

# PARHAM Airfield Museum

## FROM OUR CHAIRMAN...

Welcome to the summer edition of our newsletter for 2022. We have had a very good open season so far, thanks to the hard work of our volunteer team. Just over 2,500 visitors have come through the doors already, and many have left us very positive comments in our visitor book or on Tripadvisor.

Several organised parties have visited too, including one from the National Museum of World War Two in New Orleans. This group included Donald Miller, the author of *Masters of the Air*, soon to be released as a TV mini-series.

It has been an honour again to be able to welcome relatives of veterans from the USA, who could not travel during the strict Covid restrictions. Our star American visitor was Harold Gary, aged 101. Harold is a naval veteran, accompanied to UK by Patti Jo Caterson. Harold wished to visit the base from which his younger brother, Capt. D.E. Gary, had flown his 25<sup>th</sup> and last mission, to Merseburg. His plane was hit by flak and all the crew were killed. The party spent a very emotional day with us. Harold wanted to see everything and even made it without help to the top of the Tower! The most moving moments for him were seeing his brother's name on our memorial, finding his photo on our new photographic memorial in the chapel, and studying our exhibition about the Merseburg raid. They left us to visit the Normandy beaches for the annual D Day commemorations, followed by a very special visit to his brother's grave in Belgium.

Harold was a celebrity wherever he went. Border Force had to admit him manually because the computer would not accept his age. When Harold flew home, the pilot heard about him and upgraded him to business class!

Another pleasing feature of the season so far has been the 400+ children who have visited. Some came with their families, but the majority have been part of the 7 school educational visits. The younger children have also been treated to a free, traditional Punch and Judy show, thanks to our local Mr Punch showman, Pat Plant.

## Summer 2022



We have had several very successful visits by groups of vintage military vehicles and classic car enthusiasts. The museum is also in demand to provide

speakers to local clubs, another good opportunity to publicise what we do and why.

People frequently ask where we obtain our artefacts. The answer, of course, is that generous people give them to us to ensure their heritage is preserved for future generations. Recent gifts have included books for the library and for sale, aeroplane pictures, an original RAF log from the war, a softball trophy (*see page 3*) and various household artefacts for our planned feature about a wartime living room. We have even been given a large, flying model of a B17G in 390<sup>th</sup> livery. This will soon be suspended in the Moller café.

We have continued to receive financial donations from visitors and supporters in the UK and USA. This is all very generous and most helpful, so thank you to all those are able to help us in this way.

Our regular working party has moved the weekly efforts to Thursdays, when we are concentrating on outdoor tasks that are best done in the summer. Meanwhile, the garage/store on the Kindred Building is nearing completion and now has electricity and a smart lifting door.

Best wishes to you all,

**Peter Senior**  
Chairman





**NOT OFF THE PRESS!**

## Exciting News!

**Parham Airfield Museum, has won a Travellers' Choice Award 2022, meaning that it is in the top 10% of attractions worldwide!**

It was announced this week that the museum has been recognised by Tripadvisor as a 2022 Travellers' Choice 'Things to Do' award winner. The award celebrates businesses that have received great traveller reviews from visitors around the globe on Tripadvisor over the last 12 months. As challenging as the past year was, Parham Airfield Museum stood out by consistently delivering positive experiences to visitors, and welcoming over 2,500 visitors last season, despite the opening period being shorter than normal due to Covid restrictions.



*"We are honoured to win this award. We love welcoming new and returning visitors and reading their great comments. We have no paid members of staff, but each year we continue to improve our museum thanks to our team of volunteers who work hard to help the museum thrive. So often we hear this museum is a "hidden gem"; we are keen to make it less hidden and this Tripadvisor award will really help us get the word out."* Peter Kindred, President of the museum .

*"Congratulations to the 2022 Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice Winners,"* said Kanika Soni, Chief Commercial Officer at Tripadvisor. *"The Travellers' Choice Awards recognize the best in tourism and hospitality, according to those who matter most: your guests. Ranking among the Travellers' Choice winners is always tough – but never more so than this year as we emerge from the pandemic. I'm impressed by the steps you've taken to implement new safety measures to meet travellers' new demands. You've adapted brilliantly in the face of adversity."*

To see the Museum's Tripadvisor reviews, please click here:

[https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction\\_Review-g186387-d8453897-Reviews-Parham\\_Airfield\\_Museum-Woodbridge\\_Suffolk\\_East\\_Anglia\\_England.html](https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction_Review-g186387-d8453897-Reviews-Parham_Airfield_Museum-Woodbridge_Suffolk_East_Anglia_England.html)



## Madingley Memorial Day Monday 30th May 2022

Four representatives from the Museum attended the Memorial Day service and laid a wreath to represent the 390th Bomb Group. The sight of the Sally-B B-17 flying over the 3,811 graves after the service was particularly poignant.

Of the 5,127 names of those Missing In Action, we noted many from the 390th BG.



## *Homerun...*



We are now the proud owners of the Eighth Air Force Softball trophy won by the 390<sup>th</sup> squad in 1944. It is engraved with the 22 names of the team headed by Cpt Ken Binder. This was seen on eBay by Dr Walter Powell, from Massachusetts, who purchased it and gifted it to us. How wonderful that after 78 years it has now made its way back to the home of the 390th.



# Display of Military Vehicles & Classic Cars

We were pleased to welcome 500+ visitors to our Military Vehicle & Classic Car Open Day on 3rd July.

The vehicles were beautiful, the atmosphere was great, the weather played ball, the tearoom was standing-room-only for large parts of the day and the actual museum was heaving with visitors. Children's laughter during the Punch & Judy shows could be heard echoing all around and we know many of our older visitors were entertained by Pat Plant's fantastic shows too!

What a fantastic day. Special thanks to all who brought vehicles or volunteered on the day. We look forward to doing it all again on 2nd July 2023.

The event was also featured in the local newspaper <https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/suffolk-museum-welcomes-500-9120290>



# Recent Visitors



Sadly, we couldn't welcome many visitors from the United States last year due to the pandemic, but this year we have had good visitor numbers, from both members of the public and also visitors with special links to the museum. We are glad that the museum is operating under near-normal conditions again and firmly hope that our stricter Covid protocols can remain filed away for good!

Douglas Rhodes visited in May. Douglas is the son of Capt. Harwood Rhodes who flew 41 missions— one of which was a chowhound run- with the 390th, including seven as lead pilot. Harwood became good friends with Bill Pennebaker at their training centre.



His visit coincided with the new Exhibition Room opening ceremony so he got roped in to vacuum the Jeep and make sandwiches!! Douglas is quoted as saying that the trip "is among my most enjoyable and memorable experiences - ever!"



On the 5<sup>th</sup> June 3 generations of the Wagner Family visited us, *right*. Anne Marie Wagner is the daughter of Ralph B. Sommer, a navigator with the 570<sup>th</sup>, who carried out 29 missions, including two chow hound drops, whilst based here.



In May, Ben Harvey returned, with his daughter and son-in-law. They came to remember his uncle, Claude Farber who was M.I.A, on his 17<sup>th</sup> mission, to Merseburg. They found his photo on the Faces of the Fallen Display, *left*.

Stephen Garfinkil, *right*, visited in June. He is the nephew of David Kraft, a Radio Operator with the 570<sup>th</sup> who participated in 32 missions from November 1944.

On 20th June we were visited by the son of 1st Lt. William Gaillard, who was taken POW at Stalug Luft 1.

*Below*, on May 8th we welcomed a group from New Orleans WWII Museum. The group included Don Miller, author of *Masters of the Air*. The TV mini-series of the book has had some scenes filmed in Suffolk, including at Thorpe Abbots, a fellow 13th Combat Wing base.



*Left*, the family of Keith Harris, pilot with the 570<sup>th</sup>, visited the museum last week. Pictured left to right, Peter Kindred, Sophia, Brian (grandson), Patrick (great grandson) and Rachel. Patrick is a flight engineer at U.S.A.F Mildenhall in Suffolk.

*You can read more about Keith Harris and his crew in the September 1943 Press Release on page 14.*

# From Youthful Enthusiasm...

We have welcomed over 400 children to the museum already this season.

Right, a Year 6 pupil kindly donated a cartridge he found buried under a tree at Morland Primary School in Ipswich. It would have been mounted in a Hispano Cannon in a Mosquito night fighter, and fired out at a rate of 650- 700 rounds per minute.



The children enjoyed going in our replica Anderson Shelter, left, but most agreed that whilst it was fun for a few minutes, they would not want to have spent hours in here during an Air Raid.



Above, many of the children were shocked by the sheer quantity of names on our memorial board. Seeing the long list of those who were killed whilst based here made a profound impact on them and helped them to better understand the museum's purpose.

At the end of many of the school trips, the children were treated to a traditional Punch & Judy show by Framlingham entertainer Pat Plant. They were "as pleased as Punch" to end their visit on a lighter note. *That's way to do it....!*



# ... to Super Senior Citizens

On the 4<sup>th</sup> June we were honoured to host a visit by 101 year old Harold Gary, accompanied from the USA by his friends Patti-Jo and Chris. Harold served in the U.S Navy in WWII, and his younger brother Dana was a 390th Pilot. Very sadly, Dana was killed on a mission to Merseburg on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1944.



Harold was sprightly in mind and body. He kept our volunteers entertained with his memories and climbed the steep steps to the roof of the Tower without difficulty.



Apparently, the only hiccup on his transatlantic journey was with the airport computer system, which was not set up for people with a date-of-birth as far back as 1921!

Mrs Florence Hindle, aged 98, paid an emotional visit to Parham in June. She remembers being picked up from Ipswich in an army truck, to come to dances at the base, with her boyfriend Leo Taylor, a 390th ground crew member from Spokane. She even attended the Glenn Miller concert and remembers there being plenty to drink, with big barrels on the counter!



# Volunteer Vacancies

## JOIN THE TEAM

Become part of our friendly volunteer crew at Parham Airfield Museum. From helping members of the public, to selling souvenirs and serving refreshments, to helping our maintenance team, we've got a role for you.



*"I love greeting visitors and showing them our special museum. I also love reading the glowing visitor comments on Tripadvisor - most of which mention the friendly and helpful volunteers. Volunteering at the museum gives me an enormous sense of well-being and has brought fulfilment to my retirement".*

*"My experiences as a volunteer at Parham have been overwhelmingly positive. I have made new friendships, learnt new skills and I feel truly valued".*

*"From day 1, I felt like one of the team. I highly recommend volunteering here."*

If you would like to help or can suggest a friend who may wish to do so, please email us for more information - [parhamairfield@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:parhamairfield@yahoo.co.uk)

We offer full training and ongoing support and would love to hear from you if you like meeting new people, are enthusiastic and have some spare time. You do not need to be an expert in WWII!

**BECOME A VOLUNTEER - MAKE A DIFFERENCE**





*Left, Dave Nelson visits his diorama in situ in April.*

*Right, two old boys test their restored bench!*



## Maintenance & Improvements

We've had special visitors nearly every week this year. If you are local, do pop by frequently- you never know when you might see some special vehicles in our car park or witness an impromptu performance in the tearoom.



## AIRMAN OF THE MONTH JUNE

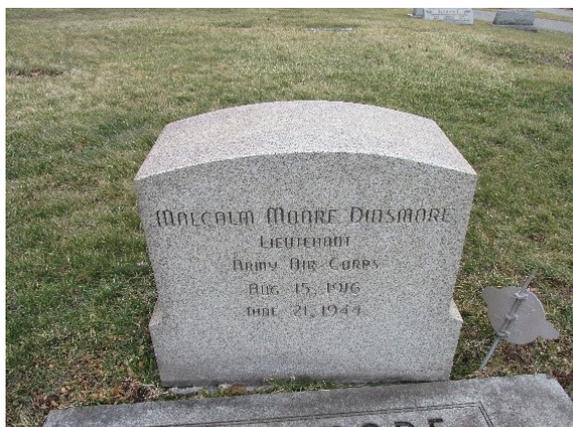


### MALCOLM MOORE DINSMORE 15 AUGUST 1916 – 21 JUNE 1944

Malcolm was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania. He enlisted into the USAAF on 31 July 1942 and was trained as a Pilot. Malcolm flew just three combat missions from Station 153.

On 21<sup>st</sup> June 1944, Malcolm was piloting A/C 42-30715, Cincinnatti-Queen, to Basdorf, Germany. During the flight the airplane developed mechanical problems. They jettisoned their bombs just west of Lake Muritz and limped towards home. Two engines were out and the malfunction meant they could not feather one of the props or transfer fuel. As they lost altitude it was decided to ditch the aircraft, about 85 miles off the English coast. Although, the rest of the crew were rescued Malcolm went down with the plane.

Malcolm is remembered on the Tablets of the Missing at the Cambridge American Cemetery. He was  
27



# AIRMAN OF THE MONTH

## JULY



### CHARLES ALLEN NORBY

**4 OCTOBER 1920 – 29 JULY 1944**

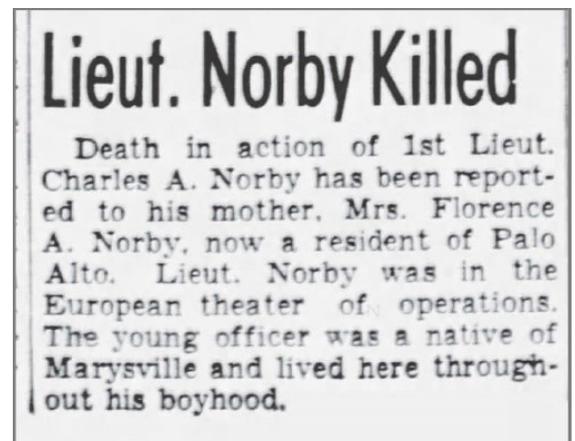
Charles was born in Bakersfield, California. He enlisted into the USAAF on 19 June 1942 and was trained as a Pilot. Charles flew twenty-one combat missions from Station 153.

On 29 July 1944 Charles piloted his plane on a raid to Merseburg, Germany. The plane got into difficulties and the crew bailed out. Charles parachuted to safety and surrendered to a farmer who took him to the local police station. Two policemen then took him by car ostensibly to Weimar, but they stopped en route and one made Charles get out and walk into a nearby wheat field. He was told to squat down at which point he was shot in the right temple and died instantly.

After the war the policeman was tried and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Charles is buried in his hometown. He was 23.

| REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after February 17, 1897 and on or before December 31, 1921)                            |  |  |                  |
|--|--|--|------------------|
| SERIAL NUMBER<br>T. 554  | 1. NAME (Print)<br>Charles Allen Norby   | ORDER NUMBER<br>T. 10627                     | 627              |
| 2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print)<br>525 Hamilton St. Palo Alto, Santa Clara Calif.  | [THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL] |  |                  |
| 3. MAILING ADDRESS<br>Same   |  |  |                  |
| 4. TELEPHONE<br>Palo Alto 21758  | 5. AGE IN YEARS<br>21  | 6. PLACE OF BIRTH<br>Bakersfield, California |                  |
| 7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS<br>Florence A. Norby, 525 Hamilton St. Palo Alto, Calif. |  |  |                  |
| 8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS<br>Student  |  |  |                  |
| 9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS   |  |  |                  |
| I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.  |  |  |                  |
|  |  |  | Charles A. Norby |



# AIRMAN OF THE MONTH

## AUGUST



### GEORGE VINCENT MERINO

**27 JANUARY 1923 – 9 AUGUST 1944**

George was born in Gardena, California. He enlisted into the USAAF on 20 January 1943 and was trained as ground crew.

At 1850 hours on 9 August 1944, the Provost Marshall's Office received a call from PC Howard, Tunstall police. Cpl Merino and S/Sgt Rand had been swimming in the River Alde at Cliff Reach, Iken. At 1645 Cpl Merino was caught in an undertow in the river and was drowned. The river was dragged until 2300 but all efforts to recover the body failed. The search resumed the following morning and Cpl Merino's body was recovered and taken to the Station 153 hospital.

George is buried at the American Cemetery in Cambridge, England. He was 21.



| HEADSTONE INSCRIPTION AND INTERMENT RECORD   |        |     |         |       |     |       |   |     |  |
|--|--------|-----|---------|-------|-----|-------|---|-----|--|
| INSCRIPTION (Front) (Name, Rank, Organization, State, Date of Death, Grave No.)    |        |     |         |       |     |       |   |     |  |
| GEORGE V. MERINO<br>CPL 568 BOMB SQ 390 BOMB GP (H)<br>CALIFORNIA AUG 9 1944<br>68 |        |     |         |       |     |       |   |     |  |
| INSCRIPTION (Rear) (Service Number)  |        |     |         |       |     |       |   |     |  |
| 39277922   |        |     |         |       |     |       |   |     |  |
| TOMB AND CRYPTIC   |        |     |         |       |     |       |   |     |  |
| CAMBRIDGE 1601   |        |     |         |       |     |       |   |     |  |
| UNIT   | SERIAL | ROW | SECTION | BLOCK | ROW | DEPTH | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 OF 2 <input type="checkbox"/> DECK |     |  |
| 1  | 1      |     |         | NONE  | 6   | 68    |   |     |  |
| IDENTIFY GRAVE   |        |     |         |       |     |       |   |     |  |
| 1615   |        |     |         |       |     |       |   |     |  |
| NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN  |        |     |         |       |     |       |   |     |  |
| MR. VINCENT V. MERINO<br>445 WEST 165TH STREET<br>GARDENA, CALIFORNIA              |        |     |         |       |     |       |   |     |  |
| RECORD REFERENCE:  |        |     |         |       |     |       |   | 115 |  |
| REMARKS  |        |     |         |       |     |       |   |     |  |
| MJC <i>SP</i>  |        |     |         |       |     |       |   |     |  |

## **Public Relations Release: September 1943**

An American Airbase Somewhere in England.

“Take the wheels off ‘em, grease ‘em up and slide ‘em in on their bellies!” That’s the new Flying Fortress landing technique that ground crewmen at this base are advocating today. And they’re only half joking after watching Lt Keith E. Harris, 23, of Earlville, Illinois, bring the “Spot Remover” home to roost this morning in just that fashion, minus the grease, in a perfect emergency landing recorded on motion picture film for the future instruction of future pilots.

Harris and his crew are the same bunch who ran into so much excitement on the Regensburg raid, including the African jungle search that led to the discovery of fliers’ bones chewed clean by mountain lions.

Cool skill is a speciality with Harris, who nonchalantly circled the field for three and a half hours while a motion picture camera was fetched from division headquarters 40 miles away. During this time he jettisoned his bombs and ball turret in the Wash and ordered the crew to ditching positions. At length, the stage was all set and most of the base personnel looking on, Harris slid his Fort in on the turf as sweetly as Sonia Henie gliding over the ice.

“One of the smoothest jobs I’ve ever seen,” commented Capt Albert E. Engler, 26, of Cleveland, Ohio, station engineering officer. “That ship will fly again - - and soon!”

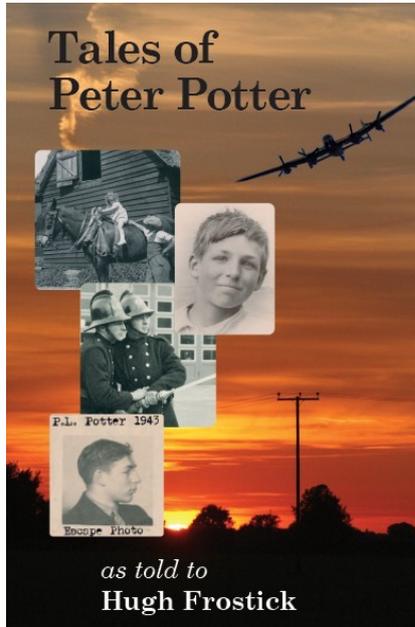
Members of Harris’ crew are 2.Lt Frank J. Stoll, 23, co-pilot, of Fairyview, Montana; 2/Lt Ralph C. Wilson, 22, navigator, of Nashville, Arkansas; 2/Lt Robert W. Winspear, 27, bombardier, of New Richmond, Ohio; Sgt Edward M. Gallagher, 24, engineer-gunner, of Clark Summit, Pa.; T/Sgt Raymond J. De Rycke, 29, radio gunner, of Rochester, N.Y.; Sgt. Arthur C. McMillin, 21, ball turret gunner, of Jamaica Plain, Mass.; Sgt. Stanley M. Smith, 24, waist gunner, of New York City; T/Sgt Crockett E. Harmon, 23, waist gunner, of Amarillo, Tex.; and S/Sgt Pete Selvidge, 23, tail gunner, of Poplar Bluff, Mo.

###

*Jennie Smith*  
*Archivist*

# The British Resistance

## Organisation Museum



We now have a limited number of copies of Hugh Frostick's latest book available to buy from our gift shop and our eBay store. Hugh came to visit us during our recent open day.

The book shares Peter Potter's eventful life, including adventures from his time as an Auxilier in Churchill's Secret Army and as a Lancaster rear gunner.

This highly entertaining account gives a fascinating insight into life and war in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Price £10 plus P &P

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/usr/parham-airfield-museum>

On 3rd July Keith and Graham Lenton came to visit the museum as their father, Horace Lenton was a member of the Beverley, Yorkshire Auxiliary Units in WWII. We were pleased to show them around our new Exhibition Hall with its improved BRO exhibits, cinema and timeline.



# Opening of the Kindred Exhibition Hall

## Saturday 14th May 2022



This went exceedingly well. We were blessed with warm, sunny weather. Peter Kindred, our President, welcomed approximately 90 guests, who included relatives of veterans who had served in the 390<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group or the British Resistance Organisation. Building contractors, museum supporters, researchers from the Coleshill Auxiliary Research Trust, retired volunteers and academics were also present. Peter spoke of how the museum had originally opened in 1981 and continued to carry out its mission of being a memorial to the 743 young airmen who

lost their lives in the cause of freeing the world of Nazism.

Our Chairman, Peter Senior, thanked all those whose contributions had helped to fund the new building, including the Moller Foundation. He pointed out that the museum had not applied for or received any grants from the Arts Council or other UK grant giving bodies. He then emphasised the amazing commitment and hard work of Peter Kindred, who led the project, together with the small group of volunteers who had finished the internals of the new building, then designed and set out the new displays. They took pride in their accomplishments and their title, the “Old n’ Colds”. This work was largely undertaken during the Covid 19 crisis. The exhibitions now include a timeline that shows how international events, the air war and the various forms of resistance to the Nazis threat combined to impact on the Framlingham area.

John Warwicker MBE, our special guest, has spent a huge amount of time researching the BRO over many years—we are very thankful to him for all his help in uncovering ‘Churchill’s Secret Army’. John spoke of how the resistance veterans had eventually been freed from the Official Secrets Act in the 1990s so they could speak about their wartime experiences. John then unveiled a plaque to name the exhibition hall formally as the “Kindred Building”. It is named in honour of Percy Kindred, farmer, local auxilier and “father of the 390<sup>th</sup>”; Herman Kindred, farmer and local auxilier; Charles Kindred, radio operator in the Special Duties Section, and Peter Kindred, who led the building project.



After this, Will Ward of CART formally opened the John Warwicker Cinema, where visitors watched a short film to explain the new exhibitions. Finally, Rev. Brynn Bayman, Chaplain at Framlingham College blessed the new building.

These events were followed by a lunch and opportunity to view the museum. Vintage military vehicles had also been invited.

The public joined us from 1300 hours and by the end of the day

there had been 273 visitors.

*Our thanks go to Chris Pratt, for taking the lead on organising the opening celebrations, and also to all those who assisted on the day.*



# John Warwicker OBE's Speech

*John gave a truly engaging, amusing and informative talk during the ceremony.  
Whilst his excellent oratory skills won't come across in the typed form,  
we hope that you still enjoy reading it.*

*Peter Senior and Peter Kindred's speeches were also excellent and very moving;  
sadly we didn't record all three speeches or they too could be shared here.*

"I am going to confine what I have to say now to just one family- the Kindred family. And they won't thank me at all for mentioning it because one thing they suffer from rather badly is an excess of modesty! And this modesty is completely unwarranted as far as this museum is concerned.

Let's start in 1939, when Percy Kindred was at work one day and he saw a trespasser on his farmland. He tackled this man who pointed out that he was not a trespasser, but a very important person from Whitehall and that he was measuring everything up to make this place an airport. This was the first the Kindred's knew about this and they were the farmers of this district. Here was someone from Whitehall without any notice coming to measure up for an airfield. Whitehall won of course and the airfield is what we now find in our history books, with the Americans in the 390<sup>th</sup> Group based here.

So Percy was a young man, and he and his brother Herman were probably the best operatives on the farm here that was run by their father. They were involved with the museum from the word "Go". They were also present during the activities of the Americans during the war and so they are better authorised to talk about it than almost anybody else living. Peter, Percy's son, has done well today to help bring old memories back the fore. At the same time both these young men, Percy and Herman, joined the Home Guard. And they hated it. Herman in particular hated it and he got really fed up- "standing about on guard duties with nothing to guard" and "doing drills with a broomstick... it all seemed so pointless". And as far as the public were concerned, that's what the Home Guard was all about, and that's quite true. At the same time however, up from central London came a representative of the Military Intelligence Research, Captain Croft, and he set about creating the Auxiliary Units in this area.

The first thing that Herman and Percy knew about it was when they got an order from their own Captain to appear at Saxmundham Town Hall at 3pm on the following Sunday and they did so. Herman said "There was no public about. The place was surrounded by armed guards and we went and there was this man called Croft who said 'We think you're the sort of fellows we're looking for' and started asking them questions. This was Colonel Croft as he turned out to be; he was later on in the Special Boat service and he also won a Military Cross for Secret Warfare. Now he told Herman and Percy, 'You're the two men that we want. You'll be the sergeant and you'll be the corporal and you'll want to pick for yourself four or five men that you can thoroughly trust to be your juniors. An underground operational base will be provided and you will have explosives. You will have incendiary devices and you will have assassination material and all the stuff that is necessary for dirty tricks'. And Herman thought 'This is really good!' He said 'Once we got the explosives we started practising with them and we started blowing things up and we had one hell of a time'. They really loved what they did.



*Left, Chris Pratt, Peter Senior & John Warwicker outside the Kindred Exhibition Hall*



Above, the 'two Peters' prepare

for their speeches

They built their own operational base and there is a replica of this that is now on display at the museum here. Thanks to Peter's earlier work in measuring everything out, doing all the digging, pouring the concrete and getting it fitted out to look like an underground operational base.

So Herman and Percy were desperately, closely involved in all that was going on from the offset with this airfield and with the Auxiliary Units.

The Auxiliary Units remained 'MOST SECRET' during the war, for the very best of reasons. As armed civilians, their very existence was in breach of the Rules of Warfare and, had the enemy successfully invaded, they would - if captured - certainly have suffered brutal interrogation and most probably execution. Their 'MOST SECRET' security classification was to protect them and their families if things went wrong and they were captured alive. Although, in practical terms, the security classification has never been rescinded officially, Percy regarded his 1940s commitment to the Official Secrets Act as still paramount.

As a result he declined to help researchers for what is now the British Resistance Organisation Museum (BROM). Herman, with a similar outlook at first, finally agreed to help out after qualified approval was received from the Cabinet Secretary himself.

Percy was instrumental in creating the post war Museum commemorating the 390th Bombardment group of the United States Army Air Force, and over seven hundred personnel Killed in Action, after flying into Nazi occupied Europe. Herman, in turn, was the founding father of the BROM and the simple fact that, from the date of its commencement in the second half of the 1990s, all sorts of individuals, their memories and memorabilia, started to emerge - and contribute essential intelligence disclosing the unique nature of the Auxunits' contribution to the war effort.



A third Kindred, cousin Charles, lived a few hundred yards from where we are today. As a pre-war amateur radio HAM, he was enrolled into another arm of the Auxunits. It was called the Special Duties Section and comprised both men and women trained in the collection and communication to local Army HQ at Diss, of details of enemy dispositions, encampments and weaponry. In fact they were spies.

The three Kindreds were a micro section of 'stay- behind' personnel and as such, were among the first and unique fighting units in the then annals of modern warfare.

With Peter as President, his wife Kath, the long term Museum treasurer; and their daughters also actively involved, it will be seen that the Kindred Family and Parham Airfield Museum are mutually essential ingredients of what we see today.

The completion of the Exhibition Hall; the Cinema; and the presentation of relevant exhibits, is the result. Congratulations to them and to Chairman Peter Senior; Chris Pratt and the active members, for all the associated initiatives, skills and work which have made it possible to identify this Museum as both unique and a worthy memorial to both the American and British personnel who helped the Allies to recover our love of freedom and democratic governance."

*Interestingly, in Peter Kindred's speech we learnt that, despite being cousins and living only a few hundred metres apart, the top secrecy meant that Charles and Herman- Peter's uncle- were never actually aware of the other's involvement in the Aux Units. When clearing Charles' property after his death, executor Herman came across lots of old radio equipment that was chucked out. How unfortunate that he did not know that this was actually Charles' gear from his time in the Special Duties Section!*



*Four members of the Kindred family who are actively involved in the museum, standing outside the new Exhibition Hall*

*Left to right– Kath Kindred, Lydia Kirk, Judy Moore & Peter Kindred*

## Double Donation Days

**Prime Day 12 & 13 July**  
**Two days. Epic Deals.**

Shop your favourite deals at AmazonSmile and Amazon doubles donations.

Simply shop with AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping app or at [smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/2841460](https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/2841460), and AmazonSmile donates to Parham Airfield Museum.

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<http://eepurl.com/dM24L6>

Past editions of our newsletter are available on our website.



*Please “like” our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter Pages for regular flashbacks from our archivist & to connect with other supporters*



[Parham Airfield Museum \(390th Bomb Group & British Resistance Organisation\)](https://www.facebook.com/ParhamMuseum)

<https://twitter.com/ParhamMuseum>

The museum is open on Wednesdays over summer and Sundays until the end of October.

[www.parhamairfieldmuseum.co.uk](http://www.parhamairfieldmuseum.co.uk)



### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We are hard working crew but are always in need of more volunteers to spread the work.

We are in need of friendly volunteers to meet and greet visitors or serve refreshments in our tearoom. Please get in contact if you could spare one or two days a month to join our roster, or if you would like to join our behind-the-scenes work crew to help maintain and preserve the exhibits and work on new displays.

We do not charge admission to our Museum and donations are always gratefully received. Donation boxes are located around the museum or can be made online via Paypal or bank transfer. We also have a card reader so can accept card payments for shop purchases and donations during your visit.

**Thank you for your support.**

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

We welcome contributions for our newsletter.

Please email your questions for us or other readers, articles, letters or photos for inclusion in the next edition by 25th August.

We would love to hear from you.

*Editor: Lydia Kirk*

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

Our Museum is run solely by volunteers—apologies if responses are slow at times.



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

