

NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 7

MAY 1992

392 ND GEARING UP FOR 50th IN MAY, 1993

The 392nd Bombardment Group, (H), was formed at Hq. Second Air Force, Fort George Wright, Washington, by Special Order #14 on 26 January 1943.

The first combat mission was flown 9 Sept. 1943, an incredibly short time to have welded a sophisticated 4-engine bomber unit together, move it overseas and send it into action against Germany.

1993 marks the 50th anniversary of the Crusaders, and plans are going forward to make it a memorable event.

Scheduled for 20-25 May at Albuquerque, NM the gathering is being planned by Bob Vickers and Charley Dye. The Marriott hotel will be the headquarters.

An abbreviated schedule follows:

Thursday 20 May: Early bird mixer.

Hospitality suite open.

Friday 21 May: Golf tourney, registration, displays and memorabilia room open.

Directors meeting.

Saturday 22 May: General membership meeting. Style show, Old Town tour.

Saturday Night Live.

Sunday 23 May: Memorial Ceremony at Kirtland Air Base. Tour to National Atomic Museum.

Monday 24 May (Memorial Day): Banquet and entertainment, 40's music and dancing.

Tuesday 25 May: Checkout and safe trip home or stay and visit Albuquerque and more of the Old West.

Plan now for this great occasion and stay tuned for more specific information.

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AIR ANNIVERSARY

May 25, 1927: Lt. James H. Doolittle performed first known successful outside loop.

Letter From Australia

We have received, by letter to Cliff Peterson, a letter from Cpl. Mark Wyllie, Royal Australian Air Force, asking for news of and correspondence with members of the 392nd BGMA.

Mark's address is 1 Lewis Court, Sunshine 3020, Victoria, Australia. He would be glad to hear from any Crusader, air or ground, regarding wartime service.

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Wendling Reunion 92

Some 65 Crusaders, spouses and friends are set to embark for England for the 1992 Return to England. Some are going by sea and some by air, and the week of June 7-13 will be spent at the Duke's Head in King's Lynn, with trips to Wendling, Norwich, and Cambridge. For about 90% of the group, it will be their first return to Wendling.

Keith and Patty Roberts, the tour managers, have announced that the group will also visit the museum at Duxford.

Col. Gilbert has received a request for small artifacts for the 392nd museum at Litcham high school. If you have something that you would be willing to give, send it to Col. Gilbert or Jim Goar (address on cover) and they will see that it is delivered.

The Roberts say that there might be room for three or four more people. Write them at 26631 Dorothea, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 or phone them at 714-582-0687.

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AIR ANNIVERSARY

May 8, 1945: Germany surrendered unconditionally.

Reflections on Col. Rendle At Wendling - 1944

Here is another report about the legendary first commander of the 392nd, this one from Hank Vaughan, co-pilot in the 577th.

On a night following a period of time that the 392nd had suffered a heavy loss of crews, I was among others that assembled in a large hanger to hear an address from our leader, Col. Rendle.

As we gathered, the makeshift raised speaker platform was unoccupied. From the men there were none of the usual conversations, banter or laughter usually found at such a meeting; just a sense of quiet wonderment of why it was being held.

The more we stood, the quieter it became. The silence became so thick you could almost cut it with a knife.

Finally, upfront a man climbed the few steps and turned facing the assembled men. He was a large man, bareheaded, his black hair and facial features plainly showing his Indian descent. His carriage, demeanor and attire befitted the rank he carried.

Before speaking he seemed to look and search out the face of each man. When he spoke his strong booming voice carried the length and breadth of the building.

"Men of the 392nd, we have taken one hell of a beating lately."

(pause)

"We who are left must accept the duty and sacrifices are required of us."

(pause)

"NOBODY QUILTS. NOBODY QUILTS."

(pause)

"FOR NO REASON. FOR NO REASON."

He stopped for a few moments to let the impact of his words sink in. There was no cheering or applause from the gathering, just quiet acceptance.

As he commenced to speak again, his face assumed a more somber look. "I've got some really bad news from the folks back home." A grin spread over his face, and he went on to say, "They have informed me that we are using too much toilet paper over here."

The tension of the meeting broke and a huge ripple of laughter came forth.

Moving from the platform, Col. Rendle moved through the men shaking hands with all.

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AIR ANNIVERSARY

Apr. 1, 1954: Bill creating the Air Force Academy signed by President Eisenhower.

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Letter From Litcham

Ben Jones is a young Friend of the 392nd who lives at Litcham and has been indentified with the 392nd since he was a young boy. He attended the reunion at Hilton Head and has made many friends among the Crusaders.

In a recent letter he said, "The reunion (Return to England 92) is certainly having an impact over here. Only last night there was a big bit in our local TV news program on it. The planning at this end is going well. Denis (Duffield) and I are keeping in contact along with Wendy Carter. My display is increasing in size and this year I hope to have some current USAF flying gear. It will probably be in the Ploughshare.

"The company I work for is expanding very rapidly. We sell a lot of American pumps and motors which we build from our stock. It seems ironical that I am working on the very same site at Wendling airfield that you worked on all those years ago. I often look across the airfield and imagine what it must have been like 50 years ago with Liberators filling the sky. Now it's just vast fields disrupted by the odd concrete hardstanding. The only thing that hasn't changed, which I'm sure you'll agree with me, is the cold wind which blows right across the place."

* * * *

PEN PALS WANTED TO WRITE TO NORFOLK SCHOOL CHILDREN

Toni Robinson, coordinator of the 392nd BGMA's program for the twinning of US and Norfolk schools, is compiling a list of US people who would like to correspond with a pen pal in Norfolk.

Any age is ok, but it is hoped that Crusaders will interest their children and grandchildren in the project.

If interested, send the name address, age bracket, and interests of your US pen pal to Toni at 7864 Broken Arrow Trail, Winter Park, FL 32792.

PROFILE

Major (then 1/Lt) Philip E. Rose was a pilot in the 578th Sqdn., joining the Group at Wendling in Sept. 1944.

After WW II, he was recalled for duty for the Korean conflict and the Cuba crisis. He retired as Deputy commander of the 940th TC Grp. and is a command pilot.

He is a rice farmer, still active.

He is married to Josephine, and they have four children and one grandchild. Their address is PO Box 67, Richvale, CA 95974.

FRIEDRICHSHAFEN: 142 MIA, 65 SURVIVORS

Surv? 392nd BGMA Living?

A/C #42-52411 CI B, 576th	Roster?			
Clover, D.K. 1/Lt	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Berger, R. 2/Lt	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Mitchell, R. 2/Lt	Yes	Yes	Yes	
McMillen, W.F. 1/Lt	Yes	Yes	Yes	
McDonald, P.R. 2/Lt	Yes	No		
Galler, I. T/Sg	Yes	Yes		
Losey, J. C. T/Sg	Yes	Yes		
Crawford, E.G. S/Sg	Yes	No		
Bell, N.W. S/Sg	Yes	Yes		
Rees, J.M. S/Sg	Yes	Yes		
Royal, C. K. S/Sg	Yes	Yes		
11	11	4	9	

A/C #41-28651 C, 576th

Feran, J.E. 2/Lt	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hayes, F.W. 2/Lt	Yes	No	Yes
Cummings, F.J. 2/Lt	Yes	Yes	Yes
Greene, D. R. 2/Lt	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wolfer, A. J. S/Sg	Yes	No	Yes
Droch, T. S. S/Sg	Yes	No	Yes
Wheeler, M. S/Sg	Yes	No	Yes
Hampton, W. R. S/Sg	Yes	No	Yes
Gallagher, R. S/Sg	Yes	No	Yes
Beard, W. M. S/Sg	Yes	No	Yes
10	11	5	6

A/C #41-28692 CI J, 576th

Hebron, W. F. 1/Lt	Yes	Yes	Yes
McGowan, R.L. 2/Lt	Yes	Yes	Yes
McDonald, L.F. 1/Lt	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kallionzes, M.A. 1/Lt	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dasher, C.D. T/Sg	Yes	No	Yes
Martin, F.M. T/Sg	Yes	No	Yes
Halsne, M.O. Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Longchamps, A.J. S/Sg	Yes	No	Yes
Youst, K. W. S/Sg	Yes	No	Yes
Devoe, C. W. S/Sg	Yes	No	Yes
Bennett, L.G. S/Sg	Yes	Yes	Yes
11	11	5	6

A/C #42-7497 N, 577th

Peterson, L.G. 1/Lt	KIA	No	No
Lidgard, W.V. 1/Lt	KIA	No	No
Lang, A. L. 1/Lt	Yes	No	No
Cannistraro, F. 2/Lt	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lawrence, H.F. T/Sg	Yes	No	Yes
Bellerive, R.D. T/Sg	Yes	No	Yes
Opsahl, R.C. Sgt	Yes	Yes	Yes
Smith, A.G. S/Sg	Yes	Yes	Yes
Appar, D.R. S/Sg	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dinda, B.F. S/Sg	KIA	No	No
10	7	2	2

Surv? 392nd BGMA Living?

A/C #42-99945 EC O, 578th	Roster?			
Sooy, B.L. 2/Lt	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Mardis, K.A. 2/Lt	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Jones, O.R. 2/Lt	Yes	No		
Schwartz, E.S. 2/Lt	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Serafini, J.M. S/Sg	Yes	No	No	
Terrell, P.J. T/Sg	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Jones, N.J. S/Sg	Yes	No		
McBrayer, H.G. S/Sg	Yes	Yes	Yes	
McArn, H.S. S/Sg	Yes	No		
Dorman, W.J. S/Sg	Yes	No		
10	10	4	5	

A/C #42-7518 EC S, 578th

Raschke, W.C. 1/Lt	No		
Holm, E.J. 2/Lt	No		
Petrossella, R. 2/Lt	No (Dutch report)		
Ward, W. E. 1/Lt	No says 9 KIA,		
Wagoner, M.T. Sg	No 1 POW		
Krek, B. R. T/Sg	No		
Davis, R. W. T/Sg	No		
Gyure, F. Pvt	No		
Rankin, J.W. S/Sg	No		
Doub, M.O. S/Sg	No		
10	1	0	

A/C #42-99981 EC U, 578th

Peterson, C.L. 1/Lt	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vrelling, R.I. 2/Lt	Yes	No	Yes
Moorehead, J.C. 1/Lt	Yes	No	
Brown, E. J. 2/Lt	KIA	No	No
Hinshaw, M.M. T/Sg	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rodgers, E.M. T/Sg	Yes	Yes	Yes
Harrell, O.L. S/Sg	KIA	No	No
Hancock, L.G. S/Sg	KIA	No	No
Masters, E.E. S/Sg	KIA	No	No
Byrd, J.C. S/Sg	KIA	No	No
10	5	3	4

SUMMARY

MIA	Survived	On 392nd BGMA Roster	Known to be Living
142	65	22	26

Surv? 392nd BGMA Living?

A/C #42-189826 DC U, 577th	Roster?			
Halfermehl, C.T. 1/Lt	Yes	No		
McMullen, D.H. 2/Lt	Yes	No		
Parks, K.C. 2/Lt	Yes	Yes		
Poppel, S.B. 1/Lt	Yes	No		
Parker, E. S. T/Sg	Yes	No		
Beausollicot, R.T. S/Sg	Yes	No		
Mitchell, J.W. S/Sg	Yes	No		
Wagner, F.J. S/Sg	KIA	No	No	
Harwick, M.G. S/Sg	Yes	No		
Landry, L. R. S/Sg	Yes	Yes		
10	9	2		

A/C #42-189824 DC W, 577th

Anderson, R.F. 2/Lt	No (Dutch report)		
Maben, J. F. 2/Lt	No says crashed		
Camden, R.J. 2/Lt	No at Stettin		
Limney, J. D. 2/Lt	No shot down by		
Farmen, E. 1. S/Sg	No fighters.		
Mastolm, G.F. S/Sg	No 7 KIA, 3 POW		
Cagle, W. C. S/Sg	No		
Koch, W. J. S/Sg	No		
Mardis, A. M. S/Sg	No		
Dixby, Sgt	No		
10	3	0	

(Collided w/Dalton, crashed at St. Just-en-Chaussee, France, per Wedgeworth list) (Dutch report at variance with this)

A/C #29174 R 577th

Dalton, C.E. 2/Lt	No (Dutch report)		
Storey, M.O. 2/Lt	No says 9 KIA,		
Sherman, F. 2/Lt	No 1 POW		
Brandon, A.B. 2/Lt	No		
Holmes, H.W. S/Sg	No		
Conley, E. D. S/Sg	No		
Brown, J.T. Sgt	No		
Hildebrand, M.R. Sgt	No		
Payne, C.F. Sgt	No		
Taylor, C. L. Sgt	No		
10	1	0	

(See Anderson crew, above)

A/C #42-52465 EC X, 578th

Johnson, Rex 1/Lt	KIA	No	No
Pallas, R.E. 1/Lt	KIA	No	No
Johnson, D.C. 1/Lt	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hunter, R. N. 1/Lt	KIA	No	No
Stancik, M. T/Sg	KIA	No	No
Wohlstrom, T.C. T/Sg	KIA	No	No
Reynolds, M.D. S/Sg	KIA	No	No
Milliken, E.W. S/Sg	Yes	No	No
Kimball, R.A. S/Sg	KIA	No	No
Nixon, A.D. S/Sg	KIA	No	No
10	2	1	1

Surv? 392nd BGMA Living?

A/C #41-28742 GC A, 579th	Roster?			
Books, D.G. 1/Lt	KIA	No	No	
Gray, W.E. 2/Lt	KIA	No	No	
Slovik, J.E. Capt	KIA	No	No	
Jones, D.C. Sgt	KIA	No	No	
Morris, E.W. S/Sg	KIA	No	No	
Slack, G.E. S/Sg	KIA	No	No	
Willis, W.K. Sgt	KIA	No	No	
Porter, C.T. Sgt	KIA	No	No	
Strickler, C.C. Sgt	Yes	No	No	
Hampton, R.G. Sgt	KIA	No	No	
10	1	0		

A/C #42-189817 GC L, 579th

Sharpe, W.G. 1/Lt	No		
Bandura, M.A. 2/Lt	No (Dutch report)		
McGuire, W.C. 2/Lt	No says 7 KIA,		
Richardson, F.K. 2/Lt	No 3 POW		
Hoffman, R.R. T/Sg	No		
Wallace, F.C. T/Sg	No		
Anderson, C.A. S/Sg	No		
Cugini, M.W. S/Sg	No		
Covenez, C.M. Sgt	No		
Maylander, N. S/Sg	No		
10	3	0	

A/C #41-29127 G, 579th

Kale, W.A. 1/Lt	Yes	No	
Willingham, N.W. 2/Lt	Yes	No	
Stroyd, W.A. 2/Lt	Yes	No	
White, J.G. 1/Lt	Yes	No	
Toler, N. T/Sg	Yes	No	
Finley, R. T/Sg	Yes	No	
Peacock, C.E. S/Sg	Yes	No	
Birch, V.J. S/Sg	Yes	No	
Haaland, M.L. S/Sg	Yes	No	
Hildebrand, R.W. S/Sg	Yes	No	
10	1	0	

(Interned in Switzerland; probably more than one survivor)

(Data in parenthesis is from a Dutch researcher, Klass Nijmeijer, via Ian Hawkins, English researcher.)

The Friedrichshafen mission on 18 March 1944 was the 392nd's costliest. 28 a/c were dispatched, 4 aborted, and 14 were MIA. Two landed at other English bases with dead and wounded aboard, and there were wounded on board the a/c that were able to return to Wendling.

Accounts of this fateful mission are in the literature of the 392nd, in Bob Vickers' THE LIBERATORS FROM WENDING, and in Myron Keilman's as reported in the 2nd Air Division Journal and later reprinted in Myron's WAR STORIES. Myron, the 579th CO, was deputy lead commander and collaborators in his story of the mission are Vern Baumgart, lead pilot; Don Clover, 576th pilot; and Bob Berger, Clover's co-pilot.

Recently the mission folder for Friedrichshafen has come into possession of the 392nd BGMA NEWS, thanks to the efforts of Everette Marsteller and Jim Morris, nephews of S/Sgt. E. W. Morris, 579th and KIA on the Books crew. This information has resulted in the compilation of the MIA crew lists shown on this page.

The NEWS has combed the 392nd's membership directory and has interviewed several living survivors. The amazing statistic to come out is that of the 142 crewmen MIA at least 65 survived, and that we have 22 of them on our roster and know that 26 are still living.

There are still many blank spaces among the crew lists. If any reader can fill in other information, please get in touch with Jim Goar, co-editor of the NEWS.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

May 6, 1912: Three Army planes made first group cross-country flight.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

The Group Directory which was published last year has been updated with over 100 address changes and new names. The changes are included in this issue for all those who purchased a Directory. Just peel off the label and paste it over the former address. In the case of new names, place them in the white spaces in alphabetical order.

There is also a new page of Folded Wings. Inevitably, our comrades are checking out in growing numbers. The Group's sympathy is extended to their families.

If you have a Directory and we didn't send you the changes, let Jim Goar know. (Address on the cover of the NEWS)

We have plenty of Directories. If you would like to have one, with the updates, fill out the order blank on the back page.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

May 23, 1940: 320 Army aircraft participated in first simulated European combat operations.

COUNTRY BOY COMBAT BOMBER PILOT: TAYS

Bob Tays' book tells the story of a rural Texas boy and his involvement as a bomber pilot in WW II.

Saying that he was a D and F student in high school, staying in only because his father asked him to do so while he was on the school board, Bob gives a glimpse of how it was for a young man in the late 30's.

After high school, he worked in a filling station for \$5 a week, and the hours were 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on alternate days, with every other Sunday off.

He was in his second year of college when Pearl Harbor occurred and he soon volunteered for the Army and found himself in the Air Corps aircraft mechanics' school.

He then became a cadet, earning his wings and going through transition training to become a 4-engine bomber pilot.

Taking his crew to England, he was first assigned to the 492nd at North Pickenham, but that unfortunate Group soon was disbanded and Bob and his crew came to Wendling and the 578th squadron.

Bob then tells the story of the combat bomber pilot: the missions, the leaves, the danger, the thrills, the despondency- all the things that made up a combat tour in the 8th Air Force.

He stayed in the Reserves, retiring as Col. He had many assignments, but always in operations. He taught school for 35 years and is now retired.

The book does what the title says: tells the story of a Crusader pilot. It's a book fellow Crusaders will not want to put down until finished. The Memorial Association has sent copies to the libraries at Norwich, East Dereham, Litcham, and Beeston, and a copy is in Ernie Barber's 392nd archives.

It is available from Bob at 595 Willow, New Braunfels TX 78130, for \$14.95 plus \$3 shipping cost.

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FOLDED WINGS

Roy A. Bay
Arthur Benson, 579
Theodore Hester, 576/9
Milton Kroll, Hq
Russell Meister, 577/9
Robert Powers, 579

OUR RECRUITS COME FROM EVERYWHERE: JUST LIKE IN WW II

Myron Keilman, the 579th's war-time commander, still keeps a sharp eye out. While vacationing in Palm Springs he noticed a car with a 2AD sticker and left a note. The driver turned out to be Fred Jones, formerly Cpl. Fred Jones of the 577th's Ordnance section. Jones was not familiar with the 392nd's memorial association and Myron lost no time in acquainting him with the advantages of membership.

The 392nd BGMA welcomes Fred Jones. There are several thousand other former Crusaders out there that we'd like to recruit.

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From The Keilman Scrapbook

(Col. Myron Keilman, USAF (Ret) was the commander of the 579th during most of the time at Wendling. This is the first of several excerpts from his extensive scrapbook)

The spring of 1944 was a busy one. Here is a special message from our Wing Commander, Gen. Leon Johnson:

RECORDS SHOW THE 392ND BOMB GROUP DISPATCHED 114 AIRCRAFT DURING 5 MISSIONS FROM MAY 21 TO MAY 25, WITH ONLY TWO EARLY RETURNS. THIS IS IN ITSELF AN OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENT AND IT IS MY DESIRE TO COMMEND YOUR UNIT, ESPECIALLY THE GROUND CREWS RESPONSIBLE.

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AIR ANNIVERSARY

Apr. 3, 1944: 375 B-17'S and B-24'S made first heavy air attack on Budapest.

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AIR ANNIVERSARY

May 13, 1911: Lts. H. H. Arnold and T. D. Milling became first Wright School Army pilots.

Charles Dye Has Moved

Charley Dye, the 392BGMA's Treasurer, has moved, but for now he's staying in Albuquerque at (new address) 7000 Louisiana Blvd., NE, Apt. 1601, Albuquerque NM 87109.

Charley and Helen, fugitives from Wisconsin winters, are not sure they've gone far enough South. "We'll give it one more winter, and be here to help with the 50th anniversary reunion in May 1933, then we'll see", Charley declares.

Send your dues to him at the new address.

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EIGHTH AIR FORCE REUNION PROGRAM

Louisville, Kentucky

October 6-11, 1992

Tues. Oct. 6 WELCOME TO LOUISVILLE
 1:00pm- 5:00pm Reunion registration open
 7:00pm- 8:30pm Agenda-setting UNIT ADVISORY MEETING
 8:30pm-10:30pm 8AF 'English Tavern' RECEPTION. Cash bar.
NOTE: Attendees who plan to join tomorrow morning's Golf Tournament or Tour (both are optional events) must arrive by today.

Wed. Oct. 7 ABOUT & BEYOND LOUISVILLE
 7:00am- 8:30am Continental BREAKFAST BUFFET. Included for attendees pre-registered for today's Golf or Tour.
 7:00am- 9:00am Reunion registration open
 8:00am- 2:00pm (OPTION) Board bus for GOLF. Description pg. 10
 9:00am- 4:00pm (OPTION) Board bus. Full day TOUR. Description pg. 10
 9:00am 8AFMMF BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING
 1:00pm- 5:00pm Reunion registration open
 1:00pm- 5:00pm 'PX' open
 4:00pm UNIT RENDEZVOUS MEETING ROOMS open
 5:45pm- 6:30pm 8AFMMF RECEPTION. Cash bar. Everyone welcome.
 7:00pm- 8:00pm Reunion Registration open
 8:30pm KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS EVENING. Description pg. 10
NOTE: Attendees who plan to join tomorrow morning's Tour (an optional event) must arrive by today.

Thur. Oct. 8 8TH AIR FORCE REMEMBRANCE DAY
 7:00am- 8:30am Full BREAKFAST
 7:30am- 5:00pm Reunion registration open
 8:30am (OPTION) Board bus. Morning TOUR. Description pg. 10
 9:00am UNIT RENDEZVOUS MEETING ROOMS open
 10:00am- 5:00pm 'PX' open
 2:00pm- 6:30pm 'Mighty Eighth' THEATER. WWII movies sponsored by 8AFMMF. Additional showings will be posted.
 3:00pm 8AF MEMORIAL SERVICE. Description pg. 11
 4:00pm- 5:00pm Informal 'Tea & Sweet' RECEPTION with talented keyboard entertainment.
 6:00pm- 6:45pm 8AFHS LIFE MEMBERS' RECEPTION. Cash bar. Family & friends welcome.
 7:00pm- 8:00pm Reunion registration open
 8:30pm MILITARY BAND CONCERT. Description pg. 11

Fri. Oct. 9 UNIT DAY
 7:00am- 8:30am Full BREAKFAST
 7:30am- 5:00pm Reunion registration open
 8:30am CALLING ALL LADIES 'Autumn Foliage' mornng cruise. Description pg. 11
 9:00am UNIT RENDEZVOUS MEETING ROOMS open
 10:00am- 5:00pm 'PX' open
 12:30pm "Let's meet for LUNCH."
 2:00pm- 5:00pm 12th Annual 8AFMMF AIR-WAR SYMPOSIUM. Description pg. 11
 6:30pm- 7:15pm 8AF RECEPTION. Cash bar. Dress Informal.
 7:30pm RENDEZVOUS DINNER and 'hangar flying'

Sat. Oct. 10 THE BRITISH ARE COMING!
 7:00am- 8:30am Continental BREAKFAST BUFFET
 9:00am-11:30am GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
 9:00am-noon Reunion registration open
 10:00am- 4:00pm 'PX' open
 1:00pm- 2:30pm UNIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
 2:30pm- 3:00pm STATE CHAPTER RECOGNITION & 'RAP' SESSION. Everyone Welcome.
 3:00pm- 4:00pm Reunion registration open
 6:15pm- 7:00pm 8AF RECEPTION. Cash bar. Dress Optional. Gentlemen requested to wear jacket & tie. Mess dress suggested for career military personnel.
 7:15pm-11:30pm MILITARY COLOR GUARD CEREMONY to be followed by 8AF GOLDEN 50TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET & DANCE. Guest Speaker: Air Vice-Marshall Peter Dodworth, OBE AFC BSc RAF. Dance to BIG BAND music 'of today & yesteryear'

Sun. Oct. 11 HOMEWARD BOUND
 8:00am-10:00am Continental BREAKFAST BUFFET
 9:00am 8AFHS EXECUTIVE MEETING
 10:00am CATHOLIC SERVICES conducted by Reverend Walter H. Lohse of the 96th BG.
 Noon HOTEL CHECKOUT. Please settle room account and incidental charges directly with hotel.

"HAVE A GOOD TRIP HOME...see you in Chicago '93!"

Second Air Division Association 45th Annual Convention • October 4-7, 1992 Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada • (702) 794-9561

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3
 Registration
 Early Bird Party
 (Cash Bar, Complimentary Hors D'Oeuvres)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4
 Registration
 Cocktail Party
 Group Dinners

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5
 Buffet Breakfast
 Golf Tournament
 Cocktail Party
 Buffet Dinner
 Awards Ceremony

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6
 Buffet Breakfast
 Business Meeting
 Cocktail Party
 Gala Banquet & Dance

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7
 Buffet Breakfast

GROUPS: We are designating Monday, October 5th as Group Activities Day. Each Group Vice President will be responsible for any events they may wish to schedule for this afternoon.

The costs listed below are for the entire package, as shown above, including hotel room for three nights, Sunday 10/4 to Wednesday 10/7. For special arrangements, let me know your requirements and I will advise cost.

COSTS PER PERSON

Single Occupancy \$390.00
 Double Occupancy \$290.00 per person
 Triple Occupancy \$260.00 per person
 Quad Occupancy \$245.00 per person

DEPOSIT WITH RESERVATION — \$50.00 PER PERSON — FULL PAYMENT BY AUGUST 1st.

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. Confirmations will be mailed upon receipt of deposit. At that time, we will also mail you an insurance application you can use to collect payment for late cancellation. Please read this carefully. Insurance 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 THE HOTEL.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are planning to come in Saturday night, we will have a limit on the number of rooms that will be available; therefore, we suggest that you make this reservation early. If you wish to spend Friday and Saturday nights, there will be no problem. Cost per room for extra nights is \$60.00 + 8% tax.

Take Your Choice

The Eighth Air Force Historical Society and the Second Air Division Association, never known to pull together in tandem, have done it again and scheduled their reunions on approximately the same dates.

But Crusaders needn't let that defer them from attending one or the other. There will be a sizable 392nd contingent at both of them.

The "official" meeting for the 392nd BGMA will be with the 8AF at Louisville, but John Conrad, the president-elect of the 2AD and Oak Mackey, the 2AD vice-president for the 392nd, will be at Las Vegas and will head up a strong meeting for the 392nd.

Both the 8AF and the 2AD have recognized the importance of the Group organizations and each has set aside a day for Group activities.

The contact for 8AF is Murray Fein, 8AF Reunion, PO Box 1304, Hallandale FL 33008-1304, phone (305) 456-2260. For 2AD it is Evelyn Cohen, 06-410 Delaire Landing Road, Philadelphia PA 19114, phone (215) 632-3392.

* * * *

PROFILE

Lt. Col. (then 1/Lt) Delmar C. Johnson was a navigator in the 578th, an original crewman who joined the Group at Biggs Field in April 1943. He was on the McKee crew but was not with them when they were lost. He was then on the Rex Johnson crew, shot down on the Fredrichshafen mission (see accompanying story). He remained in the AF Reserve, retiring in 1969. In civilian life, he worked for the Veterans Administration in medical administration in various locations in Washington, Oregon, Indiana, and California. He retired in 1975 from the Veterans Hospital in Palo Alto, CA in 1975. He and wife Lucille have three sons and two grandchildren. They live at 812 Flin Way, Sunnyvale, CA 94087.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

May 19, 1919: M/Sgt. R. W. Bottrick made first free back-pack parachute jump.

PROFILE

S/Sgt. Perry Onstot was an armorer-waist gunner on the Walter M. Bell crew in the 578th. He joined the 392nd at Wendling July 16, 1944, and completed 35 combat missions. After the war, he graduated from the University of Missouri with a BS in Agriculture, and was a vocational agricultural instructor in Missouri for four years. After that he was an agronomist with W. H. Grace, Esso, and Exxon corporations, and a consultant to other corporations and various governments. From 1970 until recently he lived in Hong Kong and worked in Southeast Asia conducting market development for fertilizers, mainly in China and Indonesia. Recently returned to the States to be near his family, he lives at 5733 Cherry, Kansas City, MO 64110. He has 3 children and 4 grandchildren.

PROFILE

1/Lt. Leo F. McDonald was the navigator on the Champion and later Hebron crew in the 576th. He was original crew, having joined the 392nd at Alamogordo before the Group went overseas. Leo was MIA with the Hebron crew on the Fredrichsaffen mission, landing in Switzerland. (See Fredrichshafen mission survivor story, this issue.) After the war, he was a civilian employee for the US Naval Oceanographic Office, and retired in 1976. He lives with wife Jessie at 3005 Teak Lane, Bowie, MD 20715. He has three children and one grandchild.

PROFILE

Capt. John R. Becker was a pilot in the 576th, joining the Group at Alamogordo. He was shot down Jan 4, 1944 on the Keil mission and spent the rest of the war as POW.

In civilian life, he spent 30 years in the dry-cleaning and laundry business and currently is plant manager of US Prefinished Metals.

He and wife Bobbie had one son and one grandson. They live at 4453 Rosebank Dr., Lancaster, CA 91011.

EARLY ABORTS

Here is yet another verse of that Wendling barroom song, this one contributed by Keith Roberts.

VERSE 4

I'm sure you've heard of nightmares
And the things they do
But if you'll come down to the line
You'll see they're far from true
The pilots there are ready
But let Colonel Gilbert shout
And all those bastards yell at once
"My mags, they don't check out"

Chorus

Early aborts, avoid the rush
Early aborts, avoid the rush

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.

TIME, GENTLEMEN!

WE ALL REMEMBER THE CRY OF THE PUB-KEEPER WHEN IT WAS TIME TO SHUT OFF THE TAP AND IT'S THAT TIME IF YOUR DUES ARE NOT PAID.

IF AN LM (FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP) OR AT LEAST A 92 DOES NOT APPEAR AFTER YOUR NAME ON THE ADDRESS LABEL, YOUR DUES ARE NOT PAID UP AND THIS WILL BE THE LAST NEWSLETTER YOU WILL RECEIVE. IF THERE IS AN ERROR, CONTACT CHARLEY DYE. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS RULED THAT NO CRUSADER WILL BE DENIED MEMBERSHIP BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY, SO IF YOU ARE IN STRAITENED CIRCUMSTANCES CHECK THE HARDSHIP WAIVER BOX. FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW AND SEND IT IN NOW! WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE A SINGLE CRUSADER.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues for 1992, \$12 _____ [_____]
 (HARDSHIP WAIVER [])
 Life Membership:
 Age 61-65 \$120 _____ [_____]
 Age 66-70 \$ 96 _____ [_____]
 Age 71 and over \$78 _____ [_____]

PX ITEMS

DIRECTORY (NEW) \$4.50 postpaid _____ [_____]
 392ND T-SHIRT (NEW ITEM) \$10.00 _____ [_____]
 Black 392nd BG cap w/gold braid, Summer, \$9 _____ [_____]
 Black 392nd BG cap w/gold braid, Winter, \$9 _____ [_____]
 White nylon jacket w/ 392nd and Crusader patches, \$20 _____ [_____]
 Book, "Liberators From Wendling", by Col. Bob Vickers, \$25 _____ [_____]
 Book, "392nd War Stories" by Col. Myron Keilman, \$20 _____ [_____]
 392nd Bumper Stickers, \$1.50 postpaid _____ [_____]
 Add \$1.50 per item for shipping cost(except pp items) _____ [_____]
 Total _____ [_____]

Send with check to Charles Dye, Treasurer, 7000 Louisiana Blvd. NE,
 Apt. 1601, Albuquerque, NM 87109

PROFILE

Major (then 1/Lt) Eldred G. (Larry) Lassins was a bombardier in the 578th and 579th Sqdns, joining the Group at Wendling in August 1944. He completed 35 missions, finishing Jan. 1, 1945. After having been rotated to the States, he attended the Statistical Control school at Harvard, and was then assigned to the Troop Carrier Command at Pope Field, Ft. Bragg, NC. He

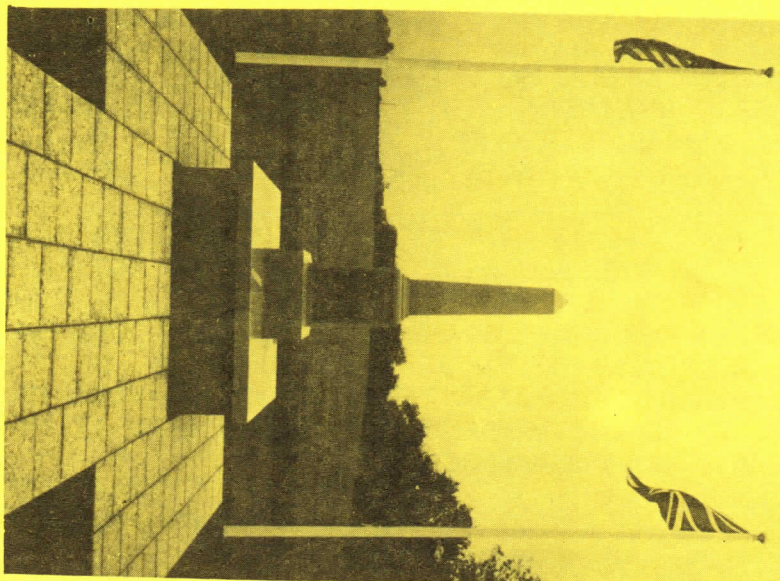
was discharged in 1946, but stayed in the reserves for several years.

In civilian life, he graduated from college with an accounting degree. He then switched to sales and sold business forms. Semi-retired, he still goes to the office a few days a week.

He is married to Claire and they have four children and three grandchildren. They live at 47 Stonegate Dr., Roseland, NJ 07068.

392nd BG Memorial Association

NEWS



THE REFURBISHED MEMORIAL AT WENDLING

392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association NEWS
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