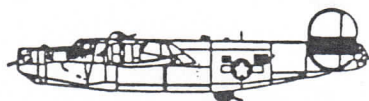


NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME II

AUGUST 1987

Tulsa Reunion '87

The Tulsa Reunion was a huge success. The troops began arriving on Tuesday with the numbers swelling to 228 by Friday. Accommodations in the castle were fine and the food was great. The air crews turned out in force. Several had six members present; there were several with four and five members. We had our Group Commander (Lawrence Gilbert), our Group Executive Officer (Joe Bush), as well as the Group Adjutant (Jack Fritsche). Joe Whitaker, former Group Bombardier, later Division Bombardier, was also in attendance. All squadrons except the 577th had squadron commanders present.

The East Anglean Hambone Players made their first and last appearance on Friday night. Dr. C. G. "Pat" McCarthy received a gift of part of a P-38 -- the one in which he buzzed the officers' mess and then crashed. After a thorough investigation, we got very close to learning who really killed Queen Mary's pet swan, but alas, the perpetrator of this dastardly deed remains a mystery!

On Saturday night, Col. Lawrence G. Gilbert, our last and only living Group Commander and also President of the 392nd BGMA, was presented a plaque which was inscribed with all the 392nd data. It also had a large altimeter which serves as a clock. Warren Polking suggested that any future plaques should also include a compass. (I am not sure what all this means, but I feel sure that some of you will.)

The banquet was followed by the Big Band Sound of Sammy Pagna. Those "fountain of youth" cocktails must have really worked -- the Crusader guys and gals were really covering the dance floor! The 50 or so
(Cont'd. Page 4, Col. 1)

Pittsburgh Reunion

The 8th AF Historical Society will hold their 13th Annual Reunion in Pittsburgh, PA, October 14-18, 1987. V.P. Cliff Peterson has the 392nd booked in the headquarters hotel (The Hilton). The 392nd BGMA will have a hospitality room with all the pictures on display. We hope to have a VCR and lots of film to show. We are anticipating a good turn-out because of the geographical location. We will see a lot of faces who were not at the Tulsa Reunion. The format has been changed and the 392nd will have two group dinners. This will give us even more time to talk and to swap stories. If you feel you can attend, please get your registration in prior to as we get a rebate on early registrations. A registration form is included with this newsletter. See you in Pittsburgh!

* * *

NOTICE

The 392nd BGMA Board of Directors
will have a meeting

At 9:30 a.m., Friday, Oct. 16, 1987
Hilton Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA

* * *

Our PX is offering the second printing of Liberators From Wendling. This is a book about the 392nd Bomb Group and their contribution to the air war over Europe. The cost is \$25.00. Please send your check (payable to the 392nd BGMA) to Gil Bambauer, 2032 East LaMadera Drive, Tucson, AZ 85719. This is another great birthday or Christmas gift.

* * *



Eighth Air Force Reunion

Suite 510-358
2519 McMullen Booth Rd.
Clearwater, FL 33519

1987 Pittsburgh Reunion Registration Form

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY . . .

1. Two Forms must be filled out, **one** for reunion events and **one** for housing (hotels).
2. Mail this registration form to 8AF REUNION, address above.
Mail Housing Form To: 8AF Housing, Greater Pittsburgh Convention Bureau, Four Gateway Center, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.
3. If you are local and do not require hotel accommodations mail only the Registration Form to 8AF Reunion address above.
4. 8AF Registration should be sent with full payment by check or money order to cover events and fees, **no credit card**.
5. Request for Housing (hotels) should indicate 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices and request should be accompanied by first nights deposit by check, money order or credit card (MC/V/AMX/DC) to Pittsburgh Convention Center.
6. Units will receive \$5.00 refund if Registration is postmarked NLT September 1 and 10 or more register.

REGISTRATION

NAME(S) _____ Tel. No. _____
Print first name(s) & last name(s)

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE _____ ZIP _____ WW II Unit _____

8 AF MEMBER # _____ WILL PLAY GOLF WED. _____ # _____ \$25 Fee payable in Pittsburgh.

COST PER PERSON: Each Person Must Register in Order to Purchase Tickets to Events.

1. Registration	\$22.50 . . . x ()	Person(s) . . . \$	_____
2. Friday RDZ Dinner (392nd BG)	23.00 . . . x ()	Person(s) . . . \$	_____
3. Saturday Night Dinner (392nd BG)	27.00 . . . x ()	Person(s) . . . \$	_____
4. Air Way Symposium	10.00 . . . x ()	Person(s) . . . \$	_____
5. Thursday Tea Dance-15:00 hrs	10.00 . . . x ()	Person(s) . . . \$	_____
6. Thursday Luncheon Cruise	14.00 . . . x ()	Person(s) . . . \$	_____
7. Thursday Dinner Cruise	22.00 . . . x ()	Person(s) . . . \$	_____
8. Friday Morning City Tour	10.00 . . . x ()	Person(s) . . . \$	_____
9. R/T Bus Fare Greater Pittsburgh Airport Saturday Afternoon	2.50 . . . x ()	Person(s) . . . \$	_____
Grand Total \$			_____

Make check payable to 8 AF Reunion and mail to 8AF Reunion, Suite 510-358, 2519 McMullen Booth Rd., Clearwater, FL 33519. Registrations postmarked after September 1 and walk-ins will be on an available basis. Your cancelled check is your receipt. Non current 8th Air Forcers may register now and up-date membership in Pittsburgh. Full refund if cancellation postmarked NLT October 1, 1987 and mailed to 8AF Reunion address.)

(MAIL THIS PAGE TO 8AF REUNION, SUITE 510-358, 2519 McMULLEN BOOTH RD., CLEARWATER, FL 33519)

- 3 -

HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

8TH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Pittsburgh Pennsylvania October 14-18, 1987

Please type or print clearly all information requested.

MAIL TO: HOUSING BUREAU
Greater Pittsburgh Convention & Visitors Bureau
Four Gateway Center
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412) 644-5515

Indicate 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice and circle preferred rate in each.

PITTSBURGH HILTON & TOWERS _____ Choice

_____ Single (1 bed/1 person)	\$62
_____ Double (1 bed/2 persons)	\$62
_____ Twin (2 beds/2 persons)	\$62
_____ Suite (Parlor + 1 bedroom)	\$160

WESTIN WILLIAM PENN _____ Choice

_____ Single (1 bed/1 person)	\$62
_____ Double (1 bed/2 persons)	\$62
_____ Twin (2 beds/2 persons)	\$62
_____ Suite (Parlor + 1 bedroom)	\$145

HYATT PITTSBURGH _____ Choice

_____ Single (1 bed/1 person)	\$64
_____ Double (1 bed/2 persons)	\$64
_____ Twin (2 beds/2 persons)	\$64
_____ Suite (Parlor + 1 bedroom)	\$185

VISTA INTERNATIONAL _____ Choice

_____ Single (1 bed/1 person)	\$66
_____ Double (1 bed/2 persons)	\$66
_____ Twin (2 beds/2 persons)	\$66
_____ Suite (Parlor + 1 bedroom)	\$150

RESERVE SPACE FOR (NAME) _____ PHONE _____

ROOMMATE (NAME) _____

UNIT _____

P.O.BOX/STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

GUARANTEED: _____ YES _____ NO Credit Card No. _____ Type _____
& Expiration Date _____

IMPORTANT: Please submit request on official form. If additional forms are needed, photocopy this form. All reservations must be in writing and processed through the Housing Bureau. **Telephone reservations will NOT be accepted.** Do not send form to the 8th Air Force Historical Society. Reservation confirmation will be sent directly from the hotels. Rooms will not be held after 6 p.m., unless guaranteed by a credit card number or first night's deposit. Make checks payable to 8th AFHS Housing Bureau. Reservations must be received by September 1, 1987 to assure confirmation. **Please submit any cancellations and all other changes to the Housing Bureau in writing.**

(MAIL THIS PAGE TO HOUSING BUREAU, FOUR GATEWAY CENTER, PITTSBURGH, PA 15222)

Continued from Page 1

hard core dancers were still going strong when the clock struck 12. I noticed that some were a little late for breakfast on Sunday. The consensus was that it was a great reunion.

We are happy to announce the election of three new members to our Board of Directors. They are --

Herman S. Garner, Lexington, NC
Jim Goar, Frankfort, Indiana
J. D. Long, Jr., Greensboro, NC

The Board of Directors elected officers to serve for one year as follows:

President Lawrence G. Gilbert, Winter Park, Florida

Vice President Wm. H. Richards, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Treasurer Gilbert R. Bambauer, Tucson, Arizona

Secretary Howard Ebersole, Plymouth, Michigan

Thirty-four golfers showed up for the 392nd Tulsa Open Golf Tournament. The weather man didn't cooperate as we had a downpour during the night. The players couldn't leave the cart path with their carts. John and Nancy Vincent of Tucson, Arizona walked away with top honors. Tournament Director Barney Glettler declares there was no hanky panky in the scoring. If you say so, Barney!

The memorial service was beautiful. It was held at the War Memorial which is located at the edge of Tulsa's downtown area. The colors, including the new Crusaders Flag, were presented by the Oklahoma Air Guard. Col. Lawrence Gilbert and Col. Joe Bush presented a wreath on behalf of the Group.

Ruth Krumm, widow of Alex Slama who was lost on a mission, and Marilyn Lane, who was an Army nurse, presented white roses on behalf of the wives. Each squadron and service organization presented white carnations. After the sounding of taps, 392 blue and silver balloons were released from behind the memorial. Needless to say, there were some lumpy throats and misty eyes.

The Wendling Memorial Committee made an excellent presentation on plans to completely re-work our memorial at Wendling. It will be a beautiful tribute to the 392nd Bomb Group and to the those who didn't come back. Obviously the cost will be substantial, but we want something of which we can be proud. There is no way we can do justice to this in a newsletter. You will receive a separate mailing which will reveal our plans. Hats off to the Committee and the great job they have done!

The reunion was video-taped by a professional group and the tapes are available to all our membership. I have seen the preliminary tapes and they are excellent. More than four hours of tape have been edited into a tape of less than two hours. The cost per tape is \$35.00, plus \$4.00 to cover postage and handling. This tape would make a great birthday or Christmas gift, and would preserve forever the memory of the Tulsa Reunion.

Please send 392nd Tulsa Reunion Tapes at \$39 each. Specify VHS or Beta. Check is enclosed in amount of \$_____.

Make checks payable and mail to:
Video Camcorder Enterprises
3064 West 55th Place
Tulsa, OK 74107

Jerry and I appreciate the letters on the reunion. Believe me, we had plenty of help once the reunion started, so we share the credit with all of you who helped. Charles Dye wrote that "Running a reunion is like wetting your pants when you're wearing a dark suit -- nobody notices, but you still get a warm feeling!" The fact that we have received so many letters shows how wonderful the Crusaders are. It was our pleasure to have you in Tulsa.

* * *

2nd Air Division Association Norwich Reunion

Twenty-four former members of the 392nd together with spouses or guests attended the 40th Reunion of the 2nd Air Division Association at Norwich, May 21-26.

The returning Yanks were given a rousing welcome by their English hosts. Most arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, in about five flights from all over the U. S. There was a welcoming ceremony at the airport, then across London by chartered bus to Liverpool Street Station and then on to Norwich in two special trains.

At the Norwich Station, they were met by a big band playing Glenn Miller about as well as the famous Air Force band did. Dancing broke out; 65 and 70 year olds shed 50 odd years and it was World War II all over again without the pain, deprivation and sacrifice. There were Union Jacks and the Stars and Stripes waving and placards were displayed by the English crowd saying "Welcome Home, Yanks" and "Thanks For Coming Back, Yanks".

Then followed four days of meetings and ceremonies. There was a special service of thanksgiving at the 100 year old Norwich Cathedral, an air show at the RAF station Coltishall featuring the famous RAF Red Arrow Aerobatic Team, tours of all the old bases, and on Sunday Memorial Day a moving ceremony at the American Cemetery at Cambridge. Wreaths were placed to honor the 6300 2nd AD members who gave their lives in that epic struggle.

* * *

Keith Roberts was so impressed during the 2nd AD trip to Norwich and Wendling that he and his travel agent wife, Pat, have put together a package to return to Wendling exclusively for the 392nd people. This is an independent effort and is not a 392nd BGMA project. They have blocked off rooms in the Dukes Head Hotel in Kings Lynn. The will be limited as to how many they can handle. The dates are May 31 - June 7, 1988. For detailed information, write Keith at Travel Agents International, 28231 Marguerite Parkway, No. 5, Mission Viejo, CA 92692-3720.

* * *

Profiles -- by Jim Goar

Bernard U. Glettler

"Barney" Glettler was flying control officer at Wendling. (Like the underwear lady says in the TV commercial, "the Group CO may say 'fly', but you don't fly 'til Barney says fly.")

The night the V-1 got blown off course for London and flew over Wendling at tree-top height (it detonated about a mile from the base) Barney mistook it for a lost AAF plane and tried to contact it as it flew down the runway.

After WWII, Barney served at Newfoundland, Turkey, Wiesbaden, and other Air Force stations. He retired from the Air Force in 1970 and joined AT&T. He worked for AT&T in Iran; later he was involved in the breakup of the Bell system, and is now retired.

Barney and Laura have four children and six grandchildren. They live at 122 Pittsford Way, New Providence, NJ 07974.

Note from Gil Gilbert

Crusaders Bill and Jerry Richards had their "finest hour" and gave the 392nd (in our first very own reunion since we organized) a weekend we'll long remember. Gil and Martha Bambauer, flying deputy lead position, were their usual indispensable selves. Bob Vickers and Barney Glettler also arrived early and pitched in to help anywhere and everywhere to insure all went smoothly. At least two dozen more people were in the trenches helping to make Tulsa '87 the outstanding success it was, and we're indebted to these unsung warriors. Space restrictions won't allow listing all the people deserving of Tulsa Battle Stars and Campaign Ribbons.

On behalf of all the 392nd, I offer our deepest thanks to Bill and Jerry who, under very trying personal conditions, led the way to a super reunion that will be a tough act to follow.

Membership Report

There are still quite a few of you who have not sent in your dues for 1987. If you joined after October 15, 1986, you are paid through 1987. If you joined prior to that time, your dues are due and payable. Please send your \$10.00 to Gil Bambauer. There are about 300 Crusaders who receive the Newsletter and have never joined our organization. Why not send your \$10.00 check and membership application today. We need your support!

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 (Jan. thru Dec.)
Send check or money order to 392nd BG Memorial Assoc.
C/O Gil Bambauer, 2032 East LaMadera Drive, Tucson,
AZ 85719

☐ Check if this is a gift membership.

*392nd BG Memorial Association
2032 East LaMadera Drive
Tucson, AZ, 95719*

Address Correction Requested
Forwarding & Return Postage Guaranteed

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Secretary-Treasurer

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