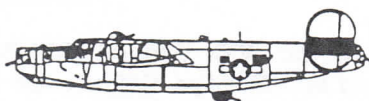


NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 1

August 1986

PROFILES

Birdie Schmidt Larrick, greatly adored manager of the ARC Aero Club, joined the Group at Wendling December 12, 1943. These were dark days, and *she was a ray of sunshine.*

Fresh from Ohio State University with experience in radio broadcasting and theater, she and her ARC staffers brought a morale-boosting sense of home to the base.

One of the crews named their ship, *The Birdie Schmidt.*

Hearing the boom of guns on the continent, she left Wendling in February 1945, running a cinemobile and a showmobile for the Ninth Army, and later she put on Special Services shows for the Seventh Army. Birdie arrived home in the USA on November 5, 1945.

Post-war, she worked at a Columbus, Ohio radio station, tried out "show business" in New York, then married George "Bud" Larrick a Pan Am pilot.

Bud and Birdie moved to Florida in 1965 and Birdie taught high school English. They raised two boys, Don and Jay. Bud died in 1983; Birdie sold out in 1985 and went home to Columbus (1928 Beverly Road, Zip 43221, 614/448-2689).

But that address will not be good for very much longer. What's she doing now? Going to China to teach English in a Chinese University! When pressed for "Why" at this state in her life, she only said, "Because I want to"! Relentless logic.

Our best wishes to this lovely lady.

Birdie's address in China: (Sometime after September 1, 1986)

c/o Foreign Affairs Office
Fuzhou Teachers University
Daihou Road, Linhou
Fuzhou
Peoples Republic of China

8TH AF HISTORICAL SOCIETY REUNION

The Twelfth Annual Reunion of the 8th AFHS will be held in Hollywood, FL, Oct. 15 - 19. Those of you who were unable to attend the Pheasant Run get together should seriously consider attending this one. Hollywood is the headquarters for the 8th AFHS, so the Red Carpet will be out for this clambake! There will be a golf outing, the Mighty 8th Theatre, the Air War Symposium (Ploesti), unit hospitality rooms and group dinners. The 392nd will have a hospitality room complete with all the memorabilia we can find. Bring your pictures and other items of interest. We will have a 392nd dinner which will be great fun. I guarantee that you'll be glad you came! The 392nd BG Memorial Group will also have a directors meeting and a general membership meeting. We need your input at this meeting. The weather should be fine with lots of sunshine to warm our tired ol' bones at the beach. Also there'll be a special "Salute to the B-24". Let's be there in force to receive it.

Fill out the enclosed reservation form now! If it is postmarked not later than Sept. 1, our group will get a \$5.00 rebate. Our goal is to have 150 392nd people at this meeting. *Be there. We need you!*

Our membership drive is about on target. We have reached the 300 mark and are shooting for 400 by the end of this year. Some new coordinators have been added:

Carroll W. Cheek - Indiana and Ohio

Cecil "Rocky" Rothrock - Wisconsin

The cost of mailing newsletters is a large item in our budget. Those of you who have not sent your dues could help if you would simply send your \$10.00 check to Gil Bambauer. At some point in the near future we will have to discontinue our mailings to non-members. *Let us hear from you today!*

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PHEASANT RUN

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2ND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION FOR THEIR GREAT 39th REUNION in St. Charles, Illinois. Evelyn Cohen and her staff pulled all the stops to make this one super. It is certainly one to be remembered!

The 392nd BG turn out was the best ever. We had over 100 at our group dinner. John Conrad did a great job as MC. He was able to pull the crowd into the act, and we all heard some great stories about the 392nd. Lawrence Gilbert, our last and only living Base Commander, was his usual charming self and came up with a couple of good 392nd BG stories. Don't let this low-keyed, soft-spoken gentleman fool you. *He works at making the 392nd the best in the world!*

The appearance of Joe Bush, our Group Executive Officer, gave an added dimension to our gathering. Joe brought along the last flag to fly over Station 118 at Wendling. Also, Joe brought his photo album which is full of priceless 392nd pictures.

The 578th had both of its squadron commanders present: George Player and Warren Polking. It was Warren's first reunion, but we are sure it won't be his last! Both of these fellows had a lot of dandy stories to tell. They made the reunion for the 578th! Bob Lane brought his VCR camera for a group photo session for the squadron. We'll see the pictures in Tulsa next year.

The group hospitality room displayed the Wendling flag. Bob Vickers had all the pictures from his book, Liberators from Wendling, reproduced and displayed on three of the walls; he also brought brass rubbings of three sides of the Wendling memorial.

We also had poster-sized blow-ups of the memorial in Wendling and of the wreath-laying ceremony at the American cemetery at Cambridge. Art Jenson (parachute man of the 578th) brought copies of "Stars and Stripes" and "Yank" magazine. Art explained that he would be 80 on his next birthday and wanted to give us these publications for our enjoyment at future 392nd BG reunions. *Art looks better at 79 than I do at 62!* Thanks, Art.

A very special thanks to Gil and Martha Bambauer, Jerry Richards, Keith Roberts, and to Bob Vickers for their help in getting this room ready. Max Desonne and Stan Zybart get an "A" for effort for properly folding the flag when the reunion was over. It did take awhile but they got the job done! A big hand for Mary and Rocky Rothrock for their help. Harry Kruse (Crew Chief-578th) showed up with a beautiful scale model of the GI Jane B-24. He also had a couple of pieces of flack taken from one of his planes.

Many thanks to Herman and Bessie Mae Gardner for the beautiful 392nd buttons which they had made for us. All donations were given to the 392nd BG Memorial Association. We can't lose with folks like this!

The spirit of the Crusaders from Wendling was never more evident. The pride that gave us top bombing accuracy, fewer aborts, and the most planes in the air is still with us. You have to be there to experience all the closeness of the air and ground crews. *Our esprit d'corps is alive and well!*

The Blue Ribbon Class dancers were at their best at the Saturday banquet. Vito Buffalo and his big band did it all -- from "Begin the Beguine" to "In the Mood", then "Alley Cat" and "Kansas City". *Let me tell you, some of these old folks still shake a mean leg!* I thought I was in the summertime of my life -- at least, my breath was coming in "short pants". Helen and Charley Dye, Trudy and Steve Wozniak, Mary and Joe Westbrook, Laura and Barney Glettler all wore their dancing shoes. It was said that some of the guys inflicted a lot more damage on the dance floor that evening than they did during the war! I lost ten pounds dancing and gained it all back when my feet began to swell, but it was worth it. Keith Roberts had our tables marked with a large assortment of balloons. I wonder how the hotel ever got them off the ceiling! I can't remember enjoying a banquet and dance as much as I did this one.



The Eighth Air Force Historical Society

P.O. BOX 3556
HOLLYWOOD, FL. 33083

TUESDAY, 14 OCTOBER . . . GOLFERS WELCOME

1730-1900 Golfers Get Acquainted & Cash Bar—Liberator Bar, Scheherazade Room
1730-1900 Golfers' Registration Bar Area

WEDNESDAY, 15 OCTOBER . . . EARLY BIRDS' WELCOME

0815-1530 8AF Golf Tourney—Presidential Country Club.
1700-2000 Registration Center and PX open—Diplomat Oceanside.
1800-TIL Enjoy any of the nine Diplomat restaurants and bars.

THURSDAY, 16 OCTOBER . . . UNIT CONTACTS, UNIT PRINCIPALS AND STATE CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES DAY

0700- Breakfast Thursday, Friday and Saturday according to your schedule
0800-2000 Registration Center and PX Open—Diplomat Oceanside.
0930-TIL "MIGHTY EIGHTH THEATRE" open.
0800-END Unit Rendezvous/Hospitality Rooms Open Thursday, Friday and Saturday
1100-1200 Unit Development and Unit Advisory Informal Meeting Open to All.
1330-1700 Unit Development Workshop and Unit Advisory Committee Group Meeting (open to all members).

Free day for members to take optional tours, enjoy the beach, etc.

FRIDAY, 17 OCTOBER . . . UNIT/GROUP AND CHAPTER DAY

0800-1800 Registration Center and PX open—Diplomat Oceanside.
0930-TIL "MIGHTY EIGHTH THEATER" open.
1900-TIL Unit Rendezvous Dinners & Meetings as desired.
Units/Groups/Chapters utilize this day with own business & functions

SATURDAY, 18 OCTOBER . . . GENERAL MEMBERSHIP DAY

0800-1000 Registration and PX open—Diplomat Oceanside.
1000-1200 General Membership Meeting.
1400-1700 Air War Symposium "The Ploesti Raid, 1 August 1943".
1800-TIL 8AF Gala Banquet, Entertainment and Dancing.

SUNDAY, 19 OCTOBER . . . FAREWELL 'TIL WE MEET AGAIN!

0700-0845 Breakfast as desired.
0900-0920 Memorial Service & Fly-By.

NOTICE

392nd BOMB GP MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

Thursday -- October 16 -- 10:00 A.M. -- Board Meeting

Friday -- October 17 -- 2:00 P.M. -- General Membership Meeting

DIPLOMAT HOTEL--HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

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REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

(Mail form in enclosed self addressed stamped envelope to)
8 AF REUNION, BOX 3556, HOLLYWOOD, FL. 33083



NAME(S) _____ TELE. NUMBER() _____

Print First Name(s) & Last Name(s)

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE _____ ZIP _____

WW II UNIT _____ 8 AF MEMBER # _____ PLAN TO PLAY GOLF _____ # () . NO GREENS FEE.

COST PER PERSON:

1. Registration	\$20.....	X () Person(s)...	= \$ _____
2. Friday RDZ Dinner	\$23.25.....	X () Person(s)...	= \$ _____
3. Saturday Night Gala	\$25.....	X () Person(s)...	= \$ _____
4. Air War Symposium	\$10.....	X () Person(s)...	= \$ _____
			TOTAL \$ _____

(Make Check Payable to 8 AFHS For All Above)

A WARM WELCOME

8 Air Force Reunion — Oct. 15-19, 1986

Diplomat Resort and Country Clubs

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Names of Occupants *please print* _____

Total # of Rooms _____ Guests _____

Affiliation _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Remarks _____

Please Reserve
European Plan
(No Meals)

TOWER
Convention
Center
Valet/Garage
Parking

Daily Rates
EAST BLDG.
Convention
Center
Valet/Garage
Parking

WEST BLDG.
Casual
Atmosphere
Compliment.
Self-Parking

GOLF &
RACQUET
Casual
Atmosphere
Compliment.
Self-Parking

Double Room
(2 persons)

\$58

\$58

\$48

\$40

Single Room
(1 person)

\$58

\$58

\$48

\$40

Third person in
same Room

Suites:

1 Bdrm—\$125 to \$195;

2 Bdrm—\$195 to \$245

Occupancy cannot be assured before 3 p.m. of the date of reservation and rooms will be held until 6 p.m. unless guaranteed by first night's room rental for date of arrival. All reservations are made subject to failure of guests to vacate or conditions or causes beyond our control. Checkout is 12 Noon.

1. Please complete 8 AFHS Registration Form and send with full payment by check or money order to cover Registration fee & events. (no credit card)
2. First night Hotel deposit may be by check, money order or credit card (MC/V/AMX/DC/CB).

Type Card

Account #

Exp. Date

Signature

NOTICE

IN ORDER TO ATTEND THIS REUNION
YOU MUST BE A MEMBER OF
THE 8TH AF HISTORICAL SOCIETY

* * *

(For Office Use Only. Do Not Write Above These Lines.)

12-3

8th AFHS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

ADDRESS: _____

(Zip Code)

8AF Unit: _____, Dates of 8AF Service: _____

Not in 8AF, please
sign me up as Associate: _____, Dates of Wartime service: _____

Please use this form for your initial calendar year membership payment (\$10 U.S. and \$12.50 non-U.S.). Send with your U.S. Dollar check, made out to 8AFHS, to 8AFHS Membership, 495 N.E. 157th Ter., Miami, FL 33162. You will be billed for subsequent years.

Tear off this Sheet and Return with Your Check

392ND BG MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

The Board of Directors met and discussed the possibility of making some improvements to the area surrounding our memorial at Wendling. The Board did approve funds to do some drainage work around the monument. Director C. W. Cheek visited that area last year and he has recommended some general improvements there. Luther Beddingfield will be in Wendling during August and will give us a report on costs etc.

The Board voted to hold our own reunion. It will be next June in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The 2nd ADA will hold their 1987 reunion in Norwich, England; however, attendance is limited to about 500 people because of the limited facilities there. The Board felt the timing was right to have our own reunion. Tulsa was chosen because of its central location as well as the attractive pricing. The rates will be very reasonable.

We had a limited number of white nylon jackets with the 392nd BG emblem and the Crusader patch. This was to test the market. They were offered for a \$20.00 donation. We also offered a black cap with scrambled eggs on the bill and the 392nd - Wendling, England 1943-1945 emblem in gold. These were offered for an \$8.00 donation. We not only sold out, but took quite a few orders for future delivery. If you would like either or both, send your size (S-M-L-XL-XXL) and enclose your donation check to:

Mr. Gil Bambauer
2032 E. LaMadera Dr.
Tucson, AZ 85719

_____ Jacket(s) Size _____ \$20 Ea. Total _____

_____ Cap (s) _____ \$8 Ea. Total _____

Check Enclosed: _____ Amount \$ _____

Proceeds will go to the 392nd BG

Memorial Association

Project Fund

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2ND AIR DIVISION BUSINESS

J. Fred Thomas, who has served as the 392nd Group V.P. for the past six years, opted to go into a well deserved retirement. All of us appreciate the great job Fred has done. John Conrad was elected to fill that position. John is a personable, well-organized man who will do a great job. We are all behind you, Mr. C. A complete up-date on the Norwich Memorial Library funding was presented with appropriate thanks from the English community.

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* M O V I N G ? *
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* BE SURE TO SEND US *
*
* YOUR NEW ADDRESS. *
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June 25-27
1987

You Need To Be In Tulsa

For The
R E U N I O N

Of The

392ND BG MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

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June 25-27
1987

Plan Now To Attend

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* *

I N M E M O R I A M

Charles Harrod, Jr.

Tennie W. Peterson

Wilson M. Heuser

William Sullivan, Jr.

John Huba

Walter Zwolensky

392nd BG Memorial Association Membership Application

Name: _____
 First Middle Last

Address: _____
 Street Apt. No.

 City State Zip Code

Unit or Squadron _____ ☐ Associate
Dues are \$10.00 each calendar year (January - December)
Send check or money order to 392nd BG Memorial Assoc.,
C/O Gil Bambauer, 2032 E.LaMadera Dr., Tucson, AZ 85719

☐ Check if this is a gift membership.

392nd BG Memorial Association
2032 East LaMadera Drive
Tucson, AZ 85719

Address Correction Requested
Forwarding & Return Postage Guaranteed

President

Lawrence G. Gilbert
1482 Granville Drive
Winter Park, FL 32789

Vice President - Newsletter

Wm. H. Richards
No. 313, 5206 South Harvard
Tulsa, OK 74135

Secretary-Treasurer

Gilbert R. Bambauer
2032 East LaMadera Drive
Tucson, AZ 85719