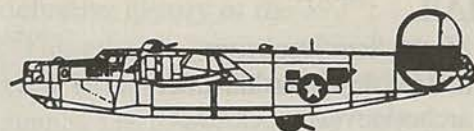


NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 18

August 2003

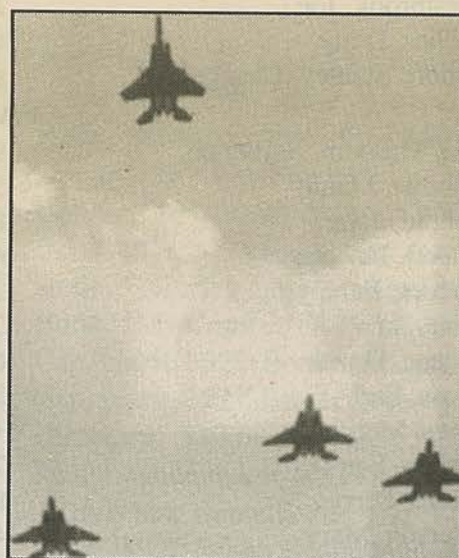
392ND CONNECTS WITH COL JOHNSON FAMILY WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AT CAMBRIDGE GROUP'S SECOND C.O. WAS FROM UTAH, KILLED THERE IN 1950 PLANE CRASH

Jill Scott laid the wreath for the 392nd at the Memorial Day service at the U. S. cemetery at Cambridge on May 26.



Jill Scott

In impressive ceremonies 119 wreaths were laid, representing many British and U.S. entities from Her Majesty's Lieutenancy for Cambridgeshire to the Wormingford Aerodrome Research Society.



Missing Man Formation
48thFW, RAF Lakenheath
* * * *

HIS FAMILY

By Jim Goar, editor

Until now, all the 392nd knew about Col Johnson was his experience with us in 1943-45 and that he lost his life in a plane crash in Utah sometime after WWII.

Now, thanks to the alertness of Tom Perry, we have been in contact with his family. Tom, one of our generation's representatives on our website, b-24.net, noticed a story about Col Johnson on the Hill AF Base newspaper's web site and brought it to the attention of the NEWS.

I queried Hill AF Base, who in turn put me in touch with the Johnson family. By a touch of good fortune, I had already planned a Western trip and was able to meet with Col Johnson's family in Payson, UT, his home town. Payson is a small agricultural city about 50 miles south of Salt Lake City.

Living in Payson and nearby Springville are Dr. Gordon Taylor and his sister Mrs. Geraldine Brimhall, nephew and niece of Col Johnson. Dr. Taylor is a retired dentist and is also a former mayor of Payson. He has been instrumental in establishing a memorial to Col Johnson in the city's cultural center.

On Father's Day, Dr. Taylor and Mrs. Brimhall hosted us and some

35 family members at the cultural center.



Dr. Taylor and Mrs. Brimhall, shown in front of the Johnson exhibit at the Payson cultural center. They are examining the 392nd's gift to the exhibit, a copy of our Anthology.

Col Johnson is known to his family as LaVar, his middle name. They shorten it to Var.

The fact that we know him as Lorin, his first name, is no mystery to me because I am familiar with the Army's practice of ignoring one's middle name. That is if one has a middle name. If there is none, then the Army supplies it: NMI.

Dr. Taylor and Mrs. Brimhall gave us Col Johnson's history before and after WWII and the names of the other surviving members of the family who were unable to be in Payson on Father's Day. They are: Dr. G. K. Johnson, brother, California. Mrs. Lorraine Spainhower, sister, Salt Lake City:

Continued on page 3

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGE

A By-Law change was approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting June 4 at the Chicago meeting. By-Law changes must be published in the NEWS prior to the next meeting and will be presented to the membership for action at the Colorado Springs meeting with the 8AF Historical Society Oct. 14-18, 2003. The proposed change follows: (Additions are in *italics*, deletions are underlined)

A Trust or Agency may be established under the laws of the United Kingdom with the intent of perpetuity. The principal objective of such a Trust or Agency is to educate the public as to the heroic accomplishments of the members of the 392nd Bomb Group. Such educational purpose shall be fulfilled by a variety of means including the maintenance of the Wendling Memorial Monument *and the funds designated for those purposes*.

* * * *

392BGMA ELECTRONIC DIRECTORY

The Electronic Directory is 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
Anstey, Milton P.
Arch, Bette Gray
Bambauer, Gilbert **CHANGE**
Barger, George
Barber, Ernie
Barnard, Mary Beth
Barnes, Joe
Barry, Bill
Bartsch, Arlo
Books, Bob **NEW CHANGE**
Braddock, Bill **CHANGE**
Brent, Landon H.
Bullard, Robert E.
Canonne, Philippe
Case, Bill
Conrad, John
Damerst, William A.
Desario, Joseph L.
Dewez, Luc
Ebersole, Howard ("Ebe")
Egan, Thomas J.
Ehrlich, Lee D.
Elston, Robert C.
Evans, Theodore
Garrett, Howard
Gilbert, John
Gilbert, Lawrence **NEW CHANGE**
Glettler, Barney
Goar, Jim

Greene, David
Grimm, Roy
Gross, Earl
Hagopian, Hal
Harned, Bob
Hart, Wildrick
Hatton, Greg
Hawkins, Ian
Hinckley, Burt
Hutchcroft, Mary Esther
Hyde, Mike
Jones, Ben
Jones, Mervyn
Jordan, Thomas J.
Kreisman, Irving
Long, William
Lory, Bob **(CHANGE)**
McGregor, Jim
McGuire, Bill, Jr.
Mackey, Oak **(CHANGE)**
Marcelli, Anthony F.
Matelski, Lorn W.
Marsteller, Jim **CHANGE**
Michel, George
Micksch, Joe
Neustadt, Walter
Onstot, Perry

Mighty8cur@aol.com
mikeanstey@earthlink.net
archesinov@comcast.net
gbamba@comcast.net
GWBARGER@email.msn.com
ebarber392bg@nu-z.net
blackjag@hargray.com
jabarnes@netconx.net
purehart@earthlink.net
Afbas@aol.com
books@b24.net
wabrad17@wmconnect.com
lhb323@aol.com
Rebssb25@aol.com
p.cannone@wanadoo.fr
Wcase22@aol.com
jbwc@worldnet.att.com
Waring248@Juno.com
JDESAR@AOL.COM
Luc.Dewez@skynet.BE
hebersole@webtv.net
tjegan.@sihope.com
RKS600@aol.com
Rcwhelston@aol.com
theodore120@yahoo.com
havepick@email.msn.com
adrian@gilberta.freemove.co.uk
LGILBERT4@cfl.rr.com
b.glettler@att.net
goar@netusa1.net
That's an arithmetic 1 (one)
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rgrimm@attglobal.net
EGB880@aol.com
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BJSpringdell@aol.com
bandsaw@penn.com
gregoryhatton@earthlink.net
ian@hawkins13cbw.fsnet.co.uk
hinckleyburtjean@hotmail.com
meh45@homerelay.net
B24MJH@aol.com
limeybj@frontiernet.net
MervynJones@btinternet.com
TJJ43@aol.com
ri.kreisman@verizon.net
longtimelong@email.msn.com
Rboblory@msn.com
jmeg100@comcast.net
A43fool@aol.com
oakmackey@msm.com
t_uomo@juno.com
lorn-n-duste@elknet.net
jim@b24.net
gmichel@milwpc.com
Joe@micksch.com
neuwalter@aol.com
ponstot@aol.com

Oppenheim, Alfred M.
Phillips, Ann Long
Pearson, George E.
Perry, Tom
Peterson, Mary
Planche, Milton
Popek, Erma
Polking, Dette
Richeson, W. H.
Roberts, Keith
Rothrock, Mary
Russell, Carroll E.
Sabourin, Roland
Satterly, Everett F.
Smith, Franklin D.
Stephens, Lou **(Change)**

Stockman, Harry **(Change)**
Szenegeto, Joe **CORRECTION**
Thomas, J. Fred
Thomason, Henriette
Tison, Annette
Trigilio, George
Tuchel, Robert H.
Tyler, Bob **CHANGE**
Vassey, Emuel
Weed, Oscar and Toni
Westbrook, Joe
Willies, Doug
Zybort, Stanley **(Change)**

8AF Museum, Savannah
Abrams, Manny
Conrad, John
Gilbert, Lawrence
Glettler, Barney
Goar, Jim
Greene, David
Gross, Earl
Jones, Mervin
Erhlich, Lee D.
Onstot, Perry
Peterson, Mary
Thomas, J. Fred

392 BGMA
8AF Museum, Savannah

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empopek@att.net
WarrenDett@aol.com
WHRich@webtv.net
k.e.robby@juno.com
m.rothrock@worldnet.att.net
crew@mounet.com
dpoobah@accessbee.com
EISATT@AOL.COM
fsmith4@satx.rr.com
lStephens5@woh.rr.com
(that's a lower case alphabetical l)
Stockman1@cox.net
baksheesh@onecom.com
Bomberb24@aol.com
Henriette@pronet.net
DTison5401@aol.com
gitsr@ix.netcom.com
rhtuchel@soltec.net
Bobalice2r@aol.com
evassey@acadia.net
anoweed@bellsouth.net
JWESTBR432@aol.com
doug&celia@g3hrk.freemove.co.uk
szybort@aol.com & szybort@cs.com

FAX

912 748 0209
508 653 6882
859 268 0514
407 647 7402
231 334 4440
765 654 4457 or 765 654 4253
631 205 1301
310 652 9307
+44 (0) 1328 701 262
773 774 4311
816 363 7054
407 647 7766
714 536 2184

WEBSITE

www.b24.net
www.mighty8thmuseum.com

DEATH CLAIMS TWO FROM 392BG ORIGINAL CADRE

Joe Whittaker was successively the 578th Sqdn., 392nd Group, and 2nd Air Division Bombardier. He also was a past president of the 2AD Association.

Joe was 85 when he passed away at Mount Airy, NC, on May 4, 2003. His wife Marie survives.

John (Jack) Fritsche was Group

Adjutant. The Army doesn't really travel on its stomach; it marches forward on page after page of paper. It was Major Fritsche who orchestrated that march for the 392nd. He was greatly admired by the Group's administrative officers, because they could always depend on a straight answer and a fair shake from him.

He died on July 3, 2003 at the age of 88 at Dallas, TX. He is survived by wife Joan.

Continued from page 1

three daughters, Mrs. Judy Doerflinger and Mrs. Mary Jo Jacobsen, Seattle, WA, and Becky Gaynor, Albuquerque, NM; and one son, Jeff Johnson, Bothell, WA.

Col Johnson died on Nov. 30, 1950 when his C-45 light transport plane crashed into a mountain in Utah. He was on a routine flight from Kirkland AF Base in Albuquerque, NM to Hill AF Base in Odgen, Utah. On board with him was S/Sgt Billy Nash, who also perished.

The scene of the crash, about 200 miles south and a little east of Salt Lake City, is one of the most mountainous and inaccessible areas in Utah. The wreckage was found only after a 10-day search, and the ground party reached it after traveling eight miles by vehicle, ten miles on horseback, and three miles afoot.

Lorin LaVar Johnson was born in Woodruff, UT, on Jan. 23, 1917. His parents moved to Payson, UT in 1919, and Johnson grew up there, graduating from Payson High School.

He attended Brigham Young University, during which time he was an enlisted member of a field artillery unit in the Utah National Guard.

He became a flying cadet in September 1939 and graduated from Kelly Field on June 21, 1940 as pilot. He was married to Margaret McCormick on the day of his graduation.

His first assignment was to March Field with the 19th Bomb Group. During that assignment he participated in the first mass flight of land based aircraft from San Francisco to Hickam Field, Hawaii.

After several other assignments, in February 1943 he was promoted to Major and took a B-17 Group to the South Pacific. He turned his Group over to the 7th AF and returned to the U. S.

Upon his return to the States, he joined the 392nd at Alamogordo as Air Executive. He was promoted to Lt Col on Sept. 21, 1943, short-



Photo courtesy Paul Wright
Col Lorin L. Johnson

ly after the 392nd arrived in England and flew their first mission against Germany on Sept. 9.

He led the Group and Combat Wing as Command Pilot on sev-

eral occasions, the most dramatic of which was the mission to Gotha on Feb. 24, 1944.

To quote from Col Bob Vickers' definitive history of the 392nd:

"This mission was one of the most vital strikes ever made in WWII against Germany. The 392nd led 6 of the 2nd Bomb Division's B-24 Groups to the correct target when the leading Combat Wing of 3 Groups made a critical navigation error and turned to an incorrect attack heading.

Post target recon showed the target, a facility which contributed almost 1/3 of Germany's twin-engine aircraft production, almost completely destroyed."

The 392nd was awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation for this action.

In March 1944 Lt Col Johnson became Chief of Staff of the 14th Combat Wing. He returned to the

392nd in June of 1944 to take command, having been promoted to Col. At 27, he was one of the youngest colonels in the 8AF in command of a Group.

He relinquished command of the 392nd to Col Gilbert as we re-deployed back to the States in June of 1945.

Post WWII, Col Johnson held the following assignments: Deputy base commander at Victorville AF Base; Deputy and Base commanders at Minter Field and Mather Field.

He returned to Brigham Young University and graduated from there in 1948.

He attended Command and Staff school at Fort Leavenworth in 1948, and completed a tour at the Pentagon in 1948-49.

He was Deputy Base commander at Kirtland at the time of his fatal crash.

PX ITEMS

Anthology, "20 th Century Crusaders. (Hard cover book)	\$36.50 postpaid	\$
Anthology, "20 th Century Crusaders (CD)	\$15.00 postpaid	\$
Book, "Remembrance of the Missing", by Col. Bob Vickers,	\$35.00 postpaid	\$
Book, "392 nd 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 th ,	\$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 nd Bomb Group w/gold braid, summer,	\$10.50 postpaid	\$
Cap, black, 392 nd Bomb Group w/gold braid, winter,	\$10.50 postpaid	\$
Directory, \$10.00 postpaid (ALL DIRECTORIES ARE NOW WITH CURRENT DATA)		\$
Jacket, white nylon, w/ 392 Bomb Group and Crusader patches,	\$29.00 postpaid	
(Circle size wanted) M L XL XXL		\$
Patch, 392 nd Bomb Group logo,	\$1.50 postpaid	\$
Print, "The Flying Crusader", reduced to	\$16.50 postpaid	\$
Video, 392 nd '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, son of 579th 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)

Book, "Joey, Joe, and Joseph" by William A. Damerst, 576th navigator.

Order direct from publisher, Publish America: PO Box 151, Frederick, MD 21705-0151. \$21.95 postpaid

Book, "Stalag 17B, Prisoner of War", by L/C (USAF, Ret) Richard H. Hoffman, ball turret gunner, 579th.

Order from publisher, Xlibris Corp, phone 888 795 4274, or on line at www.xlibris.com/html/bookstores. Also at Amazon.com. No cost figures furnished.

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



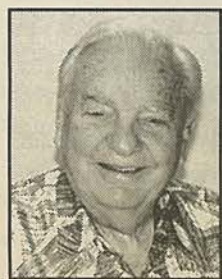
Bob Books



Bob Tuchel



John Rosenberg and George Michel



Carroll Cheek



Luther Beddingfield



Raymond and Norma Jean Kopecky



Oak and Maxine Mackey



Art and Lee Olson

392ND STAND-ALONE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 2ADA IN CHICAGO JUNE 4-5 DEEMED A SUCCESS, MAY REPEAT

It required a lot of planning by John Conrad, the 392nd's vice-president for the Second Air Division, and a special issue of the 392BGMA NEWS. A great deal of cooperation came from Evelyn Cohen, 2ADA's reunion manager. The concept was simple: A 392nd stand-alone was held during the first two days of the convention, and Crusaders could come for only the first two days or stay for the entire meeting. Although 2ADA leadership expressed concern about those who did not stay, the arrangement will be studied for use in the future.

It was such a success that the NEWS is attempting to publish the picture of all who attended. Alas, the two hard-working photographers, Teddy Egan and Joe Micksch, weren't able to corral everyone. The effort is also stretching the budget, but maybe Charley Dye will look the other way since his and Helen's picture appears.

At the Board of Directors meeting a slight By-Law change was proposed in order to give us a more flexibility in the management of the Wendling Memorial. Also, Oak Mackey was appointed to be back-up 2ADA vice-president, since John Conrad is suffering illness. (Editor's note: it's not life-threatening, only inconvenient. I've been checking on John)

Oak reported at the Membership meeting that the 2ADA is considering the following sites for the 2004 meeting: Las Vegas, Philadelphia, or Savannah. For 2005, they are proposing San Diego.

Those attending the Chicago meeting were: Luther Beddingfield; Bob Books; Jim Buzick, who lives in Fargo, ND and reported that it's not the end of the world, although it can be seen from there; Carroll Cheek and Mabel; Charles Dye and Helen; Teddy Egan; Richard Giesing and Rita; Lawrence Gilbert and Marjie; Jim Goar and Annabelle; Barney Glettler; Blanche Keilman; Ray Kopecky and Norma Jean; Ralph Linzmeier and Pat; Oak Mackey and Maxine; George Michel; Joe Micksch and Ella May; Art Olson and Lee; Mary Peterson; Ann Phillips; Emily Long Reid; Fred Rodgers and Florence; John Rosenberg; Mary Rothrock; Claude Specht and Jan; Annette Tison; Bob Tuchel and Marcella Nance; and Stan Zyborg.



Jim Goar congratulates Col Gilbert for a recent birthday and presents him with a bottle of Indiana's best selling wine. Jim Goar and Col. Gilbert are both native Hoosiers.



Annabelle Garoffolo



Mary Rothrock



Ann Phillips, Col Gilbert and Emily Long Reid



Blanche Keilman



Teddy Egan



Stan Zyborg and Barney Glettler



Fred and Florence Rodgers



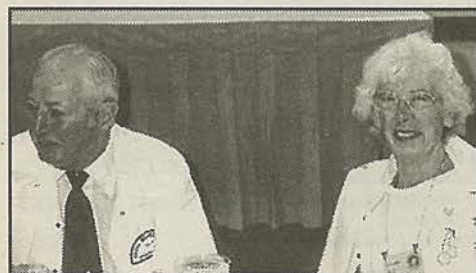
Joe and Ella May Micksch



Richard and Rita Geising



Jim Buzick and Annette Tison



Charles and Helen Dye



Claude and Jan Specht

A VISIT WITH PAT McCARTHY

By Jim Goar

After the June 2ADA meeting in Chicago, we took off for Idaho for a visit with relatives. Our path took us through Missoula, MT, where we visited Pat McCarthy, legendary 578th pilot.

Pat is celebrated in the 392nd as the pilot who wiped out a borrowed P-38 over Wendling after an unfortunate contact with a power line at an altitude of about 20 feet.

But while that event forever marked him in 392nd lore, the most remarkable incident during his 8AF tour was his walk through occupied France shortly after D-Day. He bailed out of his mortally wounded a/c near Leon-Athies Air Field on June 23, 1944 and walked until he contacted Canadian troops near Caen. They passed him through to U. S. forces and he was air evacuated to London.

Back at Wendling, we noted him and his crew as MIA and went on about our business of mounting air attacks against Germany. After nearly 90 days, the base received a call from London and Col Polking, the 578th commander, sent J. D. Long there to identify this bedraggled evacuee from the Continent. Seeing Pat, an incredulous J. D. could only mutter, "S—, it's him."

Pat related this and other events in his life to me in a direct mode of conversation that exemplifies his rugged Montana heritage.

The bail-out over France and the P-38 crash were not the only incidents that prove Pat possesses a charmed life. Before all this happened he was in a head-on train collision near London that killed all the occupants of his compartment except him.

He was of course court-martialled for the loss of the P-38, but escaped with a fine of \$600. Pat said, "While that was a lot of money in those days, it beat having to pay \$107,000 for that P-38." Talk that I've picked up over the years about the court-martial indicates that his superiors testified that they couldn't spare such a warrior.

He went back to duty after the court-martial and did a total of 27 missions before the authorities decreed that because of his evadee status he should not fly over enemy territory again.

Back in the States about Christmas of 1945, he went through B-29 training and was poised to deploy to the Japan theater when the bomb dropped at Hiroshima and the war ended.

He finished his undergraduate degree at the University of Montana in Missoula and then earned his medical degree at the University of Utah. He practiced as an internist in Missoula until about 1990, when he retired from the medical profession and became a rancher.

He said to me, like the song that Willie Nelson sings, "Mothers don't let your babies grow up to be cowboys", he grew tired of such things as picking

392nd ANTHOLOGY NOW AVAILABLE ON COMPACT DISC

Bob Books, webmaster of the 392nd web site, has put "Twentieth Century Crusaders" on a CD and it is available from the 392nd's PX for \$15. Not only does the CD contain the anthology, it also has WWII 8AF Combat Chronology and the European War Strategic Bombing Survey.

The PX order form can be found elsewhere in this issue.

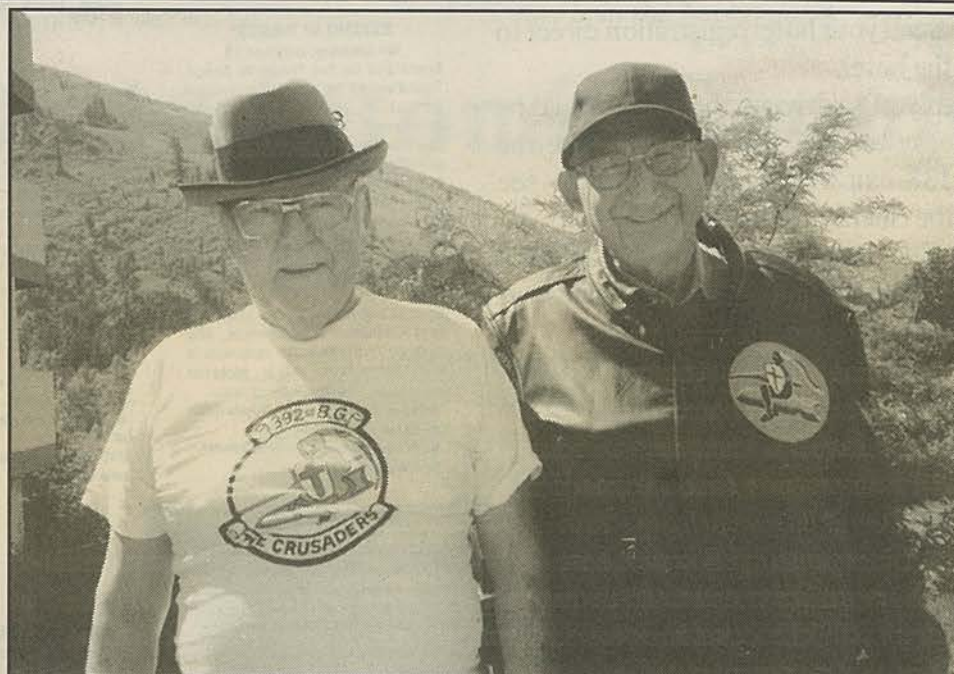
PROFILE

Capt (later Lt Col) Carl D. Scharf was a pilot in the 576/9, joining us at Wendling in June 1944.

He retired from the AF Reserve in 1981.

He worked in the farm equipment manufacturing industry 31 years at Fort Dodge, Iowa, and spent 5 years as vocational tech instructor at Iowa Central Community College at Fort Dodge.

He and wife Ruth reside at 4827 E. Delta Ave., Mesa, AZ 85206-2112. They have one daughter.



Pat McCarthy and Jim Goar at Missoula, MT on June 10, 2003. I apologize for my cap, especially because the sorry thing looks so bad as opposed to Pat's sartorial Homburg. I lost my 392nd cap on the trip somewhere, and the replacement cap is a Wal-Mart special.

up a railroad tie under each arm and dragging them a mile or so to fix a fence. Concluding that he could no longer afford to feed 250 head of cattle, he sold the expletive deleted ranch.

He lost his wife about three years ago and he's back in Missoula. His only daughter lives nearby.

When he left us at our motel, he remarked that as a teenager he had worked at that site when it was an onion farm. He went on to demonstrate what it was like in those Depression days. "I was paid 60 cents a day, and after a summer's work I had accumulated \$32. I went to the Mercantile to buy my winter school clothes and was so flush with the money that I bought a plaid jacket and a plaid pair of trousers. When I got home, my mother said, 'Don't you see anything wrong with that outfit?'"

Pat's still lean and erect but walks with a cane because of two 14-year-old hip replacements that are wearing out.

He said as we parted, "Don't you sometimes think that all this has been a dream and it never happened?" Maybe so, but it was real enough back in those Wendling days.

Much has been said and written about "the right stuff". Dr. Clarke G. "Pat" McCarthy has it.

392ND'S OWN BIRDIE SCHMIDT TO PERFORM DURING 8AFHS AT COLORADO SPRINGS OCT 14-18

After the dinner on Thursday, Oct. 16, Birdie will be in the cast of "I Was Young, Now I'm Wonderful", an Emmy award winning PBS special. The play is about the trials and tribulations of growing older.

The NEWS apologizes for the small type in the Reunion notes reproduced on this page from the 8AFHS NEWS. It was the best we could do and still get it all on one page.

Pay attention to the options. You can sign up for all or parts of the meeting.

The deadline for registration is Sept. 12; after that it's space available. For the Reunion registration, send to Armed Forces Reunion, not 8AF Reunion. No phone registrations or credit cards, and make your check payable to Armed Forces Reunions.

Send your hotel registration direct to the hotel.

If you're driving, the hotel should be easy to find. Use I-25 and take the 138 exit. You should be able to see the Sheraton from there.

See the June edition of 8AFHS NEWS for cancellation policies, or call 757 625 6401.

TRY TO BE THERE! THE 392ND WILL HAVE A HOSPITALITY ROOM.

FLYING W RANCH

Wednesday, October 15

Board bus for the Flying W Ranch. Round'em up for a real Chuckwagon Dinner in the Ranch's Winter Steakhouse. The wranglers dish up a delicious steak supper with baked potatoes, famous Flying W beans, applesauce, dutch-oven biscuits, spice cake, and coffee. Alcoholic beverages are available at the cash bar. After supper sit back and enjoy a root-en toot-en stage show with cowboys singing old songs of the West.

Note: To cover costs, this tour must have a minimum of 100 people. Due to space restrictions, the maximum is 200. Reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

6:30pm board bus, 10:30pm back at hotel

\$66/Person includes bus, escort, and dinner show.

GARDEN OF THE GODS / OLD COLORADO CITY

Wednesday, October 15 and
Saturday, October 18

Board bus for the Garden of the Gods, a 1,350 acre park with magnificent red stone formations that date back 300 million years. Stop for a photo opportunity at the Trading Post, where the finest in authentic Indian arts, crafts, and jewelry are featured. Continue onto Old Colorado City. Ten years before General Palmer named the region known today as Colorado Springs, another town was already operating in the Pikes Peak region. The town was Colorado City and it remained proudly independent until being annexed to Colorado Springs during WWI. In recent years, the Colorado City downtown (now called Old Colorado City) has been refurbished into a historic district and specialty shopping center. Enjoy time to browse in the many boutiques and lunch on your own at one of several restaurants. Saturday's schedule will follow the opposite time line.

Wednesday: 9:30 board bus, 2:00pm back at hotel

Saturday: 11:15am board bus, 3:45pm back at hotel

\$29/Person includes bus and guide. Lunch on your own.

AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Thursday, October 16

Board bus for the Air Force Academy. Visit the Cadet Chapel, touring the Protestant, Jewish, and Catholic sections. Gather outside the Chapel to witness the daily meal formation of the cadets. At the Officers Club, enjoy lunch consisting of a turkey & cheese croissant, potato salad, fruit garnish, dessert, and a beverage. Tour the Visitor Center, with exhibits on cadet life and academy history, a theater, and gift shop. See the 8th AF Memorial Wall.

9:45am board bus, 2:45pm back at hotel

\$46/Person includes bus, guide, and lunch.

8th AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REUNION SHERATON - COLORADO SPRINGS

Tuesday, October 14

2:00pm - 7:00pm

Early Bird Registration open

Wednesday, October 15

8:00am - 9:00am

9:00am - Tbd

9:30am - 2:00pm

1:00pm - Tbd

1:00pm - 5:00pm

2:00pm - 4:30pm

3:00pm - 10:30pm

6:30pm - 10:30pm

Thursday, October 16

7:00am - 8:30am

8:00am - 9:00am

8:00am - 9:30am

9:45am - 2:45pm

3:00pm - 5:00pm

3:15pm - 4:15pm

4:30pm - 5:30pm

6:00pm - 7:00pm

7:00pm - 9:00pm

Friday, October 17

7:00am - 8:30am

8:00am - 10:00am

8:30am - 10:00am

10:00am - 12:00pm

1:00pm - 3:30pm

1:15pm - 4:15pm

3:00pm - 5:00pm

6:00pm - 7:00pm

7:00pm - 9:00pm

Saturday, October 18

6:30am - 8:00am

8:00am - 10:30am

10:45am - 3:45pm

11:15am - 3:45pm

5:30pm - 6:00pm

6:00pm - 7:00pm

7:00pm - 9:00pm

Sunday, October 19

7:00am - 8:30am

8:30am - 9:15am

9:30am - 10:00am

Reunion Registration open
Hospitality/Gathering Room & Memorabilia Room opens
GARDEN OF THE GODS / OLD COLORADO CITY
8AFHS 'PX' open through Sunday
Reunion Registration open
8AFHS Board Meeting
Discussion on Web Page Development for 8AFHS Units/Chapters
FLYING W RANCH

Continental Breakfast
Reunion Registration open
Unit Advisory and Chapter & Unit Development Meeting
AIR FORCE ACADEMY TOUR
Reunion Registration open
Medical Advisory Seminar by Dr. Walter Brown
Seminar: Planned Giving by Judy Walker
Cash Bar Reception
Group Dinner & Entertainment

Continental Breakfast
Reunion Registration open
Individual Group Meetings
Seminar: The American Dream by Brig. Gen. James H. Graves
Symposium: "SEVEN DAYS IN OCTOBER" - The Norman C. Grant Memorial - 60th Anniversary Commemorative Symposium
OLYMPIC VISITOR CENTER
Reunion Registration open
8AFHS Cash Bar Reception
Rendezvous Dinners and 'Hangar Flying'

Full Breakfast Buffet
General Membership Meeting
ROYAL GORGE TRAIN RIDE
OLD COLORADO CITY / GARDEN OF THE GODS
Reunion Registration open
8AFHS Cash Bar Reception
8AFHS Gala Banquet

Continental Breakfast
Separate Protestant and Catholic Services at the hotel
8AFHS Annual Board Meeting

8th AFHS 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 12, 2003. 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.
242 W. 22nd Street
Norfolk, VA 23517
ATTN: 8th AFHS

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Check #	Date Received
Inputted	Notetag Completed

CUT-OFF DATE IS 9/12/03	Price Per	# of People	Total
REGISTRATION FEE			
Includes Unit rebates, Friday's Symposium expenses, and other reunion expenses.	\$40		\$
MEAL PACKAGES			
Choice #1 includes 7 hotel meals beginning with breakfast on Thursday.			
Choice #2 includes 5 hotel meals beginning with breakfast on Friday.			
Choice #1	\$174		\$
Choice #2	\$123		\$
Please select your entrée choice(s) for the Banquet:			
Roast Prime Rib of Beef		#	
Pan-Seared Rocky Mountain Trout		#	
SEPARATELY PRICED MEALS (if not purchasing a package)			
Friday: Rendezvous Dinner (chicken)	\$32		\$
Saturday: Banquet (please select your entrée)			
Roast Prime Rib of Beef	\$40		\$
Pan-Seared Rocky Mountain Trout	\$40		\$
TOURS / EVENTS			
Wednesday: Garden of the Gods / Old Colorado City	\$29		\$
Wednesday: Flying W Ranch	\$66		\$
Thursday: Air Force Academy Tour	\$46		\$
Friday: Olympic Visitor Center	\$28		\$
Please choose one of the following two tours:			
Saturday: Royal Gorge Train Ride	\$63		\$
Saturday: Garden of the Gods / Old Colorado City	\$29		\$
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.			\$

PLEASE PRINT MEMBER NAME _____ Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form. 1st 8AFHS REUNION?

LIFE MEMBER? ___ 8AFHS MEMBERSHIP # _____ WWII GROUP _____

SPOUSE NAME _____ LIFE MEMBER? ___ MEMBER # _____

GUEST NAMES _____

IF YOU'RE SPONSORING A CADET FOR THE BANQUET, PLEASE INDICATE HERE HOW MANY OF YOUR TOTAL BANQUET PURCHASES ARE FOR CADETS (Prime Rib is their entrée of choice)

MEMBER'S STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, ST, ZIP _____ PH. NUMBER () _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

ARE YOU CONFINED TO A WHEELCHAIR? _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PH. NUMBER () _____

OLYMPIC VISITOR CENTER

Friday, October 17

After lunch on your own, board bus for a trip to the The Olympic Visitor Center, the primary support facility serving the general public and providing information about the USOC, U.S. Olympic Training Centers, and the Olympic Movement. The U.S. Olympic Spirit Store offers Olympic sports merchandise and gift items unavailable elsewhere. The tour includes a walk along the Irwin Belk Olympic Path and visits to the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame rotunda and roof-top terrace with an Olympic flame display, which offers panoramic views of the entire complex and beautiful Colorado Springs.

1:15 board bus, 4:15pm back at hotel

\$28/Person includes bus and guide.

ROYAL GORGE TRAIN RIDE

Saturday, October 18

Board bus for Canyon City to ride the Royal Gorge train. Pick up your box lunch (sandwich, side, dessert, and beverage), and then sit back and enjoy the narrated ride. The two hour train ride takes passengers through the "Grand Canyon of the Arkansas" on an unforgettable journey over the famous Hanging bridge, which clings precariously to the steep granite walls of the Royal Gorge, towering over 1,000 feet above. Experience this train ride that has been termed "The most spectacular 12 miles of railroad in America."

10:45am board bus, 3:45pm back at hotel

\$63/Person includes bus, guide, lunch, and train ride.

SHERATON COLORADO SPRINGS, CO (719) 576-5900, (800) 981-4012

The Sheraton Colorado Springs Hotel is located at 2886 South Circle Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80906, situated five miles from downtown. The Colorado Springs Airport is located eight miles from the hotel. If you are driving, take Interstate 25 to exit 138. You can see the hotel from the interstate. If you need more detailed directions, please call the hotel directly. All guest rooms have hair dryers, iron and ironing boards, and in-room coffee makers with complimentary coffee. A health club is on site with a sauna and steam room. Guests may enjoy an indoor pool, jacuzzi, and outdoor pool. Handicapped accessible and non-smoking rooms are subject to availability. Please request these special accommodations when making your hotel reservation. There is ample complimentary parking. Check-in time is 3:00pm; check-out is 11:00am. *Cafe Terra Cotta* is a full service restaurant, serving breakfast and lunch. In addition, it's open for dinner when needed while large groups are meeting. *Relish This! Deli* is a food court featuring breakfast items, Papa Murphy's Pizza, and Krispy Kreme Donuts. *Rickenbacker's* bar and grill serves lunch and dinner. Room service is available.

There are different types of suites that can be used for hospitality purposes. The parlors will rent for \$129/night (plus tax), and some suites have an adjoining sleeping room that can be rented for the group rate of \$89/night. We suggest you call the hotel for specific information and to make these special reservations.

Complimentary airport shuttle is available for guests of the Sheraton Colorado Springs. After retrieving your luggage, call the hotel from the courtesy phone in the baggage claim area of the airport. You may want to consider other transportation services, as space is always limited on complimentary services.

There is plenty of free parking. RV parking is available in an adjacent parking lot. You must be a registered guest to park your RV on the property. Should you need full hookup service, call the Garden of Gods Campground at (719) 475-9450 to make a reservation and to obtain directions. Please make your reservations at least 2 to 3 weeks in advance. This campground is located approximately five miles from the Sheraton.

Brady's Rental rents wheelchairs by the day and week. Call Brady's at 719-596-6406 for more information. Vendors, Schedules, and Prices are subject to change.

CUT HERE AND MAIL TO THE HOTEL
8th AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY - HOTEL RESERVATION FORM
REUNION DATES: OCTOBER 14 - 19, 2003

NAME _____ TEL. NUMBER () _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ APPROX. TIME _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

OF ROOMS _____ # OF PEOPLE IN RM. _____ HANDICAP ACCESS _____ SMOKING _____ NONSMOKING _____
KING BED _____ 2 DOUBLE BEDS _____ If room type requested is not available, nearest room type will be assigned.
RATE: \$89 + tax (currently 8%). Rate will be honored 3 days before and after reunion dates, based on availability.
CUT OFF DATE: Reservations received after 9/12/03 will be processed on space & rate available basis.
CANCELLATION POLICY: Deposit is refundable if reservation is canceled 48 hours prior to your arrival date. Changes in departure date after check-in, resulting in a shortened length of stay, may result in a \$50 early-departure fee. All reservations must be guaranteed by credit card or first night's deposit, enclosed.
_____ AMEX _____ DINERS _____ VISA _____ MASTER CARD _____ CARTE BLANCHE _____ DISCOVER

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE (regardless of payment method) _____

MAIL TO: Sheraton Colorado Springs * 2886 South Circle Drive * Colorado Springs, CO 80906

A CALL FROM NEELY YOUNG

By Jim Goar

Neely phoned me one night in June and I was immediately transported back to Wendling, listening to that torrent of words with the Virginia Gentleman accent. Neely, the 578th pilot who flew the GI Jane, is just one of kind, a free spirit that stands out in the memory. He also could probably talk his way past the Devil into the Pearly Gates.

His crew was one of the first replacements, joining us in October or November of 1943. He said that

after they had flown a few missions they were grudgingly named "Old Crew" but were admonished that they really weren't Old Crew because they hadn't flown the diversion mission.

Neely reported his crew's reunion at his home in Richmond, Va. on May 18, 2003. Present were John Goodwin, CP, and John Rickey, TG. Ray Teator, WG, was unable to be there because of illness.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Radio controlled bombers first used in missions against V-1 rocket sites-Aug. 4, 1944.

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

THOMASON NAMED OLDER WORKER OF THE YEAR

Henriette Thomason is the widow of Carwin Thomason, 10SC. She is also the capable operator of the 392BGMA's PX.

Recently she received the Older Worker of the Year award sponsored by the Central Coast Commission on Aging, Santa Barbara County, CA.



Henriette shown at an earlier, happier time with her now deceased husband Carwin. The photo was taken at an early 392nd meeting and John Conrad, 2ADA past president and 579th mickey navigator, is in the background.

**We Bought Out The Publisher
And Have Further Reduced the Price:
Now only \$36.50, postpaid**

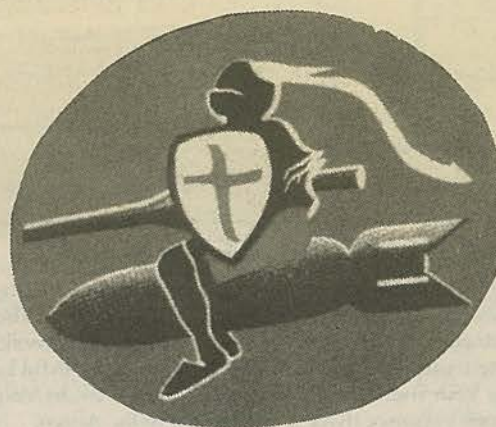


All copies will be autographed by Col. Lawrence G. Gilbert, our final Commander.

Order from the PX order blank contained in this newsletter.

Over 100 authors, including Ian Hawkins and Ernie Barber, have contributed to this 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.

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 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 soon be available polo shirts with the Crusader emblem.

So if you're interested, contact Ben Jones at 15115 Jones Beach Rd., Kent, NY 14477-9780, or e-mail him at limeybj@frontiernet.net.

Let him know if you want the "distressed" or "freshly painted" look.

NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

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Col. Lawrence G. Gilbert, USAF (Ret)

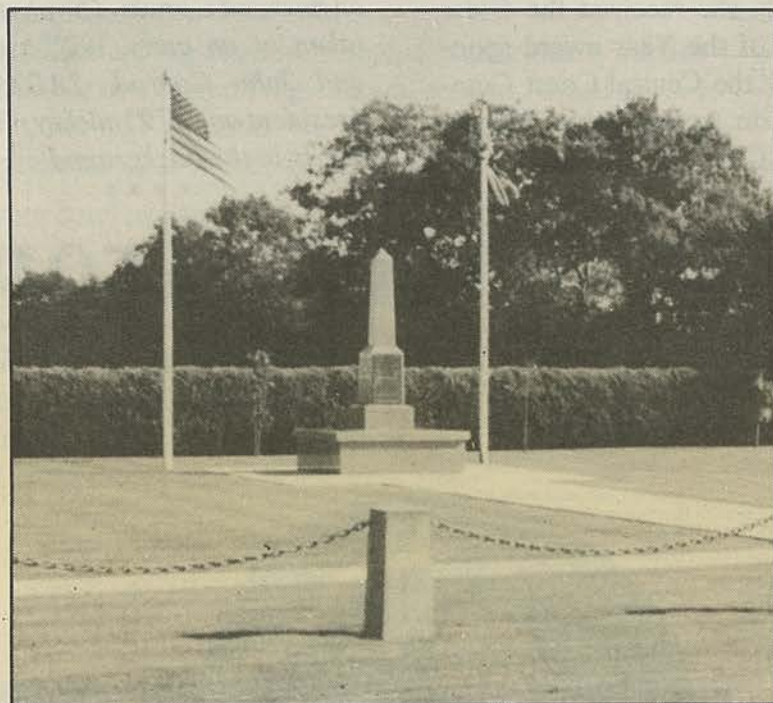
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THE 392nd MEMORIAL AT WENDLING

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.

Chaplain's Corner

By George Barger, Ph. D.

"We are going down the valley one by one." This is the opening sentence of an old Gospel hymn that was once popular at funerals. It is a salutary reminder of our mutability. World War 2 veterans are moving into the late 70's and the 80's. But, there is still the finishing canter, and after that..? "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man what God has prepared for those who love him." (1 Cor 2:9) That's the bottom line.

Folded Wings

Anthony Albino, 578, Feb. 19, 2003
Maxine (Mickey) Jordan, Nov. 1, 2002
wife of Thomas J. Jordan, 577/9
Bob Addison, 578, Jan. 1, 1998
Vincent Cerrato, 578, 1995
Philip F. Anundson, 577, Jan. 1, 2003
Robert C. Lynch, 576, Mar. 27, 2003
John Kallas, 578, 2003
John Kedenburg, 577, 2003
Joseph B. Whittaker, 578/Hq., May 4, 03
Joseph T. Sulkowski, 579, Apr. 30, 2003
Wolfe, Claude H., 579, Apr. 13, 2003
John L. Kelly, 578, July 15, 1965
Barry, William T., 579, May 30, 2003
Jean Baumgart, June 28, 2003
wife of Vern Baumgart, 579
John (Jack) Fritsche, July 3, 2003
Joseph F. Tierney, 577, June 9, 2003

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

Address Correction Requested
Forwarding and Return Postage Guaranteed

First Class Mail

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