

NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 8

FEBRUARY, 1993

CREWMAN SPOTS HIS SHIP IN A BOOK

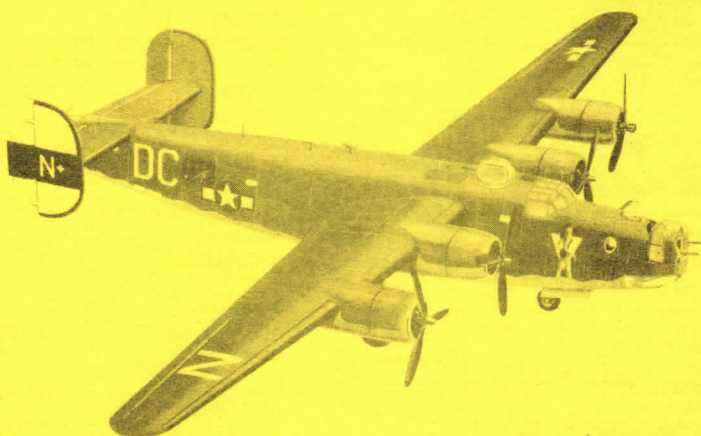


Photo from "Air War in Europe". Reproduced by permission from the artist, John Batchelor.

Sharp-eyed Crusaders still can recognise the 392nd's Group markings when they see them in books and magazines.

Bill Barrett, a 577th combat crewman, picked up a Time-Life book in a used book store and saw immediately that a B-24J that was depicted in it carried the 392nd's markings. He remembered that he had flown his first and third missions in it.

The book, "Air War in Europe", by Ronald H. Bailey, was published in 1981. The illustration of the B-24 was by the English painter, John Batchelor.

Mr. Batchelor has graciously given the NEWS permission to use the painting, and has furnished a transparency so that the reproduction will be as good as we can make it.

The artist worked from a photo, and the markings are correct. According to the Group's semi-official a/c inventory compiled by the late Quintin Wedgeworth, a/c #42-94898 was marked DC N+ and was named Marion. Later, Wedgeworth states, it was renamed Terri Ann. It flew 26 sorties and was returned to the States in June, 1945.

The painting shows the a/c in olive drab paint. Barrett cannot remember for sure whether it was aluminum or O.D. but it was probably aluminum at that stage of the war. ("That stage" being determined by the fact that it flew only 26 sorties before the war ended.)

Most a/c were given feminine names, and "Marion" in the US is the masculine spelling of the name. However, John Batchelor tells us that Marion is the feminine spelling in the U.K. and that he cannot remember ever hearing of the name being used as masculine in England. So Batchelor guesses that "Marion" was the name of some crewman's English girl friend. Does the fact that the a/c's name was changed to Terri Ann before it was returned to the States have any significance?

FEBRUARY AIR ANNIVERSARY

Air Defense Command created to integrate USAF defenses against an aerial attack-1940.

AF GUNNERS ASS'N ON LOOKOUT FOR NEW MEMBERS

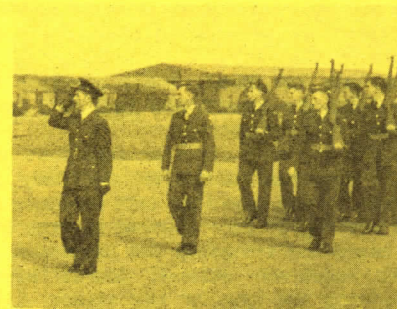
The Air Force Gunners Association is non-profit and is composed of enlisted aerial gunners who served in the US Army Air Corps or the US Air Force and flew on any type bomber aircraft as a gunner and includes radio operators and flight engineer gunners.

The association was formed in 1986 and presently has 1300 members. They have biennial reunions held alternately in the Western, Central, and Eastern sections of the country. Their fourth reunion will be held July 15-19 at the Holiday Inn at Bethesda, Md.

For more information, contact Jay E. Ingle, Membership Chairman, 35469 Colossians Way, Shingletown, CA 96088; or the AFGA, PO Box 844, Denair, CA 95316-0844.

RAF DETACHMENT AT WENDLING

The RAF detachment at Wendling was led by F/Lt Oswald Richards, show below at the head of his troops in a parade at Wendling. Richards was the RAF liason officer to the 392nd.



F/Lt. Richards was a Welshman and passed away in Wales some 5 or 6 years ago, it was reported to the NEWS by his nephew, Peter Gorridge of Norwich. Post-war, he was a bank manager in Kent.

1948 NEWSLETTERS DISCOVERED

Volume nos 1 and 2 for March and April 1948 of a 392nd newsletter published in Philadelphia have been found, thanks to Bob Lane's extensive collection of memorabilia.

Although the editor did not identify himself, he could only have been the late Clair Paul Burtner, Group Armament Officer, and a phone call to his widow, Peg, confirmed this. Crusaders will be glad to know that she is alive and well in Potomac, Maryland.

Highlighting the stories in the two publications is a letter from Col. Irvine Rendle, the Group's first commander. He wrote that his present duty was A-5 (A-5? Us WWII types understand staff assignments only 1 through 4) of Hq. 15th AF, Colorado Springs, CO. In a typical Rendle statement, he said "If war breaks out again, I'll send for Crusaders; and if I don't, you send for me."

Another story asked for the current whereabouts of Col. Warren Polking, the 578th's first CO. It reported a rumor that Polking was in the RAF. (See the Nov. 1992 issue of the NEWS about Polking's post-war connections with the RAF)

Also described was a memorable gathering of the 392nd at the bar of the Bellevue Stratford in Philadelphia, led by such stalwart imbibers as Walter Joachiam, the 578th squadron's bombardier.

The newsletter called itself Target Report, and used "Buttermilk", the Group's call sign, as a rallying cry. Burtner urged all Crusaders to call "Buttermilk" and report their position so that a viable veterans group could be formed. Now, nearly 50 years later, the 392ndBGMA can thank men like Burt for their vision.

* * * *

PEARL HARBOR DAY SLIPS INTO OBLIVION

Dec. 7, 1992 went by with scarcely a mention in the media about the bombing of Pearl Harbor which occurred on that day in 1941, setting off WW II and forever changing the lives of most of us.

We all can recite exactly where we were and what we were doing when the news broke on the radio.

The late Pat Burns, radio operator in the 578th who passed away last Fall, was close to the event.

He was one of a civilian crew that had just completed work for the Navy on Midway Island, and they left Honolulu on the evening of Dec. 6 bound for the US on board the troopship USS Henderson.

The Henderson altered course after receiving the news of the attack. Life was tense on board ship; they did not know then that the Japanese fleet had retired.

They finally arrived at Vancouver and were escorted to San Francisco by a Navy destroyer.

After a short time at home Pat enlisted in the Air Corps, and eventually flew 33 combat missions with the 392nd.

* * * *

Crusaders mentioned in 392nd newsletters published in 1948 are as follows:		
Name, address in early 1948	Assignment	Present address
Harold Abraham	577 Radio Opr	420 W Tuscola, Frankenmuth MI 48734
Holmes Alexander	578 Sqdn Int O	Deceased
Raymond Berthiaume	578th Eng O	Deceased
George Braith	Bombsight Maint	Unknown
Dr. F. W. Burke	Dental O	Unknown
8915 Shore Ct., Brooklyn 9 NY		
Claire P. Burtner	Grp Arm O	Deceased
Don B. Clark	Prot Chaplain	Unknown
c/o Faculty, Univ of Missouri		
Chester T. Cole	Radar O	Deceased about 1972
Schroon Lake, NY		
Joseph Costa	Unknown	231 Lecarra Dr Lansdowne PA 19050
Herman Craighead	Grp Engring	4900 Ruskin Av Nashville Tn 37216
Frank Dodd	Sqdn Comm O	Unknown
Martin, TN		
Frank Eckerle	Postal O	Unknown
3248 N Marston St Phila PA		
Carl Elder	Grp Comm O	Unknown
919 Clyde St. Lansing 15 MI		
Bernard H. Feld	578 co-pilot	Unknown
1310 Lunt Av, Chicago IL		
Marvin Felheim	Sqdn Int O	Unknown
3418 Reading Rd, Cincinnati O		
Frank B. Fink, Jr.	Unknown	Deceased 1958
Elliott Finkel	577 Int O	5424 Darlington Rd Pittsburgh PA 15217
Emmett Fore	Grp Spec Ser O	Deceased
Walter P. Harr	1825 Ord	Unknown
1549 W 61st St Chicago IL		
Harold R. Hartman	Unknown	Unknown
406 Ardmore Ave Trenton NJ		
Thomas J. Horn	Grp Arm	1189 Britmart Rd. Elkton Ky 42220
Walter Joachim	578 Sqdn Bomb	Deceased
Dal Jones	Red Cross rep	Unknown
Bellevue-Statford Hotel, Phila		
Ray Julien	577 Arm O	Deceased
Bob Lane	578 Ex O	6106 Fox Cove Ct Prospect Ky 40059
Albert Lishka	578 pilot	Unknown
19173 Edinborough, Detroit MI		
Manuel Lopes	Unknown	Unknown
307 Hemlock St New Bedford MA		
Taylor Mackelfresh	Unknown	Unknown
1906 Martel Ave Hollywood CA		
Michael J. McBride	Grp Ord	Deceased
Fr. Paul L. McDonough	Cath chaplain	Deceased
308 North Bay, Manchester, NH		
McAllister McNeill	Unknown	Deceased 1986
115 Kuku Ave. Florence, SC		
Alfred G. Mello	Unknown	Unknown
Wilbur Metz	Grp Ord O	Deceased
Joseph M. Micksch	Grp Bsight Mt O	120 Gilbert Dr. Franklin, TN 37064
Dr. Ben Parish	Unknown	Unknown
Bethlehem Pike & Rose Lane, Flourtown, PA		
Willard Pennington	577 Ex O	5315 Greentree Rd Houston TX 77056
Warren Polking	578 CO	8930 Shady Hills, San Antonio TX 78250
Edward K. Quinn	Air crew	Unknown
6324 Homer St., Phila, PA		
Risler, Arthur W.	Unknown	Unknown
3213 W Clifford St Phila, PA		
Charles Schreiber	Sperry rep	Unknown
Victor Clad Co.		
119 S 11th St., Phila, PA		
O. Sommers	Unknown	Unknown
Chancellor Hall Apts		
119 S. 11th St., Phila. PA		
Dr. Thomas B. Stone	576 Flt Surg	Unknown
Fuller-Gilliam Hospital		
Mayfield, KY		
Robert O. Wilson	Unknown	Unknown
1229 S Hudson St. Los Angeles CA		
Dr. Woodard	578 Flt Surg	Deceased
James A. Zicarelli	578 Bomb	Unknown
Directorate of Public Rel		
Dept of AF, Washington DC		

FOLDED WINGS REPORT (PLEASE REPORT ANY DEATH OF SPOUSE AS WELL AS OF MEMBER)

Name of Deceased _____ Sqdn. _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Death _____ Survivors: (Send copy of obit from newspaper if possible) _____

Reported by _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

[] Record a memorial contribution to 392nd BGMA in my name, check made out to 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Ass'n., enclosed.
 Send this report to J. D. Long, Jr., 102 Kemp Road East, Greensboro, NC 27410.

PX ITEMS

Book, "392nd War Stories", by Col. Myron Keilman, 579th, \$20 _____ []
 Book, "Country Boy Combat Pilot", by Col. Bob Tays, 578th, \$15 _____ []
 Book, "Liberators From Wendling", by Col. Bob Vickers, 578th, \$25 _____ []
 Cap, black, 392nd BG w/gold braid, summer, \$9 _____ []
 Cap, black, 392nd BG w/gold braid, winter, \$9 _____ []
 Directory, \$4.50 post paid _____ []
 Jacket, white nylon, w/ 392nd BG and Crusader patches, \$20 _____ []
 Patch, 392nd, \$1.50 post paid _____ []
 Print, "The Flying Crusader", by Frederick T. Searle, unsigned \$30 post paid _____ []
 Print, "The Flying Crusader", by Frederick T. Searle, signed \$55 post paid _____ []
 T-shirt, 392nd, \$10 _____ []
 Add \$1.50 per item for shipping cost (except post paid items) _____ []
 Total _____ []

Send with check to Charles Dye, Treasurer, 7000 Louisiana Blvd., NE, Apt. 1601, Albuquerque, NM 87109

MEMBERSHIP DUES

1993 DUES ARE PAYABLE. PLEASE SEND THEM IN NOW. (YOU CAN TELL WHERE YOU STAND WITH YOUR DUES BY THE CODE RIGHT AFTER YOUR NAME ON THE LABEL. IF IT IS LM (FOR LIFE MEMBER) OR 93 OR HIGHER, YOU'RE PAID UP. IF THERE IS AN ERROR, CONTACT CHARLEY DYE.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS RULED THAT NO CRUSADER WILL BE DENIED MEMBERSHIP BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY, SO IF YOU ARE IN STRAIGHTENED CIRCUMSTANCES CHECK THE HARDSHIP WAIVER BOX. FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW AND SEND IT IN NOW!

NAME _____ GROUND [] AIR [] SQDN _____ ASSOC _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Dues for 1993, \$12 _____ []

HARDSHIP WAIVER []

Life Membership:

Age 61-65 \$120 _____ []

Age 66-70 \$ 96 _____ []

Age 71 and over \$78 _____ []

Send with check to Charles Dye, Treasurer, 7000 Louisiana Blvd, NE, Apt. 1601, Albuquerque, NM 87109

8AF COMMEMORATIVE PLATE AVAILABLE

The 392nd BGMA has joined other 8AF Unit memorial associations in making 8AF commemorative plates available to members.

A full description of the plate is included with the mailing of this newsletter, together with cost information and how to order.

The placing of orders with the Unit memorial associations results in certain stocking and cost savings, and the 392nd BGMA earns \$8 per plate for use in Memorial causes.

If interested, send your check and order to Charley Dye as outlined in the brochure. Delivery will be direct from England and will take 8 to 10 weeks.

NATL GEOGRAPHIC QUOTES WIDOW OF 392 CREWMAN

Readers of the October 1992 issue of the National Geographic Magazine caught a glimpse of the 392nd when they saw pictured there Mrs. Ouida Miller, widow of S/Sgt. Samson Miller, who was a member of the 579th's Wesley Schafer crew.

Samson Miller died in 1989 after a career in the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He was vice-president of the Mescalero Apache Tribal Council. (See Feb. 1992 issue of 392BGMA NEWS)



Mrs. Samson Miller

The National Geographic's article was about the life of Geronimo, the famous Apache leader. Mrs. Miller is his granddaughter.

"My grandfather's essential integrity and devotion to his family are little known aspects of his character", Mrs. Miller said. "I wish I had known him."

PROFILE

T/Sgt. John T. Carroll was radio operator on the Gann crew in the 579th, arriving at Wendling in March 1944.

On the mission to St. Lo on July 25, 1944 in support of a pending offensive by the U.S. First Army, the Group sustained flak damage and Carroll was wounded by what was thought to be flak. Some 33 years later the old wound which was in the posterior area was operated and the offending metal when removed was found to be a nut and bolt from the a/c. Needless to say, John feels that he has



392nd BG Memo REUNION 50TH ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

20 MAY Thursday: "Early Birds and Golfers' Mixer"

- 1500 (3:00 P.M.) REGISTRATION AND DISPLAYS
(Hotel EAST Foyer)
- 1700 (5:00 P.M.) EARLY BIRDS RECEPTION
(Cash Bar—Informal)
- 1800 (6:00 P.M.) DINNER ON OWN—HOTEL
(BIG Senior Citizen Discounts!)
- 2000 (8:00 P.M.) HOSPITALITY SUITE OPEN
(Meet & Greet!)

23 MAY Sunday: "Memorial Tribute Day"

- 0830 (8:30 A.M.) SIT-DOWN BREAKFAST
(Hosted)
- 1300 (1:00 P.M.) MEMORIAL CEREMONY
(by buses to Kirtland AFB)
- 1400 (2:00 P.M.) NATIONAL ATOMIC MUSEUM TOUR
- 1630 (4:30 P.M.) HOSTED DINNER & FUN TOUR
(by bus)
- 1900 (7:00 P.M.) HOOP-A-LA AT HOTEL
HOSPITALITY SUITE EVENING!

21 MAY Friday: "Golfers' Mixer"

- 0900 (9:00 A.M.) GOLFER'S MIXER
(Transportation)
- 1000 (10:00 A.M.) REGISTRATION
- 1100 (11:00 A.M.) HOSPITALITY SUITE
ROOM D
- 1500 (3:00 P.M.) "19TH HUNDRED"
(Golfers' Mixer)
(DINNER)

24 MAY Monday: "Golfers' Mixer"

- 0830 (8:30 A.M.) SIT-DOWN BREAKFAST
(A.M. 'til P.M.) FREE TRIPS!
Trips! 3
Open T
- 1700 (5:00 P.M.) RECEPTION
'til? (Hotel)
- 1800 (6:00 P.M.) GALA DINNER
PROGRAM

Notes of note: ABQ is *also* a "Mile High" City; Hotel offers ample auto space parking.
If driving, Exit #162 on I-40 for MARRIOTT.

been screwed all these years.

Carroll was rotated home because of the wound, and after recovery was re-assigned to the CBI theater flying in C46's for the ATC. In 1945, just prior to Japan's surrender, his a/c lost power over a remote area near the Burma Road and John bailed out. He was injured but was cared for by Chinese villagers and eventually returned to U.S. control.

So John has the unique record of having served to two theaters of war during WWII and sustaining injury in both instances.

Post war, he worked for the U. S. Postal Service.

He lives with wife Margaret at 17004 O'Connor, Allen Park, MI 48101. They have four children and 9 grandchildren.

FEBRUARY AIR ANNIVERSARY

Bids for Army's first airplane considered by Board of Ordnance and Fortification-1908.

PROFILE

Lt. Col. (Ret) Willard Levin was a 1/Lt. navigator on the Smith and Daly crews in the 576th and 578th squadrons. He joined the Group at Wendling in June, 1944.

A graduate of the AF Institute of Technology at Wright Field, he filled many management positions in the aerospace programs during his military career. He also served in the air attache office of the Air Force at London 1947-52.

Postwar, he was an engineer at McDonnell-Douglas and TRW Space Systems. He and wife Anne live at 4764 Browndeer Lane, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90274.

PROFILE

2/Lt. Donald Whitford was a co-pilot in the 579th, joining the Group at Wendling May 13, 1944.

After Leaving the Service, he was with Eastern Air Lines for 35 years.

He and wife Emily live at 3042 Paddle Creek Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32223. They have two boys and two girls.

Memorial Association DON '93 BINARY CELEBRATION NDAR



20 - 24 MAY '93

Members' Day and
comings"

' TEE-OFF

(ion Provided)

ATIONS OPEN

LITY SUITE AND MEETING

PLAYS

OLE"

Course)

ON OWN TONIGHT)

Golden Anniversary
Memorial Day"

W BREAKFAST (Hosted)

IE! Sights & Local Scenes &

2nd Hospitality Suite

o!

ON (CASH BAR)

l East Foyer)

MEMORIAL BANQUET—

I & DANCING

22 MAY Saturday: "General Membership &
Ladies' Day"

0800 (8:00 A.M.) BREAKFAST (On Own)

0830 (8:30 A.M.) REGISTRATION AND DISPLAYS

1000(10:00 A.M.) GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

1130 (11:30 A.M.) SIT-DOWN LUNCHEON (Hosted) &
STYLE SHOW

1415 (2:15 P.M.) "OLD TOWN" TOUR / VISIT

1800 (6:00 P.M.) RECEPTION (Cash Bar, East Foyer)

1900 (7:00 P.M.) SIT-DOWN DINNER (Hosted) &
BIG '40s "LIVE NIGHT!"

25 MAY Tuesday: "Til We Meet Again—Soon!"

1200 (12:00 P.M.) (Checkout)

—OR—

STAY AND SIGHT-SEE!

FOND "FAREWELLS" &

PLEASE HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY
HOMEWARD!

ing and RV parking; Hotel runs airport van service regularly.

PROFILE

Capt. Robert Egan was a pilot in the 577th, arriving at Wendling in Sept. 1943.

He left the Service in 1945 and was hired as a commercial airline pilot, but eye problems kept him out of that career. After spending five years as a rehabilitation and education officer with the VA, he then did 30 years as an agent for the Prudential Insurance Company.

He and wife Rose have 5 children and 9 grandchildren, all living within 2 1/2 miles of their home at 4568 Zenith N., Minneapolis MN 55422.

PROFILE

S/Sgt. Walter C. Lienemann was waist/tail gunner on the Don Scharf crew in the 576 and 579 squadrons. He joined the 392nd at Wendling in June 1944.

He has been a farmer all his life and is still at it. He and wife Betty live at 1724 R Ave., Minburn IA 50167. They have two daughters and two grandsons and granddaughters.

PROFILE

S/Sgt. John Rosenberg was the tail gunner on the Marcus crew in the 576th. He joined the Group in November 1944.

He graduated from Marquette University in 1950, and enjoyed a career in industrial engineering, retiring from Johnson Controls at Milwaukee in 1990.

He married Gloria MacDonald, a London girl, in July 1949. She passed away in 1989.

They are the parents of four children and six grandchildren. John lives at 15905 Sky Cliff Drive, Brookfield WI 53005.

FEBRUARY AIR ANNIVERSARY

Lts. J.C. Carberry and W.R. Taliaferro set Army altitude record of 8,700 ft.—1914.

FEBRUARY AIR ANNIVERSARY

103rd Pursuit Squadron, AEF, formed with members of Lafayette Escadrille—1918.

FEBRUARY AIR ANNIVERSARY

Brig. Gen. William Mitchell died in New York City—1936.

NEW MAILING POLICY

This issue of the NEWS is being mailed to every Crusader we have been able to identify. Ordinarily we mail only to paid-up members but once a year we try to reach out to everyone, with an invitation from Col. Gilbert to join the fold.

This, together with the several inserts to be found with the newsletter, makes first-class mailing cost prohibitive. So we have done what most of our sister publications have done, gone to third class mail.

The postal service is aware that there is no free lunch and in return for the lower rate we must do some sorting and packaging before mailing.

Please let the NEWS or a Board member know if the new mailing policy causes any hardship.

PROFILE

S/Sgt. Harry D. Hall was in bombsight and automatic pilot maintenance in the 576th squadron. He was in the base complement at Alamogordo and asked to hook up with the 392nd, then in its last phase of training there. Naturally, the Crusaders were glad to have him.

He has been a lifetime employee of Greyhound Lines, retiring as district supervisor at Jacksonville in 1979.

He and wife Pauline live at 4070 Conga St., Jacksonville FL 32217. They have one son and two grandchildren.

PROFILE

1/Lt. Jack Adamson was a bombardier in the 576th, joining the Group at Wendling in March, 1944.

After the war he became a dentist and practiced in the Pittsburgh area. He recently retired.

When he and spouse Jean Ann were on the QEII enroute to England this past summer they met fellow Crusaders Hank and Jean Henry and found that the two ladies had gone to the same high school in Pittsburgh.

They have two children and four grandchildren and live at 222 Orr Rd., Pittsburgh PA 15241.

PROFILE

Cpl. Tom Alexander was a line mechanic in the 578th. He joined the Group at Alamogordo in April 1943.

His civilian occupation was in line with his military experience. He worked in the division of aviation for the City of Philadelphia for 25 years as engineering supervisor.

He and wife Helen now live at 52 Fairbank Lane, PO Box 351092, Palm Coast FL 32135. They have two children and two granddaughters.

FEBRUARY AIR ANNIVERSARY

8th and 15th AF's began six day strikes against Germany—1944.

FEBRUARY AIR ANNIVERSARY

P-47 Thunderbolts attack Berchtesgaden, Germany, for first time—1945.



REGISTRATION REUNION '93

Reunion Events:



NAME(S): _____ SQDN: _____

PLEASE PRINT for ALL Registering Persons)

ADDRESS: _____
(Street; P.O. Box; City; State & Zip)

TEL: () _____

• REGISTRATION FEE for ALL Reunion Events (except GOLF) is: \$129.50 per person. Reunion events include all scheduled activities to include three (3) Dinners; two (2) Breakfasts; and one (1) Luncheon/Style Show plus motor coaches and three (3) tour visit events.

◇ REQUEST Registration for () person(s) x \$129.50 per person = \$ _____

◇ "YES," I/We will play in the Golfing Event Friday, 21 May:
• Request Golf for () persons x \$26 per person = \$ _____
(includes Green fee, one-half cart plus "stuff")

◇ TOTAL AMOUNT (Check or Money Order to: CHAS. DYE, Treas.) = \$ _____

✓ Make Payment to: **392 BGMA REUNION '93**

✓ Send Completed REGISTRATION FORM & PAYMENT to: **Charles Dye**
7000 Louisiana NE #1601
Albuquerque, NM 87109

(Cut here and return)

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Call in—or use the Hotel Form BELOW:

Special Reunion '93, standard room rate is \$57 per night plus tax to be paid at checkout. NO ADVANCE DEPOSIT OF ONE NIGHT required IF reservations made BEFORE January 1st! Either CALL IN your request TOLL FREE at (800) 228-9290 or direct to Hotel at (505) 881-6800 for "392 REUNION '93"—or use form below and mail directly to the ABQ MARRIOTT HOTEL at address given. DO IT NOW, OK?

NAME OF
GROUP

392ND BGP—REUNION '93

20 - 24 MAY 1993

A limited number of sleeping rooms have been set aside for your group. Any reservation request received after the cut off date will be handled on a space availability "first come" basis for both availability and rates.

CUT OFF DATE 30 APR 93

DATES

LAST NAME			FIRST	MIDDLE	ARRIVAL DATE	DEPARTURE DATE
FIRM			PHONE		DAY	DAY
STREET					TIME	TIME
CITY			STATE	ZIP CODE	CREDIT CARDS	
SHARING WITH			LAST NAME	FIRST	MIDDLE	NAME
ARRIVAL DATE OF SHARING PARTY						NUMBER
						EXP. DATE
					SIGNATURE	
					Rollaway Beds \$10.00 Children in same room with parents - Free	
					Check in after 3 pm Check out - Noon	

PLEASE CIRCLE TYPE OF ROOM REQUESTED

SINGLE
1 BED - 1 PERSON

DOUBLE
1 BED - 2 PERSONS

DOUBLE - DOUBLE
2 BEDS - 2 PERSONS

TRIPLE
2 BEDS - 3 PERSONS

QUAD
2 BEDS - 4 PERSONS

ALBUQUERQUE **Marriott**

2101 LOUISIANA BOULEVARD NE (I-40 at Louisiana)
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87110 • (505) 881-6800

RUMINATIONS

By Jim Goar

It is said that wisdom comes with old age. I'm not sure that's true in my case, but at least I have some perspectives now that I didn't have as a young soldier at Wendling.

Some of them are in fact the result of the accumulated experiences of the passing years; but in this particular vein they developed from many conversations with Crusaders, both at conventions and in the course of pursuing stories for the NEWS.

So let's talk about heroism. There is of course no doubt that the heroes of the 392nd were the combat crews. It was they who suffered and sometimes succumbed in the brutal environment of the heavy bomber doing battle not only against the enemy but also the weather and all the attendant risks of flying in a machine with what is now considered to be primitive equipment.

It seems to me that the aerial gunners should be especially singled out for a certain brand of heroism. Most of them were in their teens or barely out of them; on take-off they weren't kept busy by the rigorous business of getting the aircraft off the ground as were the rest of the crew. All they could do was sweat it out, praying that the lumbering, shuddering monster would finally take wing and leave the runway.

Another group to be cited are our senior officers: squadron commanders and above. Again, youth was the norm with them; most of them were in their middle twenties. But nevertheless they had the awesome responsibility for the conduct of their entire command. Col. Warren Polking, the first commander of the 578th, has told me that of course he was frightened when in combat. But he was terrified of what could happen if he or one of his command screwed up and he would have to answer to all those generals at higher headquarters. And Col. Joe Bush, the Ground Executive Officer, has related to me that, sleepless, he would get up in the middle of the night and tour the base to be sure that all was secure.

And last but not least, the ground personnel who maintained and serviced the aircraft should be mentioned. They worked through the night, sometimes in foul weather with little or no protection from the elements. They had only flashlights to work with, but the labor to be done was highly technical, requiring intense effort. There were thousands of things that had to be right so that a four-engine bomber would be properly armed and able to fly at high altitudes with a heavy load to a target that was difficult to find and often well defended.

And truck drivers? Well, if not heroes at least one was a victim. Cpl. Farrell, 579th, was the only ground KIA in the 392nd. He died when his truck was strafed by a lone enemy intruder in the last months of the conflict.

FEBRUARY AIR ANNIVERSARY

Maj. Gen. N. Twining and 14 others rescued after 6 days in life rafts-1943.

BRITISH FRIENDS OF THE 392ND SEND NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

Tom and Jill Scott, donors of land and key figures in the refurbishing of the Wendling Memorial, telephoned Col. Gilbert to report that the recent vandalism had been repaired; and asked him to convey their best wishes to the entire Group.

Denis and Hilary Duffield, longtime Friends who live at East Dereham, wrote that "the weather here is not so good now. We have four hard months to contend with, November through February. Must not wish the time away but shall be glad to see the back of them." This should strike a chord with most of us.

Ben Jones of Litcham and his friend Pam Creed of Castle Acre also sent greetings. Ben is looking forward to going to Germany in March with the Marstellers to look for the crash site of Marsteller's uncle's ship which went down on the Friedrichshafen mission.

Mervyn and Barbara Jones, Ben's parents, were also heard from. Barbara is fighting valiantly against a serious illness and is exhibiting the grit and stiff upper lip that characterizes our British cousins.

Wendy and Peter Carter sent a Holiday message. They are active with the 392nd's library projects and live across the road from the Beeston church, which was a welcome landmark to returning Crusader crews.

Ian Hawkins, the author who is writing a history of the 392nd joined in wishing all a Happy New Year.

Ian Blackamore and Peter Wood, members of the Lincolnshire Aircraft Recovery Group, said that their latest recovery effort was a P-38 that went down about 8 miles from where Harry White's B-24 crashed. They managed to salvage about 75% of the P-38, including both engines and the 20mm. cannon and the machine guns. The Recovery Group helps maintain a museum at the former RAF base at East Kirkby and they have a 392nd display there.

Also sending greetings were Doug Willis and Mrs. May Ayers of Sheringham, near Cromer. Willis and Mrs. Ayers are helping us research a crash at Sheringham.

John Gilbert of Norwich conveyed Holiday greetings to the Group. John spent some time post-war working at the Wendling site and is a valuable research person.

CHICAGO CHAPTER OF 8AFHS BEING FORMED

Plans are underway for the organization of a Chicago chapter of the 8AF Historical Society.

Organizing and contact person is Terry Carlson, 5074 W. Balmoral Ave., Chicago IL 60630, phone (312) 202 0690.

Crusaders interested in joining the chapter should be in touch with him.

PROFILE

Lt. Col. (Ret) Richard Hoffman was a S/Sgt. radio operator-ball turret gunner in the 579th. He was original crew in that squadron, joining the 392nd at Tucson in February 1943.

He was shot down on the Group's 7th mission on Nov. 5, 1943, and earned the Purple Heart as a result of a shattered ankle sustained that day.

After repatriation from POW status, he was discharged in 1945. In 1948 he re-enlisted as T/Sgt. and received a direct commission as 2/Lt. shortly thereafter.

Most of his career was spent as an Intelligence Officer, primarily in fighter groups in the US and in Europe, Japan, and Southeast Asia. He also saw duty as liaison to the CIA.

He retired in 1974 and as a civilian has sold sailboat racing equipment and was a counsellor with the National Alliance of Businessmen.

He has drafted a book about his experiences as a POW at Stalag 17 and that group's remarkable march across Austria just prior to Germany's capitulation.

He is married to Ruth, and they live at 134 S. San Mateo Ave., Ventura, CA 93004. They have two children and two grandchildren.

FROM THE KEILMAN WWII NOTEBOOK

Col. Myron Keilman, the commander of the 579th, has compiled accounts of events in 392nd history that he has named "Lest We Forget". Following is his recital of an operation, with a citation from the Commanding General:

On 5 February, 1944, the German airfield at Tours, France was struck by fourteen airplanes of the 392nd.

In spite of clouds partially obscuring the aiming point, 156 500-pound bombs struck the target area. Ten enemy fighters and light flak were encountered. All airplanes returned to Wendling safely. Here is the message received from General Hodges, Commander of the 2nd Bombardment Division:

"Strike photographs of yesterday's mission shows that the pattern of the 392nd Group covered the aiming point, notwithstanding the fact that the target area was badly obscured by clouds. The skill of the lead pilot-bombardier team is worthy of the highest commendation and justifies the care and effort put forth by Rendle and his Group Bombardier on his lead crews. Please extend my congratulations and appreciation to Captain Graper and Captain Weiland for the splendid job they did."

FOLDED WINGS

Chester Cole, about 1972

Frank B. Fink, Jr., 1958

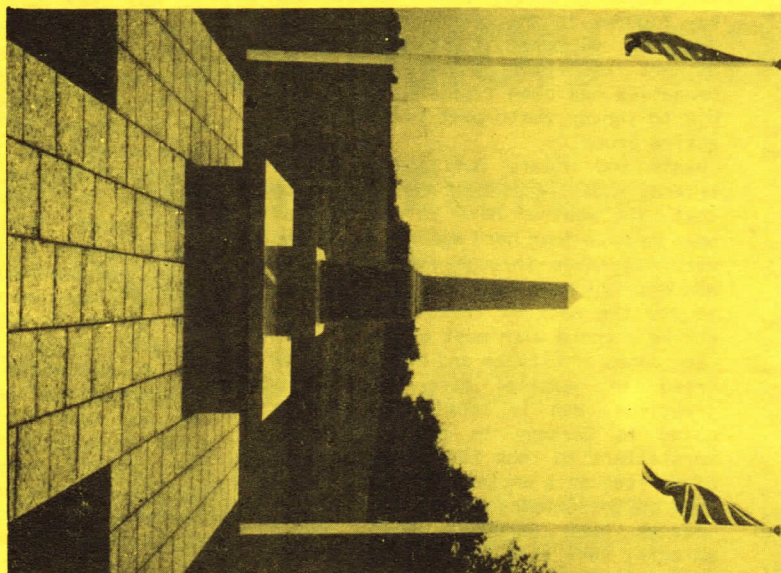
Thomas O. Maher, 1975

McAllister McNeill, 1986

John R. Rawlings, Jr., July 2, 1986
Al R. Williamson, 577, May 28, 1992

NEWS

392nd BG Memorial Association



THE REFURBISHED MEMORIAL AT WENDLING

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