thy Throne
Thy Saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine Arm alone,
And our defence is sure. | 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day. |
| 3 Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art GOD,
To endless years the Same. | 6 O GOD, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home. |

PRAYER

*In prayer we recall those who laid down their lives
and commend them to God.*

Pilot 2nd Lt Ralph J Connell	Gunner S/Sgt Robert Bryant
Co Pilot 2nd Lt A H Doman	Engineer T/Sgt Harvey A Wick
Bombardier 2nd Lt Claude Gober	Ball Turret S/Sgt Ellsworth Calder
Navigator 2nd Lt Lawrence H Anghuis (also known as Lawrence H Anghius)	Rear Turret S/Sgt Kenneth D Barr
Gunner S/Sgt William H McCulley	Radio Operator T/Sgt Alan B Purdy (sole survivor)

UNVEILING CEREMONY

*The Rt Hon Theresa May, MP,
assisted by Jim Waldron and Mary Burge*

DEDICATION

Minister In memory of those who died for their country here in this place we dedicate this Memorial, for future generations to recall that their sacrifice was not in vain, giving thanks for service rendered in peace and conflict, for peace preserved. Let us bless the Lord.

All Let us bless the Lord

TAPS

WREATH LAYING

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen,
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen!

REVEILLE

THE BLESSING

*Members of the public are requested to remain in their places
until official guests have left the memorial site*



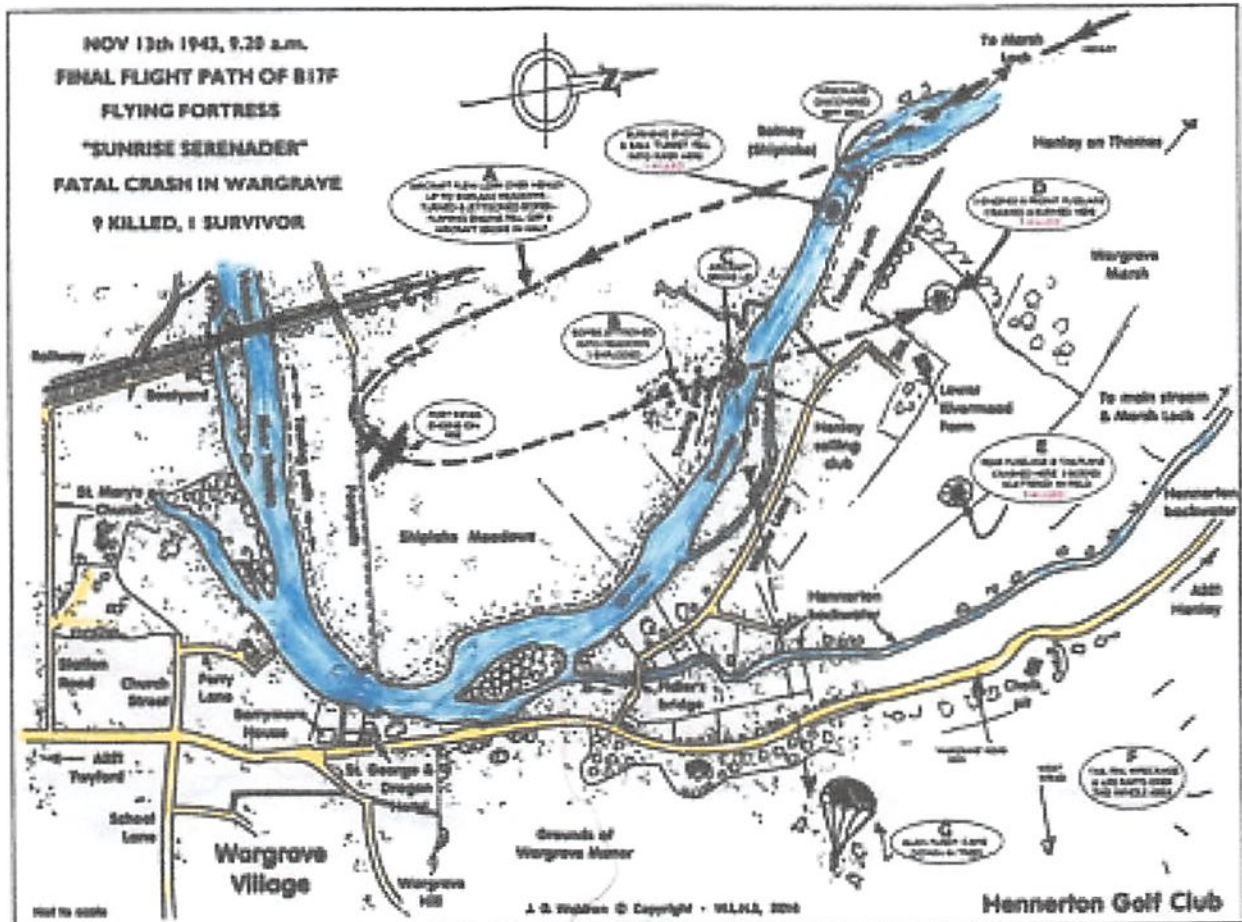
U.S.A.A.F

We Will Remember Them

"Keep the Show on the Road"



544th Bomb Sqdn



DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

The Rt Hon Theresa May, MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department

Brigadier General Dieter Bareihs, USAF
US Defense Attaché

M Sgt Donald Grindstaff, USAF

Jim Waldron
(eye-witness, Wargrave)

Mary Burge
(eye-witness, Shiplake)

OUR THANKS TO:

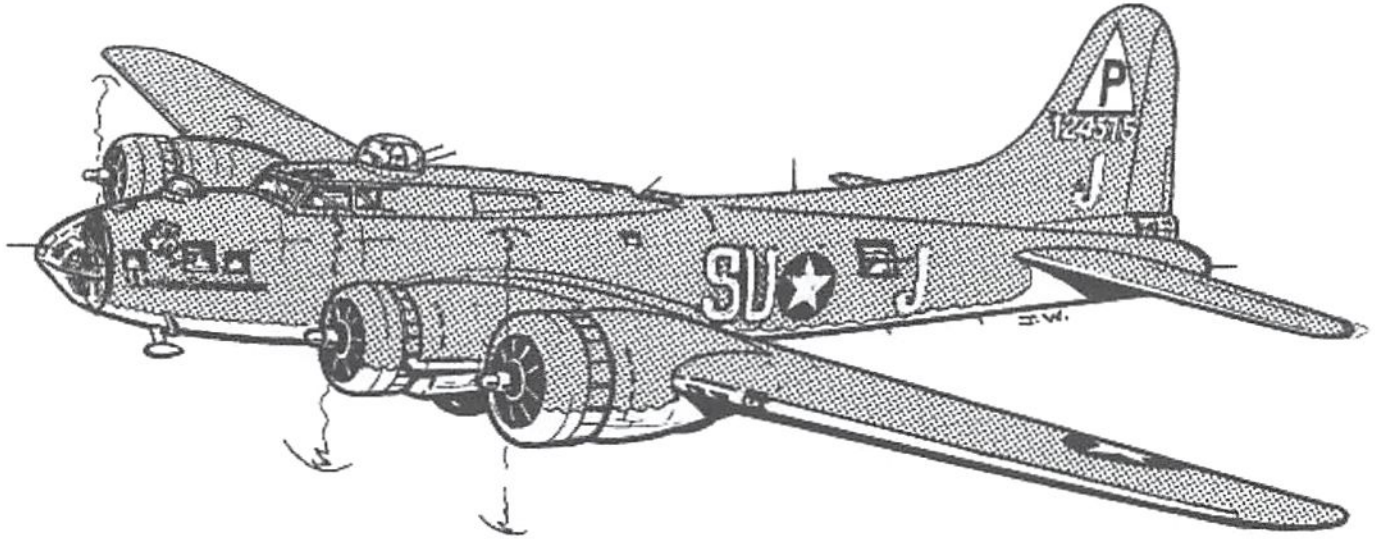
Hennerton Golf Club

Students of Shiplake College, led by Director of Music Paul Jones

Wargrave Local History Society

B17F Flying Fortress Memorial Dedication Service and Lunch

November 13th 2014



On November 13th 1943, 71 years ago the B17 "Sunrise Serenader" crashed in the riverside fields of Shiplake and on the Wargrave riverside with the tail falling in what is now Hennerton Golf Club. Nine crewmen died and one managed to parachute to safety.



A memorial to the crew was unveiled at noon on November 13th 2014 at Hennerton Golf Club overlooking the crash site, by the Rt Hon Theresa May MP in the presence of Brig. General Dieter Bareih, US Defense Attaché. The dedication ceremony was led by the Vicar of Wargrave with Knowl Hill, the Revd. John Cook, and attended by many members of the Royal British Legion local branches, as well as other residents of Wargrave and Shiplake.

The crash had been witnessed by Jim Waldron from Wargrave who was then 14 years old and Mary Burge from Shiplake who was also 14, both of whom assisted with the unveiling of the memorial. Relatives of the

crew have visited Jim Waldron many times over the years with the nephew of the pilot and family in Wargrave in June this year.

A part of "Sunrise Serenader" was dragged out of the Thames by fishermen in 2003 and this together with other mementoes including some of the survivor's parachute was on display at the Golf Club on November 13th.

The unveiling of the memorial took place at noon with music provided by the music master and pupils of Shiplake College. A Video of the ceremony was made by members of the College's Media Studies Group, and [a copy of this Video can be viewed here.](#)



The idea of a memorial has been mooted for many years and was recently revived by members of the Royal British Legion in Wargrave in consultation with Jim Waldron.

The unveiling ceremony was followed by luncheon at the Golf Club.

[Report from the BBC available here.](#) More photographs of the ceremonies will be made available by [Tim Hodges](#) and also on the [Wargrave News Website](#)

This whole wartime event has been documented by Jim Waldron and Tony Elliott, and articles by them and Jim's map can be read in the September and October editions of the Wargrave News which can be downloaded from the website here:

[September Wargrave News - Pages 24 and 25](#)

[October Wargrave News - Pages 7 and 17](#)

Any further enquiries about this topic may be addressed to the [WLHS Secretary](#).

Harvey Arthur Wick



standing left to right:
Jim, Harriet, Arthur, &
Victor
seated:
Olive, Helen, Mattie, Ora,
Marian
Uncle Bob is absent

Art in uniform with his brothers and sisters in 1943; Victor b.1908, Olive b.1909, Bob b.1911 (absent),
Mattie b.1912, Marion b. 1914, Ora b.1919, Art b.1922, Harriet b.1923, Jim b.1924, & Helen b.1926

Harvey Arthur 'Art' Wick

4/24/1922 – 11/13/1943

Art was the 7th of 10 children of Robert Mark Wick and Mary Ellen Shearer. His parents married in Chicora, PA on July 10, 1907 when she was just 21. They moved to a farm in Concord Township, Butler County, Pennsylvania. Their home was near Zion Church Road, between Hooker, on Route 38, and Chicora boro. Art's Dad was a 'douser', a water well driller. Their 10 children were:

Charles Victor	born March 1, 1908
Alma Olive (Trout)	born July 11, 1909
Robert Andrew	born April 12, 1911
Mattie Elizabeth (Parker)	born August 15, 1912
Lela Marion (Ripper)	born March 17, 1914
Ora Belle (Shea)	born April 8, 1919
Harvey Arthur	born April 24, 1922
Harriet Virginia (Staley)	born January 17, 1923
James Clyde	born July 8, 1924
Helen Marie (Bargerstock, Burke)	born April 24, 1926

Six months after Helen was born, their Mother, Mary Ellen, died. The 10 children ranged in age from 6 months to 18 years. In the years following their Mom's death, the older children looked after the younger ones as they struggled for normalcy. Their Dad remarried in 1930. In 1931 they moved to Chicora with the 5 youngest children, Ora being the oldest, aged 11 or 12.

Their step-mother had no interest in raising the children, neglecting and mistreating them. The kids struggled in terrible conditions until county officials removed the 5 in 1933 to Kirkpatrick's Nursing Home in Valencia.

County officials and the courts placed the children in foster care. Ora went to Glenshaw with a family named McWilliams. Art and his brother Jim, my Dad, went to West Sunbury with a single 66 year old lady, Dassa McKinney, who was a school teacher and owned a farm. Harriet and Helen spent 3 weeks with a Mrs. Boice, then their brother Victor took the girls to live with Jane & Alice Potts. Soon Harriet was placed with a family named Buxton and Helen went to live with her brother Victor until she graduated high school. Helen also spent some time at Heart House, a girl's school. These were tough times for the brothers and sisters, during the Great Depression no less. The 10 remained close and had remarkably positive attitudes about life, leading productive lives in spite of their difficult childhoods.

Art and Dad lived, and worked, on Dassa's farm. It was hard work, but the brothers were together and they had a place to call home. Dassa had a couple of other foster boys for a short while, but Dad and Art stayed. I learned from Dad Dassa was strict, but fair. Dad looked after Dassa after returning from the War. When her health deteriorated, she moved in with us until she died. Dassa left Dad the farm. When the school district needed land for a new school, Dad gave them half the farm for the Dassa McKinney Elementary School.

Graduating from the 8th grade was a major milestone in the 1930's. I have Art's impressive 18 inch by 14 inch parchment 1934 graduation diploma from the Butler County Public Schools signed by John T. Connell, Supt. Art went on to graduate from high school (West Sunbury Vocational Academy) in 1939 with a class of 24.

Art then went to live with his older brother Bob. Bob was working for Sutherland Dairy at the time in Aliquippa. Bob later married Blanche Campbell and moved to Fox Chapel.

In 1943 Art joined the Army Air Corp. He went to Gunnery School in Utah. A main training base for B-17's was nearby. His class mates were from all over the US. A photo of them is included in this tribute. He made it home for a visit before shipping out to England and a photo of Art in his uniform with his brothers and sisters is also included in this tribute.

He was good to write to his sisters, especially Harriet and Mattie (maybe brothers too, but brothers don't keep letters like sisters do). A family history, "What Tick's with the Wicks" was later started by Harriet and Mattie. In one letter dated July 30, 1943 Art writes "I love this kind of work. It is really exciting and enjoyable if one but puts himself to it. I wouldn't trade my experiences in the service for a whole lot. I've actually had a good time, considering we're tied down as much as we are. Just can't wait 'til I get home tho'. I'll be the happiest guy in the world, I guess. I've not done anything great, but I don't want to do anything outstanding. Just be a good soldier and do all I can to help win the War." In his words I can sense the pride of a 21 year old setting out on his own.

He and eight crewmates died later that year saving a village in a country far away from Pennsylvania.

The government paid a death benefit of \$ 21.57 to each of Art's brothers and sisters. In 1946, his older sister, Olive Wick Trout, penned this poem:

**"The Wargrave Villagers are proud
They speak of him in fame
Yet, in the cross marked burial ground
It's just another name.
But in the memory of that cross
We'll strive to do our best
So that when our 'forced landing' comes
We shall have passed the test.
And Calvary's Cross will be our guide
Though lonely be the way
For the courage God gave to him
Shall be our strength today."**

British wartime Prime Minister Winston Churchill sums it up well:

"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

I am proud my middle name is Arthur. Please join me in paying tribute to my namesake, Arthur Wick, with a silent prayer of thanks to Art and the many we owe.

James Arthur Wick,
Chandler, Arizona,
July 2015

The Planes, the Crews,
Honors, and a Stained Glass
Window in a Church



The significance of the Memorial Window dedicated to the members of the 384th Bombardment Group (Heavy) is that it is placed in the Parish Church of St. James the Apostle as a permanent reminder of the efforts of the members of the 384th in World War II, and in particular the 1579 members lost in combat whilst flying from the airfield here at Grafton Underwood.

The blue sky represents the arena in which the 384th saw combat, and many members fought their last fight.

The white cliffs of Dover are symbolic in the sense that these were the first sight of England the aircrews had upon returning from combat over Europe.

The crossed flags signify the combined efforts of both countries in the defeat of a common enemy during World War II.

The four badges at the top of the window are of the 544th, 545th, 546th and 547th squadrons, and the shield below is of the 384th Bombardment Group (Heavy) itself. The motto "Keep the show on the road" came from the Deputy Group Commander Major Selden McMillan whilst he was in a P.O.W. Camp after being shot down on one of the Group's early missions.

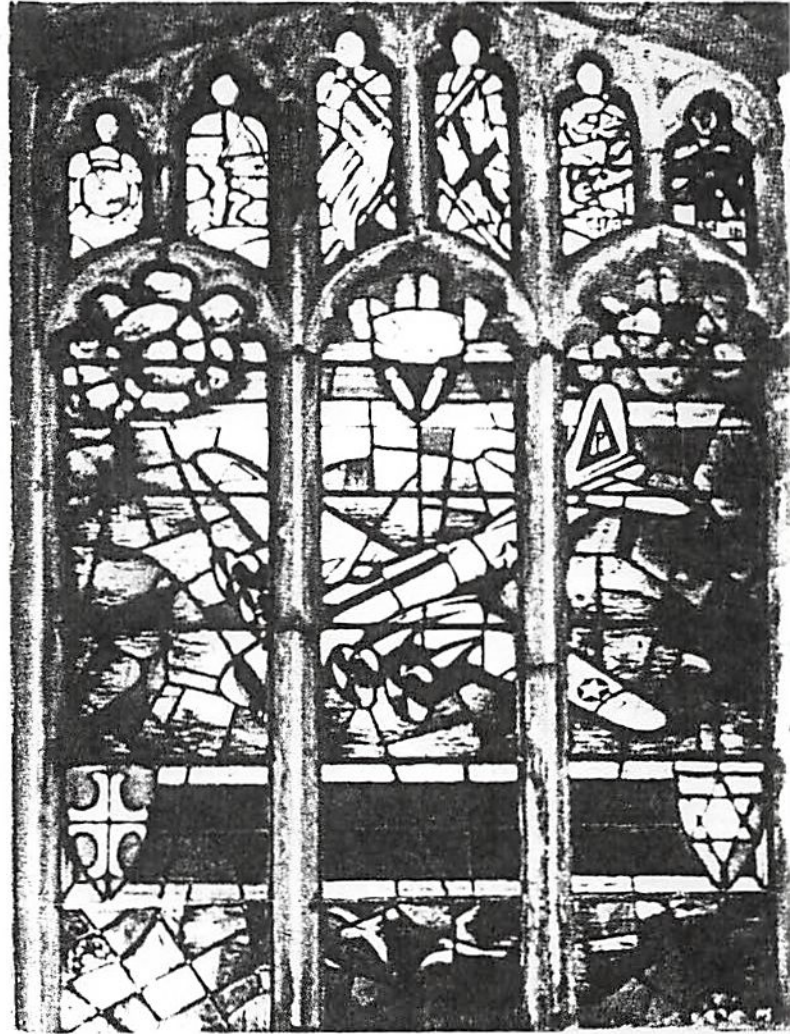
The aircraft is the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress, which the Group operated during its stay at Grafton Underwood.

The Celtic Cross and Star of David represent the various religions of the members of the 384th.

The theme for the design of the window was born of an idea by John Mach of Savannah, Georgia (related to a member of the Group), and has been provided by the veterans, families and friends of the 384th Bombardment Group (Heavy).

It was designed by Brian Thomas, O.B.E., who is a fellow of the British Society of Master Glass Painters, and has held distinguished office in many institutions associated with his craft. He has designed stained glass works for St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey, London and Wellington Cathedral, New Zealand, as well as many memorials including those at Winchester Cathedral and St. George's Chapel, Windsor.

The stained glass has been crafted and painted and the window assembled by Chapel Studios, specialist craftsmen in stained glass, of Hunton Bridge, Hertfordshire, England.

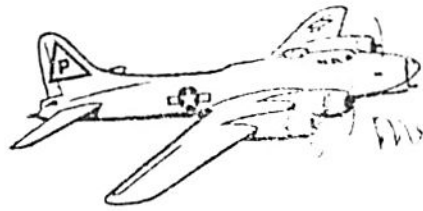


• DEDICATED
MAY 21, 1983

• A COPY OF THIS
MEMORIAL WINDOW
IS IN THE CHAPEL
AT HILL FIELD, SOUTH
OF OGDEN UTAH

18 Short Hill Road
Coxton-on-Humber
New York, NY 10000
384th BOMB GROUP INC.

EIGHTH AIR FORCE
P.O. Box 1021-A
Rahway, NJ 07065



[Faint, illegible handwritten text]

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

'Keep the Show on the Road' (Motto of the Wartime American 384th Bombardment Group)

On 13 November 1943, nine American airmen lost their lives here when a Boeing B17F Flying Fortress aircraft broke up in the air and crashed at 9.24am. There was one survivor.

As a schoolboy at the time, I was at home because it was a Saturday. Otherwise I would have been away in Maidenhead. Aged nearly 15, I was in the back bedroom of my home in Victoria Road with my younger brother, being allowed to rise late on that one day of the week. We heard loud aircraft engine noises but that was not uncommon in those days. Suddenly there were two flashes and loud bangs as falling bombs exploded in Shiplake Meadows. Looking out we saw a low flying aircraft with a tall fin heading back towards Henley.

As we watched, the aircraft suddenly became a rolling ball of fire, falling slowly to the ground north of Wargrave Manor. It disappeared behind trees and the ground shook with a loud thump followed by a huge pillar of black smoke, which drifted towards Crazies Hill over Hennerton House. At the same time a lone parachute appeared over Wargrave Manor and after several swings, disappeared into trees to the north.

Along with many other people I rushed out and up to the Crazies Hill Road where the fields were littered with debris, pullovers and even live ammunition. On the field, which is now Hennerton Golf Course, was a complete tail fin and two fully inflated, orange life rafts with emergency packs. I met a farm worker who told me that the aircraft was a Flying Fortress with ten men on board; one sole survivor had been taken into Wargrave Manor, then owned by the late Sir Ernest Cain, Bt.

1. In 1973 our Parish Council produced a Parish Council Newsletter and again in 1974. There was no Wargrave News then. David Warren asked me to write a Wartime Wargrave article in the latter and it included this sad event. I contacted many eyewitnesses then still living including Wargrave firemen who attended the crash site. I then found that nothing was known about the aircraft or its crew, due to wartime censorship. This started an on-going search through RAF and other records without the advantage of present day computers. Then a local aviation history group suggested that I try contacting the 384th Bombardment Group Association in the USA. One day I received a letter from the sole survivor in New York, Alan B Purdy, Vice President of Chemical Bank, still serving in the US Air Force Reserve as a lieutenant colonel

On a later Saturday I looked out to check on my son Mark and I was amazed to see an all green Flying Fortress aircraft approaching from the south! It was our well-known Sally B, now permanently based at Duxford near Cambridge. It came directly over our house.

A little while later that same day there was a ring of the

doorbell.

Standing at the door was Jean Purdy, wife of the sole survivor and one of their

three sons. She was accompanied by others on their way from a 384th BG reunion in Northants. Jean gave me a letter from her husband, which had a list of the aircraft crew; also a negative and a photograph. These I subsequently published in the *Wargrave News*, the *Henley Standard* and the church *Parish Magazine*. Alan Purdy died in 1979 aged 56, so never returned to Wargrave. Soon afterwards the *Henley Standard* put an American, Harriet Staley, in touch with me. She had lost a brother in the crash. Harriet visited us with an official crew list and we took her with her husband and daughter to the crash site in Willow Lane.

Jean Purdy returned to wartime reunions, staying with us on two occasions, and I took her to a St Mary's Church service once. We had coffee at the vicarage with the Revd John Ratings afterwards and we even discussed a possible memorial. John told her 'We may do things slowly here but we usually get it right.' A fitting thought for today.

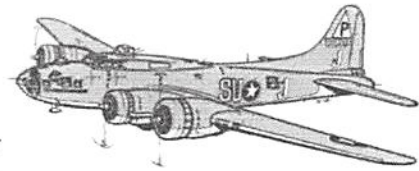
We also entertained three other families over the years, eight on one occasion. Recently Peter Delaney and myself had contact with two other families, which included a visit. One of these visits, from the McCulley family, I wrote about in the November 2013 *Wargrave News*.

There was another eyewitness to the crash in 1943. In Shiplake, Mary Barge saw the crash happen at much closer range. She wrote a report for the *Henley Standard* and created coloured drawings, which are now on display at the Museum of Berkshire Aviation in Woodley. Mary later visited me here and met relatives who like me are still in touch with each other.

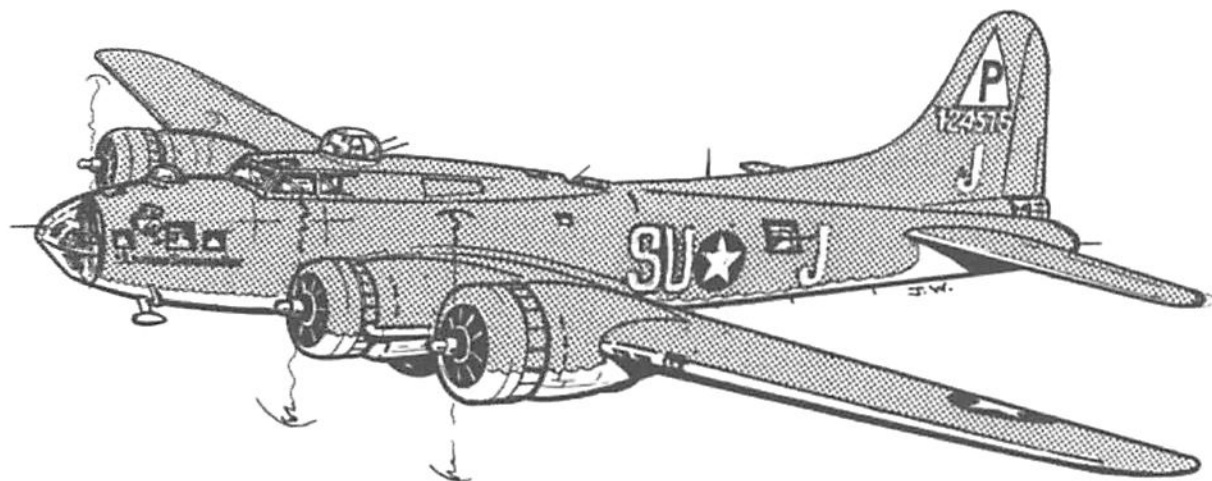
It is now proposed to place a permanent memorial display beside the Hennerton Golf Course, overlooking the crash site at the end of Willow Lane, together with an enclosed display of artefacts in the club building, all with kind permission of Peter Hearn and family. Peter Delaney, Robert Butler and myself have been holding meetings here to bring this all to fruition. Tony Elliott is also bringing support from Wargrave Royal British Legion.

The aircraft Sunrise Serenader, was of the 384th Bombardment Group, USAAF, based at Grafton Underwood, Northants. Strangely the 384th had as its motto 'Keep the Show on the Road'. This now seems wholly appropriate.

Jim Waldron



B17F Flying Fortress Memorial



It's the morning of Saturday 13 November 1943. A young Wargrave lad suddenly hears strange banging noises and flashes of light. Looking up he sees an aeroplane in the sky, parts falling from it, an airman parachuting to earth and finally he hears an almighty crash.

No prizes for guessing that the lad is Jim Waldron. What he witnessed has stayed with him until the present day. A scene witnessed also by many other youngsters including Mary Burge who saw everything from the Shiplake side of the Thames and with whom Jim still shares memories. Nine members of the ten man crew of the American B17F Flying Fortress were killed. Alan Purdy, the parachutist, was the only survivor.

Years later Jim carried out meticulous research into what exactly had happened, mainly by talking to other eye witnesses, of whom there were many. These primary sources of information were an historian's dream. He then used his talents as an artist and illustrator to produce the unique and remarkable annotated map printed opposite.

Contact is still being made with family members of some of the crew and as recently as this summer two of them were in Wargrave and were shown around by Peter Delaney. For many years and on numerous occasions it has been mooted that there should be in the village a suitable memorial to the crew of the Flying Fortress. A revival of the idea has resulted in a team consisting of Richard Butler and Tony Elliott from the Wargrave Branch of the Royal British Legion with Jim Waldron and from Wargrave Local History Society, Peter Delaney; all working as a team to achieve this end. We have been extremely fortunate to have the full cooperation of Hennerton Golf Club where the memorial will be situated overlooking the site of the crash.

The memorial will be unveiled on the 71st anniversary of the accident at a service of dedication at midday on

Thursday 13 November this year followed by a commemorative lunch in the club house. In addition there will be on display many artefacts salvaged from the wreckage including part of the fuselage fished from the river as recently as 11 years ago, a piece of Alan Purdy's parachute and various items of airmen's kit and wireless equipment. Representatives from the American Embassy and our local Member of Parliament and Home Secretary, the Rt. Honourable Theresa May will also be in attendance. This will be a unique and memorable occasion and part of the history of Wargrave.

Numbers must of necessity be limited and details of how to apply for tickets for the service and lunch will appear in the next edition of the *Wargrave News*.

Tony Elliott



Pilot - 2nd Lt. Ralph J Connell
Co-Pilot - 2nd Lt. Albert H Dorman
Bombardier - 2nd Lt. Claude Gohier
Navigator - 2nd Lt. Lawrence H Angburn
Gunner - S/Sgt William H McCully
Gunner - S/Sgt Robert G Bryant

Engineer - T/Sgt Harvey A Wick
Ball Turret - S/Sgt Ellsworth Calder
Rear Turret - S/Sgt Kenneth D Barr
Radio Operator & Sole Survivor (2nd row on right) - T/Sgt Allen B Purdy

View family tree for [1st Lt. Ralph Jackson Connell](#)

This military page is public



Pilot

1ST LT. RALPH JACKSON CONNELL



Ralph J. Connell, Jr
abt 1926 or 27



Military Pages

View other military pages
Hint: Clicking on the info on the left, such as rank, you will see all other military pages that match.

Share this page

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Email

Basic Information

Name
1st Lt. Ralph Jackson Connell

Birth
11 Aug 1920
Wewahitchka, Gulf, Florida, USA

Death
13 Nov 1943
Wargrave, England, United Kingdom

Time In Service
From: 20 Mar 1942
To: Not Specified

nich95 added this on 15 Apr 2009 [Add a comment](#)

Affiliation

Allegiance
United States of America

Branch of Service
Army Air Forces

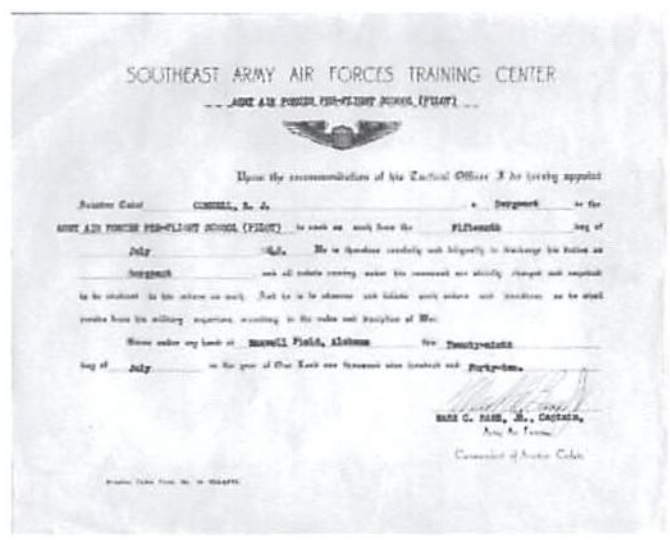
Rank
Not Specified

Unit(s)
Not Specified

Specialty
Air Force Bombers

Current Status
KIA

Connell, Ralph J - Sergeant
29 Jul 1942



Connell, Ralph J - AAF Pre-flight School Sergeant appointment
nich95 added this on 12 Feb 2009 [1 Comment](#)

Service Record

War
World War II

Battle(s)
Not Specified

Honors & Awards

Award(s)
Distinguished Flying Cross

Connell, Ralph J. 1st Lt. AAF

DEDICATION

The Rev. Martin MacFarlane will say:—

'In memory of those who served their country here in this place we dedicate this Memorial, for future generations to recall that their sacrifice was not in vain, and for us who remember them to join in spirit with them, and may God's blessing be with us all'.

THE LAST POST AND REVEILLE

To be sounded by a member of the Kettering Air Training Corps.

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen thro' the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected, now shines on the stream:
'Tis the star-spangled banner: O, long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen,
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen!

• • • • •

*Members of the public are requested to remain in their places
until official guests have left the site.*

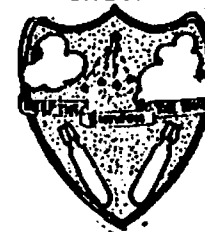


544th Sqdn.



545th Sqdn.

384th
BOMBARDMENT
GROUP



ORDER OF SERVICE

FOR THE

DEDICATION OF THE 384TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
MEMORIAL

AT

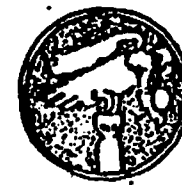
GRAFTON UNDERWOOD, KETTERING, ENGLAND

ON

SUNDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER 1977



546th Sqdn.



547th Sqdn.

PERSONS TAKING PART IN THE DEDICATION SERVICE

*The Rev. R. H. Spooner, Minister,
Fuller Baptist Church, Kettering, and
Chaplain to His Worship the Mayor of Kettering*

*Father T. K. Ryan, Roman Catholic Padre,
U.S.A.F., Alconbury*

*The Rev. Martin MacFarlane, Church of England
Rector of Cranford with Grafton Underwood*

*Lt. Col. William E. Dolan, U.S.A.F., [Ret.]
American Veterans' Association*

* * *

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

*His Worship the Mayor of Kettering and the Mayoress,
Councillor and Mrs. T. J. Wright*

*Admiral Sir Geoffrey Hawkins, R.N. [Ret.], K.B.E., C.B., M.V.O., D.S.C.,
Chairman of the Grafton Underwood Parish Council*

His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, V.R.D.

Her Grace, Mary, Duchess of Buccleuch and Queensberry

*Col. Charles L. Ferguson,
Base Commander, R.A.F. Alconbury*

*Col. Budd J. Peaslee,
Former Group and Base Commander, Grafton Underwood*

Members of the Grafton Underwood Parish Council

*Councillor Mrs. E. M. Denney,
Chairman, Kettering Amenity and Recreation Committee*

*Mr. K. C. Butler
Chief Executive, Kettering Borough Council*

Mr. M. L. Gibson, Originator of Event

Messrs. R. and J. T. Drage, Monumental Masons

* * *

SERVICE

The Rev. R. H. Spooner will say:—

*'We are gathered here today to commemorate those who came from across
the seas to join us in defending our common liberty, who in the course of
duty laid down their lives on our behalf'.*

HYMN

*O GOD, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home;*

*Beneath the shadow of Thy Throne
Thy Saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine Arm alone,
And our defence is sure.*

*Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art GOD,
To endless years the Same.*

*A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.*

*Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.*

*O GOD, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.*

PRAYER

*Father T. K. Ryan will recall in prayer those who laid down their lives
and commend them to God.*

UNVEILING CEREMONY

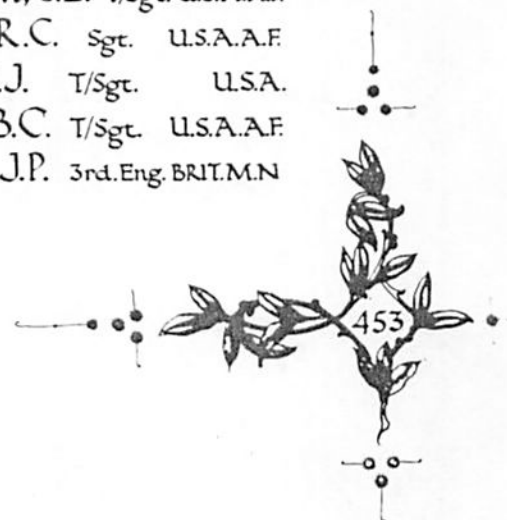
Lt. Col. William E. Dolan, U.S.A.F. [Ret.] will unveil the Memorial

American Roll of Honor

TO BE PRESENTED TO THE
CATHEDRAL OF ST. PAUL
LONDON · JULY 4, 1951 · BY
GENERAL OF THE ARMY
DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER



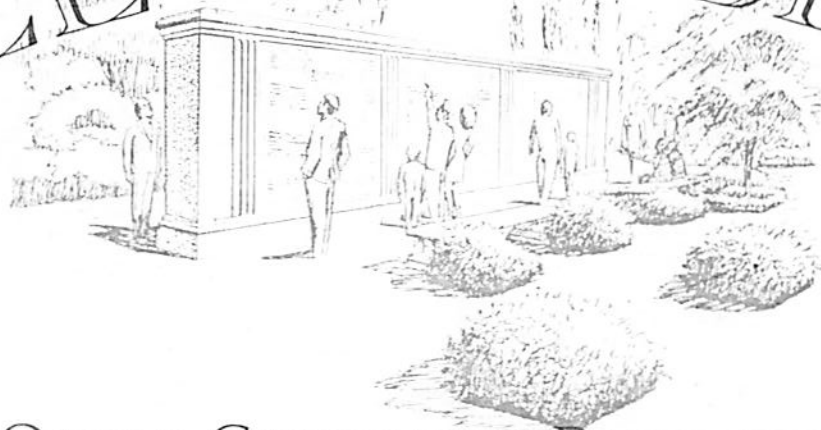
te, R.H.	Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Whitfield, O.C.	Cpl.	U.S.A.	Whitton, M.H.	S/Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.
te, R.K.	Sl.	U.S.N.R.	Whitfield, S.R.	Pfc.	U.S.A.	Whitus, A.J.	S/Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.
te, R.L.	CMoMM.	U.S.N.	Whitham, G.	Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Whorton, R.J.	Pvt.	U.S.A.
te, R.N.	T/Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Whitham, R.L.	Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Whyte, C.H.	Capt.	U.S.A.A.F.
te, R.S.	2nd. Lt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Whiting, L.H.	AMM2.	U.S.N.R.	Whyte, D.J.	Sgt.	U.S.A.
te, R.W.	2nd. Lt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Whitler, L.A. Jr.	1st. Lt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Wiard, J.D.	2nd. Lt.	U.S.A.A.F.
te, S.E.	2nd. Lt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Whitley, V.E.	Sl.	U.S.N.	Wichmer, L.H.	Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.
te, S.L.	2nd. Lt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Whitlock, J.W.	Pfc.	U.S.A.	Wichner, G.O.	T/Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.
te, S.S.	1st. Lt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Whitlow, A.J.	1st. Lt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Wick, A.F.	2nd. Lt.	U.S.A.A.F.
te, T.S.	OS.	U.S.M.M.	Whitlow, G.H.	1st. Lt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Wick, H.A.	T/Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.
te, V.A.	Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Whitman, N.	1st. Lt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Wicker, C.C.	1st. Lt.	U.S.A.A.F.
te, V.W.	Pfc.	U.S.A.	Whitmer, M.J.	S2.	U.S.N.	Wicker, W.C.	T/F/Sgt.	R.C.A.F.
te, W.A.	WT2.	U.S.N.	Whitmer, R.C.	F/O.	U.S.A.A.F.	Wickerham, G.B.	2nd. Lt.	U.S.A.A.F.
te, W.C.	S/Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Whitmore, J.M.	MoMM1.	U.S.N.R.	Wickham, C.R.	2nd. Lt.	U.S.A.A.F.
te, W.D.	Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Whitnack, E.E.	S/Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Wickles, L.G.	SoM3.	U.S.N.
te, W.J.	P/O.	R.A.F.	Whitnah, J.C.	2nd. Lt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Wicks, R. Jr.	S/Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.
te, W.L.	S/Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Whitney, R.E.	Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Wicks, W.W.	T/Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.
te, W.M.	2nd. Lt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Whitscell, C.C.	MoMM3.	U.S.N.R.	Wickstrom, K.W.	Lt.	U.S.N.R.
te, W.R.	1st. Lt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Whitson, D.W.	2nd. Lt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Wickstrum, J.R.	Pvt.	U.S.A.
te, W.T. Jr.	1st. Lt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Whitt, C.G.	S/Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Wideman, R.B.	Pvt.	U.S.A.
te, B.E.	S/Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Whitt, V.J.	2nd. Lt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Widen, E.O.	Capt.	U.S.A.A.F.
field, E.L.	1st. Lt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Whitt, W.F.	S/Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Widener, R.B. Jr.	Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.
hand, R.E.	Capt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Whittaker, E.G.	Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Widick, G.L.	S/Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.
head, C.E.	S/Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Whitten, C.H.	PhM3.	U.S.N.R.	Widman, A.V.W.	RdM3.	U.S.C.G.
horse, H.I.	Pfc.	U.S.A.	Whitten, D.I.	S/Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Widmer, R.C.	S2.	U.S.N.R.
hurst, A.E.	S/Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Whitten, F.H.	T/Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Wieand, M.	1st. Lt.	U.S.A.A.F.
hurst, W.B.	S/Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Whitten, H.R.	T/Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Wiechera, J.	Pfc.	U.S.A.
lock, W.L.	Pvt.	U.S.A.	Whitten, J.E.	2nd. Lt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Wiedebusch, C.E.	T/Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.
man, J.M.	S/Sgt.	U.S.A.	Whitten, L.T. Jr.	2nd. Lt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Wiedemer, R.C.	Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.
sell, R.O.	Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Whittier, C.F.	Pfc.	U.S.A.	Wiedner, J.J.	T/Sgt.	U.S.A.
side, W.L.	1st. Lt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Whittle, J.T. Jr.	2nd. Lt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Wiegand, B.C.	T/Sgt.	U.S.A.A.F.
eld, A.R.	Cpl.	U.S.A.	Whitton, G.V. Jr.	Pvt.	U.S.A.A.F.	Wiegman, J.P.	3rd. Eng.	BRIT.M.N.



THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY FOUNDATION

Proudly presents this

WALL OF LIBERTY



OFFICIAL CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

to certify that

T/Sgt. Harvey Arthur Wick

*is permanently inscribed on The Wall of Liberty as one of the courageous
Americans whose sacrifice and commitment led to the liberation
of the continent of Europe during World War II.*



The Battle of
Normandy Foundation
and the
50th Anniversary
Commission

ANTHONY C. STOUT
*President, The Battle of Normandy Foundation and
the 50th Anniversary Commission*

PIERRE SALINGER
*Wall of Liberty Campaign Chairman
U.S. Veteran WW II*



THE WALL OF LIBERTY IS FOR ALL AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL
WHO SERVED IN THE EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS IN WW II.

Cambridge American Cemetery & Memorial



Harvey Arthur Wick was originally buried at the Brookwood American Cemetery, a WWI cemetery.

In 1948 his remains were transferred to the Cambridge American Military Cemetery and Memorial; Plot E, Row 3, Grave 11.

Be sure to look at the brochures and pictures at the web site.

<http://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/europe/cambridge-american-cemetery#.VUuUmflVhBd>



Chapel and the Great Mall

My Dad, James C. Wick, Art's brother, joined the Army and drove a tank across France and into Germany. As the war was ending, he was sidelined in a hospital for an illness. When he was well enough for discharge from the hospital he headed to England instead of back to his unit. That is called AWOL (Away With Out Leave), subject to discipline. He never said how, but he made his way to Art's gravesite at the Brookwood American Cemetery, SW of London, where Art was initially buried. When he reported for duty, considering the circumstances and that the war effort was winding down, Dad only received a warning. Art's remains were moved in 1948.

Aunt Harriet & Uncle Jim Staley, along with their daughter Pat Wagner, visited Art's gravesite at the Cambridge American Cemetery & Memorial during their visit to England in 1985.

My daughter, Melissa Wick (now Gresham) visited Cambridge in 1999 during a trip around England.

All report the cemetery is most impressive and worth your time to visit. There are several such cemeteries around the globe. A 2003 response to a challenge during a Swiss conference by then Secretary of State Colin Powell is interesting: *"We have gone forth from our shores repeatedly over the last hundred years and we've done this as recently as the last year in Afghanistan and put wonderful young men and women at risk, many of whom have lost their lives, and we have asked for nothing except enough ground to bury them in, and otherwise we have returned home to seek our own, you know, to seek our own lives in peace, to live our own lives in peace. But there comes a time when soft power or talking with evil will not work where, unfortunately, hard power is the only thing that works."*



Melissa signing the Guest Book



Melissa at Uncle Art's grave site.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Military Affairs		RECORD OF BURIAL PLACE OF VETERAN		... BUTLER County PENNA.	
NAME Harvey Arthur Wick		DATE OF BIRTH		DATE OF DEATH 11/13/45 Walgrave,	
VETERAN OF World War II WAR		SERVED IN England MARINE ARMY (X) NAVY () CORPS ()			
DATES OF SERVICE 3/13/43		ORGANIZATION(S) Army Air Corps		RANK Sgt.	
CEMETERY OR PLACE OF INTERMENT		NAME LOCATION			
LOCATION OF GRAVE IN CEMETERY .		HEADSTONE			
SECTION LOT No.		RANGE GRAVE No.		GOVERNMENT () COUNTY () FAMILY ()	
INFORMATION GIVEN BY Virginia M. Hutzler May 24, 1947 Dept. of Vet. Affairs DATE Courthouse, Butler, Penna.		REMARKS Died at Walgrave, England			
After being Recorded in the County Veterans' Grave Registration Record this card is to be sent to THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, for final Record.					

Butler Area Public Library Obituary Index

Obit Record

Name: WICK, Harvey Arthur

Title: T/Sgt.

Extension:

Nickname:

Age:

DOB:

Locality: West Sunbury

Relation

Info:

Newspaper: Butler Eagle

Date/Page: 26 Nov 1943 p1

Film #: 114

Comments:

Print Page

[New Basic Search](#)

[New Advanced Search](#)

Initial Project: Slippery Rock University Computer Science Department : Continued support and development-Butler County Federated Library System Technology Department

Additional References & Information



Harvey Arthur Wick



Utah Gunnery School 1943; front row, 2nd from the right



Grafton-Underwood, England (Station 106) 1943-1945

384th Bomb Group (H)

*"Always In The Air When Our Flag Flies"***384TH BOMB GROUP B-17F AIRCRAFT 41-24575**

Aircraft Details

Aircraft:	41-24575, Sunrise Serenader
Pro.Block:	B-17F-25-BO
Squadron:	544th
Squadron Code:	SU*J
Start Date	19 September 1943
Missions:	This aircraft was credited with 3 combat missions with the 384th.
End Date	13 November 1943
Reason:	Crashed
Document	Accident Report: 43-11-13-500
Comment	Crashed in England 11/13/43
History:	41-24575 Assigned to the 365th Bombardment Squadron, squadron code XK-S, 305th Bombardment Group at Presque Isle, Maine on 19 October 1942. Moved to Grafton Underwood, Station 106, UK on 25 October 1942. Transferred to the 544th Bombardment Squadron, squadron code SU-J, 384 Bombardment Group on 19 September 43. Took off on a mission, which was recalled, to Bremen on 13 November 1943. Pilot ? Ralph J. Connell, Copilot Albert H. Doman, Navigator Lawrence N. Anghius, Bombardier Claude J. Gober, Engineer/Top Turret Gunner Harvey A. Wick, Ball Turret Gunner Elsworth F. Calder, Waist Gunner Kenneth D. Barr, Waist Gunner William H. McCulley Jr., Tail Gunner Robert C. Bryant, 9 Killed In Flying Accident (KIFA), Radio Operator Alan B. Purdy, Returned To Duty (RTD). The aircraft crashed [while maneuvering after takeoff] near RAF Wargrave, Berkshire, UK. Name: SUNRISE SERENADER
Photo:	No Photo Album For This Aircraft

B-17F Aircraft 41-24575 Was Assigned To 8 Missions, Receiving Combat Credit For 3 Of Them

Number	Date	Target	Sortie Report	Results	Comments
29	8 October 1943	Target: Workshops Target Type: Submarine Facility Bremen, Germany	SORTIE	Completed Mission	Landed about 1-1/2 hours after the rest of the group.
--	13 October 1943	Emden, Germany, RECALLED	SORTIE	Returned to Base	- None -
33	20 October 1943	Target: Railroad Marshalling Yards Target Type:Transportation Düren, Germany	SORTIE	Aborted	- None -
--	30 October 1943	Gelsenkirchen, Germany, RECALLED	SORTIE	Returned to Base	- None -
34	3 November 1943	Target: Port Area Target Type:Transportation Wilhelmshaven, Germany	SORTIE	Completed Mission	- None -
35	5 November 1943	Target: Railroad Marshalling Yards Target Type:Transportation Gelsenkirchen, Germany	SORTIE	Completed Mission	- None -
--	11 November 1943	Wesel, Germany, RECALLED	SORTIE	Returned to Base	- None -
--	13 November 1943	Bremen, Germany, RECALLED	SORTIE	Crashed	Crashed as the result of a flying accident that occurred while maneuvering after takeoff for a mission that was subsequently recalled. The aircraft caught fire, went into a spin, broke in half, and exploded.

SORTIE REPORT**DATE OF ACCIDENT: 1943-11-13****SORTIE 11722: (SORTIE NUMBER REFERS TO DATABASE LOCATION, NOT A HISTORICAL IDENTIFICATION)**

COMBAT CREDIT	STATUS	TARGET ATTACKED (MODE)
NO	CRASHED COMMENTS: CRASHED AS THE RESULT OF A FLYING ACCIDENT THAT OCCURRED WHILE MANEUVERING AFTER TAKEOFF FOR A MISSION THAT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RECALLED. THE AIRCRAFT CAUGHT FIRE, WENT INTO A SPIN, BROKE IN HALF, AND EXPLODED.	N/A

AIRCRAFT:

TYPE	SERIAL NUMBER	SQ CODE	NAME
B-17F	41-24575	SU*J	SUNRISE SERENADER

CREW:

POSITION	CREWMEMBER	UNIT	STATUS
PILOT	CONNELL, RALPH JACKSON, JR	544	KIA
COPILOT	DOMAN, ALBERT H	544	KIA
NAVIGATOR	ANGTHIUS, LAWRENCE N	544	KIA
BOMBARDIER	GOBER, CLAUDE J	544	KIA
RADIO OPERATOR	PURDY, ALAN B	544	WOUNDED
ENGINEER/TOP TURRET	WICK, HARVEY A	544	KIA
BALL TURRET	CALDER, ELLSWORTH F	544	KIA
TAIL GUNNER	BARR, KENNETH D	544	KIA
FLEXIBLE GUNNER	BRYANT, ROBERT C	544	KIA
FLEXIBLE GUNNER	MCCULLEY, WILLIAM H, JR	544	KIA

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

TYPE	IDENTIFICATION
ACCIREP	ACCIDENT REPORT NUMBER 43-11-13-500

Report provided by 384thBombGroup.com
 Report generated: 20 July 2015, 9:51 PM (PDT)

SortieEngine.php Rev. 3.0.15, 3 April 2015
 SortieReport.php Rev. 3.1, 8 June 2013

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

JMAP 34
16/17532
mej

INCOMING MESSAGE

WDCG
16 Nov
21222

From: London - USAW
To: War

No. D 1753, 16 November 1943

Baker to Arnold AFRPC information AFAPC Winston
Salem.

Fatal accident 0905 hours 13 November at Shiplake
Bend opposite Greyside House Wargrave Berkshire
England. Aborted mission, B17 Aircraft #124575 ex-
ploded mid air crashed in flames on ploughed fields.
Pilot Lt Ralph J Connell, 0797476 and 6 of crew all
FATAL. One crew member minor injury. All members
395th Bomb Group. Aircraft parts salvagable. Para-
chutes not used. Usual casualty report follows.
Visibility limited by rain.

No Sig.

This message has been relayed to Winston Salem NC
by the War Department Code Center in accordance with
the originator's request.

ACTION: ASF

INFORMATION: G-2
CGAAF

44-11-13-500
CM-IN-1009 (17 Nov 43) 0035Z mev

CONFIDENTIAL

COPY No. 16

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN.

ARCS AIRWAYS COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

MESSAGE FORM (Addressee)

RECEIVED IN:		Cryptography by:
Secret code <input type="checkbox"/>	D 1 7 5 3	C W G
Confidential code <input type="checkbox"/>	Message Center Receipt	Date/Time:
Restricted code <input type="checkbox"/>	Confidential	17 1415Z
Clear text <input type="checkbox"/>		Priority Classification

TO:	FROM:
D 1 7 5 3 Winston Salem NCAR	LONDON ENG
Mail Ctr. Log Number	

FATAL ACCIDENT XERO NINE XERO FIVE YOURS ONE THREE NOV AT SHIPLAKE
 BEND OPPOSITE CREEKSIDE HOUSE WARGRAVE BERKSHIRE ENGLAND PD
 ABORTED MISSION CVA BAKER ONE SEVEN AIRCRAFT PETER ONE TWO FOUR FIVE
 SEVEN FIVE EXPLODED MID AIR CRASHED IN FLAMES ON PLOUGHED FIELD PD
 PILOT LT RALPH J CONNELL OBOE SEVEN NINE SEVEN FOUR SEVEN SIX AND
 EIGHT OF CREW ALL FATAL PD ONE CREW MEMBER MINOR INJURY PD ALL
 MEMBERS THREE NINE FIVE BOMB GP PD AIRCRAFT PARTS SALVAGABLE PD
 EAKER TO ARNOLD AFRFC INFO AFAFC WINSTON SALEM PD PARACHUTES NOT
 USED PD USUAL CASUALTY REPORT FOLLOWS PD VISIBILITY LIMITED BY
 RAIN

Confidential

44-11-13-500

THE SECURITY OF THIS MESSAGE WILL BE SAFEGUARDED ACCORDING TO AR 300-5-40, 41.

My dad was first to see survivor of US bomber

Published 18/11/13

Tweet

MY item last week about the American bomber which crashed into the River Thames near Wargrave in 1943 prompted Mary Jones to get in touch.

Her father Bill Watts was the first person to meet the only survivor of the crash.

The Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress, which was nicknamed "Sunshine Serenader", exploded in mid-air on the night of November 13.

It was en route to a bombing run over Germany when the pilot lost control. He released all the plane's bombs over the river and, with the crew remaining on board, steered away from houses in the village.

He intended to crash-land it but the plane blew up in mid-air and split in two before plunging into the water.

Eight of the 10 servicemen perished instantly and the ninth died in the ball turret when it landed.

Only the radio operator, Technical Flight Sergeant Allen Purdy, was able to grab a parachute and jump clear of the aircraft in time.

The American landed just feet away from Mr Watts, a carter at Wargrave Manor, who was looking after the horses in a field next to the river.

Flt Sgt Purdy thought he had landed in Germany so walked towards him with his hands up. Similarly, Mr Watts was unsure whether the man approaching was friend or foe.

Mrs Jones, 90, of Chiltern Road, Caversham, says: "My father hadn't seen the plane overhead before the explosion so he wasn't sure whether he was English or German. Of course, as soon as the airman spoke, he realised he was an American.

"I don't think any of the men were wearing their parachutes when it happened because he was wearing one with someone else's name on it. He must have just grabbed the nearest one.

"He was obviously in a state of shock but he was lucky to get out."

Flt Sgt Purdy had suffered only a sprained ankle. Mr Watts took him to the estate office and called RAF Bomber Command at High Wycombe, who came and picked up the American.

Mrs Jones, who was then only 20 and working for the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in Morecambe, says Flt Sgt Purdy returned to Wargrave with his wife Jean several times in the Fifties to meet her father.

"He was very popular," she said. "Everybody always said how marvellous it was that the crew had stayed with the plane to avoid it hitting the village. At one point they were going to put up a blue plaque in remembrance of the crash but they never got round to doing it."

Flt Sgt Purdy wrote about the crash in a letter to his family.

He said: "We had so little warning and when the ship exploded we were very close to the ground. After the explosion I found myself in part of the tail and had a few inches to go to fall over the edge. My parachute harness was hooked only across my chest (and) my leg straps were unbuckled. It just happened that I was upside down when the parachute opened. Had I been right side up, the force of the parachute opening would have pulled me right out of my harness."

He went on to become a lieutenant-colonel in the United States Air Force reserves and was director of a bank in civilian life. He died of cancer in 1977, aged 56.

The crash was also witnessed by 14-year-old Jim Waldron, who went on to found Wargrave Local History Society.

He said the bomber approached the village with smoke pouring from one engine, which sounded as though it was malfunctioning.

Mr Waldron, who is now 84 and lives in Victoria Road, Wargrave, recalls: "Immediately after releasing its bombs, the flaming engine fell off, whereupon the aircraft reared up and broke in half with what seemed like a mid-air explosion. It literally disintegrated.

"Out of this smoke and debris, a single parachute opened very low over the river and quickly swung into the trees north of Wargrave Manor."

Mr Waldron still has a piece of Flt Sgt Purdy's parachute and the headphones he was wearing. He also has a fragment of the wreckage which was recovered from the Thames by two fishermen some years ago.

He has asked the parish council to put up a plaque to honour the airmen.

Dear Mrs. Staley

January 3rd 1977 (78)

Copy

It has been a very long time since you wrote to me enclosing the list of men killed along side your brother in 1943, for which I am most grateful.

Having not heard from Mr. Purdy since my first letter, I had concluded that something was amiss until June 18th of last year when a strange coincidence occurred. At mid-day the sole surviving flying Fortress airworthy in this country flew low over the village and it was commented that this was the first seen over here for 30 years. About 1½ hours later the doorbell rang and Mrs. Jean Purdy called, with her son Michael and a letter and photograph from her husband Allen. Just a coincidence of course, because they were staying in a hotel in Kensington, London, but nevertheless a strange twist after 34 years. Mrs. Purdy was not able to stay long, but she left me a list, similar to your own, also an excellent print and negative from which we can prepare enlargements.

An article on this craft was subsequently published in the Henley-Standard in November Parish Magazine which also utilized the photograph. Apparently church records indicate that the sum collected could not be used for a Memorial because enquiries at the U. S. Embassy for names drew a blank even up to July 1964, when at a Parochial Church Council meeting it was proposed, seconded, and donated to the up keep of St. Paul's U. S. Memorial.

I am enclosing a copy of the parish magazine and a similar copy which appeared in the Henley-Standard. If you want a photographic enlargement of the print I will send you one. Also enclosed is a transparency of the field which the two main portions of the plane crashed in; it is really a large island between the river Thames and it's backwater, and was taken from rising ground near where Mr. Purdy landed and where as boys we found inflated life rafts and complete wing of the craft.

It has been proposed by the prefect vicar of Wargrave that an enlargement of this print together with the details be framed and placed permanently in St. Marys Church Wargrave, or the Hannen Room Adjacent, and this I am attending to.

I did start to write to you before , but then heard belatedly that a Memorial to the 384th Bomb group was dedicated on the old air field at Grafton Underwood in September and attended by a party from the U. S. A. I contacted the Information officer at Kettering County Council and finally received copies of the local newspaper, also an order of service which I am enclosing. If you require any copies of the newspaper photographs I can obtain copies for you.

I have written again to Mr. & Mrs. Purdy, thanking them for their help, but as Mrs. Purdy indicated, it is an incident they prefer not to dwell on, her own brother was also lost in the war. For this reason I could not bring myself to mention the coincidence described earlier to them, especially as the Remembrance Sunday Memorial Service held on the church green, fell this year on November 13th, the 34th anniversary to the day.

As mentioned, if you require any further prints, please let me know; I take this opportunity of wishing yourself and family the very best for the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

J. G. Waldron

AIRMEN WHO DIED FOR WARGRAVE

Painstaking research on both sides of the Atlantic has finally uncovered the full story behind a wartime aircraft crash at Wargrave. And this may eventually lead to the establishment of a lasting tribute to nine brave American airmen who gave their lives to save the village on November 13th, 1943.

The research began in 1974 when Mr. Jim Waldron, of 149 Victoria Road, Wargrave, wrote an article in a parish council newsletter concerning wartime events, including the air crash which he had witnessed.

Very little information was available, and for this reason a memorial fund, subscribed to in 1943 in Wargrave, had been unused and finally donated to St. Paul's U.S. Air Force Memorial. However, the serial number and base of the aircraft were located in the Public Records Office by Mr. Peter Norris, of the Chiltern Historical Aircraft Preservation Group, and was passed to Mr. Waldron.

Subsequent enquiries in the past two years in both this country and the United States, culminated in letters being received from the sole survivor of the ten-man air crew, Mr. Alan B. Purdy, and from the sister of one of the other members of the crew, Mrs. James L. Staley.

Mrs. Staley also succeeded in obtaining an official crew list and sent cuttings about the accident from an American newspaper.

Finally, on June 18th this year, the survivor's wife, Mrs. Jean Purdy, and her son Michael, called briefly in Wargrave with a letter from her husband and the above photograph of the crew.

Now Mr. Waldron has concluded his summary of the accident as follows: "The aircraft involved in this incident was a B17F Flying Fortress (Serial No. P. 124575) of 384th Bomb Group—544th Bombing Squadron, stationed at Grafton Underwood, near Kettering, Northants.

"The group was commanded at the time by Col. J. K. Lacey, and arrived in this country in May 1943, having trained at Wendover, Utah and Sioux City Army Air Base from December 1942.

"The aircraft was on its first wartime mission and although the crew were inexperienced, had an experienced co-pilot for the first mission.

"Apparently the aircraft flew into a thundercloud and began breaking up, culminating in a dive over Henley with one engine on fire.

"After jettisoning bombs in Shiplake Meadows it broke up into several portions, leaving the radio operator, Technical Sergeant Alan B. Purdy, on his parachute, to return safely to earth near Wargrave Manor.

"The crew members who lost their lives were: Pilot, 2nd Lieut. Ralph J. Connell (top left); Co-Pilot, 2nd Lieut. Albert H. Doman; Navigator, 2nd Lieut. Lawrence H. Anghuis; Bombadier, 2nd Lieut. W. Gober; Engineer, Technical Sergeant Harvey Arthur Wick (brother of Mrs. Staley); and Gunners Staff Sergeants Robert G. Bryant, Ellsworth F. Calder, William H. McCulley and Kenneth D. Barr.

Mr. Purdy is on the far right of the second row. He completed his 30 missions with other crews and retired from the U.S.A.F. as a Lieutenant Colonel. He is today a senior bank executive living in New York.

The American newspaper cutting which was sent to Mr. Waldron by Mrs. Staley, quotes from a message sent just after the crash to the father of Sergeant



Harvey Wick by Lieut S. Scharff, the fated crew's usual co-pilot, who lost his life later in the war.

"All but one member of the crew gave their lives to save this little village when their bomb-laden Fortress caught fire and had to be abandoned," he wrote.

"They stayed on board their burning plane, steered it away from the town's houses and accurately released their entire load of explosives along the banks of a narrow river, a split-second before the plane blew up in the air."

The local chief rescue officer at the time said he was convinced the airmen could have bailed out in plenty of time as they had previously sent a radio distress call.

"In my opinion," he said, "the U.S. fliers deliberately stayed on board to reach the riverside field and unload their bombs before making a crash landing. The proof is that although the river is only 60 yards wide, one bomb broke the river bank and landed in the water, and the rest landed in a straight line on both banks not more than 20 feet from the water, thus saving our lives."

Web Based Info, including Pictures & Videos of the Dedication

Memorial dedicated at Hennerton Golf Club in Wargrave (with commentary and mention of dignitaries attending)

http://www.hennertongolfclub.co.uk/club_news/club_news/home_secretary_teresa_may_unveils_memorial_plaque_at_hennerton

Photos from the day

<http://photos.384thbombgroup.com/index.php?/category/1116>

the 384th web site has much more information and photos

<http://www.timhodes.co.uk/b17memorial/>

dozens of photos

Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYVG7HoTqrs>

<http://www.twyford-advertiser.co.uk/News/Areas/Twyford/Memorial-to-crew-of-World-War-Two-bomber-unveiled-in-Wargrave-19112014.htm>

A family web site with lots of info on the crew – and a stained glass window tribute, including details about the window.

http://ronpyron.smugmug.com/History/Ssgt-William-McCulley-in/29634884_qsrDJC/2536037476_nFzRSFr#!i=2535954561&k=fMtMSQb

Video of church with stained glass window

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJD7wVwdVOE>

A better view of the memorial itself

<http://streetfurnishings.blogspot.com/2014/11/b17-flying-fortress-sunrise-serenader.html>

more links

<http://www.wargravehistory.org.uk/B-17.html>

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wick47@cox.net
(480)699-0243