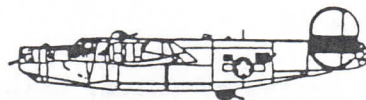


NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

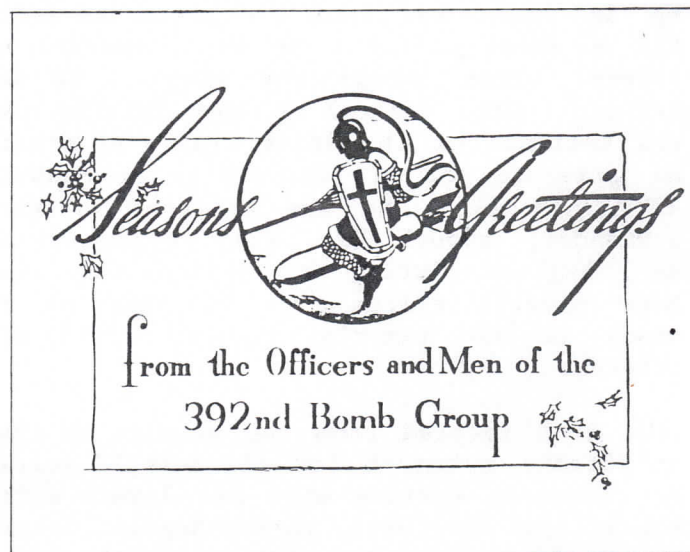
VOLUME 1

DECEMBER 1986

Hollywood Reunion

The 8th Air Force Historical Society's 12th Reunion was held in beautiful Hollywood, Florida. The attendance was very good considering it was in one extreme corner of the United States. Our group was well represented by about 80 people. The 392nd BGMA provided a beautiful hospitality suite overlooking the ocean. We had coffee, drinks, hors d'oeuvres and pictures, pictures, pictures! John Conrad brought the last flag to fly over Wendling. The blow-ups of all the pictures from Bob Vicker's book, Liberators From Wendling, were there. "Stars and Stripes" and "Yank" magazines, courtesy of Art Jensen. Leroy MacTavish donated some framed pictures of WWII aircraft. At last, people are beginning to bring their pictures! Ernie Barber (578th Crew Chief) brought several albums. This great guy showed his pictures and talked seven hours a day! It was his first reunion and he loved it. He will be with us again in Tulsa. The pictures add a whole new dimension to our hospitality. One that sticks in my mind was a picture of Rudy Nero in Scottish attire (kilts and all). I drank a lot of Scotch up there, but really! Joe DeSario spent his time behind the bar, making sure that our people were taken care of. Col. "Gil" Gilbert spent his time visiting with everyone who came in. This man has endless energy and is one of the reasons our group is so successful. Gil Bambauer stayed busy representing us at 8th AFHS meetings, getting in supplies and signing up new members. His wife, Martha, stayed busy in the hospitality room checking on supplies and keeping things in order. I would be remiss in my duty if I didn't give a special thanks to my wife, Jerry Richards. She did a great job keeping things running smoothly. We had plenty of time to sit

(continued next column)



*Christmas 1944 - Wendling, England
Courtesy: Col. Joe Bush
Artist Unknown*

and reminisce in the comfort of our hospitality room. Our thanks to all of you who made donations towards our expenses. The Air Symposium on the Ploesti Raid was a big hit. Congressional Medal of Honor holder, General Leon Johnson, and a group of other survivors participated. There wasn't a dry eye in the house when it was over. The Saturday night gala was a big success. Our dancers were out again in full force. The forties music acts as a catalyst to our Crusaders. In summation, you would have to say that the Reunion was a huge success. The great number of first timers was very encouraging. Congratulations to the Mighty Eighth organization! A big thanks to our own Cliff Peterson who serves on the 8th AFHS Board of Directors. There is a rumor that some people went to the lobby pub and engaged in public singing. I am sure none of our group was involved!

* * *

PROFILE

REUNION - TULSA
June 26, 27, 28, 1987

Col. Joseph Bush is a native of Salem, Ohio. All of us remember him as Group Executive Officer of the 392nd BG at Wendling. Col. Bush joined our group in March of 1943 at Alamogordo, New Mexico. At the close of WW II, he headed the effort to have a lasting memorial erected in Wendling. He currently serves on our Memorial Committee.

His 36 years of distinguished service can't be covered in this short profile. He served as AB Group Commander of the 5th Fighter Wg in Japan and took his group to Korea for a short period. He was commander of several other groups and wings. He saw service with General Nathan Twining who was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of staff. He attended the Air University at Maxwell AFB. In 1959, he was assigned as Wing Commander, 6950th Sec. Wing in Chicksands RAF, England. During this period, Col. Bush made several visits back to Wendling to check on our memorial and to visit old friends.

Col. Bush retired from the service in 1967 and became a banker for the next 12 years. He currently resides with his lovely wife, Robena (of 46 years), in San Angelo, Texas. The following are his comments on the 392nd Bomb Group.

"The dedication and outstanding performance of a group of young, dedicated people will always remain in my memory of the 392nd BG. The exploits of the flying personnel on the missions were so commendable that it makes me proud to be associated with such an outstanding group. The teamwork of the ground personnel was equally commendable. Many of the support duties were not glamorous, but were done with a "bust your butt" dedication. These people, our cooks, clerks, air police, motor pool, maintenance, PX, clubs, bomb dump, supply, and so many others made the 392nd and its attached units truly a class outfit. Our dedication to those of our unit who paid the supreme price also makes me proud, and I am so pleased that the 392nd BG Memorial Assn. is increasing its support of our memorial to them at Wendling."

(Editor's Note: This is our Joe Bush -- Officer, Gentleman, Friend.)

Forty-two years after leaving Wendling, we are holding our own reunion. Our purpose is pure and simple: We want to get together and renew old friendships, do a little hangar flying, and in general, indulge in a little nostalgia. It's a time to remember, a time to reflect on those days during the war and the friendships that were formed.

We are trying to hold the cost down as much as possible. The larger the attendance, the less it costs per person; however, we must be covered either way.

The registration will be \$95.00 per person. This will include breakfast on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. It will also cover a dinner on Friday and a banquet and dance on Saturday. We will have our own drinks and refreshments there at no extra charge. The guaranteed room rate is \$37.00 (plus tax) per night. This is for single or double occupancy. We will also have shopping and sightseeing tours. Yes, we will have a golf outing on Thursday, the 25th, for our incurable duffers. Barney Glettler will handle the tournament. We will go all out to make this an enjoyable and relaxing visit.

Tulsa is a city of roughly 400,000. The metropolitan area is about 600,000. It is consistently ranked as one of America's most livable cities. It is served by most of the major airlines and is accessible by interstate highways. The Reunion hotel is called the Camelot. It offers good convention facilities with a minimum of walking. Plan to make this sentimental journey and enjoy the weekend with us in a castle. You'll be glad you did!

Several air crews are planning reunions in connection with the Tulsa Bash. It would be a good time to get your crew together. Will any crew have them all in Tulsa? Indications are that a number of crew chiefs will be attending.

Let's write a few letters, make a few phone calls and spread the word. Send us new names and we will get newsletters to them.

See you in Tulsa in "87"!

To Capt. MacTavish
(Lt. Col. L. C. MacTavish, Ret.)

Who holds dominion over the use of the air
waves at our base?

Who walks around at times with an extremely
serious face?

Who gets the blame if the whips shoot off
of aircraft 3 - 2 - 3?

It's the Communications Officer, the
responsible guy is he!

His is the fault if the compass is out in
"Tullarosa Tess",

The C.O. lets out a helluva roar and demands
"Who caused this mess?"

The wires get hot as the calls go out; he's
on the carpet again.

Does this bother him? Oh yes, it don't.
He passes it on to his men!

The crew chief gets the brunt of it; it's
up to him to explain,

"Who cleared the form on 'P bar' and why
didn't he use his brain!"

"Did he think he was fixing a bicycle?"
It seemed a legitimate bitch,

But "murder will out", and soon they find
that no one had thrown the switch!

And so another crisis is passed; there's
one less worry to buck.

Of course, we know it worried him so, like
rainwater does a duck!

He takes his troubles quite easily and that
is the thing to do,

So long may he wave in the Land of the Brave,
when this damned war is through.

M/Sgt. Edw. Dankert

Not Interested In The 392nd BGMA

These newsletters cost about 80¢ each to
print and mail. We send four each year.
That makes our cost \$3.20 per person for
each name on our mailing list.

If you have no interest in joining our
organization, would you please return the
front portion of this newsletter to us.
Just write "Not Interested" across the page.
We will remove your name from our list.

If you feel you would like to send your
support to our group and have not joined,
please send your \$10.00 check to Gil
Bambauer for your 1987 dues.

CRUSADER HUMOR

*Teenager to friend: I'll say this for
my dad, he tells it like it used to be!*

*There would be more work done if we weren't
living in such a clock-eyed world!*

*And there was the fellow who walked into
a bar optimistically, and left misty
optically.*

The 392nd BGMA is attempting to gather information on its members. Would you please help us by completing this sheet and returning it to us. This will give us a better idea of who belongs to our organization. We will use the information from these sheets in our directory and in future newsletters, unless you would rather we didn't. Send your completed form to: Jim Goar, 5 N. Columbia St., Frankford, Indiana 46041

NAME:

SPOUSE'S NAME:

PRESENT ADDRESS:

PHONE NO. ()

SQDN. OR UNIT AT WENDLING:

ENTERED SERVICE AT:

DATE:

DATE JOINED GROUP:

AT:

RANK:

ASSIGNMENT(S) AT WENDLING:

POST W.W. II MILITARY HISTORY:

POST W.W. II CIVILIAN HISTORY:

FAMILY:

CHILDREN:

GRANDCHILDREN

Wendling Memorial Committee

Carroll W. Cheek, Joe Bush and Bob Lane have been named to our Wendling Memorial Committee. Carroll will serve as Chairman. Their goal is to establish a fund which will provide perpetual care for our obelisk monument in Wendling. In addition, we will start a general restoration to the monument and the surrounding grounds. The wonderful people of Wendling have kept it up for forty years and now it is our turn. The memorial should be one befitting the memory of those to whom it is dedicated. This is a job that cannot wait. The new Tax Reform will become effective the first of the year. 1986 would be an excellent time, for those of you who itemize, to make a donation. These funds will be kept in a separate interest bearing account. Donations should be made payable to the 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Fund. You may direct that your donation be used for either the Perpetual Care Fund or for the Restoration Fund. We need your support and will appreciate your donations. There are some members who are planning to provide for funds in their wills. This would be an excellent way to be certain that the memorial will be taken care of in the years to come. All contributions should be mailed to Gil Bambauer in Tucson.

* * *

Membership Drive

Our membership drive has slowed down. We need 70 more new members by the end of December to realize our goal of 400 members. Our first call for membership was mailed December 16, 1985. We are on target, but it will take a little extra effort from all of us to be successful in this mission. You might give a membership to a buddy for Christmas. Send us his name and address and we will send him a letter advising that you have sent him a gift membership. It is a gift that lasts all year long. We need your help in signing up new members. Can we count on you?

The Board of Directors has agreed that we should open the membership books for 1987. We are asking that you start sending your dues for 1987 now. Our overworked and underpaid Secretary-Treasurer, Gil Bambauer, would appreciate your promptness. It will make his job a lot easier if we don't all wait until January to start sending our dues. New members' dues will be considered to be paid through 1987. It takes a lot of time to record and bank the money. The information must then be forwarded to Tulsa and be entered into the computer. The dues are \$10.00 per year and should be mailed to Gil Bambauer in Tucson, Arizona.

ORDER NOW FOR CHRISTMAS

JACKETS * * * CAPS

WHITE NYLON JACKETS: 392nd BG - Wendling, England - 1943-1945 Patch. Also the Crusader Patch. Both are sewn on. SIZES: S - M - Lg - XLg - XXLg

BLACK CAPS WITH GOLD BRAID ON BILL: 392nd BG - Wendling, England - 1943-1945 Patch Sewn on. ONE SIZE FITS ALL.

MAIL YOUR ORDER TO: Gil Bambauer, 2032 East LaMadera Drive, Tucson, Arizona 85719

_____ Jacket(s)	Size _____	\$20.00 Each _____
	Plus Handling:	\$ 1.50 Each _____
_____ Cap(s)		\$ 8.00 Each _____
	Plus Handling:	\$ 1.00 Each _____

CHECK ENCLOSED. TOTAL DONATION \$ _____

* * *

I N M E M O R I A M

Thomas E. Benadum

Charles L. Davis

Charles E. Sage

John Rawlings

Eugene W. Spear

Membership Directory

We have had a large number of requests for a membership directory. We now have one available that contains our complete mailing list and the addresses. Members of the 392nd BGMA are marked accordingly. If you would like to receive one, please send your check for \$2.00 to cover the cost of printing and handling to Gil Bambauer.

Liberators From Wendling

Some of you have been trying to get a copy of Bob Vickers' book. It is currently out of print; however, there will be another printing and we will have them at the Tulsa Reunion.

ARE YOU MOVING? Please send us your new address.

392nd BG Memorial Association
2032 East LaMadera Drive
Tucson, AZ 85719

- Address Correction Requested
Forwarding & Return Postage Guaranteed

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