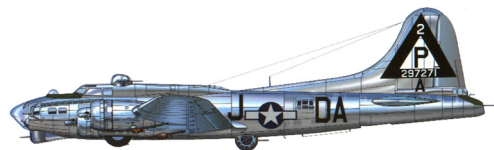




# 384th Bomb Group, Inc. News & Journal



*"Keep The Show On The Road..."*

January 2019

## The Future of Our Group

Before and during the last reunion, 18-21 October, there was much discussion among board members about the future of our organization. Under current law, we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit veterans group, and we are registered in the state of Ohio with Carol Alfter as the Treasurer. Our membership is currently overwhelmingly NexGen (a very good thing!), but with fewer and fewer 384th Bomb Group veterans. Sadly, the day will come when our last 384th BG veteran will pass from us. When that happens, the Group would not be able to comply with the law and we would cease to exist.

After discussing this at length at our board of directors meeting in Dayton during the 2018 reunion, we voted unanimously that we reorganize as a non-profit historical association. We feel this is a very positive thing to do for the future of the Group, so that we are not forced to close forever. We believe that the 384th Bomb Group has a noble mission to support the legacy of our 384th Bomb Group veterans, and that we have stalwart, active NexGen members to support that goal into the future. We believe we have real value for present and future generations that want to preserve this legacy. Other bomb groups have successfully transitioned from veterans associations to historical associations.

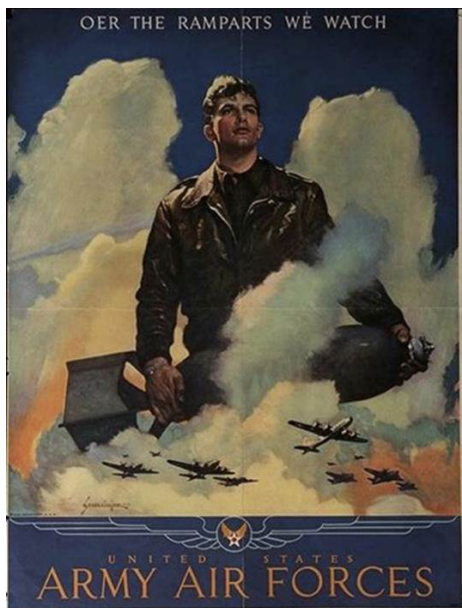
But we also need to poll our membership to verify that we have support for a reorganization and to answer the question, "shall we continue as an association?"

We have some options, which include: 1) disband/dissolve now, or 2) continue until our last veteran is gone and close shop, or 3) reorganize as a non-profit historical association. If the decision is to disband, the 384th Bomb Group goes away forever. So, we will soon be sending out a ballot to each member to determine the wishes

of the membership. So, please return your ballot in the provided self-addressed stamped envelope. If the majority (50.1%) is in agreement with the board's vote to reorganize as an association, we would need to hire a lawyer to get us through the legal changes, properly transfer monies to the new organization and reform as the 384th Bomb Group Association with non-profit status. Carol Alfter is going to pass Treasurer duties on to someone else and we would like to have this process completed before the new Treasurer takes over.

The ballot will be sent with the Dues Payment mailing with a self-addressed stamped envelope. Use the provided SASE to vote for the Group's future. We need all members to participate in this vote for this transition. Please reply as soon as possible so the vote can be verified and we can decide the Group's future.

Frank Alfter  
President, 384th Bomb Group, Inc.



## England Junket XI Reunion Sept 19-24, 2019

The Board voted during the 2018 reunion to hold its next reunion in England during September 19-24, 2019. The last time the Group officially organized a visit to England was in 2005. We're calling it the England Junket XI. We've been debating when to do this for several years and the timing seemed to be right this year. This is a great opportunity for those of us that have not visited Grafton Underwood before. But even if you've visited GU before, it's well worth going again to enjoy all that our 384th friendships can bring to the experience. There will be lots of learning and heartfelt experiences for everyone.

Carol Alfter has engaged Tour operator Arena Travel for the tour arrangements from Thursday, September 19 through Tuesday September 24, 2019 at the Doubletree by Hilton Cambridge Belfry. The tour does not include flight tickets, which must be arranged separately. The return to Grafton Underwood should make for some great memories. The tour will include a visit to the Cambridge American Cemetery, entrance to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford and the Duxford Airshow. The air show always includes a flyby of B-17G "Sally B" which is based in England.

Fred Preller has posted information on the 384th Bomb Group website that can help folks that haven't purchased flight tickets to England before, and other helpful information about traveling to England. It's well worth a look for anyone to see. Go to [www.384thbombgroup.com](http://www.384thbombgroup.com) for updated information.

See page 2 for the trip itinerary, tour cost, and hotel information.

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News about the Group and its members.

## CALENDAR

September 19-24, 2019

384th England Junket XI to Cambridge, England.  
This is the Group's reunion to visit Grafton Underwood, Cambridge American Cemetery and Duxford Airshow.

Oct. 16-20, 2019

8th Air Force Historical Society Reunion  
St. Louis, MO. Details online at [www.8thAFHS.org](http://www.8thAFHS.org)  
and in March 2019 8th A F News.

2019 B-17 Tours - USA

EAA  
B-17G "Aluminum Overcast"  
[www.eaa.org](http://www.eaa.org), go to "B-17 Tour"

Collings Foundation  
B-17G "Nine-O-Nine"  
[www.collingsfoundation.org](http://www.collingsfoundation.org), go to "Schedule"

Liberty Belle Foundation  
B-17G "Madras Maiden" is being re-built to represent B-17F "Ye Olde Pub".  
[www.libertyfoundation.org](http://www.libertyfoundation.org), website is being rebuilt

Commemorative Air Force - Arizona Wing  
B-17G "Sentimental Journey"  
[www.azcaf.org](http://www.azcaf.org), go to "Events and Programs"



*"Keep The Show On The Road..."*

## Editor's Notes

We had a great reunion in Dayton, Ohio during October 17-21, 2018! A Big Thank You! to Frank and Carol Alfter for making all the arrangements and creating a seamless, wonderful experience. We made many wonderful memories visiting the National Museum of the US Air Force's B-17F "Memphis Belle", seeing the Champaign Museum's B-17G "Champaign Lady"; hearing about Ray Moore, Jr's restoration of 384th BG B-17F "Lucky Thirteen", and saw some of it's crash fragments. We saw Amy Meighan and John DeFrancesco open a box of crash fragments from 384th BG B-17G "Fightin' Hebe", sent by Frank Guth in Germany. John was "Fightin' Hebe's" last pilot, shot down by flak and made a POW. Past, present and future converged over four days, making an amazing reunion we won't ever forget.

The 384th Bomb Group Board of Directors voted during the reunion to prepare for the re-organization of the Group this year as a non-profit historical association. The Group's current status as a veterans organization will sadly change when our last 384th BG veteran passes from us. We want to continue to support the 384th's legacy into the future. There is important information to read in this newsletter for our members to understand why we're doing this.

Finally, instead of the regular stateside reunion for 2019, we're planning our reunion in England that we're calling 384th Junket XI. The tour is scheduled for September 19 - 24, 2019, fantastic days of visiting Grafton Underwood, Cambridge, the Duxford Airshow and Museum, plus other events that you won't want to miss.

Christopher Wilkinson, Editor  
[christopherwilkinson99@gmail.com](mailto:christopherwilkinson99@gmail.com)

## 384th Junket XI Itinerary

The following is the first draft of the trip itinerary for September 19-24, 2019. It's based on a minimum of 30 people participating. Trip information will be included with the Dues Mailing.

Initial security deposit is \$300 per person.

Tour cost is \$1525.00 per/person double occupancy.

Tour price includes:

- 5 nights' accommodation on a dinner, bed and breakfast at the Doubletree by Hilton Cambridge Belfry including Welcome and Farewell Dinner.
- Executive coach travel throughout.
- Visits as per the itinerary including Grafton Underwood Airfield and airfields in Suffolk,
- Entrance to Imperial War Museum Duxford including the Air Show, Lunch and Gold experience to include use of marquee, seating, access to flight line, and programme.
- Traditional afternoon tea at the Lavenham Swan.
- Buffet lunch at Grafton Underwood Village Hall or similar.
- Time to visit Boughton House if desired.
- Visit to Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial with Service of Remembrance.
- Services of an Arena Travel Tour Manager who will accompany the tour throughout.

Not included: Flights to and from the UK, Meals and drinks not described above.

Fred Preller will post Junket XI updates as they become available on the 384th Bomb Group website ([www.384thbombgroup.com](http://www.384thbombgroup.com)). He's also posted other helpful travel information for traveling to England.



# 384th Bomb Group 2018 Reunion - Dayton, OH



(L-R) 384th BG veterans Peter Bielskis, Henry Sienkiewicz, John DeFrancesco, Bill Wilkens and Don Hilliard at the NMUSAF.





# 384th Bomb Group 2018 Reunion - Dayton, OH



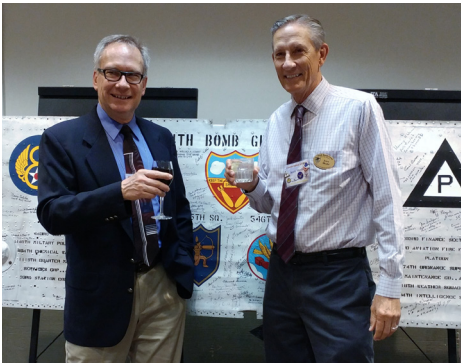
Peter Bielskis, Henry Sienkiewicz, Bill Wilkens, John DeFrancesco and Don Hilliard at the 384th BG Plaque at NMUSAF.



Gathering for the memorial service at the 384th Bomb Group Memorial marker at NMUSAF. AF bugler played taps with an AF color guard, with Frank Alfter leading.



# 384th Bomb Group 2018 Reunion - Dayton, OH



384th BG B-17G "Fightin' Hebe" crash bits; Amy Meighan and John DeFrancesco





# 384th Bomb Group 2018 Reunion - Dayton, OH





# 384th Bomb Group 2018 Reunion - Dayton, OH



(L-R) 384th BG veterans Bill Wilkens, Henry Sienkiewicz, John Defrancesco, Peter Bielskis and Don Hilliard at the Champaign Museum's restoration of B-17G "Champaign Lady", Urbana, OH.



384th BG B-17F 42-3455 "Lucky Thirteen" crash bits





# TAPS JANUARY 2019

Philip Seydel, January 16, 2017  
 Jack V. Carella, March 26, 2018  
 Paul F. Shinsky (POW), April 2, 2018  
 Morgan Yale Himmelstein, April 6, 2018, age 101.  
 William "Bill" Schock, June 22, 2018, age 99, (POW)  
 Paul Bureau, August 9, 2016  
 George Beaugh, August 27, 2018  
 Everett DeWitt "Ev" Barnes, Oct. 13, 2018  
 Arthur John "Ozzie" Osepchook (POW), October 16, 2018  
 Harold James Laursen, October 25, 2018  
 Betty Swift (wife of Harry Swift), Nov. 23, 2018.  
 Ed Gormley (POW), Nov. 17, 2018, age 99



# BRIEFINGS

## Donations for Maintenance at 384th BG Memorial at Grafton Underwood

Kevin Flecknor (with help) continues to do a super job maintaining the memorial. The Group recognizes and helps support his work. Donations can be sent via: Internet Banking within the UK- HSBC Sort Code: 40-32-04  
 Account No: 91836064  
 Internet Banking outside of the UK International Bank Account Number (IBAN) GB36HBUK 40320491836064  
 Swift Code: MIDLGB22

If you so wish to send donations via a cheque, please make these payable to: "384th BG Memorial" and send the check to:

384th BG Memorial  
 c/o 12 Bowland Drive  
 Barton Seagrave  
 Kettering  
 Northants  
 NN15-6TX  
 United Kingdom.

## 8th Air Force Historical Society Reunion 2018

(L-R) Fred Preller and Lynne Milne represented the 384th BG at the 2018 8th AFHS Reunion in Dayton, OH.



## Wing Panel Donation Update

Discussions with Hill Aerospace Museum are continuing about the 384th Bomb Group wing panel display. The Wing Panel is currently safely stored and available for 384th veteran signings. The Group and the Museum are excited and committed to creating a great display at Hill. Currently, the 384th and two other 8th AF Bomb Groups have displays at Hill Museum. The Museum would like to consolidate these three displays into one to make it more cohesive and make a broader display about the 8th AF strategic bombing campaign. The Wing Panel donation team members are currently discussing with the Museum how that would work with the wing panel and the 384th BG story.

**384TH BOMB GROUP, INC.**  
**1306 ADAMS WAY**  
**BEAVERCREEK, OH 45434**



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We're on the Web at: [www.384thbombgroup.com](http://www.384thbombgroup.com)