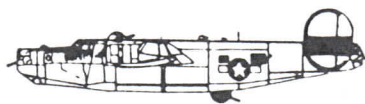


NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 4

FEBRUARY 1989

We have over 175 paid registrations for our reunion. It would appear that we will equal or top Tulsa in attendance. That would make it our largest reunion. We have been assigned the Hyatt Regency for our headquarters. We will have a large hospitality room... plenty of room for nostalgia, hanger flying and the making of new friends. The hotel is less than a block from the Civic Center, where all the museum class displays will be.

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday are for our 392nd Reunion. Our group dinner will be on Saturday night at the Hyatt Regency. Saturday and Sunday are set aside for the B-24 Fiftieth Anniversary celebration. There will be an open house at Carswell AF Base on Saturday, with bus transportation being provided. It will be a fun day with a real live B-24-J on hand as well as the Confederate Air Force versions. There will also be AF bombers, tankers and cargo ships on hand. Remember that Ft. Worth is the home of General Dynamics (successor to Consolidated). Their latest plane is the F-16 Falcon which is built in the same plant that produced B-24 Liberators. This is a worthwhile day. On Sunday morning a colorful memorial service, featuring group flags, will be held outside the Civic Center. It promises to be an outstanding event with a spectacular fly over. All hotels will offer a reasonably priced brunch following the services. The afternoon is open for sightseeing. Valentine Travel Service will have a table in our hotel lobby to assist.

The Sunday night banquet will offer a long overdue tribute to our old Warbird and her people who performed so magnificently in defeating the enemy while receiving little

media credit. A special recognition will be given all B-24 Group Commanders. VIP's will be a dime a dozen. This is a once in a lifetime event, so don't miss it. Seating is limited.

A word of warning - hotel rooms are at a premium in Ft. Worth. Twenty-two other groups are also holding their reunions there. Please register now so we can get you in our hotel. In addition to your registration you must send the 392nd BG \$35 per person to cover the group dinner and hospitality room expenses. Mail to Charles Dye.

The Hyatt will host a mixer cocktail hour on Wednesday night and the city of Ft. Worth will sponsor the Sundance Square affair on Thursday. This leaves only Friday night for open dinners.

392nd BGMA

Meetings - Ft. Worth

Hyatt Hotel

May 18th Board Meeting 10:00 a.m.

May 19th General Membership 10:00 a.m.

8th AFHS

We are happy to announce that Cliff Peterson has accepted the job of 392nd BG unit contact for the 8th Air Force Historical Society. This is an important job and we are fortunate to have someone with Cliff's qualifications.

WENDLING MEMORIAL

By Lawrence Gilbert and Carroll Cheek

THE PROJECT IS UNDERWAY! Formal authorization was given in January to the American Battle Monuments Commission to proceed with the rehabilitation work for our monument. Authority has also been given to our own Tom Scott of Beeston to serve as general contractor with responsibility to negotiate with subcontractors for various phases of construction. The Battle Monuments Commission has also been authorized to contract with the Beeston Parish Council for perpetual maintenance of the site. In addition to preparing detailed plans and specifications, the Commission will periodically inspect the work and report on the progress.

Approval by the Commission for Tom Scott to serve as general contractor is a major plus and we feel fortunate that he has consented to assist us in this key role. We are confident he will be able to complete the work at the lowest cost with no sacrifice in the high standard of quality we desire.

Carroll Cheek will visit the Beeston area again in late February for further coordination of details with Mr. Scott and local government officials.

1989 Dues Are Now Due And Payable

We depend on your \$10 annual dues for operating capital. We need your help so we can continue to send the newsletters. We must also carry on our normal correspondence. Please send your check today.

Mail to:

Charles Dye
Saddle Ridge #832
Portage, WI 53901

Membership

We need more names and addresses of non-members. Our membership growth has come to a standstill. The grim reaper continues to reduce our ranks and we must replace them with new members. There are still those of you receiving the newsletter who have never joined. Why not send us \$10 today and help to keep our organization strong? We need your help! There is an application in this letter.

Monument Fund Drive

As reported elsewhere in this newsletter, the contracts for work on the monument have been let and work has started. For all intent and purposes we have raised the money to cover this.

Our remaining problem is to raise the money for the Battle Monuments Commission, to guarantee perpetual care. This is about \$20,000. We must either raise these additional funds or start cutting back on our overall plans by eliminating features such as gates, landscaping, parking lot, etc. We are too close to let this happen. There are still some matching funds available for donations of \$100 or more.

Of our 600 members, about 200 of you have participated. I ask that those of you who have not, do some serious soul searching and see if you can't help us finish this memorial in a first class fashion. We need your help desperately NOW!

We have heard from Jill and Tom Scott, Wendy Carter, also the Dennis Duffields. About fifty of the Beeston/Wendling people had a memorial service at our monument on their Remembrance Day. Those wonderful people never forget.



392nd BG WENDLING MEMORIAL REUNION

October 3 - 11, 1989

Day 1 Tuesday October 3 - DEPART U.S. FOR LONDON

Day 2 Wednesday October 4 - LONDON TO KING'S LYNN

Chartered coaches meet us at the London airport. On to King's Lynn for our stay at hotels located on Market Square where our "liberty runs" used to take us. Cocktail reception at 7:00 PM (cash bar). Welcome dinner at 8:00 PM. Both will be held at The Duke's Head Hotel, a classic. (Dinner incl)

Day 3 Thursday October 5 - KING'S LYNN

The Mayor and Mayoress of King's Lynn welcome us back to the City with a reception at the historic Town Hall. Lunch at the Duke's Head. Then we take a leisurely tour of our old air base with plenty of time for photos. (Brkfst, lunch incl)

Day 4 Friday October 6 - KING'S LYNN & NORFOLK

This morning the market sets up in Market Square as it has for centuries. We'll have time to enjoy it. Coaches depart at 12:30 PM for a locally guided tour of historic sites including Blickling Hall, where Anne Boleyn lived. The reunion banquet at 7:30 PM preceded by a no-host cocktail hour. (Brkt, din incl)

Day 5 Saturday October 7 - WENDLING MEMORIAL DAY

Coaches depart at 9:00 AM for Wendling where we join the villagers in a ceremony re-dedicating the Memorial Obelisk which we built in 1945 and which they have cared for ever since. Next, the villagers hold a "homecoming" reception for us. Late lunch at our former local pubs - The Ploughshare and The Rose Cottage. (Brkfst, lunch incl)

Day 6 Sunday October 8 - KING'S LYNN, CAMBRIDGE, LONDON

Today we end in London so bags must be packed. Coaches depart at 8:30 AM for the American Cemetery at Madingley, near Cambridge, where so many of our 392nd men remain. A memorial service will be held in their honor. Lunch at the University Arms Hotel in Cambridge. On to London. (Brkfst, lunch incl)

Day 7 Monday October 9 - LONDON

Your day at leisure to revisit this wonderful, old city.
(Cont. brkfst incl)

Day 8 Tuesday October 10 - LONDON

One more leisure day to relax and have fun. (Cont. brkft incl)

Day 9 Wednesday October 11 - TOUR'S END

Enjoy continental breakfast. Farewell and safe journeys until we meet again.

WENDLING MEMORIAL REUNION 1989

RESERVATION FORM

To avoid any delay in processing your reservation, please complete in full. Then mail this form together with your deposit (\$300 per person by check or money order made payable to College Center Travel) and address as follows:

Mail to: College Center Travel, 28231 Marguerite Parkway #5,
Mission Viejo, CA 92692-3720

Telephone number: (714) 364-3937 Ask for Patty Roberts

PLEASE PRINT

Name(s) _____
(Include first and last name of each person)

Address (include zip) _____

Telephone (include area code) _____

TOTAL TOUR PRICES

These prices include the land tour as detailed on the itinerary and round trip air transportation from the following gateway cities:

from LOS ANGELES -	\$1,441.00	per person double occupancy
from CHICAGO -	1,335.00	
from MIAMI -	1,306.00	single occupancy-add \$100.00
from NEW YORK -	1,377.00	

We can help you with transportation from your hometown to your gateway city, but we've discovered that most people prefer to do their own local scheduling.

Your return air ticket is good for 180 days, so you will have time for London tours, shows, Thames dinner cruises, or tours of England, Ireland, Scotland, or tours of the continent. We can arrange great prices on all of that for you - just call or write Patty or Keith at College Center Travel.

If you have "Space A" or other transportation to England, let us know and we'll tailor the land portion of this reunion to your needs. We are proud to be a part of this truly memorable event.

Your family and friends are welcome. Space is limited. We recommend that you reserve early in order to avoid disappointment. All reservations will be acknowledged as promptly as possible. Additional pertinent information will be forthcoming such as travel memos, baggage tags, name badges, air tickets, last minute reminders, and other necessary data.



REUNION REGISTRATION FORM



Fill In Reunion Registration Form and Send to Reunion Project Office: Bob Vickers
REUNION PROJECT OFFICE
B-24/50th ANNIVERSARY
6424 Torreon Drive N.E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109

REUNION EVENTS (Two Plans Available)

NAME(s): _____ WWII ORG: _____
(PLEASE PRINT & give first names for Name Badges)

ADDRESS: _____
(Street; P.O. Box; City and ZIP Code)

TEL: (____) _____

- PLAN "A"** (Includes for each registrant: Registration fee; all Reunion credentials; Name Badge; hotel reservation services; special B-24 Commemoratives; continuous access all days to all exhibits, displays and show activities at Showcase "HUB" center; courtesy coach shuttle services, round-robin Reunion designated hotels/"HUB"; 'Welcoming Festival' eve (Thur) at downtown Sundance Square with busing; special B-24 Reunion '89 Recognition Day at Carswell AFB & dedicated coaches; Sunday Memorial Tribute Ceremony & Fly-Over @ City Center; final Reunion eve GALA Banquet Dinner & special Show - both Sunday events with dedicated busing; and on Banquet eve, (3) individual chances on PRIZE DRAWINGS for all-expenses-paid, grand trips for

REQUEST

• PLAN "A" _____ COST PER PERSON NUMBER TOTAL COST

+ 8 January '89 to 31 March '89 \$ 149.00X..()..= \$ _____

• PLAN "B"

+ Until 7 January 1989 only* \$ 99.00X..()..= \$ _____

* After above date, offered ON-SITE.

• EXTRA BANQUET & SHOW TICKETS

+ Purchasable ONLY with at least ONE PLAN "A" request above \$36.00X..()..= \$ _____

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

(Made by Reunion Project Office)

(PLEASE PRINT) • ARRIVAL DATE: _____ DAY: _____

• DEPARTURE DATE: _____ • NUMBER OF PERSONS: _____

• ROOM ACCOMODATIONS DESIRED: Single Occupancy _____
("x" in and state beds) Double Occupancy _____

• INCLUDED IN TOTAL PAYMENT IS LODGING DEPOSIT @ \$ 65.00 #.....= \$ _____
#(SEE 'flimsy' on credits)

"THE B-24 AT WAR SYMPOSIUM"

FRIDAY EVENING (19 May) PROGRAM @ Large Theater Annex, Fort Worth Convention Center, Houston St entry @ 8:00pm.

• **REQUEST:**() Tickets.....at \$ 12.00 per.....= \$ _____
(Ticket chits available at Registration time)

✓ TOTAL PAYMENT (ALL) = \$ _____

✓ PLEASE MAKE CHECKS or MONEY-ORDERS PAYABLE TO: "B-24 REUNION '89"

Profile

Lt. Luther Beddingfield was the navigator on Carrol Cheek's crew, 578th. He joined the Group at Wendling in May 1944, and flew 33 missions. After duty with the 392nd, he was in Ferry Command at Memphis, Tennessee.

Discharged in 1946, he was recalled in 1951, and was a navigator in TAC until 1957 and then he took a degree in meteorology at Florida State and became a Weather Officer. He served in Korea, Japan and Florida, retiring as Major in 1967.

As a civilian, he farmed and taught math and science in junior high and high schools, picking up a master's degree in Education along the way. He retired in 1985.

Luther was on the original Board of Directors of the 392nd BG Memorial Association.

Luther and wife Lucile have 2 daughters, 2 sons, and 4 grandchildren. They live at Rte. 1, Box 59, Benoit, Mississippi 38725.

Profile

Anybody that knows J. D. Long is aware that God didn't intend for him to be a bomber pilot; he really wanted him to be a fighter pilot. In fact, J. D. was actually assigned to the 439th Fighter Sqdn., but through the vagaries of the Service, he wound up in the 392nd as the co-pilot of the Schildknecht crew in Oct. 1943, in the 578th Sqdn.

Flying 33 missions, the 30th on D-Day, he was rotated back to the States, and went on inactive duty in July 1945.

Marrying Emily only after he was able to convince her that he could hold down a real job, he was in various management positions with Burlington Industries and the Charles S. Tanner Company until he retired in 1978.

J. D. is presently a Director of the 392nd's Memorial Association.

Jesse Dobson Long, Jr. and Emily live at 102 Kemp Road East, Greensboro, North Carolina 27410, and have 3 children and 8 grandchildren.

PX Items

_____	Black 392nd BG Cap w/Gold Braid	\$9.00
_____	White Nylon Jacket w/392nd BG & Crusader Patches	\$20.00
_____	Book, "Liberators From Wendling" by Col. Bob Vickers	\$25.00
_____	Book, "392nd War Stories" by Col. Myron Keilman	\$20.00

(Add \$1.50 per item for shipping.)

Mail To:
Charles Dye
Saddle Ridge #832
Portage, WI 53901

Profile

Capt. Jim Goar was 578th's Squadron Supply officer and later Base Transportation officer. He joined the 392nd at Alamogordo in April 1943, a shave-tail just out of OCS. Before that, he was a S/Sgt. at Orlando Air Base.

After the war, he was in the newspaper business in Richmond, Indiana, a farmer, and then a Realtor, still active.

Jim is a Director of the 392nd BG Memorial Association, the Group Historian, and writes these profiles. He says, "If you haven't sent me your biography, get a blank form from me or Charley Dye, fill it out and send it to me. If you have, and it hasn't been published, be patient. The space in the newsletter is limited."

His address is 5 N. Columbia St., Frankfort, Indiana 46041. He has one son, one daughter, and two grandsons.

Profile

Herman S. Garner was T/Sgt. Garner, joining the 392nd at Wendling in May 1944 and flying his first mission on D-Day. Prior to service with the 392nd, he was an aerial gunnery instructor, and was in the original cadre that opened Tyndall Field.

After the war, he operated Garner's Commercial Disposal in Lexington.

Herman is a Director of the 392nd BG Memorial Association.

He and Bessie Mae, who he married in 1946, live at 1245 Fairview Drive, Lexington, North Carolina 27292, and have one daughter.

Profile

Gil Bambauer is a name that is familiar to most everybody connected with the 392nd BG Memorial Association. He is the retiring Treasurer, was on the original Board of Directors, and has been liaison for the 392nd with the 2nd Air Division and 8th Air Force memorial organizations.

Sgt. Bambauer was with the 10th Station Complement Sqdn., later the 74th Service Sqdn., from start to finish at Wendling. He was NCO in charge of the Flying Equipment section.

As a civilian, he worked at Davis-Monthan Air Base and was involved with aircraft maintenance there. Later, he was purchasing agent and facilities manager in private industry, retiring in 1986.

Gil and wife Martha have 3 boys and 1 granddaughter and 2 grandsons, and live at 2032 E. La Madera Drive, Tucson, Arizona 85719.

Profile

Capt. Harold G. Finch was an "old army" sergeant, commissioned for duty in WW II. He was Group S-4, and was with the 392nd from start to finish.

He didn't tell us how old he is, but he did say that he entered the army in 1922, which puts him some older than us whippersnappers, most of whom were just getting born about that time.

Harold lives at 5321 Rockwell Road, North Highlands, California 95660. He has one child, two grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.

I N M E M O R I A M

Art Gingrich
Ray Julien
Narcis Radkiewig

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 Charles Dye, Saddle Ridge #832, Portage, WI 53901
☐ Check if this is a gift membership.

392nd BG Memorial Association
Saddle Ridge #832
Portage, WI 53901

Address Correction Requested
Forwarding & Return Postage Guaranteed

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