

NEWS



392nd BG Memorial Association

VOLUME 5

SEPTEMBER, 1990

392nd WILL BE PRESENT OR ACCOUNTED FOR AT EIGHTH A F LAS VEGAS 30 SEPTEMBER - 4 OCTOBER

Cliff Peterson, the 392nd's vice-president for 8 AF affairs, is expecting some 2000 8 AF Historical Society members at their 16th annual reunion at Las Vegas 30 Sept.- 4 Oct.

"Since so many 392nd people live on the west coast, I am hoping that that there will be a turnout of 150-200 Crusaders", he said.

"Las Vegas is the entertainment capital of the world, and the entire convention will be at the Riviera, a landmark hotel," Cliff said.

There will be a rendezvous dinner for the 392nd at 1830 Tuesday, 2 October.

Inserted in this newsletter is a schedule of events and sign-up forms.

Col. Lawrence Gilbert, 392nd BG Memorial Ass'n president, said "I urge all who are able to attend this get-together. The passing years are taking their toll both of persons and health and we need to celebrate the comradeship that was forged at Wendling."

* * * *

FOLDED WINGS

W. W. "Bill" Bogie, 579
Wayne B. Cooke
John L. Henrickson, 576
T. Norris Nilson, 576
Robert L. Quegold
Eldon B. Yoak, 576/9

CONVENTION ATTENDEES TO GET CRUSADER PATCHES

Joe Landers, having spent a lifetime in the textile business, is knowledgeable about such things and is furnishing a supply of Crusader patches to the Association.

"At the Orlando convention, I was so impressed with the warmth and genuine friendship pervading the place that I just wanted to do something for the Group", Joe said.



In the first full-scale attack on the Reich, 806 bombers, with 634 fighter escorts, bombed Frankfurt on 29 Jan. 1944.

The patches will be distributed to the attendees of the Las Vegas and future 392nd BG Memorial Assn meetings.

(See Profile, Joe Landers, this issue)

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THE 392nd MEETS TOM AND JILL SCOTT

By Birdie Larrick

In the merry, merry month of May, we had a great time at the 392nd's very own reunion in Orlando getting to know Tom and Jill Scott.

"Thank you for the lovely talk. Good to hear the sound of your voice."

"You and your husband were so sincere."

These were typical of comments made to Jill Scott after her speech and toast to the friendship of our two countries at the 392nd reunion banquet on Saturday, May 12, at the Orlando Sheraton Plaza. The Scotts were very appreciative of the hospitality shown to them in this country. They were here to report, counsel and receive our thanks concerning the rededicated memorial at Wendling.

"Getting To Know You" was our theme. And that we did. This reporter was curious as to why they became involved with this memorial project. Tom's answer was that it was something that they could do for a group of Americans to show their appreciation of what the Americans did during World War II. Tom and Jill were young children then, each having been born in 1935. They remembered what it was like as school children when bombs were dropped. So when Tom first met Carroll Cheek and Col. Gilbert he said, "Straightway there was a bond between us." Thus the memorial project had a firm foundation in mutual respect and admiration.

In listening to the Scotts speaking at the banquet, Tom's Norfolk accent was nostalgic to many of us. He grew up in the area at Bradenham, halfway between Wendling and Shipdham. However, according to him, he is a Scot by name and nature. The farm on which he and Jill now live was bought by his grandfather in 1910. They took possession of it in 1968 and moved there in 1975. In contrast, Jill does not sound like Tom. She was born and bred in Surrey and Tom says she speaks the Queen's English. Her family moved to Norfolk after the war. They met when each was a chairman of a group involved with the Parish Council. Romance blossomed into marriage on July 12, 1958.

Jill is chairman of the Beeston Parish Council and is very interested in the development of industry around the village. She also cherishes the memorial at the corner of the farm, feeling that it is in keeping with the dignity of the area. She is firm in the belief that the monu-

ment must be kept as we see it today with a nice hedge around it and the flag poles rising simply above it.

The Beeston Parish Council is involved each Remembrance Day in England in a church service and a service at the 392nd memorial. Remembrance Day is November 12 and is similar to our Veterans Day on November 11. An officer from the American Base at Lakenheath and a member of the Beeston Parish Council take part in the Remembrance Service at the memorial in the laying of the wreath.

Neither Tom nor Jill has looked for a monetary return for what they did for the memorial. They invite us to look them up when we visit the area individually. They brought us greetings from our many friends there including Denis and Hilary Duffield. Jill proclaimed their visit to the US as.. "a highlight we shall never forget." They charmed us all. It's no wonder the Group rose to their feet in acclamation when they finished speaking. We did, indeed, get to know the Scotts and found them to be "our cup of tea."

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PROFILE

2nd Lt. Joseph L. Landers was the navigator on the Sabourin crew in the 578th, joining the Group at Wendling in March 1944. He completed 32 missions, and was assigned to navigation pre-flight briefings.

He changed the family name to Landers from Lipshitz in 1962.

After the war, he was a textile salesman, and in 1954 he became the owner of a textile and infant wear import and export firm. He is still active in the company.

He and wife Jeanne live at 116 Wolf Lane, Malverne, NY 11565, and they have one son and one daughter.

(See related story this issue- Crusader patches.)

* * * *

COL. BOB VICKERS TO BE WED

The friends of Bob Vickers will be pleased to hear that Bob is to be married Sept. 15 at the First Presbyterian church in Albuquerque.

The bride-to-be is Lois Best, prominent Albuquerque businesswoman and long time friend of the Vickers family.

Vickers is the author of the definitive 392nd Group history, "The Liberators From Wendling."

SECOND AIR DIVISION REUNION AT NORWICH

There were about 800 Americans at the Second Air Division reunion at Norwich 24-31 July. 28 of them were from the 392nd.

A special train brought the Americans from Heathrow to Norwich, and they were met at the station with a band playing Glenn Miller music.

In the days following, there was a memorial service at the Norwich Cathedral, a dinner at the County building, and the climax was the banquet and the traditional candle-lighting ceremony on the last day.

The 392nd, under the leadership of vice-president John Conrad, had their own Group dinner, during which Group business was transacted. John was re-elected vice-president.

On Sunday, the Group visited the old base at Wendling, and there was a moving memorial service at the reburbished memorial. Pat Burns laid the wreath during the service, which was conducted by Rev. P. W. Rushton, rector of the Beeston parish church.

The annual meeting of the 2AD was held, which will be reported in the 2AD Journal. It should be noted, however, that the 392nd's contribution of \$5000 toward the Librarian Fund was the largest of the day. The fund now stands at about \$440,000, and the goal of \$500,000 seems to be within reach.

It was announced that this will be the last reunion that 2AD will schedule in Norwich. The logistics and the fading energies of the members make it impossible to continue.

At the final banquet, English guests of the 392nd were Tom and Jill Scott, Denis and Hilary Duffield, Peter and Wendy Carter, and Mervin, Barbara and Ben Jones. All are stout friends of the 392nd and have taken an active part in the perpetuation of the memory of the 392nd's role at Wendling in World War II.

Those from the the 392nd in attendance were Pat Burns; Guy Carnine; John Conrad and Wanda; Jim Goar and Virginia; Harold Hutchcroft and Mary Esther; Irving Kreisman and Ruth; Lynn McKim and Eda; Robert Powers and Ruth; John Rosenberg and son Bill, daughter-in-law Joanne, and granddaughter Megan; J. Fred Thomas and Elva; Harry Vasconcellos and Edith, and daughter-in-law Terri and grandson Brandon; Donald Whitford and Emily; and Stanley Zybort and Mildred.

PROFILE By Birdie Larrick

(Editor's note: The May issue was very tight, and Jim Goar re-wrote Birdie's profile in order to get it in. However, he got so carried away he left out the man's name, for heaven's sake. (no pun intended.) So, here's the corrected profile, with apologies to Birdie and to the Very Reverend Robert C. Martin.)

How did a one-time pilot who had been a 1st Lt. in the 576th become an Episcopal priest and retire as the Dean of the Cathedral in Erie, Pa. in 1987? His name is Robert C. Martin, and he had been interested in the Episcopal clergy since he had been in Glenville High School, and his bishop would accept no candidates unless they had completed their military service.

After graduating in philosophy from Harvard in 1942, he entered the Army and became a pilot, and his crew joined the 392nd at Wendling in May 1944. They completed 30 missions, one of which was the supply drop in Holland. Their aircraft was damaged by enemy ground fire, and they made a forced landing on the continent.

In 1946, he returned to Harvard for advanced work, and he also attended the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge.

During his career, he served churches at Marietta, O., Fairborn, O., Meadville, Pa., and Erie, Pa.

He is married to Louise, and they have two daughters and one son; and three grandsons and one granddaughter.

The Martins have made several trips to England, and have become friends with Canon Donald Munt, the English clergyman who generally presides at 392nd memorial ceremonies.

Their address is 194 Wildwood Dr., Granville, O. 43023.

* * * *
PROFILE

1st Lt. Robert C. Lory was a bombardier in the 579th Squadron, arriving at Wendling Feb. 8, 1944.

In civilian life, he was a draftsman and designer, working for the US Corps of Engineers, the Navy, and the Los Alamos National Laboratory, retiring in 1978.

He remained in the Air Reserve, and retired as Lt. Col.

He is married to Mickey Lory, and they have five children and seven grandchildren. They live at 6924 Marilyn Ave., NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109.

ORLANDO MEETING



Left: Welcoming committee Emily Long, Art Egan, Marjie Gilbert, Lawrence Gilbert, and Martha Bambauer.

Right: Committee members Cliff and Mary Peterson.



Left: Committee members Toni and Robbie Robinson.

Right: Guests of honor Tom and Jill Scott: benefactors, prime movers, and hearty supporters of the Wendling Memorial.



Left: Bob Lane points out to Col. Gilbert what a dashing figure he was at Wendling.

Right: Robbie Robinson, Gil Bambauer, and Col. Warren Polking enjoying the hospitality room.



Left: Willard "Penny" Pennington, Col. Gilbert, Jim Goar (with hair cut showing the effect of recent surgery) and Ernie Barber, discussing Wendling events. (Penny doing his best to remember.)

Right: Teddy Egan's ever-plentiful chow line, being patronized by Joe Westbrook, Laurin Austin, Ernie Barber, Rose (Mrs. Bob) Egan, and the hostess herself, Teddy (Mrs. Art) Egan.



Left: Vernon Baumgart, only 73, who rode his magnificent bike 1300 miles in 3 days from Wisconsin.

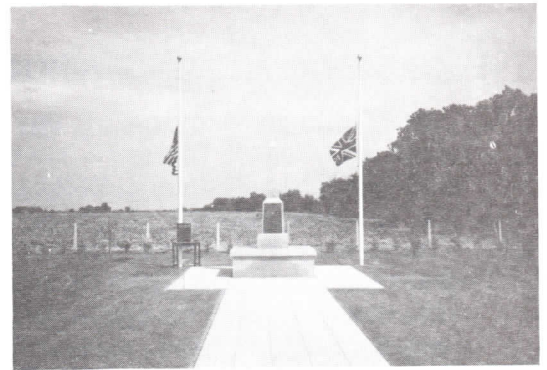
Right: Directors Barney Glettler, Herman Garner, Chuck Dye, Jim Goar, J.O. Long, Stanley Zybort, Howard Ebersole, and Carroll Cheek. Seated: Col. Lawrence Gilbert, president.

Photos by Stan Zybort

NORWICH MEETING

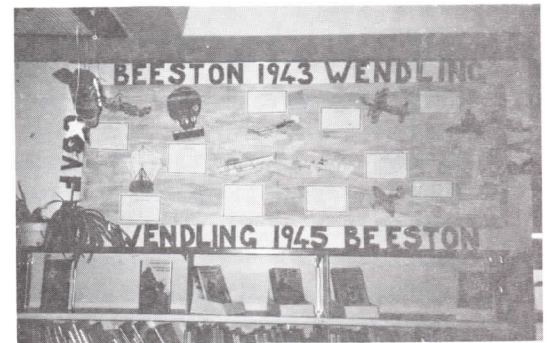
LEFT: Pat Burns laying the wreath at the Wendling Memorial.

Right: The refurbished memorial at Wendling.



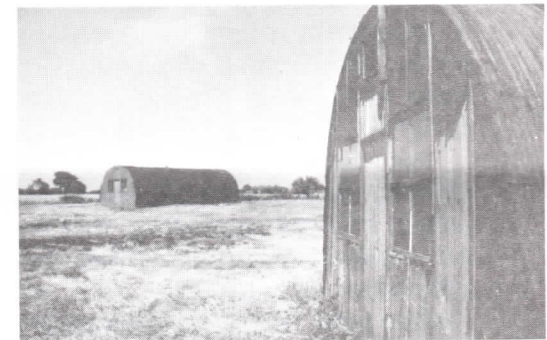
Left: Inside the Norwich Cathedral, during the moving memorial services.

Right: The Beeston elementary school pupils prepared an exhibit which was displayed at the Norwich Library.



Left: The main runway at Wendling, showing the turkey growing sheds in the background.

Right: Nissen huts, thought to be the 576th's combat officers' quarters.



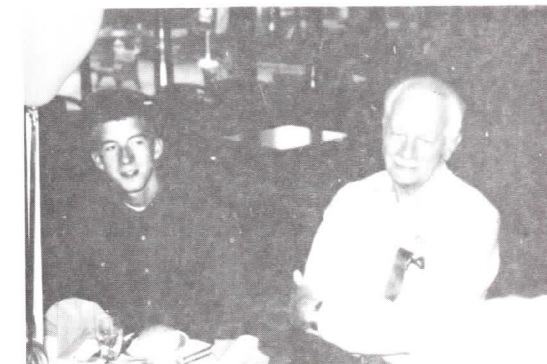
Left: Wall decorations, still very plain, on the wall at the combat officers' mess. The exposed brick marks the site of the fire place.

Right: The combat officers' mess, one of two buildings that are still in use at Wendling. A company that specializes in wrecked Jaguars and Daimlers is using it as a warehouse.



Left: Reunion members visit the venerable Ploughshare, the pub in Beeston. John Conrad is standing in front of a radio operator's chair, which had been found near a crash site by an Englishman.

Right: Two generations - Ben Jones, who lives at the edge of the base at Litcham and is profoundly interested in the 392nd; and Guy Carnine, 578th, whose crew was the first to finish a tour.



ORLANDO MEETING IS HUGE SUCCESS

The Orlando meeting of May 1990 will go down as one of the more successful stand-alone reunions of the 392nd. Some 140 were in attendance.

Honored guests were Tom and Jill Scott of Beeston, England. The Group expressed its thanks to them for their untiring efforts on behalf of the refurbishing of the Memorial at Wendling. (See related story, this issue.)

A report by Carroll Cheek, vice-president, Memorial, revealed that a total of \$107,956 was raised and about \$50,000 was spent, leaving a perpetual maintenance fund of \$50,000 with about \$8000 left over. Realizing that the fund-raising efforts for the Memorial had left the 392nd short in the Second Air Division's efforts to raise \$500,000 to fund a permanent American librarian at the Memorial Library at Norwich, the Board authorized \$5000 to be given to that cause.

In other official business the Association elected J. D. Long, Herman Garner, and Jim Goar to the Board of Directors. All will be serving their second term.

The committee in charge consisted of Larry and Marge Gilbert, Art and Teddy Egan, Cliff and Mary Peterson, L. D. and Toni Robinson, and Mike Anstey and Steve Wozniak.

The golf tournament was organized by Bob Lane and the winning foursome in a sudden death playoff were Phyllis Gillett, J. D. Long, John Henning, and Bob Lane. 20 golfers participated.

Present were guests Tom Scott and Jill; and members Hank Allen and Lil, with daughter and son-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Pipin; Tom Alexander and Helen; Mike Anstey and Ruth; Laurin Austin; Gil Bam-bauer and Martha; Harold Bandelier and Marcella; Cleon Barber and Evelyn; Ernie Barber; Vernon Baumgart; Luther Bedding-field; Joe Bonnanno and Anne; Pat Burns; Jim Cassity; Mr. and Mrs. Marcel Chanson.

Carroll Cheek; Jack Clarke and Mary; Don Clover and Anne; Art Crafton; Jack Crane and Ann; Joe De Sario and Ellen; Walter Dorn and Mary; Charles Dye and Helen; Howard Ebersole and Joanne; Art Egan and Teddy; Bob Egan and Rose; Robert Elston; Herman Garner and Bessie Mae; Lawrence Gilbert and Marjie; Frank Gillett and Phyllis; Barney Glettler and Laura; Jim Goar and Virginia; Dave Greene.

Hal Hagopian and Betty; Robert Hamill; Ken Healing and Elinor; Nate Hedges and

Jennie; Paul Henderson and Lou; John Henning; Frank Hollien and Lorraine; Dick Hoover and Eleanor; Jack Jones and Betty; Jack Kedenburg and Ad; Raymond Kopecky and Norma Jean; Harry Kruse; Joe Landers and Jeanne; Bob Lane and Marilyn; Birdie Larrick and Sally Kauffman; J. D. Long and Emily; Bob Lory and Mickey; Oak Mackey and Maxine.

John Malloy and Peggy; Wally Mateski and Margaret; Joe McNiell and Anna; Willis Miller and Dorothy; Jim Muldoon and Ann; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Neff; Willard "Penny" Pennington; Cliff Peterson and Mary; Warren Polking and Dette; Bert Prost and Margaret; Bill Rice; Bill Riddleberger and Kathryn; Robby Robinson and Toni; Jack Rotzein; Clyde Smith and Shirley; Red Sprowls and Betty; Charles Taylor and Billie.

Bob Tays; Nat Twining and Sherry; Jack Urban; L. K. Walters and Inez; L. F. "Bud" Weaver; Joe Westbrook and Mary; Ben Whitmore and Betty; Norb Wick and Marian, Sue and Ron; Dennis Wilfahrt and Lucille; Steve Wozniak and Trudy; and Stanley Zybort and Mildred.

* * * *

The Willis Miller "Starduster" crew turned out in force at the Orlando meeting. They have gathered together seven or eight times over the years; five went to England 7 years ago. The Orlando meeting was the first time 8 of them made it.

They flew 30 missions of which 22 were lead missions. There were 12 men on the crew. Rudy Boettcher and Frank Prach are deceased and Joe Mohr and Bill Moles were unable to attend at Orlando.



Back row, l to r: Bob "Red" Sprowls, Mickey operator; Jim Cassity, co-pilot; and Frank Gillett, navigator. Front row, l to r: Les Walters, tail gunner; Jack Crane, bombardier; Willis Miller, pilot; Nate Hedges, gunner; and Hal Hagopian, radio operator.

PROFILE

Harold Longacre was a S/Sgt. tail gunner in the 577th squadron. He joined the Group at Wendling in July 1944, and was shot down on the Hanover raid Sept. 12, 1944.

He was at Stalag Luft 4 when the Germans decided to move the prisoners away from the Russian advance in February 1945. They were marched through Germany with very little rations and shelter, in the bitter cold of a German winter.

When the march neared Hanover in April, Longacre and a 392nd companion, Curly Aultshaft, hid in a haystack to escape the Germans and later made their way to allied lines.

Longacre and his wife Marge attended the Memorial rededication at Wendling in Nov. 1989. He said "The rededication of the Memorial was really the completion of my WW II mission."

Longacre has lost contact with Curly Aultshaft, and seaches through the Memorial Association records have not come up with a contact. If a reader can help Harold in his search, please contact him.

He lives at 165 S. Main, Milton Freewater, OR 97862. He has 4 sons and one daughter, and wife Marge has two sons.

* * * *

PROFILE

Steven D. Miller is an associate member of the 392nd BG Memorial Assn, and is a son of the famous Major Glenn Miller, the leader of the WW II 8th AF Band.

No stranger to military service, Miller served with the Marines 1962-1965.

After the Marine Corps, he was a police officer for 14 years. Since then he has been a real estate investor and works with Glenn Miller projects and music.

He is married to Lona, and they have one son and two daughters. They live at 540 W. Alegria Ave., Sierra Madre, CA 91024.

Steven is naturally interested in any Glenn Miller memorabilia, and would be interested in hearing from any 392nd member about it.

He hopes to be present at the 8 AF meeting at Las Vegas.

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"The Big Week", 20-25 Feb. 1944- The German aircraft industry is crippled by a series of four devastating attacks on German aircraft plants and assembly centers. The 392nd wins the Presidential Unit Citation for its attack on Gotha.

COLONEL IRVINE "BULL" RENDLE

By J. D. Long

Those who were in the Group from the beginning, or early on, knew our first CO, Col. Rendle.

I had heard that the Colonel had died some years before and I knew that his hometown was Rawlins, WY. Accordingly, after our meeting in Colorado Springs a few years back, my wife, Emily, and I set out to visit "Pat" McCarthy in Missoula, MT and see Myron and Blanche Kellman's summer cabin close to Glacier National Park.

On the way we spent the night by design in Rawlins, which turned out to look completely different from what I expected. It was in mining territory with a rocky mountainous terrain and very little greenery, not the fir forests I had anticipated. It was a modest town strung along the highway in the valley.

The next morning, while checking out, I asked the young man behind the desk if he had heard of Col. Rendle. He told me that he not only knew him but that the colonel was his uncle.

Sadly, he told me that Colonel Rendle was blind the last few years of his life, perhaps from diabetes, and that when he was a pre-teen his duty was to take the colonel every afternoon that it was possible to do so up until his death for exercise and fresh air.

Certainly, part of our Memorial is also for Colonel Irvine "Bull" Rendle.

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REGIONAL MEETING OF 2AD AT FRENCH LICK, INDIANA, OCTOBER 10-11-12

392nd members who live in Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota might want to plan for this meeting.

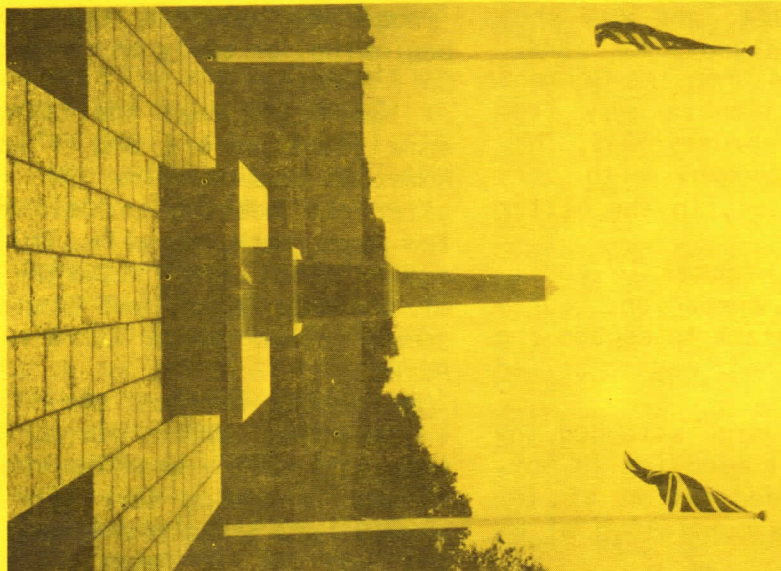
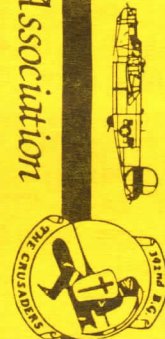
French Lick Resort is a famous Midwest resort in the hills of southern Indiana, and the meeting will take place during the time that the Fall Foliage, acclaimed far and wide, will be at its peak.

Several 392nd people have signed up, according to Paul Steichen, 93rd, who is chairman for the event.

Further information is available from Paul at 1659 Cloister Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46260, phone (317) 846 4872.

MEMS

392nd BG Memorial Association



THE REFRIBISHED MEMORIAL AT WENDLING

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