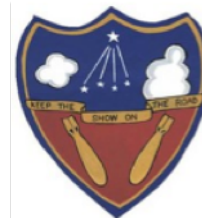




384th BOMB GROUP

NEWSLETTER

1306 Adams Way
Beavercreek, OH 45434



Reunion 2015 News

Happy New Year to everyone... oh, that was a couple of months ago! But with the continuing winter weather around the country, one would think it was last week! Well, it is 2015 and already the board has selected a hotel for this year's reunion in Tucson. Carol and I flew out to Tucson the last week in January, and viewed 8 hotels before picking the absolute best one for our Group, the DoubleTree (Hilton) Tucson-Reid Park.



This hotel is located just to the east of downtown Tucson, and provides free shuttle from and to

the airport, which is just south of town. There are two restaurants on site, and two very well stocked bars. We think you will be very pleased with our selection.

Please note the dates for this reunion: 29 Oct - 1 Nov. You may have seen other dates bantered about, but these are the actual dates for our next reunion.



We are planning two events to provide a taste of the southwest and Tucson, in particular. We will have a luncheon at the Pima Air Museum and visit *I'll Be Around*, a 309th B-17. You will find many familiar and strange aircraft at this very large museum

And we are planning a trip to the

Sabino Canyon which is a natural desert oasis. We are sure you will enjoy this side trip very much.



We all thought the reunion in Dayton was going to be the final one, but everyone had such a great time there (here), and about half of the attendees were at their first reunion, so we decided to do another this year. We will need your help to contact as many people as you can about attending this one in Tucson. We always put it in the AF magazine, but there are other forums as well.

Message from Your New President- Peter Bielskis, 546th Sq. 1944-45



This is an exciting time to be with the Bomb group. The upcoming reunion in Tucson is planned for 29 Oct – 1 Nov, 2015. A lot is being planned for this reunion, a trip to Pima Air museum and Sabino Canyon are scheduled and several other side adventures to go along with our meeting and dinners.

The wing panel has been speeding around the country, going from the East Coast to the West Coast, with signatures being picked up from Group veterans as it moves along. Plans are under way to find a home for the panel after we have exhausted all means of obtaining additional signatures from members of the 384th BG.

The Stained Glass window looks like it has found a home at the Historic Wendover Airfield Museum, as the final stages of deeding this window are finalized. Be sure to visit that museum

sometime in the future!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Leonard Estrin, past President of the Group for getting the next reunion in Tucson, AZ started; and to Carol & Frank Alfter for jumping on board to finalize hotel selection and planning. Without Carol and Frank I don't think these reunions over the years would have turned out as well or as great as they have been. So, Keep the Show on the Road and we'll see you all in Tucson!!

"Keep the Show on the Road..."



Spotlight on Wilkinson, 547th Bomb Squadron Toggler

by Chris Wilkinson



Robert L. Wilkinson served as a togglier in the 547th Sqdn on the Lawrence Thurston crew. The crew arrived at Grafton Underwood on 2 Apr 1945, so they only flew three missions before the war ended.

In March 1943, Robert applied for an appointment as an Aviation Cadet and was accepted and reported to Fort Douglas, Utah on 25 May 1943, assigned to the 25th College Training Detachment. This was part of the program created to prep high school graduates for the aviation curriculum necessary to become a pilot, navigator or bombardier. He was next assigned to Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio until Sep 1943 to start his training. Then on to Grider Field at Pine Bluff, Arkansas for Primary Flight Training, about Nov 1943. His next assignment was to San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center for a nine-week aviation academic ground school about Jan 1944.

On 15 Apr 1944 he was relieved of pilot training, effective 2 May 1944, and assigned to train as an aerial gunner for bombers, and shipped to Lowry Field, Colorado where he received his US Army Air Force Technical School diploma for Airplane Armorers (B-17) on 30 July 1944. From there he was assigned to Kingman AAF in Kingman, Arizona for aerial gunnery training and received his diploma on 11 Nov 1944. He was immediately transferred to Replacement Depot, Plant Park, Florida no later than 30 Nov 1944 and assigned to the Thurston crew.

Their first mission was against the marshaling yards in Dresden, Germany on 17 Apr 1945, followed by an attack on the marshaling yards at Seddin, Germany on 20 April. Their third and final mission was against the Skoda Armament Works at Pilsen, Czechoslovakia in one of the oldest B-17Gs in the 384th named "Hell's Messenger," which had 107 missions.

Sgt Wilkinson operated the chin turret as part of his job as Toggler. He recalled seeing a Luftwaffe Me-262 jet fighter sweep through the formation, but didn't remember which mission. He described their last mission to Pilsen as a very long, exhausting mission. The formation had to fly over the target three times because it was obscured.

The war ended and those who didn't have enough missions flown were assigned to Istres, France in June 1945 to participate in Project Green. Their B-17s were stripped of guns and bombing gear, and benches and seats for passengers were placed into the waist area and the bomb bay. The Group's 4 squadrons were condensed into the 546th and 547th, and by Oct 1945, the 547th was absorbed into the 546th Sqdn.

They flew from Istres until Feb 1946. During Project Green they flew U.S. military personnel, including ex-POWs, to Casablanca to connect them to flights back to the U.S. My dad said they also flew displaced persons including French, Greeks and others back to their homelands.

Lawrence Thurston took care of the guys and the crew respected him for that. At times, Lawrence let Sgt Wilkinson fly their B-17, while stationed at Istres. This was a much appreciated gesture from "Red." By Feb 1946 there was so little to do that the Group was shut down. Everyone was then sent back to the U.S. and SSgt Wilkinson was finally discharged and went back to his little hometown of Yuma, AZ. All of the crew are gone now.



SSgt Robert L. Wilkinson, front row, second from left

POW Medical Records by Klaus Schumann

For those crews of the 384th Bomb Gp who were shot down over or near Leipzig, Germany, and were wounded and brought to the hospital in Leipzig, you may be able to get copies of those records. The city archives has some of those records on file. If you are interested in obtaining copies, please contact me at klaus-schumann@gmx.de. All I need is full name and birthdate, and perhaps record of 384th assignment.



**384TH BOMB GROUP, INC. REUNION
OCTOBER 29 – NOVEMBER 1, 2015
DOUBLETREE HOTEL TUCSON – REID PARK
TUCSON, ARIZONA**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

2:00pm – 6:00pm

6:00pm – 7:30pm

Reunion Registration Open
Welcome Reception in Hospitality Room
Hospitality Room Open – *Hours to be posted during the reunion.*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

11:30am – 3:30pm

Evening

PIMA AIR MUSEUM TOUR (description follows)
Dinner on Own
Hospitality Room Open – *Hours to be posted during the reunion.*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

9:00am – 11:00am

11:00am – 3:00pm

6:30pm – 7:00pm

7:00pm – 11:00pm

Board Meeting
SABINO CANYON TOUR (description follows)
Cash Bar Reception
Banquet Dinner

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Farewells and Departures

This is the schedule as of March.....times may change as we get closer to the reunion dates.

TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

PIMA AIR MUSEUM TOUR – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

We will arrive and enjoy a group lunch before exploring the museum. View models, uniforms, insignia, WWII mock-up airmen's quarters, a B-29 "Superfortress," Douglas "Globemaster," F-84 "Shooting Star," F-100 "Super Sabre," SR-71, and a pristinely restored B-17. There are over 250 planes on display including JFK's Air Force One. Trace America's heritage of flight from a full-scale replica of the Wright brothers' plane to the X-15 rocket that first took men to the edge of space. Following the Museum visit, enjoy the aircraft static display before returning to the hotel.

11:30am board bus, 3:30pm back to hotel
Includes bus, guide, lunch, and admission.

SABINO CANYON TOUR – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

Enjoy lunch at Sweet Tomatoes, which features an Italian Buffet. After lunch, we will head to the beautiful Sabino Canyon, a natural desert oasis located in Tucson's Coronado National Forest and is home to spectacular desert landscapes and abundant wildlife. Upon arrival at Sabino Canyon, enjoy a tram ride through the foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains to see the beautiful sights up close before heading back to the hotel.

11:00am board bus, 3:00pm back to hotel
Includes bus, escort, buffet lunch, and tram ride.

*Please plan to be at the bus boarding area (in front of the hotel) at least five minutes prior to the scheduled time.
Driver and Staff gratuities are not included in the tour prices.*

*"Like" Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/ArmedForcesReunions*

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.
For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$10 per person). Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less the non-refundable AFR registration fee. **Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 5:00pm Eastern Standard Time, excluding holidays.** Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities.

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON TUCSON - REID PARK - TUCSON, ARIZONA
520-881-4200 or 1-800-445-8667

445 S. Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ 85711-4198

Reservation Information: Call the number above and reference the 384th Bomb Group Reunion, or visit www.afr-reg.com/384BG2015 and click on hotel reservation link at top of the page to make reservations and get the group rate. **Rate:** \$95 + tax; rate includes the hot All American Breakfast buffet. Cut off Date is 28 Sep 2015. **Cancellation Policy:** All reservations have a 48 hour cancellation policy, or attendee will be charged one night's room rate plus tax. Hotel has free shuttle bus to and from airport.

384TH BOMB GROUP REUNION ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

March 2015

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at www.afr-reg.com/384BG2015 (3% will be added to total). All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before September 28, 2015. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.
322 Madison Mews
Norfolk, VA 23510
ATTN: 384th BOMB GROUP

| OFFICE USE ONLY | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Check # _____ | Date Received _____ |
| Inputted _____ | Nametag Completed _____ |

| | Price Per | # of People | Total |
|--|-----------|-------------|-------|
| CUT-OFF DATE IS 9/28/15 | | | |
| REGISTRATION PACKAGE | | | |
| Includes Thursday evening Welcome Reception, Friday's Pima Air Museum Tour, Saturday's Sabino Canyon Tour, and banquet dinner on Saturday (please select entrée below). <i>Daily Breakfast Buffet included in room rate.</i> | \$190 | | \$ |
| BANQUET | | | |
| SATURDAY: BANQUET (Please select your entrée – price included in registration package.) | | | |
| Chicken Marsala | | | |
| Beef Tips in Red Wine Sauce | | | |
| Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. | | | \$ |

PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WANT YOUR NAMETAG TO READ

FIRST _____ LAST _____

IS THIS YOUR FIRST 384th BOMB GROUP FUNCTION? YES NO

SPOUSE NAME (IF ATTENDING) _____

GUEST NAMES _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PH. NUMBER (_____) _____ - _____ EMAIL _____ @ _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

(Sleeping room requirements must be conveyed by attendee directly with hotel)

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY). YES NO

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PH. NUMBER (_____) _____ - _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

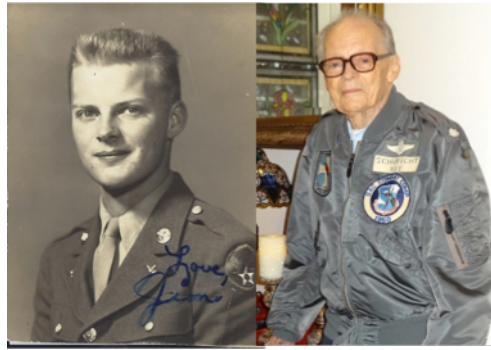
ARE YOU STAYING AT THE HOTEL? YES NO ARE YOU FLYING? DRIVING? RV?

For refunds and cancellations please refer to our policies outlined at the bottom of the reunion program. **CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am-4:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays).** Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion.

REGISTER ONLINE AT www.afr-reg.com/384BG2015

Istres Photo... More by Linda Walker

My Dad, Jim Schuricht, remembered that when he was in Istres, Cy Courtney's father came to visit Cy while he was working in the orderly room. Cy's father was a



businessman traveling in Europe to re-establish business relations with the U.S.

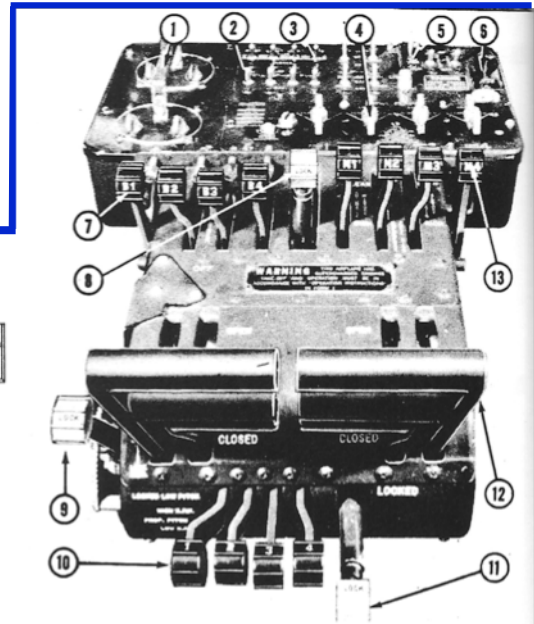
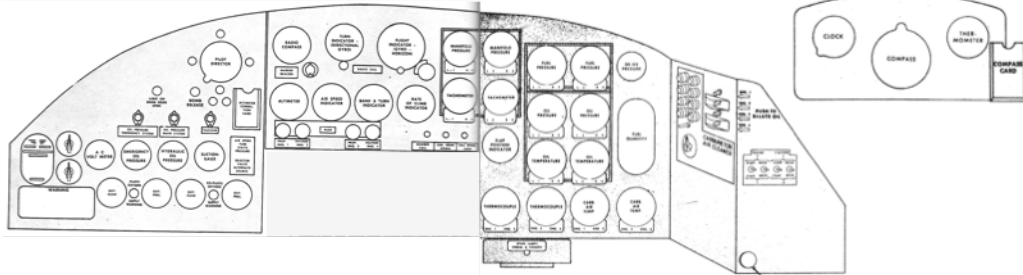
He also remembered that Sam Saylor had some mechanical knowledge and the men were thankful when he made an oil burning stove to heat the otherwise cold, plywood, windowless hut they lived in. He thinks he remembered

that he also would tinker with a motorcycle in his free time. He might have also been on an interesting jeep trip to Avignon looking for the famous bridge there. Because their jeep broke down they never did find the bridge but it was a fun day talking to locals and seeing the historic town.

Does anyone else have any other interesting stories about this really intriguing photo? if so, please send them and photos to the editor.



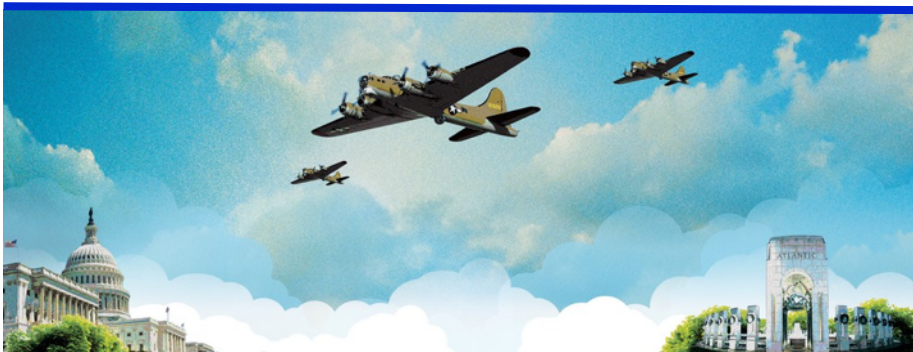
Army Models B-17F and G Control Panel and Pedestal



- KEY TO FIGURE 21**
- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. IGNITION SWITCHES | 8. TURBO AND MIXTURE CONTROL LOCK |
| 2. FUEL BOOST PUMP SWITCHES | 9. THROTTLE CONTROL LOCK |
| 3. FUEL SHUT-OFF VALVE SWITCHES | 10. PROPELLER PITCH CONTROLS |
| 4. COWL FLAP CONTROL VALVES | 11. PROPELLER PITCH CONTROL LOCK |
| 5. LANDING GEAR SWITCH | 12. THROTTLE CONTROLS |
| 6. WING FLAP SWITCH | 13. MIXTURE CONTROLS |
| 7. TURBO SUPERCHARGER | |

Figure 21 - Control Panel and Pedestal

Do you remember these “Warnings” and “Notes?” In returning the flap control switch from “DOWN” to “OFF,” be sure the toggle switch is not allowed to snap to “UP,” resulting in immediate retraction of the flaps. And, when unfeathering a propeller on a cold engine, do not allow the engine speed to exceed minimum governing speed until oil pressure and oil temperature appear satisfactory. Turn off ignition after feathering any propeller.



8th Air Force Historical Society Reunion - Omaha, Nebraska 14-18 October 2015

In honor of the **70th Anniversary of VE Day** (Victory in Europe), the Arsenal of Democracy is hosting a tribute to the men and women at home and abroad that made victory possible. A giant flyover of at least 70 aircraft is to take place over Washington DC on Friday, May 8, 2015.

A victory gala will be held at the National Air & Space Museum on May 7, and a selection of the flyover aircraft will be at the Smithsonian’s Udvar Hazy Center at Washington Dulles International Airport for a one-day exhibition.

More information can be found at <http://www.worldwarbirdnews.com/2015/02/24/70-aircraft-for-the-world-war-ii-victory-capitol-flyover-in-washington-dc/>



Taps as of March 2015

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| O.L. Ferrell | Tyler, TX |
| Walter Filippi | Mill Valley, CA |
| Bill Harvey | Jacksonville, FL |
| Nemours Montz | LaPlace, LA |
| Earl Nelson | So. Daytona, FL |
| Gerald Peebler | La Mirada, CA |
| Clarence Stearns | Wilson, WY |
| Victor Stornant | Adrian, MI |
| Stanley Sturak | Pittsburg, PA |

Men of the Fortress - Cpl. E. B. Lawrence

There have been some great traditions
Through a thousand years of kings,
Long centuries of battles fought,
Crusades, campaigns and things—
That gave to many regiments
Traditions tried and true,
Honors aged and multiplied,
As tjeu fought decades through,
The echo of the trumpeter
Whose repertoire at large,
Embraced but one great battle call:
“Forward! Bayonets! Charge!”
There’s the spirit of the Alamo,
Of courage unsurpassed;
Concord Bridge and San Juan Hill,
Verdun’s “They shall not pass!”

Such fighting makes tradition.
But today, unlike the past,
A fledgling code without prelude
Becomes tradition fast.
The Air Force carved its heritage
On the highways of the skies,
Blazing there the fighting code
Of every man who flies,
Yet few know this tradition
The armadas built upstairs,
Where the bombers’ blazing fifties
Defy the flak, and dare
The fighter packs, the rocket bombs
And shell blasts—to attack!
It’s a mighty proud tradition
To have “never been turned back!”



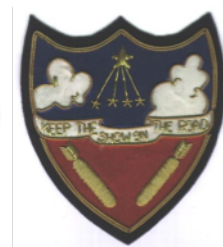
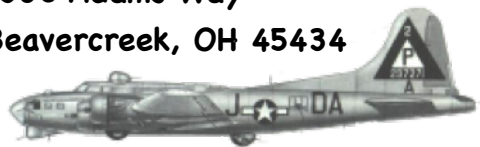
Treasurer's Report

Carol reports the Group treasury is still in very good shape and will be thoroughly briefed at the board meeting in Tucson. She also wants everyone to know she has arranged her last reunion, REALLY!!! So, when we all meet in Tucson please be thinking about who will do the next ones.



Grafton Underwood Control Tower 1973
Photo by Paul Knight, sent by Kevin Flecknor

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“Keep the Show on the Road...”

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