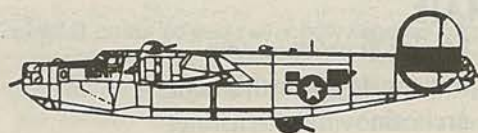


NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 18

February 2003

THE 392ND LEFT FOOTPRINTS OF GOODWILL

Christmas Greetings From England



Above is a view of the beautiful Cathedral at Norwich from a perspective not usually seen by Yanks when they visit. It was the subject of a card sent to the 392nd by the 2ADA Memorial Library staff.

We received our usual annual message from Denis and Hilary Duffield. Denis is Our Man at Wendling, and the 392nd is happy that his health is better. Denis and Hilary greeted the Bob Vickers crew when they visited Wendling in September, and reported the several visits of John Holzinger, navigator on the 578th's Bob Tays crew. Denis also had the experience of helping the Scarning school with their 392nd project. See the inside pages of this issue for more

on that.

We received Christmas cards from Mervyn Jones, father of 392nd Board of Directors member Ben Jones; Ian Blackamore; Pete Wood; Doug and Celia Willies; Leonard and Lorna Alsford; John Gilbert; Mike Hyde; and Luc Dewez, from Belgium.

And last but not least, a card from our own Al Enlow, basking in the warmth of re-found WWII love in Wales. (See the last issue of the NEWS for this story.)

THE ULTIMATE IN ONE-UPSMANSHIP

This bit of eavesdropping on air communications was sent to the NEWS by Ebe Ebersole, 578th pilot.

SR-71 Blackbird pilot Brian Shul reports: We were screaming across southern California 13 miles high. We were monitoring various radio transmissions from other aircraft as we entered Los Angeles Center's air space. Although they didn't really control us, they did monitor our movement across their scope.

I heard a Cessna ask for a readout of its ground speed. "90 knots", Center replied. Moments later a Twin Beech required the same. "120 knots", Center answered.

Almost instantly an F-18 smugly requested ground speed and received the expected answer: "525 knots on the ground."

We thought that probably we

LOCAL CITIZENS IN ENGLAND AND ON THE CONTINENT NOTE OUR PRESENCE

There exist monuments, memorials, and other allusions to our involvement in WWII, not only near our base, but also in areas over which our a/c operated.

One of the most interesting are the elementary schools near Wendling. They use the 392nd as a teaching tool and otherwise exhibit a close relationship to us. Remarkable examples of this are shown in the inside pages of this issue.

The handsome, immaculately kept 392nd Memorial dominates the area around the old base.

The 392nd has been a heavy contributor to the 2ADA Memorial Library in Norwich.

The B-24 exhibit at the Duxford American Air Museum carries 392nd markings.

There is a memorial in the church yard at Sheringham, lovingly established and tended by Doug and Celia Willies. It is in honor of the 578th's Waugh crew who crashed there on Jan. 4, 1944, losing five of the 10-man crew.

There is a memorial plaque in the

should enter the contest, so we asked Center if they had a ground speed for us. There was a long pause, then the answer: "I show one thousand seven hundred forty-two knots".

No further inquiries were heard on that frequency.

church at Wrangle, near Boston. It honors the 579th's Hunt crew, all lost near there except S/Sgt Mark Osment. It was established by the Lincolnshire Aircraft Recovery Group, led by Ian Blackamore. They also help maintain a museum containing 392nd artifacts at East Kirksby, a former RAF base.

A memorial at Zoetermeer, Holland commemorates the death of S/Sgt John McCormick of the 578th's Walker crew. McCormick was killed by the Germans only 5 days before they capitulated.

At Montlieu-la-Garde, France, villagers have established a memorial for the 578th's McKee crew, lost Dec. 31, 1943 on a mission to St. Jean D'Angle air field.

And at Lillestrom, Norway, is a monument noting the highly successful Nov. 18, 1943 mission to the German-occupied airfield at Kjeller. The 392nd led this mission, losing the 578th's Dudziak crew, KIA; and Fogarty crew, interned in Sweden.

Feb. 13, 1943: The U. S. Marines adds a women's auxiliary unit to its ranks.

Feb. 17, 1944: A U. S. attack on the island of Truk results in Japanese losses of more than 200 planes and 20 ships.

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
Anstey, Milton P.
Arch, Bette Gray
Bambauer, Gilbert
Barger, George
Barber, Ernie **NEW CHANGE**
Barnard, Mary Beth
Barnes, Joe
Barry, Bill
Bartsch, Arlo
Books, Bob **NEW CHANGE**
Braddock, Bill **CHANGE**
Brent, Landon H.
Bullard, Robert E.
Canonne, Philippe
Case, Bill
Conrad, John
Damerst, William A.
Desario, Joseph L.
Dewez, Luc
DuBois, Phyllis
Ebersole, Howard ("Ebe")
Egan, Thomas J.
Ehrlich, Lee D.
Eller, Melvin
Elston, Robert C.
Garrett, Howard
Gilbert, John
Gilbert, Lawrence **NEW CHANGE**
Glettler, Barney
Goar, Jim
Greene, David
Grimm, Roy
Gross, Earl
Hagopian, Hal
Harned, Bob
Hart, Wildrick
Hatton, Greg
Hawkins, Ian
Hinckley, Burt
Hyde, Mike
Jones, Ben
Jones, Mervyn
Jordan, Thomas J.
Kreisman, Irving
Long, William
Lory, Bob
McGregor, Jim
McGuire, Bill, Jr.
Mackey, Oak
Marcelli, Anthony F.
Matelski, Lorn W.
Marsteller, Jim
Michel, George
Micksch, Joe
Neustadt, Walter
Onstot, Perry
Oppenheim, Alfred M.

Mighty8cur@aol.com
mikeanstey@earthlink.net
archesinov@comcast.net
GilbertBambauer@aol.com
GWBARGER@email.msn.com
ebarber392bg@nu-z.net
blackjag@hargray.com
jabarnes@netconx.net
purehart@earthlink.net
Afbas@aol.com
books@b24.net
wabrad17@wmconnect.com
lhb323@aol.com
Rebssb25@aol.com
p.cannone@wanadoo.fr
Wcase22@aol.com
jbwc@worldnet.att.com
Waring248@Juno.com
JDESAR@AOL.COM
Luc.Dewez@skynet.BE
Dubois@netmatters.co.uk
hebersole@webtv.net
tjegan.@sihope.com
RKS600@aol.com
bme5@psu.edu
Rcwhelston@aol.com
havepick@email.msn.com
adrian@gilberta.freemove.co.uk
LGILBERT4@cfl.rr.com
b.glettler@att.net
goar@netusa1.net
dg392@aol.com
rgrimm@attglobal.net
EGB880@aol.com
halaps@aol.com
BJSpringdell@aol.com
bandsaw@penn.com
gregoryhatton@earthlink.net
ian@hawkins13cbw.fsnet.co.uk
hinckleyburtjean@hotmail.com
B24MJH@aol.com
limeybj@frontiernet.net
MervynJones@btinternet.com
TJJ43@aol.com
ri.kreisman@verizon.net
longtimelong@email.msn.com
Rboblory@AOL.COM
jmcgl00@comcast.net
A43fool@aol.com
OMackey@MSN.com
t_uomo@juno.com
lorn-n-duste@elknet.net
jimbo@cyberia.com
gmichel@milwpc.com
Joe@micksch.com
neuwalter@aol.com
ponstot@aol.com
HammerO@aol.com

Phillips, Ann Long
Pearson, George E.
Perry, Tom
Peterson, Mary
Popek, Erma
Polking, Dette
Richeson, W. H.
Roberts, Keith
Rothrock, Mary
Russell, Carroll E.
Sabourin, Roland
Satterly, Everett F.
Smith, Franklin D.
Stephens, Lou (**Change**)

Stockman, Harry (**Change**)
Szenegeto, Joe **CORRECTION**
Thomas, J. Fred
Thomason, Henriette
Trigilio, George
Tuchel, Robert H.
Tyler, Bob **CHANGE**
Vassey, Emuel
Weed, Oscar and Toni
Westbrook, Joe
Willies, Doug
Zybort, Stanley (**Change**)

8AF Museum, Savannah
Abrams, Manny
Conrad, John
Gilbert, Lawrence
Glettler, Barney
Goar, Jim
Greene, David
Gross, Earl
Jones, Mervyn
Eller, Mel
Erhlich, Lee D.
Onstot, Perry
Peterson, Mary
Thomas, J. Fred

392 BGMA
8AF Museum, Savannah

2-DAY STANDALONE IN 2ADA CHICAGO ON JUNE 4-5 UNDER CONSIDERATION

John Conrad, the 392nd's VP for 2ADA and Col Gilbert, 392BGMA CEO, are studying the feasibility of scheduling a Group stand-alone reunion on the first two days of the 2ADA meeting in Chicago.

Crusaders would have the choice

annfromnc@aol.com
GEORGE@EROLS.COM
tom@b24.net
marcliff@cfl.rr.com
empopek@att.net
WarrenDett@aol.com
WHRich@webtv.net
k.e.robby@juno.com
m.rothrock@worldnet.att.net
crew@mounet.com
dpoobah@accessbee.com
EISATT@AOL.COM
fsmith4@satx.rr.com
lStephens5@woh.rr.com
(that's a lower case alphabetical l)
Stockman1@cox.net
baksheesh@onecom.com
Bomberb24@aol.com
Henriette@pronet.net
gjsr@ix.netcom.com
rhtuchel@soltec.net
Bobalice2r@aol.com
evassey@acadia.net
anoweed@bellsouth.net
JWESTBR432@aol.com
doug&celia@g3hrk.freemove.co.uk
szybort@aol.com & szybort@cs.com

FAX

912 748 0209
508 653 6882
859 268 0514
407 647 7402
231 334 4440
765 654 4457 or 765 654 4253
631 205 1301
310 652 9307
+44 (0) 1328 701 262
717 238 9202
773 774 4311
816 363 7054
407 647 7766
714 536 2184

WEBSITE

www.b24.net
www.mighty8thmuseum.com

of attending only the 2-day 392nd affair on June 4 and 5, or staying on through June 7 for the entire 2ADA convention.

If the plans come to fruition, complete information will be available in the May 1 issue of the 392BGMA NEWS. The publication date will need to be earlier, so that Crusaders will have the information in time to make the necessary reservations with the 2ADA.

* * * *

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

MISSION FIGHTER SUPPORT- TOLD IN BIBLICAL TERMS BY UNKNOWN AUTHOR

The story on the right was sent to the NEWS by Roland Sabourin, 578th pilot.

ONCE ENEMIES, NOW FRIENDS

Not every soldier gets to meet and become friends with the man who shot him. It happened in 1992, when 578th co-pilot Bill Riddleberger went back to Germany and met one of the members of the AA crew that shot him down.

The ill-fated mission was on Sept. 9, 1944 to Mainz, a Rhine river port city. Riddleberger was co-pilot and Lou Stephens was pilot of Ernie Barber's pride and joy and also namesake, "Jaw-jaw Boy". They were flying deputy lead and just before the target the lead ship's bombsight malfunctioned and Stephens took over the lead position. Just as that happened, they received a direct hit from flak. The a/c exploded and Stephens and Riddleberger were blown clear. The rest of the crew went down with the ship.



This 1944 photo shows teenage soldiers Erich Diefenbacher and Adi Eras. posing next to the infamous German 88 mm anti-aircraft cannon that wreaked havoc, not only with the 392nd's "Jaw-jaw Boy", but with countless other 8AF bombers in WWII.

They were able to deploy their chutes and reached the ground safely, both badly burned about the face. They were POW for the rest of the war, but that's a different story.

About 1987 a German researcher contacted Bill, and a series of correspondence culminated in his returning to Germany in 1992. There he met Erich Diefenbacher, who was a member of the 88mm gun crew that knocked his ship out of the sky in 1944. They became friends, both realizing that each had been doing his duty as a soldier.

Diefenbacher was only 15 years old in 1944. Germany, hard pressed for manpower after years of warfare, was using teen-agers to man the AA guns.

B/GEN BOBBY EFFERSON RETIRES

By Charles Dye

Those Crusaders who attended 8 AFHS meetings will remember Gen Efferson and his wife Cyndy as the bubbling effervescent couple who added spice to our 392nd Rendezvous dinners. He is an honorary

member of the 392BGMA.

Gen Efferson was a highly decorated fighter pilot, too young to have been in our war. He retired on 7 January, 2003, with ceremonies being held at Hq. 8AF, Barksdale Air Force Base, La.

At the time of his retirement, he was Mobilization Assistant to the 8AF Commander.

And so it came to pass that there dwelleth in the land of the Saxons a group of strange men who flitteth here and there in the sky, and make like the birds; for such was this their profession, to protect their brethren who limpeth along on more unwieldy wings, and they were called birdmen.

And it came to pass one morning as the sun first shineth on the hut of the sleeping birdmen, one called the "C.Q." entereth therein and he sayeth, "Arise, for the time of the briefing is at hand," and then he departeth in great haste for he was wise in the ways of the birdmen.

And so with much mumbling and cursing, they arose and apeaseth their tender bellies on burnt potatoes and spam; for alas, such was the ways of the officers of the mess who walketh about on paddle feet.

Wherefore the Birdmen wenteth their way to the briefing place, wherein they beheld strange markings on the wall. Many and numerous were the spots of red on the plan of the enemies stronghold.

And their gaze fell upon the handwriting upon the wall, for such it was and they sayeth one unto the other, "No, this cannot be!" and there was weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth.

And the sound of the moaning ceaseth as the great one entereth the room. And he spoke unto them saying, "Yea, verily I sayeth to you; wing upon wing of our big friends must go forth this day and assail the enemy, and let us not lag behind, for he who strayeth is lost."

And there was one among them called the "S-2" who claimeth to know the ways of the enemy, but went not amongst the enemy, and they believeth him not and they spoke unto the other saying, "Whofore speaketh he unto us thusly, for he knoweth not the odds by which we all reapeth in the end."

And still others spoke unto them of the wind and the clouds, but he confuseth them and they heareth him not. As they leaveth the briefing hut some entereth the little house in great haste and still others entereth the big house in greater haste.

Thence they departeth to their winged steeds, they entangleth each of them with many strange hooks and straps after a confusing manner, and each was known unto the other by various numbers and colors that they might know their places. And in this manner each after the other breaketh the bonds of the earth.

And one among them runneth forth but lifteth not, for his RPM runneth out, and the others marvel at his good fortune. Still another returneth, for his temperature riseth.

And they come unto the appointed place, their big friends have gone before them, and the birdmen are troubled for their fuel dwindleth fast.

And so they draw nigh unto the target and behold flashes, many and numerous amongst them, and they weaveth and swoopeth to escape the "Flak," for so it was called.

And Red Number One calleth to the great one and sayeth, "Wither shall we turn? Canst thou not lead us out?" And the great one sayeth, "Oh thee of little faith! Why murmerest thou against me?"

And at this time great multitudes of enemy birdmen decendeth upon the big friends, and the "Forts" were clobbered, for such was the custom in those days.

And they called forth the birdmen to come and give them aid, and they all came forth, save one who came fifth, for he spotteth of having a Foche-Wolfe on his tail, where upon the birdman turneth this way and that way and were lost unto one another, and great confusion reigneth. And Red Number One called to Red Number Two saying, "Lot behold, I spinneth out and am lost to thee." Then they say one to the other, "Hit the silk," and while parasols floateth to the earth, they cometh to the land of the enemy.

BEESTON AND SCARNING SCHOOLS HONOR THE MEMORIES OF THE 392ND

*Our ages may be different
and we may live worlds apart
but here's a special Thank you
that comes right from the heart*

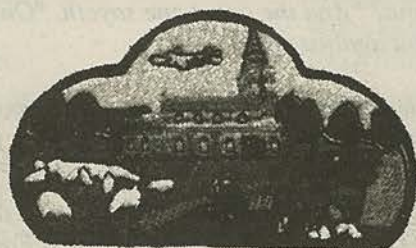


*Beeston
Primary School*



*We always will remember
with thoughts that never fade
the Americans special kindness
and all the friends we've made*

*Though the years have come and gone
many thoughts are brought to mind
of comrades old and new
and those you left behind*



BEESTON

*Though the years march onward
and Veterans may be few
at our small school in Beeston
We will remember you.*

The Beeston school has had a continuing relationship with the 392BGMA. They use our war-time presence as a teaching tool, and whenever a delegation of Crusaders return to Wendling a school visit is always in order.

The remarkable embroidery shown on this page was presented to the Vickers crew when they visited the school in September after the B-24 dedication at the Duxford Air Museum.

It is the work of the talented Mrs. Jane Piggott-Custance, parent of 7-year old student Joseph. She also composed the poems on the embroidery.

We have installed it in a sturdy case and it will be on display at our gatherings. And after we are finished with the traveling it will be given to a museum as evidence of the deep bond between the 392nd and the villagers near our base at Wendling.

One of the many ways that the school staff uses us as a teaching tool is to award various achievements with "stars" and "stripes".

Mrs. Ani Martin is the Head Teacher at Beeston, and Toni Weed is the 392nd's liaison with the school.

SCARNING SCHOOL

The 392nd has just received more evidence of its connections with Wendling area schools.

Under the direction of their teacher, Mr. Philip Brazier, a class studying WWII created poetry and short stories, including a description of a Christmas visit to a GI mess hall. They created a fictitious Bomb Group and "flew" a mission to the Krupp steel factory in Essen.

The pupils received help from the Fulbright Librarian at the 2ADA Memorial Library at Norwich; from Our Man At Wendling Denis Duffield; and they interviewed the Vickers crew.

Found on this page are examples of the Scarning pupils' work which was sent to us. Crusaders please note the last sentence of Scott Couthard's story of an imaginary mission. Evidently our drinking habits are still the stuff of legend around Wendling. And for those who don't remember how to get to Scarning, see map.

Wednesday 16th October 2002

Christmas Party

I said to my mum "Please can I go to the Christmas Eve Party." And she said "Yes you can go. When is it?" "Tomorrow" I replied.

"Fine" said Mum.

The next day after school, the Americans came into the middle of the village with their massive trucks, there were 1100 children going. The journey was excellent I had never ridden in a truck before. At the party there was a massive cake. The cake was covered in icing - it was beautiful. Santa Claus was there as well. We got sweets, ice-cream and cake. The Americans were really kind because they gave us sweets and ice-cream. I had not had sweets for at least 3 years. The cake tasted wonderful it was brilliant! I was an excellent party we played games and we danced. After the party was over, the Americans took us back into the village and our mums came and picked us up.

By Emma Wright

The Eagle

Moisty, dark and cold
flies vigorously over Wendling field
like an eagle flying
The sound of the engines
screams like an eagle catching
its prey.
I watched frozen as the eagle
takes to the air, pleased that
this ferocious bird of steel
will surely bring peace on earth.

By Nikita Pereira

May 17 1944

During world war two I was the ball turret gunner on the B-24 "Hitler's match." We were with the 439th Bomb Group at Scarning airfield in Norfolk. I was only 18!

The mission on this day was my 25th if we completed it we would stay fighting. After take off we were all very glad to get off the ground. Once we got off the ground we circled higher and higher. It got harder and harder to breathe. After about forty-five minutes of circling we got to the right altitude and put our oxygen masks on.

It was very hard to move in the ball turret because it was cramped.

Three hours later we got to Ennden. It was very cold I wore a leather coat and some leather gloves. We were attacked by some FW190s. Luckily we got past the FW190s. But then we hit some flak at Ennden and one shell hit us, a bit of shrapnel flew through to inside of the aeroplane and went into the navigator's room. It missed Kyle by about 5 inches we were all very relieved the piece of shrapnel didn't hit Kyle. I was shouting to the bombardier to release the bombs but Sam said shut up. Then Sam let the bombs down. I could hear

the bombs going down in the ball turret. I was glad when we were flying back in four hours and we landed safely. I felt ecstatic when we were landing. After we landed we had the biggest amount of beers ever.

by Scott Couthard

WHERE'S SCARNING?



DUES NOTICE - - - DUES NOTICE

CHECK THE MAILING LABEL, SEE IF YOU'VE PAID

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	\$
Book, "A Pilot and His Wings", by L/C James Maris, \$30.00 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, \$10.00 postpaid (ALL DIRECTORIES ARE NOW WITH CURRENT DATA	\$
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, \$25.00 postpaid	\$
TOTAL	\$

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

Feb. 4, 1941: The USO is formed.

Jan. 19, 1945: U. S. Marines land a large force at Iwo Jima.

Feb. 24, 1943: Japanese prepare to evacuate Guadalcanal.

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)

Book, "Joey, Joe, and Joseph" by William A. Damerst, 576th navigator.

Order direct from publisher, Publish America: PO Box 151, Frederick, MD 21705-0151. \$18.95 postpaid

Book, "Stalag 17B, Prisoner of War", by L/C (USAF, Ret) Richard H. Hoffman, ball turret gunner, 579th

Order from publisher, Xlibris Corp, phone 888 795 4274 or on line at www.xlibris.com/html/bookstores. Also at Amazon.com

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

Feb. 26, 1945: 1,200 U. S. planes hit Berlin. German estimates place the number of casualties at between 25,000 and 30,000.

Feb. 28, 1933: Hitler orders all civil liberties in Germany suspended indefinitely.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

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 dues for 2003. If you are paid ahead, you can check it now by the code right after your name on the mailing label of the newsletter. If it is 03 or higher or LM (for Life Membership), 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, faced with declining membership, has increased the annual dues by a modest \$3, to \$15. Also, if you feel that you are in the position to help the Treasury with an extra donation, there is provision for it below. It is possible that Life Members might feel that the Lord has been good to them and that they have lived beyond their actuarial years and an extra payment might be in order.

HOWEVER, 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 IN NOW!

Name _____ Ground ☐ Air ☐ Sqdn _____ Assoc ☐

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Dues for 2003, \$15.00

Extra: \$5 _____ \$15 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ Other _____

Hardship Waiver ☐

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Under 61 \$120 ☐

Age 66-70 \$96 ☐

Age 71 and over \$78 ☐

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

PILOT RELATES COL RENDLE'S LEADERSHIP ABILITIES

Bob Berger, whose passing is noted in this issue's Folded Wings, was co-pilot of the Don Clover crew in the 576th. They were shot down on the Friedrichshafen mission on March 18, 1944.

Bob returned to the Service in 1950 as an infantry officer with the 45th Division in Korea. He retired as Colonel in 1969.

He once related to the editor an experience he had with Col Rendle,

the first commander of the 392nd.

A 2nd Lieutenant at the time, he had just finished his 14th mission, to Helmstedt, and since he was not expecting to fly the next morning, was flying pretty high at the Officers' Club that evening. He noticed that Col Rendle walked through but Bob only noted it in passing.

The next morning the C. Q. woke him up about 0430 and told him he was flying co-pilot with Col Rendle on the form-up.

He said, "I went to the plane, did my check-out and we took off. When the flaps were up and my co-pilot duties were over I headed for the bomb bay then back to the oxy-

gen."

"After the Group was formed we headed back for Wendling. I shot five landings for him. When we shut it down he handed me one of those legendary cigars, grinned at me and said, 'Lieutenant, remember that my pilots are always ready to fly.' He never mentioned the night before at the Club, but I always remembered it and have even used the same procedure a few times myself".

"PADDY" PADDOCK REPORTS IN

The NEWS received a phone call from Kenneth Q. "Paddy" Paddock, Group Navigator, just before we went to press for this issue.

Calling from his home in Spruce Head, Maine, Paddy reported that both he and wife Bridget, despite serious troubles with arthritis, are doing o.k.

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

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

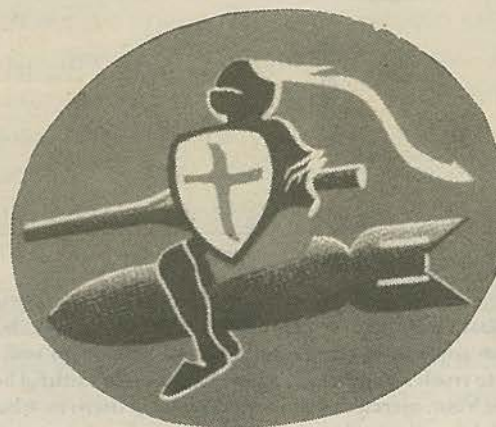


All copies will be autographed by Col. Lawrence G. Gilbert, our final Commander.

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.

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 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 soon be available polo shirts with the Crusader emblem.

So if you're interested, contact Ben Jones at 15115 Jones Beach Rd., Kent, NY 14477-9780, or e-mail him at limeybj@frontiernet.net.

Let him know if you want the "distressed" or "freshly painted" look.

NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

Chairman of the Board
Col. Lawrence G. Gilbert, USAF (Ret)

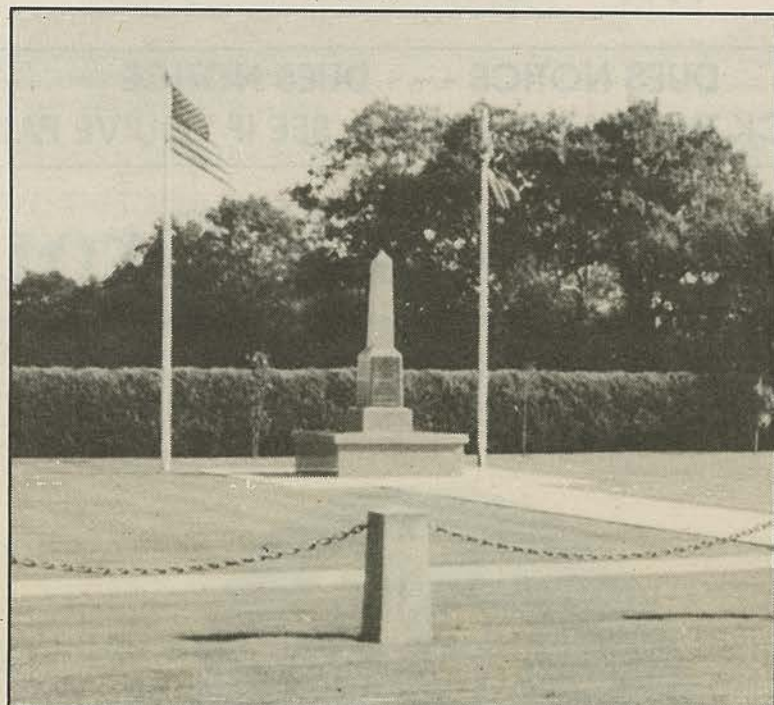
President

Vice-president, Memorial
Carroll W. Cheek

Secretary
Keith Roberts

Treasurer
Charles Dye
4949 San Pedro NE, #87
Albuquerque NM 87109

Editors
Jim Goar
Mary Beth Barnard



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 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.

Chaplain's Corner

By George Barger, Ph. D.

"If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?" Well, yes, it can, if you live in the Midlands of the U. S. It isn't unusual for Winter to linger well into April or May. But, Spring does come! The promise implicit in the poet's question is regularly, if latently, fulfilled. We count on it. Just so, the promise of nature echoes the promise of God. We can count on Him. Despite its long delay, God's kingdom is coming. "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom."

Folded Wings

Vernon Stillwagon, 579, Sept. 20, 2000
Kenneth L. Timmons, 578, Sept. 29, 2002
William T. Singleton, 578, Dec. 27, 2002
Philip Sacher, 577, Dec. 19, 2002
Laurin Austin, 576, Aug. 8, 2002
Malcom K. (Kenny) Martin, Hq., Fall '02
Robert Berger, 576, Jan. 13, 2002
Milton P. Anstey, 577, Nov. 27, 2002

Jan. 22, 1944: The United States lands forces at Anzio, Italy, surprising German forces. Unfortunately, the American troops delay their advance, giving the Germans time to regroup in the Alban Hills.

392nd Bomb Group Memorial Ass'n NEWS
2201 Redbud Blvd.
Frankfort, IN 46041

Address Correction Requested
Forwarding and Return Postage Guaranteed

First Class Mail

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