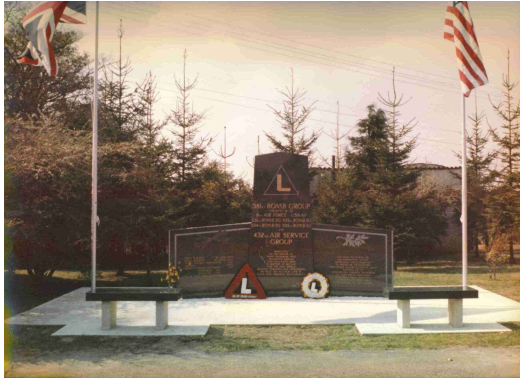


MEMORIALS



Memorial to the 381st Bomb Group (Heavy)
Ridgewell, England

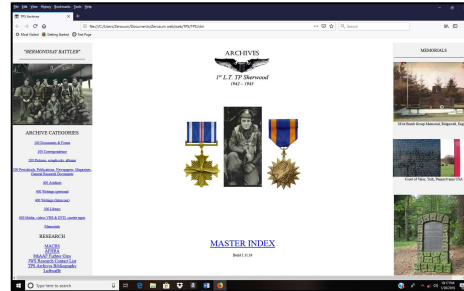


Lt. T.P. Sherwood on Court of Valor, York, PA



Memorial to the "Bermondsey Battler" crew
Detmold, Germany

ARCHIVES TECHNICAL INFORMATION



DIGITAL STORAGE FORMAT:

PDF, .DOC, .XLS with an HTML interface.

RECORDS SIZE: ~684 files - 25.3G as of 4/07/19

SOFTWARE: Adobe Dreamweaver CC 18.1 Build

10155 (HTML editor)

Adobe Acrobat, Microsoft Word, Excel, PDF reader

REPOSITORY LOCATION(physical):

- local & offsite backup USB storage

PHYSICAL STORAGE FORMAT:

~ 75+/- cu. ft. in containers

REPOSITORY LOCATION (physical):

1060 Brighton Drive
Seven Valleys, PA 17360

www.tpsarchives.com



1st Lt. T. Paxton Sherwood after a mission Feb. 1944.

ARCHIVES



1st Lt. T.P. Sherwood

1942 – 1945



AIR WAR EUROPE 1942-1945



The period from 1942 thru 1945 was the powerful buildup of men, planes, new technologies and equipment for the Allied bomber offensive. The **U.S. Army Air Corps (USAAF)** is credited with implementing the idea of *strategic bombardment* - destroy the enemy's *ability* to wage war by destroying *key industry* target systems... and do it in *broad daylight*. As early as 1940 the US Army War Plans Division had developed detailed plans on how to accomplish it. By the time of America's entry into the war the challenge was getting Allied Commands to accept the idea and allow the execution of the concept by the US Army Air Corps. The Air Corps had strong beliefs that strategic bombardment could at least shorten if not actually win the war. Air power was in its infancy and the Air Corps struggled to gain acceptance and recognition within the Army, the other armed services, and Allied forces as a major contributor to the war effort. Eventually the USAAF Power proved itself. After "Big Week", in February 1944, the tide had turned against the Luftwaffe and the stage was set for the invasion



1ST BOMB DIVISION 381ST BOMB GROUP (HEAVY) 535TH SQUADRON *Ridgewell, England*



1st Lt. T.P. Sherwood & crew of the "Bermondsey Battler"
(Lt. Sherwood kneeling second from left)

THE ARCHIVES

Since the passing of 1st Lt. Thomas P. Sherwood, in 2006, his records have been collected, organized, and where possible digitized. Great effort has been taken to store and maintain this valuable historical archive.

The archives include *WWII material*, photographs, diaries, related military artifacts, periodicals, documents, videos, and recordings, Sherwood's eight personal diaries... Sept 1, 1941, leaving the USA via New York on the Queen Mary, through his liberation from Stalag Luft I in May 1945. A digital **Master Index** allows retrieval of items from inventory by item number. *Postwar material* exists in the archives thanks to his efforts to organize. In 1976 he started the **381st Bomb Group Memorial Association** following a dream to bring together the surviving men and ultimately place a memorial, at their air base at Ridgewell (England) to those 381st Bomb Group men lost in the war. With the group's backing they were able to finally fulfill that dream (see back of brochure).

HIS STORY

1st Lt. Thomas Paxton Sherwood was in the European Theatre of Operations from the air power buildup through the massive bomber offensive of WWII (1942 - 1945). He witnessed and recorded in his experiences and observations in his eight personal diaries.



Stalag Luft I

ACTIVE & COMBAT SERVICE
11 July 1941 - 16 June 1946

DECORATIONS Thirteen (13): Distinguished Flying Cross DFC, Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters one every five combat missions after Air Medal award, Distinguished Unit Citations DUC, April 4, 1943 422nd Squadron 305th Group, October 8, 1943 Bremen, Germany - 535th Squadron, 381st Group, January 11, 1944 Anklam All 1st Bomb Division Groups, Four Battlestars, Four (4) Campaign Ribbons, Pre-Pearl Harbor, American Theatre, European Theatre of Operations (ETO), Victory Medal Europe, Civilian Award, Caterpillar Club life saved by a 'chute.

COMBAT He was briefed 99 times and flew 28 of the briefed missions, his Group went 51 times. Sherwood was a prisoner of war 13 4 44 to 13 5 45 Stalag Luft I Barth (on the Baltic Sea), Germany. He was liberated by Russian allies but after some tense days, uncertain if the Russians would allow their freedom, he was "*rescued*" by members of his own bomb group during Operation Revival.



Lt. Sherwood getting hit by FLAK (No. 4 plane from left) on 13/4/44 over Schweinfurt Germany - his last mission.