

NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 1

MAY, 1986

A MESSAGE FROM GIL GILBERT

I've always felt a sense of great good fortune, luck or whatever, in having been assigned to the 392nd, and a deep feeling of pride in our war record. I know you'll all stand with me in my conviction that no unit in the 8th had more *esprit de corps*. We were blessed with an ultra fine group of people dedicated to getting the job done in the quickest and best way we knew how. The record is written in the long hours, day or night, no matter the weather affecting all the 3,000 or so air and ground people at Wendling, particularly when a big push was on ---- maximum effort missions on several consecutive days. We who were there will remember the up-beat ripple effect throughout the base when the strike report came in "*Bombs on target!*" And we all shared together the bad days when things did not go as planned --- when not all of our planes returned.

Now, with the formation of the 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association, we have yet another opportunity and sounding board to keep alive these moments of our lives in the 392nd BG and to perpetuate its history. Without fail, whenever a group of 392nd people get together, I hear intensely interesting tales that I had no inkling of before. Sharing these first-hand accounts is a unique experience at our reunions, and forwarding the printable ones for our newsletter will benefit all our members.

I hope that we can have the biggest turnout ever of the 392nd at the 2d AD reunion near Chicago July 10-13. It will be our first reunion as an independent association since we launched in October of 1985 in Wichita. If July doesn't work in with your summer travel plans, perhaps the 8th AF reunion, Oct. 15-19, Hollywood, Florida, would have more appeal. The 392nd BG will have a get-together there as well.

REUNION

The weather is clear, and the visibility is unlimited. All systems are go and the target is the 2nd Air Div. Association Reunion in St. Charles, Illinois. For you navigators, that is 30 miles west of Chicago's O'Hare airport on Highway 64. That should be close enough for government specs. You may come by bus, train, plane, or CAR. If none of these work, *you must get there THUMB WAY!* The dates are July 10th thru the 13th. Don't put it off another year. This is the chance of a lifetime to indulge in a bit of nostalgia with some of your old buddies. Let's face it, we aren't getting any younger. Wiser perhaps, but a little older each year. If you don't buy any of that profound philosophy, listen to this: Col. Lawrence Gilbert is expecting all of us to be there! You remember how tacky the CO gets if you miss a formation. *We have assured him that all will be present and accounted for SIR!*

Our goal is to have 150 392nd BG Memorial Assn. people in attendance. We will have our 392nd BGMA annual meeting during this reunion. We have a lot of decisions to make as to the direction we, as a group, want to take. We need your input! You'll remember that our goal is 400 members our first year. We are confident that we will have at least 300 by reunion time.

The programs that have been planned by the 2nd ADA group sound great. They have been doing this for a lot of years and they know how it should be done. For you duffers, there will be a golf tournament, so don't forget to pack the sticks. Bring the scrapbooks and pictures!

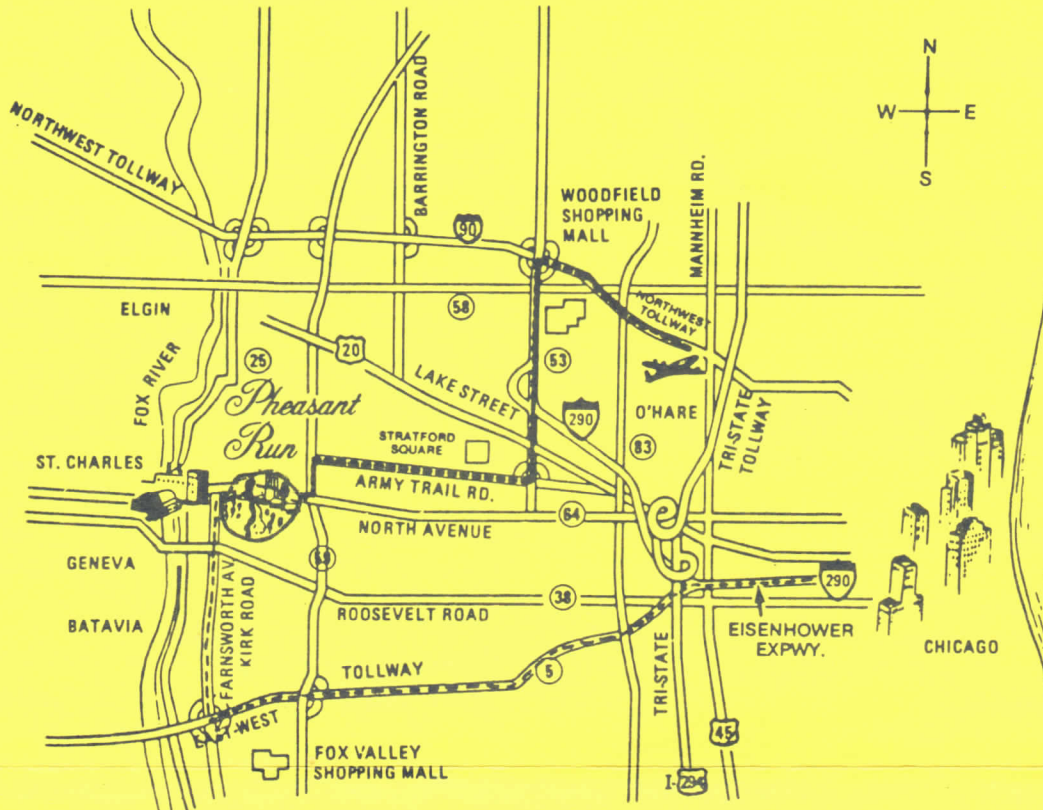
As of April 15, 250 hotel reservations have been requested. If you plan to attend, please fill out your registration form now.

(Continued Page 3, Col. 2)



Pheasant Run RESORT
ST. CHARLES • ILLINOIS

IT'S SO EASY TO REACH



PHEASANT RUN is just 35 minutes from O'Hare International Airport. Take the Northwest Tollway to Route 53, continue South on Route 53 (following the signs to Joliet) to Army Trail Road. Go West on Army Trail Road for 13 miles to Route 59. Take Route 59 South for 3 miles to Route 64, West on Route 64 for 3 miles and you are at Pheasant Run.

Van service is available to and from O'Hare Field. Private planes, including small jets, may land at adjoining DuPage County Airport.

"WHERE BUSINESS AND PLEASURE GET TOGETHER"

ON NORTH AVENUE JUST 45 MINUTES FROM CHICAGO 3 MILES EAST OF ST. CHARLES

392nd BG Memorial Association Membership Application

Name: _____
First Middle Last

Address: _____
Street Apt. No.

City State Zip Code

Unit or Squadron _____ ☐ Associate

Dues are \$10.00 each calendar year (January - December)

Send check or money order to 392nd BG Memorial Assoc.,

C/O Gil Bambauer, 2032 E. LaMadera Dr., Tucson, AZ 85719

☐ Check if this is a gift membership.

PROFILES

Lawrence G. Gilbert, a native of Angola, Indiana, studied aeronautical engineering, 1938-1940, at Tri State College, Angola, where he learned to fly in the C A A pilot training program. He entered Air Corps cadet training in Feb. '41 at San Antonio, Texas, and on graduation, was assigned to a B-18 bomb group in Orlando, Fla. Along came Pearl Harbor, pandemonium, and a period of anti-sub operations in B-18s in Palm Beach, patrolling from North Carolina to Key West.

In early 1942, Gil was transferred to the 34th Bomb Group at Pendleton, Oregon, instructing fledgling B-17 crews for newly forming groups. Major Curtis Lemay was Group Operations Officer; 1st Lt. Irvine Rendle was Gilbert's squadron commander. This duty continued until Feb. '43 when he joined the 392nd along with Lt.Col.Rendle, its first commander, at Tucson.

After training with the group at El Paso and Alamogordo, he flew to England in July '43 with an advance party for indoctrination and to prepare Wendling for arrival of the main body. Gilbert served as Group Operations Officer, Deputy Commander, and Group Commander, flying 26 missions, including two with B-17 units prior to the arrival of the 392nd. He returned with the Group to the U.S. on the Queen Mary, June 1945.

From 1945 until retirement in 1961 Gilbert served in various command and staff assignments in MATS, including 6 months with the Berlin Air Lift and a two year tour in the Philippines. Since retirement, he has lived happily in Winter Park, Florida with high school classmate and spouse, Marjorie keeping busy with citrus interests, two children and four grandchildren.

We are fortunate to have Colonel Gilbert serving as the 1st president of the 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association.

* * *

DID YOU KNOW: THERE WERE MORE B-24 LIBERATORS BUILT THAN ANY OTHER 4-ENGINE BOMBER DURING WORLD WAR II?

* * *

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 2)

If you are not presently a member of the 2nd Air Division Association, you must send a separate check for 1986 membership dues. You must be a member of the 2AD Association to register for this reunion. (Dues:\$10.00)

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GOOD NEWS

Our application for Tax Exempt Status has been approved by the U.S.Internal Revenue Service. We are presently applying for a bulk mailing permit that is available to some non-profit organizations. This will dramatically reduce the cost of our mailings. Our thanks to Carroll Cheek for his work with the IRS in this matter.

* * * * *

A very big thanks to Birdie Schmidt Larrick for graciously offering to do some profiles for our newsletters. We all remember Birdie as the Red Cross lady who ran the Aero Club on our base. She spent about as much time at Wendling as any of us. As a matter of fact, Birdie continued to serve on the continent for a year after we came home. Since the war, her career has included teaching, she has served as an interviewer, and as a continuity writer for radio and TV. We understand that she will soon be leaving us again for a teaching assignment in China. She has promised to keep in touch.

Good luck, Birdie, and watch out for "Peking Tom"!

* * *

392ND ACTIVITIES

July 10 --- Directors Meeting, 2:00 P.M.

July 11 --- General Membership Meeting, 3:15 P.M.

PHEASANT RUN
St. Charles, Illinois

Second Air Division Association
39th Annual Reunion
Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, Illinois 60174 • July 10-13, 1986
(See location map on back.)

Thursday, July 10		Saturday, July 12	
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Registration	7 a.m. - 9 a.m.	Buffet Breakfast
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Group Hospitality Rooms Open	10 a.m. - noon	General Business Meeting
6 p.m. - 7 p.m.	Group Cocktail Party	Noon - 5 p.m.	Group Hospitality Rooms Open
7 p.m.	Group Dinners	1:30 - 4 p.m.	Films
Friday, July 11		6 p.m. - 7 p.m.	Cocktail Party
7 a.m. - 9 a.m.	Buffet Breakfast	7 p.m. - Midnight	Gala Banquet and Dance
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Group Hospitality Rooms Open	Sunday, July 13	
Noon - 3 p.m.	Ladies Luncheon	Buffet Breakfast	
Noon - 3 p.m.	Men's Luncheon		
6 p.m. - 7 p.m.	Cocktail Party		
7 p.m.	Gala Italian Buffet		

*Times listed are all tentative.
Programs will be available at check in desks.*

The costs listed below are for the entire package as shown above, including hotel room for 3 nights. For special arrangements, let me know your requirements and I will advise as to costs.

Cost per person: Single Occupancy — \$405.00 Double Occupancy — \$315.00 per person
If you wish to share a room, let me know and I will try to come up with a partner.

For guaranteed reservations: Full payment by June 10th

Cancellations: Full refund if written notice received no later than July 1st.

Reservations: Not accepted without deposit. If full payment is not received by June 10, reservation will be cancelled and no refund will be made.

Extra nights: Pay directly to hotel — \$78.00 per night + 6% tax.

Parking: Free. There is plenty of room for RV's, but no electrical hookup.

Golf Tournament: Thursday, July 10 — Contact "Pete" Henry, 164B Portland Lane, Jamesburg, N.J. 08831 (609) 655-0982 for reservations and cost.

We have 400 rooms reserved at Pheasant Run. We also have available at a nearby motel approximately 100 additional rooms. Reservations will be made on a first come first served basis.

United Air Lines: United Air Lines has been designated as our *official airline for this convention*.

They will provide a special discount fare to Chicago O'Hare Airport from July 6-15.

They will award 2 tickets to any destination in the United States as a prize drawing for those who book reservations through their toll free number 800-521-4041 (8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. EST, 7 days a week). Use Account No. 643K when ordering direct or through your travel agent.

From O'Hare to Pheasant Run: Call (312) 584-6300 and ask for transportation desk (ext. 7704). Advise airport, airline, date and time of arrival and they will make arrangements for van pickup. Cost \$10.00 per person, minimum 3 passengers, less than 3, \$15.00 per person, one way. Pickup point is between United and TWA on the lower level at the second curb. All vans are tan and brown with Pheasant Run Resort logo. **All reservations must be made in advance. Do not call me, call Pheasant Run Resort.**

Upon receipt of your deposit, I will enclose a brochure from United explaining all the details of flight reservations, and acknowledgement of your hotel reservation.

Reservation Form

Name _____ Spouse _____ Group _____

Address _____

Single _____ Double _____ Will Share _____ 1st Reunion _____

Arrive _____ Depart _____ Deposit _____ Paid in Full _____

Send all reservations to:

Phone No. _____ Evelyn Cohen, 06-410 Delaire Landing Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114 — (216) 632-3992.

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT HOTEL DIRECT.

THE 392ND STORY

It is estimated that at least 5,000 men served in the 392nd Bomb Group during our stay at Wendling. Of that number, 1,500 or so lost their lives during the war. This left about 3,500 of us who survived. Insurance actuaries would estimate that another 1,000 or so have passed on. This leaves about 2,500 of us. We have been able to locate about 650 of these men; there are still 1,850, or 74%, unaccounted for. As you can see, we haven't even scratched the surface!

It would seem to me that those of us who have survived this long have an obligation to those 1,500 young men who gave their lives. *Do we not also have an obligation to future generations to tell them what we did and why we did it?* It is important for them to understand the price that was paid for our victory.

We are now all 60 or older. Time is truly of the essence. The Grim Reaper seems to be working a little faster. Sometimes, I suspect, he is putting in a little overtime!

Our monument in Wendling is a reminder to the young people in England. We need to establish a small trust that will guarantee perpetual care for this memorial. The memorial in Dayton, Ohio will have such care. *We need your input on how we can perpetuate the 392nd story!* This will be discussed in our membership meeting in St. Charles, Ill. during the 2nd Air Division Assoc. Reunion. Do you have any ideas on this subject? We would like to hear from you.

Our membership drive has gone quite well and we are on schedule to meet our goal of 300 paid members by July and 400 by the end of our first year. Our first mailing of 350 letters went out on December 16, 1985. As of May 1, 1986, we have 260 members.

We have coordinators in several states, but are in need of volunteers in other areas. We badly need coordinators for Mass., Wis., Ohio, Illinois, Minn., Texas, and Calif. As a state coordinator, you are furnished a list of names and addresses in your state. The ones who have already signed up are great candidates to help you in contacting others on your list. Some coordinators are already planning informal get togethers in their areas. This is not hard work, and is most gratifying when you bring one into the fold. We also give you a master mailing list. When you contact someone, you also

ask for other names and addresses, e.g. crew members, people with whom you worked. All can be checked against the master list to see if it is one we already have. If not, we will add it to our list. *Remember, there are still 1,850 men to be located!* If a coordinator has been assigned to your state, get in touch with him and offer to help. *Do I hear any coordinator volunteers?*

If you haven't mailed in your 1986 dues, do it today. *We need your support!*

STATE MEMBERSHIP COORDINATORS

Stephen Wozniak Regency Park Apts. 80-C Yorkshire Drive Guilderland, NY 12084	New York
Bernard U. Glettler 122 Pittaford Way New Providence, NJ 07974	New Jersey
Burrell M. Ellison, Jr. P. O. Box 116 Lancaster, SC 29720	North Carolina South Carolina
James E. Reynolds 2200 Elkdale St. Selma, AL 36701	Alabama Georgia Tennessee
Luther L. Beddingfield Rt. 1, Box 59 Benoit, MS 38725	Mississippi
Howard R. Ebersole P. O. Box 386 Plymouth, MI 48170	Michigan
Robert E. Vickers, Jr. 6424 Torreon Dr., N.E. Albuquerque, NM 87109	New Mexico
Gilbert Bambauer 2032 E. LaMadera Drive Tucson, AZ 85719	Arizona
George E. Graham, Jr. 329 Benton Avenue Orlando, FL 32809	Florida

* * *

"It says here that a man throttled his wife," said a woman, looking up from her paper.

Her husband replied, "Sounds like a practical choker."

I N M E M O R I A M

* * *

Vincent Cunningham

William H. Metz

Henry W. Niemczycki

Mike Paggioreale

Raymond J. Phillabaum

Edward A. Siebels

* * *

MEMORIAL DAY - CAMBRIDGE

The 392nd BGMA will be represented at Memorial Day Services at the American Military Cemetery in Cambridge, England. Mrs. Grace M. Kimble of Essex, England will place a wreath to honor the 392nd BG men who rest there. Mrs. Kimble is an associate member of the 392nd BG Memorial Association.

392nd BG Memorial Association
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