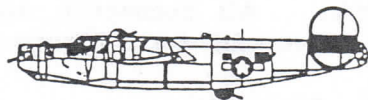


NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME II

FEBRUARY 1987

Reunion - "87"

All signals are go for the Maximum Effort Mission in June of 1987. The target is Tulsa, Oklahoma and our rendezvous point is the Camelot Hotel. Our ETA at the target is Thursday evening on June 25th. Registration will start at 5 p.m. and the Hospitality Room will be open that evening.

There will be a golf outing on Thursday, June 25th. Joe Bush will be arriving early for a few practice rounds. Watch this guy. He sounds pretty serious! Keith Roberts reports that he and Bob Vickers shoot in the seventies. (If it's hotter than that, they just don't play!) Barney Glettler will head up the Golf Day. He and his crew have been briefed and will be watching closely. Kicking a ball from behind a tree, or onto the fairway will not be tolerated!

All our memorabilia will be on display in the two adjoining hospitality suites. Please bring your picture albums and other keepsakes. There will be no other groups there - just the Wendling Warriors. There will be plenty of time to reminisce and to indulge in "Remember Ole So-and-So?" or "Remember the time that ... ?" Nostalgia will be the main bill of fare. Come and enjoy "one last look" at the magnificent 392nd Crusaders.

From letters we have received, it would appear that quite a few of the air crews are trying to get all their members in Tulsa for a mini-reunion. We have had a real surge of interest in ground crew personnel. Our record attendance was slightly over 100 at Pheasant Run last July. We are expecting twice that number in Tulsa. Write or call a friend and meet him in Tulsa!

Profiles -- by Jim Goar

Col. Myron H. Keilman

Col. Myron H. Heilman commanded the 579th Squadron from October 1943 to October 1945. He joined the Group May 15, 1943.

After the 392nd was deactivated, he served in various commands in Korea, Japan, Hawaii, Saudi Arabia, and in the continental U. S. He retired in 1970 from the Sacramento Logistics Center.

Col. Keilman has written several accounts of World War II action which have been published in the 2nd Air Division Assn. Journal. He and Blanche Harmon Keilman have two sons and a grandson. They live at 6616 Buckhorn Drive, Sacramento, CA 95842, and have a "summer home" in a "cabin at the end of the road in the heart of the Montana Rocky Mountains".

Myron said, "Remember me as being shot up a lot, but never shot down!"

S/Sgt. Bill McGinley

S/Sgt. Bill McGinley, gunner and aircraft mechanic, joined the 579th on October 15, 1943, and was shot down over Belgium on his ninth mission on January 29, 1944. He was reported K.I.A. (his mother never believed it), but parachuted to safety and the Brussels underground sheltered him until the advancing allied forces liberated him in September 1944.

Bill McGinley worked as an insurance salesman in Little Rock, and is now retired on a small farm at R#1, Box 534, Mabelvale, Arkansas 72103. He and his wife, Bonnie, have two children.

The 392nd News is published quarterly by the 392nd BGMA. All comments and items for publication should be addressed to the editor:

Wm. H. Richards
No. 313
5206 South Harvard
Tulsa, OK 74135

Policy Statement: It has never been our intention to compete with the fine publications of the 8th AFHS and the 2nd ADA. Those organizations enjoy 30-40 times the revenue that we generate. Our purpose is to encourage membership in the 392nd BGMA. It is our further aim to keep all of you advised of activities and projects that might be of interest to you. This first year, we have directed a major part of the 392nd News towards membership. It was necessary to establish a membership base and we have accomplished this. We hope to be able to have a few 392nd wartime stories in future issues. If you have stories that you would like to have published, please send them. We may have to edit them to fit the space available, but we will make every effort to use them. We appreciate your letters both pro and con.

Reunion - "87" continued

There will be forties music for all you jitterbuggers and slow ones for the romantics. (The kind you can dip to.) Who knows, we may even throw in a polka and the Lambeth Walk!

To help us in our planning, we ask that you get your reservations in early. This will insure that we have plenty of rooms and can accommodate all of you with the least amount of trouble. If you don't wish to make full payment now, that is fine. Just send a deposit along with your registration form, but do it now so we can get an idea of how many are coming. Cancellations are refundable if received by June 10th.

There will be plenty of entertainment. Bob Lane will be there with the VCR tapes from Pheasant Run. It is rumored that he may have an X-rated tape concerning some of our leaders! I can only say that if I were Dette Polking, I would have my husband, Warren, there to defend himself! The East Anglean Hambone Players will make their debut on Friday night. Let's hope that Friday is critics' night off.

Profiles - continued

Col. Warren A. Polking, Jr.

Col. Warren A. Polking, Jr. was the 578th's first commander. He finished his 25 missions in 1944 and was rotated home. He was in the original 392nd cadre, joining in January 1943.

After service with the 392nd, Col. Polking held various staff and command positions in the U.S., Europe and Japan. He had tours at the U.S. Embassy in Paris, with the RAF and with the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Col. Polking spent 15 years in business in Mexico after military service, and is now retired. He entered service December 22, 1939 at Ft. Crook, Nebraska.

He and Dette Hagan were married in 1951. They now live at 17073B Bernardo Center Drive, San Diego, CA 92128.

T/Sgt. Tom Horn

T/Sgt. Tom Horn was Group Armament Inspector, joining the 392nd early in its life at El Paso in March 1943.

Going back to his beloved Blue Grass State in 1945, Tom has been farmer, tobacco buyer and popcorn specialist.

He lives with wife, Ann, at 1189 Britmart Road, Elkton, KY 42220, and they have one child and three grandchildren.

Col. George Player

Col. George Player was 578th Squadron Commander, taking command in April 1944. He entered the service in September 1940 from flying school in Oklahoma.

After World War II, he spent 22½ years in SAC, flying heavy recon bombers. After retirement, he was in business and finance. He is a charter member of the Laid Back Golfing Association.

He and Anne Seigler were married in 1941 and they have three children and five grandchildren. One son is in the Air Force. Present address: R#3, Box 65, Ninety-Six, SC 29666.

392ND BOMB GROUP MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

Reunion Registration

Tulsa, Oklahoma

June 25-28, 1987

Registration \$95.00 Per Person

\$ _____

First Night Room Deposit

\$ 37.00

Total

\$ _____

My Check Enclosed

\$ _____

Balance Due by June 1, 1987

\$ _____

I will play golf on Thursday, June 25.

How many? _____

Cancellations - Full Refund If Received By June 10

Mail This Form And Your Check To:

Wm. H. Richards

5206 South Harvard, #313

Tulsa, OK 74135

RESERVATIONS

Reservations will be held until 6 P.M. unless accompanied by deposit equivalent to one night's room charge plus tax. Reservations are not transferable.

Should you be making your reservation without this form, it is necessary you mention the name of the group to secure the rates that apply and a room being held within the block for the group.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED 6/1/87

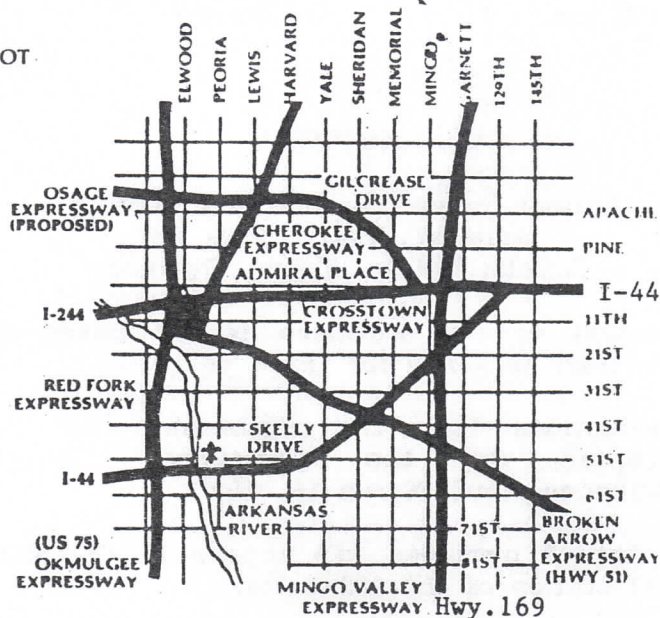
DAYS PRIOR TO OPENING DATE OF CONVENTION. Group rates will be honored for 2 days preceding and succeeding convention dates, subject to room availability.

Children in same room with parents free.

SERVICES

- * Kings Court Dining Room open daily 6 a.m. Monday thru Friday, 7 a.m. on Saturday & Sunday til 10:00 p.m.
- * Red Lion Club open 11:00 a.m. til 1:30 a.m. - entertainment nightly Monday thru Saturday. Happy Hour 5 p.m. til 7:00 p.m. with free hors d'oeuvres.
- * Free Airport Courtesy Service to and from Tulsa International Airport.
- * Gift Shop and newstand open daily 7:00 a.m. til 9:00 p.m.
- * One Day Valet and Laundry Service - Monday thru Friday.
- * Copy Service available thru Conference Service Office.

★ CAMELOT



GROUP 392nd Bomber Group Memorial Association

June 25-28, 1987

NAME _____

Squadron _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

NAMES OF ADDITIONAL PERSONS SHARING ROOM _____

WILL ARRIVE ON

WILL DEPART BY
1:00 P.M. ON



I-44 @ Peoria
918/747-8811

CHILDREN IN SAME ROOM WITH PARENTS FREE

ROLL-AWAY BED \$8.00 EXTRA

SINGLE
1 BED - 1 PERSON \$37.00 + Tax

TWIN QUAD
2 BEDS - 4 PERSONS

DOUBLE
2 BEDS - 2 PERSONS \$37.00 + Tax

TRIPLE
2 BEDS - 3 PERSONS

SUITES UPON REQUEST
DIRECTLY WITH HOTEL

PLEASE CIRCLE TYPE OF ROOM REQUESTED AT RATE REQUESTED.

NOTE: IF ROOM IS NOT AVAILABLE REQUESTED, ROOM WILL BE ASSIGNED AT NEAREST AVAILABLE RATE.

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS:

6 | 1

MONTH DAY

392ND BGMA REUNION

TULSA, OKLAHOMA -- JUNE 25 - 28

Thursday, June 25

05:00 p.m. - 08:00 p.m. -- Registration
05:00 p.m. - 08:00 p.m. -- Hospitality Rm.

Friday, June 26

07:00 a.m. - 08:30 a.m. -- Breakfast
08:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. -- Registration
08:45 a.m. -- Directors Mtg.
10:00 a.m. - 05:00 p.m. -- Hospitality Rm.
10:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. -- State Coordinators
01:30 p.m. -- Shopping Tour
02:00 p.m. -- Nominating
Committee Mtg.
03:00 p.m. -- Memorial Committee
06:00 p.m. - 07:30 p.m. -- Cocktails
Hospitality Room
07:30 p.m. -- Dinner

Saturday, June 27

07:00 a.m. - 08:30 a.m. -- Breakfast
09:30 a.m. -- General
Membership Mtg.
01:30 p.m. -- Bus Tour and
Memorial Services
06:00 p.m. - 07:30 p.m. -- Cocktails
Hospitality Rm.
07:30 p.m. -- Banquet and
Dance
(Cash Bar)

Sunday, June 28

08:00 a.m. -- Farewell
Breakfast

* * * * *

NOTICE

Annual General Membership Meeting
June 27, 1987 - 9:00 AM
Camelot Hotel - Tulsa, Oklahoma

Election of two members to the Board of Directors to serve for three years.

Nominations from the membership will be accepted by the Secretary, Gilbert Bambauer, until March 16, 1987.

A list of nominees will appear in the May 1987 edition of the 392nd News.

Memorial Funds

Carroll Cheek and the Memorial Fund Committee wish to thank you for your contributions to both the Wendling Restoration Fund and the Perpetual Care Fund. The fund now stands at \$9,000.00. This has all been received since the announcement in our December newsletter. This is only a small portion of the money it will require to do all the things we have planned at the Wendling Memorial. Please send all donations to Gil Bambauer. We were a first class bomb group; let's leave a first class memorial!

NOTICE

392nd BGMA Directors Meeting
June 26, 1987 - 10:00 AM
Camelot Hotel - Tulsa, Oklahoma

* * * * *

Membership

For all you doubting Thomas Types, we are proud to announce that our membership stands at 415. Our goal for 1987 is to have 550 paid members by the end of the year. Just keep up the good work and we will make it. Thanks for your help. We do need to enlarge our mailing base.

* * * * *

1987 Dues

Your 1987 dues are now due and payable. We have had many requests for a lifetime membership rate. The Board of Directors has approved the following rates:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Lifetime Dues</u>
61-65	\$100.00
66-70	\$ 80.00
71 and Over	\$ 65.00

If you have previously paid your 1987 dues, you may deduct \$10.00 from the above amount.

* * * * *

392nd Stories -- by Myron Keilman

Charlie Neundorf led one of the 392nd Squadrons on the Arnheim low level supply mission in support of General Montgomery's attempted "break through". One of the planes, flown by a Lt. Sewell, was lost. About a week after the mission, Charlie was on his way to the mess hall on his bike and passed a fellow walking along with a big white bandage on his head. He glanced at him and rode on, but then realized that the fellow looked like Lt. Sewell. He did a quick 180 and met the man. Sure enough, it was Lt. Sewell.

What had happened was that Lt. Sewell had flown his plane too high in the formation and it was hit by ground fire and damaged so that it was necessary to climb to a thousand feet, bail the crew out, and then crash land the plane. While crash landing, his subconscious told him he had to quickly run away from the plane to prevent his capture by the Germans. This he did. While running madly, he felt something flapping against the side of his face. He reached up to find out what it was and found it was his scalp hanging loose and flapping in the breeze. Luckily, he was taken by a Belgian family to a hospital where the scalp was sewn back on his head. He was then returned to the Allied army which returned him to the 392nd Bomb Group.

Then, there is another "Unlucky Harry White" story. It seems Harry flew another mission where he was shot up so badly he couldn't drop his bombs. He managed to get the plane and bombs back to the 392nd at Wendling. He landed on the short runway, ran off the end, but managed to keep the plane moving so as not to get stuck, and taxied back to the parking area. He was promptly "chewed out" by an anonymous squadron CO. Harry says that, to this day, he doesn't know why.

Then there was the pilot that 35 years after completing his tour of combat learned there was a climb-out pattern to fly and a formation assembly procedure. It seems that the lieutenant would take off, climb straight ahead until he broke through the clouds, then join up with whatever formation he caught up with. Sometimes it was the 392nd!

Then there was the ball turret gunner that at breakfast before every mission procured a couple of empty cans. On his first mission, as the formation crossed the English Channel and before the climb to bombing altitude, the pilot ordered all gunners to test fire their guns. While the ball gunner was checking out his guns, the pilots, navigator and bombardier took advantage of the occasion to use the relief tubes to empty their bladders. In doing so, they sprayed the ball turret to the extent that the visibility from within was zero. This made the turret and the gunner absolutely useless for the duration of the mission. Thus, to avoid episodes of this kind in the future, the sergeant issued an empty can for the flight deck and to the bombardier before every mission

* * * * *
*
* M O V I N G ? *
*
* BE SURE TO SEND US *
*
* YOUR NEW ADDRESS *
*
* * * * *

CAPS AND JACKETS

Order your white nylon jacket with the 392nd BG-Wendling-England and the "Crusader" patch.

Black cap with scrambled eggs and the 392nd BG-Wendling-England patch in gold.

- - - - -

Gil Bambauer
2032 E. LaMadera Drive
Tucson, AZ 85719

____ Jacket(s) Size _____ \$20 Each \$ _____
Plus Handling Chg. at \$1.50 Each \$ _____

____ Cap(s) _____ \$ 8 Each \$ _____
One Size Fits All

Plus Handling Chg. at \$1.00 Each \$ _____

Check Enclosed: _____ Total \$ _____

Allow 6 Weeks

- - - - -

I N M E M O R I A M

FRANK C. JORDAN

DOUGLAS ROGILLIO, JR.

STEPHEN ZABRECKY

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 (Jan. thru Dec.)
Send check or money order to 392nd BG Memorial Assoc.
C/O Gil Bambauer, 2032 East LaMadera Drive, Tucson,
AZ 85719

☐ Check if this is a gift membership.

392nd BG Memorial Association
2032 East LaMadera Drive
Tucson, AZ 95719

Address Correction Requested
Forwarding & Return Postage Guaranteed

President

Lawrence G. Gilbert
1482 Granville Drive
Winter Park, FL 32789

Vice President - Newsletter

Wm. H. Richards
No. 313, 5206 South Harvard
Tulsa, OK 74135

Secretary-Treasurer

Gilbert R. Bambauer
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Tucson, AZ 85719