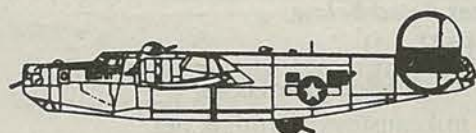


NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 17

MAY 2002

CHAPEL DEDICATED AT 8AF MUSEUM

V-E DAY

May 8, 1945. To us it was a ticket home. To the Europeans who had been under the Nazi heel, it was DELIVERANCE. Read this communication recently received from Luc Dewez, our Belgian Friend of the 392nd.

Today is a special day for me, a special day for my dad, a special day for you.

May 8, 1945 was a day of joy but also a day of sorrow for millions of widows, fathers and mothers, and other family members. That day, IT was over, the war in Europe.

But also an exhilarating feeling, when I see the allied armies fighting. Fighting against the odds, dying helplessly during the worst days of the war, when countries fell one by one.

And then fighting when the light was there, at the end of a five-year long barrel. Fighting and winning, but losing so many good friends, battle pals, brothers in arms.

Millions of people gave their lives for freedom, I remember them all. Those who are still alive, to you my friends, I thank you all.

From Belgium, your friend,

Luc

US AA BATTALION GUARDS EARLY B-17 BASES

Four 8AF B-17 Groups arrived in England in the summer of 1942. They were the 351st at Polebrook; the 384th at Grafton Underwood; the 303rd at Molesworth; and the 305th at Chelveston. The 305th was commanded by the legendary Gen Curtis LeMay.

According to Roger Freeman's



The Chapel of the Fallen Eagles at the Mighty 8AF Museum, Savannah

definitive history of the 8AF, The Mighty Eighth, the 351st flew its first mission on May 14. The other three Groups went into action as follows: 384th, June 1; 303rd, Sept. 1; and the 305th Nov. 1.

A snippet of 8AF history not generally reported is that the four Bomb Groups were protected by the US 434th Anti-aircraft Battalion. A battery was at each base, each armed with 8 40 mm cannon and 8 50 cal machine guns.

The AA batteries were attached to the Bomb Groups for rations, so the cannoneers and the a/c mechanics and other Air Corps personnel were a mix.

The 434th AA Bn trained in early 1942 at Camp Hulen, TX, which was near Corpus Christi. It arrived in England August 15, 1942, at about the time that the four Bomb Groups were arriving.

The Luftwaffe never mounted a low-level attack on the four airfields, so the 434th never fired a shot in anger.

Seeing that their presence in England was not needed, the Army sent them in January 1943 to Oran

in Algeria, where they guarded the harbor and got into action against the Luftwaffe.

They saw action as AA in Tunisia, Anzio, and other parts of Italy. In January 1945 they were converted to Infantry as a battalion of the 473rd Infantry Regiment and were a part of the 92nd Infantry Division.

They saw heavy action in the Serchio Valley in Italy and were engaged in the battles that defeated the Wehrmacht in northern Italy in 1945.

(The editor of the NEWS is indebted to his friend and neighbor, S/Sgt Leroy Good for this information. He was with the 434th AA from its beginning to its end as the 473rd Infantry. He is the editor of the 473rd's newsletter)

AIR ANNIVERSARY

AAF and Allied aircraft flew approximately 15,000 sorties in support of D-Day invasion-1944.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Enemy garrison on island near Sicily surrendered with firing a shot-1942.

392ND'S REVERED PRAYER IS PLACED ON NARTHEX WALL

"The Chapel of the Fallen Eagles" was dedicated at the Mighty 8AF Heritage Museum at Savannah on May 18.

It is a replication of the medieval churches found in the villages near the 8AF bases in England in WWII.

And prominent on the wall of the narthex is our 392nd Prayer, displayed on a bronze plaque. It was composed by the Very Reverend Robert C. Martin, 576th pilot and retired Dean of the Cathedral at Erie, Pa. The Prayer is a part of the ceremonies at all gatherings of the 392nd.

Representing the 392nd at the dedication were Col Lawrence Gilbert, CEO; Jim Goar, VP for Communications; and Ernie Barber, Group archivist. The delegation was swelled to 10 by spouses, friends, and family members.

Also on May 18 former members of SAC dedicated a static display of a B-47 bomber. It is clearly visible from I-95 and will be seen by countless travelers on that speedway, that is if they can note anything else but the road ahead of them as they zoom along at breakneck speed.

The addition of the chapel and the B-47 to the museum grounds greatly enhances the museum's appeal. It has now reached a high plateau of excellence after some turbulent early days.

It appears that the museum has answered its "question" by opposing the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune and has ended them.

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
Anstey, Milton P.
Arch, Bette Gray
Bambauer, Gilbert
Barger, George
Barber, Ernie **NEW CHANGE**
Barnard, Mary Beth
Barnes, Joe
Barry, Bill
Bartsch, Arlo
Books, Bob
Braddock, Bill
Canonne, Philippe
Case, Bill
Conrad, John
Damerst, William A.
Dewez, Luc
DuBois, Phyllis
Ebersole, Howard ("Ebe")
Egan, Thomas J.
Ehrlich, Lee D.
Eller, Melvin
Elston, Robert C.
Garrett, Howard
Gilbert, John
Gilbert, Lawrence **NEW CHANGE**
Glettler, Barney
Goar, Jim
Greene, David
Grimm, Roy
Gross, Earl
Hart, Wildrick
Hatton, Greg
Hawkins, Ian
Hinckley, Burt
Hyde, Mike
Jones, Ben
Jones, Mervyn
Kreisman, Irving
Long, William
Lory, Bob
McGregor, Jim
McGuire, Bill, Jr.
Mackey, Oak
Marcelli, Anthony F.
Matelski, Lorn W.
Marsteller, Jim
Michel, George
Micksch, Joe
Pearson, George E.
Peterson, Cliff and Mary (**Change**)
Popek, Erma
Odierno, Frank
Onstot, Perry
Polking, Dette
Roberts, Keith
Rothrock, Mary
Russell, Carroll E.
Sabourin, Roland
Satterly, Everett F.
Stephens, Lou
Stockman, Harry (**Change**)
Szenegeto, Joe **CORRECTION**
Thomas, J. Fred
Thomason, Henriette
Tuchel, Robert H.

Mighty8cur@aol.com
mikeanstey@earthlink.net
archesinov@comcast.net
GilbertBambauer@aol.com
GWBARGER@email.msn.com
ebarber392bg@nu-z.net
blackjag@gateway.net
jabarnes@netconx.net
purehart@earthlink.net
Afbas@aol.com
bob@b24.net
wabrad33@juno.com
p.cannone@wanadoo.fr
Wcase22@aol.com
jbwc@worldnet.att.com
Waring248@Juno.com
Luc.Dewez@skynet.BE
Dubois@netmatters.co.uk
hebersole@webtv.net
tjegan.@sihope.com
RKSN600@aol.com
bme5@psu.edu
Rcwhelston@aol.com
havepick@email.msn.com
adrian@gilberta.freemove.co.uk
LGILBERT4@cfl.rr.com
b.glettler@att.net
goar@netusa1.net
dg392@aol.com
rgrimm@attglobal.net
EGB880@aol.com
bandsaw@penn.com
gregoryhatton@earthlink.net
ian@hawkins13cbw.fsnet.co.uk
hinckleyburtjean@hotmail.com
B24MJH@aol.com
limeybj@frontiernet.net
MervynJones@btinternet.com
ri.kreisman@verizon.net
longtimelong@email.msn.com
Rboblory@Gateway.Net
jmchg100@comcast.net
A43fool@aol.com
OMackey@MSN.com
t_uomo@juno.com
lorn-n-duste@elknet.net
jimbob@cyberia.com
gmichel@milwpc.com
Joe@micksch.com
GEORGE@EROLS.COM
marcliff@cfl.rr.com
empopek@att.net
Tjd03@usadatanet.net
ponstot@aol.com
WarrenDett@aol.com
k.e.robby@juno.com
m.rothrock@worldnet.att.net
crew@mounet.com
dpoobah@accessbee.com
EISATT@AOL.COM
Deelmp21@aol.com
Stockman1@cox.net
baksheesh@onecom.com
Bomberb24@aol.com
Henriette@pronet.net
rhtuchel@soltec.net

Tyler, Bob **CHANGE**
Vassey, Emuel
Weed, Oscar and Toni
Westbrook, Joe
Willies, Doug
Zyborst, Stanley

8AF Museum, Savannah
Gilbert, Lawrence
Glettler, Barney
Goar, Jim
Greene, David
Gross, Earl
Jones, Mervyn
Eller, Mel
Ehrlich, Lee D.
Onstot, Perry
Peterson, Cliff and Mary
Thomas, J. Fred

392 BGMA
8AF Museum, Savannah

SHOULD OLD ACQUAINTANCES BE FORGOT

A man went into a restaurant in his home town and noticed a woman, sitting alone, that he thought he should know. Not wanting to be impolite, he said to

Bobalice2r@aol.com
evassey@acadia.net
anoweed@bellsouth.net
JWESTBR432@aol.com
doug&celia@g3hrk.freemove.co.uk
104614.626@compuserve.com

FAX

912 748 0209
407 647 7402
231 334 4440
765 654 4457 or 765 654 4253
631 205 1301
310 652 9307
+44 (0) 1328 701 262
717 238 9202
773 774 4311
816 363 7054
407 647 7766
714 536 2184

WEBSITE

www.b24.net
www.mighty8thmuseum.com

her, "I feel certain that I have made your acquaintance. Have we met somewhere?"

The woman, recognizing him as a high school classmate, made him pay the price for his faulty memory. She replied, "Yes, I'm the receptionist at the VD clinic."

* * * *

RESTORATION OF B-24 AT DUXFORD NOW NEARLY COMPLETE: TO BE INSTALLED IN MUSEUM THIS SUMMER

Ted Inman, Curator of the American Air Museum in Britain, has announced that the B-24, as well as a SR-17 Blackbird, will be ready to move into the museum this summer.

"The restoration of the B-24 has been a major triumph for my team, reinforced by additional staff and very many volunteers. The work has been generously funded by Members of the American Air Museum, costing over 1 million. It had stood outside for many years before we received it," Inman said.

With the B-24 restoration funded and the work largely finished, the Museum is in somewhat the position of the man who built a boat in his basement: get the B-24 out of its repair hanger and into the museum. This entails an enormous amount of expensive work, including dismantling and rebuilding the glass front wall of the museum.

With that in mind, the 392nd has been asked to contribute to the effort. The fact that the B-24 will carry the markings of the 392nd could possibly encourage Crusaders to join the undertaking. Arrangements have been made to funnel contributions through the 392BGMA treasurer, who will then forward them to the Museum. If you desire to donate, furnish the information asked for below and send it with your check to Charley Dye.

I'LL HELP GET THE B-24 OUT OF THE HANGER AND ON THE LINE IN THE DUXFORD MUSEUM

Name _____ Sqdn _____ Assoc _____

Address _____

Send to: Charles Dye, Treasurer 392BGMA, 4949 San Pedro NE, #87
Albuquerque, NM 87109

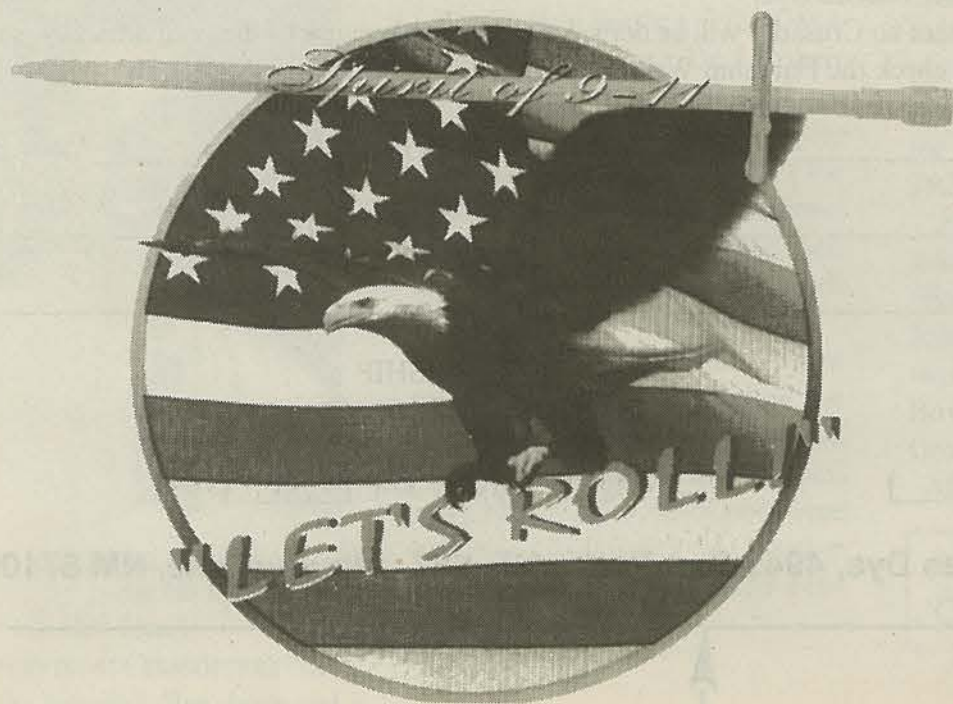
PHYLLIS DUBOIS

Phyllis DeBois, the retired librarian of the 2ADA Memorial Library in Norwich and a staunch Friend of the 392nd, passed away April 23. She fought and lost a valiant battle with cancer.

Services were held at the St. Faiths Crematorium in Norwich on May 8, with the 392nd's own

Reverend Jonathon Boston presiding.

Memorials may be made to the 2ADA Memorial Book Fund and sent to Chuck Walker, 9824 Crest Meadow, Dallas, TX 75230-5331. As the 2ADA's representative on the Library's Board of Governors, he will forward the memorials.



2 COL ART OF LET'S ROLL INSIGNIA

America's two-word marching order in the fight against terrorism will be displayed on various aircraft throughout the Air Force as a way of recognizing the heroes and victims of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

The words were made famous by Todd Beamer, a passenger on Flight 93.

Beamer, a 32-year-old businessman, Sunday school teacher, husband, father and hero, led other passengers in fighting terrorists for control of Flight 93 before it crashed into a field in western Pennsylvania. He was overheard on a cellular phone reciting the Lord's Prayer and saying "Let's roll!" as passengers charged the terrorists.

"Let's roll!" has served as a rallying cry for this nation as we go forward in our war on terrorism", said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen John P. Jumper. "We are proud to display this new nose art of our aircraft."

The passengers of Flight 93 won one of the first victories in the fight against terrorism. There has been much speculation about the terrorists' intentions for Flight 93, but it widely believed that either the White House or the U. S. Capitol building was the intended target.

The nose art design depicts an eagle soaring in front of the U. S. flag, with the words "Spirit of 9-11" on the top and "Let's roll" on the bottom. The design was created by Senior Airman Duane White, a journeyman from Air Combat Command's multimedia center at Langley Air Force Base, VA.

The Thunderbirds and other Air Force demonstration teams will apply this nose art on all aircraft, while major commands and wings will be authorized to apply the nose art to one aircraft of their choice.

For thousands of years warriors such as the Vikings, Zulus, Native Americans, Samurai, and many others have followed a tradition of decorating their instruments of war. These instruments could include the warriors or their weapons. The Air Force has used nose art throughout much of its history, and for a variety of reasons.

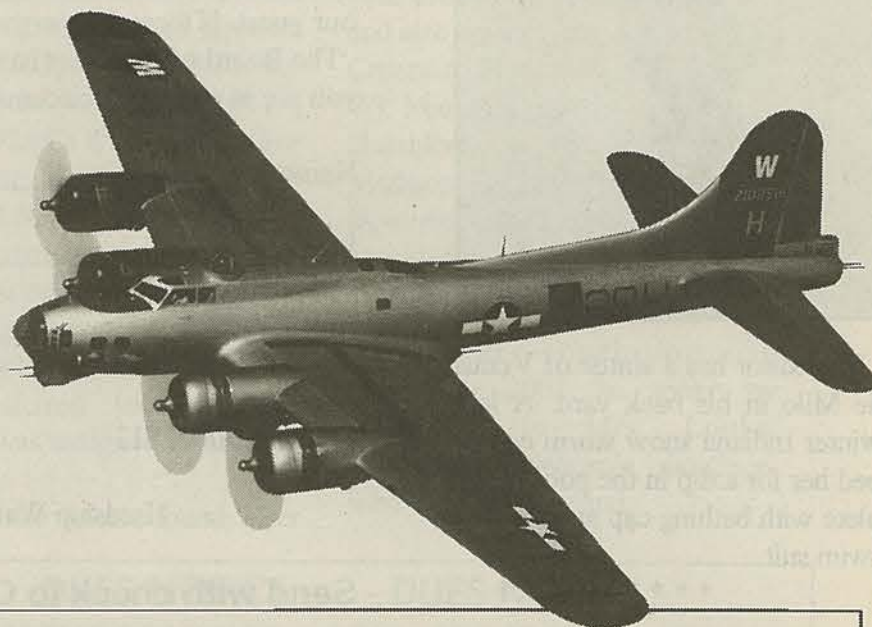
The "Let's roll!" nose art is being used to continue the remembrance of events of Sept. 11, spur on the nation's current patriotic spirit, and pay tribute to the heroes and victims of the war against terrorism.

The News thanks Bob Bee and the 486th for this story. The 486th is distinguished as being an 8AF Group which was equipped with both the B-17 and the B-24.

THE ALUMINUM OVERCAST

We B-24 types like to think that the B-17 is generally thought of as THE WWII heavy bomber only because it had an 11-man crew (the 11th man being a PR guy); that the B-24 arrived just in time to turn the tide and win the air war.

Be that as it may, the Experimental Aircraft Association, based at Oshkosh, WI, owns and flies a B-17 aptly named The Aluminum Overcast. In a recent edition of their magazine, *Sport Aviation*, they published its 2002 tour. The NEWS is reproducing it in case a Crusader would like to see it or possibly fly in it. Or maybe just to again hear four engines at full throttle.



2002 B-17 Aluminum Overcast Tour

"THE FREEDOM TOUR"			
DATES	LOCATION	APT IDS	AIRPORT NAME
June 06-June 10	Knoxville, TN	GKT	Gatlinburg-Pigeon
June 10-June 13	Ashville, NC	AVL	Ashville Regional
June 13-June 17	Hickory, NC	HKY	Hickory Regional
June 17-June 20	Winston Salem, NC	INT	Winston Salem-Smith Reynolds
June 20-June 24	Virginia Beach, VA	SFQ	Suffolk Municipal
June 24-June 27	Richmond, VA	RIC	Richmond International
June 27-July 01	Manassas, VA	HEF	Manassas Regional Davis
July 01-July 05	Pittsburgh, PA	AGC	Pittsburgh-Allegheny Co.
July 05-July 08	Akron, OH	AKR	Fulton International
July 08-July 11	Columbus, OH	OSU	Ohio State University
July 11-July 15	Toledo, OH	TDZ	Toledo Metcalf Field

Dates and locations are subject to change.

For the latest information or to book a flight, visit www.b17.org, or call 800/FLY NB17.

THE BEESTON CHURCH: A POEM

From the overflowing files of the 392BGMA NEWS comes a letter to John Conrad, then the 392nd's vice president for the 2AD Association. It was written in 1995 and was from Peter J. Tyler, a poet living in Litcham.

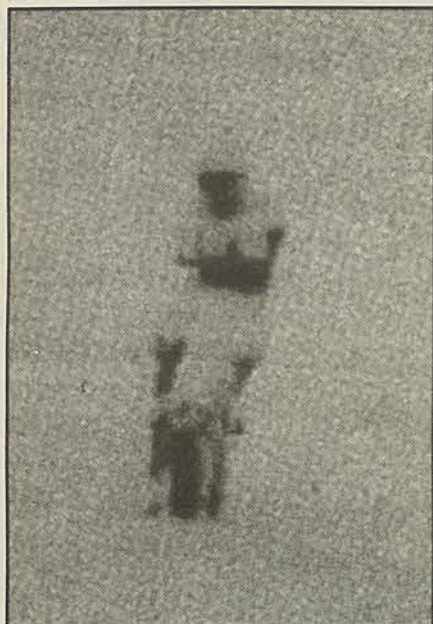
The letter contained the following poem, with Peter Tyler's blessing on its being published. The NEWS does not know how it happened that the letter was filed away without the poem being published. With apologies for the publishing

error and thanks to the author, here it is:

BEESTON CHURCH

On the far horizon perches,
Unlike other Norfolk churches,
Layered steeple, distant landmark,
Color contrast, stonework light, dark,
Pulls the eye with greater powers,
Beeston Church is quite surprising,
Hidden where the land is rising.
Sometimes it seems to disappear,
Behind a hillock as you near,
And suddenly come into sight,
Flaunting stonework, dark and light,
Surrounded by the ancient fields,
Producing farmers' quota yields,
And oaks that count the passing years,
In rings of grain instead of tears,
The Beeston beacon stands alone,
Displaying craftsmen's work in stone.

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



The editor has a statue of Venus de Milo in his back yard. A late winter Indiana snow storm equipped her for a dip in the pool, complete with bathing cap and 2-piece swim suit.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Contract signed with Boeing Aircraft Company for design of B-17- 1934.

OPERATE HERE



PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR DUES STATUS IT'S TIME TO SEND IN YOUR 2002 MEMBERSHIP 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 2002 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 02 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 2002, \$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



REPRINT FROM THE BEESTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS ORGAN

Stripe struggle to gain cups.

It was the last day of term for children of Beeston Primary School.

On the 21st of December the whole school gathered in an assembly at 11:15a.m. They started off their assembly with carol singing and favourite songs from the Christmas performance.

When they had finished, the head teacher, Mrs. A Martin, announced some fund-raising ideas for the school and a 'free books for schools' competition. Finally, it was time to hand out the cups.

The American 392nd Bomb Group had given the cups to Beeston School. These two cups were named after planes. The silver cup, awarded to years 3 and 4 is called the Liberator cup. The gold cup, awarded to years 5 and 6 is called the Crusader cup. These are handed out every half term to the child who has gained the most stripes. Stripes are given to juniors and stars to the infants for good work. These stars and stripes are for the American flag.

The first cup, the crusader, was awarded to Adam Laws. He came to the front of the assembly room and shook hands with Mrs. Martin. He got a certificate and the gold trophy. Next, Lauren Roland got the liberator cup. They both got a round of applause. After dinner that day, the lucky children had their photograph taken by the school secretary, Mrs. Harmer.

They won't take the original cups home, the school had them copied and some made smaller.

Reported by Daisy Hill Pupil of Beeston School

To Mrs. Ari Martin, head teacher; Di Walthew and the rest of the staff at Beeston Primary School: The 392nd is gratified that you have utilized our presence in your community to fashion a remarkable teaching tool.

And to Miss Daisy Hill, sixth-grader and budding journalist: You're on your way. You'll some day be writing for the London Times.

(The NEWS thanks Toni Weed, the 392nd's liaison to the Wendling area schools, for this news item)

ATTENTION

A military tactician once said that a battle plan will not survive the first contact with the enemy.

The same goes for the newsletter business. In the last issue of the NEWS we published the dates and venues of both the 8AF and 2AD 2002 meetings. There have been some changes:

NOW HEAR THIS

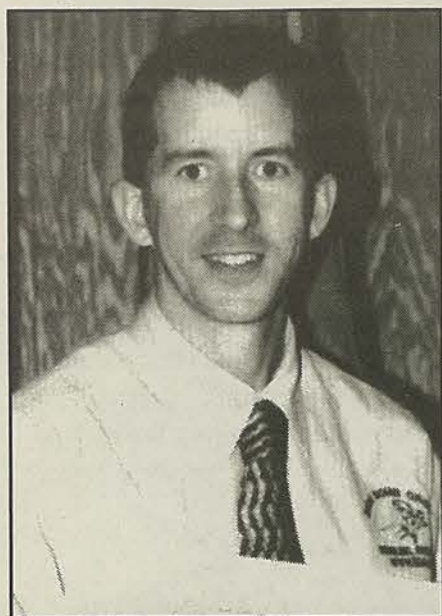
CHANGE #1: The date of the 8AF meeting at Norfolk, VA was erroneously reported in the 8AF NEWS and copied in the 392 BGMA NEWS as being Oct. 10-13. **Correct is Oct. 1-6.**

Change #2: The venue of the 2ADA meeting on Aug.28-Sept.3 was reported to be at the new Hyatt at Cambridge, MD. Completion of the hotel by that time is now problematical, so **the correct venue is the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Inner Harbor, Baltimore, MD.**

ACQUAINT!

BEN JONES NOW A U. S. CITIZEN

On March 6, 2002, Ben Jones finally made it. He was sworn in as a U. S. citizen, something that he has wanted to do since he was a teenager. Jim and Karen Marsteller were witnesses to the event in Philadelphia.



Jim Marsteller photo
Ben Jones

Known to most Crusaders as "the kid on the bicycle", Ben, born and raised in Litcham, met a reunion bus on his bike at Wendling some time in the 80's.

He was an engaging teen who was intensely interested in the 392nd, and the 392nd proceeded to adopt him. He visited the States several times, attending reunions and visiting in Crusader homes.

In England, Ben's parents Mervyn and Barbara opened their home in Litcham to visiting Crusaders, once taking care of the editor of the NEWS after he fell into a Norfolk ditch and hurt his knee.

He emigrated to the U. S. and on Aug. 19, 1995 married Barbara Augulia, a school teacher, in Rochester, N. Y. The 392nd was represented at the wedding.

He has continued his interest in the 392nd and is one of the second generation members who manage b24.net, the 392nd's web site.

He enlisted in the USAF in 1998 and was an Honor Graduate from Basic Training. His current rank is S/Sgt select and he is assigned to the 436th Airlift Wing, 21st AF, Air Mobility Command. He hopes soon to be on flying status as a load master on C-130's.

He and Barbara are living at 1046H Center Road, Dover, DE 19901-5959.

LOOKING FOR SGT MILLER, LTS BUTTS & CORLEY

The 576th's Ace W. Tyler crew went down on the Politz mission May 29, 1944. All were KIA except navigator 1/Lt Earl T. Bassett, who was POW. The 392nd's records show that LTC Bassett died in 1998.

Ace Tyler's brother, 392BGMA associate member Dr. Robert Tyler, would like to locate three members of the original Tyler crew. They were not aboard for the Politz mission. They would have been at Wendling during the period late February 1944 to at least April 22, 1944.

Sgt Corbett Miller was a waist gunner who was wounded on the Hamm mission and was later sent home. Lt Mel Butts, bombardier, and Lt Ray Corley, navigator, were evidently transferred to another Bomb Group some time after Feb-

ruary 1944.

If any reader has information for Dr. Tyler, please contact the NEWS.

SUCCESSFUL SENTIMENTAL SEARCH

Capt Jack Adams, 579th, went down on the mission to Bremen Nov. 13, 1943, and was POW for the rest of the war. It was his 3rd, and the 392nd's 8th, mission. (See the August 2000 issue of the 392BGMA NEWS for his story)

Adams came to the 392nd from anti-submarine patrol duty, and the pilot of his crew then was Capt. John B. Bowman. When the crew was transferred to the 8AF, Bowman was assigned to another Group.

After the war Adams found, after

a lot of research, that Bowman was KIA on Nov. 17, 1943, four days after Adams went down.

Adams knew that Bowman's wife had been pregnant at the time of his death. He felt the desire to find Bowman's child in order to communicate to it the admiration that he held for his former pilot.

He used his skill on the Internet, and also enlisted the help of fellow Crusader George Michel of Racine, WI. Michel in turn queried George Hesselberg, a newsman on the Madison State Journal, since Bowman's home was in Madison.

With Hesselberg's expert help, Jack Adams' search came to a successful conclusion. In November 2001 he spoke by telephone to Mrs. Louise Durocher, Bowman's daughter, who lives in Maryland.

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

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 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	\$
Book, "A Pilot and His Wings", by L/C James Maris, \$30.00 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)

Book, "Joey, Joe, and Joseph" by William A. Damerst, 576th navigator.

Order direct from publisher, Publish America: PO Box 151, Frederick, MD 21705-0151. \$19.95 postpaid

Book, "Stalag 17B, Prisoner of War", by L/C (USAF, Ret) Richard H. Hoffman, ball turret gunner, 579th.
Order from publisher, Xlibris Corp, phone 888 795 4274 or on line at www.xlibris.com/html/bookstores. Also at Amazon.com

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

HUMOR FROM THE INTERNET

There is a certain four-letter word present in the lexicon of nearly every Crusader. It is not acceptable in polite society nor printable in this newsletter. However, with apologies to our more sensitive readers, here are ten historic moments:

10. "Scattered @#\$\$%in showers, my fanny"- Noah, 4314 BC.

9. "How the @#\$\$% did you work that out?"-Pythagorus, 126 BC.

8. "You want WHAT on the @#\$\$%in ceiling?"-Michelangelo, 1566.

1566.

7. "Where did all those @#\$\$%in Indians come from?"-Custer, 1877.

6. "It does so @#\$\$%in look like her!"-Picasso, 1926.

5. "Where the @#\$\$% are we?"-Amelia Earhart, 1937.

4. "Any @#\$\$%in idiot could understand that."-Einstein, 1938.

3. "What the @#\$\$% was that?"-Mayor of Hiroshima, 1945.

2. "I need this parade like I need a @#\$\$%in hole in my head"-JFK, 1963.

1. "Aw, c'mon. Who the @#\$\$% is going to find out?"-Bill Clinton, 1997.

DUES NOTICE - - - DUES NOTICE
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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.

PERSONALS

We are copying certain small-town newspapers who run a "Personals" column to keep their readers abreast of what's going on in the community. If you have something that would be of interest in this column, please let the editor know about it.

The last issue of the 392BGMA NEWS carried information on certain ailing Crusaders. Here is an update, with some new added:

Birdie Larrick, ARC: Still functioning well, is at home and grittily saying "not yet" to assisted living quarters. Characteristically planning trips to see relatives in Iowa and Minnesota this summer.

Ernie Barber, requiring an oxygen tank, thought that he was going to be confined to his home. He found out that he can travel when he joined the editor for a trip to Irving, TX for a 2ADA meeting. So now

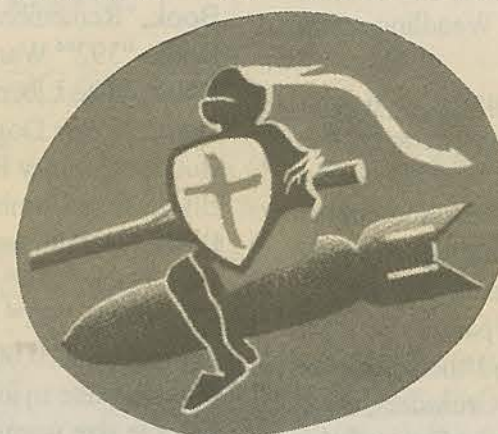
he's planning to be at future 392nd reunions.

Charley Dye, new heart valves. Doing well, but is sure that his rehab medics are former top sergeants who were in the habit of ordering 15-mile training marches with rifle and full field packs.

Priscilla Matt, widow of John Matt, 576/9 navigator, "hit a bump in the road" to quote her verbatim. She was being tested for a minor operation when lung cancer was detected. After an immediate operation she's doing fine, with a clear prognosis.

Happy 84th birthday to Col Lawrence Gilbert, celebrated on May 22. He was with us from cadre to break-up at Charleston, as Group Operations Officer and Commander. He says, "We may not be over the hill, but we can sure see the top of it."

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 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 soon be available 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.

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A SLICE OF TIME

You belong to the 392nd's generation if you remember:

1. Model T's.
2. Use it up, wear it out, make it do.
3. 3.2 beer, 5 cent cokes and 25

cent gas.

4. Mairsy doats and dosey doats and lil lambsy divey.

5. Fireside chats, Lowell Thomas.

6. Greetings.

7. Where you were and what you were doing when the Pearl Harbor

news broke.

8. A tough non-com demonstrating that a bunk is not properly made up unless a quarter will bounce off it.

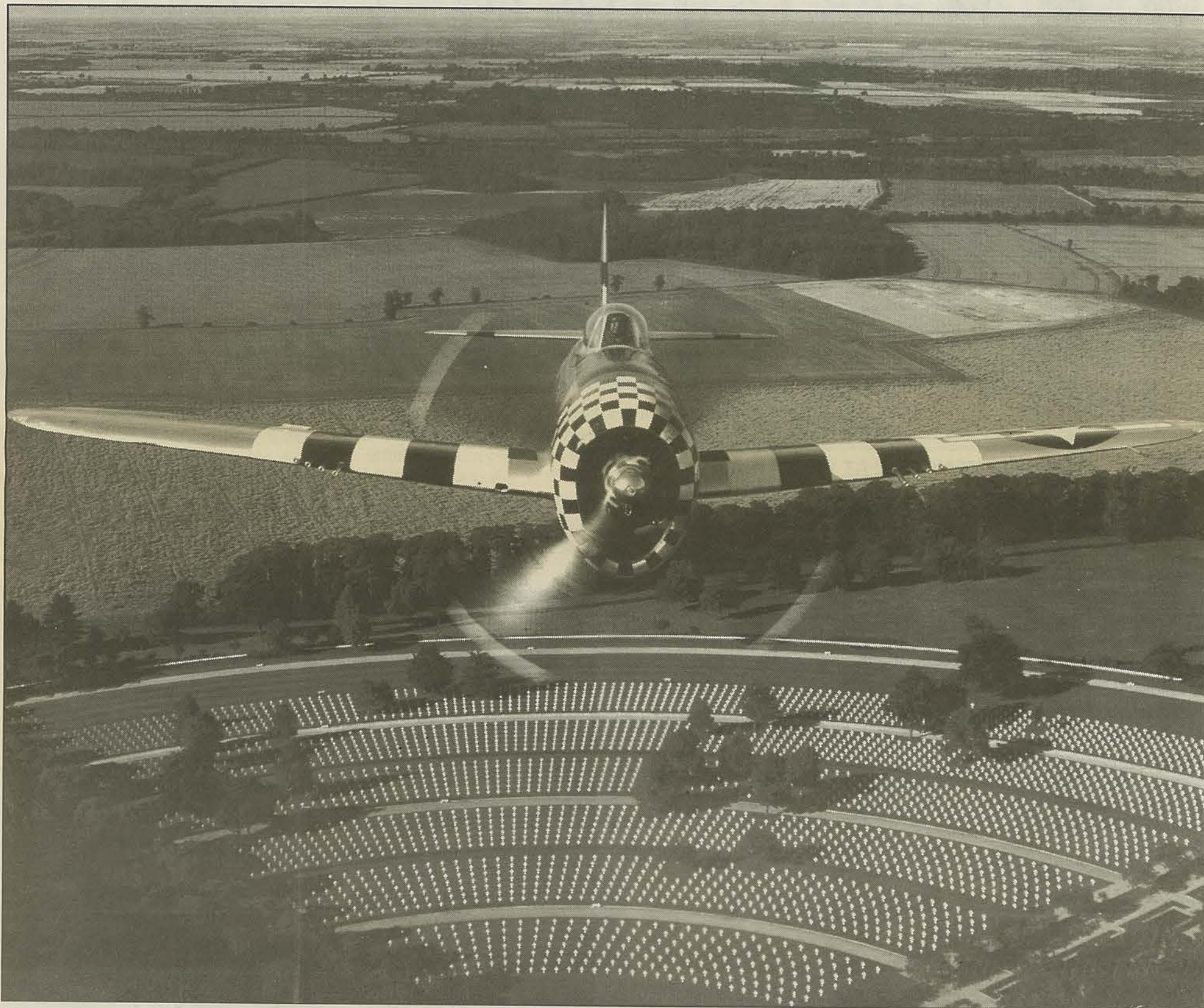
9. Troop trains, V-mail.

10. Those pin-ups: Varga girls, Rita Hayworth, Betty Grable, and in the words of the inimitable Capt

Leroy MacTavish, the 578th's communications officer, "the one where Chili Williams straddled a polka-dot". For a view of this phenomenon, see page 8 of the latest issue of the 8AF NEWS.

With several Crusaders on the Wall of the Missing or interred at Madingly:

THE 392ND REMEMBERS



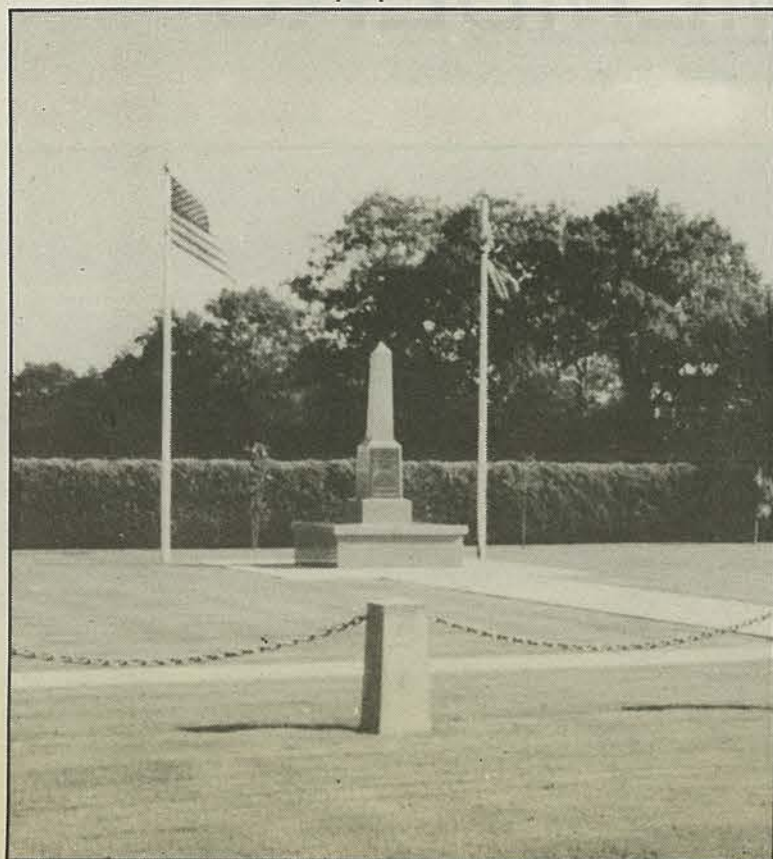
REPUBLIC P47D-25-RE "THUNDERBOLT" IN THE COLORS OF THE 82ND SQUADRON, 78TH FIGHTER GROUP, EIGHTH AIR FORCE, BASED AT DUXFORD AIRFIELD IN 1944. PHOTOGRAPHED OVER THE CAMBRIDGE AMERICAN CEMETERY AT MADINGLEY, ENGLAND ON JULY 7, 2000. OWNED BY THE FIGHTER COLLECTION; BASED AT THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM, DUXFORD AIRFIELD; PILOT, STUART GOLDSPIK; PHOTOGRAPH BY PHILIP MAKANNA.

NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

<i>Chairman of the Board</i> Col. Lawrence G. Gilbert, USAF (Ret)	<i>President</i> Cliff Peterson	<i>Vice-president, Memorial</i> Carroll W. Check
<i>Secretary</i> Keith Roberts	<i>Treasurer</i> Charles Dye 4949 San Pedro NE, #87 Albuquerque NM 87109	<i>Editors</i> 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.

Chaplains Corner

By George Barger, Ph.D

I don't suppose we often link the two words "love" and "radical". Yet, consider how it is supposed to operate. We are to love our enemies; we are to turn the other cheek; we are to respond to whatever needs we see; we are to forgive "seventy times seven"; that is, endlessly; we are to "bear one another's burdens". And so it goes, on and on. Is there no end to it? No, love is endless; that's what we hope for in God, and what He expects of us as His people. And if that kind of love isn't radical, I don't know what might be.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

12 B-24s made first attack against Ploesti oil refineries-1942.

Folded Wings

Hans G. Belitz, 577, Jan. 8, 2002
John F. D'Amelio, 579, December 2001
Hubert L. McMillan, January 2002
John E. Reeve, 576, Jan. 13, 2002
Jim Muldoon, 578, Feb. 23, 2002
John J. Urban, 576, Jan. 29, 2002
Fred Jones (no other info available)
John G. Sekul, 577, March, 2002
Mary Jo Tyler, Feb. 19, 2002
Widow of Ace Tyler, 576, KIA Politz
Phyllis DuBois, Friend, Apr. 23, 2002
Elmer E. Duerr, 578, March 24, 2002
George Braid, 579, 1987
Jack Macauley, 578, Feb. 24, 1995
Lowell Faust, 577, Sept. 11, 2001

AIR ANNIVERSARY

47 B-29s made first B-29 strike against Japan-1944.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Randolph Field at San Antonio dedicated-1930.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Berlin Airlift initiated in response to Russian blockade-1948.

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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