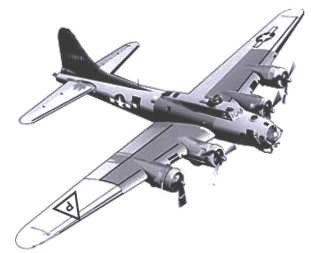




384th Bomb Group

1306 Adams Way
Beavercreek, Ohio 45434



21st Reunion Near... Sign Up Now!

Your Reunion Registration form is on the inside of the back cover of this newsletter. Please copy it, or tear it out, fill it in, and mail it with your check or money order to the address in the box on the form. You will definitely be glad you did.

We have a great line-up of things to do and see here in Dayton and you certainly won't want to miss seeing the world's oldest and largest aviation museum, the National Museum of the United States Air Force. There are also the numerous Wright Brothers sites that we will visit. There are many fabulous eateries in the area around the hotel, many within easy walking distance.

The hotel the Board chose for this reunion is the Holiday Inn Fairborn, located almost a stone's throw from Wright-Patterson AFB. You should know, this ain't your average Holiday Inn, and once you've seen it, you'll know why. The Board members simply walked into the lobby, and without seeing anything else, said, "This is it!" Well, Lloyd, Carol and I did look late and it is even better than first impressions.



From front door to the lobby to the sumptuous breakfast bar, to your well-appointed rooms, to the pool, and on to the ballroom in the evening, we are sure you will be more than satisfied.



Our Ballroom will be decorated in Red, White & Blue



HOTEL INFORMATION

The **Cutoff Date** for Room Reservations at the Holiday Inn Fairborn is **13 August 2008**. We have a block of 50 rooms reserved for the Reunion and all rooms not reserved by that date will be released for general sales. So please be sure to make your reservations not later than 13 August. If for some reason you cannot make this cutoff date, there are plenty of other hotels in the immediate area around the Holiday Inn Fairborn. If you need information about these other hotels, please contact Carol or Frank at 937-306-2142. For further info about the Holiday Inn Fairborn, call 937-426-7800.

Our Group...Your Group... the 384th

Written by Col Smith in early 1944 as a welcome to new men

Col Bud J. Peasley was the Group's first commanding officer, serving from its inception in Jan 43, until he had seen it safely through those first weeks of combat. He was succeeded by Col Julius K. Lacey, who in turn, was succeeded by Col Dale O. Smith, with whom the 384th celebrated its first birthday. That one year gave the 384th traditions of the highest order. Its men traditionally flew the course as briefed. In fact, "We flew the course as briefed" became a station watchword when, in their first month of combat, a lone riddled Fortress stayed in its low position, absorbing the shock for the higher elements, until it was

forced to ditch in the North Sea. How many other planes were able to come back by that act can never be told, but when the crew of the ditched Fortress, after 41 hours adrift, returned to base, the pilot had one simple statement for the interrogators: **"We flew the course as briefed."** Another tradition grew out of the Group's second mission. The formation went over Hamburg that day and when it finally returned, 3 aircraft were missing. Among them was one piloted by Maj S. L. McMillin, the Group's deputy commander. The 384th accepted its losses grimly, set off the next day with another bomb load and returned with 5 missing aircraft.

There were more missions with more losses. In those trying days the 384th clearly showed what she was made of. Then one day, as the combat men assembled for another briefing, there was electrifying news. A post card addressed simply "To My Commanding Officer" had arrived from a German POW camp. It was the first voice the Group had heard from that wilderness of lost planes. It came from Maj McMillin, and it put in plain words the slogan that was to guide the 384th forever after... **"LET'S KEEP THE SHOW ON THE ROAD"**

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



B-17 Story

Submitted by Bill O'Leary



Charlie Brown was a B-17 Flying Fortress pilot with the 379th Bomb Group at Kimbolton, England . His B-17 was called 'Ye Old Pub' and was in a terrible state, having been hit by flak and fighters. The compass was damaged and they were flying deeper over enemy territory instead of heading home to Kimbolton.

After flying over an enemy airfield, a German pilot named Franz Stei-

gler was ordered to take off and shoot down the B-17. When he got near the B-17, he could not believe his eyes. In his words, he 'had never seen a plane in such a bad state'. The tail and rear section was severely damaged, and the tail gunner wounded. The top gunner was all over the top of the fuselage.

The nose was smashed and there were holes everywhere . Despite having ammunition, Franz flew to the side of the B-17 and looked at Charlie Brown, the pilot. Brown was scared and struggling to control his damaged and blood-stained plane. Aware that they had no idea where they were going, Franz waved at Charlie to turn 180 degrees. Franz escorted and guided the stricken plane to and slightly over the North Sea towards

England . He then saluted Charlie Brown and turned away, back to Europe .

When Franz landed he told the C/O that the plane had been shot down over the sea, and never told the truth to anybody. Charlie Brown and the remains of his crew told all at their briefing, but were ordered never to talk about it.

More than 40 years later, Charlie Brown wanted to find the Luftwaffe pilot who saved the crew. After years of research, Franz was found. He had never talked about the incident, not even at post-war reunions.

They met in the USA at a 379th Bomber Group reunion, together with 25 people who are alive now - all because Franz never fired his guns that day.

21st Reunion Program... Dayton, Ohio... 2-5 October 2008

Headquarters Holiday Inn Fairborn, 2800 Presidential Drive, Fairborn, OH 45324

Thursday, 2 October

All Day Check-In at Holiday Inn
Please pick up your welcome packet
All Day Hospitality
0900-1100 Board Meeting

Friday, 3 October

0600-0900 Breakfast
0800-1000 NexGen Meeting
1000-1200 General Meeting (Open to all)
1200-1400 Lunch (On your own)
1430 Depart Hotel on Buses
1500-1600 Tour- Presidential & Research Aircraft
1630-1730 Tour- Huffman Prairie Interpretation Center
1800-1900 Reception- AF Museum Airpower Gallery (B-17G)
1900-2200 Dinner & Music & Tour- AF Museum

& all museum exhibits open to 384th only

Saturday, 4 October

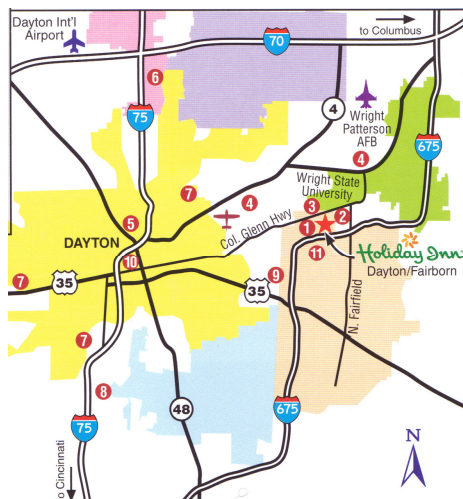
0600- Breakfast (on your own)
1000-1600 Tours- Wright Cycle Company Complex

Saturday, 4 October (cont'd)

1800-1900 Host Cocktail Party
1900-2300 Dinner Dance

Sunday, 5 October

0800-0900 Service of Remembrance
0900-1100 Farewell Breakfast (paid for)
1200 noon Check-Out- Lobby



"I could never be so lucky again!"

General Jimmy Doolittle

Something we could all say about our experiences with the Mighty Eighth and the 384th Bomb Group

544th545th546th547th

384th Bomb Group, Inc. **EIGHTH AIR FORCE**

1306 Adams Way
Beavercreek, OH 45434
937-306-2142

21st REUNION IN DAYTON, OHIO BIRTHPLACE OF AVIATION

The 21st reunion of the 384th Bomb Group (H), 8th Air Force will be held at the Holiday Inn Dayton/Fairborn in Dayton, Ohio from 2 to 5 October 2008. The hotel is located in the city of Fairborn, close to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the incredible National Museum of the United States Air Force. Our first evening function will be the welcome at the Holiday Inn on 2 October. On 3 October we will have a reception and dinner with music from the Air Force Band of Flight at the Museum. You really won't want to miss that.

Please use this form to register your attendance at this reunion.

The cost of registration is \$350.00 per person, which covers the following:

- a. Reception & Dinner at the Museum, 3 October
- b. Museum facilities fees
- c. Transportation around Dayton, Wright Bros Sites
- d. Tour of Carillon Park and lunch, 4 October
- e. Dinner dance banquet & bar at the Hotel, 4 October
- f. Breakfast on Sunday, 5 October

Please remit the following not later than 1 September 2008:

(Check or money order only)

Member: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:
384th Bomb Group, Inc. and send to:
Carol Alfter, 384th Bomb Group,
1306 Adams Way, Beavercreek, OH 45434

Wife/Guest: \$ _____

Pay full amount: \$ _____

Signature _____

All registrations must be accompanied by FULL PAYMENT to be considered confirmed. There will be no registration payments accepted in Dayton. See you in October!

Contact Holiday Inn Fairborn at 937-426-7800 or 937-431-4613 and talk to Rhonda for room reservations. Mention 384th Bomb Group. Do not use the 1-800 number.

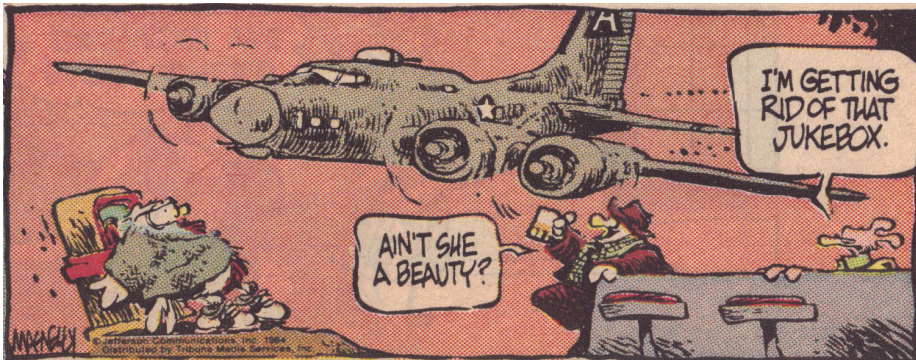
KEEP THE SHOW ON THE ROAD!

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



♪ Please Mister, please, don't play B-17 ♪

TAPS as of March 2008

CECIL, BOYD Cypress, TX
 KYLLO, ORVILLE Tacoma, WA
 JOHNSON, GERALD



DUES REMINDER

Everyone should remember that membership dues are payable at the first of every year. So far we have received over 130 checks, but that is not even half of the 500 newsletters we sent out in January. Please take the time and send in your dues now!

We have nice, new membership cards that will please anyone you show it to. We sent cards to the first 130 along with Reunion Registration forms, just like the one included below.

Please make your checks out to the 384th Bomb Group, Inc. and send to:

384th BOMB GROUP, INC.
 EIGHTH AIR FORCE
 1306 ADAMS WAY
 BEAVERCREEK, OH 45434

Correction!

In the last Newsletter, we mistakenly included Howard Day among those in our Taps column. We are informed by his wife, Adalene, that he is still among the living. Although he has had several health problems, he is very much alive.



384th BOMB GROUP (H) INC
8TH AIR FORCE



Just \$25 Each

NAME _____

2008

WWW.384THBOMBGROUP.COM