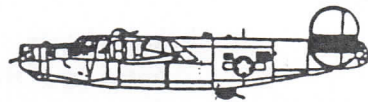


NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME II

NOVEMBER 1987

Wendling Memorial Restoration Project

The Wendling memorial project is off and running. We are happy to report that we have received \$26,000 in cash contributions, and pledges for another \$10,000. The Battle Monuments Commission in Paris is solidly behind our effort. They have done all the preliminary engineering for us at no cost.

The Beeston Parish Council is doing everything within its power to be of help. We must remember, they have taken care of our memorial for 40 years. They have a deep interest in all this.

We also want it finished during our lifetime. The Grim Reaper is taking his toll of our group. There will be no one to finish it when we are gone. This is to preserve the memory of those 788 young men of the 392nd who didn't come home and all those who served. We need to raise another \$34,000 by the end of November. This will permit us to start the first phase of the restoration. We are on somewhat of a deadline with the Battle Monuments Commission to get started the first of the year. We need your contribution now. Remember that the tax rate is higher in 1987 than it will be in 1988. This is a great time to give, and we need your support.

In recognition of those who have sent their contributions previously, we have adopted the following recognition plan:

Up to \$199.00	--	1	Star	Donor
200.00-499.00	--	2	"	"
500.00-999.00	--	3	"	"
1000.00-1,999.	--	4	"	"
2000.00 or More-		5	"	"

Contributors to date are as follows. If you have previously contributed and feel that you can increase your pledge, you will move to the appropriate bracket. Would you consider a cash gift with an additional pledge for next year? Let us hear from you today.

Checks are made payable to:
392nd Bomb Gp. Memorial Assoc.
Mark check for Memorial Project.

1 Star Donors (as of 10/22/87)

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(Cont'd. Page 2)

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James A. Hoover

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5 Star Donors

Anonymous
Joseph Bush
Carroll Cheek

John B. Conrad
Howard R. Ebersole

Lawrence G. Gilbert
Wm. H. Richards

*Our thanks to Carroll Cheek for his work on the
Wendling Memorial, and a special thanks to
Marjorie and Lawrence Gilbert for getting out
the mailing for the fund. That was a tough job!*

* * * * *

BOND SALESMEN WITH WINGS

By Capt. Don McCammond

Former Member of The Christian Science Monitor News Staff

For a change, nearly all the Squadron's staff officers were in the BOQ, the RAF barracks we called Bachelor Officers' Quarters. The weather was bad, had been for a few days, and our Liberators were "stood down." The night was chilly and the old potboiler in the middle of the bay was puffing away.

Captain Bob Lane, our Lexington, Ky. executive officer, was talking about how the Squadron was making out in the war bond drive. "We had 95 per cent of our quota, and still one more pay day before the deadline, when they increased it by \$2,000. We'll make it, but ..."

Lieut. Jack Macauley from Brooklyn, Assistant Squadron Intelligence officer, cut in. "How are you doing it, Bob?" Lying in wait for the men after they are paid and shaming them into it?"

"No, we're just talking it up," the Exec said. "Everyone who comes into the orderly room for any reason at all is told why we are putting on the drive. Hal Hartman is batting about 80 per cent." Hartman, from Trenton, New Jersey, is a first lieutenant, a former navigator.

"I even sold two \$150 war bonds to two men who reported to me for reprimands," continued Captain Lane.

"That sounds just like you, Lane," said Leroy C. MacTavish, our communications captain, and the scion of a furniture house in Glen Springs, Colo., maliciously. "Haul the men in for a lecture, then while they are still dazed and trembling, sell them something." After throwing his barb, he reached for another helping of the cheese and crackers the Executive Officer was passing out of my locker.

Ignoring the thrust, Lane moved the food out of Communication's grasp and went on. "We sent Staff Sergeant Goldman out on the line for two hours and he sold \$900 worth of bonds. Even though the ground crews are working without stop to get the ships in condition for the next operation, they had time to listen to Goldman."

Norman Goldman, a Detroiter, was duty sergeant in the Orderly Room.

"Is it true that Sergeant Costes in operations sold \$2,000 worth of bonds in two days when you promised him a two day pass?" put in Capt. Leonard A. Wipfier

of San Francisco, acting Group Adjutant and a Squadron alumnus. Costes, from Hollywood, Calif., is the Operations Section Clerk.

"That's right," the Kentuckian answered. "He contacted all the flying personnel, from Major Player on down."

There was a pause as Jim Goar of Frankfort, Ind., a firm believer that the Hoosier State was "the garden spot of the world," passed around his canteen of water. Jim has been bucked up from Squadron Supply Officer to Base Transportation Officer. The water was essential. Soda crackers and American cheese, a treat from home, were thirst provoking.

Someone remarked on the irony of men overseas buying bonds, paying for the guns and aircraft they fight with. Yet nearly all the men were willing, and carrying as much as they could.

Lieut. Walter Whelan of the Bronx, another Assistant Intelligence Officer, pointed out an advantage gained from the bond drive. "Every bond bought by men overseas is saving," he said. "But it also cuts down some of the friction between the American and Allied armies."

We knew what he meant without explanation. The wide difference in pay between our men and those of the Allied forces had caused trouble.

But to get back to the problem. Like all Americans away from home, our troops wanted to return home loaded with souvenirs. Wartime British prices are extremely high, with a 100 per cent tax on new jewelry and similar gadgets. For "thru'penny bit" bracelets, Yanks were paying 25 to 50 shillings - five to ten dollars. The subject had been discussed hundreds of times.

Another silence occurred as, one by one, the four engines of a Lib on the nearby line could be heard tuning up then merging into the familiar roar. Sounded as though we might be busy tomorrow.

Good or bad weather, the ground maintenance crews were always at work, preparing their charges for combat. Many of them had records as high as 85 consecutive missions without a turnback for mechanical failure. The crews on the ground grieved over the loss of their
(Contd., Page 4)

(Continued from Page 3)

bombers as much as they did over a pup when younger.

Coaxing, coddling, constantly repairing and checking, they inspired the combat crews to overcome minor faults that occurred on a mission and continue on over the target. Many a combat crew has made the run over the target on three engines rather than return to face their ground crew chief.

Lane looked at the cheese packages. They were all empty. "Time to turn in," he said. One by one the scavengers rose and left my crumb-cluttered corner. I turned out the light and drew back the blackout curtains to open a couple of windows. Through the damp fog we'd become accustomed to came the thundering sound of more Libs, the symphony of the line. It certainly did sound as though we would have something on for tomorrow.

* * *

Profile -- by Jim Goar

Howard R. Ebersole was 1st Lt. Ebersole at Wendling, joining the Group in January of 1945, first with the 578th and then the 579th.

After the war, he left the heavies and joined the fighters via the Michigan Air National Guard. While in Korea, he flew 30 missions in F-51's and 70 in F-86's with the 18th Ftr. Bmbr. Grp. Other tours included development testing at Holloman in F-101B, F-102 and F-106; three years in Alaska flying F-102's. He retired in January 1969 as Lt. Col.

In civilian life, Howard has been closely associated with airplanes, being (among other things) project engineer for the B-1 Crew Escape Systems. He was also an engineer with Ford at Dearborn, Michigan.

He has three sons and three grandchildren. His address is P. O. Box 386, Plymouth, Michigan 48170.

Now that Howard is retired, he does flight instruction, mostly aerobatics, instruments and sailplanes.

Pittsburgh 8th AFHS Reunion

The 8th Air Force Historical Society Reunion in Pittsburgh was held October 14-18. The Hilton Hotel was the headquarters.

Our own Cliff Peterson was elected President of the Society. Our congratulations to Cliff. We would also like to thank Cliff for the use of his suite as the 392nd hospitality room.

The 392nd had about 70 people in attendance. Ernie Barber brought all the pictures. He is in the process of mounting them all on boards with frames. He also brought his cedar B-24 model. It was beautiful. We had about nine first-timers. The 392nd had two unit dinners which gave us time to visit. Jim Goar auctioned off a chunk of the runway at Wendling. He ended up out-bidding everyone, and donated the funds to the Wendling Memorial Fund. Stan Zybort presented the Board with an album of pictures of the 2nd AD trip to England. This was capped off with two evenings of entertainment including the 8th AF Band and Milton Caniff, the cartoonist and father of "Terry and the Pirates" comic strip. The "fly-by" in front of the Hilton by World War II planes was very emotional. All in all, it was great to get together with old friends. The reunion ended with a beautiful memorial service on Sunday morning.

* * *

Profile -- by Jim Goar

M/Sgt. Ernest Herbert Barber was a crew chief in the 578th, joining the 392nd at Biggs Field on March 4, 1943. He received the Bronze Star for crewing B24H No. 42-7518 for 32 missions without a mechanical abort. He crewed seven combat planes with a total of 143 missions without a mechanical abort.

Barber retired in 1981 from the U.S. Postal Service in maintenance. (No aborts on those mail trucks either!) A widower, he has three sons and four grandsons.

Ernie's address is R#1, Box 371-2, Lincolnton, Georgia 30817

* * * * *

Board Action

At its meeting in Pittsburgh, the Board of Directors of the 392nd BGMA voted to recommend to the general membership that our By-laws be changed to permit us to have more than one vice president. There will be a vote on this during our general membership meeting in Colorado Springs.

* * *

The Board of Directors has voted to hold our 1989 reunion in Fort Worth, Texas. The reunion dates are May of '89. This will be in conjunction with the 50th birthday celebration for the B-24. General Dynamics (successor to Consolidated Aircraft) and the City of Fort Worth have joined forces with the Liberator Club to sponsor this event. The 392nd will have their own reunion with a hospitality room and our own dinners. Saturday will feature an open house at Carswell AF Base. There will be many VIPs and the Air Force Thunderbirds. There will be a flyable B-24 on display. B-24 groups from all air forces will be there. This includes B-24 groups from our allies of WWII. All this will end with a gala banquet and dance on Saturday night. This is one you won't want to miss!

* * *

We are saddened by news of the recent passing of Larry Turner. Larry was with us at the Tulsa Reunion. His wife, Pat, established a memorial fund in lieu of flowers and the 392nd has received more than \$400 in contributions to our Memorial Fund. We have also received Memorial contributions from Pauly Benson, the wife of Richard J. Benson, and from Anne Fothergill, the wife of Clarence Fothergill. What a great way to be remembered! Our thoughts and prayers are with these families in the loss of their loved ones.

* * *

You should mark your calendar now for June 22-26, 1988 as that will be the 2nd AD Reunion at Colorado Springs. The location is excellent because of the Air Force Academy. Geographically it isn't all that bad. I feel this will be one of the better reunions of the past few years. The 392nd is expecting a large turnout.

* * *

News from The PX

The PX is offering 392nd BG caps. The caps are black with a solid foam-backed front panel and mesh back panel. It's complete with scrambled eggs on the bill and "392nd Bomb Gp. - Wendling, England" on the front panel. The price is \$8.00 plus \$1.00 shipping charge - a total of \$9.00 per cap. We also have copies of Liberators from Wendling. This is a history of the 392nd Bomb Group and makes a great Christmas gift at \$25.00, postage paid. We have copies of our 392nd Directory updated to June 1987 for those of you who did not attend the Tulsa Reunion. The directories are \$2.00 each.

Send your check and orders for any of these items to Gil Bambauer.

Our sincere thanks to Carwin "Tom" Thomason and his wife, Hank, for taking over the PX duties. It's a thankless job that requires a lot of work.

* * *

Return To Wendling

Keith Roberts reports that the 1988 Wendling trip has generated more interest than anticipated. If you plan to go, you should contact Keith at your earliest convenience as accommodations in Kings Lynn are limited.

Travel Agents International
Attn: Keith Roberts
28231 Marguerite Parkway #5
Mission Viejo, CA 92692-3720

* * *

Profile -- by Bill Richards

T/Sgt. John H. (Jack) Kedenberg joined the 392nd at Wendling and served as an engineer and top turret gunner. After the war, he was a New York City police officer retiring in 1965 with 22½ years of service. He served with a law firm from 1965 until 1981.

Jack and his wife, Adeline, have three daughters. Their son, John, enlisted in the Special Forces and was sent to Vietnam. He was killed in action in June of 1968. He was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously. Jack and his family went to the White House where the presentation was made by President Richard M. Nixon.

Jack and Adeline have two grandchildren who are attending college in California. Jack and his wife reside at 2081 Via Seville, Punta Gorda, FL 33950.

I N M E M O R I A M

Warren B. Harris

Arlis V. Martin

Lawrence F. Turner

Membership Drive

We are running a little behind in our membership drive. We need about 15 new members by the end of this year. I hope some of you who are reading this newsletter will fill out an application and send it with your check for \$10.00. This will pay your dues through 1988. Believe me, there is strength in numbers. Why not join our Association today? We need each other!

392nd BG Memorial Association Membership Application

Name: _____
 First Middle Last

Address: _____
 Street Apt. No.

 City State Zip Code

Unit or Squadron _____ ☐ Associate
Dues are \$10.00 each calendar year (Jan. thru Dec.)
Send check or money order to 392nd BG Memorial Assoc.
C/O Gil Bambauer, 2032 East LaMadera Drive, Tucson,
AZ 85719

☐ Check if this is a gift membership.

392nd BG Memorial Association
2032 East LaMadera Drive
Tucson, AZ 85719

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