

NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 1

FEBRUARY, 1986

The 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association is now a reality. President Lawrence Gilbert advises that the legal documentation for our "tax exempt" status has been completed and filed with the Internal Revenue Service for their consideration. We have had calls and letters from all over the country from people who are excited with the prospects of this new group. Response to our call for donations to help defray the cost of mailings has been great. Our sincere thanks for your generous contributions. We didn't mean to put all our "Beggins in one Ask It"! You can rest assured that it will be put to good use. Your offers to help are certainly appreciated, and you will be called upon to help. An organization is only as strong as its membership. If the first 23 days after the first mailing are any indication, we should be stronger than an acre of green onions!

Plans are currently underway for our Annual Membership Meeting which will be held in St. Charles, Illinois (Greater Chicago). This will be held in conjunction with the 2nd Air Division Association Reunion. The dates are July 10 - 13, 1986. Mark your calendar now! The 392nd will have our own Hospitality Room, so plan to bring your pictures. You might brush up on your favorite war stories. Make this your vacation. You won't regret it. Our goal is to have 150 members in Chicago. Can we count on you? Bring your spouse or friend as they are a big part of our group. There are excellent programs planned for the ladies.

If you can't make it to Chicago, could you make it to Hollywood, Florida in October? We will also rendezvous at the 8th Air Force Historical Society Reunion. That gathering will be October 8 - 12, 1986 in Hollywood.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Our first official announcement of the 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association was mailed December 16, 1985. We are encouraged at the early response we have received. As of February 1, 1986, we have 140 paid members. Our goal for this first year is to have 400 members. This realistic goal can be reached if we all help.

We will continue with our newsletters, and plan to have four of them this year.

Our plan is to appoint coordinators in each region. They may recruit area coordinators to assist in locating and recruiting members for the 392nd BGMA. We will provide lists which will give you a base from which to begin. These lists will provide names and the addresses of those 392nd personnel who currently belong to either the 8th Air Force Historical Society or the 2nd Air Division Association. Through our mailings, all these prospects should have received a 392nd newsletter and should be aware of the 392nd BGMA. When contacting a prospect, be sure to ask for names/addresses of other 392nd buddies. As you find new prospects, they should be given to your coordinator who will check to see if it is one we already have. If not, it will be added to the mailing list.

Remember

1. A personal letter of invitation to join is fine.
2. A personal phone call is better.
3. Nothing else equals a personal contact!

Other groups have started in this manner and now have very large memberships. If there are several of you in a town, get together and discuss your plans. You might want to include the ladies as they have proven to be a real asset in these groups.

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WICHITA REUNION A SUCCESS

The Eighth AFHS Reunion was held in Wichita, Kansas during October, 1985. There were in excess of 2300 in attendance. It was a great one! Bob Vickers, Jr. of 392nd BG fame was Reunion Chairman. The "Eagles Nest Pub" was a big hit; it was complete with dart boards and Big Band music. The innkeeper was none other than our own Gil Bambauer. I think he finally found his niche! His lovely wife, Martha, helped out on the registration desk.

The 392nd Hospitality Room was hosted by Henrietta (Hank) and Carwin (Tom) Thomason along with Jerry and Bill Richards. There were plenty of snapshots and pictures. The war stories got pretty wild! Dr. Pat McCarthy had to tell of his P-38 (Buzz the Officers' Mess) experience over and over. If only we could have recorded all these stories!

Keith and Pat Roberts (578th) headed up the golf tournament. The turn-out was great. There was a great deal of "sandbagging" on handicaps! There were reports of players throwing and even kicking their balls back on to the fairways. Of course, these were strictly rumors!

The banquet was extremely well done. Lt.Gen. "Moose" Hardin, USAF Retired, delivered a straight-forward, no-nonsense speech about the value of people. His theory was that computers don't win wars - people do. Computers can't prevent wars - people can. This was followed by the 8th AF band, decked out in WWII uniforms. They did a great job on all the old Miller, Dorsey, and Goodman tunes. If the 392nd had made a "Fred and Ginger" dance award, it undoubtedly would have gone to Steve and Trudie Wozniak of the 577th. We were worn out just watching them! Some of us learned that we were at that awkward age -- where our belts won't buckle, but our knees will!

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(Continued from Page 1, Column 2)

Attend regional dinners of other organizations as a group. Look for other 392nd "Wendling Warriors" who have not joined our group. Ask them for help in locating lost buddies. We want this to be fun. Will you help? Let us hear from you.

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REGIONAL 2ND AIR DIVISION AREA DINNERS

Arizona - California - Nevada

Location: Marine Base Officers Club
El Cajon, California

Date: Saturday, March 1, 1986

Time: Cocktails at 6:30 p.m.
Dinner at 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$19.00 per person

Reservations: Wm. F. Davenport, 2nd ADA
13762 Loretta Drive
Santa Ana, CA 92705
Phone: 714/832-2829
Alt. Phone: 213/541-5381

Arkansas - Louisiana - New Mexico Oklahoma - Texas

Location: Sheraton Grand Hotel
Dallas, Texas
(Hwy. 114, near DFW International Airport)

Date: Saturday, March 15, 1986

Time: Cash Bar at 5:00 p.m.
Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$22.50 per person
(Full course dinner)

Deadline for Reservations: February 15, 1986

Contact: Jeff Gregory
3110 Sheridan Drive
Garland, Texas

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If you like Glenn Miller AAF Band Music, you should write to the Air Force Museum for information. They have a number of albums for sale. The price is certainly reasonable.
\$5.95 Each

Address:
AF Museum Gift Shop
P. O. Box 33624 AMC Branch
Wright Patterson AFB, OH 45433-0624

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WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO UPDATE OUR MAILING LIST. CHECK THE LABEL ON THIS LETTER. IF THERE ARE ANY ERRORS, PLEASE LET US KNOW AT ONCE. IF YOU PLAN TO MOVE, PLEASE LET US KNOW AS SOON AS YOU HAVE YOUR NEW ADDRESS.

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We have a number of inquiries about both the Second Air Division Ass'n. and the 8th Air Force Historical Society. In this and subsequent issues, we will attempt to tell you about these two fine groups and their projects.

2nd AD Association

At the close of WWII, members of the 2nd AD donated funds with which to build a memorial room in the proposed library in Norwich, England.

In 1947, a group of former 2nd AD mem got together in Chicago for a mini-reunion. Unbeknown to them, a group of 2nd AD Headquarters WAACS were meeting in Chicago at the same time. As luck would have it, these two groups met on Chicago's main drag and the two reunions became one. They had such a good time reminiscing, they decided to meet again the next year. They did meet and the Association was born.

One of their first actions was to contact the Memorial Trust (England) to determine the status of the 2nd AD Memorial. They were told that because of the extensive damage Norwich had sustained, it would be several years before the library, which was to contain a "Memorial Room" could be constructed.

The monies in the trust were invested and reinvested until 1963. The library was built containing the 2nd AD Memorial Room. Over the years, donations in the form of books and money have expanded to the point that it is now truly a "Living Memorial". It is a window on America, as it was intended to be, and it is a project of which we can all be proud.

More recently, members of the 392nd BG who belonged to this group sponsored the drive to raise funds for our own 392nd BG Memorial at the Air Force Museum in Dayton, OH.

The 2nd AD has a reunion each year. In 1984, it was held in Palm Springs, Calif. In 1985, they were in McAfee, New Jersey. In 1986, they will meet in St. Charles, Ill. (near Chicago). In 1987, they plan to return to Norwich, England and a trip to the Memorial Room in the Library. We urge all of you to attend the reunions when possible.

Continued Col. 2

The 2nd Air Division Journal is published quarterly for its membership. Dues are \$10.00 per year and entitle you to receive the publication.

Membership Address:

2nd Air Division Association
C/O Evelyn Cohen, Vice President
06-410 Delaire Ldg. Rd.
Philadelphia, PA 19114

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8th Air Force Historical Society

The 8th Air Force Clearing House was formed in late 1974. Out of this, the 8th AF News was born, January 1975. In May of 1975, the Eighth AF Historical Society was founded beginning with 160 subscribers of the 8th AF News. It has grown ever since at a rapid rate, passing 15,000 members this year.

The 8th AF Historical Society was founded to perpetuate the history of the 8th Air Force and to provide opportunities for 8th AF veterans to get together. The Society maintains a clearing house to reunite lost 8th AF veterans with their unit organizations.

They sponsor an annual reunion. The 1984 reunion was in Los Angeles, California. This past year, it was in Wichita, Kansas. October of 1986 will find them in Hollywood Florida.

The 8th Air Force Memorial at the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio was sponsored by this group. They have conducted tours to England for their members.

In 1977, the 8th AFHS founded the 8th Air Force Memorial Museum Foundation to fulfill the purpose of perpetuating the history of the 8th Air Force. The two organizations are linked by members who serve on the Board of Directors of both organizations. They have established 8th AF exhibits in various air museums. They also sponsor the Mighty Eighth Theater and the annual Air-War Symposia in conjunction with the annual reunion. They have produced a number of books concerning the Eighth Air Force.

The dues are \$10.00 annually, and this entitles you to the quarterly publication of the 8th AF News.

Membership Address:

8th AF Historical Society
495 NE 157th Ter.
Miami, FL 33162

I N M E M O R I A M

EDGAR ARNOLD, SR.

KENNETH CLINE

HOLMES ALEXANDER

392nd BG Memorial Association Membership Application

Name: _____
First Middle Last

Address: _____
Street Apt. No.

City State Zip Code

Unit or Squadron _____ ☐ Associate
Dues are \$10.00 each calendar year (January - December)
Send check or money order to 392nd BG Memorial Assoc.,
C/O Gil Bambauer, 2032 E.LaMadera Dr., Tucson, AZ 85719

☐ Check if this is a gift membership.

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

Address Correction Requested
Forwarding & Return Postage Guaranteed