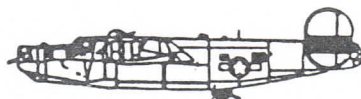


NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 3

NOVEMBER, 1988

Reunion 89 - Forth Worth

Make plans now to attend the 392nd reunion May 17-21, 1989 at the Hyatt Regency. We will have a good hospitality room and Ernie Barber will be there with all our memorabilia. We will hold our group dinner on Saturday night in the hotel.

This is being held in conjunction with the B-24 Liberator 50th Anniversary Reunion Group. Every known organized B-24 group in every Air Force has been invited. Thirty groups have declared this as their reunion. The group has mailed over 30,000 brochures. If you haven't received one, please let me know. The Reunion Group is acting as an umbrella to plan the activities and to avoid chaos, they have blocked the hotel rooms and negotiated reasonable rates.

There will be entertainment galore. Our hotel will host a cocktail mixer for the hotel guests on Wednesday evening. The city of Ft. Worth will put on the Sundance Square affair on Thursday. Friday at noon there will be a welcome show at the Civic Center and the B-24 Symposium that evening. Saturday is open house at Carswell AF Base and the 392nd dinner that night. Sunday morning is the memorial service and outstanding Flyover. Our hotel will offer a reasonably priced Sunday Brunch on the Green, in front of our hotel.

The Civic Center will be open each day and will be filled with never before seen museum class displays of our beautiful old warbird. There will be a USO, a pub and 250 seat theater showing B-24 films, many for the first time. Do not miss the Liberator Hall of Legends. It is a 300 foot graphic panorama showing the emergence of the Liberator from its inception, through manufacturing and on to every theater of war. There will be a section on every group who flew them. It will show tail markings, pictures and a service history showing their outstanding accomplishments. It is a must.

Sunday night is the gala birthday party. There will be many celebrities and a special tribute to all Group Commanders. None other than Tex Beneke will handle the entertainment. The purpose of this celebration is to give the B-24 the credit she so richly earned, but never received.

There will be a \$35.00 per person charge to 392nd members to cover the cost of the group dinner, hospitality room, etc. at the Ft. Worth Reunion.

Please mail to:

Charles Dye
Saddle Ridge #832
Portage, WI 53901

Member _____ @ \$35
Guest _____ @ \$35
Total _____

Some 1900 8th Air Force Historical Society members gathered in Des Moines, Iowa for their annual reunion. The meeting was well planned and extremely well run. The displays were outstanding. They included twin fifties plus an operable turret, minus the glass. There was plenty to see and do. The 392nd had their group dinner on Friday evening. It was followed by an evening of comedy at the Civic Center. There was a gala banquet on Saturday.

Our own Cliff Peterson served as President of the 8th AFHS this year and also completed his eighth year as a director of this fine organization. Our heartfelt thanks to him and to Mary for their years of service. For the second year in a row, Cliff and Mary offered their suite for our 392nd hospitality room.

The forty plus crusaders in attendance took advantage of the opportunity to visit, indulge in a little nostalgia, and to enjoy our memorabilia filled hospitality room which was hosted by Jim Goar and Ernie Barber. John and Peg Malloy of Sharon Hills, Pennsylvania showed up and were surprised to learn of the 392nd BG Memorial Association. Malloy was a member of the original cadre. He met Peg while she was visiting her grandparents who lived down the road from the Rose Cottage in Wendling. Ron Higdon and his wife were not aware of our organization either. Dale Cook lives in Des Moines and read about the meeting in the local paper. Obviously, all three are card carrying members now.

PX ORDERS

Cap, 392nd BG with gold braid	\$9.00
Jacket, white nylon with 392nd BG and Crusader patches	\$20.00
Book "Liberators from Wendling" by Bob Vickers	\$25.00
Book "392nd War Stories" by Myron Keilman	\$20.00
(add \$1.50 per item for shipping)	

PX Cost

Plus Shipping

Total Remittance

Make checks payable to 392nd BGMA

Mail to : Charles Dye

Saddle Ridge #832

Portage, WI 53901

PICTURES - MEMORABILIA - ETC.

If you have pictures or memorabilia that you think would be of interest to the group, would you have a copy made and send to us for our scrap books. We like pictures of planes with both air and ground crews. Any shots from around the base would be appreciated. Please identify people in the picture as near as possible.

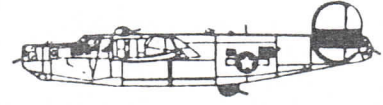
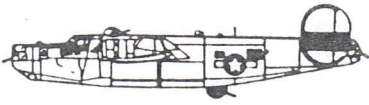
Mail to:

E. H. Barber

Rt. 1 Box 371-2

Lincolnton, GA 30817

392nd BG Memorial Association, Inc.



1482 GRANVILLE DR.

WINTER PARK, FL 32789

Dear 392 BG Member,

November 10, 1988

Our last letter of July 18 on the Memorial Fund drive announced we had reached the halfway point of \$60,000 toward the target of \$120,000 and appealed for additional member support. The response was excellent! The total now exceeds \$90,000! It also includes a matching fund contribution of \$13,000 by one member. This is an outstanding effort and reflects a deep commitment by our people to remember those of our Group who made the ultimate sacrifice.

In September Carroll Cheek, our Memorial Committee Chairman, visited Wendling to discuss with the Beeston Parish Council their role in the long term maintenance of the memorial. Later in the month he visited the headquarters of the American Battle Monuments Commission in Paris for a review of the design criteria and discussion of updated cost estimates. As an outgrowth of these meetings, draft agreements have been prepared between the BMC, acting as our representative for construction and maintenance, and the 392 BG Memorial Assn. A further agreement between the BMC and the Beeston Parish Council defines the caretaker services to be provided by the Parish Council. Funds will be administered by a Trustee, a bank to be selected by the BMC and our association. Drafts of these agreements were reviewed and approved in principle by our Board of Directors at its meeting in Des Moines, October 14, 1988. Your officers were authorized to execute the final agreements and transfer funds to the Trustee as required. The project should be complete by the summer of 1989.

It is apparent that we are proceeding with a shortfall of \$30,000 or so based on current cost estimates. Additional donations would obviously help to ease the crunch in the months ahead. Our treasurer also advises there are several thousand dollars in pledges still on our books and we urge early fulfillment of these obligations. If we are still short when the final bids are in, our only recourse will be to reduce or postpone certain features, e.g., landscaping, car park, fencing, etc., until some later date. I'm sure all of us would rather see the job finished the first time around.

At the Directors meeting in Des Moines, the date for the rededication at Wendling was set for October 7, 1989. Our travel agents and advisers, Keith and Patty Roberts, are already planning for another RETURN TO WENDLING for us for this date. It could well be our most memorable reunion and borrowing from Winston Churchill's phrase, perhaps "OUR FINEST HOUR".

Thank you all for your generous and loyal support.

Sincerely,

Lawrence G. Gilbert

Profile by Jim Goar

Wm. H. "Bill" Richards was a skinny kid in tech supply in the 578th, joining the 392nd early in its history, in April 1943 at Biggs Field.

He distinguished himself by marrying Jerry at Alamogordo June 25, 1943, before the Group left for overseas, and Jerry distinguished herself by having Bill Jr. while Bill was on KP at Wendling. Bill Jr. is a retired AF M/Sgt.

Bill was president of Whitney Supply Company (oilfield supplies) a wholly owned subsidiary of Texaco, retiring in 1988.

Bill is vice-president and one of the founders of the 392nd Memorial Ass'n., and he and Jerry co-hosted a great and memorable first stand-alone reunion at Tulsa in 1987.

Former Sgt. Richards lives at 5206 S. Harvard, No. 313, Tulsa, OK 74135. He and Jerry have 3 sons, 2 daughters, and 6 grandchildren. Not bad for such slow starters.

• Profile

Col. Bob Vickers was assigned to the 578th as a 2nd Lieut. pilot in November, 1944.

He completed 32 years active Air Force duty in 1975, serving in SAC, Joint Chiefs of Staff, U. S. European Command, and NATO.

He was one of the founders of the 8th AF Historical Society, serving as its president in 1980, and was its reunion manager for 4 years.

He is the author of the 392nd's Group history, "The Liberators From Wendling", which has gone through one printing and is now again available through the Group PX.

Bob lives with wife Francis (Jinks) and mother, Ann, at 6424 Torreon Drive NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109. He has one son, Mark.

Profile

Bob Lane was adjutant and later executive officer of the 578th, joining the Group as a 2nd lieutenant at Day 1 at Davis-Monthan Field, and leaving it as a major when we were disbanded at Charleston in 1945.

He married air evac nurse Marilyn at Beeston in 1945 and they have five daughters and 14 grandchildren.

Bob was a soldier's soldier, entering the air corps as an officer candidate after serving from private to tech sergeant in the 38th Infantry division. He stayed in the reserves after the war, retiring as Lt. Col., and saw duty at various US bases and in Japan.

He was a marketing manager for Standard Oil, retiring in 1982. He and Marilyn live at 6106 Fox Cove Court, Prospect, Kentucky, 40059.

Profile

Our own Cliff Peterson, past president of the 8th Air Force Historical Society, joined the Group as a 2nd lieutenant pilot in the 578th squadron, and was shot down March 18, 1944. After his return from Stalag Luft III, he served at Davis-Monthan Field, on Okinawa and in Korea in the Korean War, and was in charge of the Officers' Club at MacDill and Barksdale.

After retirement from the Air Force, he was general manager of Morrison's cafeterias, and retired from that position in 1985, becoming a Realtor.

He and wife Mary live at 2120 Woodcrest Drive, Winter Park, FL 32792, and have 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

A MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM THE
BAMBAUER'S

Profile

Denis Duffield as a young man growing up around Wendling was exposed to the sights and sounds of the launching of many 4-engine bombers, heavily laden with bombs, ammunition, and fuel.

All bore the markings of the 392nd, and after the war, Denis kept up his interest in the 392nd.

He served in the British Army in Egypt and Palestine in 1947-49.

Denis is the local contact for the 392nd, and as such has served as unofficial host for hundreds of returning Crusaders.

Denis lives with wife Hilary at Jubilee Cottage, Rushmere Road, Scarning, Dereham, Norfolk NR192NW, England. They have two daughters, Jayne and Julie.

He collects everything connected with the 392nd, and is currently looking for an original Crusader patch.

We had a letter from Col. Warren Polking who is recovering from lung surgery. He had received an official written order from Col. Gilbert to get well soon. It was signed by some 70 crusaders and their spouses. He said when he received it that it was almost like a religious experience. He sends his thanks and wants you all to know that his recovery is good. His wife Dette is keeping him on track so we know he is in good hands.

Martha and I sincerely wish to thank each and every one of our 392nd friends for your magnificent support during our several years of working together to promote first a struggling group of dedicated members to our present strong force of near 625 dues paying members of our great MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION. We are indeed fortunate to have a Board of Directors that have worked long and hard. Each of the Officers, Col. Gilbert, Bill Richards, Carroll Cheek, Howard Ebersole and Charles Dye continue to stay in front of the battle line along with the very able assistance of Luther Beddingfield, Barney Glettler, Jim Goar, J. D. Long, Herman Garner and Steve Wozniak. Each and every member of the board have and are working hard to reach the goals of the Association. They all have earned your continued support. John Conrad and Cliff Peterson also have played a large part in the success of our operation.

IN MEMORIAM

Harold Schildknecht
James Gump
Palmer W. Taylor
James C. Stockard
Thomas B. Ferguson
Alton W. Kramer
Daniel J. Baer

We have an inquiry from a Belgian source regarding the crash landing of Lt. Proctor following the Wessell supply drop mission (March 24, 1944). If you have any knowledge of this mission, please contact:

Jim Goar
5 No. Columbia St.
Frankfort, IN 46041

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
Saddle Ridge #832
Portage, WI 53901

Address Correction Requested

President

Lawrence G. Gilbert
1482 Granville Drive
Winter Park, FL 32789

Secretary

Howard R. Ebersole
P. O. Box 386
Plymouth, MI 48170

Vice President - Newsletter

Wm. H. Richards
No 313, 5206 S. Harvard
Tulsa, OK 74135

Treasurer

Charles E. Dye
Saddle Ridge #832
Portage, WI 53901

Vice President

Carroll W. Cheek
415 Bayview
Belleair, FL 34616