

NEWS

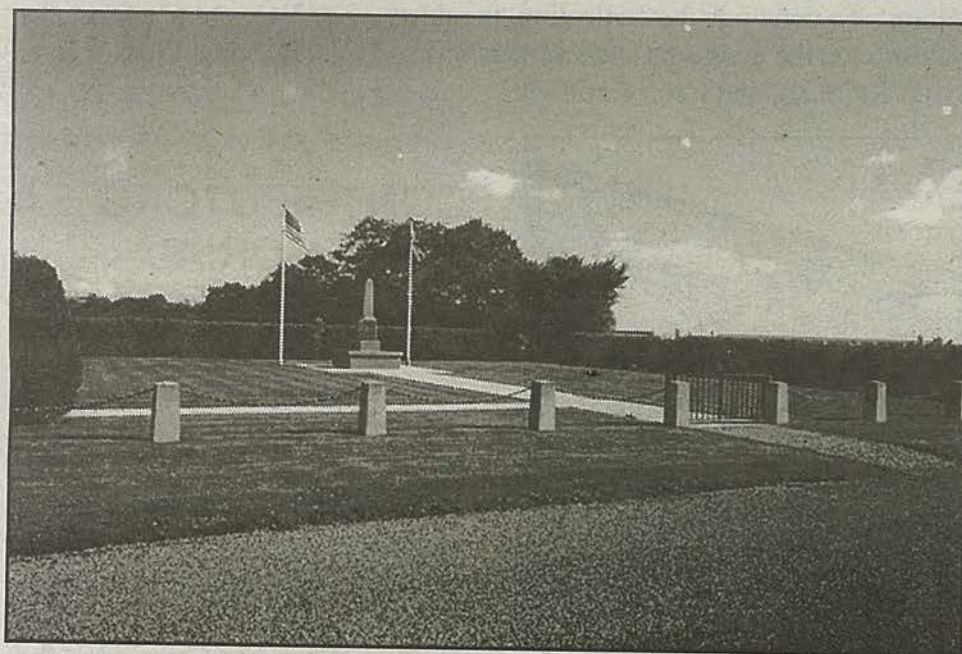


392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 22

August, 2007

392nd WILL RALLY TO SUSTAIN WENDLING MEMORIAL HISTORY OF THE MEMORIAL



The material for this story was researched by Annette Tison

The idea to leave a memorial at Wendling was conceived by Col Joseph Bush, the 392nd's Ground Executive Officer. Approval was granted by Hq. 8th Air Force, and it was the first memorial erected at any of the 8th Air Force bases.

The sum of \$2,364 was contributed by the officers and men of nearly all of the organizations on the base. The memorial plot, located at the junction of the Beeston-Wendling roads was donated by Mr. Garner of Longham Hall.

A nine foot granite obelisk was procured, along with bronze tablets upon which would be named not only the 392nd Bomb Group with its four Squadrons, but also all the support organizations that also occupied the base.

The memorial was dedicated on Sunday, Sept. 2, 1945. With the 392nd returned to the US, Col Everett W. Stewart, CO of the 4th Fighter Group, officiated at the ceremonies. The RAF now occupied the airbase and they supplied the personnel for the Honor Guard.

By 1987 funds to maintain the memorial had run out. The landscaping had fallen into disarray, the concrete base of the obelisk was disintegrating, and sometimes water stood on the grounds. This situation was discussed at the

TRUSTEES REPORT THAT THE INCOME FROM THE TRUST FUND IS INADEQUATE

Our Memorial in England is maintained from the proceeds from a Trust Fund maintained in England. In response to a report of the Trustees that the income has become inadequate for proper maintenance, Carroll Cheek, Vice-President for Memorials, has made a \$10,000 challenge gift toward a \$20,000 fund drive. Carroll's \$10,000 will be used only if the 392nd BGMA membership is able to match it.

At the 392BGMA membership meeting held in conjunction with the 8AFHS reunion at Kalamazoo, MI July 18-21, the fund drive was authorized. At the meeting it was evident to all in attendance that we need every 392BGMA member to become involved in order for Carroll's match to happen. Each member's generous gift will make this greatly needed fund drive a success.

Following is a form that you can use to send your donation to Treasurer Bill McCutcheon at 20620 Milton Court, Brookfield, WI 50345.

Yes, Col. Gilbert, I am responding to the 392nd's call for additional funds to augment the Memorial's Trust Fund at Wendling, in order to ensure an adequate dollar return on its investments.

I do this in remembrance of the comrades that we lost in 1943-45, and to make certain that our footprint in England is maintained in such a manner as to reflect honor to the WWII 392nd Bombardment Group.

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ Other _____

Signed _____

Address _____

Unit _____ Crew _____

Please make checks payable to 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association, with "Wending Memorial" on the memo line. Send to Bill McCutcheon, Treasurer, 20620 Milton Court, Brookfield, WI 53045.

Continued on page 2

392BGMA ELECTRONIC DIRECTORY CHANGES

We'll print the entire Electronic Directory in the first issue of the year, and in ensuing issues we will print changes as they are reported to us. If you need an Electronic Directory now, let me know- Editor.

Dye, Charles
Griffith, C. Wayne
Mitchell, Donald
Rosenberg, John
Sooy, Bruce
Weed, Oscar and Toni

CHDye62620@comcast.net
cwgriffith@comcast.net
mitchb24@juno.com
johnrb24@milwol.com
b50plt@comcast.net
anoweed@cfl.rr.com

JACK NEWTON CONNECTS WITH 392ND BGMA

By Annette Tison

At the reunion, we welcomed our newest member, John W. "Jack" Newton from South Natick, MA. He was just a young boy when his cousin, 1/Lt James S. Hurd, went off to military service in 1942.

In late June, Jack posted a query on www.b24.net asking for information about Hurd. Jack soon learned that he was copilot on 1/Lt Owen H. Filkel's crew. They were flying lead when their a/c, #42-95222, crashed shortly after take-off on Aug. 5, 1944, killing all aboard. The website gave eyewitness accounts of the accident as well as a photo of the wreckage.

Several of our researchers invited Jack to attend the reunion. He did, and the warm welcome he received far exceeded his expectations.

Within hours of his arrival, he was in our hospitality suite thumbing through the reference books there. In one, he found a note from bombardier 1/Lt James R. Tudor that identified him as a member of Filkel's crew. Tudor was not at the reunion, but Jack got his phone number from the 392nd BGMA Directory and was soon talking with him.

This was just one of several serendipitous events in Jack's quest to learn more about his cousin.

In 1998, he found a brief obituary from 1944 about Jim's death. Unfortunately, there were no family

members to tell him how Jim died. Without his Army Serial Number, he couldn't get help from government sources.

Then, in June 2007, a chance introduction to an 8th AF veteran led him to www.b24.net and its vast archive of 392nd BG information, and then to our reunion.

Jack is still amazed. "In the matter of just a few weeks, I went from knowing very little about my cousin, to reading reports of his missions and talking with a veteran who had served on the same crew with him for 23 missions and knew him very well."

Luck had played a part in Jack's quest once before. In 1953, he visited St. Paul's Cathedral in



With Jack Newton between them, Englishmen John Gilbert and Ben Jones explain to him the proper way to take tea.

London and came across the American Roll of Honor, which lists US service personnel who gave their lives in the defense of Great Britain. Each day a page of that book is turned, so that a different set of names is on display each day. "On the day I was there, the book was opened to the page with 1/Lt

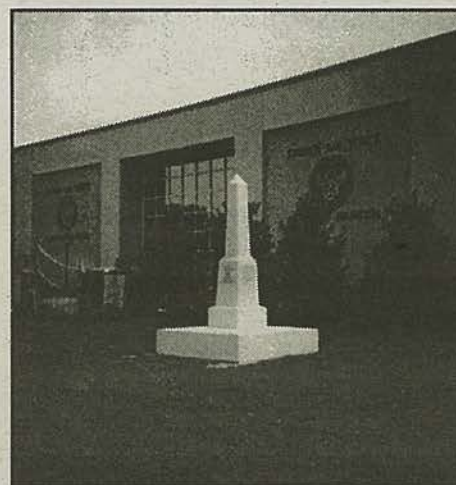
—Continued from page 1—

392nd BGMA reunion in Tulsa, OK in June 1987, and it was decided to raise enough funds to refurbish the monument and establish a trust fund for its maintenance.

Carroll Cheek was named vice president for memorials, and he led the entire effort until its successful conclusion. In addition to his providing a significant challenge donation, he made several trips to Wendling to oversee the project. He induced the United States Battle Monuments Commission to furnish plans for the refurbished memorial.

Tom and Jill Scott, landowners near Beeston, donated land which doubled the size of the plot and allowed room for a parking lot. Tom, a substantial farm operator, furnished equipment, labor, and material.

The new memorial was rededicated as a part of the 392nd BGMA reunion in England in October 1989. The ceremony took place on Friday, Oct. 6, and Carroll Cheek acted as master of ceremonies and made the introductory address. The main speaker was Col Lawrence Gilbert, CEO of the 392ndBGMA and the Group's final commanding officer. He eulogized those who gave their lives while flying combat missions from this place and how this memorial is dedicated in their memory. His address ended in a standing ovation. To conclude the dedication, the thirty 392nd BG veterans formed a circle around the memorial and a wreath was laid by J. D. Long, Charles Dye, Myron Keilman, and Cecil Rothrock.



CONTRIBUTORS TO MEMORIAL RECEIVED TO DATE

Bob Vickers
Wallace F. Blackburn
Gilbert R. Bambauer
Oak Mackey
Stanley C. Zybort

In 1997 an exact replica of the memorial was procured and erected at the Mighty Eighth AF Museum at Savannah, GA., and it was dedicated on Nov. 7. Those Crusaders who have not have an opportunity to visit the memorial at Wendling might want to see the replica. The museum is located just off I-96 as it skirts the western fringe of Savannah.

James S. Hurd's name!", he exclaimed.

Jack says, "I thank the Veterans and Second Generation members of the 392nd BG for their warm welcome. I feel I've been introduced to my cousin's extended family and I also made a number of new friends myself. I'm already looking forward to the next reunion."

AIR ANNIVERSARY

177 B-24's drop 311 tons of bombs from low level on oil refineries at Ploesti, Romania-1943.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

The Wright Flyer formally accepted as Army's first airplane-1909.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

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

A CRASHED B-24 LEADS A BELGIAN TO A U.S. WIFE

By Annette Tison

First-time reunion attendees Peter and Connie Loncke from Groveland, Illinois, joined us at Kalamazoo. It didn't take long to learn that their marriage is due in part to a 392nd ship that crashed in Belgium in 1945.

Peter grew up in Lommel, Belgium. In 1980, his uncle gave him a photo of him and his son sitting on the wing of a crashed B-24. Unfortunately, he couldn't remember when or where the picture was taken. In 1988, another man showed Peter more photos of that plane. This time, he could see the marking CI on the waist and the serial number on the tail.

Years of research followed. Peter discovered the a/c was the 392nd's Gashouse Gus (#41-29476), lost during Operation Varsity. (It was the low-level supply mission in support of American, British and Canadian paratroopers near the town of Wesel, Germany, on March 24, 1945. See the February 2007 issue of the 392BGMA NEWS for the story of this mission.) Through the efforts of Jim Goar, Jim Marsteller, and Ben Jones, he learned that the pilot that fateful day was 2/Lt Herchel Proctor. He contacted surviving crew members and exchanged information and photos with them.

Like ripples that spread from a stone tossed in a pond, Peter's interest in Operation Varsity grew. Having learned about Gashouse Gus and her crew, he now expanded his research efforts to include all the B-24s that went down during the Wesel mission.

The next B-24 crash site he

discovered was of another 392nd a/c, E for Easy (#42-50709), piloted by 2/Lt Jack Hummel and 2/Lt Jim Reynolds.

In early 2000, Peter solved the mystery of where a 44th BG ship, Kay Bar (#42-100314), had crashed with the entire crew killed. An article in that Group's newsletter told of his findings. The story was read by Joseph Crandell, whose brother Leonard was her pilot. He contacted Peter in Belgium and an exchange of phone calls, letters, photos, and videos followed.

In September 2001, Peter and Connie met for the first time. She had traveled to Europe with her parents, Joseph and Barbara Crandell, so that Peter could take them to Kay Bar's crash site in Germany. The Crandells first attended the unveiling of a 44th BG memorial in Belgium, which Peter was instrumental in establishing.



Books photo

Connie and Peter Loncke

Then they went to Hamminkeln, Germany, for the dedication of a memorial plate in honor of all the American airmen killed during Varsity. It is on the outside wall of the town hall next to two memorial plates honoring British airborne troops killed on that mission.

The new memorial was also

Peter's idea, and he had enthusiastic support from the dozens of families and friends he had contacted during his research. While Connie watched, her father, mother, Peter, and the town mayor lifted an American flag to reveal the plate.

It lists the nine 2nd Air Division bomb groups who had participated in that mission. Underneath, in German and English, is the purpose of the plaque: "We build a bridge between our people to set aside the past and come together to honor these brave men who are now united in peace where there is no war."

It was an emotional trip for everyone, and especially for Peter and Connie. Their friendship quickly grew into love and they were married in October 2003.

Two years later, on the 60th anniversary of the Wesel mission, Peter published a book, "The Liberators Who Never Returned." It was an account of all he had learned in his many years of careful research into Operation Varsity and the B24s that had crashed. He said the book would not have been written without the help and encouragement of his co-pilot Connie.

Peter has become an expert on Operation Varsity. But his best research find, he'll tell you, is Connie. And it all began with a photo of a 392nd BG plane.

(Editor's Note: Information and photos from Peter's book were used in the February 2007 392BGMA NEWS article about the Wesel mission. If you are interested in a copy of Peter's book, please contact him at b24kaybar@insightbb.com)

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Japan surrenders unconditionally-1945.

ATTENDEES AT 8AFHS KALAMAZOO

Attendees were: Bruce Bates, Gil Bambauer and Martha; Loretta Bedus; Wallace Blackburn; Bob Books and Carol; Carroll Cheek; Richard Giesing and Rita; Jim Goar and Annabelle; David Greene and Renee; Greg Hatton; Ben Jones; Peter Loncke and Connie; Oak Mackey and Maxine; Jim Marsteller and Karen; Bill McCutcheon; Joe McNeil; John Newton; Tom Perry; Dennis Rogers and Joanne; Jack Rotzien; Annette Tison; Bob Vickers; and Stanley Zybort and Helena.

PRZYSTUPA- ZYBORT

Crusaders at the Kalamazoo meeting were pleased and happy to hear of the marriage on Feb. 10, 2007 of Stanley Zybort to his long-time and faithful care-giver, Helena Przy-stupa.



Books photo

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Zybort

Stan suffered a heart attack early this year and was hospitalized for a couple of months. With Helena's loving care, he was back to his indestructible self in time for the reunion. (Anyone familiar with Stan's story of parachuting out of a stricken B-24 and then leaving a leg in Germany after gangrene had set in must call him indestructible.)

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



Books photo

Second generation Directors Dennis Rogers (left), just elected, and Greg Hatton, re-elected to a full three-year term.



Loncke photo

Jim Goar (left) in deep conversation with Bob Books.



Loncke photo

Ben Jones is shown behind his well-stocked larder with Oak Mackey and Bob Books.



Books photo

Jim and Karen Marsteller, displaying one of the many bits of memorabilia that they bring to reunions.



Books photo

Dick and Rita Giesing, who live in nearby Shelbyville and assisted both 8AFHS officials and the NEWS in preparing for the reunion.

392BGMA MEETING AT KALAMAZOO 8AFHS REUNION A HUGE SUCCESS

At the Kalamazoo meeting held July 17-21 the 392nd's hospitality room, always a fixture at 8AFHS and 2ADA reunions, took on renewed life under a committee composed of 2nd generation members.

Led by 392BGMA Director Ben Jones, they were: Loretta Bedus, Bob and Carol Books, Greg Hatton, Jim and Karen Marsteller, Bill McCutcheon, Dennis and Joanne Rogers, and Annette Tison. The hospitality room was always well stocked with libations and foodstuffs and was nearly always standing room only in the evenings.

The Annual Membership Meeting was held on July 20. In the absence of CEO Col Lawrence Gilbert (wedding in the family) and President Charles Dye (wife Helen down with a knee operation) Vice-president Jim Goar was voted acting chairman.

Reports heard and matters discussed and voted upon were:

Memorial at Wendling: (See page one story about finances and fund drive.) In accordance with previous actions, the Scott family will remain in charge of the Memorial.

Treasurer's report: Bill McCutcheon reported that funds on hand, in cash and in money market funds, amount to about \$19,000. This "net worth" of the Association has remained relatively stable for some years at this amount in spite of the passing of some of our first generation members. In order to stabilize this situation, annual dues were increased from \$15 to \$20.

Report from the Board of Directors: At the Board meeting held the previous day, the Directors appointed John Gilbert to be the 392nd's official representative at Wendling. (See story, this issue for more information about John Gilbert.) They also appointed Wallace Blackburn, gunner on the 576th's Jack Ross crew, to replace Director Mary Rothrock who asked to be relieved.

Report on the Web site, b24.net. Bob Books, web master, reported that the average Bomb Group web site gets between 2 and 3 thousand hits a month while ours reaches 40,000. Bob noted that it is a team effort and credit for its success goes to many 392nd researchers. He reported that a ground crew roster of about 2,500 has been added to the site, and that there are currently posted identified photos of about 3,000 air echelon Crusaders. Bob also reported that 392nd researchers have been and will continue to work on a digitalized version of the Roll of Honor at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. The 8AFHS will fund this effort in the amount of \$5,000.00 and the fund is to be managed as a separate item in the 392nd treasury.

Report from the 2nd Air Division Association: Oak Mackey, wearing his hat as both President of 2ADA and our Vice-president for 2ADA affairs, said that currently there is a dust-up concerning the Fulbright Librarian at the Norwich Memorial Library. Seemingly the Fulbright commission has terminated the arrangement. Oak commented that the matter is a work in progress. Oak was thanked for his informative articles in the 2ADA JOURNAL.

2008 Reunion: Our By-Laws provide that the Annual Meetings of the 392BGMA be held at 8AFHS and 2ADA in alternating years. Accordingly, the 2008 reunion would be with the 2ADA. However, the 8AFHA meeting will be at the Mighty Eighth Museum in Savannah in 2008, which is a major reason for the 392nd to meet there. The matter was left to the Board of Directors, and at their meeting following the Membership Meeting Savannah was decided upon.

Election of Directors: Gil Bambauer, chairman of the nominations committee, presented this slate for the class of 2010: Carroll Cheek, Jim

Continued on page 6



Books photo

Bob Vickers (left), newly elected to the Board of Directors, and Carroll Cheek, 578th pilot and longtime Vice-President for Memorials.



Books photo

Gil and Martha Bambauer. Gil kept the 392nd BG alive in the 70's when the rest of weren't paying much attention.



Loncke photo

Ben Jones presenting an award to Jim Goar, on behalf of second generation members. They were expressing appreciation for Goar's support.



Books & Loncke photos

Left: Wally Blackburn, 576th gunner, who was appointed Director by the Board. He is filling the place of Mary Rothrock, resigned.

Right: Annette Tison, 392BGMA Secretary and possessor of the sharpest pencil this side of the Atlantic, and Ben Jones, listening to what someone has to say. (And a lot was said over the course of the 4-day reunion)

Editor's note: in an effort to portray the Kalamazoo reunion in a realistic fashion, we have reproduced the announcement of the Gala Banquet rather than report the facts in the usual manner. Readers can read for themselves the proceedings and the 8AFHS Awards For Excellence given to present day 8AF personnel.

**Eighth Air Force
Historical Society
ANNUAL REUNION 2007**



"By mutual confidence and mutual aid,
Great deeds are done, and great discoveries made.
The wise new prudence from the wise accords,
And one brave hero fans another's fire."

HOMER The Iliad

**33rd ANNUAL REUNION GALA BANQUET
21 July 2007**

**RADISSON PLAZA HOTEL AND SUITES
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN**



**WELCOME TO THE
THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL
REUNION OF**

**THE EIGHTH AIR FORCE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
GALA BANQUET**

.....

**THE GENERAL IRA C. EAKER
OUTSTANDING AIRMANSHIP TROPHY**

THIS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD IS BEING PRESENTED TO AN EC-130H AIRCREW OF THE 455th AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING, BAGRAM AIR BASE, AFGHANISTAN, WHILE ASSIGNED FOR COMBAT DUTY DURING OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM.

**LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALLAN D. HANSON
MAJOR BENJAMIN J. TABOR
CAPTAIN DOUGLAS R. BRADER
CAPTAIN MATHEW J. BUBAR
1st LIEUTENANT JOHN D. GILBERT
MASTER SERGEANT BILL F. MCCALEB
STAFF SERGEANT JOHN J. SANKS
SENIOR AIRMAN KARL J. PETERSON**

**"AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED LATER AT THEIR UNIT.
CAPT BUBAR AND LT GILBERT ARE CURRENTLY DEPLOYED.**

**THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE
(MAINTENANCE) AWARD**

THIS DISTINGUISHED RECOGNITION FOR EXTRAORDINARY MAINTENANCE ACHIEVEMENT IS PRESENTED TO AN OUTSTANDING MAINTENANCE PROFESSIONAL AIRMAN, ASSIGNED TO THE 9th AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON, 9th RECONNAISSANCE WING, BEALE AFB, CALIFORNIA.

STAFF SERGEANT SAINTSTEPHEN W. SLUDER II



**8TH AFHS GALA BANQUET PROGRAM
21 July 2007**

CALL TO DINNER

Welcome.....PRESIDENT IVAN MCKINNEY
PRESENTATION OF COLORS.....MILITARY OR BOY SCOUTS COLOR GUARD
THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.....Sung by *The Boogie Woogie Babes*
.....with THE TOM HAGEN SWING BAND
RETIREMENT OF COLORS.....MILITARY OR BOY SCOUTS COLOR GUARD
INVOCATION.....CHAPLAIN MASON SHAMBACH, 110th ANG FW
INTRODUCTION OF HEAD TABLE.....PRESIDENT MCKINNEY
CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY.....BELTON WOLF

DINNER IS SERVED

RECOGNITIONS.....PRESIDENT MCKINNEY
EIGHTH AIR FORCE AWARDS CEREMONY.....COLONEL MICHAEL R. SHOULTS,
.....8th AF DIRECTOR OF STAFF

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

GUEST SPEAKER

JONNA DOOLITTLE HOPPE, AUTHOR
GRANDDAUGHTER OF GENERAL JIMMY DOOLITTLE, COMMANDER 8th AF 1944-1945



These two extraordinary photos taken by Bob Books illustrate that the hospitality room was very popular and well used. The photo on the left with Connie and Peter Loncke in the foreground and facing the camera shows one-half of the room. Beginning at the left one can see the aft portion of host Ben Jones, Carroll Cheek, and the Lonckes. Then going around the circle in the background are Loretta Bedus, Jack Rotzien, John Gilbert, Gil



and Martha Bambauer, John Newton, and Tom Perry. The photo on the right, taken at a slightly different time, shows the Lonckes' back to the camera. Seen are John Newton, Wally Blackburn, Tom Perry, Stan Zybart, Loretta Bedus, Annabelle Goar, and Helena Zybart. Then, partially hidden by an unidentified person, are Jim Goar, a person that the editor couldn't identify with only the forehead and one eye showing, and Annette Tison.

—Continued from page 4—

Marsteller, Bob Vickers, Tom Perry, Greg Hatton, and Dennis Rogers. The proposed slate was elected.

Following this election, the composition of the Board is as follows:

Class of 08: Lawrence Gilbert, Jim Goar, Ben Jones, Charles Dye, Bill McCutcheon

Class of 09: Gil Bambauer, Wallace Blackburn, Stanley Zybort, Bob Books, Annette Tison

Class of 10: Carroll Cheek, Jim Marsteller, Bob Vickers, Tom Perry, Greg Hatton, Dennis Rogers.

At the Board of Directors meeting held immediately after the Membership Meeting, the following officers were elected for a one-year term: President, Charles Dye; Secretary, Annette Tison; Treasurer, Bill McCutcheon. As a result of a later mail-in election, the following officers were re-elected for a one-year term: Vice-President, Memorials, Carroll Cheek; Vice-President, Communications, Jim Goar; Vice-President for 8AFHS, Charles Dye; Vice-President for 2ADA, Oak Mackey.

Also at the Board meeting a vote of thanks was extended to Carroll Cheek for all his hard work on the Memorial. His efforts in time, energy, and money have ensured that the Memorial will be maintained in perpetuity.

AIRMAN, ESCAPEE, TELLS OF HIS WWII EXPERIENCES

By Annette Tison

For the last 7 or 8 years, 576th Sqdn radio operator George W. Michel has been on a mission. He's been talking to people of all ages about World War II. Not the whole war, just his little part of it.

He wears his old uniform and can still get all of the buttons buttoned. He tells them what it was like to fly a mission, to get shot down, to be interned in Switzerland, and then to escape with the help of the French Resistance.

He talks about what it was like to see flak up ahead, hear the shells burst and flak fragments hit their plane, and to know you had no choice but to fly through it and hope they made it out to the other side.

He talks about being in a badly damaged plane and given a choice: bail out or trust the pilot to get you down alive, in one piece, and not in German hands.

His audiences range from first graders to college students to senior citizens. Nearly 1,500 people have heard his 2 ½ hour presentation by now. He's an interesting speaker

with a talent for helping audiences of all ages visualize what it was like for thousands of young airmen, 60-some years ago.

He always has a question-and-answer session. Some of the questions, like "How did you go to the bathroom?" are fun to answer. Others, like "Were you scared?" are much more difficult.

"One time," George reports, "I

was showing a first grade class some pieces of flak. I explained where flak comes from and how it tumbles and does not move like the bullet out of a gun. Then, one of the students looked up at me with the most sincere expression on his face and said, 'But, Mister, that could really hurt you.' That's when you know your message is coming through loud and clear."

No matter the age or the group,



McCutcheon photo
George Michel, shown with Elivor McCutcheon, widow of the 576th's James and mother of 392BGMA Treasurer Bill. George had just finished a speaking engagement at an Elm Grove (Wis) school and stopped by Bill's house at Brookfield.

there is one constant in George's presentations. "I always tell them, especially the kids, that Freedom Is Not Free. Then I ask their permission to tell them why. I ask them to look around and pick out four close friends and to imagine those friends having been killed. Then I tell them about four of my closest friends who entered the service when I did in 1943. I tell the students that my four friends were killed in WWII. I tell them how and where they died. I explain that the deaths of my friends helped give me the Freedom that I have today. And I suppose, deep down, I'm begging this young generation, please don't let it happen again."

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Second atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki by B-20 "Bock's Car"-1945.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

USAF announced that it had ordered the B-52 bomber into full production-1952.

IF YOU HAVEN'T RE-UPPED FOR 2007, YOU'RE LATE

The Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting at Kalamazoo on July 19, 2007 increased the dues from \$15 to \$20. Also, if you feel that you are in a position to help the Treasury with an extra donation, there is a provision for it below. It is possible that Life Members might feel that the Lord has been good to them and that they have lived beyond their actuarial years and an extra payment might be in order. Your dues status can be found right after your name on the mailing list. If the number is 07 or higher, you're current. LM means Life Member, and Frnd means that you are our guest.

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 2007, \$20

Hardship Waiver ☐

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Age 61-65 \$120 ☐

Age 66-70 \$96 ☐

Age 71 and over \$78 ☐

DONATION

\$ _____

Send with check to Bill McCutcheon, 20620 Milton Court, Brookfield, WI 53045

JOHN GILBERT NAMED OUR MAN AT WENDLING

By Annette Tison

The 392nd's Board of Directors at the Kalamazoo meeting appointed John Gilbert as our official representative at Wendling. All Crusaders planning to visit our old base or the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library in Norwich are urged to contact John first. He has a wealth of knowledge about the base (past and present), our personnel, and our aircraft.

For many years, John has met vets returning to Wendling and helped them connect the bustling base they remember with the few physical traces that remain. He says, "I have always been proud to do this and it will be an honor to continue in the future."



Newton photo

John Gilbert

At the recent reunion, John gave a brief talk about the Memorial Library as part of the research symposium. During the candlelight ceremony at the Gala Banquet, he and fellow Englishman Martin Bowman lit a candle in remembrance of the Royal Air Force in WWII.

He literally grew up on the base.

When his family was bombed out of Norwich in WWII, they were moved to the Wendling area. After the 392nd returned to the US, John's family lived in what was the Ground Officer's Mess.

John's mailing address is Glenann, 42 Chapel St., Cawston, Norwich NR10 4BG, England. His email address is adrian@gilberta.co.uk.

He is a retired British Army color sergeant who has continued in

service to train Army cadets.

John thanks the 392nd BGMA family for their kind welcome to him at the reunion. It was just his second visit to the US, and it will provide warm memories for many years to come.

* * * *

AIR ANNIVERSARY

First "Atlas" intercontinental ballistic missile squadron fully operational-1960.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

8th AF bombers attack Regensburg Messerschmitt and Schweinfurt ball bearing plants, lose 60 out of 376 bombers in daylight attack-1943.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

B-29s made first supply dropping mission to WWII POWs in China-1945.

PX ITEMS

Anthology, "20th Century Crusaders" (Hard cover book)	\$36.50 postpaid	\$
Anthology, "20th Century Crusaders" (CD)	\$15.00 postpaid	\$
Book, "Remembrance of the Missing", by Col. Bob Vickers	\$37.00 postpaid	\$
Book, "The Liberators From Wendling", by Col. Bob Vickers	\$35.00 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, 392nd Bomb Group w/gold braid, summer	\$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		\$
Print, "The Flying Crusader", reduced to	\$16.50 postpaid	\$
Video, 392nd's memorabilia photos	\$15.00 postpaid	\$
DVD, 392nd's memorabilia photos	\$25.00 postpaid	\$
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	\$27.50pp	\$
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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.

Book, "Don't Call Me A Hero", by Jim McGregor, pilot, 579th.

Order from Publisher, Willeo Publishing, 702 Foxborough Sq. W, Brentwood, TN 37027. \$19.95 postpaid.

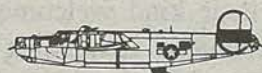
Book, "The Stardusters", by Jim Cassity, co-pilot, 579th.

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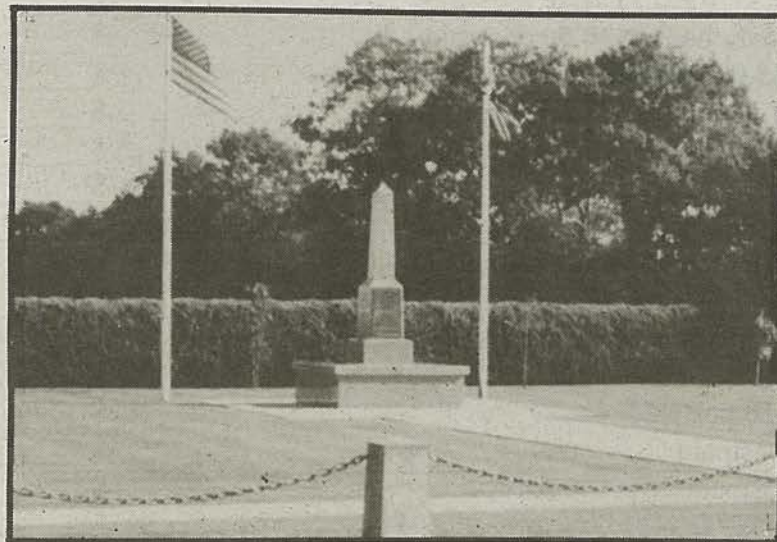
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THE 392nd MEMORIAL AT WENDLING

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.

Folded Wings

Henry Wilk, 578, May 23, 2007
William H. Hatter, 579, April 18, 2007
Ernest J. Fund, Jr., 579, May 23, 2007
William Clower, 577, July 12, 2007
John H. Holzinger, 578, July 13, 2007



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

392nd Bomb Group Memorial Ass'n NEWS
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FOLDED WINGS REPORT (PLEASE REPORT ANY DEATH OF SPOUSE AS WELL AS OF MEMBER)

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[] 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, 1555 N. Main St., #106, Frankfort, IN 46041.

Chaplain's Corner

By George Barger, Ph. D.
(aka Bombardier, 576/7)

Dietrich Bohnhoeffer, the martyred German theologian of the WWII era, wrote a lovely poem during his imprisonment. "Who am I?" he asks, and offers a series of answers which people give concerning him. He finds each of them inadequate, and concludes, "Whoever I am, O Lord, Thou knowest." I suppose that is the answer for each of us: our real being is known only to God, and He does know us, and each by name, and in His good time He will tell us who we are.
