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92nd Bombardment Group

NEWS

FAME'S FAVORED FEW



HAPPY

December 1994

HOLIDAYS

PITTSBURGH WAS BIG SUCCESS

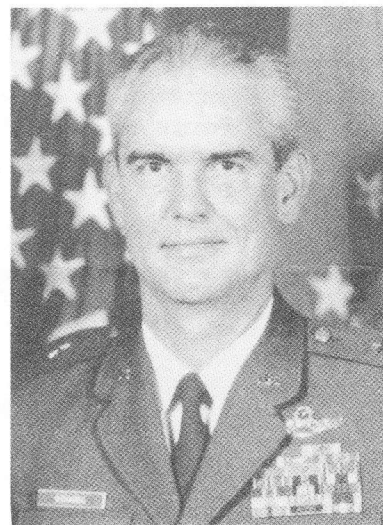
Members from throughout the country gathered in Pittsburgh for the 1944 Reunion of the 92nd Bomb Group. Officers were given a vote of confidence to continue and two new Squadron representatives were elected. Reunion Chairman Ralph Rosensteel said over 460 members were present. Highlight of the banquet on October 2nd was an address by Brig. General James M. Richards from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition at the Pentagon. General Richards was Commander of the 92nd Bomb Wing at Fairchild AFB, WA from 1992-1993. The following is a text of General Richard's speech.

"Good evening, everyone, I'm Jim Richards. I'm part of the Air Force's weapon system procurement team at the Pentagon. It's a pleasure for me to be here with you tonight and to tell you the truth, any time away from the Pentagon is a pleasure.

"It's a rare honor and a true privilege to have the opportunity to speak face-to-face with "Fame's Favored Few." It's made doubly special by the fact that not so long ago I had one of the best jobs in the Air Force - commanding your successor unit, the 92nd Bomb Wing.

"Tonight I want to talk about the past, present, and future of a subject near and dear to all of us - heavy bombers. I'll give you my basic message right up front - bombers have been, are, and will continue to be critical to our nation's defense.

"From the very first day your unit was constituted, 28 January 1942, the performance of the air crews, the maintainers and the support personnel - those of you sitting here in the audience - members of the 92nd Bomb Group, later the 92nd Strategic Aerospace Wing, and finally the 92nd Bomb Wing, consistently demonstrated the unique importance and value of bombers in wars both hot and cold.



Brig. General James M. Richards

It was you, the charter members of "Fame's Favored Few," who led the way for those of us who followed - and the generations of bomber crews yet to come. Your record of combat performance, dedication to duty, and sheer heroism set a standard we can only strive to emulate.

"I'd feel kind of strange standing up here telling you folks stories that you know much better than I, since you actually lived them. If you'll bear with me for a few minutes, I'll use some of those experiences to show just how important bombers were in the past and how that past relates to the way we're using them today and plan to acquire and use them in the future.

"Now a concept we call "Global Reach/Global Power" represents the ability of the United States Air Force to use air power to project military force anywhere in the world, at any time we choose. Fifty-two years ago the 92nd gave a practical demonstration of that philosophy

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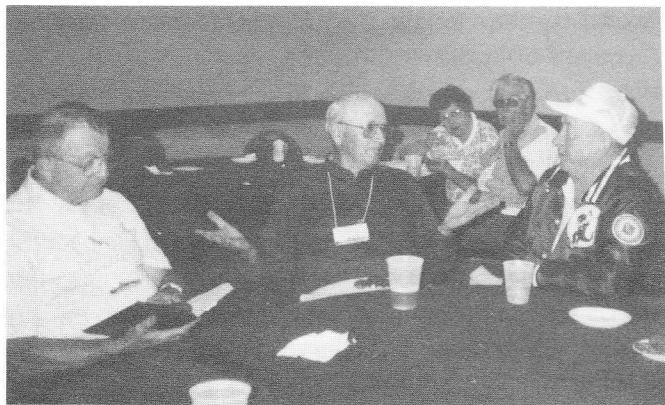
FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Let me express my appreciation to the membership for the vote of confidence in reelecting the Officers for another term. We had a productive meeting in Pittsburgh and I want to take this opportunity to point the major projects that we intend to pursue.

The Pittsburgh reunion was an enjoyable event thanks to the hard work of Ralph Rosensteel and his committee. The 407th and 325th squadrons had the most troops present and the number of first timers was impressive. The committee had to cater to approximately 460 folks. Memphis was chosen for 1996 and the committee will be co-chaired by Rex Brasher, 327th, and Paul Simms, 407th. The Board of Directors changed the reunion procedures in order to lighten the load on the local committee and enable the Group to be able to choose any in the country for a reunion. We will now turn over certain functions to Armed Forces Reunions, a company that specializes in this type of activity and whose main responsibilities will be to obtain hotel accommodations, reception activities, billing and publicity. This will enable the local committee to concentrate on the social events, business meetings and operate hospitality rooms.

In June 1995 we plan to meet in the UK. A tentative schedule of events was distributed at the Reunion. Tamarac will again coordinate all travel activities. Members will receive a brochure shortly with the itinerary and all the details. The UK committee has already had several meetings with Tamarac to coordinate the details.

The next two tasks are major items, one of which requires the participation of all members to insure success and a good product. We will publish a new and updated History of the Bomb Group. All of you have received a biographical form from Bob Elliott. It is important that members fill in the form and comply with the instructions at the bottom. Photos of you now and then are important. This is a giant undertaking and will be directed by Bob Elliott who as archivist has a wealth of data, photos, and miscellaneous material. Those of you who attended the Reunion saw Bob in action and have seen his devotion to the project. Don't be a dropout. Get your forms and photos in as well as a biography narrative.



Sheldon Kirsner, Pres; Jack Massmann, Editor; and Leroy Koepsell, 327th; talk things over at Pittsburgh Reunion.

The second of the tasks concerns our By-Laws. Perry Burnham has graciously agreed to take over the task of bringing them up to date so the membership can ratify them in Memphis. The Secretary will publish them as an addendum to

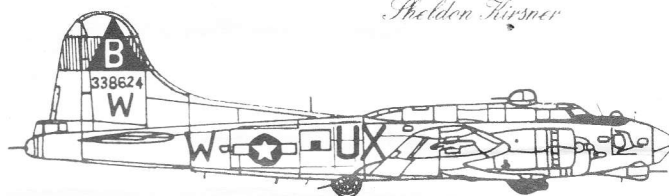
the Roster each time it is updated. Incidentally the new Group Roster is now available from Ralph Davison.

We intend to refurbish our monument at the Air Force Museum in Dayton. This project is dependent on what we and the Museum agree is in our mutual interest. The improvements would include relocation, a marble base, the addition of squadron insignia including the 446th, and general cleanup of the statue and bronze plaque.

Finally, I have appointed Sam Yandian as the Group Chaplain. As chaplain he will coordinate with the Reunion Committee and review their plans for Memorial Services to insure that we retain the high standards of presenting a proper and dignified service. Sam has accepted and those of us who have seen him act in this capacity know him to be highly professional.

In closing I want to thank Mervin Bush who could not attend the Reunion for his donation of the B-17 and ME-262 aircraft models which were raffled off. Mervin is disabled and resides in Hatboro, PA and is an aviation buff. Also I want to thank John Walker of the UK for his presentation of the video, "Big Picture." It will be added to our archives and copies are available for members from Ralph Davison.

Here's wishing all a Joyous Holiday Season and the best for the New Year. TAKE CARE!!!



NEWS FROM THE UK

by Gerry Darnell

On behalf of all the UK attendees, let me congratulate Ralph and Judy Rosensteel and their committee for an excellent reunion. Everything as so well organised and with so many people it was, indeed, a wonderful achievement. Well done, Ralph and Judy. Your hard work was appreciated. We would also, at this time, wish a speed recovery to the committee member taken ill on Friday evening. May he soon be back to good health.

It is always sad saying our good byes after being with so many wonderful friends but now it's back to work on the Reunion here in July 1995. It has every appearance of being a "big" one. Our committee would appreciate your help by giving Dick Amato (Tamarac Travel) your reservations as soon as possible as it will help us to work with Dick regarding the program we have planned. I know you will cooperate.

Audrey and I were sorry we didn't get to see you at breakfast on Monday but driving back to San Antonio is a long way so we set off real early. We really got to see a lot of the USA driving to and from Pittsburgh. Special thanks to Jon and Vi Bennett for again looking after us so well and letting me drive his car; to Perry and Madeline Burnham for the evening at the "Tower of the Americas" in San Antonio; Howard and Mary Koepke for the marvelous house party; and thanks to you all for the wonderful hospitality you always show us.

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