

PARHAM *Spring 2023* Airfield Museum

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 26TH MARCH

Please see below for some highlights from the Chair's Report at our A.G.M.

Peter Senior gave an overview of what has been a very successful and rewarding year for the museum.

It has been particularly heartening to be able to resume our usual ceremonies of remembrance. 5101 visitors, including 957 children, have been welcomed to the museum. Positive feedback has been received via the visitors' book, Trip Advisor and Google. A highlight was the opening, by John Warwicker MBE, of the Kindred Exhibition Hall on 14th May. 500 visitors attended our July rally for military vehicles and classic cars. There have also been several visits by car clubs, other groups such as U3A, makers of a series of Podcasts about the Eighth Air Force and tour parties from the USA. A military book sale was another positive, new development.

We have often opened specially to show around relatives including David Nelson (who built and gifted the diorama of the airfield that now has pride of place near the visitor entrance) and Harold Gary, aged 101, who wanted to visit the base from which his younger brother Capt. Dana E Gary had taken off to lead his last mission on November 30th 1944.

We continue to give presentations to various local and national groups.

The late Charlie Cairnes, a long-standing supporter and benefactor of this museum, has very generously left the museum the entire residue of his estate. The value of this has yet to be realised but it will be significant because it includes the proceeds from the sale of his house. His substantial collection means the museum has acquired a considerable quantity of artefacts. In

order that these are open to the public as part of a memorial to Charlie, our intended approach will require a modest addition to our buildings.

The Kindred Exhibition Hall project has been finished. Maintenance and other improvements have continued, including additional safety features on the Control Tower roof.

We have sufficient volunteers but could do with more, so it is important to keep spreading the word to help spread the burden of duties.

There have been no serious accidents or injuries involving volunteers or the public. There are now 18 First Aid qualified volunteers and we have our own defibrillator. Insurance has been enhanced to cover the new buildings and displays.

The shop and tearoom continue to be a major asset. We try to keep prices low, conscious of the need to be as accessible to as many people as possible.



Above, we had a good turnout of members at our AGM.

The quality of the newsletter remains high and is well received. Thanks are due to those who submit contributions and to our editor for her sustained hard work.

We continue to benefit from a free, reliable broadband service provided by Fram Broadband. The accounts show that we have benefited from generous donations and some grants (for example from East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council) too. We are, as always, grateful for the regular funding provided by the Moller Foundation, and generous donations from the Spence family.

We are expecting the farm and its partners to commence the construction of a solar panel site during this year. This will not affect land immediately adjacent to the museum and is not expected to have any negative impact on our visitor experience.



Our opening pattern for 2023 will be as normal and we plan to repeat the rally for military vehicles and classic cars as part of our Open Day on Sunday 2nd July. We already have several group bookings and expect our usual school visits before the summer holidays.



Vehicle Day, Sunday 2 July 2023

Historic Military Vehicles, Classic Cars and Motorcycles

Free Admission & Parking. No commercial stands.

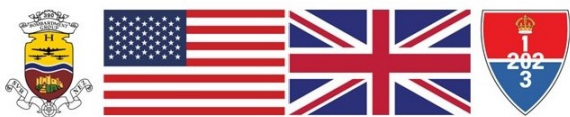
Exhibitors arrive by 1030, public 1100. Food on sale.

Military and naval books. Station 366 Singers & Martlesham Ukulele Group



Parham Airfield, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP13 9AF

Contact: Roger Wilson, unimog@uwclub.net



PARHAM
Airfield Museum



Special Visitors



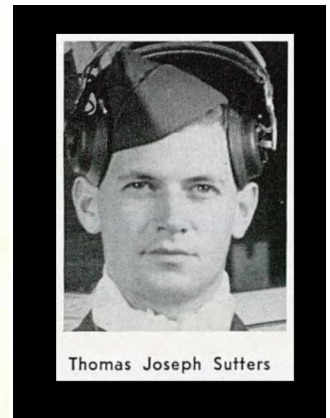
Peter Senior and Martin with John Blonsick during his visit

In February we had the pleasure of being visited by Capt. John Blonsick, a naval veteran and airline pilot. As a young lad John learned about cousin Lt. Thomas J Sutters who was killed piloting "Lorraine" over Augsburg on 13th April 1944. It was his 22nd combat mission, 21st as pilot.

Lt Sutters served in the 570th squadron. He was a highly regarded pilot and had a reputation as a fine, brave and lucky leader of men. For example, on a mission in "Skippy" he had nursed the badly hit plane

whilst ordering his crew to bail out. He took to his parachute only when forced to do so by a raging fire. His luck ran out when he was injured by incoming flak.

Assistance was given by Otto B Fugett, the turret gunner/engineer, who pulled him from the pilot's seat and gave first aid. Unfortunately, more ordnance came in and hit them both. Fugett was badly wounded; Sutters was hit even more seriously and died of wounds. The B17 was flown home by the Co-pilot, Lt Paul R Cooper.



Thomas Joseph Sutters



Back Row L to R:
Thomas J. Sutters, Pilot; Leo M. Haynes, Navigator; Paul R. Cooper, Co-Pilot;
Walter C. Lunden, Bombardier
Front Row L to R:
Otto B. Fugett, Engineer/ Top Turret; Joseph M. Malone, Waist; Bernard J. Jensen,
Tail Gunner; Albert J. Selvidio, Radio; Joseph M. Collector, Ball Turret; Salvatore
A. DePietro, Waist

We have enjoyed keeping in contact with John, who has been working on a flag box in memory of his relative. Thanks to our volunteers, he now has some small pieces of runway to add to the display.

After his visit John posted the following on our Facebook page:

"Thank you to the staff of Parham Airfield Museum for their incredible welcomeness and assistance in this very personal project. Special thanks to Peter, Peter, Martin, Gerry and Jennie for a wonderful experience at the museum. Even more so when we discovered items from Lt Sutters' "Skippy." Peter Senior contributed greatly to making this happen."

On the 25th February we were delighted to welcome Robert and Colleen Rademaker to Parham Airfield Museum. Robert and Colleen were on holiday from Washington D.C and this was their first visit to us. Colleen's Great Aunt, Elizabeth Cornell served with the American Red Cross from 1943 until 1946 and she was stationed at Parham with the 390th Bomb Group from 1943 – 1944.



Elizabeth (Betty) Cornell

Elizabeth (Betty) Cornell was born on April 28th, 1916 in Chicago. Betty was a graduate of Hudson Falls High School. She received her Bachelor's degree from Ithaca College in 1938 and her Master's degree from New York University.

Betty served with the American Red Cross in the European Theatre from 1943 until 1946. When she was in England she served at Parham Airfield from October, 1943 until July, 1944. Betty was Recreational Director for the 390th Bomb Group. Later, in 1944, following the Allied Invasion, she served with the

American Red Cross Mobile attached to the 9th Army.

After the war, Betty taught Physical Education in Dansville, South Glens Falls and Glens Falls. She retired after teaching for 28 years. One of her greatest enjoyments was golf. She became an excellent player and was highly regarded at her local golf club, in Hudson Falls where, in her honour, the Women's 'Ladies Day' was named after her.

Betty passed away in 2012 at the age of 96.



On 16th April we had a surprise visit from descendant Tom Tourangeau.

Tom's father was Pfc Ernest J Tourangeau, a groundcrew member here based in the 571st Squadron. Tom has been to England a few times before but had never made it to Parham until his son kindly brought him from Birmingham on this trip.

Ernest was in a Transport section and told his son various stories of how they drove around the area with messages and supplies. One of his favourite places was Framlingham Castle, and Tom went from us to see that local landmark too .



From our Readers

Following our article on the ordnance digs at the airfield, Frank Drain has been in touch to give us more information about the markings on .50 cal shell casings. Apparently, the year of manufacture is stamped on the shell along with a code for each armoury that produced the shells. This website helps you to identify where and when the .50 shells were made: <http://www.nebraskaaircrash.com/50caliber.html>

Mick Tipple reported that the Protek Plugs we found are dehydrator plugs that were screwed into the spark plug ports in engines whilst in storage to prevent rust and corrosion. The crystals in the plug are silica gel which turns blue to pink when moisture is absorbed. The pink silica gel can be reactivated by heating for 16 hours at 250 degrees Fahrenheit.

In response to Mick's article on the Ups and Downs of Hardstand 13 we have also had a couple of readers ask what the hardstand looks like now.



In the photo above, you may be able to see the curve of the railway sleepers forming the outer boundary of the muck pad, which also delineates the original perimeter of the Hardstand. To the left is a view of the opposite side of the Hardstand. In the foreground, there is evidence of soil disturbance from the ordnance dig.

Preparing for the Unexpected

Last month we ran Emergency First Aid at Work courses over two days for our volunteers. The training was excellent and even those who have been first-aid-trained many times before went away having learnt something new.

Hopefully we all now feel more primed to deal with any first aid issues that might arise at the museum.

We have also purchased a defibrillator for our tearoom. We hope that this is never needed but it brings peace of mind knowing that it is there and that it is very simple to use.

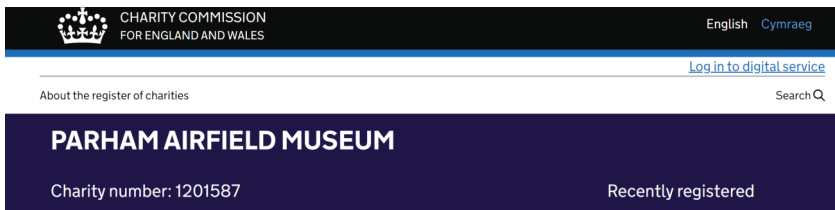


Parham Airfield Museum becomes an Incorporated Charity

The trustees have been working with a consultant, funded by Suffolk County Council, to establish a new incorporated charity for the museum. The constitution of the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) meets modern legal requirements, which the previous constitution did not. The CIO reinforces the need to prevent conflicts of interest. Above all, the CIO provides limited liability for individual trustees, which should remove much of the worry attached to being a committee member under the previous arrangements. These changes are recommended for museums. Many similar organisations in Suffolk have made or are planning this type of change to their status.

The new charity has been approved by and registered with the Charity Commission as number 1201587. Most importantly it has exactly the same name, objectives and original trustees as the existing charity, 284146 except that “For the long term benefit of the public” has been added, as required. At our AGM on Sunday 26th March, the members present voted unanimously in favour of transferring all aspects of the previous charity to the new one. The trustees are now in the process of carrying through this change. Once the process is complete, final accounts can be prepared and the previous charity 284146 will be wound up.

There are 5 trustees who are the founder trustees of the new charity. The CIO can have up to 12 trustees, who will in effect be the committee. More are being appointed and those co-opted by the trustees will hold office until the next AGM, when they can be nominated for election by the members.



The screenshot shows the Charity Commission website for Parham Airfield Museum. At the top, it says 'CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES' with a crown icon and language options for 'English' and 'Cymraeg'. Below this is a navigation bar with 'About the register of charities' and a search icon. The main content area features a dark blue header with 'PARHAM AIRFIELD MUSEUM' in white, and below it, 'Charity number: 1201587' and 'Recently registered'. A link for 'Log in to digital service' is also visible.

Peter Senior

Maintenance & Improvements

Right, a new workbench made by Peter Senior, with Richard Clark's help to assemble it. It just needs a vice and drill press and then it will be a much used addition to the workshop. Just one example of the type of job carried out by our handy maintenance team.

As the weather improves, we will be painting the tower rails and doing some other external tidying up. Work to refurbish the display of Flying Control instruments in the Watch Office has begun with replacing the table with one built by Richard Clark. Watch this space!



Fortress Morning...

The frost melts in the sunlight
On the giant aircraft's wing
As it drips in expectation
What the coming day might bring
A rabbit by the runway
Sits and masticates the grass
Which has grown in recognition
That the worst of winter's past
A Jeep moves in the distance
And its progress startles crows
Which then fly across more aircraft
Parked in crinkle crankle rows
Then thunder breaks the silence
When a nearby Seventeen
Is woken from its slumber
And disturbs the tranquil scene
The rabbit dives for cover
As the backdraught comes a gale
And the noise of four Wright Cyclones
All now gather speed and wail
Few yet have an inkling
What the coming day will bring
As morning sun starts rising
And the birds begin to sing
But the airfield now is buzzing
Where the silence reigned before
As this rural piece of Suffolk
Gathers pace and goes to war...

Thank you for a very inspiring visit,

Andy and Lyz Franklin



The Big Help Out is a national day of volunteering happening on 8th May, the Bank Holiday Monday of the King's Coronation weekend.

The day is about inspiring people to try volunteering, and to play a part in their community. One of the key aims is to make volunteering easy and accessible. Around 1 in 5 people have never been asked to volunteer, and many don't know where to begin.

Volunteering has always been a huge part of what makes this country great. The Big Help Out will put volunteering centre stage for a day and give people who want to volunteer easy ways to join in.

We are participating in The Big Help Out day. **If you have thought about volunteering with us but aren't sure if it's for you or if you would enjoy it, this is your chance to find out!** We will be open to the public from 11am - 5pm and invite you to try a taster-session of volunteering. You can come for a half day if you would prefer a shorter session.

You will be shadowing one of our regular volunteers for the day to see if it something you would enjoy moving forwards. Why not ask a friend or your partner if they are interested in helping too? The more the merrier! This is an informal way of getting a feel for our various volunteering roles and meeting the team.

If you would like to come along, we would love to hear from you before the day. We will then 'buddy you up' and give you some more information on what your day might be like.

Please save the date and join us for the day if you can, as either a volunteer or a visitor <https://thebighelpout.org.uk/>



A Living Legacy

To commemorate King Charles III's Coronation on Saturday 6th May, twelve trees have recently been planted on the approach to the museum. After the Queen's Green Canopy Project last year, it seemed fitting to continue planting trees in order to mark this momentous occasion.

King Charles has championed environmental issues for many years and we trust these trees will be a long-lasting and fitting tribute to our new King.

Another Tragedy from Hardstand 13

The Demise of 'Ice Cold Katie'

May 1944 was the busiest month to-date for the 390th Bomb Group participating in 20 missions which ranged over France, Belgium, Germany and Czechoslovakia. The 569th's "Ice Cold Katie" (42-31512, CC-D) had contributed to twelve of these forays over Festung Europa and by the beginning of June was due some serious maintenance by its Crew Chief M/Sgt James Burton and his team on Hardstand 13.

By 2nd June 1944 #1 engine had been changed as part of this routine maintenance and it was standard practice for the new Wright Cyclone to be air tested or "slow timed" in American parlance. Usually a skeleton crew of five comprising two Pilots, a Navigator, Flight Engineer and Radio Operator would be selected to test fly the aircraft. However on this occasion things were done differently. Due to heavy operational losses in May there had been a great influx of new replacement crews during the month. Amongst the last two crews to arrive at Framlingham (Stn153) on 30th May was that of 2Lt.Nils H. Ostrom They were assigned to the 569th Bomb Squadron as Crew #30 and were housed in Nissen huts on Living Site 6 adjacent to Silverlace Green.

Squadron Operations chose 1Lt.Jack C. Fleck to fly "Ice Cold Katie" on the slow time. This Officer had just completed his tour of missions and was awaiting orders to return him to the United States. Instead of the customary five man crew Lt.Fleck was joined by six volunteers from the newly arrived Nils Ostrom crew, a Bombardier from an operational crew, a former gunner presently assigned to the 30th Station Complement (one of the support units on Stn153) and finally the Crew Chief of B-17G #512. This composite crew took off during the morning of 2nd June 1944 for their test hop. Having made several passes over the base, Lt. Fleck set off on their local flight. At 1210 hours Flying Control at Stn153 received a message to say "Ice Cold Katie" had crashed in Market Park field at Elm Tree Farm, Grundisburgh (about 8 miles south west of Stn153) with no survivors. Debach airfield (home of the 493rd Bomb Group) would deal with the crash scene. The Accident Investigating Committee concluded "there is every indication that the pilot was "buzzing" in the vicinity of the crash (site) During the third pass (in the vicinity of the crash site) the tail assembly struck a tree and the airplane became uncontrollable causing it to crash". After the war there were rumours that the pilot may have spotted some Land Army ladies working in the fields which might have explained the low level flying but unfortunately no East Suffolk Police Report of this incident has been found post-war to confirm or deny such assertions. All ten crewmen were buried at the American Military Cemetery at Madingley near Cambridge on 3rd June 1944. 1st Lt. Paul E. Kovitz (Assistant Engineering Officer) and 1st Lt. Walter P. Seidl, both from the 569BS, provided escort to the funeral.



Crash team members work amongst the wreckage of 512

Credit USAF

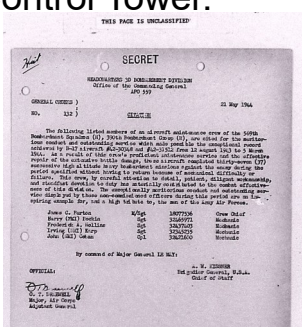
The names of the ten crew members who were killed:

Name & Rank	Role	Comment
Fleck , Jack C. 1Lt	Pilot	Tour expired Co-pilot Crew27
Odstrom, Nils H. 2Lt.	Co-pilot	New replacement Crew30
Kleintank, William J. 2Lt.	Navigator	New replacement Crew30
Alford, William M. 2Lt.	Bombardier	Operational Bombardier Crew24
Mackay, Alexander D. Sgt.	Nose Gunner	New replacement Crew30
Rosenberg, Alvin S/Sgt.	Engineer	New replacement Crew30
Conaway, Raymond W. S/Sgt	Radio Operator	New replacement Crew30
Murrian, James A. S/Sgt	Tail Gunner	30 th Station Complement
Burton, James C. M/Sgt.	Passenger	Crew Chief of 42-31512
Williams, St. John T. 2Lt.	Passenger	New replacement Crew30

M/Sgt. James C. Burton was the only Crew Chief to lose his life during the Group's two year service in England. Less than two weeks prior to this tragic accident James Burton and his four man team received a Citation from Major General Le May (Commander of the Third Division) for their exceptionally meritorious conduct and outstanding service during their work on "Royal Flush" and "Ice Cold Katie".

The four new replacements from Crew 30 who did not fly with their compatriots on 2nd June 1944 were absorbed into other crews. The three gunners survived their tours to finish in late 1944 and return home. The Co-pilot joined Crew 37 only to become a POW on 16th August 1944.

Almost six and a half decades after the tragedy, Parham Airfield Museum was granted permission to examine the crash site and a dig took place on 6th December 2008. In Market Park field pieces of Duralumin aircraft skin and Plexiglass were discovered along with some "cooked off" .50 calibre machine gun cartridge cases and bullet heads. In nearby woods an ammunition can was found and subsequent research by Museum staff revealed that it was one of two such containers normally mounted above the Ball Turret to provide it with .50 calibre shells. These treasured artifacts are now displayed in the Control Tower.



Mick Tipple & Mervyn Wilson

Third division HQ citation for James Burton's team

Ice Cold Katie displays her nose art on Hardstand 13

Credit USAF via PAM

AIRMAN OF THE MONTH MARCH



ANTHONY PALOMBO

30 JANUARY 1923 – 18 MARCH 1945

Anthony was born in Villa S. Stefano, Italy. He enlisted into the USAAF on 19 January 1943. He trained as a Tail Gunner and was killed on his tenth mission from Station 153.

On mission 277 to bomb Berlin, his plane, A/C265 "Reluctant" received a direct hit by flak in the right wing next to the fuselage before reaching the bomb release line. The aircraft burst into flames and slipped out of formation. The fire seemed to go out but then the aircraft began losing altitude although appeared to be under control. Four to five shoots were seen before the aircraft was lost to sight. All 9 crew managed to bail out, however Anthony having reached the ground is believed to have been hung by the local population.

Anthony is buried in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, in his home town. He was 22.

Killed in Action MARCH - 1945

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after January 1, 1922 and on or before June 30, 1924)

SERIAL NUMBER N 170	1. NAME (Print) Anthony Palombo	ORDER NUMBER V11652
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) 159 E. Church Nanticoke Luzerne PA.		
3. MARITAL STATUS None		
4. TELEPHONE	5. AGE IN YEARS 19	6. PLACE OF BIRTH Italy
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL AFFIRM KNOWS YOUR ADDRESS Joseph Palombo 159 E. Church Nanticoke PA		
8. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT AND ADDRESS Lew Foy 38-40 E. Main St. Nanticoke, PA		
9. PLACE OF BIRTH OF BUSINESS Lew Foy 38-40 E. Main St. Luz. Pa.		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE. Anthony Palombo		

Do. S. S. FORM 1 (Revised 6-1-42) 410-31850-3

Receives Promotion

Pfc. Anthony Palombo, son of Joseph Palombo, 3990 East Nible street, has been promoted to corporal at the Gulfport Army Air Field, Miss. Corp. Palombo, a tail gunner, is attached to Squadron "S" of the Army Air Force Base unit.

AIRMAN OF THE MONTH

APRIL



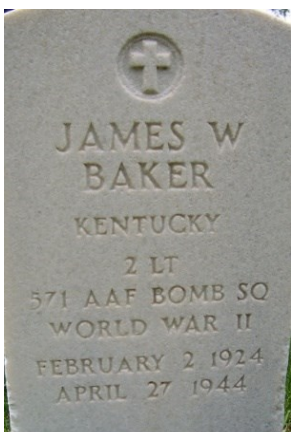
JAMES WILLIAM BAKER

02 FEBRUARY 1924 – 27 APRIL 1944

James was born in Kentucky and enlisted into the USAAF on 15 December 1942. He trained as a navigator and was killed on his first mission from Station 153.

Mission no. 92 was scheduled to take-off at 1530 hrs. According to the Tower Log, “15:38 - 23498 blew a tire on take-off. One crew member tried to jump before engines and ship stopped and was caught in the prop of #2 engine. He was killed instantly.” His last letter home, dated 26th April 1944 said, “I’ve been notified that I’m to get up early, and that means a mission.”

James is buried at the Zachary Taylor National Cemetery, Kentucky. He was 20.



INTERMENT IN THE ZACHARY TAYLOR NATIONAL CEMETERY										SEP 9 - 1944			
TO: THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.						RELIGIOUS SYMBOL (Check One)		<input type="checkbox"/> CROSS <input type="checkbox"/> STAR OF DAVID <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SERVICE DATA (Company, regiment, or other organization or branch of service and address, if any.) U.S. Army 390 th Bomb Sq W. WI					
NAME (Last, first, middle initial) BAKER, James W.						STATE Ky		SERIAL NO. 0-703162					
DATE OF BIRTH			DATE OF DEATH			DATE OF INTERMENT			GRAVE LOCATION			DATES OF SERVICE	
MONTH	DAY	YEAR	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	SEC OR PLOT	GRID OR LOT NO.	SECTION	ORGANIZATION	RETIRED
2	24	1924	4	27	1944	Aug	4	1948	F	80			
REMARKS (Authority for interment, position or status number, discharge, etc.) OCME Form No. 315 sent to next of kin. " " " " returned by next of kin. WW II deceased returned from CAMBRIDGE, BRITISH ISLES.										DATE TRANSMITTED ORIGINALLY AND U.S. NUMBER 3782311			
MILITARY STATION FOR FREIGHT St. Matthews, Kentucky.										SIGNATURE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF NATIONAL CEMETERY OR CH. OF POST OR POW CEMETERY CLARENCE E. THOMAS			
SHIPMENT POINT FOR HEADSTONE RFD Route 6, Box 24, Louisville, Ky.										DATE OF INTERMENT TATE, GA. 14 OCT 1948			
GMC FORM 14 Previous editions may be used										(See instructions on reverse side)			

UPCOMING EVENTS

We are pleased to be welcoming so many groups to the museum this season

- Sun 23rd April Visit from Joyce Garner (Daughter of 390th Veteran)
 Also Sunbeam Tiger Club & Station 366 singers at 2pm
- Mon 8th May Open for Coronation Bank Holiday and 'Have-a-go' volunteer
 taster day as part of the Big Help Out
- Sun 14th May National Museum of WW2 New Orleans
- Sat 27th May History Round Table Tour Minneapolis USA
- Sun 11th June Moped Run starting and finishing at Parham.
- Sun 2nd July Open Day to celebrate 80 years since the arrival of the
 390th Bomb Group to Parham**
 Military vehicles and classic cars and motorbikes, Ukulele
 group at 11am, Punch & Judy shows, military book stall,
 burger and ice-cream vans, performance by Station 366
 singers. Keep an eye on our website nearer the day for more details.
 *Please note, no commercial stands are permitted except those already arranged
 for catering purposes.*
- Thurs 14th Sep 384th Bomb Group Tour
- Mon 9th October Museum of the Mighty Eighth Savannah, Georgia

We also have the following descendants of 390th veterans scheduled to visit us:

Randy Waldman (relative of Lloyd R Waldman), Jackie Ferris (daughter of Dean C Ferris) and
 Lee Feinerer (son of Lee W Feinerer), Ron Gillmore (son of Carlton E. Gillmore) and Joyce
 Garner (daughter of Ralph L. Garner)

**We are open to the public on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays until the end of
 October and Wednesdays in June, July and August.**

AIRMAN OF THE MONTH MAY



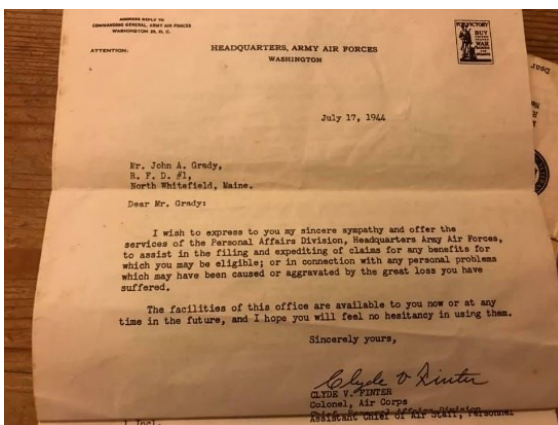
DARRYL JOHN GRADY

08 MAY 1922 – 08 MAY 1944

Darryl was born in Maine. He enlisted into the USAAF on 3 February 1943 and was trained as waist gunner. Darryl flew 21 missions from Station 153.

On Mission 101 to La Glaciere, France, A/C 603 “Belle of the Brawl” was observed after bombs away near Cherbourg at about 1916 hrs at 23,000 ft with no. #4 engine smoking after having been hit by flak. The aircraft was last seen flying out of control. One crew reported 603 at 5,000ft over land when last seen.

Darryl is buried in the American Cemetery in Normandy. Darryl died on his 22nd birthday.



**Jennie Smith
Archivist**

Archivist's Report for the Annual General Meeting

The Airmen project is progressing well and to date I have finished my first sweep of all our KIA names and filed whatever I have been able to find. My second sweep will hopefully bring up more archives as the Duxford archive is now back online after several months of reorganisation and rebuilding.

The Charlie Cairns book legacy has contained 4 class books which are from the training bases in the USA in the early 1940's. It is feasible that some of 'our boys' may be mentioned in them. Also, it is another source of faces.

Carol is continuing to develop the index of our physical photograph collection. This database proved invaluable when searching for a particular photograph that had been requested and we were able to find it efficiently. My thanks go to her for her continued support and help.

Rita Shears has also spent many hours indexing the articles in the Framlingham Times for the Station 153 index. Having finished this task she is now helping with the retyping of the Station History, which will become another searchable source of information. My thanks go to her for her hard work and continued support.

Requests for research have still been forthcoming via email and Facebook, mainly from relatives in the US. I have been able to provide information to them, including the occasional photograph and newspaper article that they have never seen before.

The daily postings of life on the base on Facebook and Twitter, which always seem to go down well, are continuing and draw many interesting comments from their readers.

Jennie Smith

Parham Airfield Museum

153 reviews • #1 of 31 things to do in Woodbridge • Military Museums • History Museums

Open now • 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM [Visit website](#) [Call](#) [Email](#) [Write a review](#)

About

The 390th Bomb Group Memorial Air Museum and the Museum of the British Resistance Organisation are housed in the original war time control tower, associated quanset (nissan) huts, and include the Percy Kindred Library and cafe. Situated on open fields the museum is signposted from the A1...

[Read more](#)

Suggested duration
2-3 hours

[Suggest edits to improve what we show.](#)
[Improve this listing](#)



Top Attraction

We are pleased to announce that we are **now ranked number 1** out of 32 attractions in the Woodbridge area, ahead of Sutton Hoo and the Tide Mill. This is an incredible achievement for a small museum that is only open on limited days and run solely by volunteers.

Please do keep your reviews coming. We'd love to stay at the top!



From Our Shop....

In preparation for the new season, stock has been counted, supplies ordered and dusting done! Those of us who have struggled to hear customers through the covid screens over the last 2 years were pleased that these have now been removed and we look forward to welcoming everybody back to the tearoom and shop. As well as our usual favourites, there is new stock which we hope will prove to be as tempting to visitors as it has done to volunteers!

Do pay a visit to check out the metal pin badges as well as the lovely new Parham Airfield Museum jacket which features the museum badges on the front and a resplendent Square J B-17 on the back, modelled here by Peter Kindred!

We are fortunate in being able to offer a wide range of new and second-hand books as well as embroidered badges, vintage mugs and 'trench art' model aeroplanes.

You can be sure of a warm welcome from the friendly tearoom volunteers!



Special Items for Sale

Over the next few months several special items will start to appear on our eBay shop as and when we have time to list them. These are one-offs so grab them whilst you can! You might like to add us to your list of favourite sellers to receive notifications when new items are listed.

[Please click here to see our shop](#)

From Our Facebook Page...

Head to our Facebook page where you can see an incredible video of this impressive convoy of military vehicles leaving the museum after they visited on our first day of the season.



The regular Station Bulletin postings on Facebook also give an interesting insight into wartime life on the base.

17 February 1944 Station Bulletin

Uniform Rules: Bicycle clips will be worn only while the wearer is actually riding a bicycle.

In no case will the tucking of trousers into socks or the rolling up thereof be considered acceptable substitutes for bicycle clips.

Archivist Jennie posts regular Station Bulletins from the base and mission details 'from 'this day' back in WW2 on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts.

Please follow us to see these posts and connect with other supporters.



Volunteer!



We would love to hear from you if you are interested in volunteering at Parham Airfield Museum. Become part of the friendly volunteer crew. From helping our visitors on open days, working in our tearoom, or joining our maintenance teams, we've got a role for you. If you would like to help, please contact us at: parhamairfield@yahoo.co.uk



390th Bomb Group Gathering

June 10th 2023 | Salem, Oregon

Join the Friends and Family of the 390th Bomb Group for a one-day event in Salem, Oregon! We will be visiting the Evergreen Aviation Museum, home to a vast collection of aircraft and exhibits, followed by a tour and dinner at the B17 Alliance Project.

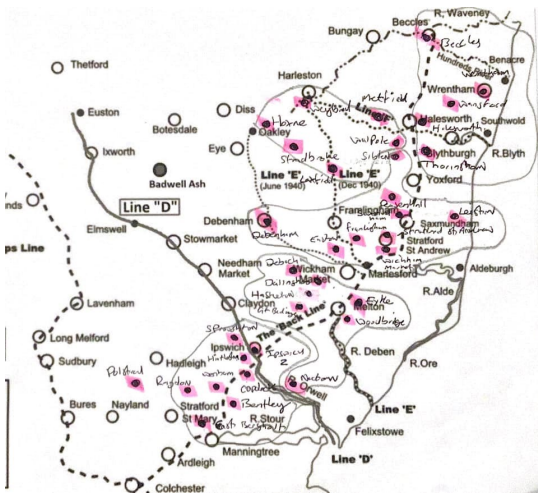
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/390th-memorial-museum-regional-gathering-salem-or-tickets-60791454777>

The British Resistance Organisation Museum

Mirek Gosney posted the following recently on our Facebook page: “Finally visited Parham Airfield Museum. Really great to understand more about the overlooked and highly mythologised GHQ Auxiliaries. I briefly wrote about their role in my latest blog:

<https://www.mirek-gosney.com/post/when-britain-dug-deep-to-stop-a-nazi-rampage>

Will Ward of CART responded that ‘Fortress Britain’ recently aired on Channel 4 and included a short segment on the GHQ Auxiliaries in WW2. The programme was filmed at Colleshill.



Gareth Evans shared his map of Suffolk auxiliary units which he is using to try and understand where the missing Ipswich 1 Patrol may have been located. Gareth then commented that “It’s a great day out to visit Parham!”
Thanks Gareth. We would second this!



Did you have a relative in the British Resistance Organisation?

If so we would love to feature them and hear the story of how you found out about their secret wartime work. As knowledge of the BRO spreads, we are hearing from more relatives who suspect familiar involvement with the organisation and are keen to check if we hold any records.

Contributions to the newsletter from readers interested in the BRO are most welcome.

Report for Annual General Meeting on 26th March 2023

The most important date of the year was 14th May when the Kindred Exhibition Hall was officially opened.

A wide range of guests were invited including former volunteers, local councillors, representatives of local museums including Air Museums, academics, the build team and, of course, a number of descendants of former Auxiliers. The Hall was officially opened by John Warwicker MBE who told us how he first got to know the Kindred family and how he discovered that there was a story to tell. The John Warwicker Cinema was opened by Dr Will Ward from CART. The new Hall was Blessed by Rev Brynn Bayman, Chaplain of Framlingham College. After the official proceedings the guests enjoyed a lunch and the museum was then opened to the public.

2022 was possibly the best year for visits from descendants of all three elements of the Aux Units with a total of at least 22 that I was able to make a note of. Sons, daughters, nephews, nieces, grandsons, granddaughters and in the case of one auxilier daughter, granddaughter and great granddaughter. A visitor from abroad was Chantal Bernard, the granddaughter of Henri Bernard of the Belgian SOE and Resistance. Henri has written a number of books on the wartime resistance.

The introductory film has been a great success with visitors and the school visits have gone very well with the opportunity to dress up taken up by teachers as well as pupils!

Following the inevitable slow down due to Covid, requests for talks picked up and I did a number of talks throughout the year to various WIs, clubs and Probuses which have not only helped to tell the story of the Aux Units but also to put the museum on the map. One thing I should have picked up on previously is that taking copies of the various books we have for sale has proved very profitable. I know Peter Senior has also done some talks on Aux Units as well as the 390th so the message is getting across.

We have been able to man the BRO Museum on most of our opening days but on occasion we have struggled and I should like to thank those who have stepped in to help. It is clear that new volunteers have been willing to learn about both aspects of the museum which is very encouraging. Post Covid we still have a couple of volunteers that have not returned.

We have finally been approved as members of the Army Museums Ogilby Trust, an organisation of military museums representing regimental museums across the country. Not only will this enhance our exposure to the military museums world but also it raises the possibility of grant monies for any future projects.



Over the winter season, the maintenance crew have been up on pretty much every Wednesday painting, decorating, getting the garage ready for use, dusting the cabinets and oiling the BRO weaponry, for which my particular thanks, and helping in the mammoth task of sorting out Charlie Cairnes's legacy.

Overall, 2022 was a very successful year and I am sure that 2023 will be equally so.

**Chris Pratt,
Curator, BRO Museum**



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Follow us on Facebook for regular updates
and to connect with other supporters.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

We welcome contributions to this newsletter.

Please email your questions for us or other readers, articles,
letters or photos for inclusion in the next edition by 28th June.

We would love to hear from you.

Editor: Lydia Kirk

**We are open to the public from 11am
– 5pm on Sundays and Bank Holiday
Mondays until the end of October and
from 11am– 4pm on Wednesdays in
June, July and August.**

Free admission to all

No Longer Missing

Our Summer edition will feature a poignant
article by Mick Tipple on three 390th heroes
who were Killed in Action. Their bodies have
now finally been identified and repatriated
after 79 years.



**ASSOCIATION FOR
SUFFOLK
MUSEUMS**

*“We are proud of our Museum and
are very grateful to all those who
help it not only survive, but thrive.”*

Peter Kindred



**Association of
Independent
Museums**

Helping Heritage
Organisations Prosper



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