



384th Bomb Group, Inc.

1306 Adams Way
Beavercreek, Ohio 45434

MAY 2007

21st Reunion Planning

Planning for our next reunion in Dayton has already begun and the date that drove our final reunion dates was the evening at the National Museum of the United States Air Force, better known as the Air Force Museum. The only date available in September or October 2008 was the 3rd of October. That set our reunion dates at 2-5 Oct 2008, so mark your calendars and plan your cruises, etc, around those dates. After looking at ten hotels in the area, we settled on the Crowne Plaza in downtown Dayton. We are very pleased to tell you we arrived at accommodations and facilities at rates that were better than we expected. The before-tax rate on standard rooms is \$80 per night. The hotel has a wonderful restaurant and lounge on the top floor with great views of the city. Carol and I have dined there for breakfast and dinner and can attest to the quality of service and food. There are many other restaurants as well as shopping within walking distance.

Among the amenities the hotel provides is complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport, which is just north of Dayton, and shuttle service to various locations around the Dayton area for shopping or restaurants, for those who won't

have cars. There is ample room in the various banquet rooms and board rooms will be made available for our meetings.

The Dayton/Montgomery County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) have offered to help us with attendee registration, providing welcome packets and information tables, and even badges. The CVB provided a familiarization tour of the city and surrounding areas, to include an evening at the AF Museum, the Dayton Art Museum, many parts of the Aviation History Trail, which included the Wright Brothers' house, shops, and flying field, a reception at the local 2nd Street Market, and finally a dinner at one of the hotels. All of these items and more are available for our reunion.

If you have not been to the AF Museum, or if it has been a few years since your last visit, you are in for a treat! It is the oldest and largest aviation museum in the world (and you thought Duxford was huge!). I can tell you that it is the absolute best museum in the world, with Duxford being second and the Smithsonian a close third. Our evening in the Museum will include a very nice reception in the Airpower Gallery, which includes most of the WW II aircraft and artifacts, and a "dinner under the wings" with music by the USAF Band of Flight in the Modern Flight Gallery. The formatted



evening begins at 6 pm and ends at 10, but for some of you that may not be enough time to see all you may want to see, so we will discuss that at our Board meeting this summer here in Dayton. We will also try to develop a more complete agenda at that meeting and will provide that information at a later date. There is also a replica of the control tower from our bases in England, which has a brick from every AAF field in a wall of this unique structure. You should also know that we do have a 384th memorial on the Museum grounds and we will make that part of our program.

So please mark your calendars for 2-5 October 2008 and we will see you at Dayton. You won't want to miss this one!





Message from the President

Lloyd has provided some very important medical information for the guys in the Group and that data is included in a spreadsheet inside this newsletter. The format should make it easier to compare the various treatments available for

prostate cancer. Lloyd says this Proton Treatment is the best he has ever seen and wanted everyone to know about their options. If you have questions regarding Proton Treatment, please contact Lloyd because he is the expert, having gone through it.

Newsletter Mailing Options

This newsletter will be mailed to all the folks on the current mailing list, but it will also be available soon on the 384th website at www.384thbombgroup.com. Later we will ask you if you would accept the electronic version in lieu of the mailed hard-copy. This will save the Group a lot of postage and printing costs, so please let us know if that will work for you. It has been found in other organizations that perhaps

as much as 50% to 75% of the membership had e-mail access and so mailing newsletters by post was only for a few. We probably don't have those numbers in the 384th, but many members do have e-mail and internet access. By doing this, we can save a significant amount of funds. If you have e-mail, but still want the printed hard-copy, just let us know.



Chance Meeting


The following was passed to the writer by Vern Arnold, old 384th Bombardier (His words)

About a year or so ago, I took Peg to lunch in Sunnyside, a little town about 30 miles south of Yakima, WA. I was wearing my 384th Bomb Group cap and when we were being seated a man at the next table looked up, saw the cap, and gasped: "My God, that was MY bomb group!" He was Les Amundson, a pilot with the 547th Squadron (My squadron). I found that he meets with a couple of other WW II vets every Thursday for lunch and he invited me to join them. It is now the highlight of my week here in Yakima. Incidentally, Les was shot down on his third mission and spent the rest of the war in a German POW camp. Neat guy!



*Please consider the 384th in your will
(a pittance of course) so we can Keep the Show on the Road!!*

PROSTATE CANCER TREATMENT COMPARISONS

TREATMENT	DESCRIPTION	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES	RISKS			
SURGERY	Radical Prostatectomy	Cancer removed*	Major Surgery	1% die	2-3 months recovery	60-90% Impotence	20-40% Incontinence
	External Beam	Cancer Killed - Outpatient - Non-invasive	8-9 weeks treatment			30-60% Impotence	5-20% Incontinence
BRACHYTHERAPY	Radioactive Seeds	Cure rates comparable to surgery - Short hosp & Recovery Period	Surgical, but less invasive than prostatectomy - Trauma minimal	Spinal or general anesthesia	Seeds can be passed in semen to partner	Risk of Impotence	Risk of Incontinence
	HORMONE ABLATION	Non-invasive, no trauma, no blood loss, no Hospita	Used as a "salvage" technique when other options fail - Not considered a cure	Breast enlargement, depression, fatigue	Reduction in genital size	Loss of libido, hot flashes, weight gain,	
CRYOSURGERY		Minimally invasive, cure rate comparable, low cost, quick recovery	Limited Data base		Other urinary system complications possible	Impotence reported in 85%, small number regain some potency	High rate of incontinence
	 PROTON Lloyd has details	Sub-atomic particle beam therapy: Ability of beam to pass into body and precisely target cancer cells, killing them.	No exit dose, no radiation... healthy tissue safe. Outpatient care, non-invasive, zero recovery time	One disadvantage is cost. Another is that it requires 8-9 weeks of treatment, five days a week.		Fewer reported cases of impotence	Incontinence practically unheard of

*If confined to prostate

The Mazer Legacy

Nate Mazer spent World War II stowing away on B-17s that were flying out of England and dropping bombs on Germany. The Germans didn't like it and were shooting back. He could have been killed. He had a nice safe job putting bombs on those planes, and by all accounts he was good at it, but his involvement ended when the planes took off.

So why did he sneak on? Well, he said, a smile stretching from hearing aid to hearing aid, it was too hard to get permission. "Remember, I'm an ordnance guy," he said. "I have to put in letters in order to fly a mission." Yeah, paperwork. Such a hassle.

And one flight was D-Day. "We're out there on the flightline, and we have three missions that day and the middle mission was with Col. Nuttal," Nate said. "And I asked very gently if I could go along today. And he said 'Officially, no.'" "And that's all I needed. My bag was already on the plane."

But why? It was the times, he said. Short, thin, always smiling and joking, always blunt, it's easy to see him doing things without asking first.

He was a successful vacuum cleaner salesman when WW II came along. He got drafted, trained and later sent to England with the 544th Bomb Sqdn. He was also Jewish and, remember, this was a time Jews were discriminated against in the States. But this was war.

"I'm just a Jew from south Philadelphia. Suddenly I'm accepted. I'm part of it," he said.



Nate has 11 flights for which he had permission, but flew 17, usually as a gunner. "Except one guy got me on a load list for Berlin, and on it I was listed as bombardier, and he drew a line through it and said 'passenger.'" "So I'm the only free-riding Jewish passenger to Berlin during the war!"

But what drove him? I can't reopen my emotions from back in '43, '44," he said. "Obviously, we were in a very busy mode. There was drama to a degree."

Was it to see where the bombers went? "You're too busy doing other things to care where you're going," he said. "There was very little communication between crew and pilots, kept absolutely to a minimum, in spite of what the movie 'Memphis Belle' said." Mostly, he said, he made sure his oxygen was on and watched for enemy fighters. "You're just too busy. The chocolate bar you have? You don't think about that. You don't even think about taking a leak."

But planes often did not come back. "You don't think about that. It's the goddamned flow," he said. "So many people it's a mass, and you get into it. I just wanted to be a part of it. I didn't hate anybody. No emotion. There wasn't any bravery."

"Put yourself where I was," he said finally. "You're out there day after day. How can you not be? How can you saunter up to the bar with them if you're not part of them?"

So he went.

Adapted from a story written by Charles Trentelman of the Wasatch Rambler





Mazer's Passing



AFA ARTICLE Jan 07

Nathan H. Mazer, 1911-2006

Retired Col. Nathan H. Mazer of Roy, Utah, died Dec 6, 2006. He was a former AFA National Secretary (1970-72), the 2002 recipient of the prestigious AFA Gold Card, and at the time of his death an AFA National Director

Emeritus. At age 95, he was also the oldest known charter member of the association, according to Bob Largent, AFA Chairman of the Board.

Born in Philadelphia, Colonel Mazer joined the Army in July 1941 and flew 52 missions as a machine gunner on B-26 anti-submarine patrols. After Officer Candidate School, he served with the 544th Bomb Squadron, 384th Bomb Group, Eighth Air Force, based at Grafton Underwood, Britain. The Salt Lake City *Tribune* newspaper reported that Colonel Mazer was an armament officer, but "stowed away" on 17 missions over Germany and received a Bronze Star for defusing a live bomb that fell onto the flight line.



Generation Now Passing

They're not getting any younger and every day there are fewer of America's World War II generation.

They may seem like any other group of old people—retirees, now just old men and women sitting on porches, living in nursing homes, parents and grandparents—but they're not.

When they were young, they saved the world. Remarkable how completely ordinary it seems. No other generation in world history can make that claim.

But isn't it fitting that victory in the most intense, deadly and important struggle in human history should seem sort of ordinary to those who won it, and those who benefitted?

America's WWII generation saved the world because it had to be done, and no one else was available to do it.

It isn't that America's Vietnam generation, for example, both the pro and the con, couldn't or wouldn't have saved the world. They didn't get the chance.

It isn't that the Russians, who actually broke the Wehrmacht, or the Chinese, who held Japan's best troops in a death grip, or the British or the French, or any of the rest of the world's peoples, didn't win the war. But they didn't save the world from an unspeakable

They Saved the World

global evil. That was the Americans when, as Winston Churchill said, "the New World came to the rescue of the Old."

They were ordinary people: my Uncle Ed, and your mom and dad who lived in an extraordinary time. So they did what had to be done.

There were lots of 60th anniversaries of V-E and V-J Day, some prayerful ceremonies honoring liberation of the death camps. The ex-Soviet Republics might pause to remember that there was once a place called Stalingrad, and it was very important. There are fewer alive now who actually did those things, though.

So what that 60+ years ago, or last week, or next year, a lot of people killed and died for famous victories? This isn't about anniversaries, or the all-World-War-II newsreel channel that every cable TV system seems to have.

It's about the old guy you see on the street with a little poppy in his lapel, or the blue-haired woman on the bus who forgets things. Let's take a long, last look at these people now, while we still have the chance. No one has ever done anything like what they achieved before and, God willing, no one will ever have to do anything like it again. *Author unknown*

384th BOMB GROUP, INC.
EIGHTH AIR FORCE
1306 Adams Way
Beavercreek, OH 45434



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"Keep the Show on the Road...."

We're on the Web at: www.384thbombgroup.com

TAPS as of May 2007

BARNES, PATRICIA	Plant City, FL
BURNES, ROBERT	Forsyth, MT
RABE, WILLIAM	Pevely, MO
BARDUE, THEODORE	Arlington, WA
BIERA, MANUAL	Walnut, CA
MAJESKE, EARL	Harrodsburg, KY
MAZER, NATHAN	Roy, UT
TEEVAN, RICHARD	Delmar, NY

Thompson's First Plane



Don Thompson flew *Damn Yankee* on his first combat mission. SSgt Charles F. Ruby, center, was the crew chief. Anybody know the other two maintainers? We plan to include material like this, and Vern's, in future newsletters if you send inputs to Frank Alfter at 1306 Adams Way, Beavercreek, OH 45434, or e-mail to falfter@woh.rr.com.