

392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association

NEWS

Volume 23

September 2008



392nd LEADS 8TH AFHS IN REUNION ATTENDANCE

Over 80 Crusaders, relatives, and friends attended the recent reunion in Savannah, GA. 8th AF Historical Society president Ivan McKinney announced that the 392nd had the largest group there, followed by the 303rd and 96th BGs.

The reunion experience was enhanced by a fine hospital-ity suite. Host Ben Jones filled the room with 392nd BG memorabilia. He ensured that no one lacked for food or

Business Meetings

Charles Dye and Jim Goar were nominated for President. In deference to Goar's long-time service to the Group, Dye withdrew his name from consideration. Goar was then elected by acclamation.

Treasurer Bill McCutcheon reported that the Association has total assets of about \$33,000 but half is earmarked for



Our veterans. Seated: Stan Zybort. Standing, left to right: Richard Giesing, Gil Bambauer, Winfield Denton, Tom Perry, Larry Gilbert, Keith Roberts, George Player, Bob Vickers, Jim Goar, Charles Wheelwright, Jack Rotzien (partially hidden), David Greene, Carroll Cheek, Charles Dye, Wally Blackburn, Allen Duff. Not in photo, Joe McNiel. (photo from Larry Gilbert Jr.)

drink and made our suite *the* place to meet friends, relax, and reminisce.

Crusaders featured prominently in the week's programs. Jim Goar, 578th Sqdn Supply Officer and Group Transportation Officer, was one of four panelists in the Norman C. Grant Symposium, "Keeping Them Flying." This seminar focused on the vital role played by ground crew personnel. Simply put, victory in the air began on the ground.

At the Gala Banquet, 578th Sqdn pilot Bob Vickers was reunited with Robert L. Garlich. On 16 Jan 1945, Vickers' plane was badly damaged during a bombing mission to Dresden; Garlich was one of two P-51 pilots from the 355th Fighter Group who escorted Vickers out of the target area. The crew was thus able to stay aloft until they could bail out in France, by then under Allied control.

specific purposes. He noted that we are currently operating in the red with a deficit of about \$3,800 so far in 2008. The situation is not completely bleak, however, since most of the 2008 expenses are non-recurring costs caused by the transition of the News into its new format.

The website fundraiser was discussed. The goal was to raise \$30,000 in capital funds so that website expenses could be paid from the annual interest. With today's low interest rates, even that amount may not be enough. As a result, the website fundraiser will be an on-going effort for the foreseeable future. Donors to date are listed on page 4.

Carroll Cheek, VP for Memorials, represented the 392nd at the Memorial Day ceremony at Cambridge American Cemetery. He was humbled by how many English people attended

See MEETING on page 3



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FROM THE EDITOR

Savannah. We had a great turnout at Savannah. This issue is full of information and photos from the reunion.

2ADA Reunion. The 61st annual reunion of the 2nd Air Division Association will be from 17-20 Oct 2008 at the Gaylord Texan in Grapevine, TX. See pages 8 and 9 for the reservation form and information.

Importance of www.b24.net. If you've wondered if your donation to support our website was well spent, just consider this email recently posted there: "Dear Sirs, Today 26May2008 I traveled by train to London Kings Cross where I sat next to one fine old boy who served over here during WW2 based at Wendling with the 392nd. He was in his eighties and was taking his 62-year old son with him on a visit to where he was stationed. I never got his name, but his son worked for GM for 35 years. At the end of our journey we went our separate ways. I looked up the 392nd history on the internet after I finished work that day and read what you guys did and the sacrifices that were made in the name of freedom and liberty by young Americans. May I add that it was an honour to have spent three hours in the company of a real man. I will never forget this day. Thank you and long live the memory of the 392nd and the USA." I hope this "fine old boy" will identify himself!

A Crusader first, last, and always. The stepson of copilot 2/Lt Robert J. Levin (577th Sqdn) emailed www.b24.net that Levin "died on June 22nd, 2008. He flew 25 missions with the 392nd and was cremated wearing his 392nd Bomb Group, 8th Air Force baseball cap. He was an incredible man and I know he would have wanted his squadron mates to know."

Words of Wendling. 578th Sqdn navigator Keith Roberts recently got a letter from his RAF Group Captain friend, John Musgrave. Musgrave had lunch at the Plough Share in Wendling and reported that "It was in very good shape, with plenty of photographs and other memorabilia around of the 392nd. And the flags were flying, clean and bright in the nearby formal memorial."

Folded Wings. I regret to report that Mike Hyde, an English friend of the 392nd, was killed in a motorcycle accident on 20 June 2008. He was always willing to meet returning vets. He also helped 577th Sqdn copilot Walt Cranson complete *My Combat Diary*, an account of his war-time experiences. Mike was just 53.

Books. 576th Sqdn navigator Everett J. Isakson recommends *Brother Bob's War* by Ralph Ekwall. The author tells "of his brother's experience as the ball turret gunner completing a combat tour with the 15th Air Force. Dr. Ekwall has researched the B17, the B24, and the principal supporting fighter planes on both sides in his general research of the air war." 465th Sub Depot instrument technician Richard Giesing suggests *The Bomber War* by Robin Neillands. He says it "is one of the best I have read on this subject. I highly recommend it."

The 1944 Election. I asked several veterans what they remembered about the election of 1944. I was reminded that many Crusaders were not old enough to vote then; the draft age was 18 while the voting age was 21. Bernie Weisberg, a sheetmetal worker in the 10th StaCompSqdn, was one of those 19 year-olds. He therefore doesn't remember much about the election, but he still vividly remembers hearing the announcement over the loudspeaker on 12 April 1945 that Pres. Roosevelt had died.

On the other hand, 576th Sqdn bombardier George W. Barger recalls that he voted for Franklin Roosevelt by absentee ballot. He writes, "I had just turned 21, and it was my first opportunity to vote. I had been looking forward to it. I didn't take Roosevelt's election for granted and wanted a chance to vote for him."

According to the 465th Sub Depot history for August 1944, their men were issued an application for Absentee Voting card on or before 15 Aug 1944 and Soldier Voting Officers were available to answer any questions. Post-election, the history stated, "Political discussion was at a new low and news of the outcome aroused only a few people. Believe the majority had a hunch on the winner."

The disparity between draft and voting ages did not change until the 26th Amendment was ratified in 1971. It lowered the voting age to 18, due in large part to the "old enough to fight, not old enough to vote" argument.

Whatever your political preference, please make the time to vote in November. It was your military service that ensured that we Americans have the privilege of electing those who govern us.

MEETING continued from page 1

despite the rain. He also met with the Scotts and delivered the remaining Wendling Memorial funds to them. He says the Memorial is well-maintained, with hedges trimmed and grass mowed.

Elected to the Board of Directors for a three-year term were Col Gilbert, Jim Goar, Ben Jones, Charles Dye, and Bill McCutcheon.

At the Board of Directors meeting, Tom Perry was unanimously approved as permanent Group Chaplain.

2009 Reunion

The 8th AFHS will next meet from 18-22 Aug 2009 in Cincinnati, OH. A highlight will be tours to the National Museum of the US Air Force in nearby Dayton.

A decision on the 392nd's next reunion will be made after the 2nd Air Division Association meets in October. It will be reported in a future issue of the News.

Reunion Dinner

Pres. Goar asked the veterans to stand according to their positions; each group was greeted with enthusiastic applause. Pilots/copilots: Carroll Cheek, Allen Duff (also 578th Sqdn Operations Officer), Col Gilbert (also Group CO), George Player (also 578th Sqdn CO), and Bob Vickers. Navigators: David Greene and Keith Roberts. Gunners: Wally Blackburn, Winfield Denton, Joe McNiel, Jack Rotzien, Charles Wheelwright, and Stan Zybort. Ground support personnel: Gil Bambauer (10th Station Complement Sqdn); Charles Dye (1825th Ordnance Supply & Maintenance Co.); Richard Giesing (465th Sub Depot); Jim Goar (Group HQ) and Tom Perry (576th Sqdn).

Two other WWII veterans were also in attendance. Helen Dye was a Navy nurse; Fred Purdy (brother of copilot 2/Lt Robert Purdy) served in the Army Signal Corps and landed in the second wave on D-Day.

In his opening remarks, Col Gilbert confessed to the Group that his first two missions were aboard B-17s. In company with the Group Commander, he arrived in England a month before the main body of the 392nd. They visited 8th AF HQ to learn how missions were planned, then proceeded to two B-17 bases where Gilbert flew the missions as an observer. (The three B-24 groups already based in England were in North Africa preparing for the Ploesti raids.)

The 392nd planes arriving at Wendling were the first equipped with a power turret in the nose, a new defensive feature. When the first one arrived, Gen. Jimmy Doolittle, who had a doctorate in aeronautical engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, spent over 30 minutes crawling through the plane. When he finished, he shifted from foot to foot, then blurted, "I don't think the damn thing will fly!" He of course learned how mistaken he was.

Gold Star Banner Presentation

An emotional highlight of the program was the presentation of Gold Star banners to Ron and Dennis Rogers. Their father, 1/Lt Gerald E. Rogers, was KIA on 29 Apr 1944. At the time, Ron was three while Dennis was just 10 days old.

Dennis later said he went to his first reunion in 1998 (also in Savannah) in hopes of meeting someone who knew his father. Although that didn't happen then or at any of the reunions he's attended since, he says that "if my father was anything like the 392nd vets I've met, he must have been a

great man, because the vets are great men—good, solid, honest people."

The presentation was made by Janice Zabel from the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. She reminded the attentive audience that mothers of servicemen and women traditionally hang banners with a blue star in their windows. If the son or daughter is killed, the blue star is replaced with a gold star.

She is a Blue Star Mother as well as a daughter of the British Empire. Both her parents served during WWII, her father with the Royal Corps of Signals and her mother with the Women's Royal Air Force.

She was born in England at the end of the war. She laughingly called it the "second Battle of the Bulge" as "the men had returned from the war and it seemed that every woman in England was pregnant."

She said, "I stand before you this evening as a daughter of the British Empire to tell you thank you. Thank you from a grateful nation! Thank you, to all who served during World War II. Thank you, to the families. To the many Blue Star Mothers who kissed their sons and daughters goodbye, wondering if they would ever see their child again as they went across the sea to fight a war for freedom. Thank you, to the wives and sweethearts who never saw their loved ones again. Thank you, to the children of those courageous families who grew up without a member of their family."



Janice Zabel with Ron Rogers (left) and Dennis Rogers (right)

Zabel serves in Florida as a Blue to Gold Star liaison and helps support new Gold Star families in their time of need.

The reunion dinner ended, as always, with the singing of "We'll Meet Again (Don't Know Where, Don't Know When)" and "God Bless America."

Attendees

At the reunion were Gil and Martha Bambauer with son Paul and cousin Sandi Hardwicke; Laurie Bedus; Wally Blackburn with Mike, Lauren, and Michael Blackburn; Bob and Carol Books; Allen "Mac" Cassell; Carroll and Mabel Cheek with son Michael; Winfield and Betty Jo Denton with daughter Kim Denton-Hill, her husband Roger, and daughter Alisa; Allen and Elizabeth Duff; Charles and Helen Dye; Luc Dewez, our Belgian friend; Richard and Rita Giesing with daughter Sue Giesing Williams; Lawrence and Marjie Gilbert with son Larry Jr. and daughter Anne Brooks and husband David; John Gilbert; Jim and Annabelle Goar; David and Renee Greene;

See ATTENDEES on page 5

www.b24.net Fund Drive Update

To date, 140 contributors have donated \$12,290 to this very worthy cause. The drive to fund our website in perpetuity is on-going. Each year, thousands of visitors learn about the 392nd BG through its pages. Many first-timers at the reunion attended because of the website. They had visited www.b24.net to learn more about their loved one's service with the 392nd and appreciated the information so much they wanted to meet the veterans who made our history.

To contribute, please send a check to Bill McCutcheon, 20620 Milton Ct., Brookfield, WI 53045.

Many thanks to:

Carroll Cheek	Marvin Graham	Robert W. Brennan
James Harvell	Lloyd J. Burns	James G. Hammond
Murray Milrod	Andrew Mayer	Joseph M. McNiel
Meredith M. Church	Cathy Leonard	Joseph H. Cronin
Robert J. Beatson	Harold W. Buirkle	Marc D. Young (in memory of
C. Donald Scharf	Janet S. Engelmann (in memory of	S/Sgt. H. M. Young)
John G. Thiel	Maj. C. F. Schoolmaster)	Don Carey
Roland E. Sabourin	George W. Barger	C. Wayne Griffith
Richard J. Harer	Jack A. Tufel	Dennis Ora Harrell (in memory of
Lawrence Gilbert, Jr.	Bill Richeson	S/Sgt. Ora L. Harrell)
Stephen J. Gurney	Thomas O. Jahnke	Bob Books
Charles A. Buckley	Sam Poppel	Judge S. J. Elden
Franklin D. Smith	Calvin Carter	Charlene Komar Storey
Bertrand J. Prost	Harvey DeVoe	Lt. Col. Gerald E. Douglas
Leslie Hadley	Everett F. Slattery	Lynn Urban
Warren W. Van Pelt	Willis Miller	Richard Spades
Mary B. Gombkoto	Anita & Alfred Hersh	Lt. Col. David A. Greene
Joseph M. Barnes	Charles Neff	Eugene J. Gorman
Rudolph A. Nero	James McGregor	John E. Griffin
David P. Lim	John Clendening	Paul D. Costello
Alvin R. Enlow	Terri N. Francino	Antonia H. Weed
Lee D. Ehrlich	Florence C. Anundson	Richard H. Longacre
Francis J. Nagle	Wildrick Hart	Douglas L. Decker and
John H. Adams	Lawrence W. Bachman	Jeanne A. Neylon-Decker
J. T. Mackelfresh	Annette Tison	Albert A. Aloia
Clair K. Blong (in memory of	Donald T. Overman	Willard Pennington
James T. Blong)	Lester J. Frazier	Donald C. Bailey
Odell F. Dobson	Lawrence G. Gilbert	Dr. & Mrs. James R. Tudor
John J. Dominik	Calvin Schunke	T/Sgt. Gerald H. Cross
James V. Petersen	Virginia Supp	Robert Barber (in honor of
John Puchir	Harry E. Downs	Ernest H. Barber)
Landon H. Brent	Robert J. Levin	Terry Haney
Harold E. Christman	Robert H. Tuchel	E. L. Lewis
Aldon H. Jensen	Blanche H. Keilman (in memory of	Lt. Col. Dale J. Stephens
Thomas J. Jordan	Col. Myron H. Keilman)	Caroline Everson (in memory of
Bill McGuire	Francis Nashwinter	Edward P. Everson)
Harris B. Albright	Edwind Reed, Jr.	Craig Sanders
David A. Scott	Jack O. Stewart	Aurora Glettler (in memory of
Gilbert R. Bambauer	Richard Giesing	Col. Bernard Glettler)
Donald Gephard	Gaetano Spinelli	Bette Gray Arch
Lonard E. Neel	Bill McCutcheon	Walter P. O'Neill
James Brady McFerran	Jay and Cindy Perry (to honor our	Oak Mackey
James P. Hammond	amazing Dad, Tom Perry)	Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Gersten
James E. Reynolds	Paul E. Keagle	William D. Case
George E. Pearson	Winfield Denton, Sr.	John Gilbert
Thomas H. Perry	Col. Bill J. Jurczyn	Robert E. Bullard
Anne & David Brooks	H. Bruce McClellan	Jim Goar
Edward Hanley	Edward C. Shapley	Lucille Maris
George Winans	Eivor McCutcheon	
R. W. Sprowls	Jack J. Bilz	

8th AF Victory Squadron War Bond Drive July-Sept 1944

Not long after D-Day, the 8th Air Force announced an ambitious plan to increase the amount of money its personnel were saving. Called the Victory Squadron War Bond Drive, the goal was to have servicemen and women divert \$6 million into savings through the purchase of War Bonds. The drive would run from 29 July to 2 Sept 1944.

To encourage participation, three prizes were announced. The top prize was a five-minute telephone call to anyone in the U.S. Second prize was an appearance on the Eagle Radio Program so the winner could say "hello to the folks." Third prize was a ticket to a dinner theater party in London as the guest of Bebe Daniels, an American actress living in London and starring in a popular radio program.

The 392nd wholeheartedly jumped on the bandwagon. The 2974th Finance Detachment history says that "Cooperation is being established among all commands to achieve maximum results." During the campaign, Bonds could be purchased not only through the Special Services Office and the Finance Office but also at the Post Office, the Red Cross club, and the Squadron Orderly Rooms. In fact, "No officer or enlisted man should be able to move a half dozen feet without being reminded in some fashion that he should be spending his money on War Bonds."

Quotas were assigned to all station units; 465th Sub Depot historian 1/Lt George Griffith wrote that they "were computed on the ability to buy Bonds in the amount of actual cash received on the pay roll for each unit." A War Bond Thermometer was created to show the amount of daily sales and how close Station 118 was coming to its quota of \$89,783.81.

A damper was put on War Bond sales when 48-hour passes and 7-day furloughs were announced. At that point, sales in the 465th Sub Depot dropped drastically as "every argument advanced as to why it was advantageous to purchase Bonds was answered by the remarks that the money could be saved for the furlough or pass."

Perhaps to encourage participation, the 465th announced supplemental prizes. "First prize, a three-day pass; second, a quart of Scotch whiskey plus one day off to consume

same so as to recover from the effects; third, a two-day pass."

Winners were machinist Cpl Aubrey Burke (first prize), supply tech M/Sgt John Murray (second prize), and admin clerk Sgt Custer Vincent (third prize).



The 576th Sqdn held a raffle during the Bond drive. L-R: S/Sgt Robert L. Manley (a propeller specialist), 1/Sgt Theodore Zeman, and Maj Charles L. Lowell, 576th Sqdn CO.

A \$1,000 Bond was also raffled off during Maj Glenn Miller's concert on 25 Aug 1944. It was won by S/Sgt Robert A. White from the Ruvolis and Pardue crews.

M/Sgt Howard F. Sinzinger of the 1825th Ordnance Co. was the winner of first prize in the 8th Air Force drawing. This included a five-minute telephone call to his parents in Westlake, Ohio, a three day trip to London, and dinner with several high-ranking officers of the 8th Air Force.

When the drive ended, the 392nd had exceeded its quota by almost \$80,000, or 189 percent of the goal. In fact, every unit on base surpassed its quota.

Organization	Quota	Actual	%
2101st Eng FF Pl	\$ 305.26	\$ 1,360.00	446
1825th Ordnance	1,113.30	3,750.00	337
1217th QM	817.02	2,400.00	294
577th Sqdn	17,354.86	47,500.00	274
806th Chem Co.	843.95	2,100.00	249
Group HQ	2,576.74	6,125.00	238
576th Sqdn	17,884.57	38,150.00	213
2974th Fin Det	134.67	280.00	208
10thStaCompSqdn	4,275.62	8,650.00	202
586th Postal Unit	206.50	395.00	191
1287th MP Co.	1,158.00	2,000.00	173
465th Sub Depot	5,261.23	8,060.00	153
578th Sqdn	18,118.01	25,090.00	138
579th Sqdn	19,734.08	23,905.00	121
TOTAL	\$89,783.81	\$169,765.00	189

The *Daily Bulletin* for 7 Sept 1944 announced the results of the Victory Squadron War Bond Drive. In terms of percentage of quota achieved, the 2101st Engineer Fire Fighting Platoon was the winning unit on the station while the 577th Sqdn was the top tactical unit.



ATTENDEES continued from page 3

Greg Hatton; Ben Jones; Jim Marsteller; Bill McCutcheon; Joe McNiell and Ruth Newlands; Jack Newton; Tom Perry with son Thomas Jr. and Sally Perry; George Player with daughter Becky Toohey and husband Dick, son George C. Player III and wife Kathy, grandson Sam Turrentine with wife Lori and sons Trad, Jackson, and Hamp; Fredi and Rodney Proveaux; Fred and Barbara Purdy with Hugh and Lois Purdy; Keith Roberts and Jeanette Noble; Ron Rogers and Mary Scott; Dennis Rogers; Jack Rotzien; Lloyd Tate; Henriette Thomason; Annette Tison; Bob Vickers, son Mark and guest Michael Brodie; Charles Wheelwright; Janice and Louis Zabel; Stan and Helena Zybort with Helena's son Jacek Przystupa.

Please accept our apologies if we've left anyone out or misspelled any names.

STORIES FROM THE REUNION

Carroll Cheek is visibly moved when he speaks of his bombardier 2/Lt Al Morse, a "very quiet but very able man." They were lead plane during a mission to Hamburg on 6 Aug 1944. Morse was badly injured when they were hit in the nose just before bombs away. As soon as he could, Cheek brought Morse up to the flight deck. Glass was embedded in his face, including a large piece that caused permanent blindness. Cheek was at the hospital in England when Gen Leon Johnson presented Morse the Silver Star and Purple Heart.

Tom Perry

Tom Perry's birthday, April 20, is the same as Adolph Hitler's. On that date in 1944, Tom wrote "Happy Birthday Adolph" in chalk on two bombs before loading them into a B-24.

Winfield Denton

Winfield Denton, tail gunner on Capt Kenneth D. Kuster's crew in the 579th Sqdn, recalled how his crew tried to name their plane. The pilot vetoed "Kuster's Last Stand" and "Kusterd Pie" and the crew made fun of his suggestion, "Wabbit Trax." Kuster then decreed that their plane would not be named.

Jim Goar

Goar said that it was often difficult to get spare parts for his vehicles. More than once, he acquired a needed item via a "midnight requisition" where a part would mysteriously disappear from some supply warehouse and turn up exactly where it was required at the 392nd.

He often served as Convoy Commander on the liberty run. Coming back from one trip under blackout conditions, he got lost. Thankfully, he found a wide road that he used to direct the vehicles back to base. He later found out that he had led the convoy right down the main runway.

Jack Rotzien

Rotzien was good friends with Sgt B. Burdette Bennett. They were both gunnery instructors and flew several missions. Bennett did not return from the low-level resupply mission on 18 Sept 1944. Several days later, Rotzien was trying to come to grips with his friend's MIA status. Then, he heard a familiar voice say, "Do you want a drink?" It was Bennett, holding a bottle of champagne. His plane had crash-landed in Belgium and he had just returned to the base. "What a great sense of relief that was!" Rotzien said.

David Greene

When he was growing up, navigator David Greene was best friends with drummer Buddy Rich's younger brother. As high schoolers, they often went with Rich when he played jam sessions at Kelly's Stables, a popular club on East 52nd Street in New York City.

There, Rich introduced Greene to Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Gene Krupa, Tommy Dorsey, and other famous musicians. Miller called him "Buddy's buddy."

Greene joined the Army Air Corps soon after Pearl Harbor. He had just come back from his 28th mission when he noticed a large crowd at the big hangar. He asked why and was told that Glenn Miller was performing.

At the hangar, Greene forced his way through the audience until he reached the bandstand. When Miller finished his trombone solo, he came over, recognized Greene, and said, "Buddy's buddy, good to see you!"

They spoke for five minutes and then Miller had to return to the band. That was the last time Greene saw his friend.

First-Timers

For several attendees, it was their first reunion. Among them were Fred and Barbara Purdy with cousins Hugh and Lois Purdy. Fred's brother, copilot 1/Lt Robert Purdy, was KIA on 4 Oct 1943. Purdy hoped to find information about his brother and he was rewarded.

Researcher Ben Jones took a photo of the Morpheus crew from September 1943, scanned it at high resolution, and searched it carefully. He then saw the name "Purdy" printed on a parachute pack. Even better, Fred was able to recognize his brother as the man sitting behind the parachute. It was the first time he had seen the photo of his brother Robert with his crew. (The photo and a related story are on page 10.)

Other first-timers were Fredricka (Freda) Proveaux and her husband Rodney. Freda's father was 577th Sqdn pilot 2/Lt Raymond A. Petty. She got many tips on how to refurbish or replicate her father's A-2 jacket as well as how to identify her father's plane in 392nd BG photos.

Lloyd Tate was seeking information about his father, 578th Sqdn gunner S/Sgt George Tattelbaum. He was originally a member of 2/Lt George Bridson's crew but flew with other crews as well.

Allen "Mac" Cassell is the son of 579th Sqdn lead pilot Maj Harrison S. Cassell. He is lucky enough to have the hundreds of letters his father wrote home during the war, but he also hoped to talk with veterans who served with his father.

If you knew any of these Crusaders or can provide information about them, please contact Annette.

REUNION PHOTOS



Anne Brooks, Larry Gilbert Jr., Col and Marjie Gilbert, and David Brooks



Superb host Ben Jones at work



Michael, Lauren, Mike, and Wally Blackburn



Charles Wheelwright



David and Renee Greene



Richard and Rita Giesing



Paul, Martha, and Gil Bambauer with Sandi Hardwicke



Helen and Charles Dye



Carol and Bob Books



Allen and Elizabeth Duff



Jim Marsteller, Laurie Bedus, Bill McCutcheon, and Luc Dewez



Jack Newton, Greg Hatton, and Jack Rotzien



Betty Jo Denton, Kim Denton-Hill, and Winfield Denton



Tom Perry, Sally and Thomas Perry Jr.



Ruth Newlands and Joe McNiel



George Player



Mark Vickers, Bob Vickers, and Robert L. Garlich



Fred and Barbara Purdy with Lois and Hugh Purdy



Stan and Helena Zyborst with Jacek "Jack" Przysupa



Fredi and Rodney Proveaux



Mabel and Carroll Cheek



Keith Roberts and Jeanette Noble



Henriette Thomason, John Gilbert, and Annette Tison



Allen "Mac" Cassell and Lloyd Tate



Jim and Annabelle Goar



DID YOU KNOW?

Joe McNiel, tail gunner on Capt Robert E. Fletcher's crew, provided a three-page pamphlet titled "Did You Know?" Published by the 2nd Bomb Division, the document highlighted some accomplishments during its then 19 months in England and the men involved. Included were these items:

DID YOU KNOW that this Division has a Squadron which put 109 B-24s up in the air in one month and had only one bomber return without bombing—this ship aborted twice. Some record—107 successes out of 109 tries. This happened in February 1944 and the line chief was M/Sgt Lewis of the 392nd Group.

DID YOU KNOW that a B-24, the "Son of Satan," 392nd Group, received no less than 2,500 (they were counted) flak holes on a recent mission and lived to tell the tale. There were more holes than surface area left. [Editor's note: The a/c was #42-99989 and the mission was to Friedrichshafen on 18 March 1944. 2/Lt Dexter Tiefenthal nursed his badly crippled ship back to England and made a successful crash-landing at Gravesend in Kent. Killed over Germany were S/Sgt William W. Hull and S/Sgt John Sopchak. Tiefenthal was later awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his superb work.]

DID YOU KNOW that this Division has had some very interesting personalities scattered among its rosters?

Sgt Filoman Villareal. Formerly of the 392nd, now 491st, who was a Filipino economist, now a radio technician. The story of his enlistment is fascinating. Going to a newsreel theater in N.Y. just after Pearl Harbor, he saw photos of Manila and recognized his old home next to a church where the Japs had slaughtered a few hundred innocent people. He burst from the theater for the nearest enlistment station. [Editor's note: Sgt Villareal was in the 579th, joining the Group in April 1943.]

2/Lt Gilbert W. Abell's crew, 392nd. This is the crew which saw Berlin before London, glimpsing Hitler's capitol through the clouds on 6 March 1944. The Daily Express, learning of this, promptly invited the whole crew to spend the next weekend in London at the Savoy at its expense. We bet they had a better time in London. Any takers? [Editor's note: The 6 March mission was to Genshagen. It was indeed the crew's first.]

Special Convention Notice!

TO: Second Air Division Members who wish to attend the 61st Annual Convention but will not be staying at the Gaylord Texan Resort.

SUBJECT: Cost of Events we hope you will wish to attend, and procedure for registering.

• Friday, October 17	Breakfast (B1)	\$25 x _____ = \$ _____
	Dinner (D1)	\$60 x _____ = \$ _____
• Saturday, October 18	Breakfast (B2)	\$25 x _____ = \$ _____
	Lunch (L1)	\$35 x _____ = \$ _____
	Dinner (D2)	\$60 x _____ = \$ _____
• Sunday, October 19	Breakfast (B3)	\$25 x _____ = \$ _____
	Banquet (D3)	\$60 x _____ = \$ _____
• Monday, October 20	Breakfast (B4)	\$25 x _____ = \$ _____
	TOTAL	= \$ _____

All reservations, accompanied by payment, must be received no later than 1 October 2008.

We look forward to seeing y'all at what will be a super convention!!!

Make checks payable to: Second Air Division Convention
Mail to: Charles Walker
9824 Crest Meadow
Dallas, TX 75230

No one will be seated without a name tag, so give us the name of each member of your party and remember to wear your name tag at all times.

Name: _____ Group # _____
Address: _____

From the 577th Sqdn history: "On 31 Oct 1944 the enlisted men of the squadron had a Halloween party at the Aero Club. Many girls from the neighboring town attended and they were introduced to all the time-honored Halloween games such as ducking for apples, etc. A grand time was had by all and it was proven that a properly organized party can be a great deal of fun without the aid of liquor. There were generous portions of ice cream for all of the guests which in England during war-time is enough to make any party a success."

On 5 Nov 1943, the Group bombed Munster. "It was on this raid that 2/Lt Raymond P. Lambert's crew had a thrilling experience. One of their 50 pound incendiary bombs hung up on the rack with the fuse turning. Engineer T/Sgt William J. Reese ran out on the catwalk and held the fuse while bombardier 2/Lt Herbert M. Godfrey went out, removed the bomb and released it out the bomb bay. The entire proceeding occurred at an altitude of 23,000 feet and as it took about 15 minutes, walk-around bottles had to be used. Both men have been recommended for exceptional valor." The plane was 42-7482, Shack Rat. The entire crew was killed in action during the mission to Kiel on 4 Jan 1944. They were aboard Shack Rat then, too.

Why wait until January 2009, when you're swamped with holiday bills, to renew your membership? Do it now and feel virtuous! Send your check for \$20 (or more), payable to "392nd BGMA," to:

Bill McCutcheon
20620 Milton Ct.
Brookfield, WI 53045

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Age 61-65 \$120 [____]
Age 66-70 \$ 96 [____]
Age 71 up \$ 78 [____]

61st Annual Convention of the Second Air Division Association October 17-20, 2008

THE GAYLORD TEXAN, 1501 GAYLORD TRAIL, GRAPEVINE, TEXAS 76051

TEL. 817-778-1000 • TOLL FREE 866-782-7897

- Program -

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

2ADA Executive Committee Meeting • Lunch • Registration • Cocktail Party • Dinner

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

Registration • Lunch on your own
Cocktail Party - Cash Bar • Buffet Dinner

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Buffet Breakfast • Business Meeting
Buffet Lunch & Entertainment
Cocktail Party - Cash Bar
Groups Buffet Dinner & Entertainment

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

Buffet Breakfast
Optional Tours • Lunch on your own
Cocktail Party - Cash Bar
Banquet • Entertainment

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

Buffet Breakfast
Return Home

- Costs -

- SINGLE OCCUPANCY \$675.00
- DOUBLE OCCUPANCY \$515.00 per person
- TRIPLE OCCUPANCY \$415.00 per person
- EXTRA NIGHTS \$129 + tax and fees
Mention Second Air Division Association when
making reservations for extra night/s.
- EACH DINNER/S ONLY \$50.00 per person

- Transportation -

- Parking at the Gaylord Texan: \$10 per day + tax
- Shuttle DFW Airport: \$12 one way
- Shuttle Love Field Airport: \$25 one way

- Tours -

OPTIONAL TOURS AVAILABLE - Pay at registration desk.
Dallas or Fort Worth - Minimum 40 passengers required.
FREE TOURS (See Schedule at Resort)
Old Town Grapevine & Grapevine Mall

- 61st Annual Convention Reservation Form -

Name: _____ Spouse: _____ Group: _____

Address: _____ Phone No.: () _____

Extra Persons in Room: _____

Arrive: _____ Depart: _____ Deposit \$ _____ Paid in Full \$ _____

DEPOSIT: \$50 per person • BALANCE DUE: September 15th DINNER/S ONLY \$ _____

Send this form and all related correspondence to:
EVELYN COHEN • 06-410 DELAIRE LANDING ROAD • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19114
PHONE (215) 632-3992 • FAX (215) 632-8319

Wanted--The Best Looking Girl in Town to Write to Lonely Soldier

This article is reprinted with permission of the Mankato Free Press of Mankato, MN. It was published in their issue of Thursday, 22 July 1943, under the same headline.

The article was provided by Gary Morphew, brother of pilot 1/Lt Orval Morphew.

Sadly, the Morphew crew was lost on 4 Oct 1943, the Group's third mission and the first where they suffered casualties (three crews). Pfc Bosworth was not flying that day; he became a POW on 5 Nov 1943.

By LeRoy Trafton

Wanted—"The best looking girl in town" together with some other girls to write to some army bomber fliers who paid a brief visit to Mankato last Sunday.

These fliers, who are seeking to locate some feminine correspondents in Mankato, accompanied First Lieutenant Orval Morphew who flew up here Sunday afternoon from Topeka, Kans., on the occasion of the twenty-fifth wedding anniversary of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. O.H. Morphew, 110 Van Brunt Street.

That the members of the crew are looking for some girl friends to write to them was not revealed until Wednesday afternoon when an improvised parachute they dropped was found on the roof of the A.A. Zimmerman hardware store at 215 North Front Street.

The message was found on the roof when some men went up to make repairs. The parachute was made from a handkerchief with weights tied to the corners, together with the message, names and addresses of the crew members.

"Whoever finds this please give it to the best looking girl in town. Write to us." stated the message under the name of Private James C. Wilson, 579 Squadron, 392 Group, T.A.A.B., Topeka, Kansas.

On the reverse side is the name of Private Ben Bosworth, same address with the following comment: "A nice looking blond headed fellow with awful short hair."

Other names listed on the message include those of Staff Sergeant Virgil Wells and Staff Sergeant Pete E. Derrick, both with the same address. A note in a corner states, "Lt. Morphew is our pilot."

There is also the notation "Went over your town in B-24 on July 18 at 4:00 p.m."

Zimmerman saw the bomber circle the town several times Sunday flying low, in fact he commented, "It nearly took my



The Morphew crew. The identities of the men have only recently been determined. Front row L-R: waist gunner S/Sgt Virgil W. Wells, tail gunner Sgt Benjamin L. Bosworth, gunner S/Sgt Pete E. Derrick, copilot 2/Lt Robert F. Purdy. Back row L-R: waist gunner S/Sgt James C. Wilson, radio operator T/Sgt Howard A. Jeroloman, engineer T/Sgt Leo C. Thrall, navigator 2/Lt Martin G. Shearer, pilot 1/Lt Orval S. Morphew, bombardier 1/Lt Lawrence R. Moore.

hat off." He has the parachute at the store for the inspection of those interested.

He thinks it would be a grand idea for the girls of Mankato to write the army fliers. "I hope the girls swamp those fellows with letters. They like to get letters and all the girls around here ought to send a flood of them."

Editor's note: En route overseas, the Morphew crew visited Columbus, OH, to see relatives of 1/Lt Moore. Fred Purdy saw the crew's brand-new B-24H fly over Fort Payne, AL, his and Robert's home town. The crew dropped a similar note asking his 20-year old sister to write them. She did; it is not known whether they received any letters from Mankato during their short time at Wendling.

FOLDED WINGS REPORT

Please report the death of a member or spouse and provide a copy of the newspaper obituary if possible.

Name of deceased _____ Unit/Sqdn _____

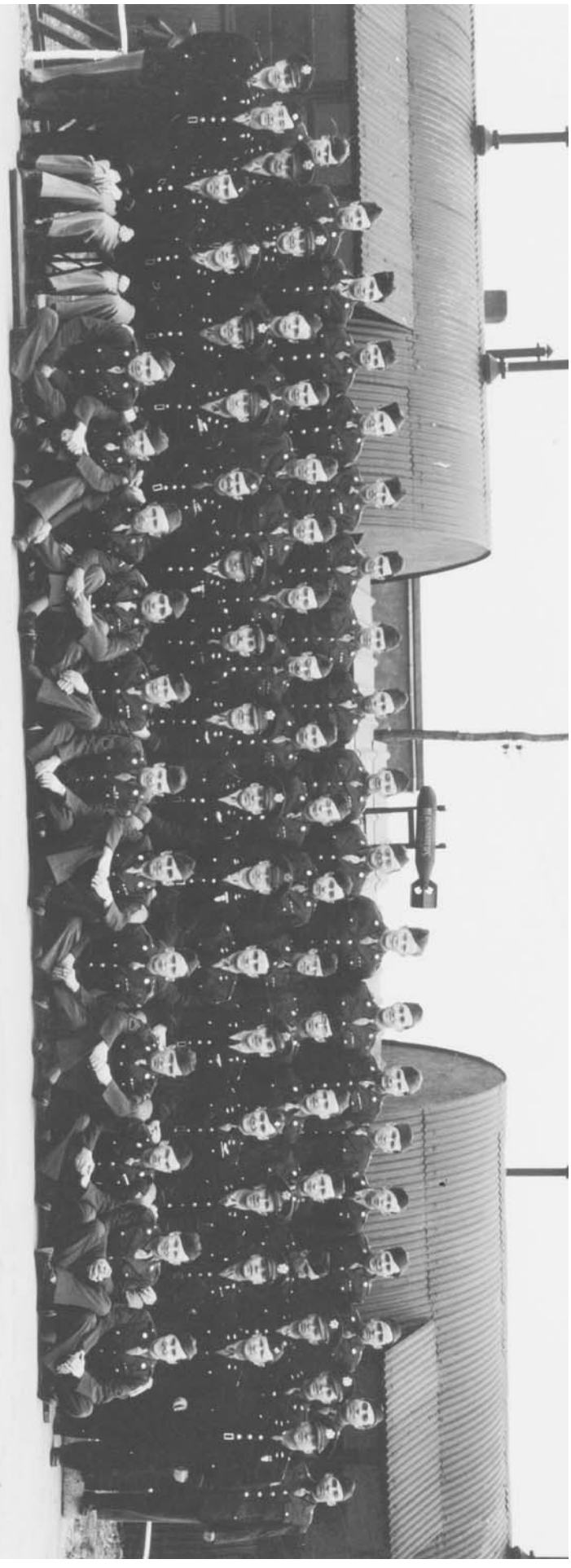
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of death _____ Survivors _____

Reported by _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

The 392nd BGMA is presently engaged in a fund-raising effort to financially support our website, www.b24.net. The website contains the history of the 392nd Bomb Group. You could make no greater memorial to your loved one than a donation for this living and ongoing memorial to the 392nd. Please send this report, hopefully with your check payable to the 392nd BGMA-Website, but send it with or without it to: Jim Goar, 1555 N. Main St. #106, Frankfort, IN 46041



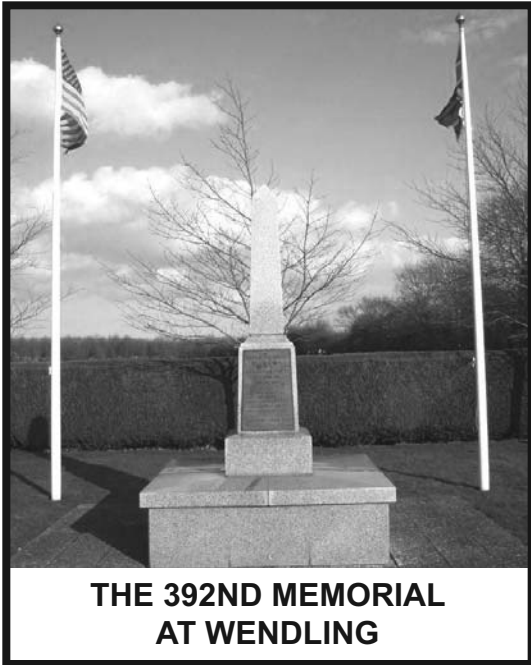
This photo of Headquarters personnel was taken on 20 March 1944. Names and ranks are from lists provided by Jim Goar and Susan Pyle (daughter of Gp S-2 clerk Pvt Joseph Pyle) with additional help from Col Gilbert and Harold Bandelier. Positions are from 392nd BG rosters. Please contact Annette if you can identify anyone else in this photo or if you have corrections to the roster.

FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Maxie (or Maxey), staff driver; Miller; Jackson; "Chief" Garcia; "Mac" McGinty, clerk; Bowers; Slade (perhaps Cpl Robert L. Slade); Brown; T/Sgt Michael McBride, Gp Ordnance; T/Sgt Thomas J. Horn, Gp Armament Inspector; Sgt Harold L. Bandelier, CO's driver; Peek (or Peak).

SECOND ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT (seated): Lt Chester T. Cole, Gp Radar Officer; Lt Fletcher B. Hunt Jr.; Capt Emmett W. Fore Jr., Gp Special Services Officer; Maj Joseph B. Whittaker, Gp Bombardier; Maj Kenneth Q. Paddock, Gp Navigator; Maj Vance Z. Cornelius, Gp Engineering Officer; Maj Percy B. Caley, Gp Intelligence Officer; LtCol Lawrence G. Gilbert, Gp Deputy Commander; Col Irvine R. Rendle, Gp and Station Commanding Officer; LtCol Joseph Bush, Station Executive Officer; Maj John Fritsche, Station Adjutant; Maj Robert M. Holland, Gp Flight Surgeon; Capt James M. McFadden, Asst Gp Operations Officer; Capt Wilbur H. Metz, Gp Ordnance Officer; Capt Robert M. Robinson, Gp Statistical Officer; unknown.

THIRD ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT (standing on ground): Lt Leonard A. Wipfler, Asst Gp Adjutant; Capt Donald B. Clark, Gp Protestant Chaplain; Lt Joseph P. Siegfried; Lt Jones; Pfc Dennis R. Minihan; Norton; Benson, Engineering; Sgt Marlin J. Veesaert, Gp Awards Chief and Statistician; S/Sgt Ernest G. Wiener, Gp S-2; Adams; Harris; Cpl Douglas V. Snell; Davis; T/Sgt John J. Onyon, Gp S-4 Chief Clerk; Peeble (or Peebles); Clifford; Reed; Frey; Capt Clair P. Butner, Gp Armament Officer; Capt Luther W. White, Gp Photo Officer; Capt Ralph S. McClure, Asst Gp S-2.

BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT (standing on raised platform): Geese (or Giesler); Pfc William J. Wall, Gp S-2; Sgt Frederick C. Douel, cryptographer; M/Sgt William H. Barfield, Gp Line Chief; Mikrut (or Pike); Sgt Herman Craighead, Gp Engineering; Watson; Sgt Joseph Pelehac; King, HQ First Sergeant; Joe (or Gilligan); Pfc Theodore "Pop" Zeman; Pvt George Kralowek Jr., Gp Photo Lab Technician; M/Sgt George R. Bremer, Gp S-2; Edward A. Supko; Joe (or Grezsl); Pvt Joseph E. Pyle, Gp S-2; Pvt William H. Shoemaker; Valadez (perhaps Pvt Arthur Valadoz); Pendergrass, unknown.



**THE 392ND MEMORIAL
AT WENDLING**

But we...shall be remember'd;



**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 VI**

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER By Tom Perry

I've been thinking about the problems confronting our Nation today—the economy, price of fuel, cost of energy, the unemployment rate, home foreclosures and inflation. I am reminded of the time when King Solomon dedicated The Temple. In his wisdom, knowing the heart of man, he prayed to the Lord to hear the prayers of His people after they forsook Him, were taken captive, and held in exile. The Lord responded to King Solomon, "I heard your prayer. If my people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from Heaven, and forgive their sin and heal their land." (2nd Chronicles 7, verse 14)

This promise has never been revoked. Only a broken spirit and a broken and contrite heart are needed. (Psalms 51, verse 17)

Let us all pray for the healing of our land and for God to Bless America, our great Nation.

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. — Composed by 576th pilot the Very Reverend Robert C. Martin, retired Dean of the Cathedral at Erie, Pennsylvania.

∞FOLDED WINGS∞

George R. Knies, 578, June 12, 2008
Mike Hyde, Friend, June 20, 2008
Robert J. Levin, 577, June 22, 2008
Edward P. Everson, 577, May 8, 2008
William A. Damerst, 576, March 21, 2008
Willis L. Miller, 577/579, May 27, 2008
Donald C. Wise, 576, July 14, 2008
James E. Reynolds, 576, July 23, 2008
Methodius J. "Ted" Pawlyshyn, 579, July 13, 2006
Wayne R. Blackham, 576, July 29, 2008

392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association
9107 Wood Pointe Way
Fairfax Station, VA 22039

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

First Class Mail