

NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 12

NOVEMBER 1997

392nd MEMORIAL DEDICATION NOV. 7

MIGHTY 8AF MUSEUM AT SAVANNAH SCENE OF GROUP GATHERING

A 2/3 scale replica of the Group's Wendling Memorial is now installed at the Mighty 8AF Museum at Savannah, GA. Col Lawrence Gilbert, Association CEO, announced that the formal dedication will take place at 11 A. M. on Nov. 7. Luncheon at the Museum will follow.

The Museum is just off I-95 at the Pooler exit.

Association headquarters will be at the Hampton Inn, I-95 at exit 19, about 5 miles north of the Pooler exit. For reservations, call toll free 1 888 95 426 7866 (You must use the "95"; it gets you this particular Hampton Inn). Ask for Sean (pronounced Shawn) Peck, and identify yourself as belonging to the 392nd. A reduced rate has been promised.

There will be a hospitality room at the Hampton Inn, open Nov. 6 and 7.

(There are two Hampton Inns- we will be at the one at exit 19.)

There are other motels in the vicinity.



Wayne Corbett photo

The Savannah Memorial

An Econo Lodge is at the Pooler exit, and also at that exit is what used to be called the Comfort Inn. The NEWS is not sure what it's being called now.

Attendees are asked to send in the notice found elsewhere on this page, so that the Museum can plan an orderly event. Please also include your check for \$15 per person.

GENERAL KEPNER HONORED BY GRISSOM AIR MUSEUM

Lt/Gen William E. Kepner was Commanding General of the 2AD, 8AF, in WWII. Born in 1893, he died in 1982 at the age of 89.

On Oct. 5, 1997, the Grissom Air Museum dedicated a Kepner exhibition. He was a native of the area, born in a log cabin only a few miles from the museum, which is on the site of the closed Grissom AF Base. (Grissom is about 65 miles north of Indianapolis, IN.)

Family, military associates, and friends participated in the ceremonies. Letters describing incidents in his life, written by Crusaders Cliff Peterson and Col Lawrence Gilbert, were read. Jim Goar attended as a representative of 392BG, 2AD, and 8AF.

Gen Kepner ran away from home and joined the Marines at the age of 16. He served with them in the Philippines.

In 1916 he joined the National Guard as a 2/Lt and served on the Mexican Border. In WWI, he was in the Army, commanding a battalion and earning the Purple Heart in the Meuse-Argonne battle.

Transferring after WWI to what became the Army Air Corps, he was a pioneer in military aviation, flying not only fixed-wing a/c but also lighter-than-air.

GENERATIONS 2 AND 3 FLY IN B-24



Bill McGuire II and Bill McGuire III got a chance to fly in the B-24 All-American last summer when Bill II won an essay contest entitled, "Tell us about the veterans in your life." They are shown above, center, the only ones without hats. The other "GI's" in the picture are re-enactment group members.

The McGuires are son and grandson of 2/Lt William C. McGuire, navigator on the Sharpe crew in the 579th, lost over Friedrichshafen March 18, 1944.

Bill II has become intensely interested in WWII, especially the part played by his father with the 392nd. He has done much research and has linked up with Jim Marsteller, another second generation researcher. He has become an associate member of the 392BGMA, and attended the 8AF reunion at Minneapolis in September.

392BGMA Savannah Memorial Dedication

Mighty 8AF Heritage Museum

11:00 AM Friday Nov. 7, 1997

Luncheon following at the Museum

I will attend the dedication ceremony and luncheon, and I enclose my check for \$ _____

(_____ persons at \$15 per person)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Fill out this blank and include your check made to 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Ass'n. Send both to Cliff Peterson, President, 2120 Woodcrest Dr., Winter Park, FL 32792

PROFILE

1/Lt Wesley A. Schafer was a first pilot in the 578th, arriving at Wendling in late March, 1944. His crew survived two bail-outs; one on 29 May 1944 over England, and one on 20 June over Sweden.

He was a troop carrier pilot in the AF Reserves for 1948 to 1951. After that he was an air traffic controller, retiring in 1973.

He and wife Mary Jan live at 6643 N. Elm St., Mariemont, OH 45227. They have two children.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Capt Edward V. Richenbacher awarded Medal of Honor for WWI action-1930.

MEMBERSHIP DUES-TIME TO SEND IN YOUR 1998 DUES PAYMENT

We don't send out dues notices, so you can help the news editor and the Treasurer if you will sit down right now and send in your 1998 dues. If you are paid ahead, you can check it by the code right after your name on the label of the newsletter. If it is LM (for Life Membership) or 98 or higher, you're paid up. If Frnd is after your name, you're our guest. If there is an error, contact Cecil Rothrock.

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 below and send it now!

Name _____ Ground ☐ Air ☐ Sqdn _____ Assoc ☐
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Dues for 1998, \$12

HARDSHIP WAIVER ☐

LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

Age 61-65 \$120 ☐
 Age 66-70 \$96 ☐
 Age 71 and over \$78 ☐

Send with check to Cecil Rothrock, 7334 26th Ave., Kenosha, WI 53143

SMALL TURNOUT AT 8AF MINNEAPOLIS REUNION, BUT 392ND WELL REPRESENTED

By Jim Goar

There were less than 500 attendees at the 8AF Minneapolis reunion, about half of the usual number of late. However, the 392nd made a strong showing with 44 members, spouses, and guests recorded.

Some observers noted that the acrimonious meetings of the past few years might have accounted for the small number attending, but none of the bitterness of the past was evident at this meeting. However, the new 8AF Directors who were elected made it clear in their brief election speeches that they were avowed supporters of the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum at Savannah, which is at variance with the stance of some of the sitting Directors. Stay tuned.

One of the highlights of the convention was the annual symposium, organized by the 392nd's able Bob Vickers. The subject was Air-Sea Rescue, and Bill Long, navigator on the 579th's Ed White crew, was a panellist. They ditched in the North Sea on their 19th mission.



The hospitality room was hosted by Larry and Louise Bachman and Teddy Egan. Shown above are Teddy and Larry with Jim Buzick, 577th, poring over the Group's memoranda. Also shown (too bad the NEWS doesn't print in color) is one of the flower arrangements, from nationally known Bachman Florists.

In 392nd business, the following Directors were re-elected at the annual membership meeting: Cliff Peterson, Gil Bambauer, Barney Glettler, and Joe Whittaker. At the Directors meeting, the officers were re-elected. Officers are: Lawrence Gilbert, CEO; Cliff Peterson, president; Carrol Cheek, vice-president; David Greene, secretary; and Cecil Rothrock, treasurer. (It should be noted that under the bylaws the office of CEO is not elective. The position is to be held for life by the last Commander of the 392nd)

392nd attendees were: Harris Albright and Dorothy; Laurin Austin; Larry Bachman and Louise; Gil Bambauer and Martha; Wally Blackburn and Loraine; Bill Braddock; Jim Buzick and Norma; Arnold Dovey and Cleome; and

Charley Dye and Helen; Teddy Egan; Bob Egan and Rose; Lawrence Gilbert and Margie; Jim Goar and Virginia; David Greene and Renee; Harold Hutchcroft and Mary Esther; Ben Jones and Barbara; and

Jerry Kvistberg and Shirley; Birdie Schmidt Larrick; Jim Marsteller and Karen; Dan McGovern; Bill McGuire; Cliff Peterson and Mary; George Richner and Marjorie; Cecil Rothrock and Mary; J. Fred Thomas; and Bob Vickers.

PX ITEMS

Book, "Remembrance of the Missing", by Col Bob Vickers, 578th, \$35.00 postpaid. \$
 Book, "392nd War Stories", by Col Myron Keilman, 579th, \$21.50 postpaid. \$
 Book, "The Liberators From Wendling", by Col Bob Vickers, 578th, \$28.00 postpaid. \$
 Book, "Crew Dog", by Maj. John Matt, 579th, \$28.95 postpaid. \$
 Book, "Country Boy Combat Bomber Pilot", by Col Bob Tays, 578th, \$18.50 postpaid. \$
 Book, "My Combat Diary", by 1/Lt Walt Cranson, 578th, \$13.50 postpaid. \$
 Cap, black, 392nd Bomb Group w/gold braid, summer, \$10.50 postpaid. \$
 Cap, black, 392nd Bomb Group w/gold braid, winter, \$10.50 postpaid. \$
 Directory, May 1996, \$10 postpaid. \$
 Jacket, white nylon, w/392BG and Crusader patches, \$26 postpaid (Circle size wanted: M L XL XXL) \$
 Patch, 392nd Bomb Group logo, \$1.50 postpaid. \$
 Print, "The Flying Crusader", by Frederick T. Searle, signed, reduced to \$16.50 postpaid. \$

TOTAL

Send with check to Cecil Rothrock, Treasurer, 7334 26th Ave., Kenosha, WI 53143.

Video, from Albuquerque Reunion Symposium, "The Early Days", \$17.50 postpaid
 Video, from Albuquerque Reunion Symposium, "The Ground Support Teams Prepare for a Mission", \$17.50 postpaid
 Video, Symposium above, "The Tough Missions": Bremen, Keil, Gotha, Friedrichshafen, Politz, Berlin, Bernberg, Bingen, Wesel. In two parts, Complete for \$27.50, postpaid.
 Video, from Albuquerque Reunion, general scenes from the reunion. In two parts, complete for \$27.50, postpaid.
 (ORDER VIDEOS DIRECT FROM DAN A MCGOVERN PRODUCTIONS, 5307 CANANTE, LAGUNA HILLS, CA 92653)

MEET DAN MCGOVERN, COMBAT CAMERAMAN

Tall, lanky, soft-spoken Dan McGovern filmed the proceedings at our landmark Albuquerque stand-alone reunion. He also can be seen at every meeting of the 8AF Historial Society, faithfully getting the events on film.

Although he served in the ETO with the 305th Bomb Group, he is an associate member of the 392BGMA.

Recently the American Movie Channel aired the film, "Hollywood Commandos", the story of the AAF's First Motion Picture Unit, which during the war produced many training and promotion films for the AAF. McGovern was a part of the First Motion Picture unit in Hollywood, and had an important speaking part in the TV film.

He left the First Motion Picture unit for service with the 305th, where he flew combat missions as a cameraman. He participated in documentation of such films as "Memphis Belle", "Target for Today", and "Target Germany". While at that duty he received a field combat commission.

In January 1944 he was invalided

home, and after recovery rejoined the First Motion Picture unit for duty in the Pacific. He was at Guam, Tinian, Saipan, and Iwo Jima.

He had just finished the film "The Last Bomb", when Japan surrendered. He then went to Japan as a part of the US Strategic Bombing Survey.

Dan retired from the Air Force as Lt/Col.

PROFILE

T/Sgt Harris B. Albright was a member of the John E. Ross crew in the 576th. They arrived at Wendling in September 1944.

In civilian life, Harris was at Howard Hughes Corporation for 27 years as property manager. He retired in 1982.

He and spouse Dorothy live at 2507 North Trevino Place, Mesa, AZ 85215. They have three children and nine grand-children.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

15th AF flew its first mission of WWII-1943.

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20TH CENTURY CRUSADERS

392nd Bombardment Group (H) Jan. 1943 - Sept. 1945

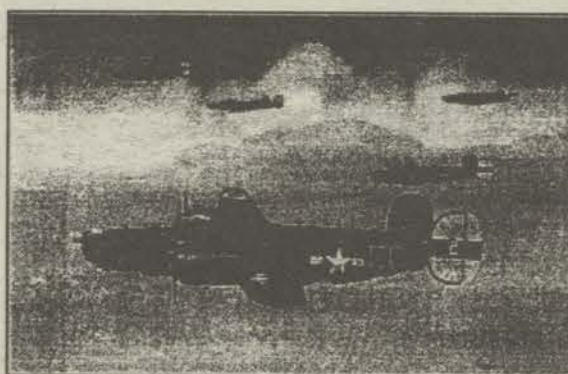
True Tales of the Air War over Europe Told by Those Who Lived Them

Over 100 authors, including Ian Hawkins and Ernie Barber, have contributed to this new anthology, edited by Bill and Marge Braddock of Blaine, MN. 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.

Many rare photographs also will be featured, as well as many maps and charts of the 392nd's areas of operation. This 9x12-inch hardbound edition is slated to feature a full-color cover of the exciting print, "Liberators from Wendling" and will contain approximately 208 pages and will be a large, 9-by-12-inch coffee-table size edition featuring over 100 black-and-white photos. This book will be printed on 70 lb., acid-free, enameled paper with Smyth-sewn binding for durability. To keep this collector's item in perfect shape, it will be printed on high-quality, glossy acid-free paper for superior photo reproduction and longevity, and will have a smyth-sewn library-quality binding for durability.

Turner Publishing Company, Paducah, KY, is the world's largest publisher of veterans' association history books with more than 350 titles including Army, Air Force, Marine, Navy and Coast Guard unit associations. Turner prides itself on creating the finest books in the industry, honoring the veterans who have served our country so well.

20TH CENTURY CRUSADERS 392ND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)



*True Tales of the Air War over Europe
Told by Those Who Lived Them*

Above is the proposed cover for the 20th Century Crusaders, 392nd Bombardment Group (H) Anthology. Release date is set for November 1997.

**RESERVE YOUR COPIES OF THE
392ND BOMB GROUP ANTHOLOGY
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BOOK STYLE	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
Hardbound edition		\$52.50	
Deluxe Leather edition		\$84.00	
(KY residents add 6% sales tax)			
Embossing (\$5 per book)		\$5.00	
Front Line catalog		\$2.00	
Shipping and Handling: \$5 for first book, \$3.50 for each additional book			
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Ship to _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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Name to be embossed (24 spaces maximum) _____

PUBLISHER PROMISES DELIVERY BY XMAS

The 392nd's Anthology, contributed by some 100 authors, compiled by Ian Hawkins and edited by Bill and Marge Braddock, is now in its final stages of production. Final proofs are being edited now. Unless some natural disaster such as an Ohio River flood intervenes, the book will be ready for shipment before Christmas.

The publisher will decide soon how many will be produced. It behooves any Crusader who wants a book to get his name in the pot now. Send in the order blank to be found on this page, at once.

As well as the 100 some-articles, the book will contain Ernie Barber's large collection of photos and Ian Hawkins' extensive group of maps and charts.

392nd REPRESENTED AT DUXFORD OPENING



Dye photo

The American Air Museum at Duxford, England, opened August 1 with a large audience of both Brits and Americans. HM the Queen presided over the ceremonies.

The 392nd was there. Among the official 8AF Historial Society delegation were Bob Vickers, Mr. and Mrs. Charley Dye, and Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Peterson. Representing the American Red Cross was Birdie Schmidt Larrick. (Vickers, Dye, Peterson, and Birdie are shown in the photo above).

Word has also filtered in to the NEWS that at least three other Crusaders were also present: J. Fred Thomas, Walt Cranson, and Bill Petrie.

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

NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

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THE 392nd MEMORIAL AT WENDLING

Almighty God, Who has blessed us with the will and courage to do our duty, we praise You for our comrades whose death kept freedom living. We praise You also for giving us the years we have lived since their departure. We pray that You will strengthen and sustain our devotion to truth and justice, so that we may be faithful beneficiaries of their sacrifice. Continue Your mercy to our comrades; keep them in Your care; and bring us all at last into Your presence there to rejoice eternally. Amen.

-Prayer composed by 576th pilot the Very Reverend Robert C. Martin, retired Dean of the Cathedral at Erie, Pa.

FOLDED WINGS REPORT (PLEASE REPORT ANY DEATH OF SPOUSE AS WELL AS OF MEMBER)

Name of deceased _____ Sqdn. _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of death _____ Survivors: (Send copy of obit from newspaper if possible) _____

Reported by _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

[] Record a memorial contribution to 392nd BGMA in my name, check made out to 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Ass'n., enclosed. Send this report to Jim Goar, 5 N. Columbia St., Frankfort, IN 46041.

Chaplain's Corner

By George Barger, Chaplain
This past May my wife and I were in Washington, DC, and visited the Viet Nam and Korean War memorials. Her brother was Air Force MIA in the latter conflict. To say the least, both memorials were impressive and very moving. We need such outward and visible reminders to human struggle and courage. We are all aware that several such reminders of the past are constructed or under way.

But, we also know that, like Ozymandias in Shelley's poem, these structures are subject to decay, and, shocking to remember, one day they will have vanished. What of the struggle and courage; are they also covered by the sands of time? Here our faith gives us a confident response: though this earthly taberna-

cle be destroyed we have a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

....

PROFILE

1/Lt (later Lt/Col) Charles P. Thomas was the navigator on the Jack Daley crew in the 577/579. He joined the Group at Wendling in July 1944.

He was at the University of California at Berkeley from October 1945 to August 1947, when he was recalled. He won his pilot's wings and then pursued a career in the AF that included duty as test pilot and Minuteman crew commander. He flew C-130's in Vietnam, and retired in 1973.

Post-military service found him in the insurance business.

A widower, he lives at 61 Condor Circle, Carson City, NV 89701. He has four children, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

392nd Bomb Group Memorial Ass'n NEWS
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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

AIR ANNIVERSARY

88 B-29's made first heavy bomb strike on Tokyo-1944.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Capt J. W. Kittinger parachuted from an altitude of 76,400 feet-1959.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

35 B-17's were based in the Philippines- 1941.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

First USAAF bombing attack made on Japanese held Thailand-1942.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Signal Corps allotted \$25,000 for procure an airplane-1907.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

First jet plane aerial combat in history took place in Korea-1950.

Folded Wings

Elmer H. Goff, May 8, 1996

George Kent, Oct. 19, 1968

Louis B. Ostraski, 578, May 4, 1977

George Buglewicz, 576, Jul 26, 1997

Charles H. Jacobson, 578, 8/25/96

John R. Spencer, 1217 QM, 8/7/97