

NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 12

MAY 1997

DUXFORD MUSEUM DEDICATION AUG 1

PILOT FINISHES COMBAT TOUR; "RETIRES" TO FLY AS PILOT IN SCOTLAND-SWEDEN AIRLINE

Nearly everyone in the 392 BGMA knows that the Guy Carnine crew was the first crew that finished in the 392nd. Here is his story of what happened to him after that. Guy tells the NEWS that he has recently moved to 47 Emerald Hill, Franklin, NC 28734.

By Guy Carnine, 578th

Col Bernt Balchen, USAC, was a world-famous Norwegian Arctic explorer.

Col Balchen set up an airline to operate between Leuchars, Scotland, and Stockholm, Sweden. The purpose of this airline was to return to England our B-17 and B-24 crews who had landed in Sweden due to battle damage or insufficient fuel to get back to England. Sweden interned the crews in order to maintain their neutrality.

Our airliners were B-24s that had been stripped of turrets and armament, and were solid color with no markings except a U. S. Department of Commerce number on the tail.

When my crew completed their missions on March 5, 1944, there was a moratorium on returning crews to the States. My navigator, Vic Mastron, and my radio operator, Boyce Barbee, were given the opportunity to volunteer for the

very secret Swedish operation. Only those three crew members were needed.

The moratorium was lifted soon after we volunteered, but by then we were committed to the airline.

We were given passports and fitted out with civilian clothing in London and soon we were in Scotland, ready to be an airline crew.

It was necessary for us to fly over Norway when flying to and from Sweden. During the summertime period in that part of the world it never got dark at our operating altitude of 12,000-14,000 feet. We never flew when fair weather was expected, but sometimes the weather man was wrong and we would fly across Norway in the clear. The Germans had JU88's in Norway, and it was always a mystery to us why they didn't attack us.

Sometimes we carried Norwegians to England. Norway was at war with Germany, and many Norwegians chose to escape to England and train there to fight Germany.

Col Balchen planned to extend the operation to Helsinki, Finland, but on the initial flight Russian warships in the harbor shot down the a/c. Mistake or not, this ended the attempt to connect with Helsinki.

It seemed that the operation



This dramatic building houses the American Air Museum in Britain.

AMERICAN AIR MUSEUM NOW AT FAMOUS WWII FIGHTER FIELD

Officially called "The American Air Museum in Britain", it is a part of the Imperial War Museum.

Now established as the outstanding aviation museum in Europe, it features an outstanding collection of 140 historic aircraft from Spitfires

to Concorde. Many of them are in flying condition.

Attending the dedication from the 392nd will be Bob Vickers, Charley Dye, Cliff Peterson, and Birdie Larrick. A large contingent of other 8AF veterans will also attend.

would last for the duration. I asked Col Balchen if I could be relieved and sent back to the States, since I never would have been involved in the operation if there had not been a temporary moratorium on returning crews to the States when I finished my tour. I had been transferred to the 448th while I was on temporary duty with the airline and Col Balchen gave me permission to ask the CO of the 448th for deployment back to the States, and he

agreed.

Col Balchen passed away several years ago.

Vic Mastron was transferred to Stockholm as the briefing officer for the operation. Vic passed away in October 1991.

Boyce Barbee continued flying the airline missions until the operation was discontinued near the end of the war in Europe. Boyce is enjoying life in North Carolina.

392 BGMA BOARD MEETS AT ORLANDO

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING ON FEBRUARY 23 AT THE STAND ALONE

The Board of Directors at their meeting at Orlando on Feb. 23 made the following determinations:

1. The two resolutions set forth on the right were ordered published so that the membership body can vote on them at the next membership meeting.
2. After a study that has extended over a period of months, it was decided that a 1/3 scale replica of the Wendling Memorial will be established in the memorial garden at the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum at Savannah. Funds are available for this, but donations for the effort are sought from the members to replenish those funds.
3. The next regular meeting of the 392BGMA will be in conjunction with the 8 AF Historical Society at Minneapolis Sept. 9-14. This is in conformance with the association's policy of alternating the annual membership meetings between 8AF and 2AD.
4. The Wendling Memorial Trust, in order to comply with British law, must use some of its income for educational purposes. Accordingly, funds were donated to the 2AD Memorial Library at Norwich, and to the Wendling Area School Fund. The Wendling area includes schools at Litcham and Beeston.
5. The 392BGMA's memorabilia will be placed at the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum sometime this summer, when Ernie Barber can get to it. The placement will be subject to the association's retaining ownership of the material and its right to make temporary withdrawals for reunion use.

* * * *

OTHER HAPPENINGS AT THE REUNION:

Jim Marsteller presented Ernie Barber with a part from the plane that Ernie crewed that went down on the Friedrichshafen mission. Marsteller retrieved the part on a recent visit to Germany.

Marsteller's uncle, Sgt Jim Morris, was KIA with the Books crew on that mission.

Accompanying Marsteller with the presentation was Bill Davis, son of Sgt Ray Davis, who was KIA with the Rashke crew on the same mission.

* * * *

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AIR ANNIVERSARY

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

* * * *

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS OF

392ND BOMB GROUP MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

In accordance with Article Ten of the By-Laws of the 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association, Inc., notice is hereby given of proposed amendments to the By-Laws of the organization. Pursuant to the Articles of Incorporation and/or the By-Laws, the affirmative vote of the majority of the members present at the next annual or special meeting of the organization is required. The following amendments are proposed:

ARTICLE TWO PURPOSE

Addition of paragraph C which reads as follows:

- C. A Trust may be established under the laws of the United Kingdom. The principal objective of such a Trust is to educate the public as to the heroic accomplishments of the members of the 392nd Bomb Group. Such educational purpose shall be fulfilled by a variety of means including maintenance of the Wendling Memorial Monument.

ARTICLE NINE OFFICERS

The text of Article Nine shall be amended to read as follows:

- 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.
- C. 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, shall sign all formal instruments required by law and/or by the Board of Directors.

At the Membership meeting, some enthusiastic auctioneers undertook the task of selling out what items were left from the PX that had been set up in the hospitality room. Buyers were plentiful and the bidding was spirited. In fact, it was so spirited that the auctioneers in their zeal sold Col Gilbert's white 392BGMA jacket. Charles Dye, one of the auctioneers, sent the NEWS a dollar bill to start a fund to replace the colonel's jacket.



Egan photo
James and Joyce Miller, 578th



Egan photo
Jerry and Roz Gersten, 577th



Egan photo
Mike and Eleanor Roberts



Egan photo
George and Dorothy Jackson

FACES, MANY OF THEM FIRST-TIMERS, SEEN
AT THE ORLANDO REUNION FEB. 22-24



Egan photo
Priscilla Matt, widow of John Matt,
576th, author of CREW DOG



Egan photo
James and Rosemarie Rehill, 577th



Egan photo
Joe and Dorothy Cronin, 578th



Egan photo
Dr. Harry & Riki Kalionzes, 576th



Zybort photo
Gil Bambauer, 10SC, former 392BGMA Treasurer; and Laura
and Barney Glettler, Flying Control Officer at Wendling and
member of the Board of Directors, 392BGMA.



Zybort photo
Joan and John (Jack) Fritsche, Group Adjutant from activation
through Wendling. Administrative officers of the 392nd could
count on him for an ear for their troubles and a fair shake at
Headquarters.

Here are shown about half of the Table of Contents of the 392nd Anthology, "20th Century Crusaders". If the story that you submitted is not listed, it is because space on these pages is limited. Each story was written by one of us or by a villager who lived near the base while we were there. These stories capture the times that changed our lives. No Crusader family, especially children and grandchildren, should be without this book. Order the number you need to put this book into the library of each of your children and grandchildren. This could be the best legacy that you can give them.

20th CENTURY CRUSADERS

Anthology of 392nd Bombardment Group (Heavy)

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DEDICATION ADDRESS, 392ND BOMB GROUP MEMORIAL

WENDLING, NORFOLK, 7 OCTOBER 1989

By Colonel Lawrence Gilbert, USAF, Ret.



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ZYBORT SEES LINDA FINCH TAKE OFF ON HER ROUND THE WORLD FLIGHT



Zybert photo

Stan Zybert, 577th flight engineer, may have lost a leg bailing out of a stricken a/c over Germany, but that hasn't stopped him from leading an active life, including an ongoing interest in aviation.

Stan was at Tamiami airport in Florida March 31 when Linda Finch took off on her round-the-world flight, following the flight path of Amelia Earhart's ill-fated pre-WWII mission. She posed for the above picture, and autographed Stan's 392BGMA jacket for him.

COMMUNICATIONS

A quote received from Col Gilbert, 392BGMA CEO and former commander of the 392nd:

"I know you believe you understand what you think I said, but I am not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant."

PROFILE

I/Lt Malcolm A. Thompson was a bombardier in the 576th, flying with the Smyth, Ford, and Jones crews. He arrived at Wendling in October 1943.

Post-war, he was an instructor at Mare Island Naval Shipyard, retiring in 1981.

His spouse is Rose, and they live at 236 Westridge Ave., Daly City, CA 94015. They have two children and one grandchild.

PROFILE

Sgt Joseph H. Cronin was an AM in the 578th. He was early cadre, joining the 392nd at Biggs Field after AM training at Ford's Willow Run plant.

He flew back to the U. S. after the war ended in Europe. (See story, this issue, "Starts Engine With Rope").

His civilian career was with Massachusetts Electric.

He is married to Dorothy, and they have 6 children. They live at 149 Castle Hille Ave., Great Barrington, MA 01230.

PROFILE

S/Sgt Joe B. Maloy was the ball turret gunner on the Fred C. Shere crew in the 577th. He joined the Group in March 1944 and was shot down on the Berlin raid April 29. He was POW at Stalag XVII-B.

He earned the M. S. E. degree from the University of Alabama in 1950. He was associated with several paper manufacturing companies, retiring as manager of personnel and public relations for Kimberly-Clark.

After retirement, he has taught at the University of Florida, University of Alabama, and Augusta College.

He still runs 40 (that's forty) miles a day, and competes in 10K and 10 mile races.

His wife is Ida, and their residence is 337 Walnut Grove Drive, Peachtree City, GA 30269. They have one son and one granddaughter.

STARTS ENGINE WITH ROPE- IS TICKET HOME

Sgt Joe Cronin is a "charter member" of the 392nd, joining the Group at Biggs Field in early 1943.

He was an AM in the 578th, and one morning before a mission the starter on a plane's #3 engine was out, and they couldn't start the engine.

Capt Ray Berthiaume, 578th's engineering officer, had Joe and crew chief S/Sgt Clyde Davis wrap a rope around the propeller hub and hook it to a jeep. With Berthiaume at the jeep and Davis in the plane, the engine was started and the a/c flew the mission.

Cronin was on his way home in a B-24 in June 1945, when, in Iceland, a motor wouldn't start. The crew and passengers were resigned to a forced stay in Iceland awaiting a new starter motor, when Cronin proposed rigging the rope and jeep again. The engine started and the B-24 soon took off for the U. S.



Zybert photo

Keith Roberts, Joe Cronin, and Bob Vickers, at Orlando. Joe gave one of their ship's motors a lawn mower start in Iceland on the way home in 1945.

And now, as the radio guy says, "For the Rest of the Story." Cronin was relating this incident to the assembled Group at the reunion in Orlando last February, when out of the audience came the pilot and navigator of the homeward bound B-24, Bob Vickers and Keith Roberts. It was a joyous reunion.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Lts J. C. Carberry and W. R. Taliaferro set Army altitude record of 8,700 ft.-1914.

MEMBERSHIP DUES-TIME TO SEND IN YOUR 1997 DUES PAYMENT

We don't send out dues notices, so you can help the news editor and the Treasurer if you will sit down right now and send in your 1997 dues. If you are paid ahead, you can check it by the code right after your name on the label of the newsletter. If is LM (for Life Membership) or 97 or higher, you're paid up. If Frnd is after your name, you're our guest. If there is an error, contact Cecil Rothrock.

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 now!

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DAN MCGOVERN'S PIX SURVIVE FIRE

A letter from Dan McGovern, WWII combat photographer and who has taped many 392BGMA functions, related that fire destroyed his home at Laguna Hills, CA last summer.

However, his priceless collection of historical photographs, videotapes, and other memorabilia were stored in his garage and were unharmed.

The loss of his home and personal possessions was covered by insurance, and the McGoverns moved into their rebuilt home in October 1996. "I miss a lot of my old stuff," he said. "Every thing in the house in brand new."

137 CRUSADERS AND GUESTS AT ORLANDO MEETING

Many new faces were seen at the stand-alone reunion held at Orlando Feb. 23-34. It followed the next day after the meeting of the 2 AD Florida chapter.

Attendees present were: (first-timers are in bold type) Lou Affinito and Kathleen; Hank Allen; Gil Bambauer; Ernie Barber; Bill Barry; Vern Baumgart; Bob Beatson; Wally Blackburn and Loraine; Joe Bonanno and Anne; Bill Braddock and Marge; Guy Carnine and Jacqueline; Carrol Check and Mabel.

Also, John Conrad and Wando; **Joe Cronin and Dorothy**; Bill Davis and Betty; John Delach and Marilyn; Harry Devoe and Bette; Odell Dobson and Barbara; Gerald Douglass and Barbara; Arnold Dovey and Cleome; Charles Dye and Helen; Howard Ebersole and Jeanne; Teddy Egan and Robin Egan and John Boyd and John Jr.; Jack Fritsche and Joan.

Also, **Jerry Gersten and Roz**; Barney Glettler and Laura; Lawrence Gilbert and Marjorie; Jim Goar and Virginia; Roy Grimm and Rusty; Greg Hatton; Tom Hiller; Jim Hoover and Reba; Frank Hostetter and May; Dave Greene and Renee; **George Jackson and Dorothy**; Ed Janak; Arlo Jones and June; George Judd and Ruth; **Dr. Harry Kalionzes and Riki**; Harold Kornman and Evie; Irving Kreisman and Ruth; Harry Kruse; Bob Lane; Birdie Larrick and Joy Schmidt Geiger; Emily Long and son; Jim Marsteller; Bob Books; Priscilla Matt; **James**

Miller and Joyce; Murray Milrod and Helen; Jim Muldoon and Ann; Kenneth Parks and Regina; Cliff Peterson and Mary; Milton Planche and Bunny.

Also, **James Rehill and Rosemarie**; Harry and Thomas Reidy; Keith Roberts; **Mike Roberts and Eleanor**; Toni Robinson; Philip Rose and Josephine; Cecil Rothrock and Mary; Michael Sassaman; Dave Scott and Betty; Guy Spinelli and Madeline; Jay Thornburgh and Phyllis; Joe Tierney and Virginia; **George Trigilio and Gloria**; James Tudor and Lee; Ed Twining and Sheryl; Bob Vickers; **Roland Waters**; Oscar Weed; **Frank Whitt and Donna**; Joe Whittaker and Marie; Norbert Wick and Marian; Henry Wilk and Donna; and Stanley Zybort and Mildred and Eva.

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 notes regarding the tenure of General Hodges as commander of the Second Air Division:

General Hodges was our B-24 bomber division commander from August 1943 until 29 July, 1944. The B-24 groups were built up from two to fourteen. 414 field orders were issued. Upon departing for his new assignment at US Army Air Forces in the Pentagon he

sent this message:

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 2ND AIR DIVISION: IT HAS BEEN A GREAT PRIVILEGE TO HAVE SERVED WITH YOU FOR SUCH A LONG TIME. I AM SORRY TO GO, BUT I LEAVE WITH INTENSE PRIDE IN OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, YOUR FIGHTING SPIRIT, AND YOUR CAPABILITIES. YOU ARE AT THE PEAK OF YOUR STRENGTH; WELL ORGANIZED, WELL TRAINED, AND WELL LED. I LEAVE YOU WITH CONFIDENCE, KNOWING THAT YOU WILL STRIKE BLOW FOR BLOW WITH THE FORTS UNTIL THE HUN WAR MACHINE IS DESTROYED. GOOD LUCK AND GOOD BOMBING.

BOOK REVIEW

The Cold Blue Sky, by Jack Novey, foreword by Fryar Calhoun. To order: by mail, phone, or fax, please contact Howell Press, 1147 River Rd., Suite 2, Charlottesville, VA 22901. Toll-free phone 800-868-4512. Toll-free fax 888-971-7204. Price: \$24.95. Shipping and handling \$5.00.

Jack Novey was a B-17 gunner in the 96th BG at Snetterton Heath. He arrived there in June 1943 and flew his 25 missions during the really tough, high loss rate period.

Crusaders will relate to his story as he tells of his training in the States and the missions he flew.

Combat crewmen who survived the terrible odds often ask themselves the question: why did I survive when many others didn't? One answer could be that it was the inscrutable will of God. Novey asked that question from a hard-bitten 8AF chaplain, who gave him the same answer, but couched in GI language: "How the hell should I know?" ****

MINNEAPOLIS SCENE OF 8AFHS MEETING SEPTEMBER 9-14

The Radisson Hotel at Bloomington, MN, (near Minneapolis-St. Paul) will host the annual meeting of the 8AF Historical Society, starting Tuesday Sept. 9 and ending Sunday Sept. 14.

The 392BGMA will hold its annual membership meeting in conjunction with the 8AF reunion.

The Symposium, always a popular feature of the 8AF reunions, will be mc'd, as usual, by Roger Freeman, and year will on Air-Sea Rescue. One of the panelists will be Bill Long, who ditched in the North Sea off Yarmouth with the 579th's Ed White crew. Long's appearance on the panel will be an anniversary of sorts- the ditching operation was on Sept. 11, 1944, on the way back from the Munich mission.

Watch your 8AF NEWS or this newsletter for further information. The 8AF NEWS usually publishes in May and August, as does the 392BGMA NEWS.

PX ITEMS

Book, "Remembrance of The Missing", by Col Bob Vickers, 578th, \$35.00 postpaid	\$
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 DISCONTINUED	\$ X
Directory, May 1996, \$10 postpaid	\$
Jacket, white nylon, w/392BG and Crusader patches, \$26 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	\$
TOTAL	\$

Send with check to Cecil Rothrock, Treas., 7334 26th Ave., Kenosha, WI 53143

Video, from Albuquerque Reunion Symposium, "The Early Days" \$17.50 postpaid
Video, from Albuquerque Reunion Symposium, "The Ground Support Teams Prepare For A Mission" \$17.50 postpaid
Video, Symposium above, "The Tough Missions, Pt 1: Bremen, Keil, Gotha, Freidrichshafen Both parts \$27.50 pp
Video, Symposium above, "The Tough Missions, Pt 2: Politz, Berlin, Bernberg, Bingen, Wesel Both parts \$27.50 pp
Video, from Albuquerque Reunion Symposium, general scenes from the reunion, 2 parts, \$27.50 pp
(ORDER VIDEOS DIRECT FROM DAN A. MCGOVERN PRODUCTIONS, 5307 CANTANTE, LAGUNA HILLS CA 92653)

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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THE 392nd MEMORIAL AT WENDLING

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.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Air Defense Command created to integrate USAF defenses against an aerial attack-1940.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Bids for Army's first airplane considered by Board of Ordnance and Fortification-1908.

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

Chaplain's Corner

By George Barger, Chaplain

When I visited Wendling two years ago I recall a sense of uncertainty and disorientation. There was a sign and arrow assuring me the main runway was in that direction, but even that landmark didn't help. Where were the 576th, 577th, etc. barracks, the mess hall, the PX? "Time, like an ever flowing stream bears all its sons away", and finally the events of the past disappear in the widening pool of the historical.

Religion makes a bold surmise at this point: Nothing is lost. We are limited by the constraints of time, and cannot imagine eternity other than as infinite time. The One beyond times know no such necessities. In His economy of the unbounded present, He keep secure what is to real and forgettable for us. They "dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Folded Wings

Walter A. Dorn, 579, Dec. 26, 1996

Edward M. Boyle, Oct. 14, 1996

Dale W. Slayter, 578, Jan. 18, 1997

James A. Anderson, 465 SD, 2/8/95

Dr. Emil F. Riha, Hq., Oct. 29, 1996

Barbara Jones, Feb. 4, 1997

Mother of Ben Jones, Assoc

Edward Falada, 576, Apr. 16, 1996

Dr. Maltby F. Watkins, 576, 1/29/97

Harold Griffith, Sept. 1996

Robert K. Crowell, 576, Sept. 5, 1996

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