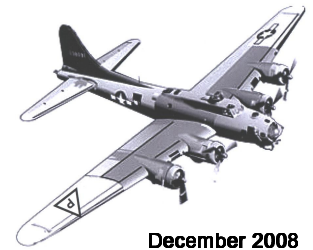




384th Bomb Group Newsletter

1306 Adams Way
Beavercreek, OH 45434



December 2008

21st REUNION A HUGE SUCCESS !!

The 21st Reunion in Dayton, Ohio turned out to be one of the most enjoyable, by most accounts. Judging from the many thank-you letters and cards, we have to say that it truly was one that shouldn't have been missed.

From the very special night at the AF Museum to the tours of the various historical sites around Dayton to the memorable evening dinner dance at the hotel, it was such a great way to get together and chat with old and new friends. Everyone seemed to fully enjoy themselves.

For those of you who came, we thank you for your enduring support of the 384th and hope you enjoyed yourselves. We also look forward to seeing you at many, many more reunions and gatherings.

The next event is the Gathering in Sa-

vannah, Georgia around late October or early November. We are planning this one a little later than recent reunions, so there is a better chance of cooler weather in that part of the country. Of course the big attraction in Savannah is the Mighty 8th Air Force Museum, which has a good collection of 384th artifacts. And Savannah is just a lovely place to visit and the ladies are really looking forward to some of Paula Deen's cooking while there. So, start saving those coins for another great 384th Gathering.

The year following Savannah, we are planning on another trip back to England. The planners will endeavor to make that trip a memorable one for all. We are thinking of some different venues, so send us some of your ideas for how you would like to spend your time in England in 2010.



Joe & Jean Carnes, Bill & Elsie O'Leary and Quentin

We must all thank the chaplain for his weather prayer for this last reunion. Wasn't that weather absolutely gorgeous?? Temperatures were just right and nary a raindrop to be seen the whole time! It truly was God's gift to you heroes of the 384th.



Ted's Passing

It is with deep sadness that we announce that Ted Rothschild passed away at his home in Boynton Beach, FL on 4 December. He is survived by his loving wife Margaret. Condolences may be sent to her at 650 Snug Harbor, Apt G-402, Boynton Beach, FL 33435.

Ted was truly a hero, having flown 35 combat missions with the 545th Bomb Squadron. His first combat mission was on 5 August 1944 in a plane named "Pauline." He and his crew were assigned to bomb a place called Fleury in France.

That mission and many others Ted flew on

were part of the very fabric of that war that led to total defeat of an enemy of freedom.

Among Ted's 35 missions, were 5 trips to Cologne, of which 3 were consecutive missions. Another target his crew bombed multiple times was Merseburg, 4 times.

Ted and many other 384th heroes gave this country and the world the very freedoms we have today. Ted went on to serve that freedom as a police officer and one of New York City's finest. Ted worked hard and continually moved up as a successful cop and retired to sunny Florida.

Ted was very active in the Bomb Group and was the longest serving secretary-treasurer. His tireless efforts in getting this newsletter out to more than 500 members, four times a year, over the years is a tribute to his endless contribution to the association. Ted was an integral part of the Group and will be missed by all. It will be difficult to imagine a reunion without him and Margaret... he was always there for us and told many humorous stories.

God Bless you Ted and Godspeed to you in your new office in the sky. We will never forget you and your part in the 384th Bomb Group...

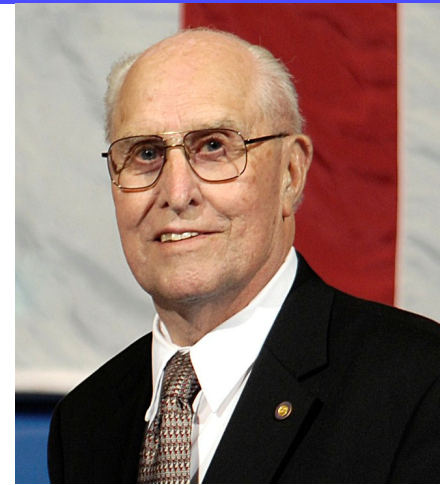
Keep the Show on the Road!



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



Reflections from a Member of the 384th



This was an eventful summer for me, but when I reflect back on the year, the two most important events had to do with the 384th. First, I was privileged again to go to the Air Force Academy to present the Eagle and Fledgling Award to Cadet Hela Levy on behalf of our group. Hela, the outstanding cadet in the biology department, was also outstanding cadet of the entire class of 2008 at the Academy. This is the third time I have presented this award to the one who was also top student in the class and I think it speaks well for the biology department which we support. Lt. Levy is a very personable individual who is also a Rhodes Scholar and will be studying in England this year. She received one of our 384th coins, as did Col. Putnam and Lt. Col. Black, who heads the department, and a coin was also placed in our display case in the office. Lt. Levy is only one of the outstanding cadets at the Academy and I really enjoyed being there among America's finest. They will become excellent officers in the US Air Force as they finish their training at the Academy.

For those of you who were unable to attend the reunion in Dayton, Ohio, the birthplace of flight, I can tell you that it was definitely a memorable event of the year. When we were in the Air Force Museum, which was the highlight of the weekend, we saw examples of the advancements that have taken place since we flew the B-17s. What a proud setting it was for us to have the banquet there that evening in the tradition of the Air Force which is always the best. Catered by the Officer's Club at Wright Patterson, it was one of the best meals I have had when being with a large group. We were also entertained by the Air Force Band of Flight playing songs that we all remembered from the days of World War II.

Our time at the museum was only one of the interesting activities arranged for us while we were there in Dayton, much of it having to do with the lives and work of Wilbur and Orville Wright. Where would we be without those two?!!

We all owe a large vote of thanks to Carol and Frank Alfter and the NextGen for taking over the responsibility of setting this up, for they have the enthusiasm that we used to have to carry on the traditions of the 384th Bomb Group. I wish the best of luck to Vickie Huff and Steve Gordy and the other NextGens who are making the arrangements for the Gathering next year in Savannah.

I look forward to seeing all of you there in 2009 at a date to be announced.

Don Thompson



It's that most wonderful time of the year... the DUES, they need payin'....the Board, they are sayin', No DUES... there's no NEWS.....

With the Christmas season upon us and January just around the corner, there are many things to remember, and a very important one would be to pay your Group membership DUES, which is still just a measly \$25.

We currently have about 500 members on our roster, but far less than half paid their dues last year. In an effort to cut costs, your Board has decided that only members who are current with their dues will receive

Fiscal Facts

these wonderful newsletters.... Hence..... **NO DUES... NO NEWS!**

This is your next to your last newsletter if you do not pay your dues in January. We know you would like to keep up with the goings-on in the 384th and this newsletter is one great way to do that, but it also shows you care about your Bomb Group.

Please send your dues check made payable to the 384th Bomb Group, to Carol Alfter (Treasurer) at 1306 Adams Way, Beavercreek, OH 45434.

When you send in your dues, please make sure we have your correct



mailing address, phone number and e-mail address, if you have one. That way we can keep everyone better informed about the Gathering in Savannah in 2009 and the Junket to England in 2010.

The planning committee is currently working on an agenda and hotel for the Gathering in Savannah and that information will be in future newsletters.



Your Combat Stories

Did you ever wonder where the material comes from in putting together a newsletter such as this one? Well, the best ones come from you, the membership. This is your forum for sharing your experiences with the rest of us. Everyone has a story to tell, and not all of them may seem exciting or important to the overall objectives of the war. But, everyone of you who were in the 384th in England during the War contributed very important pieces to that total victory. As your editor, I am asking you to send me your stories so that we can share your wartime doings with those of us who can only read about them. There are many stories, some funny, others heart rendering, and many that are true lessons in history. Please send your stories and photos, if you have them, and I promise to publish them in these pages.

Frank

Some Historical Facts

The 384th Bombardment Group (Heavy) was activated on 1 Dec 1942 at Gowen Field, Idaho. Comprised of the 544th, 545th, 546th, and 547th Bombardment Squadrons, the 384th was assigned to Wendover Field, Utah on 2 Jan 1943 to begin training in B-17s for combat in the European Theater of Operations. The unit relocated to Sioux City AAB, Iowa in April 1943 for a final few weeks of intensive training before overseas assignment to the First Air Division of the Eighth Air Force.



Col. Budd J. Peaslee
18 December 1942
to 6 September 1943

arriving there in the summer of 1943. The tail of each of the unit's B-17 air-

craft of the 384th Bomb Group were assigned to USAAF Station 106 near the village of Grafton Underwood, Northamptonshire, England,

craft was emblazoned with the "triangle P" insignia, that letter chosen to honor the first 384th commander, Colonel Budd J. Peaslee.

The 384th flew their first combat mission as a group on 22 June 1944, bombing automobile parts warehouses in Antwerp. This first mission claimed two of the unit's B-17s and their aircrews. At completion of their sixth mission, the 384th had lost thirty-five of its original thirty-six aircraft. On a mission to bomb the port at Hamburg the 384th first experienced the terrible reality of a "ghost squadron" – all seven ships and crews of the 544th failed to return from the mission. The entire squadron was lost.

During their tenure in England the 384th undertook bombing missions to the airdromes at Orleans, Bricy, and Nancy, the motor works at Cologne, an aircraft component factory in Halberstadt, the steel works at Magdeburg, oil storage facilities at Leipzig and Berlin, railroad marshalling yards at Duren and Mannheim, the ports of Hamburg and

Emden, and ball bearing plants in Schweinfurt. They received a Distinguished Unit Citation for their raid on aircraft factories in central Germany on 11 Jan 1944 and took part in the heavy bombing campaign against the German aircraft industry during "Big Week" the following month. On 24 Apr 1944 the unit earned its second Distinguished Unit Citation when, although crippled by heavy losses of aircraft and men due to almost overwhelming enemy opposition, the group led the attack on an aircraft factory and



airfield at Oberpfaffenhofen.

In June 1944 the 384th supported the Normandy invasion with attacks along

the French coast, then bombed airfields and communications lines beyond the Allied beachhead. The Group supported ground troops during the breakthrough at St. Lo in July 1944 and assisted the airborne assault on Holland in September of that year. During that winter it struck enemy communications lines and fortifications during the Battle of the Bulge. The following spring the 384th aided the Allied assault across the Rhein by cutting enemy supply lines.

The 384th Bombardment Group flew 9,348 combat sorties in 316 missions, dropping 22,416 tons of bombs on enemy targets. The unit lost 159 aircraft and 1,625 men in combat, while destroying 165 enemy airplanes (with 34 more "probables") and seriously damaging 116 others. Through it all, the members of the 384th lived up to their motto "Keep the Show on the Road." Today, surviving members of the unit proudly recall that they "always flew the missions as briefed."

Only two aircraft in the entire Eighth Air Force were ever named after individuals and both of them were in the 384th Bomb Group. Lt Walter Harvey (below, left) was known as "Big Dog" and B-17 42-102661, SU-L, was named in his honor after he was shot down. Lt Nathan "Mike" Mazer (below, right) was a squadron armaments officer, but went on many combat missions unofficially. As he was Jewish, B-17 42-98000, SU-J, was named "Fightin' Hebe" as a tribute to his spirit.

21st Reunion Photo Information

Names of those heroes in the long photo taken in front of the Control Tower at the National Museum of the United States Air Force during the 21st Reunion. They are, from left to right in the photo: Peter Bielskis, James Traylor, Edward McDonald, Harry Swift, Gene Voiland, Levi Davis, James Sturgess, David Lustig, Elbert Bazhaw, Bill Wilkens, Carl Euting, Henry Siekiewicz, Robert Fisher, Robert Naum, Clarendon Richert, Don Thompson, Bill Harvey, Lloyd Whitlow, Roy Snyder, Robert Buis, Harold Castor, Gene Goodrick, Jack Goetz, Ralph Wood, Sr., Philip Castro, William O'Leary, Raymond Causa, Joe Carnes, Gerald Peebler and Raymond Magilson.



KEEP THE SHOW ON THE (ROAD) WEB!

After the excitement of the reunion in Dayton, I was brought back to Earth with a thump when I awoke on October 6th to find the website photo gallery had been damaged by a massive hacker attack. In the end, only a few photos were really lost, but the descriptions (and personnel IDs) of a few had vanished. Tony Plowright stepped up to help restore these and we have most of them back now. Thanks Tony – you are a good friend of the 384th, and have been for a long time.

One beneficial effect of this incident is that I was motivated to upgrade the Gallery software. This provides more defense against such attacks, so hopefully we won't do this again. I am looking at a further upgrade, but analyzing the technical issues will take

time that I currently do not have.

Naturally, this article would be incomplete without a plea for more – more photos, more stories, and more help.

One last thought – please visit the website. Most pages have a clickable link to send me an email, and I encourage you to use them. These links are intended to permit easy collection of information – including comments and corrections – but also to share ideas. And if you have contributed material, such as photos or stories, and can't find it (even after using the site search features), please let me know, so I can figure out what happened.

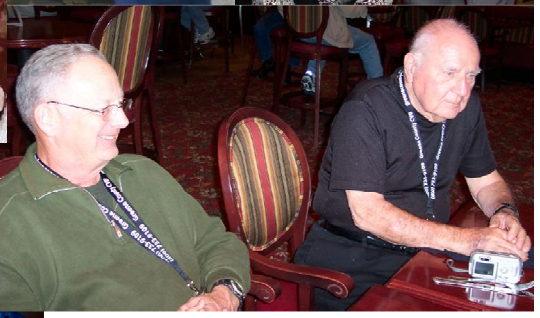
Keeping the Show on the Web..... Fred Preller



Walter "Big Dog" Harvey and Nathan "Mike" Mazer



OCT 2008

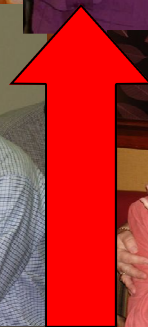


DUES NOTICE
2009 dues are due in January
Please support our Bomb Group

Reunion at Dayton Photos



"How many 50s are in \$600?"



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



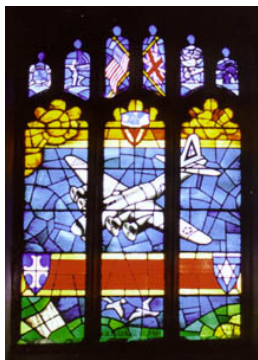
"Keep the Show on the Road...."

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

TAPS as of September 2008

ROTHSCHILD, THEODORE Boynton Beach, FL
 (Please see front page memorial to Ted)

LOFFARELLI, CLARENCE Studio City, CA



MANY THANKS



We would like to thank everyone who helped make the 21st Reunion in Dayton such a huge success, and especially those who contributed items for the raffle. The raffle raised \$1,030 largely due to the fantastic quilt, hand made by Cynthia Pearre, which raised \$600 on it's own! Her husband, Doug, says she is working on another quilt to raffle off in Savannah that is even better than the quilt she donated in Dayton.

We also want to thank Charles Fleenor for donating the 8th Air Force pins that everyone received. They were such a hit that everyone wore their pins every day, and even the bus drivers were wearing pins!

A big thanks to LOGTEC for providing the bottled water that saved the day and kept us all hydrated.

The Greene Co CVB provided the wonderful 384th Bomb Group nametags...for free! and much, much more.

The night at the Museum was probably the most memorable for all who attended. The magic of that evening was attributable to the fine staff of the AF Museum and the wonderful music by the AF Band of Flight

And lastly the staff at the Holiday Inn did a wonderful job taking care of all our needs. The dining room was beautiful, the food was excellent, and the atmosphere was most accommodating.

DUES REMINDER

Everyone should remember that membership dues are payable at the first of every year. In 2008, we received over 130 checks, but that is not even half of the 500 newsletters we send out every quarter. Please take the time and send in your dues in January!

We have nice, new membership cards that will please anyone you show it to.

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



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