



## 2022 Reunion

About 325 people, including 19 Crusaders, attended the October 2022 reunion of the 8th Air Force Historical Society (8AFHS) in the suburbs of Washington DC. Eight WWII veterans were there, none from the 392nd BG.

### Annual Membership Meeting

Sixteen people were present in person at our annual meeting with ten more Zooming in. Everyone recited the 392nd BGMA prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

(led by Doug Peterson) and the 2nd Air Division Fanfare, where the Air Force Song (*Wild Blue Yonder*) segues into *The Star Spangled Banner*.

Mark Stasney reported the names of the ten 392nd BG veterans, widows and members who passed away since the last reunion.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports, distributed by email to all members in advance, were approved as written.

### Committee Reports

Secretary Debbie Beigh noted that the 392nd BGMA had 214 members, including 32 Friends, 5 WWII veterans and 4 widows of veterans. Twelve new members joined in 2022.

Director Greg Hatton reported on the cost of shipping 578th Sqdn crew chief Ernie Barber's B-24 model to England for ultimate display in the Ploughshare pub. Members approved a motion authorizing him to expend up to \$500 for transportation costs.

Our new plaque will be dedicated during the Heritage League/392nd BG's convention in July 2023, so the original plaque from our Memorial will be picked up and

brought back to the US then.

Director Bob Books, our amazing webmaster, advised that the Newsletters/Videos section of [www.b24.net](http://www.b24.net) is quite popular. It also has links to training videos for GIs who were stationed in England.

Ron Pierre thanked Bob for all his work on the website and especially for regularly updating its technology so that it continues to be both relevant and accessible.



392nd Rendezvous Dinner attendees. Standing L-R: Joel Fleck, Don Tison, Doug Peterson, David Nowack, Ted Dudziak, Bill Marcrander, Ralph Winter, Mark Stasney, Greg Hatton, Doug Dovey, Jim Dudziak. Sitting L-R: Connie Fleck, Annette Tison, Laurie Huntley, Wendy Vowell, Billie Peterson, Sharon Marcrander, Bette Payne, Janet Stasney

Annette Tison gave an update about the 2022 Aubrey Award. She advised that the Aubrey Committee will be making many changes to the 2023 contest to entice more students to enter. ALL members are asked to spread the word!! It was widely felt among attendees

that while the monetary awards are significant, what the students will learn about the 392nd BG is going to be even more impressive.

### New Business

The 2023 trip to England with the Heritage League was discussed in detail. Ralph pointed out that the 392nd BGMA's annual membership meeting will NOT occur  
**See REUNION on page 6**

## 2023 AUBREY AWARD

The 2023 Aubrey Award program is now being launched! Rules have been simplified, the formats for entries have been expanded, and eligibility requirements have been broadened. Please see page 6-7 for more information and the link to complete details—and share them with the age-appropriate students that you know.



## 392nd BGMA Officers

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David Parnell  
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## FROM THE EDITOR

**Well done, Philip Brazier!!** On 19 Oct 2022, Norfolk-based member Philip Brazier presented an 80 minute PowerPoint discussion about the 392nd BG on a YouTube site called *WW2TV*. It covered the 392nd BG's history from many angles: the desert landscape of Alamogordo, New Mexico, to the lush greenery of England; how the ground personnel prepared the B-24s for action (if you ever wondered how machine gun bullets got from shipping boxes to B-24 guns, Philip—with help from Station Ammunition Officer Charles Dye's journals—provides the answer!); how crews were readied for combat—from time in the S-2's Escape Corner to their mission briefings; how Squadrons, then Groups, then Wings, then Divisions formed up and headed for war; the mission to Friedrichshafen on 18 Mar 1944; and, of course, the price of freedom.



The video has been seen more than 2,000 times since then, with many favorable comments. I highly recommend you watch it, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1rF0k1rbfIE&t=331s> or <https://b24.net/Videos.htm>.

The idea originated in March 2022, when Philip contacted Ralph and me with a suggestion: "*WW2TV* is a YouTube channel run by a British historian who lives in Normandy, Paul Woodadge, and has been going since lockdown to replace his battlefield guide work. It's built up a decent international following and has enabled some less well-known subjects to be shared.

"With the Spielberg/Hanks *Masters of the Air* project ongoing, could we do a 392nd BG version? I'm happy to contact Paul..."

Ralph and I enthusiastically gave Philip the green light and he plunged into several months of research, including extensive time spent reviewing the wealth of information/photos available on [www.b24.net](http://www.b24.net). I provided additional photos, anecdotes, and details from 392nd BG archives.

Philip is a teacher, served in the New Zealand Army Reserves and is currently a Captain in the British Army Reserves. He is also the Reservist representative on the Committee of the Royal Engineers Historical Society. He has been a battlefield guide since 2003, most of it with the British Army, and will serve as our guide for the Normandy extension after the Heritage League's convention in England in 2023.

**Christmas Greetings.** In 1943, Col Irvine A. "Bull" Rendle, then 392nd BG's commanding officer, sent this memo to the officers and men of Station 118: "You have proven by your fine spirit, hearty cooperation, and endless devotion to duty that an organization does not have to be an old one to be efficient. But our task has just begun. The New Year, 1944, will be, with the efficient efforts of all, 'Our' year.

"Through the New Year I wish each and every one of you happiness—happiness attained by a safe return to your homes and the satisfaction of a job well done."

By Christmas 1944, Col Lorin L. Johnson was the commander. He had been the 392nd BG's Air Executive since its stateside days and his message was both longer and more somber: "I extend to you my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, together with my heartfelt appreciation for the splendid manner in which you have performed your assignments during this last difficult year.

"At this time and under these circumstances it would be folly to expect the high merriment and full happiness that in time of peace would normally attend on the occasion. The war is not over; the future holds out to us yet much pain and sacrifice.

"But I think that there is no doubt in our minds that over and beyond that pain and sacrifice the future has for us large rewards in store. It is for us in the coming year to put forth that added amount of effort in our work, that courage surpassing even what we have known before, toward the goal of victory for which so many, with these same hopes in their hearts, have already given the last full measure of devotion.

"We can be merry in the knowledge that we have completed a year of service full worthy of the people and the country we represent; we can be happy in the prospect of the grand prize that lies beyond the hard test of the final round of the conflict. But we

must give out with more than we have before. We are prepared for the last, most crucial battles.

"I wish you all safety, good health, and a multitude of military successes during the

**See EDITOR on page 3**

## President's Corner



Season Greetings to One and All !

I hope that Santa was good to all of you and that you are enjoying a wonderful holiday season.

Thanksgiving and Christmas have been especially poignant for me, having lost my 96-year-old mother on October 8th. In preparing for our celebration of her life, my sister and I were

sorting through pictures, letters, and family records and thinking what her first holiday season without my father must have been like for her. My father, 1st Lt. Ralph Edwin Lamma, was shot down on November 13, 1943, and Mother was suddenly a 17-year-old widow with an 8-month-old baby. We were fortunate to have her parents with whom we lived until she re-married in June of 1947.



I particularly like this photo. I'm about two and wearing a "uniform" hand-made by my maternal grandmother, an excellent seamstress. Mother was about 19.

Her strong faith and positive attitude served us all well as she was a fun and loving person and we were blessed to have her in our lives.

On a different note—Annette has given you a report on our reunion and yearly membership meeting

in Arlington in October. It was a fine occasion and we had a popular hospitality suite and a good number of 392nd BGMA members in attendance. I would love to see more of you at our reunions. Next year we'll be in Ontario, California, so I hope to see some of our members from west of The Rockies! Stay tuned for details.

Last, but not least, I want to implore you, our members, to get involved in one or both of our upcoming events. To paraphrase an old saying, "Now is the time for all good men (and women) to come to the aid of their Association."

Here are four opportunities to enhance your involvement in your organization.

1. Beverly Burke has graciously pledged to donate funds for the Second Annual Aubrey Award Contest and we need your help to get the word out. Details are in this issue. We have produced a flyer with basic information in it and a link to a document with full details. We need you to volunteer to put out a few flyers at a local high school (perhaps your child or grandchild's school), your church's youth group, a local library, scout troop or civic meeting, etc. Better yet, promote it to a family member or young acquaintance. The prizes are quite generous and it will give your young person a chance to learn some history, maybe family history.

2. Consider going to England with us next year. A couple

of days will be devoted to the 392nd BG base at Wendling and you'll have the opportunity to see what remains of the base and visit WWII-era pubs and churches that were there during the war and even a business built over and around a 392nd BG building. It's going to be a great trip and will include some sights and activities that younger members of your family will enjoy if you choose to bring them along. Register soon—space is limited! See the details on pages 8-11 and at <https://heritageleague.org/>.

3. Plan to attend our annual membership meeting and reunion in California next October. Details will be in the March 2023 News.

4. Log into our quarterly Zoom Meet and Greet and visit with other members near and far, chat, exchange stories and have a good time. We'll send out invitations with the link as we always do. Please let me or one of our board members know (using the contact information on page 2) if you aren't getting the invitations and we'll fix that immediately. Our next one will be **February 12**. It starts at 1:30pm Eastern Time but you can pop in anytime that suits you. It usually runs for an hour to an hour and a half. Look for the invitation a week or so before the meeting, but go ahead and put it on your calendar now!

In closing, I want to wish all of you a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Ralph

**EDITOR from page 2**  
coming year."

**Dues are Due!** Dues for 68 members expired on 31 Dec 2022. If you're one of them and get a print version of the News, a sticker reminding you to renew will be on page 4 of your printed issue. If you get the News via email, your name will be listed at the end of the message that transmits this issue to you. Either way, you may renew your dues via check using the form at the bottom of page 4 or via credit card at <https://www.b24.net/membership.htm>.

**My apologies.** I regret that this issue of the News is reaching you later than usual. However, it includes late-breaking details about the 2023 Aubrey Award and the 2023 get-together in England.



I join the members of 1/Lt Bernard Paroly's crew, 576th, in wishing all Crusaders a new year filled with good health and great joy!



# News from Across the Pond

## 2022 Remembrance Day Observances

### Beeston

392nd BGMA Trustee Jill Scott reports that "Sunday, 13th November, 2022 was for once a day of almost perfect weather for this Occasion. No rain, no wind, light clouds in the sky, and not too cold for a November day.

"As every year, first the Service at the War Memorial in the churchyard where Robert Scott, a Beeston Parish Council member, laid their wreath, followed by the Service in the church.

"Then, again as always, we moved down to what I always call 'Your Memorial', where we joined others waiting there. Two wreaths were laid this year. None made by the Rainbows and Brownies at either Service as they were attending a Guiding weekend remembering the part played by Guides during times of war.

"Jim Pitt, a Parish Council member, laid their Wreath. And, as Trustee Hugh Scott was away on travels and Rob had already laid a Wreath, I laid the 392nd's on your behalf. We were accompanied by 5 year old Ethan Gould who impeccably represented the younger generation.

"The two flags were raised (they are lowered on 11th November) as the Reveille was being played after the Last Post and the Silence—played thanks to modern technology, an iPad and a microphone, and a teenager to make sure it worked properly! As always, 'Your Collect' [the 392nd BG

Prayer, from page 12] as read by the Rector, the Reverend Miriam Fife. I looked up at the blue sky with its light cloud formation—a perfect flying day?

"We made our way to the Village Hall and refreshments, for once not arriving wet, windblown and cold. Refreshments



Top: Jim Pitt, Ethan Gould, and Jill Scott prepare to lay wreaths under the guidance of the Reverend Miriam Fife. Left: Wreaths from the Trustees (on behalf of the 392nd BGMA) and the Beeston Parish Council.

See **ACROSS THE POND** on page 5

## 392nd BGMA MEMBERSHIP FORM

If you get the *News* in print format, your membership status is shown on the mailing label directly after your name; "22" means your dues expired in December 2022. If you get the *News* via email, the email you receive with the pdf attachment will state the names of members whose dues expired in December. If you wish to join or renew, send this form and your check (payable to 392nd BGMA) to Bill McCutcheon, 20620 Milton Ct., Brookfield, WI 53045 or join/ renew on-line at <https://www.b24.net/memorialAssociation.htm>. **LM** means Life Member and **FRIEND** means that you receive the *News* with compliments of the 392nd BGMA.

The Board of Directors has ruled that no Crusader will be denied membership because of financial concerns, so if you're in straitened circumstances, check the Hardship Waiver box below. If you can help the 392nd BGMA treasury with a donation, please indicate the amount in the space below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Ground [ ] Air [ ] Sqdn/Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the name and unit of your Crusader relative/friend: \_\_\_\_\_

**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: I am renewing for \_\_\_\_\_ years.

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

## ACROSS THE POND from page 4

and the all-important get-together after the Services, a wind-down.

"It had been a morning of reflection on past and present conflicts. Of remembering with gratitude those who Served for our safety, and those who continue to do so."

### Cheshunt, Hertfordshire

Newly elected 392nd BGMA Director David Parnell reports about the memorial to 2/Lt John D. Ellis and crew; they crashed nearby on 12 Aug 1944 with all aboard killed: "I am thrilled at being accepted onto the 392nd BGMA Board of Directors as a UK representative. What I would like to do if possible is have regular contact with like minded 392nd members/supporters here in the UK to offer assistance in any way I can with promoting the legacy of all those who served in the 392nd BG during WWII. If you can pass on my contact details it will help me focus more on retiring and devoting much more on this passion so close to my heart. [David can be reached at [david.parnell1@ntlworld.com](mailto:david.parnell1@ntlworld.com).]

"October was a busy month on the memorial front as I decided to refurbish the grassed area following a long, hot, dry summer which depleted the turf to straw with no chance of recovery. My dear friend and former co-worker John Marshall of Supa Lawns came to the rescue starting with a weed and iron treatment in late September. The final day's work commenced on 5th October and consisted of: grass cutting, scarifying [de-thatching], raking up, re-cutting, scarifying, raking up, spiking in three different directions then finally reseeding followed by an application of autumn/winter lawn fertilizer and 1.5 tonnes of top dressing ... phew!

"Weather conditions were perfect for the following 4 weeks and a lush new lawn flourished just in time for an amazing Service of Remembrance to "The Ellis Crew" on Saturday 5th November.

"Despite a somewhat damp start to the morning the numbers attending topped close on to 90 people. St Mary's Church of England School opened its gates and the car park started to fill with invited guests.

"Those attending and laying wreaths included: Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire Mrs Karen Drew DL, The High Sheriff of Hertfordshire Mrs Sally Burton DL, The Worshipful Mayor of Broxbourne Councillor Paul Seeby, representing The United States Air Force, Major Matthew S Osborne—Commander 100th Air Refueling Wing Aircraft Maintenance Squadron RAF Mildenhall, Provincial Grand Master of the Masonic Province of Hertfordshire The Right Worshipful Brother Neil Connolly, 392nd BGMA representatives of myself and Jane Plant; representing Hertfordshire Constabulary, Chief Inspector Jason Finnegan; representing the Borough of Broxbourne Bury Green Council Ward (the memorial is in Bury Green Ward), Councillor Peter Chorley; and finally, representing St Mary's C of E School and the young citizens of the borough, Hannah Green, Bradley Reade, Lewis Latham and Peter Brookwalker.

"The Honor Guard from RAF Mildenhall were both key and exemplary to our service and when the bugler played "The Last Post" tears were seen in the eyes of several of

those attending. This very moving service left a very real impression on all those attending and the corresponding feed-back from so many public attendees was quite overwhelming.



Top: The USAF Honor Guard on post while 392nd BGMA members Jane Plant and David Parnell prepare to lay a wreath at the memorial to the Ellis crew. Bottom: David Parnell makes closing remarks.

"After the ceremony some 40 or more guests attended the local Masonic Lodge at Halsey Hall for light refreshments. The staff at the hall did us proud and gave us all a chance to mingle and converse on what we had just experienced. It was during this period of recollection that I found myself in conversation with the Mayor of Broxbourne Councillor Paul Seeby and Deputy Leader of Hertfordshire County Councillor Mark Mills-Bishop. Both had remarked that our Service of Remembrance had become THE most premier event of its kind not only within the Borough of Broxbourne but also within the entire County of Hertfordshire! I was quite astounded to learn of this but was also reminded by them both that I needed to start taking this on-board seriously! According to Cllr Mark Mills-Bishop an invitation to this event now carries a huge level of kudos both within the higher echelons of the County of Hertfordshire as well as local government! To say I felt a bit bewildered when I left Halsey Hall is an understatement!

"The other thing that arose from our conversation is the 80th anniversary of the disaster in 2024. Both Cllr Paul Seeby and Cllr Mark Mills-Bishop want to see an anniversary exhibition at the Lowewood Museum Hoddesdon to mark this historic occasion. A slot will be booked for a two week event which will see a combined opening by both The Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire and myself. This gives me a

**See ACROSS THE POND on page 6**

## **ACROSS THE POND from page 5**

great opportunity to display the many letters and artifacts I have accumulated over the years representing this most significant of historical incidents.

"My input in all this is quite arbitrary really (yes I do provide the background & inspiration plus help finance the operation) but I really must attribute the bulk of success to this event to the fantastic team of individuals and associates of the Hertfordshire Lodge of the Legion - Halsey Hall Cheshunt. Whilst I am not a Mason I fully recognise the selfless contribution this wonderful organisation makes to local causes and beyond. I donate generously to their cause. It goes without saying that St Mary's C of E School Cheshunt also played a huge part in making the ceremony the success it was so my most sincere thanks goes out to them also."

### **Sheringham**

Doug and Celia Willies emailed about services at the memorial to 2/Lt Colby Waugh and the members of his crew who had crashed nearby on 4 Jan 1944 while returning, badly damaged on just two engines, from a mission to Kiel. Waugh, navigator 2/Lt Arthur L. Cound, bombardier 2/Lt Virgil E. Thomson and engineer S/Sgt Don C. Beldon were killed immediately. Gunner S/Sgt Edward R. Murphy died in hospital four days later.

The survivors were copilot 2/Lt James W. Barton, radio operator T/Sgt Park V. Kent, and gunners T/Sgt Lester L. Wagner, S/Sgt Earl J. Johnson, and S/Sgt Henry Wilk.

"We both keep reasonably well and glad to report that we managed to take part, as usual, in the recent Remembrance Day activities at Upper Sheringham Church. We made sure the Memorial was 'spick and span' by the 11th of the month. Celia produced the now traditional ten poppy posy and along with two British Legion crosses—one from the 'Folks in the US' and the other from ourselves—and the two US flags, one each side of the Memorial, I think we ensured that they were not forgotten, as always. And of course, their names were read out during the course of the Service on Sunday. Remarkably too, the weather was absolutely fine—clear blue sky, really mild and that was appreciated!"

### **Our Thanks!**

The 392nd BGMA extends its thanks to these and others across England and Europe who ensure that the sacrifices made by so many Crusaders are not forgotten.

## **REUNION from page 1**

during this trip, but the Heritage League will hold *its* annual membership meeting. Thus, the trip is tax-deductible for Heritage League members only.

See pages 8-11 and <https://heritageleague.org/> for more information about the trip.

### **2023 Reunion**

The official 2023 membership meeting of the 392nd BGMA will be held with 8AFHS from 18-22 Oct 2023 in Ontario, California. Local attractions include three nearby air museums. Details will be in the March 2023 *News*.

## **Ted Dudziak**

Member Ted Dudziak presented a fascinating PowerPoint presentation about his namesake uncle, 579th Sqdn pilot 1/Lt Teddy Dudziak. He and his crew were presumed to have been killed in action when they disappeared over the North Sea off the coast of Denmark on 18 Nov 1943.

Ted detailed his meticulous research and documentation, with the result that he now thinks he knows about where the plane crashed. He has tried to get US government agencies interested in exploring the tentative crash area, but to no avail (yet). He registered the crash event with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and received back a report detailing the mission that day, which also included other Bomb Groups.

In an amazing coincidence, however, Wessex Archaeology recently pulled a B-24 propeller out of that same general area. Ted is hopeful that serial numbers will be found to positively identify which plane it is.

"I would be overjoyed if the plane was my uncle's, because my family will have answers. Regardless of the outcome to me personally, though, the relatives of everyone on that crew would finally have answers."

Ted recently received notification from DPAA that they are certain that the discovered aircraft is not his uncle's. He is in contact with DPAA and Wessex to motivate them to search for it and other WWII planes downed in the North Sea.

For more information about Ted's research, contact him at [dudziak.tj@gmail.com](mailto:dudziak.tj@gmail.com). He is willing to share the DPAA report that he was sent.

### **Elections**

Elected as Directors were Char Heim and David Parnell. Directors Debbie Beigh, Greg Hatton, and John Gilbert, whose terms expire in 2022, were re-elected. Officers, elected by acclamation, were Ralph Winter, president; Greg Hatton, 1st Vice President; Sue Williams, 2nd Vice President; Debbie Beigh, Secretary, and Bill McCutcheon, treasurer.

### **Zoom Meeting**

Unfortunately, the Zoom Meet and Greet scheduled for 22 October could not be held due to technical difficulties.

### **Gala Banquet**

Maj Gen Andy Gebara, commander of the 8th Air Force, spoke at the banquet. He was joined by his command chief and six airmen who did a wonderful presentation about today's 8th AF.

## **2023 AUBREY AWARD DETAILS!!**

In May 2021, Beverly Burke approached the officers of the 392nd BGMA wanting to fund a project that would honor her late husband Aubrey's military service in the 465th Sub Depot, encourage young people to learn more about the 392nd BG and the greatest generation, and highlight the importance of education.

The 392nd BGMA's Aubrey Committee is pleased to announce the Second Annual Aubrey Award Contest. A

**See 2023 AUBREY AWARD on page 7**

## 2023 AUBREY AWARD from page 6

brochure specifically for eligible students will soon be available, with complete details and information at <https://b24.net/essay>. Below, however, are details you can use to encourage the eligible high school students you know to participate.

In fact, the success of the Aubrey Award greatly depends upon our members' willingness to "talk it up" to our young relatives, neighbors, and friends. Let's all do our part!

### General Information

Any student ages 15-18 who resides in the USA, Canada, England, Belgium, France, Germany, or The Netherlands may participate. Winners of the 2022 Aubrey Award contest may compete again in this mission of exploration, learning and earning.

Each contestant is required to prepare two presentations in one of the following formats: a written essay, a PowerPoint presentation, or a YouTube video.

The major presentation MUST respond to this prompt:

*Consider how American bomber bases in England contributed to the successful outcome of WWII. Narrow your focus to one aspect of how the pilots, crews, and support personnel of the 392nd base at Wendling dealt with the challenges they had to face. Use [www.b24.net](http://www.b24.net) as a principal source for your analysis. Give details about those challenges and explain how they were addressed productively. In what ways did local residents assist and encourage the war effort by the Americans? Do succeeding generations understand the significance of that contribution? End your presentation with a brief summary of what you have learned and how it mattered to England and the world.*

All entries must ALSO include a short presentation in your chosen format that tells what you found most significant about the life of Aubrey Burke, for whom the award is named and whose memory it honors. A short biography of Aubrey's life is at <https://b24.net/essay>.

Please do not merely repeat biographical facts. Instead, we are seeking your thoughts, opinions, and reflections on what shaped Aubrey's life, his service in the 465th Sub Depot, and what most impressed you in his biography.

An Aubrey Award will be given for first, second and third place. These will be cash awards of \$1,000 for First Place, \$600 for Second Place, and \$400 for Third Place for US winners or the cash equivalent in local currency for the Canadian/UK/European winners. Additionally, non-cash Honorable Mention Awards may be given.

Your presentation may be submitted any time before, but no later than, midnight (EST) April 15, 2023.

All winners will be notified and awards given no later than June 1, 2023. By accepting this award, winners agree to have their entries featured in a future edition of the *News* (the quarterly newsletter of the 392nd BGMA; their entries may, at the discretion of the 392nd BGMA, be released to local news outlets for publication. Additionally, the entries will be kept in the archives of the 392nd BGMA. PowerPoint and YouTube entries may be added to our website at [www.b24.net](http://www.b24.net).

### Rules

Each entry must be in a format that can be transmitted

by email. Regardless of format, the presentations (both written and spoken) must be in English.

A written essay must have 750 to 1,000 words. The title page, bibliography and your section about Aubrey Burke are not included in the word count.

A PowerPoint presentation must have 10 to 12 slides including your title slide, bibliography and piece about Aubrey Burke. Font size should be no less than 30 point.

A YouTube video must be at least 8 minutes long but no more than 12 minutes, including your title frame, bibliography and piece about Aubrey Burke.

The title page, frame or slide must include:

- the title of your presentation (subtitles permitted)
- your full name and address
- your phone number with area code or international calling code
- your email address
- the name of your school, your grade level and age

Each entry must have a bibliography, but not internal source citations. The bibliography should list all the materials you used to gather information for your presentation including, but not limited to, conversations or emails with relatives or veterans, books, newsletters, magazines, websites, and documentaries. It should credit the authors or creators of the material and in the case of website material, the full URL.

Information found on [www.b24.net](http://www.b24.net) must be referenced using the URL for the page in which you found the material. For example, the proper reference for information found in Capt Bill Cetin's diary in the 392nd BG *Crusader Stories* section is <https://www.b24.net/storiesCetin.htm>.

Submit your entry in an email addressed to [essays@b24.net](mailto:essays@b24.net) with CONTEST in the subject field. For an essay or PowerPoint, send your entry as an attachment to the email. For a YouTube presentation, send the link to your YouTube production in your email.

If you do not receive an acknowledgement receipt within 5 days of submission, please notify Ralph Winter at [rewcts@gmail.com](mailto:rewcts@gmail.com) for instructions on how to re-submit.

The two presentations will be judged on overall response to the prompt (especially in validity and strength of support); historical accuracy; organization of material; originality; and creativity. The Aubrey Burke presentation will also be judged on your ability to convey your "thoughts, opinions, and reflections" on Aubrey's life to the judges.

*Members of the 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association, and especially Beverly Burke, want to thank all participants for entering this contest. We hope you learn a lot and enjoy doing it. Good Luck!!*

Please read all rules carefully. If you have any questions, email Ralph Winter at [rewcts@gmail.com](mailto:rewcts@gmail.com).

## The Commanding Officer's Residence

The family of Col Lawrence G. Gilbert (the 392nd BG's last Commanding Officer) recently provided several photos. None are dated, but Photo 1 does have a caption

**See PHOTOS on page 8**

## PHOTOS from page 7

written by Col Gilbert, then a Major: "Just returned from my second mission, way back in the fall of 1943. That's a Milky Way in my hands."

The other photos are of the Commanding Officer's residence. They are undated, but do show a

Christmas tree. If they were taken during the 1943 holiday season, Col Rendle would have been CO; if Christmas 1944, the CO was Col Johnson. Col Gilbert would have lived in the building for just a short time, as he didn't become Commanding Officer until 28 May 1945.

Photo 2 shows the exterior.

Photo 3 is the living room, where the CO could greet important guests. Note the fireplace, its well-used tools and chopped logs ready to burn, two candles on the mantle, plush chairs, the rugs, and the Christmas tree.

Photo 4 is the bedroom/office, complete with wash sink and mirror. The room had all the comforts of home, including an electric heater, a large bed (complete with reading lamp and extra towels at the ready), a relatively large chest of drawers (also with a mirror), a heavy comforter resting on a footlocker, and two shoe horns under the bed!

Close to the bed is a telephone stand; its label says *Johnnie*, perhaps the name of a previous user. On the top shelf is a briefcase, an alarm clock and a telephone. The

bottom shelf holds another telephone.

A buzzer—perhaps to summon the officer on duty or the CO's personal driver—is attached to the headboard.

## Heritage League & 392nd BG Convention Norwich, England & post-extension to Normandy, France 21 July - 2 August 2023

Next year's convention in England is NOT the 2023 official 392nd BGMA reunion nor do you have to be a member of the Heritage League (HL) to attend. However, if you choose to pay the \$20 membership fee AND attend their official business meeting (on July 24) you can take a tax deduction for much of the costs of your trip.

The event has three parts. 392nd BGMA members and

friends/family traveling with them are invited to arrive two days early (on July 21) for events that are Crusader-specific. Only 392nd BGMA members are being invited to this pre-trip extension. The actual HL convention is July 23-28. Everyone who attends the main tour may also register for a post-convention trip to Normandy, France,

**See CONVENTION on page 9**



## CONVENTION from page 8

from July 29 through August 2.

The 392nd BGMA is totally responsible for the pre-trip while the Heritage League will manage the main trip and the Normandy extension.

The information below is subject to change.

### 392nd BGMA Pre-Tour

Friday, July 21. Arrival, check-in and registration at The Maids Head Hotel (TMHH). Dinner on your own.

Sat., July 22. Board a bus to The Beeston Ploughshare, a pub certainly visited by our airmen! There will be social time in the Crusader Bar with our Friends, followed by a 392nd BGMA-sponsored Friends Luncheon and Program. We'll then bus to Holt for a walk-around on your own, meet at the train station for a journey to Sheringham by steam train, then go by bus to visit the memorial for the 578th crew of pilot 2/Lt Colby Waugh. After returning to the hotel, dinner and evening are on your own.

### Heritage League Convention

For current information, see <https://heritageleague.org/>.

Sun., July 23. Crusaders will have a morning at leisure with lunch on your own. People just arriving for the main tour will check-in and register for the convention at TMHH.

Everyone will meet at Norwich Castle for an early afternoon tour. In the evening, we'll meet at Norwich Cathedral for Evensong, followed by a reception with finger foods and drink. Dinner is on your own.

Mon., July 24. We'll board a bus (or walk the half mile, if you wish) to The Forum. After the HL conducts its annual business meeting, we will then visit the American Library (formerly known as the Second Air Division Memorial Library). After lunch on your own, we'll return to the hotel by bus. There may be an arranged dinner for all attendees; if so, details will follow.

Tues., July 25. We'll go by bus to visit the Norfolk and Suffolk Aviation Museum at Flixton. Afterward, we'll have lunch nearby, then place a wreath at the 446th BG Memorial. If time permits, we'll have a quick tour of what's left of the base, then head to Seething, home of the 448th BG, to tour the Tower, Museum and a local brewery. After returning to TMHH, the evening is on your own.

Wed., July 26. The entire day will be spent at 392nd BG locations: the Wendling Village Hall, the 392nd BG

Memorial to dedicate its new plaque, lunch at a nearby pub, a visit to Ben Burgess Beeston (built over and around the 392nd BG's Operation Building), the former Combat Officers Mess, a WWII-era Nissen hut and an underground bomb shelter. Weather permitting, we'll also visit Honey Pot Wood, site of the 392nd BG's bomb dump. We'll return to TMHH followed by dinner on your own. After dinner an exciting *Evening Ghost Tour of Norwich* will be offered for \$20 per person pre-paid with your registration. It is included on the registration form.

Thurs., July 27. This day will be on your own OR you can pre-pay for optional trips to Blickling Hall, birthplace of Anne Boleyn OR Cambridge American Cemetery at Madingley (with box lunch included). A minimum of 15 people are required for both optional tours. Dinner will be a banquet (pre-ordered with registration) at Dunston Hall, then return by bus to TMHH.

Fri., July 28. Today is a day of options, based on personal preferences.

The HL's itinerary calls for attendees to have breakfast, check out of TMHH and board a bus to London (box lunch included). After checking in at The Leonardo Royal Hotel St. Paul's, we'll walk to St. Paul's Cathedral for a Memorial Service in the American Chapel prior to Choral Evensong. Dinner (pre-ordered and pre-paid) will be at Côte Brasserie Restaurant. *This is the official end of the Main Tour.*

You will return to The Leonardo if you are taking the add-on tour to Normandy OR wish to stay on in London. The group rate at The Leonardo is good through June 31st, so you may enjoy the city for a few more days at your own convenience before returning to the US.

OR, if you chose *not to check out of TMHH*, you can board the bus and return there for the night. Our group rate at TMHH is available until August 1st, so you may check out and commence your own travel as you wish.

### Optional Add-On Tour to Normandy, France

Our tour guide throughout this extension is 392nd BGMA member Philip Brazier, a qualified Normandy tour guide. Accommodations in Bayeux will be at the Churchill Hotel and Hotel Bayeux Reine Mathilde.

Sat., July 29. Board the bus to Dover, where we will take the ferry to Calais, France; a box lunch en route is

**See CONVENTION 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Our website, [www.b24.net](http://www.b24.net), 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. Please send this report to: Debbie Beigh, 6284 Antler Ct., Zionsville, IN 46077-9089

## CONVENTION from page 9

included. After a four-hour bus ride to Bayeux, we'll check into our hotels. We will have the same bus and driver from London to Bayeux. The evening/dinner is on your own.

Sun., July 30. Today will be busy! Our bus will take us to Pegasus Bridge for a tour of the British and Canadian beaches. After a box lunch, we return to the hotel, freshen up, and embark on a city tour of Bayeux—including the Bayeux Tapestry, Cathedral, Battle of Normandy Museum, and the Commonwealth Graves Commission Cemetery. Here are buried 4,648 Commonwealth soldiers who were killed during the Normandy invasion along with 1,800 Commonwealth land forces listed on the Bayeux Memorial who have no known graves. Another 505 graves are for other nationalities, mostly Germans.

On the way back to the hotel, we'll stop at a local pub. Then, dinner and evening are on your own.

Mon., July 31. Today will be an all-day trip (with box lunch included) to Omaha Beach and the Normandy American Cemetery. It is the burial site of 9,387 Americans who were killed in action, mostly from the Normandy landings and ensuing operations. The Walls of the Missing list another 1,557 names.

Two Crusaders are buried there—copilot 2/Lt Charles R. Stratton Jr. and tail gunner S/Sgt Stanley J. Prazak. During a mission to Laon Athies Airfield on 23 Jun 1944, their plane was hit by flak over the target and again as they passed over Dunkirk on the return route. It crashed; four others in the crew were also killed with four taken prisoner.

Dinner and the evening will be on your own.

Tues., 1 Aug. Another all-day excursion will be to Mont St. Michel, with free time for lunch on your own, followed by an included farewell dinner.

Wed., 2 Aug. Checkout and departure. Onward travel is on your own. There are trains from Bayeux to Paris city center or Charles de Gaulle Airport.

### Costs and Booking Procedures

The costs shown below are provided for your planning purposes and should not change dramatically. They are based on an estimated number of participants and a projected currency exchange rate, both of which may change. Your Registration Fees will not change, but your actual hotel rates will be determined by the exchange rate at the time you pay for your stay.

**392nd BGMA Pre-Trip:** Registration fee is \$30 per person, due to Ralph Winter by 30 Jan 2023. This covers the train fare and the outing to Sheringham. Lodging at TMHH for two nights (July 21 & 22), which you will book directly with the hotel is: Single \$360 total and includes breakfast. Double \$190 per person double occupancy and includes breakfast.

**Main Convention:** Registration fee is \$475 per person and includes two lunches and two dinners, gratuities, taxes, entrance fees, guide's fees, and ground transportation. It does not include costs for optional tours. Lodging with breakfast daily at TMHH for five nights (July 23-27) and for one night (July 28) in London at The Leonardo is: \$1,010 for a Single room or \$550 per person for Double occupancy. You must make your reservations directly with both hotels.

**Optional Normandy extension:** Registration fee is

\$350 per person and will include transportation between all points in the tour, all admission fees to museums and attractions, the cost for a dedicated guide, three box lunches and a Farewell Dinner. The cost for the hotel for four nights including breakfast daily will depend on the room type you book. These hotels will be booked through Ralph Winter. Approximate totals including lodging for the Normandy extension are: \$950-\$1,080 for a Single and \$1,515.00- \$1,740 for a Double.

Please notice that the booking process for the hotels is different for England and France.

For The Maids Head and The Leonardo hotels in England, you will book directly with the hotels.

The hotels in Normandy are requiring us to submit a rooming list, with full payment for the entire group, in one transaction. Therefore, attendees must contact Ralph Winter who will explain the availability and cost of rooms that meet your occupancy needs. After you book with him, he will add your name to the rooming list and advise you of the charges. You must then pay the HL the full cost of your rooms. They will make all room reservations directly with the hotels in Bayeu and pay them in full. We know this is cumbersome, but it is what the Normandy hotels require!

### Other Expenses

You will need to make your own travel arrangements to Norwich and back to the US, whether from Norwich, London, Normandy, or wherever else you travel. If you are adding the Normandy trip, please consider flying home from Paris; there are trains from Bayeux to Paris. If you take the train, it is suggested you not depart Charles DeGaulle Airport until after 5pm. Please keep in mind that the summer train schedule is not yet available.

Besides hotel-provided breakfasts, meals are on your own except when they are specifically included. Trip insurance is **highly** recommended but is up to you. One well-known reliable company is Travelex: Great Travel Insurance at the Right Price ([travelexinsurance.com](http://travelexinsurance.com)).

### Registration and Deposits

**392nd BGMA Pre-trip.** Register by completing and submitting the form on page 11 AND the full payment no later than 30 Jan 2023. We know this is a quick deadline, but we need to know how many people will be in your party for planning purposes. After 1 Feb 2023, pre-trip updates will only be sent to those who are registered and have paid in full.

If you are submitting your registration and payment by postal mail close to the due date, please email Ralph at [rewcts@gmail.com](mailto:rewcts@gmail.com) the number of people you are registering for, in the event postal delays occur.

If you register for, but later decide you cannot attend the 392nd BG's pre-convention day, please let Ralph know as soon as possible. Your fee will be refunded if you cancel and advise Ralph by 1 May 2023.

**Main Convention.** Registration and a deposit of \$100/person is due to HL by 1 Feb 2023. See the forms at <https://heritageleague.org/>.

**Optional Normandy extension.** Registration and a deposit of \$50/person is due to HL by 1 Feb 2023. The Normandy extension **HAS A MAXIMUM LIMIT OF**  
**See CONVENTION on page 11**

**CONVENTION from page 10****46 PEOPLE SO RESERVE YOUR SPOT ASAP!**

Reservations will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. If more than 46 people register, the HL will start a waiting list in the event there are any cancellations.

**Final Payment**

Deposits for the main convention and Normandy extension will be applied to your final amount due. If your entire registration amount has not been received by 15 May 2023, your reservation will be canceled and your deposit will be refunded.

Disclaimer: The itineraries, costs, and other details are subject to change as plans finalize. If you would like to participate, it is ESSENTIAL that you submit your registrations and deposits as soon as possible. If you procrastinate, it may be impossible to add you later.

**Reminder**

After initial information about the trip is provided to 392nd BGMA and Heritage League members, updates for all parts of the trip will be provided only to people who have registered and paid the required deposits.

Hope to see you across the pond in July 2023!

**Registration Form****392<sup>nd</sup> BGMA Pre-tour and Friends Luncheon**

**Saturday, July 22, 2023**

**Names**

**Email Addresses**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Contact

\* \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Required

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

| ITEM                                  | COST PER PERSON | NUMBER OF PEOPLE | TOTAL DUE |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------|
| Transportation,<br>Lunch, Steam Train | \$30.00         | X =              |           |

Please pay the Total Due no later than January 30, 2023 to secure your reservation. Your deposit is fully refundable if you cancel by May 1, 2023. If you reduce the number of people in your party before May 1st, their payment will be refunded. **One payment per party please.**

Please may mail a check for your deposit (payable to "392nd BGMA") to:

Ralph Winter  
2979 Delcourt Drive  
Decatur, GA 30033

If you have questions, please contact Ralph at [rewcts@gmail.com](mailto:rewcts@gmail.com).

## IDEAS AND INSPIRATION

by Char Heim

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

Happy Holi-daze to all "392nds" and their loved ones. Hoping those that were able to attend the October Washington DC 8th Air Force convention were well received, able to reconnect with colleagues and might have made new lifetime friends.

This time of year has traditionally always been a reflection on family, charity, community, love and acceptance. That is how I remember my special holiday memories and hope my own children have similar experiences as their generation has the duty to carry on our traditions.

Has our sense of community and acceptance changed? I was confronted with a situation recently that made me wonder during this special time of giving and joy where we are and where we are going as a melded world. To be more specific, a personal issue arose about how to socially recognize this season. Some are offended by a greeting of Merry Christmas, God Bless You, Happy Hannukah or the Arabic Holiday of the Birth. Please forgive me for the many other global offerings of peace I may have omitted.

As we move on through our complicated lives and become so much more engaged with other cultures, ideas and ideals, please let us recognize that we are part of a global community with a common goal of dignity, peace and equality.



**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 Assoc.  
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∞

Ruth (Lamma) Brisbois, widow of 1/Lt Ralph E. Lamma, 579th,  
October 8, 2022

Gerald Gersten, 577th, November 9, 2022