

Following is a letter from Gene Ponte-

"I recently had the unique and unforgettable experience of witnessing the classic reunion of our time. On July 26, 1979, S/Sgt. Tyre C. Weaver and Lt. Keith Koske were reunited after 36 years.

The story begins back in Alconbury, England in 1943 when the 92nd Bomb Group was part of an 8th Air Force raid on Hanover, Germany. The formation was hit by a fierce German Fighter attack as it approached the coast of Germany. The first attack was from 7:00 o'clock spraying shells through the left side of the ship severing the oxygen line for the radio, waist and tail gunners. Almost simultaneously a frontal attack sent a 20MM shell through the co-pilot's window and mortally wounded the pilot and the second one severing the top turret gunner's left arm at the shoulder. This is where this story begins.

The top turret gunner, Tyre C. Weaver, climbed to the navigator's compartment seeking help from the navigator, Keith Koske. Many attempts were made to stop the bleeding but the 20MM shell had torn the arm off too close to the shoulder to permit a tourniquet. If the bleeding could not be stopped (which it couldn't), Weaver would be unable to withstand the four hour flight back. The life or death decision was made that the 5-mile trip down by parachute to get medical attention was his only hope. Lt. Koske helped Weaver get ready for the parachute trip down, he put his chest pack on, set his hand on the rip cord; but when Koske pulled his hand away the frozen blood on his hand pulled Weaver's hand with his and the pilot chute opened. By a quirk of fate, the chute caught on a fuse panel. If the entire chute would have opened it would have been all over. The pilot chute was put in front of weaver with his good right arm over it, to hold it, and was assisted out of the plane by Lt. Koske. They both agreed that the parachute opening prematurely was the best thing, as it might have been questionable for Weaver to have the strength to pull the rip cord. Weaver remarked at the reunion that he will always remember Keith's smile of encouragement as he left the ship.

While this was all going on, one of the classic stories of the 92nd Bomb Group, 8th Air Force, yes even World War II was unfolding with the story of Lt. John C. Morgan's unbelievable flight of Ruthie II to the target and back.

The reunion had all the warmth, emotion and love of a Stanley and Livingston reunion. Without the roll of a drum, blare of a trumpet or the click of TV cameras, these two men meet for the first time since Koske said good-bye to Weaver over Germany and brought an extremely happy conclusion to this story that started 36 years prior.

In the words of John Morgan, Koske's decision took guts and brains and that the men who will win wars are the ones that make tough decisions quick and correct.

The courage of these two men in 1943 was only surpassed by the tender warm reunion they enjoyed in 1979 and are truly one of the 92nd "Fames Favored Few".

Sgt. Gene Ponte"

SEE PICTURE OF KOSKE AND WEAVER IN PICTURE SECTION OF NEWSLETTER.

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MIKE KULICK HAS DONATED A 326TH SQUADRON LEDGER AND PICTURES. THIS LEDGER WILL BE REPRODUCED IN FUTURE ISSUES. THANK YOU VERY MUCH MIKE.

Return membership blank to: Sheldon W. Kirsner, 2603 Cathedral Dr., St. Louis, MO 63129  
Make ALL checks payable to: 92nd Bomb Group 1/11 CCRC Corp.

NAME _____	NICKNAME _____	WIFE'S FIRST NAME _____
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92ND UNIT _____	SQUADRON _____	DATES ASSIGNED _____
TRIANGLE B LAPEL PIN-TIE TAC _____	\$10.00 1980 DUES _____	POW CAPTURE DATA _____
_____ \$5.00 MEMBERS _____	"ROUTE AS BRIEFED" _____	DATE _____
_____ \$6.50 NON-MEMBERS _____	\$5.00 MEMBERS _____	PLACE _____
_____ MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION _____	\$7.50 NON-MEMBERS _____	STALAG LUFT _____

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Koske