

NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 6

AUGUST 1991

GILBERT RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF 392 B G M A

Only Living War - Time Commander Chosen Unanimously At Dearborn

The 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Ass'n met with the Second Air Division Ass'n at Dearborn July 4-7, 1991, and 112 members, spouses, and guests were present.

At the Group meeting on July 5, Col. Lawrence Gilbert was re-elected as Director, and the Board later elected him President.

An amendment to the Association by-laws was made, which allowed Col. Gilbert to be elected to his third term.

392 B G M A PRESIDENT



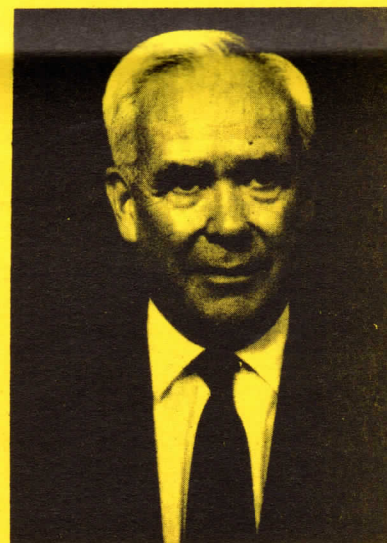
Lawrence G. Gilbert

Vice-president Carroll Cheek, who presided over the meeting when Col. Gilbert excused himself said, in endorsing the motion to extend the Director term and the report of the nomination committee, "Col.

(continued on page 2)

JOHN CONRAD Named Executive Vice President of Second Air Division Association

2 AD Exec. Vice President



John Conrad

John Conrad, who has served for many years as the 392nd's vice-president for 2AD affairs, was elected executive vice president of 2AD at the 2AD meeting July 6 in Dearborn. Traditionally, the executive vice-president succeeds to the presidency the next year.

"It was an honor and a pleasure to have represented the 392nd, and now I will serve the Second Air Division to the best of my ability", John said.

(continued on page 2)

(Only Living War - Time Commander)
(continued from page 1)

Gilbert was our last war-time commander, and the first president of the Association. In view of the high regard in which he is held by the members, it is altogether fitting and proper that he continue as President."

Re-elected along with Gilbert were Directors Barney Glettler and Charles Dye. Three new Directors were elected: Cliff Peterson, Joe Whittaker, and Pat Burns.

Oak Mackey was chosen to be 2nd Air Division vice-president in place of John Conrad.

In other business, it was decided that the "stand-alone" meeting originally scheduled for 1992 would be postponed until 1993, because there will probably be a large number of members making the trip back to England in 1992 in connection with the 50th anniversary of the arrival there of the 8th Air Force.

For the 1993 meeting, it was decided to give thought to its being in the Alamogordo New Mexico area, since the Group trained at Alamogordo before embarking for overseas.

A report was made concerning the Memorial at Wendling. Effort continues to be made by Carroll Cheek, vice-president for the Memorial, to formalize the perpetual care fund.

At the Directors meeting held immediately after the Group meeting other officers elected were Carroll Cheek, vice-president; Charles Dye, treasurer, and Howard Ebersole, secretary.

The meeting ended on a sour note for Charley and Helen Dye when police informed them that their car had been broken into in the hotel parking lot. Charley reports that the repair people told them that the thieves were within a minute of getting the car started when something disturbed their plans.

Their car was repaired by late Monday evening, and the Dyes were on their way home, with a stopover in Wisconsin. "Helen and I appreciate the kind feelings of the Crusaders, and tell everybody that we and the Olds are up and running," Charley says.

Present at the 3-day combined meeting of 392 and 2AD were: Wendall Anderson and Elaine; Ernie Barber, Bill Barrett, Gil Bambauer and Martha; Bill Barry, Bruce Bates and Jean; Vern Baumgart and Hulda; Luke Beddingfield; Ray Bianucci and Pau-

line; Wallace Blackburn and Loraine; Joe Bonanno and Anne; Floyd Bull and Roberta; Pat Burns, John Buschman; Olin Castle.

Also, Carroll Cheek and Mabel; John Conrad and Wanda; Arnold Dovey and Cleome, with son Doug; Ray Dunphy; Charley Dye and Helen; Art Egan and Teddy; Howard Ebersole and Joanne; Jay Folkert; Herman Garner; Lawrence Gilbert and Marjorie; Barney Glettler and Laura; Jim Goar and Virginia; Robert Holland; Fred Hollien and Lorraine; Gregory Hatton; Jack Jones and Betty.

Also, Ray Kopecky and Norma Jean; Irv Kreisman and Ruth; Harry Kruse; Joe Landers and Jeanne; Bob Lane and Marilyn; Birdie Schmidt Larrick; J. D. Long and Emily; Joe McNeil and Anna; Oak Mackey and Maxine; John Malloy and Peg; Walt Mateski and Margaret; Jim Morley and Freda; Art Olson and Lee; Cliff Peterson; Ed Popek and Erma; Bob Powers and Ruth; Bert Prost and Margaret; John Rosenberg.

Also, Cecil Rothrock and Mary; Don Scharf and Ruth, with Linda Stinehart; Bill Singleton and Thelma; Guy Spinelli and Madeline; Lou Stephens and Delores; Francis Swee and Viola; Fred Thomas and Elva; Carwin Thomason and Henriette; John Walters; Joe Westbrook and Mary; Joe Whittaker and June; and Stan Zybort and Mildred.

* * * *

AIR ANNIVERSARY

May 22, 1906: After turning down two previous submissions, the US government issues the Wright brothers the first patent on their flying machine.

(**Conrad** continued from page 1)

1st Lt. Conrad was a Mickey (H2X) navigator, and as such was shuffled from Squadron to Squadron and Group to Group as his special skills were needed. He was in both the 392nd and 44th Groups, and in the 578th and 579th Squadrons.

After the war, he entered the life insurance business, and developed a specialty in administering employee benefit plans. Now retired from business, he and wife Wanda live at 2931 Four Pines #1, Lexington, KY 40502.

Conrad will be the fourth Crusader to head the 2AD. Preceding him as president were Fred Thomas, J. D. Long, and Joe Whittaker.

* * * *

SECOND GENERATION CRUSADERS ATTEND REUNION AT DEARBORN — RE-LIVE FATHERS' EXPERIENCES IN WORLD WAR II

Two sons of the 392nd met with their fathers' wartime comrades at the Dearborn meeting.

Dr. Robert M. Holland, Jr., son of Major Robert M. Holland, the Group Surgeon; and Gregory Hatton, son of Hyman Hatton, a 576th gunner mingled with the graying veterans.



Dr. Robert M. Holland Jr., is shown with Col Lawrence Gilbert, President of 392 B G M A

Holland, who lives at 307 Romney Road, Akron, O, is Professor of English and head of the honors program at the University of Akron. He is married at the father of two daughters.

He remembers as a 5-year old being with his father and family at El Paso in 1943 when the 392nd was stationed there briefly.

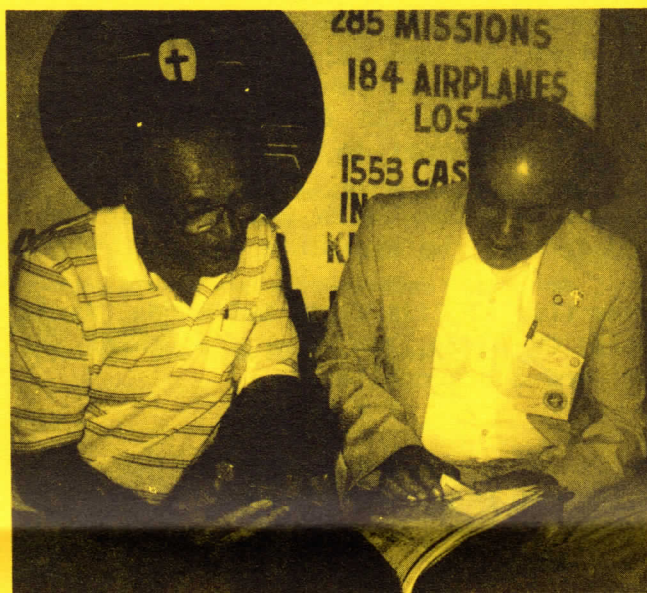
Old-timers in the 392nd remember Major Holland as a GI doctor with a no-nonsense approach to military life, since his previous service was in the Infantry.

Robert Holland, the son, remembers standing inspections with his brothers every Saturday morning. Shoes were to be shined, hair combed, and everything spic-and-span.

Dr. Holland entered private practice after the war in Boston. He was in the Reserves until 1953, and died in 1981. His widow, Mrs. Helen Geary, still lives in Boston.

Greg Hatton lives at 2133 60th St., Brooklyn, NY. He is a carpenter and has a son, 12. He has done extensive research into his father's military experiences, and plans to publish a book about them.

Hyman Hatton was shot down Apr. 29, 1944, when his plane was hit by flak and fighters on a mission to Berlin. Five members of the crew were able to bail out and became POW's.



Greg Hatton shows Ernie Barber, the Group's archivist, some of his research.

After the war, he was in aircraft instrument repair. He died in 1972 at the age of 52, and Greg believes that the injuries sustained in the bail-out hastened his death.

Greg's research has enabled him to find three living members of his father's crew. They are Vitold Krushas, the engineer; Roy Kennett, the radio operator; and Dave Purner, the navigator. Krushas and Purner are members of the 392nd BGMA. Krushas lives at 2187 Washington St., E. Bridgewater, MA 02333; and Purner lives at 5 Beechwood Circle, Johnson City, TN 4547.

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AIR ANNIVERSARY

May 20, 1951: Capt. James Jabara, an F-86 Sabre pilot of the Air Force's 4th Fighter-Interceptor Wing, becomes the world's first jet ace, shooting down his fifth and sixth MiG-15s in the Korean War.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

May 13, 1911: Lts. H. H. Arnold and T. D. Milling complete their flying training at Dayton, Ohio, becoming the first Wright School Army pilots.

PROFILE

Cpl. Carwin Thomason, 74th Service Sqdn, was a driver in the motor pool at Wendling and later worked in the 100-octane gas dump.

After the Battle of the Bulge, he volunteered for Infantry duty on the continent. As his outfit progressed through Germany he saw first-hand the damage done to German cities by the 8th's bombers.

Once, on a mission to destroy a bomb dump near Brunswick, he came under enemy small-arms fire, but was not hit.

In civilian life, he was a truck driver in the construction industry; and later was self-employed in the masonry stone business.

He and wife Henriette are known to most Crudaders as the operators of the Group's BX.

They live at 2130 Vista Del Mundo, Santa Maria, CA 93454, and have a daughter and son; and 3 grandchildren.

* * * *

AIR ANNIVERSARY

May 21, 1956: At an altitude of 50,000 feet, Maj. David Cricklow, USAF, in a B-52 jet bomber drops the first airborne hydrogen bomb, which explodes over Bikini Atoll in the Pacific.

PROFILE

John J. (Jack) Urban was a T/Sgt. engineer gunner on the Richeson crew in the 576th. He joined the Group at Wendling in May 1944 and completed 35 missions.

After the combat tour, he became a flight engineer on a C-47 based in Watton, and flew to and from the continent picking up crews from damaged aircraft.

On New Years day 1945, the C-47 was preparing to land on a field in France when the field came under air attack by the Germans. Several aircraft on the field were destroyed, but the C-47 survived and picked up its load and brought it back to the UK.

Post-war, he entered the insurance business and owns an agency, which he still operates.

His address is P. O. Box 305, Pound Ridge, NY 10576. He has two daughters.

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AIR ANNIVERSARY

May 8, 1911: The first Navy airplane, A-1, an amphibian, is ordered from Glenn Curtis. This date has been officially proclaimed the birthday of naval aviation.

OAK MACKEY TO BE 392 B G M A'S REPRESENTATIVE FOR SECOND AIR DIVISION ASS'N MATTERS

Oak Mackey was elected at the July 5 Group membership meeting at Dearborn to be vice-president, 2AD. He replaces John Conrad, who is becoming executive vice-president of the 2AD.



Oak Mackey

Oak was co-pilot of the Jack Clarke crew in the 578th, joining the Group at Wendling in Sept. 1944.

After the war, he flew for United Airlines, Alaska Airlines, and then for Republic for 32 years.

He lives with wife Maxine at 6085 Lincoln Drive, #316, Edina, MN 55436.

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RETURN TO WENDLING IN 1992

If you are interested in the proposed trip to England in 1992, clip out and return the coupon below.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone() _____

Mail to 392BG Wendling Reunion, 26631 Dorothea, Mission Viejo, CA 92691.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

New Orleans, Louisiana 17-22 September 1991

★ LOCATOR BOARD, REGISTRATION, MEMBERSHIP, PX, and 8AFMMF THEATER are located in La Galerie foyer (2nd floor) of the Marriott Hotel. All functions take place at hotel unless otherwise indicated. For all bus departures, meet at hotel's Canal Street exit.

Tues 17 Sept

1800-2030 hrs

1900-2030

2000-2200

★ Reunion registration open

Agenda-setting UNIT ADVISORY MEETING (St. Chas. Room, 41st fl.)

"Wel-come" RECEPTION for early arrivals. Cash bar. (Salon D)

WELCOME TO NEW ORLEANS

Wed 18 Sept

0700-0830 hrs

0700-0830

0745-1330

0900-1330

0930-1330

1200-1700

1330-2000

1400-1800

2030

2030-2230

★ Reunion registration open

'Continental' BREAKFAST. Included for Members registered for one of this morning's options. (Salon D)

(OPTION) GOLFERS' TOURNAMENT. LUNCH incl. See bus dep. above ★

(OPTION) BOWLERS' TOURNAMENT for bowlers & spectators pre-registered. LUNCH Incl. See bus dep. above ★

(OPTION) Greater New Orleans 'guided' sightseeing tour. Delightful LUNCH lakeside (incl.). See bus dep. above ★

★ PX open

★ Reunion registration open

UNIT & STATE CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR (Salons A, B & C)

(OPTION) Nightclub Tour. See bus dep. above ★

RECEPTION. Cash bar. (Salons D & E)

'EARLY BIRD' ACTIVITIES

Thurs 19 Sept

0700-0830 hrs

0700-0930

0830-1130

0830-1130

1000-1730

1300-1530

1400-1830

1400-1830

1400-2000

1800-1900

2030-2330

'Hearty' BREAKFAST (Grand Ballroom)

★ Reunion registration open

Tour of French Quarter. Meet at hotel's Chartres Street exit. Terminates at Riverwalk, near foot of Canal Street.

UNIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING (Salons A,B, & C)

Note: See French Quarter Tour (Sat. schedule) expressly for you.

★ PX open

"CREOLE QUEEN" CRUISE & MEMORIAL SERVICE. Everyone meet and board ship via Riverwalk Shopping Mall near foot of Canal Street. See reunion brochure map.

UNIT RENDEZVOUS & HOSPITALITY ROOMS OPEN. See Locator Bd. ★

★ 'Mighty Eighth' THEATER. WWII movies. Sponsored by 8AFMMF. Open to all. For further showings, see time schedule at theater entrance.

★ Reunion registration open

STATE CHAPTER RECEPTION. Cash bar. See Locator Bd. ★

AERO CLUB DANCE. Cash bar. (Grand Ballroom)

EIGHTH AIR FORCE DAY

Fri 20 Sept

0700-0830 hrs

0700-1230

0900-1200

0900

1000-1700

1230

1400-1800

1430-1730

1500-1700

1600

1900-2000

1900-2000

2000

'Hearty' BREAKFAST. *Surprise entertainment!!* (Grand Ballroom)

★ Reunion registration open

UNIT MEETING & PROGRAMS. See Locator Bd. for details ★

"Calling All Ladies". Meet at hotel's Chartres St. exit for visit to Aquarium of the Americas.

★ PX open

LUNCH (Grand Ballroom)

UNIT SESSIONS continue

★ Reunion registration open

AF HISTORICAL FOUNDATION special presentation. Subject matter will include 'The 8AF Today' & 'B-52s in Desert Storm'. Major address by LT. GEN. ELLIE G. SHULER, JR., Commander of 8AF (SAC). See Locator Bd. for location ★

REFRESHMENT BREAK (hallways, floors 3, 4 & 5)

RECEPTION. Cash bar. (Meeting Room hallways, floors 3, 4 & 5)

★ Reunion registration open

RENDEZVOUS DINNER. See Locator Bd. for your group seating. ★

UNIT DAY

Sat 21 Sept

0730-0845 hrs

0900-1130

1000-1200

1000-1600

1330-1600

1330-1630

1800-1900

1815-1915

1915-0030

Coffee & Danish (Acadia foyer)

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (Acadia Room)

★ Reunion registration open

★ PX open

French Quarter tour for Members who attended Thursday's Unit Advisory Committee Meeting. Meet at hotel's Chartres Street exit. Terminates at hotel.

(OPTION) 8AFMMF AIR-WAR SYMPOSIUM. Topic: "The Downed Flyers' POW Story" (Salons D & E)

★ Reunion registration open

RECEPTION. Cash bar. (Mardi Gras Ballroom)

'Gala' BANQUET/DANCE (Grand Ballroom)

Sun 22 Sept

0800-1000 hrs

0900

1200

'Continental' BREAKFAST (Grand Ballroom)

8AFHS EXECUTIVE MEETING (St. Charles Room, 41st floor)

HOTEL CHECKOUT. Please settle room account and incidental charges direct with hotel.

'TIL WE MEET AGAIN

"HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME...see you in Louisville, Kentucky '92!"

ADVANTAGES OF 'ADVANCE' REGISTRATION

postmarked prior to 20 August

1. Your name will appear on Roster List distributed at reunion.
2. Your name will be included on Unit Locator Board at reunion.
3. You (& your Guests) will have PRE-ASSIGNED SEATING with your WWII group at the Rendezvous Dinner & Gala Banquet.
4. The first Unit or Chapter identified by you in the appropriate section of Registration Form will receive \$5 of reg. fee if ten or more from your group are registered by 19 August.
5. Normal daily room rate at the New Orleans Marriott is \$180 + tax. **ROOM RESERVATIONS MADE THROUGH 8AF REUNION OFFICE COST \$72 + tax daily.**
6. Personal checks accepted. After 19 Aug., only money orders, travelers checks or cash will be accepted.
7. Late registrations (after 19 Aug.) will be subject to space availability and may not be processed until reunion time.

FOLDED WINGS REPORT

Name of deceased _____ Sqdn. _____

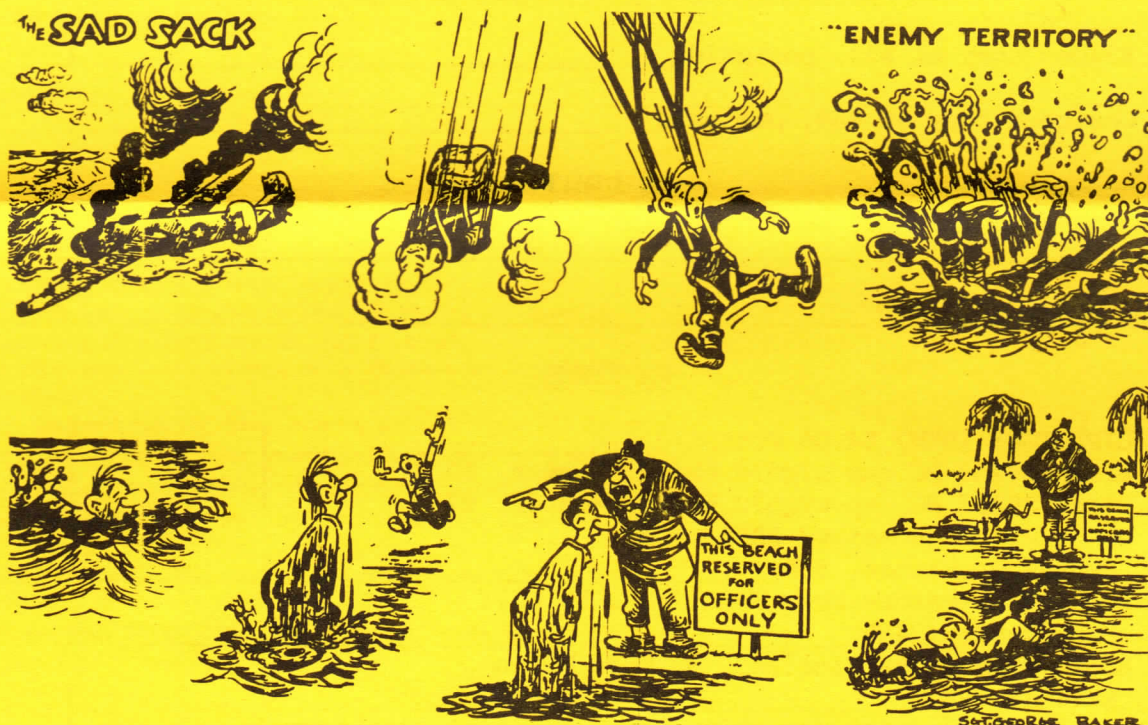
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of death _____ Survivors: (Send copy of obit from newspaper if possible)

Reported by _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

[] Record a memorial contribution to 392nd BGMA in my name, check made out to 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Ass'n., enclosed. Send this report to J. D. Long, Jr., 102 Kemp Road East, Greensboro, NC 27410.



February 4, 1945 "Yank Magazine. Copy courtesy of Charles Taylor, former 578th Ass't SQ. Eng. Officer.

REGULATION A-2 JACKETS AVAILABLE

Thanks to the initiative of Stan Zybert, a source of regulation A-2 jackets has been found, and at what seems to be a competitive price.

Cooper Sportswear Mfg. Co., Inc. of 720 Frelinghuysen Ave., Newark, NJ 07114-1378, will allow a member to order direct, and pay by check or Master Card or Visa.

They say to order one size larger than your regular coat size. The sizes are in even numbers, both Regular and Long.

The style number for Regulars is #1104M2, and they are furnished in sizes 36-46 at a price of \$150. Sizes 48-60 cost \$165.

The style number for Longs is #1104L2 and they are furnished in sizes 48-60 at a price of \$165. Sizes 48-60 cost \$175.

You should direct your order to the attention of Customer Service. Delivery charges are extra.

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PROFILE

At 84, Arthur Jensen is senior to most Crusaders. During WW II, he was Sgt. Jensen, 578th, and his duty was in the drying room, taking care of personal flying equipment and parachutes.

He kept a meticulous list of 578th crews, and it is a part of the Group's archives.

He joined the Group at Alamogordo in May 1943, and rejoined the civilian world in Oct. 1945.

He wound up his working career as a truck fleet superintendent for a dairy in Wisconsin.

His address is 7542 34th Ave., Kenosha, WI 53142.

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BESSIE MAE GARNER

Mrs. Bessie Mae Garner, wife of Herman Garner, 577th, passed away June 10, 1991, after a long and valiant battle with cancer.

Bessie Mae, a quiet and gracious lady, will be remembered for the plain, reverent invocations she delivered at 392 BGMA functions.

Interment was at Forest Hill Memorial Park, Lexington, NC. The 392nd was represented at the funeral by J. D. Long.

Surviving with Herman is daughter Mrs. Stephanie Reid, and two step-grandchildren.

Herman is a Director of the 392nd BGMA.

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TOWNE - FRITSCHÉ

Jack Fritsche, who as Major Fritsche was the adjutant for the 392nd for its entire life in WW II, has married.

He and the former Joan Towne were married April 19, 1991. Their address is 6335 West North West Highway, Dallas, TX 75335.

(See the May 1989 newsletter for Profile of Jack Fritsche)

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FOLDED WINGS

Edward J. Gressler
James H. Housteau, 579
Robert S. Kotula
Arthur Risler
Quintin Wedgeworth, 578

NEW DIRECTORY OUT-LISTS ALL THE CRUSADERS THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FIND - 1200

A committee headed by Art and Teddy Egan has searched diligently for the lost sheep of the 392nd, and all those that have been found are listed in a new directory, just published.

One may be purchased by sending \$4.50 to Charles Dye, Treasurer, 7271 Leslynne Dr., Albuquerque, NM 87109. (See the order blank, PX Items, in this issue)

* * * *

AGING CRUSADERS RE-LIVE FLYING DAYS - TAKE HOP IN WORLD WAR II AT - 6

Some hearts were beating a little faster at Willow Run airport in July when some of the 2AD Reunion attendees got a chance to go off into the wild blue yonder again.

Howard Ebersole, still an active pilot, took several up in his friend's AT-6, which is based at Willow Run.

Stan Zyborst, wooden leg notwithstanding, clambered into the rear cockpit as if he were 20 again.

Birdie Larrick, who as Birdie Schmidt was director of the Aero Club at Wendling, also got a ride.

* * * *



Bob Wenzel, owner and Ebe Ebersole, pilot see that Birdie Larrick is properly strapped into the cockpit of the AT-6.

PROFILE

S/Sgt. Earl Hall was the ball turret gunner on the Ambrose crew in the 577th, joining the Group at Wendling in Oct. 1943.

After being rotated back to the US, he was a gunnery instructor at Casper, Wyo. and Albuquerque, NM.

In civilian life, he was a tire builder for Uniroyal until retirement in 1981. Now he works part-time jobs and travels a lot, attending 392nd reunions and visiting his old crew members.

He and wife Delphine live at 306 S. Bills St., Augusta, WI 54722. They have 3 sons and one daughter, and 6 grandchildren.

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QUINTIN R. WEDGEWORTH

Quinton Wedgeworth, the navigator on the Adsit crew in the 578th, died suddenly at Weiser, ID May 1, 1991. He was 66.

Quinton's work as a compiler of the 392nd's aircraft inventory is well known not only in the 392nd, but also to historians who have studied the 8th Air Force's role in WW II.

He joined the Group at Wendling in November 1944 and was 1st Lt. when he finished his tour.

He was an aerospace engineer with North American Aviation and Rockwell for 37 years.

Burial was at Hillcrest Cemetery in Weiser. He is survived by his wife Marjorie and 7 children and 4 grandchildren.

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PROFILE

1/Lt. Norbert J. Wick was a pilot in the 579 Sqdn., joining the Group at Wendling in July 1944.

After the war, he returned to the Chevrolet Engine Plant in Tonawanda, NY. This plant during the war built engines for B-24's, and Norb's a/c, #697, had four Tonawanda-built engines.

He retired in 1985 and lives with wife Marian at 178 Roncliff Dr., N. Tonawanda, NY 14120 April-Nov.; and at 3000 S. Clara Rd., Apopka, FL 32703 Nov.-Apr.

They have two children.

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8TH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY REUNION SET FOR SEPT. 17-22 AT NEW ORLEANS - 392ND WILL BE THERE

As usual, the 392nd will have its own hospitality room with refreshments. Ernie Barber will be there with the Group's photo albums, video tapes and other memorabilia and they will be on display.

The 8th AF registration fee does not cover our own hospitality room. The cost of the rental of the room and the refreshments is defrayed by the traditional passing of the hat among the 392nd members.

See the center pages of this issue for the schedule of events and sign-up form.

Early registration is advised. Not only does this assure you a room close to the action, it gets your name on the seating list at the Group rendezvous dinner and Gala Banquet and incidentally brings \$5 into the 392nd treasury.

If you have any questions or want any help, contact Cliff Peterson, the 392nd's VP for 8AF affairs, at 2120 Woodcrest Dr., Winter Park, FL 32792, phone (407) 647-7741.

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PROFILE

S/Sgt. Joseph M. McNiel was a member of one of the original crews of the 392nd, the tail gunner on Robert E. Fletcher's crew in the 578th. He joined the Group at Tucson in April 1943.

Discharged in 1945, he then graduated from the University of Florida with the Master's degree. He worked for the Florida Department of Education for 31 years, retiring in 1987.

He is married to Anna Jo, and they have two children and four grandchildren. They live at 2106 Oakland Drive, Brandon, FL 33510.

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AIR ANNIVERSARY

May 10, 1911: Lt. G. E. M. Kelly becomes the second Army officer killed in an airplane (the first killed while piloting a plane) when he crash-lands his Curtiss pusher at San Antonio.

DEARBORN DEBRIEFING

by
Lawrence G. Gilbert

Dearborn WAS a good 392nd reunion; good turn-out, new stories (some believable) and a well planned operation by the 2AD staff. We lost our esteemed vice-president for 2AD, John Conrad, to a higher calling, executive vice-president of 2AD. He will be missed but we can take comfort in knowing 2AD is in good hands. We gained a highly capable replacement, Oak Mackey, recently retired veteran of 30 plus years with the airlines. Three new veterans of uncounted reunions were welcomed to our Board of Directors: Cliff Peterson, Joe Whittaker, and Pat Burns who also doubles as 392nd Provost Marshal.

The Hospitality Room was again the mecca for history buffs. Ernie Barber's steadily growing collection of photo albums, video tapes and memorabilia are a magnet for old-timers and first-timers alike. The Thomasons and Bambauers weighed in with style to assist Ebe Ebersole with the Happy Hour function when the Egans departed early due to a death in the family. Ebe provided a thrill for several members including myself when he offered a ride in a WWII T-6 based at Willow Run. Ebe is a member of the Yankee Air Force, our hosts for the 2AD visit to Willow Run, and still a very active and highly able instructor pilot.

Like Iran-Contra, the controversy continues of the adequacy of the briefing given by one of our squadrons to new pilots at Wendling relative to group assembly procedures. A new dispute is festering over the interior and exterior configuration of the British Oxford Airspeed utility aircraft assigned the base in the early days.

On a personal note, I deeply appreciate the support and loyalty shown me during the membership meeting and by-law discussion. Keeping faith with all our members will continue to be a top priority in my book.

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AIR ANNIVERSARY

May 5, 1961: Cmdr. Alan B. Shepard, Jr., USN, becomes the first Project Mercury astronaut to cross the space frontier, on a fifteen-minute flight that reaches an altitude of 115 miles, carrying him 302 miles to a landing in the Atlantic after a launch from Cape Canaveral. His maximum speed in the Freedom 7 capsule is 5,100 mph.

PROFILE

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Joe Westbrook was 2nd Lt. Westbrook when he joined the 392nd early in its life in March 1943 as squadron bombardier in the 578th.

After the war, he returned to N. C. State and graduated with an engineering degree. He was an air conditioning design engineer, then joined General Electric, and retired as a senior engineer. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the state of North Carolina.

He married Mary in Orlando in 1943, and they have one son and a granddaughter. They live at 1017 New Garden Road, Greensboro, NC 27410.

* * * *

Elected To Board of Directors



Elected to the Board of Directors of the 392BGMA at the Dearborn membership meeting July 5 were (left to right) Charles Dye, Cliff Peterson, Lawrence Gilbert, Joe Whittaker, Pat Burns, and Barney Glettler.

The Board chose Dye to be Treasurer and Gilbert to be President.

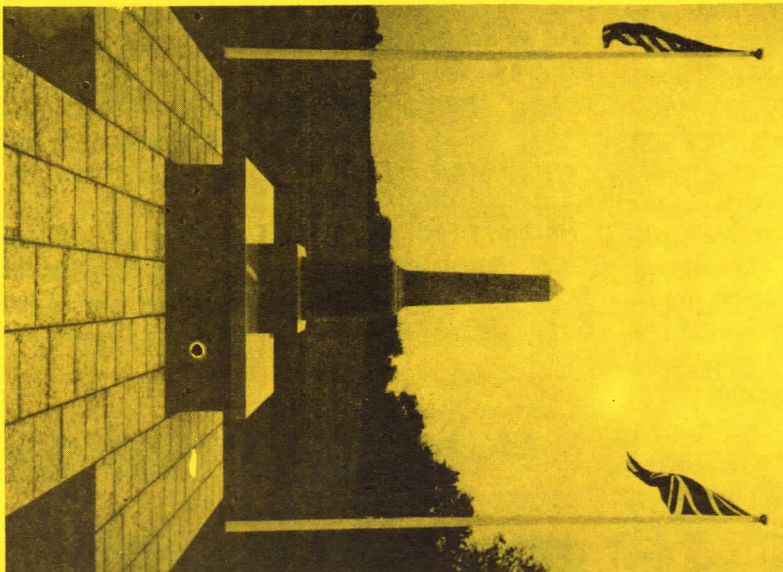
Peterson, Whittaker, and Burns are newcomers to the Board. The others were re-elected after serving a previous term.

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AIR ANNIVERSARY

May 29, 1941: The Air Corps creates the Ferrying Command to fly aircraft from US factories to Canada and to Atlantic ports for delivery to Great Britain. By the time Japanese forces attack Pearl Harbor six months later, the command will have delivered some 1350 airplanes for Britain.

THE REFURBISHED MEMORIAL AT WENDLING



392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association NEWS
5 N. Columbia St.
Frankfort, IN 46041

Address Correction Requested
Forwarding and Return Postage Guaranteed

President

Col. Lawrence G. Gilbert, USAF (Ret)

Vice-president - Memorial

Carroll W. Cheek

Secretary

Howard R. Ebersole

FIRST CLASS

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Albuquerque, NM 87109

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Jim Goar