NEWS

392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 9 AUGUST 1994

McCORMICK WAS 392ND'S LAST CASUALTY

DOWNED AIRMAN HAD JOINED DUTCH RESISTANCE- SHOT BY GERMANS APR 29, 5 DAYS BEFORE PEACE

The 392nd's target on Feb. 22, 1945 was the marshalling yards at Norhausen, with the previously unheard-of bombing altitude of only 6000 feet.Flak at the target was meagre and inaccurate, but heavy elsewhere.

One crew was MIA, the 578th's #241, 1/Lt J. R. Walker, pilot. The a/c was heavily damaged by flak and the crew, attempting to reach allied lines in France, nevertheless were forced to crash-land in enemy held Holland. Only minor injuries were suffered.

Four of the crew were captured by the Germans, and five evaded. One of the evadees, S/Sgt John E. McCormick, joined the Dutch Resistance but was killed on April 29 when the Germans surrounded the Resistance group's hide-out.

The other evadees, 1/Lt Walker, 1/Lt Donahue, 2/Lt Casstevens, and S/Sgt Duerr were hidden by the Dutch Resistance fighters until the Germans in Holland capitulated on May 4.

A Dutch author has written a book, somewhat fanciful, about the flight of the Walker crew and the events after the crash landing.

The Dutch TV is preparing a documentary to be aired, probably in 1995, about S/Sgt John McCormick and two other Allied soldiers who, although not Hollanders, fought for the liberation of Holland in WW II.

Following is the loading list of a/c #241 on Feb. 22, 1945:

1/Lt Joseph R. Walker, Jr., P
2/Lt Ralph C. Casstevens, CP
1/Lt John J. Donahue, B-N
S/Sgt Harold A. Shea, NG
Sgt Francis J. Nagle, RO
S/Sgt Allan W. Hicks, TT
S/Sgt John E. McCormick, WG
S/Sgt John A. H. Lingle, WG
S/Sgt Elmer E. Duerr, TG

Walker remained in the Service but was killed in a crash in Pennsylvania in 1949. Lingle passed away in 1988. Casstevens resides in Hamptonville, NC and is reported to be in ill health. Donahue lives in Whippany, NJ; and Hicks lives in Amarillo, TX. Please see Profiles, this issue, for information on Shea, Duerr, and Nagle.

Nagle and Duerr have returned to Holland and have visited the Dutch people who sheltered them.

Photo courtesy Francis Nagle

This photo of the 578th's crashed a/c #42-95241, "Jolly Duck", was given to Nagle on a recent visit to Holland. It is unknown when and by whom the identifying markings were painted out. Since the a/c was destroyed by the RAF shortly after the crash, probably it is the photo that was altered. It shows the a/c at rest near the village of Zoeterwoude, Holland, about 8 miles west of The Hague.

BULLETIN

On Aug. 1, fire broke out at the Norwich Central Library and much of the 2AD Memorial Library, housed there, was lost in the blaze.

Mervyn Jones of Litcham faxed us the story as reported by the Norwich Evening News. It said: "The blaze began just after 7:20 am and the building was still alight at 1 pm. A cleaner turned on a light the the US Memorial Room and heard a loud bang.

"Within two minutes, flames were shooting from the roof and licking around the building."

News of the tragedy reached the US by noon, US time. Nora Canfield, a war bride and wife of Herman Canfield, 577th, received a call from a friend in Norwich and she immediately called the 392BGMA NEWS. Many other calls were received from England by various Crusaders during the day.

The immediate concern and sense of loss felt on both sides of the Atlantic is testimony to the bonds of fellowship that exist between Crusaders and their English friends.

D-DAY BATTLE ORDER: ADDENDA

The May 1994 issue of the NEWS reported the crews that flew on D-Day. However, the records available were not absolutely complete, and thanks to letters from Crusaders, we can now name some others who were part of that battle.

Robert Bullard reports that the following 576th crew was a part of the

See D-Day, Page 2

BRITS MEMORIALIZE FALLEN CRUSADERS

MEMORIAL PLAQUE SET IN MEDIEVAL CHURCH AT WRANGLE JULY 9

On the mission to Saarbrucken July 13, 1944, weather conditions were very bad in the assembly area. The 579th's Lt Norman Hunt crew experienced severe icing which caused the plane to crash. Only one crewman, waist gunner S/Sgt Mark Osment, was able to exit the a/c and reach the ground by parachute.

The Lincolnshire Aircraft Recovery Group excavated the crash site in 1989 and recovered parts of the wreck, which are on display at a nearby former RAF base.

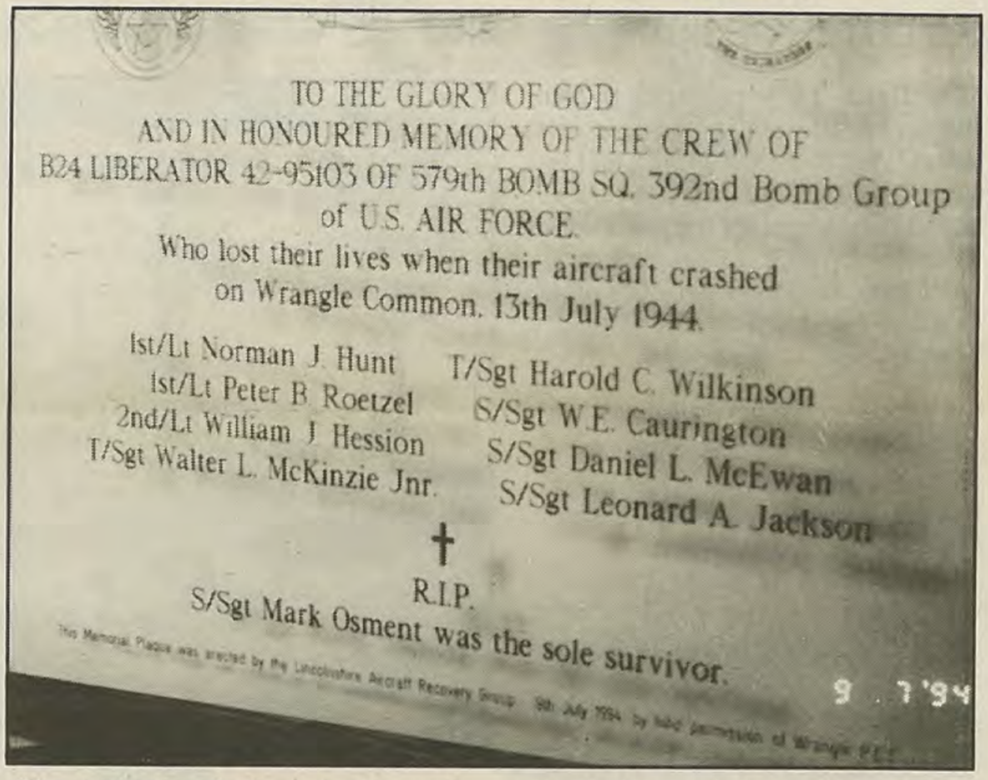
The Group, led by Ian Blackamore, felt that the lost lives should be remembered and their efforts culminated in the dedication of a memorial plaque at the church of Saint Mary and Saint Nicholas at Wrangle. The ceremony was held four days before the 50th anniversary of the crash. Nearly 100 villagers and friends attended.

Mervyn Jones of Litcham, a long-time friend of the 392nd and father of associate member Ben Jones, delivered the address.

Also taking part was US Air Force chaplain Maj Gary L. Carlson and his son Cadet Michael J. Carlson. Cadet Carlson sounded taps.

Jones in his address noted that the crew who lost their lives that day "by their efforts and those of their compatriots helped ensure our independence and freedom today. This Memorial Plaque will testify to future generations our sorrow at their suffering and sacrifice for us all."

During the summer of 1994 local citizens dedicated Memorials at churches in Wrangle and Sheringham. Crusaders died at both locations when their a/c crashed there.



The newly-placed plaque on the wall of the church joined another, older one. It lists the past vicars of the church, and the first is dated 1381.

MEMORIAL TO CREW DEDICATED MAY 7 AT SHERINGHAM

The 578th's a/c "Alfred" crashed just inside the coast near Sheringham on Jan. 4, 1944. Five of the crew perished, five lived. The a/c was badly damaged over the target, Kiel, by flak.

A trio of Sheringham citizens has researched the incident and their efforts led to the placing of a monument to the memory of the crew in the churchyard of All Saints Church in the village.

The monument was formally dedicated on May 7. Present were 19 American representatives of the crew of "Alfred", led by gunner Henry Wilk, the sole living survivor. He was accompanied by his wife Donna and their son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Wilk.

Lt. Colby Waugh, the pilot, lost his life in the crash. His widow, Doris, was in attendance, along with a granddaughter; Colby Waugh's sister with 3 daughters and a granddaughter; and 3 nephews, one with wife and daughter.

Parke Kent was the radio operator. He survived the crash, but was later shot down and became POW. He survived the war but is now deceased. Representing his family was his widow's sister and her son and his wife.

Doug Willies, the leader of the Sheringham citizens who conceived the idea of the monument, had this to say about the event:

"Those who made the unscheduled stop at Sheringham 50 years ago are marked by the Memorial and will never be forgotten. Those who returned half a century later will also be remembered with great affection for a very long time."

* * * *

56 CRUSADERS ATTEND 2AD REUNION AT KANSAS CITY MAY 28-31

John Conrad, 579th navigator, passed the 2AD presidential gavel after completing two successful terms.

At the 392 BGMA Board of Directors meeting and later the membership meeting, a proposal to stagger the terms of directors was placed on the agenda for action at the annual meeting scheduled during the 8AF meeting at San Diego Oct. 4-9, 1994.

Also at the membership meeting Oak Mackey was unanimously re-elected to the 2AD unit vice-presidency.

The Board confirmed $1000 donations to the American Museum at Duxford, England; the 8AF Memorial Control Tower at the AF Museum at Dayton, OH; and to the Mighty 8th Memorial Museum at Savannah, GA.

Associate members Ben Jones, Litcham, England; and Jim Marsteller, New Park, PA. were present. Ben Jones grew up in and around Wendling and has a strong interest in the 392nd, and Jim Marsteller has been an indefatigable researcher, primarily of the Friedrichshafen mission which took the lives of his uncle and many other Crusaders.

Others attending were: Elmer Amble; Ernie Barber; Bill Barry; Vern Baumgart, Luther Beddingfield; Walt Bell and Jeanette; John Bross and Betty; Floyd Bull and Roberta; and Jim Buzick.

Also, John Conrad and Wanda; Arnold Dovey and Cleome; Ray Dunphy and Cile; Charley Dye and Helen; Herman Garner and Annelle; Lawrence Gilbert and Marjie; Jim Goar and Virginia; Dave Greene and Rene; and Fred Hollien and Lorraine.

Also, Bill Jurczyn and Renella; Myron Keilman and Blanche; Oak Mackey and Maxine; Matt Mateski and Marge; Ed Moran; Art Olson; Perry Onstot; Ed Popek and Erma; Bert Prost and Margaret; Rocky Rothrock and Mary; Roland Sabourin; Bill Singleton and Thelma; Harry Vasconcellas and Edythe; and Stan Zybort and Millie.

D-day

Continued from Page 1

third mission of the day:

Acebedo, Bruce H. 1/Lt
Coe, Vernon E. 2/Lt
Robinson, William F. 2/Lt
Keller, Charles T. S/Sgt
Kauffman, Theodore H. T/Sgt
Abraham, Robert A. S/Sgt
Alred, Edward L. S/Sgt
Bullard, Robert E. T/Sgt

James H. Hair, 579th, reports that S/Sgt Richard Goric was the 10th man on the Brunn crew that flew the third mission.

GERMAN GIRL SAVES GUNNER: MEET AGAIN IN US AFTER 40 YEARS

A furious air battle over Germany on Sept. 11, 1944, downed the 578th's a/c #42-7466, "Ford's Folly". The pilot was 1/Lt C. A. Rudd. The target was Hanover.

Badly damaged by repeated fighter attacks, the a/c was spinning downward out of control and only two crewmen were able to exit the plane. They were T/Sgt Odell Dobson, waist gunner; and T/Sgt Roger Clapp, radio operator. Dobson, wounded in several places, exited by the camera hatch and landed in a field near the village of Treis. He was soon surrounded by German civilians, most of them hostile and threatening.

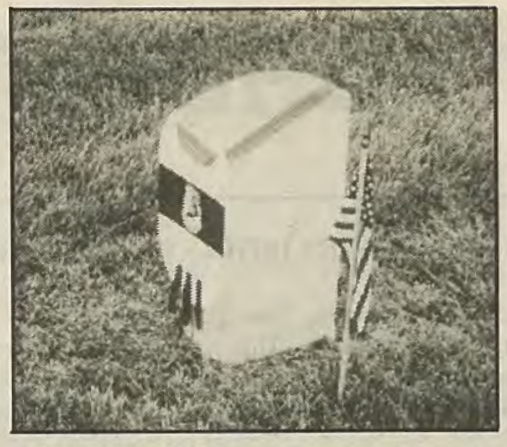
However, a 17-year old girl, a German Red Cross worker who had been working in a field a mile or so away saw the descending parachute and ran to the scene. With the assistance of another uniformed young German, the the crowd was held off. The wounded airman was loaded onto a cart and soon he was on his way to medical care.

Dobson, after medical treatment, was sent to a POW camp in Poland. Then, to avoid advancing Russian troops, the POW's went on an 87-day, 600 mile march through north Germany. On May 2, 1945 they encountered a British unit near Buchen, near the Elbe River. A British lieutenant mounted the hood of his jeep and announced,"Gentlemen, you are now liberated. Disarm your guards." Six days later Germany capitulated.

Dobson by this time had rejoined Clapp. They took a Mercedes Benz from surrendering German officers and made their way to Brussells. Then it was back to the USA and re-entry into civilian life.

Maria Kehr, the young German Red Cross girl, served out the war attached to the German army, attending the wounded. The end of the war found her in the Bavarian Alps.

In the 1950's, she married Lawrence Boyd, a US army veteran who was a civilian employee of the US Air Force. His duties took them from Germany to Libya and Italy. He retired in 1972 and the couple came to the USA and settled down in Covington, Indiana, near Boyd's hometown. Maria continued her Red Cross career, this time with the American Red Cross. Boyd passed away in 1977.



Grave at Jefferson Barracks with the 392nd tail markings and Crusader emblem, decorated by M/Sgt Allen Holtman, USAF (Ret).

Dobson married and established himself in civilian life, becoming an official of an insurance company. His duties took him to postwar Germany and he often visited the Treis area, looking for the young German girl who had saved his life. He left a business card that eventually found its way to Maria, who by this time was in the States. She made several attempts to reach Dobson at the insurance company's home office in Decatur, Alabama, but because of the vagaries of corporate switchboards she never reached him.

Maria's Red Cross duties took her all over the country on disaster relief missions, and on one such occasion she met a fellow Red Cross worker from Alabama. He utilized the Red Cross network and in 1984 Dobson and Maria Boyd finally contacted each other.

Family visits ensued and on one such occasion Dobson spoke the following words at the Red Cross meeting at which a 25-year pin was awarded to Maria Boyd:

"I was the first enemy soldier Maria had ever seen but without hesitation she bound up my wounds and helped protect me from an angry group of her neighbors, knowing full well she would be the object of their criticism and hostility when the day was done."

Dobson, in describing the air battle over Germany that day, said "It was practically hand-to-hand combat in the sky. I was shooting at the fighter and he was shooting at me. I thought I hit him because I saw fire in his wings. But what I saw must have been the fire of his guns, because my gun was hit and fragments hit my head, arms, and legs. By then the other gunners had also been wounded, we had lost two engines, and the aircraft was starting to spin downward. I couldn't exit head first, but finally struggled out the camera hatch."

Dobson finally located Roger Clapp, who was working at the Santa Anita, California race track, about four years ago. But Clapp passed away before Dobson could arrange to visit him.

Rudd, 2/Lt R. J. Benson, and 2/Lt W. A. Spencer, the pilot, co-pilot, and bombardier respectively, are buried in a common grave at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. Retired AF M/Sgt Allen P. Holtman is caring for their grave.

2/Lt J. R. Dawson, the navigator, is buried at the Netherlands American Cemetery near Maastrict. Also buried in the same cemetery are T/Sgt C. R. Maynard, S/Sgt H. F. Hoganson, and S/Sgt R. E. Modlin. S/Sgt R. K. Place is buried in a family plot in a cemetery in Newport, IN.

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PROFILE

T/Sgt Francis J. Nagle was the regular radio operator on the 578th's Olson crew, but was flying with the Walker crew when their a/c went down in Holland. (See related story, this issue, P 1) He arrived at Wendling in January 1945, but was on the base only three weeks before being shot down.

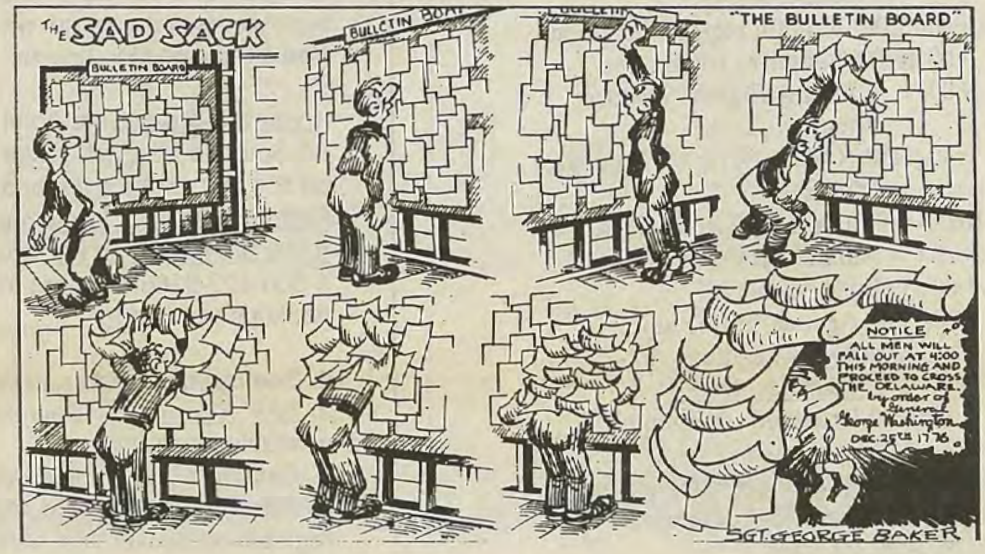
In civilian life, he became professor of physiology at the University of Wisconsin, retiring in 1991.

He is one of the champion sires of the 392nd, having eleven children. He and wife Edna live at 2237 Rugby Row, Madison, WI 53705.

* * * *

AIR ANNIVERSARY

88 B-29s made first heavy bomb strike on Tokyo-1944.



Courtesy the late Capt Charles Taylor, 576/78 Ass't Eng O

PX ITEMS

Book, "392nd War Stories", by Col. Myron Keilman, 579th,$20 [ ]
Book, "Country Boy Combat Pilot", by Col. Bob Tays, 578th,$15 [ ]
Book, "The Liberators From Wendling", by Col. Bob Vickers, 578th,$25 [ ]
Book, "Crew Dog", by Maj. John Matt, 579th, $28.95, postpaid [ ]
Cap, black, 392nd BG w/gold braid, summer, $9 [ ]
Cap, black, 392nd BG w/gold braid, winter, $9 [ ]
Cap, blue, w/B-24 and 392nd Crusader logo, $9 [ ]
Directory, new, $10 postpaid [ ]
Jacket, white nylon, w/392nd BG and Crusader patches, $20 [ ]
Patch, 392nd BG logo, $1.50 postpaid [ ]
Print, "The Flying Crusader", by Frederick T. Searle, unsigned, reduced to $10 [ ]
Print, "The Flying Crusader", by Frederick T. Searle, signed, reduced to $15 [ ]
T-Shirt, 392nd BG, $10 [ ]
Video, from Albuquerque Reunion Symposium, "The Early Days", [ ]
Video, Symposium above, "The Ground Support Teams Prepare for a Mission", [ ]
Video, Symposium above, "The Tough Missions, Pt. 1, Bremen, Keil, Gotha, Freidrichshafen [ ]
Video, Symposium above, "The Tough Missions, Pt.2, Politz, Berlin, Bernberg, Bingen, Wesel [ ]
Video, from Albuquerque Reunion, general scenes from the reunion [ ]

(EACH VIDEO IS $23 POSTPAID)

Add $1.50 per item for shipping cost (except postpaid items) [ ]

Total [ ]

Send with check to Charles Dye, Treas., 4949 San Pedro, NE, #87, Albuquerque, NM 87109

392 BGMA TO MEET AT SAN DIEGO WITH 8AF CONVENTION

The 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association will hold their annual meeting during the 8AF convention Oct. 4-9 at San Diego, CA. Officers will be elected and any other business coming before the members will be acted upon.

Col. Lawrence Gilbert, president, has set these meeting times: Board of Directors, 1500 Thursday Oct. 6; and Membership meeting 0930 Friday Oct. 7.

Following are the daily schedules for the 8AF meeting:

Tuesday, Oct. 4

1:00- 5:00 Reunion registration open
1:00-10.00 Gathering room open

Wednesday, Oct. 5

8:00- 5:00 Reunion registration open
9:00-10:00 Gathering room open
9:00 "Mighty Eighth" Theatre open
9:30- 3:30 (Option) Trip to Tiajuana, Mexico
10:00- 3:00 (Option) Trip to Wild Animal Park
1:00- 5:00 PX open
3:30- 5:00 Agenda-setting unit advisory meeting

Thursday, Oct. 6

7:00- 8:30 Extended continental breakfast
9:00- 5:00 Reunion registration open
9:00- Gathering room open
9:30- 4:30 PX open
9:45- 3:45 (Option) Trip to Balboa Park and Seaport Village
10:00-12:00 Chapter and Unit Development meeting
10:30- 2:30 (Option) Harbor Cruise and Seaport Village
6:00- 9:00 Cash bar and Hawaiian Luau, poolside (dinner and entertainment)

(Continued to last column of next page)

HERE'S THE POOP:

TOWN AND COUNTRY HOTEL - SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Situated on 32 beautifully landscaped acres, The Town and Country is conveniently located in Mission Valley just minutes from the downtown area. This is truly a resort property with four pools, barber and beauty services, shopping, and four restaurants on the hotel grounds. Choose between two coffee shops, the Gourmet Room, or Kelly's Steak House. Sleeping rooms furnished with either two beds or one king bed and have in-room movies. Complimentary newspaper on weekday mornings at front desk. Free, security controlled parking for our group. Golf and tennis facilities nearby. Hotel will honor the rate three days before and after.

If you are flying into San Diego Airport, Super Shuttle provides transportation to and from the hotel. For prompt service call 619-278-0665 for reservations. Let them know you are with 8AFHS staying at the Town and Country Hotel to get the special rate ($7 per person each way). Once in baggage claim, pick up their courtesy phone and let them know you have arrived. USAir is the official airline for this reunion. Call toll free at 1-800-334-8644 and state your group number; 83800000. If you use your own travel agent, make sure you give them your group number. By using this number, you will be helping the Society accumulate free site inspection tickets.

If you are driving, the hotel is located on Hotel Circle in Mission Valley. From the North on Interstate 5: I-5 South to I-8 East. Take the 2nd Hotel Circle Exit. The hotel is on the North side of I-8. As you come off the exit, make a left and follow road two blocks until you pass under I-8. Make a right into the hotel.
From the East on Interstate 8: I-8 East to the 2nd Hotel Circle Exit. Make a right off the ramp.
If you are driving an RV, consider staying at Campland on the Bay, about five minutes from the hotel. Call 1-800-422-9386 for more information. You are welcome to park your RV in the back lot of the hotel (no hookups available).

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. See choices below and complete the Registration Form. Remit by check or money order made payable to 8AF Reunion by September 4, 1994. Forms received after this date will be accepted on a space available basis only.
2. Canceled check will serve as your receipt, although you are not expected to present it at registration.
3. After you check into the hotel, report to our registration desk in the Atlas Foyer to pick up your registration packet with nametags, tickets, etc.
4. Full refund for cancellations postmarked by September 4, 1994. After the cut off date, refund amount will depend on charges made for unused portion of services.

MEALS/EVENTS CHOICES

IMPORTANT NOTICE: In response to comments made about the breakfast menus in Chicago, this year's meal package has been significantly changed. Extended Continental Breakfasts will be offered on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday, and will include: assorted juices, fresh fruit, cold cereals, breakfast breads, coffee and tea. On Saturday, a full breakfast buffet will be available and will include: juices, fruit, eggs, pancakes, a breakfast meat, potatoes, coffee and tea.

Choice #1 Total Package $144
Package incl. 7 food functions starting with Thursday breakfast. Thursday Evening Luau available only in this package. USO Show included. Options are separate.

Choice #2 Partial Package $99
Package incl. 5 food functions starting with Fri. breakfast. USO Show included.
Options are separate.

Choice #3 Individual Events
Friday: Rendezvous Dinner $25 and Saturday: Banquet $33 can be bought separately.
Options: See Page 18 for descriptions.
Wednesday: Tijuana $25 or Wild Animal Park $35, Thursday: Balboa Park $18 or Harbor Cruise $24, Friday: City Tour $25, and Saturday: Shopping Shuttle $15.

PLEASE NOTE: Those buying meal package 1 or 2 will be entered into a raffle for $100 to be given away at the USO Show Friday evening. Must be present to win.

Questions? **About Reunion call 1-804-625-6401**
About Town & Country Hotel call 1-800-445-2324

8AF SAN DIEGO OCT 4-9

ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

NAMES (for name tags) _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP_____
8AFHS Membership # _____ Check ( ) if Life Member? PHONE #(____)_____
WWII Group (for seating arrangements)_____ 1st 8AFHS Reunion?_____

MEALS SECTION

Choice #1	per person $144	$_____
Choice #2	per person $99	$_____

Choice # 3 - Individual Events

NOTE: Friday and Saturday dinners are included in # 1 and # 2 above.

Friday: Rendezvous Dinner (Chicken)	per person $25	$_____
Saturday: Banquet & Dance	per person $33	$_____

EVENTS SECTION (OPTIONS)

Wednesday : Tijuana	per person $25	$_____
- or -		
Wednesday: Wild Animal Park	per person $35	$_____
Thursday: Balboa Park	per person $18	$_____
- or -		
Thursday: Harbor Cruise	per person $24	$_____
Friday: City Tour	per person $25	$_____
Saturday: Shopping Shuttle	per person $15	$_____
Mandatory Registration Fee	per person $30	$_____

(Reg. fee includes Unit rebates, Symposium, 8AFMMF memorial plans, postage, etc.)

Please note Banquet Choice # _____ Roast Strip Sirloin #_____ Chef's Selection of Fish
Enclose Full Payment to 8AF Reunion $_____

In case of emergency notify_____ Phone: (____)_____
Physician_____ Phone:(____)_____ Medications taken_____

Mail to the address below postmarked by September 4, 1994

8AF Reunion / P.O.Box 11327 / Norfolk, VA 23517

********** **CUT HERE AND MAIL BOTTOM PORTION TO HOTEL** **********

THE EIGHTH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOTEL RESERVATION FORM - OCTOBER 4 - 9, 1994

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

SHARING ROOM WITH _____ 1 KING or ____2 DOUBLES
____NUMBER OR ROOMS NEEDED ____NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN ROOM ____SMOKING ____NON SMOKING
RATE: $84 (up to four people in room) + tax (currently 9%)
CUT OFF DATE: September 4, 1994. Reservations received after the cut off date will be processed on a space available basis.
CANCELLATION POLICY: Deposit is refundable if reservation is canceled 48 hours in advance of arrival date. Be sure to record you cancellation number.
PLEASE INCLUDE FIRST NIGHT'S DEPOSIT BY CHECK (PAYABLE TO TOWN & COUNTRY HOTEL) OR CREDIT CARD TO CONFIRM YOUR RESERVATION.

____AMEX	____DINERS	____MASTERCARD
____CARTE BLANCHE	____DISCOVER	____VISA

CREDIT CARD NUMBER_____ EXP. DATE_____

SIGNATURE (regardless of payment method) _____

ARRIVAL DATE_____ DEPARTURE_____ (CHECK-IN 3PM, CHECK OUT NOON)

MAIL TO: TOWN & COUNTRY HOTEL / 500 HOTEL CIRCLE NORTH / SAN DIEGO, CA 92108

(Continued from first column, opposite page)

Friday, Oct. 7

7:00- 8:30 Extended continental breakfast
9:00- 5:00 Reunion registration open
9:00- 4:00 Gathering room open
9:00-11:00 Individual Group meetings
9:00- 3:00 (Option) San Diego city tour
10:00- 5:00 PX open
12:30- 5:00 8th AFMMF Board of Directors annual meeting
2:00- Lt Col Mark Wells, USAF Academy will talk about combat fatigue as related to 8AF and RAF Bomber Command
6:00- 7:00 8AF Cash bar reception
7:00- Rendezvous Dinner and "hangar flying"
9:30-10:15 USO style entertainment (open to meal package participants)

Saturday, Oct. 8

7:00- 8:30 Full breakfast buffet
9:00-11:30 General membership meeting
9:45- 2:45 (Option) Shuttle to Horton shopping plaza
10:00- 4:00 PX open
1:30- 4:30 14th annual 8AFMMF Symposium
5:00- 7:00 VIP reception (invited guests only)
5:30- 6:30 Reunion registration open
6:00- 7:00 8AF cash bar reception
7:15- Military color guard ceremony followed by gala banquet and dance

Sunday, Oct. 9

7:00- 8:30 Extended continental breakfast
8:30- Short memorial service
9:00- Protestant services
9:00- Catholic services
9:30- 8 AFHS annual Board meeting

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STRUCK BY 20 MM SHELL, BUT 578TH GUNNER SURVIVES

The date was Feb. 20, 1944, the beginning of "Big Week" in which the 8th AF struck repeated and devastating blows to Hitler's war machine.

The briefed target was Halberstadt, but the target of opportunity was Helmstadt. S/Sgt Landon H. Brent was the flight engineer on the R. K. Goodwin crew, flying their fourth mission.

On the way in the formation was hit by about 50 ME 109's and FW 190's and the Goodwin a/c was severely damaged, losing two engines. Brent was hit in the back by a 20 mm cannon shell.

The a/c began to lose altitude and could not maintain formation. Four P-47's provided cover as long as they could, and over the channel the B-24 was down to 5,000 feet. There was talk of ditching, but Lt Goodwin realized that Brent was seriously wounded and nursed the crippled plane to a crash landing at Southend.

Brent was taken to a British hospital for treatment and later the attending doctor gave him the 20 mm shell that entered his back but did not explode. Brent still has the shell.

He was transferred to a US hospital and while he was there the Goodwin crew was assigned to the 15th AF. Brent finished his tour flying with other crews, and two of his missions were on D-Day.

Brent said in a letter to the NEWS: "Sometimes I look at the 20 mm shell that hit me and I think of Lt Goodwin and Lt McGee (the co-pilot) and other crew members and the four P-47 pilots I never knew. I have not seen any of the crew since that day. I wish I could tell them how much I appreciate what they did for me."

Editor's note: The NEWS has been able to locate Lt Carl Wettig, the navigator on the Goodwin crew, and has put Brent and Wettig in touch with each other. No other crew members were located, and it was found that Lts Goodwin and McGee, S/Sgt Marvin E. Roberts, and several others are deceased.

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PROFILE

T/Sgt Odell F. Dobson was a gunner on the 578th's Rudd crew. (See story, this issue, "German Girl Saves Gunner"). He joined the Group at Wendling in June 1944.

After the war he attended Davidson College, where he earned a 2/Lt's commission in the Infantry. He went to inactive duty in 1953.

He entered the insurance business and became vice president in charge of claims at Mutual Savings Life. He retired in 1986.

His spouse is Barbara, and they have 2 sons and one daughter. They live at RR1, Box 753, Somerville AL 35670.

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SECOND GENERATION 392ND RESEARCHER CONTINUES STUDIES

Most readers of this paper are acquainted with 392BGMA associate member Jim Marsteller, the nephew of S/Sgt Everette (Jim) Morris, KIA on the Freidrichshafen mission March 18, 1944. Morris was on the Dallas Books crew in the 579th.

Marsteller has been indefatigable in his pursuit of knowledge about his uncle's WWII service. He has amassed a large amount of data about the Freidrichshafen raid, and he and his family have visited the site of the Books a/c crash in Germany. (See the August 1993 392BGMA NEWS for an account of the visit)

Marsteller has located Bob Books, the son of of Dallas Books and recently visited the Books home in Menomonee Falls, WI. While in Wisconsin Marsteller presented a slide show on the Books crew at the Eau Claire VFW post. Eau Claire was the home of Dallas Books.

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AIR ANNIVERSARY

First USAAF bombing attack made on Japanese held Thailand-1942.

FOR YOUR PLANNING: UPCOMING MEETINGS

8AF SAN DIEGO OCT 4-9, 1994

See full details on another page of this issue. ***It is important that if you intend to be there that you sign up early and also inform Cliff Peterson or Charley Dye. Only 14 Crusaders attended the last 8AF convention at Chicago, and the convention planners will take that into consideration when allotting meeting space for the Group. If the 392nd is going to be at San Diego in strength, the planners need to know about it.***

2AD ENGLAND, MAY 1995

The trip is booked full as of now, but Evelyn Cohen is establishing a waiting list. The meeting is scheduled as a celebration and not as a regular reunion of the 2AD. For further information contact Evelyn at 06-410 Delaire Landing Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114, phone 215 632 3992.

2AD LEXINGTON, KY JUL 2-4, 1995

It won't be at John Conrad's house, but further details will be forthcoming.

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D-DAY PLUS 50 YEARS- THE DEFINITIVE WORDS: "AND THEN THEY CAME"

Millions of words were published and broadcast during the celebration of the 50th anniversary of D-Day on June 6, 1994.

A reporter from the Los Angeles Times Syndicate caught the meaning of it all in the the following despatch:

A Dutch woman, attending one of the last reunions of the Rangers who took Point du Hoc, tried to explain what it meant to one of the journalists covering the ceremony. "You are a child", she told him as she dabbed away the tears. She had lived through the bombing by the Germans of Rotterdam on May 14, 1940, in which 30,000 had been killed within two hours in the vast fires. Then came the years of occupation. "We were waiting for the Allies to come, waiting, waiting. And then they came."

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PROFILE

S/Sgt Stanley Kegler was the waist gunner on the Prater crew in the 577th. He arrived at Wendling Dec. 18, 1944.

He recently retired from the Operating Engineers after 40 years service.

His wife is Martha Ann, and they have 3 sons and 2 daughters, who have presented them with 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

They live at 69200 Hicks Road, Armada, MI 48005.

* * * *

PROFILE

T/Sgt Elmer Duerr was a gunner on the 578th's Del Miller crew, but because of the rotation of gunners was flying with the Walker crew when their a/c went down in Holland. He was on the final mission of his tour, #35. (See related story, this issue, P1). He joined the Group at Wendling in April 1944.

Post-war, he took the BA and MA degrees at the University of Pittsburgh. He was elementary principal at Homestead Park School in Munhall, Pa. until retirement.

He and wife Fanny have four children, and live at 3820 Grace St., Munhall, PA 15120.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

DON'T LET THIS BE THE LAST COPY OF THE 392BGMA NEWS THAT YOU RECEIVE.IF YOU HAVEN'T SENT IN YOUR DUES YET, DO IT NOW. You can tell where you stand with your dues by the code right after your name on the label. If is LM (for Life Membership) or 94 or higher, you're paid up. If there is an error, contact Charley Dye.

The Board of Directors has ruled that no Crusader will be denied membership because of financial difficulty, so if you are in straightened circumstances check the Hardship Waiver Box. Fill out the form below and send it in now!

Name_____ Ground [ ] Air [ ] Sqdn_____ Assoc [ ]

Street_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Dues for 1994, $12 [_____]

HARDSHIP WAIVER [____]

LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

Age 61-65 $120 [_____]

Age 66-70 $96 [_____]

Age 71 and over $78 [_____]

Send with check to Charles Dye, Treas., 4949 San Pedro, NE, #87, Albuquerque, NM 87109

CRUSADER PATCHES FOR A-2 JACKETS NOW AVAILABLE

Authentic replicas of the Crusader patch worn on A-2 jackets in WWII can now be obtained from Jim Marsteller or Ernie Barber.

Marsteller's address is RR 1, Box 254, New Park, PA 17352. Barber's is 5726 Thomson Hiway, Lincolnton, GA 30817.

Cost is $15.75, postpaid.

* * * *

8AF CONTROL TOWER UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT DAYTON AF MUSEUM

Ground was broken Apr. 15, 1994 at the USAF Museum at Dayton for a replica of the WWII control tower that was in use at most WWII bases in England.

Photo by John Greenwood
Shown above are Crusaders Bob Vickers and Cliff Peterson at the ground-breaking ceremony. Both are past presidents of the 8AF Historical Society.

It is being built by the 8AF Memorial Museum Foundation using original plans from the British Defense Ministry.

The tower will be located between the Museum access road and the entry to the Air Park. Target date for completion is Labor Day 1994.

Money and equipment contributions can be sent to Ed Creeden, Treas., RR1, Box 598, Sussex, NJ 07461.

* * * *

PROFILE

S/Sgt Harold A. Shea was an armorer gunner on the Del Miller crew in the 578th, but was flying the the Walker crew when they went down in Holland. (See related story, this issue, P1)

He joined the Group at Wendling July 6, 1944.

He was discharged in 1945 and reenlisted as a firefighter until retiring in 1967 as M/Sgt. He was employed after that by the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport Commission as a fire protection specialist until retirement in 1985.

He and spouse June have 3 children and 6 grandchildren, and live in the summer at 626 H. High St., Lake City, MN 55041 and in the winter at 146 N. Merrill Road #70, Apache Junction, AZ 85220.

* * * *

AIR ANNIVERSARY
15th AF flew its first mission of WWII-1943

POCATELLO AIR BASE HISTORY AVAILABLE

Crusaders whose training path led through Pocatello Army Air Base in Idaho will be interested in the book "The First Fifty Years". It contains a compilation of the field's history covering the war years 1942-46. Personal accounts of those who trained and lived in the area are included.

Copies may be obtained for $20.00 plus $4.00 shipping charges from Mr. Len Nelson, Pocatello Regional Airport, Pocatello, ID 83205.

The 392nd had an aircraft named "Pocatello Chief", which was assigned to the 576th. It went down with the Bert D. Miller crew, all KIA, on the Mar. 15, 1944, mission to Brunswick. Inquiry in this newsletter has elicited answers from crewmen who flew in it, but there has been no information as to how it happened to have that name.

* * * *

PROFILE

Cpl Richard D. Wullschelger, Jr. was in the 1217th QM Company, arriving at Wendling in November 1943.

He graduated from Kansas State University with degrees in engineering and business in 1951.

He worked for the Air Force as a civilian engineer, at Hill Air Force Base and later Hurlburt Field. He retired in 1990.

His first wife and two of their children met a tragic death in an automobile accident. He married Wanda in 1968 and between them they have seven children and fourteen grandchildren.

Their address is 331 Lula Belle Lane, NW, Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32548.

* * * *

FROM THE KEILMAN WWII NOTEBOOK

Col Myron Keilman, the commander of the 579th, has compiled accounts of events in 392nd history that he has named "Lest We Forget". Following are his notes on the Aug. 26, 1944 mission to Salzbergen:

3,000 bombers over Germany in one day! As their part of the effort, the 392nd struck an oil refinery at Salzbergen with 22 B-24's with very good results. No fighters or flak were encountered.

General Spaatz, commander of Strategic Air Forces in Europe, wired the following message to General Doolittle, commander of the 8AF:

"Yesterday's coordinated attack by the 8th and 15th Air Forces again spread our aircraft over all of Germany. It is with great pleasure that I forward to you the following message just received from General Arnold: Strategic operations which put nearly 3000 aircraft into a coordinated attack against Germany is subject to my heartiest congratulations to all concerned."

* * * *

AIR ANNIVERSARY
First artillery adjustments made from a plane in U. S. - 1912.

AIR ANNIVERSARY
Capt Edward V. Rickenbacker awarded Medal of Honor of WWI action-1930

PROFILE

Capt Roland Sabourin was a pilot in the 578th. He arrived at Wendling in March 1944, and after finishing his tour remained at Wendling as a instructor pilot.

After attending the university of New Hampshire 1946-50, he was recalled to active duty in the Air Force, and remained in the service until 1974, retiring as Colonel. Most of the AF service was in SAC, where he was in B-47's and B-52's. At retirement, he was commander of the 544th Wing.

He is married to Genevieve and they have a son and two grandchildren. They make their home at 7717 Palmyra Dr., Fair Oaks, CA 95628.

* * * *

AF RETIREE, HISTORY MAJOR, SEEKS WWII STORIES FOR BOOK

Rusty Briarton, AF Academy '82, is now retired from the Service. He remembers hearing his father relate his experiences as Group Bombardier of the 401st, a 8AF B-17 Group.

While at the Academy, Rusty's major was history. Now he is compiling exciting or unique 8AF WWII experiences. He has asked that any Crusader who had an experience that was touching, heroic, romantic, unique or just plain incredible, please send it to him. He has no restriction on the number of stories submitted. He asks that contributors enclose their full name, time served in the 8th, unit, a/c name, and all dates and locations; and to include home phone number in case the author has any additonal questions. Briarton's address is 5270 Del Paz Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80918.

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PROFILE

Sgt John Joseph Kallas was an early arrival with the 392nd, joining at Biggs Field in early 1943. He was an airplane engine mechanic in the 578th.

He was in the Air Force Reserves until 1953. Most of his postwar civilian life was spent as a sheet metal worker and cabin mechanic and foreman with United Air Lines. He also served 28 years as a South San Francisco Police Reservist, retiring as commander with the rank of captain.

He is married to Anna Irene and they have one daughter and two grandchildren. Their address is 400 Wildwood Drive, South San Francisco, CA 94080.

* * * *

PROFILE

S/Sgt Landon H. Brent (see story, this issue, "Struck by 20mm Shell") was the flight engineer on the 578th's Goodwin crew. Wounded on his fourth mission, he finished his tour with other crews.

After the war he took BA and MA degrees from Mercer university and then taught and coached at Lanier Sr. High School in Macon, GA., retiring in 1977.

He plays tennis on the super senior circuit. He secured his private pilot's certificate in 1992 and flies regularly.

He and wife Mary live at 302 East Carolina St., #611, Tallahassee, FL 32301. They have two children and three grandchildren.

* * * *

AIR ANNIVERSARY
Signal Corps alloted $25,000 to procure an airplane-1907.

AIR ANNIVERSARY
First jet airplane aerial combat in history took place in Korea-1950.

AIR ANNIVERSARY
9th Air Force established in Middle East-1942.

FOLDED WINGS REPORT (PLEASE REPORT ANY DEATH OF SPOUSE AS WELL AS OF MEMBER)

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 Jim Goar, 5 N. Columbia St., Frankfort, IN 46041.

NEWS

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Editors
Birdie Larrick
Jim Goar

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.
-Prayer composed by 576th pilot the Very Reverend Robert C. Martin, retired Dean of the Cathedral at Erie, Pa.

But we..shall be remembered;

**We few,
we happy few,
we band of
brothers;**

**For he to-day
that sheds his
blood with me**

**Shall be
my brother...**

William Shakespeare
Henry V

FOLDED WINGS

John A. Morris, Sr., 578, Feb. 21, 1994
William Rice, 577, May 9, 1994
Elmer Horey, 576, 1994
Marvin E. Roberts, 578, March 1989
Marilyn Lane, Assoc., July 9, 1994

MARILYN LANE

Marilyn Lane, wife of Bob Lane, 578th Executive Officer, passed away July 9, 1994 at Melbourne, Florida, after a long illness.

1/Lt Marilyn Haglund was one of the first of the air evacuation nurses to win her wings, and flew with the 9th Air Force. She and Maj Bob Lane were married in April, 1945 at the church near Beeston that 392nd air crews used as a homing navigation point. The 578th's officers served as honor guards and Lt Haglund's CO made a low level pass over the church in an A-20, showering the proceedings with rice.

Their marriage was blessed with five daughters: Sharon Marcrander, St. Louis; Linda Haynes, Chicago; Barbara Maxwell, Melbourne, FL; Beverly Sarki, Louisville; and Bette Jones, Birmingham, AL. There are 13 grandchildren.

The funeral was at the Concordia Lutheran church, Louisville. John Conrad and Jim Goar represented the 392nd.

* * * *

BARBER - BARBER

M/Sgt Ernest H. Barber, 578th crew chief and 392BGMA archivist, will be married on Sept. 17, 1994 at Lincolnville, PA to Celilia Barber of that city.

Cecilia Barber is the widow of a cousin of M/Sgt C. M. Barber, who also was a crew chief in the 578th.

They plan to make their home at Lincolnton, GA.

* * * *

AIR ANNIVERSARY
American fighters appear over Phillippines for first time since 1942-1944.

AIR ANNIVERSARY
Capt J. W. Kittinger parachuted from an altitude of 76,400 feet-1959.

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