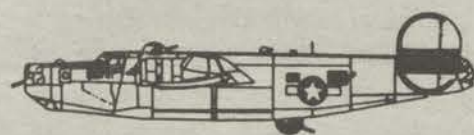


NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 13

NOVEMBER 1998

PLAN NOW FOR OUR WINTER MEETINGS

FLORIDA MEETS JAN. 23; CALIF MEETS FEB. 27

FLORIDA

The Florida Regional chapter of the 2AD will meet at the Clarion Plaza Hotel in Orlando on Saturday, Jan. 23.

The group hotel rate is \$77 plus tax. Make your own reservations, identifying yourself as 2AD. The rate is good from Jan 20 to Jan 25; cutoff is Jan. 2. The hotel's phone number is 1 800 627 8258.

The five-day rate window before and after the event allows the snowbirds among us to have an interlude

in sunny Florida at a pretty reasonable price.

Registration cost is \$47 per person, which includes continental breakfast, snack lunch, and prime rib dinner with wine at the banquet. For those coming for the banquet only, the cost is \$36. Mail your registration form (found elsewhere in this issue) with check to Teddy Egan.

There will be a cash bar from 6-7 PM and the banquet is at 7 PM at Salons 3 and 4.

Questions? Lawrence Gilbert, 407 647 2623, chairman; Clifford Peterson, 407 646 7741, co-chairman; Teddy Egan, 407 644 6439, treasurer.

CALIFORNIA

The Southern California chapter of the 2AD will meet at the Officers Club of the El Toro Marine Air Station on the last Saturday in February, the 27th.

Gathering is at 5:30 PM and dinner will be at 6:30.

For further information contact Dick Baynes, 466th, at 949 552 3889.

HERE IS THE 1999 REUNION SCHEDULE

The 2AD Association will meet Memorial Day weekend at Austin, TX.

The 8AF Historical Society will meet Oct. 26-31 at the Marriott Riverfront Hotel in Savannah, GA.

THE B-24 NOW REPRESENTED AT THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY

JOINS THE B-17, P-38, P-40, P-47 AND P-51 IN AN IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY OF WWII AAF AIRCRAFT



Charles Dye photo

The bronze replica of a B-24 was dedicated on Sept. 25, 1998 in ceremonies at the Colorado Springs home of the USAF Academy. This striking photo, taken during the day's activities, shows the Liberator with the AF Academy chapel in the background.

Those reported to the NEWS as present from the 392nd were: Ray Kopecky and Norma Jean; J. Fred Thomas and Elva; Howard Ebersole and Jeanne; Charles Dye and Helen; Keith Lauder and Mary Ellen; Ruby Bassett and family; Blanche Keilman and sons Gary and Guy and granddaughter Ann; and Willis Miller and Dorothy.



Polking photo

The 392nd always has a strong presence at each of the national conventions of our parent bodies. We schedule our annual corporate meeting in conjunction with them, alternating between them.

More importantly, we always have our own hospitality room, well stocked with snacks and libations. It is the gathering place, not only of Crusaders, but also of many other friends of the 392nd from other Groups. There is always a collection of our memorabilia, which is eagerly pored over by visitors.

The hospitality room is usually presided over by the team of Teddy Egan and Ernie Barber, shown above at the recent 2AD convention at Chicago.

If you haven't been attending the national conventions because "you never see anyone you know", that need not necessarily be true. There is always a strong representation of Crusaders at the conventions, and if you don't know them, you soon will.

GOOD 392 TURNOUT AT 8AF CHERRY HILL

The 8AF Historical Society held their annual meeting Oct. 14-18 at Cherry Hill, NJ, near Philadelphia. Forty Crusaders were in attendance.

At the 392nd Directors' meeting and later at the Group meeting, it was decided to send \$500 to the B-24 restoration project at Duxford; and also to send \$500 to the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum at Savannah.

The Historical Society meeting was, as usual, rife with controversy. However, the proceedings were fairly civil and while the usual electioneering went on, the air of bitterness and strife that has dampened the meetings in previous years was not present.

The controversy centered around the Memorial Museum Foundation. It is a separate entity with its own organization and its own Board of Directors, and its mission is to carry the 8AF story to all museums throughout the world. Its funding in the past has been an automatic \$1 checkoff of the annual 8AF membership dues, and it was that funding that was under consideration. The Society was unable to come to a decision, and it was decided that the matter would be put to a membership ballot at the next annual meeting. Consult your 8AF NEWS for further details.

The 392nd is strongly represented on the Board of Directors of the MMF: Charley Dye, Cliff Peterson, and Bob Vickers. All are also past presidents of the 8AFHS.

The Historical Society also elected three new Directors: Stanley Peterson, Greg Harris, and Abraham Galfunt. Not surprisingly, given the site of the meeting, all are from the northeastern US.

Crusaders and their guests who were present were: Laurin Austin, Gil Bambauer, Ernie Barber, John Buschman, Max DeSonne and Muriel; Charley Dye and Helen; Teddy Egan, Lawrence Gilbert and Marjie; Jim Goar and Virginia; David Greene and Renee; Greg Hatton, Sally Kauffman, John Malloy and Peg; Jim Marsteller and Karen; Priscilla Matt; Joe McNiel; Bernard Paroly, Ted Pawlyshyn and June; Cliff Peterson and Mary; Ruth Powers, widow of Bob Powers; John Rickey; Keith Roberts; Cecil Rothrock and Mary; Birdie Larrick; Larry Stebleton, Fred Thomas and

Elva; Bill McGuire and Bernadette; Bob Vickers, and Stan Zybort and Millie.

Also present and warmly welcomed were Mr. and Mrs. Leonard G. Alsford, of London. Mr. Alsford is a photographer, specializing in theatrical subjects. He gave the Group an interesting insight into the London Blitz, which he endured as a teenager.

The Group dinner, which was held Friday evening, ended not only with the Crusaders' ritual singing of "God Bless America" but also with a rendition of the Loretta Lynn favorite, "We'll Meet Again, Don't Know Where, Don't Know When." It was informally decided that this would also become part of our ritual.

And in a post-reunion note to the NEWS from Col Gilbert, he remarked, "I thought we had fun at the 8th and that should be the name of the game at these reunions!"

WENDLING VISITOR NOW IDENTIFIED

In an earlier edition of the NEWS, Denis Duffield listed Crusader visitors to the Memorial during 1997. One was "Bernard Paroly's grandson", and we now learn from Bernie that his grandson's name is Scott Kozak.

578th COMMANDER



Shown above is Col Warren A. Polking, the first commander of the 578th, with (l) then M/Sgt Ernest H. Barber, crew chief; and (r) then 1/Lt James V. Goar, squadron supply officer, assistant adjutant and assistant everything else that happened to be required by the military.

The picture was taken in the hospitality room at the May meeting held at Chicago.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

57 B-24s and 62 B-25s made heaviest raid of WWII on New Guinea—Nov. 13, 1943.

LT/COL HOWARD EBERSOLE: PILOT OF BOMBERS, FIGHTERS, GLIDERS, AND A MYRIAD OF AIRCRAFT IN BETWEEN

By Jim Goar

Howard Ebersole began his military career as a private in the Signal Corps in 1942, and ended it as Lt/Col, AF, in 1969. In that span, he fought in two wars, was awarded countless decorations and commendations, and in his twilight years has been twice honored by his native state of Michigan.

He has been enshrined in the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame, and this September he was recognized by the Michigan Air National Guard when they placed his name on the F-86 which is on static display at their museum at their home field, Selfridge ANG Base.



Shown above is Howard "Ebe" Ebersole, with wife Jeanne, in front of the F-86 that was emblazoned with his name.

He arrived at Wendling in January 1945, flying as first pilot beginning with the 578th and then in the 579th. He got in 16 missions before the war in Europe ended.

After WWII, he attended the University of Michigan, graduating with a BS in electrical engineering. While at the U of M., he was in the AF Reserve, later transferring to the Michigan Air Guard, and was called to active duty coinciding with his graduation from the university. It was in the Michigan ANG that he was transformed from bomber to fighter pilot.

After some duty at Luke AF Base, he went to Korea, where he flew 100 missions, 70 of them in the F-86 Sabrejet. He was awarded the Silver Star for providing aerial cover during the rescue of a downed wingman.

Post-Korea and until retirement, Ebe served the Air Force in many capacities, not the least of which was pioneering work on the "smart bomb", which amazed American television audiences during Desert Storm. Also during this period he earned a Master's Degree in electrical engineering.

His second career was as an engineer with Hughes Aircraft, Rockwell, and Ford. Along the way he served as a professor at Mississippi State University.

Also along the way he checked out on gliders, thus completing the full circle from 4-engine bomber to powerless flight.

One of his duty stations was Holloman AF Base at Alamogordo, a location and term that is familiar to all Crusaders. Loving the desert climate and its benign flying conditions, Ebe and Jeanne recently moved to Alamogordo and have made it their permanent home. They often fly in their glider, the Lorelei.

Editor's note: Selfridge Air Field, near Detroit, has been a military air base since WWI. Although it is now the home base for the Michigan Air National Guard, the venerable old base also hosts units from the Navy, Army, and Marines. I was there for Ebe's ceremony, and as I looked around the audience something made a very strong impression on me. Among the uniformed military personnel present were four officers, three with the rank of colonel or its equivalent and one brigadier general, each representing one of the four Services. This was on a Sunday afternoon, and these officers were present not because their official duties called them there, but because they wanted to pay their respects to a gallant warrior who represents the best traditions of their profession. And best of all for the 392nd, he's one of ours.

AAF AIRMEN NOT FORGOTTEN BY EUROPEAN ALLIES

Sometimes we feel that fellow Americans have forgotten the sacrifices we made during WWII. Not so with our European allies, whose memories may be sharper because they were often only a bayonet point away from the war.

The NEWS has reported many instances of memorials to fallen Americans, in England, Holland, and France. And now yet another one is reported by Doug Willies, tireless Friend of the 392nd who lives in Sheringham, on the East coast of Norfolk.

Willies reports that French villagers near Schoeneck have erected a monument to a 446th crew that crashed near there on Aug. 26, 1944.



*Willies photo
Memorial to a 446th crew at Schoeneck,
France*

Doug Willies has researched the crash of the 392nd's Colby Waugh crew near Sheringham on Jan. 4, 1944. He led a drive to erect a monument in the local church yard, and saw to it that relatives of the Waugh crew were invited to the dedication of the monument, hosting many of them himself. Then he wrote a book about the entire affair.

The 392nd has a connection with the monument in Schoeneck. The a/c that crashed was flown to England by the Waugh crew, but was taken from them and assigned to the 446th. The crew had named it "Ginger", after Colby Waugh's daughter.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Signal Corps alloted \$25,000 to procure an airplane- Nov. 7, 1907.

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

SOLDIERS OF THE 40'S, ON PASS, LOOKING GOOD



When the NEWS reports Crusader happenings during WWII, we tend to turn all our attention to the

period 1943-45, when we were in England, engaging the Germans.

But before departing for overseas, all of us went through training, sometimes at an air field in a remote part of the US.

Above is a picture sent in by S/Sgt Henry Greene, nose gunner on the Ebersole crew in the 578th. Henry is second from the left.

The picture was taken at Eagle Pass, Texas, a town on the Mexican border west and a little south of San Antonio. There was a training base at Eagle Pass.

Henry says that they had just enough money between them to have bought the cigars in Mexico, and they had slept the night before in a cotton field. "When you are 19 years of age, everything is rosy", Henry remarked.

HERE'S THE POOP ON THE FLORIDA 2AD REUNION

As you've probably heard, Disney World and Universal Studios are expanding at an unbelievable rate and new attractions are opening regularly. The challenging factor you will face will be the time you have available and the thickness of your wallet. Pointe Orlando, a huge new shopping, entertainment, and restaurant complex has recently opened immediately across the street from the Clarion.

The directions to the Clarion by auto, from any direction: use I-4 and turn east at exit 29 onto Sand Lake Road. Drive a short distance to International Drive and turn right (south). Go to 9700 International Drive where you will see the Clarion Plaza on your right.

REGISTRATION FORM

FLORIDA REGIONAL 2nd AIR DIVISION ASSOC. REUNION 1999

NAME _____ GROUP _____

NAME FOR NAME TAG IF DIFFERENT _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

IS SPOUSE ATTENDING? _____ NAME _____

GUESTS ATTENDING? _____ NAME _____

ARE YOU STAYING AT THE Clarion? _____ DATE AND TIME OF ARRIVAL _____

WHERE YOU CAN BE LOCATED IN CASE OF EMERGENCY _____

REGISTRATION FEE FOR ALL MEALS \$47.00 x all attending _____

REGISTRATION FEE FOR BANQUET ONLY \$36.00 x all attending _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO TEDDY EGAN, TR. 2nd ADA FLA. REUNION AND MAIL NO LATER than December 15, 1998 TO:

TEDDY EGAN
2619 LAFAYETTE AVE.
WINTER PARK, FL. 32789-1372

TO REQUEST A SPECIAL MEAL PLEASE MAKE A NOTE.

PROFILE

Sgt Wilbur S. Stanford was a control tower clerk, assigned to the 10th Station Complement Sqdn. He joined the 10SC in June 1943 at Shipdham, and was transferred to Wendling soon after that.

After the war, he took degrees in education and educational administration, but found after one semester that teaching was not for him. So he carved out a career with the VA as a vocational rehabilitation therapist, retiring in 1980 from the VA hospital in Houston, TX.

He and wife Ruth live at 104 Millwood, Horseshoe Bay, TX 78657. They have two sons and three grandchildren.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

9th AF established in Middle East- Nov. 12, 1942.

STRIKE PHOTOS FROM 1944 MISSIONS

Again, the NEWS had dipped into the impressive stack of photos furnished us by T/Sgt Paul Wright, the Group's Photo Interpreter. And, we have unabashedly copied the mission narratives from Col Bob Vickers' book, "The Liberators From Wendling." Our thanks to both these Crusaders.



KOTHEN, #155 AUG. 16, 1944

An industrial factory in this suburb near Koblenz was the assigned target. At 0300-0430 36 crews were briefed and all were off the ground commencing at 0650 hours. The primary was visual and the Group accomplished an excellent job of bombing, releasing 416 500# bombs of various types with 93% impacting with a 2000 foot radius of the MPI. No enemy fighters were engaged but flak was intense and accurate. All ships returned around 1415 hours with 17 damaged.



HANOVER, #157 AUG. 24, 1944

The Langenhagen airfield at Hanover was assigned as the Group's target on this date. At 0315-0430 hours 36 crews were briefed and the Group aircraft began take-off at 0658 hours. A force of 31 went over the target, releasing 400 500# bombs on the primary with good results. An estimated 70% of all bombs impacted with 2000 feet of the MPI. No fighters were encountered but flak was severe on the bomb run. Several crew personnel were wounded. Three men on the 578th's Lt W. A. Sturm's crew, himself and his co-pilot, Lt B. J. Jurczyn were struck in the eyes with flying glass and the navigator, Lt J. L. Rawlings, was wounded in the eyes with flak shrapnel. From the 579th, Sgt Dunn, a gunner on Lt F. Koza's crew was hit in the leg with flak.

A total of 26 bombers received damage. Mission aircraft returned around 1400 hours.

#228: JAN 14, 1945, HEMMINGSTADT



TARGET IS OIL REFINERY SOUTH OF DENMARK

For the first time in some missions, a non-tactical target was once again assigned for strike, this one bringing the 8th's strategic targeting emphasis back to Germany's oil production.

The target was a large oil refinery complex near the town of Heide located south of Denmark on the Jutland Peninsula. The weather conditions both over England and the target area broke clear and favorable for visual bombing on this key target.

General briefings were conducted for 29 aircrews between 0445 and 0600 hours. At 0830 hours, all Group bombers commenced take-off with assembly weather over England being most suitable for join-up.

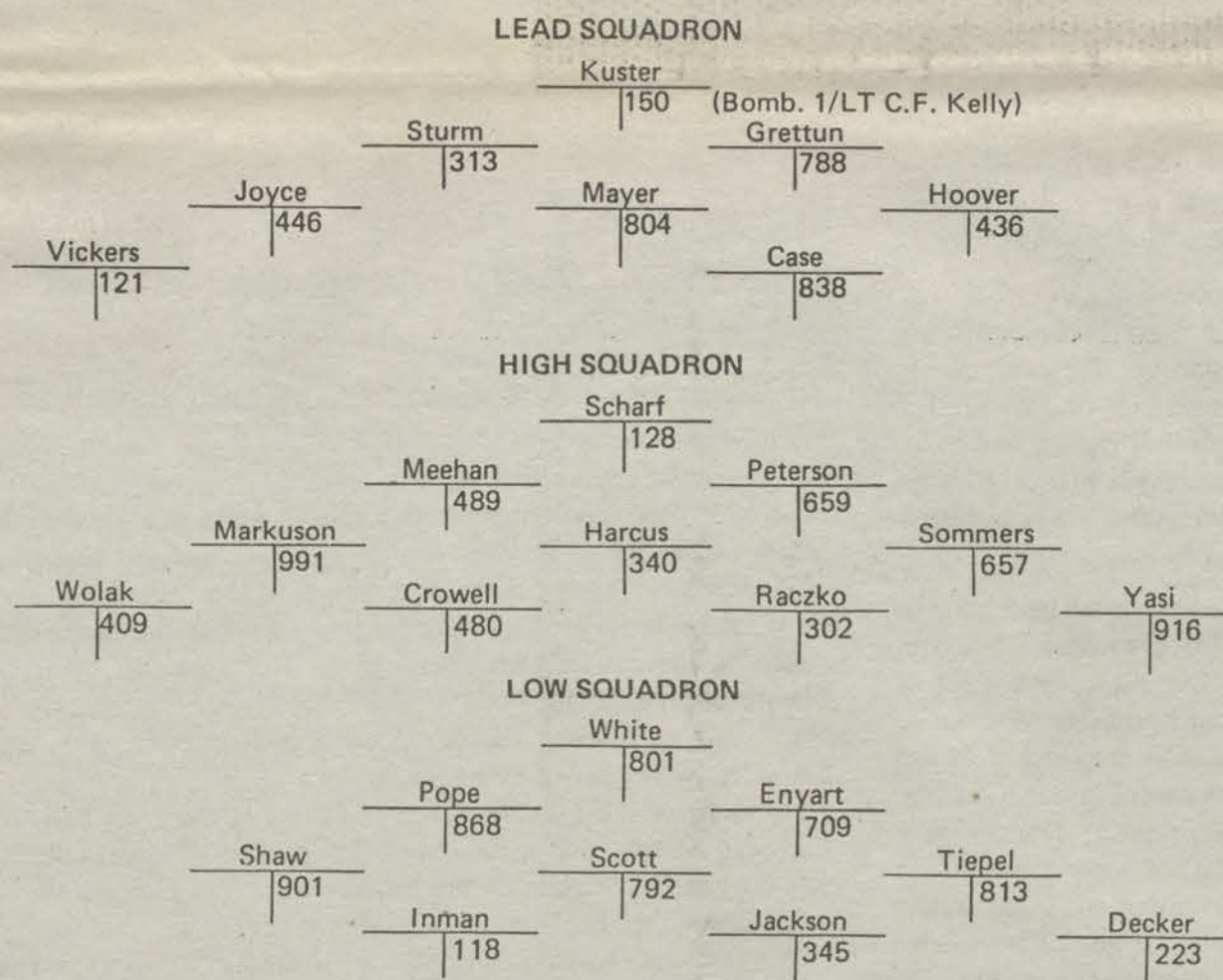
A total of 27 Liberators went over the target releasing 502 300# weapons with excellent results. The excellent visual bombing weather enabled the Group to impact 92 % of all bombs within 2000 feet of the aiming point, and 71% of these within 1000 feet.

Two aircrews, Lieutenants Joyce's and Vickers' from the 578th had premature releases on the bomb run due to Radio Bomb Release malfunctions.

The bombing success of on this raid was congratulated by Generals Doolittle, Kepner, and Johnson.

No enemy aircraft were encountered and AA fire near the Frisian Islands and off Heligoland was meager and inaccurate. The fighter support was rated good on this mission.

All bombers returned safely, landing around 1445 hours.



Lead Squadron Bombardier: 1/Lt C. F. Kelly
 Lead Squadron Mickey Operator: 1/Lt J. E. Morris
 Lead Squadron DR Navigator: 1/Lt K. S. Bevan
 High Squadron Lead Bombardier: 2/Lt R. L. Sparks
 High Squadron Mickey Operator: 1/Lt R. H. Edmundson
 High Squadron DR Navigator: 1/Lt J. B. McFerran
 Low Squadron Lead Bombardier: 1/Lt E. R. Morton
 Low Squadron Mickey Operator: 2/Lt W. T. Barry
 Low Squadron DR Navigator: 1/Lt M. L. Weissberger

392nd's CHAPLAINS, INVITED TO PHOTO LAB PARTY, STEP RIGHT UP TO THE CHOW LINE



Paul Wright photo

The above is one of the best photos of our two chaplains that we have seen. On the left is Capt Don Clark, Protestant; and Father McDonough, Catholic. Capt. Clark died about 1966, and we have no knowledge about Father McDonough, except that we understand that he also is deceased.

The two were guests at one of the occasional photo lab parties. Seen in the center, feeding his face, is Sgt Manly J. Fox; and in the background is T/Sgt Paul Wright, being fastidious with his napkin.

EXTRA MAN ON BOMBER CREW WAS "LISTENER"

Many times on a mission there was an extra man on the loading list, over and above the standard 9- or 10-man crew.

He could understand the German language, and his job was to monitor German radio, seeking information on enemy air defenses.

One such crewman was T/Sgt Norman W. Steffen, and here is his story: (See also Steffen's Profile, this issue)

"I went to England in October 1943 with the 445th as a cryptographer in the communications section. I became aware of the need for persons with knowledge of the German language, and was sent to Maidstone, Kent for six weeks of training. (My knowledge of German came from mandatory German education in a Lutheran elementary school in Milwaukee, my home town. Milwaukee has a very Germanic culture.)

"I was assigned to the 578th when I arrived at Wendling about July, 1944. My first mission was August 4, 1944 and my 30th was March 23, 1945. We would fly with whatever crew we were assigned to by Operations, so I flew with a number of crews.

"Our job was to record conversations as an aid to identify locations of enemy fighter groups and the tactics being used by the Germans. This was particularly true in 1945 when the RAF was bombing German bases at night and they were moving their fighter groups around.

The busiest time for recording was around the target area when the fighters were up. We each developed our own kind of shorthand. I recall one of their pilots who I picked up several times who called himself "schildkreutter", which means "turtle" in English.

"I survived two crash landings, one on Oct. 15, 1944 on a mission to Cologne. Our plane took a lot of flak and our hydraulics were out so we landed at an emergency field and the nose wheel collapsed on landing. The other was in France, near Nancy, and we spent a week with the ground troops and some time in Paris before we got back to England. The pilot might have been Lt. Vickers on that mission. I also recall flying with the Rose crew, and flying in R-Bar, "J.C.'s Pool Hall".

"Other "listeners" in the 578th were Frank Bleichard, Otto "Jim" Krohn, Maurice Belskey, and Asher Bibbins. In the 579th were Max Korn, and Herb Asseln."

PROFILE

S/Sgt (later Lt) William Ross was a gunner on the Tokarsky crew in the 578th. He arrived at Wendling Oct. 23, 1944.

After the war, he took A. B. and J. D. degrees at the University of Michigan. He was in the ROTC there and was commissioned Lt in 1948.

He practiced law from 1951 to 1986 at Detroit and Mt. Clemens, MI. He retired in 1986 and moved to Savannah, GA.

His spouse is Bobbie, and they have three sons, a daughter, and six grandchildren. They live at 3 Fox Meadow Circle, Savannah, GA 31411.

LIFE'S LITTLE VIGNETTES

By Jim Goar

You Never Know Who's Watching, (and Counting):

Back when I lived in a less uppity neighborhood in less uppity times, it was ok to hang your weekly laundry on a line in the back yard to dry.

My neighbor remarked to my secretary, "He must be a clean man about his person because there are always seven sets of underwear on the line"

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Capt Edward V. Rickenbacker awarded Medal of Honor of WWI action- Nov.6, 1930.

BEN JONES PRESENT AT 8AF CHERRY HILL; ADOPTED SON OF 392ND NOW AN AF AIRMAN



Ben Jones, looking good in his AF blues, at the hospitality room at the 8 AF reunion at Cherry Hill, NJ, Oct. 14-18.

The 392nd first met Ben Jones in England, when as a kid on a bicycle he showed up at one of our early returns. He was raised in Litcham and he and his family have hosted many a visiting Crusader. His father Mervyn was instrumental in the production of the print of P-Bar, the Flying Crusader.

Ben has been a stalwart Friend of the 392nd, and has teamed with Jim Marsteller in research.

In 1995 he married Barbara Aguglia in Rochester, NY., and several Crusaders were present at the ceremony.

He joined the USAF in March of this year, and took basic training at Lackland AF Base ("It amazes me that people actually live in that heat"). He was named Dorm chief in the absence of a Tac Officer, and his flight graduated Honor Flight and he was Honor Graduate.

He is now stationed at Dover AF Base in the Air Mobility Command. He is an air transport specialist, and participates in the loading and unloading of the AF's giant cargo carriers. His rank is now E2, Airman. (That's PFC to us brown shoe Air Force veterans.)

Barbara is a special education teacher, teaching at Rock Hall, MD, just across Chesapeake Bay from Baltimore, an hour's drive from their quarters on the base. She states that the pace is a little slower in Maryland than in New York, and she enjoys her work.

Ben reports that Mervyn, now a widower, is still living at Litcham and is hale and hearty.

CHANCE MEETING ON CRUISE SHIP IN MID-ATLANTIC

You never know when you'll run across another Crusader in this life of ours.

Gil and Martha Bambauer were on a cruise ship in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean last September when they met Bill and Alice Brown.



The Bambauers (r.) and the Browns (l.) aboard the cruise ship VISION OF THE SEAS.

Bill Brown arrived in the ETO in early 1944 with the Bill Rutherford crew. They flew 9 missions with the 392nd, and then were transferred to the 453rd

PHYLLIS DUBOIS ACTIVE, WILLING TO HELP CRUSADERS

Phyllis DuBois, retired Librarian of the 2AD Memorial Library at Norwich, writes:

"If anyone want to know whether there is information in the Archives on a specific event or individual I would be glad to check for them.

"I am doing research for historians in Holland and England (mostly on crashes and accidents) and I will be very willing to help Crusaders who are seeking information.

"I am also recording information on 2AD men for the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum in Savannah. I work closely with Mary Beth Barnard, Directory of History and Archives at the Museum. Their goal is to have an entry in their files for every person who served with the 8th Air Force. This is an enormous task which will take many years, but I decided that I would like to do my best to see that all are listed. Since

about 70,000 served with the 2AD in 1942-45 this project should keep me busy for a while.

"Let me know if you or your relatives plan to come to Norwich. I should be happy to drive you around the countryside."

Phyllis DuBois

22 Hungate Street NR11 6AA

Norwich, England

e-mail: dubois@netmatters.co.uk

NEW INFORMATION ABOUT 392ND'S EARLY CASUALTIES

In the August 1998 edition of the News, Cpl. Joe Lewin, 579th AM, reported the loss of T/Sgts Walter F. Murphy and Hyman Swartz on Aug. 30, 1943, before our first mission was flown.

Now the News learns that Murphy and Swartz were not the only casualties. Lost also in the crash were 2/Lt Eugene V. Maloney, 578, and 2/Lt William M. McKnight, squadron unknown.

Also killed in the crash were five other men from the 93rd Bomb Group.

The Casualty Report says: "the a/c took off from Burtonwood Air Depot on a return personnel ferry flight to Wendling, shortly after it had been brought back from a brief test flight. During the test it had reacted nor-

mally; the weather on take-off was good. About one mile from the field the pilot began a right turn as if he would land again. The turn was noticed because a left hand pattern was the normal procedure at that time. The B-24 began losing altitude until it struck Pottery Cob at Northfield Farm, Clock Face, Bold with the right wing tip, killing all occupants."

The a/c's serial number was 42-7468, and according to our authoritative Wedgeworth a/c list, it had not yet been assigned to a squadron.

Thanks for this research is due Mr. J. A. Hey, a Dutch researcher living in Holland. He is a friend

of Phyllis DuBois, former 2AD Memorial Librarian, and both are ardent students of 8AF history.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

First jet place aerial combat in history took place in Korea- Nov. 8, 1950.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

15th AF flew its first mission of WWII- Nov. 2, 1943.

Here's a little piece of wisdom I came across the other day: If you find that you have dug yourself into a hole, quit digging.

Jim Goar

OPERATE HERE

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Age 61-65 \$120

Age 66-70 \$96

Age 71 and over \$78

HARDSHIP WAIVER []

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

OPERATE HERE

PX ITEMS

Anthology, "20th Century Crusaders", \$47.50 postpaid.....\$ _____
Book, "Remembrance of The Missing", by Vickers, \$35 postpaid.....\$ _____
Book, "392nd War Stories", by Keilman, \$21.50 postpaid.....\$ _____
Book, "The Liberators From Wendling", by Vickers, \$28.00 postpaid\$ _____
Book, "Crew Dog", by Maj John Matt, 579th, \$28.95 postpaid.....\$ _____
Book, "Country Boy Combat Bomber Pilot", By Tays, \$13.50 postpaid\$ _____
Book, "My Combat Diary", by Cranson, \$13.50 postpaid.....\$ _____
Cap, black, 392nd Bomb Group w/gold braid, summer, \$10.50 pp.....\$ _____
Cap, black, 392nd Bomb Group w/gold braid, winter, \$10.50 pp.....\$ _____
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", reduced to \$16.50 postpaid.....\$ _____
Video, 392nd's memorabilia photos, \$17.50 postpaid.....\$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____

Send with check to Cecil Rothrock, Treas., 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, Pt 1: Bremen, Keil, Gotha, Freidrichshafen Both parts \$27.50 pp

Video, Symposium above, "The Tough Missions, Pt 2: Politz, Berlin, Bernberg, Bingen, Wesel Both parts \$27.50 pp

Video, from Albuquerque Reunion Symposium, general scenes from the reunion, 2 parts, \$27.50 pp

(ORDER VIDEOS DIRECT FROM DAN A. MCGOVERN PRODUCTIONS, 5307 CANTANTE, LAGUNA HILLS CA 92653)

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.

PROFILE

T/Sgt Norman W. Steffen was a communications "listener" who flew with the combat crews, monitoring German radio transmissions. (See "Listeners", related story, this issue.)

He came to England with the 445th, but was assigned to the 578th squadron of the 392nd after he had finished his training as a "listener". He arrived at Wendling in July 1944, and finished his 30-mission tour March 23, 1945.

After the war he attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He was an employee of the City of Milwaukee, retiring as Deputy Tax Commissioner in 1986.

He is a 53-year member of Post 23 of the American Legion, and is pres-

ently Post Commander.

He is married to Jacilyn, and they live at W159N11449 Red Oak Circle, Germantown, WI 53022. He has a daughter, and Jacilyn has 5 children.

Chaplain's Corner

By George Barger

God brings us into life one by one, and one by one He calls His own to Himself. Each month brings some reminder that another comrade has died. We remember them as young and animated; but the years bring another reminder. It would be a sober, even dismal message, but we have further word that is ours as well: there is more to life than meets the eye, and that "more" gives us good hope. "Wherefore, comfort one another with these words...."

AIR ANNIVERSARY

88 B-29S made first heavy bomb strike on Tokyo- Nov. 24, 1944.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Capt J. W. Kittinger parachuted from an altitude of 76,400 feet- Nov. 16, 1959.

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