NEWS

392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 10 MAY 1995

392 MARKS VE DAY WITH GERMAN OVERFLIGHT

Three days after the German capitulation on May 5, 1945, the 8AF flew low-level "sight-seeing missions" over Europe. GI's soon named them Trolley Track missions. The general idea was to allow the ground personnel (and flight personnel also, who were at altitude during combat missions) a chance to see the bombing results of over two years of concentrated effort.

The 392nd, according to Bob Vickers' history, "The Liberators From Wendling" flew four missions; 8, 9, 10, and 11 May. It is unknown how many Crusaders went, but Roger Freeman in his book "The Mighty Eighth" said that 10,000 personnel were taken on the flights.

The route shown in the drawing below was one of two flown by the 392nd.

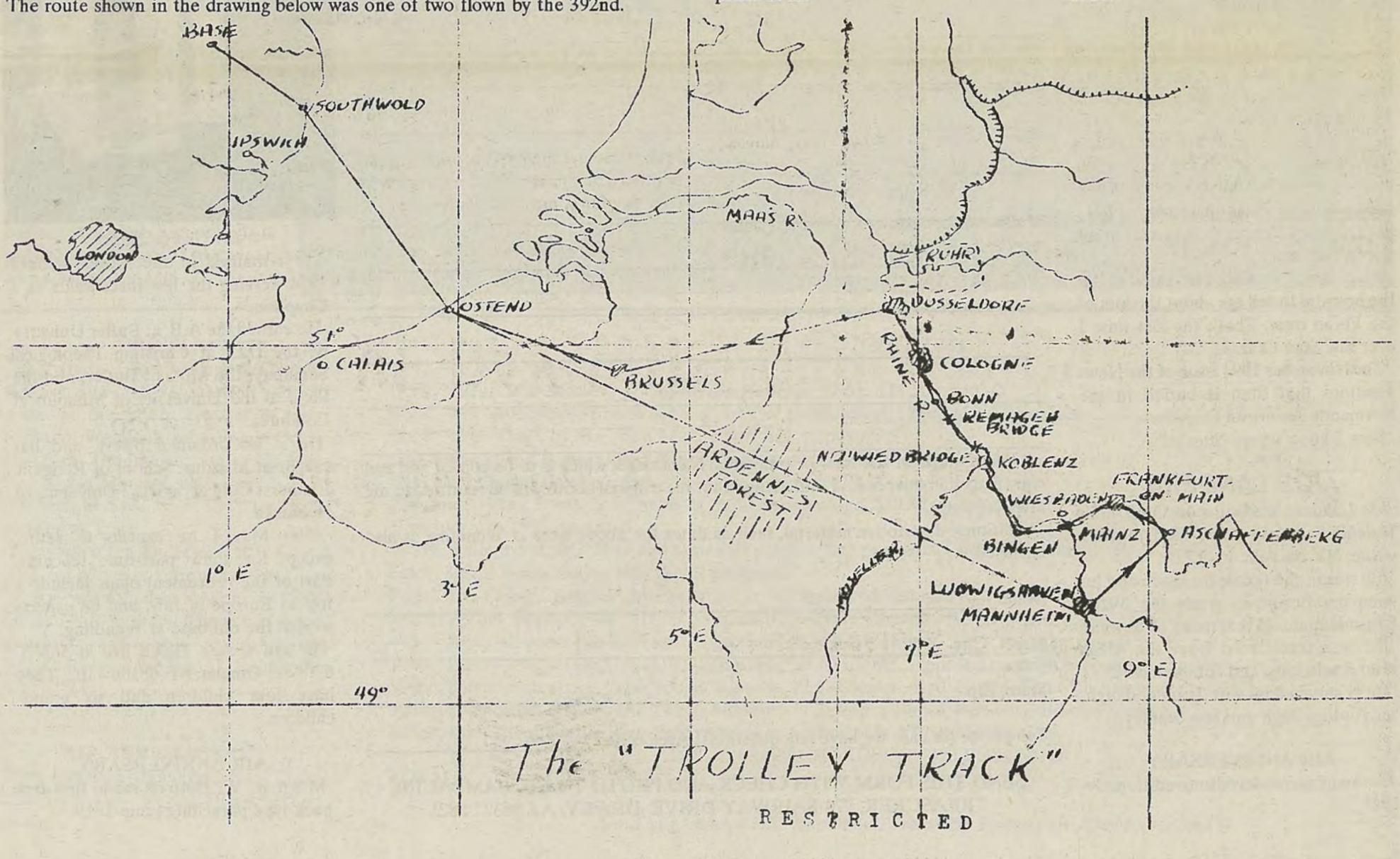
DUES NOTICE - - - DUES NOTICE
CHECK THE MAILING LABEL, SEE IF YOU'VE PAID

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Lts. H. H. Arnold and T. D. Milling became first Wright School Army pilots-1911.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

American day bombardment aviation began at Amenty Airdrome, France-1918.



OOPS! DEPT

We have been using the same, more or less, copy for the Dues Notice for some time. Now it comes to our attention that we have been using a misspelled word in it. We were straightened out on the matter by an alert reader, Paddy Winters, bombardier on the Schildknecht-J. D. Long crew. Doctors bury their mistakes; newsmen's are out there before God and everybody.

Speaking of dues, check your mailing label to see if you're paid up. If the notation after your name is LM for Life Member or 95 or above, you're paid up. If there's nothing there, don't worry, you're on the Hardship list and no one knows it except the Treasurer and the person mailing out the newsletter. If Frnd is after your name, you are an honored guest of the 392nd. If you're not paid up, please send $12 to GIL BAMBAUER (not Charley Dye). There is a dues notice, with correct spelling and Gil's address, elsewhere in this issue.

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

We labor, sometimes mightily, sometimes not so mightily, to produce four 392nd newsletters a year.

It all becomes worthwhile when we get a letter like this one from Howard Bjork, bombardier in the 576th Sqdn:

"I had often wondered what had happened to Stan Crazak. He was the tail gunner on the John Feran crew when we formed up in Clovis in 1943. When the crew went down on 18 March 1944 Stan, Barney Houser (top turret) and I weren't aboard.

'I last saw Stan when he visited me at the hospital to tell me about the loss of the Feran crew. That's the last time I ever saw Stan Crazak.

'The November 1994 issue of the News mentions that Stan is buried in the Normandy American Cemetery.

'Now I know where Stan is."

* * * *

JOE LANDERS

Joe Landers, navigator on the 578th's Roland Sabourin crew, died at Malverne, NY on Apr. 15, 1995.

Joe was in the textile business, and his company furnished gratis the 392nd Crusader patches that many of us wear.

Joe was transferred from the 458th after 5 missions, and completed 32.

He is survived by wife Jeanne, daughter Audrey Pugh and son Stanley.

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AIR ANNIVERSARY

Germany surrendered unconditionally-1945.

CRUSADERS RESPOND TO OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE BOOKS TO WENDLING AREA SCHOOL LIBRARIES AS MEMORIALS

Toni Robinson reports a good response from the recent NEWS article on donating funds for books for the Litcham and Beeston school libraries.

The donors are as follows:

Rev. Frank Whitt for his brother S/Sgt Clyde G. Whitt, 577, KIA June 23, 1944.

Carroll W. Cheek in memory of Lt Edwin G. Clapper.

Arnold S. Daniels, in memory of the crew of "Gypsy Queen", 1944.

Col Lawrence G. Gilbert, funds for books at Litcham and Beeston.

Toni, chairperson of the Books For Memorials effort, says:

"This is an excellent opportunity, for only $50, to memorialize a person or a crew, living or dead. And if you want to donate a book without memorializing anyone, all that is necessary is to send in the form shown below, with check, and sign it as donor", she continued.

IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM, THE ASSOCIATION WILL GIVE TO EACH $50 DONOR, AS LONG AS THE SUPPLY LASTS, A 20 X 20 PRINT, SUITABLE FOR FRAMING, OF THE B-24 P-BAR, THE FLYING CRUSADER, BY FREDERICK T. SEARLE.

MEMORIAL GIFT TO WENDLING AREA SCHOOL LIBRARIES

I/we donate $50 to the 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Ass'n, and I/we request that a book be purchased for the Litcham or Beeston school library, and that it be inscribed as follows:

IN MEMORY OF: (List a crew or an individual)

_____

_____

_____

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_____

A photograph of the crew or individual is enclosed, which is to be copied and and copy placed in the book. I understand that the original photo will be returned to me after copying.

Additional descriptive material, such as dates the above were at Wendling, is also enclosed.

Donor_____

Street, City_____

State, Zip_____

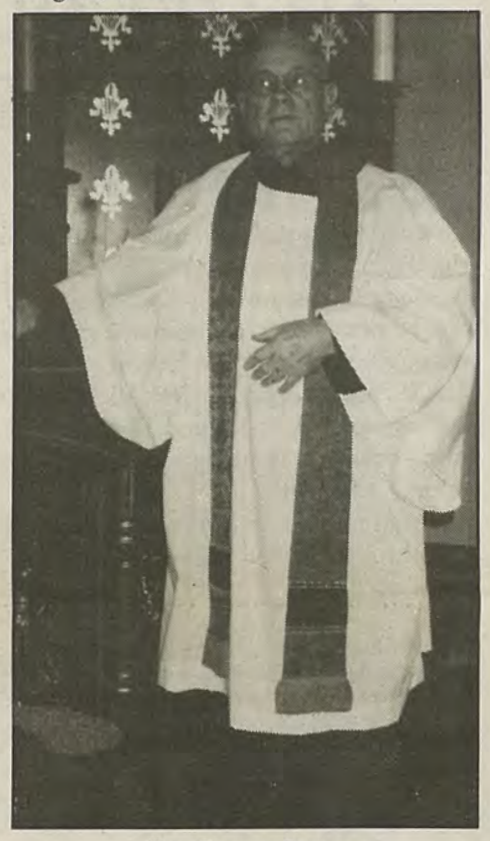
Telephone (in case we have any questions) Area code:_____

SEND THIS FORM WITH CHECK AND PHOTO TO GIL BAMBAUER, TREASURER, 974 FAIRWAY DRIVE, DEWEY, AZ 86327-5825

DR. GEORGE BARGER NAMED CHAPLAIN

The Reverend Dr. George W. Barger has become Chaplain of the 392nd, it has been announced by Col Lawrence Gilbert, Chairman. He is presently Interim Dean of the Cathedral at Omaha, Nebraska.

He was 1st Lt (later Capt), navigator-bombardier on the Scott, Daley, and Sincock crews in the 577th Sqdn. He joined the Group at Wendling in August, 1944.



Dr. George Barger

He remained in the Reserves until 1954, serving the last three years as a Chaplain.

He earned the A.B. at Butler University; the B.D. at Christian Theological Seminary; the M.A. at Butler; and the Ph.D at the University of Missouri at Columbia.

He is an ordained priest, and has taught at Missouri School of Religion, Elmhurst College, and the University of Nebraska.

After May 1 he expects to retire, except for some part-time teaching. Part of the retirement plans include a trip to Europe in July, and he expects to visit the old base at Wendling.

He and spouse Helen live at 508 S. 67th St., Omaha, NE 68106-1102. They have four children and six grandchildren.

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AIR ANNIVERSARY

M/Sgt R. W. Bottrell made first free back-type parachute jump-1919.

NEW YORK

Queen Mary Brings 14,000 GIs Home

Most of Them Are to Be Redeployed After Furloughs

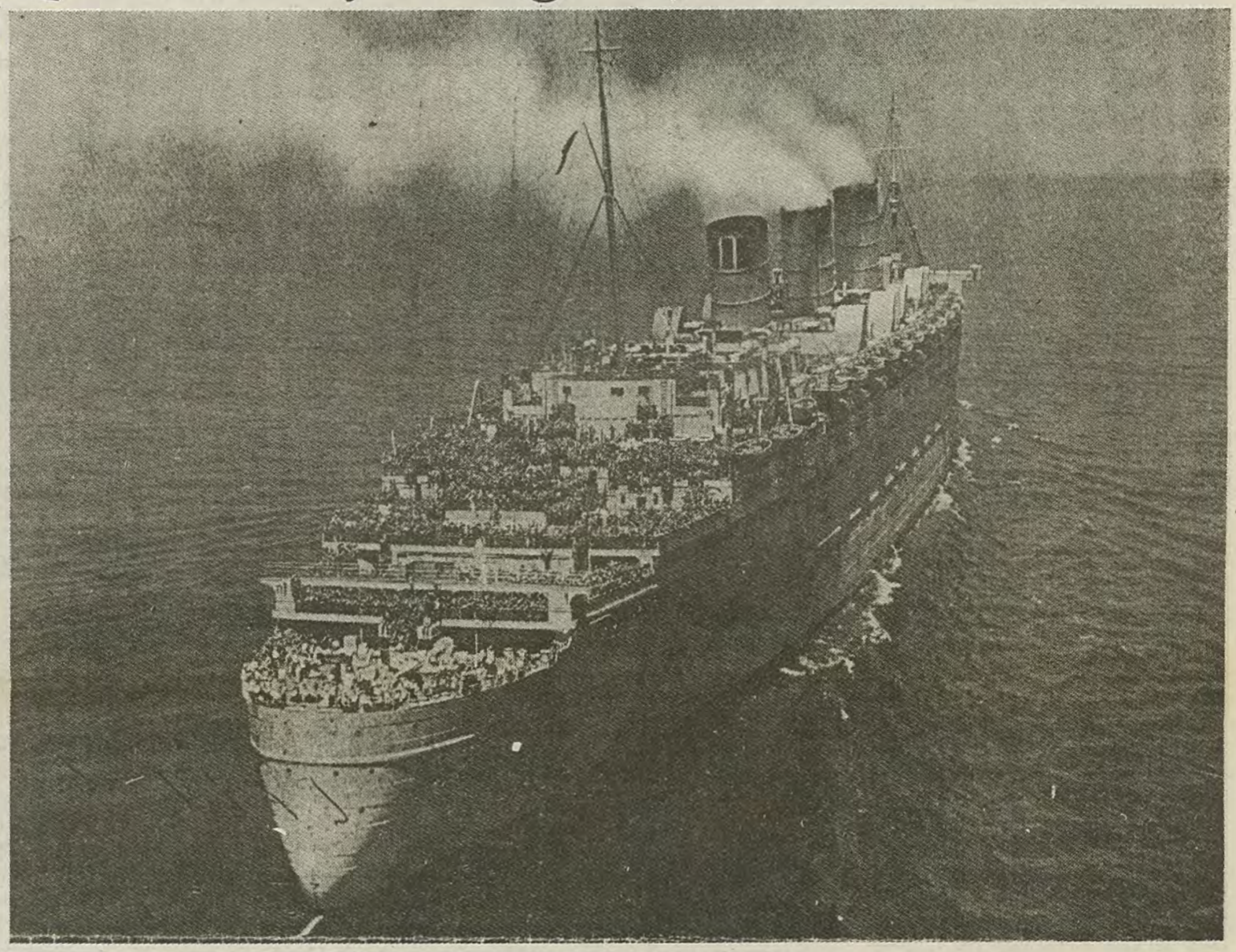
By Betty Moorsteen

More than 14,000 soldiers and steamed into New York Bay and up the Hudson River yesterday for her first voyage to New York since the Hudson River yesterday for her first voyage to New York since V-E Day.

Two yachts carrying Army bands and the cutter Sandy Hook, a former excursion boat, carrying reporters and cameramen, met her at The Narrows and escorted her through a harbor full of welcoming vessels, all sounding the traditional three-whistle salute of welcome. A tug attempted a bugle call on its whistle; a huge sign on the green embankment before Fort Hamilton said: "Welcome Home – Well Done," the Whitehall Bldg. displayed a similar sign; Army piers were decorated in red, white and blue; crowds lined the Bay Ridge waterfront.

Among the first and liveliest troops to debark were 150 members of the 392d Bomber Group, which flew 287 missions over Germany during its two years in England and received the Presidential Citation for its complete destruction of aircraft engine factories in Gotha on Feb. 24, 1943.

This clipping was furnished by Joseph L. Thomson, 577th radio section. The article has an error in it; there were at least 1500 Crusaders on board, not 150.



PROFILE

S/Sgt (later T/Sgt) George W. Bacon was a gunner on the Voght and Detrick crews in the 579th. He was a early arrival at Wendling, reporting in October 1943. The last mission in his tour was Berlin, March 8, 1943.

He was in SAC from 1948 to 1951, retiring as T/Sgt.

He worked for Anderson-Little Company for 40 years, retiring in 1988.

A son was killed in Angola in 1976. He and wife Geraldine have two living daughters and three grandchildren. Their address is PO Box 37, Rehoboth, MA 02769.

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AIR ANNIVERSARY

First non-stop transcontinental flight from New York to San Diego began-1923.

PX ITEMS

Book, "392nd War Stories", by Col Myron Keilman, 579th, $21.50 postpaid	$_____
Book, "The Liberators From Wendling", by Col Bob Vickers, 578th, $28.00 postpaid	$_____
Book, "Crew Dog", by Maj John Matt, 579th, $28.95 postpaid	$_____
Cap, black, 392nd Bomb Group w/gold braid, summer, $10.50 postpaid	$_____
Cap, black, 392nd Bomb Group w/gold braid, winter, $10.50 postpaid	$_____
Cap, blue, 392nd Bomb Group w/B-24 and Crusader logo, $10.50 postpaid	$_____
Directory, Jan 1995, postpaid	$_____
Jacket, white nylon, w/392BG and Crusader patches, $22 postpaid (Circle size wanted) M L XL XXL	$_____
Patch, 392nd Bomb Group logo, $1.50 postpaid	$_____
Print, "The Flying Crusader", by Frederick T. Searle, signed, reduced to $16.50 postpaid	$_____
T-shirt, 392nd Bomb Group, $18.50 postpaid (Circle size wanted) M L XL XXL	$_____
Video, from Albuquerque Reunion Symposium, "The Early Days"	$_____
Video, from Albuquerque Reunion Symposium, "The Ground Support Teams Prepare For A Mission"	$_____
Video, Symposium above, "The Tough Missions, Pt 1: Bremen, Keil, Gotha, Freidrichshafen	$_____
Video, Symposium above, "The Tough Missions, Pt 2: Politz, Berlin, Bernberg, Bingen, Wesel	$_____
Video, from Albuquerque Reunion Symposium, general scenes from the reunion	$_____
(EACH VIDEO IS $23 POSTPAID)	
TOTAL	$_____

Send with check to Gil Bambauer, Treas, 954 Fairway Dr., Dewey, AZ 86327

8AF CONTROL TOWER REPLICA DEDICATED AT USAF MUSEUM

On April 22, a chillingly cold and damp day reminiscent of East Anglia, some 250-300 8AF veterans and friends dedicated an exact replica of an 8AF control tower at the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

The ceremony culminated a long and determined effort by the 8AF Memorial Museum Foundation. The 8AFMMF is an arm of the 8AF Historial Society. Two members of the 392nd, Bob Vickers and Cliff Peterson, serve on its Board of Directors.

The Control Tower is a commanding presence at the Museum: it is near the entrance and fittingly, is adjacent to the line of parked aircraft on static display.

The construction of the tower was aided by Robert Sellers, who was uniquely qualified for the task. He was senior Flying Control Officer at Horsham St. Faith, home of the 458th.

One of the walls contains 60 bricks, each collected from an actual 8AF base control tower in England. They are identified by a brass plate and together form a map of 8AF installations. The Friends Of The Eighth (FOTE), a group of Brits interested in the history of 8AF, collected them.

Crusaders present at the ceremony were: Joseph M. Barnes, Bert M. Beals, Jack Bilz, Wally Blackburn, John Conrad, Charles Dye, Herman Garner, Jim Goar, Birdie Larrick, Cliff Peterson, Otto Sanders, Keith Roberts, J. Fred Thomas, and Bob Vickers.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 392BGMA SET FOR JULY 4 AT LEXINGTON DURING SECOND AD CONVENTION

Col Lawrence Gilbert, Chairman of the Board of the 392BGMA, has announced that the annual corporate membership meeting will be held at Lexington, KY, on July 4 at 9 AM. This will be during the 2AD convention being held at the same time.

He also announced that the Board of Directors of the 392BGMA will meet at 2:30 on Monday, July 3.

The membership will vote on the following amendment to the By-Laws. It was approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting on Feb. 11, 1995. The amendments are shown in bold letters.

ARTICLE NINE
OFFICERS

A. The Officers of this organization shall be: **Chairman of the Board,** President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Any one Director may serve in more than one office at the discretion of the Board of Directors. **Only the last Commander of the 392nd Bomb Group may serve as the Chairman of the Board.**

B. **Except for the office of the Chairman of the Board, whose tenure shall be for life,** these Officers shall be members of the Board of Directors. They shall be elected to serve for a period of one year by the new Board of Directors.

D. **The Chairman of the Board, and the** President shall provide overall direction and leadership for the conduct of the business of this organization, subject to the control of the Board of Directors. The President, along with the Secretary, will sign all formal instruments required by law and / or by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE TWELVE
COMMITTEES

A. The Executive Committee shall include the elected Officers of the organization. The Executive Committee, chaired by the **Chairman of the Board, and / or** the President, shall be responsible for drafting meeting agenda, drafting and scheduling mail vote motions as required, and carrying out other managerial functions as directed by the Board of Directors.

SPACE AVAILABLE AT LEXINGTON FOR 2AD CONVENTION JUL 2-6

Evelyn Cohen, secretary of 2AD, reports that there is still room available. If you would like to attend, send her a deposit of $50 per person at 06-410 Delaire Landing Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114. Her phone number is 215 632 3992, but she will be in England with the 2AD party celebrating VE day until May 16.

Some Crusaders have voiced the complaint that they don't see anyone they know at 2AD and 8AF conventions, but there are always around 50 392 people at these meetings, and a hospitalilty room for the Group is maintained. If you don't see anyone you know, at least you will see people who were at Wendling when you were.

Complete details of the convention can be found in the February issue of the 392BGMA NEWS, or in the 2AD JOURNAL.

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PROFILE

S/Sgt John P. Rumancik was the tail gunner on the MacFarlane crew in the 576th. He joined the Group at Wendling in January 1945.

After the war he attended Waynesburg College in Pennsylvania, and was Postmaster at Crucible, PA for 38 years, retiring in 1986.

He and Mrs. Lucy O. Rumancik spend winters in Albuquerque, and their summer address is PO Box 299, Crucible, PA 15325. They have three children and 2 grandchildren.

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TOUR AVAILABLE TO DUXFORD AIR SHOW SEPTEMBER 6-12

Duxford, the home of the British Air Museum and the planned American Air Museum In Britain, will present its annual Air Show on Sunday, Sept. 10.

Special arrangements are being made for American visitors. An organized tour is available which will combine transportation from the US to England and return; accomodations in England; transportation to Duxford; and organized tours of London and Cambridge.

For information contact Military Historical Tours, PO Box 2168, San Diego CA 92101. Their telephone is (800) 872-6458 or (619) 234-8606. Fax is (619) 231-2906.

DUES NOTICE - - - DUES NOTICE
CHECK THE MAILING LABEL, SEE IF YOU'VE PAID

AWARDED THE CROIX-DE-GUERRE

These officers were awarded the French Croix-de-Guerre at cermonies at Second Air Division Headquarters on May 3, 1945. With rank at date, they are: Major "Doc" Wieland, Group Bombardier; Lt Col Lawrence Gilbert, Air Executive; Col Lorin Johnson, Commander; Major Myron Keilman, 579th Commander; and Major Kenneth Paddock, Group Navigator. This photo came from the mementos of T/Sgt Tom Horn, Group Armament.

HACK TIME AT D-DAY BRIEFING

Smithsonian photo-Linda Christenson

This photo was gleaned from the Smithsonian collection with the help of Linda Christenson, neice of 392BGMA editor Jim Goar and a professional researcher. It was taken on June 6, 1944 at one of the D-Day mission briefings. The first row: Capt Doc Wieland, Group Bombardier; unknown; Capt Leonard Unteidt, 578th Squadron Navigator; Capt. W. F. Joachim, 578th Squadron Bombardier. The soldier operating the projector has been identified by Sgt. Art Olson, Group S-2, as S/Sgt Harold Burkel (or Birkle). If a reader can identify any others, the NEWS would like to hear about it.

PROFILE

2/Lt (later Lt Col) Alfred M. Oppenheimer was the bombardier on the 578th's Carson Green crew. They went down on Sept. 11, 1944, and Oppenheimer was POW.

He stayed in the Reserves for 28 years, retiring as Lt Col.

He took the A. B. Degree from Duke University in 1949 and the LL. B in 1951. He has spent his life in the banking business, and is now retired.

He and wife Patricia have two daughters, and live at 42 Pine Drive, Fairfax, CA 94030-2141.

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AIR ANNIVERSARY

Lt James H. Doolittle performed first known successful outside loop-1927.

FROM THE KEILMAN WWII NOTEBOOK

Col Myron Keilman, the commander of the 579th, has compiled accounts of events in 392nd history that he has named "Lest We Forget". Following are his remarks on the end of the war:

On 25 April, 1945, the Second Air Division flew its last mission. The 392nd flew its 285th, and last, mission to bomb the railroad marshaling yard at Hallein, Austria, about five miles from Hitler's retreat at Berchtesgaden. Excellent results were achieved in spite of intense flak. Ten airplanes suffered damage but only one didn't make it back to Wendling. It made a safe emergency landing on the continent. (Lt. Linzmeir in a/c #519)

All of 8AF was stood down from further combat operations.

Adolf Hitler killed himself on 1 May 1945 in his deep underground headquarters in Berlin.

VE (Victory in Europe) Day was declared on 10 May 1945. Here is the message from General Spaatz, Commander US Air Forces in Europe:

ORDER OF THE DAY NUMBER 3.

The war in Europe is over. The combined efforts of our American Air Forces together with our teammates on the ground and on the seas have joined with those of our allies to annihilate a powerful foe. All of you have played a great part in this victory. The courage and determination of our combat crews has been matched by the tireless devotion of ground crews and staffs. To those brave men whose lives have been part of the price we have paid, will go the everlasting gratitude of their fellow countrymen. It is a matter of the deepest pride to me I have been privileged to be your commander.

Carl Spaatz.

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BOOK REVIEW

"AND NOW THE NEWS, 1945", by Herbert W. Hobler. Can be purchased from Passport Communications, Inc., Suite 1945, 66 Witherspoon St., Princeton, NJ 08542. $17.25, postpaid.

The author was a B-29 navigator in WWII flying out of Tinian in the 9th Bomb Group. He was in broadcasting for 40 years. The book is a marriage of his living through 1945 and a broadcasting idea to bring 1945 alive with daily newscasts he created by researching microfiche of the 1945 New York Times, plus other news sources.

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RED CROSS CLUBMOBILE VISITS WENDLING

This picture was sent in by George Bacon, gunner on the Voght and Detrick crews in the 579th. George thinks it appeared in the Stars and Stripes in November or December of 1943. Birdie Larrick, the ARC Club director, said that the Clubmobile stopped coming to Wendling after the Red Cross Aero club opened. Although the clipping is over 50 years old, it is reproduced here in a size that hopefully will enable a reader to find himself or identify a friend. If such happens, the NEWS would like to hear about it.

BOOK REVIEW

WAR AND WOMEN, by Jacob Elias. Flying Eightball Productions, 7 E. Union St., Nanticoke, PA 18634-2830. $19.95, postpaid.

Jacob Elias was one of ours, for awhile. He joined the 392nd at Biggs Field in 1943 and was a clerk in Headquarters. He was transferred to 14th Combat Wing in the winter of '43, and, tiring of being a clerk and wanting to get into the war, volunteered as a gunner in the 44th Bomb Group. He finished his tour as S/Sgt.

The book is largely autobiographical and tells his GI story with a parallel story of a friend in the paratroops, the 82nd Airborne.

We were able to indentify only one 392nd person in the book: Col (then Major) John Fritsche, the Group adjutant. (Elias called him "Gritsche"). Elias as a GI was no lover of officers and said so in no uncertain terms in his book, but Col Fritsche evidently gained his respect because the Elias character spoke well of him.

Many of us will be able to identify in many ways with the Elias character.

(See Profiles, this issue, for profile of Jacob Elias).

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Three Army planes made first group cross-country flight-1912.

BOOK REVIEW

NIGHT OF THE INTRUDERS, by Ian McLachlan. Haynes Publishing. Can be obtained from Zenith Books, PO Box 1, Osceola, WI 54020.$37.95.

The book details the mission to Hamm on Apr. 22, 1944. A very late take-off resulted in a return after dark, and Luftwaffe fighters infiltrated the returning bombers and wreaked havoc in the landing patterns.

German fighters also attacked the formations over Germany, and the book describes vividly the actions of the 578th's Schildknecht and Everhart crews, which were hit by the fighters. Schildknecht and co-pilot J. D. Long were both wounded, but J. D. was able to bring the a/c home to a RAF fighter base, Hawkinge. Everhart's a/c was so badly damaged that the crew bailed out over Belgium. (See the Feb 1992 issue of the 392BGMA NEWS for this story).

Several other Crusaders are mentioned in the book, including Lt Col Warren Polking, who was leading the combat wing. A/C pictured are 576th's 42-29433, Mathias pilot; and 577th's 42-7495, Axis Grinder, Johnson pilot.

Both this author and Bob Vickers in his book "The Liberators From Wendling" state that although other 2AD bases were hit by the infiltrating German fighters, Wendling was not.

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BOOK REVIEW

THE AMERICAN AIRMAN IN EUROPE, by Roger A. Freeman. Published in the US by Motorbooks International, PO Box 2, Osceola, WI 54020. $24.95.

This book, first published in 1991, has just been brought to the attention of the NEWS.

Written by that quintessential Englishman and acknowledged 8AF expert Roger Freeman, the book contains many first-hand stories that have been told to Roger by 8AF personnel about their war-time experiences in the ETO.

Crusaders mentioned in the book are: Henry DeKeyser, Edward Holmes, Bob Vickers, William E. Smith, and Fred Hollien. Readers will also recognize the names of many other 2AD and 8AF friends.

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BOOK REVIEW

FIGHTING SCOUTS OF THE 8TH AIR FORCE, by E. Richard Atkins. Pre-publication order from Atkins at 1304 Cochise Dr., Suite 222A, Arlington, TX 76012. $40.00.

The book will tell of the exploits of the Scouting Force, Fighter Groups organized to go ahead of the bomber streams to scout the weather and the enemy. Flying P-51 Mustangs, the pilots were ex-bomber pilots.

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EDITORIAL WORK ON 392 ANTHOLOGY ADVANCES

Bill Braddock and wife Marge, who have taken on the Herculean job of editing the 392nd Anthology, report that they are making progress.

Essential to the job is getting the material onto computer discs, which is a time-comsuming job, even with a scanner.

The Braddocks spend their winters and Texas and summers in Minnesota and as this paper goes to press are on their way back to northern climes.

Bill has raised the question, Where did the name Crusader come from? Our insignia, a knight riding a bomb, probably gave rise to the term. The artist who conceived the insignia is generally thought to be a Sgt. Olson, but diligent inquiry has brought no word of him.

Bill asks that anyone with information please contact him at 612 331 2718. Or, write him in care of the 392BGMA NEWS, the address for which is on the masthead of the newsletter.

Others on the editorial committee are David Greene, Cliff Peterson, Burrell Ellison, Gil Bambauer, Keith Roberts, and Howard Ebersole.

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ERNIE PYLE'S LAST COLUMN AN ELOQUENT TRIBUTE TO THE GI

The media, particularly the Indiana media, marked the 50th anniversary of the death of Hoosier war correspondent and Pulitzer Prize winner Ernie Pyle. He was shot by a Japanese sniper on a remote Pacific island on Apr. 18, 1945.

He was famous for being the GI's reporter, and filed many stories from Africa, Sicily, Italy and Germany. Most of the experiences that he related were from the Infantry.

With the war winding down in Europe, he went to the Pacific theater, only to meet death a few months before the war was over.

His last column was written in anticipation of the end of the war in Europe, which came May 5. It was a tribute to the dead, and ironically, was found on his body.

One sentence from it tells it all about war experience: "The companionship of 2 1/2 years of death and misery is a spouse that tolerates no divorce."

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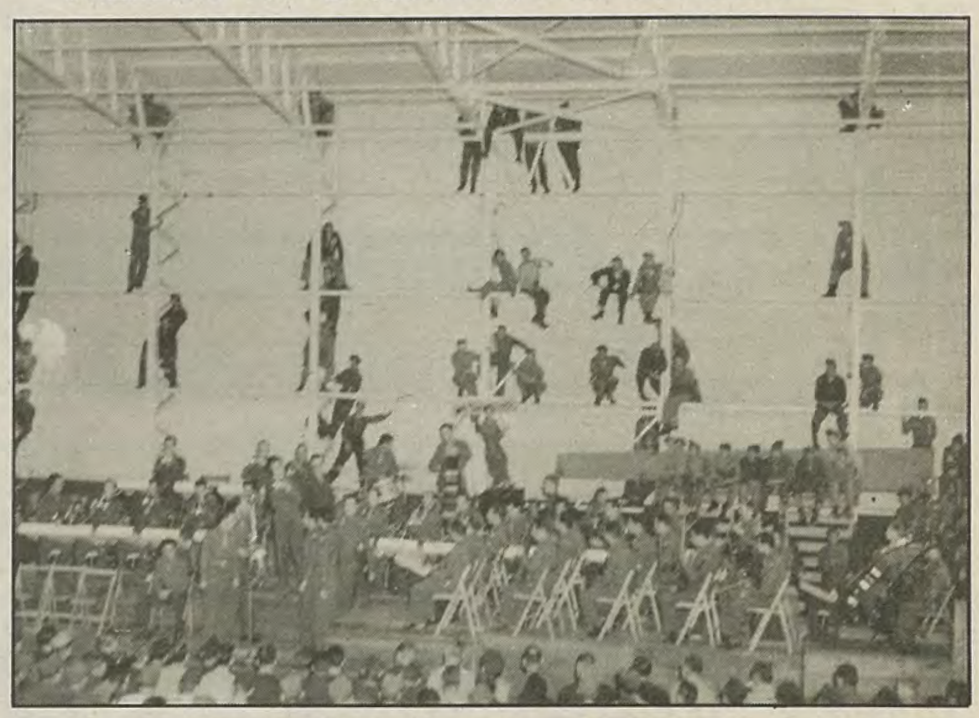
GI'S HANG FROM THE RAFTERS WHEN GLENN MILLER'S 8AF BAND PLAYS AT WENDLING



Five B-24's landed at Wendling in the afternoon of Aug. 25, 1944 and unloaded Glenn Miller's band. They set up in the big hanger and soon the joint was jumping.

Keith Roberts, navigator on the 578th's Bob Vickers crew and a Director of the 392BGMA, will be writing a story for the NEWS about it. He would like to have Crusaders' recollections, such as: how was the weather? What numbers did they play? Send your memories to Keith at 26631 Dorothea, Mission Viejo CA 92691.

DUES NOTICE - - - DUES NOTICE
CHECK THE MAILING LABEL, SEE IF YOU'VE PAID

AIR ANNIVERSARY

AEF received a DH-4, its first American made airplane-1918.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Lt G. E. M. Kelly became second Army officer killed in an airplane-1911.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

320 Army aircraft participated in first simulated European combat operations-1940.

PROFILE

Capt Willis L. Miller was a lead pilot in the 577th and 579th Squadrons. He joined the Group at Wendling in May 1944, and completed 30 missions. After the combat tour, he was in Ferry Command at Santa Ana AAB in Long Beach, CA.

He was separated from the Service in 1945 and attended the University of California at Davis. He was a rancher in Orange County, Santa Barbara County, and Tulare County. He is a principal in County National Bank in Santa Ana, CA; and is chairman of the Southern California Federal Land Bank. He developed residential and industrial properties and operates several auto agencies.

He and spouse Dorothy have seven children and 14 grandchildren. The oldest granddaughter is in the class of 1997 at the Air Force Academy.

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PARDON US IF WE SEEM TOO INSISTENT, BUT WE'D LIKE VERY MUCH FOR MEMBERS TO SEND IN THEIR DUES NOW. IF WE HAVE TO HOUND YOU FOR THEM, IT MAKES EXTRA WORK FOR THE NEWS STAFF AND THE TREASURER. YOU'LL BE DOING US A BIG FAVOR IF YOU SEND YOUR $12 TO GIL BAMBAUER NOW.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

GET YOUR 1995 DUES OBLIGATION OUT OF THE WAY NOW. DUES SENT IN NOW WILL MAKE IT EASIER FOR YOUR OFFICERS AND EDITORS, AND WILL INSURE YOUR RECEIVING YOUR NEWSLETTER WITHOUT DELAY. You can tell where you stand with your dues by the code right after your name on the label. If is LM (for Life Membership) or 95 or higher, you're paid up. If there is an error, contact Gil Bambauer.

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!

Name_____ Ground [ ] Air [ ] Sqdn_____ Assoc [ ]

Street_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Dues for 1995, $12 [_____]

HARDSHIP WAIVER [____]

LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

Age 61-65 $120 [_____]

Age 66-70 $96 [_____]

Age 71 and over $78 [_____]

Send with check to Gil Bambauer, 974 Fairway Dr., Dewey, AZ 86327

FOLDED WINGS REPORT (PLEASE REPORT ANY DEATH OF SPOUSE AS WELL AS OF MEMBER)

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 Jim Goar, 5 N. Columbia St., Frankfort, IN 46041.

NEWS

392nd BG Memorial Association

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Almighty God, Who has blessed us with the will and courage to do our duty, we praise You for our comrades whose death kept freedom living. We praise You also for giving us the years we have lived since their departure. We pray that You will strengthen and sustain our devotion to truth and justice, so that we may be faithful beneficiaries of their sacrifice. Continue Your mercy to our comrades; keep them in Your care; and bring us all at last into Your presence there to rejoice eternally. Amen.
-Prayer composed by 576th pilot the Very Reverend Robert C. Martin, retired Dean of the Cathedral at Erie, Pa.

PROFILE

Jacob T. Elias was a corporal in Group Headquarters. joining the Group at Biggs Field in early 1943.

In the winter of 1943 he was transferred to 14th Combat Wing. Later, he volunteered for duty as an aerial gunner in the 44th Bomb Group, and finished his tour as S/Sgt.

After the war he went into business, but also wrote during those years, publishing plays, short stories, and articles.

He entered the railway service in 1956, retiring in 1982. He lived in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York City until 1989, when he returned to Pennsylvanlia. He published a novel in 1989, THE SHY NUDE, and in 1995 published WAR AND WOMEN. (See Book Reviews, this issue). He is now working on a novel about the young Thomas Paine before he came to America and joined the Revolution.

He has four children, two boys and two girls. He lives at 7 E. Union St., Naticoke, PA 18634.

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But we..shall be remembered:

We few,
we happy few,
we band of
brothers;

For he to-day
that sheds his
blood with me

Shall be
my brother...

William Shakespeare
Henry V

FOLDED WINGS

Charles H. Bader, 579
Olin D. Castle, 579
Gilbert O. Eisermann, 578
Leroy DeHoff, 578
Ernest R. Fleck, 579
Mrs. Ben Foote
Joe Landers, 578

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By George Barger, Chaplain

Most of us are nearing the far side of this life and probably think a lot about death than when we were younger. I suppose one could consider this unhealthy, but it seems to me more in the natural order of things. Our loved ones, our friends and acquaintances in our age bracket, and we ourselves, face what is common to all living things. This isn't the only place, but it is one junction where religious faith speaks most directly: there is more to life than meets the eye. And that "more" is the grounds for a hope that sustains us.

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