

NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 7

AUGUST 1992

392ND REVISITS NORFOLK FOR 8AF'S 50TH

The Wendling 1992 Reunion group was treated to an inspiring sight when the CAF's B-24 Diamond Lil overflew King's Lynn while they were gathered at the Duke's Head for dinner. (see accompanying story on Diamond Lil)

There were 76 attendees consisting of Crusaders, families, and friends. Some were three generations, some were relatives of fallen Crusaders. But all made the trek, some by ship on the QE2 and some by air, to mark the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the Eighth Air Force in England and to see old friends and visit old haunts.

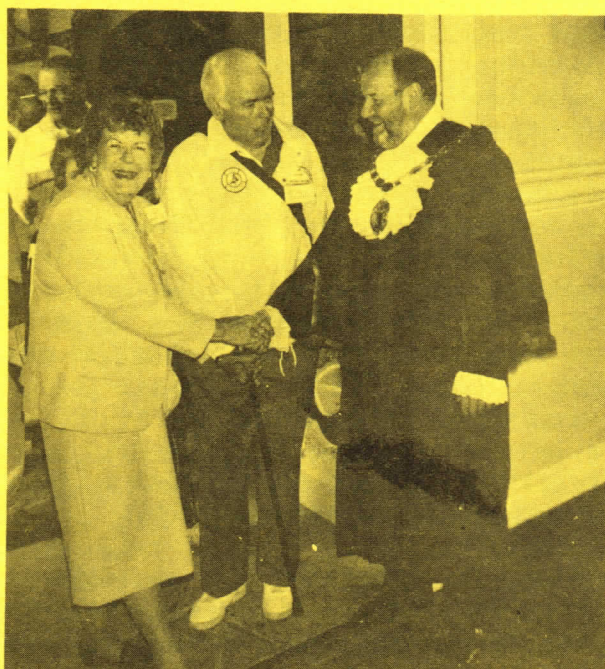


Photo by Doc Wylde

King's Lynn Mayor Mike Tilbury in full regalia greets Patty and Keith Roberts at the mayor's reception at the town hall.

(continued on page 10)

CAF'S DIAMOND LIL FLIES TO ENGLAND TO JOIN IN CELEBRATION

The Confederate Air Force's B-24D Diamond Lil made the long flight to Norfolk to join in the celebration of the 8AF's 50th anniversary of its arrival in England.

Originally scheduled to arrive at Norwich June 8, she was held up in Iceland with engine trouble and was on the last leg of the flight when she passed over King's Lynn on June 10.



The CAF's B-24D Diamond Lil, with RAF fighter escort, overflies King's Lynn on June 10 in salute to the 392nd who were gathered there.

(Photo by Goar)

Her crew was alerted to the fact that the 392nd was at King's Lynn, and they and their escort of RAF fighters graciously circled and made a low-level pass over the city. It was an emotional experience for the Crusaders gathered in the market square in front of the Duke's Head.

(continued on page 10)

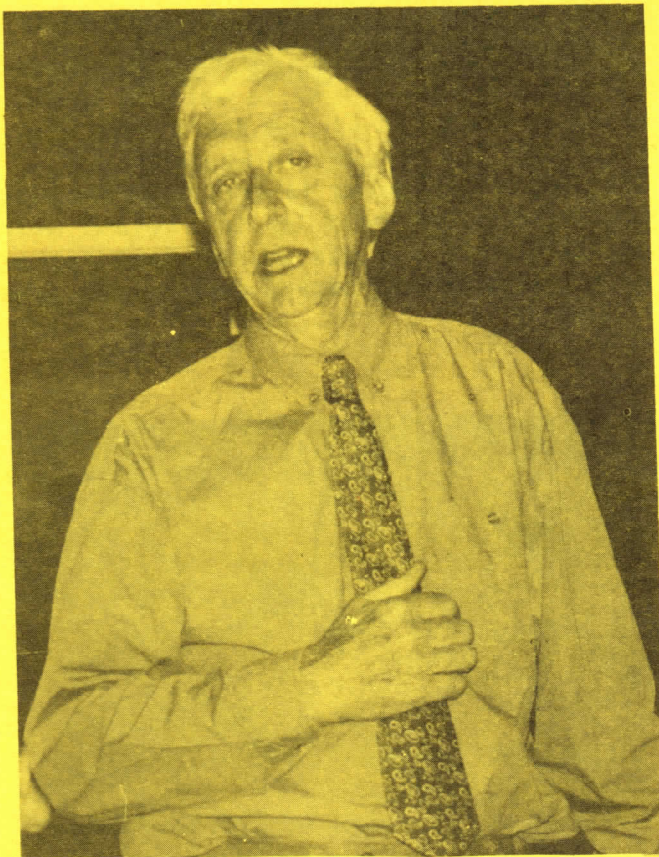
BOOK REVIEWS

By Jim Goar

"THE FRIENDLY INVASION", by Roger Freeman.

Written and published to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the 8AF in England, this volume is a fit companion to Roger's three other books which together present the definitive account of the US Eighth Air Force in England during World War II.

In his fluent, lucid manner, Roger takes the reader through the encounters between the Yanks and the Brits from the 8AF's arrival in early 1942 to its abrupt exodus in 1945.



Roger Freeman, quite evidently speaking directly from his heart, is shown addressing the 392nd Wendling Reunion 1992 at the Duxford Military Museum. (Photo by Wylde)

Roger used one term that to the best of my knowledge has not entered the vocabulary of the 392nd: He refers to the trucks that picked up the girls in town to bring them to the base for dances as "Passion Wag-gons". (British spelling)

Full of authentic anecdotes and lavishly illustrated, this book should find its way to the library shelves of all Crusaders.

The book can be purchased from British Travel Bookshop, Box 1224 Clifton, NJ 07012 for \$23.95 plus \$8.00 shipping. Or, the 8AF PX will have it stocked soon; watch the 8AF NEWS.

* * * *

"CREW UMBRIAGO", by Daniel P. Carroll.

Written by the tail gunner of a B-17 crew attached to the 15th AF in Italy, this narrative nevertheless will be familiar to any 392nd aircrew. It takes the crew through training, organization, deployment overseas, and then through the tough 33-mission tour.

Many Groups in the AAF had an "Umbriago". The 392nd had two: #42-51121, a 579th a/c that crashed Nov. 16, 1944 on the Continent; and #42-50337, "Umbriago II". The latter was a 578th a/c being flown by the Majesky crew of the 577th on Dec. 31, 1944 on a mission to Euskirchen, Germany, when they were attacked by German fighters and crash landed in Belgium with wounded aboard.

The word was made famous during those times by the comedian Jimmy Durante, who slapped his forehead and uttered "Umbriago" whenever something went wrong. In Italian, it means "drunkard".

The author, as well as the 392nd BGMA NEWS, would like to hear from any one who crewed "Umbriago" or "Umbriago II".

The author didn't say much about it, because his account was of the war years. But the radio operator on the crew was Norman Lear, who post war is a distinguished movie and TV producer with many movie and TV hits to his credit, including the pioneering blockbuster "All In the Family".

Crusaders can purchase this book from Carroll at 210 Pineapple St., Satellite Beach FL 32937 for \$16.00 plus \$2.00 postage.

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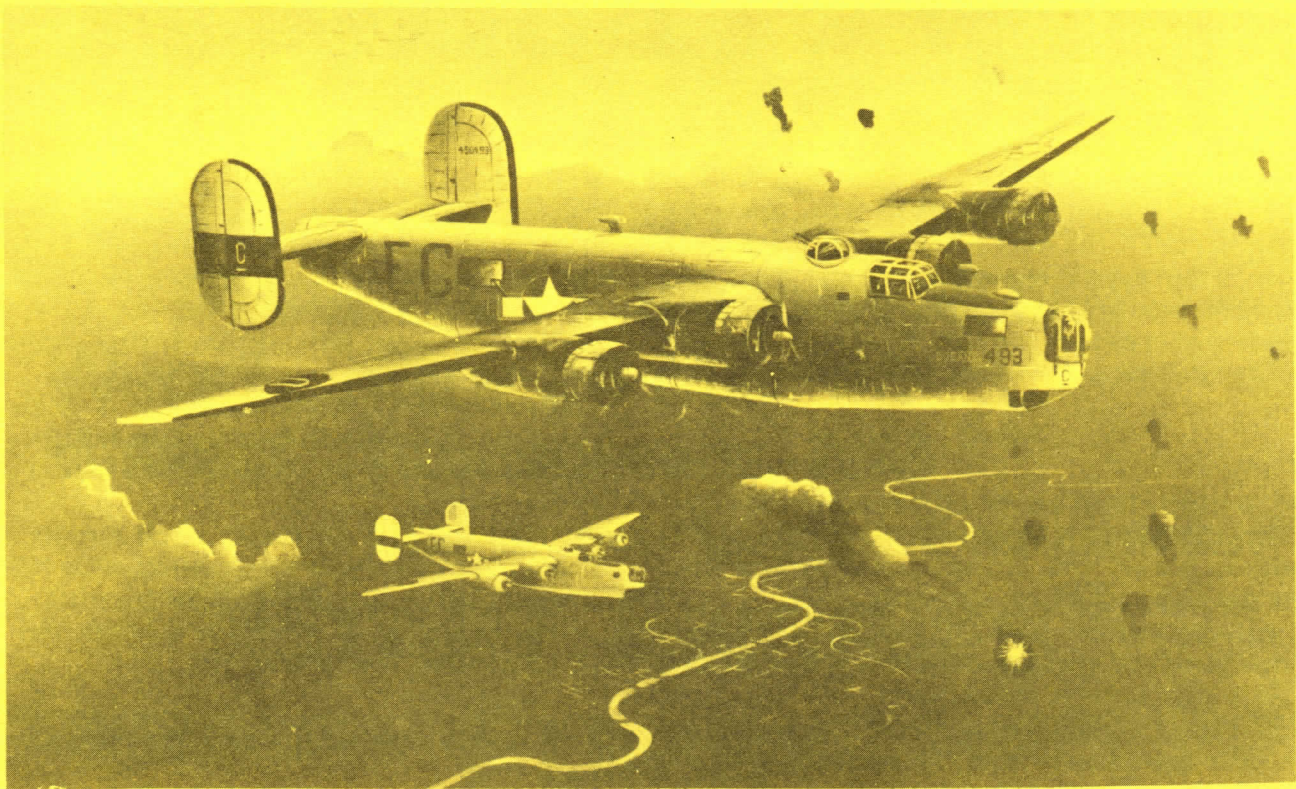
"TO COMMAND THE SKY", by Stephen L. McFarland and Wesley Phillips Newton.

Stephen L. McFarland is an associate professor of history at Auburn university. Wesley Phillips Newton was for many years on the history faculty at Auburn university.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Aug. 6, 1945. B-29 "Enola Gay" dropped atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

578th's "DUGAN" TO REPRESENT GROUP



"Into The Flak" print by Keith Hill. 25¢ signed and numbered. 30" x 20". Available from the artist at 24 St. Peter's Avenue, Rushden, Northants NN10 9XW, England. \$90.00 including shipping costs. Personal checks accepted.

Keith Hill, the English artist, was commissioned to paint a representative a/c from each of the 60 8AF Groups, and #44-50493, "Dugan", was chosen to represent the 392nd. Each original painting will go on permanent display in the American Air Museum at Duxford, England, and copy #8 of each of the prints will be displayed at the Experimental Aircraft Association's museum at Oshkosh, WI. A display of the prints is also planned for the 8AF Memorial Museum.

"Dugan" was assigned to the 578th, and the Bob Vickers crew flew 17 of her 28 missions. According to Bob, Dugan was the name of an old Irish brewmaster in Vickers' home town, Fort Wayne, IN., and he drew a test sample from the vat every day at precisely 11:30 a.m. From that there grew a saying that went around the local German beer halls that went "If it's ok with Dugan, it's ok with me". The crew picked up on it, and "Dugan", with a four-leaf clover added for good luck, became the name of their a/c.

The 578th's operations book, now in the hands of Bob Lane, is incomplete in that missions after March 31, 1945 are missing. But the records available show that her

first mission was on March 14 to Gutersloh, Germany, with the Bilz crew flying her. She flew 10 missions in the last two weeks of March, with the Vickers crew flying three of them. Other pilots were Ansbros, Garcia, Ebersole, Rose, and Hotchkiss. Vickers recalls that two of her missions were to Berlin.

Not much is known about "Dugan's" ground maintenance personnel, because records are very sketchy on this point. However, we do know that the late Ray Berthiaume, the 578th's engineering officer, was in general charge of her maintenance. Ernie Barber, a 578th crew chief and the 392BGMA's archivist, recalls that John Coltran was her crew chief and Tom Alexander, a member of the 578th's engineering section, remembers that Frank Odierno was on Coltran's crew. Bob Vickers reports that Eugene W. Hockmuth was another member of the crew. Neither Coltran, Hockmuth or Odierno are in the 392BGMA directory, and there is no knowledge of their present whereabouts.

"Dugan" was returned to the States in June 1945 by the Henning crew.

* * * *

392nd's Burial Recorders Received

-4-

PROFILE

An important, yet poignant, document has come into the hands of the 392nd BGMA. It is the list of 392nd personnel who are buried in 10 different cemeteries in England and on the Continent.

The list was obtained from Mr. Bob Burch of Los Angeles, who has compiled it with the help of Col. Ryan of the US Battle Monuments Commission.

The list is in the hands of the NEWS and Ernie Barber, the Group archivist, and will be on display at any 392nd Group meeting. The NEWS would be glad to send a copy to anyone interested, or would search through it for any name or names specified.

* * * *

PROFILE

Capt. Charles F. Taylor was the assistant engineering officer in the 576th and 578th squadrons, joining the Group at Alamogordo. On May 7, 1944, he transferred to the 596th Sqdn., 467th Bomb Group, as squadron engineering officer.

He graduated from the school of pharmacy, University of Oklahoma in 1947 and opened Taylor Drugs in 1952 at Perryton, TX. He is still active in the business.

He possesses a complete file of war-time Yank magazine and with that a complete collection of the Sad Sack cartoons. His collection is the source of the Sad Sack cartoons frequently used in the NEWS.

He and wife Billie have a daughter and two grandchildren. They live at 510 SW 15th, Perryton, TX 79070.

* * * *

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Aug. 20, 1942. 12th AF activated in preparation of invasion of North Africa.

* * * *

Col. Warren Polking, the 578th's first commander, is recovering nicely from a slight stroke.

Col. Polking told the NEWS that he intends to be at Louisville for the 8AF convention Oct. 6-10.

* * * *

FOLDED WINGS

Delmar J. Carter, 577/9, 1982
Harold Jaffe, 1991
George A. Jewett, 576, 1951
Arthur Harold Knipe, 578, 1992
Eugene M. Mahon, 578, 1987
Paul D. Malloy, 1991
Arch W. Nelson, 576, 1992
Howard F. Samples, 576, 1992
C. D. Syverson
Henry C. Vaughan, 577, 1992

1/Lt. William J. Riddleberger III was a co-pilot in the 578th Squadron, joining the Group at Wendling in 1944.

Like many of us, Bill was an enlisted man before being commissioned. He was a crew chief on BT-13 trainers at Moffett Field, CA before becoming a cadet and earning his pilot's wings.

He was co-pilot on the Paul Barton crew and after Barton was killed Lou Stephens became the pilot of the crew. On the mission to Mainz on 9 Sept. 1944, the Stephens a/c had just taken the lead position because the lead a/c had a malfunction when they sustained a direct flak hit. The plane exploded and Riddleberger and Stephens were blown clear, being the only survivors. They became POW's. (See Lou Stephens profile in the Aug. 1988 392BGMA NEWS)

Liberated in April 1945, Bill was returned to the States and spent a year in the hospital at Valley Forge being treated for the burns suffered in the explosion. While there he met and married Kathryn.

After the war, Bill was manager of the Lewiston Ice and Storage company, but the factory was bought out in 1977 by the government after a disastrous flood and he retired.

They have a daughter and son and five grandsons. They live at 543 Lindbergh Way, Lewiston, PA 17044.

* * * *

NOTES FOR WENDLING 92 ATTENDEES

Keith Roberts is putting together a packet of photos from the hundreds shot by Doc Wyld. Cost, postpaid, for 50 4x6 photos is \$25. Order from 392nd BG Wendling Reunion, 26331 Dorothea, Mission Viejo, CA 92691.

The collection is a little short of scenes from the visitations to the Litcham and Beeston schools and the Memorial Library at Norwich. If you happen to have some of those please send, with negatives, to Keith.

* * * *

Still Room At The Inn For 8AF & 2ND Conventions at Louisville & Las Vegas

The 8AF Historical Society and the 2AD Association both say they still have room at the conventions slated for 8AF at Louisville Oct. 6-11 and 2AD at Las Vegas Oct. 4-7.

There will be sizable contingents of 392nd people at both conventions. J. D. Long, by some sort of airline legerdemain, intends to make both of them.

For 8AF, contact Murray Fein at PO Box 1304, Hallandale, FL 33009-01304, phone (305) 456-2260.

For 2AD, contact Evelyn Cohen, 06-410 Delaire Landing Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114, phone (215) 632-3392.

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392nd BG Memorial Association **REUNION '93**

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

- **WHEN?** 20 - 24 MAY '93
- **WHERE?** ALBUQUERQUE, NM

GEM OF THE "LAND OF ENCHANTMENT"

"START ENGINES"



FLIMSY



EARLY ROLL CALL: Thursday, May 20th! All "early birds" and "stragglers" welcomed—one and all! Old "Buttermilk Tower" will be in full operation for this great one-more-time, 392nd stand alone sortie! We come back after (50) years to the majestic and scenic southwest sun-country for this special one!

SORTIE HEADQUARTERS: The ALBUQUERQUE MARRIOTT HOTEL—new, modern, attractive with all reunion group amenities and more—located right on Interstate Highway 40 East amidst the new and magnificent Uptown/Coronado Center, northeast!

MISSION OBJECTIVES: Having FUN!!! Meeting old and new 392nd-ers, comrades and friends, associates and all in a fun-packed and warmly-enriched four (4) days of memorable events; southwestern sights and scenes; excellent food—and never-to-be-forgotten reminiscences, bondships and sharing.

ASSEMBLY PLAN: Climb in, take off, and climb out to the beautifully sunny, low-humidity and friendly high desert country! The homing buncher's big red call letters will say MARRIOTT aside the Interstate. You "cawn't" miss it! The Group Lead elements will be "on-station," ready, circling and waiting for the Golfers and Early Birds on 20 May!

The orbit pattern with our own Group's private and ample Hotel "airspace" areas will welcome an easy sign-in for all—and a warm "join-up" reception (no weather or other group mission "types" to fret about!).

ENROUTE MISSION HIGHLIGHTS: On-course "departure" commences on Friday the 21st. Our "Golfer Gunners" will unstow and test fire their weapons on coast-out about seven minutes north over a beautifully manicured, super "top 50-rated" Muni course. Caution! Beware of any HOT GUNS!! From this point on, the remaining mission time also is promised to be fun, no "flak," and full of "friendlies" throughout! Along the way, our very relaxed and warm "contrails" will track by and see enroute key "check points" such as: A spaciouly large

Hospitality Suite full of cheer, warm amenities, PX mementos and memorabilia items; on Saturday, a tastefully inviting and attractive Luncheon and Southwest Style Show (no C-ration in-flight stuff!); then a "dog-leg" jaunt for an afternoon tour and shopping visit in ABQ's historic OLD TOWN (beginnings circa 1500s), followed by a superbly "relaxed, low power-setting" evening in a fun and frivolity-filled night for all—"A '40s Hangar Bash—Saturday Night Live" dinner, juke box and laugh-in program! (No flak suit or helmet buckets permitted, BUT wearing of some '40s garb or uniform parts IS MANDATORY!!!). Come Sunday and the first major "turning point" with everyone in tight "formation" (what else with the 392nd!)... we'll increase cruise power at a big, leisurely Santa Fe-type breakfast before driving right on-course to one major mission objective—one this Group never forgets or fails—a brief, but fitting, "Memorial Remembrance Ceremony" in the big Kirtland Air Force Base complex nearby. Following that and a slight "timing turn" over the Base, the nearby famous National Atomic Museum will be overflowed in a tour visit in this only-one-of-its-kind nuclear era museum attraction of the past—and now. Then, as we turn "down sun" and easterly later, we will cruise and crest through the majestic nearby Sandia Mountains via the Tijeras Canyon "corridor" to gather, gab, frolic and share a dining experience at the renowned "Bella Vista Restaurant"—about :25' away, among the cedar pines and piñons. Still later—after this fun and filling, relaxed assembly and orbit enroute—we'll kick up the RPMs and start our short, easy glide "home" to "headquarters" touchdown! As we land, our Hospitality Suite (meeting & exhibit rooms, etc.) will be waiting!! "Refreshments and Red Cross lovelies" will be there as usual! After some lengthy but "friendly" mission debriefings and interrogations (Note: All Intel folks promise long sessions BUT... you don't have to "tell everything" about your special mission!)... a well-deserved "crew rest" will be in order as we look ahead for the big "finale event day"—Monday the 24th, our "50th Anniversary Memorial Banquet" day. First wake-up "call" will be for a big, enticing Country Breakfast—followed by a leisurely morning and afternoon of "free time," on your own, to do as one may wish in and about ABQ's sights; views, sounds and nearby environs, easily accessed (Santa Fe maybe... up just (52) miles by I-25??). Then, rested and ready, the cap-stone event that evening will be a hallmark occasion befitting our Group's 50th Year Celebration top off—the MEMORIAL BANQUET AND DANCE in the spacious ballroom of our magnificent landmark "headquarters hotel." An exquisite dinner with very special "guests;" and, planned among these, one whom we all know well—"Tex" Beneke of the famed Glenn Miller Band. Following, we will be able to "dance and prance" to the mellow sounds of a "big band" of the '40s orchestra later and ease into our many farewells before the evening closes. With fond and warm "goodbye and safe journey" greetings on Tuesday, May 25th, we'll close out this one special "mission field order folder"—'til we can meet again, soon!!

GROUND, AIR AND STAFF "SKINNY POOP"

Group Call Sign: "Mark Your Calendar"

Recall Word: "No Aborts!"

Reunion "Mission" Events

(Highlights)

Thursday—20 May 93:

"Early Birds & Golfers' Mixer"

- 3:00 P.M. (1500) - Registration Opens (Hotel East Foyer) & Displays
- 5:00 P.M. (1700) - Informal "Early Birds" Reception
- 8:00 P.M. (2000) - 392nd Hospitality Suite Open

Friday—21 May 93

"Golfers' Day & Welcoming Hospitalities"

- 9:00 A.M. (0900) - Golf "Tourney" Tee-offs start
- 10:00 A.M. (1000) - Registration & Welcomes Open

- 11:00 A.M. (1100) - Hospitality Suite & Meeting Room Attractions Going
- 3:00 P.M. (1500) - "19th Hole" for all Golfers
- 4:00 P.M. (1600) - Board of Directors Meet (Hotel)
 - ¹Dinner on your own (Hotel offers great Senior Citizens' dining discounts!)

Saturday—22 May 93: "General Membership & Ladies' Day"

- 8:00 A.M. (0800) - No-host Breakfast on own
- 8:30 A.M. (0830) - Registration and Displays Open
- 10:00 A.M. (1000) - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
- 11:30 A.M. (1130) - Sit down (hosted) Luncheon & Style Show
- 2:15 P.M. (1415) - "Old Town" Bus Tour; Visit & Shopping
- 6:00 P.M. (1800) - No-host Cash Bar Reception (392nd Hospitality Room opens earlier)
- 7:00 P.M. (1900) - ²Sit down Dinner & "40s Hangar Bash—Saturday Night Live Program"

Sunday—23 May 93: "Memorial Tribute Day"

- 8:30 A.M. (0830) - Sit-down (hosted) Breakfast
- 1:00 P.M. (1300) - MEMORIAL REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY (Bus to KAFB)
- 2:00 P.M. (1400) - Bus to National Atomic Museum—Tour & Visit
- 4:30 P.M. (1630) - Early sit-down Dinner—"Bella Vista" at Cedar Crest
- 7:00 P.M. (1900) - Return Hotel/Hospitality Suite re-opens 'til?

Monday—24 May 93: "50th Anniversary Memorial Day"

- 8:30 A.M. (0830) - Sit-down (hosted) Breakfast
 - Free time 'til late afternoon—Hospitality Room and Displays all open
- 5:00 P.M. (1700) - No-host Cash Bar Reception
- 6:00 P.M. (1800) - GALA MEMORIAL BANQUET
- 8:30 P.M. (2030) - Music & Dancing until...

Tuesday—25 May 93: "Till We Meet Again—Soon"

- by 12:00 P.M. (noon) - Breakfast on own & Hotel checkout³
 - FAREWELLS & SAFE JOURNEY HOME!

Footnotes of note: (1) Up to 25% discounts on your requests! Two fine Restaurants. (2) WEAR SOMETHING OF THE '40S! Prizes & stuff! (3) Extended stays at same reunion rate arranged. (4) Regret, late-late "walk-ins" limited to registering (after Saturday) to eight persons. (5) A late-late sign up for Memorial Banquet only will require a (\$49) fee per person. (6) ABQ, as Denver, is also a "Mile High City" in altitude; pleasant low 70s days, mid-50s evenings in May.

GETTING THERE: Plan to take the "High Road" and FLY??? Call our own Patty Roberts at (714) 582-0687 for airline reservations assistance! Albuquerque's new, modern International Air Terminal serves all key major carriers and is :12' from the Marriott, which offers van pickup services. Taking the "Low Road?" From East and West, take I-40 all the way—OK City (556 mi), Barstow (270mi)! Hotel has ample auto parking and RVs Parking there welcomed!

REGISTER NOW—DON'T DELAY! —————➔



REGISTRATION REUNION '93



Reunion Events:

NAME(S): _____ SQDN: _____

PLEASE PRINT for ALL Registering Persons)

ADDRESS: _____

(Street; P.O. Box; City; State & Zip)

TEL: () _____

• REGISTRATION FEE for ALL Reunion Events (except GOLF) is: \$129.50 per person. Reunion events include all scheduled activities to include three (3) Dinners; two (2) Breakfasts; and one (1) Luncheon/Style Show plus motor coaches and three (3) tour visit events.

◇ REQUEST Registration for () person(s) x \$129.50 per person = \$ _____

◇ "YES," I/We will play in the Golfing Event Friday, 21 May:

• Request Golf for () persons x \$26 per person = \$ _____
(includes Green fee, one-half cart plus "stuff")

◇ TOTAL AMOUNT (Check or Money Order to: CHAS. DYE, Treas.) = \$ _____

✓ Make Payment to: **392 BGMA REUNION '93**

✓ Send Completed REGISTRATION FORM & PAYMENT to: **Charles Dye**
7000 Louisiana NE #1601
Albuquerque, NM 87109

3 (Cut here and return)

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Call in—or use the Hotel Form BELOW:

Special Reunion '93, standard room rate is \$57 per night plus tax to be paid at checkout. NO ADVANCE DEPOSIT OF ONE NIGHT required IF reservations made BEFORE January 1st! Either CALL IN your request TOLL FREE at (800) 228-9290 or direct to Hotel at (505) 881-6800 for "392 REUNION '93"—or use form below and mail directly to the ABQ MARRIOTT HOTEL at address given. DO IT NOW, OK?

NAME OF
GROUP

392ND BGP—REUNION '93

20 - 24 MAY 1993

DATES

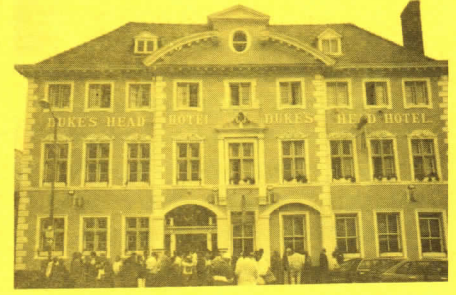
A limited number of sleeping rooms have been set aside for your group. Any reservation request received after the cut off date will be handled on a space availability "first come" basis for both availability and rates

CUT OFF DATE

30 APR 93

LAST NAME FIRST MIDDLE			ARRIVAL		DEPARTURE	
			DATE		DATE	
FIRM PHONE			DAY		DAY	
			TIME		TIME	
STREET			CREDIT CARDS			
			NAME			
CITY STATE ZIP CODE			NUMBER EXP. DATE			
			SIGNATURE			
SHARING WITH LAST NAME FIRST MIDDLE			Rollaway Beds \$10.00 Children in same room with parents - Free			
ARRIVAL DATE OF SHARING PARTY			Check in after 3 pm Check out - Noon			
PLEASE CIRCLE TYPE OF ROOM REQUESTED			ALBUQUERQUE Marriott. 2101 LOUISIANA BOULEVARD NE (I-40 at Louisiana) ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87110 • (505) 881-6800			
SINGLE 1 BED - 1 PERSON						
DOUBLE 1 BED - 2 PERSONS						
DOUBLE - DOUBLE 2 BEDS - 2 PERSONS TRIPLE 2 BEDS - 3 PERSONS QUAD 2 BEDS - 4 PERSONS						

L.Arrival at Heathrow: Jim Morris, Hank Vaughan, Brady Buzick, Midge and Walt Cranson. Frank Pease, rally point.



R.Attendees gathered in front of the Duke's Head in King's Lynn.

L.Col. Gilbert welcoming group at Litcham High School.



R.Three Brits and a transplanted one: Peter Carter, Toni Robinson (widow of L.D. and a war bride), Wendy Carter, Denis Duffield. Tireless co-hosts.

L.Still there. Painting on the wall of the former Combat Officers' Club.



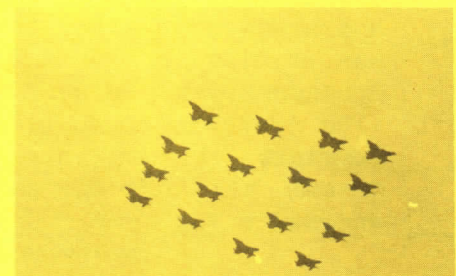
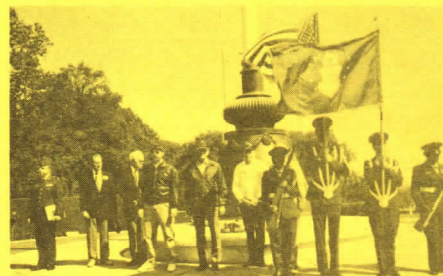
R.Jim Goar, Art Crafton, John Rosenberg, and Harold Hutchcroft prepare to lay a wreath at the Wendling Memorial.

L.Sign at the Rowland farm on the old base.



R.Hilary Duffield, Mrs. Rowland, Harold Bandelier and others at what is believed to be the former 576th living site.

L.Maj Janovic, 3AF chaplain, Jim Tudor, Keith Roberts, Jim Warsteller, Randall Mayer, and John Malloy with the 3AF color guard at the Cambridge cemetery.



R.RAF fighter formation over Duxford Military museum.

392nd Revisits
(continued from page 1)

The group formed up at Heathrow airport on June 7 when busses from Southampton carrying the QE2 detachment met the incoming flights from various cities in the US.

Six days were spent in King's Lynn, Norwich, Cambridge, and London, with many tacking on extended days to tour Britain and the Continent.

The Mayor of King's Lynn, Mike Tilbury, welcomed the group at the historic town hall.

The old base at Wendling was visited, and a contingent stopped by Litcham High School where they mingled with Principal Peter Hart, his staff and students. Round tables were set up and the veterans recalled the days of 1943-45 for the students.

Norwich was on the itinerary, with part of the group taking the traditional boat trip on the Wensum river and part visiting the 2AD Memorial Library.

A service was held at the Wendling memorial under the leadership of Rev. Philip Rushton and a wreath was laid. The prayer, said at the Memorial and later at the Cambridge cemetery, was composed by the 392nd's Very Rev. Robert C. Martin, Episcopal priest and a 576th pilot.

Almighty God, Who has blessed us with the will and courage to do our duty, we praise You for our comrades whose death kept freedom living. We praise You also for giving us the years we have lived since their departure. We pray that You will strengthen and sustain our devotion to truth and justice, so that we may be faithful beneficiaries of their sacrifice. Continue Your mercy to our comrades; keep them in Your care; and bring us all at last into Your presence there to rejoice eternally. Amen.

After the memorial service, there was a reception hosted by the Beeston residents and then lunch was served at the Ploughshare, a watering hole often visited by Crusaders in 43-45. A dinner was held at the Duke's Head, and it was during this time that the Diamond Lil flyover occurred.

This full day was attended by Glenn Frankel, London bureau of the Washington Post, and he filed a story about the 392nd that was printed in the Post and read by many Crusaders who live on the East Coast.

The tour was wound up by a visit to the cemetery at Cambridge and the military museum at Duxford, where Roger Freeman addressed the crowd.

(continued on page 11)

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Aug. 2, 1909. The Wright Flyer formally accepted as Army's first airplane. .

CAF'S DIAMOND LIL
(continued from page 1)

Later, Diamond Lil overflew many of the 2AD bases, and saluted Wendling about four days after the 392nd had left. However, one Crusader was still there to take the salute in the person of Harold Hutchcroft, who had stayed behind to visit English friends. A group of faithful villagers were also there to witness the sight.

The British member of the crew was was former RAF David Hastings, an officer of the 2AD Memorial Trust and a long-time acquaintance of many Crusaders.

Diamond Lil, one of the three B-24's in flying condition in the US, has a curious history. She was one of the early ones, No. 18 according to 392nd historian Bob Vickers. She was originally scheduled for delivery to RAF 120 Squadron at Reykjavik, Iceland, but a landing accident prevented it. If she had made it to the RAF, she would have been one of the early fighters, doing anti-sub patrol. B-24's have long legs, as many Crusaders can testify from personal experience.

She was never delivered to the Government, and was later repaired and outfitted by the manufacturer with a cabin and used by the company for passenger and courier work.

She was acquired by the CAF after the war. The CAF was originally a group of US World War II flyers based at Harlingen, Texas who were dedicated to the preservation of US WWII aircraft. The CAF became a nation-wide organization composed not only of WWII flyers but all aviation enthusiasts. It is now based at Midland, Texas.

All members have the rank of colonel, and its mythical commander is Col. Jethro Culpepper, whose general order at all CAF functions is "Don't do nothin' dumb".

PROFILE

1/Lt. Edward Menarchik, who changed his name from Mlinarcik during WW II, was a pilot in the 577th, arriving at Wendling in Jan. 1945.

After the war, he was a building contractor and a masonry materials distributor, and is still active in business.

Wife Hazel is deceased. They have five children, and interestingly all have a first initial of E and a second initial of D. The eldest, Col. E. Douglas, is a Air Force Academy graduate. They have 3 grandchildren.

Ed lives at RR 2, Box 119, Uniontown, PA 15401.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Aug. 17, 1942. First American heavy bomber mission during WWII flown in Europe.

392nd Revisits
(continued from page 10)

The group was loud in their praise of Patty and Keith Roberts, travel agents by profession and Crusaders by direction of the President.

All of the above is the up side of the story. On the down side, we are sorry to report the death on June 20 of Henry Vaughan from a heart attack. Hank, co-pilot of the Scheltens crew in the 577th, was on the Wendling tour and was not feeling well part of the time then. He is survived by wife Laura, and members of the entire Group will miss this quiet, unobtrusive Oklahoman.

Those in attendance were: Jack Adamson and Jean; Harold Bandelier and Marcella; Wally Blackburn and Loraine; Gene Butts and Audrey; Jim and Brady Buzick; Charles Carlson; Carrol Cheek and Mabel; Al, Mabel, and Meredith Cooke; Art Crafton; Walt Cranson and Midge; Bob Egan and Rose; M.J., Estelle, Jim, Janet, and Mike Fox; Jim Goar and Virginia; Col. Gilbert and Marjorie; Roy Grimm and Rusty; Hank Henry and Jean; Harold Hutchcroft and Mary Esther; Ray Johnson and Harriet; Bill Jensen and Anna; John Kallas; Steve Kinsler and Marie; Joe Landers; Larry Lassins and Claire; Will Levin and Anne; John Malloy and Peg; Jim Marsteller; Randall Mayer and Rita; Andy Mayer and Georgia; Jim McFarland and Dolly; Jim Meyers; Jim Morris; Frank Pease; Ed Popek and Erma; Roberta Roach; Keith Roberts and Pat; Toni Robinson; John Rosenberg; Jim Tudor and Lee; Henry Vaughan; Maltby Watkins; Oscar Weed; Harry White and Nancy; and Doc Wyld and Elynor.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Aug. 28, 1923. A new world refueled flight duration record of 37 hours 15 minutes 4.8 seconds set.

Book Reviews
(continued from page 2)

Their book argues that although strategic bombing did not in itself bring Germany to its knees, the efforts of the bombers and the fighters of the AAF in Europe greatly hastened the end of the war by destroying the enemy's ability to produce war materiel.

And more importantly they state that the AAF, by driving the Luftwaffe from the skies over Europe, was vitally instrumental to the success of the invasion and the subsequent land campaigns.

The two authors are somewhat controversial. Some readers objected to the authors' presentation of General Eaker's transfer from England to Italy. Also, Mr. McFarland aroused the ire of the 95th Bomb Group and its anthologist, Ian Hawkins, for McFarland's criticism of Hawkins' book about the 95th.

The 392nd BGMA NEWS is indebted to Burrell Ellison, 576th pilot, for calling this book to our attention.

"To Command The Sky" is a part of the Smithsonian History of Aviation Series.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Aug. 14, 1945. Last bombing mission by 20th AF completed.

HELP BOB VICKERS AND ERNIE BARBER COLLECT GROUND CREW DATA

Bob Vickers, author of the 392nd's history, "The Liberators From Wendling", is doing a new study and needs information on ground crews and Ernie Barber, the Group archivist, is helping him. If you can help them, fill out the questionnaire below and send it to Ernest H. Barber, RR 1 Box 371-2, Lincolnton, GA 30817. (If you are saving these newsletters and don't want to mutilate it by cutting this out, photocopy this page to send in.)

I was a ground (check applicable space) __ crew chief __ ass't crew chief __ crewman for the following a/c at Wendling:

1. A/C # _____ Name _____ Sqdn _____

2. A/C # _____ Name _____ Sqdn _____

3. A/C # _____ Name _____ Sqdn _____

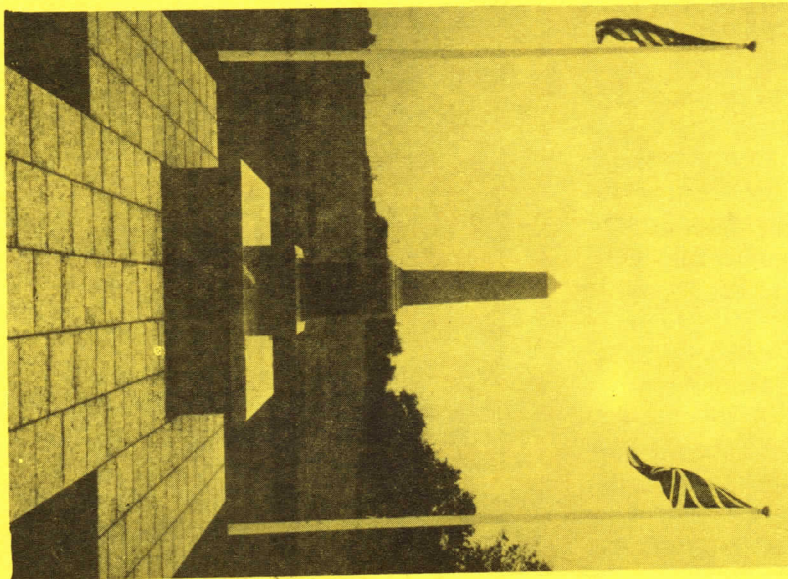
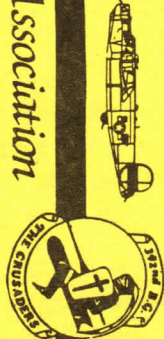
4. A/C # _____ Name _____ Sqdn _____

Signed _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Tel (____) _____

NEWS

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