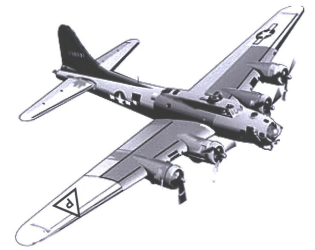




384th Bomb Group Newsletter



1306 Adams Way
Beavercreek, OH 45434

21st Reunion to be at Air Force Museum... Sign Up Now!

Special points of interest:

- * Hotel—Airport Shuttle Available
- * Hotel Rooms are \$89
- * Reunion Payment from Overseas—how to
- * Maps



The 21st Reunion date is fast approaching and nearly all arrangements have been made that will make this one of the most memorable reunions ever! You won't want to miss this one!

There is an airport shuttle arranged by the Greene County Convention and Visitors Bureau, in conjunction with the Hotel, that costs only \$15 per person and will get you from the Dayton Airport to the Holiday Inn in Fairborn, our Headquarters for this reunion. Please call **Ms Kris Davis at 937-426-7800**, or her cell at 937-572-6229, and let her know what your arrival time will be in Dayton. She will arrange for a shuttle to pick you up at the airport. You don't even have to worry about carrying any money, as this will be added to your hotel bill. When you get ready to leave for home, simply tell Kris when you

wish to be at the airport and she will arrange for the shuttle to take you to the airport. Remember, it's only \$15 per person, each way.

Hotel rooms are \$89 per night and that price is good for 3 days before and 3 days following our reunion. For reservations call Rhonda at 937-426-7800 or 937-431-4613. Do not use the 1-800 number for Holiday Inn.



For our overseas members, please call Carol or Frank at 937-306-2142 or email at falfter@woh.rr.com to make arrangements for bank-to-bank transfers of reunion fees.

A Dayton area map can be found on the inside of this newsletter to help you get oriented if you choose to drive your car here or rent one for local transportation. There are many things to see besides historic aviation that will entice many of you to wander from the planned path.

President's Message

Fellow Grafton Underwood Veterans!!!! Another year has passed and the year for the 21st Reunion is here. Over the past years we have had some very memorable Reunions and Memorial Junkets, this one will be no exception as many decisions were made with all in agreement that this will be one of our best. Don't miss it! Make your plans now and please mark the dates on your calendar!

The first decision was the selection of the Holiday Inn Fairborn as our Head-

quarters. This Holiday Inn is not the typical Stateside Holiday Inn, but rather more 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 located within a stone's throw from the Air Force Museum.

Dayton, being the birthplace of Aviation, has many sites to visit and we have planned our program around many of them. We know you are going to enjoy the program that is planned.

The highlight of the Reunion will be on

Friday evening, when we have the entire Air Force Museum all to ourselves for reception, dinner, music and viewing of all of the wonderful exhibits. This is one Reunion you do not want to miss.

The Reunion President is Frank Alfter, the Vice-President is Bill O'Leary, and the Chaplain is Vern Arnold. If you know of any other 384th Veterans, or friends or relatives 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 our Group. You

and they absolutely will not want to miss this one.

Dayton is centrally located and their airport is served by several major airlines. **SO!** Do not delay in sending

(Cont'd on page 3)



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





TOURS

Of the places we plan to visit, the Huffman Prairie Interpretive Center is a logical beginning, for this is where the Wright Brothers began their advanced flying experiments following their success at Kitty Hawk. This Center is located on Wright-Patterson AFB and overlooks the actual prairie where they conducted their experiments. At the Center you will have the opportunity to try your flying skills on the Wright Flyer Simulator, plus view many of their inventions and hear about their exploits.

The second stop on our tour will be at the Presidential Aircraft and Experimental Aircraft Hangars, also located on WPAFB. You will need to bring a photo ID so that we may enter the base to see these exhibits, so please don't forget your identification, such as a driv-

ers license, or other form of government ID. In the Presidential Hangar you will see all of the Air Force Ones from President Roosevelt through President Reagan. In the Experimental Hangar you will see the huge B-70, the X-1, the X-15 and many other aircraft used over the decades to develop what we have today.

From there we will go to the main part of the Air Force Museum where we will have our reception and



dinner. We may have some extra time and might see the AAF Control Tower, which is an exact replica of the ones at all the AAF fields in England during the War. We may also have time to see the 384th Memorial on the grounds of the Museum (see front page). This one of the first monuments to be placed at the AF Museum.



Gala Evening at the Museum of the United States Air Force



Once we enter the Museum proper at 1800 hours, we will be escorted to the Airpower Gallery, sometimes known as the WW II gallery. Right next to the B-17, Shoo-Shoo Baby, we will have our reception and our veterans will actually get to take a peek inside this wonderfully restored Fort. She flew her last flight to the Museum from Dover AFB, DE in 1988, escorted all the way by two P-51s.

The reception will take place from 6 pm until 7 pm, at which time we will be escorted from the Airpower Gallery to the Modern Flight Gallery. The Modern Flight Gallery is really the Vietnam and Korean War, with a few modern aircraft, like the latest and most advanced fighter, the F-22 Raptor.

In this gallery our dinner tables will be awaiting us as well as the Air Force Band of Flight, which will perform

Glenn Miller arrangements for our entertainment.

Dinner promises to be one you will remember and the company we will be with will make it even more special. Following dinner and music, we have the entire Museum to ourselves and believe me there will be much you will want to see. Also note there are motorized chairs available for those who need to rest, but still want to see as much as possible.

When you have seen about all your heart desires we will board the buses and return to the hotel for crew rest, for the following day has more tours in store.

First stop on Saturday, after a restful night and a



leisurely breakfast, not to mention chatting with old friends, will be the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center in downtown Dayton. Here you will see a very informative film about the Wright Brothers and get a feel for what it must have been like at the turn of the century. Adjacent to the Center is the Wright Cycle Co, which is one of the original shops the brothers used in their bicycle business.



DUES NOTICE

2008 dues were due in January
Please support our Bomb Group
And pay yours soonest!

Carillon Park

The second stop on our tour will be at Carillon Park, which is a collection of historical artifacts and buildings from Dayton's colorful history. We will start with lunch. Those who attended the Board Meeting last November will remember the great food we had at Culp's Café and they are providing our lunch at the pavilion.

We will have lots of time to explore or just relax while we are at Carillon Park. Among the things to see are:

JOHN W. BERRY, SR. WRIGHT BROTHERS AVIATION CENTER

The exhibit includes Wright Hall and the Wright Cycle Shop, and tells the story of the Wright brothers and

showcases their original 1905 Wright Flyer III, the world's first practical airplane.

WRIGHT CYCLE SHOP

The shop is a replica of the Wright Brothers' final bicycle shop as it looked in 1901. The original was moved from Dayton to Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan in 1936.

WILBUR WRIGHT WING

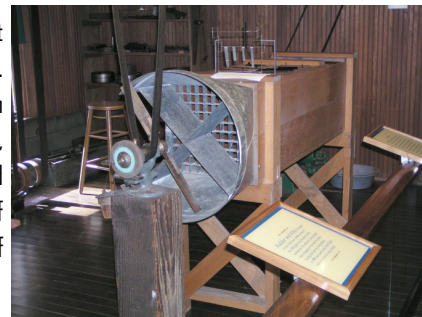
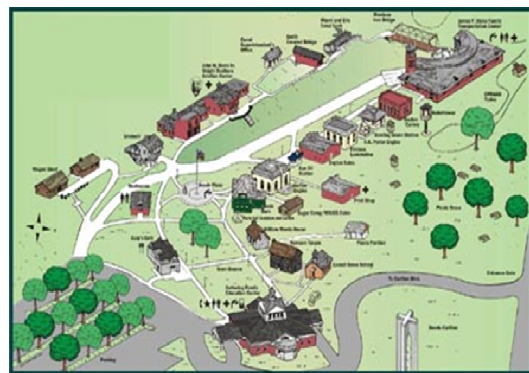
An interactive theater and family artifacts tell the story of the Wright brothers' experimentation, and ultimately their success in flight.

WRIGHT HALL

This hall showcases the original 1905

Wright Flyer III, the world's first practical airplane and a National Historic Landmark.

We will spend approximately 3 hours here and then head back to our hotel to get ready for our dinner dance. We have set up this reunion so as not to be over-taxed, and yet get you all around to see a good sampling of Dayton and the birth of aviation.



Wright Brothers' Wind Tunnel

President's Message (Continued from page 1)

in your Registration form. The dates for the Reunion are 2-5 October 2008 and the hotel is offering the same room rate three days prior and three days following the Reunion.

We want to thank Frank and Carol Alfter for their dedication and the hard work they have done to organize the Reunion and set up the tours, etc. for the 21st Reunion. It is very much appreciated.

On Thursday, Oct 2nd, Frank Alfter, Quentin Bland, and I are looking forward to seeing and greeting all of you at the Fairborn Holiday Inn. We are doing our best and we want your help: **"To Keep the Show on the Road!"**

Lloyd Whitlow
President
Board of Directors
384th Bomb Group, Inc

NEXGEN MEETING

For those of us not so honored to have been a veteran 384th member, there will be a NexGen meeting at 8 am on Friday, 3 October, at the hotel. Room to be confirmed. Please, all descendants, relatives, and friends of the 384th, do come and help us Keep the Show on the Road. There are plenty of projects to keep us busy and we need your help. Please check with the reception desk at the Hotel for your copy of the Reunion Program, which will list this meeting and its location.

We haven't been as active as I would have liked and that is mostly my fault. With your help, we can become a useful committee and help in getting things done for the Group. Call me at 937-306-2142 if you have any questions.

Frank Alfter

384th Bomb Group at U.S. Air Force Academy



In his typical gracious manner, Don Thompson represented the Group at the Air Force Academy graduation and award ceremonies. This year's recipient of the prestigious Outstanding Cadet in Biology Award was Cadet Hila Levy, Class of 2008, Squadron 9. This was part of the Individual Awards Ceremony held at the Academy on 26 May. Every year the 384th sponsors this particular award and brings tradition and warrior ethos to this event. We are proud of Don for doing this, and especially proud of our newest lieutenant, Hila Levy.

SHIRTS & HATS

Would you like this logo embroidered on your next shirt or hat?

384th Bomb Group



These will be embroidered, not silk-screened. Look for an order form in the next newsletter or on line at www.384thbombgroup.com.



Website Roundup www.384thbombgroup.com

Last year was a watershed year for the website. The personnel list, mission list, and aircraft list were moved into an on-line data base as the first step towards a unified view of 384th historical facts. The data appears to have a high degree of accuracy, but reports of errors are always welcomed – and are always acted upon right away. Previous versions of the missions and aircraft pages are still available via links at the top of the new pages. This was necessary because – for the time being – some of the information from the old pages is not available thru the database yet.

The primary project currently under way is to enter every member of every combat crew – for every mission! This is a big job, but not as big as the job our 384th Veterans and their comrades-in-arms accomplished during the war. The job is about 5% complete, but to give an idea of where it will lead, here are a couple of exercises that will illustrate our objective:

Click on the final mission in the mission list to bring up a list of all the aircraft on this mission, the pilots, and some additional data. A few crews are still missing from the database for this mission, but it is the most complete. Click on a pilot name and see the actual crew that flew that day.

In a similar manner, click on any mission in which an aircraft and crew was lost – all lost aircraft and crews have crew lists.

Finally, search for “Preller” on the Personnel page (only because I know there is a significant amount of data there). You will see the usual personal data, and then a list of missions, with links to missions, crew, aircraft, and some additional data. The list of missions is not complete, of course. Clicking on any of the links will bring up detailed data.

With the above examples, I hope it is clear that the changes will bring significant new ways to use the data. One goal I have is to provide an “instant history” for any combat crewman, listing all missions, aircraft, and fellow crewmembers, as well as the ability to save it as a pdf file.

The other big project – did I say “big”? I meant HUGE project – is to build a companion website to hold the contents of “Memories...”, the outstanding history compiled and (formerly) published by Ken Decker over many years. Ken approached me about this project and without hesitation I jumped at it. Ken had decided last year to cease publication because his wife needed all his attention to help overcome health problems. She is much better now, but he has stuck to his decision and offered the book contents to the 384th.

I have established two websites to develop the initial ideas and work out the necessary procedures and you are welcome to visit them. The first is Memories.384thBombGroup.com – this is the URL that will be used for the final website, but the website design may be changed ... to that which you will find at 384thBombGroup.com/Memories (and note the M after the slash must be capitalized). That site was started with a couple of October 1943 missions, and a few November 1944 missions. By the time you read this I expect there will be more content.

What is needed? I need volunteers to do some of the data entry, and I need more loading lists. If you have a loading list, please scan it and email it to me at F3RED@PRELLER.US or if you have many of them, you are welcome to send them by postal mail. I can copy and return them if you would like them back.

From Fate, Texas, Fred Preller – Keeping the Show on the Road!

New Members:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Bletscher, Robert C. | Milwaukie, Oregon |
| 2. Mantle, Paul L. Jr | Plano, Texas |
| 3. Nealis, Gary D. | Bartlesville, Oklahoma |
| 4. Parka, John S. | Greenfield, Indiana |
| 5. Schneider, Debbie | Lake Oswego, Oregon |

Reunion Sign-Ups: Those who have paid so far to come to Dayton

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Mr. & Mrs Philip Castro plus 2 Guests | 12. William Wilkens |
| 2. John Edwards | |
| 3. Raymond Gausa | |
| 4. Joe & Jean Carnes | |
| 5. Harold Castor | |
| 6. Carl Euting | |
| 7. Jack, Celia & Patricia Goetz | |
| 8. Lynn Kaessner | |
| 9. David & Hedwig Lustig | |
| 10. Mr & Mrs Roy Snyder | |
| 11. Ralph Wood, Sr & Jr | |

That's just 21 attendees so far, folks, so sign up now





544th



545th



546th



547th

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!
 PLEASE LIST NAMES OF ALL GUESTS ATTENDING, AS YOU WANT THEM ON NAME TAGS. Also, if you require vegetarian meals, please indicate so on your registration.
 Contact Holiday Inn Fairborn at 937-426-7800 or 937-431-4613 and talk to Rhonda for room reservations. (\$89 per night) Mention 384th Bomb Group. Do not use the 1-800 number. \$89 also good for 3 days before and after reunion dates.

KEEP THE SHOW ON THE ROAD!

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

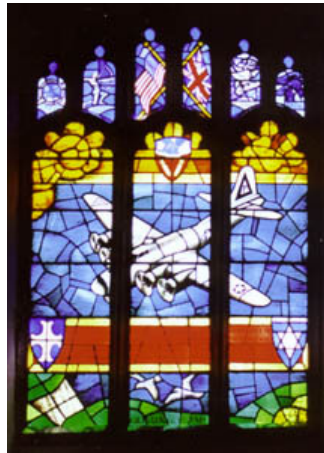


"Keep the Show on the Road...."

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

TAPS as of June 2008

BAGGS, JOSEPH	Vero Beach, FL
CANION, BILL E.	Phoenix, AZ
ELLIS, HOWARD JO	Tujunga, CA
FARNSWORTH, REUBEN	St George, UT
HAGGAI, MELVIN E.	Belmont, MI
KAPUS, JAMES F.	Germantown, WI
MEDFORD, ROBERT W.	El Paso, TX
NEALIS, LEONARD	Bartlesville, OK
RICHARDSON, BERT	Beaverton, OR
SCHAAF, HERBERT H.	Statesboro, GA



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



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



Just \$25 Each

NAME _____

2008

WWW.384THBOMBGROUP.COM