

NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 19

May, 2004

D-DAY PLUS 60 YEARS: CRUSADERS RECALL IT

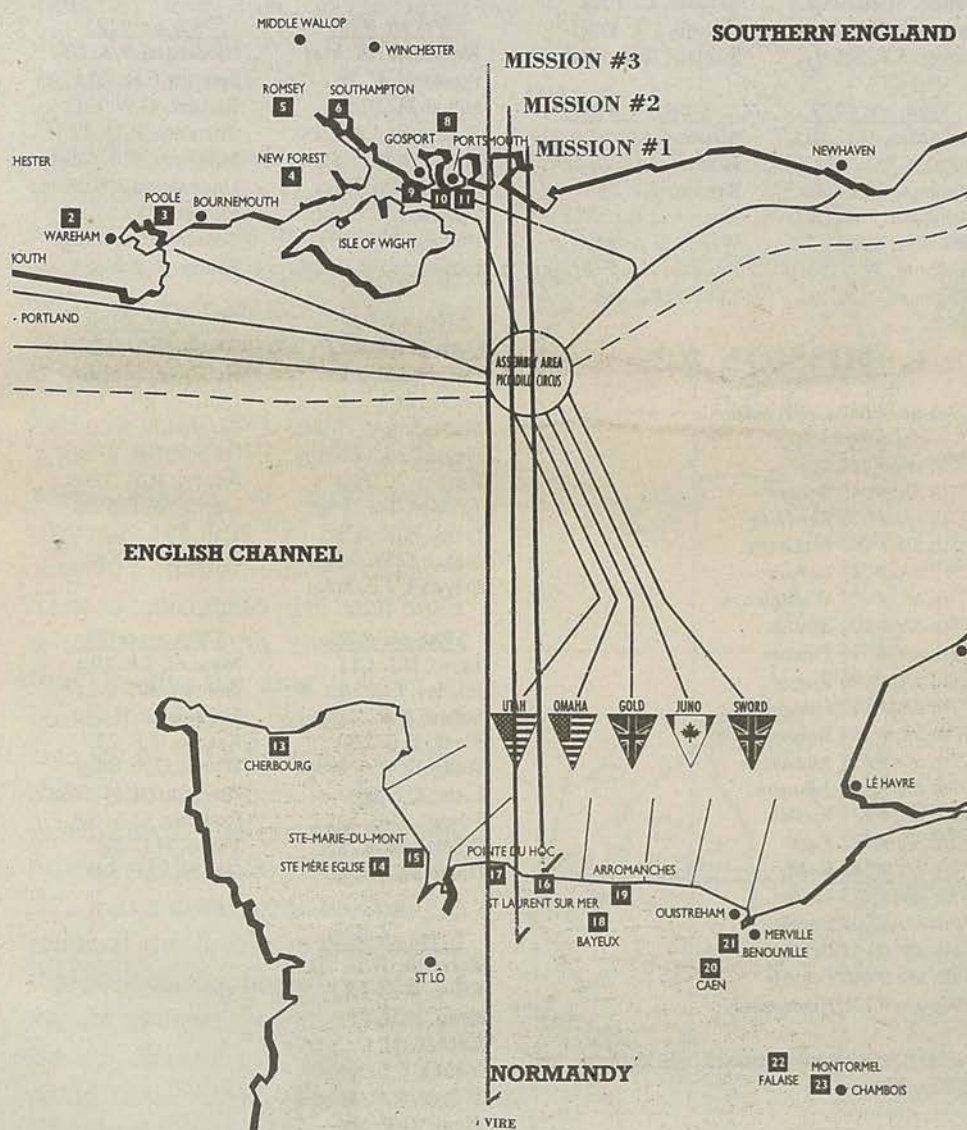
"LONGEST DAY" - TAKE OFF 0240, LAST LANDING 2100; 3 MISSIONS LAUNCHED

On June 6, 1944, the 392nd sent 70 a/c in three separate missions, joining the entire 8AF in bombing the enemy-held coast of Normandy in support of the invasion forces.

Col Lawrence Gilbert led the first mission of 36 a/c, flying with the Cliff Edwards 578th lead crew. Deputy commander was 578th commander Col Warren Polking in the Jim Muldoon a/c. 576th, 578th, and 579th crews composed this force.

The second mission with 12 a/c was launched at 0600, led by Group commander Col Irvine Rendle with 577th crews and a few fill-ins from the other three squadrons.

In the afternoon, 22 more a/c were committed, led by 579th commander Col Myron Keilman with the Prouse crew. The 578th and 579th squadrons furnished the crews for this mission, some of them flying for the second time that day.



Col Gilbert remembers that when they left the English coast they could see the vast invasion armadas below them, but as they approached the enemy coast cloud cover intervened and bombing was done by PFF. The second mission also bombed by PFF, through 10/10 cloud cover. The third mission bombed a target of last resort of the first mission, the town of Vire about 45 miles inland. Many did not release their bombs for fear of hitting friendly troops.

All a/c on the missions were recovered safely, although some reported friendly fire from Allied ships in the channel. The last mission landed in heavy rain with two a/c diverting to the 44th's base at Shipdham.

USAAF OPERATIONS ON D-DAY, JUNE 6, 1944

AIRCRAFT TYPE	DISPATCHED	EFFECTIVE	TONS OF BOMBS	MISSING IN ACTION
8TH AF BOMBERS				
B-17	1375	984	3096	0
B-24	1212	638	1756	4
8TH AF FIGHTERS (Escort & Fighter-Bomber)				
P-38	555 (All escort)			
P-47	645 (414 escort, 231 fighter-bomber)			
P-51	985 (750 escort, 235 fighter-bomber)			
9TH AF BOMBER & FIGHTERS				
B-26	742	617	1181	6
A-20	269	206	260	5
P-38	392	383	34	2
P-47	1657	1600	353	7
P-51	97	89	-	0
F-5 (Photo P-38)	60	33	-	0
F-6 (Photo P-51)	125	122	-	0

Courtesy Commemorative Air Force

In a recent edition of their magazine *DISPATCH*, the Commemorative Air Force (aka Confederate Air Force) demonstrates the awesome air power brought to bear on the German defenses by the USAAF. As shown above, the 392nd's contribution was only a small part of the force committed. The NEWS thanks the CAF for this information.

CRUSADERS WHO FLEW ON D-DAY

This list was published in the NEWS on the 50th anniversary of D-Day. It is not altogether correct, but it the best we could do with our spotty records.

However, the numbers of those listed demonstrates that D-Day was a maximum effort for the 392nd. Every man and available aircraft attacked that day, sometimes twice. Even the Group's Protestant chaplain, Capt. Don Clark, was aboard a/c #615 in the 579th on the first mission. Against orders.

MISSION #1

<u>576th a/c #511</u> Meighan, W.E. 1/Lt Mason, J.J. 2/Lt Plunkett, F.A. 2/Lt Wimberley, W.G. S/Sgt Austin, L.D. T/Sgt Epstein, B.B. T/Sgt Cuevas, D.E. S/Sgt	<u>576th a/c #027</u> Jonas, G.E. 1/Lt Fass, J.E. 2/Lt Morris, J.C. 1/Lt Thomas, H.E. 1/Lt Bodoh, A.E. T/Sgt McAdams, R.E. T/Sgt Surber, W.C. S/Sgt Rossi, V.E. S/Sgt
<u>576th a/c #760</u> Filkel, O.H. 1/Lt Hurd, J.S. 1/Lt Tyson, E.E. 2/Lt Tudor, J.R. 1/Lt Bleuins, R.E. T/Sgt Smith, R.C. T/Sgt Jarratt, C.W. S/Sgt Hoover, A.L. S/Sgt	<u>576th a/c #097</u> Johnston, H.F. 1/Lt Marrain, H. 2/Lt Berman, M. 2/Lt Moos, A.J. 2/Lt Zonsa, F.B. S/Sgt Porter, J.M. S/Sgt Thompson, T.E. S/Sgt
<u>576th a/c #409</u> Reese, R.L. 2/Lt Jewett, G.A. 1/Lt Minzenberg, W.O. F/O Walters, J.E. 2/Lt Thornton, M. S/Sgt Patzmann, R.O.E. S/Sgt Schumacker, D.H. Sgt	<u>576th a/c #222</u> Hofman, H.W. 2/Lt Gordon, C.E. 2/Lt Randall, J.A. 2/Lt Wise, D.C. 2/Lt Boney, R.B. S/Sgt McNutt, W.H. Sgt Goo, R.F. Sgt
<u>576th a/c #387</u> Peifer, K.W. 2/Lt Nielsen, P.H. 2/Lt Coe, J.H. 2/Lt Ott, C.A. 2/Lt Thronborrow, R.R. S/Sgt Fitzmorris, T.L. S/Sgt Calvitt, J.L. S/Sgt	<u>576th a/c #617</u> Martin, R.C. Jr. 2/Lt Hilbert, H.S. 2/Lt Waldo, L.C. 2/Lt Wear, H.E. 2/Lt Blees, K.H. S/Sgt Theil, J.G. S/Sgt Roberts, M.H. Sgt
<u>576th a/c #907</u> Levell, O.R. 2/Lt Caruso, J.A. 2/Lt Scott, K.R. 2/Lt Teague, H.S. 2/Lt Villegas, V.R. S/Sgt Keegan, G.M. S/Sgt Trusten, S/Sgt	<u>576th a/c #031</u> Demers, J.R. 2/Lt Sylvester, H. 2/Lt Neisloss, S.L. 2/Lt Adamson, J.C. 2/Lt Ball, E.M. S/Sgt Galea, J.H. S/Sgt Arnold, E.L. Sgt
<u>576th a/c #916</u> Mathias, W.E. 1/Lt Jones, L.C. 1/Lt Mateyka, M.R. 1/Lt Amoss, R.T. Capt Chambless, S.L. T/Sgt Slyhoff, K. G. T/Sgt Weverka, J.E. S/Sgt	<u>576th a/c #131</u> Bratton, K.D. 1/Lt Hurd, W.F. 2/Lt McShane, W.F. 1/Lt Wytak, S.M. 2/Lt Simmons, W.W. T/Sgt Lennert, B.J. T/Sgt Hamilton, W.S. S/Sgt

578th a/c #478
Polking, W.A. Lt/Col
Muldoon, J.E. 1/Lt
Otis, J.J. 1/Lt
Ostenberg, B. 1/Lt
Morton, E.R. 2/Lt
Byrd, J.M. T/Sgt
Spagnola, J.T. Sgt
Morris, J.A. Sgt
Bednarcik, S.A. S/Sgt
Svoboda, J.J. S/Sgt

578th a/c #337
Alexander, A.B. 1/Lt
Broussard, P.C. 2/Lt
Kirkwood, J.G. 2/Lt
Bennett, J.E. 2/Lt
Sutphin, R.C. S/Sgt
Gallo, F.E. S/Sgt
Kisler, C.L. Sgt

578th a/c #966
Robert, A.M. 1/Lt
Houtz, G.B. 2/Lt
Prentice, C.L. 2/Lt
Hart, D.R. 2/Lt
Rojas, Y. S/Sgt
Lippert, K.A. S/Sgt
Collins, R.R. S/Sgt
Pryor, M.L. Sgt

578th a/c #538
Zweig, L.E. 1/Lt
Burge, H. L. 2/Lt
Thielen, C.M. 2/Lt
Bruce, J.C. 2/Lt
Baxter, O. S/Sgt
Callahan, C.J. S/Sgt
Strally, S.R. S/Sgt
Smith, Louis F. Sgt

578th a/c #033
Hamblen, C.W. 1/Lt
McCarter, H.L. 2/Lt
Hurst, F.B. 2/Lt
Joyce, G.P. 2/Lt
Sears, A.R. T/Sgt
Burnell, W. E. T/Sgt
Lindsay, V.R. S/Sgt

578th a/c #241
Cheek, C.W. 2/Lt
Szengato, J. 2/Lt
Beddingfield, L.L. 2/Lt
Morse, A. 2/Lt
Schvoeck, L.A. S/Sgt
Layman, H.A. Sgt
Curry, E.D. S/Sgt
Miller, J.E. Sgt

579th a/c #990
Hunt, N.A. 1/Lt
Roetzel, P.B. 2/Lt
Shelton, O.W. 2/Lt
Sullivan, E.J. 2/Lt
McKinzie, W.L. T/Sgt
Wilkinson, H.C. T/Sgt
Jackson, L.A. S/Sgt

579th a/c #229
Ruvolis, L. 2/Lt
Wunderlin, C.F. 2/Lt
Mayer, R.S. F/O
Young, E. 2/Lt
Cowley, J.C. S/Sgt
Garvey, J.A. S/Sgt
Sheridan, T.V. Sgt

578th a/c #466
Gilbert, L.G. Lt/Col
Edwards, C.E. Capt
Whittaker, J.B. Maj
Long, J.D. 1/Lt
Untiedt, L. Capt
Joachim, W.F. 1/Lt
Mellow, N.J. T/Sgt
Braddock, W.A. T/Sgt
Phelps, G.A. S/Sgt
Medel, M.N. S/Sgt
Hill, R. E. S/Sgt

578th a/c #041
Henderson, P.B. 2/Lt
Stull, R. B. 2/Lt
Williamson, R.D. 2/Lt
Thompson, A.W. S/Sgt
Burns, P.J. S/Sgt
Mahon, E.M. S/Sgt
Ivey, E.H. Sgt
Howell, J.L. Sgt

578th a/c #295
Sabourin, R.E. 1/Lt
Amble, E.F. 2/Lt
Landers, J. F/O
Singleton, W.R. 2/Lt
Hollien, F.J. S/Sgt
Smith, P.E. S/Sgt
Moran, R. S/Sgt

578th a/c #896
Maris, J.R. 2/Lt
Gerbing, T.M. 2/Lt
Silverman, H.I. 2/Lt
Taylor, J.W. 2/Lt
Fitzgerald, M. S/Sgt
Trinkel, O.E. S/Sgt
Miller, M. Sgt

578th a/c #764
McCarthy, C.G. 1/Lt
Buchanan, R.P. 1/Lt
McSweeney, J.D. 2/Lt
Hardy, E.C. S/Sgt
Kottke, A. H. T/Sgt
Garcia, P. T/Sgt
White, T. S/Sgt

578th a/c #293
Smith, W.C. 2/Lt
Wilson, E.R. 2/Lt
McMahon, E.J. F/O
Jackson, C.R. 2/Lt
Seaton, K.L. S/Sgt
Kostrewski, G.T. S/Sgt
McRight, W.O. Sgt
VanVliet, P. Sgt

579th a/c #035
Sayther, Harley Maj
McGregor, J.A. Capt
Taylor, Ralph E. 1/Lt
Swangren, Roy Capt
Good, R.E. Capt
Padden, R.F. S/Sgt
West, G. E. T/Sgt
Long, B. S/Sgt
Housteau, J.M. S/Sgt

579th a/c #
White, H.A. 2/Lt
Martin, J.W. 2/Lt
Forde, W.I. 2/Lt
Green, H.J. 2/Lt
Barnes, G.M. S/Sgt
Reynolds, J.J. Sgt
Wehunt, J.W. Sgt

579th a/c #025
Miller, R.L. 1/Lt
Conner, J.A. 2/Lt
Hession, W.J. 2/Lt
Baker, R.W. 2/Lt
Freeman, C.W. S/Sgt
Carlstrand, R.E. S/Sgt
Wolfe, P.J. Cpl

579th a/c #135
Thomas, J.F. 2/Lt
Whitford, D. 2/Lt
McFarlin, J.F. F/O
Hyre, G.R. F/O
Nicolson, A. S/Sgt
Haywood, H.F. S/Sgt
O'Neill, W.P. Sgt

579th a/c #472
Leghorn, A.F. 2/Lt
Floyd, R.B. 2/Lt
Seymer, R.F. 2/Lt
Rothman, M. 2/Lt
Powell, W.A. S/Sgt
Pattison, W.G. S/Sgt
Lanier, J.E. Sgt

579th a/c #789
McMillen, H.L. 2/Lt
Buckart, O.J. 2/Lt
Jennings, C.H. 2/Lt
Gallagher, J.R. 2/Lt
Hill, T.H. S/Sgt
Lindberg, W.G. S/Sgt
Weirsmann, S.A. Sgt

577th a/c #642 Col Rendle
Gonseth
577th a/c #415 Bay
577th a/c #649 Belitz
577th a/c #058 Bradford
577th a/c #040 McGrath
577th a/c #287 Larsen
577th a/c #027 Whittemore
577th a/c #002 Stroble
577th a/c #079 Peirson
577th a/c #096 Pierce
577th a/c #061 Hunsaker
577th a/c #164 Barron
577th a/c #151 Anundson
577th a/c #432 Johnson
577th a/c #432 Kuster
577th a/c #323 Page
577th a/c #548 Kohl
577th a/c #493 Leser
576th a/c #106 Paroly
578th a/c #163 Bridson
578th a/c #446 Fogarty
579th a/c #731 Niederritter

(Aircraft commanders' names only available for mission #2)

MISSION #3

578th a/c #548
Kohl
Schultz
Kerley
Foote
Scales
Higdon
Ehring
Peters
Interdanato
Agaloff

579th a/c #615
Cassell, H.S. Capt
Colvin, J.A. 1/Lt
Bevan, K.S. 1/Lt
Cetin, W.F. 1/Lt
Clark, D.B. Capt
Holloman, C.C. Capt
Hauser, W.M. T/Sgt
Geary, N.W. T/Sgt
Rothrock, C.T. S/Sgt
Durant, W. T/Sgt

579th a/c #448
Schaffer, W.A. 2/Lt
Winans, G.L. 2/Lt
Martin, A.V. F/O
Jaffe, A.J. 2/Lt
Reid, H.R. S/Sgt
Ward, R.A. S/Sgt
Pitt, J.B. Sgt

579th a/c #544
Gann, D.L. 1/Lt
Dick, W.C. 2/Lt
Spensley, R.E. 2/Lt
Gunniff, V.L. 2/Lt
Shrader, C. T/Sgt
Correll, J.T. T/Sgt
Sinclair, R.E. S/Sgt

579th a/c #897
Menard, J.F. 2/Lt
Holmes, J.G. 2/Lt
Krause, T.J. 2/Lt
Hartwick, E.J. 2/Lt
Walsh, D.A. S/Sgt
Blackford, L.F. S/Sgt
Tubbs, H.L. Sgt

579th a/c #897
Cornell, J.J. 2/Lt
Berger, J.E. 2/Lt
Ingels, G.A. 2/Lt
McMahon, C.D. 2/Lt
Hebert, I.L. T/Sgt
Kuchta, J. T/Sgt
Rawson, B.J. S/Sgt
Stahl, W.H. S/Sgt
Siegel, G.W. S/Sgt
Daywalt, J.E. S/Sgt

579th a/c #025
Leser, H.J. 1/Lt
Smoley, E.J. 2/Lt
Sellers, F.R. 2/Lt
Fleck, E.R. 2/Lt
Rodgers, B.A. S/Sgt
Licht, J. S/Sgt
Fowler, D.E. Sgt
Weckel, W.R. Sgt
Damiano, A. Sgt

579th a/c #448
Menard, J.E. 2/Lt
Holmes, J.G. 2/Lt
Hartwick, E.J. 2/Lt
Krause, T.F. 2/Lt
Walsh, D.A. S/Sgt
Blackford, L.N. S/Sgt
Redman, G.A. Sgt
Tubbs, H.L. Sgt
Holton, Q.F. Sgt

578th a/c #163
Smith
Wilson
Jackson
McMahon
Kostrewski
Seaton
Mcright
Humphreys
Van Vliet
Patton

578th a/c #966
Stroble
Slafka
Daniels
Vassey
Bull
Haukom
Spika
Vickery
Brent
Vetrano

579th a/c #990
Keilman, M.H. Maj
Prouse, H.W. 2/Lt
Niman, H. 2/Lt
Rodriguez, J.B. 1/Lt
Hixon, R.D. T/Sgt
Sullivan, W. T/Sgt
Wright, J.K. S/Sgt
Putnam, N.I. S/Sgt
Dinsmore, W.F. S/Sgt

579th a/c #160
Brunn, W.S. 1/Lt
Reinbold, H.L. F/O
Griffith, R.C. 2/Lt
Coyle, J.D. 2/Lt
Hassett, T.R. T/Sgt
Adams, R.V. T/Sgt
Harris, W.T. S/Sgt
Hair, J.H. S/Sgt
Fund, E.J. S/Sgt

579th a/c #229
Forsythe, W.M. 2/Lt
Olive, W.E. 2/Lt
Bean, N.M. 2/Lt
Cechowski, C.C. 2/Lt
Young, F.E. S/Sgt
Weber, R.C. S/Sgt
Plank, G.R. Sgt
Carrington, W.E. Sgt
Brockway, G.S. Sgt

(Loading lists for mission # 3 available for 578th and 579th squadrons only)

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Lt. James H. Doolittle performed first known successful outside loop-May 25, 1927.

LEAD NAVIGATOR'S LOG OF FIRST D-DAY MISSION

The accompanying neat artifact was copied from the archives of Col Lawrence Gilbert, CEO of the 392BGMA and command pilot of the first mission flown by the 392nd on D-Day. The arrows were added by the NEWS; Capt Untiedt's original had the briefed course in black and the flown in red. The NEWS cannot replicate the color.

Following is Col Gilbert's account of that mission:

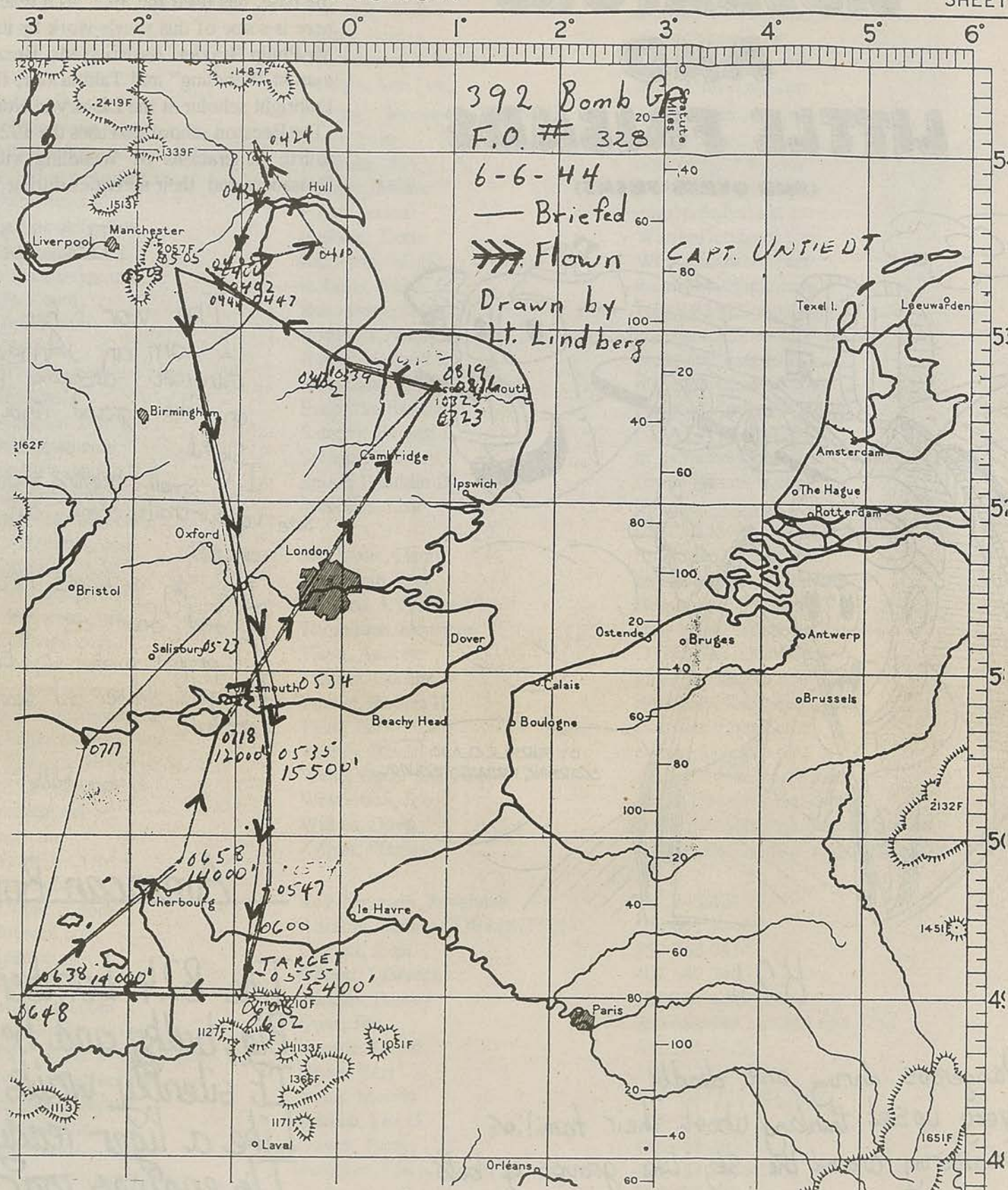
Of the 36 a/c dispatched on the mission, 3 aborted, 22 dropped bombs, and 11 failed to bomb because of cloud cover in the target area. Our target was coastal gun batteries zeroed in on Omaha Beach.

Indelibly stamped in my memory is the difficulty we encountered in assembling our formations in total darkness, then attempting to merge with the main bomber stream en route to the Normandy beaches. In a rather complicated "compression" exercise, each flight of six a/c after assembling in the Wendling area, departed at eight minute intervals and flew 100 miles northwest to near York in the Midlands. Then, according to plan each flight would reverse course at the proper time to join the long column of bombers heading south. All 40 Groups of the 8th were executing this same maneuver in the same general area. This exercise not only organized the 1500 B-17's and B-24's into a continuous column but reduced the 8 minute interval for flights departing home bases to a 3 minute interval over the target. A certain amount of confusion and navigational error was inevitable. Clouds in the assembly area broke up several formations and near-miss collisions were numerous.

(Editor's note: the late J. D. Long was co-pilot of Col. Gilbert's a/c. He has related to me about how an errant flight of a/c passed through our formation, without a collision. "Everyone in the cockpit held their breath until the unknown a/c cleared our formation", he said.)

ENNISKILLEN TO AVIGNON

SHEET



Our flight of six had only three a/c when we reached the target at day-break. Muldoon's flight had four of the original six. Seven 392nd a/c flew with other Groups.

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 but as we came closer, well before the bomb release point, cloud cover intervened, preventing visual bomb sighting. We dropped our bombs on the smoke flares of the Pathfinder a/c. Our return to base was uneventful though one of our flights reported being fired upon by

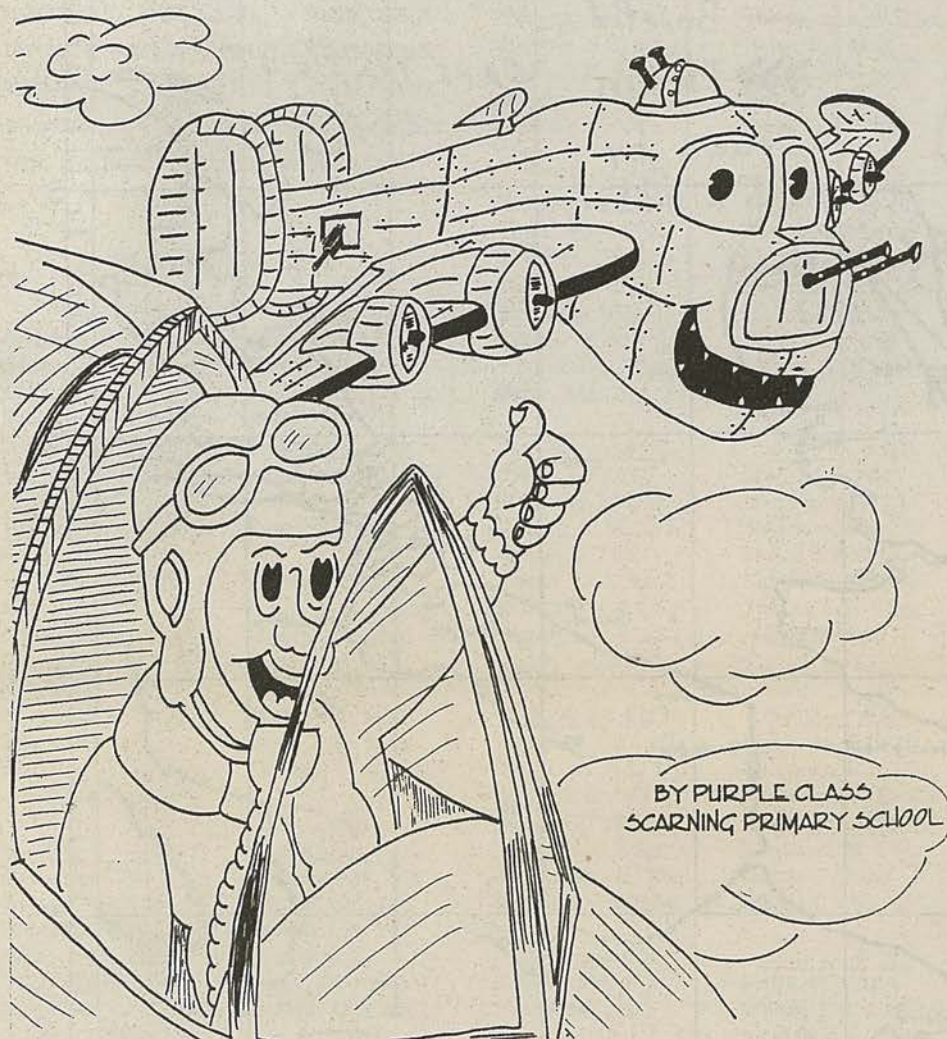
friendly ships in the Channel.

On this longest day, our Group acquitted itself well. Every man and woman assigned to the 392nd can be quietly proud of the part we played in supporting our troops below, pinned down on the beaches and desperately trying to gain a toehold in those first critical hours.

392nd STILL A PRESENCE IN THE WENDLING AREA

LIBERATORS AND LITTLE FRIENDS

(AND OTHER POEMS)



BY PURPLE CLASS
SCARNING PRIMARY SCHOOL

B24

Dangerous daring and deadly
Very upset thinking about their families
Scattering around the sky like groups of bats.
the banging and rattling of their engines.
Very speechless thinking "What will happen next?
Who is it going to be next?

By

Lucy Matthews

The elementary school at Scarning, a village about five miles south-east of the base, has used the 392nd as a teaching tool for the second year. Shown here is some of this year's work by its class of 8 and 9 year olds, taught by Mr. Philip Brazier. Assisting Mr. Brazier were Denis Duffield, "the 392nd's man at Wendling" and Tahitia Orr, the Second Air Division Association's Fulbright scholar at the Library in Norwich.

The Beeston school also uses the 392nd as a teaching tool. Thus the third and fourth generations of Wendling villagers become acquainted with the Crusaders and their activities during 1943-45.

The War

The war is here and I have got the gear
I am an American in my B24
aircraft dropping bombs that flash like stars
on the ground and explode everywhere in
sight.
I smell burning flames everywhere and
see vapour trails coming out of the engines on the
aircraft.
The sky is bright orange and light red
I feel fear as I approach the enemy.
I pray I make it back to base.
It gets scarier and scarier as the flak hits my
aircraft.

by Billy

American Bomber

The B24 bomber,
Big, bulky and beautiful.
It silently waits in its hanger,
Like a tiger ready to pounce.
Its engines roar into life,
I shiver when I see it move.
So glad I'm not its startled prey.

By Victoria Cole

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	Mighty8cur@aol.com
Anstey, Milton P.	mikeanstey@earthlink.net
Arch, Bette Gray	archesinov@comcast.net
Badders, Karen L.	klbadders@yahoo.com
Bambauer, Gilbert	gbamba@comcast.net
Barger, George	GWBARGER@email.msn.com
Barber, Ernie	ebarber392bg@nu-z.net
Bailey, Don	donbail@webtv.net
Barnard, Mary Beth	blackjag@hargray.com
Barnes, Joe	jabarnes@netconx.net
Barry, Bill	purehart@earthlink.net
Bartsch, Arlo	Afbas@aol.com
Bilz, Jack	jjbilz2@juno.com
Books, Bob	books@b24.net
Braddock, Bill	wabrad17@wmconnect.com
Brent, Landon H.	lhb323@aol.com
Bullard, Robert E.	Rebssb25@aol.com
Buzick, Jim	Jmbuzick@msn.com
Canonne, Philippe	p.cannone@wanadoo.fr
Case, Bill	Wcase22@aol.com
Conrad, John	jbwc@worldnet.att.com
Damerst, William A.	Waring248@Juno.com
Desario, Joseph L.	JDESAR@AOL.COM
Dewez, Luc	Luc.Dewez@skynet.BE
Ebersole, Howard ("Ebe")	hebersole@webtv.net
Egan, Thomas J.	tjegan.@sihope.com
Ehrlich, Lee D.	RKSN600@aol.com
Elston, Robert C.	Rcwhelston@aol.com
Evans, Theodore	theodore120@yahoo.com
Garrett, Howard	havepick@email.msn.com
Gilbert, John	adrian@gilberta.freemove.co.uk
Gilbert, Lawrence	LGILBERT4@cfl.rr.com
Glettler, Barney	b.glettler@att.net
Goar, Jim CHANGE	goar@accs.net
Gorback, Burton	burtsy/@MSN.COM
Greene, David	dg392@aol.com
Grimm, Roy CHANGE	rgrimm3@nc.rr.com
Gross, Earl	EGB880@aol.com
Hagopian, Hal	halaps@aol.com
Harned, Bob	BJSpringdell@aol.com
Hart, Wildrick	bandsaw@penn.com
Hatton, Greg	gregoryhatton@earthlink.net
Hawkins, Ian	ian@hawkins13cbw.fsnet.co.uk
Hinckley, Burt	hinckleyburtjean@hotmail.com
Hutchcroft, Mary Esther	meh45@homereley.net
Hyde, Mike	B24MJH@aol.com
Jones, Ben	limeybj@frontiernet.net
Jones, Mervyn	MervynJones@btinternet.com
Jordan, Thomas J.	TJJ43@aol.com
Kaplan, Jacob (Jack)	demarcin@aol.com
Kreisman, Irving	ri.kreisman@verizon.net
Long, William	longtimelong@email.msn.com
Lory, Bob	Rboblory@msn.com
McGregor, Jim	jmcg100@comcast.net
McGuire, Bill, Jr.	A43fool@aol.com
Mackey, Oak	oakmackey@msm.com
Marcelli, Anthony F.	t_uomo@juno.com
Maris, James P.	JMaris1766@aol.com

Marsteller, Jim
 Matelski, Lorn W.
 Matt, Priscilla
 Michel, George
 Micksch, Joe
 Neustadt, Walter
 Onstot, Perry
 Oppenheim, Alfred M.
 Phillips, Ann Long
 Pearson, George E. **CHANGE**
 Perry, Tom
 Peterson, Mary
 Planche, Milton
 Popek, Erma
 Polking, Dette
 Richeson, W. H.
 Roberts, Keith
 Rosenberg, John
 Rothrock, Mary
 Russell, Carroll E.
 Sassaman, Michael K.
 Sabourin, Roland
 Satterly, Everett F.
 Schafer, Wes
 Smith, Franklin D.
 Stephens, Lou

Stockman, Harry
 Szenegeto, Joe
 Thomas, J. Fred
 Thomason, Henriette
 Tison, Annette
 Trigilio, George
 Tuchel, Robert H.
 Tyler, Bob
 Vassey, Emuel
 Weed, Oscar and Toni
 Westbrook, Joe
 Willies, Doug
 Zybort, Stanley

8AF Museum, Savannah
 Abrams, Manny **CORRECTION**
 Conrad, John
 Gilbert, Lawrence
 Glettler, Barney
 Goar, Jim
 Greene, David
 Gross, Earl
 Jones, Mervin
 Erhlich, Lee D.
 Onstot, Perry
 Peterson, Mary
 Thomas, J. Fred
 Wear, Harold (Hal)

392 BGMA
 8AF Museum, Savannah

jim@b24.net
 lorn-n-duste@elknet.net
 crewdog9@cs.com
 gmichel@milwpc.com
 Joe@micksch.com
 neuwalter@aol.com
 ponstot@aol.com
 HammerO@aol.com
 annfromnc@aol.com
 georgeep@cisbec.net
 tom@b24.net
 marcliff@cfl.rr.com
 Mmplanche@aol.com
 empopek@att.net
 WarrenDett@aol.com
 WHRich@webtv.net
 k.e.robby@juno.com
 JohnRB24@Juno.com
 m.rothrock@worldnet.att.net
 crew@mounet.com
 mikes@dialmaine.com
 dpoobah@accessbee.com
 EISATT@AOL.COM
 m.j.schafer@juno.com
 fsmith4@satx.rr.com
 lStephens5@woh.rr.com
 (that's a lower case alphabetical I)
 Stockman1@cox.net
 baksheesh@onecom.com
 Bomberb24@aol.com
 Henriette@pronet.net
 DTison5401@aol.com
 gitsr@ix.netcom.com
 rhtuchel@soltec.net
 Bobalice2r@aol.com
 evassey@acadia.net
 anoweed@bellsouth.net
 JWESTBR432@aol.com
 doug&celia@g3hrk.freemove.co.uk
 szybort@aol.com & sczybort@cs.com

FAX

912 748 0209
 508 651 3460
 859 268 0514
 407 647 7402
 231 334 4440
 765 654 4457 or 765 654 4253
 631 205 1301
 310 652 9307
 +44 (0) 1328 701 262
 773 774 4311
 816 363 7054
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WEBSITE

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MARCH 18, 2004: A SON POSTS HIS THOUGHTS ON THE 392ND'S WEB SITE

Today marks the 60th anniversary of the March 18, 1944, mission to Friedrichshafen. With a mix of solemnity and great affection, I remember my father in a special way, and all the others that were lost, hurt, or captured that day. I think of Dallas Books, our own Bob's dad, and Everett Morris, Jim Marsteller's uncle, and so many more. Too, I remember in a special way my dear friends, survivors of that raid, who are no longer walking with us. And I think of the family of the 392nd Association and all the kindness and good will it has shown to me.

My father held me a few times when I was an infant. But we never played catch, or had a heart to heart over a beer, or went to the Garden together for a ball game, or to a World Series. We never body surfed together in the Atlantic, or went on a hike together. He didn't get to go to see E. T. and Raiders of the Lost Ark with the grandkids as I did and see the glee in their eyes in the dark theater. He never got to meet my bride of 40 years, the mother of his six grandchildren, or wait on the delivery of the three more grandchildren we are expecting this spring. My own mom died young, broken hearted, drinking herself to death. But in many ways still his proud widow. He didn't get to share all the joys of my life, not up close and personal anyway.

But today we remember him and all of you, and I say once again to my father and share the same sentiment with you veterans, and families of veterans. You made all the difference in the world. Your courage, valor, and sacrifice made my life and so many wonderful free American lives possible. You planted the seed of freedom throughout the world, and you ransomed our national honor as people recognize truth and the facts of history.

Thank you, 2/Lt William C. McGuire, navigator, and lasting thanks to your comrades in arms. We love you. We honor you. We shall not forget.

Bill McGuire, Larchmont, NY., March 18, 2004.

* * * *

PX ITEMS

Anthology, "20 th Century Crusaders (Hard cover book) \$36.50 postpaid	\$
Anthology, "20 th Century Crusaders (CD) \$15.00 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 , Reduced to \$18.00 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, 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. \$21.95 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. No cost figures furnished.

Book, "Don't Call Me A Hero", by Jim McGregor, pilot, 579th. Order from Publisher, Willeo Publishing, 702 Foxborough Sq. W, Brentwood, TN 37027. \$19.95 postpaid.

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

YOUNG MEDICAL OFFICER RENDERS US HIS REPORT-AND EPITAPH

This moving essay was sent to us by Ebe Ebersole, 578th pilot. The author is Capt Stephen R. Ellison, M.D., who is specializing in Emergency Medicine at a military hospital in San Antonio, TX.

I saw "Saving Private Ryan". I was touched deeply, not so much by the carnage in the first 30 minutes, but by the sacrifices of so many. I was touched most of all by the scene of the elderly survivor at the grave side, asking his wife if he'd been a good man. I realized that I had seen these same men and women coming through my Emergency Department and had not realized what magnificent sacrifices they had made. The things that they did for me and everyone else that has lived on this planet since the end of that conflict are priceless. Situation permitting, I now try to ask my patients about their experiences. They would never bring up the subject without inquiry. I have been privileged to an amazing array of experiences, recounted in the brief minutes allowed in an Emergency Department encounter. These experiences are revealed by the incredible individuals I have had the honor of serving in a medical capacity, many on their last admission to the hospital.

There was a frail, elderly woman who reassured my young enlisted medic, trying to start an IV line in here arm. She remained calm and poised, despite her illness and the multiple needle-sticks into her fragile veins. She was what we call a "hard stick". As the medic made another try, I noticed a number tattooed across her forearm. I touched it with one finger and looked into her eyes. She simply said "Auschwitz". Many of later generations would have loudly and openly berated the young medic in his many attempts. How different was the response from this person who had seen unspeakable suffering.

Also, there was this long retired Colonel, who as a young officer had parachuted from his burning plane over a Pacific island held by the Japanese. Now an octogenarian, his head cut in a fall at home where he lived alone, his CT scan and suturing had been delayed until after midnight by the usual parade of high priority ambulance patients. Still spry for his age, he asked to use the phone to call a taxi to take him home. He then realized his ambulance had brought him without his wallet.

He asked if he could make a long distance call to his daughter who lived seven miles away. With great pride we told him that he could not, as he'd done enough for his country and the least we could do was to get him a taxi home, even if we had to pay for it ourselves. My only regret was that my shift wouldn't end for several hours, and I couldn't drive him myself.

I was there the night M/Sgt Roy Benavidez came through the Emergency Department for the last time. He was very sick. I was not the doctor taking care of him, but I walked to his bedside and took his hand. I said nothing. He was so sick, he didn't know I was there. I'd read his Congressional Medal of Honor Citation and wanted to shake his hand. He died a few days later.

The gentleman who served with Merrill's Marauders, the survivor of the Bataan Death March, the survivor of Omaha Beach, the 101 year old World War I veteran, the former POW in frozen North Korea, the former Special Forces medic- now with non-operable liver cancer, the former Viet Nam Corps Commander. I remember these citizens.

I may groan when yet another ambulance comes in, but now I am much aware of what an honor it is to serve these particular men and women.

It has become my personal endeavor to make the nurses and young enlisted medics aware of these amazing individuals when I encounter them in our Emergency Department. Their response to these particular citizens has made me think that perhaps not all is lost in the next generation.

My experiences have solidified my belief that we are losing an incredible generation, and this nation knows not what it is losing. Our uncaring government and ungrateful citizen population should all take note. We should remember that we must "Earn this."

* * * *

AIR ANNIVERSARY
American day bombardment aviation began at Amenty Airdrome, France- May 18, 1918.

IT'S PAST TIME TO SEND IN DUES FOR 2004

The Board of Directors, faced with declining membership, increased the dues last year by a modest \$3, to \$15. They remain the same for 2004. Also, if you feel that you are in a position to help the Treasury with an extra donation, there is a provision for it below. It is possible that Life Members might feel that the Lord has been good to them and that they have lived beyond their actuarial years and an extra payment might be in order. Your dues status can be found right after your name on the mailing list. If the number is 04 or higher, you're current. LM means Life Member, and Frnd means that you are our guest.

However, 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 []

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Dues for 2004, \$15	LIFE MEMBERSHIP	DONATION
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Send with check to Charles Dye, 4949 San Pedro NE, #87, Albuquerque, NM 87109

392ND WILL BE PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR AT PHILADELPHIA

Oak Mackey, the 392nd's vice president for the 2ADA, has reported that about 22 Crusaders will be present at the 57th annual convention. As usual, there will be a 392nd hospitality room.

* * * *

AIR ANNIVERSARY

First passenger flight in history took place in Wright plane at Kitty Hawk- May 14, 1908.

NEWS CHANGING E-MAIL ADDRESS

The 392BGMA NEWS is now using a new e-mail address, which is goar@accs.net. At this writing both addresses are valid, but the older one will be discarded soon.

* * * *

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Germany surrendered unconditionally-May 8, 1945

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Lts. H. H. Arnold and T. D. Milling became first Wright School Army pilots- May 13, 1911.

392ND SECOND GENERATION CAN SUPPLY YOU WITH THESE ITEMS

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Sorry, sold out of Challenge Coins.

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.

NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

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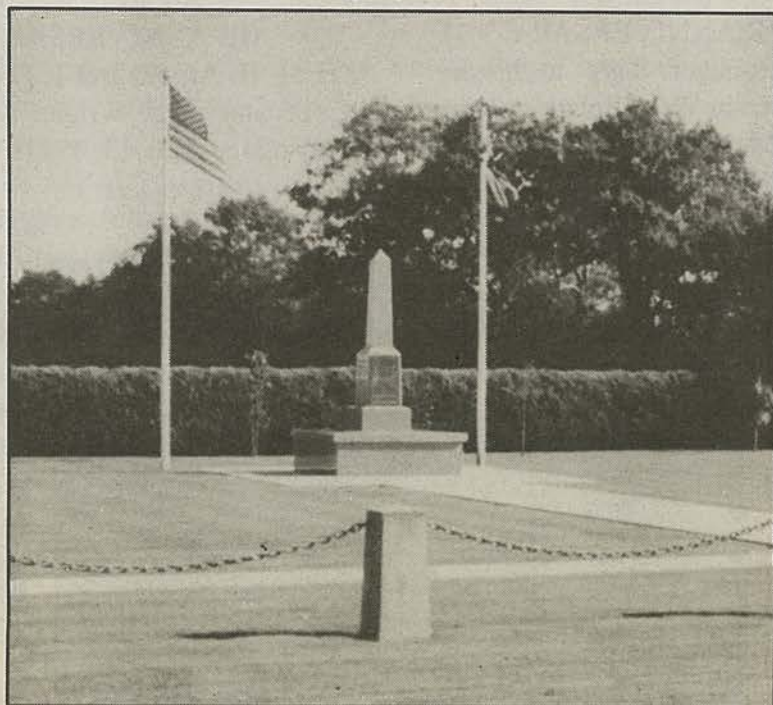
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THE 392nd MEMORIAL AT WENDLING

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.

Chaplain's Corner

By George Barger, Ph. D.
(aka Bombardier, 576/7)

Our generation is of an age that each day brings news of the death of former comrades and friends. What are we to think of all that? The Bible has occasional hints, but it is largely silent about the actual content of life after death. I don't suppose many really anticipate streets of gold and gates of sapphire in the New Jerusalem. We are assured, however, that preparations have been made and that we are expected. Maranatha.

Folded Wings

Paul J. Hutz, 578, Dec. 30, 2003
Jack Kaplan, 577, Jan. 28, 2004
Edmund S. Twining, 578, Feb. 16, '04
Leon LeBleu, 578, Feb. 16, 2004
Chester Catulli, 10SC, about 03-04
Gilbert L. Blanton, 576, June 20, 2003
Ralph W. Ziehm, 579, Sept. 13, 2003
William F. Cetin, 579, March 24, 2004
Erna Nashwinter, April 16, 2004
wife of Francis Nashwinter, 578



392nd Bomb Group Memorial Ass'n NEWS
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Frankfort, IN 46041

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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