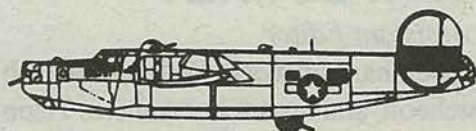


NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 21

May, 2006

392ND'S FIRST COMBAT LOSSES: OCTOBER 4, 1943

THE THINGS WE CARRIED

By Annette Tison, Assistant Editor

Stored at the National Archives are 149 boxes containing the original German "KU" files prepared when a U. S. bomber crashed in Nazi controlled territory. Many of the documents were translated into English and are now part of the Missing Air Crew Reports. The actual German files also hold some of the items that were taken from captured or killed airmen by the Germans.

The boxes are heavy with the weight of dog tags, including several belonging to 392nd airmen. Some are noticeably bent, others obviously blackened by fire, but most are as shiny as if they had been made yesterday.

Since 146 men did not return from the 392nd's mission to Friedrichshafen on March 18, 1944, it is not surprising that those KU files are rich with personal items.

Ball turret gunner S/Sgt David Apgar carried a note from his mother. She had written him, "Please say this little prayer when you go up into the air to fight. God please keep close by me and make me brave and bring me back safely again. Amen." The prayer obviously worked as he was captured, not killed as were two of his crew mates.

Apgar wrote his sister a letter from Stalag Luft 3 that is also in the KU file. He told her, "I am a prisoner of war in Germany. Our bomber got shot down. But I bailed out just in time, before she blew up. I am wounded in the right arm, they got me on their second pass, but I'll be all right in time." He went on to say, "Don't tell Mom what happened to me if you can help it, just tell her I am fine."

S/Sgt George F. Masteka had his draft card with him when he became a POW, having registered in Greenwich, R. I. on Oct. 16, 1940. He was obviously still obeying the dictate printed in bold letters: Carry This Card With You At All Times.

Navigator 1/Lt James C. Moorehead, Jr. had a receipt for a poinsettia he had ordered on Oct. 7, 1943 from the Army Exchange Service at the 77th Station Hospital. He had asked that it be delivered to his mother in Virginia on Dec. 23, 1943, paying 17 shillings 10 pence for this holiday gift. (To put it into perspective, an Englishman doing manual labor was earning about 34 shillings a week then.)

1/Lt Walter C. Raschke and his crew flew to Friedrichshafen, too. One of them carried a document such as "I am an American airman" that had been phonetically translated into French, Dutch, and Spanish. The document also had the pronunciations for a few German phrases as well, including "Good Morning" and "Heil Hitler". S/Sgt Jack H. Rankin was the only survivor

Continued on page 2

DIVERSION MISSION OVER NORTH SEA: 3 A/C LOST, 31 MEN MIA; 6 INJURED

The mission was planned as a feint toward the North Sea approaches to Germany in order to divert enemy fighter strength from other elements of the 8AF, which were attacking other targets.

This was the third of such missions by the fledgling 392nd, just arrived at Wendling after training in the States. The first two drew no blood, but this one brought some 40 enemy fighters attacking the formation.

A German plane, either from the fighter pilot's error or out of control because the pilot was injured, rammed the B-24 in the leading element, the 579th. The a/c was No. 481 manned by the Feuerstacke crew and carrying the formation's commander, Major Don Appert, also commander of the 579th. The Feuerstacke a/c collided with 579th ships piloted by 1/Lt Brian T. Smith and 1/Lt O. S. Morphey, and all three ships went down into the North Sea.

The 578th's John Buschman, piloting #502, put what happened very succinctly: "I was #4 in the lead element. Messerschmidt rams #1, #2 and #3 go with him into the drink. Debris from #2 eliminates my starboard tail section. Navigator gives heading back to Wendling, rest of Group follows."

579th pilot Vern Baumgart, contacted at his home in Sheboygan, WI, recalled, "We got the heck kicked out of us. And we really didn't have any hostile intentions."

Jim McGregor, 579th pilot, noted that the Germans made head-on attacks. The B-24's that they been used to seeing had only a single machine gun in the nose. The 392nd had twin fifties in nose turrets, and were the first Group in the ETO to be so equipped.

McGregor has unearthed a very interesting account of the action from a posting on the internet by a German pilot by the name of Heinz Knoke, who claims to have been one of the enemy pilots. Jim says that he has checked the date and the location, and they coincide. Knoke's version is not the same as ours, but here is what Knoke wrote:

"For the first time we are to try making a frontal attack in close squadron formation of more than 40 aircraft.

'A few minutes and we are tearing into the enemy with every gun blazing. I head full speed for the nose of a Liberator. Fire! Duck away sharply beneath the giant fuselage to avoid a collision, keep on going right on through the formation, pull up hard in a climbing turn to the left, and then round back again.

'My salvo has had its effect. The Liberator swerves, drops out of the formation, and heads away in the opposite direction. I close in under the fat

Continued on page 5

2ND GENERATION REPORTS MANY ADDITIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO 392ND'S WEBSITE, WWW.B24.NET

By Annette Tison, Assistant Editor

Our second generation members have been hard at work. Webmaster Bob Books, quality control expert Bill McCutcheon, and researcher Annette Tison have recently made significant enhancements to the 392nd's website.

They completed a major review of the Roll of Honor, adding over 50 names (including 30 casualties during training in the U. S.); deleting 29 names that were misspelled duplicates, correcting the spelling of over 100 names; changing initials to first names; and providing home towns. They also set up links so information about the fates of more than 1,400 men on the Roll of Honor can be quickly found. (The Roll of Honor includes not only KIA's and MIA's, but also POW's, evadees, internees, and deaths from training accidents.)

The mission data is now in a more "user friendly" format. The overview, crew load lists, and Missing Air Crew Report (MACR) information for each mission are now all displayed on a single page.

Click on the Mission box at the top of the main page at www.b24.net and you'll see a list of the 15 missions that caused over 50 percent of the Group's casualties during the war. Below that are calendar pages with each date in gray representing an operational or training mission or a date on which casualties occurred. Click on any of these dates and all available information about that mission will appear.

Many of the mission pages were enhanced with information learned after Col Bob Vickers, 578th pilot, published his comprehensive histories of the 392nd, including data from squadron histories, Group burial files, and veteran interviews originally published in the 392nd BGMA NEWS. Burial sites for all members killed in action who are interred in National Cemeteries throughout the U. S. were added.

The 2nd generation members also found and posted data on the seven diversion missions flown in September and October 1943. This information was thought to be lost but the files were finally located at the Archives with the 44th BG records.

The MACR section was changed so there is now a listing of all MACRs for

—Continued from page 1—

when the plane was shot down so it is doubtful that the guide was ever put to use.

Captured that day along with 1/Lt Edward Schwartz was his Pay Data Card, reporting a base pay of \$150, flying pay \$75, rental allowance \$60, and subsistence allowance \$42, for a total of \$327 per month.

When 2/Lt Charles E. Euwar was killed on July 7, 1944, he was carrying the receipts for chase bicycle #435 that he had purchased just a few days earlier. Previous owners included Cpl Charles G. Dorin, S/Sgt Samuel Weiss, Cpl George P. Mahon, and Pvt Alexander Roe, Jr. Dorin and Roe belonged to the 465th Sub Depot.

When 1/Lt George Jones and crew were shot down on that same mission, someone was carrying a note of support from Miss Lucienne Veilleux of Bridgeport, CT. Perhaps she had a job making flight clothing as the note said, "Whoever gets this Suit. There will be someone praying for him. God bless you and good luck." Copilot 2/Lt John Faas was killed, the other nine crewmen became POWs.

No one knows what became of the other items 392nd crewmen undoubtedly carried into battle: the photos, the letters, the good luck charms. What is stored in boxes at the National Archives, though, is a testament to both the ordinary and extraordinary parts of their lives.

392nd crews alphabetically by pilot's name as well as numerical order. Links go directly to the complete MACR.

Over 30 new crew photos and 8 crash site photos were posted to the website.

Can't remember which missions you flew? Go to www.b.24.net, put your cursor on the Research box at the top of the page, slide your cursor down to 392nd BG Questions and click on it. Enter your name in the box as directed, and the search engine will provide a list of all mission pages where that name appears and well as the entry on the Roll of Honor, if applicable. Clicking on the links will take you directly to the page where the name appears. Then a CTRL F will find the name. (Too complicated? Simply ask a teenager for help!)

The second generation is committed to preserving the legacy of what YOU did with the 392nd, but we need your help. If you have a photo of your crew or the planes you flew (or crashed) that is not already on www.b.24.net or if you've written an account of your time with the 392nd, please send us a copy for our archives. Contact Annette at tison@b24.net for more information.

392BGMA ELECTRONIC DIRECTORY CHANGES

We'll print the entire Electronic Directory in the first issue of the year, and in ensuing issues we will print changes as they are reported to us. If you need an Electronic Directory now, let me know- Editor.

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A "LIMEY KID" REMEMBERS US AT WENDLING

Recently the NEWS received a letter from Ernest Parke, a long time Friend of the 392nd. He lived in a house that was within the confines of the Base, so close that he could lean out his bedroom window and talk to the guard on duty at the entry gate.

He not only lived on the Base, he worked there as a civilian. He was friends with, he says, at least 1,000 of us, mentioning the Willis Miller crew of the 579th as some of the many. He was known to us affectionately as "Ernie the Limey". He says in his letter that he "didn't just stand and watch the ships take off and land but was more involved".

He remembers all the landmark events: Pat McCarthy's famous buzz job in the borrowed P-38; the naming of the "Birdie Schmidt ARC"; the 100th and 200th mission

parties; and hearing Glenn Miller play in the No. 1 hanger on his 15th birthday on Aug. 25, 1944.

The last place that he worked on the base was in the Tech Site just back of the control tower. He remembers the motor pool, the Link Trainer, the parachute shop, the radio and radar shops, the turret shop, the propeller shop.

But the most poignant memory and why he is always present at the Memorial on Remembrance Day is: "on the winter nights of 1943 and 1944 a friend and I used to go down to the Nissen huts on Site 9 and play cards with the American boys of the 579th. We played poker and gin rummy and black jack and they would say 'see you guys tomorrow night for a game' and we would say yes. But the terrible thing was that the next night the beds that the six guys with whom we had played had only the mattress, and we didn't know what had happened to these guys, our very best friends."

PERSONALS

Old-time small town newspapers carried a feature called "Personals" in which the every day goings on of its readers were recorded. If you have anything to contribute to subsequent editions, let us know.

The NEWS gets mail:

In addition to an address correction to 19049 20th Ave. N. W., Shoreline, WA 98177-2803, there was this:

Hey! How many of you guys remember me? I'm the piano playing fellow you might have helped carry my Wurlitzer accordion aboard the Queen Mary when we went sailing to Europe. That helped a lot, my duffle bag was heavy enough! It was fun entertaining you. Regards to my two fellow Communications operators, "Frenchy" and Sal Rizeo. Signed by Sgt Ed "Swede" Olsson, 579th Communications section. A post script read "Departed New York 26 July 1943, disembarked Scotland 31 July 1943."

Regge Minniti, assistant crew chief in the 577th, has sent us three books authored by him.

As a retired educator, he gave his attention to the basics of teaching arithmetic and a survey of the California public school system.

As a staunch Italian-American, he wrote about our melting-pot society in "Treatise of An Immigrant Country".

Willard Pennington, 577th Executive Officer, now at the age of 90 plus, reports from Houston: "My wife has been in the hospital for a few days. I've mastered the dishwasher, but the washing machine has me buffaloed."

Much of the material appearing in this issue was produced in the preceding few weeks. Hence this, forwarded from Mary Rothrock and written on St. Patrick's Day:

May there always be work for

yours hand to do,
May your purse always hold a coin or two,
May the sun shine on your windowpane,
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain,
May the hand of a friend always be near you,
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

And we've heard sad news from Al Enlow, 10th Station Complement, whose duty was at the control tower at Wendling. He reported the death of his beloved Myfanwy in Cardiff, Wales.

Al's romantic story was previously reported in the November 2002 NEWS. He and Myfanwy met in Norwich in 1944, fell in love, were engaged. But with Al's return to the States the wedding never happened.

Both married, both were widowed. Then Al recalled his lost love and after a determined search found Van. They corresponded, they met, and they were together in Cardiff until Van's passing.

At press time the NEWS heard from Al, saying that he was return-

ing to the States, to be here on May 6. The new address is 124 West Alpine, Stockton, CA 95204, phone 209 944 9445.

We have reported that J. Fred Thomas, 579th pilot, has been the victim of a stroke. We hear now that he is recuperating nicely at 13652 Alderton Lane, Cerritos, CA 90703. His phone number is 562 926 2802.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Bill creating the Air Force Academy signed by President Eisenhower-April 1, 1954.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

375 B-17s and B-24s made first heavy air attack on Budapest-April 3, 1944.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Twentieth Air Force was activated-April 4, 1944.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

First fighter escorted mission made by B-29s against Japan-April 8, 1945.

VALUED FRIENDS ARE REMEMBERED

Recently the 392nd BGMA recognized the contributions to the association of Henriette Thomason and Denis Duffield.

Plaques as shown below were sent to Henriette, widow of Carwin, 74th Service Squadron; and Hilary Duffield, widow of Denis.



In Grateful Appreciation to

HENRIETTE THOMASON

For her loving care of one of our comrades, and Her dedicated services as PX Officer

Lawrence G. Gilbert
Col. Lawrence G. Gilbert, USAF (Ret)
CEO, 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association



In Grateful Memory of

DENIS DUFFIELD

Official 392nd Bomb Group Base Contact & A Staunch Friend

Lawrence G. Gilbert
Col. Lawrence G. Gilbert, USAF (Ret)
CEO, 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Berlin airlift delivered a record 12,940 tons in a 24 hour period-April 16, 1949.

IF YOUR MAILING LABEL READS '05: YOU ARE DELINQUENT!

The Board of Directors, faced with declining membership, increased the dues in 2003 by a modest \$3, to \$15. They remain the same for 2006. 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 06 or higher, you're current. LM means Life Member, and Frnd means that you are our guest.

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 2006, \$15

Hardship Waiver ☐

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Age 61-65 \$120 ☐

Age 66-70 \$96 ☐

Age 71 and over \$78 ☐

DONATION

\$ _____

Send with check to Charles Dye, 300 Valencia Drive, SE, Apt. 101, Albuquerque, NM 87108

LOADING LISTS, OCT. 4, 1943- DIVERSION MISSION

576TH

4 Oct 1943 576th Sqdn.
A/C 527 (aborted,
no mission credit)

P Lowell, C.L. 2nd Lt.
CP Patterson, J.B. 2nd Lt.
N Ryan, J.L. 2nd Lt.
B Amoss, R.T. 2nd Lt.
R Veronick, J.J. T/Sgt.
AR Ortiz, J. S/Sgt.
E Nilson T/Sgt.
AE Pedersen, F.M. S/Sgt.
G Luciano, R.E. S/Sgt.
AG McNamara, P.E.
S/Sgt.

4 Oct 1943 576th Sqdn.
A/C 537

P Clover, D.K. 2nd Lt.
CP Berger, R.M. 2nd Lt.
N McMillan, W.J. 2nd Lt.
B McDonald, P.R. 2nd Lt.
R Galler, I. T/Sgt.
AR Bell, R.W. S/Sgt.
E Losey, J.C. T/Sgt.
AE Crawford, E.G. S/Sgt.
G Ross, J.M. S/Sgt.
AG Royal, C.K. Sgt.

4 Oct 1943 576th Sqdn.
A/C 524

P Barnes, L.J. 1st Lt.
CP Shelton, W.L. 2nd Lt.
N Stankan, P.C. 2nd Lt.
B Jackson, G.J. 2nd Lt.
R Jenkins, W.B. T/Sgt.
AR Malloy, P.D. S/Sgt.
E Lewis, E.A. S/Sgt.
AE Choromanski, J.A.
S/Sgt.
G Crowley, C.J. S/Sgt.
AG Riley, A.J. S/Sgt.

4 Oct 1943 576th Sqdn.
A/C 540

P Becker, J.R. 1st Lt.
CP Roddy, W.H. 2nd Lt.
N Feller, L. 2nd Lt.
B Miller, D.A. 2nd Lt.
R Vovos, A.D. T/Sgt.
AR Williams, A.L. Sgt.
E Patterson, H.C. S/Sgt.
AE Deal, F.F. S/Sgt.
G Schilter, N.J. S/Sgt.
AG Ross, H.J. Sgt.

4 Oct 1943 576th Sqdn.
A/C 506

P LoPresto, H.C. 2nd Lt.
CP Brandt, G.D. 2nd Lt.
N Biling, A. 2nd Lt.
B Jones, E.E. 2nd Lt.

R Ross, E.S. T/Sgt.
AR Gilliam, E.L. S/Sgt.
E Hawkins, G.H. T/Sgt.
AE Westall, F.M. S/Sgt.
G Sambanis, G. Sgt.
AG Reardon, P.N. Sgt.

4 Oct 1943 576th Sqdn.
A/C 533 (aborted,
no mission credit)

P Scarlata, A. 1st Lt.
CP Collins, J.M. 2nd Lt.
N Siggs, P.S. 2nd Lt.
B Feldman, A. 1st Lt.
R Martin, E.M. T/Sgt.
AR Connolly, M.T. S/Sgt.
E Peterson, G.H. T/Sgt.
AE Williams, R.F. S/Sgt.
G Longchamps, A.L.
S/Sgt.
AG Smith, K. S/Sgt.

4 Oct 1943 576th Sqdn.
A/C 487 (aborted,
no mission credit)

P Champion, A.S. 2nd Lt.
CP Hebron, W.T. 2nd Lt.
N McDonald, L.F. 2nd Lt.
B Handelman, L. 2nd Lt.
R Sibert, V.L. S/Sgt.
AR Hussey, T.J. S/Sgt.
E Decker, C.D. T/Sgt.
AE Orzech, J.H. S/Sgt.
G Halsne, M.O. S/Sgt.
AG Devoe, C.N. S/Sgt.

577TH

4 Oct 1943 577th Sqdn.
A/C 546

P Layton, S.H. 1st Lt.
CP Jensen, A.H. 2nd Lt.
N Beatson, R.J. 2nd Lt.
B Feagan, H.C. 2nd Lt.
R Gibbs, R.R. T/Sgt.
AR Daughtry, A.Z. S/Sgt.
E Johnson, J.C. T/Sgt.
AE Gottschalk, G.W.
S/Sgt.
G Constabile, F.R. S/Sgt.
AG Boomhower, A. S/Sgt.
Obs. Parks, L. 2nd Lt.

4 Oct 1943 577th Sqdn.
A/C 479

P Breckenridge, L.G. 2nd Lt.
CP Kiggins, O.V. 1st Lt.
N Develin, J.C. 2nd Lt.
B Dilly, V. 2nd Lt.
R Rosenfeld, C.B. S/Sgt.
AR Burns, P.C. S/Sgt.
E Goodman, L. T/Sgt.
AE Dinda, B.F. S/Sgt.
G Troxel, D.G. S/Sgt.
AG Cunningham, W.A.
Johnson, E.T.

4 Oct 1943 577th Sqdn.
A/C 482

P Lambert, R.P. 2nd Lt.
CP Haviland, A.F. 2nd Lt.
N Kapp, R.A. 2nd Lt.
B Salsberg, M. 2nd Lt.
R Brown, J.S. T/Sgt.
AR Day, W.N. S/Sgt.
E Reese, W.J. T/Sgt.
AE Tatum, W.R. S/Sgt.
G Pfeifer, A.R. S/Sgt.
AG Taylor, G.E. Sgt.
Cookus, K. 2nd Lt.

4 Oct 1943 577th Sqdn.
A/C 521 (aborted,
no mission credit)

P Egan, R.L. 2nd Lt.
CP Basham, F.O. 2nd Lt.
N Harris, W.B. 2nd Lt.
B Cole, W.W. 2nd Lt.
R Pope, F.B. T/Sgt.
AR Stogner, O.T. S/Sgt.
E Hurley, W.F. T/Sgt.
AE Hurley, A. S/Sgt.
G Kennedy, B.S. S/Sgt.
AG Salisbury, J.F. S/Sgt.

4 Oct 1943 577th Sqdn.
A/C 529

P McNichol, T.F. 2nd Lt.
CP Lamer, M. 2nd Lt.
N Naylor, M.W. 2nd Lt.
B Wargo, W.A. 2nd Lt.
R O'Kon, M.A. T/Sgt.
AR MacPherson, A.J.
S/Sgt.
E Trumpy, E. T/Sgt.
AE Green, L.A. S/Sgt.
G Rathburn, E.K. S/Sgt.
AG Lloyd, W.A. S/Sgt.

4 Oct 1943 577th Sqdn.
A/C 491 (aborted,
no mission credit)

P Copp, R.D. 1st Lt.
CP Meyers, J.W. 2nd Lt.
N Gries, R.F. 2nd Lt.
B Kelley, J.J. 2nd Lt.
R Bisnett, B.R. T/Sgt.
AR Nowicki, M.M. S/Sgt.
E Hodge, G.L. T/Sgt.
AE Shaw, L.S. Pvt.
G Noone, T.E. S/Sgt.
AG Hohman, H. S/Sgt.

4 Oct 1943 577th Sqdn.
A/C 496

P Taylor, J.N. 2nd Lt.
CP Stout, R.R. 2nd Lt.
N Pautz, W.J. 2nd Lt.
B Lange, E.W. 2nd Lt.
R Zdnarvich, B.J. T/Sgt.

AR Blaney, M.L. S/Sgt.
E Albee, W.K. T/Sgt.
AE Keller, A.V. S/Sgt.
G Gray, D.W. S/Sgt.
AG Smith, F.W. S/Sgt.

4 Oct 1943 577th Sqdn.
A/C 493

P Gonseth, F. Jr. 1st Lt.
CP Taylor, W.V. Maj.
N Wyatt, R.L. 2nd Lt.
B Colburn, R.F. 2nd Lt.
R Kirkpatrick, H.L. T/Sgt.
AR Feller, N.L. S/Sgt.
E Jennings, H.C. T/Sgt.
AE Driver, D.M. S/Sgt.
G Fagan, J.E. S/Sgt.
AG Whalen, J.S. S/Sgt.

4 Oct 1943 577th Sqdn.
A/C 492

P Graper, M.H. 1st Lt.
CP Williamson, D.R. 1st Lt.
N Jones, J.H. 1st Lt.
B Rapenport, R. 2nd Lt.
R Lorenzen, W.H. T/Sgt.
AR Kolczynski, W.J.
S/Sgt.
E McKinley, W.C. T/Sgt.
AE White, F.A. S/Sgt.
G --
AG Buzick, J.M. S/Sgt.

578TH

4 Oct 1943 578th Sqdn.
A/C 490

P Dudziak, T. 2nd Lt.
CP Miller, J.A. 2nd Lt.
N Magee, W.H. 2nd Lt.
B Joachim, W.F. 2nd Lt.
R Jeans, R.G. T/Sgt.
AR McKenzie, R.
E Elliott, M.L. T/Sgt.
AE Perry, L.P.
G Phelps
AG Spaulding, R.W.
S/Sgt.

4 Oct 1943 578th Sqdn.
A/C 480

P Kirksmith, J.B. 1st Lt.
CP Johnson, R.L. 2nd Lt.
N Simmons, C.L. 2nd Lt.
B Hunter, R.M. 2nd Lt.
R Wholstron, T.C. T/Sgt.
AR Milliken, E.W. S/Sgt.
E Stancik, M. T/Sgt.
AE Reynolds, H.D. Pvt.
G Nixon, A.D. Cpl.
AG Kimball, R.A. S/Sgt.

4 Oct 1943 578th Sqdn.
A/C 989

P Lishka, A. 1st Lt.
CP Feld, B.H. 2nd Lt.
N Moorehead, J.C. 2nd Lt.
B Brockway, O.E. 2nd Lt.
R Clark, F.C. S/Sgt.
AR Dohm, H.E. S/Sgt.
E Carlson, C.E. S/Sgt.
AE Halstead, H.C. S/Sgt.
G Drylie, J. S/Sgt.
AG Dedmon, S.E. S/Sgt.

4 Oct 1943 578th Sqdn.
A/C 486

P Stauder, J.B. 1st Lt.
CP Walker, R.S. 2nd Lt.
N Ott, J.W. 2nd Lt.
B Ward, M.E. 2nd Lt.
R Whitmore, B. Jr. T/Sgt.
AR Rider, F.D. S/Sgt.
E Kottke, A.H. T/Sgt.
AE White, T. S/Sgt.
G Schmidt, J.H. S/Sgt.
AG Harris, J.N. S/Sgt.

4 Oct 1943 578th Sqdn.
A/C 547 (aborted,
no mission credit)

P Carnine, G.D. 1st Lt.
CP Spears, K.E. 2nd Lt.
N Mastron, V. 2nd Lt.
B Byers, W.E. 2nd Lt.
R Barbee, B.B. T/Sgt.
AR Norby, M.W. S/Sgt.
E Hopson, N.A. T/Sgt.
AE Ostroski, L.B. S/Sgt.
G Knies, G.R. S/Sgt.
AG Kurkomelis, G.C.
S/Sgt.

4 Oct 1943 578th Sqdn.
A/C 472

P McKee, T.R. 1st Lt.
CP Walker, T.G. 2nd Lt.
N Johnson, D.C. 2nd Lt.
B Parish, J.K. 2nd Lt.
R Morrison, T.C. T/Sgt.
AR Murphy, H.C. S/Sgt.
E Sackal, W.M. T/Sgt.
AE Nuzum, M.E. S/Sgt.
G Mislinski, G.J. S/Sgt.
AG Harrod, G. S/Sgt.

4 Oct 1943 578th Sqdn.
A/C 502

P Buschman, J.G. 1st Lt.
CP Fogarty, D.M. 2nd Lt.
N Donlon, M.A. 2nd Lt.
B Green, R.J. 2nd Lt.
R Coe, J.D. T/Sgt.
AR Davis, R.W. S/Sgt.
E Hoover, J.T. T/Sgt.

AE Adams, R.S. S/Sgt.
G Bernard, L.E. S/Sgt.
AG Hanrahan, D.J. S/Sgt.

4 Oct 1943 578th Sqdn.
A/C 478

P Reade, J.J. 1st Lt.
CP Smith, R.L. 2nd Lt.
N Planche, M.W. 1st Lt.
B Zicarelli, J.A. 2nd Lt.
R Schwabel, C.A. T/Sgt.
AR Bauer, W.E. S/Sgt.
E Slama, A.R. T/Sgt.
AE --
G Turner, L.F. S/Sgt.
AG Haskins, B.D. S/Sgt.

579TH

4 Oct 1943 579th Sqdn.
A/C 474

P Smith, B.T. 1st Lt.
CP Sederquist, D.L. 2nd Lt.
N Wasserstein, H. 2nd Lt.
B Irvine, J.S. 2nd Lt.
R Gott, E.J. T/Sgt.
AR Tucker, H.L. Sgt.
E Kuziora, W.F. Sgt.
AE Weiner, H.D. S/Sgt.
G Senk, J.J. S/Sgt.
AG Schiffer, J.L. S/Sgt.

4 Oct 1943 579th Sqdn.
A/C 561

P McGregor, J.A. 2nd Lt.
CP Johnson, Lt.Col.
N Slowik, J.E. 1st Lt.
B Veasey, M.A. 1st Lt.
B Good, R.E. 2nd Lt.
R Jeroloman, H.A. T/Sgt.
AR Long, B. S/Sgt.
E Galloway, G.E. T/Sgt.
AE Padden, T.F. S/Sgt.
G Housteau, J.M. S/Sgt.
AG Putnam, N.I. S/Sgt.
Obs. Taylor F/O

4 Oct 1943 579th Sqdn.
A/C 481

Appert, D.A. Maj.
P Feuerstacke, J.A. 1st Lt.
CP Kvorjak, M.B. 2nd Lt.
N Bratcher, C.E. 2nd Lt.
B Smittle, F.D. 2nd Lt.
R Rooney, G.W. T/Sgt.
AR Giles, H.R. S/Sgt.
E Rorer, F.H. T/Sgt.
AE Buchheit, E.L. S/Sgt.
G Gray, R.G. S/Sgt.
AG Seifert, R. Sgt.

579TH-CONTINUED

4 Oct 1943 579th Sqdn.
A/C 471

P Morphew, O.S. 1st Lt.
CP Purdy, R.F. 2nd Lt.
N Shearer, M.O. 2nd Lt.
B Moore, L.R. 1st Lt.
R Moriarty, M.R. T/Sgt.
AR Wilson, J.C. Sgt.
E Thrall, L.C. T/Sgt.
AE Derrick, P.E. S/Sgt.
G Wells, V.W. S/Sgt.
AG Woller, C.S. S/Sgt.

4 Oct 1943 579th Sqdn.
A/C 543

P Kielman, M.H. Capt.
CP Nicholson, W.P. 2nd Lt.
N Paddock, K.Q. Capt.
B Whittaker, J.B. Capt.
R Chamblin, J.N. T/Sgt.
AR Hoffman, R.H. S/Sgt.
E Olson, E.A. T/Sgt.
AE Perry, R.A. S/Sgt.
G Martin, C.D. S/Sgt.
AG York, R.A.
G Swangren 2nd Lt.

4 Oct 1943 579th Sqdn.
A/C 469

P Rogillio, D.S. Jr. 2nd Lt.
CP Worker, L.R. 2nd Lt.
N Kelly, W.E. 2nd Lt.
B Hughes, R.J. 2nd Lt.
R Malak, A.J. T/Sgt.
AR Yorra, M.S. S/Sgt.
E Mazzei, A.P. T/Sgt.
AE Bryan, W.F. S/Sgt.
G Reljac, J.G. S/Sgt.
AG Takacs, A. S/Sgt.

4 Oct 1943 579th Sqdn.
A/C 510

P Baumgart, V.A. 2nd Lt.
CP Cordes, W.C. 2nd Lt.
N Crouch, M.C. 2nd Lt.
B Stupski, S.J. 2nd Lt.
R Kiss, J. S/Sgt.
AR Yost, J.W. S/Sgt.
E Myers, H.C. S/Sgt.
AE Smith, D.L. S/Sgt.
G Fons, J.P. S/Sgt.
AG Money, J.A. S/Sgt.

4 Oct 1943 579th Sqdn.
A/C 484

P Cassell, H.S. 1st Lt.
CP Higgins, J.A. 2nd Lt.
N Casey, H.W. 2nd Lt.
B Broyles, C. 2nd Lt.
R Newberry, W.D. S/Sgt.
AR Sumlin, T.E. Sgt.
E Boerschinger, M.F. T/Sgt.
AE Bookout, R.J. Sgt.
G York, D.L. Sgt.
AG Piper, C.A. Sgt.

4 Oct 1943 579th Sqdn.
A/C 470

P D'Aoust, W.W. 2nd Lt.
CP Marshall, J.W. 2nd Lt.
N Kary, W.W. 2nd Lt.
B Etheridge, M.T. 2nd Lt.
R Dahlen, R.E. T/Sgt.
AR Jereb, J.F. S/Sgt.
E Anderson, T. T/Sgt.
AE O'Neill, C.D. S/Sgt.
G Yollin, B. S/Sgt.
AG Sutton, R.H. S/Sgt.

—Continued from page 1—

belly and continue firing until it is in flames. The Liberator burns much faster than the more streamlined Fortresses. Eight men immediately bail out. The parachutes mushroom in the air and hang there swaying. A sure victory.

'The heavy crate glides away down. I draw up alongside and stay within 60 to 100 feet of it, certain that no living soul can still be aboard. I can distinctly see the great holes punched by my cannon shells in the nose and tail plane. Suddenly I notice the flashes in the dorsal turret. Too late! A salvo of fire smashes into my crate. My engine burst into flames at once. There is no response when I move the controls.

'Once again it is time for me to hit the silk. Somehow my parachute must have opened, although I do not remember pulling the ripcord. Several hundred feet below I observe the other parachutes. This is one time that the Americans and I go bathing together.

'It is certain that the American airmen do not have inflatable rafts, and were not able to isolate themselves from the cold water and stay alive until the arrival of German help, which came hardly late.

'It was a very bad day for all of us on both sides.'

TARGET: DIVERSION FRISIAN ISLANDS

OCTOBER 4, 1943, MISSION #3

(The NEWS is indebted to Bob Books, Annette Tison, and Bill McCutcheon, 2nd generation members, for their work in unearthing this material and then posting it on the 392nd's website, www.b24.net. Not only did they post this mission, but also every mission the 392nd flew is on the website, with sorting capabilities. A viewer can ask for the airman's name or plane number and the website will sort for these and display every mission that has a match. Included on each mission page is the mission summary and crew loading list with the MACRs if there were casualties. Simply go to top menu: Resources/392nd BG Questions to enter the search request.)

This mission was one of the most notable and successful efforts executed by the 392nd during its early operations. The mission was a planned feint by higher headquarters to de-concentrate the German defenses, primarily fighter forces, from the main bomber waves assigned targets over the continent with the 392nd's track up over the North Sea approaches. Thirty-two aircraft were dispatched with 28 flying the entire route. Four aircraft returned early for mechanical and personnel reasons. For the first time in combat, the unit encountered enemy aircraft and heavy flak defenses.

Approximately 30-50 single and twin-engine fighters attacked with the unit gunners claiming 21 enemy. Of the 3 aircraft lost that day, all were due to fighter attacks with 15 others damaged by 20mm cannon. The unit suffered the first casualties in combat on this mission with a total flight time of 5:30 hours.

Shown below are copies of the original loading lists (392 Gp. ETO Form #1) for the crews lost on this mission. These documents were found in the effects of M/Sgt Everett Collin, Group Operations, who is now deceased. The copies were sent to the NEWS by Daniel Collin, Sgt Collin's son.

579 TH Sqdn.	A/C #481
CP	W. J. Morrison
N	Bratcher
B	Smittle
R	Booney
AR	Siles
E	Boone
AE	Bushheit
G	Gray
AG	Schert

392 Gp. ETO Form #1

579 TH Sqdn.	A/C #471
P	MORPHEW
CP	PURDY
N	SHEARER
B	MOORE
R	MORIARTY
AR	WILSON
E	THRALL
AE	DERICK
G	WELLS
AG	WOLLER

392 Gp. ETO Form #1

579 TH Sqdn.	A/C #474
1 st Lt.	Brian T. Smith
CP	D. L. Soderquist
N	H. Wasserstein
B	J. S. Irvine
R	F. J. Gott
AR	H. L. Tucker
E	W. B. Kuziow
AE	H. S. Weiner
G	J. J. Sank
AG	J. L. Schaffer

392 Gp. ETO Form #1

VETERAN PILOT RECALLS THE EARLY DAYS

By Annette Tison, Ass't Editor

The last issue of the NEWS featured a story about a training accident at Alamogordo that took out two a/c, piloted by Lembright and Kaspervik, with 19 lives lost.

We interviewed 2/Lt (later Capt) John D. Becker, a pilot in the 576th, who was on this mission.

"Lt Lembright was a good friend of mine. I was flying in the element to the left and below Lembright. The flight leader was imploring everyone to tighten the formation. The sun was to our right at about 2 o'clock.

"I watched as Lembright's number 4 prop slid into Kaspervik's left vertical stabilizer. Pieces started flying and it seems as if the fuselage split up the middle. One prop came loose and was spinning alone as if in slow motion and I was hypnotized by it and barely came back to my senses in time to pull sharply to the left to avoid most of the debris.

"Because of the glare of the early morning sun, Lembright probably never realized how close he was to Kaspervik's plane.

"That was a very sad and emotional day for the 392nd at Alamogordo".

Becker's crew was the first from the 576th squadron to land at Wendling. He noted that in the early months of combat in 1943, "casualties were high and you almost got used the crews not returning from a mission. So as bad as combat missions were, you were at least somewhat prepared for the worst as opposed to the incident at Alamogordo, which was such a tragedy that none of us were very well prepared to deal with."

Becker provided a copy of the Special Orders dated 31 August 1943 that sent his and seven other crews overseas to the 392nd. Of the 88 names on the orders, 67 percent were killed, captured, or interned before the war's end. That tally includes the Becker crew. They were shot down on January 4, 1944 on a mission to Kiel. Four men were

KIA and the others POW.

Becker was POW from January 1943 to April 1945. He was discharged from the Army in 1946. He was 30 years in the drycleaning and laundry business and later plant manager for U. S. Prefinished Metals. He lives at 12940 Rolling Ridge Dr., Spring Valley Lake #9490, Victorville, CA 92395-5139.

Editor's note by Jim Goar: To the best of my knowledge and remembrance, we started operations in England with 9 crews of 10 men each in each of 4 squadrons, for 360 men. Add a sprinkling of flying officers in Group and Squadron Headquarters and you have about 370-375. I haven't gone through our mailing list of some 500, but I sense that we send newsletters to less than only 25 of these men. Many of the original combat crew-

men were on the Diversion mission reported in this issue, and for that reason we printed their names.

* * * *

ALERT MESSAGE TO THE POPE

In the year 1981:

1. Prince Charles got married.
2. Liverpool was crowned soccer champion of Europe.
3. Australia lost the Ashes tournament.
4. The Pope died.

In the year 2005:

1. Prince Charles got married.
2. Liverpool was crowned soccer champion of Europe.
3. Australia lost the Ashes tournament.
4. The Pope died.

In the future, if Prince Charles decides to get married, please

warn the Pope.

Above copied from the BAYONET BLADE, newsletter published in Frankfort, IN by S/Sgt Leroy Good.

*The unit: 435th AAA (AW) Bn., later the 473th Inf. Regt. The 435th defended an 8AF base in 1942; was transferred to Africa, fought there and in Sicily. Reconstituted as an Infantry regiment, they went to Italy, ending up in northern Italy in 1945. An impressive combat record. * * * **

AIR ANNIVERSARY

8th AF made its last attack on an industrial target during WWII-April 25, 1945.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

22 Japanese planes downed by Flying Tiger pilots- April 28, 1942.

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, \$37.00 postpaid	\$
Book, "The Liberators From Wendling", by Col. Bob Vickers, \$35.00 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, \$15.00 postpaid	\$
DVD, 392 nd 's memorabilia photos, \$25.00 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 \$27.50pp	\$
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	\$

Total (Send with check to Charles Dye, 300 Valencia Dr., SE, Apt 101 Albuquerque NM 87108) \$

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.

PROFILE

T/Sgt Russell V. Logue was the radio operator on the Ken Stoddard crew in the 577/9. They arrived at Wendling in December of 1944.

The Stoddard crew flew on the mission to targets near Dresden on January 16, 1945. It was a long mission, beset by bad weather. The Group encountered heavy and accurate AA fire around Dresden.

Due to heavy fog at Wendling, none of the bombers were able to recover at the base. 19 landed short on the Continent at 9AF bases. Three aircrews were forced to bail out and two crash landed, all on account of fuel shortage or battle damage.

Logue's crew bailed out of their a/c, all landing safely around Cheddington with the ship crashing near Tuddenham.

After the war Logue attended Morningside College and Drake University.

He was manager of a Thermogas company and the owner of a show horse ranch.

On 250 acres of Iowa farm land, the ranch sometimes was home to 200 head of saddle-bred show horses. Out of that herd came a national champion stallion and mare.

Retired now from that operation, Logue says that bailing out of a saddle is little different from bailing out of a B-24.

Russell lives with wife Marilyn at 2541 Gear Trail, Norwalk, IA 50211. They have two daughters.

GOT UNIFORM? HERE'S A GREAT PLACE FOR IT

Bob Books, son of Dallas Books, 579th pilot KIA on the infamous Friedrichshafen mission, is in need of a WWII officer's uniform. If you have same occupying space in a closet, you would be doing a good deed for the Group and for Bob if you sent it to him.

Bob has been largely responsible for the tremendous success of our web site, b24.net. Now posted on it are the loading lists for every

mission flown by the 392nd, along with about all the other information any researcher, descendant, or other interested person would need in an inquiry about the 392nd.

Bob's address is 1432 Little Creek Drive, Pensacola, FL 32506. His phone number is 850 458 0777.

YOUR HOME CAN BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH

As young men in WWII we learned that exposure to enemy action, flying, driving GI vehicles, riding bicycles, and myriads of other things were hazardous.

Now we find in our old age that danger lurks in the refrigerator and the microwave.

According to information circulated by Johns Hopkins Hospital, dioxin chemicals are highly poisonous and they find their way into our food when the following actions release dioxins from the plastic:

1. Plastic bottles with water in them are frozen.
2. Food is heated in the microwave using plastic containers.
3. Saran wrap is used as a cover for food being heated in the microwave.

Glass, Corning Ware, or ceramic containers should be used for heating food in the microwave. Paper towels should be used to cover food in the microwave.

The above information was sent to us by Bruce Sooy, 578th pilot. He keeps the NEWS informed on current news via e-mail.

He's also an interesting character. He joined the 392nd in October 1943 and was shot down on his 23rd mission, the infamous Friedrichshafen raid. He stayed in the Service, retiring as Lt/Col. He was the B-29 pilot that dropped Chuck Yeager in the X-1 when the sound barrier was broken.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Lt Col James Doolittle led 16 B-25s on Tokyo raid- April 18, 1942.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

7th AF B-24s made first attack on Tarawa- April 20, 1943.

SOME WRY WIT FROM CHARLEY DYE

A Somali arrives in Minneapolis as a new immigrant to the United States. He stops the first person he sees walking down the street and says, "Thank you, Mr. American, for letting me in this country and giving me housing, food stamps, free medical care, and free education." But the passerby says, "You are mistaken. I am Mexican."

The man goes on and encounters another passer-by. "Thank you for having such a beautiful country here in America." The person says, "I no

American. I Vietnamese."

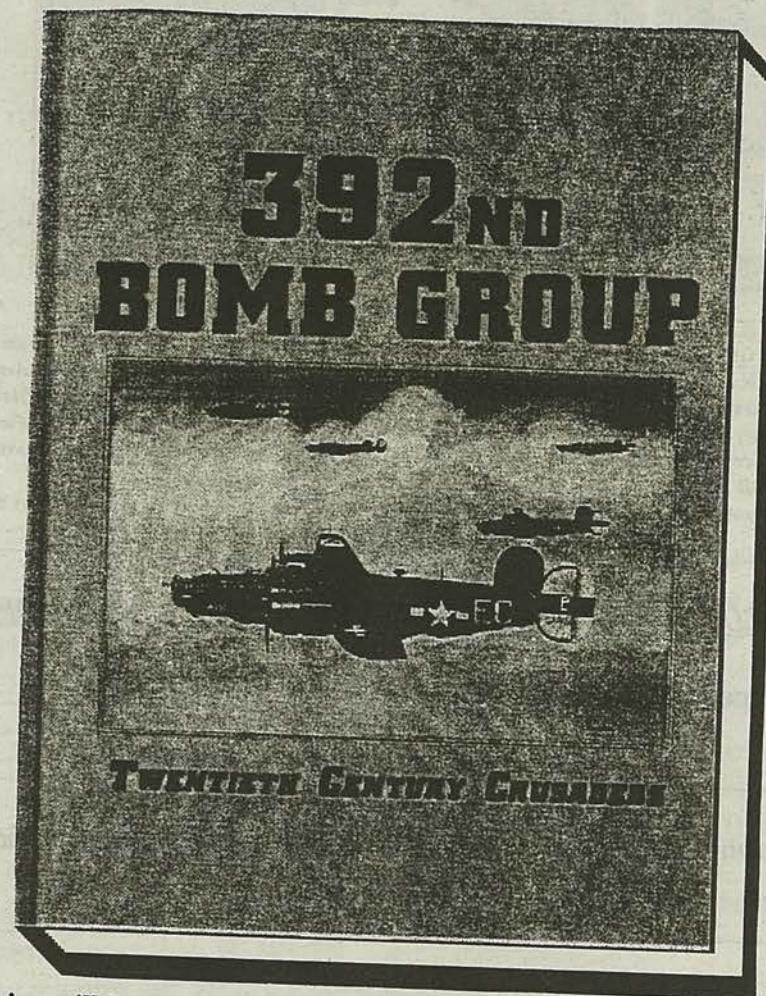
The new arrival walks further and the next person he sees he stops, shakes his hand, and says "Thank you for the wonderful America!" The person puts up his hand and says, "I am from the Middle East. I am not an American!"

He finally sees a nice lady and asks, suspiciously, "Are you an American?" She says, "No, I am from Russia."

So he is puzzled and asks her, "where are all the Americans?"

The Russian lady looks at her watch, shrugs, and says, "Probably at work."

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

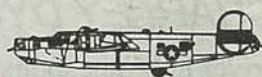


All copies will be autographed by Col. Lawrence G. Gilbert, our final Commander.

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



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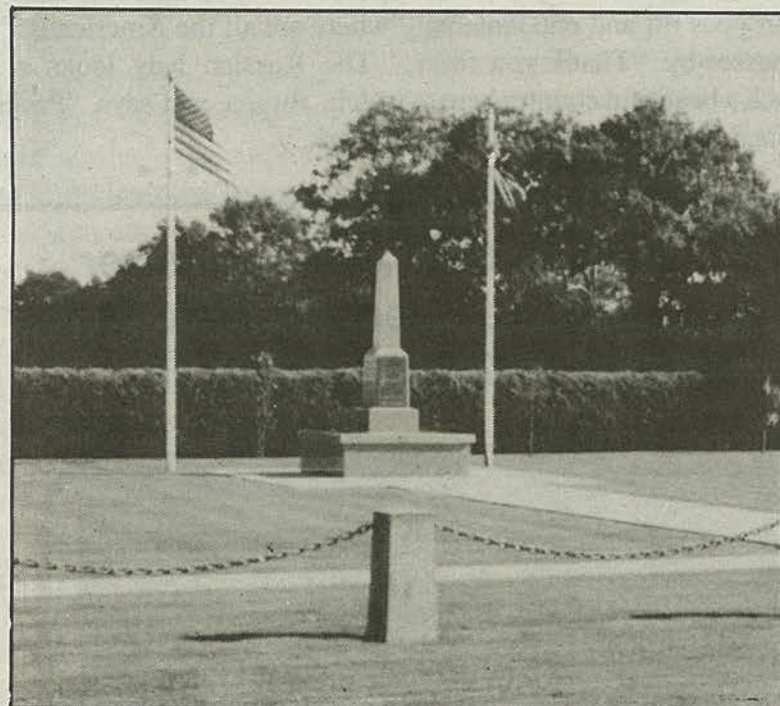
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THE 392nd MEMORIAL AT WENDLING

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.

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, 1555 N. Main St., #106, Frankfort, IN 46041.

Folded Wings

Robert D. Copp, 577, Jan. 7, 2006
Alfred M. Oppenheim, 578, July 4, 2005
Chester C. Sulick, 577, Feb. 14, 2006
Joseph Walter Supp, 576, Dec. 21, 2005
Robert L. Egan, 577, 2005
Harold R. Overholt, July 29, 2005
Leon Arlo Jones, 578/9, Nov. 16, 2005
William B. Barnes, 576/9, Feb. 22, 2006
Norbert J. Wick, 579, Mar. 15, 2006



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

392nd Bomb Group Memorial Ass'n NEWS
1555 N. Main St., #106
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Chaplain's Corner

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

Aging takes away so many things. Parenting ends as our children grow away from their needs of us; our abilities to do what is needed as our skills erode; and much else. The work routines which shape a good deal of our adult lives; physical stamina; our friends; and with them so much of our past that we shared. Nothing seems to last. The surprising reassurance of religion is that nothing is lost. Instead it is renewed, refined, made more real by the One in whom all things consist. He makes sense of our hope.
