

NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 16

MAY 2001

JUNE 6, 1944, D-DAY- LOST TO OTHERS, ALIVE TO US



Courtesy WWII Veterans Committee

This famous picture shows General Dwight Eisenhower, supreme commander of the allied forces in Europe, visiting with the 101st Airborne the day before D-day. The 101st dropped behind the German coastal defenses in the hours before dawn on D-Day.

392ND'S WEB SITE A FAVORITE ON THE INTERNET

Bob Books, web master of the Group's web site, b24.net, reports that the Group's site is one of the most heavily visited WWII sites on the internet.

He reports that the site has just passed 50,000 visits, not counting the ones that go directly to the POW section, which is about another 7,000. The site is running about 750-800 visits per week.

A new feature is the Guest Book, which accommodates comments and inquiries from the world at large. Here are a few:

"Thank you for this site. It let me know about my Grandpa, things that I never knew before."

Inquiry from a German researcher about the Bruce Sooy crew, shot down on the infamous Freidrichshafen mission March 18, 1944.

Thanks for the locating of the burial site of an uncle.

"These are the best researched, documented, and presented "second generation" material that I have ever encountered."

"Thanks so much for the help your site provided my sister-in-law in obtaining information about her father who was a B-17 pilot held captive at Stalug Luft III."

"THE LONGEST DAY" IS ETCHED IN THE MINDS OF THE CRUSADERS: THREE MISSIONS WITH 80 A/C AND 800 AIRMEN COMMITTED TO THE INVASION BATTLE

The events of the day that was the turning point of WWII in Europe are virtually lost to present generations, but the Crusaders who were at Wendling that day remember it as if it were yesterday.

We had been in England for nearly a year attacking the Nazis from the air, taking tremendous losses in men and materiel and sometimes wondering if the effort was in vain.

So when the news of the long-awaited invasion of Nazi held Europe reached us on the afternoon of June 5, the base was galvanized into action. We were eager to throw the weight of our bombers into the effort.

The 392nd struck three times that day, beginning with the take-off of 36 a/c at 0240; 12 launched at 0600; and 22 launched at 1300. The last returning ship landed at around 2100, making it truly "the longest

day."

Col Lawrence Gilbert, the last commander of the 392nd and now the CEO of the Memorial Association, led the first mission as command pilot. His memory of the mission follows:

"Our target was the coastal gun batteries zeroed in on Omaha Beach. As we crossed the channel at 15,000 feet we had a fairly good view of the vast armada of ships standing off shore. From several miles out we could see the beach. As we came closer, well before bomb release point, cloud cover intervened preventing visual bomb sighting. We dropped our bomb load on the smoke flares of the Pathfinder aircraft. Our return to base was uneventful, although one of our flights reported being fired upon by friendly ships in the channel."

8AFHS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN: SEE ENCLOSED

The 8AF Historical Society has produced a recruiting pamphlet in their quest to find new members.

We are enclosing a pamphlet in the hopes that Crusaders can put it into the hands of potential members, be they veterans or descendants of veterans.

Or, in the off chance that you are a member of the 392BGMA and not a member of 8AFHS, for your own use.

MUSINGS FROM THE EDITOR

As I was driving low and slow down one of Indiana's icy roads last winter I noticed a line of cars behind me and I wondered why I was being so careful when all those drivers behind me were clamoring for the road.

Then I thought: When we were at Wendling in our teens and twenties we believed that we were immortal. Now that we are in our seventies and eighties, we're pretty sure that we aren't.

EIGHTH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



"The Mighty Eighth"

It was the largest air armada in the history of warfare. The heroic actions of the airmen who flew in the Mighty Eighth during World War II preserved freedom throughout the world and changed the course of history. Today men and women continue the fight for liberty and peace serving in the 8th Air Force now headquartered at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana.

THE LEGACY OF THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE

The Eighth Air Force was activated in January 1942 in Savannah, Georgia and was charged with carrying the air war to the enemy in the European Theater of Operations. Their mission was to destroy vital industries and transportation facilities of the Nazi oppressors and thereby neutralize their war-making capability. They were also tasked to secure air superiority in order to permit allied ground troops to land in Europe and liberate countries occupied by German forces. The servicemen of the Mighty Eighth successfully accomplished these missions. Since 1942 the Eighth Air Force has epitomized values important to our country and become a true legacy in American history.





Before World War II ended 350,000 Americans served in the Eighth Air Force, stationed at over fifty-five airbases in England. The 8th Air Force was the largest air force ever assembled and committed to battle. The Eighth airmen suffered the greatest number of casualties of any single American military unit - over 26,000 8th Air Force airmen were killed in action and another 28,000 fliers were taken prisoner after being shot down over enemy territories. The Eighth Air Force never once was turned back by enemy forces on any combat mission they flew. Its tradition of excellence has continued throughout all of America's conflicts, including the Cold War, the Korean War, Vietnam, the Panama Just Cause Operation, the Persian Gulf War, and the Kosovo air campaign.

THE EIGHTH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Honoring the Past - Looking Towards the Future

Today these men and women - all heroes of what has been called "The Greatest Generation" - are part of an international organization whose purpose is to honor and commemorate the deeds of those who are part of the legacy of these brave warriors. They are members of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society and they would like you to become one of them.

We invite new members of all ages, genders and nationalities, and we would be honored to have you join us in our enjoyable and memorable activities.

The Eighth Air Force Historical Society, founded in 1975 by an original 8th Air Force pilot, Lt. Col. John Woolnough, serves as a central organization for its individual State Chapters and Wings.

- Regular meetings and events are held by local State Chapters which also publish their own Chapter newsletters.
- Society members become part of our commitment to promoting





character values such as loyalty, courage, duty, honesty, responsibility, and patriotism to all generations.

- An annual national Historical Society reunion and general membership meeting takes place every Fall at various locations across the nation. Members

may offer to be elected to the national Historical Society's Board of Directors which serves to coordinate State Chapter activities.

- The Society's newsmagazine, the 8th Air Force NEWS, is printed quarterly in full-color for all members. The 8th AF NEWS is known as the finest veterans group newsmagazine currently being published.

- Historical Society members interact with other organizations around the world, with an especially active membership base in the United Kingdom.

- Many World War II Bomb Group, Fighter Group, and Airbase Support Group Associations join in activities with the Historical Society.

The 8th Air Force Historical Society also enthusiastically supports the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum in Savannah as the permanent home of the Mighty Eighth. The national offices of the Historical Society are located at the Heritage Museum. Together they present and preserve the history and the legacy of the Eighth Air Force.





JOIN THE 8TH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Name _____
FIRST _____ MIDDLE INITIAL _____ LAST _____

Address _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____ Email _____ Fax _____

8th AF Unit _____ Not in 8th _____ Include me as an Associate Member _____

For Our Information:

In service _____ Branch _____ Dates _____ to _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY: LIFE MEMBER ☐ ANNUAL DUES \$20 ☐

PAYMENT: CHECK ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ VISA ☐ CARD # _____ exp.date _____

SIGNATURE: _____

SEND APPLICATION AND PAYMENT TO **8TH AFHS P.O. BOX 1787, SAVANNAH, GA 31402**

1-800-982-1942 MEMBERS DUES NOTICES ARE MAILED ANNUALLY **8TH AFHS**

JOIN WITH US!

We invite you to become an important part of our membership. We are confident that you will discover many enjoyable hours with our members and encourage you to experience these once-in-a-lifetime activities and opportunities of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society. Our members welcome you and look forward to meeting you and your family. We will be honored to count you as one of us!

Our membership form may be filled out and sent with your first-year dues or lifetime membership application. We are also pleased to take Visa or Mastercard in payment. You will immediately receive information concerning your State Chapter activities and a current issue of the 8th AF NEWS. Your membership card will be enclosed. If you have questions, please call our national office at 1-800-982-1942. We look forward with pleasure to having you join us.

8th AF Historical Society Life Member Fee

60 or under	\$300.00
61-70	\$200.00
71-80	\$135.00
81 or over	\$90.00



392BGMA ELECTRONIC DIRECTORY

The Electronic Directory is 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 **NEW CHANGE**
Barnard, Mary Beth
Barnes, Joe
Barry, Bill
Bartsch, Arlo
Books, Bob
Braddock, Bill
Canonne, Philippe
Case, Bill
Damerst, William A.
Dewez, Luc
DuBois, Phyllis
Ebersole, Howard ("Ebe")
Ehrlich, Lee D.
Eller, Melvin
Elston, Robert C.
Garrett, Howard
Gilbert, John
Gilbert, Lawrence
Goar, Jim
Greene, David
Grimm, Roy
Gross, Earl
Hart, Wildrick
Hawkins, Ian
Jones, Ben
Jones, Mervyn
Long, William
Lory, Bob
McGuire, Bill, Jr.
Marcelli, Anthony F.
Matelski, Lorn W.
Marsteller, Jim
Michel, George
Micksch, Joe
Peterson, Cliff and Mary (**Change**)
Polking, Dette
Roberts, Keith
Rothrock, Mary
Satterly, Everett F.
Szenegeto, Joe **CORRECTION**
Thomas, J. Fred
Thomason, Henriette
Tyler, Bob
Vassey, Emuel
Weed, Oscar and Toni
Westbrook, Joe
Zybort, Stanley

Mighty8cur@aol.com
GWBARGER@email.msn.com
ebarber392bg@nu-z.net
blackjag@gateway.net
jabarnes@netconx.net
purehart@earthlink.net
Albas@aol.com
bob@b24.net
wabrad33@juno.com
p.cannone@wanadoo.fr
Wcase22@aol.com
Waring248@Juno.com
Luc.Dewez@skynet.BE
Dubois@netmatters.co.uk
hebersole@webtv.net
RKS600@aol.com
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Rcwhelston@aol.com
havepick@email.msn.com
adrian@gilberta.freemove.co.uk
lg392@msn.com
goar@netusa1.net
dg392@aol.com
rgrimm@attglobal.net
EGB880@aol.com
bandsaw@penn.com
ian@hawkins13cbw.fsnet.co.uk
limeybj@frontiernet.net
MervynJones@btinternet.com
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Rboblory@Gateway.Net
A43fool@aol.com
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EISATT@AOL.COM
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Bobalice2@Prodigy.net
evassey@acadia.net
anoweed@bellsouth.net
JWESTBR432@aol.com
104614.626@compuserve.com

FAX

912 748 0209
407 647 7402
765 654 4457 or 765 654 4253
310 652 9307
+44 (0) 1328 701 262
717 238 9202
773 774 4311
714 536 2184

WEBSITE

www.b24.net
www.mighty8thmuseum.com

392 BGMA
8AF Museum, Savannah

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

**We Bought Out The Publisher
And Have Further Reduced the Price:
Now only \$36.50, postpaid**



All copies will be autographed by Col. Lawrence G. Gilbert, our final Commander.

Order from the PX order blank contained in this newsletter.

Over 100 authors, including Ian Hawkins and Ernie Barber, have contributed to this 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.

**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.

WENDLING BAR- ROOM VERSES RESURFACE

Bob Tays, that lanky 578th pilot from Texas, sent the NEWS his carefully maintained store of songs that were sung in the combat officers' mess at Wendling.

Understandably, only a couple of them can be printed here, since some of these newsletters become available to tender eyes.

BLESS 'EM ALL, BLESS 'EM ALL,
THE AIRSPEED, NEEDLE, AND ALL,
BLESS ALL THOSE INSTRUCTORS
WHO TAUGHT US TO FLY,
SENT US UP SOLO AND LEFT US TO
DIE,
BLESS 'EM ALL, BLESS 'EM ALL.

YOU MUST REMEMBER THIS,
THE FLAK DON'T ALWAYS MISS
SOME OF US HAVE TO DIE
AS THE FLAK GOES BY.

For the unexpurgated version,
apply to Bob or wait for a reunion.

PROFILE

Cpl Thomas H. Perry was in the Ordnance section of the 576th. He joined the 392nd at Biggs Field in April 1943.

Perry told the NEWS that he was sent to the RAF armament school where he qualified as a Spitfire armorer, but the closest he every came to a Spitfire after that was when one flew over Wendling.

After the war, he took the BS degree from Greenville College, Greenville, IL and the MS degree from the University of Illinois. He taught English, Mathematics, and Science before becoming Principal of the high school at Brownstown, IL.

In 1952 he left the education field and worked in accounting and finance in the construction industry as an internal auditor. He worked at such diverse construction sites as skyscrapers, petrochemical plants and nuclear power plants in over 15 states and in Canada.

His wife Maria is deceased. They have three sons and a daughter, and five grandsons and one granddaughter.

His address is 12 Leopard Dr., Sandy Hook, CT 06482-1531.

OPERATE HERE



PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR DUES STATUS

MEMBERSHIP DUES-HAVE YOU SENT IN YOUR 2001 DUES ?

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 2001 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 2001, \$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



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PX ITEMS

Anthology, "20 th Century Crusaders. \$36.50 postpaid.	\$ _____
Book, "Remembrance of the Missing", by Col. Bob Vickers, \$35.00 postpaid.	\$ _____
Book, "392 nd War Stories", by Col. Myron Keimig, \$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, \$10.00 postpaid (ALL DIRECTORIES ARE NOW WITH CURRENT DATA	\$ _____
Jacket, white nylon, w/ 392 Bomb Group and Crusader patches, \$29.00 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

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NEWS

392nd BG Memorial Association

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Albuquerque NM 87109

Editors
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Folded Wings

Eldred Lassins, 578/9, March 11, 2001
Mary Elva Olivas, Aug. 16, 1999
wife of Mac Olivas, 578
Winston Dorrell, 577, June 27, 2000
Raymond W. Perkins, 576, Nov. 14, 2000
Margaret Ann Vrable, July 9, 2000
wife of Edward G. Vrable, 578
Walter R. Sichau, 577, 1991
Warren W. Gallagher, 579, Apr. 28, 01
Carolyn Ellison, May 8, 2001
wife of Burrell Ellison, 576
Morris M. Feys, 465SD, May 23, 2001

1000 aches: 1 kilohurtz.

-Charley Dye

Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter: Eskimo pi.

-Charley Dye

365 days of drinking low-calorie beer: 1 lite year.

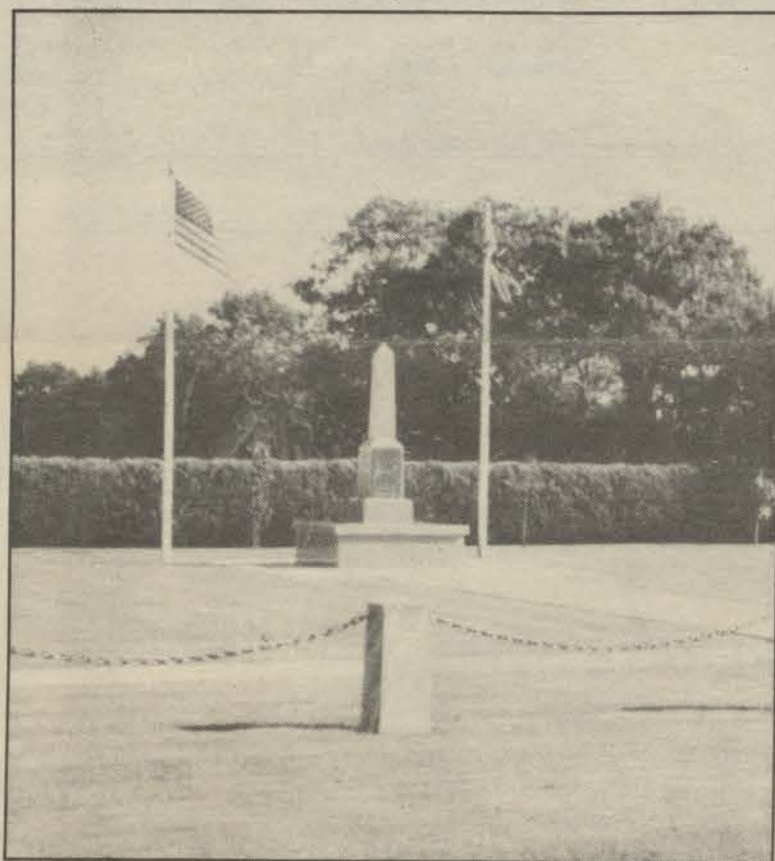
-Charley Dye

1 millionth of a mouthwash: 1 microscope.

-Charley Dye

1 millionth of a fish: 1 microfiche.

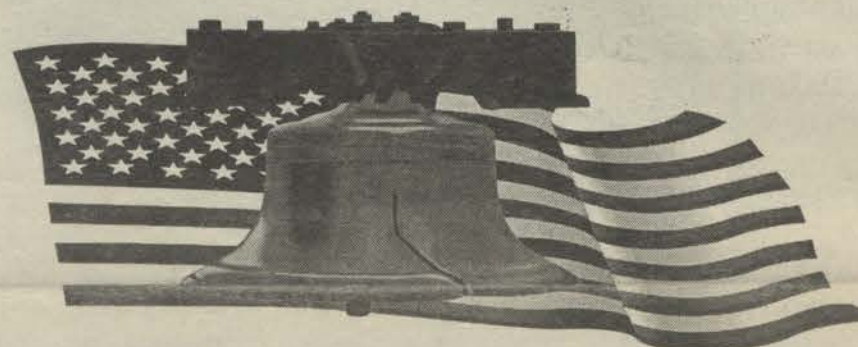
-Charley Dye



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, the Cathedral at Erie, Pa.



392nd Bomb Group Memorial Ass'n NEWS
2201 Redbud Blvd.
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FRND
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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