

NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 17

November 2002

RESTORED B-24 DEDICATED AT DUXFORD

392ND PRESENT AT BOTH THE 2ADA & 8AFHS REUNIONS

Most Crusaders know that we always have members present at the Second Air Division Association and the 8th Air Force Historical Society when they have their annual reunions. We alternate the annual corporate meeting of the 392BGMA between the two. This year the annual meeting was at Baltimore Aug.31-Sept. 3 with the 2ADA.

2ADA at Baltimore

Many items of governance were decided at the Member and the Board of Director meetings:

Many second generation members have come on board, thanks to the b24.net web site. However, age is taking its toll and the annual income from membership dues is decreasing. Also, the current world-wide economic slowdown has decreased the earnings of Wendling Memorial endowment account. Therefore, dues were increased a modest \$3 to \$15.00 annually. But more importantly, opportunity will be given to all members, both Life and annual payers, to make voluntary additional payments.

The Group Anthology, "20th Century Crusaders", will be produced as a CD and made available to members and the general public. Bob Books, the 2nd generation web site guru, is in charge of this pro-

ject.

Elected to the Board of Directors, class of 2005, were: Lawrence Gilbert, Jim Goar, Charles Dye and 2nd generation Ben Jones. Ben will join Jim Marsteller to become the two 2nd generation members of the Board.

John Conrad was elected to fill the position of Cliff Peterson, deceased, in the class of 2003.

The remainder of the sitting Board of Directors is: Class of 2003: Barney Glettler, Gil Bambauer, and Joe Whittaker. Class of 2004: Carroll Cheek, Jim Marsteller, Howard Ebersole, and Keith Roberts.

John Conrad was chosen to be the Group vice-president for the 2ADA, and Charles Dye will be the liaison officer to the 8AFHS.

Lawrence Gilbert as the last commander of the 392nd is automatically the Chairman of the Board and CEO. Vice-president, Memorial, is Carroll Cheek. Vice-president, communications, is Jim Goar. Keith Roberts is Secretary; Howard Ebersole is Recording Secretary; Charles Dye is Treasurer; and Dr. George Barger is Chaplain.

There was a large turn-out of members and guests: Oak Mackey and Maxine; Lawrence Gilbert and Marjorie; Carroll Cheek and Mabel; Jim Goar and Annabelle; John Conrad and Wanda; Jim Hoover and Reba; Louis Affinito and Kathleen; Gil Bambauer and Mar-

CARRIES MARKINGS OF 578TH'S "DUGAN", VICKERS CREW AT CEREMONY SEPT. 27

Four years of restoration work culminated at the American Air Museum at Duxford, England when the B-24 joined its war-bird collection. Thousands of dollars were donated for the effort, including over \$5,000 from members of the 392nd.

Present, with family members, were four members of Dugan's crew: Bob Vickers, pilot; Keith Roberts, navigator; Bill Nock, waist gunner; and Nick Costanzo, radio operator. Also attending were Willis Miller, 579th pilot, and wife Dorothy.



Left to right, Bill Nock, Nick Costanzo, Bob Vickers, and Keith Roberts

Keith Roberts reported, "We lined up by the airplane and were successively introduced to the Duke of Kent and former President George Bush. Later, at a banquet, we were introduced to Prince Charles. All in all, it was a pretty overwhelming experience."

Later, the crew visited Wendling, where they had dinner at the Ploughshare with Denis and Hilary Duffield. They visited the staff and students at the Beeston school and went to the Memorial for a short ceremony where Keith recited the 392nd Prayer

tha; Arlo and June Jones, with Jeff and Amy Jones; Max Desonne and Muriel; Vernon Baumgart and Jean; Annette Tison; Luther Beddingfield; Tom Perry; Greg Hatton, George Richner and Mar-

jorie; Harris Albright and Dorothy; Walter Fialkewicz and Carmeline; Bob Tyler and Alice; Wally Blackburn and Loraine; Jim Marsteller; Bob Books; Ben Jones;

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392BGMA ELECTRONIC DIRECTORY

The Electronic Directory is 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.

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Barry, Bill
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Books, Bob **NEW CHANGE**
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Brent, Landon H.
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Case, Bill
Conrad, John
Damerst, William A.
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Ebersole, Howard ("Ebe")
Egan, Thomas J.
Ehrlich, Lee D.
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Gilbert, John
Gilbert, Lawrence **NEW CHANGE**
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Michel, George
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Odierno, Frank
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Oppenheim, Alfred M.
Phillips, Ann Long
Pearson, George E.

Mighty8cur@aol.com
mikeanstey@earthlink.net
archesinov@comcast.net
GilbertBambauer@aol.com
GWBARGER@email.msn.com
ebarber392bg@nu-z.net
blackjag@hargray.com
jabarnes@netconx.net
purehart@earthlink.net
Afbas@aol.com
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wabrad33@juno.com
lhb323@aol.com
Rebssb25@aol.com
p.cannone@wanadoo.fr
Wcase22@aol.com
jbwc@worldnet.att.com
Waring248@Juno.com
Luc.Dewez@skynet.BE
Dubois@netmatters.co.uk
hebersole@webtv.net
tjegan.@sihope.com
RKS600@aol.com
bme5@psu.edu
Rcwhelston@aol.com
havepick@email.msn.com
adrian@gilberta.freemove.co.uk
LGILBERT4@cfl.rr.com
b.glettler@att.net
goar@netusa1.net
dg392@aol.com
rgrimm@attglobal.net
EGB880@aol.com
halaps@aol.com
BJSpringdell@aol.com
bandsaw@penn.com
gregoryhatton@earthlink.net
ian@hawkins13cbw.fsnet.co.uk
hinckleyburtjean@hotmail.com
B24MJH@aol.com
limeybj@frontiernet.net
MervynJones@btinternet.com
TJJ43@aol.com
ri.kreisman@verizon.net
longtimelong@email.msn.com
Rboblory@AOL.COM
jmeg100@comcast.net
A43fool@aol.com
OMackey@MSN.com
t_uomo@juno.com
lorn-n-duste@elknet.net
jimbo@cyberia.com
gmichel@milwpc.com
Joe@micksch.com
Tjd03@usadatanet.net
ponstot@aol.com
HammerO@aol.com
annfromnc@aol.com
GEORGE@EROLS.COM

Perry, Tom
Peterson, Mary
Popek, Erma
Polking, Dette
Roberts, Keith
Rothrock, Mary
Russell, Carroll E.
Sabourin, Roland
Satterly, Everett F.

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Willies, Doug
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Gross, Earl
Jones, Mervin
Eller, Mel
Ehrlich, Lee D.
Onstot, Perry
Peterson, Cliff and Mary
Thomas, J. Fred

392 BGMA
8AF Museum, Savannah

tom@b24.net
marcliff@cfl.rr.com
empopek@att.net
WarrenDett@aol.com
k.e.robby@juno.com
m.rothrock@worldnet.att.net
crew@mounet.com
dpoobah@accessbee.com
EISATT@AOL.COM

fsmith4@satx.rr.com
Deelmp21@aol.com
Stockman1@cox.net
baksheesh@onecom.com
Bomberb24@aol.com
Henriette@pronet.net
gjtsr@ix.netcom.com
rhtuchel@soltec.net
Bobalice2r@aol.com
evassey@acadia.net
anoweed@bellsouth.net
JWESTBR432@aol.com
doug&celia@g3hrk.freemove.co.uk
szybort@aol.com & szybort@cs.com

FAX

912 748 0209
407 647 7402
231 334 4440
765 654 4457 or 765 654 4253
631 205 1301
310 652 9307
+44 (0) 1328 701 262
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WEBSITE

www.b24.net
www.mighty8thmuseum.com

BOARD SETS MODEST DUES INCREASE; OPPORTUNITY FOR EXTRA PAYMENT

By Lawrence Gilbert, CEO

As we gaze around us, we notice that our ranks are thinning. Inevitably, age is taking its toll and friends in and out of the Crusader family are now missing. Nevertheless, the 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association has no intention of disbanding. Many of us are a little wobbly on our feet and we are beset with senility interludes, but we intend to press on so long as we are able.

We are attracting membership from second and third generation Crusaders through the B24.net web site, and we have added two second generation members to the Board of Directors.

The toll on our membership has restricted our income, and because of that the Board of Directors has made a modest increase to our annual dues, from \$12 to \$15. In addition, we are giving Crusaders the opportunity to increase their contribution in a voluntary manner. In the annual dues notice posted in this issue, you will notice such an opportunity. If you are a Life Member and feel that you can and should give a little extra, check the appropriate box and send Charley Dye a check. If you pay on an annual basis, you have the opportunity to voluntarily increase your dues payment.

CLIFF PETERSON

Cliff Peterson, 578th pilot and President of the 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association, passed away on August 22, 2002.



Cliff Peterson

Continued from page 1

Ann Long Phillips; Emily Long Reid and David; Doug Smith and Deirdre; Dennis Rogers and Joanne; Oscar Weed and Antonia; Charles Dye and Helen; John Muka and John M. Muka; and Jeff (nephew of John Muka) and Laura.

8AFHS at Norfolk

The meeting was held Oct. 1-6 at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel. Due to the close date and area proximity of the 2ADA meeting at Baltimore, only a few Crusaders were present. Gratefully missing from this 8AFHA meeting was the contentious climate that has prevailed at their recent conventions.

Attendees were: Charles Dye and Helen; Lawrence Gilbert and Marjorie; Jim Goar and Annabelle; David Greene and Renee; Birdie Larrick and Sarah Kauffman; Jim Marsteller and Karen; Priscilla Matt; and Laurie Bedus.

However, an absolute highlight for the Crusaders was the attendance of a contingent of 8AF regulars (Blue-suiters to us), who were there for the annual 8AFHS Eaker Awards. The 392nd traditionally hosts them at the Group dinner.

Led by the personable B/Gen Bobby Efferson, Hq. 8AF, the 8AF's participation in the discussions following the Group

He was shot down on the infamous Friedrichshafen mission on March 18, 1944, becoming POW. After repatriation from Stalug Luft III and the end of WWII, he saw duty at Smyrna, TN and Davis-Monthan at Tucson.

He flew a tour as a B-29 pilot in the Korean War in 1951, and was manager of the Officers' Club at MacDill and Barksdale Fields in 1952-55.

After retirement from the Air Force, he was General Manager of Morrison's Cafeterias in Florida 1955-85.

He once confided to the editor about his role in the Jimmy Stewart movie, "Strategic Air Command". It was filmed partially at MacDill Field when Cliff was running the

dinner made it one of the more memorable Crusader gatherings.

8AF personnel and guests were: Cindy (Mrs. Bobby) Efferson; Maj Eric Johnson, Instructor Pilot at Barksdale, and Teresa; Capt Brian Nicolilsi, Pilot, Barksdale, and Sonji. Accompanying them were Brian's parents Frank and Karen Nicolosi.

Capt James Dunn, Pilot, Instructor Radar Navigator at Barksdale, and Lori; Capt Christopher Baird, Navigator at Barksdale, and Rachel; Capt Robert Simonsen, Instructor Electronic Warfare at Barksdale and Monica; Col James Graves, Hq. 8AF at Barksdale, and Brenda.

From 509 Bomb Wing, Whiteman AFB, were: Col Ned Schoeck, vice commander, and Jerri; CMSGT Michael Cannon, Maintenance; MSGT Randy Coffman, Maintenance; and TSGT Jay Perkins, Maintenance, and Sharon Eavenson.

Orchestrating the entire Awards operation was the 392nd's old friend MSGT Rick DelaHaya, NCOIC Public Affairs, Hq. 8AF. He was accompanied by Bob DelaHaya and Carrie Meisel.

(See separate stories, this issue, for more about the 8AFHS awards to 8AF personnel.)

Officers' Club there. While filming the picture there was a sudden need for two officers to meet Stewart's plane, with a staff car, on the apron and Cliff and another officer were pressed into duty. Cliff said, "I didn't have a speaking part, but I slammed that car door hard enough to be heard on the sound track". And sure enough, if you'll view that video you'll see two unidentifiable officers with the staff car and

you can hear the door slam.

He took many leadership roles in AF veterans organizations. He was President of the 392nd BGMA at his death, and previously had served as President of the 8AF Historical Society. He was also a Director of the 8AF Memorial Museum Foundation.

He is survived by wife Mary and three children and five grandchildren.

CRUSADER BOMBARDIERS CERTAIN TO WONDER AT IT: EFFECTIVE CLOSE AIR SUPPORT FROM A B-52 AT 39,000 FEET

Here are the particulars concerning the 8AF crew that was awarded the Eaker Award at the recent 8AFHS convention in Norfolk:

On Nov. 10, 2001, their B-52 heard a request for close air support from an American ground air controller in northern Afghanistan. He and accompanying coalition forces were under attack by the Taliban and were about to be overrun. The a/c was 300 miles from his position, but arrived in time to break up the Taliban attack. Using coordinates from the ground air controller, the B-52 delivered 3,232 cluster bombs on an enemy troop concentration in an area 800 feet by 400 feet. Reloading their avionics software, the B-52 then released 13,500 pounds of bombs on the ridgeline where the enemy emplacements and troop concentrations were. Reported results were 10 fighting positions destroyed, an anti-aircraft artillery site destroyed, command bunker left in flames, and more than 250 enemy casualties. The American ground air controller was able to retire in safety.

392nd CONSIDERING STAND-ALONE

By Jim Goar

There has been some thinking among us that the 392nd might consider scheduling a one-day stand-alone reunion on the day preceding the Second Air Division reunions.

This would be intended to be inclusive with the 2AD reunion; Crusaders would miss all the great opportunities of the full-scale reunion if they only attended the one-day stand-alone. By definition the one-day affair could not be very comprehensive; about all that could be furnished is a gathering place with refreshments during the day and a dinner that night. The costs would be for your room for the extra day, the dinner, and a small charge to pay for the hospitality room.

This thought has been triggered by the high cost of hospitality rooms at 2AD conventions, as opposed to reasonably priced ones at the 8AF Historical Society reunions. The 8AF reunions are managed by an independent contractor; the 2AD conventions are run by and for the 2AD.

Some Groups have given up going to the 2AD meetings, holding their own stand-alones and having only a few members present at 2AD reunions. The 392nd does not want to join these Groups; we intend to be a part of the Second Air Division Association as we always have.

If successful, a one-day stand-alone would require a definite commitment from, we think, some 15 to 20 Crusaders to guarantee attendance. This would be necessary to interest the host hotel to contract with us.

If you have any thoughts on the matter, please communicate them to Col. Gilbert, Charley Dye, Jim Goar, or any other Director.

EYE-WITNESS OF 392ND'S EARLY COMBAT HISTORY

The 392nd's third mission on Oct. 4, 1943 was a diversion mission to the Frijian Islands. The mission was a planned feint by higher headquarters to de-concentrate the German

fighter forces from the main bomber waves assigned targets over the continent. The 392nd's track was up over the North Sea approaches.

For the first time in combat the 392nd encountered enemy aircraft and heavy flak defenses. Approximately 30-50 single-engine fighters attacked, and the 392nd suffered its

CITATIONS ACCOMPANYING AWARDS PRESENTED AT NORFOLK 8AFHS MEET

The General Ira C. Eaker Award

On 10 November 2001 while assigned to the 20th Bomb Squadron, 2nd Operations Group, 2nd Bomb Wing, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, aircrew of ALPS 51 distinguished themselves by displaying outstanding airmanship skills. The 5-person aircrew saved the lives of numerous American and coalition forces and effectively stopped a large Taliban ground offensive in the vicinity of Shirkan, Afghanistan, by flawlessly processing in-flight target assignments and delivering devastating direct hits on designated targets. Several hours after takeoff and upon entering Afghanistan airspace, ALPS 51 was informed of immediate request for close air support in northern Afghanistan as Taliban forces were overrunning an American ground forward air controller. Within 8 minutes after receiving target coordinates, the crew released all 16 Wind Corrected Munitions Dispensers in a single pass. The enemy was unable to maintain the offensive and was forced into a defensive position. Within minutes, ALPS 51 reloaded the avionics software and released all 27 Mk-82s on the ridgeline where the enemy emplacements were, resulting in numerous enemy casualties. The professional skill and outstanding efforts of this crew reflect great credit upon themselves and the United States Air Force.

The Pursuit of Excellence Award

Technical Sergeant Jay A. Perkins distinguished himself as Loading Standardization Crew Chief, 509th Operations Group, 509th Bomb Wing, Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, and is selected as the Eighth Air Force Pursuit of Excellence Aircraft and Munitions Award winner in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments and dedication to the flying mission of Eighth Air Force. Sergeant Perkins spearheaded a 14-month, \$700,000 weapons load trainer upgrade, aligning the trainer to current aircraft software, and increasing load crew efficiency. At the wing's premier weapons loading expert, he led every major effort in the wing's support of new precision weapons development and validation, to include Air-to-Ground-Missile 158 Joint Air to Surface Standoff Missile, Enhanced Guided Bomb Unit 28, and the 500-pound Guided Bomb Unit 38 Joint Direct Attack Munition. Sergeant Perkins led a wing weapons last chance team during the Headquarters Air Combat Command Nuclear Operational Readiness Inspection, flawlessly executing the "generation of tasked weapons and USSTRATCOM tasked sorties well within timing criteria" resulting in weapons loading and generation timing being rated Outstanding. Additionally, he spearheaded Joint Direct Attack Munition 82 munition design performance testing, saving the Air Force over 1.4 million dollars in contractor support. The singularly distinctive accomplishments of Sergeant Perkins reflect credit upon himself, Eighth Air Force, and the United States Air Force.

first casualties in combat. Three 579th crews were KIA: Morphew, Brian Smith, and Feurstacke. Flying with Feurstacke as Command Pilot was Maj Don Appert, CO of the 579th. Six other crewmen were injured.

Pictured below is Capt John Buschman, 578th pilot, relating the incident after he returned from the mission. His words, written on the back of the photo:

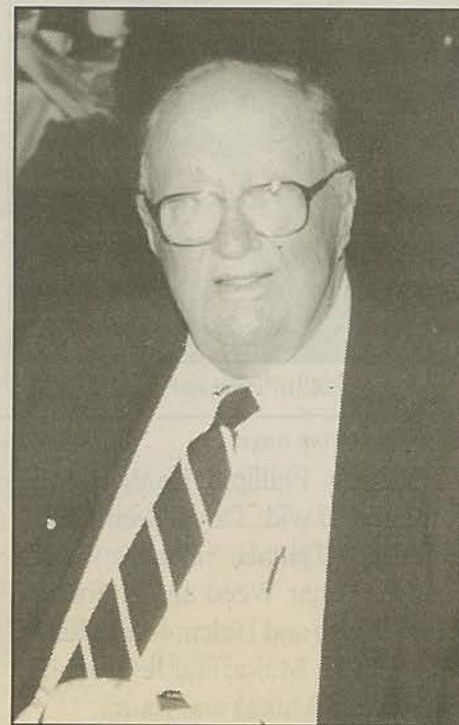
"I was #4 in the lead element. Messerschmitt rams #1, #2 and #3 go with him into the drink. Debris from #2 eliminates my starboard tail section. Navigator gives heading back to Wendling, rest of Group follows."



Four days later on Oct. 8 the Group went to Vegesack, a heavily defended target. Again enemy fighters were encountered. Two crews were lost: the 579th's Clifford crew, all KIA; and John Buschman's crew. John and 6 others parachuted out and became POW; Hoover, Hanrahan, and Bernard,

gunners, were KIA. The Buschman crew were the 392nd's first POW's.

An interesting side note from Lou Stephens, 578th pilot: "Our crew occupied the Buschman crew's quarters the night of Oct. 8. I never met John until we ended up in the same barracks at Stalag Luft III. He was surprised that I knew so much about him."



Marsteller photo

John Buschman at the 8AFHS meeting in Norfolk.

(The NEWS is indebted to Col Bob Vickers for the information contained in this story.)

PROFILE

S/Sgt Claude O. Specht was a gunner on the Ralph Linzmeier crew in the 579th. Their tour was late in the war; the 579th's records show them on duty on V-E Day.

Postwar, he was in the foundry business in Oshkosh, WI. He served as a department head and sales representative. Later he owned and operated the foundry.

He and wife Janet live at 11338 Marchese Road, Woodruff, WI 54568. They have four children and four grandchildren.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

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

AIR ANNIVERSARY

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

AIR ANNIVERSARY

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

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

AL ENLOW GETS A SECOND CHANCE

Sgt Alvin Enlow was in Flying Control at Wendling. He arrived in England with the 10th Station Complement Squadron, so his arrival in England preceded the 392nd by a few weeks. Originally assigned to the 44th at Shipdham, he was transferred to the 392nd on Sept. 12, 1943.

At Shipdham the liberty run went to Norwich. At the famous Samson dance hall, he met Myfanwy "Van" Williams, a WAAF from Cardiff, Wales. During the next two years their friendship deepened and they became engaged.

With the end of hostilities Al returned to the States, expecting that Van would eventually join him and they would marry.

But things did not really turn out that way. They drifted apart, she returned his ring, and Al went on to complete a college degree at the University of Akron and spent 36 years in administration in the Cuyahoga County Hospital system.

Both married, both were widowed. Then the lonely widower recalled his lost love and after a determined search, found Van. They corresponded, they met, and now they're together at Cardiff.

Sound like a novel? You can read all about it in Al's book, Reminiscence, recently published by Turner Publishing Company, the same company that published the 392nd's and the 2AD's anthologies.

Order the book from Turner Publishing Company, PO Box 3101, Paducah, KY 42002-3101. Cost is \$21.95 plus \$7 shipping and handling.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

650 B-17s and B-24s made first major strike on German V-weapon sites-1943.

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Pre-invasion bombing of Cape Gloucester, New Britain completely destroyed enemy defenses-1943.

DECIMATED BUT STILL TOGETHER, 2 CREWS ATTEND 2ADA.



Jack Ross crew, 576

Left to right: Wally Blackburn, Cincinnati, OH, tail gunner; Left to right: Arlo Jones, tail gunner, Parkston, SD; Jim George Richner, Twinsburg, OH, navigator; and Harris Hoover, Lexington, KY, pilot; and Louis Affinito, Albright, Mesa, AZ, flight engineer.



Hoover crew, 578/9

PX ITEMS

Anthology, "20 th Century Crusaders. \$36.50 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.	\$
Book, "A Pilot and His Wings", by L/C James Maris, \$30.00 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, \$10.00 postpaid (ALL DIRECTORIES ARE NOW WITH CURRENT DATA	\$
Jacket, white nylon, w/ 392 Bomb Group and Crusader patches, \$29.00 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)

Book, "Joey, Joe, and Joseph" by William A. Damerst, 576th navigator.

Order direct from publisher, Publish America: PO Box 151, Frederick, MD 21705-0151. \$18.95 postpaid

Book, "Stalag 17B, Prisoner of War", by L/C (USAF, Ret) Richard H. Hoffman, ball turret gunner, 579th.

Order from publisher, Xlibris Corp, phone 888 795 4274 or on line at www.xlibris.com/html/bookstores. Also at Amazon.com

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

"I'M BEHIND THE TALL GUY"

Luc Dewez is the 392nd's friend in Belgium. He has attended several reunions and was the Vickers crew's interpreter for their return in 1998 to the scene of their crash in France in 1945.

He is student of the WWII air war in Europe and has written several books on the subject.

He was with the Vickers crew at the dedication ceremonies of the restored B-24 in Duxford and it was a watershed experience for him. He is immersed in WWII lore and the surroundings of the B-24 and its war-time crew, the attention of the media, the presence of many important people brought it to life

for him.

He had brief conversations with the Duke of Kent and former president Bush. He sent the following photo to the NEWS with the caption "I'm behind the tall guy".



The NEWS thanks Ann Long Phillips, Jim Marsteller, and Charles Dye for these pictures taken at 2ADA Baltimore and 8AFHS Norfolk.



The crew that won the Eaker Award at 8AFHS: l to r: Maj Eric Johnson, Capt Robert Simonsen, Capt James Dunn, Capt Christophler Baird, and Capt Brian Nicolisi.



In the hospitality room at 8AFHS: l to r: CMSGT Michael Cannon; Jim Marsteller, 392BMGA Director; M/Sgt Randy Coffman; and T/Sgt Jay Perkins, winner of the 8AF Pursuit of Excellence Award.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

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 dues for 2003. If you are paid ahead, you can check it now by the code right after your name on the mailing label of the newsletter. If it is 03 or higher or LM (for Life Membership), 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, faced with declining membership, has increased the annual dues by a modest \$3, to \$15. Also, if you feel that you are in the position to help the Treasury with an extra donation, there is provision for it below. It is possible that Life Members might feel that the Lord has been good to them and that they have lived beyond their actuarial years and an extra payment might be in order.

HOWEVER, 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 IN NOW!

Name _____ Ground ☐ Air ☐ Sqdn _____ Assoc ☐

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Dues for 2003, \$15.00

Extra: \$5 _____ \$15 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ Other _____

Hardship Waiver ☐

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Under 61 \$120 ☐

Age 66-70 \$96 ☐

Age 71 and over \$78 ☐

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



Maxine Mackey at the reception desk at 2ADA, Baltimore.



The 392BGMA Board of Directors meet at Baltimore: l to r, Gil Bambauer, Jim Marsteller, Col Lawrence Gilbert, Carroll Cheek, Jim Goar, Charles Dye.

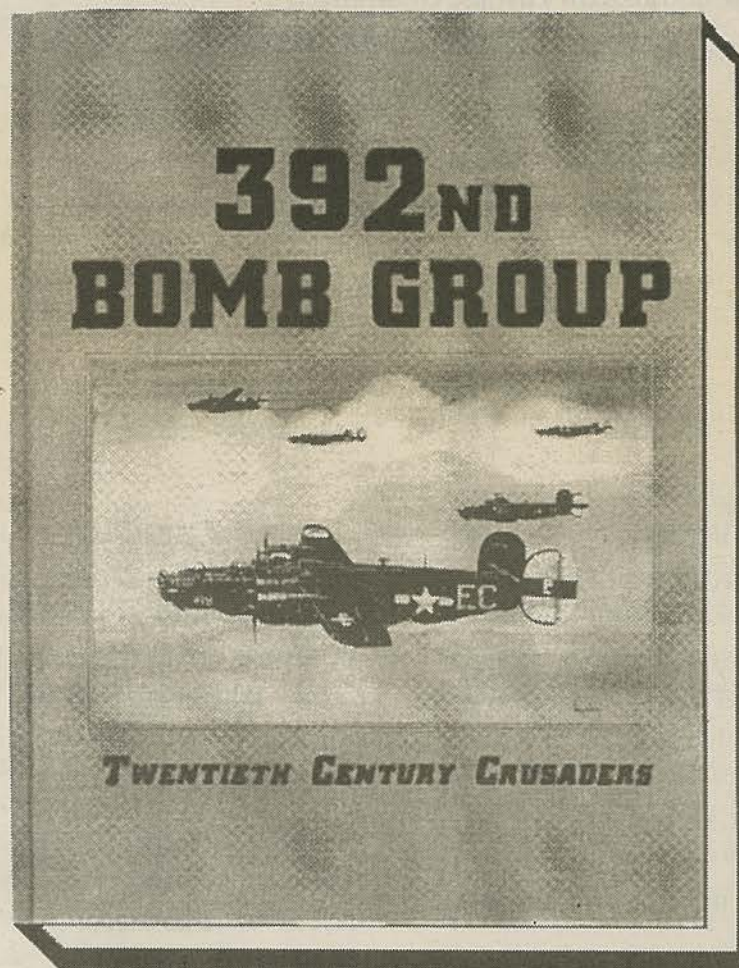


In the hospitality room at 2ADA, Baltimore: Ann Long Phillips, Emily Long Reid, Oak Mackey, Maxine Mackey, and Helen Dye.



A thorn between two roses at 8AFHS, Norfolk: Jim Goar between Annabelle Garoffolo and Birdie Schmidt Larrick.

**We Bought Out The Publisher
And Have Further Reduced the Price:
Now only \$36.50, postpaid**

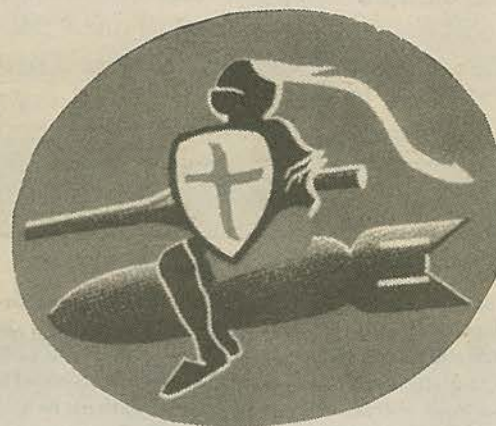


All copies will be autographed by Col. Lawrence G. Gilbert, our final Commander.

Order from the PX order blank contained in this newsletter.

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

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 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.

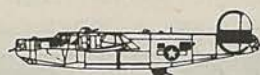
The cost is \$20 plus shipping and handling.

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

So if you're interested, contact Ben Jones at 15115 Jones Beach Rd., Kent, NY 14477-9780, or e-mail him at limeybj@frontiernet.net.

Let him know if you want the "distressed" or "freshly painted" look.

NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

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

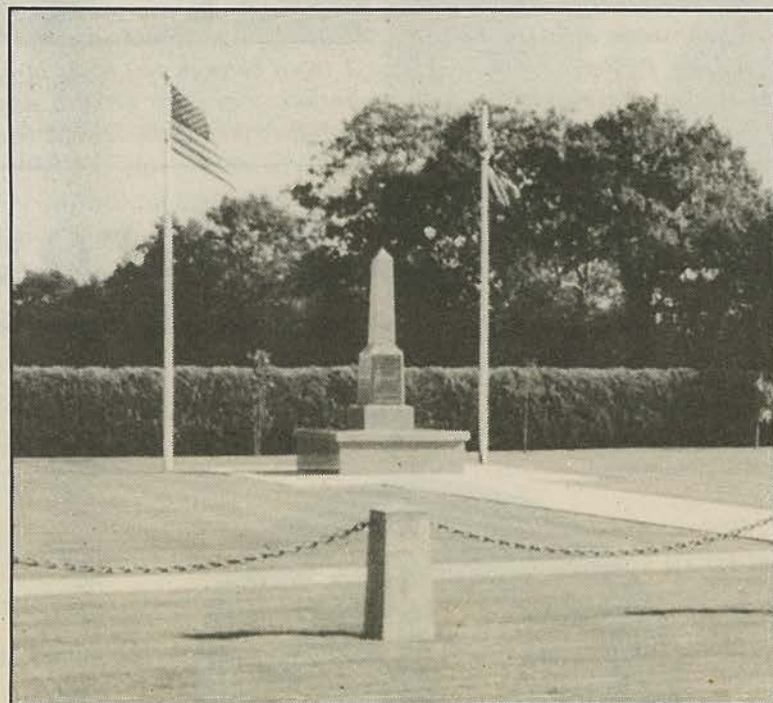
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4949 San Pedro NE, #87
Albuquerque NM 87109

Editors
Jim Goar
Mary Beth Barnard



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.

Chaplain's Corner

By George Barger, Ph. D

"We do our part." Do you remember that theme of the mid-1930's? That can be our theme as we move into the season of Advent. In the face of senseless snipers, of terrorism, of plain dishonesty in economic life, we well may wonder "What is the world coming to?" The answer that is offered to us is filled with hope, God's kingdom is coming. We may have great expectations and seize whatever opportunities we meet to do our part in realizing the promise of Advent.

Folded Wings

Karl R. Scott, July 19, 2002
Clifford L. Peterson, 578, Aug. 22, 2002
Wm. N. Reed, 586 Postal Unit, Aug. 26, 02
John F. Malloy, 578, July 16, 2002
Deward W. Cranford, 579, Mar. 18, 2000
Frank Odierno, 578, Oct. 31, 2002
Gordon Maclean, Hq., Oct., 2002
Patrick McEvoy, 579, Aug. 2001
Melvin Eller, 579, Nov. 8, 2002

AIR ANNIVERSARY

Japanese attack Pearl Harbor-1941

AIR ANNIVERSARY

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

392nd Bomb Group Memorial Ass'n NEWS
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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