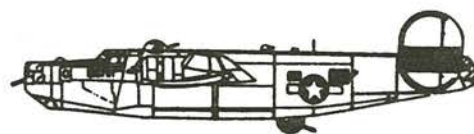


NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 9

NOVEMBER 1994

VOTE SHIFT IN LEADERSHIP OF 392BGMA

COL GILBERT NAMED TO BE CHAIRMAN OF BOARD, CLIFF PETERSON PRESIDENT



-Photo by Stan Zybert
Cliff Peterson, incoming President, is shown presenting a silver plate to Col Gilbert, whose new title is Chairman of the Board. The inscription read: Presented to Col Lawrence G. Gilbert, USAF (Ret) in Grateful Appreciation and Remembrance as Commander, 392nd Bomb Group, Wendling, England, 1945; and for Meritorious Service as President, 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association, 1985-1994.

PURE NOSTALGIA: BARRY MANILOW SINGIN' WITH THE BIG BANDS

If you'd like to get wafted back to the 40's on the golden tones of Barry Manilow, the NEWS recommends his new CD release Barry Manilow Singin' With The Big Bands. It's liable to bring tears for your lost youth.

At the annual Group meeting held at San Diego Oct. 7, Col Lawrence Gilbert was named Chairman and Cliff Peterson President. The intent of the move was to divide the load of leadership duties.

Vice-president Carroll Cheek, in reporting the proposal, said, "We want always for Col Gilbert to be our titular leader. But we feel that the time has come to make his job a little easier."

This arrangement was made certain in the wording of the proposed amendment to the by-laws, which states that the Chairman must have been a commander of the 392nd Bomb Group.

The following directors were elected: Lawrence Gilbert, Cliff Peterson, Keith Roberts, Joe Whittaker, Barney Gletler, and Gil Bambauer. The first five were re-elected; Gil Bambauer took the place of Charley Dye, who did not stand for re-election to the Board.

Dave Greene was re-elected Secretary, with Ebe Ebersole assisting as Recording Secretary. Gil Bambauer was elected Treasurer, vice Charley Dye.

In other business, the membership approved a resolution authorizing the management of the Wendling Memorial to be contracted for in the Beeston community, it being apparent that it is impossible to make arrangements with the American Battle Monuments Commission.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Wright Brothers' first sustained controlled flight in a powered aircraft - 1903.



-Photo by Stan Zybert

Charles Dye, outgoing 392BGMA Treasurer, was presented a handsome plaque by Col Gilbert at the San Diego meeting. It read: Presented to Lt Col Charles E. Dye USAF (Ret) for Meritorious Service as Station Ammunition Officer at the Group's Base At Wendling, England, 1943-45; and for Meritorious Service as Treasurer, 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association, 1984-1994.

GI ISSUE A-2 JACKETS FACTORY AVAILABLE AT AFFORDABLE PRICE

Stan Zybert has established a relationship with the factory that makes A-2 jackets for the Air Force. If we order through him, we can get regular issue A-2 jackets at a cost well below the prices quoted in aviation periodicals.

Contact Stan up to Dec. 11 at 168 Winding Way, Little Silver, NJ 07739. From Dec. 11 to Apr. 15 his address is 314 N. W. 50th St. Pompano Beach, FL 33064.

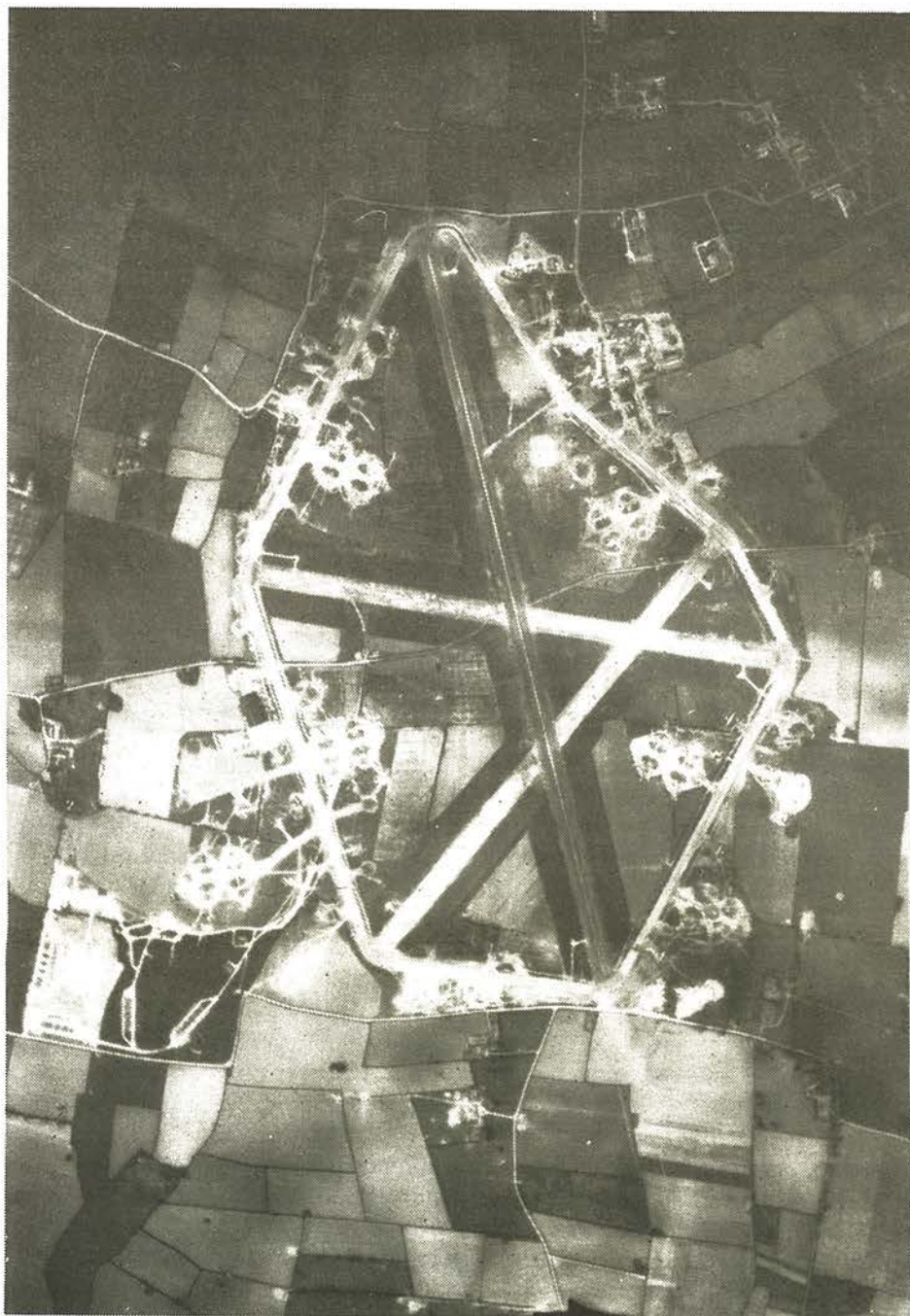
LETTER FROM COL GILBERT

Recognizing unmistakable signs of combat fatigue, senility or a combination, the Board of Directors proposed and our members approved in their infinite wisdom, creation of the new title in our Group's hierarchy. I am grateful and appreciative for the opportunity to serve the Mighty 392nd. And, I heartily welcome the sharing of the administrative load of our association. Cliff Peterson is a long term enthusiastic supporter of our Group, past president of the 8th AFHS, and of unlimited energy in handling the needs of requests of our members and other organizations. It will be a pleasure to work with him.

My sincere thanks to the 392nd for the very attractive commemorative plate given me at San Diego. It is a poignant reminder of our 50 years together since Wendling and the 9 years since we formed the 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Ass'n.

To report on other business: The committee for the Ian Hawkins anthology of the 392nd is as follows: Dave Greene, chairman; Bill Braddock, Keith Roberts, and Burrell Ellison. Advisors: Bob Vickers, John Matt, and Myron Keilman. A draft manuscript has been completed and has been reviewed by several of our people. The committee's function will be to select and negotiate with a publisher leading to the final publication of a book for sale to our members and to the general public. There will be more updates in future Newsletters.

WENDLING AIRFIELD ON APR 20, 1945- THE DAY OF THE NEXT-TO-LAST MISSION



This photo was recently unearthed from Ernie Barber's archives, and according to its markings was taken from 8000 feet on Apr. 20, 1945. That day the 392nd sent 27 a/c to bomb the marshalling yards at Schwandorf, one of the few remaining viable targets in Germany. No a/c were lost. Five days later on Apr. 25, the Group's last mission was completed.

The bomb dump can be clearly seen in the lower left hand corner, and the Red Cross club is barely visible at the top.

LETTER FROM CHARLES DYE

Due to time constraints, I was unable to adequately thank you, the 392nd, for the plaque presented at the San Diego Reunion of the 8AF Historical Society.

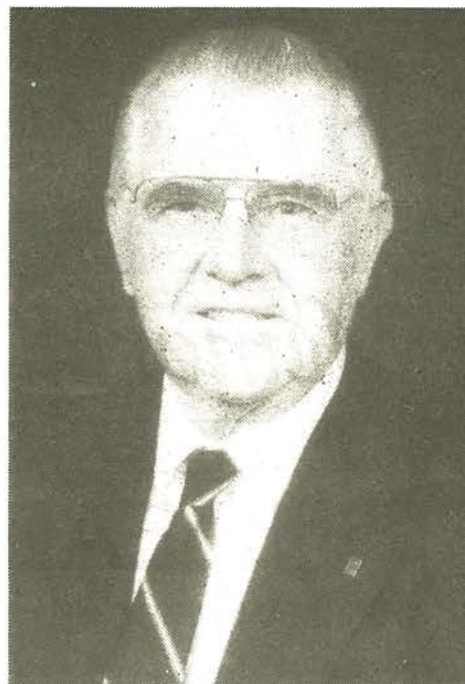
The past six years as Treasurer have been most memorable. They have enabled me to know many of your much better and I will surely miss my frequent communications with NEWS

editor Jim Goar.

My many hours devoted to being your Treasurer will now be spent as President of the 8AF Historical Society.

Perhaps a bit early, but Helen and I extend to all of you Crusaders our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

NEW 392BGMA OFFICERS



Cliff Peterson, President

Cliff Peterson, 578th pilot, was elected President of the 392BGMA at the October meeting held at San Diego. He was a participant in the infamous Friedrichshafen mission Mar. 18, 1944, when he was shot down and spent the rest of the war as POW.

After repatriation, he was in recruiting and ground training before a tour as a pilot in B-29's based in Okinawa in 1951. He did 32 combat missions in the Korean war, which made a total of 50 counting the 18 he flew in the ETO. Returning to the States, he headed the Officers' Clubs at MacDill and Barksdale AF Bases.

From 1955 to 1985, he was general manager of Morrison's Cafeterias.

He was president of the 8AF Historical Society in 1988, and is presently a member of the Board of Directors of the 8AF Memorial Museum Foundation.

He lives with wife Mary at 2120 Woodcrest Drive, Winter Park, FL, 32792. Both are Realtors.



Gil Bambauer, Treasurer

During the San Diego meeting, Gil Bambauer was elected to the Board of Directors, who then named him to be Association Treasurer.

Sgt. Bambauer was the NCO in charge of the flying equipment section at Wendling, and was present the entire 23 months the 392nd was there. He was in the 74th Service Sqdn.

After the war he was a civilian maintenance supervisor at Davis-Monthan Air Base at Tucson until 1957. After that he was a purchasing agent and facilities manager in private industry, retiring in 1986.

Gil was the person who kept the 392nd together in the years before we organized the Memorial Association, and was one of the prime movers in its formation.

He has been active in the 8AF Historical Society.

His wife is Martha and they live at 974 Fairway Drive, Dewey, AZ, 86327.

8AF SAN DIEGO ATTENDEES

Those Crusaders present at the 8AF meeting at San Diego Oct. 8-9, 1994 were:

Tony Albino and Edna; Larry Bachman and Louise; Gil Bambauer and Martha; Bill Braddock and Marge; John Buschman and Marge; Carroll Cheek and Mabel; Will Davis and Bobby; Charles Dye and Helen; Howard Ebersole and Jean.

And Ben Foote; Lawrence Gilbert and

Margie; Jim Goar and Virginia; David Greene and Renee; Hal Hagopian and Betty; Walter Hebron; Dick Hoover and Eleanor; Sally Kauffman; Harold Longacre and Marjorie; Jim Marsteller and Karen; John Matt and Priscilla;

And Cliff Peterson; Keith Roberts and Patty; Birdie Larrick; Guy Spinelli and Madeline; J. Fred Thomas; Bob Vickers and Lois; and Stanley Zybort and Mildred.

PALLAS ATHENE, THE GI JANE



Photo courtesy M. J. Fox, 392BG Photo Section

Pretty girls always attracted a crowd of GI's at Wendling, as attested by the above photo of the christening of Pallas Athene, the GI Jane.

The date was Feb. 2, 1944, and a bevy of WACs from Second Air Division headquarters were on hand for the occasion. Shown holding the brush is Emmy Utter and on her left is Hazel Bliss. Utter's present address is not known, but Hazel lives in Portland, OR, and attends 2AD reunions.

Pallas Athene, the Greek goddess of war, was the icon for the Womens' Army Corps, WAC.

GI Jane was assigned to the 578th, and the pilot of the crew that flew her was

Capt Neely Young. Young and four other crew members are still alive: Capt John Goodwin, CP; 1/Lt Ray Dunphy, N; S/Sgt Ray Teater, WG; and S/Sgt John Rickey, TG. (See Profiles, this issue.)

Ground crew chief was T/Sgt Lowell Hale, now living in Iowa. Also in the ground crew was Cpl Harry Kruse. (See Profile, this issue).

The Young crew completed their tour in GI Jane, flying 19 missions without an abort. The unofficial inventory of 392nd a/c lists GI Jane as #42-100187, credited with 43 sorties and salvaged on May 29, 1945.

FROM THE KEILMAN WWII NOTEBOOK

Col Myron Keilman, the commander of the 579th, has compiled accounts of events in 392nd history that he has named "Lest We Forget". Following are his notes on Big B:

Berlin was first briefed on January 24, 1944. The weather was terrible. The mission was recalled before it reached the Continent. No mission credit was given in spite of the 4.5 hour effort. Targets in and around Berlin were attacked 20 February in poor weather. On 3 March the mission was aborted

over Denmark. Then on 6, 8, and 9 March concerted effort was made. The targets continued to be cloud covered and the bombing was generally accomplished by H2X radar. However on the 8th, the 392nd was able to make a radar/visual run on a Berlin target (a ball bearing works) and hit it with excellent results. During these missions two airplanes and crews were lost. Many suffered battle damage from flack and fighters.

NO NAVIGATION HELP

This somewhat bitter and unrepentant story, touted as being true, is making the rounds in central Indiana:

A crusty old Hoosier farmer, veteran of the Pacific war, was mowing his roadside one day when a carload of Japanese stopped and asked directions

to a nearby golf course.

The reply: "You %&#&#&'s found Pearl Harbor easily enough, you ought to be able to find a golf course."

And he climbed on his tractor and roared off.

DYE NEW PRESIDENT OF 8AF HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Charles E. Dye, 1825 Ord Co., was elected President of the 8AFHS at the San Diego meeting Oct. 9, 1994.

Previously, he had completed terms as Treasurer both of the 8AFHS and the 392BGMA.

He was at Wendling from August 1943 until we redeployed to the US in June 1945, and was Station Armament and Ammunition Officer. He remained in the Reserves after the war, retiring as Lt Col.

In civilian life he was a lawyer, practicing in the motor transportation field.

Now retired, he lives with wife Helen, a retired Navy nurse, at 4949 San Pedro, NE, #87, Albuquerque, NM 87109.

Dye is the third Crusader to head the 8AFHS. Predecessors were Bob Vickers and Cliff Peterson.



STAY ALERT! 1995 MEETINGS

2AD FLORIDA REGIONAL FEB 12
One-day reunion, at Orlando at the Clarion Plaza Hotel, scene of two very successful meetings in 1994 and 1993.

Special hotel rates apply for 3 days preceding and 3 days after Feb. 12, which is on a Sunday.

Contact is Luther C. Cox, 4932 Oakbrooke Place, Orlando FL 32812.

2AD AND 392ND ANNUAL, JULY 3-6
At Lexington, KY., John Conrad's home town. Details will be in the Winter 2AD Journal and in later issues of the 392BGMA NEWS.

8AF, SEPT 5-10

Scheduled for the Adam's Mark Hotel, St. Louis. Watch 8AF News and these columns for further information.

COL JOSEPH BUSH AS WE REMEMBER HIM



This picture of then Major Joe Bush was taken at Alamogordo in the summer of 1943, before the 392nd deployed to England.

Col Joe Bush, the 392nd's ground executive, passed away after a long illness at San Angelo, TX on Oct. 5, 1994. He was 80.

He entered the Service in 1935 as a second lieutenant of Field Artillery, and transferred to the Air Corps in 1941. He joined the 392nd in March 1943 as major.

Col Bush conceived the idea of the 392nd Memorial at Wendling and it was through his efforts that it was established.

Post WWII military service included tours with ATC, Air Defence Command, 8th Fighter Wing in Japan, Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon, and the Air University. He was a Wing CO in England and at Goodfellow AF Base. While serving in the Pacific, he commanded a 50-vessel PT boat squadron.

He was in banking at San Angelo for 11 years after retirement from the Air Force.

He is survived by wife Robena, who he married in 1940; a son, James D. Bush of Dallas, TX; two daughters, Carolyn Adams of Seattle, WA., and Robin Vance of Pacific Palisades, CA; and three grandchildren.

578TH'S FORD'S FOLLY, A/C #42-7466



Bob Lane, 578th Ground Executive, is shown congratulating Cliff Edwards, pilot, for finishing his tour. This happened about July 24, 1944, according to Col Warren Polking, 578th Commander.

Ford's Folly was the second B-24H built at the Ford plant at Willow Run, hence the name. It came off the line July 30, 1943, was assigned to the 392nd Aug. 13, 1943. It was of course one of the 392nd's original flyover ships, brought over by the Cliff Edwards crew.

In addition to Cliff Edwards, the original crew was: George Taylor, Leonard Untiedt, Joe Westbrook, Norman Mellow, Bill Braddock, Leon LeBleu, Milton Medel, R.E. Hill, and George Phelps.

Taylor, Medel, and Hill are deceased and we have lost touch with Untiedt. Cliff Edwards lives in Phoenix; Joe Westbrook in Greensboro, NC; Norman Mellow in Merced, CA; Bill Braddock in Minneapolis; Leon LeBleu in Surprise, AZ; and George Phelps in East Thetford, VT and Brooksville, FL.

Ground crew chief was M/Sgt Arthur J. Knipe, now deceased.

Other crews flew the ship, among whom were the Jim Maris and C. A. Rudd crews. Ford's Folly was lost Sept. 11, 1944, when it was shot down over Germany on a mission to Hanover. Two crewmen survived and were POW. For their story, see the August 1994 edition of the 392BGMA NEWS, "German Girl Saves Gunner".

An unconfirmed story sometimes heard around Crusader gatherings is that a Ford's Folly was once manufactured as a model airplane.

Vote for **BOB VICKERS** for 8AFHS Director

First pilot, 392BG, WWII

Retired from AF (SAC) as Col

Founding worker, 8AFHS, President 1980

Reunion manager, 8AFHS (Four years)

Organized and managed B-24 50th Anniversary, Fort Worth

Experienced, Dependable, Competent



Crusaders who were in attendance at the 8AF Reunion at San Diego in October indulged in some unabashed politicking and freely distributed the above flyer. The result: Bob Vickers was elected to the Board of Directors of the Historical Society.

FIGHTER ACE COL HUB ZEMKE DEAD AT 80; CO OF TWO GROUPS

Col Hubert Zemke died at Oroville, CA, on Aug. 30, 1994. A native of Missoula, MT., he entered the AF as a cadet in 1937 and retired in 1966.

Col Zemke brought the 56th FG to England in January 1943 and commanded it, with one 3-month lapse, until he took command of the 479th FG in August 1944.

The 56th was the first fighter group to fly the P-47, and was the only 8AF group to fly it throughout the hostilities.

The 56th destroyed more enemy a/c in air combat than any other 8AF fighter group, and had more fighter aces, among whom were Francis Gabreski and Robert Johnson.

Zemke was in command of the 479th when on a mission Oct. 30, 1944 his P-51 conked out and he crashed in Germany. He was POW until liberation.

An ace with 17 aerial victories, he wrote two books, Zemke's Wolfpack and Zemke's Stalag. His experiences led him to conclude that "wars are stupid".

"They are not acts of gentlemen no matter how much we try to romanticize them," he once said. "You can't kill anyone chivalrously. You just kill them."

Zemke and 578th pilot Pat McCarthy both grew up in Missoula and were friends.

DISASTROUS FIRE AT 2AD LIBRARY, NORWICH: "WE SHALL REBUILD"

Most Crusaders have heard by now that a fire destroyed the Central Library at Norwich, including the 2AD Memorial Library on the first floor, on on Aug. 1.

The entire building is in ruins, and the books and displays were lost. Some of the memorabilia was stored in the basement, and it is thought that some or most of it is salvageable.

The Memorial Library has found temporary space at Noverre House, just across the street. They are now set up with telephones and other equipment and are ready to assist returning veterans. Officers state that they are not now ready to receive material.

Leadership voices from both sides of the Atlantic are positive in stating that the Second Air Division Memorial

Library will rise again from the ashes of the old.

Crusaders are advised to wait for word from 2AD leadership before taking any individual action.

The fire was a very traumatic experience for Phyllis Dubois, the American Trust Librarian. She is completely dedicated to the Library and has suffered physically and mentally because of the events. The NEWS suggests that Crusaders include her in their Christmas card list this year, thus letting her know of our support. Her address is Noverre House, Theatre Street, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 1RH, England. Postage is 50 cents.

PIX TAKEN AT HILTON HEAD 2AD MEETING IN NOV 1993 WANTED

Ernie Barber, the Group archivist, faithfully keeps notebooks containing photos taken at our meetings. Stan Zybert, a steady attendee and a good photographer, usually supplies them but since he and Mildred were not at Hilton Head for the 1993 2AD Reunion, Ernie has none for that meeting.

He asks anyone who has photos taken at Hilton Head to please send them to him at 5726 Thomson Highway, Lincolnton, GA 30817.

AVIATION WRITER SEEKS COLOR PIX FROM WWII

Jeffrey L. Ethell, author of many books on WWII aviation, is in the process of writing a new book called KEEP 'EM FLYING, consisting of anecdotes and wartime color slides taken solely by veterans.

He is asking for the loan of any color Kodachromes taken by veterans in a time frame of from WWII through the Korean war. He is looking for pictures of all aspects of military aviation life, both ground and air scenes, even on the home front with the family and girl friends.

In addition he is soliciting stories of war-time experiences, in the air or on the ground, combat or not.

If a reader has such material and is willing to loan it to Mr. Ethell, he can be reached at RR 1, Box 3154, Front Royal, VA 22630, telephone 703 636 1816. He guarantees the return, undamaged, of loaned material. He also says that proper credit will be given if the material is published.

WE'VE HEARD THAT UMPIRES ARE BLIND, BUT PILOTS, TOO?

A blind pianist used an airline to fly to his engagements. One day while the plane was on the ground, there was a 30-minute delay before the boarding of additional passengers. The pilot asked the pianist if there were anything he could do for him. The pianist responded by saying he would appreciate it if his dog could be taken for a short walk on the grass. The pilot was pleased to comply, and the passengers waiting at the boarding gate saw their pilot leaving his plane being led by a seeing-eye dog.

(From "Lincoln Log", Lincoln Savings Bank's house organ.)

PROFILE

1/Lt Dale W. Slayter, Jr. was the copilot on the Jack Dilz crew in the 578th. He joined the Group at Wendling in September 1944.

Post-war, he was a civilian flying instructor for the Air Force at Malden, MO. and Mariana, AZ. He then became a registered architect in Arizona, and later worked in Saudi Arabia for four years. He retired in 1985.

He lives with wife Margaret at 5464 W. Bar X, Tucson, AZ 85713. They have two daughters and three grandchildren.

PROFILE

Cpl Harry Kruse was a ground a/c mechanic in the 578th, arriving at Wendling in March 1944. One of the a/c that he crewed was the GI Jane.

After the war, he was a crane operator in the mining industry. He was a recreational flyer until a physical exam washed him out in 1972.

His wife is Dorothy, and they live at 54 Bunker Place, Rotunda West, FL 33947. They have three children and six grandchildren.

PROFILE

1/Lt John J. Donohue was a navigator-bombardier on the Ellis and Walker crews in the 578th. He joined the Group at Wendling July 14, 1944.

On February 22, 1945, the Walker crew crash-landed in Holland. Four members of the crew evaded and five were POW. One of the evadees, S/Sgt John McCormick, was killed by the Germans five days before peace was declared. (See August, 1994 392BGMA NEWS.)

Donohue also was one of the evadees,

rejoining after the German capitulation on May 4, 1945.

After the war, he spent some time with the New York National Guard.

In civilian life, he was an executive with Allied Chemical and the New York Port Authority.

A widower, he lives at 216 Bee Meadow Parkway, Whippany, NJ 07931. He has four children and six grandchildren.

PROFILE

S/Sgt John J. Rickey was the tail gunner on the 578th's GI Jane, arriving at Wendling in Oct. 1943.

Post-war, he earned a college degree in business management by attending classes for eight years at night. He retired from the Post Office after 38 years of service, and now works part-time for the Board of Education.

He and spouse Rose live at 1197 Udall Road, Bayshore L. I., NY, 11706. They have one son and four daughters.

PROFILE

1/Lt John J. Goodwin was copilot on the GI Jane in the 578th. He arrived at Wendling in Oct. 1943.

He was in the Reserves at Williams AF Base, AZ, retiring as Captain.

In civilian life he was a teacher.

He is married to Fern, and they live at 5064 S. Walnut Hill Drive, Springfield, MO, 65810. They have two sons, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

PROFILE

Capt Neely Young was pilot and a flight commander in the 578th. He arrived at Wendling in October 1943.

His crew finished their missions in the Pallas Athene, the GI Jane, and did their entire tour without an abort.

In civilian life, he has been in tobacco exporting, chemical sales, and the mens' clothing business.

He and wife Sharon live at 4411 West Grace St., Richmond VA 23230. They have two sons and three grandchildren.

PROFILE

1/Lt Ray Dunphy was the navigator on the 578th's GI Jane. He arrived at Wendling in November, 1943.

After the war, he was engineer and production supervisor in the Packard Electric division of General Motors from 1945 to 1957. He then became affiliated with Franklin Electric, Bluffton, IN., retiring in 1983.

He and wife Lucille live at 1240 Kenwood Dr., Bluffton, IN 46714. They have three children and five grandchildren.

PROFILE

S/Sgt Ray S. Teater was a waist gunner on the GI Jane, Neely Young's ship in the 578th. He arrived at Wendling in October 1943.

He was in landscape gardening in Wheeling for 9 years after the war, and then went to Salt Lake City for 17 years. He returned to Wheeling and the landscape gardening business and is now retired.

He lives with spouse Mabel at RR 4, Box 107, Wheeling, WV 26003. They have one daughter.

PROFILE

S/Sgt Regos N. "Nick" Theodore was a gunner on the George crew in the 578th, joining the Group at Wendling in November 1943.

Nick says that he and Lt. George

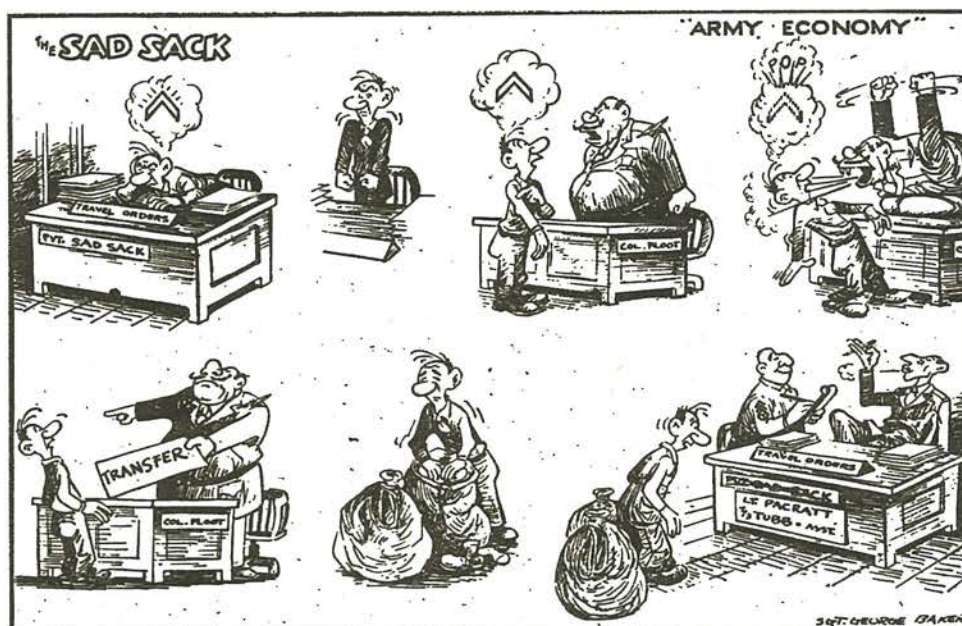
finished their tours in the first week in March of 1944, which puts them among the early finishers.

From Sept. 1944 to May 1945 he flew as ball gunner in the 98th Bomb Group in Italy.

Remaining in the service, he saw duty in Germany, Japan, England, North Africa and several stateside bases. He retired in 1963.

He utilized his spare time while in the Service acquiring a college degree, and after retirement from the Air Force had a 23-year career as a teacher in Sacramento.

He and spouse Sophie live at 340 Sandburg Drive, Sacramento, CA 95819. They have two children and two grandsons.



Courtesy the late Capt Charles Taylor, 576/8 Ass't Eng O

PX ITEMS

Book, "392nd War Stories", by Col. Myron Keilman, 579th, \$20	
Book, "Country Boy Combat Pilot", by Col. Bob Tays, 578th, \$15	
Book, "The Liberators From Wendling", by Col. Bob Vickers, 578th, \$25	
Book, "Crew Dog", by Maj. John Matt, 579th, \$28.95, postpaid	
Cap, black, 392nd BG w/gold braid, summer, \$9	
Cap, black, 392nd BG w/gold braid, winter, \$9	
Cap, blue, w/B-24 and 392nd Crusader logo, \$9	
Directory, new, \$10 postpaid	
Jacket, white nylon, w/392nd BG and Crusader patches, \$20	
Patch, 392nd BG logo, \$1.50 postpaid	
Print, "The Flying Crusader", by Frederick T. Searle, unsigned, reduced to \$10	
Print, "The Flying Crusader", by Frederick T. Searle, signed, reduced to \$15	
T-Shirt, 392nd BG, \$10	
Video, from Albuquerque Reunion Symposium, "The Early Days",	
Video, Symposium above, "The Ground Support Teams Prepare for a Mission",	
Video, Symposium above, "The Tough Missions, Pt. 1, Bremen, Keil, Gotha, Freidrichshafen"	
Video, Symposium above, "The Tough Missions, Pt. 2, Politz, Berlin, Bernberg, Bingen, Wesel"	
Video, from Albuquerque Reunion, general scenes from the reunion	
(EACH VIDEO IS \$23 POSTPAID)	
Add \$1.50 per item for shipping cost (except postpaid items)	
Total	

Send with check to Gil Bambauer, Treas., 954 Fairway Dr., Dewey, AZ 86327

WINIFRED JONES

Mrs. Winifred Jones, known to Crusaders as Freddie Small, passed away at Houston, Texas, on Sept. 11, 1994.

She was the original director of the Red Cross Aero club at Wendling, and trained Birdie Schmidt Larrick as her replacement. Freddie will be remembered as that tall gal with a soft Texas drawl.

After D-Day, she was on the Continent with a Red Cross clubmobile.

After the war, she married John T. Jones, who had been a prisoner of war in Germany after being captured in North Africa in 1943. Jones passed away less than five months before Freddie's death.

In 1963 she was named Board Chairman of Texas Woman's University, her alma mater. She was the first woman to head a board of regents for a state university of higher learning.

PROFILE

S/Sgt Calvin Walter Schunke was the tail gunner on the Ray Shaw crew in the 577th. He joined the Group at Wendling Nov. 9, 1944.

Post-war, he served on the New York City Fire Department, retiring in 1975.

He lives with wife Ruth at 261 Westchester Drive, Las Vegas, NV 11355. They have four children and four grandchildren.

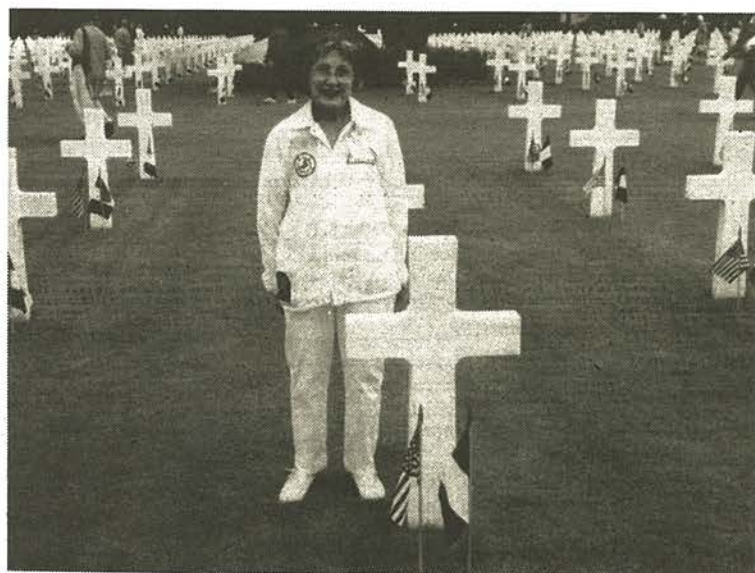
THAT FIRST WINTER AT WENDLING, 1943-44



-Photo Smithsonian Institution, Linda Christenson, researcher

This photograph was gleaned from the Air and Space Museum at the Smithsonian Institution in the summer of 1994 by editor Jim Goar with the help of his niece, Linda Christenson, who is a professional researcher. The photo was marked only 8th Air Force, so it could or could not have been actually taken at Wendling. However, it is certainly accurate as to the conditions the prevailed that first winter at Wendling, as anyone who was there during that time can attest. Not only were things dark and difficult on the ground; the weather, the enemy opposition, and the lack of fighter cover over the Continent made things just as dark and difficult for the flying crews. By the next winter things were a little better on both the ground and in the air. We poured more concrete and got ourselves a little more out of the mud, and more strength in the 8AF and the arrival of fighter protection over the Continent made the circumstances somewhat easier, although still difficult.

CRUSADERS ATTEND D-DAY CEREMONIES IN EUROPE IN MAY



Several Crusaders were present in England and France last May for the events surrounding the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of European D-Day. Their stories follow:

Birdie Larrick

The vivacious and personable war-time director of the Red Cross club at

Wendling was on board ship for the ceremonial re-enactment of the channel crossing by the invasion convoys.

She attended the programs held at the beaches and visited the Normandy American cemetery situated on a cliff overlooking Omaha Beach. There she visited the grave of her second cousin

who was a member of the 101st Airborne. Also buried at this cemetery are two Crusaders: S/Sgt Stanley J. Prazak and 2/Lt Charles R. J. Stratton, 577th, who were KIA June 23, 1944.

While at Cherbourg, the mayor awarded her a medal on behalf of the 392nd. She also got the traditional French buss on the cheek.

Carroll Cheek and Joe Whittaker

Carroll and Joe, together with Carroll's son Mike, were standing on the runway at Wendling on the morning of June 6. They then made their way to the Memorial to pay their respects and to let Carroll tell of it:

"First a pick-up truck stopped, then a few more people appeared, and soon there was a little crowd of villagers joining us for an impromptu memorial service."

They then went to the two-room school at Beeston where the teacher pointed out to the children that 50 years had passed since tremendous sacrifices had been made in the name of liberty.

"And," she continued, "I want you to remember this 50 years from now."

J. Fred Thomas

Thomas and son Dan, who is a full time National Guard officer, were also present for the D-Day ceremonies.

They crossed the Atlantic on the QE II, which upon arrival led the convoy across the Channel.

They attended the proceedings in France, and afterward visited Norwich and the airfield at Wendling. While at Wendling, they presented some books to the Litcham library.

Thomas is a retired airline pilot, and was a pilot in the 579th. He is also a past president of 2AD and a long-time Group vice-president.

Known in the Group for finishing a 30-mission tour in only a few more than 60 days between May 24 and Aug 1, 1944, Thomas says, "When Myron Keilman (the 579th commander) was assigning crews to missions he must have thought that there were two Thomas': 'J.' and 'Fred'."

D-DAY SCHOLAR CONFIRMS THAT TARGET WAS HIT

By Ben Foote, 578th

After 50 years, we finally have some confirmation that our efforts were highly fruitful in our mission to Vire on the afternoon of June 6, 1944. The 392BGMA NEWS in the May issue noted the 392nd sent 22 aircraft to Vire (25 miles behind the beachhead) on the third attack of the day by the Group.

This late testimony to our accuracy came from Wehrmacht Pvt. Franz Gockel in an interview with Stephen C. Ambrose, author of "D-Day", the June Book-of-the-Month Club selection. Wrote Ambrose (on p. 468-69):

"Gockel's truck came under heavy fire from a strafing RAF fighter plane. He and his comrades jumped out. Those with light wounds proceeded on foot toward Bayeux. En route they commandeered a French farmer's horse and wagon. In Bayeux they found that the hospital had been evacuated. They were told to proceed to Vire. They found that city badly damaged and still burning from the bombardment...Gockel concluded, 'None of my comrades who had survived the invasion continued to believe in victory.'"

I was especially interested because I flew that day as a navigator on the 578th's Bill Kohl crew.

PHRASE "MIGHTY 8TH" COINED BY AUTHOR ROGER FREEMAN

Most Crusaders are aware that Roger Freeman, the English writer, has authored several definitive books about the 8AF.

Sitting with him at the breakfast table at the San Diego 8AF meeting, editor Jim Goar asked him if he was indeed the father of the well-known term "Mighty Eighth". He admitted that he was and added that the original title of his first book about the 8th was somewhat innocuous and his publisher called him one morning with the message that the presses were ready to roll in one hour and that he must come up with a different title.

A pretty droll fellow, Roger said: "Really the inspiration came from my wife. She told me that she was Mighty tired of hearing about that book and this was the Eighth time she had told me that".

PROFILE

M/Sgt Bill Braddock was the radio operator on the 578th's Cliff Edwards crew, flying in Ford's Folly. (See accompanying story, this issue).

He was original cadre in the 578th, joining the Group in February, 1943. He finished his tour in July, 1944.

He graduated from the University of Minnesota with an engineering degree in 1941. After the war he acquired a law degree from the same institution and practiced in the field of patent law. He is now retired.

His wife is Marge, and they have eight children and 12 grandchildren. They live at 129 S. E. Bedford St., Minneapolis, MN 55414.

PROFILE

1/Lt James R. Maris was a pilot in the 578th. He finished his tour in 90 days, starting on May 24, 1944.

He was recalled in 1951 and remained in the Reserves, retiring as Lt Col.

Taking degrees in education from the University of Illinois in 1955, he then joined the faculty at Purdue University.

He was head of the department of aviation technology at Purdue before retirement.

He is presently building a home-built airplane.

He is married to Lucille, and they have four daughters. Their residence is 1005 Elm Drive, Lafayette, IN 47906.

SITE PREPARATION AT 8AF SAVANNAH



Work crews began clearing land on October 3 to make room for construction of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Center in Savannah, GA. The 12 acre tract of land is located in the northeast corner of the intersection of US Highway 80 and Interstate 95 west of Savannah. It will be home to the 95,000 square foot Heritage Center scheduled to open to the public in the late spring of 1996. The Center will include static aircraft displays, memorabilia museum, Eighth Air Force archives and library, gift shop, book store, restaurant and meeting facilities.

People who want to stop and see the construction progress should first check in at the Heritage Center temporary offices in a red brick house just east of the construction site on US 80 beside the Comfort Inn Hotel.

Crusaders who have yet not joined the effort to perpetuate the memory of the 8th and the 392nd (our memorabilia will be there) should fill out the membership blank below and send it with their check.



THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE HERITAGE CENTER

P. O. BOX 1992, SAVANNAH, GA 31402

1-800-421-9428 (912) 748-8888

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DATE: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

PHONE: _____

SPOUSE: _____

8AF UNITS & DATES: _____

SPECIAL INTERESTS (POW, GUNNER, SHOT DOWN, MECHANIC): _____

POST-SERVICE ACTIVITY: _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS: (Check one)

☐ INDIVIDUAL \$20

☐ FAMILY \$30

☐ ALLIES/ Out of USA \$35

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS:

☐ COMMANDER'S CLUB \$200- \$999

☐ SUSTAINING MEMBER \$1000- \$4999

☐ ANNIVERSARY PATRON \$5000- \$9999

☐ MIGHTY 8TH PATRON \$10,000 & UP

Please make checks payable to: The Eighth Air Force Heritage Center. You may also use your MasterCard, Visa, or American Express to contribute and join.

Card Type: _____ Exp: _____

Card #: _____

Signature: _____

IRS APPROVED 501 (C)(3) CORPORATION

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, 5 N. Columbia St., Frankfort, IN 46041.



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

Secretary
David A. Greene

President
Cliff Peterson

Treasurer
Gil Bambauer
974 Fairway Dr., Dewey, AZ 86327

Vice-president-Memorial
Carroll W. Cheek

Editors
Birdie Larrick
Jim Goar



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.

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

FOLDED WINGS

Art Egan, 579, Aug. 15, 1994
Winifred Jones (Freddie Small) ARC
Sept. 11, 1994
Earl Hall, 577, Mar. 31, 1994
John W. Arnold
Joseph A. Costa
Col Joe Bush, Hq., Oct. 5, 1994
Edward S. Schwartz, 578, Oct. 17, 1994
Cyril M. Slafka, 578, Jan. 1994

392nd Bomb Group Memorial Ass'n NEWS
5 N. Columbia St.
Frankfort, IN 46041

Address Correction Requested
Forwarding and Return Postage Guaranteed

ART EGAN

S/Sgt Art Egan, tail gunner on the Bell crew in the 579th, passed away after a long illness on Aug. 15, 1994.

He and wife Vivian, called Teddy by Crusaders are known as dedicated members of the Memorial Association. They have served as a committee to search out and recruit members, and also have been leaders and organizers of hospitality functions at Group meetings.

Art was shot down and interned in Sweden on his 23rd mission. He re-enlisted in 1946 and during the Korean war was severely wounded on his second mission, and spent the next four years at Letterman and Walter Reed Hospitals.

Recovered, he re-entered civilian life and earned the B. S. and Master's degrees and taught elementary education for 20 years.

Internment was at Winter Park, FL. Cliff Peterson represented the 392nd at the funeral.

* * * *

PROFILE

1/Lt Leo Ruvolis was a pilot in the 579th, arriving at Wendling May 5, 1944. His crew was shot down July 7, 1944 on the Bernberg, Germany mission.

He remained in the Reserves and retired as Major.

He took the Bachelor's degree at Iowa State University and the Master's at Millersville State University, Pa.

He retired as Director and Professor of Computer Science at York College, York, Pa.

He and spouse Margaret live at 1931 Hilton Ave., Dover, PA 17315. They have three children and one grandchild.

* * * *

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FRANKFORT, IN
PERMIT NO. 29