



## GOING HOME

In the spring of 1945, every 392nd airman began to wonder when he would go home. Much had to be done, though, before the long trip west could occur.

### Reorganization

The “end” began on 14 Apr 1945. At midnight, the 10th Station Complement Sqdn, 465th Sub Depot, 1825th Ordnance Co., 264th Medical Dispensary, 208th Finance Section, 1217th Quartermaster Co., 1287th Military Police Co., and 2101st Engineer Fire Fighting Platoon were disbanded. Their personnel and functions were transferred to the new 403rd Air Service Group. Its component units were the Headquarters and Base Services Sqdn, the 653rd Air Materiel Sqdn, and the 829th Air Engineering Sqdn.

The affected men wasted little time being nostalgic. 465th Sub Depot Adjutant 1/Lt George L. Griffith noted in the unit history, “As this final chapter is written, there is much administrative work being done in connection with the disbanding of the 465th Sub Depot. [It] is going out the way it came in—busier than hell.”

The war against Japan was far from over; all supplies and equipment had to be packed for shipment to the US or to a depot in England that would consolidate, pack, and ship them where needed. 1/Lt Charles E. Dye, Station Ammunition Officer, wrote in his memoir about how busy the 1825th Ordnance Co. was. “All of the bombs, fuses, fins and other ammunition had to be inspected and packed for ocean shipping to the Pacific. This was tedious work as we dared not get careless. We had lived through the war so we did not want to get killed packing up for shipment.”

Meanwhile, crew chiefs and mechanics worked feverishly to get the planes in shape for their return trips to the US. Interest was heightened by the so-called “Black Widow flights.” On 4 May, 577th Sqdn CO Maj Harley Sather and 53 passengers made a 10-hour test hop in a B-24. Two days later, Maj Myron Keilman, 579th Sqdn CO, flew 10 hours with 45 men, each with 65 pounds of luggage.

In April, according to the Group's history, “All of the Squadrons have been scheduled for dental checkups which of course is sufficient ground for various and sundry stories as to when and where we are going from here.”

On 7 May 1945, a schedule was published for all personnel to see the War Department documentary *Two Down and One to Go*. Per the memo, “Attendance at the showing of this film will take precedence over all

other activities.” In the propaganda movie, Army Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall details why the Axis powers of Italy and Germany (the “two down”) had to be defeated before the US could concentrate totally on Japan. The movie reminded military personnel that while the European front had been won, the war in the Pacific (the “one to go”) was still being fought. The film can be seen at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6VPAjDhRK-4>.

### V-E Day Celebration

Per the Group's history, “The 8th of May, V-E day, was the occasion for a big celebration. A large bonfire was built near flying control, many flares were shot off and it had all the appearance of a big 4th of July celebration back home. Later in the evening the Red Cross had a celebration with refreshments and entertainment and all in all the men had a good time.”

Led by Capt Leroy MacTavish, 578th Communications Officer, the 392nd BG sent a contingent to march in the V-E Day parade in Kings Lynn on 13 May.

The May payday was in American money, which everyone took as a sign that departure was imminent.

### Warning Order

“On the 15th of May at approximately 1600 hours,” the Group's history says, “the atmosphere of the Base changed from one of lethargy to tremendous excitement because ... at that time we received our first warning order that we should be ready to move out by the 7th of June. At 1645 [hours] a meeting was held by Col Lorin Johnson of all Squadron Commanders and Group Staff at which time plans were made for a speedy movement. The entire training program which had been scheduled to start the next day was cancelled except for an intensive flying program which must be completed by the 20th of May.”

See GOING HOME on page 6

## 2011 REUNION

The 392nd's Executive Committee has voted that our 2011 reunion will be with the 8th Air Force Historical Society in St. Louis from 11-16 October. Complete details and forms are on pages 8 through 11 and at [www.b24.net/reunion/](http://www.b24.net/reunion/). The best hospitality suite will be allocated to the Group with the largest attendance, SO PLEASE REGISTER FOR THE REUNION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



## 392nd BGMA Officers

*President*

Jim Goar

1555 N. Main St., #106

Frankfort, IN 46061

goar@accs.net

(765) 652-0941



*Vice-President*

Bob Books

books@b24.net



*Chairman, 392nd BG Memorial*

Carroll W. Cheek



*Secretary*

Annette Tison



*Treasurer*

Bill McCutcheon

20620 Milton Ct.

Brookfield, WI 53045

billm@b24.net

(262) 784-5606



*Editors*

Annette Tison

9107 Wood Pointe Way

Fairfax Station, VA 22039

dtison5401@aol.com

(703) 690-8540

Jim Goar

## FROM THE EDITOR

**2nd Air Division Memorial Trust.** In the spring of 1945, members of the 2AD began planning a memorial in East Anglia to their fallen comrades. In its fund-raising pamphlet, the 2AD Memorial Committee gave the criteria for a suitable memorial. It "must be a spiritually living thing [where their] spirit of youth, hope, and desire for a world of decency, freedom, and peace must live on... This Memorial must be a haven wherein the flame of their principles must burn brightly and eternally..." After all, "when the airfields are plowed up, and all vestiges of the chaos of war have disappeared in time, this [Memorial] will remain a perpetual tribute to their memory—to their faith in an ideal."

The pamphlet suggested that the Memorial be part of the proposed new library building in Norwich. Its Entrance Hall and two rooms would tell the story of the 2AD "with the names of our comrades and records of the organizations."

On 28 Mar 1945, 1/Lt James F. Gough Jr., Asst Station Quartermaster Officer, was appointed as the 392nd's Memorial Fund Officer. All donations were due to him in three weeks. A report dated 29 Apr 1945 by LtCol Ion S. Walker, Executive Officer of the 467th BG and Treasurer of the 2AD Memorial Fund, shows that the 392nd had donated £1,604 and exceeded its assigned quota.

By the time the 2AD departed England, they had raised £20,916 (then worth about \$83,664) for their Memorial.

It was ultimately decided that the 2AD Memorial would take the form of one room in the Library which would house the 2AD's Roll of Honor and serve as a reference/reading room with material detailing the accomplishments of the 2AD.

It took longer than expected, but the 2AD Memorial Room was dedicated on 13 Jun 1963. Fire destroyed the entire library on 1 Aug 1994. The 2AD again raised funds, this time about £59,000. The new library and 2AD Memorial Room (with almost double the space) were dedicated on 7 Nov 2001.

Oak Mackey, our Chairman for the 2ADA, notes that "the 'extensive guidelines' for a suitable Memorial have been met in every regard.... Board of Governors Chairman Matthew Martin in his report to the 2010 2ADA Convention in New Orleans stated the balance in the Memorial Trust is now \$3,300,000, due to prudent investments of the original donations by soldiers of the Second Air Division in 1945, plus other donations since then." The Room is indeed a "living memorial" to those who served the Second Air Division so well and sacrificed so much.

**Gotha article.** 578th pilot Lou Stephens sent this email about the Gotha mission. "There was a lot going on and I surely saw only a part of it. It was busy. I remember wondering where all the German planes came from. [It] was impossible to keep up with comments from the gunners concerning what they saw and were shooting at. I

saw some planes being hit but flying formation does not permit the opportunity to see the entire show .... It was some time later that I realized the size of the German attack .... Did not look forward to flying the mission to Furth the very next day."

**Machine Gun Accidents.** The last issue included an article about a runaway machine gun on 2 Mar 1945. The diary of gunner S/Sgt Ira Greenwood on the Niederitter crew tells of another incident. Our "first combat mission was flown on May 23, 1944, in the B-24 Carol Ann #41-29448. On the way to Europe, all B-24 gunners were instructed to clear their .50 caliber machine guns. A gunner in a plane ahead of the Carol Ann hit the #3 engine and wing spar of the Carol Ann. The crew finished the mission but the Carol Ann went into maintenance to have the propeller and the wing replaced."

**Memorial Day.** From 392nd BGMA President Jim Goar: "To you who lost fathers, uncles, and other close friends and relatives, Memorial Day is greatly more than just a national holiday. I join with you in remembering them. I also have a private list of comrades who were KIA and those who were close to us in the Association who are now on God's morning report. And I like to think of that lingering group of Crusaders who are still with us. As Tiny Tim said, 'God bless us, every one.'"

**392nd BG Polo Shirt.** 576th radio operator George Michel recently bought one of the new white 392nd BG short-sleeved polo shirts. He "can't wait till my buddies see it at the June meeting of the Wisconsin chapter of the 8th AFHS! No doubt that I'm sold on the shirt...it is a definite winner." Cost is \$30, which includes postage in the US. Send a check payable to "Bob Books" to Bob Books, 1432 Little Creek Dr., Pensacola, FL 32506. Or, order on-line at [www.b24.net/shirt](http://www.b24.net/shirt). Perfect to wear at the reunion!



# President's Message



It's St. Louis for the 392nd's annual reunion. We will be joining the 8AF Historical Society there Oct. 11-16. The decision was made by the executive committee with hearty endorsement from the Board of Directors. We'll have the usual hospitality room, where we will be joined by members of the 2AD Association's Heritage League. Please make your plans

now, and if there are any Crusaders out there who have never attended a reunion, pack your barracks bag and come along. You may not find a former buddy, but you will meet kindred souls. The hospitality room will be loaded with pictures, mission records, and other memorabilia of our stay in England.

Complete details are in this issue of the 392BGMA News and in the June 8AF News. The reunion hotel and registration information can also be found at <http://www.b24.net/reunion/>.

We've received news from the IRS that we're safely on track for our change to a 501(c)(3) organization, which will reflect our membership composed of both veterans and 2nd generation and other interested members. This will also protect our non-profit status with the IRS.

Great credit for the above is due to the relentless efforts of Vice-President Bob Books, ably assisted by Secretary Annette Tison and Treasurer Bill McCutcheon. Dealing with the Feds in this matter took ability and patience.

Crusaders owe immense appreciation to these 2nd generation members who have so ably stepped into management positions with us. You'd think that they joined us at Tucson in 1942 when we were forming up.

We've also heard from a Veterans Administration publication called VA Home Loans that they have selected our [www.b24.net](http://www.b24.net) to receive their Patriotic Website Award. Again we thank Bob Books as webmaster and Annette Tison as correspondent for the success of our website.

In last issue's President's Message, we quoted a pilot who has time in both the B-24 and the B-17, and he favored the B-24 over the B-17. We asked for comments from our readers, and received two:

From Ray Johnson, a 576th pilot. He said that he was proud to be a B-24 pilot; that it carried him and his crew on 35 missions through heavy flak. He was the only one injured with a piece of plexiglass in his skull.

From John A. Chelenyak, a flight engineer in the 576th. He recited that his crew experienced a crash landing in Belgium due to a fuel shortage. The landing was wheels up and the plane ended up in one piece with no one injured. Chelenyak says that this happy circumstance was attributable not only to the integrity of the a/c but also to the skill of the pilot, Roger M. Brandt.

Last month I had occasion to ask Sgt Harold Bandelier, the colonel's driver, for help in identifying a picture (see page 4). "Bandy" was able to help, and in a letter from his home in Florida, reported that he and wife Marcella were

"putting up the golden years" at 92 and 89 respectively. A retired contractor, he still does wood turning. He noted that he recently bought new carbide tools; how's that for 92. As far as I know, Bandy might be the last man standing in Group Headquarters.

Tom and Jill Scott, Trustees for the Wendling Memorial, made their annual pilgrimage to the Cambridge American Cemetery Memorial Day to lay a wreath on behalf of the 392nd. In an e-mail to us, Jill mentioned that the sun shone at times on a warm, dry day. She further said that East Anglia is very short of rain. Being farmers, they are acutely aware of this. She said they would be grateful for any rain that we could send them.

M/Sgt Allen Holtman, USAF (Ret), lives in a suburb of St. Louis. Each Memorial Day he decorates the graves of Crusaders at the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. He reports that he is catching up with us WWII types in the memory loss department, but he thinks that he located most of them. He was interviewed at the cemetery by St. Louis television station KMOV and thus told the 392nd story to the St. Louis viewing area.

The whole world was captivated by the marriage of William and Catherine last April. Thanks to the ample TV coverage, I was happy to join the Brits in their celebration.

Blue Skies,  
Jim Goar

## 578th Tail Gunner Interred

The remains of 578th Sqdn tail gunner S/Sgt Ralph McDonald, killed on 29 Apr 1944 while flying his second mission, were interred on 25 Mar 2011 in a small Alabama cemetery. He is the third member of 2/Lt Robert R. Bishop's crew to be identified and buried in recent months.

Ralph was adopted as an infant; a search for friends and family by Rhonda Bailey Baldwin, a local historian, turned up only one person who actually knew him. The closest blood relative found—a cousin of his real father—had never heard of him.

However, due to extensive publicity in local newspapers about his interment, thousands of people now know about S/Sgt McDonald's service to our country. Three hundred grateful Americans paid their respects at the funeral home in Benefield, Alabama, and more than a hundred went to the cemetery.

An Army escort accompanied McDonald's remains from the identification laboratory in Hawaii to the funeral home; Army servicemen from Ft Rucker provided military honors while the Randolph County American Legion Post served as honorary pallbearers. Members of the Patriot Guard carried American flags at the funeral home and provided a motorcycle escort to Potash Church of God Cemetery. Two military T-6 training planes flew over the cemetery, providing the same engine drone that McDonald heard throughout his too-short military service. The sound of "Taps" via bugle and "Amazing Grace" by bagpiper Chad Nixon filled the air.

S/Sgt Ralph McDonald is now buried next to his adoptive mother. After 67 years in Germany, he is finally home.

# WAR BRIDES

During WWII, about 100,000 British women married American GIs. 392nd BG records document the marriages of at least 18 Crusaders while stationed in England; there were undoubtedly more. Here is information about a few of those weddings.

## T/Sgt Michael McBride and Capt Evelyn L. Libby

Michael McBride and Evelyn Libby met in 1933 when she was a nurse in New York City. When war broke out, Libby (as everyone called her) was commissioned in the Army Nursing Corps. She arrived in England in 1942 and was assigned to the 110th Station Hospital in Netley, Hampshire.

McBride enlisted soon after in the Army Air Corps. It was only upon boarding the RMS Queen Mary that he realized

that he, too, was headed for England. He was a weapons mechanic, first in the 578th and then in Group HQ.

Being stationed less than 200 miles apart certainly helped their romance blossom. They were married on 1 Nov 1944 at the Church of Our Lady of Pity in Swaffham, Norfolk. Son Robbie says that "Throughout our childhood, the fact that she outranked him was forever a source of gentle teasing."

## S/Sgt Hortis D. Hanna and Florence Mary Edge

578th Sqdn power turret gunsight mechanic S/Sgt Hortis Hanna first noticed Beeston resident Florence Mary Edge at a dance. When 578th armorer Cpl Earl W. Eddy told Hanna that he wanted to ask her out, Hortis replied that Earl would have to beat him to her, because he was interested too.

It so happened that Florrie left the dance before either man

**See WEDDINGS on page 5**



This photo of the McBride wedding party was taken on the steps of the George Hotel in Swaffham, where the reception was held. Kneeling left to right: M/Sgt William H. Barfield, S/Sgt Herman L. Craighead, and 392nd Catholic chaplain Father Paul A. McDonough. Middle row: Capt Donald B. McCammond, bride Capt Evelyn L. Libby, groom T/Sgt Michael McBride, best man Pfc Danny O'Connor (McBride's best friend before and after the war), Capt James V. Goar, and T/Sgt Thomas J. Horn. Back row, Sgt Raymond L. Brewster, Capt Clair P. Burtner, Capt Wilbur H. Metz, bridesmaid 1/Lt Hazel Johnson, and Sgt Harold L. Bandelier. All the enlisted men except O'Connor were in 392nd Group Headquarters; he was a member of a different Group.

## 392nd BGMA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please look at the mailing label. Your membership status is shown right after your name. "10" means your membership **has expired** and you need to renew **promptly**. LM means Life Member and FRND means that you receive the News with compliments of the 392nd BGMA. Send this form and your check (payable to 392nd BGMA) to Bill McCutcheon, 20620 Milton Ct., Brookfield, WI 53045. You may also join or renew on-line at <http://www.b24.net/392nd/join.htm>.

The Board of Directors has ruled that no Crusader will be denied membership because of financial difficulty, so if you're in straitened circumstances, check the Hardship Waiver box. If you feel that you can help the 392nd BGMA treasury with a donation, there is a provision for it below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Ground [ ] Air [ ] Sqdn/Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

If a spouse, friend, or relative served in the 392nd, please give us his name and unit: \_\_\_\_\_

### Dues:

[ ] \$25/year if you wish to receive the News by postal mail OR [ ] \$20/year for receipt by email

Hardship Waiver [ ]

DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## WEDDINGS from page 4

could introduce himself. A short time later, though, Hortis—by himself this time—met Florrie in a local fish and chips shop. She was there to get a meal for her family but instead left with Hanna on their first date.

They were married 2 Sep 1944 at The Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Beeston. The Rev. G.E. Gale, who also presided at the dedication of the 392nd BG Memorial in September 1945, performed the wedding. The couple honeymooned in London.

Florrie's family loved "their" Yank. The Hannas got an apartment near Station 118. Although Hortis lived on base, the apartment was close enough that he could come by whenever he had time off.



Left to right: best man 578th Sqdn armorer Cpl Joe Rowean, bridesmaid Hilda Moy, groom S/Sgt Hortis Hanna, bride Florence Mary Edge, bridesmaid Helen Moy, and the bride's Uncle Moy.

Florrie traveled to the US in 1946. The Hannas had been married almost 56 years when Florence passed away.

*Editor's note: According to grandson Steve Pittman, Hortis stayed in the Air Force, eventually retiring as a Senior Master Sergeant. Florrie's stepfather, Walter "Dick" Hammond, owned much of the land used to create Station 118. After the war, he got his property back and stored antique cars in some of the Nissen huts.*

### S/Sgt Marvin Graham and Pat Pryce

S/Sgt Marvin Graham, 579th, was the ball turret gunner on 1/Lt Gordon L. Hammond's crew. In March 1944, he met Pat Pryce, who was on holiday in London with a girlfriend. Marvin and Pat spent the evening dancing at the Palladium; she returned home to Cardiff, Wales, the next day.

The attraction was so great, though, that Marvin began calling her almost daily from the big red telephone booth just outside the base. They created a code; if he started the conversation with "hi" it meant he had just finished a mission; a different greeting meant he hadn't flown that day.

They fell in love during those telephone calls. In April, he traveled to Cardiff and met her family.

On the morning of his 30th mission (9 May 1944), Marvin woke up with a terrible pain in his abdomen which grew worse as time passed. Luckily, the mission was scrubbed

due to bad weather and they returned after just two hours. An ambulance met the plane and took Marvin to the base hospital and from there to a general hospital. He had three operations on his appendix.

In June, he was sent to a rest home in Worcestershire to heal. Pat visited him in July, staying at a local inn. Over dinner one night, he proposed and Pat immediately accepted. They went to London and began the paperwork for Pat to eventually travel to the US. She then returned to Wales and Marvin headed to Wendling to fly his last mission.

After completing his combat tour on 25 July, Marvin asked 579th Sqdn CO Maj Myron Keilman for permission to marry. He got the okay and the wedding was planned for 17 Oct 1944.

Since his closest buddies had finished their combat tours and returned to the states, he asked T/Sgt Charles Shrader, with whom he'd flown his last mission, to be his best man. They traveled to Cardiff and stayed at Pat's brother's house. To calm their nerves, he gave them a bottle of Jack Daniels which the two polished off the night before the wedding. "It didn't faze me," Marvin remembers, "but Shrader kept swaying back and forth during the ceremony."

The newlyweds spent a week in southwest England at Torquay, then went to London to double-check that everything was in order for Pat to move to the US.

Marvin got back to America on 24 Dec 1944. After a furlough, he was ordered to Tyndall Field, FL. He did not know when (or even if) Pat was coming, due to war-time security measures. At the end of January 1945, though, he got a call from Pat! After arriving in New York City, she

had telephoned his parents who promptly drove to get her. She stayed with them until Marvin could get a furlough home.

The couple spent a week at the Hotel Lexington in New York City on a second honeymoon. Every day, Marvin says, they would go to a restaurant. Pat would eat a grapefruit and then walk across the street for ice cream. Both were treats not available in war-time England.



S/Sgt and Mrs. Graham cut their wedding cake on 17 Oct 1944.

Pat joined Marvin in Florida; they moved to Denver when he was transferred to Lowry Field. Marvin was discharged in October 1945.

Looking back, Marvin says his parents could easily have wrecked his fledgling marriage. Instead, they welcomed Pat with open arms.

Pat and Marvin had two children and their family grew to include eight great-grandchildren. They were married 57 years before Pat's death. "She became a very loyal American," Marvin says. "We were in love and happy."

See WEDDINGS on page 7

## **GOING HOME from page 1**

1/Lt Griffith, historian for the new 403rd, wrote that after the alert order was issued, "The men now worked both day and night crating and packing supplies and equipment. Hangar #1 was set up as a central place for preparing material for shipment. A space was allocated to each squadron as a work area and a power saw was placed in the center of the hangar for the use of all squadrons. A supply room was set up for the issue of redeployment materials ... By the end of the month all warehouses were cleared of all but the empty bins. Everything was packed and final paper work was prepared."

The last officers party was held on 20 May. An all-day affair, it included an afternoon tea dance as well as a dance that evening. A large enlisted men's party to celebrate V-E Day was held on the 26th.

### **By Air**

Between 25 and 28 May 1945, the four squadrons issued Operations Orders for personnel to proceed on or about 28 May "by best available air route" via Valley, Wales, to Bradley Field, Windsor Locks, CT, and then to Camp Miles Standish. In all, 72 B-24s carried over 700 combat airmen and more than 615 ground crew personnel back to the US.

Not surprisingly, most of the ground men were squadron crew chiefs and other maintenance personnel. However, cooks, truck drivers, armorers, bombsight mechanics, welders, photographers, and teletype operators also returned to the US via airplane.

Despite the Black Widow test, no plane had more than 20 crew and passengers and several carried only 15 men.

The criteria to determine who flew and who sailed is not known. 576th armorer Cpl Tom Perry remembers being told to report to Maj Edmund R. Dilworth, the Sqdn Adjutant. He was then asked if he wanted to go home by boat or by bomber. Recalling that he had gotten airsick on both B-24 flights he'd been on, Perry gave a snappy salute and said "I'd rather go home by boat, Sir." The next day his orders to fly home appeared on the Squadron bulletin board.

When he climbed into the plane for the long flight to the US, Tom took an empty ammunition box with him "just in case" but "thankfully did not need it for anything but a seat."

Tom, aboard #41-29527 piloted by 1/Lt Donald R. MacFarlane, went from Valley to Iceland, Greenland, and Bangor, ME, before finally landing at Bradley Field.

577th copilot 2/Lt Larry Bachman wasted no time getting back to the US. Aboard #42-50901, Wimpy's Queen, he flew from Valley to Iceland and, after refueling, on to Bradley Field. It took about 17 hours in the air. Larry recalls, "We had 20 men total on board, 10 crew and 10 passengers. We were allowed to take a footlocker and one duffle bag each, all of which was properly tied down in the bomb bay. When we boarded, everyone brought an extra bag and threw it on top of the stowed luggage. None of the extra pieces were secured. On takeoff, all that extra baggage shifted to the rear and we barely cleared the tree tops."

578th engineer S/Sgt Donald C. Gephard flew on #42-28662 from the UK to the Azores and Newfoundland before landing in Bradley Field. He, the pilots, radio operator, and navigator were at their usual duty stations. The rest of the crew "mingled with the passengers and themselves in the

waist section. They sat on the deck, on luggage, and stood up off and on."

Right waist gunner Sgt Charles D. Wheelwright (578th) remembers that their luggage was stowed on a plywood platform built in the bomb bay. Benches were also built and placed in the waist area. After an overnight stay in Valley, he flew to Iceland, then to Greenland. After a few hours hike around the nearby fjord, they flew to Dow AAB (outside Bangor, ME). After a three-to-five day wait, orders were cut to send each individual to the induction center nearest their home town. Wheelwright ended up in Ft Meade, MD.

Photo Lab Technician Cpl Harvey DeVoe says, "Germany signed the peace treaty on May 7, 1945 and we left England on or about May 28. There had been a rumor that we might be 'fast tracked' home, but no one expected it to be this fast." Aboard #42-95151, Monotonous Maggie, he flew first to Valley then to Iceland to refuel and then to Thule, Greenland. After an overnight stop (where he slept in a real bed), they were diverted to Grenier Field in southern New Hampshire. He made the rest of the trip home by train.

### **By Ship**

The remaining members of the 392nd BG sailed to New York City aboard RMS Queen Mary, which carried more than 14,500 GIs back home on that trip.

She proceeded up the Hudson River on 20 Jun 1945 with a Navy dirigible overhead and two official welcoming boats carrying WACS and bands. She docked at Pier 90. Both 578th airplane mechanic Cpl Francis Nashwinter and 1/Lt Dye remember that the Red Cross met them on the pier with donuts and real milk. (To adequately serve everyone on board, more than 100 Red Cross canteen aides worked three five-hour shifts at four stations.)

An article by Betty Moorsteen in the 21 Jun 1945 issue of *PM* reported that "Among the first and liveliest troops to debark were 150 members of the 392d Bomber Group, which flew 287 (sic) missions over Germany during its two years in England and received the Presidential Citation for its complete destruction of aircraft engine factories in Gotha on Feb. 24, 1943 (sic)."

### **The USA**

After their arrival, personnel were granted leave and then left to find their own way home. Gephard hitched a ride home to northern Illinois; 30 days later, he reported to Ft Sheridan, IL. After his leave, DeVoe reported to Ft Dix, NJ. After 15 days off, Wheelwright was sent to a regional staging airfield at Sioux Falls AAB in South Dakota. "When I got there," he said, "it looked like half of the 8th AF had been sent to the same place. About three to four weeks after arriving in Sioux Falls, about 1,500 of us ex-combat crew members were put on a troop train to Las Vegas AAB in Nevada. We were to go through a six-week B-29 refresher course in gunnery and then go to Japan."

Luckily, Japan surrendered before that happened.

### **English Memories**

After the GIs left Station 118, they were fondly remembered. Joan Cross recalled, "It was such a wonderful time for us kids. [The Americans] kept us in boxes of candy, ice cream, and food, and also gave us children parties. Walking to Beeston School they waved and asked 'Are you ok for

**See GOING HOME on page 7**

## GOING HOME from page 6

candy?" Very sad when they went back; it felt so empty and lonely, as they had lived on our doorstep [Site 5]. I wasn't very old, but I think I cried for days."

John Gilbert recalls that as the truck convoys took the men to the railroad station for the last time, the GIs dropped several bundles of comic books in his yard. "It was like Christmas!" he remembers.

John and three school friends spent several days sweeping out the large T2 hangar (where Maj Glenn Miller and his band performed) for use as a roller skating rink. Edor Rowland and Alice Galer became quite expert skaters!

The newer, extended part of bomb dump was below ground level. Over time, the holes filled with water. John and his school friends would often bike from Beeston across the runways to Honeypot Wood to swim there.

John found a box of .45 caliber ammunition at Site 6. He and his friends built a fire and amused themselves by throwing the ammo in the flames and running behind the buildings to wait for it to explode. John says now that "we were very silly and very lucky at the time."

The children also watched as the Litcham Fire Brigade regularly practiced rescuing a "dummy" from the top of the Control Tower.

## WEDDINGS from page 5

### Sgt Herman S. Canfield and Nora M. Norgate

Sgt Herman Canfield was the 577th Sqdn Operations Clerk. In late May 1944, his best friend, Sgt Arthur G. Brewer, went to pick up their laundry. There, in addition to neatly washed and ironed clothing, was Nora Miriam Norgate. From Norwich, she was visiting a friend who lived near Wendling.

Art immediately made plans to introduce Nora to Herman. The two hit it off. By letter to her friend's address, Herman asked Nora to meet him for a "real" date. However, thanks to D-Day, he was restricted to the base. The censor held up his letter and by the time Nora got it the date was long past; she was sure Herman thought he'd been stood up.



Sgt and Mrs. Herman S. Canfield.

The relationship might have ended before it really began, except Herman ferreted out Nora's Norwich address and enticed her to give him a second chance. Their love grew quickly, and they were married on 2 Dec 1944 at the church of St. Philip in Heigham Road in Norwich.

Nora continued to live in Norwich; when Herman could get a few days off, he'd hitch a ride or bicycle the 22 miles to see her.

In July 1945, Herman returned to the US;

Nora bid him a tearful farewell at the Norwich train station. She sailed west in February 1946 aboard a converted US hospital ship. A city girl, Nora learned to milk cows and to love the rural life she and Herman built together in Indiana.

### Sgt Ralph E. James and Anne Lee Batchelor

579th Sqdn airplane mechanic Sgt Ralph E. James met Anne Lee Batchelor on Princes Street in Edinburgh, Scotland. He and a buddy had gone there on furlough. Anne and a friend were on their way to meet their dates at a dance. The quartet walked together for a while and chatted. The girls' dates never showed up at the dance but the two GIs did, and the rest is history!

Anne was a Private in the British Army's Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), doing clerical duties. In 1944, over 200,000 British women—including Princess Elizabeth—were part of the ATS, performing over 80 different jobs.



Left to right: best man Cpl Chester Jankowski, groom Sgt Ralph E. James, bride Anne Batchelor James, and maid of honor Muriel Coulthard.

On 17 Nov 1944, Sgt James requested permission to marry. His letter stated, "I am fully aware of the provisions set forth in ETOUSA Circular 41, 17 April 1944, and letter, WD, 24 Nov 1943, file AG 291.1 (11 Sep 43) OB-S-SPGAL-M, subject: 'Overseas Marriages of Military Personnel.'" He also wrote that "Miss Batchelor is aware of the provisions set forth in the aforesaid Circular and is free to marry."

The next day, Group Protestant Chaplain Capt Donald B. Clark recommended approval. On 22 Dec, 579th Sqdn commander Maj Myron Keilman also okayed the request. He noted, "From the official records in my custody and the information available it does not appear that the applicant is married."

Finally, on 23 Dec 1944, 392nd BG Adjutant Maj John Fritsche gave Sgt James "permission to marry any date after 22 February 1945."

The wedding was held on 3 Mar 1945 at Inverleith Church in Edinburgh. 579th airplane and engine mechanic Cpl Chester Jankowski was best man. As the newlyweds left the church, they were greeted by many of Anne's uniformed ATS friends.

Mrs. James moved to London in May 1945, perhaps to be nearby as her husband prepared to depart England. He flew back to the US aboard B-24 #42-51240. Anne joined him about a year later. They settled in England in the early 1950s.

# 392nd BG / 8th Air Force Historical Society Reunion

## St. Louis, Missouri

### 11-16 October 2011

**Registration Instructions.** Complete the Registration Form on page 11, noting your event choices and personal information. For "WWII GROUP," please put "392nd BG." This information will be used for tallying totals for each group, nametags, and seating arrangements. If you prefer to sit with a different group, please give that information too. Remit by mail with check or money order payable to Armed Forces Reunions by 9 Sep 2011. You may also register and pay with credit card online at [www.afr-reg.com/8afhs](http://www.afr-reg.com/8afhs). A \$6 convenience fee will be added to online credit card reservations. Forms received after September 9 will be accepted on a space available basis only. Hotel reservations should also be made by 9 Sep 2011.

**Cancellation Policy.** For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less a \$5 per person processing fee. Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less a \$5 processing fee. Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9am until 5pm Eastern Time, excluding holidays. Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Cancelling your hotel reservation doesn't cancel your reunion activities.

#### MEALS / EVENTS CHOICES

**Choice #1, \$189.** Package includes 7 hotel functions starting with breakfast on Thursday. Tours are separate.

**Choice #2, \$134.** Package includes 5 hotel food functions starting with breakfast on Friday. Tours are separate.

**Breakfast menus:** The continental breakfasts on Thursday and Sunday include juice, breakfast breads, cereal, yogurt, fruit, coffee, and tea. The breakfast buffets on Friday and Saturday include juice, fruit, assorted breakfast breads, eggs, bacon, sausage, potatoes, coffee, and tea.

**Choice #3, Individual Events.** Friday Rendezvous Dinner at \$39 and Saturday Banquet at \$44 can be purchased separately, but are included in both packages above.

#### Tuesday, October 11

2:00pm–6:00pm Early Bird Registration open

#### Wednesday, October 12

8:00am–10:00am Reunion Registration open

9:00am Memorabilia/Gathering Room/PX open

9:00am–2:30pm CITY TOUR

1:00pm 8AFHS Board Meeting

2:00pm–6:00pm Reunion Registration Open

#### Thursday, October 13

7:00am–8:30am Continental Breakfast

8:30am–10:00am Unit Advisory, Chapter & Unit Development Meetings

9:00am–10:00am Reunion Registration open

10:30am–3:30pm KIMMSWICK HISTORIC TOUR

3:00pm–6:00pm Reunion Registration open

5:30pm–6:30pm Cash Bar Reception

6:30pm–9:00pm Dinner Buffet

#### Friday, October 14

7:00am–8:30am Full Breakfast

9:00am–10:00am Reunion Registration open

9:00am–10:30am Individual Group Meetings

10:45am–2:00pm LUNCH CRUISE

2:30pm–4:00pm Next Generation Meeting

3:00pm–6:00pm Reunion Registration Open

5:30pm–6:30pm 8AFHS Cash Bar Reception

6:30pm–9:00pm Rendezvous Dinners and 'Hangar Flying'

#### Saturday, October 15

7:00am–8:30am Full Breakfast Buffet

9:00am–10:30am General Membership Meeting

11:30am–4:00pm ST. CHARLES HISTORIC TOUR

12:00pm–5:00pm 8AFHS Board Meeting

5:00pm–5:30pm Reunion Registration open

5:30pm–6:30pm 8AFHS Cash Bar Reception

6:30pm– 8AFHS Gala Banquet

#### Sunday, October 16

7:00am–8:30am Continental Breakfast

Air Force related presentations may be added to the program as plans continue to be made. Vendors, schedules, and information are subject to change.

**TOUR OPTIONS.** Prices are listed on the registration form (page 11). Driver and guide gratuities are not included in the tour prices. Please be at the bus boarding area at least five minutes prior to the scheduled time. All tours must have a minimum of thirty people, unless otherwise stated.

**ST. LOUIS CITY TOUR, Wednesday, October 12.** Enjoy a guided tour of St. Louis. Drive through Forest Park, home of the 1904 World's Fair and stop at the Cathedral Basilica to see one of the largest collections of mosaic art. Pass by St. Louis University, Fabulous Fox Theatre, and St. Francis Xavier College Cathedral. You'll stop at Soldier's Memorial, a tribute to the men and women who lost their lives in this country's wars. From there, you'll head to Kiener Plaza, in the very heart of downtown St. Louis with a fabulous view of the Old Court House and the Gateway Arch. Enjoy lunch on your own at one of many eateries. Following lunch, continue past the waterfront and the Gateway Arch, the tallest national monument in the United States. Take in Laclede's Landing, a revitalized 19th century warehouse district

**See REUNION INFORMATION on page 9**

**REUNION INFORMATION from page 8.** with cobblestone streets and cast-iron street lamps as well as the diverse historic community of Soulard. It is one of the oldest neighborhoods in the city with homes dating from the mid- to late-1800s. Note: The Cathedral Basilica Tour will not be available in the event of a wedding or other church event. 9am board bus, 2:30pm back at hotel. \$39/Person includes bus, guide, and admission. Lunch on your own.

**KIMMSWICK HISTORIC TOUR, Thursday, October 13.** Near St. Louis, yet far away from the hustle and bustle of the big city, is the delightful village of Kimmswick. This small town located near the Mississippi River offers a chance to step back into the less hurried days of the 1800s. Enjoy lunch at the popular Blue Owl. The restaurant prepares home-cooked meals and fabulous desserts served on Old English china in a charming atmosphere. You'll be able to select an entree from six choices along with a yummy dessert. Following lunch you'll head to the home of Mabel-Ruth and her husband, the late Frederick Straub Anheuser. Enjoy the views of the 23-acre grounds from their river-front estate. See a collection of Brewery artifacts and Anheuser family heirlooms including Mrs. Anheuser's Westward Ho Crystal collection and two 1904 hand-carved World's Fair beds. Time will be allowed to browse through the many shops downtown, as well. 10:30am board bus, 3:30pm back at hotel. \$60/Person includes bus, guide, lunch, and admission.

**PADDLEWHEELER CRUISE, Friday, October 14.** Enjoy a one-hour cruise with a box lunch on Gateway Riverboats' Becky Thatcher or Tom Sawyer paddlewheelers, reminiscent of a time past when the river was the highway to the next port city. Your Captain will narrate and take you back to recapture the vibrant life on the river during the peak of the steamboat era. 10:45am board bus, 2pm back at hotel. \$48/Person includes bus, escort, cruise, and box lunch.

**RENDEZVOUS DINNERS, Friday, October 14.** Units with approximately 50 or more people in attendance will have a private room. Smaller groups will be combined with others. Think of this as your "reunion within the reunion." Dinner features Chicken Capri. 5:30pm Cash Bar Reception, 6:30pm Dinner. Cost is included in both meal packages or \$39 separately.

**ST. CHARLES HISTORIC TOUR, Saturday, October 15.** Go back in time in the beautiful town of St. Charles. Walk around the nine-block National Register Historic District, complete with brick streets, gaslights, and charming restored buildings. Browse through one-of-a-kind antique, craft, gift shops, and a variety of quaint restaurants. Consider a tour of the Old Capital building, dating back to 1821 (small admission fee). Enjoy lunch on your own in one of the many restaurants nearby. 11:30am board bus, 4pm back at hotel. \$33/Person includes bus and guide. Lunch on your own.

**8TH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL BANQUET, Saturday, October 15.** Assemble in the ballroom for the Posting of the Colors and Memorial Service. Dinner will be a choice of Cajun Tilapia or Beef Tenderloin and the usual accompaniments. After dinner, we'll proceed with the festivities. 5:30pm Cash Bar Reception, 6:30pm Banquet. Cost is included in both meal packages or \$44 separately.

#### SHERATON WESTPORT HOTEL LAKESIDE CHALET – ST LOUIS, MO

888-627-7066 314-434-5010

(Please reference the 8th Air Force Historical Society Reunion to obtain the special reunion room rate.)

The Sheraton Westport Hotel Lakeside Chalet is conveniently located at 191 Westport Plaza, St Louis, MO 63146, approximately 25 minutes from downtown. The hotel is an all-pedestrian village with many different restaurants, night clubs, comedy club, and a live playhouse. The hotel is approximately nine miles from the Lambert-St. Louis International Airport. If you are driving, call the hotel directly for accurate driving instructions. Each room features a

coffee/tea maker, iron/ironing board, hairdryer, and high speed internet access (for a fee). The Sheraton Westport Hotel is a non-smoking hotel. The hotel also offers an indoor heated pool, fitness facility and golf courses nearby. Seven handicapped-accessible rooms are subject to availability. Please request these special accommodations when making your reservations. Suites are extremely limited at this hotel,

**See REUNION on page 10**

#### FOLDED WINGS REPORT

Please report the death of a member or spouse and provide a copy of the newspaper obituary if possible.

Name of deceased \_\_\_\_\_ Unit/Sqdn \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date of death \_\_\_\_\_ Survivors \_\_\_\_\_

Reported by \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

The 392nd BGMA is engaged in a fund-raising effort to financially support our website, [www.b24.net](http://www.b24.net). It contains the history of the 392nd Bomb Group. You could make no greater tribute to your loved one than a donation for this living and ongoing memorial to the 392nd. Please send this report, hopefully with your check payable to the 392nd BGMA-Website, but send it with or without it, to: Annette Tison, 9107 Wood Pointe Way, Fairfax Station, VA 22039

## FROM THE FILES

**392nd BG history for April 1945.** During the briefing on 16 April, "we were informed that strategic targets no longer existed and that henceforth our mission will be the support of the ground forces. There have been other times when the group attacked tactical targets for short periods but this is the first time that we have been 'stood down' from strategic targets."

**392nd HQ memo, 6 Apr 1945.** "The following named officers will, on the date indicated opposite their names, take several tours around the Station to observe and report on the military courtesy of the Station personnel. Officer will carry a notebook on his tour and take the full name, rank, serial number and organization of each and every officer and enlisted man who fails to show him the proper courtesy. Officer will submit a report to the Station Commander within twenty-four (24) hours after his tour listing all offenders. This report will include suggested punishment to be given in each case."

**392nd HQ memo, Monthly Bombing Summary, 1 May 1945.** Total tons dropped in April—713.05 tons. "A very high percentage of sqdns attacking during the past month have benefitted by the visual conditions of the weather. As a whole the results of the month's bombing are thought to be excellent to very good. Over a period of the past six weeks the standing of this group is tied for second place in the division. This standing has been based on percentage of bombs within one thousand feet."

### REUNION from page 9

so meeting space will also be used for hospitality rooms.

The hotel provides complimentary parking for its guests. Check-in time is 3pm; check-out time is 12pm. Lucerne Restaurant offers a traditional American cuisine for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Lucerne Lounge is a relaxing place to meet with friends for drinks. Room service is also available.

The Sheraton Westport offers complimentary airport shuttle service to and from the Lambert-St. Louis International Airport. The shuttle runs every ½ hour, from 6:30am-11pm. The van arrives at the airport on the half hour, but there is also a courtesy phone located at the baggage claim area of the airport if needed. Space is limited on complimentary services, so you may want to make other arrangements.

The hotel offers complimentary parking for RVs. Should you need full hook-ups contact the St Louis RV Park at either 800-878-3330 or directly at 314-241-3330. They are located at 900 North Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, MO 63106, about 20 miles from the hotel. Make your reservations as soon as possible due to limited space and availability.

Should you need to rent a wheelchair for the reunion, ScootAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and week. Please call their toll free number at (888) 441-7575 for details.



-----CUT HERE AND MAIL TO THE HOTEL-----

### 8<sup>th</sup> AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY REUNION - HOTEL RESERVATION FORM REUNION DATES: OCTOBER 11-OCTOBER 16, 2011

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SHARING ROOM W/ \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TEL. NUMBER (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ STARWOOD PREFERRED GUEST # \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVAL DATE \_\_\_\_\_ APPROX. TIME \_\_\_\_\_ DEP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ # OF ROOMS NEEDED \_\_\_\_\_ # OF PEOPLE IN ROOM \_\_\_\_\_ HANDICAP ACCESS

\_\_\_\_\_ KING BED \_\_\_\_\_ 2 DOUBLE BEDS

In the event room type requested is not available, nearest room type will be assigned.

**RATE:** \$104 + tax (currently 15.175%)

**CUT OFF DATE: 09/9/11.** Late reservations will be processed based on space availability at a higher rate.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Deposit is refundable if reservation is canceled by 6:00 pm on date of arrival. Adjustments to departure date after check-in, resulting in a shortened length of stay, will result in a 50% of one night's room and tax early-departure fee unless departure is due to illness or family emergency.

All reservations must be guaranteed by credit card or first night's deposit, enclosed.

\_\_\_\_\_ AMEX \_\_\_\_\_ DINERS \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_ MASTER CARD \_\_\_\_\_ DISCOVER

CREDIT CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE (regardless of payment method) \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: SHERATON WESTPORT HOTEL \* 191 WESTPORT PLAZA \* ST LOUIS, MO 63146 \*  
FAX TO: 314-434-0140 ATTN: RESERVATIONS or  
visit the online reservation website <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/8thairforce>

# 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. You may also register online and pay by credit card at [www.afr-reg.com/8afhs](http://www.afr-reg.com/8afhs). All registration forms and payments must be received on or before September 9, 2011. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee.

**Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.**  
**322 Madison Mews**  
**Norfolk, VA 23510**  
**ATTN: 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS**

## OFFICE USE ONLY

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inputted \_\_\_\_\_ Nametag Completed \_\_\_\_\_

|                                                                                                                                               | Price Per | # of People | Total |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-------|
| <b>CUT-OFF DATE IS 9/9/11</b>                                                                                                                 |           |             |       |
| <b>REGISTRATION FEE</b>                                                                                                                       |           |             |       |
| Includes meeting expenses, Eaker Award expenses, and other reunion expenses.                                                                  | \$45      |             |       |
| Reg. Fee for children ages 8-16 attending more than 1 function & staying at hotel                                                             | \$30      |             |       |
| <b>DUES</b>                                                                                                                                   |           |             |       |
| The principal attendee must be a member of the 8AFHS to register for this reunion. If you are not a member, please pay your yearly dues here. | \$30      |             | \$    |
| <b>MEAL PACKAGES</b>                                                                                                                          |           |             |       |
| Choice #1 includes 7 hotel meals beginning with breakfast on Thursday.                                                                        |           |             |       |
| Choice #2 includes 5 hotel meals beginning with breakfast on Friday.                                                                          |           |             |       |
| Choice #1                                                                                                                                     | \$189     |             | \$    |
| Choice #2                                                                                                                                     | \$134     |             | \$    |
| <b>Please select your entrée choice(s) for the Banquet:</b>                                                                                   |           |             |       |
| Beef Tenderloin                                                                                                                               |           | #           |       |
| Cajun Tilapia                                                                                                                                 |           | #           |       |
| <b>SEPARATELY PRICED MEALS (if not purchasing a package)</b>                                                                                  |           |             |       |
| Friday: Rendezvous Dinner (Chicken Capri)                                                                                                     | \$39      |             | \$    |
| Saturday: Banquet ( <b>please select your entrée</b> )                                                                                        |           |             |       |
| Beef Tenderloin                                                                                                                               | \$44      |             | \$    |
| Cajun Tilapia                                                                                                                                 | \$44      |             | \$    |
| <b>TOURS</b>                                                                                                                                  |           |             |       |
| Wednesday: City Tour                                                                                                                          | \$39      |             | \$    |
| Thursday: Kimmswick Historic Tour                                                                                                             | \$60      |             | \$    |
| Friday: Paddlewheeler Cruise                                                                                                                  | \$48      |             | \$    |
| Saturday: St. Charles Historic Tour                                                                                                           | \$33      |             | \$    |
| Total Amount Payable to <b>Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.</b>                                                                                    |           |             | \$    |

MEMBER NAME (for nametag) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ VETERAN ☐ NEXT GEN ☐ OTHER

8AFHS MEMBER # \_\_\_\_\_ WWII GROUP (for seating purposes) \_\_\_\_\_

You must be a member of 8AFHS in order to register. If not a member, please pay your dues above.

SPOUSE/GUEST NAMES \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ NEXT GEN ☐ OTHER

PHONE # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? ☐ YES ☐ NO (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).

EMERGENCY CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_ PH. NUMBER (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Register and pay online at [www.afr-reg.com/8afhs](http://www.afr-reg.com/8afhs)**

## NEW MEMBER

We welcome new member Cpl Aubrey J. Burke, a 465th Sub Depot machinist. He provided this vignette: "The Hamilton Standard propeller hub had a tapered phosphor-bronze conical bushing, roughly 8 in. mean diameter. It would get work-hardened ridges that our issue tool bits couldn't

cope with. My wife was secretary for the plant physician at Chrysler-Detroit. I sent her a note requesting a carbide-tipped lathe tool. She prevailed upon the janitor to steal two that would fit our lathe. They duly arrived in a care package and the worn bushings again had smooth surfaces." How's that for going above and beyond the call of duty?

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by Tom Perry, 576th Sqdn Armorer

We have very recently experienced a furor of fears, panic and debates (or was it a tempest in a teapot?) with many people really not knowing what to expect, because of the prediction by Harold Camping that the Rapture would occur May 21, 2011.

This has brought several verses from The Bible to my mind concerning the fate of many, when The Rapture does occur. Here are just a few. Romans Chapter 10, verses 9 & 10: "That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto Salvation." Also, 1st John Chapter 5, verse 13: "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life."



**THE 392ND MEMORIAL  
AT WENDLING**

**But we...shall be remember'd;**



**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 Association  
9107 Wood Pointe Way  
Fairfax Station, VA 22039  
USA

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### First Class Mail

*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. — Composed by 576th pilot the Very Reverend Robert C. Martin, retired Dean of the Cathedral at Erie, Pennsylvania.*

## ∞FOLDED WINGS∞

Aubrey D. Henderson, 576, Jan. 28, 2011  
Walter Weckesser, 579, Mar. 16, 2011  
Thomas J. Jordan, 579/7, Jan. 18, 2011  
Albert C. Venier, 577, Aug. 25, 2010  
Winfield Denton Sr., 579, Oct. 13, 2010  
Thomas E. Lowrey, Assoc., Mar. 17, 2011  
Joseph G. Brandi, 577, June 20, 2010  
Hortis D. Hanna, 578, Mar. 9, 2011  
Jane Harned, wife of Bob, 578, Apr. 25, 2011