



384th Bomb Group Newsletter

1306 Adams Way
Beavercreek, OH 45434



January 2010

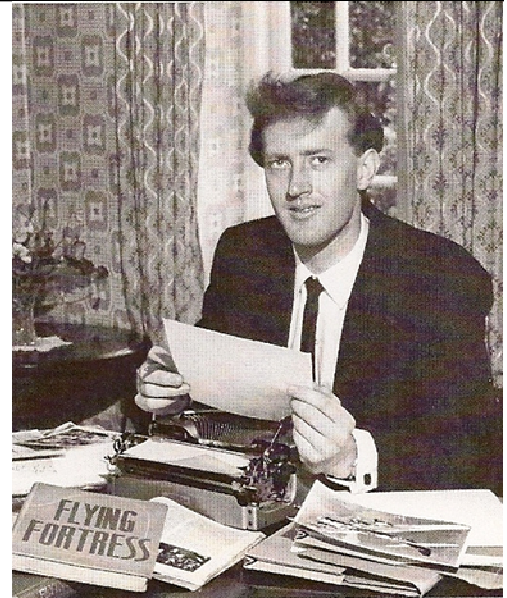
Quentin Was Laid to Rest Today

Chris & Mavis Parker

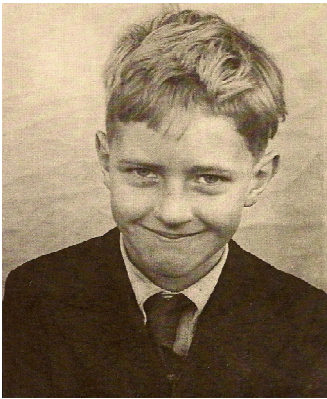
A Service of Celebration for his life, led by the Reverend Daniel Foot and attended by his family and friends, was held in the beautiful 12c Church of St James in Grafton Underwood village. Following this Service all those of the congregation who wished made their way over the few hundred yards from the church to the nearby Village Hall where some excellent refreshments had been prepared by several ladies from the village.

Quentin and Barbara's daughter Samantha together with her husband Jono and other family members, who had gone from the Church to Kettering Crematorium as a private group for the committal, returned to join the others in the Hall - allowing Quentin's many friends to express their sympathies and share many of their positive memories with Sam. In keeping with the celebratory nature of the day, Samantha proposed a Toast to 'Quentin and Barbara' and this was taken respectfully by all those present who were able to reflect on the many ways in which their lives had been enriched by both of them over many, many years. Those unable to be present at the Service may find some personal impressions of the day of value.

December 10th, the day of the funeral, was an almost perfect English Winter's day with light winds, a sparkingly blue sky, and a low but bright sun - invigoratingly



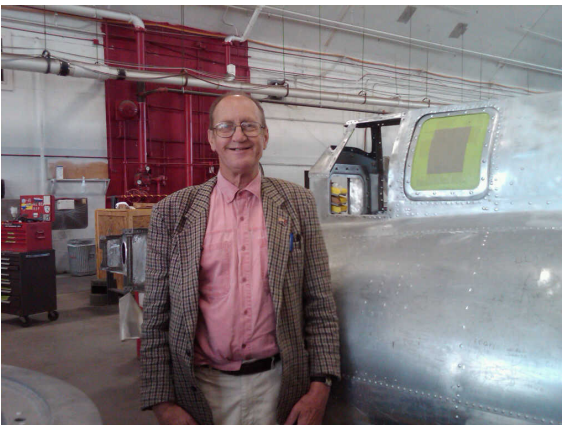
Quentin Bland doing what he loved most



chilly but not biting cold. As we walked along Grafton's main street and onward along the path to the Church the true timeless beauty of the village seemed never to have been better highlighted - the clear sun bringing out the colour and texture of the stone-built and thatched dwellings magnificently. Equally the grander buildings such as the Church of St James and the adjacent Old Rectory looked almost ethereal in the mellow but full-bodied light and framed against the crystal blue of the heavens above.

By the appointed hour of 11 o'clock every seat, and more, had been taken. The plain but elegant interior of St James was illuminated by shafts of sunlight;

sunlight which beautifully and appropriately brought to life, and made to glow, the '384th' memorial stained-glass window. The Reverend Foot led the congregation in singing Quentin's favourite hymn, 'We plough the fields and scatter', and in the reading of Psalm 23 'The Lord is my Shepherd'. Mr Matt Smith movingly read the tribute to Quentin, and Barbara, sent over for the occasion by the members of the 384th Bomb Group Association in the



USA. A summary of the highlights of Quentin's full and valuable life, prepared by Samantha, was delivered by the Reverend Foot who also covered details of Quentin's contribution to the Church in Grafton and also his success in organising many, many events in Grafton ranging from Remembrance Sundays to Reunion Junkets.

The Service ended with the Lord's Prayer and Blessings and the Congregation moved gently from the church back into the December sunlight to the happy strains of the Glenn Miller Orchestra playing their evocative 'In the Mood'

Walking away from the Church and reflecting on the many words spoken in the last hour we understood better something that characterised Quentin's, and Barbara's lives - the importance of 'Keeping the Show on the Road'

*God Bless them Both,
Chris & Mavis Parker*

"Keep the Show on the Road...."



Message from Your President... Don Thompson

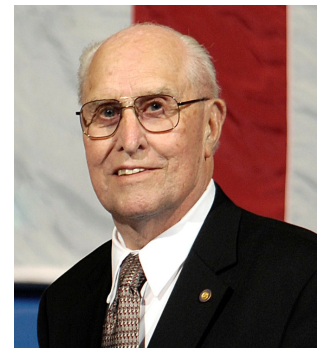
I find it very difficult to know what to write in the newsletter this time in view of the recent tremendous loss that the group has experienced.

I was a 19-year-old kid when I joined the group. We were all so very young. From then until now, like all of you, the years we were there and those that followed hold many memories.

It was in 1976 that I first met Quentin, Barbara, and their little daughter, Samantha. Quentin took me over to the base and showed me around. Even then very little was left of what had been Station 106. But when I closed my eyes and thought back, many things came into view bringing memories of our time in England as they had been all those years ago.

We all appreciated Quentin's involvement in the 384th organization. Having been a young English boy living near Station 106 during World War II, he brought a different perspective to our memories of our days at Grafton Underwood. It would be hard to list all the things Quentin did for the 384th, as well as for his family and community. He will be missed but long remembered for the person that he was.

So may you rest in peace, Old Friend, and may God's grace be with your family in their time of loss.



Samantha Writes:

I have just been on your wonderful website in memory of Dad. It is beautiful! Thank you so much. To everyone leaving a message so far, your kind words mean a huge amount to me and the family. It is so touching to think of our friends over the sea who care so much, and I thank you all. I have so many lovely cards from the US and I would like to thank everyone who has been so kind and phoned or written to me.

Samantha

Memorial Website

The 384th Bomb Group is sponsoring a memorial website for Quentin Bland. Please use this site to leave a message, and perhaps a photo, for Samantha and the family. This site will be in place till Dec 2010. For those of you without internet capabilities you may send cards to Samantha Coleman, 13 Club Lane, Woodford, Kettering, Northants NN144EY, England. The website can be accessed at: <http://memorialwebsites.legacy.com/QuentinBland> The Bomb Group is making a donation of

\$1,000.00 in Quentin's name, in addition to the \$2,000.00 already pledged, to the renovation fund for the church at Grafton Underwood. If you would like to make a donation to the fund please send a check made payable to the 384th Bomb Group to Carol Alfter, 1306 Adams Way, Beavercreek, OH 45434. Indicate on the memo line that it is a donation to the church. **Please do not send your check to Samantha.** She has asked that we collect the funds and do a bank to bank transfer.

Eulogy by Bill O'Leary

Over the years Quentin, together with his lovely wife Barbara, greeted and entertained 384th veterans and their families, who visited the area where Station 106 once stood. His knowledge and description of the Air Base, as originally constructed, helped the vets form a mental image of how their war-time home looked so many years ago. His involvement with the 384th began when he was a young lad. He related how he and a few of his young friends would sneak into a B-17 bomber when the ground crew left for lunch or dinner and have themselves a great time playing inside the airplane. From the time he was appointed as the 384th Historian in England, he worked tirelessly to insure the proper completion of all projects related to the preservation of the memory of the 384th Bomb Group in England. He was also the point of contact to coordinate accommodations, entertainment and whatever else may have been

on the agenda for the many Junkets made to the local area by the 384th veterans, families and friends. His physical presence at future 384th Bomb Group Gatherings and Reunions will be sorely missed. He did, however, leave an indelible mark in the minds and hearts of all who had the pleasure of knowing him. His memory within the 384th Bomb Group family will live on forever as a result of his dedication and adherence to the Group's motto: ***Keep the Show on the Road.*** Quentin, we of the 384th Bomb Group bow our heads in silent prayer that you will enjoy eternal rest, and we raise our heads in the joy of knowing that you are now, once again, with your beloved Barbara, whom you so painfully missed. Rest peacefully, dear comrade.

(This eulogy was read by Matt Smith at Quentin's service on December 10, 2009)



It's time to pay your \$25.00 dues again. You should have received your dues "bill" by now. In order to receive the wonderful 384th Bomb Group Newsletter your dues must be current so pay now to keep the news coming. If your dues are not received before the next newsletter goes out in Mar/Apr this will be your last 2010 newsletter. If you did not receive a "bill" you can send your \$25.00 check payable to the 384th Bomb Group, Inc. to Carol Alfter, 1306 Adams Way, Beavercreek, OH 45434. We are always interested in stories from our members. If you have a war time story you would like to share please send it in. This newsletter is YOUR newsletter and we need and want your input to make it work.

Samantha's Eulogy for Her Father

Although we may be saddened and shocked, I would like to think that today we could celebrate the very full and fascinating life of Quentin.

My enduring memory will be seeing Dad with his three Grandsons, Louie, Harvey and William, laughing and having a wonderful time together. He was so proud of them: how Louie was excelling in Maths and French at School, and how well Harvey and Will are doing at pre-school.

"The best son-in-law anyone could have," was how Dad described Jono. He knew what an incredible man I married. Jono was the son Dad never had.

Dad had a great sense of fun and loved a bit of comedy. I can hear him now, laughing uncontrollably at Benny Hill, the old Ealing comedies, Inspector Cleausau, Will Hay films, Tony Hancock and Frazier. In our house we know all the words to many a great film thanks to him. He loved to tell jokes but invariably forgot the punchline or used a different punchline from a completely different joke!!!!!!! I remember a funny incident when Dad was in the garden looking high into the sky through his binoculars, at an airplane, and I was sitting about ten metres away. I happened to throw a tennis ball in his general direction and hit him squarely on the chin. I thought it was a superb sporting achievement, but Dad didn't really see it that way!!! After he had muttered several expletives I decided to stay out of his way for a little while.

Jono, our boys and I tried so hard to fill the void left when Mum died, as I promised her, and I would like to pay tribute to Dad's oldest friends and family, both in Grafton and further afield. Thank you for inviting Dad out of an empty house. Although unexpected, I am sure most people here today would choose to go as Dad did, quickly and painlessly, and I believe a part of him will always be around the village, having a little grumble about any changes that may threaten the Grafton he knew and loved so well. And I am sure that he is now in the company of some very special people.

Dad was cremated in his 384th Bomb Group blazer, and the flowers on the coffin were red, white and blue, to pick out the colours of your country's flag and the British flag.

Next Stop.....BRANSON!!

The 2010 reunion will be headquartered at the Hilton Branson Convention Center Hotel in Branson, Missouri Sept 9th thru 12th. Additional information can be found on the 384th Bomb Group website or on your internet browser at: <http://www.reunionpreregistration.com/384thbombgroup.htm>. Our reunion planner, Gatherings Plus, will collect all funds except for the hotel. Optional shows have a price per person listed on the program. If you wish to attend any of the optional shows you must add the per person cost to your registration form. Prices shown are based on at least 15 people signing up and cover the show and transportation. When Christy Lehenbauer and Carol Alfter were in Branson setting up this reunion they attended The SIX Real Brothers Show and were absolutely impressed!!! Gatherings Plus is not set up for credit card payment. You may make a deposit and then pay the balance by the due date. We have built free time into this reunion so you have the opportunity to see a show or two on your own. You will need to make your own reservations with the theaters and provide your own

transportation. When you book your hotel room your first night will be charged to your credit card WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR RESERVATION as they require a deposit. This deposit is refundable if the reservation is cancelled 48 hrs in advance of your arrival. King bed rooms have a walk in shower and double queen bed rooms have a step in tub shower. Breakfast is included in the price of the rooms. Hotel reservations must be made by Aug 6, 2010 to get the guaranteed group rate. Room rates are good 3 days prior and 3 days after the event based on availability. Branson is located within an easy days drive for over 2/3 of the US. I- 44 is about 45 minutes north of town and I-40 at Little Rock is about a 3 ½ hr drive to the south. The Springfield/Branson Regional Airport (SGF) located in Springfield is served by the following airlines: American, Northwest, United and US Airways. A new airport opened in Branson in May 2009. Air Tran (1-800-247-8726) and Sun Country (1-800-359-6786) are the only two airlines currently serving the Branson airport. To get information on flights go to www.flybranson.com. You can

call Branson Coach at 1-800-841-2313 regarding airport shuttle. Driving instructions to the hotel will be sent with the confirmation letter from Gatherings Plus that will go out approximately 30 days prior to the reunion. See you all there!



384th BOMB GROUP, INC.
EIGHTH AIR FORCE
1306 Adams Way
Beavercreek, OH 45434

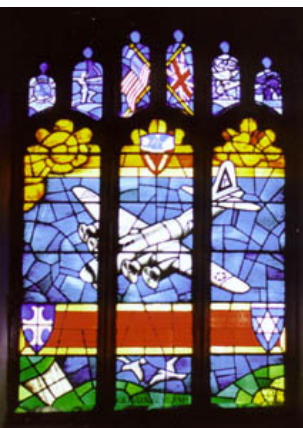


"Keep the Show on the Road...."

We 're on the Web at: www.384thbombgroup.com

TAPS as of January 2010

BLAND, QUENTIN	Grafton Underwood, UK
BOULTON, JOHN D.	Green Bank, W VA
CITTADINI, JOSEPH	Melbourne, FL
DAVIDSON, WALLACE	North Palm Beach, FL
GRIMES, ROBERT A.	Lee 's Summit , MO
KING, JOSEPH E.	
MILNE, BILLIE	Westminster, CO
MULLER, ALDEN R.	Fryeburg, ME
ULLMER, HENRY J.	Green Bay, WI
WOOD, HAROLD	Sonoma, CA



THE FORGOTTEN MECHANIC - Anonymous

*The aircrew was everyone's hero,
they were brave, they were bold, they were grand,
as they stood by their battered old airplane
with their goggles and helmets in hand...
To be sure, these crews all earned it,
to fly you have to have guts...
And they blazed their names in the
hall of fame on battered wings with failing
landing struts...*

*But for each of these flying heroes
there were thousands of little renown,
and these were the men who worked
on the planes
but kept their feet on the ground...
We all know the name of Jimmy Stewart
and we've read of his flight to fame...
But think, if you can, of his maintenance man,
can you remember his name?*

*So when you see mighty jet aircraft
as they mark their way through the air,
the grease stained man, with the
wrench in his hand
is the Man who put them there...*