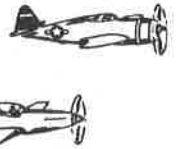


NEWSLETTER



Volume 8, Number 2

SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

March, 1970

Twenty-Third Reunion Set for Cincinnati, June 19 - 21

Newsletter Article Turns Up "Tale"

In the last edition of the NEWSLETTER appeared a short notice about Sergeant Harold Aucker (448th) as the result of a letter from his sister, Mrs. Helen Aucker Drinan.

The following is excerpted from a letter of January 8, 1970 from Mr. Roger A. Freeman, May's Barn, Dedham, near Colchester, Essex, England:

"Rather late in the day, I have been looking through the Summer '69 issue of the 2nd Air Division Association Newsletter. The note *Attention 448th* caught my eye, as the date mentioned seemed familiar. A few issues back the Newsletter ran a photo and story from here about the complete B-24 tail fin that I discovered in a field where it had lain for over twenty years. The fin came from a 448th BG Lib' that crashed in the next village on Feb. 10th, 1944, I believe after a collision. Some of the crew were killed but I do not have the names at present. A friend in Washington (Al Blue) was going to look up the details of this incident but he has been busy these past few years and I have forgotten to remind him. Anyway, from the details given by Mrs. Drinan this could well be the incident in which her brother lost his life. The only thing that doesn't

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Association Roster Coming

Work is now underway on the 1970 edition of the ROSTER of the Second Air Division Association. The last issue was printed in January 1967 and many changes have transpired since then.

As recently noted by Membership Chairman Evelyn Cohen, the ROSTER provides the means for people to interchange experiences and renew old acquaintances. While the NEWSLETTER maintains what is hoped is the latest mailing list there are indications this and other mailings are not being properly directed.

Along with advising of any changes, additions or corrections to names and addresses as now maintained, all members are requested to notify the NEWSLETTER or any of the officers of names and addresses of any persons who were members of the Eighth Air Force Liberator or associated Groups.

Association President Paul Trissel, noting the large turnout at the 1969 reunion, stated, "We need to know where all the people are so that we can be sure they all get the information as it develops for the 1970 reunion in Cincinnati".

Names and addresses of Association officers to whom information may be forwarded appear on page 2 of the NEWSLETTER.

The 1970 reunion will be held at the Carrousel Inn, 8009 Reading Road, Cincinnati, Ohio, Friday, June 19 through Sunday, June 21. The Carrousel is one-half mile east of Interstate Route 75 at the Galbraith Road exit.

One of the finest motor hotel complexes in the mid-West, the Inn provides three swimming pools, numerous banquet rooms and deluxe guest accommodations.

Early indications are that the coming reunion will be more heavily attended than any of those past.

Bob and Betty Halpin, Reunion Chairmen, are finalizing plans which will be announced in the near future to all members. "In the meantime," said President Paul Trissel, "mark your calendars in red! This will be the biggest and best yet."

The reunion general location was adopted at last year's convention in Gettysburg. The attendees agreed such a locale had the overwhelming approval of the membership at large. Important considerations were to be away from the larger metropolitan areas, provide a place where families could be enjoyably accommodated and still be close enough to points of historical interest for the Association.

The Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton is within easy driving distance of the Carrousel.

Second Air Division Association Eighth Air Force

OFFICERS

President PAUL E. TRISSEL
5609 Candlelight Lane, Dayton, Ohio 45431

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Vice President -
Membership EVELYN COHEN
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302 Burlage Circle, Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514

Treasurer DEAN E. MOYER
549 East Main Street, Evans City, Pennsylvania 16033

The President's Corner

Dear 2nd Air Division Members:

For many years I looked forward to receiving the NEWSLETTER of the 2nd Air Division Association — eagerly scanning for a familiar name from the past — sometimes rewarded, more than often — not. As the years progressed the perspective gradually changed. Each letter brought news of a friend, not necessarily a former buddy from Hethel, Rackheath, Horsham St. Faith — etc.; instead, of persons not yet met but long admired for their untiring efforts in behalf of our fine organization. It was this admiration which prompted me to accept, most humbly, to serve as your President. I sincerely hope I may prove deserving of the trust placed in me.

It has only been in the past four years, since attending the reunions, that I have had the pleasure of meeting "those familiar names." To those of you who have hesitated going to these annual events, fearing a lack of friendship — be assured, there are no strangers in the 2nd AD. I think all who attended the fine reunion, in Gettysburg, Pa. last summer, will attest this fact. With this in mind, I'm asking each of you to turn the calendar pages ahead of June 1970. Circle June 19, 20 and 21 and plan to be with us for what promises to be a real "Wing-Ding." Cincinnati-Dayton is the area — Bob and Betty Halpin, your hosts. The 23rd reunion will be one to remember — more on this in the near future.

Before touching briefly upon plans for the future, I think it most

appropriate to express on behalf of all, sincere thanks to our past President, Dr. Jacobowitz, for a job well done. Taking on 600 additional patients is rather unheard of in medical circles these days, but this is what John did and I'm sure each of us are better off, due to his guidance these past few years. The good Doctor left us with a final Rx for the coming year. A guaranteed cure for infrequent newsletters — "Feedback from the Troops" — and that is you. We are fortunate to have Paul Burtner serving as Vice President and Newsletter Editor. Since Paul is just recently retired, we'd like to pace him into that rocking chair gradually — so, "Keep those cards and letters comin' folks."

You will notice elsewhere in this newsletter the names and addresses of your Officers and Committee men. Each pledged to serve you during the current year. In what manner, depends largely upon you — remember "Feedback." What would you like to see done in the future? Our goal, as in the past, is increased membership — we realize this depends largely upon publicity. Give us the benefit of your thoughts along this line. Each of you are potential "Good-will Ambassadors" and each as such will be called upon to assist us in the coming months.

If good Dr. John will not accuse me of malfeasance of office, I too would like to leave you with an Rx for the future — an occasional dose of Vitamin B-24 will keep those "Blahs" away. Have some!

Sincerely,
Paul E. Trissel, President
Second Air Division Asso.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

New Members:

Robert N. BOARDMAN (467th)
840 Ebmree Crescent
Westfield, N.J. 07090

Arthur H. VANDERBEEK
15 Pearl St. (458th)
Rouses Point, N.Y. 12979

Rejoined The Formation:

Nazarene PICCIONI (93rd)
600 West Race Street
Pottsville, Pa. 17901

Lt. Col. James F. WRIGHT
415 Edgewood Avenue (93rd)
Westfield, N.J. 07090

Col. William H. CLEVELAND
20290 Craigen Circle
Saratoga, Calif. 95070

Harold E. BARKAN
Apt. 8G
431 East 20th Street
New York, N.Y. 10010

David D. BORLAND (389th)
5276 Lynridge Drive
Yorba Linda, Calif. 92686

Mr. and Mrs. James D.
KIERNAN (2 AD)
88 Folger Street
Buffalo, N.Y. 14220

Address Changes:

Colonel Robert O. NIXON
8824 Pine Valley Drive
Tucson, Ariz. 85710

Charles H. DYOTT (458th)
Director-Production Control
Braniff International
Mail Station 300D
P.O. Box 35001
Dallas, Texas 75235

Harold G. LUND, Colonel,
USAF (Ret.)
23 Tan Oak Circle
San Rafael, Calif. 94902

Colonel Fred E. SAYRE,
USAF (Ret.)
985 North Caribe
Tucson, Ariz. 85710

William F. BASL
Route 1; Box 99 B-1
Scio, Oregon 97374

John ODER
Box 207
Minden, Neb. 68959

Gerard A. MESSIER
40 South River Street
Thompsonville, Conn.
Paul J. CROMER (389th)
3800 Linden Avenue
White Bear Lake, Minn. 55110

Mrs. Frank CORBETT
9 Fielding Place
Edison, N.J.
W. R. Paul SURBAUGH
21 Ground Pine Court
Dix Hills, N.J. 11746

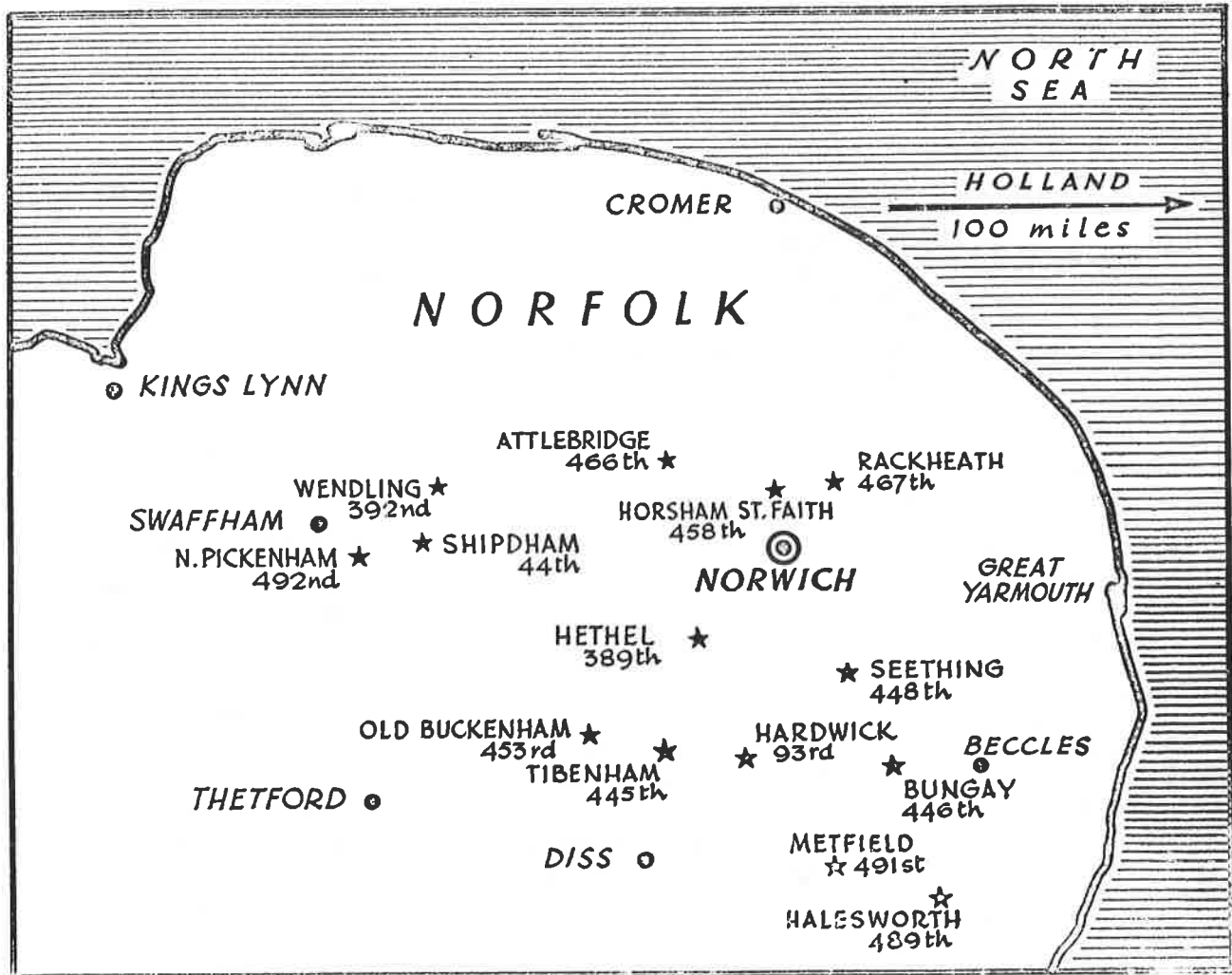
Ion S. WALKER
232 Rochester Road
Mobile, Ala. 36608

Brigadier General Frank B.
ELLIOTT, USAF (Ret.)
23 Surf Road
Westport, Conn. 06880

Mrs. Celia STERN
Apt. 6 H, 2950 West 31st Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11224

(Continued on Page 6)

There You Were



THIS IS WHERE YOU WERE. Norfolk. Color it Red, White and Blue! Many of the units do not appear on this map, so tell us where YOU were!

NEW FEATURE STARTS

With this edition of the NEWSLETTER starts a new feature recognizing each of the organizations of the Second Air Division, Eighth Air Force. The first unit to be covered is the 392nd Bombardment Group (Heavy) which was located at Wending.

Each succeeding issue will feature one or more of the outfits. All members are encouraged to send to the NEWSLETTER any stories, pictures or other information for inclusion. Pictures may be of any size. Prints should be glossy (including Polaroid) and will be returned after use. Captions should be provided to identify persons and places if possible.

It is believed interest can be heightened if information can be provided giving recent status of the bases. Many Association members have returned to the Norfolk area in recent years and several have toured all the old base sites. Such experiences will be of interest to everyone.

Information for the current feature has been gleaned from many volumes of publications, picture albums and individual notes. Hathy Veynar's historical files have been invaluable. Mr. Al Blue has made available his voluminous and detailed data which he had as a hobby for many years.

The NEWSLETTER is interested in hearing from all who have any material they would be willing to share with the Association.

Thirteen Assigned And Attached Units Comprised 392nd

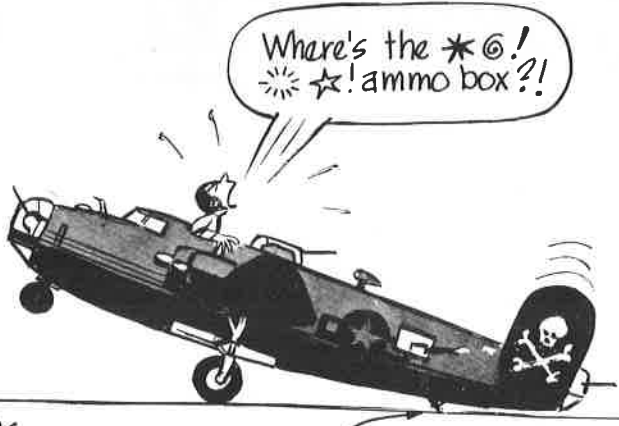
While at Wending the 392nd was composed of the following assigned and attached organizations:

- Headquarters, 392nd Bombardment Group (Heavy)
- 576th, 577th, 578th, 579th Bombardment Squadrons
- 465th Sub-Depot
- 10th Station Complement
- 1217th Quartermaster Company
- 1287th Military Police Company, Detachment A
- 1825th Ordnance Company
- 2974th Finance Company
- 2101st Engineer Aviation Fire Fighter Platoon
- 586th Army Postal Unit

Bob Stevens'

"There I Was..."

THE MOST IMPORTANT PIECE OF EQUIPMENT IN THE 'LIB' WAS A EMPTY 50 CAL. AMMO BOX--



(P.S. IT WENT UNDER HERE TO KEEP THE NOSE DOWN ON THE GROUND).

Ball turret to navigator= knock off using that relief tube up there!! -@UB



A salute to those magnificent men in their Liberator machines—the stalwarts who, a generation ago, carried the air war to the enemy's doorstep—and an invitation to all those connected with B-24s during WW II to join the new Liberator Club (see below) . . .

CROSS SECTION OF THE BOMBARDIER AND NAVIGATOR WORKING(?) IN THE 24 1/2 SPACIOUS NOSE SECTION.



Here's lookin' up yore address!



LEGEND HAS IT YOU COULD SPOT A B-24 JOCK BY HIS OVER-DEVELOPED LEFT ARM (from horsin' the yoke around)!

THE ULTIMATE INSULT

No kiddin'! Does that thing really fly?



Help! Lt. G.L. Nickerson "APO San Fran." If you're out there, write! We owe you \$10.00 *Bob Stevens*

THE 392nd BOMBARDMENT GROUP



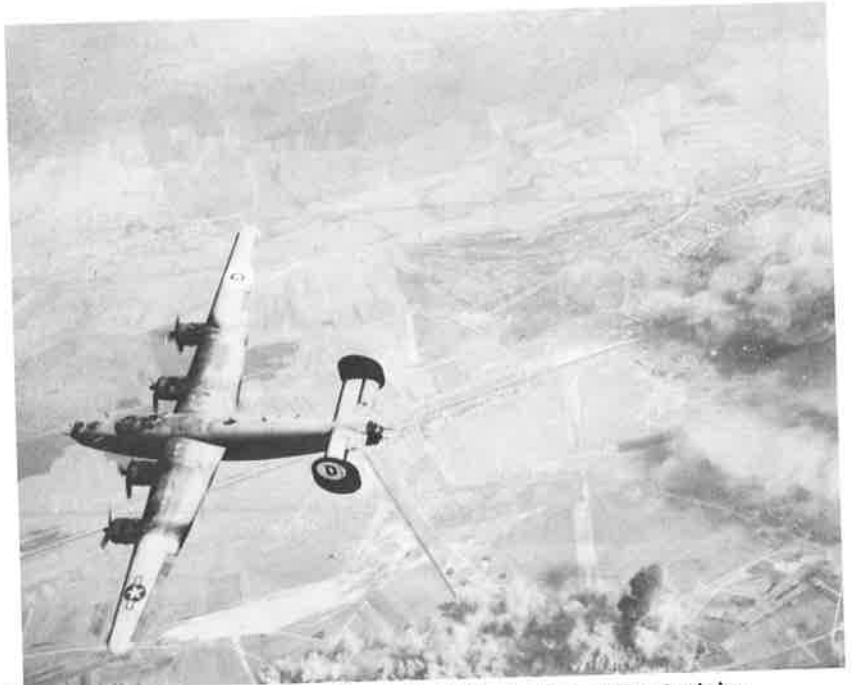
Colonel Irvine A. Rendle, First Commander of the 392nd Bomb Group.



CELEBRATING V-E DAY . . . The "Paddlefeet" celebrated a job well done.



"THE CHEERLEADERS" . . . Wendling vs. Tibbenhan football game, November 27, 1944. Metz and Burtner — the "pom-pom girls". Who won?



St. Dizier . . . March 24, 1944. Another on-target mission.



"RENDE'S RAIDERS"

Wall, Bush, Fritsche . . . "Hurry up or I'll miss my date at the King's Arms."

CAMPAIGNS

Battle Credits

Air Offensive Europe
Normandy
Northern France
Central Europe
Rhineland
Ardennes

Time Limits

4 July 1942 - 5 July 1944
6 June 1944 - 24 July 1944
25 July 1944 - 14 Sept 1944
22 Mar 1945 - 11 May 1945
15 Sept 1944 - 21 Mar 1945
16 Dec 1944 - 25 Jan 1945

War Dept. G.O.s

85 1945
102 1945
103 1945
116 1945
118 1945
114 1945

GROUP HISTORY

The 392nd Bombardment Group was activated on 26 January 1943, Lt. Colonel Irvine A. Rendle commanding. The cadre came chiefly from the 39th and 34th Bomb Groups.

Training was accomplished at Army Air Force School of Applied Tactics, Orlando, Florida; Biggs Field, Texas and Alamogordo, New Mexico. Combat crews received their final preparations for overseas duty at Topeka, Kansas. The Ground echelon sailed from the New York port of embarkation on 25 July 1943.

The first B-52s of the Group landed at Wendling, Norfolk on 15 August 1943. The first mission was made on 10 September 1943 against Poix Airfield, France. By 1 January, the 392 Group had 21 missions to its credit.

The Group's outstanding mission was that on 24 February 1944 to the Gotha Waggenfabrik at Gotha, Germany, the targets twin engine fighter plant in the Reich. Lt. Colonel Lorin L. Johnson was the command pilot for the 392nd and the 14th Bombardment Wing formation.

The 392nd ships fought their way into the target and dropped 98 per cent of their bombs within 2000 feet, completely destroying the target.

The 392nd flew its 100th mission on 6 June 1944 — D-Day. The target — The Invasion Beach of France. The 392nd was cited by Major General James P. Hodges for a degree of bombing accuracy on its 100th missions consistently better than that of any other unit of the 2nd Air Division.

Operational personnel changed in 20 months. All the faces that meant "Old Crew," the teams that trained in the States, disappeared. Some were missing in action, turning up later as prisoners of war. Others were never heard from. Others were retired from combat after completing their tour of missions. Only four men of the crews that flew the first mission, flew in the 200th.

Colonel Lorin L. Johnson replaced Colonel "Bull" Rendle as C.O. and the squadrons were com-

manded by new squadron commanders.

At the war's end, the 392nd had flown 285 missions against enemy targets ranging from Norway to Southern France, and as far east as 12 miles ahead of the advancing Russian Armies at Swinemunde near Gdynia. The combat and ground personnel received over 9000 decorations for valor and meritorious achievement. With this, the outstanding combat record of the 392nd was brought to a close.

CAPSULE FACTS — 392nd

Station: Wendling, Station Number 118.

Group Letter: D

Squadrons: 576, 577, 578, 579

Tail Colors: White and Horizontal Black

Squadron Codes: CI, EC, DC, GC

First Mission: 10 September 1943

Last Mission: 25 April 1945

Presidential Citation: Gotha

Missions: 285

Sorties Flown: 8,105

Bomb Tonnage Dropped: 17,452 tons

Enemy Fighters Destroyed: 144

B24's Lost on Operational Flights: 184

Other Missions: Supply drop missions in the Arnhem area, 18 September 1944 and the Wesel area, 24 March 1945

Membership Notes

(Continued from Page 2)

Floyd R. KINGSLEY

25 Daves Drive

Newark, Dela. 19711

Francis W. LEIST

Poneto Route 1

Poneto, Ind. 46781

Joseph W. HANSON

136 Fourth Street

Clara Barton Section

Edison, N.J. 08817

Necrology

Hamilton D. MATHIS — at Lake City, Florida. "Ham" was Quartermaster of the Second Air Division. The sad news was advised by his assistant of then, Norwood (Woody) Middleton.

Frederick H. DENT, Jr. — General, USAF, Retired . . . at his home, Shalimar, Florida.

General Dent Passes On

Major General Frederick H. Dent, Jr., USAF (Ret.), died September 10, 1969 after a serious heart attack. He was interred on September 16 at West Point, New York, with full military honors.

As Colonel he served as Commander of the 44th Bombardment Group (H) from March 28, 1944 until December 4, 1963. He had been associated with the Second Air Division Association for many years and was one of its most active supporters.

General Dent is survived by his wife, Corra Lynn Dent, Post Office Box 814, Shalimar, Florida 32579.

Colonel Oakes Honored

Lt. Colonel Harlan G. Oakes (466th) was recently honored by the 9356th Air Force Reserve Squadron at Van Nuys, California.

Colonel Oakes was cited as "the most gallant and inspirational leader" of the Squadron in its 20 years of Air Force Reserve Service.

Senator George Murphy commended Colon Oakes by letter for his devotion to duty and country and his outstanding community service.

Lt. General James Doolittle, USAF (Ret.) unable to attend sent his congratulations by wire. Colonel Oakes was presented a United States flag that had flown over the nation's capital by master of ceremonies Lt. Col. Maurice Conn.

Article Turns Up "Tale"

(Continued from Page 1)

fit is that I believe the aircraft was from the 715th Squadron. Mrs. Drinan's address isn't given and I have been unable to locate it in past Newsletters. If she would like to know what I can tell her about the crash I will be pleased to do so."

According to NEWSLETTER files, Mrs. Drinan resides at 8 Lakewood Road, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02161. Additional information would be appreciated.