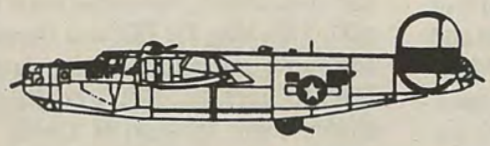
NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 11 FEBRUARY 1996

MIGHTY 8AF MUSEUM TO OPEN MAY 13 1996

2AD ASS'N MAKING IT EASIER FOR YOU TO ATTEND CEREMONY

The long-awaited opening of the Mighty 8th Air Force Heritage Museum is scheduled for May 13, 1996 at Savannah, Georgia.

The 2AD Ass'n has reserved a block of rooms at the Hyatt Riverfront Hotel for the event. Also, they are planning a cocktail party for 2ADA attendees, regardless of whether they are staying at the Hyatt, on Sunday, May 12.

Other hotels in Savannah have established special rates and Crusaders, if they do not wish to stay at the Hyatt, may make their own reservations with any of them.

Complete information, together with a reservation form, can be found in the Winter 1995 issue of the 2AD Journal and is reprinted, in part, on this page.

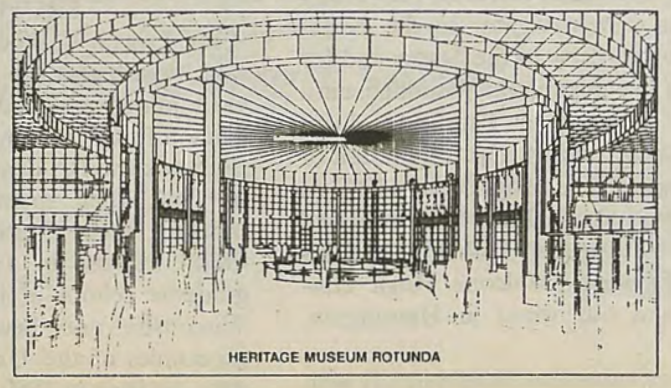
The grand opening will consist of two days of events. The first day, May 13, 1996, will be devoted to an open house for Eighth Air Force veterans and their families. The morning of the 14th will be reserved for a brief ceremony opening the facility to the public.

The site of the Museum is at the intersection of I-95 and US 80, Exit 18 of the Interstate.

Several Crusaders have indicated that they intend to be there.

* * * *

Evelyn Cohen has reserved 100 rooms for the 2nd Air Division Association at the **Hyatt Riverfront Hotel** at $95 per night plus 11% tax. This is the only hotel she is making arrangements with. You may make a reservation at the Hyatt through her, or you may make reservations on your own at one of the additional hotels listed below. Evelyn is also planning a Cocktail Party for all 2ADA attendees, regardless of hotel, on **Sunday, May 12.**


HERITAGE MUSEUM ROTUNDA

The following hotels must have arrangements made by individuals or individual groups:

A.	Hilton	15 East Liberty Street	$73.00 + 11% tax	912-232-9000
B.	Marriott	100 General McIntosh Blvd	$75.00 + 11% tax	912-233-7722
C.	Ramada Inn	Pooler, Georgia	$40.00 + 11% tax	912-748-6464
D.	Mulberry	601 East Bay Street	$96.00 + 11% tax	912-238-1200
E.	Days Inn	201 West Bay Street	$58.00 + 11% tax	912-236-1024
F.	Comfort Inn	Pooler and Savannah Airport — 1-800-221-222 — ask for prime time rate which is 30% off the regular rate		

When making reservations, please indicate your special needs, i.e. hearing impaired, handicapped, smoking, non-smoking. Some suites are available at slightly higher rates at most hotels.

Rooms are on a first come, first serve basis, so please make sure you get your reservations in early. **The absolute deadline for all reservations is 1 APRIL 1996.**

RESERVATION FORM – MIGHTY 8TH AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSEUM GRAND OPENING – MAY 1996

❑ Please reserve _____ room(s) for me and _____ at the Hyatt Riverfront, arriving _____, departing _____.

❑ I am making reservations at a hotel of my choice. Please send me and my guests named above an invitation to attend our 2ADA party, Sunday evening, May 12, 1996.

❑ Please advise the Heritage Museum that I and my guests named above expect to attend the events checked below:
- ❑ the opening ceremonies and preview reserved for 8th Air Force veterans and guests during the day on Monday, May 13
- ❑ the reception in the evening on Monday, May 13
- ❑ the formal dedication and public opening on Tuesday, May 14

Name _____

Address _____

Group Affiliation _____ Phone _____

❑ **Enclosed is my check made payable to the 2ADA in the amount of $ _____, which amount you are requested to include with other contributions being made to the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum.**

CLIP & MAIL TO EVELYN COHEN, 06-410 DELAIRE LANDING ROAD, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19114.

LETTERS

Nov. 15, 1995

It's great to read about the activities of the current members of our Group and reflect on the stories of their WWII lives that parallel mine. I was a waist gunner on the Flying Patch (K for Kitty) in the 576 squadron. Our crew came in as replacements early in April or May, 1944.

Thanks for your continued effort on behalf of we Crusaders.

Phillip W. White, 576th
250 E. Telegraph Rd, #87
Fillmore, CA 93015

Nov 1995

That is a good-looking picture of Cliff Peterson, 392nd President, who I flew with as crew navigator in the beginnings of his crew in the States and for four of five missions at Wendling, until I was assigned to Pathfinder Lead Navigation training. On completion of the training was assigned to 44BG as lead navigator. In July of this year had a neat get-together with him and his flight engineer, Malcolm Hugh Hinshaw and our wives in Huntington, WV.

I spent more time consequently with the 44th. But I should try to get to one of the 392nd reunions. Time is getting short, kind of, for us oldies.

Cliff Fremstad, 578th
509 1st Ave. NW
Fargo, ND 58078

* * * *

THE DUFFIELDS SEND HOLIDAY GREETINGS; LIST 1995 VISITORS

Most Crusaders are aware that Denis and Hilary Duffield, who live in Dereham, are long-time Friends and ambassadors of the 392nd.

A letter received from them before Christmas bore holiday greetings to the 392nd. Crusaders should know that if they plan a return to Wendling, they should call or write Denis. He wants it known that such calls are not impositions, that he enjoys meeting Crusaders and showing them around the old base. If you find yourself already in England and have not made the contact before you left the U.S., a call to Phyllis DuBois at the 2AD library in Norwich will put you in touch with him.

Denis reported the following visitors: April 23: Kim and Honey Hutchcroft and daughters Heather and Harmoney; son and daughter-in-law of Harold Hutchcroft, pilot 576/9. May 2: Fred V. Rodgers, a/c mechanic 579. May 3: Everitt and Virginia Thomas, bombardier 576. May 5: Bob and Lois Vickers, pilot 578. May 13: Bill and Bernadette McGuire, son and daughter-in-law of Bill McGuire, Sr., 579, KIA Friedrichshafen. June 28: Earl B. Gross, bombardier 576/9. Late October: nephew of George T. Winzenberg, navigator 579, lost on Munster mission.

Denis also reported that a farmer plowed up a propeller from the crash site of P-Bar, the Flying Crusader. It was in good condition and will be on display in the Wendling area.

* * * *

PROFILE

Capt Edwin T. Wood was first adjutant, then S-2 in the 576th. He was an early joiner, assigned to the 392nd at Tucson in December, 1942.

He took the BA degree from Harvard in 1947, then spent some years in industry with Continental Can and Philip Morris. In 1970 he attended graduate school at the University of Wisconsin, and became lecturer in economics at the University of Delaware, retiring in 1990.

He was in the Delaware National Guard until 1952.

He and spouse Katharine have three children and four grandchildren. They live at 726 Loveville Rd, Cottage #50, Hockessin, DE 19707.

* * * *

577th's "YMCA FLYING SERVICE" NOW A POSTCARD

Philip Levick, who lives in Sheffield, England, picked up the above postcard at an air show at Mildenhall and sent it to us. According to Quintin Wedgeworth's 392nd a/c list, it was serial number 41-28700, was assigned to the 577th, and flew 8 sorties before being transferred to the 492nd in February, 1945. Note that it is painted olive drab, and a/c that flew only 8 sorties before February 1945 were probably not painted. This leads the editor, Jim Goar, to think that the a/c pictured above was an earlier ship, also named YMCA Flying Service.

Somewhere in the editor's slightly frayed memory is a letter from a Crusader who said he flew in or crewed the YMCA Flying Service. Maybe that person, seeing this, will come forward and set the record straight.

The message on the back of the card says: "American B-24 Liberator based at Wendling, Norfolk. The 'YMCA Flying Service' together with a famous YMCA Tea Wagon, offering tea and sympathy to the troops during World War II."

* * * *

PX ITEMS

Book, "392nd War Stories", by Col Myron Keilman, 579th, $21.50 postpaid	$_____
Book, "The Liberators From Wendling", by Col Bob Vickers, 578th, $28.00 postpaid	$_____
Book, "Crew Dog", by Maj John Matt, 579th, $28.95 postpaid	$_____
Cap, black, 392nd Bomb Group w/gold braid, summer, $10.50 postpaid	$_____
Cap, black, 392nd Bomb Group w/gold braid, winter, $10.50 postpaid	$_____
Cap, blue, 392nd Bomb Group w/B-24 and Crusader logo, $10.50 postpaid	$_____
Directory, Jan 1995, $10 postpaid	$_____
Jacket, white nylon, w/392BG and Crusader patches, $22 postpaid (Circle size wanted) M L XL XXL	$_____
Patch, 392nd Bomb Group logo, $1.50 postpaid	$_____
Print, "The Flying Crusader", by Frederick T. Searle, signed, reduced to $16.50 postpaid	$_____
T-shirt, 392nd Bomb Group, $18.50 postpaid (Circle size wanted) M L XL XXL	$_____
TOTAL	$_____

Send with check to Gil Bambauer, Treas, 974 Fairway Dr., Dewey, AZ 86327

Video, from Albuquerque Reunion Symposium, "The Early Days" $17.50 postpaid
Video, from Albuquerque Reunion Symposium, "The Ground Support Teams Prepare For A Mission" $17.50 postpaid
Video, Symposium above, "The Tough Missions, Pt 1: Bremen, Keil, Gotha, Freidrichshafen Both parts $27.50 pp
Video, Symposium above, "The Tough Missions, Pt 2: Politz, Berlin, Bernberg, Bingen, Wesel Both parts $27.50 pp
Video, from Albuquerque Reunion Symposium, general scenes from the reunion, 2 parts, $27.50 pp
(ORDER VIDEOS DIRECT FROM DAN A. McGOVERN PRODUCTIONS, 5307 CANTANTE, LAGUNA HILLS CA 92653)

WET SPELL AT ALAMOGORDO AAB

Crusaders who trained at Alamogordo and other bone-dry airfields in the western U.S. might relate to this story, from ARIZONA HIGHWAYS magazine:

A visiting New Yorker asked, "Does it ever rain out here?" To which the desert dweller replied, "Do you recall the story in the Bible about how it rained for forty days and forty nights? Well, we got half an inch."

* * * *

FIRST SHIPMENT OF MEMORIALIZED BOOKS HAVE ARRIVED AT LITCHAM AND BEESTON LIBRARIES

Thanks were expressed in a letter from the school authorites at Litcham for the memorialized books that have been sent to them. (The letter is reproduced elsewhere in this addition.) All the books have a donor insertion, identifying the donor and the persons memorialized. Where possible, photographs are also supplied.

Crusaders are urged to continue to take this opportunity to memorialize in the minds of the young English students the history of the 392nd in World War II. Simply fill out the form below and send it and your check to Gil Bambauer.

MEMORIAL GIFT TO WENDLING AREA SCHOOL LIBRARIES

I/we donate $50 to the 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Ass'n, and I/we request that a book be purchased for the Litcham or Beeston school library, and that it be inscribed as follows:

IN MEMORY OF: (List a crew or an individual)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

A photograph of the crew or individual is enclosed, which is to be copied and and copy placed in the book. I understand that the original photo will be returned to me after copying.

Additional descriptive material, such as dates the above were at Wendling, is also enclosed.

Donor_____

Street, City_____

State, Zip_____

Telephone (in case we have any questions) Area code:_____

SEND THIS FORM WITH CHECK AND PHOTO TO GIL BAMBAUER, TREASURER, 974 FAIRWAY DRIVE, DEWEY, AZ 86327-5825

PROFILE

1/Lt Joseph G. Brandi was the navigator on the Lyman Weaver crew in the 577th. He arrived at Wendling June 10, 1944.

He worked for the Eaton Corporation for 41 years as a metallurgist, supervisor, and plant superintendent. In addition to being a golfer, he plays first trumpet in an area concert band.

He is married to Evelyn, and they have four daughters, five grandsons, and three granddaugters. They live at 2230 Delaware Blvd., Saginaw MI 48602.

* * * *

PROFILE

1/Lt Jackson B. Crane was the bombardier on the Willis Miller crew in the 577th. He arrived at Wendling in June 1944.

On his 15th mission on Oct. 12, 1944 to Osnabruck, he was so seriously wounded that he was grounded. He was awarded the Silver Star for his actions during this mission.

In civilian life he was with Rockwell Guidance Systems for 27 years.

His wife is Anna Mae and they live at 11718 Leland Ave., Whittier, Calif. 90605. They have six children and seven grandchildren.

* * * *

Norfolk County Council

Litcham High School

Ms. Catherine Shaw
Headteacher,
Church Street,
LITCHAM,
King's Lynn,
Norfolk, PE32 2NS.

Telephone: (01328) 701265
Fax. No: (01328) 701850

11th December 1995

Antonia Robinson
Col. L. G. Gilbert

Dear Toni, Col. Gilbert & Friends,

We were absolutely delighted to receive the box of books for our library this morning - thank you so much.

We have already had a good browse through them, put on protective book jackets and made them ready for the shelves, where they will be a very real asset and a most useful addition to our resources. We know you have taken a great deal of care in selecting material which is accessible to the particular age and ability range of our students, and these books are simply perfect. Students in all years will be able to enjoy using them, both for pleasure and as part of their studies.

It is a wonderful idea to have the dedications and photographs in the front of the books. It not only makes the books themselves unique editions, but it makes the gift so much more special and personal to us. Thank you for the extra work that this has entailed - it is very much appreciated.

We very much enjoyed welcoming some of your members to school in May. They had a very busy schedule so we were pleased that they were able to spend some time with us, meet some of the students, governors and staff and have a tour of the school. I think we will all remember the memorial service, which we held at the end of the visit, for a very long time.

Students, staff, governors and friends of the school, join with us in thanking you, once again, for your most generous gifts, and in sending you all our very warmest and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Shaw
Headteacher

Margaret Frost
Learning Resources Officer

Antonia H Robinson
Co-ordinator Wendling Schools Library Program,
392nd BG Memorial Association Inc

DUES NOTICE - - - DUES NOTICE
CHECK THE MAILING LABEL, SEE IF YOU'VE PAID

THE LATCH-STRING IS OUT AND TIME IS GROWING SHORT - COME TO MILWAUKEE AND/OR ORLANDO IN 1996

Second Air Division Association
49th Annual Convention - June 13-16, 1996

HYATT REGENCY HOTEL, MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53203 • 414-276-1234

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, June 12
Registration & Early Bird Party – Cash Bar & Complimentary Hors D'Oeuvres

Thursday, June 13
Registration • Golf Tournament
Cocktail Party • Buffet Dinner • Awards Ceremony

Friday, June 14
Registration • Buffet Breakfast • Tours
Cocktail Party • Group Dinners

Saturday, June 15
Buffet Breakfast • Business Meeting
Ladies Luncheon • Men's Luncheon
Cocktail Party • Banquet & Dance

Sunday, June 16
Buffet Breakfast • Departure

Costs per person

The costs listed below are for the entire package (6/13 – 6/16) listed above, including hotel room for three nights (6/13-14-15). For special requirements write to Evelyn Cohen for information.

Single Occupancy $480.00
Double Occupancy ..... $360.00 each
Triple Occupancy ..... $320.00 each
Quadruple Occupancy ..... $305.00 each

Deposit with reservations – $50.00 per person – payment in full by April 15th

Cancellation Policy: 60 days prior to convention – $15.00 per person charge
30 days prior to convention – $25.00 per person charge

All cancellations 30 days prior to convention will be subject to a $25.00 per person charge — full refund (less $25.00) at the discretion of the convention committee (if funds are available).

Important Notes

Extra Nights: $70.00 per room + 14.5% room tax. This charge and all charges for incidentals must be paid directly to the hotel upon checkout.

Non-Smoking Rooms: 380

Handicapped Rooms: 4

Parking: If you plan to drive to Milwaukee, please let me know and I will send you a free parking ticket — this is only for hotel guests for the convention nights

Reservations: For guaranteed rooms, all reservations should be in by May 1st. After May 1st only if rooms are available.

Tours: See page 36 for information and reservation form.

Airport Limo Service: $7.50 per person each way

Campgrounds: Contact Roberta Bull, P.O. Box 30, Circleville, NY 10919, phone (914) 361-2632.

Golf Tournament: Advise Pete Henry, 164B Portland Lane, Jamesburg, NJ 08831 (609-655-0982) if you plan on playing. We do not yet have complete costs and Pete will send the information to you upon request when it becomes available.

49th Annual Convention - Reservation Form

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Group for Group Dinner Seating _____ Group for Banquet _____

Single ___ Double ___ Triple ___ Quad ___ Will Share ___ Smoking ___ Non-Smoking ___

Arrive _____ Depart _____ First 2ADA Convention? _____

Deposit _____ Paid in Full _____ Nicknames _____

Triple or Quad Additional Names _____

DO NOT CALL HOTEL FOR RESERVATIONS, CHANGES, CANCELLATIONS, ETC. ALL OF THESE SHOULD BE SENT TO:
Evelyn Cohen, 06-410 Delaire Landing Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114 • 215-632-3992

Tour Options - Friday, June 14, 1996

1. EAA AVIATION CENTER, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, 9 am to 4 pm.
The EAA Aviation Center is the world's largest private aviation museum. We have contacted the new owner of Delectable Doris and hope they will fly this plane to Wisconsin for our viewing. Bus, tour, and lunch – $34.00 per person. *Minimum 150 persons*

2. OLD WORLD WISCONSIN, 10 am to 4 pm
One of the country's largest and finest outdoor museums. Step back into the 19th century and experience the sights, sounds, and tastes of pioneer village life. A tram circulates to the 40 pioneer-built farmhouses, barns and shops where authentically costumed staff demonstrate life as it used to be. Bus, tour, and lunch – $36.00 per person. *Minimum 40 persons*

3. THEATER THEATER, Milwaukee Central, 10:30 am to 2:30 pm
Guided tour of either the Pabst Theater or the Reperatory Theater, plus a costume fashion show designed and worn in many theatrical productions. Bus, tour, and lunch – $36.00 per person. *Minimum 40 persons*

4. HISTORIC CEDARBURG, 9:30 am to 3 pm
Wonderful quaint community. Bus, tour and lunch – $31.00 per person. *Minimum 40 persons*

TOUR RESERVATION FORM — Second Air Division Association — Friday, June 14, 1996

NAME _____ PHONE _____

Trip to EAA, Oshkosh	No. Persons _____	Check Enclosed: Total _____
Old World Wisconsin	No. Persons _____	Check Enclosed: Total _____
Theater, Theater	No. Persons _____	Check Enclosed: Total _____
Historic Cedarburg	No. Persons _____	Check Enclosed: Total _____

Mail this form with your check payable to:
ON THE SCENE, 6961 N. Crestwood Drive, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209-2721 • Phone 414-352-2840

WHY ATTEND 2AD AND 8AF CONVENTIONS?

For the 100-odd Crusaders who are frequent attenders, it deepens the friendships established over 50 years ago, nurtured by the bonding of living through the wrenching happenings in WWII. Not that it was all blood, guts, and tears; there were some funny and happy times during those years.

For those who haven't attended because "I'll never meet anybody I knew in the old 392nd": that's probably true, but there is always a good-sized group of Crusaders in attendance, and they are the mirror images of the friends you knew and possibly lost at Wendling. The Air Corps soldier of WWII was cut from a template and we were all, although individually different, pretty much alike.

So, see you in Milwaukee and/or Orlando in 1996.

* * * *

8AF HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REUNION

OCTOBER 1-5, 1996

CLARION PLAZA HOTEL, ORLANDO, FLORIDA

(Watch the 392BGMA NEWS and 8AF NEWS for details)

COMMANDER CALLS GROUP FORMATION: REMARKS FOLLOW

At a recent hypothetical Group formation, held at a hypothetical Headquarters at a hypothetical time, Col Gilbert addressed the Group, saying,

"Some of you men have been giving Gil Bambauer, the Treasurer, and Jim Goar, the newsletter editor, a bad time. They are avoiding the expense of sending annual dues notices, depending on notices in the newsletter to advise you of your dues payments.

'Some of you haven't been paying attention to the number after your name on the newsletter label, and have fallen behind in your dues. Recently they had to send out letters threatening some of you with AWOL if you didn't pay up. All this takes extra effort and costs the Group extra money.

'Look at what is after your name on the label of the newsletter. If it is LM for Life Member or the current year, you're paid up. If there is nothing there, you're on a hardship basis and no one knows it except Bambauer and Goar. If you are in straitened financial circumstances, mark the Hardship Waiver box and you will continue to get the newsletter. If it says Frnd, you're our guest."

Then Col Fritsche, the Adjutant, after calling the hypothetical formation to attention, said, "Thank you for coming. Dismissed."

The Group filed silently out of Headquarters, some glad that they had escaped the colonel's admonitions, and some saying to themselves, "Man, I'm not going to let that happen to me again. I'm going to look at the newsletter label and keep my dues paid up."

And a few said, in a soldierly fashion, "I don't know why they're getting themselves in such an uproar. I've been going to pay it- just hadn't got a "round tuit".

At hypothetical Squadron formations held later, Squadron commanders were heard to say, "Now you heard what the Colonel said, so get it taken care of right away. I don't want Headquarters to think we're running some kind of a rinky-dink operation down here." And the Squadron adjutants and first sergeants were seen scanning their extra duty rosters.

* * * *

PROFILE

S/Sgt Stanley L. White was an aircraft inspector in the 576th, joining the 392nd at Biggs Field in March 1943.

He earned the M.A. degree at Indiana University and spent his life in the teaching profession, retiring as department chairman from the Ottawa Township Schools in 1976.

He and wife Muriel live at 1019 Illinois Ave., Ottawa, IL 61350. They have one daughter.

* * * *

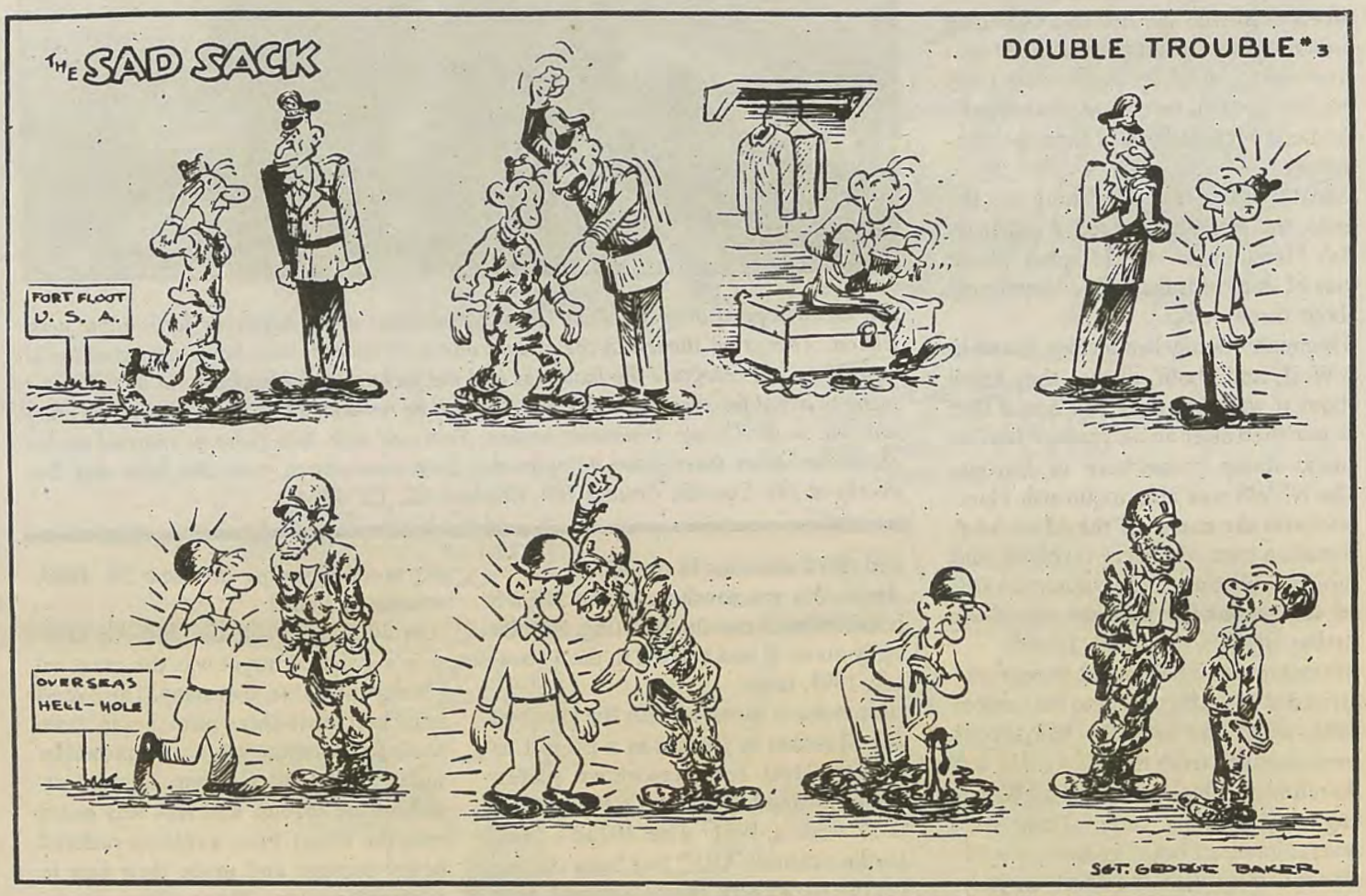
PROFILE

Sgt Manly J. Fox was in the photography department in the 578th. He was early cadre, joining the 392nd just after graduation from photography school in February 1943.

He has been a professional photographer and has operated his own studio since 1946.

His wife is Estelle and they live at 1306 South Main, Jonesboro, Arkansas 72401. They have two children and one grandson.

* * * *



Courtesy the late Capt Charles Taylor, 576/8 Ass't Eng O

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN-TIME TO SEND IN YOUR 1996 DUES. YOU'LL BE DOING US AND YOURSELF A BIG FAVOR IF YOU SEND YOUR $12 TO GIL BAMBAUER NOW.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

You can tell where you stand with your dues by the code right after your name on the label. If is LM (for Life Membership) or 96 or higher, you're paid up. If Frnd is after your name, you're our guest. If there is an error, contact Gil Bambauer.

The Board of Directors has ruled that no Crusader will be denied membership because of financial difficulty, so if you are in straitened 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 1996, $12 [_____]

HARDSHIP WAIVER [____]

LIFE MEMBERSHIP:
Age 61-65 $120 [_____]
Age 66-70 $96 [_____]
Age 71 and over $78 [_____]

Send with check to Gil Bambauer, 974 Fairway Dr., Dewey, AZ 86327

B-24 CRASH INTO AMMO DUMP- THE LONG ARM OF COINCIDENCE

A story ran in the November, 1995 issue of the NEWS about a B-24 from the 491st that crashed into an ammo dump returning from the Wesel mission March 25, 1945.

Written by Clark Harbach of the 131st Anti-aircraft Artillery Gun Battalion Mobile, the story told of how men from that unit braved the fire and exploding ordnance in an attempt to save the a/c's crew and to move the ammo away from the fire. Several men were awarded the Soldier's Medal, three of them posthumously.

Shortly after the publishing of the issue, the NEWS received a call from Ray Hamman, a Life Member whose tour of duty with the 392nd lasted only about three weeks.

Hamman's family lost a close friend in WW II, and about all that they knew about it was that they had heard that he perished after an a/c crashed into an ammo dump somewhere in Europe. The NEWS was able to furnish Hamman with the names of the 131st AAA Battalion men who were involved, and sure enough, one of the soldiers awarded the medal for heroism was S/Sgt Arthur Brosius, the family friend.

Hamman was a ball turret gunner and arrived at Wendling around September 1944, about the time the ball turrets were removed from the B-24's. He was therefore surplus and stayed at Wendling only a short time. Along with several hundred other gunners, he finally ended up with the 15AF in Italy. He flew in B-17's with the 483rd Bomb Group, was shot down in March 1945 and was POW for about seven weeks.

* * * *

JOHN BATCHELOR TO ADDRESS 8AFHS AT ORLANDO OCT 1996

The 22nd annual reunion of the 8th Air Force Historical Society will be held at Orlando, Florida, Oct. 1-5, 1996.

Featured speaker at the Gala Banquet on Saturday Oct. 5 will be John Batchelor, noted English painter and illustrator.

John Batchelor is no stranger to the 392nd. He used 392nd markings in an illustration of a B-24J in the book AIR WAR IN EUROPE, published in 1981 by Time-Life Books. This was spotted by Bill Barrett, a 577th combat crewman, who remembered flying his first and third missions in the a/c.

Jim Goar stopped in to see Tom Horn last summer at his Kentucky farm home near Elkton. Tom is on the left in the picture above. Crusaders who have had agricultural experience will recognize the buildings and the pickup in the background as being the scene of a real-for-sure working farm. Tom will be remembered as T/Sgt Horn, the chief noncom in the Group Armament section. Tom and wife Ann (who he married on his pre-embarkation leave from Alamogordo) have now retired from the farm and live nearby at 242 Camilla, Cottage 109, Hopkinsville, KY 42240.

Batchelor graciously gave the NEWS permission to use the painting, and the story about it was carried in the February, 1993, issue.

Batchelor is involved with the Duxford Air Museum in Britain in a project to produce two commemorative plates, each showing a B-24 with a P-47, and a B-17 with a P-51. The 392nd's "The Birdie Schmidt ARC" has been chosen for the B-24 entry. Birdie Schmidt, now Mrs. Birdie Larrick, was the director of the Aero club at Wendling, and the crew of that a/c named their plane in her honor. The B-17 entrant is a plane piloted by the 447th's James Hower, present president of the 8AFHS.

After service in the Royal Air Force, John Batchelor really learned his profession in the technical publications department of several British a/c manufacturers, before turning freelance to work on a number of technical and boys' papers. He also designs and illustrates postage stamps for 18 foreign countries.

* * * *

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 are his noted regarding the June 20, 1944, mission to Politz:

On 20 June, 1944, the 2nd Air Division's assigned target was the great oil refinery at Politz, Germany. The 392nd launched thirty-three airplanes in three sections. Bombing was accomplished by radar. 50 to 60 German fighters attacked the Group and flak was heavy over the target. Four airplanes suffered heavy damage and made their way to neutral Sweden. Three German airplanes were claimed destroyed. Here is General Hodges', commander 2nd Air Divison, message:

The following message from General Spaatz and General Doolittle has been received by this headquarters: Preliminary reports of the bombing of oil and other targets in Germany today are most encouraging. From all indications this will be another of the fine examples of coordinated precision bombing attack that has given the Eighth Air Force its enviable reputation. The simultaneous destruction of this series of plants supporting the oil industry will have a serious effect on Germany's war effort. Please extend my sincere congratulations to all participating personnel for the exceptionally fine execution of an important operation. Sgnd Spaatz...It is gratifying to forward such a message. To it I add my own commendation for the excellent manner in which the attack was accomplished. Sgnd Doolittle.

* * * *

PROFILE

2/Lt Adolph Bremer was the bombardier on the Wade Sewell crew in the 579th, arriving at Wendling in June of 1944.

He retired as editor of the Winona (MN) Daily News, and then was adjunct professor of journalism at Winona State University.

He is a past national vice commander of the American Legion.

He has two children, and lives at RR 5, Winona, MN 55987.

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PROFILE

T/Sgt Anthony Albino was the flight engineer on the John F. Joyce crew in the 578th. He joined the Group at Wendling in September, 1944.

His civilian life was spent in the insurance, mutual funds, and financial planning fields. He is now retired.

He is married to Edna Frances, and they live at 1965 Desert Circle #5, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. They have one son.

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PROFILE

1/Lt Irving C. Dupuis was navigator on the Rohrer crew in the 576th. They arrived at Wendling in February 1945.

Post-war, he was a chemical engineer for Michigan Tech University, E. I. duPont, and Dow-Corning.

He is married to Elizabeth, and they have six children and seven granchildren. They live at 1265 N. 68th Ave., Hart, MI 49420.

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PROFILE

Sgt Earl W. Eddy was in the 578th's armament section. He was an early arrival at the 392nd, joining at Biggs Field in April, 1943.

He has been in the lithography business most of his life, retiring in 1985.

His spouse is Jo Ann, and they have a son and a daughter. They live at 8003 E. 88th St., Kansas City, MO 64138.

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PROFILE

S/Sgt Harold D. Dunham was tail gunner on the Ambrose crew in the 577th. They joined the 392nd at Wendling in October 1943.

Postwar, he worked for Florida Power and Light Company, then entered the constuction business, from which he retired. After that, he was CEO for a Home Health Agency.

His spouse is Margaret, and they have five daughters and five grandchildren. Their address is 6515 Branch Hill, Miamiville Road, Loveland, OH 45140.

* * * *

PROFILE

S/Sgt Lee D. Ehrlich was tail gunner on the 576th's Richard Gill crew. They joined the 392nd at Wendling Feb. 2, 1944.

He graduated from the University of Illinois in 1951, and entered the family business, in which he is still active part of the year. The company is Standard Store Fixture Company, and they design and manufacture restaurant equipment.

He is married to Shirley, and they have four children and three grandchildren. Their summer address is 600 Orchard Lane, Glencoe, IL 60022; and their winter address is 8807 N. Arnold Palmer Dr., Tucson, AZ 85741.

* * * *

PROFILE

T/Sgt Albert R. (for Roland, his civilian moniker) Cooke was flight engineer and top turret gunner on the Schossberg crew in the 577th. They were shot down on the Gotha raid Feb. 24, 1944, but all of the crew survived the bailout and 14 1/2 months as POW.

After some time working as a salesman, he worked for Carolina Power and Light Co., and became foreman. He retired in 1984. He has visited Germany and England, post-war.

He is married to Mable, and they have two sons and two grandchildren. They live at 225 Wallace Ave., Wilmington, NC 28403.

* * * *

PROFILE

Sgt. James Cox was a radar mechanic in the 576th, joining the Group at Alamogordo in 1943.

Post-war, he served in the New York City Police Department from 1946 to 1967, after which he was an investigator for the Federal Trade Commission. It was this job that took him from New York to Washington.

His wife is Frances, and they have five sons and four daughters. The first four children entered the US military, and one daughter is a Lt Commander in the Navy. They have two grandchildren, and live at 1423 187 Ave. N. E., Bellevue, WA 98008.

Sent in by Col Lawrence Gilbert, who vehemently denies having ever, ever, done this to a student pilot.

* * * *

PROFILE

S/Sgt Charles A. Buckley was tail gunner on the 576th's Novik crew. The arrived at Wendling in August 1944.

Buckley returned to the Air Force in 1958 and served till 1977, doing electronic warfare "all over the world".

After AF duty, he worked for Automated Office Systems as a field service engineer, retiring in 1991.

His spouse is Barbara, and their address is 1645 Ridge Road, Iowa City, IA 52245. They have two children and four grandchildren.

* * * *

PROFILE

1/Lt Robert N. Cleverdon was navigator on the Solomon crew in the 579th. The Solomon crew was a lead crew, arriving at Wendling June 30, 1944.

After the war he attended Babson College and then entered the family engineering business in Boston. He is now semi-retired. He plays tennis and does a lot of skiing.

His wife is Margery G., and they have four children and ten grandchildren. They live at 15 Bernard Rd., Wellesley Hills, MA 02181.

* * * *

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 Jim Goar, 5 N. Columbia St., Frankfort, IN 46041.

NEWS

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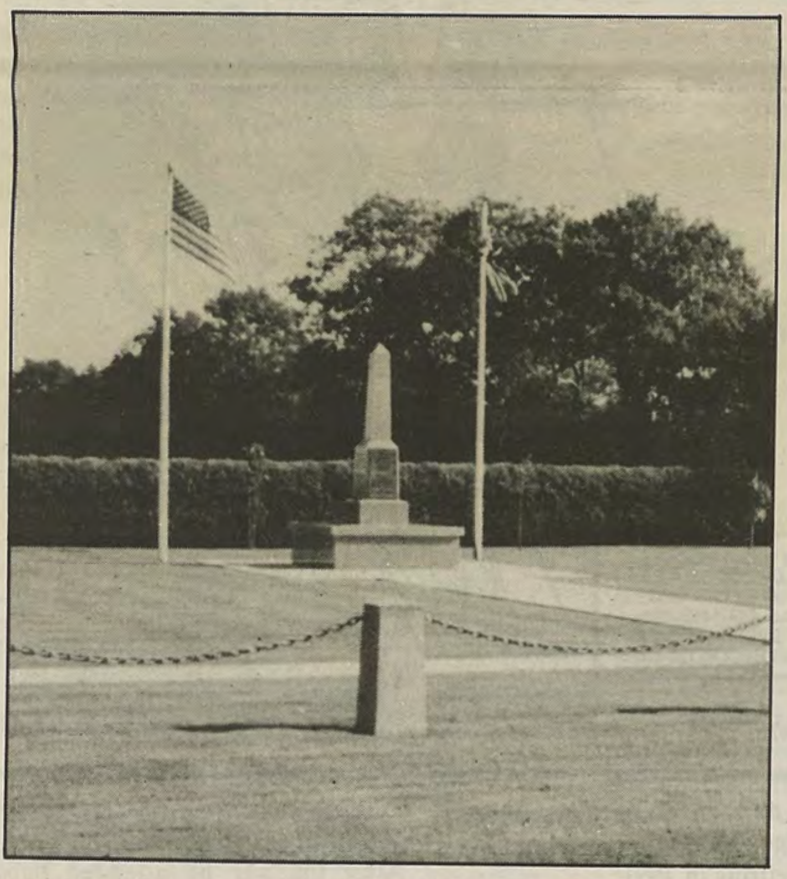

Almighty God, Who has blessed us with the will and courage to do our duty, we praise You for our comrades whose death kept freedom living. We praise You also for giving us the years we have lived since their departure. We pray that You will strengthen and sustain our devotion to truth and justice, so 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.
-Prayer composed by 576th pilot the Very Reverend Robert C. Martin, retired Dean of the Cathedral at Erie, Pa.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By George Barger, Chaplain

I would imagine that most of us 392nd'ers are well into our 70's by now. It's at the upper end of the "three score years and ten" of biblical promise, and a reminder that these years are a kind of extra. But, of course, isn't that the case at all time: life is a surprise and a gift? "We are not sure of sorrow and joy was never sure," as the poet wrote. There is an unknown about it all, in religious language: life is grace. The daily round still contains its surprises and promises, and beyond that is also promise. In the new year, and in the new life we can look into the unknown with anticipation and hope.

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PROFILE

Maj John Beder was a lead crew pilot, serving in all four squadrons. He arrived at Wendling in August 1944.

He stayed in the service after the war, and was a ground controller. After retirement from the service, he was with the FAA.

He is married to Kathleen, and their address is Box 291, Hyden, KY 41749. They have three children and three grandchildren.

* * * *

PROFILE

M/Sgt Everett F. Collin was in Group Hq., and was Operations NCO. He was an early joiner of the 392nd.

Post-war, he was an aviation and science instructor in the Minnesota public schools. He later went to Washington, and retired as Deputy Director, Educational Programs, NASA.

He and spouse Genevieve have five children, and live at 876 Verona Ave., Windom, MN 56101.

* * * *

But we..shall be remembered;

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

FOLDED WINGS

Lloyd R. Harris, June 28, 1995
Richard Whitley, Mar. 11, 1995
Russell K. Williams, 1994
James A. McLaughry, 576
Rollin W. Cole, Sr., 578, Nov. 5, 1995
Ben Ortenberg, 578, Sept. 18, 1995
Roy L. Kennett, 576, Oct. 21, 1995

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