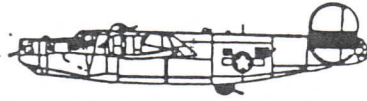


NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME II

MAY 1987

Reunion - "87"

The time is here and the excitement is growing. Registrations are coming in at a record pace. Have you sent yours? Now is the hour! Please let us hear from you today.

We are happy with the response so far. In this, our first stand-alone reunion in 42 years, we will break all attendance records. The crusaders are coming out of the woodwork. The prospects are exciting. The letters that we are receiving mirror that same excitement. We currently have 190 registrations.

Crew members are calling each other for the first time in years. They are trying to get together for one more look at the past. Communications have been re-established among the ground crews. This is a maximum effort mission and the target is Tulsa. All roads lead to the Camelot Hotel at Interstate 44 and Peoria. Just look for the castle. We'll be looking for you.

Barney Glettler is heading up the golf tournament on Thursday, the 25th. If you want to play, please let us know soon. Ladies are welcome and we have a number of them signed up. A word of caution: Marilyn and Bob Lane will be playing, and Marilyn is tough with the sticks! One other dark horse is Gil Bambauer. Now that he has retired, he may be a charger.

The Friday night appearance of The East Anglean Hambone Players is still a mystery. It may still be a mystery after their performance! It is my understanding that the show is being produced by Cecil B. DeVickers.

We will have two large and connecting bi-level suites for a hospitality room.

will serve as a central meeting place for the guys and their wives. All our mementos will be on display. Please bring your pictures and anything else of interest. It will provide an atmosphere for relaxing and renewing old friendships. Don't be surprised if you form some new friendships. The Crusaders are a great bunch. We will have a cocktail hour on both Friday and Saturday nights prior to the dinners.

There will be a photographer on hand to take individual pictures as well as crew pictures etc.

As for trailer, camper, RV arrangements, the hotel has no such facilities; however, there is a small RV park within two minutes of the hotel. They have water, electricity, and sewer hook-ups, as well as showers and a laundromat.

The Interstate RV Park
2200 East 51st Street
Tulsa, OK 74105
Telephone: 918/749-8014
Interstate 44 at Lewis

Please make your own arrangements with the RV Park.

There has been some doubt as to the wives' part in this reunion. If your wife intends to have breakfast with you, attend the dinners, cocktail parties etc., she must be registered. If there are those of you who can only attend one or two functions, please write or call Bill Richards. We will work it out with you. **YOU MUST BE A PAID UP MEMBER OF THE 392ND BGMA TO ATTEND!**

Please give us your arrival and departure dates and the name of your spouse or guest.

* * *

Ray F. Argast

Topping the list of interesting civilian jobs is Lt. Ray F. Argast who, after post-war duty with B-29's, B-47's and B-52's, was a commercial fisherman in Wisconsin and is now a nightclub operator in Mountain Home, Idaho.

Lt. Argast was a bombardier in the 577th and was shot down on February 24, 1944 on the Gotha raid, which was his 9th mission.

He and Mary E. Argast have one son and live at 128 Baker Drive, Mountain Home, Idaho 83647.

Ralph W. Kieffer

T/Sgt. Ralph W. Kieffer, being fluent in German, was a S-27 radio operator assigned to the 579th, and his job was to listen in on German pilots. He joined the Group at Wendling July 21, 1944.

Post-war, he entered the teaching profession and taught French and German at two high schools and at Kutztown University.

He is married to Dilarue P. Kieffer, and they live at 415 S. Franklin St., Fleetwood, Pa. 19522.

Ben W. Hunsaker

Col. Ben W. Hunsaker joined the 577th as a 2nd Lt. in March 1944 at Wendling. He was Sqdn. operations officer and acting Sqdn. commander on several occasions.

Staying in the Air Force, he was in ATC and other commands, including duty in Japan, Korea, Canada, the Canal Zone and the Pentagon.

After retiring in 1969, he became involved in the Experimental Aircraft Association, serving as chapter president and putting on local air shows.

He and wife Geraldine have two children and four grandchildren. They live at 2251 Chicago St., San Diego, California 92110.

* * *

Tom Gartner

Sgt. Tom Gartner, 577th, was chief mechanic at Wendling's motor pool. He was one of the early members of the 392nd, joining it at Biggs Field in March 1943.

He married Edna Jarrett at Fakenham, England, March 3, 1945, and they have one son.

After World War II, Tom farmed and was an auto mechanic. For the past 22 years he has been service manager for a large tractor company.

Tom and Edna live at 15 Park Avenue, Woodland, California 95659.

Edward K. Washington

Lt. Edward K. Washington was on the University of North Carolina's football team at the Sugar Bowl in 1949 and the Cotton Bowl in 1950.

He was co-pilot of Neundorf crew, 579th, and had active duty tours; also was in the reserves and retired as Lt. Col. in 1966.

Graduating from the University of North Carolina's law school, he has served as state district attorney and will retire as Superior Court Judge in 1987.

He and Lucy J. Washington have three children and their address is P. O. Box 1146, Jamestown, North Carolina 27282.

Herman Stanley Canfield

Herman Canfield came home to the farm in 1946 and has been there ever since, at RR #1, Box 91, Bloomingdale, Indiana 47832.

Sgt. Canfield was 577th Sqdn. Operations clerk, joining the Group at Alamogordo in April 1943.

He married Nora Miriam Norgate from Norwich, England, and they raised five children, three of whom are farming nearby.

MONTH DAY

392nd Tulsa Open

The first 392nd Bomb Group golf tournament will be held at the Page Belcher Golf Course on Thursday, June 25th, starting at 10:00 A.M. The cost, which includes the cart and prizes, is \$20.00. If you want to play, include the golf fee with your registration, or you may want to pay it upon your arrival in Tulsa. Ladies are welcome to play in this Historic Event!

Our golf coordinator, Barney Glettler advises that this is not the U. S. Open, and the prizes will total less than \$325,000! Also, contrary to the U. S. Open objective to win, the 392nd BG Tulsa Open goal will be not to get too serious, but enjoy the fun and camaraderie of the game for a good time!

Please don't forget to send in your handicap. A war story handicap will be accepted if it passes the "official" Callaway handicap system. Practice rounds at your expense are permitted for early arrivals. Limited rental clubs will be available.

In addition to the normal tournament prizes, two "mystery" prizes will be awarded! As a player, you will also be a charter member of the 392nd BG Golf Crusaders!

And, for the "golf widows", we are planning to have poolside bridge available.

Mail your handicaps and inquiries to Barney Glettler, 122 Pittsford Way, New Providence, NJ 07974.

* * *

Your editor apologizes for the late mailing of this newsletter. This was due to a non-scheduled stint in the hospital which lasted almost three weeks. At this writing, I am dividing my time between home and my office, and though recovery seems slow, I am making progress. I do want to thank those of you who have sent cards, letters, and for all the phone calls to inquire of my health. I should be in tip-top condition by reunion time. --Bill Richards.

* * * * *

1987 Dues

Your 1987 dues are now due and payable. Won't you please mail your \$10.00 today. We need your support. Better still, become a Lifetime Member.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Amount</u>
61 - 65	\$100.00
66 - 70	80.00
71 - Over	65.00

If you have previously paid your 1987 dues, you may deduct \$10.00 from the above.

Restoration - Wendling Memorial

The Wendling Memorial Committee will announce their restoration plans at the Tulsa Reunion. A contribution from you will help us to have a lasting memorial at Wendling. This is a way for us to leave a reminder to future generations. May we count on you? We need your financial support.

Liberators from Wendling

The second printing of Bob Vickers' book, Liberators from Wendling, will be available at the reunion. The book will have a new cover which will coincide with the 50th Anniversary of the B-24. The publisher has assured us that we will have these books by reunion time.

* * * * *

Art Jensen, who ran the personal equipment room for the 578th, has given us a book which lists every man who flew each mission for the 578th. Our thanks to Art!

392ND BGMA REUNION

Tulsa, Oklahoma -- June 25 - 28

Thursday, June 25

10:00 a.m. -- Golf Tournament
05:00 p.m. - 08:00 p.m. -- Registration
05:00 p.m. - 08:00 p.m. -- Hospitality Room

Friday, June 26

07:00 a.m. - 08:30 a.m. -- Breakfast
08:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. -- Registration
08:45 a.m. -- Directors Mtg.
10:00 a.m. - 05:00 p.m. -- Hospitality Room
10:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. -- State Coordinators
01:30 p.m. -- Shopping Tour
02:00 p.m. -- Nominating
Committee Meeting
04:00 p.m. -- Memorial Committee
06:00 p.m. - 07:30 p.m. -- Cocktails
Hospitality Room
07:30 p.m. -- Dinner

Saturday, June 27

07:00 a.m. - 08:30 a.m. -- Breakfast
09:30 a.m. -- General
Membership Mtg.
01:30 p.m. -- Bus Tour and
Memorial Svcs.
06:00 p.m. - 07:30 p.m. -- Cocktails
Hospitality Rm.
07:30 p.m. -- Banquet and
Dance
(Cash Bar)

Sunday, June 28

08:00 a.m. -- Farewell
Breakfast

Profiles -- Jim Goar

Charles L. Lowell

Charles Lowell commanded the 576th February - October 1944. He joined the Group at Alamogordo in June 1943 as an aircraft commander, and was squadron operations officer before taking command.

After the war, he served with SAC in Germany, Turkey, Guam and at several stations in the U. S.

He retired in 1967. He then was an apple grower in western Colorado for 15 years, quitting the apple-knocking business in 1980.

He now lives at 6820 Conquistador Court, Colorado Springs, CO. He has three children; one is an Air Force Academy grad flying KC-135's at Spokane; and eight grandchildren.

Olen F. Levell, Jr.

Major Olen F. Levell, Jr. commanded the 576th for the last months of the war. He joined the Group at Wendling in March 1944.

After the war, he returned to Pittsburg Plate Glass Company, his pre-war employer, and remained with them until retirement in 1978.

Olen and wife, Martha C., live at 297 Fairway East Road, Indian Lake, Central City, PA 15926. They have two children and three grandchildren.

Charles Martin

S/Sgt. Charles Martin was an armourer-gunner in the 579th, and was shot down over Muenster on his 27th mission. He was a POW until April 13, 1945.

In the Korean War, he transferred to a tank battalion. Commissioned, he served in various artillery, M.P., and other Army units, retiring in 1974 as Lt. Col.

In civilian life, he works for the State of Colorado and lives with spouse, Mary Alyse, at 744 S. Youngfield Court, Lakewood, Colorado 80228. They have two children and three grandchildren.

I N M E M O R I A M

*

Clarence Fothergill

Alan A. Noltkamper

Richard J. Benson

Jan Brown

B. Ray Shaw

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 (Jan. thru Dec.)
Send check or money order to 392nd BG Memorial Assoc.
C/O Gil Bambauer, 2032 East LaMadera Drive, Tucson,
AZ 85719

☐ Check if this is a gift membership.

392nd BG Memorial Association
2032 East LaMadera Drive
Tucson, AZ 85719

Address Correction Requested

- Forwarding & Return Postage Guaranteed

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