

Staff Sergeant Claude Elmer Whitehead

Serial Number 39188346

B-17 Crew Positions: Engineer, Waist Gunner

Born: 20 October 1910

Killed: 16 September 1943



PURPLE HEART



AIR MEDAL
WITH OAK LEAF CLUSTER

Prepared by

Lieutenant Colonel Roger Whitehead, USAF (Retired)

22 September 2008 (Revised 19 August 2016)

Staff Sergeant Claude E. Whitehead

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Introduction

In the book Untold Valor: Forgotten Stories of American Bomber Crews over Europe in World War II, by Rob Morris (2006, Potomac Books), there is a statement that, "Many of the first idealistic, gung ho aircrews who flew their new B-17Fs over to England in 1942 and 1943 found permanent rest in cemeteries across Europe." Such is the untold story of Staff Sergeant Claude Elmer Whitehead.

On September 16, 1943, Staff Sergeant Claude E. Whitehead was killed when the B-17 he was in (Old Ironsides, Tail Number 42-30030) ditched in the English Channel after a bombing raid on the German submarine pens at La Pallice, France. SSgt Whitehead was a flight engineer and waist gunner on a B-17 assigned to the 560th Bombardment Squadron, 388th Bombardment Group (Heavy), a unit of the 8th Air Force in England, stationed at RAF Knettishall UK, Station 136.

This paper documents much of the details surrounding SSgt Whitehead's service and includes:

1. SSgt Whitehead's enlistment record, taken from the national archives. He enlisted on September 3, 1942.
2. Organizational structure of the 8th Air Force, down to the 560th Bombardment Squadron, the unit to which SSgt Whitehead was assigned.
3. Pictures of the RAF Knettishall Airfield memorial to the men of the 388th Bombardment Group, the parent group of the 560th
4. A description of the 388th Bombardment Group, including an overview of the group, the group's history, their insignia, the named planes of the 388th, and the missions flown by the 388th, up to and including Mission 23, the mission where SSgt Whitehead lost his life, as well as the mission on September 9, 1943, when the Iza Angel II shot down four German fighters, Mission 21. An article from the Seattle Times/Post Intelligencer documents Mission 21.
5. The day SSgt Whitehead was killed, his B-17 was flying against the submarine pens at La Pallice, France, and included here is a description of the missions that day and the operations at La Pallice.
6. The Missing Air Crew Report from the Army Air Forces that contained the ditching of SSgt Whitehead's plane and his subsequent death. Also included here is a page from the Mighty Eighth AF Museum history about the incident and a picture of the airplane he went down in when it was assigned to the 388 Bomb Group (Heavy)

7. SSgt Whitehead's grave is at the Cambridge American Cemetery in England and included here is a description of the grave location at the cemetery and a picture of his gravesite.
8. SSgt Whitehead is listed in the Washington State Roll of Honor for World War II and included here is a short description from the Washington web site.
9. The 388th holds regular reunions, the most recent one at Hill AFB UT on September 3, 2008. Included here is an article from the Hill AFB UT base newspaper about the reunion.

Claude E. Whitehead Enlistment Record

**World War II Army Enlistment Records, created, 6/1/2002 - 9/30/2002,
documenting the period ca. 1938 - 1946 - Record Group 64**

Field Title	Value	Meaning
<u>ARMY SERIAL NUMBER</u>	39188346	39188346
<u>NAME</u>	WHITEHEAD#CLAUDE#E#####	WHITEHEAD#CLAUDE#E#####
<u>RESIDENCE: STATE</u>	97	WASHINGTON
<u>RESIDENCE: COUNTY</u>	029	ISLAND
<u>PLACE OF ENLISTMENT</u>	9784	TACOMA WASHINGTON
<u>DATE OF ENLISTMENT DAY</u>	03	03
<u>DATE OF ENLISTMENT MONTH</u>	09	09
<u>DATE OF ENLISTMENT YEAR</u>	42	42
<u>GRADE: ALPHA DESIGNATION</u>	PVT#	Private

Field Title	Value	Meaning
<u>GRADE: CODE</u>	8	Private
<u>BRANCH: ALPHA DESIGNATION</u>	BI#	Branch Immaterial - Warrant Officers, USA
<u>BRANCH: CODE</u>	00	Branch Immaterial - Warrant Officers, USA
<u>FIELD USE AS DESIRED</u>	#	#
<u>TERM OF ENLISTMENT</u>	5	Enlistment for the duration of the War or other emergency, plus six months, subject to the discretion of the President or otherwise according to law
<u>LONGEVITY</u>	###	###
<u>SOURCE OF ARMY PERSONNEL</u>	0	Civil Life
<u>NATIVITY</u>	97	WASHINGTON
<u>YEAR OF BIRTH</u>	10	10
<u>RACE AND CITIZENSHIP</u>	1	White, citizen
<u>EDUCATION</u>	4	4 years of high school

Field Title	Value	Meaning
CIVILIAN OCCUPATION	316	Farm hands, general farms
MARITAL STATUS	8	Divorced, without dependents
COMPONENT OF THE ARMY	7	Selectees (Enlisted Men)
CARD NUMBER	#	#
BOX NUMBER	1404	1404
FILM REEL NUMBER	6.170	6.170

Source:

National Archives Access to Archival Databases

World War II Army Enlistment Records, created, 6/1/2002 - 9/30/2002, documenting the period ca. 1938 - 1946 - Record Group 64

http://aad.archives.gov/aad/record-detail.jsp?dt=893&mtch=1&cat=TS14&tf=F&sc=24994,24995,24996,24998,24997,24993,24981,24983&bc=sl,fd&txt_24995=Claude+E.+Whitehead&op_24995=0&nfo_24995=V,24,1900&rpp=10&pg=1&rid=7702432

8th Air Force Organization

United States Army Air Forces	
<u>8th Air Force</u>	
<u>3rd Bombardment Division</u>	
<u>45th Combat Bombardment Wing</u>	
<u>388th Bombardment Group</u>	
	560th Bombardment Squadron Squadron Callsign: "Soapdish"

Source: <http://mighty8thaf.preller.us/php/1Unit.php?Unitkey=983>

Knettishall Airfield, Station 136, Suffolk UK

Memorial to the Men of the 388th Bombardment Group



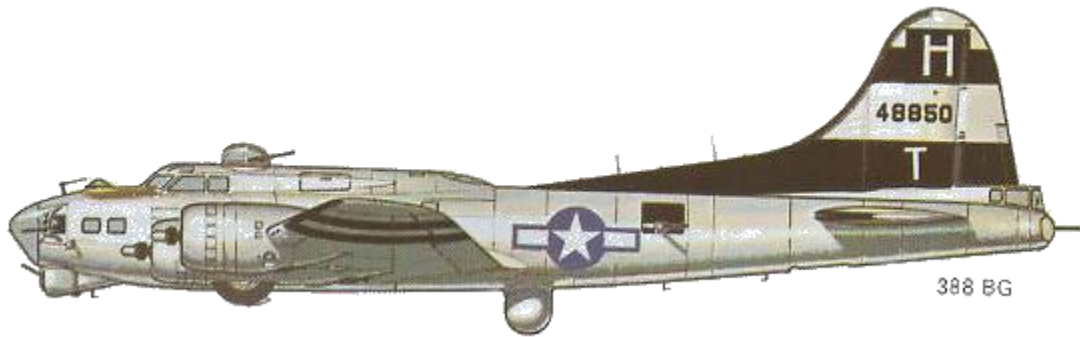


Fred Preller, 29 April 2002



Source: <http://mighty8thaf.preller.us/php/1Loc.php?Base=Knettishall>

388th Bombardment Group



HISTORY:

Constituted as 388th Bombardment Group (Heavy) on 19 Dec 1942 and activated on 24 Dec. Trained for combat with B-17's. Moved to England in Jun 1943 and assigned to Eighth AF. Began operations on 17 Jul 1943 by attacking an aircraft factory in Amsterdam. Functioned primarily as a strategic bombardment Organization until the war ended. Targets included industries, naval installations, oil storage plants, refineries, and communications centers in Germany, France, Poland, Belgium, Norway, Rumania, and Holland. Received a DUC for withstanding heavy opposition to bomb vital aircraft factory at Regensburg on 1 Aug 1943. Received another DUC for three outstanding missions: an attack against a tire and rubber factory in Hannover on 26 Jul 1943; the bombardment of a synthetic oil refinery in Brux on 12 Ma 1944; and a strike against a synthetic oil refinery at Ruhland on 21 Jun 1944, during a shuttle raid from England to Russia. Attacked many other significant targets, including aircraft factories in Kassel, Reims, and Brunswick; airfields in Bordeaux, Paris, and Berlin; **naval works at La Pallice**, Emden, and Kiel; chemical industries in Ludwigshafen; ball-bearing plants in Schweinfurt; and marshalling yards in Brussels, Osnabruck, and Bielefeld. Operations also included support and interdiction missions. Helped prepare for the invasion of Normandy by attacking military installations in France, and on D-Day struck coastal guns, field batteries, and transportation. Continued to support ground forces during the campaign that followed, hitting such objectives as supply depots and troop concentrations. Bombed in support of ground forces at St Lo in Jul 1944 and at Caen in Aug. Covered the airborne assault on Holland in Sep 1944 by attacking military installations and airfields at Arnheim. Aided the final drive through Germany during the early months of 1945 by striking targets such as marshalling yards, rail bridges, and road junctions. After V-E Day, flew food to Holland to relieve flood-stricken areas. Returned to the US in Aug. Inactivated on 28 Aug 1945.

Redesignated 388th Fighter-Bomber Group. Activated on 23 Nov 1953. Assigned to Tactical Air Command. Trained with F-86 aircraft. Moved to France, Nov-Dec 1954, and became part of United States Air Forces in Europe.

Squadrons:

560th: 1942-1945.

561st: 1942-1945; 1953-.

562d: 1942-1945; 1953-.

563d: 1942-1945; 1953-.

Stations:

Gowen Field, Idaho, 24 Dec 1942

Wendover Field, Utah, 1 Feb 1943

Sioux City AAB, Iowa, c. 29 Apr-10 Jun 1943

Knettishall, England, Jun 1943-Aug 1945

Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 13-28 Aug 1945.

Clovis AFB, NM, 23 Nov 1953-28 Nov 1954

Etain Rouvres AB, France, 12 Dec 1954-.

Commanders:

Col William B David, 1 Feb 1943

Col Chester C Cox, 7 Oct 1944-c. 28 Aug 1945.

Maj Charles M Read, 23 Nov 1953

Col Clayton L Peterson, 11 Jan 1954-.

Campaigns:

Air Offensive, Europe; Normandy; Northern France; Rhineland; Ardennes-Alsace; Central Europe.

Decorations:

Distinguished Unit Citations: Germany, 17 Aug 1943; Hannover, Germany (26 Jun 1943), Brux, Czechoslovakia (12 May 1944), and from England to Russia (21 Jun 1944).

Insigne:

Shield: Per bend azure and gules, on a bend or, a lightning flash sable. Supporters: The shield supported by two wings light blue, feathered and detail black. Motto: Liberias Vel Mors - Liberty or Death. (Approved 11 Mar 1955.)

Group Web Site:

<http://www.388thbg.org/default.htm>

Source: <http://www.8thafhs.org/bomber/388bg.htm>

388th Bomb Group (H) Assn.

An Overview of the 388th BG

Our Place In History

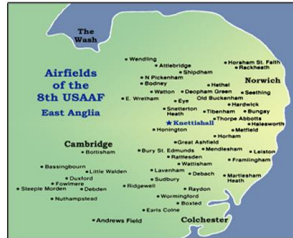
The 388th BG was in the 8th Air Force, 3rd Air Division, 45th Combat Wing. Our squadrons were the 560th, 561st, 562nd, 563rd.

The 388th BG was activated December 24, 1942 at Gowan Field, Idaho. It moved to Wendover Field, Utah in February 1943 and to Sioux City AAFd, South Dakota that May. It was officially assigned to the 8th AF in June 1943 just prior to its departure for England. The group returned to the U.S. on August 5, 1944 and was inactivated at Sioux Falls AAFd, South Dakota on August 28.

Our Base

Station 136, Knettishall, England. We took command of this RAF base on June 23, 1943 and stayed until August 5, 1945.

Knettishall is situated roughly 7 miles southeast of Thetford and 11 miles northeast of Bury St. Edmunds, Diss, where the 65th General Hospital was located, is about 10 miles east.



Our Commanding Officers

Col. William B. David
Activation to
6 October 1944



Col. Chester C. Cox
6 October 1944
to inactivation



Attached Organizations and Units

434th Headquarters Squadron	273rd Medical Dispensary
860th Squadron	2019th Engineering and Fire Fighting Platoon
684th Squadron	452nd Sub Depot
434th Air Service Group	29th Station Complement
1211th Quartermaster Company	587th Postal Unit
1284th Military Police Company	877th Chemical Company
1751st Ordnance Supply and Maintenance Company	214th Finance Detachment

Our Missions

306 Combat	1 POW
19 Aphrodite	2 Revival
5 Chowhound	

Some Statistics

91 aircraft lost, 524 men killed in action, 801 taken prisoner, 2 missing

Awards

Distinguished Unit Citation - Regensburg, August 17, 1943 (Shuttle to Africa)
Distinguished Unit Citation - Combined efforts at Hanover (June 26, 1943),
Brux (May 12, 1944) and Ruhland (June 21, 1944)

Some Noteworthy Facts

- ★ We lost an entire squadron (the 563rd) over Stuttgart on September 6, 1943
- ★ Our 560th Squadron under Maj. Roy Forrest was assigned to Fersfield for the top-secret Aphrodite Project
- ★ We led the entire 8th AF on D-Day
- ★ We were instrumental in organizing three missions in aid of the Maquis: June 25 (Area 5), July 14 (Area 4) and August 1 (Area 12)
- ★ We lost 11 planes on the ground at Poltava, Russia during Operation Frantic on June 21, 1944

Our Military Heirs

The 388th Fighter Bomber Wing was activated November 23, 1953 at Clovis AFB, New Mexico. Following two periods of inactivation, the 388th FBW was reactivated as the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing on April 1, 1966 at Korat AB, Thailand. It was redesignated as the 388th Fighter Wing in December 1991 and is assigned to the 12th AF at Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, and Air Combat Command at Langley AFB, Virginia.

Source: <http://www.388thbg.org/overview/overviewpage.htm>

Note: In the above, there is a reference to the Aphrodite Project and the fact that the 560th Bombardment Squadron was assigned to that project. Late in WWII, at least 25 B-17s were fitted with radio controls, loaded with 12,000 lb (5443 kg) of high explosives, dubbed 'BQ-7 Aphrodite missiles,' and used against U-boat pens and bomb-resistant fortifications. Because few (if any) BQ-7s hit their target, the Aphrodite project was scrapped in early 1945. Operation Aphrodite was the code name of a secret program initiated by the United States Army Air Forces during the latter part of World War II. The United States Eighth Air Force used 'Aphrodite' both as an experimental method of destroying V weapon production and launch facilities and as a way to dispose of B-17 and PB4Y bombers that had outlived their operational usefulness, although only two PB4Ys were modified for the Navy's sister operation, Project Anvil. The plan called for B-17 aircraft which had been taken out of operational service (various nicknames existed such as 'robot', 'baby', 'drone' or 'weary Willy') to be loaded to capacity with explosives, and flown by radio control into bomb-resistant fortifications such as German U-boat pens and V-1 missile sites. It was hoped that this would match the British success with Tallboy and Grand Slam supersonic ground penetration bombs, but the project is now remembered as dangerous, expensive and unsuccessful.

It was in this project that President John F. Kennedy's brother, Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr., was killed on August 14, 1944. After previous US Army Operation Aphrodite missions first conceptualized on July 23, 1944, Kennedy and Lt. Wilford John Willy (born May 13, 1909 in New Jersey) were the crew - Lt Wilford J. Willy had pulled rank over Ensign FNU Simpson (who was the regular co-pilot with Joe Kennedy Jr) in order to be on this mission - in a modified version of the B-24 Liberator (code name Anvil) in the US Navy's first Aphrodite mission. After the two Lockheed Ventura mother planes and a navigation plane had taken off, the BQ8 "robot" aircraft completed take-off from RAF Fersfield, England loaded with 21,170 pounds (9,600 kg) of Torpex to use as a guided missile on the V-3 cannon site in Mimoyecques, France.^[3] Following approximately 300 feet behind the drone was Colonel Elliott Roosevelt in a de Havilland Mosquito to film the mission. Kennedy and Willy remained on board while the BQ8 completed its first remote-control turn. Approximately two minutes later and ten minutes before the planned crew bail out, the Torpex detonated and destroyed the drone - the plane came down near to the village of Blythburgh in Suffolk. A Top Secret telegram to General Carl Andrew Spaatz, from General Jimmy Doolittle, August, 1944, said:

“ATTEMPTED FIRST APHRODITE ATTACK TWELVE AUGUST WITH ROBOT TAKING OFF FROM FERSFIELD AT ONE EIGHT ZERO FIVE HOURS PD ROBOT EXPLODED IN THE AIR AT APPROXIMATELY TWO THOUSAND FEET EIGHT MILES SOUTHEAST OF HALESWORTH AT ONE EIGHT TWO ZERO HOURS PD WILFORD J. WILLY CMA SR GRADE LIEUTENANT AND JOSEPH P. KENNEDY SR GRADE LIEUTENANT CMA BOTH USNR CMA WERE KILLED PD COMMANDER SMITH CMA IN COMMAND OF THIS UNIT CMA IS MAKING FULL REPORT TO US NAVAL OPERATIONS PD A MORE

DETAILED REPORT WILL BE FORWARDED TO YOU WHEN
INTERROGATION IS COMPLETED”

Source:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Aphrodite

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_P._Kennedy,_Jr.



Our Group's History

In December, 1942, a new heavy bombardment group was activated at Gowen Field in Boise, Idaho. It would become known as the 388th, a member of the 3rd Air Division, 45th Combat Wing. In six short months it would be ready to join the air battle in the European Theater of Operations.



On June 23, 1943, 28 year-old Col. William B. David took official command of Station 136, an airfield that had been originally constructed on Knettishall Heath in East Anglia for the Royal Air Force. That same day, 17 Flying Fortresses touched down; hundreds would follow during the next two years. The whole of the ground echelon did not arrive until July 8, and for months they lived in tents while housing construction was completed.

On July 17, with Col. David in the lead plane, the 388th completed its first mission - Amsterdam. It was the first of 306 combat missions the group would carry out.

Over the next two years, 6,000 men saw duty at Station 136. They were commanders, clerks, doctors, and firefighters. They were armorers and mechanics - men who could return heavily-damaged planes to combat status within 24 hours. They were cooks and anti-aircraft gunners.

They were the combat crews - the flyers of the 560th, 561st, 562nd and 563rd Squadrons. Among these, 538 died in action. More than 112 were wounded. 742 were taken prisoner; another 48 were interned in Sweden. Today, 43 men are still listed as missing.

In all, the 388th dropped 36,974,200 pounds of bombs onto enemy targets - ports, marshaling yards, oil refineries and weapons industries. They hammered Berlin, they led the entire 8th AF in providing air support for D-Day, and they assisted ground troops during the Battle of the Bulge. At war's end, 65 planes in three missions carried 2,000 former prisoners home to their native lands of France and Belgium.

Its job in England accomplished, the 388th began to pack up shop. On June 9, 1945, the first Fortresses left for the States. The last plane departed on July 5 carrying Lt. Col. Chester Cox, Col. David's successor. Ground echelon stayed behind a while longer, and went home by ship.

Back in the States, crewmen of the 388th were given personal leave before reporting to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, the marshaling point for redeployment to the Pacific. But when Japan surrendered on August 14, the group stood down. At the close of war, while some men of the 388th continued their military careers, most returned to civilian life.

Today, the 388th BG Association is a large and very active group. In 1986, 1992 and again in 2003, large groups of 388th veterans, together with their wives, children and grandchildren, arrived at the 388th Memorial at Knettishall to commemorate the efforts of the 8th AF and pay tribute to their fallen comrades.

Many more veterans return each year to walk the grounds where Station 136 once stood, and to visit the Museum and Memorial that honor their memory.

Source: <http://www.388thbg.org/history/historypage.htm>

388th Bomb Group (H) Assn.

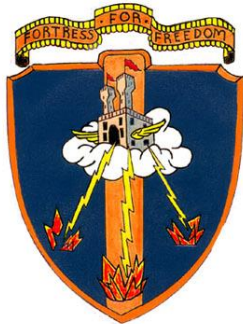
Our Insignia



388th Bombardment Group (H)
Association



Eighth Air Force



388th Bombardment Group (H)



388th Group Marking



560th Squadron



561st Squadron



562 st Squadron

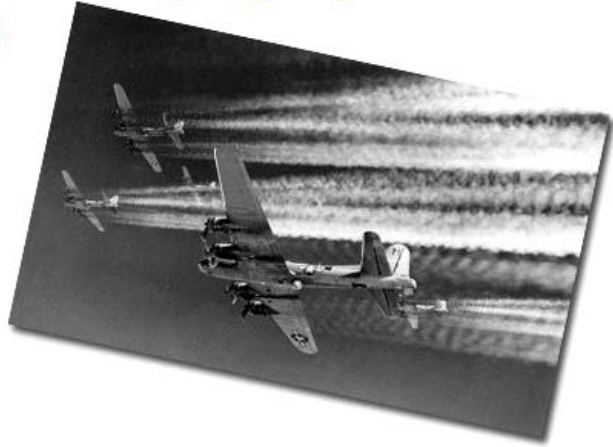


563rd Squadron

Source = <http://www.388thbg.org/insignia/insigniapage.htm>

388th Bomb Group (H) Assn.

Planes of the 388th



Of the planes assigned to the 388th, roughly 300 were given names by their pilots. In the following list, it is important to note a few points:

When a plane's name is followed by a II, it does not necessarily mean that the original plane had been lost. Often a crew received a new plane and named it after its predecessor, followed by a II.

In other instances, you'll find multiple names assigned to the same plane. This would mean that succeeding pilots renamed the same plane (as in Sweetheart / Jeannie / Willie's Wildcats).

In further instances, there are historical confusions or inaccuracies in plane names (as in Revel's Revenge vs. Raoul's Revenge). Many planes were named after the pilots' wives, sweethearts or mothers. Some were named after a pilot and his crew (as in Joho's Jokers and Hultcher's Vultures). In most cases, crew members named their positions (one tail gunner named his gun Mavis)

SSgt Whitehead's plane was the **Iza Angel II**, which he flew in for a mission on 9 Sep, 1943, and **Old Ironsides**, which was the plane he was in when he was killed..

4th Term	Millie "K"
5 Grand	Miss Adventure
A Good Ship and a Happy Ship	Miss Bea Haven / The Worry Bird
Anne Howe Too	Miss Fortune / Red X Darling
Aquila	Miss Fury
Astma Baby	Miss Jinny
Bad Penny	Miss Karen K
Barbara	Miss Lace

Bare Essential
Battlin' Betsy
Beadles Bug
Belle of the Brawl
Berlin Ambassador
Betty Ann
Big Hill
Big Red
Big Three
Blessed Event
Blind Date
Blitzing Betsy
Boomerang/Captain Joe
Borrowed Time
Bottled in Bond
Bucket of Bolts
Captain Joe
Charlene
Chistlin Daddies
Cicero Kid
City of Savannah
Classy Chassy
Cock 'o the Walk
Cock Of The Walk
Coming Home
Crash Crew Pride
Cruisin' Cradle
Cutie on Duty
Dear Mom
Destiny's Children
Devil's Luck
Doll
Double Play
Duchess of Dixie
Easy Does It
Effie Lou
Eight Ball
Eleanor
Fairman Willie
Fickle Fanny
Flak Suit
Flying Crutch
Flying Witch
Forever Amber
Formal
Fortress Nine

Miss Mac
Miss Marilyn
Mister Yank / Mr. Yank II
"Moke"
Moonlight Serenade
Morning Maid
Morning Mail
My Blue Buddy
My Boy Buddy
My Day
My Devotion
My True Love / Star Dust
Nasty Nellie
No Body Loves Me / Nobody Loves Me II
Oh Kay
Old Ironsides
Old Satchel
Old '66
Ole Bassar
Ole Faithful
Olin's 69'ers
Our Baby
Our Love
Paddlefoot
Panhandle
Panhandle Kid / Revel's Revenge
Paper Doll
Pappys Wagon
Passionate Witch / Passionate Witch II
Patty
Patty Jo
Paula Sue
Peg of my Heart / Little Joe Jr.
Pegasus
Pegasus IV
Pegasus Too
Petite Collette
Piccadilly Queen
Pistol Packin' Mama
Pistolas Juanita
Pregnant Portia
Pride of the Yanks
Princess Azul
Punchin' Judy
Quarterback
Queen of Hearts

Fourth Term	Queenie
Fubar Express	Quit Your Bitchin
Fubar Freight	Ramp Tramp
Full House	Ready Maid
G I Jane	Return Engagement
Galloping Yo Yo	Rose Mary
Geronimo	Rough Darts
Girl of My Dreams	Rough Deal
Glory Girl / Glory Girl II	Round Trip
Godfather's Inc.	Rubber Check
Going My Way	Ruthless Rebel
Gremlin Gus / Gremlin Gus II	Sack Happy
Gremlin's Hideout	Satan's Sister
Grope and Hope	Screamin' Red Ass
Gydnia	Second Chance / Second Chance II
Happy Go Lucky	Shack Job
Hardluck	Shack Rabbits
Heaven Can Wait	Shack Wolves
Heaven's Above	Shack-Up
Hell's Angels	Shedowanna?
Hell's Belles / Hell's Bells	Shoo Shoo Baby
Her Highness	Shoot the Works / Lil Homesick Angel
Holy Smokes	Shy Ann or Sky Anne
Homesick Angel	Silver Dollar (In God We Trust) / Silver Dollar II
Honey / Honey II	Silver Lady
Hulcher's Vultures	Sioux City Queen
I'll Get By	Sioux City Sue
Idaho Potato Peeler	Skipper 'an' the Kids
Ikky Poo	Sky Queen
Impatient Virgin / Impatient Virgin II	Sky Shy
Inside Man	Sky Wolf
Irresistible You	Slave's Dream
Iza Angel II	Slightly Dangerous / Slightly Dangerous II
Iza Blue	Slow But Sure
Jake's Jerks / Winnemann's Witch	Smokey Stover
Jamaica Ginger / Jamaica Ginger II	Smokey / Smokey II
Jeannie	Snafu II
Jerianne	Snafu / Snaky
Jewel Box	Sweeny's Brats
Johnnie	Solid Sender
Joho's Jokers	Solvang Revenger / Old Silver
Jonesey	Sondra Kay
Just AG	Strato Express
Just Joyce	Supermouse
Karen W	Susan Kay
Katy	Susy

Kittle Blueeyes
Knockout Dropper
La Chiquita
La Donna
Lady Anne
Lady Courageous
Lady Godiva
Lady Lillian
Lady Lylia
Lady Margaret
Len' Leas
Li'l One
Lightning Strikes
Lil Joe Lil
Lil' Miss Tammara
Lindy
Little Boy Blue
Little Chum
Little Donna
Little Joe
Little Joe Jr.
Little Lass
Little Mac
Little Squirt
Little Willie
Lone Wolf
Lotta Bull
Luck Lil
Lucky Penny
Lucy Poo
Mangel's Angel
Mangel's Dream
Mary Ellen
Mary's Sister
Matilda
Midge

Susy Sag Tits
Sweeney's Brats
Sweet Lorraine / My Lil Baby
Sweetheart
Take It Easy
Tender Comrade
The Princess Pat
The Worry Bird
Thunderbird
Thunderbolt / Haughty Hazy / Hi Fever
Tiger Girl
Tom Paine
True Love
Umbriago
Urge Me
Vagabond Lady
Veni, Vidi, Vici
Virgin on the Verge
Wabash Cannon Ball
Wailuku Maui / Tech Supply
War Weary / Lady Lun
Weary Wolf / Dear Mom II
Wee Bonnie / Wee Bonnie II
Wells Up
Wenatchee Special
Willie's Wildcats
Wing and a Prayer
Winged Fury
Witchespeat
Wizard of Oz
Wolf Pack
Wolf Wagon
Worry Wart
Yankee Belle

388th Bombardment Group (H) Missions

Mission Number	Date	Target
1943		
1	17 July	Amsterdam
2	24 July	Bergen
3	25 July	Wustrow
4	26 July	Hanover
5	28 July	Oschersleben
6	29 July	Warnemunde
7	30 July	Kassel
8	12 August	Bonn
9	15 August	Merville-Lille
10	16 August	Puix-Abbyville
11	17 August	Regensburg
12	19 August	Woensdrecht
13	24 August	Evreux/Merignac
14	24 August	Bordeaux
15	27 August	Watten
16	31 August	Brussels/Evers
17	2 September	Brussels/Evers
18	3 September	Meulans
19	6 September	Stuttgart
20	7 September	Watten
21	9 September	Paris
22	15 September	Paris
→ 23	16 September	Bordeaux
24	26 September	Reims
25	27 September	Emden

Source = <http://www.388thbg.org/missions/missionspage.htm>

SSgt Claude E. Whitehead also distinguished himself on a mission flown to Paris on September 9, 1943. The following article appeared in the Seattle Times or Seattle Post-Intelligencer on September 10, 1943:

**Crippled 'Fort' Battles 8 Nazis; Shoots Down 4
10-9-1943**

A Seattle man, Second Lieut. Gilbert N. Parker, of 11403 12th Ave S., copiloted a crippled Flying Fortress in a running fight with eight Nazi fighters, an Eighth Air Force bomber command release revealed yesterday.

The Fortress, "Iza Angel II," was participating in a raid on an industrial target in the Paris area when damage caused by enemy fighter attack forced her to leave formation. Eight German fighters rode high above the crippled ship to create the impression of a friendly escort, but when "Iza Angel" was away from her formation the enemy aircraft launched an attack.

Lieutenant Parker and others on the Fortress succeeded in downing four of the enemy ships, and limped safely back to an English base. One other Washington man, Staff Sergeant Claude Whitehead, of Oak Harbor, a waist gunner, was a crew member.

**Crippled 'Fort'
Battles 8 Nazis;
Shoots Down 4**

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LEST WE FORGET

	Total Deaths	Wounded	POW/MIA
WWI	116,415	204,002	78,773
WWII	405,399	670,846	15,177
Korea	54,246	103,484	2,267
Vietnam	58,135	153,303	



ARMY SERVICE FORCES
PHILADELPHIA QUARTERMASTER DEPOT
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

*It is an honor for me to forward this decoration
which is being sent to you by direction of
The Adjutant General of the Army*

Roland Walsh
ROLAND WALSH
BRIGADIER GENERAL, U.S.A.
COMMANDING

Eighth AF, September 9, 1943

On D-day for Operation STARKEY (rehearsal for the invasion of France), Eighth AF dispatches a record number of 330 HBs, which attack **Paris** and Beaumont-sur-Oise, Beauvais/Tille, Lille/Nord, Lille/Vendeville, Saint-Omer/Longuenesse, Saint-Omer/Ft Rouge, Abbeville/Drucat, and Vitry-en-Artois A/Fs, as well as industrial area around Paris. More than 200 MBs attack coastal installations around Boulogne-sur-Mer. STARKEY is a disappointment as Germans refuse to commit their defenses on large scale, thus preventing possible destruction of many of their aircraft, which Allied air forces hoped to accomplish.

Eighth AF, September 16, 1943

More than 130 HBs attack port area and Chateau-Bougon A/F, **more than 70 hit La Pallice harbor installations** and Laleu A/F near La Rochelle, and 21 strike at Cognac/Chateaubernard A/F. Nearly 70 MBs attack Beaumont-le-Roger and Triqueville A/Fs. 5 B-17's fly night mission with 340 RAF HBs against Modane M/Y. This mission is flown from UK at the request of Gen Eisenhower. 3 B-24 gps in UK (44th, 93d, and 389th) are sent on loan to N Africa for second time at Gen Eisenhower's request for support of the crucial campaign in this theater

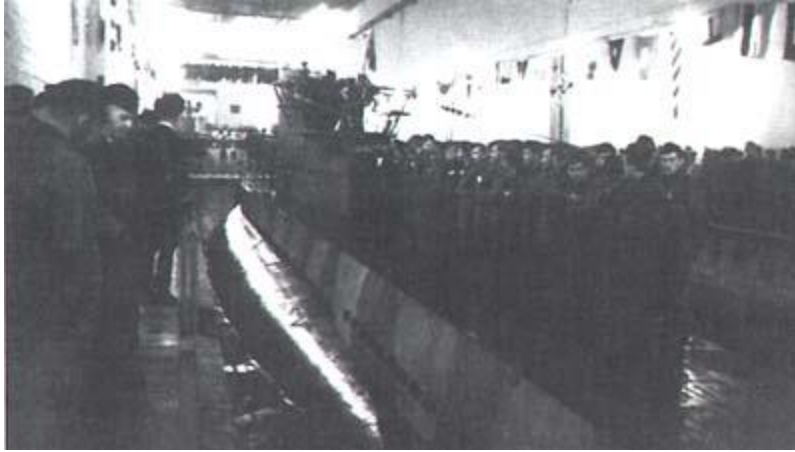
Source:

<http://www.armyairforces.com/Databases/CombatChronology/tabid/165/Default.aspx>

La Rochelle / La Pallice, France

From September 1940 La Pallice was the alternative base for the Italian Bettasom submarines (the main base of operations being Bordeaux). The 3rd Flotilla took over the base on October 27, 1941.

In April 1941 the German Command decided also to build a bunker in La Pallice. The first two pens were finished in October 1941. The U-boat bunker was 195 m wide, 165 m long and 19m high. The first U-boat in the bunker was U-82 on November 19, 1941. Then followed U-332 (16th December) and U-432 (24th December).



U-82 on November 19, 1941 in the bunker La Pallice



The 7 ready pens of the bunker during the spring 1942

End of operations

In August 1944 5 boats from the now surrounded base at Brest reached La Pallice. They were U-309 (Aug 12), U-763 (Aug 14), U-953 (Aug 19), U-766 (Aug 21) and U-963 (Aug 21). All but U-766 then left for Norway in August. The last boat leaving the base during the fall of 1944 was U-382 on September 10, 1944. Shortly before end the war two boats reached the base. The Norwegian based U-485 (Lutz) was supported from April 22, 1945 for 5 days with fuel and food. She left La Pallice on April 29 and surrendered at Gibraltar on May 14.

On May 3 1945 U-255 (Heinrich) arrived from besieged St. Nazaire and spent 2 days in the base and brought fuel and food for the garrison before successfully returning back to St. Nazaire. She then left port on May 8 and surrendered at Loch Alsh, UK on May 19.

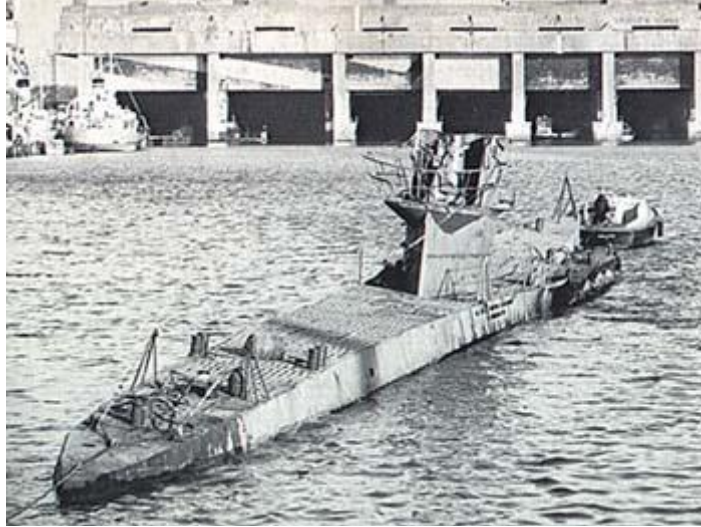
The German garrison at La Pallice held out until May 8, 1945 when it surrendered along with all other German forces. When the base was entered the allies found [U-766](#) in one of the pens. The boat was commissioned into the French Navy as S-09 Laubie in 1947.

La Pallice today



La Pallice as of 2007 (© Pascal Blijkers). Notice the three additional pens, built in 1942.

This same bunker is still in place and was the location for the ending scene of the famous movie [Das Boot](#). Part of the facilities are in use today by the French Navy but the base is no longer a naval base.



*The last German 'U-boat' in La Pallice.
The film boat being brought back to the bunker after the daily shooting of the movie Das
Boot.*

Source: http://www.uboat.net/flotillas/bases/la_rochelle.htm

Missing Air Crew Report 16289

From: accireport@comcast.net
To: roger-whitehead@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, September 01, 2008 9:48 AM
Subject: Claude E Whitehead Information

Darell,

Thank you for your request for information from Accident-Report.Com. We were able to find information related to your request. The details are shown below.

INQUIRY NUMBER: 27-M16289
DATE: September 16, 1943
AIRCRAFT: B-17
PILOT/CREW MEMBER: **Claude E Whitehead**
LOCATION: Ditched in English Channel

16289

R

COPY

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

COPY

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled in triplicate by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time an aircraft is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location: _____ Command or Air Force _____
GROUP 388th Bm Gp; SQUADRON 560 Bm Sq; DETACHMENT _____
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure _____; Course _____
Intended Destination La Pallice; Type of Mission #23
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: _____
4. GIVE: (a) Date 16 Sept 43 Time _____; And Location of Last known whereabouts of missing aircraft English Channel
(b) Specify whether () Last sighted; () Last contacted by radio; () Forced down; Seen to Crash; or () Information not available.
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF (Check only one: () Enemy Aircraft; () Enemy Anti-aircraft; () Other Circumstances as follows Plane became lost in the over cast over England. Ran out of gas, and
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series _____; AAF Serial No. #030
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series _____; AAF Serial No. (a) _____
(b) _____ (c) _____ (d) _____
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)
(a) _____ (b) _____ (c) _____ (d) _____
(e) _____ (f) _____ (g) _____ (h) _____
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty _____
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 3; Passengers 0; Total 3
(Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 11 persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form).

Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Status
Pilot	Christensen, [unclear]	S/1st	18077556	Drowned
Co-Pilot	Whitehead, [unclear]	S/1st	39188346	"
Tail Gunner	Barris, Jack S.	S/1st	21197059	MIA

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

WD, Hq AAF, Washington, Missing Air Crew Report.

Name in Full (Last name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1.						
2.						
3.						

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used _____; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash _____; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) _____
14. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
15. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.
16. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVEN NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE _____

Date of Report _____

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

REMARKS:

*ditched in the channel. Sank with in 4 min. after ditching. Waist gunner and Eng
stunned on ditching and drowned.
All other crew members uninjured and taken to an RAF field.
Tail gunner WIA.

B-17F-80-BO 42-29934 LFG

79BG,56BS.

P	<1 Lt Donald M Murray	CP	<2 Lt Robert M McGraw
N	<2 Lt William R Meyer	B	<2 Lt Chester B Gwinn Jr
TTG	*TSgt Michael F Curtin	RO	*TSgt Rodgers W Tatum
BTG	*SSgt Alexander C Robert Jr	LWG	*SSgt Carl G Mosk
RWG	*SSgt Frank M Winger	TG	*SSgt John W Rogers

MACR 1345:- TD Kinsbourn. Down in sea off the French coast. Believed due to airm. bombs dropped by German fighters. 10 KIA.
*Note: All crew are commemorated on WOD at Cambridge Cemetery except Lt Gwinn who is on WOD North Africa Cemetery.
 The legal date of death is quoted as 12th August 1945.*

B-17F-95-VE 42-5849 SO:N "Hell's Belle II" 384BG,547BS.

P	<1 Lt Johny A Butler	CP	<2 Lt Florian Wollenweber Jr
N	<1 Lt Edward J Kocoulik	B	*SSgt Burns Martin
TTG	<TSgt Edward J Burlington	RO	<TSgt Preston A Davis
BTG	*SSgt Herbert E May	LWG	*SSgt Marion C Rogers
RWG	*Sgt Walter H Sword	TG	<Sgt Clarence B Barnes

MACR 4722:- TD Grafton Underwood. At 1400hrs near Rennes the No 2 engine was shot up by fighters and the left wing and inboard fuel tank set on fire. A/c made left turn out of formation and dropped back and was later seen to explode in the distance. 3 KIA 6 POW 1 EVD.

B-17F-65-BO 42-29699 SO:D "Ti Fi" 384BG,547BS.

P	<2 Lt William H Pecos	CP	<2 Lt Lee B Coleman
N	<2 Lt Harry B Harvey Jr	B	<2 Lt Larry A Arquette
TTG	<SSgt Earl R Bouty	RO	<SSgt Robert E Smith
BTG	<SSgt Daniel Griffin	LWG	<Sgt James C Leigh
RWG	<Sgt Earl J Nelson	TG	<Sgt Ralph G Grant

No MACR:- TD Grafton (Incewood). Ditched in sea off north coast of England, crew rescued by ASR. 10 RTD.

B-17F-95-BO 42-30276 ET:F "Terry and the Pirates" (11) 95BG,336BS.

P	<2 Lt Robert B Jutzi	CP	<2 Lt Arturo G Ortega
N	<2 Lt Thomas V Cronin	B	<2 Lt Wilbur W Callins
TTG	<SSgt Richard R Fiedick	RO	<1 Sglt Harvey E McDonald
BTG	<SSgt William C Johnson	LWG	<SSgt David B Unsell
RWG	<TSgt Henry N Elliot	TG	<SSgt John C MacLay

MACR 0615:- TD Hochman, assigned target Bordeaux, France, but weather conditions forced Group to bomb La Pallice. Aircraft left formation shortly after target under control with the No 3 engine on fire. 9 POW 1 EVD.

B-17F-85-BO 42-30064 LDT "Wild Cargo" 100BG,418BS.

P	<2 Lt Robert H Wallt	CP	<2 Lt Charles H Stuart
N	<2 Lt Lawrence K McDonell	B	<2 Lt Frederick G White
E	<Sgt Carl T Simon	RO	<TSgt Ira F Bardman
BTG	<SSgt William J Casbolt	WG	<SSgt Willis F Brown
WG	<SSgt Arthur H Eggleston	TG	<SSgt Alfred M Clark

MACR 0647:- TD Thorpe Abbotts, assigned target a/c works at Bordeaux-Meignac but cloud conditions forced Group to seek other target and the 17 a/c bombed La Pallice, France. Last seen with an engine out after fighter attack, crew baled out over Brittany, France. Crashed into the Atlantic Ocean between Ile Madame and Fort Boyard, about twelve miles south of La Rochelle. 10 POW.

B-17F-80-BO 42-30030 :A "Old Ironsides" 388BG,560BS.

P	<1 Lt Henry O Nagorka	CP	<2 Lt Gilbert N Parker
N	<2 Lt John D Leverette	B	<2 Lt Michael G Mahoney
E	<TSgt Edward Keislar	RO	<TSgt Francis J Antkowiak
BTG	<SSgt Robert A Blankenburgh	WG	*SSgt Edward G Christensen
WG	*SSgt Claude E Whitehead	TG	<SSgt Jack Harris

MACR 16289:- Only sixteen a/c took off at 114hrs, twenty-one were scheduled but mechanical and/or logistical problems prevented five from being ready. On return this a/c ran out of gas and with darkness approaching ditched south of the Farnes Isles off the Northumberland coast, the a/c sinking in about 4 minutes. The survivors reached St Cuthbert's Island in the inner Farnes in their dingy. Two gunners were lost, and SSgt Harris lost a leg in the ditching. 2 KIA 8 RTD.

SALVAGED:-

B-17F-110-BO 42-30601 :K "Mary Ellen II" 385BG,550BS.

P	*1 Lt John D Schley Jr	CP	*2 Lt John T Baum
N	<2 Lt John Ellingsen Jr	B	<2 Lt Earl M Bates
TTG	*TSgt Walter J Roth	RO	*TSgt John B Egbert
BTG	<SSgt Willard C White	LWG	*SSgt Harold A Waldner

The above page from the Mighty Eighth AF Museum history shows:

- B-17F-80-BO, 42-30030, :A, "Old Ironsides", 388BG, 560BS
- Pilot: 1Lt Henry O Nagorka
- Co-Pilot: 2Lt Gilbert N. Parker

- Navigator: 2Lt John B. Leverone
- Bombardier: Lt Michael G. Mahoney
- Engineer: TSgt Edward Keisler
- RO: TSgt Francis J. Antalek
- Ball Turret Gunner: SSgt Robert A. Blankenburgh
- Waste Gunner: SSgt Edward G. Christiansen, also killed in the crash with SSgt Claude E. Whitehead
- Waste Gunner: SSgt Claude E. Whitehead
- Tail Gunner: SSgt Jack Harris
- MACR 16289: Only sixteen a/c took off at 1141 hrs, twenty-one were scheduled but mechanical and/or technical problems prevented five from being ready. On return this a/c ran out of gas and with darkness approaching ditched south of the Farne Isles off the Northumberland coast, the a/c sinking in about 4 minutes. The survivors reached St. Cuthber's Island in the inner Farnes in their dinghy. Two gunners were lost, and SSgt Harris lost a leg in the ditching. 2 KIA, 8 RTD.

Page provided by Ms. Gene Prescott, Unit History, 8th AF Museum, on June 17, 2011.

The following is a picture of the aircraft SSgt Claude E. Whitehead was in at the time:






NB - copyright does not appear on actual print

Boeing B-17F 42-30030 'Old Ironsides'
560th Squadron, 388th BG

Source:

<http://www.wrgallery.co.uk/category.aspx?id=106&sale=false&subproducts=false&manufacturer=0&mainid=1&si=1&topID=7>

CITATION  **OF HONOR**
UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCES
Staff Sergeant Claude E. Whitehead

WHO GAVE HIS LIFE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTY

September 16, 1943

HE LIVED TO BEAR HIS COUNTRY'S ARMS. HE DIED TO SAVE ITS HONOR. HE WAS A SOLDIER . . . AND HE KNEW A SOLDIER'S DUTY. HIS SACRIFICE WILL HELP TO KEEP AGLOW THE FLAMING TORCH THAT LIGHTS OUR LIVES . . . THAT MILLIONS YET UNBORN MAY KNOW THE PRICELESS JOY OF LIBERTY. AND WE WHO PAY HIM HOMAGE, AND REVERE HIS MEMORY, IN SOLEMN PRIDE REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO A COMPLETE FULFILLMENT OF THE TASK FOR WHICH HE SO GALLANTLY HAS PLACED HIS LIFE UPON THE ALTAR OF MAN'S FREEDOM.



H. H. ARNOLD
General, U. S. Army,
Commanding General Army Air Forces

Old Ironsides (42-30030) had a history before coming to the 388BG:

Shown here are two B-17F-BO Flying Fortresses of the 384th BG. The nearest is (42-30030) and the other is (42-30196).





384TH BOMB GROUP B-17F AIRCRAFT 42-30030

Aircraft:	42-30030, Old Ironsides
Production Block:	B-17F-80-BO
Squadron:	546th
Squadron Code:	BK*E
Maintenance Crew Chief:	Not Known
Last Pilot:	Not Known
Start Date:	1 April 1943
End Date:	31 July 1943
Reason:	Transferred
Comments:	Transferred to 388th 7/43
Photo Album:	Photos of aircraft 42-30030

7 COMBAT MISSIONS FLOWN BY THIS B-17F AIRCRAFT 42-30030

Number	Date	Target	Crew/Sortie	Results	Comments
<u>2</u>	25 June 1943	Submarine Pens Hamburg, Germany	<u>CREW SORTIE</u>	Aborted	Aborted due to weather conditions
<u>3</u>	26 June 1943	Villacoublay Airfield Paris, France	<u>CREW SORTIE</u>	Completed Mission	Col. Peaslee Fit Ldr; AFCE failure; oxygen indicator failure; right top turret

http://www.384thbombgroup.com/_content/_pages/One384thAircraft.php?AircraftKey=42... 6/20/2011

Double click the above PDF image to see both pages of the mission history of Old Ironsides with the 384th, including its transfer to the 388th.

The last sortie of Old Ironsides with the 384th Bomb Group was its transfer to the 388th Bomb Group:

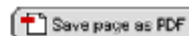
384th BG Sortie Report: Sortie 280

Page 1 of 1

SORTIE REPORT			
MISSION			
DATE	8 th AF MISSION #	384 th BG MISSION #	TARGET
1943-07-29	79	12	NAVAL BASE KIEL, GERMANY
SORTIE			
NUMBER *	STATUS		
280	COMPLETED MISSION		
COMMENTS	TRAN 2 SAD LT STAUGHTON 7/31/43 THEN 388BG		
* SORTIE NUMBER REFERS TO DATABASE LOCATION, NOT A HISTORICAL IDENTIFICATION.			
AIRCRAFT			
SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	SQ CODE	TYPE
42-30030	OLD IRONSIDES	BK*E	B-17F
CREW			
POSITION	CREWMEMBER	UNIT	STATUS
RELATED DOCUMENTS			
TYPE	IDENTIFICATION		

Report provided by 384thBombGroup.com

SortieEngine.php Rev. 1.1, 19 September 2009
SortieReport.php Rev. 2.0, 14 March 2009



SSgt Claude E. Whitehead



AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION



THE WORLD WAR II HONOR ROLL

Claude E. Whitehead

Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army Air Forces

Service # 39188346

560th Bomber Squadron, 388th Bomber Group, Heavy

Entered the Service from: Washington

Died: 16-Sep-43

Buried at: Plot G Row 7 Grave 162

Cambridge American Cemetery

Cambridge, England

Awards: Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart

Source: <http://www.abmc.gov/search/detailwwnew.php>

Birth: unknown
Death: Sep. 16, 1943

Note: Entered the service from Washington.

Burial:
[Cambridge American Cemetery](#)
Cambridge, England
Plot:

Created by: [Paul F. Wilson](#)
Record added: Oct 18 2004

Cemetery Photo



Source:
<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=Whitehead&GScty=403791&GSob=c&GRid=9670001&>



Source: <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=pv&GRid=56295524>

Washington State Roll of Honor, Part 7: World War II, S-Z

HistoryLink.org Essay 7097

HistoryLink is honored to offer the first Web posting of a comprehensive roster of Washington state citizens -- nearly 9,000 as of 2002 -- who gave their lives in the service of their communities and country. Part 7 comprises a list of those who lost their lives during World War II, names from S to Z.

CLAUDE E. WHITEHEAD

Source:

http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&File_Id=7097#W

Hilltop Times, Hill AFB UT

WWII veterans unite

Wednesday, September 3, 2008

By Lee Anne Hensley

Hilltop Times staff

388th Bombardment Group Association to hold reunion, tour base

The 388th Bombardment Group Association will hold its annual reunion at Hill Air Force Base from Sept. 3 through Sept. 6. The group of World War II veterans will meet with the 388th Fighter Wing and spend several days touring Hill Air Force Base sites.

A ceremony and flag dedication will be held at the Hill Aerospace Museum chapel Friday, Sept. 5, at 11:30 a.m. The 388th BGA flag will be displayed in the chapel thereafter.

Later that day, retired Air Force colonel, Wayne Daniels, of the 388th BGA will be a guest speaker at the monthly Hill AFB Warrior Call. Daniels will share his experience as a prisoner of war after he was shot down in his B-17 Flying Fortress over Germany during World War II.

The 388th BGA, also known as the 388th Bombardment Group (Heavy), flew the B-17 Flying Fortress out of Gowen Field, Idaho, in 1942. The group then relocated to Royal Air Force Base Knettishall, England, as a fundamental unit of the 8th Air Force, where they flew more than 300 missions throughout Europe from 1943 to 1945. The 388th Bomb Group was inactivated, reactivated, relocated and renamed several times over the next few decades before it finally became the 388th Fighter Wing here at Hill AFB.

Source: <http://www.standard.net/hilltop/142293/>