



392nd BGMA MEETS IN ST LOUIS

The 392nd BGMA met with the 8th Air Force Historical Society in St. Louis, Missouri, from 19-23 Oct 2016. Turn-out was impressive with seven veterans, including two first-timers!

392nd BGMA Membership Meeting

President Jim Goar called the meeting to order, announced that a quorum was present, and reminded members that since it was the official meeting of the 392nd BGMA, reunion expenses were tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Treasurer Annette Tison noted that 2016 income was lower than 2015's through the same time period but should catch up as donations and dues renewals for 2017 come in. Expenses are far lower than 2015, though, so we will end the year in the black. "Without a doubt," she said, "we should all be very happy with the financial stability of our organization."

Officer Reports

"We are lucky as a Bomb Group association," Jim said, "because we have a cadre of second generation members who joined us early—1999—and our veteran members had the wisdom to incorporate that generation into the organization by changing the by-laws."

"Additionally, I am here to tell you that the officers that we have are doing a wonderful job and I really appreciate it."

Vice President Bob Books commented, "What takes most of my time is thinking about what's going to happen in the future—how we can keep the history and legacy of the 392nd BG alive for our grandchildren and their grandchildren. We need to ensure that they have access to information about how their ancestors sacrificed for their future."

"This is a front-burner issue for me. I anticipate large expenditures next year to update our website—but we have already set aside funds for that purpose. With more than

500 pages on www.b24.net, it will take a long time but I have begun the work."

Nominating Committee chairman Bill McCutcheon explained that about one-third of the Board of Directors is elected every year. Terms for six Directors end this year and he nominated Tom Perry, Greg Hatton, Dennis Rogers,

George Michel and John Gilbert for the Class of 2019. They were reelected.

Bill then said that Director Jim Marsteller had advised that he was no longer able to serve as a Director due to health issues. Bill noted Jim's long history of service to the 392nd BGMA, including that his research on the Friedrichshafen

mission on 18 Mar 1944 was the genesis of our website. For those reasons, Bill recommended that Jim be elected

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Standing L-R: Harvey Naber, Jack Rotzien, Joe Cook. Sitting L-R, Charles Dye, Jim Goar, Will Davis and Emanuel "Cappy" Cappello.

Bequest to 392nd BGMA in Memory of Capt Bill Cetin

Some years ago, Eileen Klug, sister of 579th Sqdn bombardier Capt Bill Cetin, let us know that she was leaving a bequest in his memory to the 392nd BGMA. Sadly, she passed away in April 2015. As the probate process ends, we express our appreciation for this gift with a biography of her brother.

Capt Cetin flew as bombardier on Capt Harrison Cassell's lead crew from 9 Sep 1943 (the 392nd's first combat mission) to 24 Feb 1945. During that time, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with three Oak Leaf Clusters

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FROM THE EDITOR

Hardin Family. In the photo of the Combat Officers Mess cooks on page 10 of the September 2016 *News*, S/Sgt Hardin was misidentified. He is standing 4th from the left holding the turkey. There was also not enough room in that issue to include this photo of the Hardin family when they visited Wendling in June 2016. L-R: Ron Hardin (son of S/Sgt Hardin), Shirley Sirrell (Ron's half sister and S/Sgt Hardin's daughter), Ron's son Trevor, and John Gilbert.



Remembrance Day at Wendling. According to Henry Dennett, the November ceremony at the 392nd BG Memorial was "well attended, bitterly cold but the rain held off!" The photo below and the one on page 12 show the Memorial (with the entire hedge removed) after the wreaths were laid.

Henry reports, "The general consensus is that the site looks better now the old hedges have gone. We intend to replant the back and sides but leave the front open as there has been a ground swell of local opinion that to keep the front open means the memorial receives increased recognition...which after all is what we want."



Remembrance Day at Walcott. A wreath in honor of 577th pilot 2/Lt John W. Reed IV was placed for the first time during the 2016 Remembrance Day ceremony at Walcott Church, Norfolk, England. He was killed nearby on 29 Apr 1944.

This is due to a two-year effort by local resident Roger Bean.

Roger says he "was asked by the vicar to lay a personal wreath for John Reed at the Remembrance Day service on Nov. 13th and to say a few words about the incident. This I gladly did. In future years his name will be on a general wreath for those from Walcott who gave their lives in all wars."

Roger had previously arranged to have a plaque recounting information about 2/Lt Reed placed in Walcott Village Hall. He and 392nd BGMA Director John Gilbert unveiled it in a ceremony on 3 Sep 2016. On behalf of the 392nd BGMA, John thanked Roger for all he has done to honor 2/Lt Reed.

Roger says his task is not quite finished. The plane crashed in a field near the church. He petitioned the Walcott Parish Council and the District Council and they have both agreed to rename Back Lane (the road nearest the crash site) to Reed Way. The new street signs are expected to be placed this month.

After that, Roger says, "I will be satisfied that 2/Lt



Above: On 3 Sep 2016, Roger Bean (left) and John Gilbert dedicated a plaque in the Walcott, Norfolk, Village Hall in memory of 2/Lt John W. Reed IV, who was killed nearby on 29 Apr 1944. Right photo: Per Roger Bean, "Ladies from a local sewing group suggested the picture would look better embellished. I agreed and gave them licence to do what they are good at. This is, I think, an excellent result. As you can see," Roger added, "a little piece of the US is now in our hall!"



Reed will be remembered and honored near the place where he lost his life."

The plaque advises that "2nd Lt. Reed was the captain of a USAAF B24 Liberator 392nd BG Wendling which was shot up and badly damaged over Germany on 29/4/44. Over Norfolk he ordered his crew of nine to bail out—the plane crashed in a field off Rookery Farm Road, Walcott at 13.30 hrs. 2nd Lt. Reed sacrificed his life for his crew's safety and to prevent loss of civilian lives in the villages of Walcott / Ridlington / Witton / Bacton. He was

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President's Message



The month of December contains two dates that have greatly influenced the lives of Crusaders. The first, of course, is the 25th, Christmas. Its influence both in religious and secular context goes without saying. The second is the 7th, Pearl Harbor Day. That's the day the "greatest generation" got the message in no uncertain terms: "Get ready,

we must lick those guys!"

I got the message loud and clear. I left college, spent Christmas with my family, and volunteered for the Army the next week. Like a dummy, I didn't think of looking for the Air Corps recruiter. Luckily for me, Orlando Air Base was my first station, which is how I ended up in the 392nd.

Although we never met there, Col Gilbert was a fledgling Second Lieutenant and I a raw recruit at Orlando in the first few months of 1942.

The very successful reunion is detailed in this issue. Suffice to say that I was greatly pleased with the smooth operation and the excellent financial condition of the 392nd. The management team of Bob Books, Annette Tison, and Bill McCutcheon are doing yeoman work.

To quote Tiny Tim in Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*: "A Merry Christmas to us all; God bless us, every one!"

Blue Skies,
Jim and Annabelle

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awarded posthumously the Silver Star and Purple Heart."

What 2/Lt Reed accomplished on 29 Apr 1944 is testimony to his skill as a pilot and his selfless concern for his crew. Per the citation for the Silver Star, which was awarded to his widow Lafern and two year old daughter Karol Ann, the award was "For gallantry in action, while piloting a B-24 airplane on a bombardment mission April 1944. A large force of ME-109s made a vicious attack as the formation approached the target and Lt Reed's aircraft sustained severe damage. Two engines were disabled, the fuel and hydraulic lines punctured, and the left rudder and stabilizers badly torn by cannon fire.

"Ordering the bomb load to be released, Lt Reed abandoned the formation and started the long return journey alone. Though the crippled bomber was exceedingly difficult to control, he flew it back to England. Shortly after crossing the English Coast, he was informed that the bomb-bay section was choked with gasoline fumes from the leaking fuel lines.

"Rather than risk the lives of his crew from an explosion which could be caused by a chance spark on landing, Lt Reed ordered the entire crew to bail out. When they had all abandoned the crippled plane, he headed for the coast where the aircraft could crash harmlessly into the sea. Before he was able to bail out, the aircraft crashed, killing Lt Reed. His gallantry, flying skill, and devotion to duty and his comrades undoubtedly saved the lives of his crew."

The 392nd BGMA is indebted to Roger for his untiring research into the circumstances of 2/Lt Reed's short life and untimely death and his resolve to memorialize our pilot. We greatly appreciate how the community of Walcott has embraced the opportunity to honor 2/Lt Reed.

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Website Update

Webmaster Bob Books reports, "Our 392nd BGMA website, www.b24.net, is currently under construction to bring it up to today's HTML5 and CSS3 standards. This will meet existing and future web-based technology requirements for our website.

"We have completed serious housekeeping and have already given it a new look with navigational improvements to make it easier to surf the site. It is now broken up into six sections: The Men, The Missions, The Aircraft, The Base, The POW Camps and The Association.

"Future updating and computer coding changes will be mostly transparent to the user and should be complete in late 2017. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

"Thank you to all who have invested in our history and legacy via our website memorial. It has brought valued family information to thousands and kept alive the memories of our 392nd BG loved ones throughout the world."

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392nd Bomb Group

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A Wendling Story

by 579th Sqdn gunnery instructor Jack Rotzien

This WWII story begins at the airbase of the 392nd Bomb Group, which flew B-24 bombers. The B-24, because of its double vertical stabilizers, was known by our group as a "Big Ass Bird."

It is Christmas Eve 1944 and our group of five aerial gunnery instructors are going to be free for three days. We wanted to go somewhere away from any American or English military installations to enjoy the holidays free from the horde of uniforms that we usually had to contend with when off base. With the help of our English community coordinator (who had a manual of inns) we selected one with the name of "The Queen's Ass" in the small community of Fakenham some ten miles from the base.

Can you imagine the fun we anticipated when we could tell people where we spent our holiday!

It was a pleasant bike ride over the morning of Christmas Eve on the narrow highway with lots of hills and curves. When we arrived in town and our inn, there was the sign with a large white donkey for a logo.

When we stepped inside, we couldn't believe that anyone other than Norman Rockwell had designed the place. It had a rather low ceiling with black 24 inch hand hewed beams. The back wall was brick with a huge fireplace in the center and believe it or not two Dalmatians were lying on the hearth.

We quickly settled into our rooms, then met in the bar for a pint.

We asked the proprietor about any nearby Protestant churches. With his directions in hand we biked the half-mile to the little church. The service had just begun. The setting also could have been done by Rockwell. There were eight people in the choir including one lady who believe it or not had a little flower standing up in her hat band. We were

quickly welcomed and took seats. One of our members, known as Big Red because of his size and hair, had sung with the Boston Pops Orchestra. His strong voice rang out during the hymns. The pastor asked him to sing a solo. He sang "Silent Night" as well as it could be rendered.

We were invited to stay for the potluck dinner in the church's lower level. After eating, and as we were preparing to leave, five different couples came to us and invited one of us to their home for next day's Christmas dinner. We toured the town, then rode back to the inn and had a few pints before retiring.

The next day I was led to my hosts' house by their son, who had ridden his bike over to lead me to their home. During dinner, the hostess proudly held up a fresh red tomato, which was hard to come by in wartime England in the winter. She then said, "This is a gift for you to eat."

I said, "I can't take that just for myself!" and she replied, "Today, you are our son who is in the service in Africa, so eat it."

Talk about being humbled by strangers; that was a lesson in humility for me.

We awoke the next morning to a dense fog which the radio said would last throughout the day. The first six or seven miles back to the base was on the winding, hilly secondary road. We rode in single file, keeping 15 or 20 feet between us. I rode last in line as I had the best taillights on my bike. Only a few trucks passed us and because of their louder noise we had plenty of time to get off the pavement. In time we reached the main highway and then had a safe ride into the base.

For two days we had not been "Those bloody Yanks who are overpaid, oversexed and over here." We had just been five lonely young men away from home on a very special day.

392nd BGMA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please look at the mailing label where your membership status is shown directly after your name. **"17" or higher means your membership is current; "16" means your dues must be renewed ASAP!** LM means Life Member and FRIEND means that you receive the News with compliments of the 392nd BGMA. Send this form and your check (payable to 392nd BGMA) to Annette Tison, 9107 Wood Pointe Way, Fairfax Station, VA 22039. You may also join or renew on-line at <http://www.b24.net/392nd/join.htm>.

The Board of Directors has ruled that no Crusader will be denied membership because of financial difficulty, so if you're in straitened circumstances, check the Hardship Waiver box. If you feel that you can help the 392nd BGMA treasury with a donation, there is a provision for it below.

Name _____ Ground [] Air [] Sqdn/Unit _____

Mailing address _____

Email address _____ Telephone number _____

If a spouse, friend, or relative served in the 392nd, please give us his name and unit: _____

Dues: [] \$25/year if you want to receive the News by postal mail OR [] \$20/year for receipt by email
Please feel free to renew for multiple years! Just let us know what your wishes are.

Hardship Waiver [] DONATION \$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

French Legion of Honor to Marvin Graham

This article and photo are reprinted with the kind permission of author/photographer Terrie M. Roberts, Assistant Public Relations Manager of The Oaks of Louisiana. It was originally printed in The Forum.

Marvin Graham, 93, is willing to share his memories as a ball turret gunner in World War II, answering questions posed to him about experiences nearly 75 years ago when he was 18 years old and making his mark as a member of "The Greatest Generation."

The Oaks of Louisiana resident, who lives with wife Sarrah at Savannah at The Oaks, is less willing to accept all the praise and words of gratitude that have been heaped on him since he was awarded the Legion of Honor from the French Republic.

He wears humility like he wears his Distinguished Flying Cross, his Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters and the ETO ribbon with four Bronze Stars. That he would receive France's highest decoration, first established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, is a source of pride—as it should be—and surprise.

"I was taken aback," Graham says about his being chosen for the prestigious honor. His selection was a six month process and was made, in part, because of his role in three main campaigns of the liberation of France: Normandy, Provence/Southern France and Northern France.

The award was presented by Dana Kress, French professor at Centenary and Honorary Consul General of France, Northwest Louisiana, and Genevieve Tournebize, who is originally from France.



Genevieve Tournebize pins the French Legion of Honor on 579th ball turret gunner Marvin Graham.

Graham joins Gens. Dwight D. Eisenhower and Douglas MacArthur, among a very small number of American recipients—all of whom risked their lives during World War II defending liberty.

Graham enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1942, patriotism and the desire to fight for a worthwhile cause fueling his decision. His two-year stint included 30 missions, the last mission with a different crew and the

most memorable and most harrowing.

He trained as a ball turret gunner, one of the most dangerous assignments in World War II. As a ball turret gunner, he swiveled around in a non-retractable [sic] Plexiglass bubble mounted to the belly of a B-24 and, therefore, easily an airman's coffin if hit by enemy fire. With him were two heavy machine guns, ammunition and sights. His responsibility was to help protect the airplane.

Graham says his plane often drew fire from the enemy in the sky and from the ground. "When the fighters were coming at you, it wasn't good," he says, admitting there were times when he was afraid.

He remembers his first mission very well.

It was on Dec. 24, 1943, to a mystery target in France. There would be 28 other successful missions with his original crew members hitting strategic enemy targets. With each successful mission, he and his crew got closer to each other—"we were family"—and to coming home: Kiel, Germany; Frankfurt, Germany; St. Pol, France; Northern France; Brandenburg, Germany; Siracourt, France; Bernburg, Germany; Münster, Germany; Friedrichshafen, Germany; Wizernes, France; St. Trond Air Force Base, Belgium ...

Just one more mission to reach 30 and they could go home.

A case of appendicitis delayed Graham's 30-mission requirement, and he was unable to complete his tour with his original crew.

After three surgeries and a longer-than-expected recovery, Graham joined another crew for his 30th and final mission. "This mission was fierce with ground fire," he says. "We had to fly low to hit enemy positions, and we got shot up very badly. It 'hit the fan.' They were shooting at us with machine guns, rifles, pistols, everything."

"It was luck that we made it back," he says. "The pilot flew the plane back to England without two engines and with more than 300 bullet holes."

"Those of us who came home are lucky to be alive," he says.

At age 93 and nearly 75 years later, that realization for Marvin Graham has not faded. Nor has his American pride.

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as Director Emeritus. That motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was videotaped and can be seen on-line. Simply google "392nd membership meeting" (in quotes) to find the link.

New Business

Greg Hatton noted that he was tasked in 2015 to provide higher resolution scans of the original 400 photos used for the website. He brought a disk of those newly formatted photos for Bob. He will also begin to make better quality scans of photos he has of 392nd BG planes in formation on combat missions that were taken by other Bomb Groups. "This is a work in progress," Greg says, "but you'll definitely see an improvement in the photos on our website as the work continues."

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as well as several Lead Crew Citations. All are proof of his exceptional skill as a bombardier.

Biographical information is from Dr. Allen McGarry Cassell's book, *Legacy of a Lead Crew: The Boys of the "Sally Ann."* It has been highly condensed to fit the available space.

Dr. Cassell would like to acknowledge Bill Cetin as the source of most (if not all) of the photos that appear in his book. "He took the photos at Wendling and my father sent copies of them to my mother for their scrap book.

"The high esteem in which my father held Bill Cetin is best summed up in his Journal entry on 30 Apr 1944: "I just got down from a practice mission today. They are as tiresome as a real mission. Have been giving Bill a lot of practice lately & he is getting darn near perfect."

William F. "Bill" Cetin was born in Susie, Wyoming, in 1917 and grew up in Milwaukee. Son Bill Jr recalls, "His family was extremely poor and had to rely on government assistance for housing and food. Even with governmental help it was hard to meet expenses. From time to time, some of dad's siblings lived with relatives to help ease the financial burden. At the age of eight, dad enrolled in the Milwaukee Public School system. Because English was a second language in his household [they spoke Slovene, as his parents were from Yugoslavia], school administrators decided that he would start in first grade instead of the age appropriate third grade. I can remember dad remarking that it was a humbling and humiliating experience to have to sit in a room full of students who were half his age and size."



Artilleryman Cpl Cetin in the Aiming Circle

Bill quit high school after two years to help provide for his mother and the rest of the

family. He entered the Civilian Conservation Corps, planting trees to replace those that had been harvested by the huge lumber companies.

In 1937, Bill joined the US Cavalry and ended up in the artillery where he learned a new skill set dealing with the aiming and firing of various artillery pieces. Many calculations went into developing accuracy such as windage, elevation and charge (number of powder bags needed), etc.



The crew in front of 42-7484, Sally Ann. Standing L-R: pilot 1/Lt Harrison Cassell, F/O Jack Colvin, bombardier 2/Lt Bill Cetin, 2/Lt Ken Bevan, T/Sgt Nevin Geary. Kneeling L-R: T/Sgt Wilson Heuser, T/Sgt Cecil Rothrock, T/Sgt William Yarbrough, T/Sgt Leslie Tribbett, T/Sgt Chester Dobrowolski.

He transferred to the USAAF in October 1940 as a corporal, hoping to become a pilot. Per Bill Jr, "Dad joined the Air Force to serve his country but also to have an opportunity to fly. He desperately wanted to be a pilot. Sadly, in spite of numerous requests to attend flight school, Air Force brass decided dad would become a bombardier. He dutifully accepted their decision and took great pride in the responsibility that he was given.

"He also took great pride in the fact that he rose to the rank of Captain and that he attained the position of Lead Bombardier. Getting there wasn't easy.

"Dad was always able to think quickly on his feet. However, to become a successful bombardier an extensive knowledge of higher mathematics is also required. Dad enjoyed math and possessed an innate ability to succeed in math but since he dropped out of high school he lacked the necessary foundation. To overcome this obstacle, he enlisted the services of a fellow serviceman who had a college background.

"His buddy would spend part of his free time tutoring my dad, helping him to fill in the gaps in his math background. Dad then successfully completed bombardier school in early 1943.

He was then ordered to report to Tucson

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"Hell from Heaven" men: 579th Sqdn bombardiers on 29 Oct 1943. Standing L-R: 1/Lt T. Kennedy, 2/Lt Mart T. Etheridge, 2/Lt Charles T. Cleaton, 1/Lt Stanley Stupski, 1/Lt Bill Cetin and 1/Lt Madison A. Veazey Jr. Kneeling L-R: 2/Lt John E. Lessey, 1/Lt Howard P. Hall, 1/Lt Edmund I. White, 2/Lt Richard J. Hughes, 1/Lt Chester Broyles Jr and 2/Lt James W. Hammond.

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Jim reminded attendees that Greg is the source of the POW section of our website. "It has the largest compilation of information on POWs, their camps, and their experiences ever assembled."

Annette pointed out that two POWs were at the meeting—copilot Joe Cook and pilot Will Davis.

392nd BGMA Director Ralph Winter then introduced his mother, Ruth Brisbois. She married 2/Lt Ralph E. Lamma in 1942. Ralph was born while his father was still going through stateside pilot training. 1/Lt Lamma was killed in action on 13 Nov 1943, the Group's eighth combat mission (and his third).

Rendezvous Dinner

Jim warmly welcomed the 40+ attendees, including John Gilbert, our Director in England. Next was the stirring 2AD Anthem and Fanfare which Jim described so eloquently in the June 2016 News, and the 392nd BG Prayer from Bob.

On behalf of the Group, Bob presented Ralph and Ruth with Gold Star lapel pins and flags in honor and remembrance of 1/Lt Lamma.



Gold Star son Ralph Winter comforts his mother, Ruth Brisbois, after they were presented Gold Star flags and lapel pins in remembrance of father and husband 1/Lt Ralph E. Lamma.

Bob, also a Gold Star son (his father, 579th pilot 1/Lt Dallas O. Books, was killed in action on 18 Mar 1944), explained that during WWII, families displayed a Blue Star Service Flag—a white rectangular field bordered in red with a blue star—to show that a family member was in the military. If that person was killed, the Blue Star flag was replaced with a Gold Star Service Flag. It is identical to the Blue Star flag except that a gold star is superimposed over a larger blue star so that the blue forms a border around the gold star.

It was a touching moment for all present.

We were delighted that Susan Giesing Williams joined us. Her father, Richard Giesing, was an instrument technician in the 465th Sub Depot. Before he passed away in July, Susan said he had been looking forward to the reunion and she attended in his memory.

Gala Banquet

The Colors were presented by cadets from the Air Force JROTC program at Mascoutah High School in nearby Mascoutah, Illinois. During dinner, they presented their challenge coin to each WWII veteran in attendance. Alert PX Chairman Bill McCutcheon promptly gave a 392nd BGMA challenge coin to each cadet sitting at our tables.

The traditional candle lighting ceremony, under the direction of 392nd BGMA Director M/Sgt Ben Jones, featured several Crusaders. Charles Dye, 392nd BG Ammunition Officer, lit a candle in honor of all the ground crew, who worked long, hard hours to keep the plane flying. Gold Star nephew Don Carey, whose uncle, 576th Sqdn pilot 2/Lt Clarence W. Stoltz, was lost on 29 May 1944, lit a candle in remembrance of the 28,000 8th AF personnel who sacrificed their lives to liberate Europe from tyranny. 577th pilot William F. Davis, assisted by wife Dee, lit a candle in recognition of the 27,000 8th AF airmen who became POWs, as he did on 2 Dec 1944. John Gilbert helped light the candle in remembrance of our English friends who so kindly welcomed the friendly invasion of their shores.

8AFHS President David Nowack presented an 8AFHS flag to John that he can display during his presentations in Norfolk on behalf of the 8AFHS and the 392nd BG.

First Timers

T/Sgt Emanuel J. Cappello was the engineer on 1/Lt William Kilmer's crew. After completing his combat tour in early January 1945, he and several others in the crew were

selected for further duty as a 2AD weather and relay crew. Cappy, now 93, regaled Crusaders in the hospitality room with anecdotes about his military service. He is "proud that I made it through a combat tour" but modestly says, "I did not fly the plane; I just went where I was told and did what I was told to the best of my ability."

Cappy was accompanied by daughter Mary Ellen, son Steve, son Tom and his girlfriend Sue Phillips.

2/Lt Joseph M. Cook was copilot on 2/Lt Robert H. Johnson's crew in the 578th. He became a POW on 7 Oct 1944. The March 2016 News has Joe's account of his last mission and tribute to the four men on the crew who were killed in action.

With him were son Greg and daughters Marian and Karen Cook Cannady.

Ron and Barbara Pierre visited Wendling in September 2013, met

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Top, 576th engineer T/Sgt Cappy Cappello; bottom, 578th copilot 2/Lt Joe Cook.

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John Gilbert, and couldn't pass up the opportunity to see him again. Ron's uncle, S/Sgt Martin G. Egler, and seven others were killed near Horstead, Norfolk, while returning from a mission on 22 Mar 1945. Ron was amazed by all the information available about their fatal accident and how well the 392nd's historians explained to him what it meant.

Tom Townsend and his wife Mary are school teachers in Ohio. Tom is an avid historian of the 8AF and a past active volunteer at the Wright-Patterson museum. Tom teaches web design and has accepted the challenge to bring the 8AFHS website into compliance with current website standards as a school project with his classes.

Tom's past work for the Society has been to enter all the mission information in Roger Freeman's *Mighty Eighth War Diary* into a database for easy searching on the Society's website. As a result of project-creep, it soon turned into a full-fledged Eighth Air Force operations website, with Groups, Bases, Targets and Missions information collected from additional diverse sources across the internet, books, magazines and diaries. See <http://www.8thafhs.com/> for the results.

In 2017, he will take over 8AFHS webmaster duties, relieving Bob Books to spend more time on www.b24.net and as Vice President of our group. Tom has also worked with Bob to harvest the crew loading lists from our website into an excel spreadsheet. This has allowed us to do more in-depth analysis of our aircrews.

At the reunion, Tom, Fred Preller and Bob led a researcher symposium that was well attended and resulted in an 8th AF pseudo-association of researchers and webmasters.

Visitors

In June 2016, Liz and Chris Trussell visited the memorial to Liz's father, survivor of a crash on 4 Jan 1944, and members of 2/Lt Colby Waugh's crew, at Upper Sheringham. Then, they went to Wendling for a tour there with John Gilbert. Liz came by the hotel to see John again, this time with her mother, Mary Barton, and sister Jeanette Barton Mohr. It was a wonderful gathering of old and new friends.

Sharon Lane Marcrander and husband Bill came to reminisce with Jim Goar. At Wendling, he and Sharon's father, 578th Adjutant and Executive Officer Capt Robert E. Lane, were best friends.

American Indians in WWII

A particularly riveting documentary video on American Indians in WWII was presented by Bill Curtis and Mike Tosee. It focused on the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma and the question "after the US government mistreated American Indians for decades, why did/do they enlist in the military in such overwhelming numbers?"

Bill advised the large audience that "25,000 American Indians enlisted during WWII. That is an enlistment rate three times higher than any other ethnic group."

"The reasons for high enlistment were both cultural and economic. By the early 1900s many of the traditional ceremonies had been eliminated. The US Government insisted that Indian people be assimilated and they discouraged all traditional practices.

"The warrior tradition was essentially dead until the US military opened enlistment for American Indians in WWI.

The ability for young men to be able to prove their worth as a warrior had an unimaginable effect in Indian Country. It brought a rebirth of warrior ceremonies and with it, other Tribal ceremonial practices. For many, the war also brought economic opportunities with training and industry."

Bill "worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs for 31 years as an educator and video producer. I taught Television Production for 21 of those years at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas.

"Mike is Kiowa/Comanche and is the historian who's somehow been able to get us funding to produce videos.

"The video of the American Indians in WWII seminar is on YOUTUBE : <https://youtu.be/byTvc411luE>

"DVDs of the video portion can be purchased for \$20 from me: Bill Curtis, 515 West Ariel Avenue, Foley, AL 36535."

At least three Indians are known to have flown combat missions with the 392nd BG (but there are undoubtedly more):

- Otis N. Croy, a Cherokee who was radio operator on 2/Lt Philip E. Rose's crew, 578th.

- Wes Durant, a Choctaw who was a replacement tail gunner on Capt Harrison Cassell's crew, 579th.

- Samson Miller, a Muscalero Apache who was waist gunner on 1/Lt Wesley A. Schafer's crew, 579th.

Masters of the Air

After a dinner buffet, author Donald L. Miller discussed his book, *Masters of the Air*, and the ten-part HBO mini-series of the same name currently being filmed. Executive producers are Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks.

8AFHS General Membership Meeting

8AFHS Membership Manager Debra Kujawa noted that the St. Louis reunion had one of the biggest turnouts in years—approximately 400 people. She expects even larger attendance at the next reunion, to be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, from 25-29 Oct 2017. **NOTE: THE DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED TO 27 SEPT – 1 OCT!!!!** "The entire reunion, she says, "will be centered around the National WWII Museum, including the Gala Banquet." When they are available, complete details will appear in the *News*.

Vivian Rogers Price, Research Center Director at the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force—and an honorary Crusader—gave an update on all the Museum has accomplished since its opening on 14 May 1996. She started there 17 years ago as Director of Education so had a wealth of knowledge and information to impart.

It was a great reunion. See you in New Orleans!

EDITOR from page 3

Remembrance Day at Upper Sheringham. Doug and Celia Willies write that "we read out the names, as always, on Remembrance Sunday for the Waugh Crew and laid the traditional crosses and posy. A nice sunny day this year, so that was fine.

"The Church Warden tells us that the local schools are now making visits to the Church as part of a newly introduced curriculum. She told us that many of the children take an interest in the Memorial and ask lots of questions! I donated a copy of my book *Not Forgotten* to the Church many years

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CETIN from page 6

as a 2nd Lieutenant and was assigned to 2/Lt Cassell's crew in the 579th Sqdn. He was committed to being the best bombardier, not only of the 579th Squadron and the 392nd Bomb Group, but perhaps in the whole 8th Air Force.

"He went on to have a distinguished career as a Lead Bombardier on the Sally Ann, #42-7484. In addition, dad also served as an instructor and led debriefing sessions after the bombing mission was completed.

"Dad always possessed an innate and powerful will to persevere. For better or worse, I think many of the harsh experiences of his early childhood and youth, along with his great inner strength and character, motivated dad to succeed where many other people would have quit and failed.

"Information about dad's life during the service is in his diary that is posted at <http://www.b24.net/stories/cetin.htm>.

"He rarely talked about the war and his experiences in it. One thing that did ring loud and clear is that in spite of the horror and brutality that characterized that period of history, he was very grateful and honored to have been associated with the young men and women who fought so honorably to preserve the world's freedom."

Bill passed away quietly at his home in Sturtevant, Wisconsin, on March 23, 2004.

Please renew! If the number "16" appears after your name on the mailing label, it means your dues expire this month. Please use the form on page 4 and renew ASAP.

EDITOR from page 8

ago and note that it is getting a little 'dog-eared' now. I will try and print out a new copy for them and possibly produce a shortened version for the children—just a thought for a 2017 project?!"

Note: Not Forgotten is the Willies' remembrance of the men in the Waugh crew, their last mission, the decision to create a memorial to the casualties, locating and informing the relatives, the dedication ceremony, and the work of the Willies and the local community to ensure that this American crew is, indeed, not forgotten.

Photos from the Reunion



Joe, Marian and Greg Cook and Karen Cook Cannady



Steve, "Cappy" and Mary Ellen Cappello



Annette Tison and Jim Goar

FOLDED WINGS REPORT

Please report the death of a member or spouse and provide a copy of the newspaper obituary if possible.

Name of deceased _____ Unit/Sqdn _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of death _____ Survivors _____

Reported by _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

The 392nd BGMA is engaged in a fund-raising effort to financially support our website, www.b24.net. It contains the history of the 392nd Bomb Group. You could make no greater tribute to your loved one than a donation for this living and ongoing memorial to the 392nd. Please send this report, hopefully with your check payable to the 392nd BGMA-Website, but send it with or without it, to: Annette Tison, 9107 Wood Pointe Way, Fairfax Station, VA 22039

MORE PHOTOS FROM



Audrey and Don Carey



Debbie Goar Beigh and Jim Goar



Dr. Vivian Rogers Price and M/Sgt Ben Jones, USAFR



Mary and Tom Townsend



Susan Giesing Williams



Cynthia, Mark and Harvey Naber



Carol and Bob Books



Greg Hatton



Barbara and Ron Pierre

THE REUNION



Charles Dye with Doug and Char Heim



Jeanette Barton-Mohr, John Gilbert, Mary Barton and Liz Barton Trussell. John holds photos of 392nd copilot 2/Lt James Barton.



Bill Marcrander, Jim Goar and Sharon Lane Marcrander



Christine Messer, Jack Rotzien and Andi Rotzien



Bill McCutcheon



Ralph Winter and Ruth Brisbois



John Gilbert



Will and Dee Davis



David and Lois Nowack

IDEAS AND INSPIRATION

by Char Heim

daughter of Charles E. Dye, 1825th Ordnance Co.

This is such a significant time of the year, given Veterans Day and the anniversary of Pearl Harbor. I don't feel qualified to speak to all you heroes and your families who sacrificed as well by your absence and their fear of you never returning. I found a poem written by Joanna Fuchs which is an incredible tribute to our soldiers, here and gone beyond. Happy Holidays and God Bless America.

The Noble and the Brave: A Veteran's Day Tribute

*When America had an urgent need,
These brave ones raised a hand;
No hesitation held them back;
They were proud to take a stand.
They left their friends and family;
They gave up normal life;
To serve their country and their God,
They plowed into the strife.
They fought for freedom and for peace
On strange and foreign shores;
Some lost new friends; some lost their lives
In long and brutal wars.
Other veterans answered a call
To support the ones who fought;
Their country had requirements for
The essential skills they brought.
We salute every one of them,
The noble and the brave,
The ones still with us here today,
And those who rest in a grave.
So here's to our country's heroes;
They're a cut above the rest;
Let's give the honor that is due
To our country's very best.*



**THE 392ND MEMORIAL
AT WENDLING**

**But we...shall be
remember'd;
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 Association
9107 Wood Pointe Way
Fairfax Station, VA 22039
USA

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

First Class Mail

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. — Composed by 576th pilot the late Very Reverend Robert C. Martin, former Dean of the Cathedral at Erie, Pennsylvania.

∞FOLDED WINGS∞

William D. Case, 578, October 15, 2016
Willard T. Pennington, 577, November 23, 2016
James J. Cassity, 577, March 28, 2009
John A. Chelenyak, 579, July 22, 2016
George L. Winans, 579, September 20, 2016