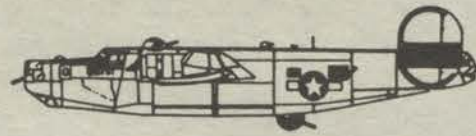


NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 15

NOVEMBER 2000

PRESENT DAY 8AF HONORS 8TH OF WWII

8AFHS MEMORIAL MUSEUM FOUNDATION
PRESENTS EXHIBITS TO HILL AFB MUSEUM



Charles Dye, 392BGMA Treasurer and Secretary of the 8AFHS MMF, is shown presenting the "Legends of the Liberator" book to Nathan Masur of the Museum. In the background is the MMF's fold-out display of the 8th's contribution to the European victory in WWII, which was also presented to the museum.

THOMAS VISITS PACIFIC THEATER

J. Fred Thomas, 579th pilot and past president of 2ADA, has just returned from a month-long cruise in the Pacific, where his ship visited many WWII battle sites.

Aboard were several WWII types from all the Services, along with a historian who gave lectures on the battles in the Pacific.

Fred said: "I listened for the most part, but I did compare notes with one B24 pilot who served in the Pacific. He said their training before going to the theater wasn't any better than our RTU training before

going to England.

"However, after attending the meetings and hearing about the battles between the Navy and the Japanese, as well as the many island invasions out there, I was impressed with the fact that the whole war was not in Europe.

"Also, I felt lucky that I went to England rather than the Pacific. At least we didn't have the expanses of water over which to fly from a small island which could well be covered by big rainstorms on return. I'm sure we had better living quarters, although cold, and better mess service".

BLUE-SUITERS RECOUNT HOW THEY
REGARD THE MIGHTY 8TH OF 1942-1945
AT SALT LAKE CITY 8AFHS REUNION

B/Gen Bobby Efferson in his remarks before the assembled 8AF veterans described the legacy inherited by the 8th Air Force of today. B/Gen Efferson is the mobilization assistant to the Commanding General of the 8AF, and he spoke at the 8AFHS's annual reunion at Salt Lake City held there Oct 19-21.

His sentiments were echoed by the recipients of the Gen Eaker Outstanding Airmanship and Pursuit of Excellence awards, who were guests of the 392nd at their Group dinner.

The Outstanding Airmanship award was won by a B-1 crew. Capt Gerald V Goodfellow was one of the crew, and in an off-the-cuff debriefing of a Kosovo mission, awed the Crusaders with the dimensions of the bomb load, length and speed of the mission, target definition, and avoidance of enemy defenses. His description of a bomb-bay door stuck in the open position recalled like circumstances in WWII action. The Crusaders concluded that the mission paralleled a WWII strategic bombing mission, magnified exponentially.

The Pursuit of Excellence award went to M/Sgt William H. Mills, 509th Bomb Wing, based at Whiteman AFB near Sedalia, Mo.



Art of USAF officer and Ebersole.

Shown at the 392nd's hospitality room are B/Gen Bobby Efferson, an A-10 pilot in the Gulf war, and Ebe Ebersole, 578/9 pilot. Although a four-engine pilot in WWII, Ebe flew P-51's and F-86's in Korea.

PERSONALS

Old-time small town newspapers carried a feature called "Personals" in which the every day goings-on of its readers were recorded. The NEWS is trying this out, and if you have anything to contribute for subsequent editions please let us know.

A lot of Crusaders are aware that Virginia George has been stricken with Alzheimer's disease. She is doing very well, the manifestations of the disease being mostly mild confusion and forgetfulness. She is now in at a comfortable retirement home in a community that she grew up in, and close to a caring family.

Her address is Milner Retirement Home, 570 E. Main St., Apt. 107, Rossville, IN 46065. Her phone number is 765 379 2711.

*

Martha Bambauer was the victim of a nasty bug at the Salt Lake City 8AF meeting. A phone call to Gil and Martha at their home in Dewey, AZ reassured all that they made the trip home in good order and Martha is ok.

*

As this issue went to press, Thanksgiving Greeting e-mails were received from Stan Zybort and Doug and Celia Willies, Friends at Sheringham, England.

*

Lou and Delores Stephens visited the AF museum at Dayton and reported, both in print and photographically, that the 392nd's memorial tree and plaque are ok. Lou noted that there was space at the Stalag Luft III memorial for a 392nd plaque.

*

PUT A NICKEL IN THE POT FOR THE 8AFMMF

Read the material below and see if you don't agree that the Memorial Museum Foundation deserves your support. Then fill out the blank at the bottom and send along a check.



This 8AF Memorial Museum Foundation display is our newest exhibit and tells the accomplishments of The Mighty Eighth in WWII. We plan to place these exhibits in many air museums throughout the United States so that the history of The Mighty Eighth is told to all who visit them.

For further information, call
1-800-833-1942
or write
8AFMMF
P.O. Box 7215
St. Paul, MN 55107

The 8th Air Force Memorial Museum Foundation

John H. Woolnough, our founder, helped organize the 8th Air Force Historical Society in 1975 as a veterans organization for reunion purposes and the 8th Air Force Memorial Museum Foundation in 1976 as the educational branch.

"To provide a Foundation to perpetuate the history of the US 8th Air Force through the establishment and maintenance of a museum or museums to collect, restore, display and/or preserve memorabilia relative to the 8th Air Force.

To provide for the establishment, promotion and support of educational activities relative to the 8th Air Force history. This may be in the form of written material, displays, museum projects, historical research, courses of study, etc."



6/2000 17M

THE 8TH AIR FORCE MEMORIAL MUSEUM FOUNDATION (8AFMMF)
NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!!!!

Please help us to keep the history of THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE alive by contributing to our educational exhibits and programs of the 8th Air Force Memorial Foundation.

I support (8AFMMF) and enclose the following contribution:

\$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ OTHER _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Please send your contribution c/o Treasurer MMF, P.O. Box 295, Pine Grove, PA 17963.
(Tax Deductible - IRS Code 501 (c) (3) Tax Exempt)

A note from Henriette Thomason, the keeper of the 392nd's PX, reminded Crusaders that items from the PX would make great Christmas gifts.

Dorsey-Baumgart

Jean Dorsey and Vern Baumgart, 579th pilot, were married in Covington, Virginia on Sept. 1, 2000.

Vern said, "Jean has been a widow for many years and my wife has been

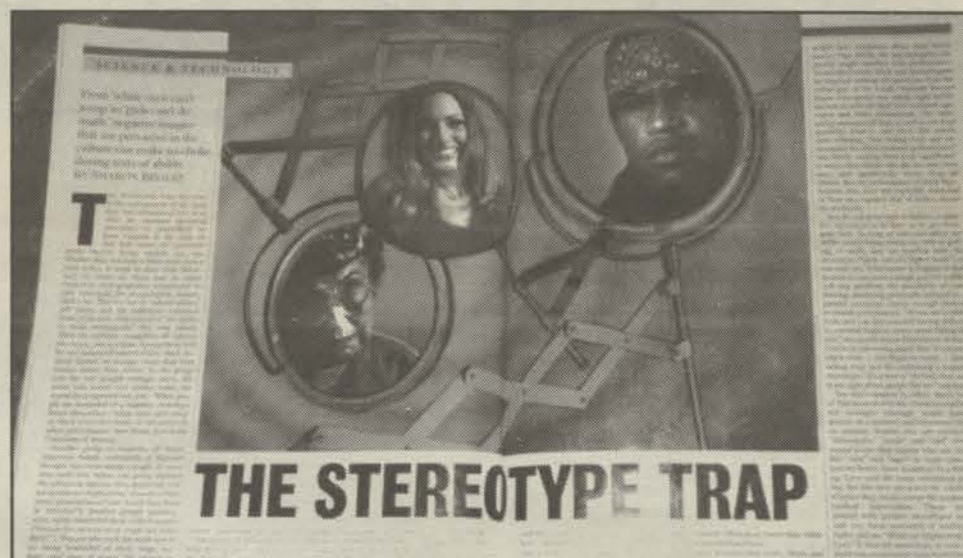
gone for over eight years. We are both very happy and are optimistic about the future. We will continue to try to attend reunions and stay in touch as before. Our phone number is 304 846 2701"

Their address is PO Box 192, Leivasy WV 26676.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Lt Buzz Wagner became first American ace of WWII- 1941.

BIRDIE SCHMIDT LARRICK IS MODEL FOR PHOTO IN NATIONAL MAGAZINE



The Nov. 6, 2000 issue of Newsweek Magazine carried a story about stereotypes and the author needed someone to portray a fearful and frail sad old lady. Birdie Larrick, the 392nd's Wendling Red Cross Director who has forged an acting career in her later years, responded.

Anyone who knows Birdie is aware that she is anything but a fearful and frail sad old lady. But her acting skills carried it off, as is shown by the above photo of the page from Newsweek.

REMEMBER HIM?



Shortly before we left Alamogordo for overseas, Edgar Kennedy, the movie comedian, showed up unannounced. He told Emmett Fore, the Group Special Services Officer, that he "just wanted to talk to the boys". And he did; I remember his coming into the 578th's squadron headquarters. His trademark gesture was passing his hand across his face in a twisting motion as a sign of frustration. The officers outside the recon are unknown; the man getting out is Emmett. -Jim Goar

HANGAR TALK

The editor's friend T/Sgt Buzz Hoehn, a 3-theater veteran of WWII, sent him these items:

A military pilot called for a priority landing because his single engine jet was running "a bit peaked".

ATC told the fighter jock that he was number two behind a B-52 that had one engine shut down.

"Ah", the pilot remarked, "the dreaded seven engine approach".

A student became lost during a solo cross-country flight. While attempting to locate the aircraft on radar, ATC asked "What was your last known position?"

Student: "When I was number one for takeoff".

The pilot of a Cherokee 180 was told by the tower to hold short of the runway while a DC-8 landed. The DC-8 landed, rolled out, turned around and taxied back past the Cherokee. Some quick-witted comedian in the DC-8 crew got on the radio and said, "What a cute little plane. Did you make it yourself?"

The Cherokee pilot: "I made it out of DC-8 parts. Another landing like yours and I'll have enough parts for another one."

During the heat of the space race in the 1960's, the U. S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration decided it needed a ball point pen to write with in the zero gravity of its space capsules. After considerable research and development, the Astronaut pen was developed at a cost of about \$1 million. The pen worked and enjoyed some success as a novelty item in the consumer world.

The Soviet Union, faced with the same problem, used a pencil.

PROFILE

Sgt Richard L. Giesing was an instrument repair technician in the 465th Sub-Depot. He arrived at Wendling in December of 1943.

He was employed by Michigan Bell Telephone Company at Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids, MI, and retired in 1983 after 36 years of service.

He is active in the Michigan chapter of the 8AFHS.

He is married to Lillian, and they have a son and daughter. They live at 4785 West F Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49009-7015

PROFILE

A foot soldier who entered the Air Corps, 1/Lt Joseph F. Tierney was the bombardier on the Ambrose crew in the 577th. He joined the 392nd at Wendling in November 1943 and completed 28 missions.

He was a private in the National Guard when his unit was federalized on September, 1940. He left for Air Corps training from the 241st Coast Artillery with the rank of 1/Sgt.

After the war he was in the automotive business in repairs, sales, and as a dealer. He was associated with Buick Motors in the Boston area.

He lives with spouse Virginia at 1101 D Keystone Drive, Jupiter, FL 33458. They have six children and eleven grandchildren.

PROFILES

Cpl Gail Nichols was in the 74th Service Squadron. He was on a gun crew that manned the machine guns on the airfield at Wendling.

In 1944 he was transferred to the 314th Troop Carrier Group, which was based near Nottingham.

He lives at 17711 E Indiana Ave., Greenacres, WA 99016-8534.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Gen H. H. Arnold became General of the Army-1944.

PROFILE

Capt Joe Micksch was the 578th's bombsight maintenance officer. He joined the Group at Alamogordo in April 1943.

Postwar, he graduated from Case Institute of Technology at Cleveland with a BS in Metallurgical Engineering. He worked in the foundry, automotive, and rubber industries until retirement in 1975. After retirement

he started Horizon Personnel, a recruiting operation, which he still operates.

His 392nd friends remember him as being extremely clever with mechanical devices such as the bombsight.

His wife is Ella May, and they have four children, 8 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren. They live at 683 Fox Meadow Road, Princeton, KY 43445.

OPERATE HERE

PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR DUES STATUS

When we mailed out the August 2000 edition we had to take the time to insert 58 past due notices. If you were one of those, the editor wishes you would get with it for year 2001, because he could spend his time a lot more productively in the service of the 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association.

MEMBERSHIP DUES-TIME IN SEND IN YOUR 2001 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 2001 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 01 or higher, you're paid up. If Frnd is after your name, you're our guest. If there is an error, contact Charles Dye.

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 and send it now!

Name _____	Ground [] Air [] Sqdn _____	Assoc [] _____
Street _____		
City _____	State _____	Zip _____
Dues for 2001, \$12		
Hardship Waiver []		
LIFE MEMBERSHIP		
Age 61-65 \$120 []		
Age 66-70 \$96 []		
Age 71 and over \$78 []		

Send with check to Charles Dye, 4949 San Pedro NE, #87, Albuquerque, NM 87109

OPERATE HERE

Crusaders note that selections from this list might fill a need in your Christmas list

PX ITEMS

Anthology, "20 th Century Crusaders.	\$47.50 postpaid.	\$
Book, "Remembrance of the Missing", by Col. Bob Vickers,	\$35.00 postpaid	\$
Book, "392 nd War Stories", by Col. Myron Keilman,	\$21.50 postpaid.	\$
Book, "The Liberators From Wendling", by Col. Bob Vickers,	\$28.00 postpaid	\$
Book, "Crew Dog", by Maj. John Matt, 579 th ,	\$28.95 postpaid.	\$
Book, "Country Boy Combat Bomber Pilot", by Col. Bob Tays,	\$13.50 postpaid	\$
Book, "My Combat Diary", by Walt Cranson,	\$13.50 postpaid	\$
Cap, black, 392 nd Bomb Group w/gold braid, summer,	\$10.50 postpaid.	\$
Cap, black, 392 nd Bomb Group w/gold braid, winter,	\$10.50 postpaid.	\$
Directory, October 1999,	\$10.00 postpaid	\$
Jacket, white nylon, w/ 392 Bomb Group and Crusader patches,	\$26.00 postpaid	\$
(Circle size wanted) M L XL XXL		\$
Patch, 392 nd Bomb Group logo,	\$1.50 postpaid	\$
Print, "The Flying Crusader", reduced to	\$16.50 postpaid	\$
Video, 392 nd 's memorabilia photos,	\$17.50 postpaid	\$
TOTAL		\$

Send with check to Charles Dye, 4949 San Pedro NE, #87, Albuquerque, NM 87109

Book, "After The Liberators, A Father's Last Mission, A Son's Lifelong Journey", by Bill McGuire II, son of 579th navigator Bill McGuire Sr., KIA Friedrichshafen mission.

Order direct from publisher, Parkway Publishers: PO Box 3678, Boone, NC 28607, \$20.95 postpaid (Mention 392BGMA newsletter in your letter and you can take 10% off the total bill)

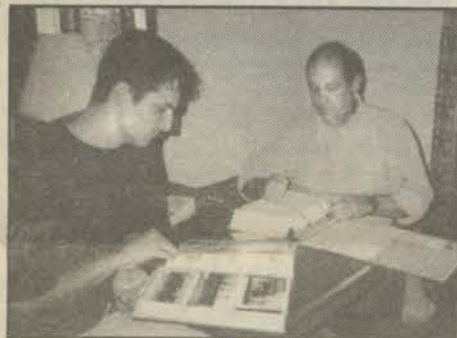
Video, from Albuquerque Reunion Symposium, "The Early Days",	\$17.50 postpaid
Video, Symposium above, "The Ground Support Teams Prepare For A Mission",	\$17.50 postpaid
Video, Symposium above, "The Tough Missions, Pt. 1: Bremen, Keil, Gotha, Friedrichshafen both parts	\$27.50 pp
Video, Symposium above, "Tough Missions, Pt. 2: Politz, Berlin, Bernberg, Bingen, Wesel, both parts	\$27.50 pp
Video, Symposium above, general scenes from the reunion, 2 parts,	\$27.50 postpaid

Order videos direct from Dan McGovern productions, 5307 Cantante, Laguna Hills, CA 92653

392nd ACTIVE AT 8AFHS SALT LAKE CITY



Second generation Jim and Karen Marsteller. Jim is recovering nicely from serious brain surgery.



Thad and Kurt Wieland, grandson and son respectively of Doc Wieland, 392nd Group Bombardier. They live in a suburb of Salt Lake City and served as the 392nd's advance party.

STORY OF GRIM BATTLE DAMAGE PHOTO TOLD



This photo was sent in by Paul Wright, the Group photo interpreter. By piecing together information from the photo, Vickers' *Liberators From Wending*, and the recently acquired 579th's Operations Log, the News was able to identify the incident and secure an eye-witness report.

The mission was to Zeitz, Germany on May 28, 1944. The a/c was the 579th's #42-50343, manned by the Bell crew.

Liberators says: "26 a/c took off beginning at 1044 hours and each went over the target with excellent bombing results. There was battle damage to 9 a/c and one casualty resulted. All a/c were back on the ground by 1800 hours."

The photo shows a direct hit on

Crusaders did not arrive at the 8AFHS meeting at Salt Lake City on Oct. 17-21 on foot and pushing carts as the Mormons did, but some 44 made it by more modern means.

Members were gratified that the convention was held without the rancor that, regrettably, has been present at previous 8AF gatherings.

Kurt and Thad Wieland, son and grandson of Doc Wieland, 392nd Group Bombardier, live nearby and were the advance party for the 392nd. They prepared and kept supplied a hospitality room that was well attended by Crusaders and their friends.

Jack Adams, 579th navigator, recently presented a substantial monetary gift to the 392BGMA plus an excellent video of his 8AF experiences. Jack went to considerable effort and expense to send a revised and edited copy of the video to us, and it was shown with much interest generated in the hospitality room.

Routine matters were disposed of at the Board of Directors and Group Membership meetings. Charley Dye, Treasurer, reported that we are solvent. The executive committee was authorized to negotiate with the publisher of our Anthology for more copies, and financial support was granted to the 392nd website, b-24.net. Carroll Cheek reported that he had attended the late Col Warren Polking's wake at San Antonio, and that Col Polking's friends noted, among another things, his attachment to the neighborhood's children.

Dr. Stephen Ambrose, noted historian and author, was the speaker at the gala banquet. Dr. Ambrose is an authority on Eisenhower and D-Day, and is the author of acclaimed books about Thomas Jefferson, the Lewis and Clark expedition, Gen. George Custer, and recently *Nothing Like It In The World: The Men Who Built The Transcontinental Railroad, 1863-1869*.

Attendees were: Harris Albright and Dorothy; Gil Bambauer and Martha; Wally Blackburn and Lorraine; Bill Braddock and Marge; Carroll Cheek and Mabel; Charles Dye and Helen; Howard Ebersole and Jeanne; Jerry Gersten and Roz; Lawrence Gilbert and Margie; Jim Goar; David Greene and Renee; Oak Mackey and Maxine; Jim Marsteller and Karen; Priscilla Matt; Joe Micksch and Ella; Willis Miller and Dorothy; Cliff Peterson and Mary; George Richner and Marjorie; Keith Roberts; Mary Rothrock; Birdie Schmidt Larrick; Guy Spinelli and Madeline; Lawrence Stebleton and Janet; and Bob Vickers and Annell.



(Left) 2/Lt (later Capt) Joe Micksch, foreground, 578th's Bombsight Maintenance Officer, on the firing line at Alamogordo in 1943, qualifying on the .45 caliber Colt automatic. (Right) Civilian Joe Micksch with wife Ella in the hospitality room, poring over memorabilia. This was Joe's first reunion.

the top turret, and it took the life of T/Sgt E. E. Gilmore, the flight engineer and top turret gunner.

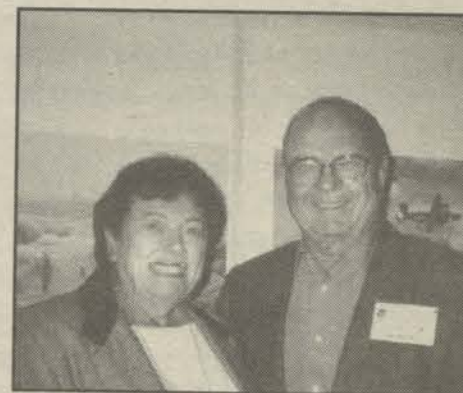
The only living member of the Bell crew is David Orenbach, the navigator, and from his home in Manhasset Hills, N. Y., he said:

"We had taken fire from fighters as well as flak, and I do not know from which came the fatal blow. It was a mortal wound, and the crew was

unable to save T/Sgt Gilmore's life. All we could do was give him morphine."

"It is not easy for me to recount this incident, but it is made easier by the passage of years."

Art Egan was a gunner on the crew and his widow Teddy said that she remembers Art voicing the same description.



Maxine and Oak Mackey, 578th pilot and past president of 2ADA. Oak has missed a couple of reunions due to eye trouble, but now is much better. In the background are a couple of large wall decorations which were prepared by Kurt Wieland.

MESSAGE TO ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

The second and third generations of the 392BGMA are taking a more active position of responsibility for the duplication, preservation, and research of the 392BG archives.

In addition to research provided to family members through developing and maintaining the 392BGMA web site, they are beginning to accept more responsibilities of the 392BGMA.

This message is a clarion call to all who would like to join them in their work. If you are interested please contact them by e-mail at researchers@b24.net or by postal mail at 1432 Little Creek Dr., Pensacola, FL 32506.

VICKERS NAMED TO DUXFORD MUSEUM BOARD

Bob Vickers, 578th pilot and author of two definitive histories of the 392nd, has been made a member of the Board of Directors of the American Air Museum in Britain at Duxford.

Vickers was one of the founding Directors of the 8AFHS, and served as its president in 1980. He also was a key charter organizer of the 8AFHS Memorial Museum Foundation.

Presently, he heads the 8AFHS's 8th AF Awards Program as its Protocol Director.

BIRDIE SCHMIDT LARRICK TOURS SALT LAKE CITY



Sculpture depicts a Mormon family's thankfulness at journey's end. The site overlooks Salt Lake City and the valley.



Kennecott copper mine.



The Great Salt Lake.

JOHN MATT'S BOOK "CREWDOG" GETS RAVE REVIEW

Editor's note: John Matt, 576-9 navigator, finished his book shortly before his untimely death in 1995. Your editor thinks it's about the best book there is about our gener-

ation's connection with the air war. Now comes a review in *DR AHEAD*, the newsletter of the AF Navigators Observers Association, by Dr. Bill Wilkins. Col Wilkins, a retired USAF navigator, is a professor emeritus at Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR.

CREWDOG is an engaging, first

person account of what it was like to spend 20 years as an AF navigator. From training and combat during WWII to flying with the Washington, D. C.-based VIP Group in the 1960's, it was high adventure. Matt writes with the style, force, and humor of a professional writer. Further, he has backed up his personal memories and records with detailed research. More than an uncommonly interesting memoir, CREWDOG is a lively history of an important era in the development of the Air Force by one who helped make that history. Of the thirty or so military memoirs I've read in the last few years, this is among the three or four best.

Matt tell us that: "CREWDOG is the name some military flight crews have given themselves to show where they think they fit in the military scheme of things. They don't consider themselves heroes or cannon-fodder, although they sometimes fit both categories. You can't win wars, or go to the moon, or do other great things without them."

The son of first generation immigrants from Central Europe, Matt grew up in pleasant Yonkers, near New York City, where his father operated a speakeasy. He graduated from high school in June, 1941, and

turned eighteen right after Pearl Harbor, just as the qualifications for Army and Navy aviation programs were changed to make him eligible for cadets if he could pass a college equivalency exam. He did, was sworn in during March, 1942, and was called to active duty a year later. After washing out of pilot training, he went first to gunnery school and then to navigation training at Selman Field, Monroe, LA, where he earned his navigator wings and commission.

Assigned to a crew which did combat training at Westover and Langley, they ferried a B-24 to England via Goose Bay and Keflavik to join the 576th Sqdn, 392nd Bomb Group, of the 8AF. Matt and his crew started flying combat missions in October, 1944, and were on the last raids which the Eighth flew in April, 1945, without serious physical damage to themselves. The missions are recounted in vivid detail. But the stay in England was not just combat. There were lighter times, like waking up in a London hotel to find somebody has stolen your pants and encountering pretty English women who provided experiences of different kinds.

Many books about combat in WWII end at this point, but

Continued on Page 7

392BGMA ELECTRONIC DIRECTORY

The Electronic Directory will be a regular feature in the NEWS; if you want to be listed please contact the editor by mail at 2201 Redbud Blvd., Frankfort, IN 46041, or at the E-mail or Fax addresses listed below.

E-MAIL

8AF Museum, Savannah
Barger, George
Barber, Ernie **CHANGE**
Barnard, Mary Beth
Barnes, Joe
Barry, Bill
Bartsch, Arlo
Books, Bob
Braddock, Bill
Case, Bill
Dewez, Luc
DuBois, Phyllis
Ebersole, Howard ("Ebe")
Ehrlich, Lee D.
Eller, Melvin
Elston, Robert C.
Garrett, Howard
Goar, Jim
Greene, David
Gross, Earl
Hart, Wildrick
Hawkins, Ian
Jones, Ben
Jones, Mervyn
Long, William
Lory, Bob
Marcelli, Anthony F.
Matelski, Lorn W.
Marsteller, Jim
Michel, George
Micksch, Joe
Peterson, Cliff and Mary (**Change**)
Polking, Dette
Roberts, Keith
Rothrock, Mary
Satterly, Everett F.
Szenegeto, Joe
Thomas, J. Fred
Thomason, Henriette
Tyler, Bob
Vassey, Emuel
Weed, Oscar and Toni
Westbrook, Joe
Zybort, Stanley

Mighty8cur@aol.com
GWBARGER@email.msn.com
ebarber392bg@g-net.net
blackjag@gateway.net
jabarnes@netconx.net
purehart@earthlink.net
Afbas@aol.com
bob@b24.net
wabrad33@juno.com
Wcase22@aol.com
Luc.Dewez@skynet.BE
Dubois@netmatters.co.uk
hebersole@webtv.net
RKS600@aol.com
bme5@psu.edu
Rcwhelston@aol.com
havepick@email.msn.com
goar@netusa1.net
dg392@aol.com
EGB880@aol.com
bandsaw@penn.com
ian@hawkins13cbw.fsnet.co.uk
limeybj@frontiernet.net
MervynJones@btinternet.com
longtimelong@email.msn.com
Rboblory@Gateway.Net
t_uomo@juno.com
lorn-n-duste@elknet.net
jimbob@cyberia.com
gmichel@milwpc.com
Joe@micksch.com
marcliff@cfl.rr.com
WarrenDett@aol.com
k.e.robby@juno.com
m.rothrock@worldnet.att.net
EISATT@AOL.COM
baksheesh@onecome.com
Bomberb24@aol.com
Henriette@pronet.net
Bobalice2@Prodigy.net
evassey@acadia.net
anoweed@bellsouth.net
JWESTBR432@aol.com
104614.626@compuserve.com

FAX

8AF Museum, Savannah
Gilbert, Lawrence
Goar, Jim
Gross, Earl
Jones, Mervin
Eller, Mel
Ehrlich, Lee D.
Thomas, J. Fred

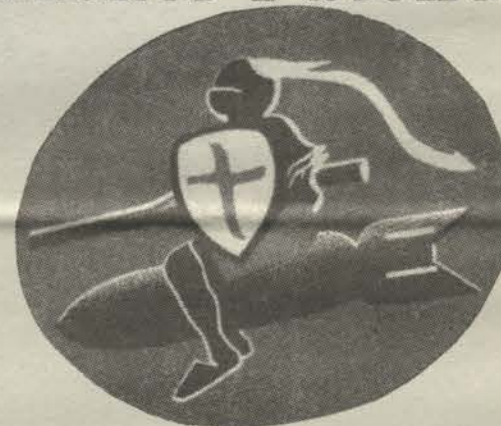
912 748 0209
407 647 7402
765 654 4457 or 765 654 4253
310 652 9307
+44 (0) 1328 701 262
717 238 9202
773 774 4311
714 536 2184

WEBSITE

392 BGMA
8AF Museum, Savannah

www.b24.net
www.mighty8thmuseum.com

392nd Bomb Group Leather Patches



Ben Jones has undertaken the task of supplying the 392BGMA with the leather Crusader patches that started appearing on the Group's A-2 jackets in 1944.

Ben says: these patches are handpainted on genuine fine leather to meet the same specifications of WWII. As the war progressed various hand painted Group patches started appearing on A-2 jackets. As there was no standard size among the various Groups, Hq. USAAF authorized the use of a 5" circular leather patch on which the unit logo could be painted.

The Crusader is drawn on a USAAF approved 5" circular leather patch. Each patch is unique with no two being identical, as with mass produced copies. You can choose between a distressed look or a freshly painted look.

The logo is painted on the leather, then coated with a sealant that protects it. Like any leather, it is suggested that it not get wet.

The cost is \$20 plus shipping and handling.

Ben says also that there will be available soon polo shirts with the Crusader emblem.

So if you're interested, contact Ben Jones at 1000F Circle Drive, Dover, DE 19901, or e-mail him at limeybj@frontiernet.net. Let him know if you want the "distressed" or "freshly painted" look.

392BMGA GETS MAJOR EDWIN REED COLLECTION

By Jim Goar

Capt (later Major) Edwin Reed joined the 392nd early as Assistant Group S-2 Officer. He was with us at Wendling for a few months, and then transferred to Division Hq.



Reed was not the only alumni of the 392nd on duty at Hq. Second Air Division. He is pictured above (left) with Joe Whittaker, Division

CREWDOG goes right on. Rather than leaving active duty as so many did, Matt stayed in and went from one challenging flying assignment to another. He flew weather recon in the North Atlantic out of Newfoundland and was in one of the early squadrons which flew into hurricanes from Bermuda. He was a Chief Navigator at Fairfield-Suisan AFB when it was commanded by Col Travis. On one trip to Saudi Arabia, he was a guest at a dinner party given by King Ibn Saud on the roof of his palace.

Assignments through the years included being navigator for AF M/Gen Alvin Luedcke while the General commanded Operation Hardtack, the nuclear bomb tests at Enewetak and with MATS at Hickam, Charleston, and finally Washington National/Andrews with the Special Air Missions Squadron which provides transportation for the President and other VIPs. During the stay at Hickam, Matt met and married Cris. He introduces Cris to us and subsequently we meet their daughters and gain insights into the home life of an AF navigator and his family.

Some of the trips Matt flew as he built up more than 10,000 hours of flying time were to places to which many AF navigators went. Many others were to spots most of us only read or dream about and he was sometimes in company of people known to most of us only from the news. Matt makes all these experiences a reader's delight. While the book contains some errors in details, they do not distract from its impact. CREWDOG will be a nice addition to any navigator's private book collection and belongs in every library which has a serious interest in aviation.

John Matt eventually earned his pilot license (indeed, an Airline Transport Pilot rating) and had a second career with the Federal Aviation Administration before he died in 1995. Cris Matt says that John knew for many years that he would write this book and that he spent four years doing it. CREWDOG was self published. The publishing house is "Waterford Books", and the unsold copies belong to Mrs. Matt.

CREWDOG is available from the 392nd's PX- Ed.

Bombardier, who was the 392nd's Bombardier before transfer to 2AD. The picture was taken about May 1944, when both were captains.

I remember him as a little older than the rest of us, always well groomed and soft-spoken.

His son, Edwin Reed, Jr., earlier sent most of his father's extensive photo collection to the Mighty 8th Heritage Museum, and this summer delivered the balance of the collection to the 392BGMA.

Major Reed was a civilian engineer before the war, and the Army utilized his training and knowledge by giving him a direct commission. After undergoing military training, he was assigned to the 392nd.

He remained in the Air Force after WWII, and as Post Engineer closed four bases: Walla Walla,

Washington; Biggs at El Paso, Texas; Wendover in Utah; and Mountain Home, Idaho.

In 1955 he left the Air Force and was an engineer at Fairfield Spokane, living at Cheney, Washington. He died in 1962, at the age of 65.

His son Edwin, Jr., the donor of the memorabilia, was also in the Service. He graduated from West Point in 1963 and was in the Signal Corps in military intelligence. He retired in 1976.

He and wife Patricia live in Sierra Vista, Arizona. They also have a motor home and do a lot of traveling. In fact, it was from their motor home that I picked up the memorabilia as they passed through Indianapolis.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

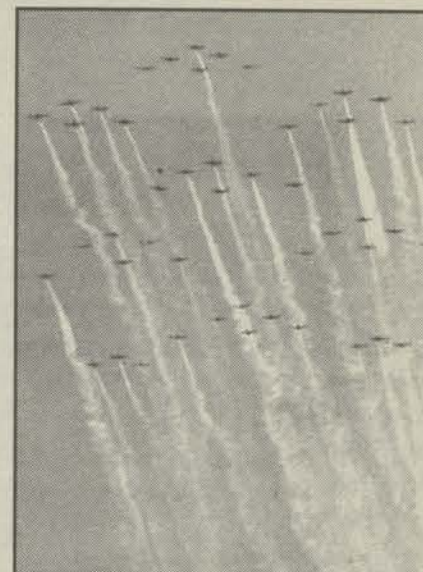
Flying Tiger pilots went into action against Japanese for first time-1941.

These photos do not depict the 392nd departing the English coast on its way to a target in Germany; nor a couple of P-51's from the 55th Fighter Group over their base at Wormingford. Actually, they are photos taken at a recent Experiment Aircraft Association air show at Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

On the right are the visiting warbirds formed up in a heart-stopping overflight. No 8AF veteran can view this without a tremendous emotional response.

Below are Dick Hansen and Jeff Williams' P-51 Miss Marilyn II (bottom) and the CAF's Gunfighter, flown by Regis Urschler.

Photos by permission from Sport Aviation, EAA's monthly membership magazine.



NEWS

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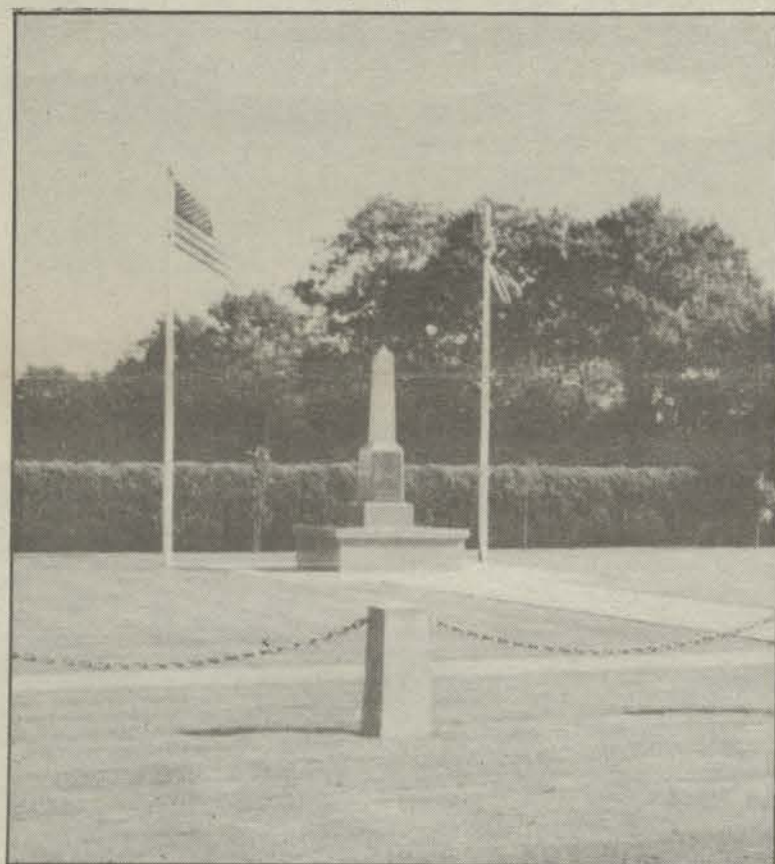
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THE 392nd MEMORIAL AT WENDLING

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 the Cathedral at Erie, Pa.

Chaplain's Corner

By George Barger

Perhaps not in terms of a ratio of living and dead, but in sheer numbers, the 1900's was the bloodiest century of which we have record. What of the new century: can we expect any mitigation of mankind's disdain for human life? One would have to be bold and a prophet to answer that question with a confident 'yes', and I am neither. But that presumes the issues are only ours to decide. We don't know what God may have in mind; but our faith encourages us to look toward the promise of a "new heaven and a new earth", and our question turns out to be "Lord, how long?"

AIR ANNIVERSARY

B-17's bomb shipping near Phillipines in first American bombing mission of war-1941.

Folded Wings

Erling A. Olson, Aug. 7, 1999
Florence Hanna, Aug. 4, 2000
wife of Hortis Hanna, 578
Fred D. Crane, 576, Aug. 26, 2000
Claire M. Lassins, June 6, 2000
wife of Eldred Lassins, 578/9
Amanda Jane Wright, Sept. 2000
wife of James Wright, Assoc
Lorraine Cetin, Nov. 23, 2000
wife of Bill Cetin, 579th
Damacio E. Nogales, 577, Oct. 14, 2000

PROFILE

S/Sgt Walter C. Weckesser joined the Group at Alamogordo in June 1943. He was a electrician in the 579th.

After the war, he worked in a bicycle factory for 34 years; then was a technician in the oil heating business before retiring.

Anne, his wife of 52 years, passed away in 1999. He lives at 122 Weeks Road, Little Falls, NY 13365. He has a son and a daughter.

392nd Bomb Group Memorial Ass'n
2201 Redbud Blvd.
Frankfort, IN 46041



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Nov 2000

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, 2201 Redbud Blvd., Frankfort, IN 46041.

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