

NEWS

Volume 23

March 2008



CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Two NEWS Mainstays Announce Retirement

by Jim Goar

Today marks a milestone in the transformation of the 392nd Bomb Group into a truly Memorial Association.

Edited since 1989 by Jim Goar, the Group's newsletter is now being produced by second generation Annette Tison.

In a letter to the membership last January, Goar cited the closing of his home-town paper's production facility, which made it impossible to produce the newsletter in the familiar newspaper format. He also quoted the Bible injunction about there being a time for all things.



Jim joined the 392nd at Alamogordo shortly before the Group left for overseas; he was a brand-new 2/Lt fresh out of OCS but with a year's experience as an NCO. He saw duty as the 578th Sqdn Supply Officer and later as Group Transportation Officer.

Goar said, "Annette is a second generation legacy member, niece of 2/Lt Douglas Franke, 579th, KIA April 29, 1944 on a Berlin raid. She's retired military (Commander, USNR). She's secretary of the 392nd's corporate entity and a member of its Board of Directors. And above all, she's smart as a whip and a bundle of energy."

Annette was characterized by one of our senior members as "being around Annette and watching her work is like waiting for the signal to fire the rocket. She is a dynamo."

We are a proud outfit. We arrived in the ETO in the summer of 1943, only the fourth B-24 Group in the theater. The

Second Air Division could put up only a little more than 100 a/c against a very determined foe.

But we persevered in spite of horrendous casualties. By the summer of 1944 ten more B-24 Groups had arrived and with them the long-range P-51 fighter. Casualties eased and soon the 8th AF achieved air superiority over the Continent, making possible the invasion on June 6, 1944.

Under Annette's direction, the NEWS will continue to report the contributions of the 392nd to Victory in Europe.

Dr. George Barger, the 392nd's Chaplain who succeeded Catholic Father McDonough and Protestant Don Clark, joins Goar in retirement. He told the NEWS that he didn't desire a long story about it, so like the rest of us, Dr. Barger stands on his record: a successful tour as a bombardier/navigator in the 577th and since May 1995 the Group's Chaplain.

Personal note from Jim Goar: Many thanks to all who called, wrote, and e-mailed their sentiments to me. It has been a heartfelt experience.

392nd WRECK FOUND IN NORTH SEA

The wreckage of B-24H #42-7477, The Drip, was recently found in the North Sea about 650 feet off the coast of Holland. It crashed on 5 Nov 1943, one of three 392nd BG planes shot down while returning from a mission to Munster.

Killed in action were pilot 1/Lt Wallace W. D'Aoust, co-pilot 2/Lt James W. Marshall, navigator 2/Lt George T. Winzenburg, bombardier 2/Lt Mart T. Etheridge, and radio operator T/Sgt Russell E. Dahlen. Gunner S/Sgt Christ D. O'Neill was badly wounded and died in a German hospital the next day. Engineer T/Sgt Thomas Anderson and

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FROM THE EDITOR



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With Jim Goar's recent resignation as chief editor of the NEWS, I thought it appropriate to give a brief history of this newsletter. The first issue, published in February 1986 under Gil Bambauer's direction, was 4 pages. The next issue had grown to 8 pages. By the third issue, the importance of the News was recognized when the masthead listed William H. Richards as Vice President-Newsletter.

Jim Goar's by-line first appeared in the May 1987 issue where he wrote member profiles.

After Bill Richards' death in June 1989, Birdie Schmidt Larrick became editor. Jim continued to write profiles but also assumed responsibility for production. In the next issue, he commented, "My word processor is old (like me) and sometimes balky (like me). But a new one is coming in a few months, and we can probably get a little better with succeeding issues." Jim was true to his word.

In the November 1989 issue, Jim and Birdie were listed as Editors. Jim's name has appeared on the masthead of every issue since. Birdie served until August 1999; Jim was then assisted by co-editors Mary Beth Barnard (Dec 1999-May 2004) and Mary Peterson (August 2004-August 2005). I've been co-editor since November 2005.

For almost 21 years, Jim Goar has written about the 392nd Bomb Group's missions, its personnel, its reunions, births and deaths. He has helped re-unite Crusaders with crewmates they hadn't seen in decades. He has published photos of people, planes, targets, and fun events previously recorded only in the participants' memories. He has helped 2nd-generation members learn about what their loved ones did in service to our country and the 392nd BG.

Jim has recorded our history. His newspaper has been the one constant shared by every member of the 392nd BGMA. I am honored to follow in his footsteps and excited about this new venture. Please let me know what you like (or don't like) about this new format and what kind of stories you want to see more (or less) of. Tell me if the type is too small for you to read.

In the meantime, I'm glad Jim isn't leaving the News altogether; his by-line will continue to appear in these pages. My first official act as Editor, then, is to acknowledge Jim's long and devoted service to the 392nd Bomb Group and to wish him and Annabelle blue skies.

www.b24.net Update. As promised in the November 2007 News, comprehensive information about the trolley missions, including the plane load lists and many photos, has now been posted. Go to the Missions section and click on the calendar for 7-13 May 1945. Several of the photos were taken by participants; most were taken by Cpl Harvey DeVoe, a Group photo technician, during his trip on 12 May 1945. He used a K-24 camera specially mounted in the nose of a

B-24 and the resulting photos are exceptionally clear.

Another new item is *The Way It Was, Reminiscences about the ARC Aeroclub at Wendling* by Birdie Schmidt Larrick. As program director of the American Red Cross Aeroclub, Birdie came in contact with just about everyone on the base. Her memoirs, supplemented by personal and archival photos, provide a picture of life at the 392nd that is not otherwise documented.

If you don't have a computer, your local library surely does. Any librarian will be happy to help you connect!

2008 Reunions. This issue has registration information for the 8th Air Force Historical Society (AFHS) reunion in Savannah, Georgia, from 3-8 August. The forms may also be downloaded at <http://www.b24.net/reunion/>. Since Savannah is home to the Mighty 8th Air Force Museum, several large Bomb and Fighter Groups who normally have stand alone reunions are expected to attend. As a result, hotel and reunion registration will fill up much earlier than usual. No transportation will be provided between hotels if you're forced to stay elsewhere. If you even *think* you will be attending, call the hotel at 1-800-285-0398 and make your reservations NOW!! The room can be cancelled up to 48 hours prior to check-in with no penalty and full refund. An important detail: The principal attendee must be a member of the 8th AFHS. The registration form has a section where you can join. The 392nd BGMA has reserved a 700 sq ft suite for Tuesday through Thursday for our 392nd get-togethers, memorabilia, beverages and snacks. As voted upon at the last reunion, the General Membership and Board of Directors meetings for the 392nd BGMA for 2008 will be held during this reunion.

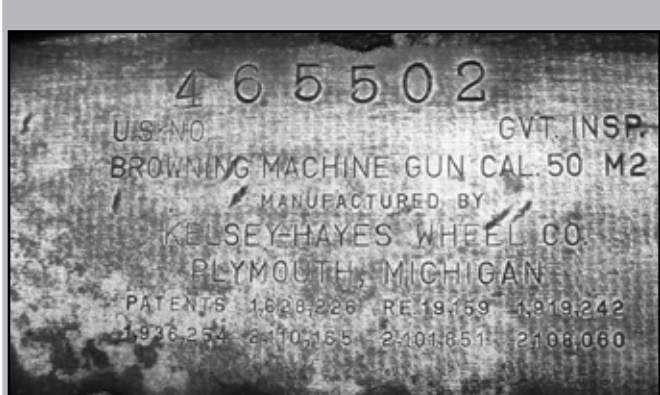
The 2nd Air Division Association reunion is scheduled for 16-19 October in Dallas, Texas. Details will be provided when they become known.

Wreck continued from page 1

gunners S/Sgt John F. Jereb, S/Sgt Ralph H. Sutton, and Sgt Alex D. Blanc became POWs.

Dutch divers Patrick Slood and Andre Ruissen found the wreckage, which was covered with sand, in about 20 feet of water. They unearthed two propellers, a machine gun, a wing, one of the bomb bays (with bombs still inside), one landing gear, and many smaller pieces. The plane was positively identified by the serial number on the machine gun.

They notified the Dutch government so that the location can be named a war grave. They also met with a representative of the US Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC). That office is tasked with recovering and identifying missing US service members. JPAC is now working with local authorities to establish a plan for further investigation and recovery at the site.



This data plate from a machine gun (above) positively identified the wreck as #42-7477, The Drip. The motor (below) was probably an electrical power generator for the a/c; the size of the wire indicates it may have been part of the main power system. (Photos from Andre Ruissen)



The Dutch Navy has started removing the bombs from the wreckage. Additional investigation of the crash site will be done this spring.

In July 1945, Sgt Blanc wrote to 2/Lt Winzenburg's parents and described what had happened. They were briefed

at 2 a.m. and took off at 9 a.m. They were in good spirits because Winzenburg had fallen out of the truck taking them to their plane.

At 12:45 p.m., the ship reached the target and was hit by an 88mm shell that exploded under the nose. One engine was lost.

Leaving the target, they were hit by another shell. With both outboard engines on fire, the a/c left the formation. When they were down to 15,000 feet, German fighters attacked.

Five men were able to bail out; the others went down with the ship. The bodies of 1/Lt D'Aoust and 2/Lt Etheridge were never recovered. Their names are listed on the Wall of the Missing at the Netherlands American Cemetery.

REUNION HOTEL INFORMATION: SAVANNAH MARRIOTT RIVERFRONT

The Savannah Marriott Riverfront is located at 100 General McIntosh Boulevard, Savannah, GA 31401. The Marriott is located on the east end of the world famous River Street, offering guests access to over 60 unique shops and restaurants. If you are driving, please call the hotel for accurate driving directions.

The Savannah Marriott Riverfront offers 391 guest rooms. Handicapped rooms are subject to availability; please request these special accommodations when making reservations. The Marriott is a non-smoking hotel. All rooms feature hairdryer, in-room coffee makers, iron and ironing board, high-speed Internet access for a fee, and in room movies. Guests can also enjoy access to the outdoor pool, fitness center, whirlpool, and gift shop. Check-in is at 4:00pm and check-out is at 11:00am.

Junior Suites (\$149/night) and Executive Suites (\$179/night) can be reserved by calling the hotel directly. These suites are oversized rooms with the bed and parlor area sharing the same room. Both types have a dining table and small sitting area.

Blue A Savannah Bistro & Bar serves American cuisine for breakfast, lunch, and dinner in a relaxing atmosphere. Atrium Bar offers guests a place to enjoy appetizers and drinks. Room service is available.

The hotel is located about 15 miles from the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport. Gray Line of Savannah provides airport shuttle service. Fees (subject to change) are now about \$17 per person one-way and \$29 per person roundtrip. Please call (800) 845-5582 for information and reservations. Parking at the hotel for registered group guest is currently \$5.00 for self-parking per day. Valet parking is available at a non-discounted rate of \$15.00 per day.

For RV hookup service, call Bellaire Woods Campground at (912) 748-4000 or Savannah South KOA at (912) 756-3396. Ask for information, reservations, and directions to determine which is the most convenient for you.

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.

Hotel continued on page 4



MARCH MADNESS AT WENDLING

Within months of arriving at Wendling, the 392nd BG began a program of inter-squadron athletics. Football, basketball, and baseball or softball were played in turn.

The basketball season was broken into two parts, with the winners of each half playing for the championship. The tone was set in early 1944 when the 465th Sub Depot team chose the name Cletracs. As unit historian 1/Lt George L. Griffith put it, "We had in mind that a cletrac will run over most obstacles." With "fast passing and a will to win," the team did not lose a game in the inaugural basketball season. In the second half of the season, the Cletracs outscored their opponents by 165 points, a sign of their dominance on the hardwood.

The Cletracs were determined to repeat as champions in 1945. They even dressed for success. 1/Lt Griffith wrote, "New green and striped cricket jerseys were bought from a sporting goods store in Norwich; khaki-colored GI shorts were shortened in the legs and a red strip put around the bottom and up the side and a leather emblem sewed on the front."

The team did not lose a game in the first half of the season, defeating teams from the Ground Officers, 1217th Quartermasters, 10th Station Complement Squadron, S-1, Medics, and the four Bomb Squadrons.

It was a different ball game in the second part of the season. Having lost earlier to the 465th by only five points, the 10th SCS team was convinced they could beat the 465th. As 10th SCS sports reporter Pfc Irving Kagan wrote in the unit history, they were out for "revenge and glory" in the second half.

1/Lt Griffith wrote that the Cletracs had their "first defeat in the ETO" at the hands of the 10th SCS, losing by 9 points. They "came back fighting mad" and won their next two games, only to lose again to the 10th by 8 points. With bragging rights on the line, the 392nd had its own version of college basketball's "March Madness."

Griffith records that "keen interest was evident by the large attendance of rooting section for the final game." In this grudge match, the Cletracs defeated their arch-rivals by seven points.

Pfc Kagan was philosophical about the championship. In the January 1945 history, he wrote that if his team didn't beat the Cletracs in basketball, "they'll challenge them to a game of darts." That sports event was not included in the history of either unit.

1/Lt Griffith was coach and business manager of the 1945 championship team, whose members were S/Sgts Thomas Dingwall, Wayne Joyce, Zigmund Kaminski, Alfred Cygnarowicz, Leonard Killough, Curtis Dragoo, Philip Zalinger, and Sgt Ray Poshadlo.

ATTENTION ALL MPs AND QUARTERMASTERS....

Upcoming articles in the News will highlight the services of Detachment "A," 1287th Military Police Co. (Avn) and the 1217th Quartermaster Co. at Wendling. If you have information, photos, or stories to share, please contact Annette Tison at the address on page 2.



Hotel continued from page 3

Please call the hotel's toll free reservations line, 1-800-285-0398, to make your reservations for the 8th Air Force Historical Society reunion from August 3-8, 2008.

Please be prepared to give the following information:

- ♦ Name & if sharing room, with whom
- ♦ Address
- ♦ Telephone number
- ♦ Arrival & departure dates and number of nights
- ♦ Number of rooms & the number of people per room
- ♦ Do you require a handicap accessible room?
- ♦ King bed or two double beds?

RATE: \$109 + state and local taxes (currently 13%) + \$1 city occupancy fee

CUTOFF DATE: 07/02/08. Reservations received after this date will be processed on space & rate availability.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Deposit is refundable if reservation is canceled 48 hours prior to date of arrival.

RESERVATION GUARANTEE: Must provide a credit card number with expiration date to reservation agent. Hotel accepts the following card types: AMEX, DINERS, VISA, MASTER CARD, CARTE BLANCHE, DISCOVER

AUGUST 3-8, 2008

ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. 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 9:00am until 5:00pm 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. Canceling your hotel reservation doesn't cancel your reunion activities.

CHOICE #1 TOTAL PACKAGE \$187. Includes 7 hotel food functions starting with breakfast on Tuesday. Tours are separate.

Breakfast menus: Continental breakfasts on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday include juice, breakfast breads, cereal, yogurt, fruit, coffee, and tea. The breakfast buffet on Thursday includes juice, assorted breakfast breads, eggs, bacon, sausage, potatoes, pancakes, coffee, and tea.

TOUR OPTIONS. Prices are listed on the registration form. Driver and Guide gratuities are not included in the tour prices.

LOW COUNTRY / ISLE OF HOPE; Monday, August 4

OLD FORT JACKSON; Monday, August 4

MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSEUM: Tuesday, August 5

Mighty Eighth continued on page 6

Mighty Eighth continued from page 5

The museum accurately displays, exhibits, and portrays the sacrifices, daily activities, and accomplishments of all segments of the "Mighty Eighth" Air Force team. With vintage aircraft, artifacts, photographs, the thrilling "Mission Experience" and personal stories—this Museum has it all! Of course, an extra special day is planned today. Special seminars, book signings, and a Memorial Service are on the schedule for all to enjoy. More information will be available at the museum. A deli sandwich - box lunch is included as well. Members of the museum should show your membership card at reunion registration for a refund of the admission fee. 10:00am board bus, 4:00pm back at hotel. Cost of \$45/Person includes bus, escort, admission, and lunch.

DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT; Tuesday, August 5

Spend the evening with your comrades and friends at the hotel. The buffet will feature two entrees along with side dishes & dessert. Mr. Joachim (Joe) Hoehne will be the after-dinner speaker. His life has been unique -- he will report on what it was like to be a teenage rocket pilot (ME-163 Komet) of the Third Reich near the end of WW II, and how he grew up in Germany during the 1930's and 40's as the son of a senior Luftwaffe Officer. Never seeing combat as a pilot because of his youth and because of an extreme shortage of rocket fuel, he obtained an engineering degree after the war and then emigrated to the United States. He became a citizen and worked as a construction engineer from the early 50's until retirement. He makes his home in Denham Springs, LA. Copies of his book, "Glory Refused," will be for sale in the PX and he will be available to autograph them after his speech. 6:00pm Cash Bar Reception, 7:00pm Dinner and Entertainment. Cost is included in Meal Package #1.

CITY TOUR; Wednesday, August 6

Savannah is a city rich in history and culture. On this tour, you will explore America's finest "living" collection of 18th and 19th century buildings in one of our nation's largest National Historic Landmark Districts. Beautiful streets and squares reveal more than 250 years of history, displayed eloquently in exquisite ironwork, ancient cobblestones, splendid mansions, and picturesque cottages. Discover Savannah's garden-like public squares, the crown jewels of General Oglethorpe's planned city. On the picturesque waterfront you will discover cobblestone-paved Factors Walk and River Street, where old cotton warehouses have been converted into shops, taverns, restaurants, and museums. This tour also includes admission into one of the historic homes or museums. Lunch and shopping will be on your own at City Market. This four-block restoration features unique retail shops, fine restaurants, and the ART Center, a community of working artists. Note: This tour is limited to a maximum of 140 people. 9:45am board bus, 2:15pm back at hotel. Cost of \$43/Person includes bus, guide, and admission. Lunch on your own.

**** OR ****

MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSEUM; Wednesday, August 6

If you weren't in town to take advantage of the big day on Tuesday or if you just need more time to explore this great facility, here's a second chance to tour the museum without the special 8th AFHS events. Free time and lunch including a sandwich, chips, cookie, and drink. 10:15am board bus, 2:15pm back at hotel. Cost of \$42/Person includes bus, escort, admission, and lunch.

RENDEZVOUS DINNERS; Wednesday, August 6

Gather in your respective banquet rooms with your individual groups for dinner featuring Chicken Marsala. Units (BGs, FGs, etc.) with about fifty 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." 6:00pm Cash Bar Reception, 7:00pm Dinner. Cost is included in both meal packages or \$39 separately.

PAULA DEEN HISTORY TOUR; Thursday, August 7

Join us for a peek into the life of famous southern cooking entrepreneur Paula Deen. Get to know Paula like Savannah knows Paula. The tour includes stops at Polk's Market, Byrd Cookie Company and a few surprises that will give you an appetite for more of the "Good Ole South" and Paula Deen! The tour takes guests through the Historic District and to Bethesda Boys Home where she and Mike were married. 1:00pm board bus, 4:00pm back at hotel. Cost of \$42/Person includes bus, guide, donations, and Paula Deen gift bag.

Norman C. Grant Symposium: KEEPING THEM FLYING; Thursday, August 7

The Symposium will feature an in-depth look at WWII 8th Air Force Ground Crews. We will also examine several branches of service that all did their part in the success of the 8th Air Force. The program will include a visual presentation, followed by a Symposium featuring several 8th Air Force WWII Ground Crew veterans!! This subject is long overdue and will be a fitting tribute to these "unsung heroes" of the Mighty Eighth!! 1:00-3:30pm at the hotel. Cost is included in your Registration Fee.

8th AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL BANQUET; Thursday, August 7

Assemble in the ballroom for the Posting of the Colors and Memorial Service. Dinner will be a choice of Sliced Strip Loin or Baked Tilapia and the usual accompaniments. After dinner, we'll proceed with the awards ceremony and guest speaker. 6:00pm Cash Bar Reception, 7:00pm Banquet. Cost is included in both meal packages or \$47 separately.

Driver and guide gratuities are not included in the tour prices.

8th 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. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at www.armedforcesreunions.com/8afhs. All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before July 2, 2008. 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.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.
PO Box 11327
Norfolk, VA 23517
ATTN: 8th AFHS

OFFICE USE ONLY

Check # _____ Date Received _____
 Inputted _____ Nametag Completed _____

CUT-OFF DATE IS 7/2/08	Price Per	# of People	Total
REGISTRATION FEE			
Includes Thursday's Symposium expenses, Eaker Award expenses, and other reunion expenses.	\$50		
Reg. Fee for children ages 10-17 attending more than 1 function & staying at hotel	\$30		
DUES			
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		\$
MEAL PACKAGES			
<i>Choice #1 includes 7 hotel meals beginning with breakfast on Tuesday.</i>			
<i>Choice #2 includes 5 hotel meals beginning with breakfast on Wednesday.</i>			
Choice #1	\$187		\$
Choice #2	\$136		\$
Please select your entrée choice(s) for the Banquet:			
Roasted Strip Loin		#	
Baked Tilapia (lightly breaded with a lemon cream sauce)		#	
SEPARATELY PRICED MEALS (if not purchasing a package)			
Wednesday: Rendezvous Dinner (chicken)	\$39		\$
Thursday: Banquet (please select your entrée)			
Roasted Strip Loin	\$47		\$
Baked Tilapia (lightly breaded with a lemon cream sauce)	\$47		\$
TOURS			
Monday: Low Country / Isle of Hope	\$53		\$
Monday: Old Fort Jackson	\$67		\$
Tuesday: 8 th AF Heritage Museum	\$45		\$
<i>Please choose one of the following two tours:</i>			
Wednesday: City Tour	\$43		\$
Wednesday: 8 th AF Heritage Museum	\$42		\$
Thursday: Paula Deen History Tour	\$42		\$
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.			\$

MEMBER NAME _____ SPOUSE NAME _____

GUEST NAMES _____

8AFHS MEMBER # _____ WWII GROUP _____

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

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 (____) ____ - _____

8th AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REUNION
AUGUST 3 – 8, 2008
MARRIOTT – SAVANNAH, GA

Sunday, August 3
2:00pm - 6:00pm **Early Bird Registration open**

Monday, August 4
8:00am - 10:00am **Reunion Registration open**
9:00am Memorabilia/Gathering Room & PX opens
10:30am - 3:30pm LOW COUNTRY / ISLE OF HOPE
1:00pm - 8AFHS Board Meeting
3:00pm - 6:00pm **Reunion Registration open**
6:00pm - 10:00pm OLD FORT JACKSON

Tuesday, August 5
7:00am - 8:30am Continental Breakfast
8:00am - 10:00am **Reunion Registration open**
8:00am - 9:30am Unit Advisory and Chapter & Unit Development Meeting
10:00am - 4:00pm MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSEUM
3:00pm - 6:00pm **Reunion Registration open**
4:30pm - 5:30pm Medical Advisory Seminar: *Pearls*, by Dr. Brown
6:00pm - 7:00pm Cash Bar Reception
7:00pm - 9:00pm Dinner & Entertainment

Wednesday, August 6
7:00am - 8:30am Continental Breakfast
8:00am - 9:30am **Reunion Registration open**
8:00am - 9:30am Individual Group Meetings
9:45am - 2:15pm CITY TOUR
10:15am - 2:15pm MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSEUM
2:30pm - 4:00pm Next Generation Meeting
4:00pm - 6:00pm 355th FG Q&A Session
3:00pm - 6:00pm **Reunion Registration open**
6:00pm - 7:00pm 8AFHS Cash Bar Reception
7:00pm - Rendezvous Dinners and 'Hangar Flying'

Thursday, August 7
7:00am - 8:30am Full Breakfast Buffet
9:00am - 11:00am General Membership Meeting
1:00pm - 4:00pm PAULA DEEN HISTORY TOUR
1:00pm - 3:30pm Norman C. Grant Symposium: KEEPING THEM FLYING
5:30pm - 6:00pm **Reunion Registration open**
6:00pm - 7:00pm 8AFHS Cash Bar Reception (consider starting earlier)
7:00pm - 8AFHS Gala Banquet

Friday, August 8
7:00am - 8:30am Continental Breakfast
9:00am - 8AFHS Annual Board Meeting

*Please plan to 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.*



**Front and back of the
Crusader coin. 1.75
inches round, hand-
painted and gold-plated.**

PX ITEM

392nd BG Commemorative Coin (shown above), \$13.00. Make check payable to Bob Books and mail to him at 1432 Little Creek Dr., Pensacola, FL 32506. Supplies are limited, so don't delay.

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 _____

[] Record a memorial contribution in my name to the 392nd BGMA. Please send a check payable to the 392nd BGMA to Jim Goar, 1555 N. Main St. #106, Frankfort, IN 46041

392ND BGMA ELECTRONIC DIRECTORY

E-MAIL

The email directory is printed in full in the first edition of the year. Only changes and additions are printed in subsequent issues.

8AF Museum, Savannah Mighty8cur@aol.com
 Anstey, Milton P. mikeanstey@earthlink.net
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 Badders, Karen L. klbadders@yahoo.com
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Peterson, Mary	407	647	7766
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Abrams, Manny	508	651	3460
Gilbert, Lawrence	407	647	7402
Goar, Jim	765	654	4457

	WEBSITE
392nd BGMA	www.b24.net
8AF Museum, Savannah	www.mighty8th.org



Mystery crew... The only man currently identified in this photo is radio operator T/Sgt Thole E. Isebrands, who is standing at the far right. He arrived at the 392nd in July 1944 as part of 1/Lt Kenneth A. Smith's crew in the 576th Sqdn. After flying with them until mid-September, he was transferred to 2/Lt Thomas A. Jones' crew and flew with them until he completed his combat tour in March 1945. If you can put names to any of the other faces in the photo, please contact Annette.

★ RE-UP FOR 2008 ★

At the 2007 annual meeting, the Board of Directors set the dues at \$20. If you feel that you are in a position to help the 392nd BGMA Treasury with a donation, there is a provision for it below. Life Members might feel that the Lord has been good to them, they have lived beyond their actuarial years, and that an extra payment is in order.

Your dues status can be found right after your name on the mailing label. If the number is 08 or higher, you're current. LM means Life Member and Frnd means that you receive the News with compliments of the 392nd BGMA.

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.

Name _____ Ground [] Air [] Unit or Sqdn _____

Assoc [] If you're joining because a relative or friend served in the 392nd, please give us his name and unit:

Address _____

Email address _____

Hardship Waiver [_____] DONATION \$ _____

Send this form and your check (payable to 392nd BGMA)
 to Bill McCutcheon, 20620 Milton Ct., Brookfield, WI 53045

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Age 61-65	\$120	[____]
Age 66-70	\$ 96	[____]
Age 71 up	\$ 78	[____]

OUTSTANDING WORK BY THE 465TH SUB DEPOT

On 20 Dec 1943, 2/Lt John B. Peyton and crew were aboard #42-7510, *El Lobo*, on a mission to Bremen. About 45 minutes before bombs away, its tail turret and starboard rudder were suddenly severed from the rest of the plane. Eyewitness S/Sgt Charles A. Piper in the Higgins crew thought the plane had been caught in a slip stream. When the a/c abruptly lost speed, it was over-run by the ship directly behind it, whose propellers cut through the back section of the plane.

Tail gunner S/Sgt Donald D. Pippitt fell to his death.

The plane finished the mission, staying in formation the whole time. Four Me-109s managed to add further damage before they were chased away by the P-47 escort.

2/Lt Peyton said, "The right rudder and elevator were completely out. One rudder and about 4 and a half feet of control surface on the left elevator remained. The trim tabs did not respond to controls, and there was a slight tendency to skid on turns. The most noticeable difference after *El Lobo* lost her tail was the way the nose went down. We had more visibility from the cockpit than we had ever had before..."



Even in the dark and fuzzy photo at top, the damage to *El Lobo* is obvious. The bottom photo (from the National Archives) clearly shows the challenges facing the men in the 465th Sub Depot as they worked to return *El Lobo* to action.

Engineer S/Sgt Orville L. Smith commented, "The Liberator is a very stable bomber. The oxygen and electrical supply, and all mechanism except the interphone worked surprisingly well. And another thing, the control cables were not jammed by the accident. It was lucky the doors into the tail section had been closed. Otherwise the suction would have probably pulled the waist gunners right out of the aircraft too."

After *El Lobo* landed, the men in the 465th Sub Depot went to work. This account of their repair work is from the unit history, written by Adjutant 1/Lt George L. Griffith:

"Ship No. 42-7510, known to the boys as *El Lobo*, was admitted to the "Engineering Hospital" on 21 December 1943. *El Lobo*'s tail section was chewed off by an unidentified friend during a mission. Old Jerry punched holes through the bomb bay doors, nose doors, left wing tip and the leading edge of the outer left wing panel. With a very small portion of right rudder remaining, *El Lobo* staggered home. By a narrow margin, she was pronounced repairable.

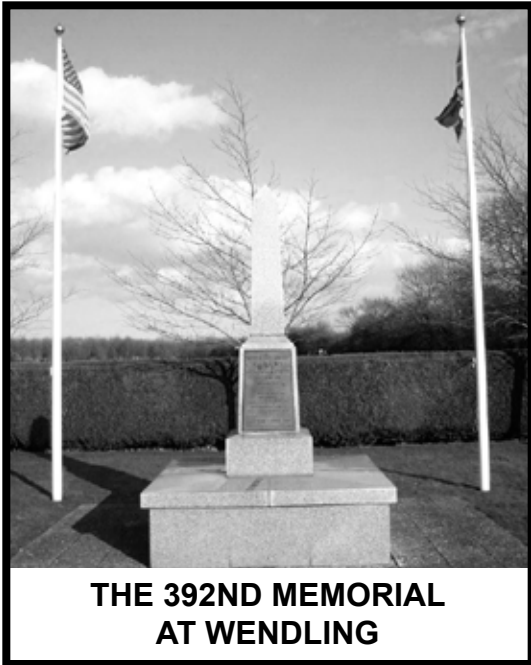
A complete tail section was salvaged from a plane, less fortunate, that had been classified as "salvage". The Sheet Metal Department was called upon to furnish personnel to temporarily perform duty as "salvage masters" in order to expedite the procurement of the needed tail section. The new tail section was cut off just forward of the horizontal stabilizers, thereby necessitating the trimming of *El Lobo*'s fuselage to meet the specifications of its new tail section. By splicing skin and stringers, Sub Depot personnel were able to attach *El Lobo*'s new tail section.

A new tail turret was obtained to be installed in the place of the one "chewed out" over Germany, and after this particular unit of work was completed, electrical and hydraulic installations were made. The "trimming" suffered by *El Lobo* was also responsible for the installation of new horizontal and vertical stabilizers. Commendable work by the Sheet Metal Shop erased all outer appearances of the best Jerry could offer.

Two weeks of work by the Sub Depot resulted in *El Lobo*'s appearance on the starting line waiting to carry another load of Allied devastation to be dropped on the Fortress of Europe."

Proof of the 465th Sub Depot's proficiency is that El Lobo flew its next mission on 21 Jan 1944 as lead ship in the 579th Sqdn. The a/c survived the Gotha mission on 24 Feb 1944 and the infamous Friedrichshafen mission on 18 Mar 1944, among many others, before being shot down on the Berlin mission of 29 April 1944.





**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 VI**

**THOUGHTS from Tom Perry
576th Sqdn Armorer**

The Lord God, creator of the Heavens and the Earth, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Father of Jesus Christ, has promised to never leave or forsake us. God has not abandoned us. We have all been comforted and upheld at times of sickness and loss of friends and loved ones. We all have had to continue on in life through times of distress, loneliness and tragedies. We are sustained when we realize that God loves each and every one of us, and we are grateful for the time He has granted us, surviving comrades, loved ones and friends who have folded their wings. We have been blessed by the renewing of old friendships and also by the making of new friends through the growth and actions of our 2nd Generation members, for which we the 1st Generation are very grateful.

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∞

Guy Carnine, 578, Dec. 2, 2007

Barney Glettler, 10SCS, Dec. 4, 2007

*Delores Aloia, wife of Al Aloia, 576
Dec. 3, 2007*

Harold E. Clark, 465SD, 1991

William H. Bowen, 579, July 3, 2007

Todd W. Devey, 576, Aug. 9, 2007

Victor J. Ferrari, 578, May 5, 2007

Clifford L. Fremstad, 578, July 26, 2004

Annelle Ross-Vickers, wife of

Bob Vickers, 578, Dec. 27, 2007

Roy Grimm, 578/9, Nov. 28, 2007

John R. Becker, 576, Jan. 7, 2008

James R. Maris, 578, Jan. 9, 2008

Edward C. Mason, 465SD, Feb. 1, 2008

Donald H. Schumaker, 576, Jan. 6, 2008

*Ruth Pennington, wife of Willard Pennington, 577,
Feb. 22, 2008*

Eino Ranta, 577, Dec. 19, 2007

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9107 Wood Pointe Way
Fairfax Station, VA 22039

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First Class Mail