

416TH.COM

The mission of the 416th Bomb Group Archive is to preserve the memory and honor the accomplishments of this World War II combat unit and its personnel through research, education and public interaction.

The 416th.com website serves as one component of this mission.

416TH.COM Additions



416TH.COM Memorials

Veteran Memorial pages:

Post-War Obituaries

Veteran Photo Collections

Honor Flights

Memorial Videos

**Preserved Carl Sgamboti's
"Reida Rae" NEAM Restoration
website pages at 416th.com**

416TH.COM Additions

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Francis Joseph Cachat - 416th

www.416th.com/Obits/416-CachatFrancis_Obit

416th Bombardment Group (L)

Francis Joseph Cachat
Captain, Aerial Photo Officer
December 7, 1919 - April 6, 2018
4th Combat Camera Unit

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Captain Francis J. Cachat
Aerial Photo Officer

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Wayne E. Downing - 668th Obi

www.416th.com/Obits/668-DowningWayne_Obi

416th Bombardment Group (L)

Wayne Edward Downing
1st Lt., Pilot
November 11, 1919 - August 4, 2018
2911th, 668th and 670th Bombardment Squadrons (L)

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A black and white portrait of 1st Lt. Wayne E. Downing, a man with short dark hair, wearing a military uniform with a tie and pilot's wings on his chest.

1st Lt. Wayne E. Downing
Pilot, 668th and 670th Bombardment Squadrons

416TH.COM Additions



416th Bombardment Group (L)

2Lt. Charles "Charlie" Church

Pilot, 669th B.S., POW



Photo and Document Collection

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Unless otherwise noted, these images are from the Public Domain or were provided to the 416th Bomb Group Archive by family or friends.
Click on an image link below to view a larger display.



Charles Church



Charles Church, POW photo



1946 POW Reunion



Mission List



416th Bombardment Group (L)

Honor Flight

Roland E. Dullnig

May 19-20, 2017



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Roland Dullnig and his daughter Carolyn Hauser were among the guests of honor on the [Honor Flight San Antonio \(Flight 006\)](#), [Jay Jones Memorial Flight](#) on May 19-20, 2017.

There were 19 WWII Veterans on this two day Washington, D.C. area trip, which included visits to the Arlington National Cemetery, Iwo Jima Memorial and National WWII Memorial.

Private Roland Dullnig enlisted June 1, 1942 at San Antonio, Texas, and served as a Crew Chief in the 668th Bomb Squadron, 416th Bomb Group, 9th Air Force. He joined the 416th Bomb Group while they were still based in the U.S.A. attaining the rank of T/Sgt. Roland transferred with the Group overseas at the beginning of 1944, was stationed originally at Wethersfield, England, later moving to Melun, France and then Laon, France, serving until the end of WWII.



WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

416TH.COM Additions

http://www.416th.com/www.sgamboti.com/cts/a-26_project/index.ht Search...

416th BG Contents Home - Reida Rae Restorati...

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Pages - Insider Suggested Sites

In Memory of Carmen T. (Carl) Sgamboti

Restoration Division

DOUGLAS A-26C RESTORATION PROJECT

Home

A-26 Project Status

Aircraft History

416th Bomb Group

Related Links

Restoration Crew

[416th BG Memorial Exhibit](#)

This site describes the [New England Air Museum \(NEAM\)](#) effort to restore our Douglas A-26C Invader "Reida Rae".

The principal focus of the museum is to preserve the nation's aviation heritage and provide the public with unique experiences while preserving an important part of our country's history for future generations. We hope you enjoy our site and encourage your feedback on our project.

- Read about and view photos of our work and progress under "[Project Status](#)".
- Learn about the military and civilian history of our aircraft under "[Aircraft History](#)".
- Explore the history of the [416th Bomb Group](#) who flew the A-26 Invader in WWII.
- Visit sites related to the A-26 and other WWII aircraft and military [related links](#).
- Meet our [Restoration Crew](#).

Updated: January 31, 2010

- [416th BG Memorial Exhibit](#)
- [Latest Status Report](#)

BOOKS on the 416th BG (You will leave this website when you click these links. Use your BACK button to return)

[Darwin's War](#) - Science, Politics, Warfare, Faith and Science—The 416th BG's Sacrifices to defeat Eugenics by Dr. Larry N. Smith

[First to Fall](#)—The William Edward Cramsie Story by Wayne G. Sayles



Photo courtesy of Claude Brown

March 9, 1945 in front of Reida Rae after Mission #226 to Butzbach Marshalling Yard: Claude Brown (Pilot), Jim Kerns (BN), Dick Muir (BN) Herb Sunderland (Gunner)



A-26 Invader "Reida Rae"
The New England Air Museum, 2003

Douglas A-26C Restoration Project Web Pages Originally developed by:

[Carl Sgamboti](#)
A-26C Restoration Crew Chief
Permission to include these web pages on 416th.com graciously provided by Carl's Family

416TH.COM Research

**416th Bomb Group related Research
Posted to the website:**

Aircraft Identifiers and Douglas Fuselage Numbers

Bronze Memorial Plaques

Aircraft Accident Reports

**12th Army Group Military Situation Maps
added to all Combat Mission Pages
D-Day to War's End**

416TH.COM Additions

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

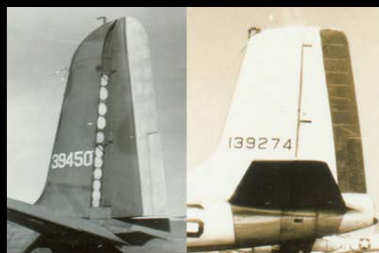
Aircraft Identifiers

www.416th.com/AircraftIdentifiers.html

Radio Call Number (Tail Number)

"The lack of a readily-visible serial number on Army aircraft began to be a serious problem, and on October 28, 1941, shortly after the USAAF had been formed, an order was given that numbers of no less than 4 digits would be painted on the tail fin of all Army aircraft (where feasible) in a size large enough to be seen from at least 150 yards away. This was officially called the radio call number, but was almost universally known as the tail number. Since military aircraft were at that time not expected to last more than ten years, the first digit of the fiscal year number was omitted in the tail number as was the AC prefix and the hyphen. For example, Curtiss P-40B serial number 41-5205 had the tail number 15205 painted on its tail fin, Curtiss P-40K serial number 42-11125 had the tail number 211125 painted on the fin, and P-51B 42-106559 had 2106559 painted on the tail. Since the Army (later Air Force) used the last four digits of the tail number as a radio call sign, for short serial numbers (those less than 100), the tail number was expanded out to four digits by adding zeros in front of the sequence number. For example, 41-38 would have the tail number written as 1038.

Consequently, in most situations for a World War II-era aircraft where the tail number is visible, you can deduce the serial number simply by putting a dash after the first digit, prefixing a 4, and you automatically have the serial number. Unfortunately, there were many deviations from these rules--there are examples in which only the last 4 or 5 digits were painted on the tail, which makes identification of the aircraft particularly difficult." (Baugher-usafserials.html)



Tail Numbers

Left: Tail Number: "39450" = USAAF S/N: 43-9450 (A-20)
Right: Tail Number: "139274" = USAAF S/N: 41-39274 (A-26)

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Aircraft Identifiers

www.416th.com/AircraftIdentifiers.html

Fuselage Code (Squadron Code and Call Letter)

Aircraft were marked with letters/numbers on both sides of the Fuselage to identify the Bomb Squadron (2 character Squadron Code, positioned closer to the front of the Aircraft) and individual aircraft Call Letter within that Squadron (single letter A thru Z, positioned closer to the Aircraft tail).

Squadron Codes for the 416th Bomb Group Squadrons were:

- 5H - 668th Bomb Squadron
- 2A - 669th Bomb Squadron
- F6 - 670th Bomb Squadron
- 5C - 671st Bomb Squadron

Fuselage Codes were unique at any given point in time. However, the same Fuselage Code was often used for more than one Aircraft over the course of time, and occasionally a given Aircraft was assigned different Fuselage Codes at different times.

For example, when the 416th Bomb Group changed from A-20 to A-26 type aircraft, the same Fuselage Codes formerly used for the A-20's were re-assigned to the newer A-26s. Also, there were times when aircraft were damaged and removed from service, so the Fuselage Code was re-assigned to the replacement aircraft.

If a damaged aircraft returned to service, it may receive a new Fuselage Code either because the prior Fuselage Code was now in use on another aircraft, or when the aircraft was re-assigned to a different Bomb Squadron.

416TH.COM Additions

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

416th BG Memorial Plaques

www.416th.com/416th_BronzeMemorialPlaques

416th Bombardment Group (L)

Bronze
Memorial
Plaques

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Frank Basford
Holding a 13" x 13" 416th Bomb Group Bronze Memorial Plaque

416TH.COM Additions

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

416th BG Memorial Plaques x +

www.416th.com/416th_BronzeMemorialPlaques Search

Three variations of the 416th Bomb Group Bronze Memorial Plaques were designed and cast:



416th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)
WORLD WAR II - EUROPEAN THEATER
1943 - 1945

A-26 INVADER - "FIRST IN THE WORLD" A-20 HAVOC - "FIRST IN THE ETO"

BOMBARDMENT SQUADRONS
668th 669th - HQ - 670th 671st
Support Units
4th Ser. Grp. - 79th Sta. Comp. - 199th Med. Det. - Red Cross
21st Weather - 1297th Mil. Police

Dedicated in Memory of the Gallant 416th Airmen and Diligent Support Personnel Whose Supreme Sacrifices Aided in Preserving Freedom throughout the World.
Dedicated 1993

Variation No. 1, Size: 12" x 10"
1 plaque cast in 1993
National Museum of the USAF



416th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)
WORLD WAR II - EUROPEAN THEATER
1943 - 1945

A-26 INVADER - FIRST GROUP IN THE WORLD A-20 HAVOC - FIRST 9th AIR FORCE GROUP IN ETO

SQUADRONS
668th 669th - HQ - 670th 671st
Support Units
4th Ser. Grp. - 79th Sta. Comp. - 199th Med. Det. - Red Cross
21st Weather - 1297th Mil. Police

Dedicated in Memory of the Gallant 416th Airmen and Diligent Support Personnel Whose Supreme Sacrifices Aided in Preserving Freedom throughout the World.

Variation No. 2, Size: 13" x 13"
5 plaques cast in 1993, 2 cast 2012
USAF Academy
Giles County Courthouse Annex
March Field Air Museum
Wethersfield Airfield Chapel
EAA Aviation Museum
New England Air Museum
416th Bomb Group Archive



416th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)
WORLD WAR II - EUROPEAN THEATER
1943 - 1945

A-26 INVADER - FIRST GROUP IN THE WORLD A-20 HAVOC - FIRST 9th AIR FORCE GROUP IN ETO

SQUADRONS
-HQ-
668th 669th Support Units 670th 671st
4th Service Group - 79th Station Complement - 199th Medical Detachment - 21st Weather - 1297 Military Police - Red Cross

Dedicated in Memory of the Gallant 416th Airmen and the Diligent Support Personnel Whose Supreme Sacrifices Aided in Preserving Freedom throughout the World.
"Our 286th Mission"

Variation No. 3, Size: 18" x 14"
1 plaque cast in 1993
Arlington National Cemetery

416TH.COM Additions

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

416th BG Mission 177

www.416th.com/missions/mission177.html

Search

"670th Bombardment Squadron (L) History"

Transcription from USAF Archives

Christmas Day of 1944 was different from others we had spent. There was the Christmas tree in the mess hall brightly decorated. There was the fine turkey dinner which Staff Sergeant Payton's men prepared so well. There was candy and fruit cake from home. There was even the radio blaring out with "White Christmas" and "Silent Night". But it was not like other Christmases we had spent. Thoughts were thousands of miles from Army Air Force Station A-55 that day. Two missions on Christmas Day kept everyone busy. The first was an attack on the Munsteriefel communications center and the town itself. Only one flight was able to pick up the target and achieved superior results. Another flight picked up another target and bombed it. This was the town of Krimm with its important marshalling yard and highway, which were severely damaged. A third flight hit the town of Kronenburgerhutte. Moderate to intense, heavy accurate flak followed the formation from the bomb-line to the target area and knocked down one of the planes of the 668th Squadron. The formation suffered heavy flak damage on this mission. The afternoon mission was an attack on the defended village of Hillsheim in which six of our crews took part. Although the primary target could not be picked up, heavy damage was scored on three secondary targets. They were the towns of Palm, Fousdork, and Gereisten in Germany. Again the formation was subjected to intense accurate heavy flak from the bomb-line to the target and returning to the bomb-line.



[December 25, 1944]. HQ Twelfth Army Group situation map

Map showing Western Allies and Axis troop position details in Western Europe as of approximately 1200 hours, December 25, 1944

[World War II Military Situation Maps Collection](#)

[Library of Congress](#)

[Previous Mission # 176](#) [Mission List](#) [Next Mission # 178](#)

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416TH.COM Additions

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416th BG Website Update Summary X

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file:///C:/Dat/rgprucha.com/public_html/416test/416th_website_upd

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416th Bombardment Group (L)

Website Update

Summary

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Date	Update description
September, 2018	Added hyperlinks for Library of Congress 12th Army Group World War II Military Situation Maps to all 219 Combat Mission pages from D-Day (Mission 67) to the Last 416th BG Mission (Mission 285). These maps show Western Allies and Axis troop position details in Western Europe as of approximately 1200 hours every day. Added Ralph Conte memorial video and Carl Sgamboti memorial video slide show , produced for the October 5-8, 2016 416th BG Reunion by Wayne Sayles.
August, 2018	Added 416th BG Bronze Memorial Plaques and Franklin Pierce "Frank" Basford Post-War Obituary pages. Added Post-War Obituary page for Wayne Edward Downing .
June, 2018	Added 2018 Reunion Registration page. This year's 416th Bomb Group Reunion will be held October 3-7, 2018 in Abilene, Texas. Please Register and make your Travel plans soon. Added Aircraft Accident Report PDF files to MACR/AAR report pages AAR 45-1-23-523 , AAR 45-2-22-524 and AAR 45-3-12-525 .
May, 2018	Added New England Air Museum (NEAM) Douglas A-26C Invader "Reida Rae" restoration web pages originally developed by Carl Sgamboti, with permission from Carl's family. Added Aircraft Accident Report PDF files to MACR/AAR report pages AAR 45-10-28-530 and AAR 45-10-19-528 ; Updated captions on numerous Cachat Photos .
April, 2018	Added Post-War Obituary page for Francis Joseph Cachat . Added Aircraft Identifiers - Douglas Fuselage Number page. Added Aircraft Accident Report PDF files to MACR/AAR report pages AAR 44-4-21-508 and AAR 45-12-23-535 .
March, 2018	Added Individual Deceased Personnel File hyperlinks to S/Sgt. Charles R. Henshaw and S/Sgt. Jack NMI Steward Memorial Pages. Added "Missing Air Crew Reports, Aircraft Accident Reports, and other incidents" information and links to the following 81 individual Mission pages: 2 , 6 , 8 , 10 , 13 , 26 , 33 , 40 , 43 , 46 , 47 , 49 , 50 , 58 , 61 , 65 , 66 , 68 , 83 , 87 , 90 , 92 , 94 , 100 , 101 , 102 , 110 , 111 , 114 , 115 , 116 , 117 , 122 , 123 , 125 , 131 , 139 , 145 , 148 , 149 , 153 , 154 , 155 , 156 , 163 , 164 , 167 , 173 , 175 , 176 , 177 , 179 , 180 , 181 , 184 , 185 , 187 , 188 , 191 , 192 , 197 , 200 , 201 , 204 , 206 , 209 , 210 , 214 , 221 , 233 , 239 , 246 , 247 , 249 , 253 , 256 , 260 , 273 , 279 , 280 , 285 .
	Added 416th Bomb Group Newsletter 2017 published by Wayne and Doris Sayles. Added 2018 Reunion Announcement page. This

416TH.COM Counts

872 Individual Web Pages
(18 more than 2017)

5,518 Images (Photos/Documents)
(337 more than 2017)

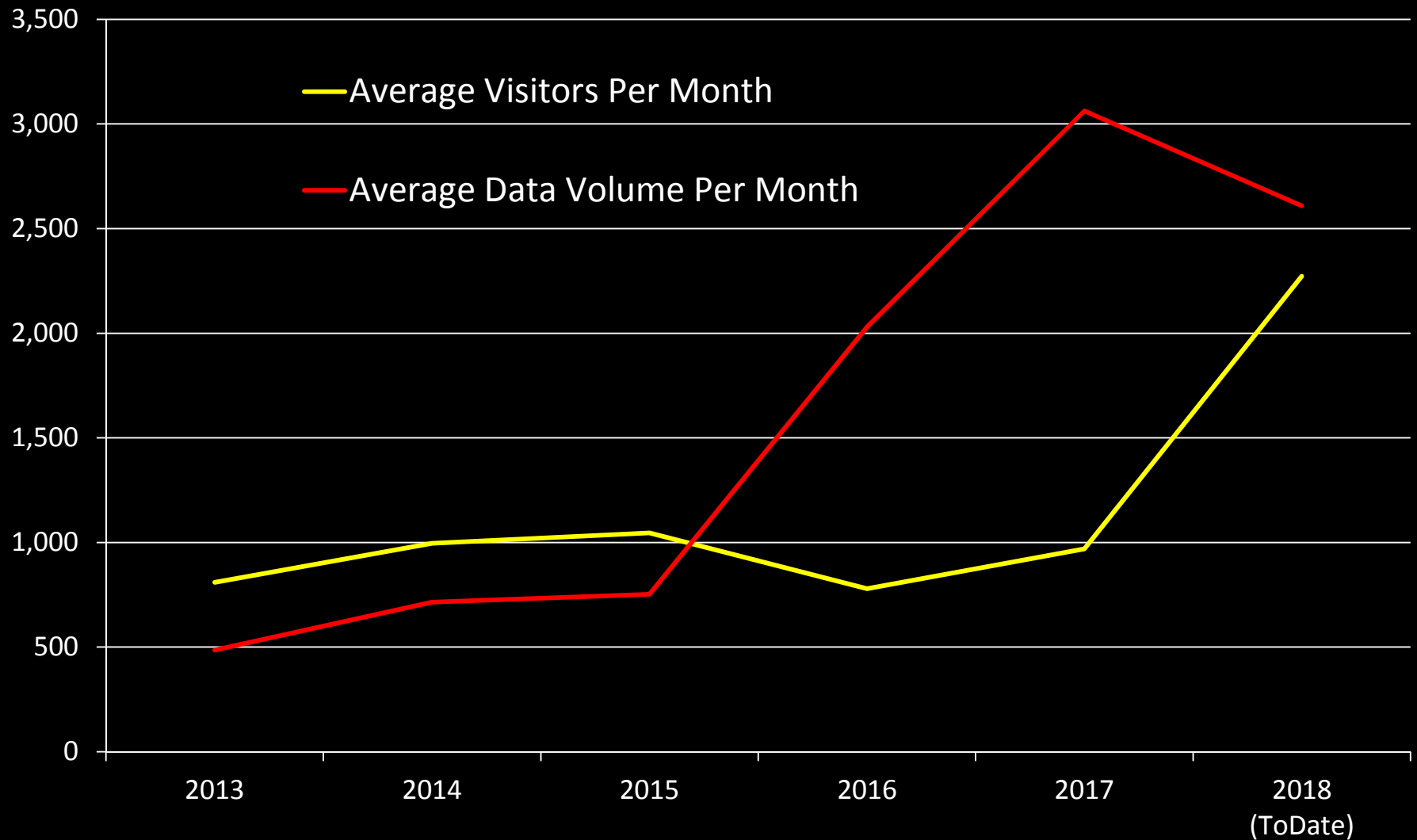
740 PDF files (102 MACR/AAR reports)
(26 more than 2017)

31 Videos
(2 more than 2017)

Total Website Size is over 7 GB, 11,130 Files
(Added over 600 Files since last year 2017)

(Above counts do not include 311 Carl Sgamboti Website files)

416TH.COM Traffic



416TH.COM



In honor and memory of those who served

[ENTER HERE](#)

27 March 1945

"Too much credit cannot be given to these men of the 12th Army Group, Ninth Air Force tactical team who are relentlessly battering our foe on the ground and from the air. They beat him on the beachhead, drove him from the occupied nations, crushed him in his own Rhineland, and next will destroy him in the heart of his Fatherland. It is these fighting men who are responsible for our past successes, and it is their indomitable spirit which assures a speedy and crushing victory for our cooperating arms."

//s// Omar N. Bradley, Lt. General, U.S.A. Commanding.

**THANKS to all our Website Volunteers:
Wayne and Doris Sayles, Jane Enman,
Chris and Mary Adams, Carl Sgamboti, Tom
Rickels, Steven Roy, Rick Prucha**