



384th Bomb Group, Inc.

1306 Adams Way
Beavercreek, Ohio 45434



December 2007

Update: 21st Reunion Planning

Your Board of Directors met in Dayton on 9 and 10 November and many decisions concerning our 21st Reunion were made with all in agreement that this should be one of the best reunions in a long time.

The first decision was to select the Holiday Inn Fairborn as our head-quarters. This Holiday Inn is not your typical Stateside Holiday Inn, but rather like the ones you've seen in Europe... very classy and has all the amenities one could ask for. Not only that, but it is so conveniently located within a stone's throw from the Air Force Museum, which will be the site of our first reception and dinner.

The dates of the reunion are 2 thru 5 October 2008, but if you would like to come early and really explore the AF Museum, the hotel is offering the same rates three days before the reunion and three days after.

Since Dayton is the birthplace of Aviation, there are so many sites to visit while here that we have planned our program around several of them. You will get to stop in at one of the original Wright Cycle Shops, see a restored original Wright B Flyer, see where they actually did their post-Kittyhawk experiments, and even try your

skills at flying the Wright simulator. The simulator replicates what it was really like to fly the Wright Flyer. You lie down just like they did and have all the same controls and it's nowhere as easy to fly as the good ol' B-17.

While the Program is still in the works, I can tell you that the Museum dinner is on 3 Oct. The reception will be in the WW II gallery beginning at 6 PM, right next to *Shoo Shoo Baby*, which is a fabulously restored B-17. Our 384th veterans will actually be allowed to explore *Shoo Shoo Baby* from the inside! At 7 PM we will be ushered into the Modern Flight Gallery where we will have dinner and listen to some great music provided by the Air Force Band of Flight. Following dinner and a brief speech, we will have the entire Museum all to ourselves until 10PM when the buses will take us back to our hotel.

On Saturday, 4 Oct, after some short tours in the local area, we will have a dinner-dance in the hotel ballroom,



Our Memorial at AF Museum



preceded by a reception as well. We will have the Service of Remembrance there the following morning, along with breakfast before we all have to say our sad good-byes once more.

Several other decisions were made at the Board meeting, but in reference to the 21st Reunion, the president is Frank Alfter, the VP will be Bill O'Leary, and the Chaplain will be Vern Arnold.

So please mark your calendars for 2-5 October 2008 and we will see you all in Dayton for a really enjoyable get-together. If you know of any other 384th folks, whether they are veterans or of the generations that followed, who have not been to one of our reunions, please tell them to join us. There are still some who have not enjoyed the camaraderie of this group. You and they absolutely will not want to miss this one.





Message from the President

The 384th Board of Directors met in Dayton, Ohio, 9-10 November to select the hotel and set the program for the 2008 Reunion. After visiting and checking on the room prices and facilities at several hotels, the Holiday Inn in Fairborn was selected. We signed a contract with them as they gave us the best room prices and have excellent facilities for our 2008 Reunion.

The Board Members also visited the Air Force Museum, met

with their Staff with whom they made the arrangements for a dinner at the Museum, which is planned for Friday evening, 3 Oct. The 384th will have exclusive use of the Museum for the evening and the Air Force will furnish a Glen Miller style band for dinner. The reception at the Museum will be near the B-17, *Shoo Shoo Baby*, and dinner will be in the Modern Flight Gallery, which actually has Vietnam and Korean War airplanes.

Newsletter Mailing Options... still

This newsletter will be mailed to all the folks on the current mailing list, but it is now also available on the 384th website at www.384thbombgroup.com. If you would accept the electronic version, this would save the Group a lot of postage and printing costs. Please let us know if that will work for you. If you have e-mail, but still want the printed hard-copy, just let us know.

More information about the 2008 Reunion, dates, program, hotel room rates, arrangements, etc. will be included in a forthcoming newsletter. So start saving your pennies and get ready for an excellently planned 21st Reunion of the 384th Bomb Group.

The dates selected for the 2008 reunion are 2 through 5 Oct 2008. I look forward to greeting you all in the lobby of the Holiday Inn on Oct. 2nd, 2008.

Lloyd

Two of Hale's Angels

Passed to the editor by Charles Hale, San Diego, CA



Photo was taken on 7 May 1944 by the Grafton Underwood Public Information Office. We had just landed after completing a bombing mission to Berlin. On the left is the pilot, Lt (later colonel) Charles E. Hale, and on the right is Sgt James Burlingame, the upper turret gunner. Both crew members were from the same home town of Winslow, Indiana. Not sure which airplane was flown that day, but on several missions this crew flew B-17G 2102449, built by Boeing and also had *Hale's Angels* painted on the nose.

A Blast from the Past... New Year 's 1945

Reprinted from The Plane News

When you start figuring how much fuel is required to keep our B-17s flying, you're likely to forget some of the bigger items. They couldn't go to Germany and back, day after day, on gasoline alone. For instance, it also takes 1,500 pounds of potatoes a day. This high octane fuel flows so smoothly that one is hardly aware of it unless some of the ingredients are lacking. Then the engine may sputter just a little, as it did during the recent cigarette shortage. The mixture on this field includes such items as six tons of coffee each week, 58,000 feet of movie film, 2,100 pounds of incoming mail. It's all part of the refueling assignment that helps get our men to the target and back.

384th Bomb Group Membership Dues

Please pay your \$25 dues (make checks out to 384th Bomb Group, Inc.) before the end of January 08 and mail your check to:
384th Bomb Group, Inc., Eighth Air Force, 1306 Adams Way, Beavercreek, OH 45434

384th Bomb Group Ladies' Column by Jean Carnes

Hi y'all,

This is an honor for me to be asked to write this Spouse Article/Column so I would like to thank Frank Alfter, our president for the 2008 Reunion and Carol Alfter for the opportunity to speak as the spouse of Joe Carnes.

First of all, I would like to say that Joe and I drove to Dayton from Cypress, TX and from Joe's standpoint, driving will 'never happen again.' Next year we fly! Could it have been that I did most of the driving? We took our time, as planned, stayed in different States overnight and didn't hurry the trip, so it was really very relaxing.

When we got to the Dayton Crowne Plaza, we were disappointed that the parking was not convenient, but was across the street. The room was OK and after we spoke with Frank about what we experienced, he was very concerned and he would certainly take care of our concerns and rethink the Hotel for next year's Reunion. The other hotel, the *Holiday Inn Fairborn*, was not discovered until the week before the Board meeting, so that is why he originally chose the Crowne Plaza.

Frank Alfter suggested we all (Jean Guilmet, her niece Vickie Huff of the NexGen, Irene Thompson, Elsie O'Leary, yours truly Jean Carnes) and the members of the Board go to the Holiday Inn Fairborn Hotel, so he could get our opinion. When we entered the lobby, everyone was immediately impressed, and everyone agreed up front, without even looking at the rooms, this would be their choice. AND, I might mention, this Hotel is very convenient to all planned events for the reunion, including very convenient to the Mall. Lloyd Whitlow, Frank and Carol Alfter reviewed the Hotel Monday Nov. 12th, and they were all in approval that the rooms were much nicer with convenient parking.

The Holiday Inn Fairborn has proven to be a lot more adequate. Frank Alfter and Lloyd Whitlow agreed that would be our Hotel for the 2008 Reunion and 384th Bomb Group Headquarters. You will all know the choice is excellent when you see it...which brings me to the next order of my business with this column.

LADIES! I'm sure you will concur with me, when I tell you, and this is from a novice who has been encouraged to do this Spouses column. What I have seen and experienced from the restaurants and sites we visited, have ALL been outstanding.

The restaurants, like the Culp Inn in Carillon Park, where we had lunch had a great menu with very good selections and reasonable prices, as did Mimi's Cafe for dinner, also outstanding and also with acceptable prices. Joe and I ordered the Pork Chops and they were HUGE, we have never seen a pork chop that big, not even in Texas, and we couldn't eat it all. They were absolutely delicious and the service was outstanding. Even the Crowne Plaza on the roof, the breakfast and dinner were delicious, so there is no complaint there.



DUES

2008 Membership Dues are Due.... See Page 2 for info. Still just \$25 a year to belong to the greatest Bomb Group in the World.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
See y'all in October!*

Which brings me to a very important matter, our transportation: Frank had arranged to lease a 12-pax Van and Carol's Tahoe, which Carol drove (yikes! :) and followed Frank...good going Carol, we are still in shock from the drive haha. She was very good really and we had a very relaxed time getting to each destination. Carol, I hope my check is in the mail..haha

Some thoughts on our visit to the AF Museum: It is absolutely beautiful and you could feel the hospitality when you entered. The employees at the Museum were very accommodating and the memorabilia is there for you to buy if you like. Everyone was very pleased with what we all saw there, as well as at the Wright Brothers Museum, what a site! We had the opportunity to see a movie on the Wright Brothers and I know y'all will enjoy that. It wasn't very long, but very informative and interesting.

Guess what ladies? We may even have our own coins like the ones the men got at our last Reunion. It will be for spouses only. What a neat idea Carol Alfter had and everyone was in agreement.

BRING YOUR CAMERAS and invite your sons, wives and daughters, nephews and nieces, and your grandchildren, so they can come meet these very memorable men from an era that they missed out on, and have the opportunity to say 'thank you' to those who fought for our freedom! These are the REAL Heroes!.....We would love to have them come and experience the camaraderie of these HEROES which is why I am so proud to be a part of the 384th Bomb Group.

PLEASE COME, EACH AND EVERYONE, AND LET'S GET TOGETHER. IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING MY 384TH GROUP FAMILY AGAIN.

GOD BLESS AMERICA AND OUR SOLDIERS!

KEEP THE SHOW ON THE ROAD.....

Enlisted Heritage Research Institute honors WWII gunner

by Carl Bergquist
Air University Public Affairs

The director of the Enlisted Heritage Research Institute here described July 3 as a grand day because Enlisted Heritage Hall museum officials had inducted retired Master Sgt. James Traylor into its ranks. He joins the many enlisted members the museum honors who have made major contributions to the Air Force.

Sergeant Traylor, a belly gunner during World War II on the B-17 nicknamed *Vertical Shaft*, was shot down on his 11th mission over Germany and spent almost two years in Stalag 17, a German prisoner of war camp.

After the war, he left the Air Force for a while to be a bush pilot in Alaska, and then returned to the service as a gunner on B-29 and B-50 aircraft. He cross-trained into supply and during the Vietnam War served as a supply sergeant at Da Nang Air Base, South Vietnam.

"This is a great day for (the museum) and the Air Force," said Chief Master Sgt. Malcomb McVicar, EHR I director. "We are privileged to have veterans here today, the day before celebrating our nation's birthday, who have helped build this country and also have colleagues of Sergeant Traylor from the Civil Air Patrol."

At the ceremony, Sergeant Traylor had two fellow Stalag 17 POWs attending, and because he is a pilot for CAP, a number of CAP officials and cadets were present as well.

"I want to share the story of a humble individual, a native Alabamian who was born in Montgomery and in 1942 enlisted in the Army Air Corps as soon as he graduated from high school," said Chief McVicar. "It was his choice to crawl into that belly turret in 'Vertical Shaft' as part of the Eighth Air Force in Europe during World War II."

The chief said Sergeant Traylor's imprisonment ended in 1945 when the Germans finally had to surrender to Patton's army. The surrender followed an 18-day march the Germans put the POWs through after abandoning Stalag 17.

Chief McVicar said Alaska turned out to be too cold for the sergeant, so he rejoined the Air Force. But, after being mortared with rockets one night at Da Nang, Sergeant Traylor decided it was time to retire. He returned to Maxwell and retired in October 1969.

"Sergeant Traylor is an American Airman who answered his nation's call," Chief McVicar said. "You are one of the reasons our nation will celebrate its birthday tomorrow."

Sergeant Traylor said it was impossible to explain how he felt about being inducted into the EHH museum. "I can't



describe what it feels like, but it certainly isn't the way I thought it would feel," he said.

The sergeant said he became the belly gunner because he was the smallest man on the crew, and it took a small person to squeeze into the cramped turret on the bottom of the B-17.

He said before leaving for England, the *Vertical Shaft* crew acquired a mascot they brought with them.

"He was just a mutt named Dilbert McNasty," he said. "We didn't have an oxygen mask that would fit him, so we had to put Dilbert in a canvas bag and pump oxygen into the bag on the high-altitude trip." Sergeant Traylor said the *Vertical Shaft* crew heard that after their aircraft was shot down and the crew didn't come back to England, Dilbert McNasty, who often lived up to his name, latched on to the Red Cross personnel at the base and was riding around in their truck.

He said a memory of the war he will never forget involves the German surrender to U.S. Army troops. "Seeing jeeps ride up with Patton's 3rd Army to tell us we could go home, that's one of the best memories I have of the war," Sergeant Traylor said.

Featured in EHH's Alabama Room, Sergeant Traylor's exhibit is a photocopied collection of his cherished World War II photos with the story of his career intermingled among the photographs. The exhibit covers nearly all of one wall of a room dedicated to distinguished enlisted Air Force members from Alabama.



**Dues still just
\$25 a year!**

Looking for WW II Color Photos

Lou Drendel wrote:

I am re-writing my "B-17 Walk Around" for Squadron/Signal Publications. The original version was published in 1998. It is now out of print, and Squadron/Signal has committed to all color in all publications. The original version had 1/2 color, 1/2 B&W.

I am hoping that I will be able to find enough original WWII color to fill the book. If you can help, it would be most appreciated and I will make sure the association is fully credited for any photos. I can use digital images via e-mail, or if you have original slides/negatives/photos, I can scan them and return them immediately.

Thanks much for any consideration you can give me.
-- Lou Drendel

429 Nassau St. S. , Venice, FL 34285
941-408-5347
Www.aviation-art.net

Editor 's Note: Lou Drendel is the author of a great many aviation books and does fantastic work. Any color photos you may have from your experiences at Grafton Underwood would be a boon for the 384th, as Lou will give credit to the Group.

Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress - Walk Around No. 16



Lt James Brown's B-17 Found Off Essex



JAMES W. BROWN, JR.
"Jr."
Roswell, New Mexico
Ryan—Marana

How incredible, that after 63 years they have found the wreckage of Lt James Brown's plane. It would appear that the wreck, well at least the props of 42-97801, lost 8 May 44, have been discovered off the Essex coast. On 8 May 44 I went to Berlin, and thought Brown went just across the channel to Sot-tevast, Fr. He was shot down by flak and supposedly made it about half way across the channel before he blew up. Only two crew members were rescued by British Air Sea

Rescue, Lt Cuba and Sgt. Yeager. Sgt. Yeager was later lost (KIA) on another mission.

Brown was in basic training at Marana Field, Az and Douglas Field, Az the same time I was, and in my same squadron. Since everything was done in alphabetical order we practically lived together, being Brown and Bennett and we graduated from Douglas together in Class 43-H. He was mild mannered and easy to get along with. It would be fantastic if they found some remains, as I'm sure he never got out. It is strange, but if you live long enough, many events of your life are solved. I have thought of Brown so many times over the years.

I recently, became acquainted with a young author, Bill Marshall, whose father was in the 355th Fighter Group. Bill has written a book, "Angels, Bulldogs & Dragons," about the 355th Fighter Group in WW II. He has done a tremendous amount of detailed research on every mission

Provided by Ben Bennett

the 355th flew. He has gone over the 24 April 1944 mission to Oberpfaffenhofen with me, and pointed out where each and every 355th fighter was and at what time. He took me back many years, and I was amazed at his research.

Memphis Belle undergoing restoration at the AF Museum

This famous B-17 will be in restoration for about another 6 years. You can see her on Fridays via tour through the Museum.



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



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

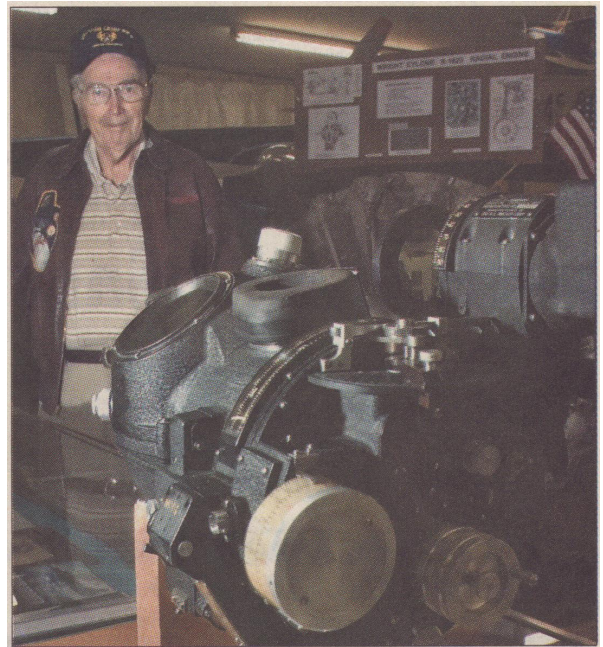
We 're on the Web at: www.384thbombgroup.com

New Group Treasurer... In the interests of lightening the workload of our very capable, but over-tasked Ted Rothschild, Carol Alfter has accepted the duties of the Group Treasurer. She will provide the financial status reports to the Board and be your focal point for all questions involving Group finances.

TAPS as of December 2007

BUTCHER, DAVID	Florissant, MT
COLASUONNO, ROCCO	Bronx, NY
CURTIN, PAUL	Deland, FL
DAVISON, PATTY (Nichols)	Gardnersville, NV
DAY, HOWARD	Apache Junction, AZ
DILLON, NEAL	Aiken, SC
EARLY, FRANK	Chesterfield, MO
MARBERG, ROY	Sun City Center, FL
MILLER, CORWIN	Stockton, CA
SCHUMER, GERALD	Lexington, KY
SLAVAZZA, WESLEY	San Francisco, CA
TURNER, BUD	Fredericksburg, TX
ZAGER, DONALD	Webster, NY

Arnold's Bombsight



Vern Arnold, shown next to his very own Norden bombsight, which he has loaned to the McAllister Museum of Aviation in Yakima, WA. Vern flew 30 missions over Germany, France and Belgium between Aug 1944 and March 1945, and credits the bombsight for his unbroken string of successful hits. He became so skilled at nailing targets that his crew was promoted to lead bomber. That crew flew many of the 30 missions in the *Silver Queen*.