

NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 6

MAY 1991

DRIVE REACHES OUT FOR CRUSADERS

SEARCHING FOR THOSE WHO SERVED IN THE 392ND

Art and Teddy Egan have headed a committee that has been ferreting out former members of the 392nd Bomb Group, and they have found over 300 names that have not yet been reached by the Memorial Ass'n.

In addition, committee members John Conrad and Cliff Peterson, vice-presidents respectively for the 2nd Air Division Ass'n. and the 8th Air Force Historical Society, have come up with over 100 Crusaders who are members of those two organizations but not members of the 392nd BGMA.

This edition of the Newsletter, along with a personal invitation to join from President Lawrence Gilbert, is being sent to these prospective members.

The mailing list that the Memorial Ass'n. has been using over the years contains about 800 names, so with the 400 found by the membership committee, our potential strength is 1200.

On the downside of this number, however, is that of the 800 on the original mailing list, only about 570 are paid-up members. So about 250 non-payers will not get this edition of the newsletter. Instead, they will receive a letter from Col. Gilbert urging them to become paid-up members and join the rest of us in carrying forward the memory of the 392nd.

The address label will tell you if your dues are paid. If LM or a number appears after your name, you're a Life Member or paid up through the year shown.

* * * *

P-47's were first flown in combat over Western Europe on Apr. 8, 1943.

* * * *

392 MEMORIALIZES 1943-5 STAY IN ENGLAND

The 392nd BGMA has done and continues to do many things to keep alive the history of its WW II contribution and to honor its fallen comrades.

The Memorial obelisk at Wendling has been completely refurbished and funded for perpetual care. It was rededicated in 1989 and a visit to it by a 392 veteran is nearly always a religious experience. It stands in the peaceful Norfolk countryside, reminding both English and American visitors of the sacrifice made by the 392nd's 747 honored dead.

The Second Air Division Memorial Library in Norwich has received many individual contributions from 392 BGMA members, and the Association recently made a \$5000 gift for the Librarian Fund.

The 2AD Library has established a branch library in East Dereham, and the 392 BGMA has recently arranged for small American libraries at the Beeston elementary school and the Litcham high school. Wendy Carter is the 392nd's on-the-spot representative for library affairs.

Now a new thrust is being developed. The Beeston elementary school and the Litcham high school are being twinned with American schools, and a planned educational and cultural exchange is being worked out.

Heading the US side of the operation are Robbie and wife Toni Robinson. The fact that Toni is English by birth makes the language barrier easier to overcome.

Twinned with the Beeston school is the Park Maitland school, located between Winter Park and Maitland, Florida. Mrs. Kitty Drew is at the Park Maitland school and her counterpart at Beeston is Mrs. M. Street.

(continued on page 4)

COCKER SPANIEL HAS CAREER IN WW II AAF

GOES WITH MASTER THROUGH TRAINING,
THIRTY-MISSION COMBAT TOUR,
JOINS HIM BACK IN THE STATES



*S/Sgt. Manuel A. Rego as a dashing aerial gunner, shown with
S/Sgt. Jackie who served with him in the 392nd in WW II*

S/Sgt. Manny Rego had a dog. Not just any dog, but a canine that went the whole route with him through training, 30 combat missions, and then joined him at home after he was rotated back to the States.

Rego, a 579th gunner on the Darnell crew, was training at Mountain Home, Idaho, when his first sergeant gave him the puppy. Rego named him Sgt. Jackie, and outfitted him with all the military regalia: S/Sgt. stripes, wings, and dog tags.

When the Darnell crew completed training, they took off for Europe via the southern route, and took Sgt. Jackie along. Rego kept Sgt. Jackie with him at Wendling while flying 30 missions. After the crew finished their tour, it was disbanded and Rego became an instructor at Wendling for three months.

When it became time to be shipped back to the States by ocean transport, the authorities balked at Sgt. Jackie's going along, but Rego persevered and enlisted the aid of the Red Cross who arranged for Sgt. Jackie's quarantine, shots, and transport to Rego's family home.

God knows how many first sergeants, inspectors, and squadron commanders looked the other way while Sgt. Jackie was carving out a career for himself in the Army Air Forces.

(See profile of S/Sgt. Manny Rego elsewhere in this issue.)

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RETURN TO WENDLING IN 1992

Keith and Patty Roberts, reunion chairmen for the 392nd's Return To Wendling reunion, have announced that the date has been tentatively set for the first two weeks in June, 1992.

The Return will be in conjunction with other celebrations commemorating the 50th anniversary of the arrival in England of the 8AF in 1942.

Presently the Roberts' are investigating going over on the QE 2 and coming back by air. Plans include 4 nights in Kings Lynn and 2 nights in London.

If you are interested and want more information, clip out and return the coupon below.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone () _____

I am interested in going over on the QE II Yes ___ No ___

Mail to 392BG Wendling Reunion, 26631 Dorothea, Mission Viejo, CA 92691.

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600 heavy bombers dropped 1,600 tons of bombs in first major attack on Berlin on March 6, 1944.

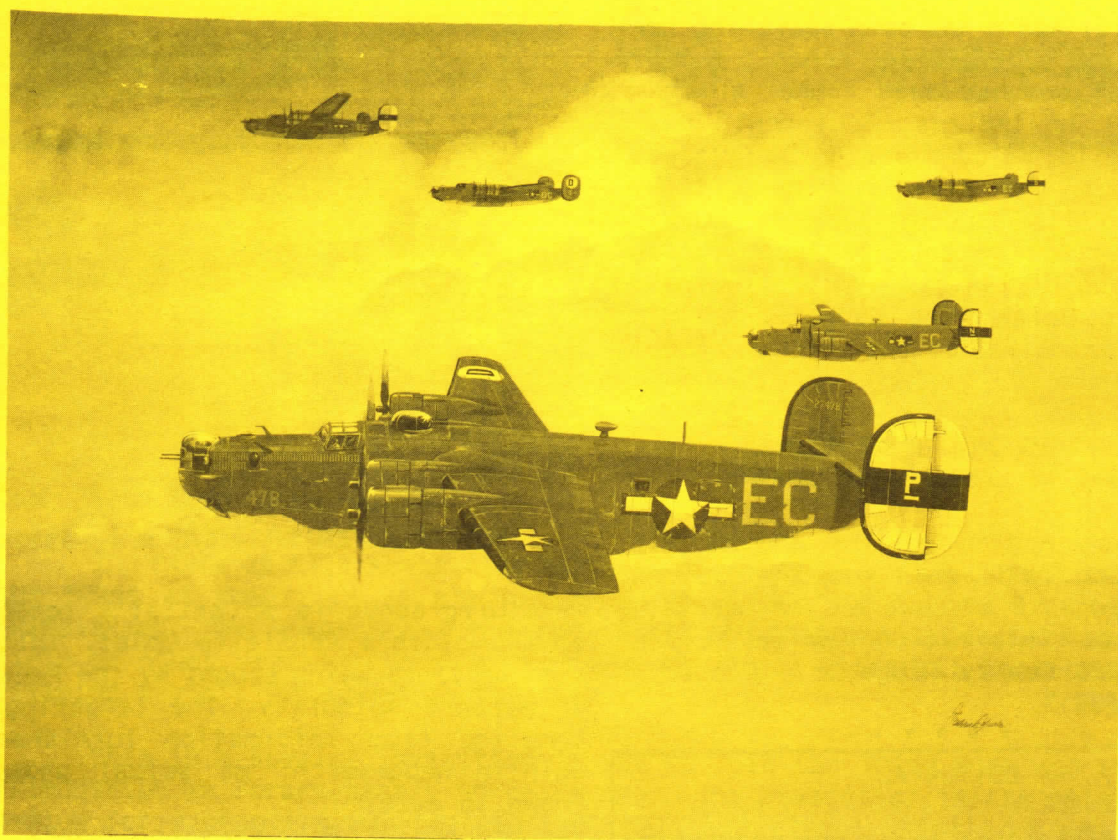
PROFILE

Capt. Allen Duff was a 2nd Lt. co-pilot on the Twining crew when he joined the 578th in July 1944. He became a first pilot and was Director of Training and Squadron Operations officer.

After the war, he was a general contractor, and then he purchased a 40-acre walnut ranch in 1967. He is still there, raising walnuts.

He and wife Elizabeth live at 31605 Rd. 138, Visalia, CA 93291. They have a son, and daughter, and 4 grandchildren.

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This color print, actual size 20 x 22 inches, has been produced and donated to the Memorial Ass'n. by friends of the 392nd in Norfolk.

Prompted by the interest of Ben Jones in the history of Wendling airfield, the print was produced by several Norfolk companies: Green, Wade and Wilson, Ltd., A. P. P. Ltd., and Steve Smith Graphics. Ben Jones is a young man who grew up in the Wendling area, is a member of the 392nd BGMA, and was a guest of the Group at the Hilton Head meeting.

The artist, Frederick T. Searle, was born in London and studied at Woolwich School of Art. He has had paintings accepted for hanging at the Royal Academy and the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolor. Some of his paintings have been exhibited in several European countries and in North and South America. He now resides in Norfolk.

It is a limited edition, with 200 signed and 300 unsigned. Since the donors were motivated by the Wendling Memorial, the Board of Directors has determined that the best use of the donation would be to make the print available to the membership,

with the money derived from its sale to go toward 392nd memorials.

(For stories about P-Bar Peter, the a/c featured in the painting, see the Feb. and May, 1990 issues of the Newsletter.)

Signed copies of the print are \$55 and unsigned are \$30, postpaid. Send your check to Charles Dye, Treasurer, 7217 Leslynne Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109.

* * * *

WE GET LETTERS

Norbert Wick, 579th, 178 Roncroff Dr., N. Tonowanda, NY 14120, wrote us to let us know he'd seen the picture of his a/c, 697, in the last issue of the newsletter and had been able to get a copy of it.

So, that's what it's all about- the 392nd BGMA, the newsletter, the Group memorabilia maintained by Ernie Barber, Bob Vickers' history: all to help a bunch of old guys (and a few Red Cross gals) recall some very private memories of what happened to them at Wendling and in the skies over Europe in World War II.

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(continued from page one)

The Memorial Ass'n. has been searching for a twin for the Litcham high school, and it appears that one has been found. A rural high school in Indiana, Southmont, near Crawfordsville, is considering the matter. It is about the size of the Litcham school, and its student body is from a farm population. It has a 392 connection in the person of its assistant principal, Mrs. Debbie Beigh, the daughter of Jim Goar. The principal of the Litcham school is Mr. P. Hart.

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MIDWEST REGIONAL 2 AD REUNION
SEPT. 3-6 AT LAKE OF THE OZARKS

The Midwest Region of the Second Air Division Ass'n. will meet Tuesday Sept. 3 to Friday Sept. 6 at Lake of the Ozarks. For further information, write Martin Borrok, 15220 County Ridge Dr., Chesterfield, MO 63017.

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EDITORIAL

It is possible that small papers such as this should not have editorials, and probably this is the first and last of them.

But members of the 392nd Bomb Group fought, bled, and died for their country in World War II for a cause that all of us thought was just. Surely this gives us the right to comment.

Our generation since WW II has agonized through two wars; some of us as merely citizens but some as participants or parents of participants. Those two wars brought the will of the American nation and the fighting spirit of its soldiers into question.

But now, thanks to the men and women of Operation Desert Storm, those ghosts are laid to rest and the nation again stands where it did in 1945: proud in a just victory but humble in the face of the price paid for it.

We salute not only the American troops but also those of our allies, particularly the Brits who so valiantly fought shoulder-to-shoulder with us in our war.

And we applaud especially the Air Force, which we affectionately think of as our child. We marvelled at their combat effectiveness, materiel efficiency, and logistical support.

Jim Goar



POCATELLO CHIEF - A/C # 42-99976

Pictured above is an artist's rendering of the 576th's Pocatello Chief. Information on it is being sought by the Pocatello Airport Authority. The rendering was compiled from information furnished by Quintin Wedgeworth; no actual photo is known to exist.

According to Bob Vickers' book, "The Liberators From Wendling", the a/c went down on the mission to Brunswick 15 March 1944, pilot Lt. B. D. Miller

Ernie Barber, the Group archivist, has come up with a crew list for the Miller crew as of March 3, and of course this may or may not be the exact crew on the loading list on the Brunswick mission Mar 15.

The crew list follows:

2/Lt Bert D. Miller, O-803246	Pilot
2/Lt William E. Wilson, O-689430	CP
2/Lt Charles L. Williamson, O-689585	Nav
2/Lt Gabriel E. Wishbow, O-688770	Bomb
S/S Prosperino Della Betta 37416520	R Opr
S/S James M. Lynch, 37263493	Eng
S/S Thomas L. Pice, 14185624	Eng
S/S Gerald P. Lenily, 32221843	Gnr
S/S Henry T. Mayer, 12148308	Eng
S/S Truman F. Roberts, 38451074	Gnr

The citizens of Pocatello are interested in any information concerning the Pocatello Chief. They already have plaques at the Pocatello airport (formerly Pocatello Army Air Force Base) and downtown at their Historical Society.

If any of our members can help, please contact Jim Goar at 5 N. Columbia St., Frankfort, IN 46041, phone (317) 654 4456.

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HOOSIER HYSTERIA? NOT IN NORFOLK

By Jim Goar

Most of the readers of this paper know that it is produced in Indiana, that basketball-daffy state, where the natives are addicted to what the media calls Hoosier Hysteria. Teams of national prominence are often fielded by Indiana, Purdue, Notre Dame, and several smaller schools, one of which is Indiana State, Larry Bird's alma mater. Bob Knight, the irascible and unpredictable coach at Indiana University, also often makes the headlines with some outrageous behavior.

The basketball fever reached a peak in April with the NCAA tournament finals in the Hoosier Dome at Indianapolis.

Ben Jones is a young man who lives with his parents in Litcham and all are ardent friends of the 392nd. Thinking that I would express my gratitude and also give young Ben something to show his peers, I sent him an Indiana Hoosiers cap.

Back came the thanks, asking if the Hoosiers were Indiana's baseball team.

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STALAG LUFT IV AND VI

There will be a reunion of ex-POW's from these two camps Sept. 10, 1991 at Tulsa, OK.

Further information can be had from Leonard E. Rose, 8103 E. 50th St., Indianapolis, IN 46226.

Rose is an ex-POW who was a ball turret gunner in the 459th BG, 15th AF. He was shot down Aug. 29, 1944.

* * * *

1,000 8th AF bombers supported Allied airborne and land assault over Rhine River on March 24, 1945.

* * * *

Lt. Col. James Doolittle led 16 B-25's on Tokyo raid on Apr. 18, 1942.

* * * *

FOLDED WINGS

John J. Cornell, 579

Herbert Hubrich, 577

Ward Mathias, 576

Sam Ralston

John J. Reade, 578

Carl Schwabel, 578

PERSONALS

Small-town newspapers in the past had a "personals" column, which reported the daily goings-on of its readers. Since this is essentially a small-town newspaper, we'd like to feature a personals column. Right now we don't have much material, but we'd like the readers to drop us a note or a postcard about things that happen to them that would interest the 392nd community.

David Greene, 579th, navigator on the Wick and Chuck Smith crews, reports a severe heart attack that happened without warning Feb. 25. Fortunately for David, it occurred when he was in a hospital for a routine check, and he received quick medical attention. He says he's recovering well, but not sure about being able to attend the Dearborn meeting.

Birdie Larrick, parapetetic as usual, is back from a visit to Germany as a part of a dramatic troupe.

Carroll Cheek, chairman of the Memorial Committee, will represent the 392 BGMA at Cambridge Cemetery May 19 at ceremonies there. He will be accompanied by his son, Michael.

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PROFILE

S/Sgt. Manuel A. Rego was an armorer-gunner on the Darnell crew in the 579 Sqdn. He joined the Group at Wendling Feb. 8, 1944, and completed 30 combat missions.

After the European tour, he was a gunnery instructor for B-29's at Laredo, TX.

Returning to civilian life, he went to trade school and became a machinist and worked at that job and as a model maker for American Can Co. and Union Carbide Corp.

He and wife Maria have two sons and two grand-daughters, and live at 836 Tiller Ave., Beachwood, NJ 08722.

(See related story this issue "Cocker Spaniel Has Career in WW II AAF.")

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German jets shot down 10 American bombers near Berlin. The Germans lost 20 ME 262 jets - Apr. 10, 1945.

* * * *

8th AF made its last attack on an industrial target during WW II on Apr. 25, 1945.

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392 BGMA ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR JULY 4 AT 2 AD

Dearborn, Michigan will be the scene of the annual meeting of the 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Ass'n., in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Second Air Division Ass'n. The gathering will be at the Hyatt Regency Hotel at 8:30 A.M. Friday July 5.

The Group dinner, however, will be held Thursday, July 4, at 6 p.m.

The official program of the 2AD convention is reproduced at the right, including a reservation form. John Conrad, 392nd's vice president for 2AD affairs, says that there are rooms available at the time this newsletter is published.

If you wish not to be present for the entire convention, or if you want to use other accommodations than the official hotel, but want to attend the Group dinner, it is important that you send in a reservation for the Group dinner. You can imagine the chaos that would result if 15 or 20 unexpected guests showed up for dinner.

There will be, as usual, a 392nd hospitality room, which will be the HQ. and meeting place for all Crusaders. Ernie Barber will be there with his several footlockers of memorabilia. Libations will be available, and since their cost is not part of the fee charged by 2AD, the cost will be covered by our time-honored method of passing the helmet, er, hat.

Directors will be elected at the Group meeting, and a proposed change in the by-laws will be presented. See another page of this newsletter for the proposed change.

The agenda for the annual meeting will include a report on the Wendling Memorial, the Treasurer's report, and a report from the membership committee. President Lawrence Gilbert will report on the state of the Group. And of course the floor will be open of any and all comment.

The Board of Directors will meet at 2 p.m. July 4.

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Second Air Division Association 44th Annual Convention • July 3-7, 1991

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Fairlane Town Center, Dearborn, Michigan • (313) 593-1234

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3
Registration
Early Bird Party
Cash Bar
Complimentary Hors D'Oeuvres

THURSDAY, JULY 4
Registration
Group Hospitality Rooms Open
Group Cocktail Parties
Group Dinners

SUNDAY, JULY 7
Buffet Breakfast

FRIDAY, JULY 5
Buffet Breakfast
Special Trips (see reverse)
Cocktail Party
Buffet Dinner
Awards Ceremony

SATURDAY, JULY 6
Buffet Breakfast
Business Meeting
Afternoon Free (see reverse)
Cocktail Party
Gala Banquet & Dance

The costs listed below are for the entire package, as shown above, the special trips on Friday, July 5, and hotel room for 3 nights. For special arrangements, let me know your requirements and I will advise cost.

COSTS PER PERSON

Single Occupancy	\$495.00
Double Occupancy	\$380.00 per person
Triple Occupancy	\$350.00 per person
Quad Occupancy	\$330.00 per person

If you wish to share a room, please advise and I will try to arrange same.

New Policy Statement By Executive Committee: In all future conventions, an advance deposit of \$50.00 per person attending will be required, which will be non-refundable if written cancellation request is not received before 90 days of the convention starting date or by due date of the entire payment, whichever is earlier. Confirmations will be mailed upon receipt of payment in full. At that time, we will also mail you insurance applications you can use to collect payments for late cancellations. Please read carefully. This must be purchased and paid for at time of final payment. Note mailing address on form.

- All extra nights and incidental charges must be paid upon check out, directly to hotel.
- **CAMP GROUNDS:** contact Floyd or Norma Bull, P.O. Box 30, Circleville, NY 10919 (914-361-2632)
- **GOLF TOURNAMENT:** contact Pete Henry, 164B Portland Lane, Jamesburg, NJ 08831 (609-655-0982)
- **NON-SMOKING ROOM:** 2 floors available, a total of 144 rooms — advise with reservation
- **HANDICAPPED ROOM:** 8 available • **WHEELCHAIRS:** 2 available
- **HERITAGE LEAGUE** — Wednesday, July 3 — Exec. Board Meeting at 3 PM — Evelyn Cohen's Suite
— Thursday, July 4 — General Meeting at 2 PM — Site to be announced
- **LIMO SERVICE:** Available at Detroit Metropolitan Airport direct to Hyatt
- **PARKING:** FREE

— FRIDAY TRIPS (Included in Cost) —

#1 OUTING AT WILLOW RUN AIRPORT: B-24 All American will be there, plus many other planes. Picnic lunch will be served. Buses will depart Hyatt starting at 10:00 AM, running every half hour. Buses will return to hotel not later than 4:00 PM, leaving every half hour.

• Please reserve _____ seats for Willow Run.

#2 SPOUSE PROGRAM: Select one of two tours listed below. There will be a maximum of 240 people for each tour. Select the one you want as tickets will be issued and no changes can be made upon arrival at convention. We also cannot guarantee that seats will be available if you do not make advance reservations.

• **Meadowbrook Mansion** (home of Matilda Dodge Wilson)
Lunch will be served here. Please reserve _____ seats.

• **Eleanor and Edsel Ford House**
Lunch at Gourmet House. Please reserve _____ seats.

Tours include transportation, admission, guided tour of home, action tour guide on each bus and lunch.

— SATURDAY TRIPS (Not Included in Cost) —

GREENFIELD VILLAGE/HENRY FORD MUSEUM: Shuttle throughout day, each half hour, to museum complex. Guide will give background about both attractions and you may choose which one you want to visit.

Cost: \$15.00 per person, includes transportation, admissions and guide

Please reserve _____ seats for the Ford Museum. Check Enclosed \$ _____.

Please reserve _____ seats for Greenfield Village. Check Enclosed \$ _____.

It will not be possible to tour both in one day.

RESERVATION FORM

Name _____ Spouse _____
Group _____ (if more than one, indicate which you will join Thurs. & Sat. nites)
Address _____
Phone No. () _____ Arrival _____ Departure _____
Single _____ Double _____ Triple _____ Quad _____ Will Share _____ Advise If Non-Smoking _____
First Convention _____ Deposit _____ Paid in Full _____ Nick Names _____
Other Parties in Your Room if Triple or Quad _____

Do not call hotel direct for reservations, changes, cancellations, etc. All of these should be sent to:

Evelyn Cohen • 06-410 Delaire Landing Road • Philadelphia, PA 19114 • (215) 632-3992

BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS TO BE PROPOSED

Two proposed amendments to the By-laws will be submitted to the membership when the 392 BGMA meets July 5 at Dearborn, Michigan, during the 2AD convention.

Both are in regard to the same article, and concern the terms of the Directors. Presently they are elected for a three-year term, and can serve only two consecutive terms.

One amendment, presented by Charles Dye, removes all limits to the number of terms that a Director may serve. The other, offered by Carroll Cheek, would remove the limitation for only one person, Lawrence G. Gilbert, the serving president.

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PROFILE

Lt. Keith Roberts was navigator on the Vickers crew, joining the 578th at Wendling in Nov. 1944.

After the war, he graduated from USC and then took a master's degree at Stanford. He was 27 years with Sears Roebuck, retiring as a store manager. Later he was in the liquor business, but now works part-time with wife Patty in the travel agency business. Both are very active USC alumni.

They live at 26631 Dorothea, Mission Viejo, CA 92691. They have a son and daughter and twin granddaughters.

* * * *

4,738 tons of bombs were dropped by 1,079 bombers on Essen, Germany on March 11, 1945.

8AF MEETS AT NEW ORLEANS 17-22 SEPT.

The Eighth Air Force Historical Society has scheduled its 17th annual reunion at the New Orleans (La.) Marriott the 17th through the 22nd of September, 1991.

The 392nd will have a hospitality room there and usually over 100 Crusaders show up for this meeting.

For further information, contact Cliff Peterson, 392nd's vice president for 8 AF affairs, at 2120 Woodcrest Dr., Winter Park, FL 32792, phone (407) 647 7741.

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100% CREW MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

In order to encourage membership in the 392nd BGMA, the editors of the Newsletter have announced that if 100% of the living members of a crew are members of the Memorial Ass'n., the crew's picture will be published in the newsletter. The photo can be Now or Then.

The rules are simple: send the list of the living members of your crew to the Newsletter address found on the front of the magazine. We will check the membership list and let you know if any are AWOL. If all are present or accounted for, send us the picture. There is only one condition: the picture must be clear enough to be publishable.

* * * *

1,250 bombers escorted by 670 fighters give Berlin heaviest attack of war on March 18, 1945.

FOLDED WINGS REPORT

Name of deceased _____ Sqdn. _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

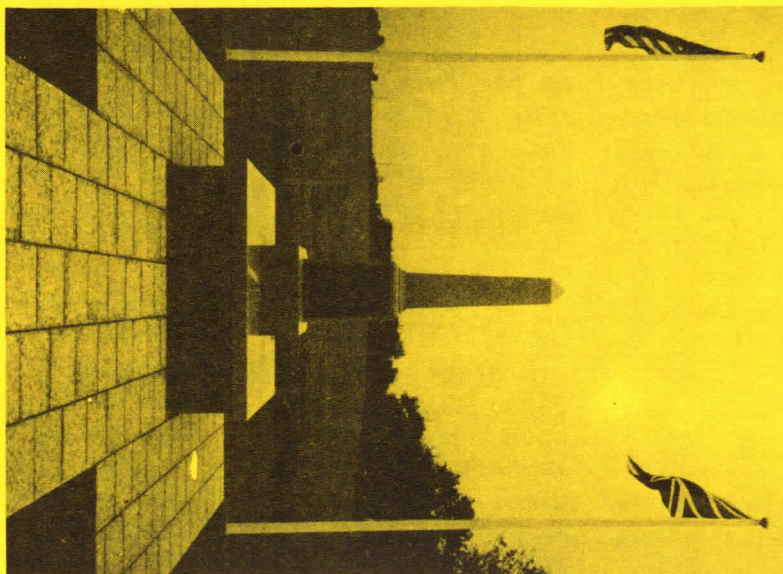
Date of death _____ Survivors: (Send copy of obit from newspaper if possible)

Reported by _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

[] Record a memorial contribution to 392nd BGMA in my name, check made out to 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Ass'n., enclosed. Send this report to J. D. Long, Jr., 102 Kemp Road East, Greensboro, NC 27410.

THE REFURBISHED MEMORIAL AT WENDLING



392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association
5 N. Columbia St.
Frankfort, IN 46041

Address Correction Requested
Forwarding and Return Postage Guaranteed

President
Lawrence G. Gilbert

Vice-president - Memorial
Carroll W. Cheek

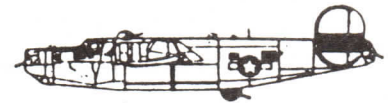
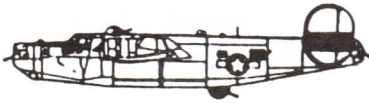
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Treasurer
Charles Dye
7217 Leslynne Dr. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Editors
Birdie Larrick
Jim Goar

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Chester Jankowski
1 Ritters Lane
Yonkers, NY 10701



392nd BG Memorial Association, Inc.

Dear 392nd Bomb Group Member:

The story in this Newsletter tells of our search for all former members of the 392nd at Wendling who are not members of the 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association. The Membership Committee discovered your name on rosters and member lists of other organizations, e. g., 8th Air Force Historial Society, 2nd Air Division Ass'n., Prisoners of War, etc.

This is a special invitation to you to join the 392nd BGMA and renew the friendships we formed nearly 50 years ago. The Newsletter is the catalyst and medium for exchanging wartime stories that have almost faded from memory. Our regular reunions are held in conjunction with the 8th AFHS and the 2nd AD in alternate years, although there is a mini-reunion every time these organizations meet. Every third year we schedule a "stand alone" reunion. Orlando, Florida was the site of our most recent and successful one in 1990.

The 392nd BGMA was formed in 1985 as a non-profit veterans organization. The growing membership raised funds to provide a major reconstruction of our WWII memorial at Wendling. Formal rededication of the proud and impressive memorial was held in 1989 honoring the 747 of our people killed in action. Current projects include the creation of separate sections in the libraries of the two public schools adjacent to the base; books, photo albums and memorabilia preserve the wartime history of the base and the American air contribution to the war effort. A related program which the British call "twinning" is underway linking these schools with sister schools in the U. S. to foster personal and cultural relationships.

I earnestly hope you will join our organization and share in these and other worthy endeavors; most important, while we still have time let's re-discover those long lost friends of a half century ago.

A membership application form is on the reverse side. If the annual dues will create a hardship, just check the waiver block, and you will receive the Newsletter.

Sincerely yours,

Laurence G. Gilbert