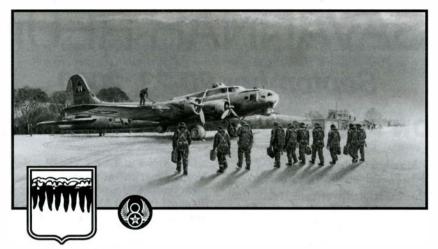


602









398th BOMB GROUP MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION • 8th AIR FORCE • 1st AIR DIVISION • NUTHAMPSTEAD, ENGLAND

VOL. 15 NO. 2

FLAK NEWS

APRIL 2000

Flak News, Remembrances Now On CD

The 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association has made many efforts to maintain its World War II historical record.

And those efforts are not over, yet.

With the oncoming of the Information Age there has been presented incredible new ways to document history, which includes the story of the 398th and the part it played in the 8th Air Force in England in 1944-45.

Much of this history has been published the past 14 years in this news letter, FLAK NEWS, with the first 10 years placed in bound volumes and sent to the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum in Savannah, GA; the EAA in Oshkosh, WI; and to the Hertfordshire Record Center in England (county seat for Nuthampstead).

In addition, the 398th historical record, REMEMBRANCES, was sent to 1,500 purchasers since its publication in 1989. The book is now out of print.

Now there is the opportunity to get each and every page of both FLAKNEWS and REMEMBRANCES on your Personal Computer if equipped with CD ROM capabilities. All FLAK NEWS issues published between 1986 and 1994 are on one disc. All issues between 1995 and Jaunuary, 2000, plus the entire volume of the 100-page 398th Bomb Group REMEMBRANCES are on a second disc.

The two discs, packaged together, are available for \$30.00, postpaid.

These will compliment "Jack's Books," the CD featuring the historical personnel volumes compiled over the past years by the late Jack Wintersteen. This disc is priced at \$20.00.

All are available from 398th Historian Dallas Ebest, San Antonio, TX 78213-1561.

Window To Hold Names of All Killed in Action

The names of all 398th men who gave their lives while serving at Station 131 during World War II are published on Pages 6 and 7 in this issue of FLAK NEWS.

These names will also appear in the new stained glass window to be dedicated on June 11, 2000 at St. George's Church, Anstey, England. This project was undertaken by the Friends of the 398th and financed through contributions from England and America.

All contributor names are on Page 8.

Heading the list of Killed in Action are both the 398th commanding officer, Col. Frank P. Hunter, Jr., and Deputy Commander, Maj. John G. Weibel, both representing 398th Headquarters.

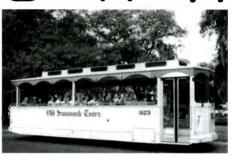
The four squadrons gave up 289 casualties, consisting of the 600th (67); 601st (45); 602nd (56) and 603rd (121). In addition, there were two ground support casualties, one each from the 1226 Quartermaster and 478th Sub Depot for a total of 293. One of the 601st casualties was a ground crew chief.

SAVANNAH









The 17th annual reunion of the 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association will be held in Savannah, GA, September 20-23, 2000.

Upwards to 450 members are expected for the four-day gathering, which will feature the dedication of the group memorial at the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum, plus a great variety of tours and events.

Reunion facts and registration information appear on Pages 2 and 3.

MIGHTY EIGHTH MUSEUM GETS 398TH HISTORY, VIDEOS

In preparation for the upcoming visit to the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum in Savannah, GA., the FLAK NEWS editor donated three volumes of 398th Bomb Group historical records to the museum.

These had been provided by our Friends of the 398th in England and laboriously copied by Board member Keith Anderson.

Heritage Museum historian Rusty Bloxom sent the following note in accepting the gift – "I still haven't picked my jaw up from the floor. I wish we had this sort of record for all the groups. Thank you!"

And before the 398th gets to Savannah for the 2000 reunion in September, the Museum also will have received the FLAK NEWS' collection of VHS videos, many of which have been shown at previous reunions.

"We certainly appreciate your willingness to share such a varied and impressive collection with us and with our visitors." said Bloxom.

FLAK NEWS - Vol. 15 No. 2

THE SAVANNAH REUNION

September 20-23, 2000

REUNION FACTS

REUNION CHAIRMAN – Marilyn Gibb, Colorado Springs, CO 80918-1577.

HEADQUARTERS HOTEL – Marriott Riverfront Hotel, 100 Gen. McIntosh Blvd., Savannah, GA 31401. Telephone 912/233-7722. Rates for the 398th Bomb Group are \$109 per night, single or double. Reservation form is included in FLAK NEWS.

BACKUP HOTEL – Day's Inn, 201 West Bay St., Savannah, GA 31401. Telephone 912/236-1024. 398th Group Rate is \$84 per night, single or double. Call or write for reservation.

PARKING – Marriott parking rates are \$5 per day. Day's Inn parking rates are \$3 per day.

TOURS – All tours except the Dinner Cruise will be handled by Old Savannah Tours, 250 Martin Luther King Blvd., Savannah, GA 31401. All tour tickets will be enclosed in the Reunion Packets available in the 398th Memory Room at the Marriott Riverfront Hotel starting Tuesday, September 19, at 12 noon. (It is a brief walk from the hotel to the Dinner Cruise Wednesday evening, September 20; cabs will be available.)

GOLF – Golfers can play the course at Hunter Air Force Base on Wednesday and Thursday, September 20 and 21. It is about a 20 minute drive from the hotel. Make individual arrangements for car transportation. Meet in the Marriott lobby at 6:30 AM

BANQUET SEATING – Tickets for the Thursday and Saturday evening banquets at the Marriott will be in the Reunion Packets. Secure a table reservation at the time of Registration. All banquet tickets must have a table number.



MIGHTY EIGHTH HERITAGE MUSEUM September Target at 398th Reunion

THE TOURS

OFF-ON TROLLEY TOUR – See the "most beautiful city in North America" at your own pace and leisure by jumping off and on any Old Savannah Tour trolley. The city tour is at your disposal from 10 AM to 4:30 PM on Wednesday, September 20 and again on Saturday, September 23 from 9:30 AM to 3 PM. Cost is \$18.00 per person.

RIVERFRONT DINNER CRUISE – What's a trip to the South without a cruise on the Savannah River? Begin your reunion experience on Wednesday night, 7 PM, with a dinner cruise on either the SAVANNAH RIVER QUEEN or the GEORGIA QUEEN. It's the ultimate in fine dining, entertainment and Southern Hospitality. Cost for the evening buffet dinner cruise is \$43.00 per person. The QUEEN dock is a brief walk from the Marriott Riverfront Hotel.

HISTORIC OVERVIEW CITY TOUR – This is a fully escorted guided tour on Thursday, September 21 of one of the largest Urban National Historic Landmarks in the United States. It's also a comprehensive look at Savannah's fascinating past including lots of fun tidbits. A potpourri of information about Savannah. The tour is from 9 to 10:30 AM. Cost is \$15.00 per person.

LADIES GARDEN TOUR – Take a peek at the beautiful fall foliage and winter gardens in Savannah's Historic District. See Trustee Gardens, Forsyth Park, Ships of Sea and the ornate ironwork gracing the home gardens. This tour is on Thursday, September 21 at 2 PM (during the 398th business meeting). Cost is \$21.00 per person.

MIGHTY EIGHTH MUSEUM – This is the reason for the Year 2000 Reunion. Here, on Friday, September 22, the clock turns back 56 years to the days of our youth. It is here we will dedicate our 398th Memorial, a replica of the Nuthampstead Memorial. It is here we will take a journey of sight and sound – the Mission Experience. It is here we will see mementos from our past days at Station 131. Many 398th plaques, (crews and individuals) are already in place at the Museum. It will be a very full day, starting at 8:30 AM, with the Tour shuttles returning to the hotels between 1:30 and 3 PM. Cost of the day's package tour is \$30.00. This includes transportation, admission and lunch.

FORT JACKSON – And what's a trip to the South without some Civil War flavor? Fort Jackson is the oldest standing fort in the state of Georgia. It was the headquarters for the Confederate Army during the Civil War. Now you can hear and see history along with lots of fun and a super lunch. This takes place on Saturday, September 23 from 9 AM to 2 PM. Cost of transportation, program and lunch is \$35.00 per person.

MIGHTY EIGHTH MUSEUM – For those who come late or wish to see the Museum "on their own," they can take the bus on Saturday, September 23, at 10 AM. Cost is \$11.00 per person. This does not include Museum admission or lunch. The bus returns at 3 PM.

BANQUETS – The annual "Welcome" banquet will be held Thursday, September 21, 7 PM at the Marriott Riverfront Ballroom, preceded at 6 PM by a no-host cocktail hour. Cost of the Welcome Banquet is \$35.00 per person. Table reservations should be made at Registration time. The Farewell, or "We'll Meet Again" banquet will be held Saturday, September 23, 7 PM, preceded by a no host cocktail hour at 6 PM. Cost of the Farewell Banquet is \$37.00 per person. Table reservations are required.

OFFICIAL REGISTRATION FORM

398th Bomb Group Memorial Association 17th Annual Reunion Savannah, Georgia September 20-23, 2000

PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1, 2000

NAME		WIFE		so	QD
ADDRESS					
CITY		,		•	
	MES OF OTHERS IN PARTY. P				
	i.				
WEDNESDAY, September 20 —					
Golf	6:30 AM	Meet in Lob	-	☐ Yes	
Registration	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	Plaza Room	1		
Off-On Savannah City Trolley Tour	10:00 AM to 4:30 PM				\$
Riverboat Dinner Cruise	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM			\$43.00 x	\$
THURSDAY, September 21 —					
Golf	6:30 AM	Meet in Lob	by	☐ Yes	
Registration	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	Plaza Room	1		
Board Officers Meeting	8:00 AM	Board Roon	n		
Historic Overview City Tour	9:00 AM to 10:30 PM	Tour Coach		\$15.00 x	\$
Group Business Meeting	2:00 PM	Savannah E	Ballroom	,	
Ladies Garden Tour	2:00 PM	Tour Coach		\$21.00 x	\$
No Host Cocktails	6:00 PM	Savannah E	Ballroom		
Welcome Banquet	7:00 PM	Savannah E	Ballroom	\$35.00 x	\$
(Table reservations required)				,	•
EDIDAY Contombox 22					
FRIDAY, September 22 —	0:00 444			#20.00 v	\$
Mighty Eighth Museum	8:30 AM	waterwaa bateria	an 1.00 ar		p
(Price includes tranportation, adm				10 3:00 PIVI)	
Registration	7:30-8:30 AM and 3-5 PM	i Piaza noon	l		
Dinner on your own					
SATURDAY, September 23 —					
Off-On Savannah City Trolley Tour	9:30 AM to 3:00 PM				\$
Mighty Eighth Museum	10:00 AM			\$11.00 x	\$
(Transportation Only)					
Old Fort Jackson	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM			\$35.00 x	\$
(Price includes transportation, ad	mission and lunch)				
No Host Cocktails	6:00 PM	Savannah E			
"We'll Meet Again" Banquet	7:00 PM	Savannah E	Ballroom	\$37.00 x	\$
(Table reservations required)					
Deciated in Fee (now never 2 mg	and an			¢40.00 v	¢
Registration Fee (per person, 2 ma	aximum per tamily)				\$
2000 Dues (if applicable)			_	\$10.00 X	\$
I/We will be staying at the:				O I A L	Ψ
☐ Marriott Hotel ☐ Day's Inn					
□ Other					
- Other			Receive	d \$ Do	ıte
			40 - 1		- Independent
Please complete the form, enclos	e check, and mail to:				
398th BOMB GROUP REUNION			A 25	Marilyn G	
c/o Marilyn Gibb Colorado Springs, CO 80918-1577					mailed to registrant oney order, payable
Colorado Springs, CO 00310-13//				Bomb Group Reur	

Over The Top And Then Some For Monument Fund Drive

Three months ago it was announced that the fund drive for the 398th Bomb Group memorial at the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum had gone "over the top."

"And it kept going," said fund drive chairman Lou Stoffer, in announcing that the total had reached \$33.600.

"We have money for the memorial, all pertinent taxes, Mighty Eighth Museum fees and mailing expenses.

"And \$6,464 besides," he added.

The monument, to be dedicated during the annual reunion in Savannah, GA on Friday, September 22 is a replica of the 398th memorial in Nuthampstead.

Stoffer, in tabulating the new totals,

"Now all we have to consider is what we should do with that extra money."

That question will be a topic for discussion at the board and general membership meeting in Savannah.

Following are the names of the fund contributors which did not appear in the January 2000 listing —

Joe Bailey
Shirley A. Berthoud
Louise Bickford
George H. Decarion
William K. Durst
Llewellyn L. Fischer
Barbara Fish
Leona K. Gibbons
Douglas W. Hughes
Gregory J. Hunt
Ted J. Johnston
Philip H. Jones
Joe Joseph
Dorothy Kanable
Alfred E. Kastner

Patricia J. Kelty Harry Mazur Thomas O. Mueller Arthur B. Murphy J. Donald Pettus Laura Pierson George E. Schatz William G. Skinner Loren A. Skonberg Philip G. Sorensen Leonard Streitfeld Elaine Tyler Edna Waaramaa Frank Weiler James Womeldurf

Color Comes To FLAK NEWS

For the first time in 15 years FLAK NEWS moved out of the traditional black & white photo journalism format and into the four-color process.

The Anstey Memorial Window presentation on Pages 6-7 represents an additional major financial investment over and above the regular cost of production.

The editor took his appeal for additional "color money" to president Wally Blackwell, who responded --

"Go for it," he said. "The Anstey stained glass window is too beautiful to show in black and white, especially while surrounded by the names of our Killed In Action."

Thanks, Wally.

Czech Republic Will Show Its Americanism to 398th Visitors

Of the 100-plus members taking part in the Year 2000 England-Continent Tour, 36 will be on the travelling list going to the Czech Republic and Copenhagen (and some to other parts of Europe.)

Many activities are planned in various parts of the country, including Prague, but the tour will headquarter at Pilsen.

The 398th visited Pilsen in 1995 to help the city celebrate its 50th anniversary since being liberated by US forces in 1945. The visiting 398th veterans brought a plaque for the Pilsen mayor that read--

"We came from Heaven to save you from Hell," a play on words from the 398th's group motto, Hell From Heaven.

This year's tourists will see a huge monument in Pilsen that reads, "Thank You America," telling of the friendship that exists between the two countries.

"There are few places in the world where you can witness such overt displays of Americanism," said one observer

The tour party will be housed at the Hotel Central, directly on Republiky Square, dominated by St. Bartolemew's Cathedral.

In addition to Pilsen and Prague, the tour will visit Marianske Lazne to be fed by students of the famed Hotel Skola. Also to Litice to view the beautiful memorial dedicated to the American airmen killed nearby, including members of the Allen Ferguson Crew of the 602nd. Then to Kovarska, where pieces of the Ferguson plane are displayed. And finally, to Slany, for a "re-dedication" of the memorial to the Donald Christensen crew that perished there on March 2, 1945.

Following are the members going on the "Full Tour"--

Keith Anderson; Mary Louise Capecelatro; John & Rosemary Cosco; Lowell Culver & Jo Ann Eppel; Bill & Fran Fisher; Gail Fisher & Mel Kessler; Charles Hough; William Cole; Robert & Elaine Knowles; Bill & Kathryn McLaughlin; Ham & Mary Mero; David Mills; Ross Moxey, Sr.; Russ & Millie Reed; Chuck Sasse & Reva Swanson; Phil & Margaret Stahlman; Jeanne & Randy Stange; Arnold Schneider & Marie Bammer; Linda Hayes; Ray & Marilyn Talbott; Eileen Moore; Allen Ostrom, tour coordinator; and Barbara Fish, travel consultant

Pär Nilhammer will be the travelling tour manager for Destination Europe of Luxembourg, operator of the coach company handling the buses in both England and on the Continent.

"Choir Vets" To Sing In England

Veterans returning to Station 131 in years past have been known to leave their marks in various ways (not necessarily related to stuff like Kilroy Was Here).

But the men on the upcoming June tour are going to be forever known as the "Choir Vets."

The 42 returning airmen have been invited to form up as a choir unit and contribute to the Memorial Service their rendition of "America the Beautiful."

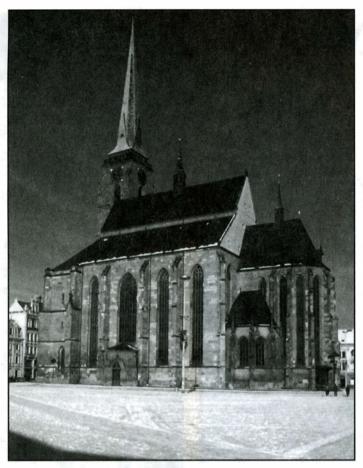
Dick Frazier, who came to the 398th back in 1944 with a degree in music, and played bass in the base combo, will be on hand to "whip the choir into shape." Meaning he will organize one practice session before going "on stage."

This will take place at the Memorial on Saturday, June 10. The following day, Sunday, June 11, the "Choir Vets" will sing at St. George's Church at Anstey as part of the Memorial Window dedication.

FOLLOWING ARE THE MEMBERS GOING TO "ENGLAND ONLY"

John & Georgia Albis; Wally & Teedy Blackwell; Bob & Jane Bowen; Conrad Samuelson & Nancy Cotter; Dick & Junice Frazier; Willis & Ruby Frazier; Douglas & William Frazier; Don Gaddo; Bob & Eloise Hart; John & Maryanne Hobbs; Merwyn & James Hornschuh; Bob & Helen Howard; Ted & Dorothy Johnston; Ed & Barbara Jones; Joe & Rozanne Joseph; Vern Kling & Cecelia Holland; Mary, Cate and Kenneth Ludlam; Jean Madlung, Randy Madlung, Cheryl Ross & Nancy Zeller; Joe & Willetta Mansell; Gertrude & Karen Neff; Elliot & Connie Novek; James & Juanice Powell; Gail Rastelli & Mary Allen; Henry & Ina Rudow; Ed & Bernice Soule; Lou & Betty Stoffer; Charles Sutton; Howard & Jane Traeder, Bruce & Karen Guenther; Eleanor Siegenthaler & Diane Day; Earl Hofert; Marshall & Nancy Zinter; Bill & Jackie Auten; George & Jeanne Graham; Scott & Janet Lieving; Dorothea Borchers.

In addition to the registered tour members, a dozen or more 398th members and friends will be in England on their own.



ST. BARTHOLOMEW CHURCH
Dominates Town Square In Pilsen, Czech Republic



398TH CREW REMEMBERED

"So it was that on November 26, 1999, midst the gale-force winds and leaden skies, Stephen Clipston and I climbed Birchenough Hill and offered our prayers at the memorial site of the DeCleene crew. We felt your (398th) presence when we found the cross you had laid there in 1994. We added some poppies on behalf of your friends at The Wash."

-SONIA GIFKINS, ENGLAND

<u>"Leemon Street"</u>

602 Squadron Co-pilot Died In Berlin Airlift

The name, Donald J. Leemon, will not appear on the stained glass Memorial Window at Anstey, England. He died four years after VE Day in Europe – 1949. However –

Leemon, a 398th co-pilot on the 602 Sam Zins crew, died while flying in supplies for the Germans in the Berlin Airlift. He was one of 32 Air Force Americans who lost their lives in this epic Cold War encounter with the Russians over who would hold sway in Berlin following the armistice.

A "Leemon Street" sign can be found on the Army airfield at Wiesbaden, Germany. Plus the street signs of 31 other Americans who died while flying transport during the Airlift.

All the signs were moved to Wiesbaden from their original locations at Lindsey Air Station in 1993. All this thanks to an American historian/researcher named Ronald M. A. Hirst, a D-Day veteran turned writer.

Leemon's final mission for the 398th was to Pilsen, Czech Republic, on April 25, 1945, the Last Mission of World War II.

ALUMINUM OVERCAST

Spring-Summer Schedule

CITY/AIRPORT	ARRIVAL DATE	FLIGHT DATES
Monroeville, AL (MVC)	April 27	April 28-May 1
Birmingham, AL (BHM)	May 1	May 2-4
Muscle Shoals, AL (MSL)	May 4	May 5-8
Huntsville, AL (HSV)	May 8	May 9-11
Lawrenceville, GA (LZU)	May 11	May 12-15
Marietta, GA (RYY)	May 15	May 16-18
Location Pending	May 18	May 19-22
Chattanooga, TN (CHA)	May 22	May 23-25
Lebanon, TN (M54)	May 25	May 26-29
Paducah, KY (PAH)	May 29	May 30-June 1
St. Louis, MO (SUS)	June 1	June 1-5
Jonesboro, AR (JBR)	June 5	June 6-8
N. Little Rock, AR (1M1)	June 8	June 9-11
Oshkosh, WI	June 12	Maintenance
Springfield, MO (SGF)	June 15	June 16-19
Ponca City, OK (PNC)	June 19	June 20-22
Wichita, KS (AAO)	June 22	June 23-26
Lee's Summit, MO (LXT)	June 26	June 27-29
Lincoln, NE (LNK)	June 29	June 20-July 2
Topeka, KS (FOE)	July 2	July 3-6
Peoria, IL (PIA)	July 6	July 7-10
Decatur, IL (DEC)	July 10	July 10-13
West Bend, WI (ETB)	July 13	July 14-16
Oshkosh, WI	July 17	Maintenance
Racine, WI (RAC)	July 21	July 22-23
Oshkosh, WI (EAA Air Venture	2000)	July 26-Aug 1

For additional flight information, ground tour costs, special rates for schools and other groups, call 1-800-359-6217. NOTE: Ground Tours for past B-17 Flight Experience participants and all 398th Bomb Group members are FREE.

(Dates and locations are subject to change)

Doin' The Dues

It's Dues Time for the members living in the following states – North Carolina, South Carolins, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Kansas, Oklahoma, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska.

FLAK NEWS - Vol. 15 No. 2

In Memory

Floyd Aaron George E. Abbott Albert J. Aleksyn Gerald C. Anataillia Vernon Anderson Joe T. Andrews Darrell Argubright Charles Arnold **Brooks Atchison** James J. Ault Howard F. Ayres Charles P. Bagley John C. Bait John M. Baker John P. Baker William H. Baker George E. Barton Joseph G. Barzano Manuel M. Bassora Leroy K. Bayless William J. Beatovich Hubert F. Beatty James A. Beaty Joe Bergant Norman E. Bergen Nelson R. Beyer Harold A. Bisping Harold L. Blackwell Charles A. Borden Thomas C. Bowles Harvey J. Boyd Michael J. Brennan Ray D. Bringle Unite L. Brodin Loren C. Brown Melvin P. Brown Phil Brusseau Clifford Z. Bryan William M. Bryan **Anthony Buddes** Alfred Bueffel **Paul Bunning** John D. Burns Wilbert Y. Burns William Butters Felix Byrne Robert G. Campbell

William Campbell

Albert S. Carlisle Peter D. Carrado James E. Chandler Donald Christensen Donald R. Christensen Marvin Clark Thomas A. Clark Clinton B. Clifton Glen H. Cline Gene F. Clinesmith Melvin Cohn **Donald Colbert** Fred Cole Lamar Q. Coleman Robert H. Colgan Roger D. Comer Frederick B. Cone Harry J. Connolly James B. Coulson Chares E. Cropp George R. Crowe Francis A. Daly Gordon F. Davidson Robert L. Davis Donald J. DeCleene Stanely DeLafayette Merritt A. Deuel Albert L. Dion Lyle J. Doerr Joseph D. Doglio Paul E. Doyle Robert W. Dudley Hazen V. Earle Stephen L. Edington Richard F. Ellis Ernest F. Engeman William H. Englehardt Roger J. Erickson Milton C. Ervin Gerald F. Farren Doyt W. Faurot George A. Feathers William Feinstein Howard V. Feldman Henry Ference Allan H. Ferguson James S. Fields David V. Flores Louis Fontana

Thomas K. Foster

Thomas H. Fox Augustine S. Franzone Victor Frisbie Virgil Fuller John P. Furrow Joseph R. Gaiser Clement Galetto Carlo Gallioto Eugene Gamba Reynaldo Garcia William F. Garner Thomas D. Garrett Frank E. Garry Robert Gaynor Ralph Glancy Harold M. Gnesin Edward B. Goesel Billy G. Gonser Marvin L. Gooden Richard S. Goodman Judson F. Gray Gregory G. Groncki Gerald O. Gruette Elmer G. Gurba John V. Gustafson Louis Haberman John R. Halbert Ralph L. Halter Marion B. Hamilton V.A. Hansard Clarence H. Harper Leonard D. Harrison Franklin D. Harrod Earl K. Hart Kenneth S. Hastings Dallas A. Hawkins Herbert A. Helbig Ralph C. Hess Joe Heustess James F. Hochadel William H. Hoffman James R. Honaker Raymond C. Hopp Charles Howell Frank P. Hunter Frank laconis John W. Ingram Earl C. James



The names inscribed on these page 398th Bomb Group who gave their liv They paid the ultimate price during

bers of various air and ground crews a Our Friends of the 398th have chos new, stained glass window at St. Get the 398th men commemorated will be

The artist chose a theme of Pillar of flight of the Israelites by day and be cumulo-nimbus clouds on the left are Flying Fortresses. And on the right the fire, a vivid reminder of the characteristics are survived emerged.

The dedication will take place on a 100 or more members of the 398th an ies and officials.

The names of all who contributed and American, are printed on page 8.

Of Our Fallen



are the names of those men from the in fighting for their country.

12-month period in 1944-45 as memstation 131, Nuthampstead, England. to remember these men by creating a e's Church, Anstey. The names of all ritten into the stained glass.

moke and Pillar of Fire, depicting the night. Against the towering mass of lhouetted a climbing stream of B-17 same aircraft are descending out of and violence out of which those who

ne 11, 2000 and will be witnessed by nany more English Friends, dignitar-

the memorial window, both English

Robert W. Jenkins Clib L. Johnson Roy Johnson Donald J. Jones William G. Jones Wallace E. Kasch Thomas D. Kelly Saul J. Kempner Cecil E. Kennedy Charles R. Kennedy Charles L. Khouri Warren L. King Joseph J. Kiska Casimer P. Klawinski Sherman S. Klein Theodore A. Kline Albert W. Knight Harry Kravif John K. Kressenberg Walter J. Kruse LeRoy Kucharski Thomas A. L'Estrange Marvin F. Leach Robert W. Lehner Ralph H. Lentz Clement A. Lescale Charles Letts William J. Lewandowski John Leydon Loren S. Liby William G. Logan John A. Loomis William H. Love Dane Lovelace Clinton L. Loveland Norman K. Lovingfoss Marvin Y. Luckie James E. Luna John S. MacArthur Thomas Manos Robert Mayfield James W. McAfee Paul McCain Donald J. McCorkindale Charles B. McLean William C. Meyran Walter E. Miller

James R. Mitchell

Edward J. Mizerski Carlton C. Moore Uvaldo G. Morales Edward L. Mullendore George C. Munroe Paul A. Nachtwey Herbert H. Newman Ira L. O'Neal Richard T. Osteen Harry Ostrow Peter L. Paget George C. Papajohn Leo R. Parr Milton Passmore Max W. Paxton Ernest L. Pennell Anthony J. Perry Victor C. Petrauskas Bruce E. Phelps Milford Pinson Kenneth J. Plantz Perry E. Powell Thomas S. Pozder Joseph M. Price Elvin R. Prichard Virgil Register Paul H. Rich Richard Rimmer George T. Roby **Howard Rogers Arthur Roit** Benjamin G. Rolfe Michael A. Romano John D. Rose Charles N. Rosenblum Burton H. Roth Jack E. Rouch John D. Sauer William J. Scales Dale J. Schaupp Arthur P. Schmidt Murray J. Schultz Charles J. Searl Phillip A. Seltzler Harry Shafer William Shumate Charles L. Simons Lewis G. Slade Leonard W. Snyder

James H. Somers

William R.E. Stegell Charles H. Stein Robert A. Stewart Sidor P. Stizzo Maynard Stravinski Joseph F. Stritch Robert R. Stuart Gordon Sudborough Giles L. Teague Andrew R. Thomas Thomas L. Thompson Raymond A. Thornton Felix H. Tichenor Richard S. Trantham William S. Tull Francis E. Tuttle George N. Van Luven William J. Vanderlick Paul W. Voehringer Arnold M. Volkav Warren J. Wade Thomas D. Wadleigh Charles F. Wagner Charles Walker John P. Walker Samuel T. Walker Edwin M. Wallace Raymond A. Wallace Leo C. Walsh R.C. Warkentin John G. Weibel William E. Wells Theodore West Roger J. Weum Goodrich C. White Rufus White Bill Wickens Luther Willis George E. Wilson Orville M. Wilson William H. Wilson William J. Wilson Frederick C. Windeler Jack B. Withrow Ray R. Woltman Marlin Woodward Byron O. Young John L. Zasa Urie H. Zook



The names inscribed on these pages are the names of those men from the 398th Bomb Group who gave their lives in fighting for their country.

They paid the ultimate price during a 12-month period in 1944-45 as members of various air and ground crews at Station 131, Nuthampstead, England.

Our Friends of the 398th have chosen to remember these men by creating a new, stained glass window at St. George's Church, Anstey. The names of all the 398th men commemorated will be written into the stained glass.

The artist chose a theme of Pillar of Smoke and Pillar of Fire, depicting the flight of the Israelites by day and by night. Against the towering mass of cumulo-nimbus clouds on the left are filhouetted a climbing stream of B-17 Flying Fortresses. And on the right the same aircraft are descending out of the fire, a vivid reminder of the chaos and violence out of which those who survived emerged.

The dedication will take place on June 11, 2000 and will be witnessed by 100 or more members of the 398th and many more English Friends, dignitaries and officials

The names of all who contributed to the memorial window, both English and American, are printed on page 8.

Contributors To The Anstey Memorial Window

USA

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398th Bomb Group E-Mail Addresses

Additions and corrections to this list can be e-mailed to our printer. Please indicate 398th BG in the subject line.

C.

J.

WEB SITES:

398th Bomb Group, Cincinnati, OH	. http://www.398th.org
B-17 Combat Crewmen & Wingmen, South Gate, CA	www.b-17combatcrewmen.org
B-24 Liberator	www.b24liberator.org
EAA (Aluminum Overcast), Oshkosh, WI	www.eaa.org
Mighty 8th Museum, Savannah, GA	www.mighty8thmuseum.com

LETTERS:

"Our family wishes to express our sincere thanks for the beautiful wreath sent by the 398th to Jim's memorial. It was made up of white mums and red carnations with a blue satin bow. And we are also so thankful to learn that the Heritage fund drive was a success. Jim would have been so proud."

Marguerite Duvall, Loveland, CO 80538-9948

"Thank you for forwarding information of the 398th to my mother. She has given the materials to me to be placed in my collection of my father's memorabilia. I will treasure the article by Jerry Fields about the crew and the day they were shot down (1991 FLAK NEWS). I have my father's USMA diploma, Purple Heart and Air Medal prominently displayed in

our home. I have toured the Aluminum Overcast and other B-17's and feel great pride with each visit."

John M. Baker, Jr, Mustang, OK 73064-4701

"It's almost time for another trip to England, but I am still savoring the memories of our 1998 tour. My mom, Mary Ludlam, and I recall with tears our experience of seeing my Dad's flag flying over the Memorial at Nuthampstead. It was a powerful moment for us, watching the wind of England whip the flag out to full length to wave with pride over the memorial and the country of Dad's ancestors ... a country he loved as well as his own.

Cate Ludlam, Syosset, NY 11791-2606

"I hope you can one day bundle up all previous issues of FLAK NEWS and have them reprinted in a book (or two, or three)."

Arnold W. Brown, Albuquerque, NM 87197-4232

Ed's Note: See CD story on Page 1. If you have all the issues, a good "bookbinder" can put them in a bound volume (or two, or three).

"I was the navigator on Jerry Scheffer's crew with the 600th. Recently, I was going through some of my old papers and ran across the enclosed notes. I must have attended a briefing of some sort but I don't have any idea what it was for. There may have been some plans for a shuttle mission of some sort, but I can't remember anything about it. Maybe someone could provide more detail.

Wallace Hall, Northbrook, IL 60062-6422.

Ed's Note: Your notes referenced the 8th AF shuttle to Poltava, Russia. You apparently didn't go or you would have remembered for sure.

FLAK NEWS – Vol. 15 No. 2

From The Desk Of The Editor:

Memorial Day is coming up (May 30) and it occurs that some members of the 398th Bomb Group will be called on for "veterans' comments" at churches, cemeteries, schools and various service organizations.

For those vets who are "not accustomed to public speaking," your FLAK NEWS editor suggests a scan of last October's issue (and perhaps others, too) for "comment material."

Reference is made to the many "quotable quotes" offered by Oklahoma City reunion speaker Don Gaddo. Don urges all air war vets to "never allow your story to be forgotten."

And for an inspiring "third generation" thought, read Kelly Stallcup's college report on her 601 squadron grandfather.

And there is a story for everybody in Wesley Mudge's Hamburg mission story--

"How about those young men who never had the opportunity to ask the dearest girl in the world the question, "Will you marry me?"

There are 14 years of FLAK NEWS to draw from.

Find a story or two, or your own, that will tell your friends why Memorial Day is a special day for you.

As Gaddo said, "Don't be afraid to tell others about the cause you fought for."

UK Friends Seek Help

Dear 398th Bomb Group Members:

Geoff Rice and I are still in the process of compiling a list of all personnel who served with the 398th Bomb Group at Station 131.

Currently, we have over 3,400 names and one day we hope to have this compilation published.

We would greatly appreciate it if you will fill in the accompanying form so we can bring this project to a close. Please mail it to your 398th historian--

Dallas Ebest, San An-tonio, TX 78213-1561

Yours Sincerely,

LES DEAR, Hoddesdon, Herts, England

Late July FLAK News

The July FLAK News will be published "a little late," according to the Editor, "probably mid-August."

Mudge Dramatization

Wesley Mudge's story, "Because It Has Never Been Told," will be dramatized by members of the Hemet, CA, Baptist Church drama team at 3 PM, May 29, 2000.



Here's To All The Tail Gunners

THIS PICTURE is dedicated to all those gunners who spent long, lonely hours in the Fortress tail watching for ME's and FW's. And to all those bombardiers who helped keep them alive with those very important and frequent "oxygen checks." And to Johanna Sienkiewicz of England, who had (and still has) a love affair with her "tail end Charlies".

NAME	
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Vic Jenkins Passes

Vic Jenkins, who could be described as being "the soul of Station 131," died March 21, 2000, at his home in Bishop's Stortford, England, He was 70.

His "second home" was Station 131, where he served in the Royal Air Force in the post-WW II years, and later as a 131 historian. In the 70's he teamed up with Ozzie Osborn to lead the UK drive to build the memorial that now stands at Nuthampstead.

Jenkins' bus tours of the old base were always a highlight for former 398th'ers returning to their old haunts. He knew every corner of the base and his collection of photos and slides were a must for visitors.

Vic wrote of the "ghosts" of Station 131 (FLAK NEWS, Vol. 10, No. 4) telling of hearing the strains of "Moonlight Serenade" as he patrolled the old, empty Sub Depot hangar where Glenn Miller once played.

Vic is survived by his wife, Yvonne. And a vast number of men and women of the 398th who will always see his face as they view the Memorial at Nuthampstead.

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BRIEF-things

Talk about high drama, how about the "909" B-17 crew chief and is "909" flight coordinator girl friend who were married the first minute of 2000 under the wing of their Collings "909" in New Smyrna Beach, Florida (anyone from the Aluminum Overcast crew want to try this?) ... among the WWII "Suicide Mission" TV productions seen last winter was one entitled, "Ball Turret Gunner;" ... it was from Sea to Ski when 398th treasurer Marilyn Gibb and her family moved from Florida to Colorado Springs; the cross-country move won't affect her role as Reunion Chairman for Savannah ... for those who like "stax" -- in recent years the US military has shrunk by 40%; 700 installations have been closed; the Air Force has shrunk from 36 fighter wings to 20; the Navy has downsized from 586 ships to 324; the good ol' B-52's are now 38 years old and half of the newer B-1's at Rapid City are grounded for lack of parts ... a "good guy" award has to go to Willie Ivy, who for several years sponsored the 398th dues of fellow Montanan invalid Robert Templeton, who died recently ... folks signing up for the Savannah Heritage Museum tour and dedication should be reminded that the tour ticket cost is for the bus ride, admission and lunch ... Jack Burton is the museum's special events coordinator and he'll have the tricky job of hosting the big 398th reunion group ... the FLAK NEWS editor is constantly amazed to hear of the many members who have saved each and every issue these past 14 years ... there is no telling if there will be another roster printed in the future, so it is wise to maintain an "update" with the additions and corrections printed in each issue ... England Tour Reminder: there is just barely enough time for ordering special PX gifts from Joe Joseph before embarking on the "June Tour" ... our faithful Friends at the Wash in England, Brian Clipston and Sonia Gifkins, tell of seeing their "50 Years On" poem in a book called "The Men Behind The Guns," a tribute to aerial gunners, at a store in Norwich; it ran in FLAK NEWS in 1993; they also saw a FLAK NEWS poem called "Thirty Thousand Feet" in a 92nd Bomb Group newsletter; it was written by 603 navigator, Stephen Quinn ... Just Wondering: will the US courts now outlawing school prayers also take aim at the invocations at our 398th reunion? ... among the several non-tour members going to England in June are two "American Legion Gold Star Sisters" -- Loretta Rosenberg and Martha Colbourn, sisters of pilot Charles Howell, killed over Merseburg Nov. 21, 1944 ... Les Dear and Geoff Rice, our Brit historians, send along their thanks to all who contributed photos and information for their 398th photo/ personnel book; "keep 'em coming," they add ... your FLAK NEWS editor will sorely miss Ed Stewart, whose 1945 flak wounds contributed to his recent passing; Ed maintained the phone/personnel roster for the 398th; his son, Bruce, has promised to pass along his dad's computer records ... the 398th has not one, but two competitive softball players in Florida; Joe Klosterman of the Earle Ford crew still plays, as does Bob Goren ... Tom Landry, who died this past year, is remembered by football fans as the former Dallas Cowboy coach, and also by the 493rd Bomb Group as one of their B-17 pilots ... Hal Weekley reports that the Aluminum Overcast, with Dr. Bill *Harrison* and himself in the cockpit, flew to Florida to pick up new radio and navigation equipment and then on to Canada for a new paint job (no change in the 398th colors) ... the England Tour leaders won't tip their hands on this one, but the "tourists" visiting the American Air Museum at Duxford are in for a real surprise, especially the ladies whose dad/husbands flew in those B-17's ... when the 487th Bomb Group discovered extra money in their treasury they earmarked 2K for pews at the new Heritage museum, 2K for the World War II Memorial in DC; and 2K for their Lavenham (England) tower restoration ... in addition to all the other tour sites in England and the continent, your editor will visit Malmo, Sweden to see the memorial honoring 8th AF men killed in that country, including eight members of the James Fields crew.

398th Bomb Group PX

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ity. CLOTHING	Cost	Tota
		1016
Cap - Fits All Sizes	\$8.00 ea	
600, 601, 602, 603 Group		
Jackets - Navy, B-17 on Front	\$25.00 ea	
S, M, L, XL, XXL		
	£10.00.aa	
T-Shirts - B-17 on Front	\$10.00 ea	
Navy - White - S, M, L, XL, XXL		
Sweat Shirts - B-17 on Front	\$15.00 ea	
Navy - White - S, M, L, XL, XXL	ψ10.00 Cu	
Golf Shirts Group Logo on Front	\$20.00 ea	_
Navy or White - M, L, XL, XXL		
Turtle Neck Shirt - B-17 on Collar	\$20.00 ea	
	Ψ L 0.00 Cu	
White - S, M, L, XL		
Children's T- Shirts (White)	\$8.00 ea	
6-8, 10-12, B-17 on Front		
Children's Sweatshirts	\$10.00 ea	
	ψ10.00 Ca	
(Blue or White) M, L - B-17 on Front		
IEWEI DV		
JEWELRY	A=	
Squadron Lapel Pins - 600, 601, 602, 603	\$5.00 ea	
Group Lapel Pin (Hell from Heaven)	\$5.00 ea	92
Group Lanel Pin - Special Decian	\$5.00 ea	
Group Lapel Pin - Special Design B-17 Lapel Pin (Silver)		_
D-17 Laper Pin (Silver)	\$2.00 ea	
B-17 Earrings (Silver - Pierced only)	\$5.00 ea	
Bolo Ties - Group Logo	\$4.00 ea	
Dolo 1100 Group Logo	V 1.00 00	-
LOGO PATCHES		
Squadron Patches - 600, 601, 602, 603	\$6.00 ea	
Crown Datch ("Hall from Hasser")		-
Group Patch ("Hell from Heaven")	\$6.00 ea	
Jacket Patch - Rectangle B-17	\$4.00 ea	
MICCELL ANEQUE ITEMS		
MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS		
Folding Umbrellas	\$18.00 ea	3
Red with White B-17		
Note Paper with B-17 (Packet of 12)	\$4.00 pkt	
Note raper with b-17 (racket of 12)	\$4.00 pkt	=
Tote bag, Navy with White B-17	\$7.00 ea	
Beach Towel White with Black B-17	\$18.00 ea	
Golf Towel, White w/Black B-17	\$7.00 ea	-
O" Diete with D 17 (200th D C colore)		
9" Plate with B-17 (398th B.G. colors)	\$15.00 ea	
Christmas Ornament with B-17	\$6.00 ea	
Coffee Mug with B-17	\$7.00 ea	2 ==
Ceramic Magnet with B-17		
	\$3.00 ea	-
Playing Cards with B-17		
Single Deck	\$7.00 ea	
Double Deck	\$12.00 ea	-
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Photo (Control Tower) Station 131	\$2.00 ea	_
Photo (398th Memorial) Post Card	\$2.00 ea	
Photo (8X10 Aluminum Overcast)	\$2.00 ea	<u> </u>
Photo (8X10 Aluminum Overcast)	\$2.00 ea	
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Make checks payable to 398th Bomb Group Association PX (US funds).

Mail to: Joe Joseph

New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168-6168

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