

384th Bomb Group, Inc.

The 384th Bomb Group Veterans Signing Project



The **384th Bomb Group Veterans Signing Project** arose from a chance observation in 2008. 384th BG NexGen member Christopher Wilkinson was visiting the EAA's B-17G "Aluminum Overcast" and admired the large number of Veterans' signatures on the bomber's crew door. The significance of personally signing the bomber and the affection they had for the B-17s they flew and serviced was apparent. An idea began to form: might it be possible for the Veterans of the 384th BG to personally sign a B-17 part to honor their hard work? The dream began to take shape after discussions with fellow Group members, and so the search for a suitable B-17 part began.

In March 2010, after a long search, a genuine B-17G wing skin panel was generously donated to the 384th Bomb Group, Inc. by Carl Scholl, partner in the warbird restoration firm Aero Trader of Chino, California. The identity of the B-17G that the panel came from is unknown. All that is known, based on the original ID plate affixed to the back, is that it was built during WWII by Briggs Manufacturing Company and its function is a wing stress panel to enclose the fuel tank.

To ready the panel for its first signatures, warbird restorer and artist Cory O'Bryan of Ontario, CA donated his time and artistic skills hand-painting the 384th Bomb Group shield and Triangle P tail symbol, 544th, 545th, 546th and 547th Bomb Squadron shields, the Eighth Air Force shield, and listed the Group's support squadrons on the 3-foot by 8-foot long panel.



The wing panel was first presented to the Group at their reunion in Branson, Missouri on October 12, 2010, where the first 10 Veterans signed. Since then, it has been to every annual 384th reunion, giving 25 Veterans the opportunity to sign. It has also been shipped to 18 states in all corners of the country, and has visited over 90 Veterans and their families.

The 384th Bomb Group Wing Panel is available for any 384th BG Veteran to sign who served in any capacity in the Group between January 1943 to February 1946. Families and friends of the Veterans are strongly encouraged to participate with the Veteran when they sign the wing panel. As of October 2014, over 90 Veterans have signed, and about 50 more Veterans have been identified as potential signers.

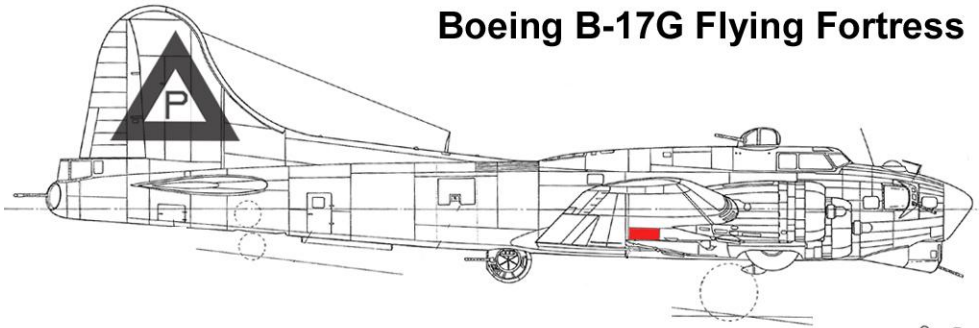
The project is continuing as Veterans are located, and as arrangements can be made for them to sign, even if they are unable to travel to the reunions. As many of our Veterans are unable to travel, this has become very important to them. The project will continue for as long as 384th Veterans can be located.

If you know (or know of) a 384th Bomb Group WWII Veteran, please contact: B-17WingPanel@384thBombGroup.com

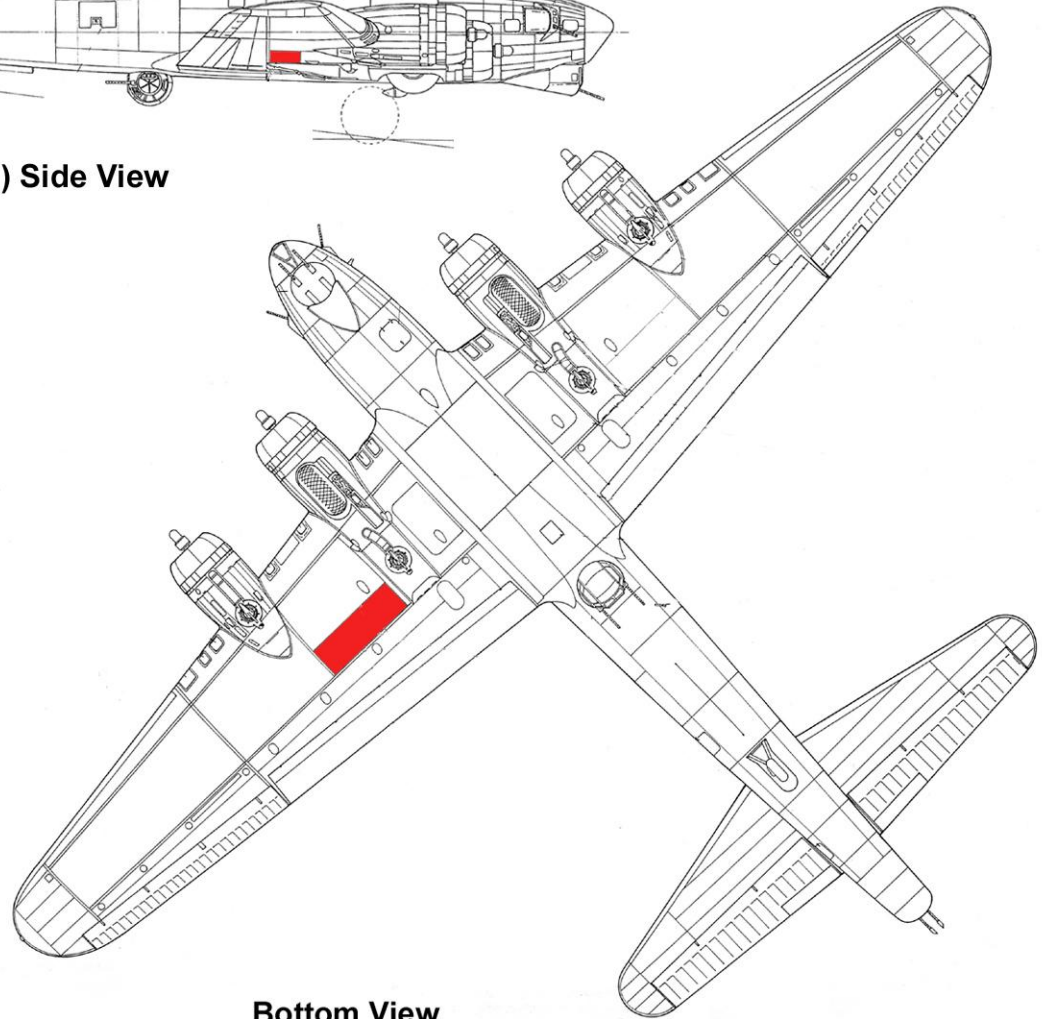
At the completion of the Project, when all possible signatures have been gathered, the wing panel - known as **The 384th Bombardment Group (Heavy) Commemorative Wing Panel** - will be placed on permanent display in a place of honor in the 384th Bomb Group display at the Hill Aerospace Museum at Hill Air Force Base in Utah.

The project was conceived to be materially and logistically supported by the Group's NexGen members, solely for the benefit of its Veterans and at no cost to them or their families. This has been an important goal for the project since its inception and has not wavered from this. The project's success relies entirely on the skill, great dedication and good will of the Group's NexGen members and friends, and the friendship and great Patriotism of its Veterans. Over two dozen individuals have contributed to the project materially or with their time, without which it could not happen.

Boeing B-17G Flying Fortress



Right (Starboard) Side View



Bottom View

The original location of the 384th BG Veterans Wing Panel is shown as a red rectangle on the schematic view above.

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