

PHOTOGRAPH GALLERY

The East Anglia Air War Project

The East Anglia Air War Project (hereafter referred to as EAAWP) began in 2001 to support an ambitious oral history interview program of veterans of the Eighth Air Force in England and also the British people who lived in the villages and town across East Anglia and the Midlands during World War II. Later the Project expanded to include the Ninth Air Force.

During the war, the United States established air bases in East Anglia to support daylight bombing against the Axis powers in Europe. Throughout the region, small communities made way for the construction of large-scale airdromes. Farm land turned into a landscape of concrete, Nissan huts, and the implements of war as American bomber and fighter groups built significant infrastructure for operations against Nazi-held targets deep inside Europe. The sudden appearance of the Eighth and Ninth Air Forces in rural England, the rapid growth of the number of bases over a short time frame, and the resulting daily struggle for life and death over the skies of England and the continent forged a unique sense of community in these British villages and towns. The American air crews, the ground personnel, and their British hosts shared a special relationship as the embattled British people and their distant American cousins “from over the pond” struggled to defeat the forces of fascism then threatening the free world.

For over a decade and a half, Dr. Vernon L. Williams has produced oral history interviews in England and throughout the United States. The interview collection forms the foundation for a series of

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documentary films on the air war, conference papers, and a group of future books that will document the air war in a new and personal way. The first volume of this series is currently in progress and will develop the theme of the Anglo-American Cultural Exchange in England during the war.

The volume is tentatively titled: *Crucible of War: The Anglo/American Exchange in World War II England, 1942-1945*. This book will explore the World II experiences of American ground and air crews in wartime England, and the British rural families who lived in the villages and towns in and around the American bases. The project will examine the sense of community that held them together from 1942 to 1945. The volume will be the first such study to incorporate an extensive new oral history interview collection relating to the joint Anglo/American communities that stretched across East Anglia and west into the Midlands in rural England. Williams has conducted a series of archaeological site surveys of base sites, in context with neighboring villages and towns that will answer questions about the built environment, the sense of place and the living patterns that existed during the wartime years. Together, with newly found manuscripts and other collateral materials that accompany the oral history collection, the volume will provide new insights on the social history of the war in England before 1945.

The photograph gallery that follows draws from the extensive collateral collection of images, documents, and other materials collected primarily from oral history interviewees and/or from the research efforts in support of those interviews. This issue of the *Journal of Military Aviation History* offers a selection of images that focus on the American Yanks and their air operations and organizations that were in place north of London during the war. Future issues will continue the gallery presentation with other related topics on the air war in England. It is anticipated that other projects and archives will offer proposals for future galleries from their holdings that will give the reader access to a wide range of military aviation history from all eras and regions of the world.

See the display pages at the end of the volume for the East Anglia Air War Project and also the Old Segundo Productions for more information on the work of the EAAWP and links where you can find additional data on the Project itself and the documentary films that have already appeared and are available.



Commanding Officer and Staff of the 563rd Bomb Squadron, 388th Bomb Group, Knetishall, England. 26 September 1943. *Image 1400a, NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP.*

First row, left to right:

1st Lt. William B. Wade, Clinton, South Carolina
2nd Lt. Richard I. Noel, Chicago, Illinois
Major Francis J. Henggeler, Clyde, Missouri
1st Lt. Ben M. Terry, Henderson, Tennessee
1st Lt. Glenn d. Stone, Toledo, Ohio

Second row, left to right:

1st Lt. Robert C. Goss, Veta, Colorado
1st Lt. Ben E. Anthony, Jr., Portsmouth, Rhode Island
1st Lt. James J. Cockerill, Muscatine, Iowa
Captain John P. Jones, Macon, Georgia
1st Lt. Richard L. Schmidt, Redland, South Dakota

Back row, left to right:

1st Lt. Gerald L. Morris, Grand Rapids, Michigan
2nd Lt. Frederick A. Bergman, Proctor, Minnesota



Control tower, interiors, somewhere in England. *Image 1147a (top) and 1149a (below), NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP.*



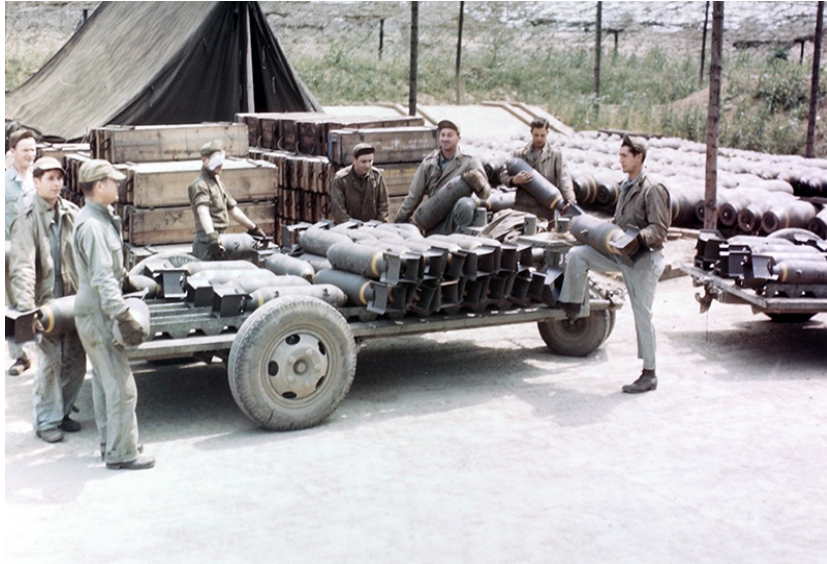


HIS TOUR OF MISSIONS COMPLETED: 1ST Lt. Leroy Faringer (wearing goggles) sits for final interrogation on his return from a bombing mission over northwest Germany on 11 December 1943. Lt. Faringer, 27, of Texarkana, Texas, is navigator of Fortress "Demo-Darling" had this to say: "The fighter opposition was vicious, but we saw little flax. In a fourteen-minute battle, four FW 199s made repeated attacks, but failed to inflict any damage." *Image 1151a, NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP.*



Top: Briefing before a mission, somewhere in England. Top, *Image 1145a* and Bottom, *Image 1143a*, NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP.





Ordnance men loading 100 lb. demolition bombs onto trailers for transport to aircraft on nearby hardstands, somewhere in England. *Image 1419a (top) and 1421a (below), NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP.*





W/O Roy D. Cannon of La Crosse, Wisconsin directs the storage of bombs in dump, somewhere in England. *Image 1423a, NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP*



Ordnance men loading bombs onto trailer for transport to aircraft on nearby hardstands, somewhere in England. *Image 1431a, NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP*



Crew members of the 562nd Bomb Squadron, 388th Bomb Group, Knetishall, England, 23 December 1943. *Image 1232a, NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP.*

Front row, left to right:

S/Sgt. Byron L. Smith, Tiptonville, Tennessee
1st Lt. Vernon D. Duncan, Columbus, Ohio
T/Sgt. Henry G. Rotell, Bientik, Wisconsin
S.Sgt. Robert E. Bradley, Woonsocket, Rhode Island

Back row, left to right:

S/Sgt. Lawrence H. Rudell, Wausau, Wisconsin
S/Sgt. Herman B. Hays, Terre Haute, Indiana
2nd Lt. Beernard J. Quenneville, Hadley, Massachusetts
T/Sgt. Edmund W. Wilbert, Westlake, Ohio



Crew members of the 388th Bomb Group, Knetishall, England, 7 January 1944. *Image 1244a, NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP.*

Standing, left to right:

T/Sgt. Milton W. Thomson, Sayleville, Rhode Island
S/Sgt. Edward Parsons, Pennington Gap, Virginia
S/Sgt. William C. McBey, Oxford, Arkansas
S.Sgt. Thomas E. Morton, Twila, Kentucky
T/Sgt. Edward J. English, Center Moriches, New York
S/Sgt. Bernard A. Johnson, Ogema, Wisconsin

Kneeling,, left to right:

2nd Lt. Henry R. Sampson, Warren, Rhode Island
2nd Lt. Harold r. Vague, Elisworth, Kansas
1st Lt. Milton L. Ehrenreich, Brooklyn, New York
1st Lt. John C. Mouat, Myers, Montana



Crew members of the 563rd Bomb Squadron, 388th Bomb Group, beside the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress *Screamin' Red Ass*. Knetishall, England, 30 January 1944. *Image 1246a, NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP.*

Standing, left to right:

- 2nd Lt. Harry L. Cotter, Springfield, Ohio
- 1st Lt. William K. Bowler, Chicago, Illinois
- 2nd Lt. Bruno A. Manno, Scranton, Pennsylvania
- 2nd Lt. Richard J. Fullaway, Orange, New Jersey

Kneeling, left to right:

- T/Sgt. Denton E. Walthall, Alberta, Virginia
- T/Sgt. Matthew Bejma, Centrall Falls, Rhode Island
- S/Sgt. Willie D. Condren, Amarillo, Texas
- S/Sgt. Calvin F. Hoagland, Kalandia, New York
- S/Sgt. Roy T. Patterson, Griffin, Georgia
- S/Sgt. Fred C. Kerr, Lordsburg, New Mexico



Crew members of the 563rd Bomb Squadron, 388th Bomb Group, beside a Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress, Knetishall, England, 23 April 1944. *Image 1254a, NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP.*

Left to right:

S/Sgt. Richard H. Thompson, Richmond, Virginia
S/Sgt. Gordon B. Porterfield, Bluefield, West Virginia
2nd. Lt. Von W. Bottenfield, Nelson, Nebraska
1st Lt. Frank C. Prendergast, Jamaica, New York
S/Sgt. Elden R. Marlarney, Watertown, New York
2nd. Lt. Chester L. Pietrzak, Erie, Pennsylvania
S/Sgt. James E. Daugherty, Emperal, Texas
S/Sgt. Vincent E. Parker, New York, New York
Sgt. Donald F. Stickels, Newtown, Connecticut
T/Sgt. Ervin Amarnick, Yeadon, Pennsylvania



Back from bombing an airdrome near Bordeaux, the Sam Whitehead (center front) combat crew of the Boeing B-17 *Patsy Ann* heads for interrogation while ground crewmen make routine checks on oil and engine. Man on wing holds nozzle of oil hose which runs up from tank truck. On the ladder, a mechanic inspects the inside ring cowlings of the right inboard engine for possible flak damage or malfunction. 534th Bomb Squadron, 381st Bomb Group, Ridgewell, England. *Image 8393a, NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP.*



Lt. Col. Louis G. Thorup (left) of Salt Lake City, Utah and 1st Lt. John A. Webb (right) of Detroit, Michigan review a course flown deep into Germany. 447th Bomb Group, Rattlesden, England, circa 1945, *Image 8393a, NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP.*



Crew members of an 8th Air Force B-17 just returned from a mission., somewhere in England. *Image 8415a, NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP.*



Control jeep manned by Corporal Larry Roth, Brooklyn, New York and Corporal Wallace E. Marquardt, Fremont, Wisconsin directs a B-24 Liberator to runway for take-off, somewhere in England. *Image 8499a, NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP*



Major James McPartlin, pilot is initiated by a dunking in trailer filled with water, Bassingbourn, England. 401st Bomb Squadron, 91st Bomb Group. McPartlin, who was the commanding officer of the 401st Bomb Squadron, had just finished his tour at Bassingbourn. The *General Ike*, assigned to the 401st, was a Boeing B-17G-40-BO Flying Fortress, 42-97061. *Image 8512a, NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP.*



Sgt. Mathis Finely, Metropolis, Minnesota, cleans acid from the nose of the *Schnozzle*, Lockheed/Vega B-17G-10-VE Flying Fortress, Serial number 42-40011, assigned to the 534th Bomb Squadron, 381st Bomb Group, at Ridgwell, England. This aircraft was lost in a collision over the airfield with B-17G (42-97511) named "Egg Haid" on 21 January 1945. The two aircraft were returning from the mission to Aschaffenburg, Germany when they collided while in the circuit to land. Both planes were complete losses and all 18 men were killed, though one man was found alive on the ground. He died later that day. Both crews were from the 532nd Bomb Squadron. *Image 8522a, NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP.*



Crew of the *I'll Get By* (QW-Z), B-17G-55-BO Flying Fortress, 42-102700, 412th Bomb Squadron, 95th Bomb Group. The photograph was taken in July 1944. Shortly afterwards, this plane and its crew were shot down on 2 August 1944, a tactical bombing mission to the Caen, France area. All but three crew members were killed. The plane was hit in the wing by flak, knocking off the wing tip. The aircraft veered to left and caught fire, then exploded. They were flying as deputy lead crew for this mission. *Image 8524a, NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP.*



The ground crew of *Idiot's Delight*, a B-17F-95-BO Flying Fortress, 42-30301, 332nd Bomb Squadron, 94th Bomb Group. The aircraft was on loan to the 710th Bomb Squadron, 447th Bomb Group, after April 1944 she was damaged by flak on the June 19, 1944 mission to St. Jean D'Angely, France and ditched in the Channel. The air crew were all killed and their bodies never recovered. It is not known whether the pictured men in this photograph served as the ground crew with the 94th or the 447th Bomb Group. Image 8526a, NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP.



Two flares dropped by this B-17 returning from a mission indicate wounded aboard. The medical crews wait to give first aid to the men. Somewhere in England. *Image 8534a, NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP.*



Evacuation of wounded from a Consolidated B-24 Liberator named *Liberty Lib* at Horsham St. Faith. The aircraft was a B-24H-10, assigned to the 752nd Bomb Squadron, 458th Bomb Group, 41-29303. *Image 8538a, NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP.*



A B-17 bomber from the 96th Bomb Group on a mission over Europe. The photograph was taken from an aircraft in formation above. Circa 1943-45. *Image 3688a, EAAWP.*



S/Sgt. J.P. Hellmaker cleans 50 caliber machine guns on a B-17 as an English farm wife herds her ducks away from the plane. Somewhere in England. *Image 8156a, NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP.*



Jerk's Natural, a B-24 Liberator assigned to 328th Bomb Squadron, 93rd Bomb Group, 8th Air Force, TDY to the 9th Air Force and based at Benghazi, Libya. This aircraft flew on the 1 August 1943 Ploesti mission, diverting safely to Sicily. The aircraft later was damaged over Austria on a mission to the Wiener Neustadt Bf 109 factory and crashed in Yugoslavia on 1 October 1943. Nine crew were killed and one taken prisoner. *Image 8353a, NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP.*



When the hydraulic system was shot out during a mission, the pilot landed his Consolidated B-24 at his base at Attlebridge in County Norfolk with two parachutes attached to the waist window to compensate for brakes. *Image 8359a, NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP.*



North American P-51s give cover to a close-knit formation of Consolidated B-24s from the 458th Bomb Group on a mission from Horsham St. Faith, circa 1944. *Image 8333a, NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP.*



Boeing B-17s from the 532nd and 533rd Squadrons, 381st Bomb Group at Ridgewell in practice formation over England. *Image 8227a, NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP*



Back at base a crew marvels at the hole in their wing. According to Hal Landaker, who was the radio operator on this aircraft (the B-17 *Sugar-Jo*, assigned to the 550th Bomb Squadron, 385th Bomb Group), the damage was received on a mission to Hannover Germany on 6 December 1944 when a direct hit from an 88mm.anti-aircraft shell that went completely through the wing, severing one of the main spars and exploded above the aircraft. *Image 8221a, NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP.*



Home at Dusk: An 8th Air Force Fortress comes in with flaps down and appears to hang motionless a few feet above the runway at an 8th Air Force base somewhere in England. The ship has just returned from a successful mission over northwest Germany, and to the left can be seen runway marker equipment and men of the ground crew, anxiously waiting to greet their flying buddies. In a few minutes, the combat crewmen will be off to hot coffee and interrogation; then to the nearest town for a few short hours of relaxation before the next blow at “Festung Europa.” *Image 8276a, NARA 2016 Folder, EAAWP*