

NEWS



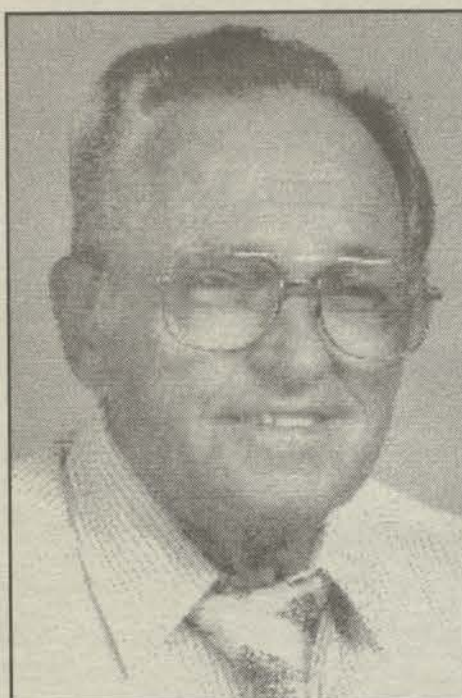
392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 16

FEBRUARY 2001

WELL-KNOWN DETROIT TV-RADIO ICON IS A CRUSADER

**ERNIE BARBER:
MEDIC SAYS TO
HANG IT UP**



Ernie Barber

Ernie has been a fixture in the Crusader hospitality rooms in charge of the Group's memorabilia since we began meeting. Now his doctors have told him to avoid long auto trips, which puts an end to that a service to the 392nd.

But Ernie's service and devotion to the 392nd has not ended. He's still the Group Archivist in charge of the Group's memorabilia, and is incredibly active on the Group's website, answering e-mail questions by the hundreds.

Ernie started by appearing at the reunions with his trusty pickup loaded with memorabilia, which he laboriously carted up to the hospitality room. Later, he teamed up with Teddy Egan, and the two of them were host and hostess, snacks



Teddy Egan and Ernie Barber

included, at the hospitality room. They traveled so extensively that Crusaders named them Bonnie and Clyde.

He also faithfully recorded the gatherings with his camcorder.

Ernie's Profile as it appeared in an earlier issue of the NEWS: M/Sgt Ernest Herbert Barber was a crew chief in the 578th, joining the 392nd at Biggs Field March 4, 1943. He received the Bronze Star for crewing B24H 42-7518 for 32 missions without a mechanical abort. He crewed seven combat planes with a total of 143 missions without a mechanical abort.

Barber retired in 1981 from the U. S. Postal Service, in maintenance. (No aborts on those mail trucks, either). A widower, he has three sons and four grandsons.

He lives at 5726 Thomson Hiway, Lincolnton, GA 30817-7418.

Personal notes from the editor:

I have known and admired Ernie Barber since Alamogordo days. While serving a brief stint as the 578th's assistant adjutant, I found that if the Squadron needed a non-com for a job that absolutely had to

See Barber, page 2

**2/LT (NOW COL) MARVIN E SCHLOSSBERG,
577TH PILOT A/K/A SONNY ELLIOT, WAS
SHOT DOWN AT GOTH A FEB 24, 1944.**

TO BE ENSHRINED IN THE MICHIGAN AVIATION
HALL OF FAME IN OCTOBER, JOINING HOWARD
"EBE" EBERSOLE IN THAT PRESTIGIOUS GROUP

Noted for possessing one of the quickest wits in the Detroit area, his reply to the NEWS' query about the name Sonny Elliot: "That's my maiden name." Actually it came from POW camp days, when he played a character named Mr. Elliot in a camp play.

The Gotha mission was Sonny's 14th, which in early 1944 made him a battle-hardened veteran of the grimmest days of the air war. The 392nd committed 36 air crews to this mission and took 73 casualties, the third heaviest losses of the war. But it earned the Group the Presidential Unit Citation for one of the most vital air strikes of the aerial war.

Home from the war in 1945, he set off for New York to make it there in the entertainment world. He came close, but never quite made it, and returned to Detroit and Wayne University.

A professor there told him about a new thing called television, and he auditioned at WWJ, the city's first TV station. Like all beginners, he did everything, including the weather report. One night he gave the temperature in Las Vegas as 55, and ad-libbed "that's 10 the hard way." From there it was straight up and he became for decades one of Detroit's best known media personalities.

Still busy, Sonny is known for his



Sonny Elliot

love for animals and has authored a book entitled Eliot's Ark, a collection of fact and fiction on animals, both friends and foes of man. He also writes book reviews for the Detroit Free Press and an occasional magazine article.

For several years he was Marketing Services and Promotion Director for the Detroit News. He is married to Annette, an educator, and they reside in Farmington Hills.

Weight an evangelist carries with God: 1 billigram.

-Charley Dye

Barber

Continued from page 1

be done right, M/Sgt Barber was our man.

While with him for many hours, some of it in his fishing boat, I heard some real down-home Georgia wisdom and self-reliance:

Upon driving by a flea market: "I don't go to them. I have one of my own in my house".

Stand-off tactic to widows in his church: "I don't do lawns".

Carries a set of spare parts with him and can repair his own dentures on the spot.

He has two pick-up trucks, one for Sunday and one for every day. Of the pickup trucks: "You'll think I'm a regular red-neck".

When asked by younger people about "The Greatest Generation", I am prone to say: WWII was won by the Ernie Barbers of this country. Plucked out of rural Georgia barely out of his teens, within a year and a half he was in charge of a complicated B-24, the state of the art at the time in military aviation. His planes flew and flew and flew, in spite of damage from combat and incredible abuse from high altitude, overloaded, formation flying.

He once repaired a B-24 brought home from a domestic flight piloted by a bold 578th pilot by the name of Otis. It had damage to the trailing antenna and green stains on the propellers. Barber was, reluctantly, crewing the ship on the flight.

PROFILE

1/Lt (later Lt/Col) James R. Longenecker (goes by "Dick") was the navigator on the Wolak crew in the 576th. They joined the Group at Wendling about Nov. 1, 1944.

Remaining in the Active Reserves, he retired in August 1972 at Wright Patterson AFB as Reserve Mobilization Commander, 2750th Air Base Wing.

He completed his Civil Engineering education at Ohio State University in June, 1949. After engineering work in Chicago and Denver, his career was mostly with the Ohio Department of Transportation, with a stint as Mercer County Engineer, Celina, Ohio 1980-1983.

Still active, he is a consulting engineer in Columbus and Cincinnati, Ohio.

(See related story, this issue, "Strawberry Bitch".

THE SAD SACK



Sgt. George Baker

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

S/Sgt Sam Trusten was the tail gunner on the O. F. Levell crew in the 576th. They arrived at Wendling in February 1944 and because of lead crew status didn't complete 30 missions until April 1945.

After the war, he was a manufacturer's representative for shoe supplies in the New England area and operated a small chain of health and beauty aid stores in Massachusetts.

After moving to Arizona, he was employed by the Department of Economic Security for the State of Arizona until retirement as purchasing manager in 1987.

His wife is Eve, and they have one daughter and one son, who was wounded in Vietnam while serving with the Marines. They have three grandchildren.

2000 pounds of Chinese soup: Won Ton.

-Charley Dye

Basic unit of laryngitis: 1 hoarsepower.

-Charley Dye

1 million microphones: 1 megaphone.

-Charley Dye

PX ITEMS

Anthology, "20 th Century Crusaders. \$36.50 postpaid.	\$
Book, "Remembrance of the Missing", by Col. Bob Vickers, \$35.00 postpaid	\$
Book, "392 nd War Stories", by Col. Myron Keilman, \$21.50 postpaid.	\$
Book, "The Liberators From Wendling", by Col. Bob Vickers, \$28.00 postpaid	\$
Book, "Crew Dog", by Maj. John Matt, 579 th , \$28.95 postpaid.	\$
Book, "Country Boy Combat Bomber Pilot", by Col. Bob Tays, \$13.50 postpaid	\$
Book, "My Combat Diary", by Walt Cranson, \$13.50 postpaid	\$
Cap, black, 392 nd Bomb Group w/gold braid, summer, \$10.50 postpaid.	\$
Cap, black, 392 nd Bomb Group w/gold braid, winter, \$10.50 postpaid.	\$
Directory, October 1999, \$10.00 postpaid	\$
Jacket, white nylon, w/ 392 Bomb Group and Crusader patches, \$29.00 postpaid	
(Circle size wanted) M L XL XXL	\$
Patch, 392 nd Bomb Group logo, \$1.50 postpaid	\$
Print, "The Flying Crusader", reduced to \$16.50 postpaid	\$
Video, 392 nd 's memorabilia photos, \$17.50 postpaid	\$
TOTAL	\$

Send with check to Charles Dye, 4949 San Pedro NE, #87, Albuquerque, NM 87109

Book, "After The Liberators, A Father's Last Mission, A Son's Lifelong Journey", by Bill McGuire II, son of 579th navigator Bill McGuire Sr., KIA Friedrichshafen mission.

Order direct from publisher, Parkway Publishers: PO Box 3678, Boone, NC 28607, \$20.95 postpaid (Mention 392BGMA newsletter in your letter and you can take 10% off the total bill)

Video, from Albuquerque Reunion Symposium, "The Early Days", \$17.50 postpaid

Video, Symposium above, "The Ground Support Teams Prepare For A Mission", \$17.50 postpaid

Video, Symposium above, "The Tough Missions, Pt. 1: Bremen, Keil, Gotha, Friedrichshafen both parts \$27.50 pp

Video, Symposium above, "Tough Missions, Pt. 2: Politz, Berlin, Bernberg, Bingen, Wesel, both parts \$27.50 pp

Video, Symposium above, general scenes from the reunion, 2 parts, \$27.50 postpaid

Order videos direct from Dan McGovern productions, 5307 Cantante, Laguna Hills, CA 92653

THE CHURCH AT BEESTON HAS BECOME A TRADITION IN THE LANE FAMILY



ST. MARY THE VIRGIN BEESTON NORFOLK

Art by H. Breach

Major Bob Lane, 578th Executive Officer, and Lt Marilyn Haglund, Army Nurse Corps, were married in the village church of St. Mary The Virgin on May 11, 1945, just after the war in Europe ended.

From that marriage came five daughters, and four of them have made the pilgrimage to Wendling to visit the church where their parents were wed.

And last fall, Thomas Lane Marcrander, grandson of Bob and Marilyn, chose that site to propose to Dr. Maggie Sopuch. Their wedding will be in St. Louis on July 7, 2001.

Graciously aiding the Lane family on their pilgrimages were Peter and Wendy Carter, long-time Friends of the 392nd, who live across the road from the church.

Who says Romance is dead?



Thomas Lane Marcrander and Dr. Maggie Sopuch at the Beeston church.

PROFILE

S/Sgt Burton Gorback was a waist gunner on the Ardinger crew in the 579th. They arrived at Wendling in November 1944 and completed 32 missions.

He owned a children's clothing store and later worked for Alle-

gheny County, PA for 20 years, retiring in 1983.

His wife is Sylvia, and they live at 4742 NW 22nd St., Coconut Creek, FL 33063.

They have two children and six grandchildren.

392BGMA ELECTRONIC DIRECTORY

The Electronic Directory is a regular feature in the NEWS; if you want to be listed please contact the editor by mail at 2201 Redbud Blvd., Frankfort, IN 46041, or at the E-mail or Fax addresses listed below.

E-MAIL

8AF Museum, Savannah
Barger, George
Barber, Ernie **NEW CHANGE**
Barnard, Mary Beth
Barnes, Joe
Barry, Bill
Bartsch, Arlo
Books, Bob
Braddock, Bill
Case, Bill
Damerst, William A.
Dewez, Luc
DuBois, Phyllis
Ebersole, Howard ("Ebe")
Ehrlich, Lee D.
Eller, Melvin
Elston, Robert C.
Garrett, Howard
Gilbert, John
Goar, Jim
Greene, David
Grimm, Roy
Gross, Earl
Hart, Wildrick
Hawkins, Ian
Jones, Ben
Jones, Mervyn
Long, William
Lory, Bob
Marcelli, Anthony F.
Matelski, Lorn W.
Marsteller, Jim
Michel, George
Micksch, Joe
Peterson, Cliff and Mary (**Change**)
Polking, Dette
Roberts, Keith
Rothrock, Mary
Satterly, Everett F.
Szenegeto, Joe **CORRECTION**
Thomas, J. Fred
Thomason, Henriette
Tyler, Bob
Vassey, Emuel
Weed, Oscar and Toni
Westbrook, Joe
Zybort, Stanley

Mighty8cur@aol.com
GWBARGER@email.msn.com
ebarber392bg@nu-z.net
blackjag@gateway.net
jabarnes@netconx.net
purehart@earthlink.net
Afbas@aol.com
bob@b24.net
wabrad33@juno.com
Wcase22@aol.com
Waring248@Juno.com
Luc.Dewez@skynet.BE
Dubois@netmatters.co.uk
hebersole@webtv.net
RKS600@aol.com
bme5@psu.edu
Rcwhelston@aol.com
havepick@email.msn.com
adrian@gilberta.freemove.co.uk
goar@netusa1.net
dg392@aol.com
rgrimm@attglobal.net
EGB880@aol.com
bandsaw@penn.com
ian@hawkins13cbw.fsnet.co.uk
limeybj@frontiernet.net
MervynJones@btinternet.com
longtimelong@email.msn.com
Rboblory@Gateway.Net
t_uomo@juno.com
lorn-n-duste@elknet.net
jimbob@cyberia.com
gmichel@milwpc.com
Joe@micksch.com
marcliff@cfl.rr.com
WarrenDett@aol.com
k.e.robby@juno.com
m.rothrock@worldnet.att.net
EISATT@AOL.COM
baksheesh@onecom.com
Bomberb24@aol.com
Henriette@pronet.net
Bobalice2@Prodigy.net
evassey@acadia.net
anoweed@bellsouth.net
JWESTBR432@aol.com
104614.626@compuserve.com

FAX

8AF Museum, Savannah
Gilbert, Lawrence
Goar, Jim
Gross, Earl
Jones, Mervyn
Eller, Mel
Ehrlich, Lee D.
Thomas, J. Fred

912 748 0209
407 647 7402
765 654 4457 or 765 654 4253
310 652 9307
+44 (0) 1328 701 262
717 238 9202
773 774 4311
714 536 2184

WEBSITE

392 BGMA
8AF Museum, Savannah

www.b24.net
www.mighty8thmuseum.com

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

GREAT PHOTO OF A NAVY FIGHTER BREAKING THE SOUND BARRIER



Joe Westbrook, 578th Squadron Bombardier, sent the NEWS this extraordinary photo. The material accompanying the photo follows:

Through the viewfinder of his camera, Ensign John Gay could see the fighter plane drop from the sky heading toward the port side of the aircraft carrier Constellation. At 1,000 feet, the pilot drops the F/A-18C Hornet to increase his speed to 750 mph, vapor flickering off the curved surfaces of the plane. In the precise moment, a cloud in the shape of an egg forms around the Hornet 200 yards from the carrier, its engines rippling the Pacific Ocean just 75 feet below. Gay hears an explosion and snaps his camera shutter once.

"I clicked the same time I heard the boom, and I knew I had it," Gay said.

What he had was a technically meticulous depiction of the sound barrier being broken July 7, 1999, somewhere on the Pacific between Hawaii and Japan.

Sports Illustrated, Brills Content and Life ran the photo. The photo recently took first prize in the science and technology division in the World Press 2000 contest, which drew more than 42,000 entries worldwide.

PERSONALS

Old-time small town newspapers carried a feature called "Personals" in which the everyday goings-on of its readers were recorded. The NEWS is trying this out, and if you have anything to contribute for subsequent editions please let us know.

ATTENTION 465TH SUB-DEPOT AND OTHER SUPPLY PERSONNEL: From the Watton (3rd SAD) newsletter: Mrs. Florence Feys, wife of W/O Morris Feys who was with the 465th before transferring to Watton, reports that he is now an Alzheimers patient and has no memory of his WWII activities.

*

NEWS editor and Group Historian Jim Goar reports that he recently visited Florida residents Col and Mrs. Gilbert, Mrs. and Mrs. Carroll Cheek, and Bob Lane.

The trip included picking up Ernie Barber at Lincolnton, Georgia, and a visit to the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum at Savannah. Goar and Barber met with Museum officials on Group history matters. Also, while there they pursued the Group's intention to place the 392nd Prayer in the chapel which is to be built on the Museum grounds.

At Winter Park, a committee composed of CEO Lawrence Gilbert, President Cliff Peterson, Ernie Barber, Jim Goar, and Teddy Egan

PROFILE

Capt David Orenbach was the navigator on the Bell crew in the 579th. They joined the Group at Wendling in March, 1944.

On their 25th mission, to Politz, they were hit by flak and diverted to Sweden after leaving the target. They were interned in Sweden and later returned to the U. S.

He graduated in March 1945 from the Air Corps statistical school at the Harvard Graduate School of Business and left the Service in December 1945.

He has been a Certified Public Accountant in New York state from 1945 to date.

He is married to Alma, and their summer address is 30 Lords Way, Manhasset Hills, NY 11040. Their winter address is 1602 Abaco Drive #4, Coconut Creek Fl 33066.

They have two children and one grandchild.

PROFILE

T/Sgt Russell V. Logue was the radio operator on the Stoddard crew in the 577th and later in the 579th. They arrived at Wendling in December 1944.

He served one enlistment in the Reserves.

He completed his degree at Drake University, then held executive posts with the Thermogas Company in Des Moines, Shenandoah, and Ottumwa, IA. He retired in 1981 and now runs a show horse ranch.

His spouse is Marilyn J., and they live at 749 25th Ave., Norwalk, IA. They have two daughters.

PROFILE

Capt Wildrick Hart was a pilot in the 576th. He arrived at Wendling in June of 1944.

He was in the Reserves from 1952 to 1958.

He graduated from New York University in 1948 with a degree in mechanical engineering. He was employed by Kendall Refining Company (later a division of Witco Corporation). He work was in research for most of his professional career but at the time of his retirement in 1985 he was Divisional Vice-president for Manufacturing.

Genealogical research has occupied most of his post retirement time.

His wife is Geraldine, and they have two sons and one daughter; and four grandchildren. Their address of 32 Berva Drive, Bradford, PA 16701.

PROFILE

I/Lt. Clarence Wickett was the bombardier on the Petty crew in the 577th. They arrived at Wendling June 24, 1944.

He entered the Service in October 1942 at Punxsutawney, PA. In his report to the NEWS, he made no mention of having seen a groundhog at the time.

He did report that he served in the Air Force Reserves.

He is married to Mary Jane, and they live at 114 Edward Rd., Saint Marys, PA 15857. They have four children and three grandchildren.

sorted through some of the Group's memorabilia, disposing of it at various historical institutions, including the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum and The Institute on WWII and the Human Experience at the department of History at Florida State University. Personal pictures which were taken at the various reunions will be sent or offered to members.

At Winter Park a luncheon, hosted by Lawrence and Margie Gilbert, was attended by Oscar and Toni Weed, Cliff and Mary Peterson, Ernie Barber, Teddy Egan, and Jim Goar. Among the war stories related was Cliff's habit of flying very, very, very, close to the tail of the a/c

ahead of him in formation. So close that the tail gunner of the preceding plane became very, very, very nervous about it.

A visit to Carroll (392BGMA VP and 578th pilot) and Mabel Cheek in Clearwater revealed that Carroll had a serious bout with pneumonia this winter but has now recovered.

Goar also visited Bob Lane at Melbourne, where he found Bob, the 578th's Executive Officer, in good health. (See story, this issue, about Bob's grandson's visit to Wendling)

A side mission to Mac (578th's Communications Officer) and Mary MacTavish at Sanborn had to be aborted because of the accursed Florida traffic and the inability of the pilot to find the target.

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES, TO BE VOTED ON AT GROUP MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT 8AF IRVINE NOV. 24-29

ARTICLE THREE

MEMBERSHIP

Paragraph C

Other family members, air historians, and others interested in the purposes and goals of this organization may become Associates. ~~Though Associates may not vote, they may attend meetings and other 392nd Bomb Group activities and will receive the news letter or journal and other 392nd Bomb Group publications.~~ Following two (2) years of continuous membership, Associates will be given full membership and be entitled to vote, hold office and serve on Committees.

ARTICLE FIVE

VOTING

Paragraph A

At all meetings regular voting shall be via voice. ~~For the elect of Directors, voting shall be by secret, written ballot, by plural in descending order. There shall be no runoff election unless a tie exists for the last position and neither nominee requests that the other nominee be elected.~~

ARTICLE SEVEN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paragraph B

Directors shall be chosen for a term of three (3) years on a staggered basis so that only one third of the positions on the Board will be open to reelection each year at the Annual Membership Meeting. ~~Nominees must be present at the meeting~~ Nominees must either be present at the meeting or officially excused and must have been a paid up member for the preceding twelve (12) months. ~~Membership on the Board of Directors shall be limited to two consecutive terms, provided, however, that a Director may stand for re-election after vacating the office for a period of one (1) year~~

ARTICLE SEVEN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paragraph F

~~Two regular Board Meetings will be scheduled each year. The first meeting will be held on the Friday of the annual reunion. The second regular meeting will be held on the first weekend in April or at such other time as designated by the Executive Committee.~~ One official Board Meeting will be scheduled each year this meeting will be held alternately in conjunction with the 8th Air Force Historical Society and the 2nd Air Division Association at their annual meeting. Special meetings may be called by the Executive Committee provided each Director is polled.

ARTICLE EIGHT

METHOD OF ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Paragraph C

Nominations from the floor shall be called for at the Annual Membership Meeting but no more than five (5) nominations shall be accepted via this method. Such nominees may be voted for ~~by writing in their name(s) on the ballot provided~~ as provided in Article V herein

ARTICLE NINE

OFFICERS

Paragraph F:

The Secretary shall keep the minutes and official records of the ~~Society~~ Association. The Secretary will also file certificates required by law and will give and serve notices to members of the Organization. The Secretary will sign formal instruments, along with the Chief Executive Officer and/or President, as required by law, and will execute duties incidental to the office of the Secretary.

ARTICLE TWELVE

COMMITTEES

Paragraph A

The Executive Committee shall include the elected officers of the Organization. The Executive Committee, chaired by the President Chief Executive Officer, shall be responsible for drafting meeting agenda, drafting and scheduling mail vote motions as required, and carrying out other managerial functions as directed by the Board of Directors.

Standing Committees shall be established by the Board of Directors as required. The President Chief Executive Officer may appoint members of Standing Committees to indefinite terms, subject to the desires of later Presidents and the Board of Directors. Standing Committees will include but not necessarily be limited to the following:

NOTE: The term "Chief Executive Officer" should be inserted where appropriate throughout the By-Laws.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN

AMENDMENTS

Paragraph B

Amendments to the By-Laws shall be submitted by a member of the Board of Directors or by a member, in writing, and endorsed by five (5) regular members in good standing in order to permit publication in the newsletter or journal which would reach the membership sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Meeting or Special Meeting. An affirmative vote of a majority of those members present and voting shall be required for adoption of the proposed amendments.

576TH NAVIGATOR ON CREW THAT FLEW "STRAWBERRY BITCH" TO AF MUSEUM



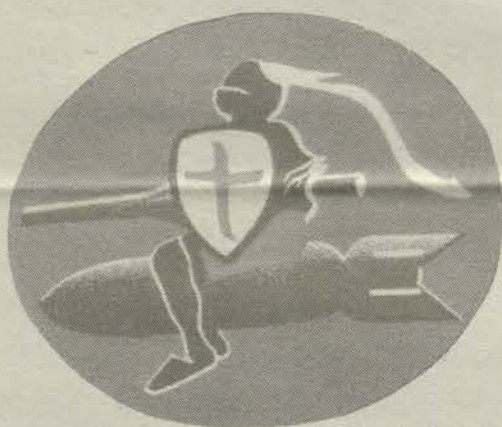
Many Crusaders have visited the AF Museum at Dayton and have clambered through the B-24 on display there, the "Strawberry Bitch", wondering how they managed to board the thing, let alone fly and fight in it.

Capt (now L/Col) James ("Dick") Longenecker had the distinction of being on the crew that flew the ship from Davis-Monthan AFB on its final flight. It arrived at Dayton

for their annual air show in 1959 and became part of the permanent exhibit there. (See Profile, this issue)

Of further interest to 392nd Reunion goers is that Col Al Showers, war-time commander of the 467th BG, was pilot and flight commander. Col Showers is a steady attendee at 8AF and 2AD gatherings.

392nd Bomb Group Leather Patches



Ben Jones has undertaken the task of supplying the 392BGMA with the leather Crusader patches that started appearing on the Group's A-2 jackets in 1944.

Ben says: these patches are handpainted on genuine fine leather to meet the same specifications of WWII. As the war progressed various hand painted Group patches started appearing on A-2 jackets. As there was no standard size among the various Groups, Hq. USAAF authorized the use of a 5" circular leather patch on which the unit logo could be painted.

The Crusader is drawn on a USAAF approved 5" circular leather patch. Each patch is unique with no two being identical, as with mass produced copies. You can choose between a distressed look or a freshly painted look.

The logo is painted on the leather, then coated with a sealant that protects it. Like any leather, it is suggested that it not get wet.

The cost is \$20 plus shipping and handling.

Ben says also that there will be available soon polo shirts with the Crusader emblem.

So if you're interested, contact Ben Jones at 1000F Circle Drive, Dover, DE 19901, or e-mail him at limeybj@frontiernet.net. Let him know if you want the "distressed" or "freshly painted" look.

OPERATE HERE



PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR DUES STATUS

When we mailed out the August 2000 edition we had to take the time to insert 58 past due notices. If you were one of those, the editor wishes you would get with it for year 2001, because he could spend his time a lot more productively in the service of the 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association.

MEMBERSHIP DUES-TIME IN SEND IN YOUR 2001 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 2001 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 01 or higher, you're paid up. If Frnd is after your name, you're our guest. If there is an error, contact Charles Dye.

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 and send it now!

Name _____ Ground ☐ Air ☐ Sqdn _____ Assoc ☐

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Dues for 2001, \$12

Hardship Waiver ☐

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Age 61-65 \$120 ☐

Age 66-70 \$96 ☐

Age 71 and over \$78 ☐

Send with check to Charles Dye, 4949 San Pedro NE, #87, Albuquerque, NM 87109

OPERATE HERE



**We Bought Out The Publisher
And Have Further Reduced the Price:
Now only \$36.50, postpaid**



All copies will be autographed by Col. Lawrence G. Gilbert, our final Commander.

Order from the PX order blank contained in this newsletter.

Over 100 authors, including Ian Hawkins and Ernie Barber, have contributed to this anthology, edited by Bill and Marge Braddock. There are personal stories of bombing missions, aerial dogfights, air-sea rescues, aircraft crashes, life-saving parachute bail-outs, captures by the enemy, evasions, escapes, resistance-fighters assistance to downed airmen and airmen returning to England.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM FRIENDS OF THE 392ND



Evelyn and Lillian Cohen's card depicts the new Second Air Division Memorial Library in Norwich, to be dedicated this year.

To all our friends around the globe,

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas season and all the very best for the coming year 2001. Thanks to everyone for your help this past year, look forward to another great year!

All the very best,

Ben

Ben Jones, "the kid on the bicycle from Litcham" and who is now in the U. S. Air Force and is a member of the team that services the 392nd's website, b24.net.

To : Jim & All 392nd BG Veterans

A Very Happy Christmas & Very Best Wishes For 2001

From: Doug & Celia, Sheringham, Norfolk, England.

Doug and Celia Willies, whose efforts culminated in the memorial to the Alfred crew and the gathering in England of Henry Wilk, the only living survivor, with his family and the families of the crewmen who perished.



The card from Phyllis DuBois, former Librarian at the 2AD Memorial Library, shows a Christmas 1944 party scene, taken at Seething.



Christmas dinner at Wendling, 1943. Shown counter-clockwise starting at 6 o'clock: James McFadden, assistant Group operations officer; Lawrence Gilbert, then Group operations officer and now CEO of 392BGMA; Joe Bush, deceased, Group executive officer; Clinton Schoolmaster, deceased, commander of the 577th; Albert Huber, deceased, mess officer; (standing) unknown GI (the News would like to identify him if any reader can) Clyde Gray, commander of the 576th; Myron Keilman, deceased, commander of the 579th; Warren Polking, deceased, commander of the 578th; Kenneth Paddock, Group navigator; unknown. Picture sent to the News by Dan Collin, son of Everett Collin, Group Hq.

DENIS AND HILARY DUFFIELD said: "There was a good turn-out, some 100 villagers, at the Memorial on Remembrance Day. Visiting Wendling in 2000 were: Aldon H. Jensen with wife, daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter; John Holzinger, navigator on the Bob Tays crew in the 578th (John has made three visits in 12 months) Peggy Coffman, widow of Glenn Coffman, flight engineer in the 576th; Tom Edgington, radio operator on the Jack Snyder crew; Russell Logue, radio operator on the Stoddard crew, 579th; and Gil Bambauer, equipment specialist in the 10th Station Complement, with three sons and two grandsons.

JOHN GILBERT said, "As a boy of seven 55 years ago I can remember the aircraft taking off and landing at Wendling just like it was yesterday".

LUC DEWEZ remarked, "On Christmas 1944 there was the blow of the Ardennes offensive, a terrible Christmas for the Belgian citizens and the Allied troops caught in the Battle of the Bulge. Among them were airmen of the 487th Bomb Group, who were on a maximum effort mission to stop the German offensive. They met enemy fighters over Belgium and six B-17's came down in a small area near the front lines. Luckily for the men who bailed out, it was still in American hands. Among those KIA was B/Gen Frederick Castle, now resting in peace in the Henri-Chapelle cemetery. In this sea of white caps on Belgian soil, the General's grave stands out only by a star and an inscription enhanced by gold: Medal of Honor.

Also heard from were LEONARD AND LAURA ALSFORD, London; and IAN BLACKAMORE and PETER WOOD, members of the Lincolnshire Aircraft Recovery Group.

NEWS



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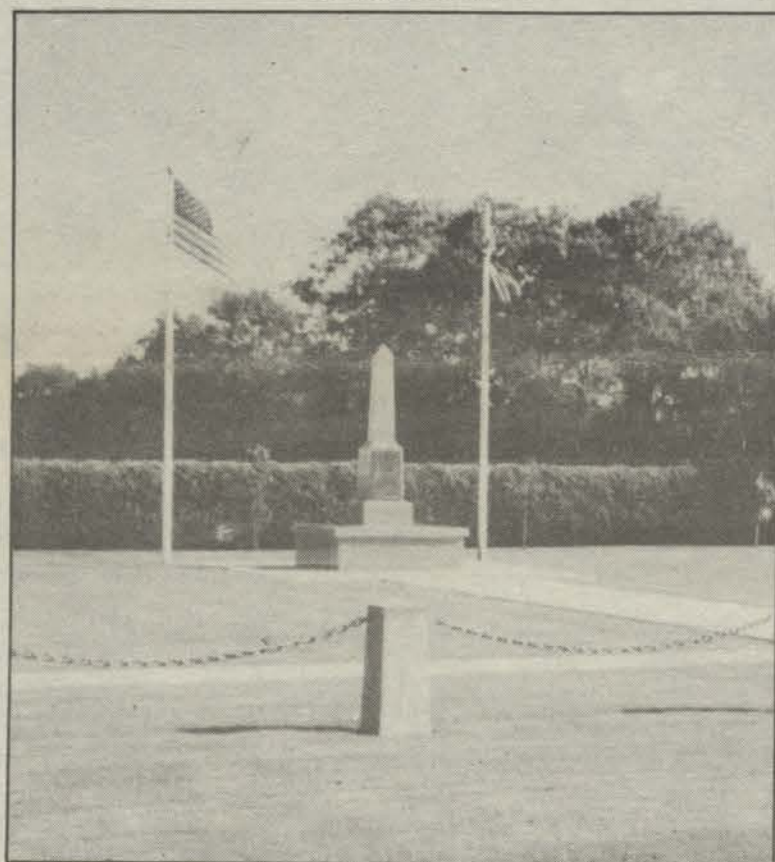
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THE 392nd MEMORIAL AT WENDLING

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.

Chaplain's Corner

By George Barger

What a Winter this has been! Sleet, freezing rain, snow, a bitter North wind- and that's only February! "If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?" asks the poet. There is an optimism in those words, but it is not the optimism of Pollyanna, but of experience and promise. It is a metaphor for our religious experience. Life is tragic, for we all must die; and again to quote a poet, "Is life a boon? If so, then it must be that death, when'er it come, must come too soon." But, as Spring follows Winter, as Easter follows Good Friday, so death is followed by life. Faith offers hope, because it is anchored in God's promise.

Folded Wings

Margaret Mary Mancuso, July 14, 2000
wife of Michael Mancuso, 578
Minerva E. (Mickey) Lory, Sept. 9, 2000
wife of Bob Lory, 579
Jean N. Chamblin, 579, May 29, 2000
William B. Pfaff, 1287 MP, June 4, 2000
Joe Snopec, Assoc, early Nov. 2000
Robert N. Burns, 577, April 2000
Rollin H. Wilcox, Oct. 2, 2000
John F. Joyce, 578, August 1999
Mildred Zybort, Feb. 5, 2001
wife of Stanley Zybort, 577
Allen B. Alexander, 578, Nov. 29, 2000
Sterling G. Fligge, 578/9, May 21, 2000
Lucian D. Keller, 577, July 2000
Bert M. Beals, 578, Feb. 17, 2001
Edward G. Janak, 578, Feb. 9, 2001
Allan R. Brownfelder, 579, Sept. 11, 00
Nader P. Maroun, 578, Mar. 31, 1983

8 nickels: 2 paradigms.

-Charley Dye

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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, 2201 Redbud Blvd., Frankfort, IN 46041.

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