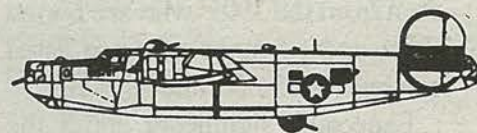


NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 20

February, 2005

THE DUTCH PEOPLE REMEMBER AND HONOR US

MORE ABOUT COL BERNT BALCHEN, ARCTIC EXPLORER

In the May 1997 issue the NEWS carried a story about Col Balchen's "Swedish Air Line" which carried passengers to and from Sweden and the U. K. Guy Carnine, 578th pilot, with his crewmen Vic Mastron and Boyce Barbee were part of that operation after they completed their missions.

Now comes Earl Zimmerman, 389th, who authored a story that ran in the 389th newsletter and furnished more information about the famous Col Balchen. We reproduce it below, with Earl's permission and the permission of the 389th's newsletter editor, Gene Hartley.

Col Bernt Balchen was America's greatest Arctic expert of modern times.

Born in Norway in 1899, he served as a cavalryman in the Finnish Army against the Russians in WWI. He became a pilot in the Norwegian Naval Air Force in 1921 where he acquired his initial Arctic flying experience. He was a pilot on the Amundsen-Ellsworth Relief Expedition to Spitzbergen in 1925. The next year he was a member of the Amundsen-Ellsworth-Nobile Arctic Expedition. In 1927, he was a pilot on Admiral Byrd's famous flight across the Atlantic. In 1928, he flew to Gren-

nly Island north of Newfoundland to rescue the crew of the German airplane "Bremen" which had crash landed after flying the Atlantic. During 1928-30, Balchen was chief pilot on Byrd's Atlantic expedition and on November 29, 1929, he piloted the first plane to fly across the South Pole. He was made a U. S. citizen by Act of Congress in 1931.

During the 30's, Balchen continued to participate in Arctic and Atlantic flight operations. With the start of WWII in 1939, he began ferrying operations to England and Singapore for the British. In 1941, prior to the Pearl Harbor attack, he joined the AAF and at the request of General "Hap" Arnold and on personal orders from the General went to Greenland where he supervised the construction of, and later commanded, the famous U. S. air base Bluie West 8.

While in Greenland, he led many spectacular rescue missions which saved the lives of numerous U. S. flyers whose planes had gone down on the ice cap.

In 1943, Balchen was made chief of the Allied Transport Command for Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and the USSR, with a secret base in Scotland. During that time, his planes flew 4,399 people from neutral Sweden to Great Britain across enemy occupied territory. He also oversaw highly secret aerial missions into

Continued on page 2

MANY DUTCHMEN "ADOPT" A GRAVE IN A U. S. CEMETERY AND TEND IT

Again we are treated to a neat piece of research by 2nd generation member Annette Tison. She has been in contact with Mr. Adriaans and he is now a welcome Associate member of the 392BGMA.

Almost every month, Peter Adriaans drives the 34 miles from his home in Beegden, Holland, to the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten. His reason is simple: to visit the grave of S/Sgt Amos E. Doty of the 579th Sqdn. His reason is profound: to be a visible reminder that the Dutch have not forgotten what S/Sgt Doty did to help liberate their country in WWII.

Mr. Adriaans has been coming to the Cemetery for years to enjoy a quiet walk amidst its peaceful, yet impressive, grounds. During his visit there on Memorial Day 2004, he was asked if he wished to adopt a grave. It didn't take long for Peter and his wife Ton to fill out the paperwork, and a few weeks later he received an official certificate of adoption for S/Sgt Doty's grave. In accepting this responsibility, Mr. Adriaans made a commitment to visit Amos' grave often, but particularly on special days such as Memorial Day and Christmas.

Mr. Adriaans soon found www.b24.net, our great website, and learned that S/Sgt Doty was the engineer/top turret gunner on



Peter Adriaans brings flowers to the grave of S/Sgt Amos E. Doty

2/Lt Charles Felsenthal's crew. On 19 May 1944, they were part of a bombing mission against Waggum Airfield just outside Brunswick, Germany. As the 392nd neared the target, they were met by about 150 enemy fighters who flew through the formation, six and seven planes in line abreast, first attacking from the nose and then reversing direction to attack from the tail. The relentless assault continued for almost 45 minutes. Severe flak over the target was also encountered. Resulting losses from the 392nd included 2/Lt Felsenthal's crew (10 KIA), 2/Lt Robert Lang's crew (10 KIA) and 2/Lt Donald

Continued on page 2

—Continued from page 1—

Norway to re-supply underground resistance forces in their operations against the Nazi invader.

Balchen was recalled to active duty with the USAF in 1948 and assigned to command the 10th Rescue Squadron in Alaska. The next year, he made the first non-stop flight from Alaska over the Polar to Europe. He was transferred to HQ USAF in 1951 to participate in building northern defenses and in surveying sites for the Ballistic Early Warning System. He was instrumental in the development of Thule Air Base in Greenland and in blazing airborne trails to assist both commercial and military aviation in the Arctic region. After retiring from the USAF in 1956, Balchen continued to serve as a consultant on special assignments for aviation and energy industries until his death in 1973.

—Continued from page 1—

Prell's crew (8 KIA, 2 POW).

S/Sgt Doty was initially buried in the town of Veltheim, Germany, but was later interred in the Netherlands American Cemetery.

When asked why he wanted to adopt a grave, Mr. Adriaans replied, "For me, WWII is something never to forget, although I was not born at that time. I think my parents, who are still living (father 86 and mother 82) gave me something which makes me aware that this must never happen again. I also teach my children (son 24 and daughter 21) never to forget what all these soldiers did to help us end that terrible war."

That lesson is also being learned by Dutch school children. Mr. Adriaans noted that students at the lower school in Margarten (ages 7 to 11) recently put on a program called "All Names" where the names of everyone buried or memorialized in the Netherlands

American Cemetery were spoken against a musical background. Among the more than 10,000 names read were those of 31 crewmen from the 392nd who are buried there and 53 more who are listed on their Tablets of the Missing.

Especially significant about the adoption process is that the programs are private efforts organized by local citizens; they are not sponsored by the American Battle Monuments Commission (AMBC) which administers the cemeteries. According to the ABMC, the adoption groups are located generally in the countries of The Netherlands and Belgium.

Almost 43 percent of all Crusaders buried or memorialized overseas are in the Netherlands and Belgium. Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Adriaans and people like him, we are assured our comrades are remembered and honored in the lands they fought to liberate.

PERSONALS

Old-time small town newspapers carried a feature called "Personals" in which the every day goings on of its readers were recorded. If you have anything to contribute to subsequent editions, let us know.

Birdie Schmidt Larrick, (all Crusaders know that Birdie was our beloved Red Cross Club Director at Wendling, but there may be some readers who don't know that) bless her heart, fell at home early in January. She says that there are plenty of bruises, but now she's much better.

It happened late at night and she was unable to regain her feet. Her brother and son, who both live in the Columbus, OH, area, weren't available so she dialed 911. The paramedics were able to gain access to her garage, but the door from the garage to the house stopped them. So they took the door out of its frame.

*

Paul Wright, Hq., having suffered some debilitating illnesses, is temporarily at Four Seasons Living Center, Room 315, 2800 Highway TT, Sedalia, MO 65301. His daughter reports that he is doing well there and will soon move to an

assisted living facility. He can be reached at his old phone number, 660 827 4237.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

1,000 8TH AF bombers supported Allied airborne and land assault over Rhine River- Mar. 24, 1945.

392nd BG Memorial Association, Inc.

4949 San Pedro NE # 87 Albuquerque NM 87109-2583

505/883-3107

FINANCIAL REPORT

1 January - 31 December 2004

Opening Balance (Check Book)		10,249.13
Receipts:		
Dues:		
Regular	\$ 2973.00	
Life	234.00	3,207.00
PX:		
Regular	170.00	
Books	1052.00	
Video's	35.00	
C D's	60.00	1,317.00
Directories		40.00
Memorials		620.00
Donations:		
Regular	139.50	
Special	500.00	
Hospitality Room	53.00	1,952.50
B-24 Picture		15.00
Computer Rebate		100.00
Historical Society Reunion rebate		360.00
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	7,611.50
	OPENING BALANCE AND RECEIPTS	17,860.63

EXPENSES

Books (Mrs. John Matt)	\$ 30.00
Foreign Checks	8.46
Editor's Expense	2061.68
392nd NEWS	1517.59
Treasurer Expense	133.45
Stamps	74.00
WEB	543.00
Hospitality Room (Philadelphia-Oak Mackey)	438.58
Computer (Mary Peterson)	499.50
Donation (Savannah Museum)	3500.00
Hospitality Room (Kansas City)	444.64
	TOTAL EXPENSES
	\$ 9,250.90
	OPENING BALANCE AND RECEIPTS LESS EXPENSES
	8,609.73
	SAVINGS ACCOUNT
	1,341.85
	MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT
	12,920.89
	GRAND TOTAL
	\$ 22,872.47

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

392BGMA ELECTRONIC DIRECTORY

It was suggested at a recent Membership meeting that this Directory, which takes up a lot of room in the newsletter, be published only once a year, with only changes and additions published with each edition. Accordingly, if you have use for the Directory we suggest you archive this one. If you wish your name and address to be added or if you change your address please contact the editor 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
Badders, Karen L.
Bambauer, Gilbert
Barger, George
Barber, Ernie
Bailey, Don
Barnard, Mary Beth
Barnes, Joe
Barry, Bill
Bartsch, Arlo
Bilz, Jack
Books, Bob
Braddock, Bill
Brent, Landon H.
Bullard, Robert E.
Cannonne, Philippe
Case, Bill
Conrad, John
Damerst, William A.
Desario, Joseph L.
DeVoe, Harvey
Dewez, Luc
Ebersole, Howard ("Ebe")
Egan, Thomas J.
Ehrlich, Lee D.
Elston, Robert C.
Evans, Theodore
Garrett, Howard
Gilbert, John
Gilbert, Lawrence
Glettler, Barney
Goar, Jim
Gorback, Burton
Greene, David
Grimm, Roy
Gross, Earl
Hagopian, Hal
Harned, Bob
Hart, Wildrick
Hatton, Greg
Hawkins, Ian
Hinckley, Burt
Hutchcroft, Mary Esther
Hyde, Mike
Jones, Ben
Jones, Mervyn
Jordan, Thomas J.
Kreisman, Irving
Leach, Terry
Long, William
Lory, Bob
McGregor, Jim

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McGuire, Bill, Jr.
Mackey, Oak
Marcelli, Anthony F.
Maris, James P.
Marsteller, Jim
Matelski, Lorn W.
Michel, George
Neustadt, Walter
Onstot, Perry
Oppenheim, Alfred M.
Ortiz, David

Phillips, Ann Long
Pearson, George E.
Perry, Tom
Peterson, Mary
Planche, Milton
Popek, Erma
Polking, Dette
Richeson, W. H.
Roberts, Keith
Rosenberg, John
Rothrock, Mary
Russell, Carroll E.
Sassaman, Michael K.
Sabourin, Roland
Satterly, Everett F.
Schafer, Wes
Smith, Franklin D.
Sooy, Bruce
Stephens, Lou

Stockman, Harry
Szenegeto, Joe
Thomas, J. Fred
Thomason, Henriette
Tison, Annette
Trigilio, George
Tuchel, Robert H.
Tyler, Bob
Weed, Oscar and Toni
Westbrook, Joe
Willies, Doug
Zybort, Stanley

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

392 BGMA
8AF Museum, Savannah

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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
773 774 4311
816 363 7054
407 647 7766
714 536 2184
909 381 2491

WEBSITE

www.b24.net
www.mighty8th.org

BATTLE DAMAGE PHOTOS ARE GRIM REMINDERS

THESE WOUNDED BIRDS MADE IT HOME, THANKS TO GREAT AIRMANSHIP

M/Sgt William Hoyt Barfield was the Group Line Chief, serving under Major Vance Z. Cornelius, Group Engineering Officer. M/Sgt Barfield ("Barfly" to his intimates) kept personal records of the Group's a/c, including an extensive collection of photos.

When Sgt Barfield passed away March 12, 2003 his widow graciously passed those records and photos on to the 392BGMA. From them the NEWS has compiled this story, having also referred to Bob Vickers' "The Liberators From Wendling". Also of assistance were correspondence files from the late Phyllis DuBois, former Librarian at the 2ADA Memorial Library in Norwich.



M/Sgt Hoyt Barfield



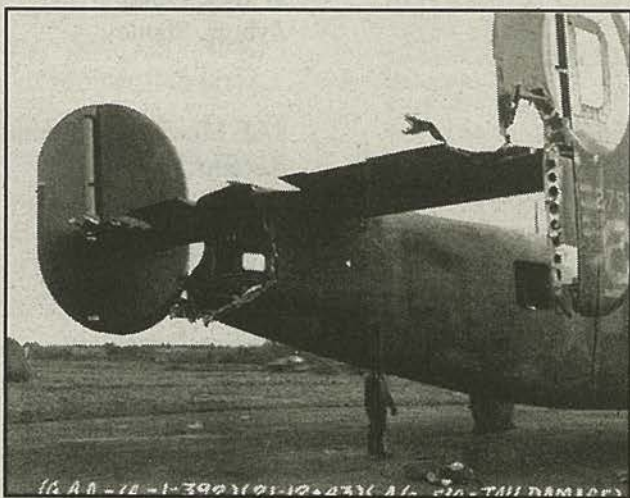
A/C #42-95037, 579th, 1/Lt R. L. Miller, pilot. The mission on June 29, 1944 was to Magdeburg. AA fire was accurate and intense. This a/c crash landed at Horsham St. Faith, home of the 458th. The remaining members of the crew were: 2/Lt J. A. Connor, CP; 2/Lt W. J. Hesson, N; 2/Lt R. W. Baker, B; T/Sgt C. W. Freeman, E (KIA); T/Sgt R. E. Carlstrand, R; S/Sgt R. R. DeFrates, G; S/Sgt G. G. Fritz, G; S/Sgt D. L. McEwan, G; and S/Sgt P. J. Wolfe, G.



A/C #42-100346, 577th. Pilot and crew unknown. The mission was Gotha, Feb. 24, 1944. The 392nd was under fighter attack for 1 1/2 hours on the way to the target. 7 crews were lost and 2 crewmen from the 578th were KIA. The 392nd was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for this mission.



A/C #42-99990, 579th, Lt. W. P. Sewell, pilot. The raid on Aug. 2, 1944 was against a tactical target, a bridge over the Somme near Amiens. Flak was moderate but accurate. This a/c was forced to crash land near Manston, fatally injuring 2 crewmen.



A/C #27510, 579th, Dec. 21, 1943. In one of the most bizarre incidents of the war, a spinning propeller that had become detached from another a/c neatly sliced off the tail turret. Since a quick attachable parachute could not be worn in a turret, Sgt. Pippit fell to earth with the turret.



A/C #41-29135, 579th, Dec. 20, 1943. For the fourth time in just nine missions, the 392nd went to Bremen. Bombing was by PFF and results were good. Heavy AA defenses and enemy a/c were experienced, resulting in one a/c lost and 15 damaged, mostly from flak. #135 crash landed and only one crewman was killed in the crash, S/Sgt T. E. Johnson. Other aircrew aboard were: 1/Lt C. C. Holloman; 1/Lt W. C. Everhart, P; 2/Lt F. J. Sassaman, CP; Capt J. E. Slowik, N; 2/Lt J. F. Chatten, B; T/Sgt C. C. Northcutt, E; T/Sgt J. W. Beard, R; S/Sgt R. G. Fowler, G; and S/Sgt A. W. Sweatt, G.

Michael Sassaman, the son of co-pilot 2/Lt F. J. Sassaman has been in touch with the NEWS and has furnished more information about the incident taken from his father's notes, as follows:

"There was heavy flak over the target and the ship was badly damaged. It was a struggle to keep her in the air and they were not sure that they would make it back to Wendling. This was confirmed about a mile from the field. The engines gave out and nothing that Weyth or Frank could do would keep her up any longer. The lone casualty was S/Sgt Johnson, who had been in the bomb bay trying to lower the landing gear manually when the ship dropped into a field and he was killed instantly. He was the "unknown" KIA in Robert Vickers' book "Remembrances of the Missing." Sgt Johnson was buried in the American cemetery near London but after the war his mother requested his remains be returned to the U. S. to be reburied near his home Kansas".

AIR ANNIVERSARY

300 B-29s made incendiary night raid on Tokyo destroying about 1/4 of city- Mar. 9, 1945.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

4,738 tons of bombs dropped by 1,079 bombers on Essen, Germany-Mar. 11, 1945.

2005 REUNIONS

The 392nd BGMA will be at both Reunions

2ADA MEETS AT SAN ANTONIO MAY 27-30

See information below

HYATT REGENCY HOTEL, 123 LOSOYA STREET (ON THE RIVERWALK)
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78205 • TELEPHONE (210) 222-1234

- Program -

- Thursday, May 26 Early Bird Party
Registration
- Friday, May 27 Registration
Trip to Lackland AFB (Optional)
\$30.00 per person with lunch
Cocktail Party - Cash Bar
Group Dinners
- Saturday, May 28 Buffet Breakfast
Ladies' Luncheon
Men's Luncheon
Cocktail Party - Cash Bar
Buffet Dinner
- Sunday, May 29 Buffet Breakfast
Business Meeting
Cocktail Party - Cash Bar
Banquet
- Monday, May 30 Buffet Breakfast

PARKING AT HOTEL: Self - \$16.18 per day
Valet - \$22.65 per day

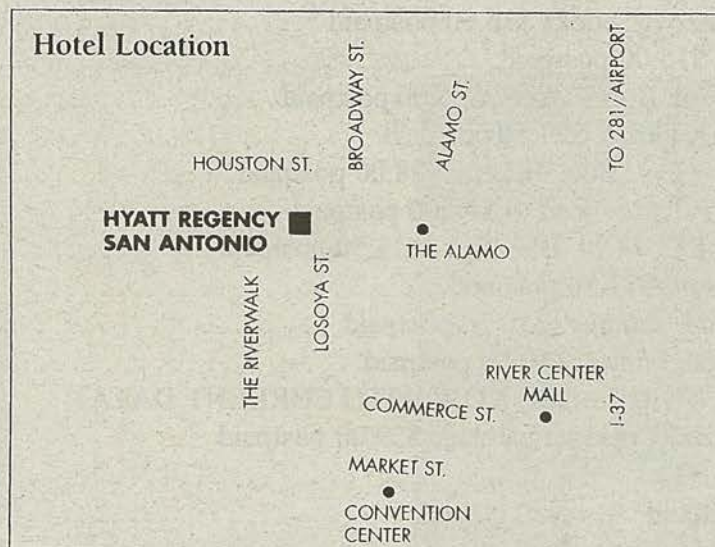
PARKING LOT BACK OF HOTEL - \$8.00 per day

LIMO SERVICE AT AIRPORT: SATRANS SHUTTLE,
(800) 868-7707 or (210) 281-9900. One Way - \$9.00
per person. Round Trip - \$16.00 per person.

- Costs -

Single Room \$680.00
Double Room \$508.00 per person
Triple Room \$485.00 per person
Quad Room \$440.00 per person
The above costs include hotel for 3 nights and all events listed.
All extra nights \$99.00 + tax \$16.58 = \$115.58 per night, and
incidentals must be paid to the hotel on check out.

REFUND POLICY: 60 days prior to convention - \$15.00 chg
per person. 30 days prior to convention - \$25.00 chg per
person. IF FUNDS AVAILABLE - FULL REFUND.



- 58th Annual Convention Reservation Form -

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Phone Number: () _____ Group: _____

Address: _____

Single _____ Double (King or D/D) _____ Triple _____ Quad _____ Non-Smoking _____ Handicapped _____

Name of 3rd or 4th person in Triple or Quad: _____

ARRIVE: _____ DEPART: _____

DEPOSIT - \$50.00 PER PERSON (Balance due by April 15) _____ PAID IN FULL _____

Send this form and all correspondence to:

EVELYN COHEN • 06-410 DELAIRE LANDING ROAD • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19114
TEL. (215) 632-3992 • FAX (215) 632-8319

8AFHS MEETS AT ARLINGTON, VA SEPT 27-OCT 2

Detailed information will follow in a later edition

PURPLE HEART BOUGHT ON E-BAY

Robert S. Martyr is a Brit living in Essex and is a serious student of the 8AF's involvement in WWII. He was appalled to find a Purple Heart listed for sale on E-bay and purchased it in partnership with an American friend.

The two are determined that a medal of such importance not be traded again. They intend to present it to the Second Air Division Memorial Society's Memorial Library at Norwich.

Mr. Martyr has been in touch with Ben Jones, 392BGMA second generation Board member. They have determined that the medal was awarded to S/Sgt Albert Hoover, a member of the 576th's Filkel crew. The entire crew was killed on Aug. 5, 1944 when the a/c crashed near Gressenhall, not far from Wendling.

According to Bob Vickers' book, "Remembrance of the Missing", Lt. Filkel's crew and aircraft were scheduled as the lead plane of the lead block of the 392nd on this mission to Brunswick. For reasons never known, on climb out to the assembly area in foggy weather the ship crashed at 0900 hours, killing all aboard.

Plans are being made for an adequate presentation to the Library, which is scheduled for some time after May 1. Ben Jones hopes that a Crusader can be a part of the presentation ceremony. Any Crusader who will be in the vicinity of Norwich about that time and who would be willing to participate please get in touch with the Editor or Ben Jones.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

First American Air Headquarters in Europe during WWII established- Feb. 22, 1942.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

600 heavy bombers dropped 1,600 tons of bombs in first major attack on Berlin- Mar. 6, 1944.

40% of all people at a party snoop in the hosts' medicine cabinet.

IT'S TIME TO SEND IN DUES FOR 2005

The Board of Directors, faced with declining membership, increased the dues in 2003 by a modest \$3, to \$15. They remain the same for 2005. Also, if you feel that you are in a position to help the Treasury with an extra donation, there is a 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. Your dues status can be found right after your name on the mailing list. If the number is 05 or higher, you're current. LM means Life Member, and Frnd means that you are our guest.

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 now!

Name _____ Ground [] Air [] Sqdn _____ Assoc []

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

	LIFE MEMBERSHIP	DONATION
Dues for 2005, \$15	Age 61-65 \$120 []	
	Age 66-70 \$96 []	\$ _____
Hardship Waiver []	Age 71 and over \$78 []	

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

PX ITEMS

Anthology, "20 th Century Crusaders.(Hard cover book)	\$36.50 postpaid	\$ _____
Anthology, "20 th Century Crusaders (CD)	\$15.00 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 , Reduced to	\$18.00 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, \$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,	\$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, 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. \$21.95 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. No cost figures furnished.

Book, "Don't Call Me A Hero", by Jim McGregor, pilot, 579th.

Order from Publisher, Willeo Publishing, 702 Foxborough Sq. W, Brentwood, TN 37027. \$19.95 postpaid.

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

GOT A PIECE OF FLAK? GEORGE MICHEL NEEDS IT

George was the radio operator on the Robertson crew in the 576th. On July 11, 1944 on a mission to Munich they encountered enough flak damage to keep them from returning to base, so they headed for Switzerland. They landed on a Swiss glider field, just over the border and safety.

In January 1945, he and four others escaped internment in a wild and wooly ride across Lake Geneva in an open boat, covered with ice. They made their way through France and back to England with the help of the French underground and the U. S. Carpet-baggers, a cloak-and-dagger outfit organized for such work.

Nowadays George gives lectures to school children. He tells them about the flak bursts and their effect on aircraft, but an actual piece of flak that they could see and touch would greatly enhance his presentation.

So, if you have a souvenir piece of flak that you can bear to give up for a good cause, send it to George at W180 S8510 Manor Drive, Apt. 103, Muskego, WI 53150-7313.

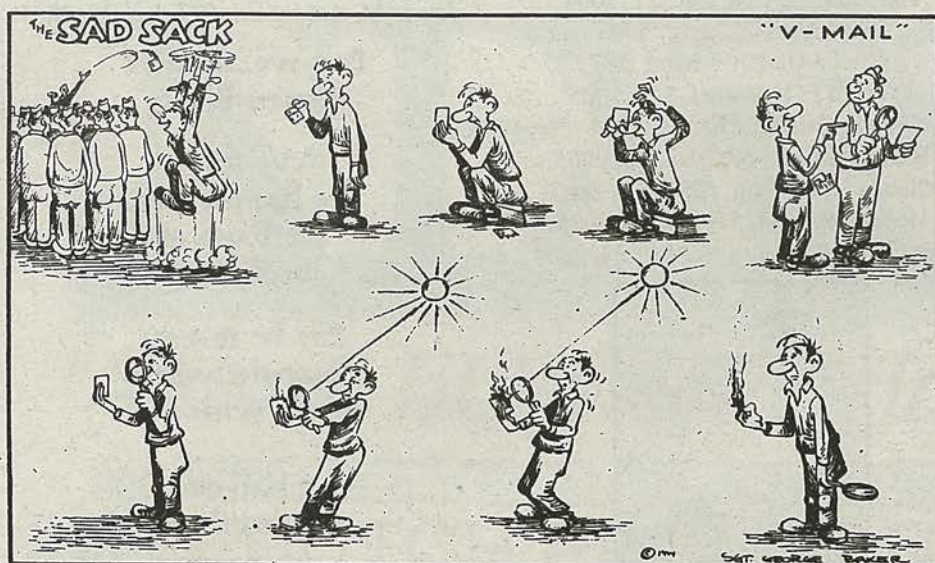
And tell him how you came by it. The school kids will be interested.

COMING IN THE MAY EDITION OF THE 392BG NEWS

Readers will be treated to more stories by our scholarly 2nd generation member, Annette Tison. She will report on the re-enactment in Holland on Feb. 22, 2005 of the crash of the Lt J. R. Walker's crew.

Annette will also tell of the crash of Lt Denver Walker's crew on Dec. 29, 1944. She has obtained the testimony of a man whose father witnessed the crash.

Also coming will be the story of the haunting song "Lili Marlene", the song originating with the German army in Africa and later adopted by British troops.



Courtesy the late Capt Charles Taylor, 576/78 Ass't Eng. Officer

DON'T FALL FOR THIS PHONE SCAM

Bruce Sooy, 578th pilot, often fills the editor's computer screen with e-mail. Here's something forwarded from him that could be of value to you.

I received a phone call one evening from an individual identifying himself as an AT&T technician who was conducting a test on telephone lines. He stated that to complete the test I should touch 9, 0, and #, and then hang up.

Luckily, I was suspicious and refused. Upon contacting the telephone company, I was informed that by pushing 9,0,#, you give the

requesting individual full access to your telephone line, which enables them to place long distance calls billed to your home phone number.

I was further informed that this scam has been originating from many local jails and prisons.

* * * *

AIR ANNIVERSARY

8TH and 15TH AF began six day strikes against Germany- Feb. 20, 1944.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

P-47 "Thunderbolts" attack Berchtesgaden, Germany for the first time- Feb. 21, 1945.

392ND SECOND GENERATION CAN SUPPLY YOU WITH THESE ITEMS

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5" circular leather patch, as used on A-2 jackets. Cost \$20 plus shipping and handling from Ben Jones, 15115 Jones Beach Rd., Kent NY 14477-9780

COASTER



4", hand painted and gold plated. Cost \$23, pp. Order from Bob Books, 1432 Little Creek Dr., Pensacola, FL 32506

Sorry, sold out of Challenge Coins.

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.

NEWS



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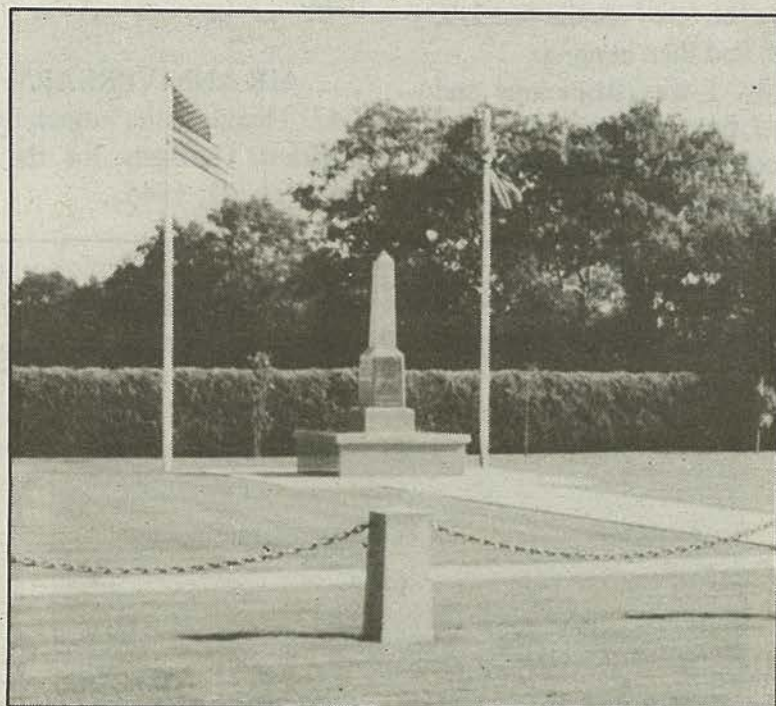
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THE 392nd MEMORIAL AT WENDLING

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.

Folded Wings

Joe Micksch, 578, Dec. 21, 2004
Helen Milrod, Jan. 2, 2005
wife of Murray Milrod, 577
Howard F. Haywood, 579, 2005
John Griffith, Oct. 21, 2004
Burrell Ellison, 576, Jan. 24, 2005
Claude H. Bolding, 578, Oct., 2003
Henry Reinbold, 579, Jan. 9, 2005
John R. Gallagher, 579, Nov. 24, 2004



Stephen Koroluck, Dec. 7, 2002
Stephen A. Wozniak, 577, Feb. 15, 2005
James M. Ackerman, 577, Jan. 17, 2005

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

392nd Bomb Group Memorial Ass'n NEWS
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Frankfort, IN 46041

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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.

392ND'S WEB SITE OUT PERFORMS ITS PEERS

Bob Books, the 392nd's webmaster, reports a record number of visits to the [www.b24.net](http://b24.net) website in January: 19,689.

"Compared to most other bomber Groups than run a couple of thousand visits each month, we certainly are the premier WWII site on the net. Thanks to all the researchers listed at <http://b24.net> resrchrs/index.htm who made this possible," he said.

Mel Blanc was the voice of Bugs Bunny. Mel was allergic to carrots.