

NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 22

May, 2007

CG 2ND AIR DIVISION SAID WE WERE NUMBER ONE

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS 2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General
APO 558.

G/2

15 June 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 97)

CITATION

The 392nd Bombardment Group (H) is cited for distinguished and outstanding performance of duty in combat from 9 September 1943 to 6 June 1944. Attacking during this period fifty-five (55) targets in Germany and forty-five (45) targets in occupied territories, this unit dropped over five thousand (5000) tons of bombs with a degree of accuracy consistently greater than that achieved by any other unit of this command, thereby contributing invaluable to the success of the aerial war against the enemy. The successful fulfillment of these dangerous missions, ----- of which were accomplished in the face of intense enemy opposition, causing severe battle damage and losses of ----- aircraft to this unit, and which resulted in claims of over one hundred and ninety (190) enemy aircraft destroyed or damaged, is due to the extraordinary teamwork, courage, skill, and devotion to duty of both air and ground personnel, and reflects great credit upon themselves, their organization, and the United States Army Air Force.

By command of Brigadier General HODGES:

CHARLES B. WESTOVER
Colonel GSC
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/George L. Paul
/t/GEORGE L. PAUL
Major AGD
Adjutant General

GEN HODGES SAID WE WERE THE BEST IN 2AD GEN ORDERS #97

Dated June 15, 1944, shortly after D-Day on June 6, the Orders states that the 392nd "dropped over 5000 tons of bombs with a degree of accuracy consistently greater than that achieved by any other unit of this command".

The entire General Orders is reproduced on this page.

The News thanks Dick Giesing for sending us this gratifying news.

KALAMAZOO SITE OF 8AF & 392ND REUNION JUL 17-22 SEE YOU THERE

All the information that you need to register is reproduced in the inside pages of this issue.

Many interesting tours are offered, including a visit to the Kalamazoo Air Museum, one of the largest in the nation. And you won't want to miss the symposium on the first Berlin Mission.

The official annual meeting of the 392BGMA will be during this reunion. The input of members is important as the first generation, in the words of Gen MacArthur, slowly fades away. So be there if you can manage it.

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.

Rosenberg, John

johnrb24@milwol.com

Sooy, Bruce

b50plt@comcast.net

Weed, Oscar and Toni

anoweed@cfl.rr.com

MORE ACCOUNTS OF THE FIRE ON DEC. 5, 1943-MANY SOLDIER'S MEDALS WON

By Annette Tison, Assistant Editor

The November 2006 issue of the NEWS gave the official report of the fire. This article gives accounts by some men who were there. The material was obtained by interviews with the individuals concerned, or in the case of deceased persons, their families.

(Editor's note: The fire in #42-7556 was probably caused by an overturned can of fuel near the putt-putt in the tail. Some Crusaders might have seen the TV commentary of the B-17 that was salvaged from the ice in Greenland and made air worthy. When it taxied toward take-off position it caught fire and was a total loss. The cause: the putt-putt in the tail.)

Lee A. Doolittle

Sgt Lee A. Doolittle was a member of the 392nd's crash crew, which was on standby every time planes took off or landed. When #42-7556 caught fire in the early morning of 5 Dec 1943, his crew quickly arrived with tankers, foam makers, and other gear. The heat was so intense, though, they had no chance of putting the fire out right away. Instead, their main objective was to keep the planes nearby from being damaged.

When an adjacent B-24 looked as if it would catch fire, Doolittle took action. He boarded the a/c and worked to start the two inboard engines. He was soon joined by another man, and the two of them taxied the plane to a safe place in the weeds.

Another concern was to keep a small fuel dump, about 800 yards to the southeast, from catching fire. The threat was quite real, as the pump engine in a gas refueling truck parked about 300 yards from the plane was already on fire. While the crash crew was spraying foam onto the refueling truck, the bombs near #556 exploded. Even though Doolittle is 6 1/2 ft tall, the concussion from the blast blew him down into the mud. Shrapnel whizzed just above his head, putting big holes in the top of the gas refueling truck.

At the end of the long night, everyone in the crash crew was wet and muddy, but no one had been injured.

Richard A. Holevoet

Cpl Richard A. Holevoet also fought the fire. Now deceased, he was a member of the base fire fighting platoon. He told family members that no one in his team was injured because they were so close to the fire that the flames went up and over them. He delighted in showing them a piece of shrapnel that he saved from that night. He also described the crater that remained after the explosions as "deep enough to throw a dead cow in."

Joe McNiel

The burning plane and bomb explosions made 578th Sqdn tail gunner Joe McNiel think they were under attack. His barracks rapidly emptied as the occupants (including several women, McNiel says) ran for cover. Some newly-arrived crewmen jumped into a slit trench behind the barracks, only

to land in two feet of cold water. Much yelling and cursing then filled the air.

McNiel's pilot, 1/Lt Robert Fletcher, later told his crew that he had just returned to the base when the commotion started. He went to see what was going on, and ended up moving a plane. He was, no doubt, the other man in the cockpit with Sgt Doolittle.

Tom Perry

Tom Perry was in the 576th Sqdn bomb service truck when he saw #556's left wing burst into flames. He grabbed a fire extinguisher and ran toward the burning plane. Suddenly, the first bombs exploded. He quickly executed a smart "to the rear, march!" with the blast concussion pushing him along. Realizing there was absolutely nothing he could do, he resumed loading bombs into the seven 576th Sqdn planes being readied for the mission. He remembers hearing RAF Spitfires circle overhead, perhaps to protect the base if any German planes were attracted by the fire.

Al Aloia

Al Aloia, another 576th ordnance man, was at the line shack getting fuses ready to put in the bombs. He saw the fire, then the explosions. Rumors abounded afterward as to what caused the accident; like so many others, he heard that the fire started in the putt-putt.

Ernie Barber

578th Sqdn Crew Chief Ernie Barber was asleep when the noise woke him up. He went to the window to see what was going on; a blast concussion knocked him back a foot or so. Things started falling off the walls inside the barracks. Everyone was grumbling because no air raid alarm had been sounded. Someone then came by the barracks, told them a 579th Sqdn plane had caught fire, and not to get in the way. They stayed inside until it was time to work on their own planes.

Ernest Parke

Damage was not limited to just the dispersal area. Local Beeston resident Ernest Parke lived about 1/2 mile west of the dispersal. He was awakened between 1 and 2 a.m. on 5 Dec by a loud bang, then a big thud as the roof in one of their bedrooms collapsed. Luckily, it was not occupied.

The next morning, he and his father cycled over to look at the devastation. They saw that many of the tiles on the roof of the barn at the Home Farm (just on the east side of the fuel dump) had been broken by the blasts. Soon after, "the Yanks" replaced the tiles with a piece of corrugated metal, which is there to this day.

SOLDIER'S MEDALS AWARDED

The Soldier's Medal is a non-combat award given to any person who, while serving in any capacity with the army, displays heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy. It is a highly respected sign of personal bravery usually indicating risk of life. Hq Eighth AF General Order 17 dated 20 Jan 1944 awarded the Soldier's Medal to the following personnel "for heroism displayed at a bomber station in England, 5 December 1943." Names in italics are 392nd BG personnel. Two men earned their medals for actions at the 401st BG; duty stations of the other men are not known.

Sgt Lee A. Doolittle

PFC Emil J. Ribar

1/Lt Robert E. Fletcher

Sgt John Rilko

Cpl Richard A. Holevoet

Cpl William J. Romaine (401st BG)

Cpl Allen C. Jacobs

PFC William T. Sites

S/Sgt William B. Koll

M/Sgt Floyd Joseph Snider

Cpl William Norman Luna

T/Sgt James W. Switzer

PFC Wilbur R. Mallory

Sgt Jack L. Truesdell

1/Lt Wilbur H. Metz

Tec5 Finney D. Voelkel

Sgt Vernon L. Olson
1/Lt Brooks Pendleton
Sgt Arnold LeRoy Reasoner

Capt Ralph James White (401st BG)
M/Sgt Earle K. Williams

XX XX

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	\$
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	\$
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 Bill McCutcheon, 20620 Milton Court, Brookfield, WI 53045)	\$

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.

Book, "The Stardusters", by Jim Cassity, co-pilot, 579th.
Order from Publisher, Vantage Press, Inc., 419 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016, \$23.95.

An elderly woman from Brooklyn decided to prepare her will. She told her minister that she had two final requests. First, she wanted to be cremated, and second, she wanted her ashes scattered over the local Wal-Mart. "Wal-Mart", the minister exclaimed. "Why Wal-Mart?"

"Then I'll be sure my daughters visit me twice a week."

Courtesy Charles Dye

Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked, "How old was your husband?"

"98," she replied, "Two years older than me."

"So you're 96," the undertaker commented.

She responded, "Hardly worth going home, is it."

Courtesy Charles Dye

Reporters were interviewing a 104 year old woman: "And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?", the reporter asked.

She replied, "No peer pressure"

Courtesy Charles Dye

AIR ANNIVERSARY

American day bombardment aviation began at Amenity Airdrome-1918

AIR ANNIVERSARY

General Curtis LeMay announced as new USAF Chief of Staff-1961

TIME TO RE-UP FOR 2007

The Board of Directors, faced with declining membership, increased the dues in 2003 by a modest \$3, to \$15. They remain the same for 2007. 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 07 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 2007, \$15	LIFE MEMBERSHIP	DONATION
	Age 61-65 \$120 []	
	Age 66-70 \$96 []	\$ _____
Hardship Waiver []	Age 71 and over \$78 []	

Send with check to Bill McCutcheon, 20620 Milton Court, Brookfield, WI 53045

**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.

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

WITH THESE PAGES COPIED FROM 8AFHS NEWS,

RADISSON PLAZA HOTEL & SUITES
KALAMAZOO, MI
269-343-3333 or 800-333-3333

The Radisson Hotel is located at 100 West Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007. The hotel is located in downtown Kalamazoo, close to shopping, theaters and museums. If you are driving, please call the hotel at (269)343-3333 for accurate driving instructions. The Radisson Hotel features beautifully decorated rooms, and are all equipped with a coffee maker, hair dryers, iron/board, cable TV and complimentary high speed internet access. The hotel also features the Kalamazoo Athletic Club, with pool, sauna, whirlpool and fitness equipment. Located inside the hotel are a few different shops as well.

Handicapped and non-smoking rooms are subject to availability. Please request these special accommodations when making your hotel reservation. Self-parking is being offered to all attendees at a rate of \$5 for Monday-Friday, and parking is complimentary on Saturday and Sunday of the reunion. Check-in time is after 4pm and check-out is 12 noon. **Zazios** offers a modern Italian experience for dinner only and brunch on Sundays. **Old Burdick's Bar & Grill** has a sports theme and serves lunch, dinner or drinks. **SOL World Cafe** offers buffet or a la carte breakfast and an excellent Sunday brunch. **Webster's**, a fine dining restaurant, serves dinner Monday-Saturday. Room service is also available.

The hotel offers several different types of **suites** for various purposes. The best 'hospitality' suites for units wanting to entertain their members are called the **Manhattan Suites** with separate bedrooms. This parlor offers a sitting area, dining table, along with a small kitchen with large refrigerator, sink, microwave, and stove. The sleeping room is separate. These ten suites will rent for \$149 per night (plus tax), but 8AF units must contact Donna Lee, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. to make these reservations. DonnaLee@afri.com or 706-356-1905. For other suite requirements, please call the hotel for information, rates, and reservations.

The Radisson Plaza Hotel provides free shuttle to and from Kalamazoo/Battlecreek International Airport. Please proceed to the hotel courtesy telephone board located in the baggage claim area of the airport. You may want to consider other transportation services, as space is always limited on complimentary services.

The Radisson Plaza Hotel & Suites has parking for RVs at a parking lot close to the hotel. Should hookups be required, call American Campgrounds at 1-800-340-2267 for information, reservations, and directions. The address is 8368 West C Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49009, and the park is approximately 13 miles from the hotel.

Should you need to rent a wheelchair for the reunion, ScootAround rents both manual and power wheel chairs by the day and week. Please call their toll free number at (888) 441-7575 for details.

Vendors, Schedules, and Prices are subject to change.

CUT HERE AND MAIL TO THE HOTEL

8th AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY - HOTEL RESERVATION FORM
REUNION DATES: JULY 17-22, 2007

NAME _____ SHARING ROOM W/ _____
ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____
TEL. # (____) _____ FAX # (____) _____
EMAIL ADDRESS _____
ARRIVAL DAY & DATE _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____ # NIGHTS _____
OF ROOMS _____ # OF PEOPLE IN RM. _____ HANDICAP ACCESS _____ SMOKING _____ NONSMOKING _____
KING BED _____ 2 DOUBLE BEDS _____
If room type requested is not available, nearest room type will be assigned.
RATE: \$89 + state and local tax (currently 11%). Rate will be honored 3 days before and after reunion dates, based on availability. Reservations must be guaranteed by credit card (information below) or first night's deposit enclosed. For Suites, please see information above.
CUTOFF DATE: 6/15/07. Reservations received after this date will be processed on space & rate availability.
CANCELLATION POLICY: Deposit is refundable if reservation is canceled by 6pm on day of arrival. Attendee will be charged for one night's stay if cancellation is made after 6pm on expected day of arrival. Adjustments to departure date after check-in, resulting in a shortened length of stay, will result in an assessment.
RESERVATION BY PHONE: 269-343-3333. Please inform the hotel that your reservation should be under the 8th Air Force Historical Society Reunion group rates.
____ AMEX ____ DINERS ____ VISA ____ MASTER CARD ____ CARTE BLANCHE ____ DISCOVER
CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE (regardless of payment method) _____

Mail to: Radisson Plaza Hotel & Suites, 100 West Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007 Attn: Reservations

8th AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REUNION
JULY 17 - 22, 2007
RADISSON HOTEL - KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

Tuesday, July 17

2:00pm - 6:00pm **Early Bird Registration open**

Wednesday, July 18

8:00am - 10:00am **Reunion Registration open**
Hospitality/Gathering Room, Memorabilia Room, & PX opens (hours tbd)
9:30am - 12:30pm **CITY TOUR**
11:00am - 2:30pm **WINERY TOUR**
1:00pm - **8AFHS Board Meeting**
3:00pm - 6:00pm **Reunion Registration open**
5:00pm - 11:00pm **CORNWELL'S DINNER THEATER**

Thursday, July 19

Mighty Eighth Theater open Thursday & Friday (hours tbd)
7:00am - 8:30am **Continental Breakfast**
8:00am - 9:30am **Unit Advisory and Chapter & Unit Development Meeting**
8:00am - 10:00am **Reunion Registration open**
9:30am - 2:30pm **AIR ZOO**
10:00am - 2:30pm **GILMORE CAR MUSEUM**
3:00pm - 6:00pm **Reunion Registration open**
3:00pm - 3:45pm **Speaker - Martin Bowman, English Author**
4:00pm - 5:00pm **Medical Advisory Seminar: Pearls, by Dr. Brown**
6:00pm - 7:00pm **Cash Bar Reception**
7:00pm - 9:00pm **Group Dinner & Entertainment**

Friday, July 20

7:00am - 8:30am **Continental Breakfast**
8:00am - 9:30am **Reunion Registration open**
8:00am - 9:30am **Individual Group Meetings**
9:45am - 1:45pm **AIR ZOO**
10:00am - 2:30pm **GILMORE CAR MUSEUM**
3:00pm - 5:30pm **Next Generation Meeting**
3:00pm - 6:00pm **Reunion Registration open**
4:00pm - 5:30pm **Research Seminar (break-out group from Next Generation Meeting)**
6:00pm - 7:00pm **8AFHS Cash Bar Reception**
7:00pm - **Rendezvous Dinners and 'Hangar Flying'**

Saturday, July 21

7:00am - 8:30am **Full Breakfast Buffet**
9:00am - 11:00am **General Membership Meeting**
11:30am - 4:00pm **W.K. KELLOGG MANOR HOUSE**
1:00pm - 3:30pm **Norman C. Grant Symposium: THE BIG B**
4:00pm - 5:30pm **Heritage League Meeting**
5:30pm - 6:00pm **Reunion Registration open**
6:00pm - 7:00pm **8AFHS Cash Bar Reception**
7:00pm - **8AFHS Gala Banquet**

Sunday, July 22

7:00am - 8:30am **Continental Breakfast**
8:30am - 9:15am **Separate Protestant and Catholic Services at the hotel**
9:30am - **8AFHS Annual Board Meeting**

Please plan to be at the bus boarding area at least five minutes prior to the scheduled time.
All tours must have a minimum of thirty people, unless otherwise stated.

COL AND MRS GILBERT DOING OK AT WINTER PARK, FL., RETIREMENT HOME

Both Col Gilbert and Margie have had their bouts with geriatric illnesses, but as of now all is well with them. They have moved into a villa in a retirement community only a short distance from their former home. And to make things convenient for the family, son Larry Jr. has purchased the former home.

Col Gilbert makes a daily walk of about fifteen minutes to the main building of the community to pick up meals. He confided to your editor that he sometimes stops for a rest during this trek.

Unfortunately for the 392BGMA, the colonel and Margie will be unable to attend the meeting at Kalamazoo. A family wedding is scheduled for about the same time. The 392nd will miss both of them, especially the relaxed and easy manner in which the colonel conducts our meetings.

Their new address is 1505 Mayflower Court, Winter Park, FL 32792.



HERE'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR KALAMAZOO

REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

CITY TOUR

Wednesday, July 18

Begin a professionally guided tour of downtown Kalamazoo's well-known landmarks and areas. You'll learn lots about the cities as you ride by Stuart Neighborhood, Pedestrian Mall, Bronson Park, and the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. Stop at Bells Brewery for a brief tour. We'll meet in the conference room for an overview and then proceed on a short walking tour. You'll learn the sequence of events of brewing beer from grain to glass! On the way back to the hotel, buses will make a brief stop at the Taste of Kalamazoo Festival in downtown. You may eat lunch here if you want, and then walk back to the hotel. Buses will also drop off at the hotel for those wishing to return for lunch.

9:30am board bus, 12:30pm back at hotel
\$31/Person includes bus and guide.

**** OR ****

WINERY TOUR

Wednesday, July 18

If tasting wine is your 'cup of tea,' then join us today for a trip to Paw Paw, Michigan. Warner Winery is the second oldest winery in the state, celebrating their sixty-ninth year. They make twenty-four different types of wine, so there's sure to be one for you. You may sample several during our tasting time. At St. Julian Winery, we'll take a tour of the winery beginning with a film explaining the winery's history, where the grapes are grown, prime picking time, and how they're processed into the juices and wines. From there, we'll go through the white wine cellars, red wine cellars, the bottling line, brandy still, awards room, and end up back at the tasting room. In between, we'll have lunch at Kevin's Tavern on the River, a wonderful restaurant at Warner Winery. Lunch includes your choice of sandwich (chicken salad, roast beef, or fish) along with fries and a drink. Note: This tour is limited to the first 100 people registered.

11:00am board bus, 2:30pm back at hotel.
\$48/Person includes bus, escort, winery tour, and lunch.

CORNWELL'S TURKEYVILLE DINNER THEATER

Wednesday, July 18

Step right into Cornwell's Dinner Theatre, Professional Dinner Theatre at its finest. Join the group for a traditional style turkey dinner before sitting back for the show. See stars of tomorrow on their hometown stage. Tonight's show is "Nonsense, A-Men." The whacky Little Sisters of Hoboken need to raise money for burials after Sister Julia accidentally poisons 52 nuns...the solution? A musical revue, of course! With one twist - all the performers are men! An evening at Cornwell's Turkeyville Dinner Theater means laughter, food and fun all rolled into one! Note: This evening requires a minimum of 75 people, and a maximum of 150.

5:00pm board bus, 11:00pm back at hotel
\$64/Person includes bus, escort, and dinner show.

AIR ZOO

Thursday, July 19 and Friday, July 20

The Air Zoo has grown into the 10th largest non-government aviation museum in the nation. Celebrate the Wright brothers' first flight. Tour the International Space Station like never before. Take the controls of a military jet plane. It's all part of a multi-sensory experience aimed at submerging guests into the wonders of man-made flight. With indoor amusement rides, full-motion flight simulators, the Midwest's only 4D theatre, live character actors and a collection of over 80 rare aircraft, there's something to make everyone's time fly. The Air Zoo is home to a variety of permanent exhibits that celebrate everything from the history of flight to its inner workings. While there, enjoy a box lunch in the café area, consisting of a sandwich, fruit, chips, brownie, and beverage.

Thursday: 9:30am board bus, 2:30pm back at hotel. Friday: 9:45am board bus, 1:45pm back at hotel.
\$55/Person includes bus, escort, box lunch, and admission.

*** OR ***

GILMORE CAR MUSEUM

Thursday, July 19 and Friday, July 20

Rated as one of the ten best automobile museums in the United States, the Gilmore Car Museum sits on ninety landscaped acres. In restored historic barns you will find more than 175 extraordinary vehicles spanning more than 100 years of automotive heritage. Visitors will find exhibits ranging from an 1899 Locomobile to the classic Duesenberg, the elusive Tucker, the Model T and the muscle cars of the '70s. The popular gift shop offers fun memorabilia and is located in an architectural reproduction of a small town bus depot. Transportation will be available to help shuttle between areas. Enjoy a box lunch in the picnic area, consisting of a turkey and swiss sandwich, cole slaw, chips, cookie, and a beverage.

10:00am board bus, 2:30pm back at hotel

\$54/Person includes bus, escort, box lunch, and admission.

GROUP DINNER

Thursday, July 19

Spend the evening with your comrades and friends at the hotel. The buffet will feature two entrees (roast sirloin and chicken) along with side dishes & dessert. After dinner, enjoy the tunes of the Barbershop Quartet, *Four-Got to Shave*. They'll wow you with their harmony, wonderful voices, and great songs.

6:00pm Cash Bar Reception, 7:00pm Dinner and Entertainment.

Cost is included in Meal Package #1.

RENDEZVOUS DINNERS

Friday, July 20

Gather in your respective banquet rooms with your individual groups for dinner featuring a Chicken Breast w/ Madeira Sauce. Units (BGs, FGs, etc.) with approximately fifty or more people in attendance will have a private room. Smaller groups will be combined with others. Think of this as your "reunion within the reunion."

6:00pm Cash Bar Reception, 7:00pm Dinner.

Cost is included in both meal packages or \$39 separately.

W.K. KELLOGG MANOR HOUSE

Saturday, July 21

Otherwise known as Eagle Heights, the W.K. Kellogg Manor House served as the Cereal King's summer cottage beginning in 1926. The family spent many summers here enjoying the privacy and natural beauty of Gull Lake. During World War II, the estate was used as induction and training areas for the Coast Guard. Later, it was used by a hospital for rehabilitation services. Despite all of the varied uses of the Manor House, restoration began in 1998. Now, it is once again an elegant lakeside estate. On the tour of this beautiful Tudor-style home, you'll see many of the original seven bedrooms, huge living room, kitchen, dining room, breakfast room, exercise room, Billiard Room, and more. Furnishings are not original, but true to the era. The woodwork and tilework are amazing. While at the estate, enjoy a cafeteria-style lunch at the adjacent conference center. Time will also be allowed to wander around to view the lake and see the beautiful garden.

11:30am board bus, 4:00pm back at hotel

\$46/Person includes bus, escort, lunch, and admission.

SYMPOSIUM - "THE BIG B" - A Historical Study of the First Berlin Raids - March, 1944

Saturday, July 21

This fascinating Symposium will feature actual veterans who flew these historical missions; with a special emphasis on the March 6, 1944 mission when the Eighth Air Force mounted the first full-scale daylight raid on Berlin, resulting in the loss of 69 heavy bombers and 11 escort fighters. On no other single mission, before or after, would the Eighth Air Force lose more aircraft.

1:00-3:30pm at the hotel

Cost is included in your Registration Fee.

8th AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL BANQUET

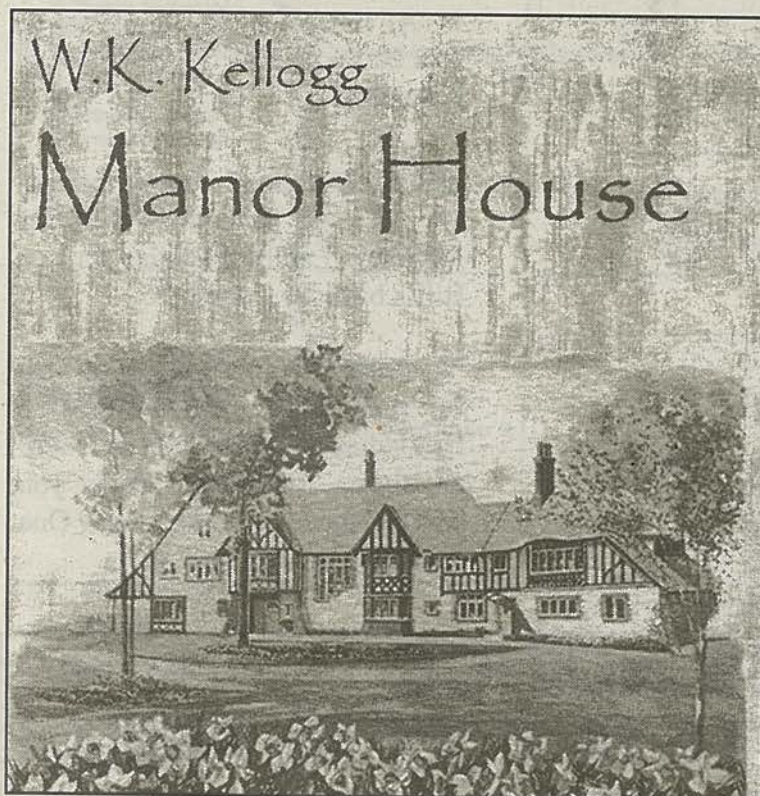
Saturday, July 21

Assemble in the ballroom for the Posting of the Colors and Memorial Service. Dinner will be a choice of Roasted Tenderloin of Beef or Cedar Plank Salmon and the usual accompaniments. After dinner, we'll proceed with the awards ceremony and guest speaker.

6:00pm Cash Bar Reception, 7:00pm Banquet.

Cost is included in both meal packages or \$49 separately.

Driver and guide gratuities are not included in the tour prices.



Photos courtesy of

Dick Giesing



8th AFHS ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order (no credit cards or phone reservations accepted). Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before June 15, 2007. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.
PO Box 11327
Norfolk, VA 23517
ATTN: 8th AFHS

OFFICE USE ONLY

Check # _____ Date Received _____
Inputted _____ Nametag Completed _____

CUT-OFF DATE IS 6/15/07

	Price Per	# of People	Total
REGISTRATION FEE			
Includes Unit rebates, Saturday's Symposium expenses, and other reunion expenses.	\$45		
Reg. Fee for children ages 10-17 attending more than 1 function & staying at hotel	\$30		
MEAL PACKAGES			
Choice #1 includes 7 hotel meals beginning with breakfast on Thursday.			
Choice #2 includes 5 hotel meals beginning with breakfast on Friday.			
Choice #1	\$169		\$
Choice #2	\$119		\$
Please select your entrée choice(s) for the Banquet:			
Roasted Beef Tenderloin		#	
Cedar Plank Salmon w/ lemon-pepper		#	
SEPARATELY PRICED MEALS (if not purchasing a package)			
Friday: Rendezvous Dinner (chicken)	\$39		\$
Saturday: Banquet (please select your entrée)			
Roasted Beef Tenderloin	\$49		\$
Cedar Plank Salmon w/ lemon-pepper	\$49		\$
TOURS			
<i>Please choose one of the following two tours:</i>			
Wednesday: City Tour	\$31		\$
Wednesday: Winery Tour	\$48		\$
Wednesday: Dinner Theater	\$64		\$
<i>Please choose one of the following two tours:</i>			
Thursday: Air Zoo	\$55		\$
Thursday: Gilmore Car Museum	\$54		\$
<i>Please choose one of the following two tours:</i>			
Friday: Air Zoo	\$55		\$
Friday: Gilmore Car Museum	\$54		\$
Saturday: Kellogg Manor	\$46		\$
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.			\$

MEMBER NAME _____ WWII GROUP _____

8AFHS MEMBER # _____ LIFE MEMBER? _____ PH. # (____) _____

SPOUSE NAME _____ LIFE MEMBER? _____ MEMBER # _____

GUEST NAMES _____

MEMBER'S ADDRESS _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? ☐ YES ☐ NO (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PH. NUMBER (____) _____

PERSONALS

Old-time community newspapers always had a column called Personals, recounting the everyday news about persons in the community. Here's what the NEWS has heard about our community, and if you have something to add, please get in touch with us.

Bob Vickers: was involved in an auto accident New Years Eve (No, he hadn't been drinking). He sent a picture of his car, showing a crushed windshield. He said "My head was there 30 seconds before!"

Stan Zybort: had a heart attack, but is mending well with the ministrations of caregiver Helena. He and Helena will be at Kalamazoo.

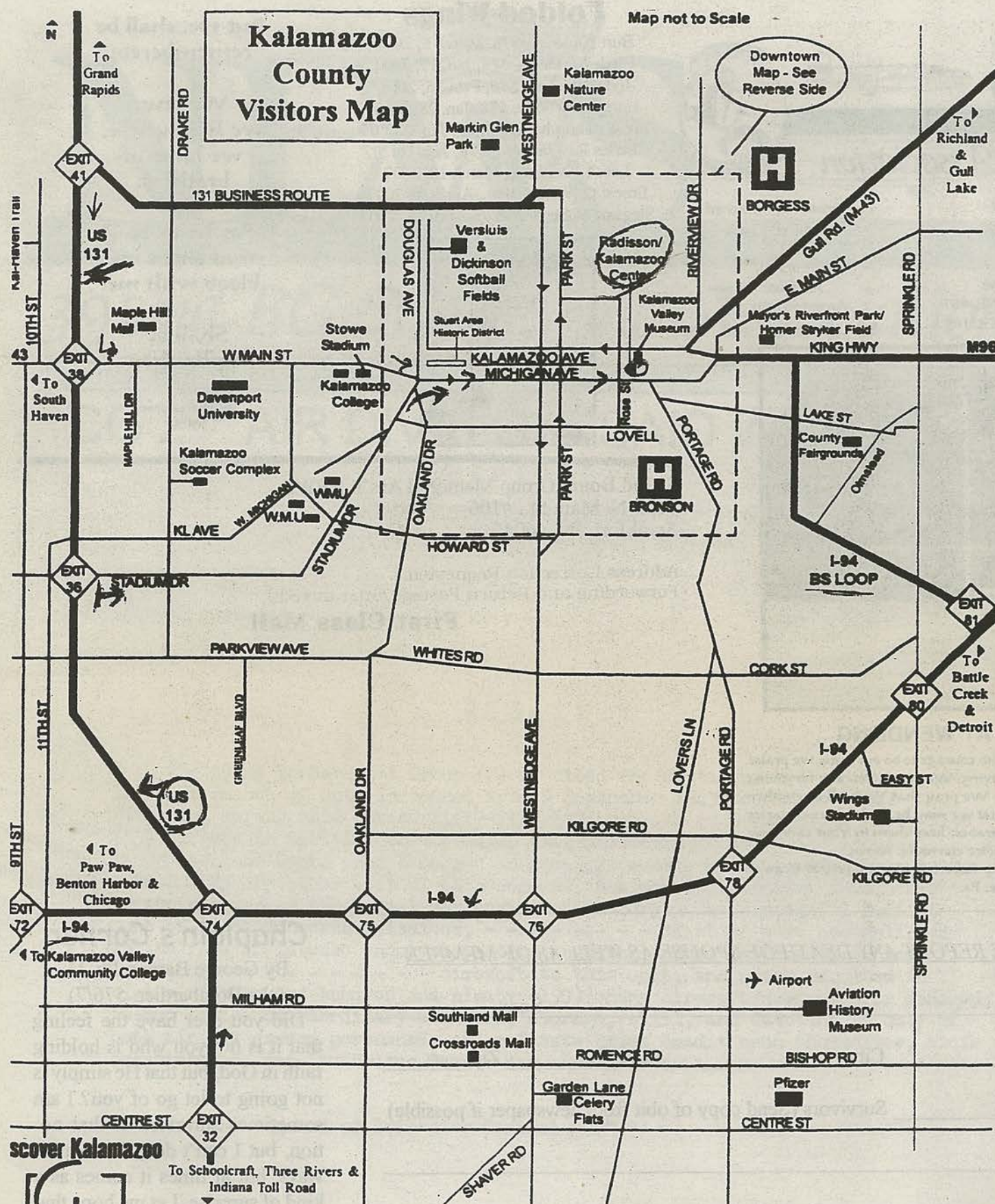
Jim McGregor: sent us a note mourning the passing an African-American friend, a fighter pilot in the Tuskegee Group. Jim lamented the segregated days in the WWII Air Forces.

Vern Baumgart: at 91, still drives without glasses and doesn't need a cane. Has had a bout with cancer, but is ok now. He laughingly remarked that he makes more now on his AF retirement pay than when he was being shot at. Vern will be at Kalamazoo.

Bill McCutcheon: reports the arrival of a 4th generation member: Madeline Lucille Paradis, born on Bill's birthday, March 25.

And here's something your editor picked up somewhere: Two Brit ladies discussing the arrival of all those Americans: "Have you heard of those utility knickers? One Yank and they're off."

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



GROUND CREWS NOW LISTED ON www.b24.net

The names, units, and duties of nearly 2,400 Crusaders who worked in ground support operations have been added to our Internet site, www.b24.net. This is the first comprehensive roster of the men and women whose outstanding work on the ground enabled our combat fliers to perform their exemplary work in the air.

Over time, photos of identified ground crew personnel will be added. Your help is needed as we only have photos of about 12 percent of those on the list.

Please send additions, corrections, comments, and PHOTOS to Annette Tison at dtison5401@aol.com or 9107 Wood Pointe Way, Fairfax Station, VA 22039.

To see the roster, go to www.b24.net, click on the box at the top labeled "Aircraft/Crews" and then click on "392nd Support Crew Photos."

The names came from military orders, the books *Liberators from Wendling* and *20th Century Crusaders*, past issues of the *News*, squadron rosters, diaries, and personal recollections.

The roster was created by 2nd-generation researchers Bob Books, Ben Jones, and Annette Tison.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

AEF received a DH-4, its first American made airplane-1916

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Russians end blockade of West Berlin-1949

AIR ANNIVERSARY

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

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Three Army planes made first group cross-country flight-1912

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Germany surrendered unconditionally-1945

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Linebacker I offensive of Vietnam war begins-1972

NEWS

392nd BG Memorial Association



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

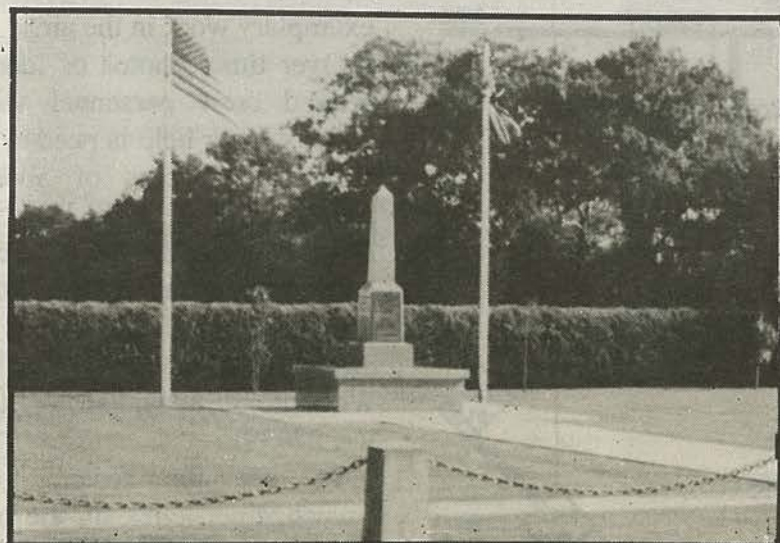
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Editors
Jim Goar
Annette Tison



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

Burt Hinckley, 578, March 5, 2007
Clyde W. Davis, 578, Jan. 13, 2007
Lyle Marshall, 576, Feb. 25, 2007
Harry E. Woody, 578, Jan. 28, 2007
Jay W. Thornburgh, 576/9, Jan. 28, '07
Charles Ray Jackson, 578, Jan. 16, '07
Lee A. Doolittle, March 18, 2007
Ernest G. Wiener, Hq., April 20, 2007
Siegwart Robertson, 576, April 28, 2007



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
Frankfort, IN 46041

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Chaplain's Corner

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

Did you ever have the feeling that it is not you who is holding faith in God, but that He simply is not going to let go of you? I am sometimes surprised at that notion, but I can't deny it - not always, but at times it comes as a kind of surprise. Let me hope that from time to time God surprises you as well.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

320 Army aircraft participated in first simulated European combat operations-1940