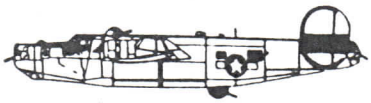
NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 4 MAY 1989

WENDLING MEMORIAL DEDICATION

The reservations for this once-in-a-lifetime dedication trip are beginning to trickle in. We realize that a lot of you are going to Ft. Worth but this is also a very important gathering. It should be pointed out that this is an official 392nd Bomb Group function. It was voted on by the membership at our Colorado Springs meeting. This has been planned by all 392nd people. This includes the programs as well as the travel arrangements. The travel arrangements will be handled by Keith and Patty Roberts who are professionals in that field. You may remember that Keith was the navigator on Bob Vickers' crew.

We have double checked these cost figures and they are excellent. You will notice that we are staying at the Park Court in London. This is a well known Lancaster Gate hotel that is used by several of the better tour companies.

This could very possibly be the last of our planned overseas trips. After all, "father time" is wearing his Nikes and gaining on us.

If you feel you are vaguely interested please send a deposit to Keith and Patty so they can proceed with the planning. This will be the time that we turn our monument over to the Battle Monuments Commission for perpetual care. This monument is a real tribute to the members of the 392nd Bomb Group. Don't miss it!

WENDLING MEMORIAL
By Carroll Cheek and Lawrence Gilbert

Since our last report in February, final detailed plans and specifications have been received from the American Battle Monuments Commission and are in the hands of our General Contractor, Tom Scott of Beeston. Permission to proceed has been granted by the District Council, Dereham, and the County Engineer, Norfolk Co. Aggregate material for land preparation has arrived and earth moving equipment is at work on-site. Target date for completion is August 31, 1989.

Our attention is now focusing on the dedication ceremony October 7, 1989 and a program designed to be an appropriate memoriam to those we left behind. Participation will include representatives of the U. S. Embassy, British civil government and Members of Parliament, USAF and Royal Air Force units, and numerous dignitaries from the Norfolk area. We hope for a large contingent of 392 BGMA members to be present for this near-final roll call at Station 118. The service and the entire trip's itinerary planned by our own Keith and Patty Roberts is certain to be profoundly rewarding and a never-to-be forgotten experience.

1989 Dues Are Now Due And Payable

We depend on your $10 annual dues for operating capital. We need your help so we can continue to send the newsletters. We must also carry on our normal correspondence. Please send your check today.
Mail to:

Charles Dye
Saddle Ridge #832
Portage, WI 53901

We would like to help this guy but who is he?

It is with a great deal of sorrow that I advise you of the passing of Grace Kimble. It seems that quite a number of years ago, Grace was spending a holiday with some relatives in Norfolk County, England. She was told that during the war two American planes had crashed there on the farm. She became fascinated with researching the families of these crews and learned that they were both 392nd planes that had been on a training mission. For years she corresponded with various members of our group and for many years she laid the wreath representing the 392nd at the American Cemetery at Madingley on Memorial Day. Quite often this was at her own expense.

Grace was one of our first associate members of the 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association. She was a good friend to our organization and certainly will be missed.

Several of our members have sent donations to the memorial fund in her name in lieu of flowers. I'm sure you all join me in sending our thoughts and prayers to Albert and their two sons.

PX Items

_____	Membership Directory, 2.00 post paid	
_____	Black 392nd BG Cap w/Gold Braid	$9.00
_____	White Nylon Jacket w/392nd BG & Crusader Patches	$20.00
_____	Book, "Liberators From Wendling" by Col. Bob Vickers	$25.00
_____	Book, "392nd War Stories" by Col. Myron Keilman	$20.00

(Add $1.50 per item for shipping.)

Mail To:
Charles Dye
Saddle Ridge #832
Portage, WI 53901

● Grace Kimble, pictured in November when she won a Gazette board game competition. (B121-7)

Albert mourns loss of wife

A WELL-KNOWN name to Gazette readers was mourning the death of his much-loved wife this week, after she finally lost her battle against a painful stomach disease.

Albert Kimble (64) of Ram Gorse, a regular contributor to the Gazette's letters pages for over 30 years, spoke to us about the immense sadness he felt about the loss of his former nurse wife Grace (60), who died at Harlow's Princess Alexandra Hospital on Thursday.

Grace and Albert, who were married for 15 years, met after Albert lost his first wife Rosemary. Grace was a nurse at Middlesex's Hounslow Hospital, where she worked in the casualty and maternity departments.

She became a mother to his two sons Barry (40) and Colin (36), and consequently grandmother to five grandchildren.

"Her main hobby was being involved with the Second Air Division Historical Society of American Airforce. It was her pride and joy, and she'd go to meetings and send letters overseas," said Albert.

"She went into hospital on the Tuesday and died on Thursday. It was a terrible 48 hours, and brought back memories of the death of my first wife," former Harlow ambulance driver Albert told the Gazette.

Mrs Kimble was buried on Tuesday at Harlow's Parndon Wood cemetery.

● Everyone at the Gazette sends deepest sympathy to our old friend Albert. We hope you bounce back quickly after your sad loss, to keep the people of Harlow — and us — informed and enlightened in your own inimitable style through our letters columns.

8th AIR FORCE REUNIONS

The next 8th AF Reunion will be in Denver, 4-9 October 1989. There will also be the 1990 reunion in Las Vegas in the Riviera Hotel, 30 September-4 October 1990. Brochures will be sent out this May for the Denver reunion. Each and every one of you should plan to attend if at all possible. Our visit to Denver is an additional day longer based on the fact there are so many things to do and places to go in Denver. We will have more side trips this year, with something for everybody.

Unit Day, Friday, 6 October, will be a day set aside for the units to use as they like. Those in units where there is no need for formal meetings, side trips will be available. The Gala will again be a Saturday night event. Your Reunion Committee is working on an entertaining event for that night. The reunion will honor the ground crew personnel, an honor long overdue. Although aircrew are always welcome at reunions, this time we want to see more of the ground personnel in attendance.

Sunday, 8 October, will feature a trip to the Wall at the AF Academy Cemetery and services in the Academy Chapel exclusively for The Mighty Eighth. If you haven't been there for a service you have an event before you. There are other events being planned and all we need is for you to register early and indicate which events you wish to participate in. Don't wait until you get there to register for an event. Do it early.

WENDLING MEMORIAL REUNION 1989

RESERVATION FORM

To avoid any delay in processing your reservation, please complete in full. Then mail this form together with your deposit ($300 per person by check or money order made payable to College Center Travel) and address as follows:

Mail to: College Center Travel, 28231 Marguerite Parkway #5, Mission Viejo, CA 92692-3720

Telephone number: (714) 364-3937 Ask for Patty Roberts
(call collect)

PLEASE PRINT

Name(s)_____
(Include first and last name of each person)

Address (include zip)_____

_____

Telephone (include area code)_____

TOTAL TOUR PRICES

These prices include the land tour as detailed on the itinerary and round trip air transportation from the following gateway cities:

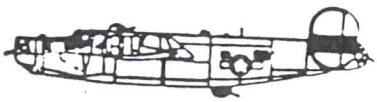
from LOS ANGELES -	$1,441.00	per person double occupancy
from CHICAGO -	1,335.00	
from MIAMI -	1,306.00	single occupancy-add $100.00
from NEW YORK -	1,377.00	

We can help you with transportation from your hometown to your gateway city, but we've discovered that most people prefer to do their own local scheduling.

Your return air ticket is good for 180 days, so you will have time for London tours, shows, Thames dinner cruises, or tours of England, Ireland, Scotland, or tours of the continent. We can arrange great prices on all of that for you - just call or write Patty or Keith at College Center Travel.

If you have "Space A" or other transportation to England, let us know and we'll tailor the land portion of this reunion to your needs. We are proud to be a part of this truly memorable event.

Your family and friends are welcome. Space is limited. We recommend that you reserve early in order to avoid disappointment. All reservations will be acknowledged as promptly as possible. Additional pertinent information will be forthcoming such as travel memos, baggage tags, name badges, air tickets, last minute reminders, and other necessary data.



392nd BG WENDLING MEMORIAL REUNION

October 3 - 11, 1989

Day 1 Tuesday October 3 - DEPART U.S. FOR LONDON

Day 2 Wednesday October 4 - LONDON TO KING'S LYNN
Chartered coaches meet us at the London airport. On to King's Lynn for our stay at hotels located on Market Square where our "liberty runs" used to take us. Cocktail reception at 7:00 PM (cash bar). Welcome dinner at 8:00 PM. Both will be held at The Duke's Head Hotel, a classic. (Dinner incl)

Day 3 Thursday October 5 - KING'S LYNN
The Mayor and Mayoress of King's Lynn welcome us back to the City with a reception at the historic Town Hall. Lunch at the Duke's Head. Then we take a leisurely tour of our old air base with plenty of time for photos. (Brkfst, lunch incl)

Day 4 Friday October 6 - KING'S LYNN & NORFOLK
This morning the market sets up in Market Square as it has for centuries. We'll have time to enjoy it. Coaches depart at 12:30 PM for a locally guided tour of historic sites including Blickling Hall, where Anne Boleyn lived. The reunion banquet at 7:30 PM preceded by a no-host cocktail hour. (Brkt, din incl)

Day 5 Saturday October 7 - WENDLING MEMORIAL DAY
Coaches depart at 9:00 AM for Wendling where we join the villagers in a ceremony re-dedicating the Memorial Obelisk which we built in 1945 and which they have cared for ever since. Next, the villagers hold a "homecoming" reception for us. Late lunch at our former local pubs - The Ploughshare and The Rose Cottage. (Brkfst, lunch incl)

Day 6 Sunday October 8 - KING'S LYNN, CAMBRIDGE, LONDON
Today we end in London so bags must be packed. Coaches depart at 8:30 AM for the American Cemetery at Madingley, near Cambridge, where so many of our 392nd men remain. A memorial service will be held in their honor. Lunch at the University Arms Hotel in Cambridge. On to London. (Brkfst, lunch incl)

Day 7 Monday October 9 - LONDON
Your day at leisure to revisit this wonderful, old city.
(Cont. brkfst incl)

Day 8 Tuesday October 10 -LONDON
One more leisure day to relax and have fun. (Cont. brkft incl)

Day 9 Wednesday October 11 - TOUR'S END
Enjoy continental breakfast. Farewell and safe journeys until we meet again.

Profile

Lt. Charles Dye was in the 1825th Ordnance Supply and Maintenance Company, and was Station Ammunition Officer; and as such was in charge of the bomb dump, that absolutely worst post to draw for guard duty.

The 1825th arrived at Wendling about the same time as did the 392nd, and Charley was with the Service Group until both Groups came home.

After the war Charley stayed in the Reserves, and retired as Lt. Col. Among other assignments, he was Armament Officer, Adjutant, and Squadron Commander.

In civilian life, he was connected with the trucking industry, and was an instructor at the University of Wisconsin. He is currently self employed as a transportation consultant.

He is presently serving as Treasurer of the 392nd's Memorial Association.

Charley and wife Helen live at Saddle Ridge #832, Portage, Wisconsin 53901; and have three daughters and four grandsons and four granddaughters.

Membership

We need more names and addresses of non-members. Our membership growth has come to a standstill. The grim reaper continues to reduce our ranks and we must replace them with new members. There are still those of you receiving the newsletter who have never joined. Why not send us $10 today and help to keep our organization strong? We need your help! There is an application in this letter.

Profile

T/Sgt. Anthony "Tim" Mazzei was a flight engineer-gunner on the Roggillo crew in the 579th. On December 13, 1943 they ditched in the North Sea in the afternoon and seven got out into two rubber rafts. The next day they reached shore and were taken prisoner by Jerry, and Tim spent 17th months in Stalag 17B.

As a civilian, Tim has been a policeman, worked for Republic Aviation and then started his own company doing real estate title work. He retired in 1983.

Suffering from arthritis, Tim can't make the reunions, but enjoys the newsletters.

He and wife Arline live at 19 Oak Lane, Blue Point, New York 11715. They have a son and daughter and two grandchildren.

Profile

Major Jack Fritsche was Group Adjutant, from Day 1 when the Group was formed. As Adjutant, he was in general charge of the Group's paper work, and helped many a struggling young administrative officer fight his way through the paper jungle.

He spent 40 years with National Distillers, retiring in 1987 as vice-president. When he tends bar at our reunions, he's really qualified for the job.

Still single, Jack lives at 6226 Bandene, Dallas, Texas 75225.

Profile

Joe Whittaker was the 392nd's contribution to the 2nd Air Division. On the original orders for the formation of the 392nd, Joe was 578th Squadron bombadier, the 392nd Group Bombadier, then went to 2AD as their Bombadier. He retired as Lt. Col. in 1957.

Finding a use for his knowledge of explosives in civilian life, Joe was with American Cyanamid, Explosives Division; and as a Director of Mincorp, a coal mining company, and retired as president of an explosives distributing firm.

Joe delivered the address at the 392nd's dedication of the Group memorial at Wright Field, and his eyesight was so bad that his notes were printed in quarter-inch letters. Now, thanks to a miraculous operation, his eyesight is normal and he bagged a buck last winter.

His father-in-law, Warren C. Hollenback, 96 years old and in excellent health, flew in WW I.

Joe and wife June live at 811 N. Juniata Street, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 26648.

Profile

Frederick J. Hollien, Jr. was a S-Sgt. engineer and top turret gunner, joining the 578th at Wendling February 24, 1944. He flew 32 missions, with the Sabourin crew.

Fred and wife Lorraine live at 13 Bunton St. Milton, Maine 02186-5736. They have 4 children and 12 grandchildren.

After the war, his civilian occupation was salesman.

IN MEMORIAM

Palmer Taylor

392nd BG Memorial Association Membership Application

Name: _____
First **Middle** **Last**

Address: _____
Street **Apt. No.**

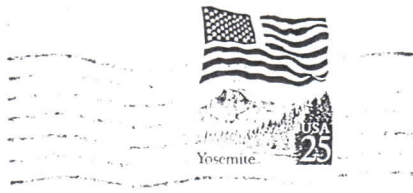
_____
City **State** **Zip Code**

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 Charles Dye, Saddle Ridge #832, Portage, WI 53901

☐ **Check if this is a gift membership.**

392nd BG Memorial Association
Saddle Ridge #832
Portage, WI 53901

Address Correction Requested
Forwarding & Return Postage Guaranteed



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