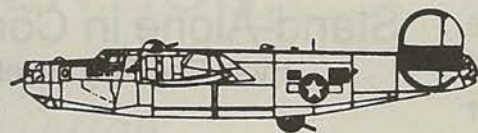


NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 18

March 2003

392nd STAND-ALONE AT CHICAGO JUNE 4-5

Editor's Note

The regular publication date for this edition is May 1. However, in order to give Crusaders enough time to respond to the April 15 deadline for signing up for the

2ADA convention at Chicago, we have done a "gitty-up". To make the publication deadline, we resorted to a 4-page edition.

AN ENGINEER'S TAKE ON THE AIRPLANE

By Jim Goar

You present and former users of the airplane, pilots and passengers alike, hear this. You might agree with it.

There's an engineering professor at Duke University who wrote a book titled "The Evolution of Useful Things". In it he quoted another

SICK CALL

Joe Whittaker, successively the 578th, Group, and 2AD Bombardier, has suffered a stroke, reports Marie. He is in a nursing home, Suite 409, 165 Virginia St., Mount Airy, NC 27030.

Mabel Cheek, wife of Carroll Check, 578th pilot, is scheduled for surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN in March.

Mary Rothrock reports that Bill Cetin, 579th Bombardier, is not doing well. He's on oxygen 24/7, at home, but with a 24 hour caregiver. Bill, along with the late Cecil "Rocky" Rothrock, was a member of the Cassell crew, one of the 579th's original crews.

engineer, a designer by the name of David Pye, who said:

"Nothing we design or make ever really works. We can always say what it ought to do, but it never does. The aircraft falls out of the sky or rams the earth full tilt and kills the people. It has to be tended like a new born babe. It drinks like a fish. Its life is measured in hours."

A BUDDING YOUNG, BOLD, PILOT

By Jim Goar

It's no wonder that Col Gilbert turned out to be a combat pilot in WWII.

In February, I was reporting to him the icy conditions prevailing in Indiana.

"Ah, yes," he said, "I remember it well. I was a teenager living in Northern Indiana, and when the roads became icy I would take the family car and drive over to the State Highway. There I would see how many 360 degree turns I could make."



"Uncle Willie!"

Bill Mauldin

Bill Mauldin, Pulitzer Prize winning WWII cartoonist who captured the life of the GI infantryman, died last month at Newport Beach, CA. He was 81.

His two characters Joe and Willie mirrored the soldiers who slogged their way through mud, cold, and bloody battles in Italy.

He died at a nursing home of complications from Alzheimer's disease, including pneumonia, said Andy Mauldin, one of his seven sons.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

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

TO BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH 2ADA

Arrangements have been made for the 392nd to have their own gathering during the first two days of the 2ADA meeting at Chicago. Crusaders have the choice of attending only the 392nd stand-alone or staying for the entire convention.

Costs and sign-up instructions will be found on the inside pages of this issue.

The deadline for sending in your reservation is April 15.

The convention will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 1909 Spring Road, Oak Brook, IL 60523.

Need further information?

Charles Dye 505 883 3107

Lawrence Gilbert 407 647 2623

John Conrad 859 266 6269

Jim Goar 765 654 4456

8 AFHS MEETING AT COLORADO SPRINGS OCT 14-19

At both the 2ADA and 8AFHS conventions, there is always a substantial 392nd representation present. Coming editions of 392BGMA NEWS and the 8AF NEWS will carry further information about the 8AFHS convention.

FOR THOSE ATTENDING ONLY THE 392ND STAND-ALONE:

If you are attending the 392nd stand-alone only, use this form and send it and your check for \$159 per person to Evelyn Cohen.

You will be billed by the hotel for your room charge at the rate of \$91 per day, double occupancy.

On account of difficulties with scheduling, no walk-ins will be permitted.

If you are not a paid-up member of 2ADA add \$20 for 2003 dues.

Deadline is April 15.

Need further information?

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PROFILE

S/Sgt Peter O'Neill was a gunner on the J. Fred Thomas crew in the 579th. They flew their first mission on May 24, 1944 and their 30th on August 1, probably a record for completing a tour in the 392nd.

In August 1945 he was a member of a special unit that took 20 new experimental A-26's to New Guinea, the Phillippines, and finally Okinawa.

O'Neill reports, "Exciting stuff! In the 392nd we flew as high as power permitted, and the A-26's flew 30-50 feet above the water, as low as prudence permitted. It was a fearless/stupid 19 year old kid's dream!

'Civilian life has been almost as exciting. Living in Europe, then 35 years in Asia, running my own businesses. Life has been an uninterrupted good time.

'Fred Thomas has done a remarkable job of keeping the crew glued together. A medal is merited.'

O'Neill lives in Macau.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

SAC, TAC, and ADC created-March 21, 1946.

392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association Stand-Alone in Conjunction with 2ADA Convention- June 4-5, 2003 Hyatt Regency Hotel, 1909 Spring Road, Oak Brook, Illinois 60523 (630) 573-1234

	Program	Costs
Wednesday, June 4	Registration Hospitality room will be open at noon Group dinner, separate from 2ADA	Dinner June 4 Breakfast and Dinner, June 5 Breakfast June 6
Thursday, June 5	392 nd Breakfast, followed by Group Meeting Hospitality room will be open all day Group Dinner, cash bar.	Hospitality Room \$159.00 per person Your room charge, \$91 per day double occupancy, will be billed to you by the hotel.
Friday, June 6	Buffet breakfast, depart	Also, if you are not a paid-up member of 2ADA, add \$20 for 2003 2ADA dues.

A deposit of \$50 per person is required with the reservation form below. The balance is due by April 15, 2003.

Parking is free. Directions map will be sent with the confirmation.

Limo service from airports: Call "My Chauffeur" at 1 800 244 6200. Make reservations prior to arrival.

From O'Hare Airport: 1 person \$20.00 + \$2.00 tax. 2 people \$16.00 + \$1.60 tax. 3 people \$14.00 + \$1.40 tax.

Pick up luggage and call the above number.

From Midway Airport: 2 person \$30.00 + \$3.00 tax. Additional passengers \$7.00 per person.

Pick up luggage and call the above number.

Reservation Form

Name _____ Spouse _____ 392nd

Address _____

Phone Number (____) _____

Single _____ Double _____ Triple _____ Quad _____ Non-smoking _____ Handicap _____ DbI/DbI _____ Queen _____ King _____

Names of 3rd or 4th person in room _____

PAYMENT ENCLOSED: Deposit (\$50.00 per person)\$ _____ 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

CHARLEY DYE SAYS THANK YOU

Charley, 392BGMA Treasurer, says:

To all who responded to our call for contributions to replenish our bank account:

"Your response has been tremendous and we appreciate every contribution from \$1 to \$500. The 392nd again answered the call and arose to the occasion. We are now

in a position to defray some expense at the Stand Alone reunion June 4-5. BE THERE!

The Fund Drive is not over. You still have time to contribute."

FOR THOSE ATTENDING BOTH THE 392ND STAND-ALONE AND THE ENTIRE 2ADA CONVENTION:

Second Air Division Association 56th Annual Convention - June 5-8, 2003

HYATT REGENCY HOTEL, 1909 SPRING ROAD, OAK BROOK, ILLINOIS 60523 • (630) 573-1234

- Program -

Wednesday, June 4 Registration
Early Bird Party
Thursday, June 5 Registration
Cocktail Party (cash bar)
Group Dinners
Friday, June 6 Buffet Breakfast
Cocktail Party (cash bar)
Buffet Dinner
Film
Saturday, June 7 Buffet Breakfast
Business Meeting
Cocktail Party (cash bar)
Banquet
Sunday, June 8 Buffet Breakfast

- Costs -

Single Room \$535.00
Double Room \$400.00 per person
Triple Room \$350.00 per person
Quad Room \$330.00 per person

The above costs include hotel for 3 nights (June 5-6-7) and all events listed. All extra nights: \$85.00 per room + 7% tax = \$90.95 per night. All extra nights and incidentals must be paid to the hotel on check out.

DEPOSIT OF \$50.00 PER PERSON REQUIRED
WITH RESERVATION FORM BELOW.

• BALANCE DUE BY APRIL 15, 2003 •

PARKING IS FREE. DIRECTIONS MAP WILL BE SENT WITH CONFIRMATION.

LIMO SERVICE from AIRPORTS: Call "MY CHAUFFEUR" at 1-800-244-6200. Make reservations prior to arrival.

From O'Hare Airport: 1 person - \$20.00 + \$2.00 tax. 2 people - \$16.00 + \$1.60 tax. 3 people - \$14.00 + \$1.40 tax. Pick up luggage and call above number.

From Midway Airport: 1 person - \$30.00 + \$3.00 tax. Additional Passengers: \$7.00 per person.

Pick up luggage and call above number.

- 56th Annual Convention Reservation Form -

Name: _____ Spouse: _____ Group: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: () _____

Single ___ Double ___ Triple ___ Quad ___ Non-Smoking ___ Handicap ___ Dbl/Dbl ___ Queen ___ King ___

Arrive: _____ Depart: _____

Names of 3rd or 4th person in room: _____

PAYMENT ENCLOSED: Deposit (\$50.00 per person) _____ 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

If you are attending the entire 2ADA convention AND ALSO the 392nd stand-alone, add \$74.50 per person for the breakfast June 5 and the hospitality room. Send the form and your check to Evelyn Cohen.

You will be billed by the hotel for the extra night, June 4, at the rate of \$91 per room, double occupancy.

Deadline is April 15.

Need further information?

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SO. CAL. 2ADA REGIONAL MEET AT LOS ALAMITOS

The 392nd was well represented among the some 200 attendees at the Los Alamitos Race Track on Feb. 22.

Blanche Keilman, widow of 579th commander Myron Keilman, was present with sons Geary and Guy. Both are pilots, carrying on the Keilman tradition. Geary flies for Northwest Airlines and Guy is a helicopter pilot.

Also present were: Willis Miller and Dorothy; Keith Roberts and Jan; J. Fred Thomas and Elva; Don Satterthwait and Ernie with daughter Karri Ladd and her husband Wayne and grandsons Carson and Bryan Ladd; and Ralph Linzmeier, Sr., with guests Ralph, Jr., and David and Mark.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

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

NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

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

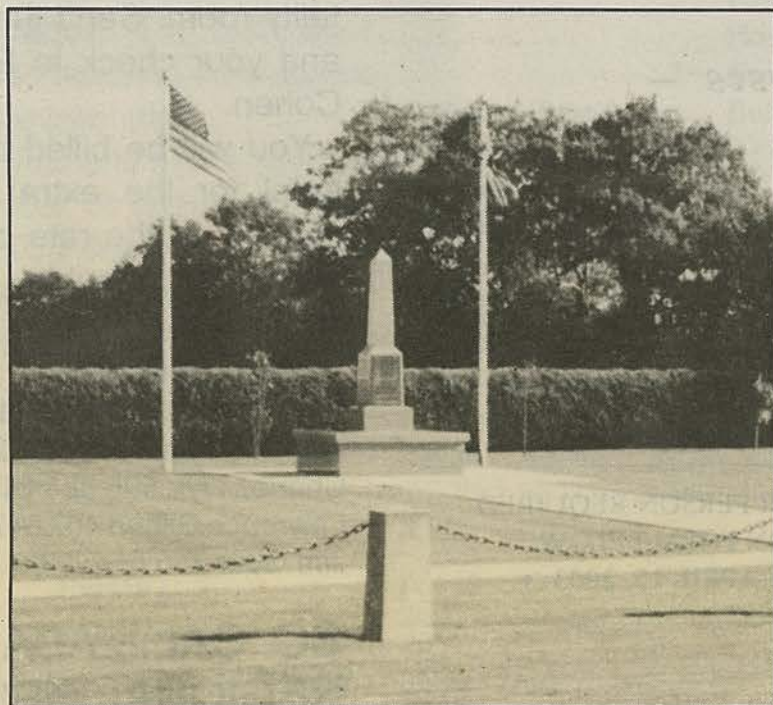
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Jim Goar
Mary Beth Barnard



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.

Is Lent user friendly? Does it in some way benefit us when we "afflict our souls", and enter into serious self-examination? Before a major battle with the Scot Presbyterian forces Oliver Cromwell sent a message. "Gentlemen, I beseech you, consider that you may be in error". That's a Lenten appeal. In these days 40 days before Easter take time to consider the purposes of God for His creation, and for

you. Let the Great Physician heal whatever wounds are there, and renew in you a living hope.

Folded Wings

Harry E. Thomas, 576, Nov. 19, 2002

George Hoffman, 576, Sept. 12, 2002

AIR ANNIVERSARY

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

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

Address Correction Requested
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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