



Special points of interest:

- 8th Air Force
- 3rd Air Division
- Headquarters, Hiram, Station 119
- Operational from: 13 Sept 43
- Total Missions Flown: 927

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A Wing and a Prayer

The Newsletter of the 13th Combat Wing

Editor: Cindy Goodman

Volume I, Issue I

March 2008

13th Combat Wing Newsletter Established

March, 2008

The new year saw the establishment of a 13th Combat Wing Association and newsletter to link the veterans, family members, and loyalists of three great groups, the 95th, the 100th, and the 390th.

The efforts, spearheaded by **Ian Hawkins, Dub Vante, Frank Murphy, Michael Faley, Cindy Goodman, Jan Riddling**, began in 2005 and reached a zenith in early 2006 when more and more

members of the individual groups expressed a desire to see the history of the 13th combat wing honored and preserved.

Gerald Grove, former president of the 95th Bomb Group, met with Jan Riddling on August 11, 2006 when he was in town on business. Jan and Gerald had a wonderful conversation in person, with Mike Faley joining by phone and Cindy Goodman getting in on the written discussions. "It was good to have a face to face with Gerald," said

Jan, "and discuss ways to connect historically in the future."

In a follow up email Gerald wrote, "It was GREAT to get to spend time with all of you! As I was leaving, Jan focused on the word education, and I happen to think that is a phrase most veterans appreciate. That is certainly the phrase I'm going to use A LOT with the 95th, and I'll also use it when I talk with our 390th 'cousins' at our Board Meetings." Gerald and 390th President **Don Brooks**

Welcome to A Wing and a Prayer!

are represented on both Boards of Directors. "Everything we do is about education and preserving history," said Michael. "The more precise we can make it,

the easier it is to teach. We know each Veteran has a pride in his group and thinks it is the best...and rightfully so. What we need to do is take that pride and incorporate it into what we are doing with our

own research."

"The more data we can collect and preserve," added Cindy, "the better our position will be to further the educational aspects of the 100th Bomb Group

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS

13TH COMBAT BOMB WING (H)
APO 634

Date of Activation and Authority:

The 13th Combat Bombardment Wing (H) was activated 13 September 1943.

Authority is paragraph 1, Section 11, General Orders 149, Headquarters VIII Bomber Command, 13 September 1943 as stated in paragraph 4, General Orders No. 1, Headquarters 3D Bombardment Division, 14 September 1943.

LOCATION:

Hq. 13th Combat Bomb Wing (H) Horham, AAF Station 119.

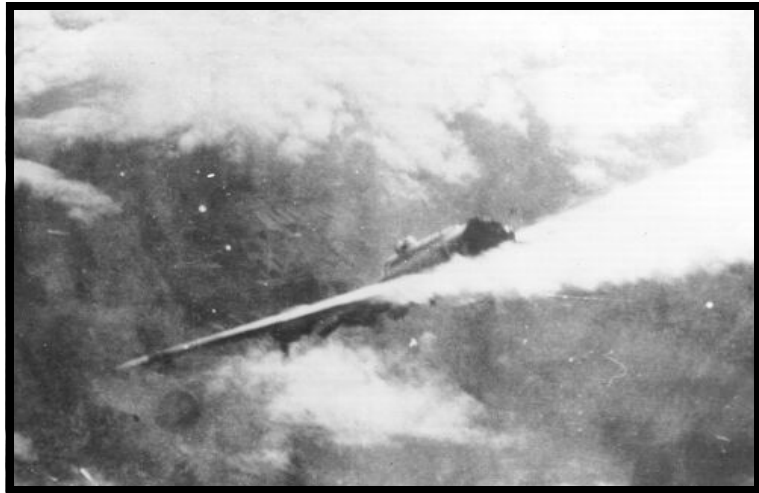
Key Personnel, 13 September 1943.

Colonel Alfred A. Kessler Jr.	Commanding Officer
Colonel Harold Q. Huglin	Chief of Staff
Major Thomas M. Stouffer	Adjutant
Major William C. Berryman	A-3
Captain George D. Conrad	A-2
Captain Jerald D. Rotter	Bombardier
Captain George J. Spelman	Navigator
1st. Lt. Edward L. Legier	Gunnery Officer

S E C R E T

Page One Story Continued

Foundation and consequently the 13th Combat Wing. Our goal has always been to preserve and highlight the accomplishments of the 100th Bomb Group and insure that its history is never forgotten. By doing that we are also contributing to the further historical goal of preserving valuable information on the 13th Combat Wing."



390th	100th	95th
First Mission: 12 Aug 43	First Mission: 25 June 43	First Mission: 13 May 43
Last Mission: 20 Apr 45	Last Mission: 20 Apr 45	Last Mission: 7 May 45
Missions: 300	Missions: 306	Missions: 321
Total Sorties: 8,725	Total Sorties: 8630	Total Sorties:
Total Bomb Tonnage:	Total Bomb Tonnage:	Total Bomb Tonnage:
19,059 Tons	10,257	19,769
Aircraft MIA: 179	Aircraft MIA: 229	Aircraft MIA: 157

***A Wing and Prayer
Will need your
input to be
successful!
Please send
stories to
editor!***

A true Legend is lost...

Robert "Rosie" Rosenthal was a legend in the 100th and the 13th Combat Wing. He joined the 100th as a 1st pilot in August of 1943, coming at the onset of some of the 100th's more famous missions. "Rosie," as he was known to all 100th veterans, started with the 100th on 8 Oct 43 trip to

Bremen. The 100th lost seven 17s that day. On 9 Oct 43, the 100th went on the long mission to Marienburg and returned with no losses. On 10 Oct 43, "Rosie" and the 100th went to Munster. Only the Royal Flush, with Rosenthal and his crew, returned. This mission as much as any other

established the character of the 100th. Rosie had a charismatic quality, earned many times over, and he is remembered with a reverence that goes deep within the heart of every person in the 100th Bomb Group Foundation.



13TH COMBAT WING

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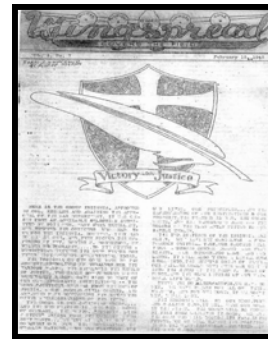
We're on the web!
Wwww.100thbg.com
Wwww.95thbg.org
Wwww.390th.org



Next Issue:
Look for more stories
from the groups.
Gerald Mumford
(95th) TAPS



95th Bomb Group Insignia



The following is taken from the 95th newsletter, the Wingspread, and kindly provided by Group Lead Researcher, Helynn Schufletowski.

Here is the group insignia, approved by Col. Kessler and awaiting approval of the war department. It was chosen from an admirable selection submitted by 95th men. Many were excellent, and tempted the officers who had to choose the insignia. However, they had to choose one, and they picked the offering by Pvt. Robert N. Robertson, of Wilder Photography...to the others. Wingspread extends its deep thanks for their high efforts and original ideas.

The insignia chosen goes back to the ancient symbolisms of heraldry for its various parts. The shield is the shield of Justin, the early Roman ruler whose benevolent reign gave rise to many of our own democratic institutions * * the word "justice" springs from the name of Justin, - who formed civil courts, and advanced fair government far beyond the other administrations of the time. The cross is the Justinian cross...and the red feather is the red badge of courage.

The motto, "Victory With Justice" arises from the noblest among sentiments...We are at war ** not for conquest nor for the domination of smaller nations. We are fighting for our lives, our principles...and the safeguarding of our institutions & our property. The feather is red, the cross is white, and the background blue *** The colors of the flag aptly fitted to our battle emblem.

The implications of the insignia are clear. We have set ourselves a profoundly critical task. Our success will throw a strong cordon around our free rights, our democratic laws and our lands. It will also throw a lethal bomb shell into the enemy's dream of empire. Our failure would give over our destiny into the hands of the despot."

Editor's note: The wording, spacing, and additional asterisks and dashes come from the "Wingspread" page.

390 Bomb Group Insignia



As you can see from the emblem, it is a formation of B-17's returning from a mission and flying over Framlingham Castle, which was right on their flight path to Parham Field, 8th AAF Field #153, near the English village of Framlingham. You see the castle, the cultivated farm land, the low hills nearby and the sky at sunset.

The Latin words at the bottom of the emblem are, loosely translated as: "On the Nose". Which means their bombs are always on target! I've scanned you a better picture of the emblem and attached it to this email, in JPG format.

Carolyn Beaubein
390th BG Research Director

On 26 January 1943, the 390th Bombardment Group (H) was activated on General Order 14, issued by Headquarters second Air Force, Fort George Wright, Washington. Formation did not begin until late February 1943. Training at Geiger until 6 June 1943 when the Group moved to Great Falls AAB, Montana. The aircraft went overseas on the 4th of July 1943, and the first aircraft arrived on the 13th of July 1943. The ground unit left for Camp Shanks, NY on the 4th of July 1943 and sailed on 17th of July 1943, and they arrived in Liverpool on the 27th of July 1943. Prepared for combat with B-17's and assigned to Eighth AF. Operated chiefly against strategic objectives, flying many missions with the aid of pathfinders. Began combat on 12 Aug 1943; first mission was on the 12 AUG 43 and involved all four squadrons.

100th BG Insignia



The four headed eagle represents the four Squadrons, 349th, 350th, 351st, 418th. The blue background stands for a clear sky we flew through during our daylight missions over enemy territory. The cloud under the eagle represents the many hours of flying through thick cloud cover during formation, landing or take off. The eagle's wings are gold because our cause was righteous. The eagle is clutching in each talon a bomb or justice. The red shield stands for the blood of freedom and for the ultimate sacrifice our young airmen paid for that freedom. The 100th Bomb Group, also called the Century Bombers, is represented in the center of the shield by the Century Plant that blooms every hundred years. By Jan Riddling, 100th Bomb Group Historian



Although the 100th did not have the highest over-all loss rate of any group in the Eighth Air Force, it did have extremely heavy losses during eight missions to Germany. Thus was born the name:

“The Bloody Hundredth”

Campaign Credits:

1. Air Offensive, Europe (4 July 1942 - 5 June 1944)
2. Normandy (6 June 1944 - 24 July 1944)
3. Northern France (25 July 1944 - 14 September 1944)
4. Rhineland (15 September 1944 - 21 March 1945)
5. Ardennes - Alsace (16 December 1944 - 25 January 1945)
6. Central Europe (22 March 1945 - 11 May 1945)