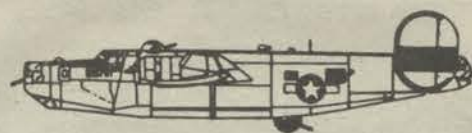


NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 15

MAY 2000

HOW THE 392ND WEBSITE WAS BORN

WEBSITE INQUIRY REUNITES CREW

The 392nd Memorial Association estimates that some three thousand ground and five or six thousand air crew served with us in 1943-45. Of that number we have been able to locate only about 1300.

But in spite of that small number we were able to help Sam Trusten find some of his crew when he queried the website in search of them.

Sam was the tail gunner and assistant engineer on the Olen F. Levell crew in the 576th.

We found Levell, the pilot and a squadron commander of the 576th, and Howard S. Teague and Karl Scott, the bombardier and the navigator.

And, with the help of the internet wizard, we were able to put Sam in touch with the widow and brother of the deceased ball turret gunner, Harlan B. Jackson.

Sam said, "I telephoned both of them and I think that it was an experience that we shall never forget".

It warmed the hearts of the 392nd's researchers.

392ND HEADS LIST OF ATTENDEES AT SO CAL MEET

The idea of an annual Southern California regional meeting of the 2AD was hatched by 392nd vice-president J. Fred Thomas 19 years ago and it has been an ongoing success.

Held Feb. 26 at the Phoenix Club in Anaheim, the year 2000 gathering was attended by 225 members and

guests. The 392nd, with 30, had the most members present.

Crusaders in attendance were: Anthony Albino and Edna; Gil Bambauer and Martha with Tommy and Mary Ann Dobish; Paul Bordewich and Joan; Anna Mae and David Crane, wife and son of the deceased Jackson Crane; Thomas, Mike, and Steve Edgington; Dick Hoover and Eleanor; Larry Bachman and Louise; Willard Levin with Andrew Landay; Willis Miller and Dorothy; James Myl (351st) and Dolores with Betty Prouse and son; Keith Roberts; Don Satterthwait and Erny; and J. Fred Thomas and Elva.

2AD MEETING AT TAMPA MAY 26-29

The May 1 deadline for sign-up has passed, but in a phone conversation with Evelyn Cohen, 2AD vice-president for membership, she said, "Ask them to call me if they want to go, and I will see what I can do."

So if you want to attend and haven't signed up, give her a call. The NEWS knows from personal experience that she'll do her very best for you.

Evelyn's phone number: 215 632 8319.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Bill creating the Air Force Academy signed by President Eisenhower-1964.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

375 B-17s and B-24s made first heavy air attack on Budapest-1944.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Twentieth Air Force was activated-1944.

FOUR SECOND GENERATION CRUSADERS PRODUCE THE OUTSTANDING B24.NET

Editor's note: Keith Roberts, 578th navigator, 392BGMA Director, tour director, and a pretty fair kind of ink-slinger, authored this history of the 392nd website.

By Keith Roberts

During the 1988 392nd tour back to Wendling, Ben Jones, a 14 year old English teenager from nearby Litcham, chased our tour buses around our old airfield on his bicycle. He finally caught us outside the old Combat Officers' Mess building, told us that he had recovered pieces of a P-38 which had crashed on the field, and asked if the pilot was on the tour. J. D. Long took the pieces, gift wrapped them, and presented them to pilot Pat McCarthy at our next reunion. From then on, Ben Jones, still a teenager, rode buses on our tours and in 1992 made a special presentation at our welcome banquet in King's Lynn.

On that 1992 tour was a 45 year old Pennsylvanian, Jim Marsteller, who, with his cousin Jim Morris, was researching information about their uncle, S/Sgt Everette Morris, the engineer on the crew of pilot 1/Lt Dallas Books, a 392nd crew which was shot down and crashed in Germany on the Friedrichshafen raid of March 18, 1944.

Jim Marsteller and Ben Jones met in Wendling on the 1992 tour and became friends. They later went to Germany, found the crash site of the Books crew and interviewed German eyewitnesses. Jim found that Dallas Books had been a resident of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and sent his research information to the Eau Claire newspaper which published the story.

Bob Books, the son of pilot Dallas

Books, read the story and contacted Marsteller. Bob was a scientist and an early computer expert who talked with Jim about using the information to create a website as a tribute to the Books crew.

By now Jim Marsteller and Ben Jones had been going to 392nd reunions, and at a reunion they met Greg Hatton, the son of Sgt Hyman Hatton, a gunner on the Ofenstein crew which went down on the Berlin mission of April 19, 1944. Hatton had done extensive research on his father's moving story as a POW. He also evidenced interest in creating a website as a tribute to his father.

These second generation 392nd men, Jim Marsteller, Ben Jones, Bob Books, and Greg Hatton, have put together our 392nd website, one of the largest research websites in the world, a website which has welcomed over 12,000 visitors to date-www.b24.net. We owe them our everlasting gratitude.

You absolutely must visit www.b24.net. You will find accounts of all 392nd missions, the fate of all missing 392nd air crew members, the compelling stories of Marsteller's and Hatton's researches, pictures and descriptions of Wendling as it looks today, the touching story of the Vickers crew bail-out and return to the French crash site of the Niagra Special, and hundreds of previously unpublished photographs of 392nd people and places.

PROFILE

1/Lt Joseph Szenigeto was the co-pilot on the Cheek crew in the 578th. He arrived at Wendling May 10, 1944.

He entered the Air Corps by way of the Infantry.

After completing his tour at Wendling he was Group Air-Sea Rescue.

He stayed in the Service until 1950, ferrying B-24's and B-17's to the junk yard and serving in Europe and Africa.

He went into farming in Ohio and

still is, having on his farm a 2200 foot grass strip that will accommodate twins.

He lives N. Bloomfield at 2571 Kinsman Rd, NE, , OH 44450.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

German jets shot down 10 American bombers near Berlin. The Germans lost 20 Me262 jets-1945.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

The Berlin Airlift delivered a record 12,940 tons in a 24 hour period-1949.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Lt Col James Doolittle led 16 B-25s on Tokyo raid-1942.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

P-47s were first flown in combat over Western Europe-1943.

392nd Bomb Group Leather Patches



Ben Jones has undertaken the task of supplying the 392BGMA with the leather Crusader patches that started appearing on the Group's A-2 jackets in 1944.

Ben says: these patches are handpainted on genuine fine leather to meet the same specifications of WWII. As the war progressed various hand painted Group patches started appearing on A-2 jackets. As there was no standard size among the various Groups, Hq. USAAF authorized the use of a 5" circular leather patch on which the unit logo could be painted.

The Crusader is drawn on a USAAF approved 5" circular leather patch. Each patch is unique with no two being identical, as with mass produced copies. You can choose between a distressed look or a freshly painted look.

The logo is painted on the leather, then coated with a sealant that protects it. Like any leather, it is suggested that it not get wet.

The cost is \$20 plus shipping and handling.

Ben says also that there will be available soon polo shirts with the Crusader emblem.

So if you're interested, contact Ben Jones at 1000F Circle Drive, Dover, DE 19901, or e-mail him at limeybj@frontiernet.net. Let him know if you want the "distressed" or "freshly painted" look.

Now Available at 392nd PX At Reduced Price



The publisher has reduced his price to \$47.50, post paid.

Over 100 authors, including Ian Hawkins and Ernie Barber, have contributed to this new anthology, edited by Bill and Marge Braddock. There are personal stories of bombing missions, aerial dogfights, air-sea rescues, aircraft crashes, life-saving parachute bail-outs, captures by the enemy, evasions, escapes, resistance-fighters assistance to downed airmen and airmen returning to England.

\$47.50 postpaid, order from PX order blank contained in this paper.

Also, a new video containing all of 392nd's memorabilia photos. \$17.50 postpaid, order from PX order blank in this paper.

392BGMA ELECTRONIC DIRECTORY

The Electronic Directory will be a regular feature in the NEWS: if you want to be listed please contact the editor by mail at 2201 Redbud Blvd., Frankfort, IN 46041. or at the E-mail or Fax addresses listed below.

E-MAIL

8AF Museum, Savannah
Barger, George
Barber, Ernie
Barnard, Mary Beth
Barnes, Joe
Barry, Bill
Bartsch, Arlo
Books, Bob
Braddock, Bill
Case, Bill
Dewez, Luc
DuBois, Phyllis
Ebersole, Howard ("Ebe")
Ehrlich, Lee D.
Eller, Melvin
Garrett, Howard
Goar, Jim
Greene, David
Gross, Earl
Jones, Ben
Jones, Mervyn
Long, William
Matelski, Lorn W.
Marsteller, Jim
Michel, George
Peterson, Cliff and Mary (Change)
Polking, Warren and Dette
Roberts, Keith
Rothrock, Mary
Sallerly, Everett F.
Szenigeto, Joe
Thomas, J. Fred
Thomason, Henriette
Vassey, Emuel
Weed, Oscar and Toni
Westbrook, Joe
Zybort, Stanley

Mighty8cur@aol.com
GWBARGER@email.msn.com
ebarber392bg@hub.infoave.net
blackjag@gateway.net
jabarnes@netconx.net
Pureheart@earthlink.net
Afbas@aol.com
bob@b24.net
wabrad33@juno.com
Wcase22@aol.com
Luc.Dewez@skynet.BE
Dubois@netmatters.co.uk
hebersole@webtv.net
RKS600@aol.com
bme5@psu.edu
havepick@email.msn.com
goar@netusa1.net
dg392@aol.com
EGB880@aol.com
limeybj@frontiernet.net
MervynJones@btinternet.com
longtimelong@email.msn.com
lorn-n-duste@elknet.net
jimbo@cyberia.com
gmichel@milwpc.com
marcliff@cfl.rr.com
WarrenDett@aol.com
k.e.robby@juno.com
m.rothrock@worldnet.att.net
EISATT@AOL.COM
baksheesh@onecome.com
Bomberb24@aol.com
Henriette@pronet.net
evassey@acadia.net
anoweed@bellsouth.net
JWESTBR432@aol.com
104614.626@compuserve.com

FAX

8AF Museum, Savannah
Gilbert, Lawrence
Goar, Jim
Gross, Earl
Jones, Mervyn
Ehrlich, Lee D.
Thomas, J. Fred

912 748 0209
407 647 7402
765 654 4457
310 652 9307
+44 (0) 1328 701 262
773 774 4311
714 536 2184

WEBSITE

392 BGMA
8AF Museum, Savannah

www.b24.net
www.mighty8thmuseum.com

FROM THE EDITOR: AN APOLOGY

Ever experience a mid-life crisis? How about Along Toward The End crisis? Well, most of us have experienced the latter in some form or another, and your editor is no exception. In my case it has not been life-threatening, thank God, but nevertheless spirit-downing and time consuming. Which is why I mention it here in apology for the last two issues being only four pages instead of the usual eight. And as we used to say to our superior officer: "No excuse, Sir. I'll try to do better in the future."

-Jim Goar

PROFILE

S/Sgt Samuel Trusten was the tail gunner and assistant engineer on the Levell crew in the 576th. He joined the 392nd in April 1944 and flew a 30 mission tour.

Post-war, he was the purchasing manager of the Department of Economic Security of the State of Arizona; owned and operated a small chain of stores; and was sales manager for a shoe manufacturer in the New England area.

His spouse is Eve, and they live at 9445 N. 94th Place, Unit #104, Scottsdale, AZ 85258-5138. They have two children and three grandchildren.

(See accompanying story, this issue, "Website Inquiry Reunites Crew".

PROFILE

Sgt George James Nicholaou was in the ordnance section of the 576th. He was an early joiner, linking up with us at Tucson in May of 1943.

He was a machinist for the Hamilton Watch Company in Lancaster, PA, for 42 years, retiring in 1987.

His wife is deceased, and they have two children and two grandchildren.

He lives at 1910 Geraldson Drive, Lancaster, PA 17601.

PROFILE

S/Sgt Ernest Fund was the tail gunner on the Walter Brunn crew in the 579th.

He was with the 376th Bomb Group in Italy from January to March 1944, flying 12 missions with them.

He joined the 392nd at Wendling in March 1944 and completed his tour in July. From July to October he

was an instructor in nose turret operations in Northern Ireland, and then was with an air disarmament squadron at Chelmsford, England. He was discharged in Texas in Sep-

tember 1945.

In civilian life he was Building Inspector for the city of Dayton, Ohio.

He is married to Rita, and their

residence is 25247 SW 17th Ave., Newberry, FL 32669.

He has two children, three step-children, and eight grandchildren.

PX ITEMS

Anthology, "20 th Century Crusaders. \$47.50 postpaid	\$
Book, "Remembrance of the Missing", by Col. Bob Vickers, \$35.00 postpaid	\$
Book, "392 nd War Stories", by Col. Myron Keilman, \$21.50 postpaid	\$
Book, "The Liberators From Wendling", by Col. Bob Vickers, \$28.00 postpaid	\$
Book, "Crew Dog", by Maj. John Matt, 579 th , \$28.95 postpaid	\$
Book, "Country Boy Combat Bomber Pilot", by Col. Bob Tays, \$13.50 postpaid	\$
Book, "My Combat Diary", by Walt Cranson, \$13.50 postpaid	\$
Cap, black, 392 nd Bomb Group w/gold braid, summer, \$10.50 postpaid	\$
Cap, black, 392 nd Bomb Group w/gold braid, winter, \$10.50 postpaid	\$
Directory, October 1999, \$10.00 postpaid	\$
Jacket, white nylon, w/ 392 Bomb Group and Crusader patches, \$26.00 postpaid	\$
(Circle size wanted) M L XL XXL	\$
Patch, 392 nd Bomb Group logo, \$1.50 postpaid	\$
Print, "The Flying Crusader", reduced to \$16.50 postpaid	\$
Video, 392 nd 's memorabilia photos, \$17.50 postpaid	\$
TOTAL	\$

Send with check to Charles Dye, 4949 San Pedro NE, #87, Albuquerque, NM 87109

Book, "After The Liberators, A Father's Last Mission, A Son's Lifelong Journey", by Bill McGuire II, son of 579th navigator Bill McGuire Sr., KIA Friedrichshafen mission.

Order direct from publisher, Parkway Publishers: PO Box 3678, Boone, NC 28607, \$20.95 postpaid
(Mention 392BGMA newsletter in your letter and you can take 10% off the total bill)

Video, from Albuquerque Reunion Symposium, "The Early Days", \$17.50 postpaid

Video, Symposium above, "The Ground Support Teams Prepare For A Mission", \$17.50 postpaid

Video, Symposium above, "The Tough Missions, Pt. 1: Bremen, Keil, Gotha, Friedrichshafen both parts \$27.50 pp

Video, Symposium above, "Tough Missions, Pt. 2: Politz, Berlin, Bernberg, Bingen, Wesel, both parts \$27.50 pp

Video, Symposium above, general scenes from the reunion, 2 parts, \$27.50 postpaid

Order videos direct from Dan McGovern productions, 5307 Cantante, Laguna Hills, CA 92653

OPERATE HERE



MEMBERSHIP DUES-TIME IN SEND IN YOUR 2000 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 2000 dues. If you are paid ahead, you can check it by the code right after your name on the label of the newsletter. If it is LM (for Life Membership) or 00 or higher, you're paid up. If Frnd is after your name, you're our guest. If there is an error, contact Charles 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 and send it now!

Name _____ Ground ☐ Air ☐ Sqdn _____ Assoc ☐

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Dues for 2000, \$12

Hardship Waiver ☐

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Age 61-65 \$120 ☐

Age 66-70 \$96 ☐

Age 71 and over \$78 ☐

Send with check to Charles Dye, 4949 San Pedro NE, #87, Albuquerque, NM 87109



OPERATE HERE

NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

Chairman of the Board
Col. Lawrence G. Gilbert, USAF (Ret)

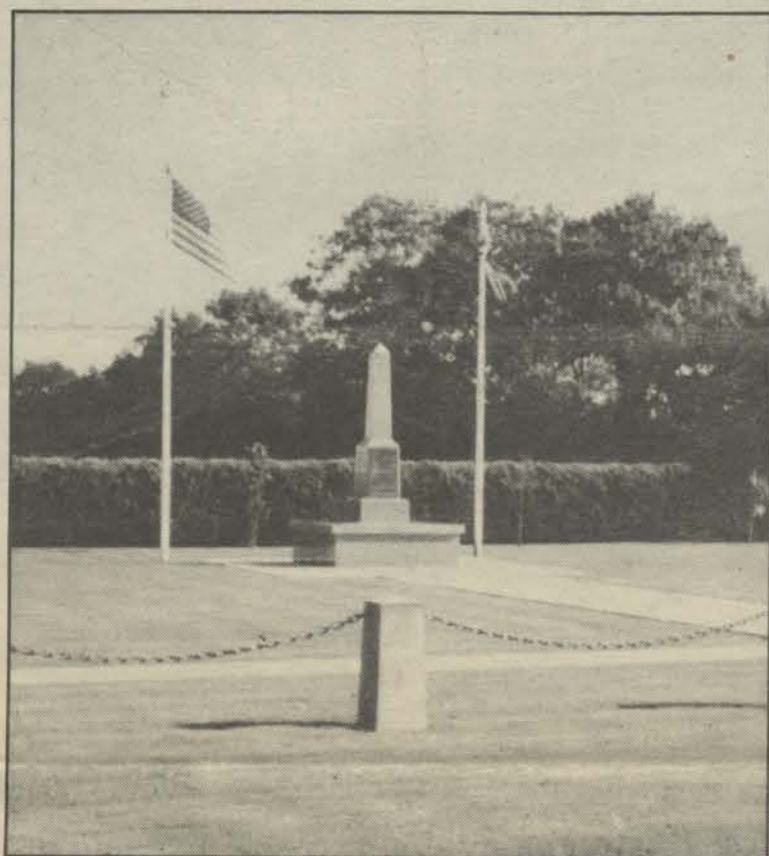
President
Cliff Peterson

Vice-president, Memorial
Carroll W. Cheek

Secretary
David Greene

Treasurer
Charles Dye
4949 San Pedro NE, #87
Albuquerque NM 87109

Editors
Jim Goar
Mary Beth Barnard



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.

PROFILE

S/Sgt Everett F. Satterly was the flight engineer on the Sibley crew in the 578th. They arrived at Wendling Oct. 25, 1943, and went down Dec. 30, 1943 on the mission to Ludwigshafen.

They bailed out near Dieppe and four crewmen evaded and six were POW. Satterly, unfortunately, was one of the POW's and his time as a "kriegie" is one of the Group's longest.

He spent a little time in the Army after repatriation at Syracuse Army Air Base, getting bombers ready for storage.

He began work for the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene in 1946 and retired as Roads and Grounds supervisor in 1977.

He then traveled the US and Canada before settling in Florida.

He had nine brothers and a sister;

five of them were in WWII.

He is married to Irilla, and they have two sons. They live at 37526 Caribbean Drive, Zephyrhills, FL 33541-8818.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Lts T. D. Milling and H. H. Arnold ordered to Dayton to flying instructions-1911.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

7th AF B-24s made first attack on Tarawa-1943.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

8th AF made its last attack on an industrial target-1945.

Folded Wings

Harold W. Prouse, 579, Feb. 10, 2000

Willis K. Prater, 577, July 1978

James H. Hair, 579, Sept. 6, 1999

Harold Erbe, 579, April 1998

Ivan Hawn, 576, Dec. 1999

Philip A. Sullivan, Feb. 29, 2000

Leonard Volet, 578, July 16, 1996

James W. Smith, 576, Dec. 8, 1999

392nd Bomb Group Memorial Ass'n NEWS
2201 Redbud Blvd.
Frankfort, IN 46041

Address Correction Requested
Forwarding and Return Postage Guaranteed

First Class Mail



KATHY JACKSON, 2ADA HERITAGE LEAGUE FRND
1027 KEELER ST
MAUMEE OH 43537

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, 2201 Redbud Blvd., Frankfort, IN 46041.

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