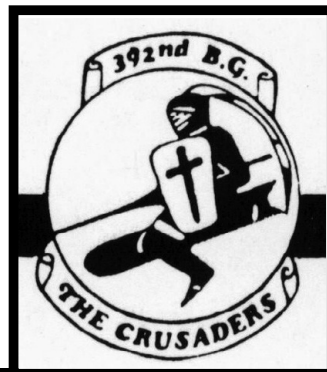




New Orleans Reunion

The 392nd BGMA met with the 8th Air Force Historical Society in New Orleans, Louisiana, from 27 Sep-1 Oct 2017. Nearly 40 members, relatives and friends attended, including five veterans. Highlights for all were the two days spent at the National World War II Museum and our hospitality suite.

For Sue Williams, the trip to the Museum was a special pilgrimage. In 2009, her brother had a brick placed there as a Christmas gift for their father, Dick Giesing, an instrument technician in the 465th Sub Depot. She finally got to see it!

Membership Meeting

Bob Books, Vice President, called the meeting to order and declared a quorum to be present. He told members that since this was the official meeting of the 392nd BGMA, reunion expenses were tax deductible as allowed by law.

Secretary-Treasurer Annette Tison commented that 2017 income was higher than usual due to receipt of some one-time grants, donations and a bequeathal, but "normal" income was still higher than expenses.

We have 252 members, with 71 either veterans or widows of veterans.

Bob noted that one of our organization's goals is to remember those no longer with us. There was a moment of silence as he and Annette read the names of the 28 members who had folded their wings since the last reunion.

He advised there had been a "groundswell of interest" in having a stand-alone reunion in Wendling in 2018. Bob had therefore appointed Directors John Gilbert and Ralph Winter to investigate costs for lodging and bus transportation, create an itinerary, and establish a payment schedule. Their reunion details are on pages 8-11.

He also informed the membership that per our by-laws, the position of President, vacant since Jim Goar's passing, would be filled by vote of the new Board of Directors.

Debbie Goar Beigh thanked all who contributed to her father's Folded Wings memorial fund and especially Bill McCutcheon and Ben Jones, who attended Jim's funeral. She was grateful for the wonderful tribute that Ben delivered on behalf of the 392nd BGMA.

New Officers

Ben Jones and Bill McCutcheon were reelected to the 392nd BGMA Board of Directors. The Board then elected Bob Books as President, Ralph Winter as Vice President, and Annette Tison as Secretary-Treasurer.

8AFHS Gala Banquet

The grand dinner was held in the US Freedom Pavilion (The Boeing Center) at the Museum. Attendees were literally seated under WWII planes (including a



392nd BG veterans at the New Orleans reunion. L-R: 576th waist gunner Harvey Naber, Station Ammunition Officer Charles Dye, 465th Sub Depot machinist Aubrey Burke, gunnery instructor Jack Rotzien, and 578th copilot Joe Cook.

B-17) that were suspended from the ceiling. Nearby were the nose turret of a B-24D and a bomb rack showing how the bombs were attached during the loading process.

Two Crusaders participated in the emotional Candle Lighting ceremony. Ralph Winter, whose father, 2/Lt Ralph E. Lamma was killed in action on 13 Nov 1943, lit a candle on behalf of all Gold Star children from WWII. John Gilbert lit a candle in remembrance of the British forces and our English friends.

First Timers

Taylor Gilbert, grandson of the 392nd's last war-time commander and past 392nd BGMA Chairman Col Lawrence Gilbert, was there and joined our organization immediately. He later said, "The overwhelming response and reception I received is a testament to my Grandfather's character—one that I could only hope to live up to. As important and central to his life these reunions were and are, I'm deeply indebted to all those that preserve the memory and legacy of the 392nd."

See REUNION on page 4



392nd BGMA Officers

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FROM THE EDITOR

Young(er) members wanted! Taylor Gilbert attended the reunion because his parents urged him to. He was so overwhelmed by the people he met and our dedication to “perpetuating the legacy” that he became a member the same day.

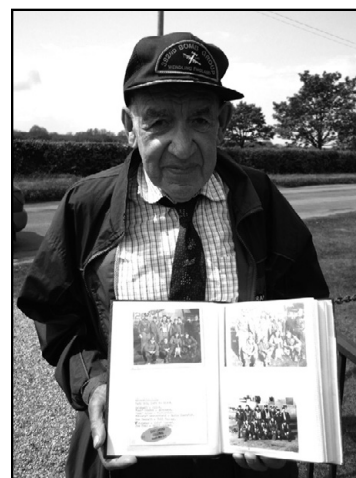
As you gather with relatives during the holiday season, why not share the 392nd BG story with them? One-year memberships would make great (tax deductible) gifts!

Pearl Harbor. Direct US military involvement in WWII began on 7 Dec 1941. However, the commonly accepted start date for the war is 1 Sep 1939, when Germany invaded Poland. Using that date, the first US military casualty was 32-year old Army Air Corps aeronautical meteorologist Capt Robert M. Losey, air assistant to the military attaché at the US Embassy in Finland. On 21 Apr 1940, he was killed during the German bombing of Dombas, Norway, while helping evacuate American diplomats from Norway to Sweden. To learn more, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_M._Losey.

2018 Reunions. The 392nd BGMA is sponsoring a reunion in Wendling from 5-11 September while the 8AFHS is holding its annual reunion in Dayton, Ohio, from 10-14 October. Both will be considered official membership meetings for tax purposes. Details about the Wendling reunion are on pages 8-11; Dayton reunion information will be in the March 2018 *News*.

You will find a warm welcome from fellow Crusaders no matter which reunion you attend.

Farewell, Ernie. I am sad to report that Ernie Parke passed away on 2 Oct 2017. He had been a part of the 392nd almost since its arrival in England in 1943 when, as a 14-year-old, he became an Air Ministry employee at Station 118 for the rest of the war. In late summer 1945, when the stone for our Memorial arrived at the Wendling railway station from Aberdeen, Scotland, he used a hoist (left behind by departing US Motor Pool personnel) to unload it. Later, he went back to the site with a crane to help erect it. Then, for decades, he met



returning Crusaders at the Memorial to reminisce about their time together.

Director John Gilbert represented the 392nd BGMA at Ernie's funeral. Memorial Trustee Jill Scott, who also attended the service, emailed, “A wreath from the 392nd laid on his coffin as was the American cap he always wore on any occasion concerning the 392nd. Much mention was made throughout the service by the Rector and Parson and the two members of his family who spoke, of his involvement with the 392 from his boyhood onward. The 392nd's Collect [Prayer] was included in the Service. Donations made at the end of the Service were in aid of the ‘392 BGMA War Memorial Fund (Wendling)’.”

The entire 392nd BGMA sends its heartfelt condolences to Ernie's family. Many Crusaders will miss his big smile, his big heart, and his memories of our time in Wendling.

I met Ernie during a visit to Wendling in May 2010. My photo, above right, shows Ernie with his 392nd BG cap and one of the photo albums he had assembled over the years.

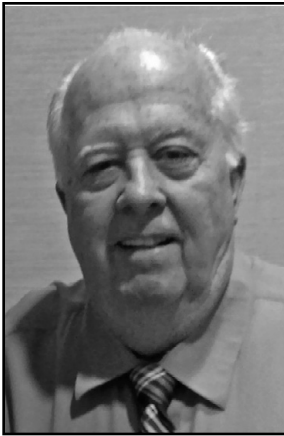
Jewish Radio Operator. If you want to learn what it was like to simultaneously fight Nazi Germany and anti-Semitism, see <http://jewishstandard.timesofisrael.com/fort-lees-flying-ace/>. The article has information about radio operator T/Sgt Gerald Gersten's time in the Army Air Corps, flying 33 missions with 1/Lt Dale W. Enyart's crew in the 577th.

From the May 1992 News. “The 392nd Bombardment Group, (H), was formed at Headquarters, Second Air Force, Fort George Wright, Washington, by Special Order #14 on 26 January 1943. The first combat mission was flown 9 Sept., 1943, an incredibly short time to have welded a sophisticated 4-engine bomber unit together, move it overseas and send it into action against Germany.” We're almost 75 years old!!

Renew Today. If you get a print version of the *News*, please look at the number after your name on the mailing label. If it's “17” please renew ASAP. If you get the *News* via pdf, I'll list those who need to renew in my email. For instructions on how to extend your membership, see the bottom of page 4.

392nd PX. Why not do some holiday shopping for your Crusader with us? See <http://www.b24.net/itemsForSale.htm>.

President's Thoughts



We had a great reunion in New Orleans with 40 attendees, including veterans Jack Rotzien, Joe Cook, Harvey Naber, Charlie Dye and Aubrey Burke.

As usual, the hospitality suite and the group dinner were the focal points. Thanks to everyone who came, making it a fun-filled success.

One of my highlights was when Annette and I were coming back from registration on Wednesday afternoon and a gentleman came

up the hallway and asked if our names were Annette Tison and Bob Books. We replied yes, and he introduced himself as Taylor Gilbert, the grandson of Col Larry Gilbert. Col Gilbert was the last base commander in Wendling and the only CEO of the 392nd BGMA. Both Annette and I were stunned at his physical resemblance to the Colonel. Taylor then became a member and joined us at the reunion hospitality suite, meetings and group dinner.

I was very pleased that we had three more first-timers! Doug Peterson, accompanied by his wife Billie, is the son of Cliff Peterson, who became a POW on 18 Mar 1944. Cliff was a former president of the 392nd BGMA. Colette Swingle is the daughter of Don and Audrey Carey. We hope to see you all again at future reunions!!

Another highlight was the overwhelming response when we asked at the membership meeting "how many of you are interested in visiting the base and Memorial at Wendling in 2018." Almost all, if not all, were interested. Ralph and John were appointed to make the arrangements; details are on pages 8-11.

The Wendling trip is packed with exceptional tours and events. It will be an amazing opportunity to be where our loved ones spent their time during WWII. I'm excited, as I have never seen where my dad flew from or the Memorial dedicated to him and the others who didn't come home.

At the membership meeting, Annette's financial report shows we are keeping expenses in check with membership about the same as last year with minimal loss.

Elected as officers by the Board of Directors were Ralph Winter as Vice President/reunion coordinator, Annette Tison as Secretary/Treasurer and myself as President. Based on our previous presidents, the bar is higher than I can reach, but I'll do my best to provide the leadership expected in fulfilling our purpose to preserve the history and legacy of the 392nd Bomb Group.

Annette and I attended the 8AFHS board meeting on Saturday and our own Ben Jones was elected President of the Society. Also elected were 392nd BGMA member Pat Keeley and our friend Dr. Vivian Rogers-Price as Secretary. Congratulations to all of you.

If you can't get to Wendling, I hope to see you in Dayton, Ohio, where the 8AFHS will hold its reunion from 10-14 Oct 2018. Details will be in the March newsletter.

One thing Annette said during the reunion really affected

me. Nearly 28 percent of our members are veterans or widows of veterans. To keep our organization viable long into the future, we all need to talk with our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren about our loved ones who served with the 392nd BG. We need to make sure they know what their relative did for the 392nd, the conditions under which he flew or worked, and how young he was at the time. A one-year membership could be just the spark needed to kindle a life-long interest.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to one and all!

Bob

UPDATES FROM ENGLAND

We have received several emails about activities on Remembrance Day, when wreaths (usually of poppies) are placed at war memorials throughout England.

Wendling

Jill Scott reports, "A strong, cold NW wind with the occasional flurries of icy rain did not deter a very good number of people from Beeston and neighbouring villages from attending the Act of Remembrance at the 392nd Memorial on Sunday, 12th November at 12 noon.

"The Rainbows and Brownies paraded their flags to the Memorial followed by Canon Heather Butcher and the Reverend Miriam Fife. During the Service, wreaths were laid on behalf of the Parish Council, by the Rainbows and Brownies and by Henry Dennett on behalf of the 392nd.

"This year the Rainbows and Brownies had made their own wreaths to lay at the Memorial at the church and at the 392nd Memorial. Cut green paper had been attached to a circle of wire, then the bottom half of small plastic bottles painted red with black centres (to represent poppies) attached to the paper and wire. They were very impressive and must have been more meaningful to the young people.

After the wreath laying ceremony a Memorial Prayer, the

See UPDATES on page 7



This lovely wreath of poppies was hand-crafted by the Rainbows and Brownies and then placed on the 392nd BG Memorial during the Remembrance Day 2017 service.

REUNION from page 1

Colette Swingle attended with her parents, Don and Audrey Carey. Don's uncle was 576th pilot 2/Lt Clarence W. Stoltz, killed with his crew on 29 May 1944.

Doug Peterson is the son of pilot Cliff Peterson, 578th, who became a POW on 18 Mar 1944 and was later President of the 392nd BGMA. Doug and wife Billie say it won't be their last reunion!

8AFHS Information

The 392nd BGMA is well-represented on the 8AFHS Board. Newly elected Directors Pat Keeley and Dr. Vivian Rogers-Price are both Crusaders. Ben Jones is the new President (replacing 392nd member Dave Nowak).

The next 8AFHS reunion will be in Dayton, Ohio, from 10-14 Oct 2018. A highlight will be an outing to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force and its outstanding display of aircraft. Details about this reunion will be in the March 2018 newsletter.



Above: Ralph Winter (left) and John Gilbert light candles of remembrance at the 8AFHS Gala Banquet.



Above: a bomb rack on display in the US Freedom Pavilion. A metal clip (the shackle) was clamped onto two lugs at the top of a bomb (visible at the bottom of these bombs is the one lug used on US Navy planes). The shackle was then hooked onto the bomb rack. When the bomb was released, its shackle disengaged simultaneously from both lugs. A bomb was "hung up" when one end did not completely separate from the shackle. An airman then had to step out on the narrow catwalk in the bomb bay (without a parachute—as he wouldn't fit if he wore one—using a portable oxygen bottle or holding his breath, and at bombing altitude) and kick the bomb loose.

392nd BGMA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please look at the mailing label, where your membership status is shown directly after your name. **If it's "17" your dues must be renewed ASAP or this is the last issue you will receive!** 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/membership.html>.

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 \$ _____

Photos from the Reunion



Aubrey, Josh and Beverly Burke



Andi and Jack Rotzien



Colette Swingle, Don and Audrey Carey



Joe Cook, Karen Cook Cannady & John Gilbert



Dr. Vivian Rogers-Price



Billie and Doug Peterson



Cynthia Green, Harvey and Mark Naber



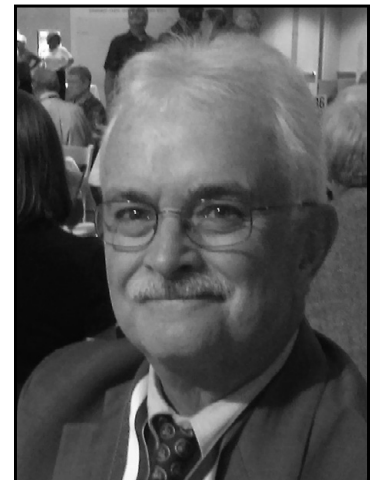
John Gilbert and Laurie Huntley



Char and Doug Heim and Charles Dye



Bob Books



Pat Keeley

More reunion photos—in color!—[Click Here](#)

See PHOTOS on page 6

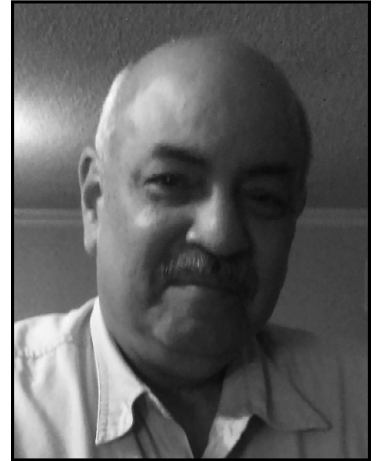
PHOTOS from page 5



Barbara Pierre, John Gilbert and Ron Pierre



Dennis Rogers



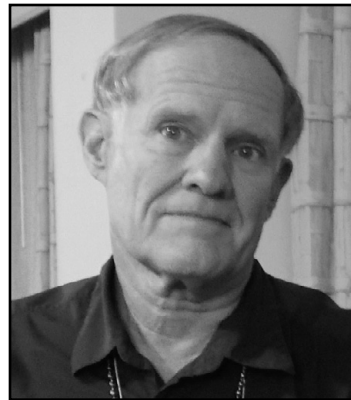
Greg Hatton



Annette Tison



Bill McCutcheon



Doug Dovey



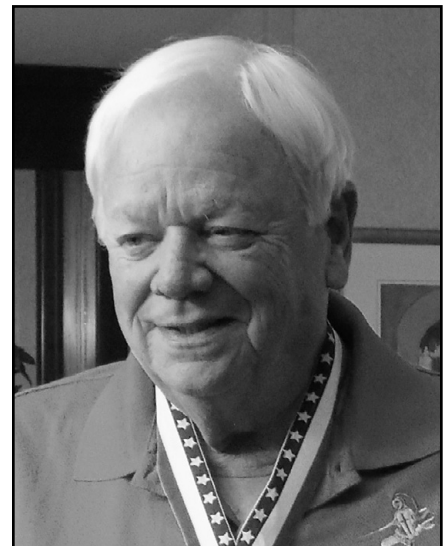
Sue Giesing Williams



Dave Nowack



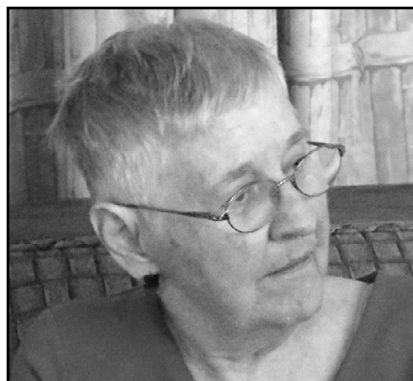
Taylor Gilbert and Ben Jones



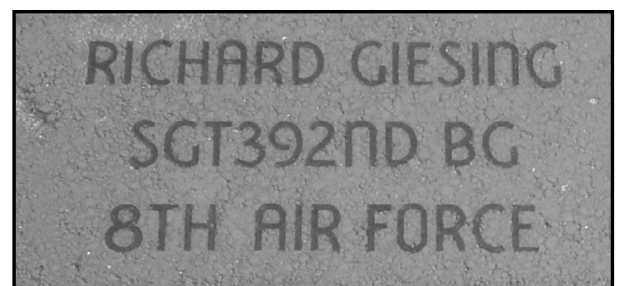
Ralph Winter



Debbie Goar Beigh



Lois Nowack



UPDATES from page 3

Collect for the 392nd [our Prayer] and Washington's Prayer for the Nation were included in the Service.

"Despite the cold wind many people stayed to take a closer look at the wreaths and for a few private thoughts, or to talk. Others made haste for the village hall and a hot drink, followed by refreshments and more talk! The village hall had been cleverly decorated including the chairs having been set out in semi-circles of four red ones with a black one in the middle—more poppies! Something new amongst the refreshments this year were hot pizzas made from scratch and cooked in the kitchen of the village hall. Very good and very warming!"

Kim Chant, leader of the Rainbows and Brownies, explained, "We decided to make our own wreaths to bring the lesson of remembrance more real to the girls but not to leave the British Legion out, we donated to them what we usually pay out for wreaths."

We in the 392nd BGMA are grateful that remembrance of the Crusaders includes the 4th and perhaps 5th generations! We are sincerely touched that these young people attend the Service each year, parade their flags to the Memorial and lay wreaths. The thoughts and efforts behind their special wreaths this year are especially appreciated.

Cheshunt, Hertfordshire

On 12 Aug 1944, 2/Lt John D. Ellis's crew crashed near the town of Cheshunt, Hertfordshire. Villagers believed that the crew sacrificed themselves to ensure their plane did not hit the center of town. In January 2011, a memorial to the crew was erected near that site, thanks in large part to the energy and commitment of resident David Parnell.

Remembrance Day services have been held ever since.

David writes, "Since April the local Masonic Lodge and myself have been organising a service of remembrance.



After wreaths were laid at the Ellis crew memorial, 392nd BGMA member David Parnell thanked those present and reminded them that the ten men in the crew were "much more than names on a memorial."

Many dignitaries attended, including The High Sheriff of Hertfordshire Will Hobhouse and Deputy Lieutenant Air Vice Marshall Alan Merriman CBE, AFC, both of whom are appointed representatives of Her Majesty the Queen.

"A USAF honour guard and three-gun firing party from RAF Mildenhall provided ceremonial honours. The Mayor of Broxbourne and other senior council officials laid wreaths. I laid one on behalf of the 392nd BGMA.

"As a prelude to the ceremony, I wrote an article for the *Hertfordshire Mercury*. It centered around the more compassionate side of the disaster and how this tragic loss affected the families of the crew.

"A reception at Halsey Hall Masonic Lodge provided light refreshments for invited guests following the service. The tables of the lodge hall were covered with images of the crew and some of the more prominent correspondence conveying the tragedy. I very much want the boys to be much more than names on a memorial."

North Tuddenham, Norfolk

On 21 Apr 1944, 2/Lt Louis F. Bass and crew, 577th, took off for a mission to Zwickau, Germany. Due to very bad weather conditions while the 8AF planes were forming up, the entire mission was cancelled. Unfortunately, before the Bass crew could return to Wendling, their left wing broke off, likely due to icing, and the B-24 crashed. Two men were able to bail out but the other eight were killed.

The survivors, engineer S/Sgt Gerald A. Knettel and waist gunner Sgt John J. Brzostowski, were badly injured and unable to return to combat. Both were transferred to the 577th's ground crew for the rest of the war.

A memorial to the fallen near their crash site was dedicated in May 2010; in November 2014, a plaque with their names was placed in the local church.

Pat Baldwin, the force behind both memorials, wrote, "The weather whilst the Remembrance Service was being held was appalling. We had the worst hail storm that we have had this year whilst the names of the Bass crew were being read but the lady who read the names out managed to get through them all and brave the storm.

"So much has changed here since their memorial was

See UPDATES on page 8



A wreath of poppies for the Bass crew was placed in front of the memorial to eleven North Tuddenham men "Who Fell In The Great War" and four casualties from WWII.

UPDATES from page 7

dedicated, but the Bass crew will always be remembered every year. People still visit and talk about the memorial on the common. I have recently passed all the information that I have to somebody who lives in the North of England who visited and was interested."

Visitors to Wendling 2017

John Gilbert has been busy on our behalf, escorting many visitors on multi-day tours of Station 118.

From 7-10 May, he took then-8AFHS president Dave Nowack and his wife Lois around the base, then to Litcham School for a discussion of B-17s. He also arranged for Dave to visit the 44th BG at Shipdham and the 389th's chapel and museum at Hethel.

A few days later, he gave Robert and Nancy LaBonte a tour. Robert's father, S/Sgt Felix J. LaBonte, was a tail gunner on 2/Lt James M. Stewart's crew in the 579th.

Then, it was time for David Buccigrossi, wife Debbie and son Sam to be shown around. David's father was 2/Lt Sam Buccigrossi, co-pilot on 1/Lt Richard J. Benson's crew, also in the 579th.

This visit brought back a war-time memory for John. His mother earned extra money by doing laundry for many GIs. He remembers how happy his father was when he came home one day with the news that he had gotten her another

washing job. She was not so thrilled when she learned it was cleaning the uniforms for the base's football team—on which 2/Lt Buccigrossi was an end.

John's hospitality extends to non-Crusaders as well. In June, he showed the family of a 389th BG co-pilot around and then arranged for them to visit the 389th's airfield at Hethel.

Our English friends also work together. John got a call from John Rupp, manager of Ben Burgess Beeston (built over and around the Operations Building). "Several American visitors have just turned up after visiting the Memorial. I told them they must go and see John Gilbert at Cawston." Among them were the brother of T/Sgt Robert E. Howard, radio operator on 2/Lt William F. Usry Jr's crew, 577th.

The group did indeed visit John at his home that night where he showed them his photos and other memorabilia.

The entire Usry crew was killed on 29 Jan 1944 when their B-24 collided during assembly with a 482nd BG plane.

Eight of the 11 men aboard the 482nd ship were also killed. Sadly, many of them had been assigned to our 577th Sqdn before their transfer in late 1943 to become a Pathfinder Force crew.

Thank You!

The entire 392nd BGMA thanks our friends throughout England who ensure our men are not forgotten.

REMEMBERING WENDLING AND THE 392ND BOMB GROUP SEPTEMBER 5-11, 2018

Please join the 392nd BGMA for a trip to Wendling and an opportunity to walk the same ground that your relative did, see the same sights that he would have seen, and attend a Remembrance Service at the 392nd BG Memorial similar to what the local community experience every November.

ITINERARY

Wednesday, 5 September

Arrive in Norwich and check in at the Maids Head Hotel, 20 Tombland, Norwich NR3 1LB, England. 392nd BGMA reunion registration will be open from 9am to 5pm. Welcome Reception with light hors d'oeuvres and cash bar from 5:30-6:30pm. All meals on your own.

Thursday, 6 September

To help overcome jet lag, today's events are on your own. After breakfast at the hotel, walk around Norwich; for ideas, see <http://www.visitnorwich.co.uk/>. Don't miss the 2nd Air Division Association Library (<http://www.2ndair.org.uk/>).

Friday, 7 September

After breakfast, we will board the bus and enjoy a visit to Wendling. John Gilbert will conduct our tour where we will have the unique opportunity to see still intact buildings and landmarks from the WWII era. Our tour will include the Village Hall in Wendling, the 392nd Memorial, the runways, the combat officers' mess hall with its beautiful mural of B-24s in flight, the Operations Building, a Nissen hut where airmen lived, and other meaningful and poignant sights.

We'll break for lunch at the Longham White Horse, a nearby pub. It was undoubtedly a popular destination for 392nd BG airmen on bicycles! This meal is included in the tour price. Meal options will be provided and selected ahead of time when the menu becomes available. After an enjoyable lunch, we will resume our tour of the base.

When we return to the hotel, you'll have time to freshen up before a membership meeting. Then, the evening and dinner will be on your own.

Saturday, 8 September

After breakfast, we'll board the bus for a trip to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, Cambridgeshire. Spend time at the American Air Museum which includes a B-24 painted as the 392nd's *Dugan*; an exhibit of all 8th Air Force combat casualties during WWII; an electronic map showing the targets for each day of the war; and much more. Lunch will be on your own at the Museum's restaurant or cafe.

We then head to the Cambridge American Cemetery—the final resting place for 3,812 of our soldiers, airmen, marines and civilians (including 45 Crusaders). An additional 5,127 names (114 from the 392nd BG) are listed on the Wall of the Missing.

Most fell during the Battle of the Atlantic or the strategic air bombardment of northwest Europe. Interpretive exhibits at the Visitors Center use personal stories, photographs,

See WENDLING on page 9

WENDLING from page 8

films, and interactive displays to show how these critical campaigns contributed to the Allied victory in Europe.

Step outside to see a large plaque for 2/Lt John D. Ellis's crew—the only marker to a specific crew at the site. Their crash site (see p. 7) is just 50 miles away.

Learn more about the European Campaign via displays and maps at the chapel. Later, we will assemble for a symbolic wreath-laying ceremony. There will be free time to walk through the Cemetery.

We'll get back to the hotel in time to change clothes for the evening's reunion dinner. Enjoy a 3-course meal in a private dining room with a cash bar available throughout the evening. Our guests are English friends in Norfolk who have honored our fallen throughout the years: Trustees of the Memorial, landowners who let Crusaders walk through their land and businesses, and others who help perpetuate the legacy and memory of the 392nd BG.

Sunday, 9 September

After breakfast, we'll board the bus for the Wendling Memorial and spend the day in services of remembrance among many more English friends. We'll lay a wreath at the Memorial during a service similar to those held every November on Remembrance Day, continue with a service at Beeston Church, and finish with a reception at Beeston Village Hall.

Dinner and the evening will be on your own.

Monday, 10 September

After breakfast, we'll board the bus for a visit to the Muckleburgh Military Collection (<http://www.muckleburgh.co.uk/>) with lunch on your own on-site. Then we'll drive along the coast and view The Wash, one of the largest estuaries in the United Kingdom and a landmark for 8AF airmen. Our final destination is Sandringham (<https://www.sandringhamestate.co.uk/>), the Norfolk retreat of Her Majesty the Queen. You will be able to visit the House, Museum and Gardens. If there's time, you might enjoy tea or snacks at the Terrace Coffee Shop or Stables Tea Room.

Once back at the hotel, dinner and the evening is on your own, with time to say farewell to Norwich and your Crusader friends, pack, and get ready for your next destination.

Tuesday, 11 September

Breakfast, checkout and departure.

COSTS

The Tour Cost is \$300.00 per person.

What is included? Bus transportation for all trips in the itinerary, entrance fees to all featured attractions, the Welcome Reception, Reunion Dinner, lunch at the White Horse Pub, event room rentals and charges for hotel-related events. Daily breakfast is included in your hotel rate.

What is NOT included? Hotel accommodations, airfare, transfers between the airport and hotel, meals except as noted in the itinerary, and alcoholic beverages.

All reunion attendees must pre-pay the entire Tour Cost by the stated deadlines, even if you choose not to go on one or more of the trips or decide to arrive in Norwich later or depart earlier than the announced time frame.

LODGING

The 392nd BGMA has reserved a block of rooms at the Maids Head Hotel in Norwich (<https://www.maidsheadhotel.co.uk/>).

Reservations. Please call 011-44-1603-209955 and reference booking code 2492 to get the group rate. Reservations may also be made via email to Melissa at reservations@maidsheadhotel.co.uk. Remember to reference the booking code in your correspondence.

Dates. September 5-11, 2018

Rooms. Single rooms are available for six nights (including breakfast) for a group rate of £595 (approximately \$785). Twin/double rooms (either two twin beds or one king size bed) are available for six nights (including breakfast) for a group rate of £780 (approximately \$1030). The group rate will be available two days before and after the reunion dates, based on space and rate availability.

Cut-Off Date for the group rate. August 6, 2018 or until our room allotment is depleted. Late reservations will be processed per space availability, at the hotel's regular rate.

Cancellation Policy. When making your reservation with the hotel, a credit card will be required to guarantee the booking. The hotel requires that the entire booking be charged to your credit card 30 days prior to arrival. You may authorize the hotel to do that when you book or you may authorize this payment later, but it must be authorized

See WENDLING on page 10

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

WENDLING from page 9

no later than 5 August 2018 (31 days prior to arrival). Failure to authorize the payment by 5 August 2018 could result in your reservation being cancelled by the hotel.

NOTE: Once paid for and within the 30-day cancellation period, the cost of your entire hotel booking becomes NON-REFUNDABLE. If, for example, you cancel on August 7 or later, the entire charge is non-refundable. For this reason we highly recommend you purchase Travel Insurance. For your convenience, advice on travel insurance is available below under “General Information.”

If you have to cancel within the 30-day period and someone on our waiting list is able to assume your booking, the hotel will make a name change on the reservation and the wait-listed person will reimburse your hotel charge.

This offering is a “Package Deal.” In order to get the cost benefits, we have negotiated rates based on group pricing structures so we have quotas that must be met. *To participate in any aspect of the reunion, you must follow the booking guidelines for accommodations at The Maids Head Hotel as outlined on p. 8.*

MEALS

Soon after you make your deposit, we will ask if you have specific dietary constraints. We will inform the restaurants in advance but cannot guarantee they can comply.

Breakfast is included in your hotel charge. The only other included meals are lunch at the White Horse Pub on Friday and the Reunion Dinner on Saturday. These menus will be based on seasonal availability so we will not be informed of the choices until summer 2018.

Once we are given the meal options, we will contact each person who is going, get their choices, and let the restaurants know.

BOOKING INSTRUCTIONS

A \$50 non-refundable deposit per person is due by February 15, 2018. The remaining \$250 per person is due no later than April 1, 2018. On that date, your entire payment of \$300 per person becomes non-refundable. If you must cancel after this date, every effort will be made to replace your reservation with people on the waiting list and secure a refund for you of \$250 per person who can be replaced in your group. If no substitute(s) can be found, your \$250 per person cannot be refunded.

Mail the completed registration form (p. 11) and a check for \$50 per person in your group, payable to 392nd BGMA, to Annette Tison, 9107 Wood Pointe Way, Fairfax Station, VA 22039. Put “Wendling Reunion” in the Memo line.

Annette will establish a “reservation list” based on the order in which the checks are received. When the maximum capacity of bus seats, hotel rooms and reunion dinner space is reached, she will inform the lucky ones and then contact the rest to determine if they wish to be put on the waiting list or have their check returned.

If you are put on the waiting list, your deposit will not be cashed until/unless a slot opens up and you still wish to go.

If you are advised that you cleared the wait-list and are now confirmed for the trip, the remaining \$250/person payment is due by April 1, 2018 or immediately if you are confirmed after that date.

Once the core group and wait-list members are identified,

further correspondence about the reunion will be sent to them only and not reported via the newsletter.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The 392nd BGMA reunion organizers are not travel agents and cannot tell you everything you need to know for international travel. We can say that US passports—valid for the duration of your stay—are required for travel to England. HOWEVER, if you plan to extend your travel to destinations elsewhere in Europe, the passport must be valid for at least six months past your intended travel dates.

It usually takes four to six weeks to get a new passport; expedited service can be obtained, but at a premium price. More information is at <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports.html>.

We suggest you visit the site and enroll in the STEP program.

Airline Booking Tip. According to *USA Today*, discounts are released earlier for overseas travel than for domestic travel. Start looking for tickets five or six months ahead of time when traveling abroad and continue to watch for price drops in the beginning of each week, as more discount tickets are released. If you are traveling to a hot international destination, look early and book the moment a sale emerges, since airlines do not have much incentive to discount seats on many of their most popular flights.

Travel Insurance. As a hedge against last-minute inability to travel (whether due to illness, weather, airline issues, etc.) we highly suggest you purchase travel insurance.

Travelex is the recommended provider. This website, which has a summary of two policy types and price quotes, will help you decide: <https://www.travelexinsurance.com/quote/>. Or call 1-800-228-9792 from 8am to 7pm CST Monday through Friday.

NOTE: You will need to decide what portions of the trip you wish to cover so you will need a dollar figure for the different elements. Non-refundable deposit (\$300) + Lodging + Airline Ticket. If you purchase a pre- or post-trip extension (see below), that insurance can be purchased separately or added later to your existing policy.

Pre- or Post-Wendling Travel. Some of you may wish to visit one of Europe’s nearby destinations before or after your time in Wendling, such as Paris, Amsterdam or London. If extending your holiday interests you, we have a travel advisor contact who can assist you with hotel, transportation and city tour options—Ken Fanning with Destinations Afar. He can be reached by email, ken@destinationsafar.com, or by phone at (770) 366-0844, Monday through Friday between 9:00am and 5:00pm Eastern Time.

Flights. We cannot provide guidance on flights from the USA to Norwich because there are too many variables (frequent flyer points, preference for a certain airline, etc.) However, it’s relatively easy to get to Norwich by air from Amsterdam or from Heathrow via the National Express Coach (<http://www.nationalexpress.com>).

Questions??? Contact...

Annette Tison at dtison5401@aol.com or (703) 690-8540; Ralph Winter at rewcts@gmail.com or (404) 354-7485; Bob Books at books@b24.net or (850) 458-0777.

We look forward to seeing you in Norwich!!!

392nd BGMA Reunion

Wendling, England
September 5 - 11, 2018



The 392nd BGMA is sponsoring a trip to Wendling, England, for its members from September 5 -11, 2018. A detailed itinerary and information about costs, lodging, meals, and how to reserve your spot are on pages 8 to 10.

Space is limited due to availability of hotel rooms and tour and bus capacities. To hold a place for you/your group, please complete and return this registration form—along with a non-refundable deposit of \$50 for each person in your group—as soon as possible, but no later than February 15, 2018. Confirmations will be made based on date received and space availability. The balance of \$250 per person is due by April 1, 2018. At that point your entire payment of \$300 per person becomes non-refundable. If you must cancel your reservation after April 1, every effort will be made to find substitutes from our waiting list for you/your group; refunds of your \$250/person Tour Cost will be made accordingly. We will provide guidance to both groups on changing your room reservation(s) with the hotel.

All reunion attendees must pre-pay the entire Tour Cost, even if you choose not to go on one or more of the trips or decide to arrive in Norwich later or depart earlier than the announced time frame.

Member Name _____ Name 2 _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone number _____

My non-refundable 392nd BG Wendling reunion registration fee is enclosed: \$50 x ____ (number of people) = \$ ____
(If you will be traveling with more than one person, please use additional forms as necessary.)

The purpose of this trip is to familiarize and educate the 392nd BGMA membership about Station 118 and to address and attend to 392nd BGMA-related business as it pertains to our purpose and mission statement. Therefore, we encourage all members to be present; members will be considered delegates to a membership meeting. Trip expenses incurred could be tax deductible as allowed by law (for the member). Please consult your tax advisor.

After carefully considering all Wendling reunion information in the 392nd BGMA News for December 2017 and in view of the fact that I wish to participate in this trip: I hereby release, hold-harmless and waive all claims associated with this activity which I may have against the 392nd BGMA and its officers, directors, agents, volunteers and members.

Signatures _____

Please mail your check (payable to: "392nd BGMA" (Memo line "Wendling Reunion") to: Annette Tison, 9107 Wood Pointe Way, Fairfax Station, VA 22039

IDEAS AND INSPIRATION

by Char Heim

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

"Never ... was so much owed by so many to so few"—Winston Churchill. Today and every day we must be grateful for our past and current military personnel and the families who support them.

As we prepare for Christmas, let us not forget the freedom we expect is due to the service of so many patriots. Many have moved on from this life, but will be forever remembered and revered.

We all have challenges and misfortunes in our life that we must accept or overcome. Most of us have not borne the burden of real war, but we must continue to appreciate those who sacrificed to keep this country strong and brave.

Whether you are military, retired military or civilian, remember that we all battle this struggle to retain this freedom that was won by our veterans. Keep your spirit strong and remember that God gives the toughest battles to his strongest soldiers.



Remembrance Day at Wendling, 2017. Top: American and British flags at half staff. Middle: Flags of the Brownies and Rainbows are presented. Right: The large crowd, especially on a cold, rainy day, shows that the people of Wendling and Beeston still hold the 392nd Bomb Group close to their hearts. Even 72 years after they departed, the Crusaders have not been forgotten in the community where they lived and flew between 1943 and 1945.



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∞

Ernie Parke, Friend, October 2, 2017
Lee D. Ehrlich, 576, early November 2017
Bertha L. Bolstridge, widow of Floyd,
Associate, August 18, 2017
Mary B. Gombkoto, Associate, January 23, 2017
Leslie R. Hadley, 577, November 11, 2017