

NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 13

FEBRUARY 1998

ANTHOLOGY PUBLISHER: "IT'S IN THE MAIL"

ACT NOW FOR B-24 AT AF ACADEMY

B-17, P-38, -40, -47, -51 ARE THERE; BUT NO B-24

Bronze replicas of four of the five major AAF combat aircraft of WWII are now on display at the AF academy at Colorado Springs. But the B-24, fondly or sometimes not fondly considered by most Crusaders to be the premier air weapon of WWII, is not represented.

The memorial associations connected with each a/c have come through with the necessary support, although it seems that the 305th, 91st, 100th, and 398th Bomb Groups carried the ball for the B-17's.

A concerted drive has been mounted to place a B-24 at the Academy with its sister a/c. A special non-profit organization has been formed, thus insuring that donations will be tax deductible.

It will take \$175,000 to do the job. As of the middle of January, \$144,324.88 has been raised.

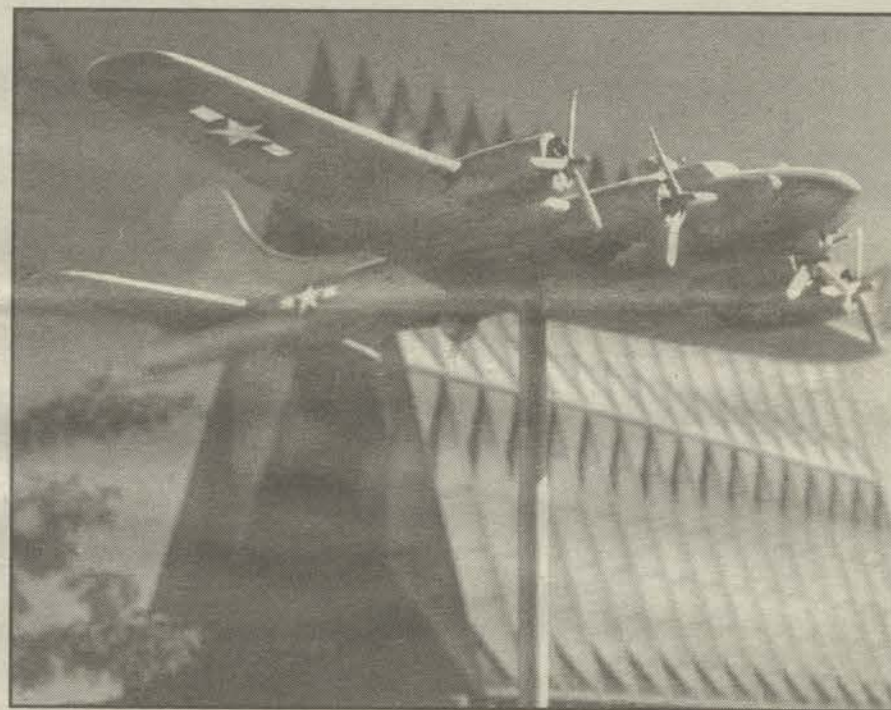
Send your donation to B-24 Groups Memorial, Inc. c/o Neal Sorenson, Treasurer, 132 Peninsula Road, Minneapolis, MN 55441-4112.

A form with which to send your donation is to be found elsewhere on this page.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Allied Air Forces in Africa activated under Maj Gen Carl Spaatz-Jan. 5, 1943.

THE B-17 REPLICA AT THE AF ACADEMY



BRONZE B-24 PROJECT DIRECTORS

Neal Sorenson, 489th Bomb Group Jay Jeffries, 453rd Bomb Group Albert Asch, 93rd Bomb Group
Ray Pytel, 445th Bomb Group

Send Tax Deductible Contributions to: B-24 Groups Memorial Inc., of the Army Air Forces
Neal Sorenson, Treasurer
132 Peninsula Road
Minneapolis, MN 55441-4112

Make checks payable to: "B-24 Groups Memorial"
A receipt will be mailed for every contribution of \$250 or more as required by the Internal Revenue Service to make you eligible for an itemized deduction under Sec. 501 (c) (3) of the Federal Tax Code.

Cut here and send the form below

List name the way you want it recorded:

Name _____ Group or Organization _____

Address _____ ZIP _____

Telephone Number _____ Amount of contribution _____

_____\$450 or more - name to be on bronze plaque at base of bronze B-24.
_____\$100 or more - name listed on the Honor Roll in the Book of Remembrance.
_____"I just can't afford to be a big contributor but I would like to get in on the action. Put me on the donors' list in the Book of Remembrance"



BUT NOT QUITE. READ ON:

The publisher of our anthology promised us that delivery would be made by Christmas, 1997.

However, they were delayed by some production problems, but now they have overcome them. According their spokesman, Herb Banks, the books should go into the mail sometime within three weeks after Jan. 19.

Mr. Banks sent a fax to the 392BGMA NEWS on Jan. 13, just before we went to press. It said:

"TWENTIETH CENTURY CRUSADERS history book will be finished and in Turner Publishing Company's shipping warehouse the week of Jan. 19. They will be sent U. S. Postal Service book rate and it will take approximately three weeks, depending upon the address shipped to, for delivery.

"The publisher apologizes for the delay, as we had hoped to have the book available for Christmas. Herb Banks, Turner Publishing Company editor, and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Braddock, 392nd book editors, feel that all book purchasers will be very pleased with the final product.

"The book is a beautiful 9x12 hardbound documentation featuring over 100 writers/stories in 184 pages with over 100 photos and maps and charts.

"If you would like to order additional copies or if you have not already ordered, call or write Turner Publishing Company, PO Box 3101, Paducah, KY 42002-3101, phone 1-800-788-3350. Cost is \$52.50 each plus \$5.00 for first book and \$3.50 thereafter. Visa or Mastercard accepted."

AN EMOTIONAL VISIT TO THE CHURCH AT BEESTON

Last June a Crusader daughter and granddaughter visited the scene of the parents' wedding.

Barbara and Emily Maxwell are first and second generation offspring of Maj Bob Lane, 578, and 1/Lt Marilyn Haglund, ANC, 9AF. The Lanes were married at St. Mary The Virgin church at Beeston on May 11, 1945.

Barbara is a teacher in the Melbourne, FL, schools and Emily is a college student.

In a letter to her Dad, Barbara described her feelings:

"I found myself sitting in all different locations of the church so that I could remember all angles of the surroundings. The reflection of sunlight spilled over into a room where I imagined Mother waiting behind the closed door for the wedding to begin."

She concluded with, "It has been a very emotional day and one I will never forget."

The pilgrimage was all the more meaningful to Barbara and Emily because their mother had passed away in 1994.

Peter and Wendy Carter, long-time Friends of the 392nd, live across the road from the church. They invited the visitors into their home and showed them their many 392nd memorabilia, including pictures of the Lane wedding.

PROFILE

S/Sgt Ira Greenwood was a gunner on the Neideriter crew in the 578th. He arrived at Wendling in March 1944.

He returned to the Air Force and served from 1948 to 1954 at Chandler, AZ; Elmendorf in Alaska, and Davis Monthan in AZ. He retired as T/Sgt.

He then entered the civil service and was at Holloman and Luke AF bases. He retired in 1986 after 28 years military and civil service.

He is married to Eula Pauline "Polly" and they have one son and three grandchildren. They live at 11015 W. Cinnebar Ave., Sun City, AZ 85351.



This blurred 50 year old photo shows Bob and Marilyn Lane leaving the church. Best man was Capt Leroy Mactavish, 578th Communications O. The guard of honor, partly shown here with rifles at present arms, was composed of the officers of the 578th.

PROFILE

1/Lt Benjamin J. Abruzzo has become an associate member of 392BGMA. He is the brother of 2/Lt Thomas S. Abruzzo, 576, killed in a training accident 25 August, 1943.

Benjamin Abruzzo served with 9AF as a medical administrative officer.

The crash occurred in Kansas, just as the 392nd's air echelon was completing training in their new B-24H's, the first B-24 to be equipped with a nose turret.

The 392nd was the first B-24 Group coming into the 8AF so equipped.

The nose turret was installed to thwart the Luftwaffe's tactic of head-on fighter attacks, and they probably saved the lives of many 8AF crewmen.

Ironically, however, this turret was probably the cause of Lt Thomas Abruzzo's death as it came loose from its fastenings during a crash landing and crushed him.

Benjamin Abruzzo was a regional sales manager for a firm that sold automotive service equipment. He is married to Anne, and they live at 10375 Carrollwood Lane, #331, Tampa, FL 33618. They have 3 children, 7 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.



Standing in the door of the ancient church (built around 1300) are Emily Maxwell and her mother, Barbara. Barbara bears a striking resemblance to her glamorous flight nurse mother.

PROFILE

T/Sgt Boyce Barbee was the radio operator on the 578th's Guy Carnine crew. The Carnine crew was one of the first replacement crews to arrive at Wendling, and they were the 392nd's first to complete the 25 missions that were required in those early times.

After completing the tour, Carnine and Barbee and navigator Vic Mastron (now deceased) flew a more or less clandestine airline to and from Sweden, ferrying crews that had diverted there. (See May 1997 392BGMA NEWS for this story.)

After they quit the airline business, the crew went their separate ways, and Barbee was stationed at Orly Field in Paris with ATC crews. Among other things, they ferried sailors to various German ports to take over German ships.

His crew was alerted to fly President Truman to Moscow after the Potsdam conference, if necessary. Much to his relief, the trip didn't materialize.

He was home and out of the service by October 1945. His civilian career was spent in the textile industry, and he retired in 1986 from Fieldcrest Mills as a technical coordinator.

He is married to Anne, and they have 2 children and one grandchild. They live at 3301 NC 14, Reidsville, NC 27320.

PROFILE

1/Lt Art Jaffee was the bombardier on the Schafer crew in the 579th, arriving at Wendling in April 1944.

On the Politz mission, June 20, 1944, they had to divert to Sweden, where they landed safely and were interned.

After repatriation, Art was assigned to Hq. USSTAF in London in the intelligence section, because he spoke both German and French. His duty was with POW and escapees, and he worked in France and Switzerland, helping repatriate Swiss internees. His department also maintained communication with the POW camps.

A story he related to the NEWS: On a bitterly cold winter day, he was ordered to go to a small town on the French-Swiss border, pick up a dispatch and deliver it back to his headquarters. It was a 12-hour trip over icy roads in an open jeep, and when he got to the border town he was ordered to return at once to his headquarters with the important dispatch. Citing his lower serial number to the officer as his authority and the risk to his mission if he didn't get some rest, he slept two hours before making the grueling 12 hour return trip.

Upon his return, he delivered the sealed envelope to his commander, who thanked him profusely and then picked up his phone and said, "General, we've got her message. She will be at your party tonight as planned."

As has been said in this paper before, the farther we float down the river of time, the more apocryphal the stories become.

After the war, Art graduated cum laude with an A. B. degree from Stanford, and then went on to earn a law degree from the same university.

He practiced law, in his later years with the medical profession. (An unholy alliance if we ever heard of one). He is now retired.

Since his children were ski enthusiasts, he and his wife, now deceased, were part of the National Ski Patrol. They were dispatched to many places in the western U. S. for skiing emergencies.

His address is 566 West Eleventh St., Claremont, CA 91711. He has four children (one deceased) and three grandchildren.

GENERAL LEON JOHNSON DEAD AT 93

General Leon Johnson, wartime commander of the 44th Bomb Group and later the 14th Combat Wing, died November 10 of a respiratory infection at Belvoir Woods health care facility near Ft. Belvoir, VA.

General Johnson was awarded the Congressional Medal Of Honor for his part in the low-level attack on the Ploesti oil fields on August 3, 1943.

He was one of the first four flying officers assigned to the 8AF when it was formed in 1942 at Savannah, GA. In June 1942 he went to England with the 8AF and in January 1943 (about the time the 392nd was forming in the States) he became the commander of the 44th Bomb Group.

The 44th went to Africa on loan to the 9AF, and it was from there that the Ploesti attack was launched. The 392nd had just arrived in England about that time.

After the war, he served in Washington and Colorado, then returned to England, where he organized the 3AF, which supplied transport aircraft for the Berlin airlift and and maintenance facilities for SAC.

Later he was commander of the Continental Air Command at Mitchell AF Base in New York and the AF representative to the United Nations military staff committee.

His wife of 54 years, Lucille Taylor Johnson, died in 1963. He is survived by two daughters, Sue Vandenberg of Tucson and Sarah Abbott of Pensacola, FL; four grandsons, and two great-grandchildren.

The 392nd was part of the 14th Combat Wing, and as its commander the general was no stranger to the base at Wendling. He is shown above taking the report of a combat crew just returned from a mission.



According to Col Myron Keilman, the commander of the 579th, the crew is the 579th's Lt. John B. Peyton crew. Gen Johnson is wearing a belted coat and is near the center of the picture, and the face of Col Keilman can just be seen at the right of the picture.

The Peyton crew were KIA on Feb. 20, 1944 on the mission to Halberstadt, so this picture must have been taken some time in the winter of 1944.

(The NEWS thanks Col Keilman and Col Robert L. Smith for their part in supplying information for this story.)

PX ITEMS

Book, "Remembrance of the Missing", by Col Bob Vickers, 578th, \$35.00 postpaid.	\$
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.	\$
Book, "Country Boy Combat Bomber Pilot", by Col Bob Tays, 578th, \$18.50 postpaid.	\$
Book, "My Combat Diary", by I/Lt Walt Cranson, 578th, \$13.50 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.	\$
Directory, May 1996, \$10 postpaid.	\$
Jacket, white nylon, w/392BG and Crusader patches, \$26 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.	\$
TOTAL	\$

Send with check to Cecil Rothrock, Treasurer, 7334 26th Ave., Kenosha, WI 53143.

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": Bremen, Keil, Gotha, Freidrichshafen, Politz, Berlin, Bernberg, Bingen, Wesel. In two parts, Complete for \$27.50, postpaid.
 Video, from Albuquerque Reunion, general scenes from the reunion. In two parts, complete for \$27.50, postpaid.
 (ORDER VIDEOS DIRECT FROM DAN A MCGOVERN PRODUCTIONS, 5307 CANANTE, LAGUNA HILLS, CA 92653)

PROFILE

1/Lt (later Lt/Col) George J. Jackson was the bombardier on the L. J. Barnes crew in the 576th, joining the Group at Tucson in March 1943.

He rotated home after completing his tour and went through pilot training as a student officer, graduating in August 1944.

He was in France three years with 12AF, and spent the balance of his career in SAC. He retired as operations officer of the 44th Air Refueling Squadron at Selfridge AFB in June 1964.

He owned and operated a fleet of over-the-road 18-wheelers, retiring in 1983.

After flying unscathed through a combat tour with the 392nd in

WWII and a career in combat a/c, he was nearly killed in a truck-train accident in Florida. He was in a trauma center for two weeks. "But I knocked that damned train off the tracks", he said.

His spouse is Dorothy, and they live at 263 Carl Ave., Brockton, MA 02402. They have three children, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

FROM KEILMAN'S 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 notes on the period April-August, 1944.

During the months of April, May, June, July, and August 1944 the whole 8AF "flew their breeches off". During the month of June the 392nd flew 26 bombardment missions, and we flew every day from the 31st of July through the 6th of August. Combat crews flew as high as five missions in a row. J. Fred Thomas and crew of the 579th Squadron flew their entire 30 combat missions in 68 days, including a 3 day pass to London and a 7 day flak leave.

This effort was noted by Gen "Hap" Arnold, Chief of the US Army Air Forces. His message to Gen Spaatz and forwarded by Gen Doolittle states:

"The continued all-out effort by your heavies day after day is most gratifying. It shows to all of us that your combat and maintenance are true teams. Please convey my appreciation to all concerned for their untiring efforts and my congratulations for the splendid results."

"BUTTERMILK", THE WENDLING TOWER



Sgt Enlow enters the crews assigned to the day's mission on the control tower board.



Aircraft taxi for take-off.



Sweating out the return of the mission.



Home!

CONTROL TOWER DUTY SAW AIR WAR UP CLOSE

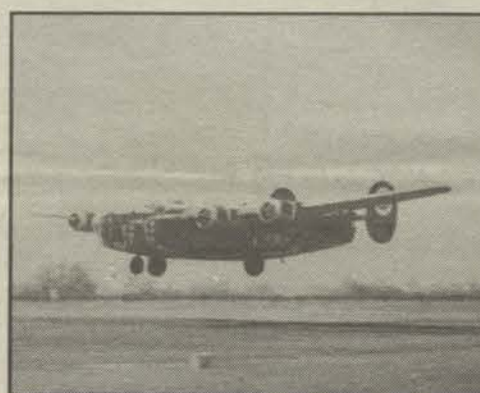
Sgt Alvin Enlow, 10SC, was on duty at the control tower for the almost two years that the 392nd mounted missions out of Wendling. He had a trusty Argus camera and used it profusely. He recently culled through some 700 pictures and sent the NEWS these striking photos.

He and spouse Marilyn-Jean first revisited Wendling in 1982, and have been back to Britain five more times.

"Buttermilk" was the radio call sign assigned to the Wendling control tower.

After discharge from the army, he took a BS in Business Administration from the University of Akron in 1949. He retired after nearly 36 years' service in administration in the Cuyahoga County Hospital system.

He and Marilyn-Jean live at 3365 Blanche Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118. They have one son and a set of twin grandsons.



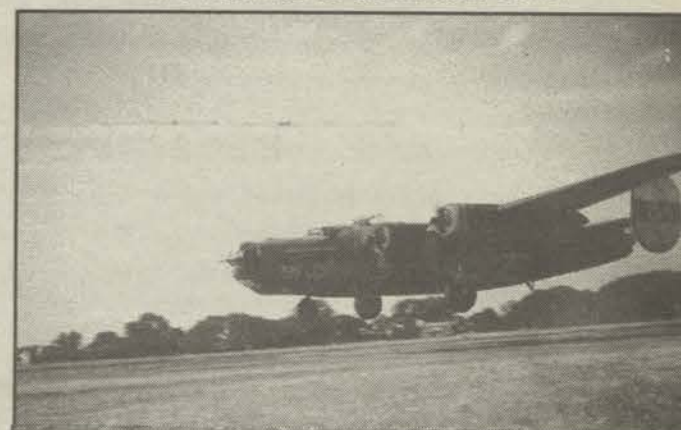
The old B-24D target ship.



Buzzing the tower.



A/C #44-50409, 576, landing in foggy weather. This a/c returned to US in June 1945.



A/C #42-109789, "Mairzy Doats", 579. Transferred to 445th BG prior to August 18, 1944.



A/C #42-659, 576. Ditched in North Sea 30 miles SE of Great Yarmouth March 15, 1945. 5 KIA, 4 rescued: 1/Lt John R. Kelly, P; F/O Dioeudonne Vaughan, CP; Sgt Marshall J. D'Ambrosio, Jr., NG; Sgt Wallace P. Kielke, WG. (We have not been able to locate any of these men.)



A/C #42-50313, "Wabash Cannonball", 578, landing with one prop feathered. This a/c returned to the US in June 1945.

IN AUGUST 1997, OVER 150 CRUSADERS HADN'T PAID THEIR 1997 DUES.

We'd like to get your attention a little earlier this year. Check the number after your name on the address label. If it's LM for Life Member, or if it's 98 or higher, you're paid up. If there is no number, you're on Hardship Waiver. If FRND is there, you're our guest.

OPERATE HERE

MEMBERSHIP DUES-TIME TO SEND IN YOUR 1998 DUES PAYMENT

We don't send out dues notices, so you can help the news editor and the Treasurer if you will sit down right now and send in your 1998 dues. If you are paid ahead, you can check it by the code right after your name on the label of the newsletter. If it is LM (for Life Membership) or 98 or higher, you're paid up. If Frnd is after your name, you're our guest. If there is an error, contact Cecil Rothrock.

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 now!

Name _____ Ground ☐ Air ☐ Sqdn _____ Assoc ☐

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Dues for 1998, \$12

HARDSHIP WAIVER ☐

LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

Age 61-65 \$120 ☐

Age 66-70 \$96 ☐

Age 71 and over \$78 ☐

Send with check to Cecil Rothrock, 7334 26th Ave., Kenosha, WI 53143

OPERATE HERE

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Maj Gen James Doolittle assumed command of 8AF- Jan. 6, 1944.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

General of the Air Force H. H. Arnold died of heart ailment-Jan. 15, 1950.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

USAF adopted slate-blue uniform-Jan. 25, 1949.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

US Strategic Air Forces in Europe activated- Jan. 1, 1944.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Last operational P-51 fighter plane retired to AF Museum- Jan. 27, 1957.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

8AF observed its third birthday with a 1,000 plane raid on Germany- Jan. 28, 1945.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Gen H. H. Arnold directed establishment of new Air Force that later was designated 8AF- Jan. 2, 1942.

PROFILE

1/Lt Earl B. Gross was the bombardier on the Steck crew in the 576/9. They arrived at Wendling in October 1944.

He graduated from UCLA in 1948, and was an insurance broker until retirement in 1990.

His wife is deceased, and he lives at 880 N. Hilldale Ave., #6, Los Angeles, CA 90069. He has two sons.

PROFILE

1/Lt G. Austin Ingels was assistant Group navigator. He arrived at Wendling in March 1944.

He recently retired as Auditor of the State of Washington.

He is married to Marjorie, and they live at 6955 SW 130, Beaverton, OR 97005. He has one daughter.

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

HOWARD "EBE" EBERSOLE, 578TH PILOT, ENSHRINED IN MICHIGAN AVIATION HALL OF FAME AT KALAMAZOO

On Oct. 18, 1997, in an impressive ceremony at the Kalamazoo Air Museum, Ebe Ebersole was honored by his peers in aviation by being enshrined in the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame.



Barney Glettler and Jim Goar, accompanied by Laura and Virginia, were on hand to represent the 392nd. Barney, Ebe, and Jim are shown above.

Ebe is recovering from a difficult spinal operation which he underwent this summer. Although in constant pain, the gritty Ebersole still flies his Lark glider in the area near his home in Alamogordo, NM. He is often joined in his flights by wife Jeanne.

PROFILE

S/Sgt Marvin Graham was the ball turret gunner on the Gordon Hammond crew in the 579th. They were one of the first replacement crews to arrive, joining the Group at Wendling in October 1943.

He met Pat, a Welsh girl, in London while on leave. She then visited him when he was on rest leave, and now it's a 53 year old history. They were married in Cardiff, Wales, in 1944.

After the war, he spent five years in New York City and then moved to Denver, where he has spent his lifetime in sales and sales management.

They have three children, one of whom is an Air Force Colonel, an Academy graduate, who will be retiring next year. They have six grandchildren.

Their home is at 2994 S. Columbine St., Denver, CO 8-210.

The material below is reprinted from the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame enshrinement program.



Howard R. Ebersole

LtCol Howard R. Ebersole, USAF-Ret. was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1922. After High School graduation in 1938, Howard served two years as a radio operator on Ford Motor Company's ships before enlisting in the Army Signal Corp.

Commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in 1942 he attended flight training and became qualified as a B-24 Pilot in 1944. Assigned to 392nd Bomb Group, 8th AF, he flew 16 combat missions over Europe.

Transferred to Reserve Forces in December 1945, Howard enrolled in the University of Michigan, College of Engineering. He received a BSEE in January 1951 and was recalled to active duty for the Korean conflict. Assigned to Luke, AFB, AZ, as a Captain, he commanded F-51, F-80 and F-84 academic training section. Sent to Korea in 1952, he flew 100 combat missions (30 in F-51 and 70 in F-80) during one of which he shot down a Mig-15.

At Selfridge AFB, MI. in 1956-57, he earned an MSEE degree from University of Michigan in addition to his pilot and instructor pilot duties. At Holloman AFB, NM he was test pilot and project officer for the F-101B operational qualification. Then, he was the F-102/GAR-11 (first air-to-air missile with a nuclear warhead) Category II Test Director. In 1966, he directed the Missiles and Munitions Branch, HQ. Tactical Air Command in developing the operational and technical specifications for today's "smart bombs" and improved air-to-air missiles.

Retiring from active duty in 1969, he became an Associate Professor in the Aerospace and Engineering Department, Mississippi State University and Deputy Director/test pilot in the Rasmussen Flight Research Laboratory. In 1976 Howard joined Rockwell International as Senior Project Engineer for the B-1 crew escape system tests at El Segundo, CA and Holloman AFB high speed track.

Howard has more than 11,500 flying hours and some 2,670 glider flights. His military decorations include, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, 5 Air Medals and Korean Chungmoo w/Gold Star.

LtCol Howard R. Ebersole, USAF-Ret was enshrined into the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame on October 18, 1997 for his long and illustrious aviation career in both military and civil endeavors.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR 1998 REUNIONS

(The information below was compiled by J. Fred Thomas, 392nd's VP for the Second Air Division.)

ANNUAL CONVENTIONS

2AD, May 23-25, Oak Brook Hills Resort, near Chicago, IL.

Contact: Evelyn Cohen, 6410 Delaire Landing Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114-4015. Phone 215-632-3992.

(The regular annual meeting of the 392BGMA will be at this event.)

8AF, Oct. 13-18, Hilton Hotel, Cherry Hill, NJ, near Philadelphia.

Contact: Jim Lorenz, 5331 E. Poinsettia Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85254-4716, phone 602-951-0343.

REGIONAL REUNIONS

2AD FLORIDA CHAPTER, March 26-29, Fort Myers, FL.

Contact: Fred K. McConnell, PO Box 482, Coral Gables, FL 33910. Phone 941-549-2747.

2AD SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, Feb. 28, El Toro, CA, near Los Angeles.

Contact: Richard Baynes, 71 Nighthawk Drive, Irvine, CA 92604-3683. Phone 714-552-3889.

2AD SOUTHWEST, March 7, Dallas, TX.

Contact: J. R. Lemons, 10515 Estate Lane, Dallas, TX 75238. Phone 214-348-2762.

(This is correct, a late change from the info given in Fred's 2AD JOURNAL story.)

PROFILE

1/Lt Philip Feldman was the bombardier on the Raczko crew in the 576th. They joined the Group Nov. 15, 1944.

He retired recently from operating a discount store chain in New England, of which he was a co-founder.

He and spouse Elaine divide their time between homes at 11 Terrace Drive, Worcester, MA 01609; and 41B Stearns Drive, Ogunquit, ME 03907.

They have four children and seven grandchildren.



Charles Dye

8AFMMF NAMES CHARLES DYE AS DIRECTOR, SECY

Charles Dye, 1825 Ord., has been named by the 8AF Historical Society's Memorial Museum Foundation as Director and secretary.

The MM Foundation, a separate organization from the Historical Society, manages museum projects. It produced the control tower at the Dayton USAF museum. It also has been involved with the Duxford museum in England, and several other museums.

Dye is a past secretary of the 392BGMA, a past president of 8AF Historical Society, and presently serves on the Board of Directors of the Historical Society.

Crusaders Cliff Peterson and Bob Vickers are also members of the Board of Directors of the Memorial Museum Foundation.

PROFILE

Lt George T. Ashen was a bombardier on the Creele and Osnicki crews in the 577th. He joined the 392nd at Wendling in October, 1944.

Later he served in the Judge Advocate General Corps, retiring as Major.

After earning his law degree at St. Louis University, he was a lecturer at that university's School of Commerce and Finance.

He entered the private practice of law and is still active, in Denver.

His spouse is Dolores C., and they have 5 daughters and 7 grandchildren. They live at 6301 Greenbriar Drive, Englewood, CO 80111.

392nd MEMORIAL DEDICATED AT MIGHTY 8AF HERITAGE MUSEUM

A 1/3 scale replica of the Wendling monument was dedicated on Nov. 7 at the 8AF Museum at Savannah.

Crusaders and their wives and friends, as well as many Friends of the 392nd, turned out for the impressive ceremony, led by Carrol Cheek, 392BGMA vice-president.

The group heard remarks by Lt Gen E. G. Shuler, Jr., (Ret), a former CG of the 8AF and CEO of the 8AF Museum; Lawrence G. Gilbert, CEO of the 392BGMA; and Clifford Peterson, President of the 392BGMA.

The address was by Joe Whittaker, who led the effort to place a bona fide replica of our Wendling monument at the Savannah site.



Wayne Corbett photo

A commemorative wreath was laid at the base of the monument. Shown above is the assemblage being led in prayer by Chaplain Martin Lolley, who wore his father's RAF uniform. Seen in the photo are Cliff Peterson, Joe Whittaker, Herman Garner, Ernie Barber, Jim Muldoon, Jim Goar, Chaplain Lolley, and Carroll Cheek. The four wearing A-2 jackets were the wreath-bearing detail.

Crusaders present at the dedication ceremony and the luncheon following were: Ernie Barber, Carroll Cheek and Mabel; Jack C. Clarke and Mary; Winston Dorrell; Teddy Egan; J. B. Freeman; Herman Garner and Annell; Lawrence Gilbert and Marjie; Jim Goar; Dave Greene; Harry Hall; John Henning; Harold Hutchcroft and Mary Esther; Bob Lane; Donald Letourneau and Barbara; Priscilla Matt; Jim Muldoon; Lonard Neel and Arvie; Cliff Peterson and Mary; Milton Planche and Bunny; Weslev Schafer; Rob Vickers; Charles Wheelwright; Joe Whittaker and Marie; Norbert Wick and Marian; and Henry Wilk.

PROFILE

S/Sgt Earl John Borchers was a waist and tail gunner in the 578th. He flew with the Quinn, Ellis, and McClellan crews. He joined the 329nd at Wendling May 20, 1944.

After the war he did a stint with a National Guard tank battalion- said he'd seen enough air combat.

His civilian career after college was in sales, accounting, and management.

His spouse is Alice Marie and they have 4 children and 9 grandchildren. They live at 1562 E. 27 St., Yuma, AZ 85365.

PROFILE

T/Sgt Otis N. Croy was the radio operator on the Rose crew in the 578th. They arrived at Wendling Sept. 9, 1944.

He was a public school teacher and administrator for 30 years and is now retired.

He was also an almond farmer and rancher, and is also retired from that.

His wife is Helen, and they have 2 sons and five grandchildren. Their address is 2837 McKinley Rd., Yuba City, CA 95991.

OAK MACKEY REPRESENTS 2AD AT DUXFORD

Oak Mackey, president of 2AD Association, headed the Association's delegation to the opening of the Duxford American Air Museum in England last August.

While there, Oak and wife Maxine had the opportunity to speak, he with Prince Philip and Maxine with the Queen. (For details of this story, see the Winter 1997 edition of the 2AD Journal.)



Maxine and Oak Mackey

Oak was installed as president of 2AD at the reunion at Irvine, Cal., in May. He is the fifth Crusader to occupy that position, following Joe Whittaker, J. D. Long, J. Fred Thomas, and John Conrad.

1/Lt Oak Mackey was in the 578th, co-pilot of the Jack Clarke crew. They arrived at Wendling in September 1944.

He was an airline pilot for his entire civilian career. He was with United and Alaska Airlines, then spent 32 years at Republic, retiring in 1982.

He and Maxine have six children and six grandchildren, and live at 6406 East Presidio, Mesa, AZ 85215.

PROFILE

1/Lt Milton Issenberg was the bombardier on the Whittemore crew in the 577th. They joined the 392nd at Wendling in May 1944. Post-war, he has been a food broker, and is still at it.

His wife is deceased, and he lives at 19 Oriole Drive, Andover, MA 01810. He has three children and six grandchildren.

NEWS

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THE 392nd MEMORIAL AT WENDLING

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.

FOLDED WINGS REPORT (PLEASE REPORT ANY DEATH OF SP... 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.

ON VALOR

The following Letter To The Editor, submitted by 392BGMA NEWS editor Jim Goar, recently appeared in the Indianapolis STAR:

In regard to the Larry Lawrence-Arlington National Cemetery affair, just a few years ago it was fashionable in some circles not to be val-

Chaplain's Corner

By George Barger, Chaplain
The new year takes us a step further away for our days at Wendling, days that remain so vivid to us. Now, however, they are a part of 'history', and history is not a thing like a baseball or an airplane. Instead it is something we construct. We build history out of events and their interpretation. Even for us Wendling exists in a similar way. How much more so for those who did not know it as we did?

God is the great historian who remembers things as they are. Fact and interpretation are a single act to Him. This is both our misery, and grandeur, and our hope.

February 1998

392nd Bomb Group Memorial Ass'n NEWS
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PROFILE

Capt (later Lt/Col) John Delach has the distinction of flying the first and the last combat missions of the 392nd.

A navigator, he flew with the Mafia crew in the 577th, which was an original 392nd crew. On his second tour, he was on the Gonseth crew. He continued in the Air Force after WWII, and retired from SAC in 1964.

From 1965 to 1979, he taught political science in New York City high schools, garnering along the way the M. A. degree from Columbia University.

His spouse is Marilyn N., and they have four children and four grandchildren. They live at 500 Palm Springs Blvd., Apt. 709, Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32537.

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

Lowell D. Hale, 578, Sept. 26, 1997
Reymond L Brewster, Hq., 10/8/97
Thomas J. Horn, Hq., Nov. 8, 1997
Eugene R. Surbaugh, 577, 6/28/97
Dr. Edward R. Barber, Nov. 4, 1997
Rachel Berger, Oct. 27, 1997
wife of Robert Berger, 576
Donald H. Lange, 576, Nov. 24, 1997
Earl F. Bassett, 576, Dec. 6, 1997
Joseph B. Patterson, 576