



# 392nd BG Memorial Association

**VOLUME 18** 

December, 2003

# ONCE SHE WAS YOUNG, NOW SHE'S WONDERFUL

## BIRDIE SCHMIDT PERSONIFIES THE TITLE OF THE PLAY SHE STARS IN, BRINGS AUDIENCE TO FEET AT 8AFHS

Birdie Schmidt Larrick, the 392nd's own Red Cross Aero club director, enthralled the attendees at the 8AFHS meeting at Colorado Springs in October. She starred in the production "Once I Was Young, Now I'm Wonderful", a depiction in song and dance of our generation's walk through life.

The show's senior citizen troupe consists of thespians from the Ohio

State University/Columbus community. It includes Birdie's brother John, a retired Ohio State professor, and the possessor of a professional quality voice.

Birdie, suffering from a dehabilitating illness affecting her locomotion, was helped onto the stage by her fellow actors. But she delivered her lines like the 20-something she was at Wendling.

She displayed the same grit and courage that led her to leave the comparative comfort of Wendling to go the Continent after the invasion. Operating from a GI six-by-six, she brought the same morale building to the infantry that she delivered to us at Wendling.

She told the NEWS after the performance that "it was an emotional experience". For her, and also for the members and guests at the Eighth Air Force Historical Society reunion.



Joe Micksch photo Birdie on stage

## DECEMBER 7, 1941- A DAY FORGOTTEN BY NEARLY EVERYONE EXCEPT US

For us, the day that the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor was the day that changed out lives forever.

Since the anniversary of "the day that shall ever remain in infamy" is upon us, the NEWS thought that it might be interesting to poll some of our members for their memories of that day:

Col Lawrence Gilbert, 392<sup>nd</sup> Commander: I sunning on the Beach at St. Petersburg, FL with a flying school classmate, ice chest, portable radio, and female company. When the news came we packed up pronto, put pedal to the metal and returned to our unit, 13<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group (3 aging B-18's) at Orlando. On Dec. 20 I joined a detachment of 6 B-18's at West Palm Beach, FL.Our mission was anti-sub patrol. German subs were having a field day sinking oil tankers bringing oil from Texas to industrial New England.

Ebe Ebersole, 578<sup>th</sup> pilot: I was 19 and a radio operator in the merchant marine, on a ship off the Carolina coast when I received the "All Ships" message that we were at war. We proceeded to Cuba, where the ship was painted war-time gray. We picked up a load and were in the Gulf en route to Mobile, AL. when a U.S. twin-engine bomber looked us over pretty good. We were a converted canal boat, and our long and narrow shape made us look like a submarine. In post war conversations with Col Gilbert, he remarked that he just might have been the pilot of that bomber.

Jim Goar, Group Transportation Officer: I was 21 years old and a junior

in college. Not necessarily for patriotic reasons but realizing the futility of waiting for the draft, I packed up my books and went home and enlisted in the army. I got to Orlando Air Base in January, but I didn't help with the antisubmarine patrols; I was such a green private that I hardly knew a B-18 from a bull calf.

Bob Lane, 578<sup>th</sup> Sqdn Executive Officer: I was in a pyramidal tent at Camp Shelby, MS, sweeping out some of that Mississippi sand. I had just been promoted to Pfc in the 38<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. When I heard the news I knew that a promising professional baseball career was out the window, and I was so heartbroken that I went outside and beat on the sides of the tent with the broom until the handle broke.

Ernie Barber, 578<sup>th</sup> crew chief: I was living in Atlanta, GA., 20 years old and still in high school. I had dropped out for a couple of years and had gone back to earn my diploma. When I heard the news I was as at Camp Wheeler where I had gone to visit friends. (Editor's note: Ernie, I left out the part about the coffee.)

Gil Bambauer, 10<sup>th</sup> Station Complement flying equipment specialist: The entire family had gathered because my father had died just two days before. I will never forget the look on my mother's face when she heard the news. I

Continued on page 7

#### 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 NEW CHANGE Badders, Karen L. Bambauer, Gilbert CHANGE Barger, George Barber, Ernie Bailey, Don Barnard, Mary Beth Barnes, Joe Barry, Bill Bartsch, Arlo Bilz, Jack Books, Bob **NEW CHANGE** Braddock, Bill CHANGE Brent, Landon H. Bullard, Robert E. Canonne, Philippe

Conrad, John Damerst, William A. Desario, Joseph L. Dewez, Luc Ebersole, Howard ("Ebe") Egan, Thomas J. Ehrlich, Lee D. Elston, Robert C. Evans, Theodore

Gilbert, John Gilbert, Lawrence NEW CHANGE

Glettler, Barney Goar, Jim

Garrett, Howard

Case, Bill

Greene, David

Grimm, Roy CHANGE

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.

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That's an arithmetic 1 (one)

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longtimelong@email.msn.com Rboblory@msn.com jmcg100@comcast.net A43fool@aol.com

Mackey, Oak (CHANGE) Marcelli, Anthony F. Maris, James P. Matelski, Lorn W Marsteller, Jim CHANGE Michel, George Micksch, Joe Neustadt, Walter Onstot, Perry Oppenheim, Alfred M. Phillips, Ann Long Pearson, George E. Perry, Tom Peterson, Mary Planche, Milton Popek, Erma Polking, Dette

Richeson, W. H. Roberts, Keith Rosenberg, John Rothrock, Mary Russell, Carroll E. Sassaman, Michael K. 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 t uomo@juno.com JMaris1766@aol.com lorn-n-duste@elknet.net jim@b24.net gmichel@milwpc.com Joe@micksch.com neuwalter@aol.com ponstot@aol.com HammerO@aol.com annfromnc@aol.com GEORGEEP@EROLS.COM

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(that's a lower case alphabetical I)

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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.mighty8th.org

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

## ARMY RETIRES JOHN GILBERT, BRIT FRIEND

S/Sgt John Gilbert achieved an enviable longevity record when he retired from the British Army at the age of 65, having spent 50 of them in uniform.

He joined the Norfolk County cadets in 1953 and completed his

National Service in the Royal Norfolk Regiment and the Suffolk Regiment. He then served in the Territorial Army



until the age of 55 before rejoining the cadets as an instructor. John was presented with a Lord Lieutenants Certificate by Brig Simon Cariffi, Commander 49 Brigade.

John lives in Norwich, but spent his childhood on the Wendling base after post-war Brit authorities made it a housing area. He has been a long-time Friend of the 392nd.

#### **Andrew Barber**

Ernie Barber, 578<sup>th</sup> crew chief and untiring worker for the 392BGMA, lost a grandson on Nov. 8, 2003.

Andrew Barber, 28, was Ernie's oldest grandson and he lived just down the road from Ernie. He was killed instantly when a tractor he was operating overturned. He was working in the woods behind his house.

## B24.net HAS A LONG REACH

Recently the 392BGA received an order for an Anthology from Pavel Turk, an aviation enthusiast living in Czechoslovakia. He had learned of it from our web site, B24.net.

Pavel reported that during WWII Czech aircrews flew B-24's in RAF Coastal Command and Transport Command, from July 1943 to December 1945.

PX ITEMS

Anthology, "20 <sup>th</sup> 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, \$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, 579th, \$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, \$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 <sup>nd</sup> Bomb Group logo, \$1.50 postpaid
Print, "The Flying Crusader", reduced to \$16.50 postpaid
Video, 392nd's memorabilia photos, \$17.50 postpaid
Total (Send with check to Charles Dye, 4949 San Pedro NE, #87, Albuquerque, NM 87109) \$
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Book, "After The Liberators, A Father's Last Mission, A Son's Lifelong Journey", by Bill McGuire, 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)

Book, "Joey, Joe, and Joseph" by William A. Damerst, 576<sup>th</sup> 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, 579<sup>th</sup>. Order from publisher, Xlibris Corp, phone 888 795 4274, or on line at <a href="https://www.xlibris.com/html/bookstores.">www.xlibris.com/html/bookstores.</a> 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

#### IT'S TIME TO SEND IN DUES FOR 2004

The Board of Directors, faced with declining membership, increased the dues last year by a modest \$3, to \$15. They remain the same for 2004. 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.

However, 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		and provident the last transfer
City	State	Zip
Dues for 2004, \$15	LIFE MEMBERSHIP Age 61-65 \$120	DONATION
Hardship Waiver []	Age 66-70 \$96 [] Age 71 and over \$78 []	\$

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



Guy & Madeline Spinelli



Renee & David Greene; Priscilla Matt



Wally Blackburn & Loraine



Harris Albright & Dorothy



**Bob Lory** 



Jack Bode



B/Gen (Ret) Bobby Efferson, Friend of the 392<sup>nd</sup>, and Cyndy

## 392BGMA HELD ITS ANNUAL MEETING DURING THE 8AFHS REUNION AT COLORADO SPRINGS OCT 15-18

The 392BGMA alternates its annual meetings between the 8AF Historical Society and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Division Association. Since we were at 8AFHS this year, our 2004 meeting will be with the 2ADA in Philadelphia around Memorial Day.

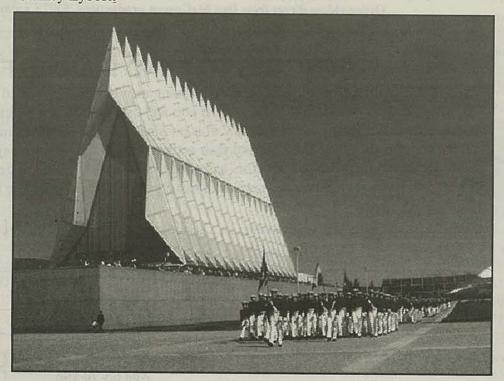
Directors elected at the annual membership meeting were: Gil Bambauer, Barney Glettler, Stanley Zybort, and Mary Rothrock. Oak Mackey was chosen to replace John Conrad as vice-president for 2ADA, John being sidelined with illness. At the Directors meeting, officers re-elected were Carroll Cheek, VP, Memorial; Jim Goar, VP Communications; and Charles Dye, Treasurer. Mary Rothrock was named Secretary. Mary is the widow of the late Cecil "Rocky" Rothrock, 579th first crew gunner and 392BGMA Treasurer. Col Gilbert's title as CEO is constitutionally permanent.

The 8AF award winners, known to us as "the blue suiters" were guests at the Group dinner. The Group also hosted B/Gen (just retired) Bobby Efferson and Cyndy; and Roger Freeman and Jean. Roger is the coiner of the term "Mighty Eighth" and the author of countless books about us.

Ian Hawkins, author of our Anthology, contributed an autographed copy of his best-selling book <u>The Munster Raid</u>: Before and After to be raffled for the benefit of the 392BGMA. Bob Books won the raffle.

The NEWS thanks Joe Micksch, Bob Books, and Charley Dye for their great photographic coverage of the events of the week.

Crusaders and guests who were in attendance were: Harris Albright and Dorothy; Gil Bambauer and Martha; Luther Beddingfield; Wally Blackburn and Loraine; Jack Bode; Bob Books and Carol; Jim Buzick; Carroll Cheek and Mabel; Walt Cranston and Midge; Charles Dye and Helen; Teddy Egan; Richard Geising and Rita; Lawrence Gilbert and Margie; Jim Goar and Annabelle; David Greene and Renee; Greg Hatton; Sarah Kauffman; Birdie Larrick and brother John Schmidt; Bob Lory; Jim Marsteller and Karen; Priscilla Matt; Joe Micksch and Ella May; Tom Perry; Dennis Rogers and Joanne; Ron Rogers; Mary Rothrock; Guy Spinelli and Madeline; Harry Stockman and Tillie; Bob Vickers and Annell; Ed White and Dorothy; and Stanley Zybort.



Bob Books' magnificent photo of the Air Force Academy chapel, with the corps of cadets in marching formation. The chapel has 17 spires, and the cadets say that they represent the 12 apostles and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.



Walt Cranson & Midge



Jim Marsteller & Karen



Gil Bambauer & Martha



Luc Dewez Our Belgian Friend



Roger Freeman, (Mr. Mighty 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force), and Jean



Carroll Cheek & Mabel



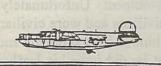
Tom Perry



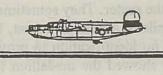
Stan Zybort is shown with the model of the B-24 that is on the parade grounds of the Air Force Academy.



Mary Rothrock New 392BGMA Secretary







## 392nd BG Memorial Association, Inc.

4949 San Pedro NE # 87 Albuquerque NM 87109-2583

505/883-3107

FINANCIAL REPORT

1 May 2003 - 30 September 2003

Opening Balance		\$ 6,974.04
Receipts	The party many him one or a	
Dues (Regular) (Life )	\$ 837.00 	915.00
P X		
Regular Books	\$ 227.00 422.00	Monthson Field
Videos Directories	17.50 20.00	
C D's	585.00	1,271.50
Memorials		575.00
Memorial (Wendling)		500.00
Donations	will be it belowers been goo	266.00
Stand Alone Meeting	1,456.00	
тот	AL RECEIPTS	4,983.50
TOTAL RECEIPTS AND	OPENING BALANCE	4 11 057 54
TOTAL RECEIPTS AND	\$ 11,957.54	
EXPENSES		
Hospitality Room(S	\$ 268.78	
392nd NEWS		1,254.94
WEB	ino contalidad entido contalidad	581.74
Book Refund		18.95
Flowers (John Fr:	53.00	
PX	de al-Wedding, Englands	296.58
		250.50
	TOTAL	2,473.99
OPENING BALANCE	9483.55	
SAVINGS ACCOUNT		1340.17
MONEY MARKET ACC	TAUC	12,855.66

GRAND TOTAL

\$ 23,679.38



The old guard listens to what the second generation has to say. Pictured at the hospitality room are Greg Hatton, Bob Books, Jim Marsteller, and Jim Goar.



Col Gilbert, CEO, brought his cheerful governance and colorful humor to the memberhip meeting. In addition to presiding he offered up this prize piece of humor:

A woman had four husbands during her life, and she made very discretionary choices. Her first was a wealthy banker, the second an actor, the third a minister, and the fourth an undertaker.

A good friend asked her if she hadn't used some kind of a formula in her choices. She said, "As a matter of fact, I did:

> One for the money, Two for the show, Three to get ready, And four to go."



The somewhat tumultuous arrival of this baby kept Ben Jones, a Director of the 392BGMA, from attending the meetings.

Here is the sequence of events in Ben's own words:

Brayden Jones, 7 lbs. 15 oz., was born at 1:03 pm Nov. 5. Mum and baby had quite a day (so did Dad for that, although emotional rather than painful) Mum had tough morning with a lot of pain and a very high heart beat, so a C-section was performed. Barb and Braydon are now doing well. Lots of love to you all.

AIR ANNIVERARY Flying Tiger pilots went into action against Japanese for first time-Dec. 20, 1941.

AIR ANNIVERSARY Gen H. H. Arnold became General of the Army-Dec. 21, 1944.

AIR ANNIVERSARY 650 B-17's and B-24's made first major strike on German V-weapons sites-Dec. 24, 1943.

## SCHOOLMASTER'S LOSS WAS A TRAGIC ONE

Crusaders need to have been at Alamogordo and Wendling early to have known Maj Clinton Schoolmaster. He deployed to the UK as Operations Officer of the 578<sup>th</sup> and later commanded the 577<sup>th</sup>. He transferred to the 95<sup>th</sup> Combat Wing sometime late in 1943 or early 1944.

He had been at 95<sup>th</sup> Combat Wing only a couple of days when he was lost. He took off in a P-47 monitoring formations when he disappeared, evidently over water. Neither wreckage nor his body was ever found.

His loss was tragic because it was a barely noticed, fog-of-war thing. The 392<sup>nd</sup> naturally had lost contact, and as he had been at 95<sup>th</sup> Combat Wing only a very short time he had not settled in to that organization. His mission was solitary and evidently his flight was not monitored.

All this was very trying to his widow, now Mrs. Janet Englemann. The War Department was able to give her very little information.

But Mrs. Englemann and the 392<sup>nd</sup> finally made contact with each other and she became a member of the Memorial Association. Over the years, she has gleaned bits and pieces of information about her husband and that knowledge, in her words, has been a comfort to her.

All this has led Mrs. Englemann to make a generous donation to the Memorial Association. Since most of her contact with us has been through the newsletter, the Board of Directors thought that it would be appropriate for the gift to be used to fund the indexing of the newsletter. It has been printing things about the 392<sup>nd</sup> for some 18 years now, and the editor feels that the information should be indexed so that it can be more easily retrieved.

THE 392nd BOMB GROUP OFFICIAL CHALLENGE COIN

#### Challenge Coin History

During World War 1, American volunteers from all parts of the country filled the newly formed flying squadrons. In one squadron, a wealthy lieutenant ordered medallions struck in solid bronze and presented them to his unit. One young pilot placed the medallion in a small leather pouch that he wore about his neck.

Shortly after acquiring the medallions, the pilot's aircraft was severely damaged by ground fire. He was forced to land behind enemy lines and was immediately captured by a German patrol. In order to discourage his escape, the Germans took all of his personal identification except for the small leather pouch around his neck. In the meantime, he was taken to a small French town near the front. Taking advantage of a bombardment that night, he escaped. However, he was without personal identification.

He succeeded in avoiding German patrols by donning civilian attire and reached the front lines. With great difficulty, he crossed no-man's land. Eventually, he stumbled onto a French outpost. Unfortunately, saboteurs had plagued the French in the sector. They sometimes masqueraded as civilians and wore civilian clothes. Not recognizing the young pilot's American accent, the French thought him to be a saboteur and made ready to execute him. He had no identification to prove his allegiance, but he did have his leather pouch containing the medallion. He showed the medallion to his would-be executioners and one of his French captors recognized the squadron insignia on the medallion. They delayed his execution long enough for him to confirm his identity. Instead of shooting him they gave him a bottle of wine.

Back at his squadron, it became tradition to ensure that all members carried their medallion or coin at all times. This was accomplished through challenge in the following manner - a challenger would ask to see the medallion. If the challenged could not produce a medallion, they were required to buy a drink of choice for the member who challenged them. If the challenged member produced a medallion, then the challenging member was required to pay for the drink. This tradition continued on throughout the war and for many years after the war while surviving members of the squadron were still alive.

#### 392nd Bomb Group History

Activated in January 1943 at Davis-Monthan Field, Tucson, Arizona, equipped with B-24 Liberators, trained at Biggs Field, El Paso, Texas and Alamogordo Army Air Base, New Mexico. The group was moved to England in August 1943 and was assigned to the Eighth Air Force at Wendling Air Base in East Anglia.

The group flew 285 combat missions, suffering 1552 casualties including 835 killed in action or line of duty and 184 aircraft lost. In February 1944, the group was awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation for destroying an aircraft factory in Gotha, Germany. In June 1945, the group returned to the United States and was inactivated at Charleston AAF in South Carolina in September of the same year.

#### The 392<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Group Challenge Coin History

Today, most all military squadrons have challenge coins including the defense department, NSA, and other government agencies. Because the 392<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Group never had a challenge coin, it became a goal of the 392<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Group Second Generation to have a limited quantity minted for the members of the 392<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Group Memorial Association. Following the tradition of the challenge coin, your coin is a treasured and respected representation of the 392<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Group. Carry your coin with pride as it represents the great legacy of the 392<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Group, 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Division, 8<sup>th</sup> Army Air Force of WWII. This letter signed by the last base commander of the 392<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Group at Wendling, England verifies the authenticity of your coin.

Col. Lawrence Gilbert (Retired)

Last 392<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Group Base Commander, Wendling, England

## 392<sup>nd</sup> SECOND GENERATION CAN SUPPLY YOU WITH THESE ITEMS

LEATHER PATCH



5" circular leather patch, as used on A-2 jackets. Cost \$20 plus shipping and handling from Ben Jones, 15115 Jones Beach Rd., Kent NY 14477-9780

COASTER



4", hand painted and gold plated. Cost \$23, pp. Order from Bob Books, 1432 Little Creek Dr., Pensacola, FL 32506

#### CHALLENGE COIN

(See History and Certification, this issue)





Front

1.75", hand painted and gold plated. Cost \$11, pp. Order from Bob Books, 1432 Little Creek Dr., Pensacola, FL 32506

AIR ANNIVERSARY
Japanese attack Pearl Harbor- Dec.
7, 1941.

AIR ANNIVERSARY B-17's bomb shipping near Philippines in first American bombing mission of war- Dec. 9, 1941. AIR ANNIVERSARY

First sustained controlled flight in a powered aircraft-Dec. 17, 1903.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Lt. Buzz Wagner became first American ace of WWII-Dec.18, 1941.

Continued from page 1

was 18, just graduated from high school. I remember that my father, who would read the newspapers that I brought to him in bed, had said, "If it comes to war, we'll lose half our navy at Pearl Harbor". He was more right than the admirals were.

Jim Buzick, 577<sup>th</sup> Sqdn ball turret gunner: I was an 18 year old farm kid from North Dakota, working for Lockheed Aircraft in Burbank, CA. They were making the P-38 and the B-18. Realizing that the plant was a juicy target, the boss sent me out into the parking lot to turn off all the lights.

Charley Dye, 1825 Ordnance Co: I was 22, building B-24's for Consolidated in San Diego. I had been separated from the Navy in September for a heart condition. When I heard the news, I immediately made arrangements to enlist in the Army.

Joe Micksch, Bombsight Maintenance Officer: I was 22 and working in my father's filling station on Sundays and going to college during the week. Lou Stephens, 578<sup>th</sup> pilot: I was listening to the radio when the broadcast was interrupted with the message. When I did enter the Army, my grandfather said "This war will be over in a couple of weeks. That kid never did hold a job longer than that".

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.



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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.
Getting old is a tough business. It
exacts so much and promises little
in return. Life is a boon, no matter
how we size it. We can let each
day become tedious and routine.
But, when Moses asked God His
name, the reply was "I am what I
will be." (Exodus 3) In other
words, what we can most expect
of God is something surprising.
Now, what might that mean when
we say it in the light of eternity?

### **Folded Wings**

Gene Sowers, 578, Aug. 15, 2003 Gene Morrow, 577, Apr. 6, 2003 Wilbur H. Metz, 578/Hq., Jan. 28, 85 Thomas G. Kirkwood, 578, Dec. 29, 02 Carroll F. Flewelling, 578, Aug. 30, 03 Wanda Conrad, Oct. 22, 2003 wife of John Conrad, 579 Albert Peters, Nov. 9, 2003



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

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FOLDED WINGS REPORT	PLEASE REPORT	ANY DEATH	OF SPOUSE AS	WELL AS OF	MEMBER
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Name of deceased		Mark Cole aleas	Sqdn		
Address	City	State	Zip		
Date of death	Survivors (Send of	copy of obit from ne	wspaper if possible)		
Reported by	September setter Signification Co.  September Signification State State Signification Co.  Let the Mark The P.Y. dentes Signification conte	REY ON			
Address	City	State_	Zip		
[ ] Record a memorial contribution	to 392 <sup>nd</sup> BGMA in my name, check	made out to 392nd I	Somb 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