

# NEWS



## 392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 15

AUGUST 2000

### TAMPA: A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL

#### Col Warren A. Polking, 578<sup>th</sup>, 1917-2000

By Jim Goar, 578<sup>th</sup>

Col Polking, the first commander of the 578<sup>th</sup>, made his final approach on May 23, survived by wife Dette. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on June 13.

He commanded the 578<sup>th</sup> from its beginning in 1943, taking it from a small cadre to a fully trained squadron. He led it in combat until June 1944 when he was rotated back to the States.

After his combat tour he served with the Training Command, and post-war he held many high-level posts in England, France, Japan, and at the Pentagon.

After retirement from the Air Force he spent some 15 years in Mexico. The last six years of his life were spent at San Antonio.

The following photos were culled from my personal scrapbook and they illustrate the high regard in which he was held by his squadron officers.



At the same gathering at Hilton Head Dette and Col Polking do the honors with the cake.



In a barracks at Wendling at Col (then Major) Polking's retirement party in 1944. Seen in the photo are Don McCammond, Intelligence; Joe Westbrook, Bombardier; Hal Hartman, Adjutant; Claire Burtner, Armament; W. F. Joachim, Bombardier; and Leroy MacTavish, Communications.



At a reunion at Hilton Head. Squadron officers shown are Jim Goar, Supply officer; J. D. Long, Pilot; Col Polking; Lou Stephens, Pilot; Bob Lane, Executive officer; Cliff Peterson, Pilot.

#### FLORIDA SITE BRINGS MANY CRUSADERS. ACQUAINTANCES RENEWED, BUSINESS TRANSACTED, OFFICERS ELECTED

Thumbing their noses at their advanced years, some 51 Crusaders and their guests were present and accounted for at the 2ADA reunion at Tampa over Memorial Day.

The meeting was held at the Hiatt Regency Westshore, an elegant hostelry overlooking Tampa Bay. With an outstanding cuisine, the Hiatt represented the best of Florida's hospitality industry. Many thanks go to Evelyn Cohen, 2ADA Membership Secretary, who arranges such things.

The following business was attended to:

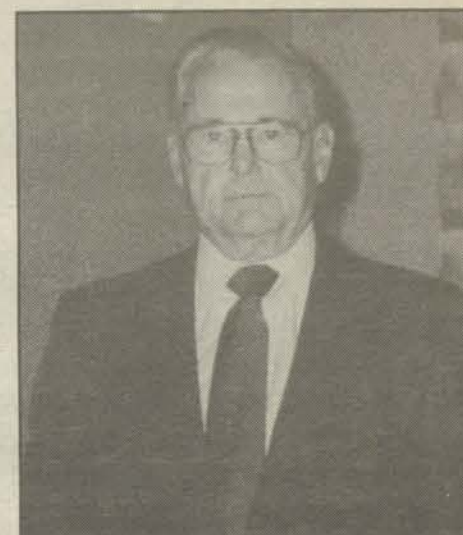
##### 2ADA/392nd Group Meeting

The meeting was presided over by J. Fred Thomas, vice-president. Citing personal considerations and increased responsibilities at home, he stated that he was no longer able to continue as vice-president. He gave a report about 2ADA activities, including a revision of the Roll of Honor to include those killed in the line of duty. He urged the 392<sup>nd</sup> to continue to be a viable part of the 2ADA.

Charles Dye was nominated for the post of 329<sup>nd</sup> vice-president to the 2ADA, and was elected by acclamation.

A motion, unanimously passed, was made to bring an overture to the 2ADA for inclusion of 3<sup>rd</sup> SAD (Watton) in the 2ADA.

Col Gilbert ended the meeting with an expression of gratitude for Fred Thomas' service, both as a president of 2ADA and also as the Group's vice-president for 2ADA.



J. Fred Thomas

##### 392BGMA Meeting

The financial report was read by Charles Dye, Treasurer, and was approved. It revealed that we are solvent with \$22,872.71 cash on hand.

The following were elected to the Board of Directors, class of 2003: Cliff Peterson, Bernard Glettler, Joe Whittaker, and Gil Bambauer.

Bob Books, associate member prominent in the operation of the 392<sup>nd</sup>'s website, [www.b24.net](http://www.b24.net), reported that fellow associate and website participant Jim Marsteller is recovering slowly from brain surgery.

##### 392BGMA Board of Directors

Two meetings were held and the following reports were approved:

Jim Goar and Ernie Barber, Group Historian and Archivist respectively, reported that the Group's photo

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# DOWNED CREWMAN AND FRIENDS GIVE TO MEMORIAL FUND

Capt Jack Adams was the navigator on the Lamma crew in the 579<sup>th</sup>. His experiences in WWII and particularly with the 392<sup>nd</sup> were unique, as are the circumstances surrounding a recent \$1,000 gift to the 392BGMA memorial fund.

He was assigned after graduation from navigator school to anti-submarine patrol, first with B-25's and later B-24's. The patrol duty was from Langley Field; Gander, Newfoundland; and later with the RAF over the Bay of Biscay. This duty spanned from the summer of 1942 to the fall of 1943.

With the Battle of the Atlantic virtually won and a shortage of crews in the 8<sup>th</sup>, the Air Corps transferred the Lamma crew to the 392<sup>nd</sup>. Having accrued 1250 hours in anti-sub-

marine patrol, Adams was allotted 17 missions credit. With the 25 mission tour in effect at that time, he had only 8 to go.

But fate intervened. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, (the 392<sup>nd</sup>'s 8<sup>th</sup>), the Lamma crew was shot down Nov. 13, 1943, on the mission to Bremen. The weather was terrible, the formations not tight, and the Luftwaffe fighters showed up in force.

The a/c was badly shot up and in a flat spin when the bail-out order was given and half the crew parachuted safely. KIA were 1/Lt Ralph E. Lamma, P; 1/Lt Duane E. Freeborn, B; S/Sgt George F. Heckendorn, RO; S/Sgt Frank A. Wind, WG; and S/Sgt Ralph Lanier, TG. POW were, in addition to Adams, 1/Lt Nicholas B. Robson, CP; T/Sgt Elmer J. Prud-

homue, E; T/Sgt William F. Murphy, NG; and S/Sgt Charles E. O'Reilly, WG.

Adams, after interrogation, was sent to Stalag Luft 1 at Barth, where he remained until May 1945, when he was liberated by the Russians.

Adams is a member of a club in his home town of Santa Barbara, CA., and it is their custom for members to address the club as a part of an evening social program. After hours of research and scratching his memory, Adams put together a talk, with slides, concerning his WWII experiences, particularly his enforced stay at Stalag Luft 1. He engaged some professional help and videotaped it. It was so well received that he sold copies of it with the purpose

of donating the funds to the memorial fund. A copy of it is in the 392<sup>nd</sup>'s archives.

Several friends, namely Lyle Shaffer, Norman Clement, C. E. Bayless Griggs, and C. Dana White, added their funds to Adams' to total the \$1,000 gift.

In a letter to the 392<sup>nd</sup>, Jack Adams said, "I thank the good Lord each day for making his face shine on me on Nov. 13, 1943, when my life was spared as half of our crew perished on a Bremen raid. I will continue to support the Memorial Association as I have for the past 15 or 20 years in memory of the friends I lost."

(For further information about Jack Adams, see Profiles, this issue.) \* \* \* \*

## A CHILDREN'S SERMON - AND A REVELATION

By Jim Goar

My friend T/Sgt Howard "Buzz" Hoehn, an AM who is a veteran of the Caribbean, North African, and Pacific theaters, recently told me this story; not about his service in those far-flung battlefields, but about an incident in his youth.

"My mother, bless her departed

soul, was a devoted church member in our central Illinois coal mining town. So when the minister asked if her 13 year old Howard would give the children's sermon, she volunteered my services.

"I went to the minister's office, where he kindly offered to write a small sermon for me to deliver, which he did and it came to 13 or

14 double-spaced pages of typescript.

"The day came for me to perform and I was called to the pulpit. On the way up, however, I dropped the typescript and when I retrieved it, the pages became mixed up.

"Feeling that I didn't have time to sort them out, I read them just as they appeared in the stack before

me: pages 1, 8, 3, 5, and so on.

"After church, many members came up to me and congratulated me for delivering such a fine sermon.

"From that moment on, I have been convinced that hardly anyone in church ever really listens to the sermon".

\* \* \* \*

### —Florida Site—

Continued from Page 1

memorabilia, now being held at the 8AF Heritage Museum at Savannah, consists of some 10 loose-leaf notebooks with photos in glassine holders. These holders are not archival friendly, and there will be ultimate damage to the photos if the holders are not replaced.

Ben Jones, Litcham-born and an associate member, has volunteered not only to replace the holders, but to copy the photos for the website and to make a second copy to insure that a complete set is in the hands of the 392BGMA, regardless of the location of the originals. This is to be done for the cost of the materials, which is estimated to be about \$300 per notebook. One notebook, which was done on a trial basis, has already been completed. No decision was made as to the ultimate placement of the originals.

It was also decided to canvass the librarians of the four libraries near Wendling to make sure that each library is adequately stocked with 392<sup>nd</sup> material. The libraries are: 2ADA Memorial Library at Norwich, the community library at Dereham, and the two school libraries at Litcham high school and the Beeston elementary school.

Finally, the Board elected this slate of officers for the coming year: Cliff Peterson, President; Carrol Cheek, Vice-president, Memorial; David Greene, Secretary; Howard Ebersole, Recording Secretary; and Charles Dye, Treasurer. The office of CEO, held by Col Lawrence Gilbert, is a life-time appointment.

#### Group Dinner

No official business was transacted at the annual Group dinner, presided over by Col Gilbert. There were introductions, story-telling,

and the traditional singing of "We'll Meet Again" and "God Bless America".

87-year old Harry Kruse, spry as a cricket and deaf as a post, (he had left his hearing aids at home) topped the story-telling. Harry was a 578<sup>th</sup> AM who helped crew the "GI Jane" as well as other a/c.

Harry's story: Joe Smith, while traveling in England, met a family by the name of Dunn. In a conversation with the mother, she lamented that she had a son living in the U. S. but she heard from him only sporadically and by telephone. She did not know his address, only that he lived in a small white house in Connecticut.

Upon his return to the States, Smith was traveling with a bus tour and the tour entered Connecticut. At the first stop, Smith asked the

driver where the little white house was. Having been told that it was around in back, he proceeded there and met a man coming out of the house. Smith asked him, "Are you Dunn?" When the man said yes, Smith said, "Why don't you write to your mother?"

#### Photos

Bob Books reports that 51 photos taken at the Tampa reunion are now posted on the 392<sup>nd</sup>'s website, [www.b24.net](http://www.b24.net).

Also see the inside pages of this issue for photos.

\* \* \* \*

#### AIR ANNIVERSARY

James H. Doolittle named Aviator of the Decade by Harmon Aviation Awards Committee-1950.



## TEX BENEKE GONE AT AGE 86

By Keith Roberts

Tex Beneke, Glenn Miller's lead sax player and down-home vocalist, passed away in Costa Mesa, CA, on May 30 at age 86 from Parkinson's and respiratory arrest.

We all remember him from "Chatanooga Choo-Choo" ("Hi there Tex, whattaya say- step aside, podner, it's my day") for which he and the Miller band earned the first gold record ever awarded.

We Crusaders will remember Tex and his wife Sandi with special affection because they were our guests at 392<sup>nd</sup> rendezvous dinners at the 1982 8AF reunion in Houston and again at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary B-24 reunion at Fort Worth in 1989.

Tex was as down-to-earth as old slippers, a really humble man. Who can forget his renditions of "Kalamazoo", "Juke Box Saturday Night", and "Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree" with that great Miller band and the Modernaires.

He held a special place in our memories of our youth. He will be missed.

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## LUC DEWEZ SENDS INDEPENDENCE DAY GREETINGS

Luc Dewez, our Belgian Friend Of The 392<sup>nd</sup>, who has many other friends in the U. S. (his e-mail address list requires one and a half pages of script) sent the following message:

Dear American Friends:

I would like to wish you a great Independence Day 2000.

I hope that the veterans will receive a lot of attention from the youngsters. If you think that they pay not enough respect to your fight for the cause of freedom, be sure that on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, at least one Belgian guy does.

May they never have to pay the price for their easy-going way of life. The less you care about freedom, the more you risk to lose it.

Thank you for MY freedom.  
Your dedicated friend from over here, waiting eagerly to be over there with you, Luc.

\*\*\*\*

AIR ANNIVERSARY  
First B-17E arrived in England-1942.

## DUES NOTICE - - - DUES NOTICE CHECK THE MAILING LABEL, SEE IF YOU'VE PAID

### PX ITEMS

|                                                                                 |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Anthology, "20 <sup>th</sup> Century Crusaders. \$47.50 postpaid                | \$ |
| Book, "Remembrance of the Missing", by Col. Bob Vickers, \$35.00 postpaid       | \$ |
| Book, "392 <sup>nd</sup> War Stories", by Col. Myron Keilman, \$21.50 postpaid  | \$ |
| Book, "The Liberators From Wendling", by Col. Bob Vickers, \$28.00 postpaid     | \$ |
| Book, "Crew Dog", by Maj. John Matt, 579 <sup>th</sup> , \$28.95 postpaid       | \$ |
| Book, "Country Boy Combat Bomber Pilot", by Col. Bob Tays, \$13.50 postpaid     | \$ |
| Book, "My Combat Diary", by Walt Cranson, \$13.50 postpaid                      | \$ |
| Cap, black, 392 <sup>nd</sup> Bomb Group w/gold braid, summer, \$10.50 postpaid | \$ |
| Cap, black, 392 <sup>nd</sup> Bomb Group w/gold braid, winter, \$10.50 postpaid | \$ |
| Directory, October 1999, \$10.00 postpaid                                       | \$ |
| Jacket, white nylon, w/ 392 Bomb Group and Crusader patches, \$26.00 postpaid   | \$ |
| (Circle size wanted) M L XL XXL                                                 | \$ |
| Patch, 392 <sup>nd</sup> Bomb Group logo, \$1.50 postpaid                       | \$ |
| Print, "The Flying Crusader", reduced to \$16.50 postpaid                       | \$ |
| Video, 392 <sup>nd</sup> 's memorabilia photos, \$17.50 postpaid                | \$ |
| TOTAL                                                                           | \$ |

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

Book, "After The Liberators, A Father's Last Mission, A Son's Lifelong Journey", by Bill McGuire II, son of 579<sup>th</sup> navigator Bill McGuire Sr., KIA Friedrichshafen mission.

Order direct from publisher, Parkway Publishers: PO Box 3678, Boone, NC 28607, \$20.95 postpaid  
(Mention 392BGMA newsletter in your letter and you can take 10% off the total bill)

Video, from Albuquerque Reunion Symposium, "The Early Days", \$17.50 postpaid

Video, Symposium above, "The Ground Support Teams Prepare For A Mission", \$17.50 postpaid

Video, Symposium above, "The Tough Missions, Pt. 1: Bremen, Keil, Gotha, Friedrichshafen both parts \$27.50 pp

Video, Symposium above, "Tough Missions, Pt. 2: Politz, Berlin, Bernberg, Bingen, Wesel, both parts \$27.50 pp

Video, Symposium above, general scenes from the reunion, 2 parts, \$27.50 postpaid

Order videos direct from Dan McGovern productions, 5307 Cantante, Laguna Hills, CA 92653

## OPERATE HERE



### MEMBERSHIP DUES-TIME IN SEND IN YOUR 2000 DUES PAYMENT

We don't send out dues notices, so you can help the news editor and the Treasurer if you will sit down right now and send in your 2000 dues. If you are paid ahead, you can check it by the code right after your name on the label of the newsletter. If it is LM (for Life Membership) or 00 or higher, you're paid up. If Frnd is after your name, you're our guest. If there is an error, contact Charles Dye.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Ground ☐ Air ☐ Sqdn \_\_\_\_\_ Assoc ☐

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Dues for 2000, \$12

Hardship Waiver ☐

#### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Age 61-65 \$120 ☐

Age 66-70 \$96 ☐

Age 71 and over \$78 ☐

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



## OPERATE HERE





Evelyn Cohen explaining to an unknown attendee just how it's going to be, Emily Long Reid with a sympathetic, but resigned, gesture.



*Egan photo*

Mel Eller, 579<sup>th</sup>, with Barbara.



*Egan photo*

Harry Kruse, 578<sup>th</sup> AM; Teddy Egan, widow of Art Egan, 579<sup>th</sup> gunner, who is 392BGMA's Membership Secretary; and Ernie Barber, 578<sup>th</sup> crew chief and Group Architect.

## TAMPA ATTENDEES

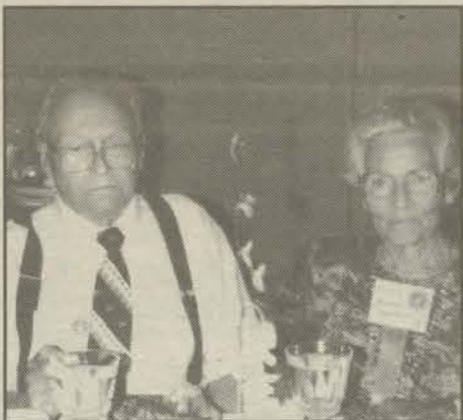
Ernie Barber; Vern Baumgart and Jean; Luther Beddingfield; Hazel Berthiaume; Bob Books; John Conrad and Wanda; Allen Duff and Elizabeth; Charles Dye and Helen; Teddy Egan; Mel Eller and Barbara; Lawrence Gilbert and Marjie; Jim Goar; Blanche Keilman and son Geary; Ray Kopecky and Norma Jean; Harry Kruse; Bob Lane; John Malloy and Peg with son John, Jr.; Joe McNeil and Ruth; Cliff Peterson and Mary; Emily Long Reid with daughter Ann Phillips; Lou Stephens and Delores; J. Fred Thomas and Elva; Ed Vassey and Elinor with Brad and Rose; Joe Westbrook and Mary; Leroy MacTavish and Mary; Willis Miller and Dorothy; and Carroll Cheek and Mabel.

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*Egan photo*

John Malloy, Jr. with mother and father, Peg and John Sr. John was a 578<sup>th</sup> crew chief.



*Egan photo*

SMSGT Ed Vassey, USAF (Ret), with Elinor. He was the flight engineer on the Slafka/Strobel crew in the 578<sup>th</sup>.



*Egan photo*

The long-suffering Delores Stephens, wife of 578<sup>th</sup> pilot Lou Stephens, with Lou, who is renowned not only for being blown out of a burning B-24 over Germany but also for the distinction of doing a wheels-touch on the parade ground at West Point and arousing the ire of the Superintendent when Lou's a/c barely cleared his house.



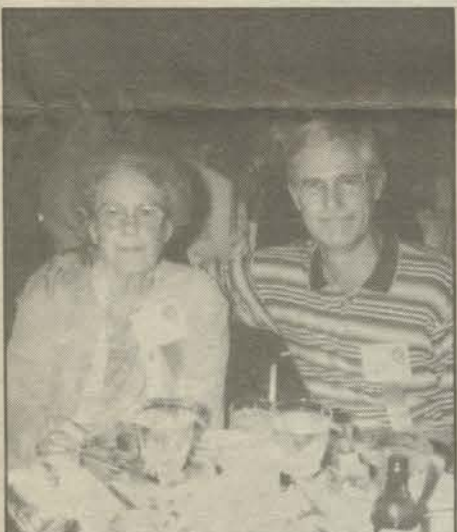
*Egan photo*

Col Lawrence Gilbert, CEO, and Margie.



*Egan photo*

Wanda and John Conrad. John was a Mickey navigator in the 579<sup>th</sup> and is a past president of 2ADA.



*Egan photo*

Blanche Keilman, widow of Col Myron Keilman, 579<sup>th</sup> CO, with son Geary.



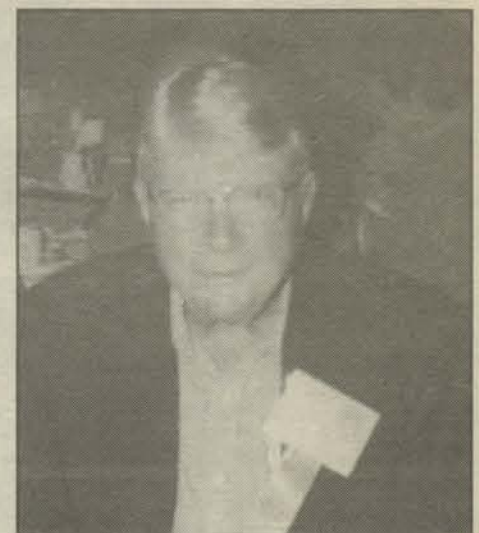
*Egan photo*

Jim Goar, Grp Transportation Officer and editor of the 392BGMA NEWS, with Bob Books, webmaster of www.b24.net and son of Dallas Books, KIA Fredrickshafen.



*Egan photo*

The legendary Leroy MacTavish, 578<sup>th</sup> Communications Officer, with wife Mary, who loves him, anyway.



*Egan photo*

Willard Pennington, 577<sup>th</sup> Executive Officer.

**DUES NOTICE - - - DUES NOTICE  
CHECK THE MAILING LABEL, SEE IF YOU'VE PAID**

*If something that you're doing doesn't seem to be going right, consider this: "It's not the arrow, it's the Indian".*

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A gathering of Crusaders near the registration desk: John Malloy, Elizabeth Duff, Emily Reid Long, Ann Phillips, Peg Malloy, Allen Duff, Hazel Berthiaume, and John Malloy, Jr.



*Egan photo*  
Mary and Cliff Peterson. Cliff was a pilot in the 578<sup>th</sup>, a past president of 8AF Historical Society, and is currently President of 392BGMA.



*Egan photo*  
Willis Miller, 579<sup>th</sup> pilot, with wife Dorothy.



*Egan photo*  
Helen and Charles Dye. Charlie was 1825<sup>th</sup> Ordnance and was Station Ammunition Officer. He is a past president of 8AF Historical Society and is currently Treasurer and VP 2ADA of the 392BGMA.



*Egan photo*  
Emily Long Reid, widow of J. D. Long, 578<sup>th</sup> pilot, with daughter Ann Phillips.



*Egan photo*  
Allen Duff, 578<sup>th</sup> pilot, with Elizabeth.



*Egan photo*  
Luther Beddingfield, navigator on the 578<sup>th</sup>'s Cheek crew; and Lauren Austin, 576<sup>th</sup> gunner.



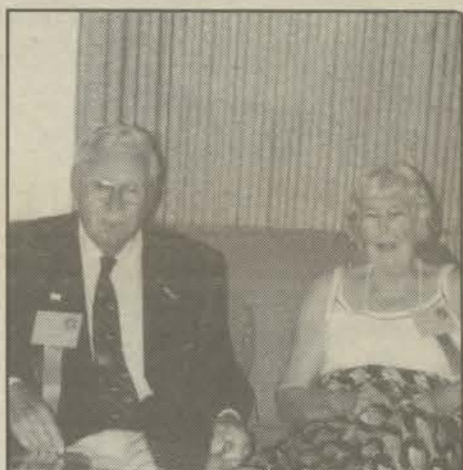
*Egan photo*  
Joe McNeil, cadre crewman, tail gunner on the 578<sup>th</sup>'s Jim Fletcher crew, with Ruth.



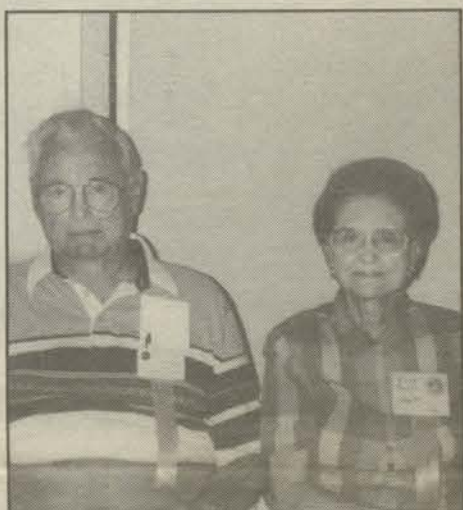
*Egan photo*  
Bob Lane, 578<sup>th</sup> Executive Officer, with Hazel Berthiaume, widow of Ray, 578<sup>th</sup>'s Engineering Officer. Hazel flew across the country from California to be with us.



*Egan photo*  
Vern Baumgart, 579<sup>th</sup> pilot, with Jean.



*Egan photo*  
Joe Whittaker, successively 578<sup>th</sup>, 392<sup>nd</sup>, and 2AD Bombardier; past president of 2ADA, with Marie.



*Egan photo*  
J. Fred Thomas, 579<sup>th</sup> pilot; past president of 2ADA and long-time VP 392nd/2ADA, with Elva.



*Egan photo*  
Mary and Joe Westbrook. Joe was the 578<sup>th</sup>'s squadron bombardier.



## EX-POW'S REPORT TO GREG HATTON

Greg Hatton is the son of Sgt Hyman Hatton, gunner on the Ofenstein crew shot down April 29 1944 on the Berlin mission. He became POW.

Greg is the Group's expert on POW; runs the POW end of the

Group website. If you were POW Greg would like to hear from you. E-mail is [g.hatton@ultinet.net](mailto:g.hatton@ultinet.net); web is [b24.net](http://b24.net); PO address is 2133 60<sup>th</sup> St., Brooklyn, NY 11204-2507; phone is 718 234 1220.

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## 392BGMA ELECTRONIC DIRECTORY

*The Electronic Directory will be a regular feature in the NEWS; if you want to be listed please contact the editor by mail at 2201 Redbud Blvd., Frankfort, IN 46041, or at the E-mail or Fax addresses listed below.*

### E-MAIL

8AF Museum, Savannah  
Barger, George  
Barber, Ernie  
Barnard, Mary Beth  
Barnes, Joe  
Barry, Bill  
Bartsch, Arlo  
Books, Bob  
Braddock, Bill  
Case, Bill  
Dewez, Luc  
DuBois, Phyllis  
Ebersole, Howard ("Ebe")  
Ehrlich, Lee D.  
Eller, Melvin  
Elston, Robert C.  
Garrett, Howard  
Goar, Jim  
Greene, David  
Gross, Earl  
Hawkins, Ian  
Jones, Ben  
Jones, Mervyn  
Long, William  
Marcelli, Anthony F.  
Matelski, Lorn W.  
Marsteller, Jim  
Michel, George  
Peterson, Cliff and Mary (Change)  
Polking, Dette  
Roberts, Keith  
Rothrock, Mary  
Satterly, Everett F.  
Szenegeto, Joe  
Thomas, J. Fred  
Thomason, Henriette  
Tyler, Bob  
Vassey, Emuel  
Weed, Oscar and Toni  
Westbrook, Joe  
Zybort, Stanley

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Gross, Earl  
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### WEBSITE

392 BGMA  
8AF Museum, Savannah

[www.b24.net](http://www.b24.net)  
[www.mighty8thmuseum.com](http://www.mighty8thmuseum.com)

## AIR ANNIVERSARY

First sure "kill" of a German submarine made off the Atlantic coast-1942.

## AIR ANNIVERSARY

Col M. G. Grow, 8AF Surgeon, received Legion of Merit for developing flak vest-1943.

## 392nd Bomb Group Leather Patches



Ben Jones has undertaken the task of supplying the 392BGMA with the leather Crusader patches that started appearing on the Group's A-2 jackets in 1944.

Ben says: these patches are handpainted on genuine fine leather to meet the same specifications of WWII. As the war progressed various hand painted Group patches started appearing on A-2 jackets. As there was no standard size among the various Groups, Hq. USAAF authorized the use of a 5" circular leather patch on which the unit logo could be painted.

The Crusader is drawn on a USAAF approved 5" circular leather patch. Each patch is unique with no two being identical, as with mass produced copies. You can choose between a distressed look or a freshly painted look.

The logo is painted on the leather, then coated with a sealant that protects it. Like any leather, it is suggested that it not get wet.

The cost is \$20 plus shipping and handling.

Ben says also that there will be available soon polo shirts with the Crusader emblem.

So if you're interested, contact Ben Jones at 1000F Circle Drive, Dover, DE 19901, or e-mail him at [limeybj@frontiernet.net](mailto:limeybj@frontiernet.net). Let him know if you want the "distressed" or "freshly painted" look.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Now Available at 392<sup>nd</sup> PX At Reduced Price



The publisher has reduced his price to \$47.50, post paid.

Over 100 authors, including Ian Hawkins and Ernie Barber, have contributed to this new anthology, edited by Bill and Marge Braddock. There are personal stories of bombing missions, aerial dogfights, air-sea rescues, aircraft crashes, life-saving parachute bail-outs, captures by the enemy, evasions, escapes, resistance-fighters assistance to downed airmen and airmen returning to England.

\$47.50 postpaid, order from PX order blank contained in this paper.

Also, a new video containing all of 392nd's memorabilia photos. \$17.50 postpaid, order from PX order blank in this paper.



# 8AFHS AT SALT LAKE CITY OCT 17-22

We've said it before in this publication, a quote from Horace: "Seize the day, put no trust in the morrow". So gather yourself up and plan to attend the 8AFHS meeting at Salt Lake City.

There will be, as usual, a separate hospitality room for the 392<sup>nd</sup>. Although you may not meet a particu-

lar friend from the days at Wendling, you will meet men who were cut from the same cloth as you, and you will have instant rapport with them.

In addition to the usual 8AFHS events, the reunion committee has planned optional activities: a city tour; a visit to a copper mine and

Great Salt Lake; Mormon Tabernacle Choir rehearsal; Hill AFB; and Park City in the Wasatch Mountains.

Below are forms necessary for sign-up. Send the Activity Registration form to Armed Forces Reunions; send the Hotel/Travel Information to the Sheraton Salt Lake

City Centre Hotel.

For further information consult your 8AF NEWS for May-June, or call or write Cliff Peterson at 2120 Woodcrest Drive, Winter Park FL 32792-5417, phone 407 647 7741. Fax is marcliff@cfl.rr.com.

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## ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order (no credit cards or phone reservations accepted). Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before September 18, 2000. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.  
P.O. Box 11327  
Norfolk, VA 23517  
ATTN: 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS

| OFFICE USE ONLY                        |                                                 |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Check <input type="checkbox"/> Imputed | Date Received _____<br>Name/Tag Completed _____ |

| CUT OFF DATE IS 9/18/00                                          | Price Per | # of People | Total |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-------|
| <b>REGISTRATION FEE</b>                                          | \$30      |             | \$    |
| <b>MEAL PACKAGES</b>                                             |           |             |       |
| Choice #1 includes 7 meals beginning with breakfast on Thursday. |           |             |       |
| Choice #2 includes 5 meals beginning with breakfast on Friday.   |           |             |       |
| Choice #1                                                        | \$158     |             | \$    |
| Choice #2                                                        | \$113     |             | \$    |
| <b>Please select your entrée choice(s) for the banquet:</b>      |           |             |       |
| Prime Rib                                                        |           | #           |       |
| Salmon                                                           |           | #           |       |
| <b>SEPARATELY PRICED MEALS (if not purchasing a package)</b>     |           |             |       |
| Friday: Rendezvous Dinner (chicken)                              | \$30      |             | \$    |
| Saturday: Banquet (Please select your entrée)                    |           |             |       |
| Prime Rib                                                        | \$36      |             | \$    |
| Salmon                                                           | \$36      |             | \$    |
| <b>TOURS</b>                                                     |           |             |       |
| Wednesday: City Tour                                             | \$25      |             | \$    |
| Thursday: Kennecott Copper Mine                                  | \$18      |             | \$    |
| Thursday: Choir Practice (included in Pkg #1 above)              | \$12      |             | \$    |
| Friday: Hill Air Force Base                                      | \$31      |             | \$    |
| Saturday: Park City / Utah Winter Sports Park                    | \$33      |             | \$    |
| Saturday: City Tour                                              | \$18      |             | \$    |
| Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.              |           |             | \$    |

Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

PLEASE PRINT  
MEMBER NAME \_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> 8AFHS REUNION? ☐  
LIFE MEMBER? ☐ 8AFHS MEMBERSHIP # \_\_\_\_\_ WWII GROUP \_\_\_\_\_  
SPOUSE NAME \_\_\_\_\_ LIFE MEMBER? ☐ MEMBER # \_\_\_\_\_  
GUEST NAMES \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, ST, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PH. NUMBER ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS \_\_\_\_\_  
EMERGENCY CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_ PH. NUMBER ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Full refunds will be sent for the above-mentioned activities if cancellation is received by 10/13/00, less a \$3 processing fee. After that date, refund amount will depend on vendor policies and/or the resale of tickets. CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9am-5pm eastern time (excluding holidays). CALL (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain your cancellation code.

## HOTEL / TRAVEL INFORMATION

The Sheraton Salt Lake City Centre Hotel is located at 150 West 500 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84101. The hotel is within walking distance of downtown businesses, shopping, entertainment and historical/cultural attractions.

### Driving Directions:

From the North: Exit I-15 at 600 North. Turn left and proceed over the overpass to 400 West (1<sup>st</sup> stoplight) and turn right. Stay on 400 West until you reach 400 South (5<sup>th</sup> stoplight) and turn left. Continue up 400 South to West Temple (3<sup>rd</sup> stoplight) and turn right. The hotel will be on your right. Proceed 1 block to the parking entrance.

From the South: Exit I-15 at 600 South. Proceed to West Temple (4<sup>th</sup> stoplight) and turn left. Stay on West Temple 1. The hotel will be on your left.

From the East: Take I-80W to I-15N. Exit at 600 South and proceed to West Temple (4<sup>th</sup> stoplight) and turn left. Stay on West Temple 1. The hotel will be on your left.

From the West: Take I-80E and exit at North Temple. Proceed east on North Temple until you reach West Temple (9<sup>th</sup> stoplight) and turn right. Stay on West Temple, and the hotel will be on your right.

The hotel has a jacuzzi, sauna, and an exercise room. Handicapped accessible and non-smoking rooms are subject to availability. Parking will be complimentary at the hotel. Check-in time is 3pm; check-out is noon. The restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Loft Suites have been blocked for Hospitality Room purposes with a group rate of \$129+tax per night. The parlor (with wet bar) is on the main level with a bedroom and bathroom upstairs. Please call Jennifer Seelos at 800-421-7602 to make these reservations.

Interwest Medical, (800) 468-1000, rents wheelchairs by the day or week. They will deliver and pick up for a fee.

The hotel provides complimentary transportation to and from the Salt Lake International airport. The shuttle runs every half hour from 6am until midnight. Upon arrival use the courtesy phone located in baggage claim to alert the hotel of your arrival.

There is hotel parking for RVs, but hook-ups are not available. The VIP Campground, (800) 226-7752, is 12 blocks from the hotel.

\*\*\*\*\* CUT HERE AND MAIL TO THE HOTEL \*\*\*\*\*  
8th AIR FORCE HOTEL RESERVATION FORM - OCTOBER 17-22, 2000

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SHARING ROOM W/ \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
TEL. NUMBER ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ HILTON GUEST CARD# \_\_\_\_\_  
ARRIVAL DATE \_\_\_\_\_ APPROX. TIME \_\_\_\_\_ DEP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
# OF ROOMS NEEDED \_\_\_\_\_ # OF PEOPLE IN ROOM \_\_\_\_\_ HANDICAP ACCESS \_\_\_\_\_  
SMOKING \_\_\_\_\_ NON-SMOKING \_\_\_\_\_ KING BED \_\_\_\_\_ 2 DOUBLE BEDS \_\_\_\_\_  
In the event room type requested is not available, nearest room type will be assigned.  
RATE: \$89 + tax (currently 10.95%) for one or two people in the room.  
CUT OFF DATE: 9/18/00. Late reservations will be processed on space & rate availability.  
CANCELLATION POLICY: Deposit is refundable if reservation is canceled by 4pm on your arrival day. Call 800-421-7602. All reservations must be guaranteed by credit card or first night's deposit, enclosed.  
AMEX \_\_\_\_\_ DINERS \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_ MASTER CARD \_\_\_\_\_ DISCOVER \_\_\_\_\_  
CREDIT CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE (regardless of payment method) \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: Sheraton Salt Lake City Centre Hotel / 150 West 500 South / Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

## PROFILE

1/Lt (later Capt) John H. (Jack) Adams was the navigator on the Lamma crew in the 579<sup>th</sup>. He was shot down Nov. 13, 1943 on the Bremen raid and became POW. Half of the crew perished.

He was in anti-sub patrol from 1942 to 1943, being transferred to the 392<sup>nd</sup> in the fall of 1943.

A graduate of Yale in 1941, he finished navigator training at Turner Field, GA with the class of 42-6.

After the war, he was in personnel management with United Aircraft, where he was assistant personnel manager for the Hamilton Standard Division. He later went into education and retired as a school headmaster in 1983 in Santa Barbara, CA.

He is married to Dorothy and they have three children and five grandchildren. They live at 1997 Lemon Ranch Rd., Santa Barbara, CA 93108.

(For further details see story, this issue, "Downed Crewman and Friends".

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## PROFILE

Sgt Donald W. Cooper was an early joiner of the 392<sup>nd</sup>, assigned to the Group at Biggs Field in April, 1943.

Washed out of aerial gunnery school on account of an ear injury that occurred in the pressure chamber at Tyndall field, he became an

armament specialist and went to the 577<sup>th</sup> when he arrived at Biggs Field.

Post war, he was an over-the-road driver for Missouri-Pacific Truck Lines for 40 years. He covered the states of Arkansas, Texas, and Louisiana.

His wife is Virginia, and they live at 333 Links Drive, #2903, Texarkana, AR 71854. They have 3 sons and 7 grandchildren.

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# NEWS

## 392nd BG Memorial Association

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Col. Lawrence G. Gilbert, USAF (Ret)

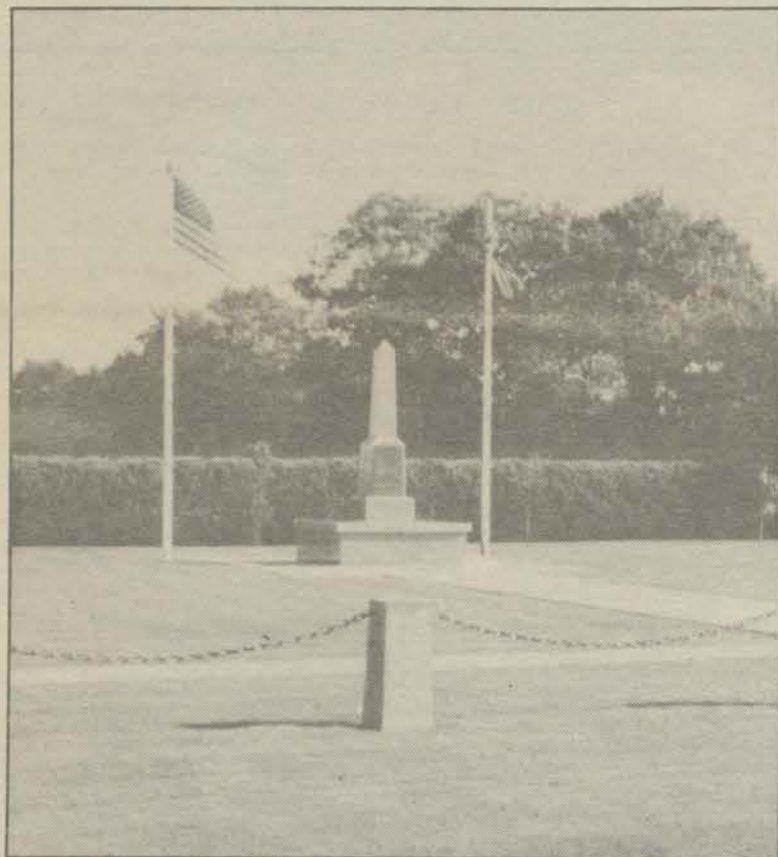
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Editors  
Jim Goar  
Mary Beth Barnard



THE 392nd MEMORIAL AT WENDLING

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.

43537-3040 04

### Folded Wings

Kermit Spears, 578, June 5, 2000  
Leonard C. Waldo, 576, Mar. 23, 2000  
Dwight J. Guckert, Jr., 579, Apr. 4, 2000  
J. B. Freeman, 577, June 26, 2000  
Glen Berger, 576, May 24, 2000  
Warren A. Polking, 578, May 23, 2000  
\*\*\*\*\*

### AIR ANNIVERSARY

Jeanne H. Holm, Director of WAF, became first woman to be promoted to Brig Gen-1971.

### AIR ANNIVERSARY

15th AF made first all-fighter shuttle raid in Europe-1944.

### AIR ANNIVERSARY

President Truman signed National Security Act creating the USAF as a separate service-1947.

### Chaplain's Corner

By George Barger

The planned 2nd Air Division reunion at Norwich in the Fall of 2001 is a reminder that the number of such gatherings is finite and will of necessity inevitably come to an end. Despite the promise of renewal of friendships, those of us still around find it increasingly an undertaking to travel long distances. As someone has said, the problem of middle age is that we will survive it. We have, and the problem is not resolved! That would be a sober conclusion if we had only hope in this world. But we were made for more than this world. Indeed, we are made to outlast the universe. We don't know all that involves, but it is fundamental to our hope and our expectations.

\*\*\*\*\*

392nd Bomb Group Memorial Ass'n NEWS  
2201 Redbud Blvd.  
Frankfort, IN 46041

Address Correction Requested  
Forwarding and Return Postage Guaranteed  
**First Class Mail**



KATHY JACKSON, 2ADA HERITAGE LEAGUE FRND  
1027 KEELER ST  
MAUMEE OH 43537

### 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, 2201 Redbud Blvd., Frankfort, IN 46041.

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