



FAREWELL to JIM GOAR

Jim Goar, a 392nd BGMA member for 30 years and its President since 2008, passed away on 15 Jan 2017. He had celebrated his 97th birthday just two weeks earlier.

Representing the Association at his Celebration of Life service were Directors Ben Jones and Bill McCutcheon. A floral tribute had been sent with the message, "In memory of our Crusader and friend. You are going to be missed by the 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association."

392nd BGMA Tribute

Dressed in his crisp Air Force uniform, Ben told the mourners that he had known Jim for 30 years. Having grown up near where Jim

was stationed in WWII, he would frequently meet returning veterans and follow them around. Ben became known as "the boy on the bike."

He then spoke about Jim's military service and why he meant so much to all of us:

In December 1941, Jim left Earlham College during his junior year and volunteered for the Army. After about a year (during which he rose to the exalted rank of Staff Sergeant), his abilities were recognized and he was sent to Officer Candidate School.

As a brand-new Second Lieutenant, he was assigned to the 392nd Bomb Group at Alamogordo, New Mexico, where the Group was training for war aboard B-24 Liberator bombers. Jim was not a combat airman but rather one of the essential ground crew personnel who supported combat activities.

In August 1943, he sailed to England and was then taken by train to the small village of Wendling. There, he spent

the next two years doing his duty and making life-long friends. At first, he was a Squadron Supply Officer. Then, he recalled, "One of the early missions almost didn't get off the ground because the trucks weren't there to take crews to

their aircraft. I was appointed Group Transportation Officer and fully understood that I was to make sure it didn't happen again."

None of you will be surprised to learn that under Jim's watchful eye, the mistake was never repeated.

You will also not be surprised to learn that Jim obeyed orders to the best of his ability. He says that the senior medical officer was very concerned about

the health and well-being of the airmen. For safety reasons, therefore, Jim "sometimes had to tell men being taken to their B-24s for a combat mission that they couldn't sit on the

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Jim Goar as a new Second Lieutenant and as 392nd BGMA President.

2017 Reunion Information

Information about the reunion in New Orleans from 27 Sep-1 Oct 2017 is on page 2 plus pages 9-11. Only 180 rooms in the main hotel have been set aside for the 8AFHS, so **if you even think you might attend the reunion, make your room reservation NOW**. You can cancel the room up to 24 hours in advance of your check-in date. **It will be much easier to cancel your room if you decide you can't attend than to try and make a reservation at a later date.**



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Editor Emeritus*

Deceased

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FROM THE EDITOR

2017 Reunion in New Orleans. This reunion is not set up as past get-togethers were, so please read carefully the information on pages 9-11 and consider these points:

Only 180 rooms have been blocked off at the Hilton New Orleans Airport, reunion "headquarters." Judging by 2016 attendance in St. Louis, all these rooms will be booked very soon. While rooms have also been blocked off at an "overflow" hotel (to be named later), it will not be in walking distance of the main hotel. Shuttle service between the hotels has not yet been fully determined.

Therefore, if you have even the slightest thought of attending the 2017 reunion, please make your hotel reservation NOW. You may cancel 24 hours in advance of planned arrival, so cancelling a room later will be easier than trying to book one later.

The cost of the meal packages might be problematic for some attendees. The June 392nd BGMA newsletter will therefore include a list of restaurants near the Hilton Airport where breakfast and other meal options are available.

Only attendees confirmed at the Hilton Airport should register for a meal package, as transportation to/from the overflow hotel can't be guaranteed for the group breakfasts. Only the evening meals at the main hotel and the Gala Banquet at the World War II Museum can be purchased separately by those in the overflow hotel.

So... **1. To avoid all these logistical issues, make your reservation at the Hilton New Orleans Airport right away. 2. Contact Annette (see box at left) and let her know you've made your reservation. 3. Wait to submit your 8AFHS reunion registration form until after you've received and carefully read the 392nd BGMA News for June 2017. You can then make an informed decision about what meal plan or dinners to sign up for.**

A major attraction at the New Orleans reunion is, of course, the World War II Museum. Since it is a massive facility with much to see and do, there will only be a two-day tour option. For one price, attendees will be bused to the Museum on both 28 and 29 September; hotel departure is at 9:30am with return to the hotel at 2:30pm. The tour price of \$94 (\$66 for WWII veterans) includes bus transportation and escort both days, Museum admission both days, a box lunch both days, and one-time admission to see the film *Beyond All Boundaries* at either 11am or noon on 28 September.

The only bus transportation will be to and from the Museum at the scheduled times;

early returns are not an option. However, taxis and Uber will likely be available for those who wish to cut their visit short.

See <http://www.nationalww2museum.org/> to learn more about the Museum.

I am happy to report that our rendezvous dinner on 29 September will be in a separate room. We will not have to share a space with other Groups as we did in St. Louis in 2016.

The 392nd BGMA will have a hospitality suite so there will be many opportunities to chat with old friends, make new ones, and talk with researchers who "speak Crusader." They (and our veterans!) will be happy to answer the questions you wish you had asked your father or uncle or grandfather about what it was like to fly combat missions or repair a plane or load bombs during WWII.

McKee crew remembered. The community of Montlieu-la-Garde, France, gathered on 31 Dec 2016 to remember the nine men in 1/Lt Thomas R. McKee's crew and a civilian who were killed on that date in 1943.

The target was an airfield southeast of St. Jean d'Angely, France. McKee, 578th, was at the rear of the 445th BG's formation. Due to a navigational error, that Group bombed an airdrome about 45 miles southwest of St. Jean d'Angely. A French eyewitness said that "German fighters were attacking from every direction" during the bomb run. It is thought that 1/Lt McKee's plane was hit during this firestorm as it then blew up in the air.

Only two men were able to bail out. One was strafed and killed by enemy fighters while descending in his parachute. The other, tail gunner S/Sgt Anthony F. Malavasic, was captured.

After the ship exploded, several pieces landed near the little village of St. Vivien. A burning wing, with an engine still attached, fell on the home of Mrs. Yvonne Bourdejeau. She was badly burned and died on 20 Jan 1944.

A monument to the McKee crew, dedicated in 1947, is near where the bodies of five airmen were recovered and about 300 meters from Mrs. Bourdejeau's house.

Per French historian Bernard Ballanger, the 2016 tribute began with Mass at the chapel of St. Vivien, then moved first to Mrs. Bourdejeau's grave and then to the McKee crew monument. It ended with ceremonial wine toasts at the Montlieu-la-Garde town hall.

Bernard says that during the annual event, "We also think of the other crews that were shot down during this important mission of the 8th Air Force in the southwest as well as of the French civilians who helped these young Americans during their escapes." See page 12 for photos.

President's Message



Farewell, Jim

Vice President's Thoughts



Almost 18 years ago—in 1999 at the 8AFHS reunion in Savannah—9 of the 2nd Gens gathered to offer our support in continuing the legacy and history of the 392nd Bomb Group. It was at that meeting the 392nd BGMA board officially recognized us as a unit and made www.b24.net the official on-line representation of the organization.

Jim Goar was one of our original cheerleaders who not only encouraged us, but held the bar high for excellence in all of our endeavors. Jim was our leader and we constantly leaned on his guidance. In our opinion, he was the patriarch of the 2nd gen group. His leadership and guidance will be missed.

At the 8AFHS and 392nd BGMA reunion in October at New Orleans, the Board of Directors of the 392nd BGMA will elect a new president. No one will be able to fill Jim Goar's shoes or match up to the ability and influence he had to inspire, instruct and lead our group. But I am confident that with the great foundation that Jim laid for all of us, we will continue to be strong and move forward in preserving the heritage of our loved ones who served with the 392nd BG.

As Jim would say, Blue Skies!

Bob Books

The Yanks go back home: Great legends are growing already

By H.W. Seaman

In his 30-year involvement with the 392nd BGMA's newsletter, Jim accumulated hundreds of photos, clippings, biographical accounts and letters. He cut this article out of an unnamed and undated newspaper and then pasted it in a scrapbook.

Reprinting it seems appropriate as we say goodbye to Jim.

Information about author H.W. Seaman is scarce, except that he was from the Norfolk, England, area, spent ten years in the U.S. and Canada, and wrote for many American, Canadian and English newspapers and magazines.

Farewell, Americans.

It has been grand having you here, and I speak for a multitude when I say that we are sorry to see and hear you going back to New York and Albany, Boston and Maine, Baltimore and Ohio, Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe, and points west.

Please come again when we have finished the big job of house-cleaning that has to be done after a great war. Come and ride on our London, Midland and Scottish, our London and North-Eastern, our Great Western, and our Southern, and see how comfortably we travel in peace-time, with restaurant cars, buffet cars, cocktail cars, and a seat for every passenger.

Ride on our highways, with A.A. and R.A.C. men in smart uniforms to guide you, and garage men standing beside their rows of brightly lit petrol pumps, ready to polish your windshield and obey the order: "Fill her up."

Breakfast In Bed, Sir?

Stop at our inns and be greeted by landlords who are glad to welcome you, to ask you which room you would like, whether you want early tea and breakfast in bed, and what you will have for lunch.

Please don't go back and tell the folks that Britain is a dingy, shabby country, with untidy streets badly needing paint, and shops that have little worth buying, and that little at an outrageous price.

It is a pity you are not staying long enough to see our shop-windows looking smart, our street lights blazing, and the Neon signs, not only in Piccadilly Circus, but also on garages and roadhouses far in the country.

I don't want to paint a phoney paradise. There are a few snags even here. The Licensing laws are as nonsensical in peacetime as they are now. There are places where you can sing "Sweet Adeline," and others where anyone who starts those songs is indignantly suppressed. It is just as difficult in peacetime as it is now to quench a thirst at the thirsty hour of 3:30 p.m.

When We Were At Our Best

It is unlikely that we shall change these things, even to attract tourists, and much as we need the money. Ice water will still be scarce, and most of us, for a century or two at any rate, will go on preferring their drinks warm and their houses chilly.

You have not seen us at our best, and now perhaps you never will. We were at our very best not in peace-time,

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tailgate of the trucks because it was too dangerous.”

Another duty he often had was serving as Convoy Commander on the liberty run. This involved leading the group of trucks taking airmen to local towns for a few hours away from work, then collecting them later and bringing them back to the base. He says that once, while returning from town under blackout conditions, he got lost. Thankfully, he says, he found a wide road that he used to direct the vehicles back to base. He later learned that he had led the convoy right down the main runway. But, he got them all safely back to base!

Fast forward from WWII to 1986. Then, a group of 392nd Bomb Group veterans decided to form an association whose purpose would be to perpetuate the legacy of those who had served their country and the 392nd Bomb Group so well.

None of you will be surprised that Jim immediately said, “Count me in.”

A quarterly newsletter was created. It took less than a year for Jim, recalling his newspaper background with the Richmond, Indiana, *Palladium-Item*, to start writing articles. By November 1989, he was co-editor. His name has appeared as co-editor, editor, or editor emeritus in every newsletter since then.

For thirty years, Jim Goar has written about the 392nd Bomb Group’s missions, its personnel—especially those who were killed in action—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- and 3rd-generation members learn what their loved ones did in

service to our country and the 392nd BG. Jim has recorded our history. His newsletter has been the one constant shared by every member of the 392nd BGMA.

While many WWII veterans groups are closing down due to lack of members, you will not be surprised to learn that his organization is thriving. Jim was instrumental in bringing the second generation of the 392nd family into the fold. He embraced the idea of a Group website and the need for younger members to continue the legacy and remembrance of this greatest generation. All of the 392nd’s 2nd- and 3rd-generation members considered him their surrogate father, grandfather, or loved one who was lost during the war or who had served with the 392nd in any capacity.

We will all miss his wisdom, insight, humor, and the guidance he gave to us, both as individuals and as an organization.

Jim made the time to serve the 392nd BGMA while simultaneously managing his realty business, serving in numerous civic and church positions, and being a husband and father.

Some of you may remember that in February 2011, he was named a “Gem” by the Clinton County Historical Society. According to the Society, Gems are “Persons who serve, volunteer and generously share their time, talents and resources.” Awardees “shine brightly in the community; they fill voids, pick up the slack, and share the loads of many.” They “lead by example, often behind the scenes, creating opportunity, assisting with challenges, and making a difference in the lives of the citizenry of Clinton County.”

That’s exactly what Jim has done in a multitude of capacities his entire life!

Jim was elected President of the 392nd BGMA in
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392nd BGMA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please look at the mailing label where your membership status is shown directly after your name. **“17” or higher means your membership is current.** LM means Life Member and FRIEND means that you receive the *News* with compliments of the 392nd BGMA. Send this form and your check (payable to 392nd BGMA) to Annette Tison, 9107 Wood Pointe Way, Fairfax Station, VA 22039. 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 want to receive the *News* by postal mail OR [] \$20/year for receipt by email
Please feel free to renew for multiple years! Just let us know what your wishes are.

Hardship Waiver [] DONATION \$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

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September 2008. He then wrote a "President's Message" in the quarterly newsletters. He always ended his column with two simple words of hope often felt by everyone who served in the Army Air Corps or the United States Air Force.



392nd BGMA Directors Bill McCutcheon (left) and Ben Jones with Jim's widow Annabelle and daughter Debbie Beigh. Jim's son Bob is not in the photo.

We therefore end this tribute with those same words: Jim, Annabelle, Debbie and Bob, your friends in the 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association wish you "Blues Skies."

Obituary

Jim's obituary provides other information about his long, service-oriented life:

A 1938 graduate of Frankfort High School in Indiana, Jim attended Earlham College until December 1941, when he left school and enlisted in the armed forces. After serving as Transportation Officer with the 392nd BG, he returned to Earlham, finished his undergraduate degree in economics, and then earned an MBA at Harvard University.

Jim served the Frankfort community as a Realtor for 63 years, taking over in 1954 the business his father founded which later became Goar Associates. He was a member of the Clinton County Board of Realtors, the Indiana Board of Realtors, and the Frankfort Rotary Club, serving in various leadership capacities in those organizations, as well as the Frankfort Development Corporation. He was a member of the First Evangelical Presbyterian Church, serving as a Deacon, Trustee, and Elder. In December 2015, he was named a Sagamore of the Wabash by Governor Mike Pence for his long years of community service.

In his later years, Jim was President of the 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association and a member of the 8th Air Force Historical Society. Jim enjoyed attending reunions, catching up with old comrades and meeting new ones with whom he did not have the chance to serve. He was instrumental in the establishment of the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force in Pooler, Georgia.

Memorial contributions may be made to the 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association. Checks should be made out to 392nd BGMA, and sent to Mrs. Annette Tison, 9107 Wood Pointe Way, Fairfax Station, VA 22039.

Family Comments

Daughter Debbie Beigh is a 392nd BGMA member and
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but just four years ago, when suddenly we found ourselves alone. That was our proudest year.

All the same, Americans, you were indeed welcome, and you will be welcome again if you care to give us a look up when we have got the mess cleared.

We shall miss you sorely, and especially in this old city where I live, in the middle of your East Anglian airfields.

We are surprised when Londoners grouse about the roar of aeroplanes, for the engines of the Fortresses and Liberators were our daily and nightly music. And now for us there is a sad note in the orchestra. Your machines are going in the opposite direction. They are taking you home.

We shall miss the roar of the leave trucks, built like covered wagons, which brought thousands of you in and out of the city every day, waking the echoes from medieval walls. I doubt that any other English city saw as much of you as Norwich did.

Girls Felt Like Queens

You swarmed in our pubs, our fish and chip shops, our clubs, and our movie houses. You whistled at our girls and actually married some hundreds of them.

You learned to drink British beer, but preferred your own cigarettes, which some of us found smokable only because you were kind enough to strew them around. You tried hard to learn to ride bicycles, but never looked quite at home on them.

We learned much, too. Many a working girl learned that an invitation to the theatre entitled her also to a taxi ride, a corsage bouquet, a box of imported candy, and for her father a handful of cigars. She felt like a queen, being steered gently by the elbow, instead of having to grab the fellow's arm and hang on.

You put a lot of ideas into people's heads, and now thousands of them, the youngsters especially, are wracking their brains for ways and means to get to America and find out how much of the story is true. Is Texas really bigger than Africa? Can anybody really walk in anywhere and get a job, call the boss Joe, and then tell him to go to blazes?

It's Been Good To Know You

You have certainly placed your mark on us. Some of it will wear off, but much will remain. We shall never be quite the same again. The years of your presence were an epoch in our history, comparable with the Norse invasions.

Already the legends are growing. Old men who are children now will tell of the ten Americans who swam stark naked in the static water tank.

The truth is that there was only one, and he wore Service underpants.

Centuries hence lying historians may write of the destruction you've wrought. The truth is that the city had been well bombed before you arrived, and that your only additions to the damage were a few thousand wads of gum on the park benches and cinema seats and a few lampposts knocked over by your trucks which some old fogeys will go on calling lorries.

The youngsters will call them trucks from now on and petrol gas.

Farewell, Americans. It has been good to know you, and
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it is hard and sad to realise that you are going and that we shall not see you any more. But who says we won't?

Jim Goar's Photo Album

Mr. Seaman's article mentioned truck accidents. 392nd BG drivers had to deal with narrow roads, being on the "wrong" side, ice and fog. Because he was Group Transportation Officer, Jim's photo album has several pictures of accidents as well as other "life at Station 118" documentation.



Station Technical Officer 1/Lt Jesse J. Barnhill (left) and Station Automotive Maintenance Officer 1/Lt Walter P. Haar after a successful rabbit hunt.



A truck used to load bombs



1825th Ordnance & Supply Co. commander Capt Jack A. Teufel (left) and Group Ordnance Officer Capt Wilbur H. Metz pose in front of a thatched house somewhere in England.



Group Transportation Officer Capt Jim Goar (left) and Station Public Relations Officer 1/Lt Donald McCammond. This photo shows the muddy, cold conditions under which 392nd BG personnel worked.



The three photos above all show accidents with US vehicles



The Liberty Run loading up

Onion Bombs

This article is based on a newspaper clipping and photos in a scrapbook created by Robert E. Lane, 578th Sqdn Executive Officer. The date and name of the paper are therefore unknown, but the article was credited to "A Daily Mail Reporter."

With its close proximity to the Nazi regime, England was always on guard against sabotage. One plot had ramifications at Station 118.

The scheme was discovered by the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes (NAAFI), a British organization that provides canteens (like US cafeterias) for enlisted military personnel. Twelve "brick bombs" were found by a NAAFI official in crates of Spanish onions that were "ready to [be issued] to troops—including U.S. units." After initial discovery of the bombs in an "East Midlands town," the "alarm was sent to all depots likely to have received part of the cargo."

"Nearly all the onions were consigned in railway trucks to NAAFI centres in various parts of the country. Only a small proportion was allocated to civilian shops."

The onions had been shipped to a north-west English port and then distributed far and wide, including London and Hertfordshire.

According to the article, the bombs were found "mostly at the bottom of crates, are yellow and brick-shaped, measuring 6in. by 4in. by 4in. A hole in the brick holds the time fuse, but in some instances either the fuse has never been put in, or has fallen out."

"Pieces of a brown plasticine-like substance, resembling gelignite, have been found sticking to some of the bombs, which are filled with high explosive."

The alarm reached Wendling and the 392nd's Group

his enlisted assistant undoubtedly felt that each crate they examined could contain an explosive device.

Daughter Susannah Metz Brown says her father never specifically spoke about the Spanish onions incident, but did tell her he had to be "always vigilant" and "always worried that a bomb defusing incident might be his last on earth."

NAAFI

Per its website (<http://www.naafi.co.uk/history>), NAAFI is a "Not for Profit organisation, created and managed solely to Serve the Services. Since 1920 we have provided a wide range of services to the Armed Forces including: Retail, Food & Beverage, and Facilities Management. Today, NAAFI's sole purpose is the same as it's always been; to support the British Armed Forces, and their families, where they are deployed on the front line or posted overseas."

"Our aim is to provide 'convenience' and a 'taste of home' wherever the British Forces are serving overseas; bringing British goods, services & facilities to places where they are very much appreciated."

"Our patron is Her Majesty the Queen."

During WWII, it was "all hands to the pump as NAAFI employees rise from 8,000 to a peak of 110,000 and trading establishments from 1,350 to nearly 10,000, including 800 canteens on seagoing ships and 900 mobile canteens to support the war effort. Sales of tea rockets to 3.5 million cups per day and cigarettes to a staggering 24 million per day!"

Editor's note: Capt Metz had previously been awarded the Soldier's Medal, which can be presented to any person who, while serving in any capacity with the army, displays heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy. It is a highly respected sign of personal bravery usually indicating risk of life.

He earned the award for actions in the early morning of 5 Dec 1943, when bombs being loaded on B-24 #42-7556, Exterminator II, began to explode. More information about the incident and photos are at <http://www.b24.net/missions/MM120543.htm>.



On 11 Feb 1944, Group Ordnance Officer Capt Wilbur H. Metz (right) and an unknown enlisted man inspect crates of onions for German brick bombs.



Gen Leon W. Johnson (left) pins a medal on Capt Wilbur H. Metz.

Ordnance Officer, Capt Wilbur H. Metz, therefore inspected local crates of Spanish onions for bombs. Since the incident was not mentioned in the 392nd BG history, it is assumed no bombs were found. At the time, however, Capt Metz and

During a "Salute the Ground Man" ceremony on 15 Apr 1945, 14th Combat Wing Commander Gen Leon W. Johnson presented a medal to Capt Metz. No other details about the medal or its citation are known.

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frequently accompanied Jim to reunions. She says, "My stepmother Annabelle, my brother Bob, and I, along with our families, wish to thank everyone who sent cards, texts, Facebook posts and e-mails offering condolences on my dad's passing.

"The floral arrangement was lovely and its red, white and blue flowers were perfect for Dad.

"I particularly wish to thank Bill McCutcheon, who left Milwaukee at 9:00 PM the night before the funeral, drove several hours, supported us at the funeral, and then immediately after drove back to Milwaukee, all in 24 hours.

"I also offer my heartfelt thanks to Ben Jones, who flew from Rochester, New York, to offer the 392nd's tribute to him at the service. I'm sure the video of Ben's remarks, written by Annette Tison and Bob Books, will be shown at the reunion in October. It was a very moving tribute, delivered by a USAF Master Sergeant in dress blues.

"The 392nd BGMA was an integral part of my dad's life in his later years. As Bob and I were growing up, he never talked much about his WWII experiences, but as I developed a growing interest in WWII history as a teenager and then as a college history major, he began to share those experiences with me, as well as the many photographs in the albums that I never knew existed.

"When the 392nd BGMA was formed, he told me that he thought it vitally important that the contributions of all those who served not be lost to the passage of time; the generations who came after them needed to know what they did to keep the world safe, and not just from a few paragraphs in history texts.

"He was very proud to have brought the 2nd gens (and 3rd, and now a 4th, with the birth last November of RJ Huntley, son of Rob and Laurie Bedus Huntley) as integral members of the organization.

"He was very proud of the b24.net website and grateful for all the work involved to catalog the contributions of the air and ground crews. He devoted much time to the newsletter, spending time on the phone with veterans and their families

all over the country to glean information to share with the group. I know this because I was his proofreader for all the years that he wrote it, although it never needed much correction.

"He loved coming to reunions; it was his opportunity to meet those comrades whose service did not coincide with his (especially the air crew veterans) and to share stories and common experiences, as well as to reminisce from the perspective of years with those whose service and responsibilities coincided with his.

"I was unable to attend with him until my retirement from

school administration in 2008, and it was at that time that he felt the need to have a companion. I have come to have a deep affinity for the group and will continue to attend the reunions, as my dad's earthly representative.

"See you in New Orleans!"



Left photo: Jim and Annabelle in Savannah, 2008. Right photo: Jim and family in Nashville, 2014: clockwise from top left—Debbie Goar Beigh, Bob and Janet Goar, and Jim Goar

8th Air Force Historical Society Reunion

September 27 - October 1, 2017
New Orleans, Louisiana

Wednesday, September 27

- 1:00pm– 6:00pm Reunion Registration Open
- 1:00pm– Memorabilia/Gathering Room open throughout the reunion
- 6:00pm– 7:00pm Welcome Reception, followed by dinner on your own
- 7:00pm– 9:00pm 8AFHS Board Meeting
- 7:00pm– 392nd BGMA Hospitality Suite opens

Thursday, September 28

- 7:30am– 8:30am Continental Breakfast for Package #1 participants
- 8:00am–11:30am Reunion Registration Open
- 9:30am– 2:30pm WWII MUSEUM
- 1:00pm– 6:00pm Reunion Registration Open
- 3:00pm– 4:30pm Curator's Corner
- 6:00pm– 9:00pm Cash Bar Reception
- 7:00pm– 9:00pm Buffet Dinner with CEO of WWII Museum & WWII Historian

Friday, September 29

- 7:30am– 8:30am Full Breakfast for Meal Package participants
- 8:00am–11:30am Reunion Registration Open
- 8:00am– 9:15am **392nd BGMA Membership Meeting**
- 9:30am - 2:30pm WWII MUSEUM
- 1:00pm– 6:00pm Reunion Registration Open
- 3:00pm– 4:30pm Q & A WWII Vets
- 6:00pm– 9:00pm Cash Bar Reception
- 7:00pm– 9:00pm **392nd BGMA Rendezvous Dinner**

Saturday, September 30

- 7:30am– 8:30am Continental Breakfast for Meal
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Debbie and Jim, Detroit 2010

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Package participants

8:30am–12:00pm Reunion Registration Open
8:45am–10:15am 8AFHS General Membership Meeting
10:30am–12:30pm Researchers/Webmasters Meeting
10:30am– 3:30pm CITY TOUR
10:45am– 3:45pm PLANTATION TOUR
12:00pm– 3:30pm 8AFHS Board Meeting
4:30pm– 5:30pm Reunion Registration open
5:30pm– 6:30pm Cash Bar Reception at the hotel
6:30pm– 7:00pm Transport from hotel to WWII Museum
for Banquet
7:00pm–10:00pm Gala Dinner and Program, followed by
transportation back to hotels

Sunday, October 1

7:30am– 8:30am Full Breakfast for Meal Package
participants

Registration Instructions. Please see the information about the hotel on page 10 and make your reservations immediately. Once your hotel reservation is confirmed, proceed with the activity registration. See choices below and complete the Registration Form on page 11, noting your event choices and personal information. For “WWII Group Affiliation” put “392nd BG.”

Remit by mail with check or money order payable to Armed Forces Reunions by August 25, 2017. You can also register and pay with credit card at www.afr-reg.com/8afhs2017. A 3.5% convenience fee will be added to online credit card reservations.

Forms received after August 25 will be accepted on a space available basis only. Hotel reservations should also be made by August 25, 2017.

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 \$10 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 \$10 processing fee. Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 4:00pm 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.

Meals / Events Choices. Meal packages are intended only for those staying at the headquarters hotel, the Hilton New Orleans Airport. Please confirm your hotel reservation first, before proceeding with the activity/meal registration.

MEAL PACKAGE 1, \$232. Includes 4 breakfasts at the hotel on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and dinners on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

MEAL PACKAGE 2, \$162. Includes 3 breakfasts at the hotel on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, along with dinners on Friday and Saturday.

The continental breakfasts include juice, assorted breakfast breads, oatmeal and coffee. The breakfast buffets include juice, fruit, hard-boiled eggs, sausage biscuits, cereal/milk, and coffee/tea.

CHOICE #3, INDIVIDUAL EVENTS. Thursday's Buffet at \$51 is included in Package 1 but can be purchased separately. Friday's Rendezvous Dinner at \$40 and Saturday's Banquet at \$50 can be purchased separately as well, but are included in both packages above.

TOUR OPTIONS. Tours and trips are described below. Prices are listed on the registration form. Driver and Staff gratuities are not included in the tour prices. All trips require a minimum of 35 people. Please be at the bus boarding area five minutes prior to the departure time.

NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MUSEUM, THURSDAY & FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 & 29. Dedicated in 2000 as the National D-Day Museum and now designated by Congress as the country's official WWII Museum, this remarkable attraction illuminates the American experience during the WWII era. From the Normandy invasion to the sands of the Pacific Islands and the Home Front, you will see the courage, teamwork, and sacrifice of the men and women who won *the war that changed the world*. Explore moving personal stories and powerful interactive displays. Visit the U.S. Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center, which tells the story of our nation's unprecedented industrial capability during the war years. Explore the evolving strategy for

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. 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

REUNION from page 9

fighting across the Pacific and in Asia, and the cultural differences and tremendous range of extreme conditions that confronted our soldiers. Learn about the faltering first battles in North Africa to the bloody struggle at Germany's doorstep. The immersive galleries recreate actual battle settings and villages. Included in your ticket price is the film, *Beyond All Boundaries*, narrated by executive producer Tom Hanks. Embark on a 4D journey through the war that changed the world. *Beyond All Boundaries* features dazzling effects, CGI animation, multi-layered environments, and first-person accounts from the trenches to the Home Front. The film will be shown on Thursday at 11am and noon. Your time slot will be determined by which bus you are riding and announced that morning.

Simple box lunches including a sandwich, chips, cookie, and a bottle of water will be provided each day.

9:30am board bus, 2:30pm back at hotel

\$94/Person includes bus and escort for both days, 2-day admission, a box lunch for both days, & the film.

WWII Veterans' Price is \$66 per person which covers bus, escort, and a box lunch for both days. Admissions are complimentary for WWII Veterans.

Tour Options for Saturday, September 30. Choose only one.

CITY TOUR. Today's tour takes you into the French Quarter, where a blend of French and Spanish cultures intermingles with a modern lifestyle. Also witness the bustling seaport activities, which are such an important aspect of the city's economy. Lunch is on your own in Jax Brewery, an old landmark transformed into a modern complex of shops and eateries. Today's tour also includes a trip down historical St. Charles Avenue complete with universities, parks, old oaks, stately charm, and an operational streetcar line. Hear the stories of Hurricane Katrina and see first-hand the long-lasting effect it has had on New Orleans. Your tour of the Crescent City includes views and stories of unique above-ground cemeteries and Lake Pontchartrain as well.

10:30am board bus, 3:30pm back at hotel

\$39/Person includes bus & guide. Lunch on your own.

PLANTATION TOUR. A day learning about plantation life awaits. Hear stories and learn the history of several local plantations. Once at Oak Alley, built in 1839, experience a bygone era in one of the South's most beautiful settings. Marvel at the unbelievable view of a quarter mile long alley of twenty-eight magnificent oak trees, each over 250 years old. Perhaps the most photographed plantation ever, Oak Alley has been the setting for many motion pictures. Enjoy a Cajun buffet outside under a tent. Lunch includes a salad bar, soup, crawfish etouffee with rice, jambalaya, red beans & vegetables, rolls, dessert, coffee, tea, and water. Your guided tour will reveal the fascinating stories of the home and its history. Notes: The second floor of the house is only accessible via stairs. This tour is limited to the first 150 people registered.

10:45am board bus, 3:45pm back at hotel

\$77/Person includes bus, guide, admission, and lunch.

HILTON NEW ORLEANS AIRPORT - New Orleans, LA
901 Airline Dr.
Kenner, LA 70062
(504) 469-5000 or (800) 445-8667

The hotel is located directly across from the Louis Armstrong International Airport and just minutes from downtown New Orleans.

RESERVATION INFORMATION

Please call (504) 469-5000 and reference the 8th Air Force Historical Society or go to www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/louisiana/hilton-new-orleans-airport-MSYAHHH/index.html and use Group Code **AFH**

GROUP NAME: 8th Air Force Historical Society

DATES: September 27-October 1, 2017

RATE: \$129 + tax (currently 14.75%). Group rate will be available three days before and after the reunion dates, based on space and rate availability.

ROOM RATE DISCOUNT: In an effort to make the reunion more affordable, the Society will offset the room rate by \$10 (plus tax) each night (up to 4 nights). Rates will be confirmed at \$129, and then the \$10 discount will be adjusted at the front desk. Please confirm the final rate of \$119 at check-in.

CUT OFF DATE: August 25, 2017. Late reservations will be processed based on space availability at a higher rate.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Cancellations must be made 24 hours prior to arrival date. After this time, a charge of one night's room plus tax will be charged to credit card. An early check-out fee of \$50 will be charged if you depart the hotel prior to your original check-out date. Please advise the hotel of any changes to your dates before arriving at the hotel to ensure no extra charges occur.

OVERFLOW HOTEL: There is a strong likelihood that the Hilton Airport will sell out of rooms at the group rate. Please make your hotel reservation first, and then proceed with the activity registration form. Only those confirmed at the Hilton Airport should register for a meal package as transportation to/from the overflow hotel can't be guaranteed for the group breakfasts.

If you find the hotel has sold out, please check the following webpages for updates on overflow hotel plans: www.afr-reg.com/8afhs2017 or www.8thafhs.org/reunion/. You may also call (757) 625-6401 for more information. We strongly discourage you from making reservations at other hotels without first finding out where 8th AFHS has contracted additional rooms.

PARKING & SHUTTLE INFORMATION: The Hilton New Orleans Airport will offer reunion attendees a 50% discount off the daily parking fee which is currently \$10. The hotel offers complimentary airport shuttle service to and from the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport; operating 24 hours a day on demand. The van picks up at the Transportation Center, located on the first-floor lower level across from the baggage claim area. The shuttle drops off curbside on the second-floor departure level per airport regulations.

Wheelchair Rental. ScootAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and week. Please call (888) 441-7575 or visit www.scootaround.com for more information or to make reservations.

8th AFHS ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM – SEPTEMBER 27 – OCTOBER 1, 2017

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will participate 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 confirmation. You may also register online and pay by credit card at www.afr-reg.com/8afhs2017 (3.5% will be added to total). All registration forms and payments must be received on or before August 25, 2017. 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. Your contact information will be shared only with reunion attendees.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.

322 Madison Mews

Norfolk, VA 23510

ATTN: 8th AFHS

OFFICE USE ONLY

Check # _____ Date Received _____

Inputted _____ Nametag Completed _____

CUT-OFF DATE IS 8/25/17

	Price Per	# of People	Total
<u>REGISTRATION FEE</u>			
Includes meeting expenses and other reunion expenses.	\$40		\$
Reg. Fee for children ages 8-16 attending more than 1 function & staying at hotel	\$25		\$
<u>MEAL PACKAGES</u>			
<i>Package #1 includes 7 meals beginning with breakfast on Thursday</i>	\$232		\$
<i>Package #2 includes 5 meals beginning with breakfast on Friday</i>	\$162		\$
<u>SEPARATELY PRICED MEALS (if not purchasing a package)</u>			
Thursday, 9/28: Dinner Buffet (Braised Beef & Fried Catfish)	\$51		\$
Friday, 9/29: Rendezvous Dinner (Chicken Piccata)	\$40		\$
Saturday, 9/30: Banquet Buffet at the WWII Museum – transportation included. (Beef Tips & Mildly Blackened Redfish)	\$50		\$
<u>TOURS</u>			
Thursday & Friday, 9/28-29: World War II Museum (box lunch included both days)			
WWII Veterans Price	\$66		\$
All Other Attendees Price	\$94		\$
Please choose one of the following two tours:			
Saturday, 9/30: City Tour	\$39		\$
Saturday, 9/30: Plantation Tour	\$77		\$
Total Amount Payable to <u>Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.</u>			\$

Please Print. If a WWII Veteran is registering on this form, please list his name first.

MEMBER NAME (for nametag) _____ ☐ VETERAN ☐ NEXT GEN ☐ OTHER

IF A VETERAN, PLEASE CIRCLE: WWII Cold War Era Korea Vietnam Gulf War Desert Storm Iraq Other _____

WWII GROUP AFFILIATION FOR UNIT TOTALS & SEATING ARRANGEMENTS (please list BG, not BS) _____

SPOUSE NAME (if attending) _____

GUEST NAMES _____ ☐ NEXT GEN

PHONE # (____) _____ - _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____ @ _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ 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).

PLEASE MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATION BEFORE SUBMITTING THIS FORM. WHERE IS YOUR HOTEL RESERVATION CONFIRMED? ☐ HILTON AIRPORT ☐ 8AFHS OFFICIAL OVERFLOW HOTEL ☐ OTHER

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PH. NUMBER (____) _____ - _____

By submitting this form you will be enrolled in AFR's monthly newsletter subscription. To opt out of this service, please check the box. ☐

IDEAS AND INSPIRATION

by Char Heim

daughter of Charles E. Dye, 1825th Ordnance Co.

I recently had a wonderful opportunity to travel our country from northern Wisconsin to southern Florida. We did many back roads where you see how Americans really live. We experienced the lifestyle of the very wealthy and the very poor. What I experienced was a taste of the great country that our WWII veterans fought for and preserved. We are so fortunate to see so many walks of life and enjoy so many different ways of living and goals.

But the one viewpoint that is widespread is the knowledge that we are free—able to make personal decisions about where we live, how we live and what we choose for our personal and career goals. This would not be true if it were not for the sacrifices and hard work of our World War II veterans. We owe them our way of life.

We have lost many of our great soldiers... not to war but to time. May they rest in peace, knowing that their patriotism and sacrifice will live on in the freedom that we enjoy. God bless those who not only fought but continued to carry the flag through years of dedication to the 8th Air Force and all she still stands for. God Bless America.

They Still Remember



On 31 Dec 2016, US and French flags, as well as those of French veterans groups and patriotic organizations, are brought into the chapel at St. Vivian. At the McKee crew memorial, (L-R) Mr. Nicolas Morrassutti (mayor of the town of Montlieu-la-Garde), sub-prefect Madame Elise Dabouis and Mr. Dan Hall, consul of the United States in Bordeaux, prepare to lay flowers.

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 late Very Reverend Robert C. Martin, former Dean of the Cathedral at Erie, Pennsylvania.

∞FOLDED WINGS∞

Emanuel J. "Cappy" Cappello, 576/2AD, January 2, 2017

Oscar F. Weed, 577, January 15, 2017

James V. Goar Jr., Group Headquarters, January 15, 2017