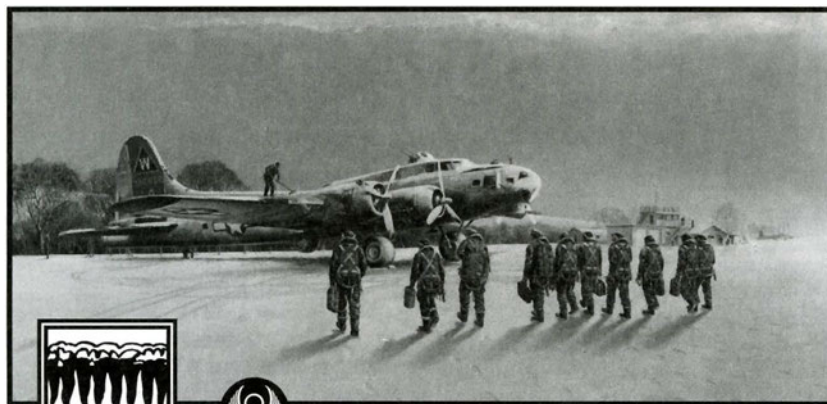




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398th BOMB GROUP MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION • 8th AIR FORCE • 1st AIR DIVISION • NUTHAMPSTEAD, ENGLAND

VOL. 16 NO. 2

FLAK NEWS

APRIL 2001

Reunion At St. Paul

The 398th Bomb Group Association has met in reunion no less than 17 times since deciding to “go it alone” in 1984. And no less than 17 different cities have hosted the meetings.

Comes now the 18th city — St. Paul, Minnesota — to host the 18th annual reunion. Dates are October 3-4-5-6, 2001. Slightly later in the fall than other “normal” reunions, but the host folks suggest “you picked the best time of year to come to St. Paul.”

(After the mosquitoes and before the snow).

Some members are already plotting their course home to include the north woods of Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin as part of their “leaf looker” tourist schedule.

St. Paul is the capital of Minnesota, sitting astride the Mississippi River along with sister city Minneapolis. And nearby are the Minnesota and St. Croix Rivers, among the many of the state’s rivers accepting water from the “land of 10,000 lakes.”

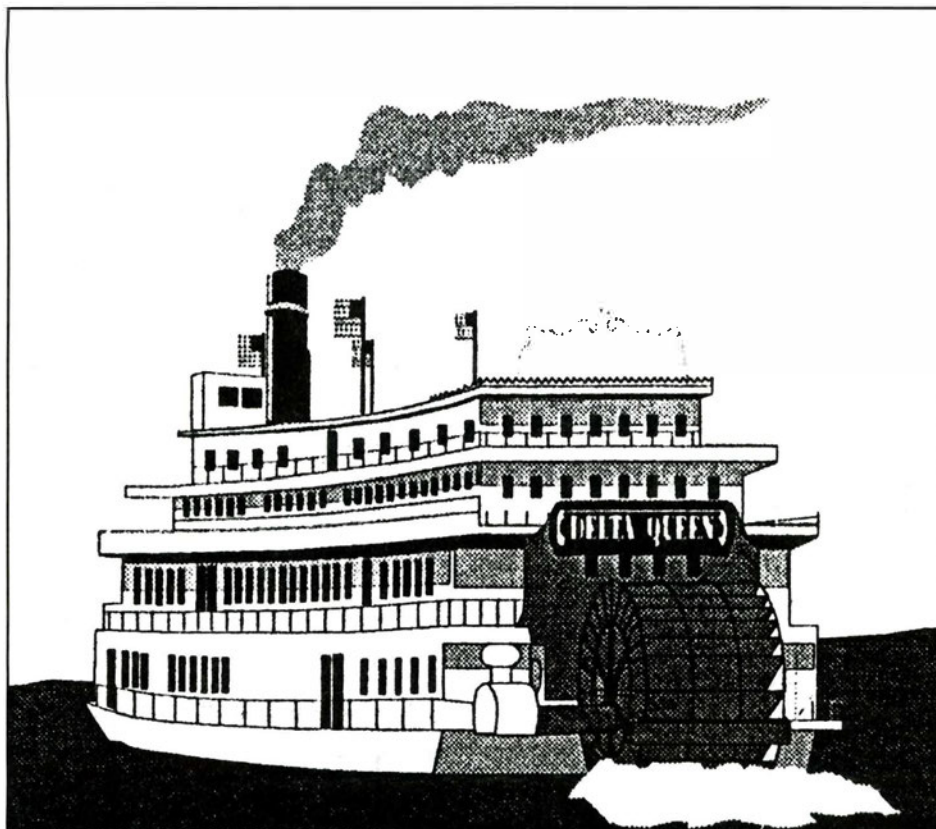
After (or before) the reunion interested members can travel north to find the source of the Mississippi River (Lake Itasca).

Other less adventuresome members may want to confine their water sports to the Riverboat Dinner Cruise or watching the beautiful St. Croix River from the vantage point of a riverfront boutique or restaurant.

Many activities are planned (see page 2) to keep members entertained and busy and still not interfere with the reason for the meeting — fellowship.

This is combat crew get-together time; a time to meet fellow Cyclone airplane mechanics; time to talk to other cooks

Continued on Page 6



THE DELTA QUEEN will greet 398th members in St. Paul for the opening night event of the 18th annual reunion. The riverboat will cruise the Mississippi River, affording both metropolitan and rural sights. All that plus dinner and a Dixieland Band. The cruise is set for Wednesday evening, October 3. All reunion information, plus the registration form, appear on Pages 2 and 3.

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THE ST. PAUL REUNION

October 3-4-5-6, 2001

REUNION FACTS

REUNION CHAIRMAN - Sharon Krause, Plymouth, MI 48170-2870.

HEADQUARTERS HOTEL - Radisson City Center Hotel, 411 Minnesota St., St. Paul, MN 55101. Telephone (651) 291-8800. Special reunion rate for the 398th is \$79.00 per night, plus tax. Single or double. (*Note: we are not at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel on E. Kellogg Blvd.*)

PARKING - Prevailing rates will apply for guests at the Town Square Ramp, which is connected to the City Center hotel. Other low cost options are available within a few block radius.

RESERVATIONS - A hotel reservation form is included in this issue of FLAK NEWS. Each guest is responsible for his own reservation and payment. If hotel reservation form is missing, contact the reunion chairman.

HOTEL POLICY - Radisson City Center Hotel will honor 398th reservations received by September 8, 2001. Reservations received after that date will be subject to space availability at prevailing room rates. Hotel check in time is 3 PM. Check out time is 12 noon.

TOURS - All 398th tours will be arranged by Metro Connection. Tickets for all venues will be required upon entering the coach. Tour tickets will be available in each person's Reservation Packet, available in the 398th Memory Room (Phalen Suite).

BANQUET TICKETS - Welcome and Farewell Banquet tickets (if ordered) will be at the Reservation Desk. Upon registering in the Memory Room, secure a table reservation number. All banquet tickets must have a table reservation number for seating.

THE TOURS

CATHEDRAL TOUR - Modeled after St. Peter's in Rome, the St. Paul Cathedral is one of the largest church buildings in America, seating 4,000 people. Situated on the brow of St. Anthony Hill overlooking downtown, the cathedral was the inspiration of Archbishop John Ireland. It was designed by the French architect Emmanuel L. Masqueray, chief designer for the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. Following the guided tour there will be an organ concert. This tour is scheduled for Wednesday, October 3, 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM. Cost is \$22.00 per person.

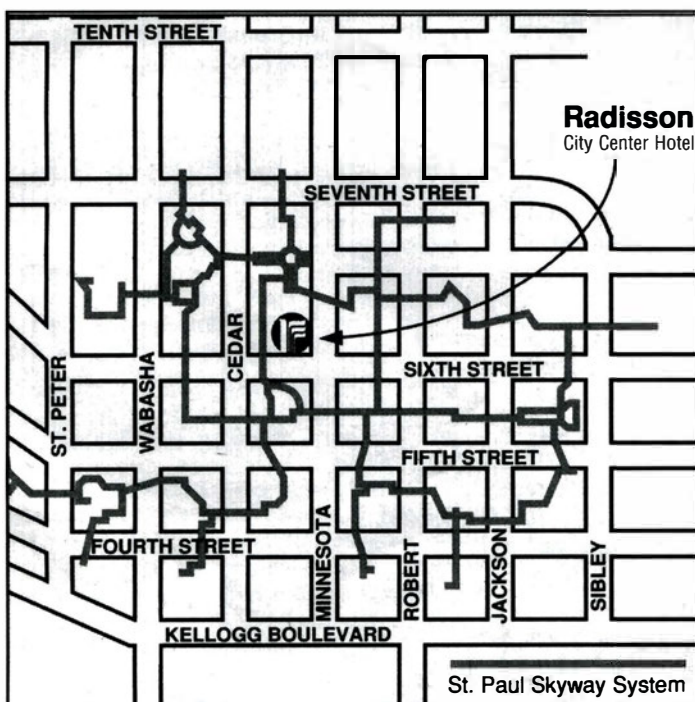
RIVERBOAT DINNER CRUISE - A dinner cruise featuring Chicken and Ribs with all the fixin's plus Dixieland Band music will highlight a Mississippi Riverboat Cruise aboard the Delta Queen, an authentic steamboat sternwheeler. You will cruise from downtown St. Paul through the heart of the Mississippi National River and Recreational Area. This is an area rich in Minnesota history, a time when the building of our nation was influenced by the great inland waterways. This event is set for Wednesday, October 3, 5:30 to 9:30 PM. Cost is \$58.00 per person.

BEST OF ST. PAUL TOUR - A quick but intimate tour of our 2001 reunion city, St. Paul, timed to coincide with the 398th official business meeting. The tour guide will narrate the St. Paul sights, such as Rice Park, Ordway Music Hall, World Trade Center and Landmark Center. See the best preserved example of the Victorian boulevard in the country. This is where the wealthy lumber and railroad barons of the day had their homes. Visit the Como Conservatory to see some of the most colorful, varied and well-arranged floral displays and shows in the nation. Mums will be a featured display. This takes place Thursday, October 4, 1 to 3:30 PM. Cost is \$22.00 per person (*Note - the group business meeting will be held at the hotel from 2 to 4 PM*).

STILLWATER TOUR - A trip to Stillwater is a trip to Minnesota's Yesteryear. Steeped in history, Stillwater is the birthplace of Minnesota Territory in 1849. Located on the sparkling blue St. Croix River, there are boutiques, galleries and shops to accommodate everyone, plus early day mansions, churches and other National Register historic places. The guided tour includes lunch at the Lowell Inn. This tour is set for Friday, October 5, 9 AM to 3 PM. Cost is \$43.00 per person.

THE BEST OF MINNEAPOLIS TOUR - This tour begins in downtown Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, 11 acres of gardens, walkways and plazas. The urban garden features sculptures of various sizes ranging from human-scale bronzes to towering steel constructions. The focal point of the garden is a 29 foot high fountain that sprays over a free-form pond. The tour continues through the Kenwood residential area and around sparkling lakes and lagoons on the way to the legendary Minnehaha Falls. Then see the University of Minnesota and the birthplace of Minneapolis - St. Anthony Falls. There will be a stop for a no-host lunch. This tour will be on Friday, October 5 from 10 AM to 2 PM. Cost is \$22.00.

MALL OF AMERICA TOUR - No visit to Minnesota would be complete without a trip to the largest mall in the U.S. Located in Minneapolis, the Mall includes four of the country's largest retailers, plus more than 400 other unique outlets. The Mall of America is so different it has to be seen to be appreciated. The tour includes motorcoach, tour guide and Mall bags, with time for lunch on your own at one of dozens of food outlets. This tour is scheduled for Saturday, October 6, 10 AM to 3 or 4 PM. Cost is \$24.00.



OFFICIAL REGISTRATION FORM

398th Bomb Group Memorial Association 18th Annual Reunion
St. Paul, Minnesota October 3-6, 2001

PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 8, 2001

NAME _____ WIFE _____ SQD. _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE (_____) _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP+4 _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

NAMES OF OTHERS IN PARTY. PLEASE PRINT FOR NAME TAGS

WEDNESDAY, October 3 —

Golf	6:30 AM	Meet in Lobby	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Registration	9:00 AM to 4:00 PM	Memory Room	
Cathedral Tour	12:30 PM to 2:30 PM	Metro Tour	\$22.00 x _____ \$ _____
Riverboat Dinner Cruise	5:30 PM to 9:30 PM	Metro Tour	\$58.00 x _____ \$ _____

THURSDAY, October 4 —

Golf	6:30 AM	Meet in Lobby	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Board Officers Meeting	8:00 AM	Mounds Suite	
Registration	9:00 AM to 4:00 PM	Memory Room	
Best of St. Paul City Tour	1:00 PM to 3:30 PM	Metro Tour	\$22.00 x _____ \$ _____
GROUP BUSINESS MEETING	2:00 PM	Ballroom	
No Host Cocktails	6:00 PM	Ballroom	
Welcome Banquet (Table reservations required)	7:00 PM	Ballroom	\$33.00 x _____ \$ _____

FRIDAY, October 5 —

Golf	6:30 AM	Meet in Lobby	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Registration	8:30 AM to 4:00 PM	Memory Room	
Stillwater Tour	9:00 AM to 3:00 PM	Metro Tour	\$43.00 x _____ \$ _____
Best of Minneapolis Tour	10:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Metro Tour	\$22.00 x _____ \$ _____
Dinner on your own			

SATURDAY, October 6 —

Golf	6:30 AM	Meet in Lobby	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Registration	10:00 AM to 12 Noon	Memory Room	
Mall of America Tour	10:00 AM to 3-4 PM	Metro Tour	\$24.00 x _____ \$ _____
No Host Cocktails	6:00 PM	Ballroom	
Farewell Banquet (Table reservations required)	7:00 PM	Ballroom	\$39.00 x _____ \$ _____

Registration Fee (per person, 2 maximum per family) \$10.00 x _____ \$ _____
2000 Dues (if applicable) \$20.00 x _____ \$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____

I/We will be staying at the:

- Radisson City Center Hotel
 Other _____

Please complete the form, enclose check, and mail to:
398th BOMB GROUP REUNION
c/o Sharon Krause
Plymouth, MI 48170-2870

Received \$ _____ Date _____

Sharon Krause

A copy of this form will be mailed to registrant upon receipt of check or money order, payable to 398th Bomb Group Reunion.

The Duke of Gloucester:

“Some Ordinary Men Did Some Extraordinary Things”

His Royal Highness, the Duke of Gloucester, represented British royalty last year when he came to Anstey on June 11, 2000 to unveil the stained glass window on behalf of the 398th Bomb Group and the Friends of the 398th.

His words touched many a heart as he depicted the men of the American Air Force as being asked to do “extraordinary things and not count the cost.”

His entire message, before he unveiled the window, and the Bishop of St. Albans dedicated it “to the glory of God,” is printed here.

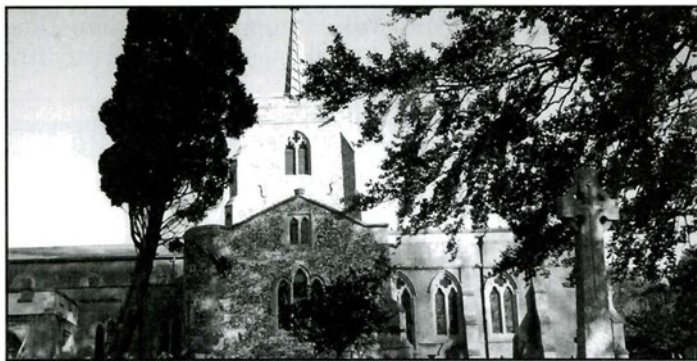


THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER

“This building in its thousand years of existence has seen many changes. It has seen community grow around it, and it has witnessed the effect of peace, and the changes that brings, and the effect of war, and the changes that brings.

War is a time when ordinary men are invited to do the extraordinary, and not to count the cost. This century has seen a new form of warfare, the ability to leave a friendly base and fly over enemy territory and deliver an attack from a great height and return safely to that same friendly base, but at the risk of hours in the air and hours under attack from anti-aircraft and enemy fighters.

The United State Air Force invited some very ordinary men to do some very extraordinary things, not just once, but time and time again and they indeed were not invited to count the cost. Over the months, that cost rose



and rose, and I think it was very appropriate that the Friends of your 398th Bomb Group should wish to record your contribution to the victory in 1945 by creating this wonderful window in this church which itself witnessed so closely the path that you flew.

It is with that thought I congratulate all of those who played a part in this project in raising the money, in asking the artist to create this splendid design, and in having it installed here in this church as a memorial for all those to come later and will wonder exactly what its significance is in this ancient church.

I hope that all who see it will ponder its significance.”

**HRH The Duke of Gloucester
June 11, 2000**

From The President:

Final FLAK NEWS For Some Members

The “first pruning” of the 398th Bomb Group newsletter mailing list in 15 years is about to take place. It could affect some 220 “members” after this (April) issue of FLAK NEWS.

And the possibility of another 283 in the days ahead.

I have discussed the need to stabilize the 398th’s financial situation in previous issues of FLAK NEWS, citing the fact that a sizable percentage of those on the mailing list have never paid or are seriously delinquent in dues (\$20.00 per year).

The Board is in agreement that this move is necessary not only for fairness, but also for our financial survival.

It should be noted here that this action will not affect 398th Life members, spouses of those on our Taps list, most off-shore mailing, special contacts in museums, bomb group liasons and other organizational representatives.

After the April mailing we will monitor the response and make further adjustments in July.

FLAK NEWS keeps our Association together and functioning. We want as many as possible to receive and be appreciative of its contents, especially in view of the fact that each name on the membership list represents a cost of \$5.00.

It is not fair that only a portion of the membership should carry the load.

Our dues manager is James Haas, Perry, IA 50220-0163.

**WALLY BLACKWELL, president
398th Bomb Group
Memorial Association**

Thank You, Reverend Drew

Our good and everlasting Friend, the Rev. Gerald Drew, retired from his Church of England Benefice responsibilities in January 2001. All 398ers returning to Station 131 in the past ten years have appreciated Rev. Drew’s meaningful services at the Nuthampstead monument on Saturday and the St. George’s Anstey Church on Sunday.

Who of us can forget his beaming countenance, wearing his 603 Squadron cap, conducting these heartwarming activities? Rev. Drew was presented a cheque at his retirement service that included donations from his six parishes, the 398th UK Friends and the 398th Association.

Worry not, he has declared he will be with us for the June 2002 Return to Nuthampstead.

Best known as the rector at Anstey, where he “crowned” his ministry with the dedication of the stained glass window last June, Rev. Drew took pride in his association with the 398th. He was known to wear a 398th T-shirt under his vestments and drew from REMEMBRANCES for his sermons when the 398th England tour members attended his services.

Oftentimes, his 603rd Squadron cap was at his side in the pulpit.

“I will take my cap with me into retirement,” he said.

Rev. Drew, thank you for taking us into your congregation.

— Wally Blackwell

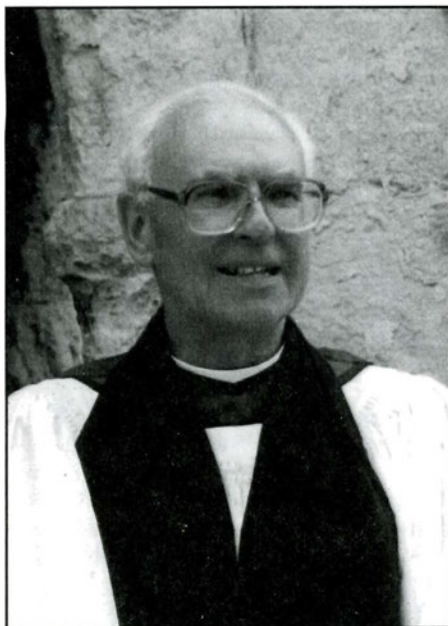
An Official Trio Of Thanks

I have previously neglected an official thank you to Dale Brown, Dick Frazier and Ted Johnston who retired from the 398th Official Board at Savannah after many years of dedicated service. We wish them well and understand their desire to be just members for a while.

— Wally Blackwell



DICK HALL models the A-2 jacket he came home with in 1945 (and wishes he still owned). The accompanying story suggests that A-2 jackets are still available to those who "just gotta have one." Hall flew navigator on the 602 Hank Rudow crew. His daughter, Carol, is an Air Force major navigating KC-135 tankers out of Mildenhall AFB, England.



REV. GERALD DREW
A Friend Retires

Saga of the A-2 Jacket:

There Is Still Time to Own (Re-Own) Priceless Jacket

There are a few men from the 398th (perhaps more than a few) who still have their priceless A-2 jackets from those WWII days. And perhaps less than a few who can still wear them with the same agility as back then.

There are also a few (who lost their jacket years ago) who bit the bullet and ordered up new ones in recent years for themselves. Complete with bombs, B-17's, nose art, etc.

A-2 jackets have always been available for sale (at considerably more cost than the original issue). It's now an official jacket for today's airmen, and even former President Clinton chose one for himself as Commander in chief.

All this brings rise to the question – *Do you want an A-2 jacket to wear proudly during your senior years? And perhaps join others in a group-wide display of A-2 jackets (old and new) at the 18th annual reunion in St. Paul, MN next October?*

For those who respond with a positive

"I gotta get one" then here is all the information you will need –

A-2 jackets (goatskin) are available from the 8th Air Force News PX, c/o M. Copeland, P.O. Box 240837, Apple Valley, MN 55124. E-mail - moke388@isd.net. Cost per jacket is \$190.00 plus \$4.50 for shipping and handling. Indicate Regular or Long. Order one size larger than your normal jacket size. Delivery takes 4 to 6 weeks. The PX telephone number is 952-953-0121. Information only, no phone orders.

And then—

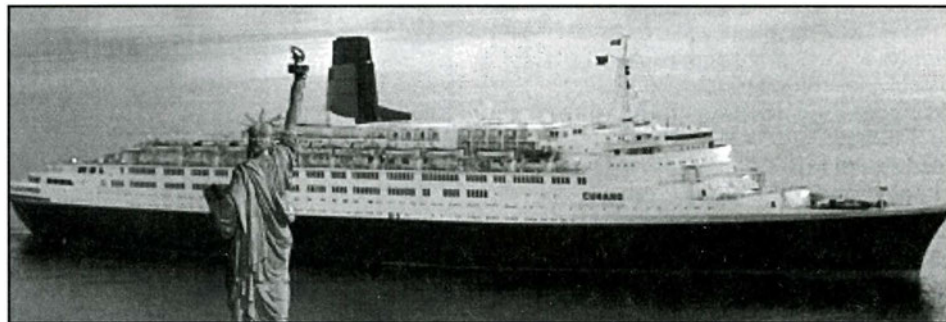
If you want personalized, hand-painted art on your jacket, including patches, insignias, wings, name tags, etc., an excellent contact is The Peters Group, 835 Comeback Bay Lane, Sagle, Idaho 83860. Telephone 1-800-774-0833. E-mail - info@peters-group.com

And not to forget that our own 398th PX has a good supply of 8th Air Force Group and Squadron patches. See page 11.

Interest Grows In "Troopship Tour" But Firm Costs Still Lacking

The thought of a "Troopship Tour" on the world's greatest cruise ship, the QE-2, has stirred the imagination of many 398th members. Such a cruise can be a part of the next England tour, scheduled for June 5-20, 2002. Already, some 40 members have indicated they are "ready to go."

After a five day visit to Nuthampstead, the tour will wind up with three days in London, after which some members will fly home and others will "cruise the Atlantic" for six days aboard the spectacular Queen Elizabeth 2, docking in New York.



The tour costs are still being assembled by Barbara Fish, but from early indications (still lacking firm 2002 quotes from the Cunard Lines) the cost of the air and land portions of the tour will be in the area of \$2,900 each. Add approximately \$1,700 for the QE-2, knowing that individual stateroom preference costs will vary a great deal.

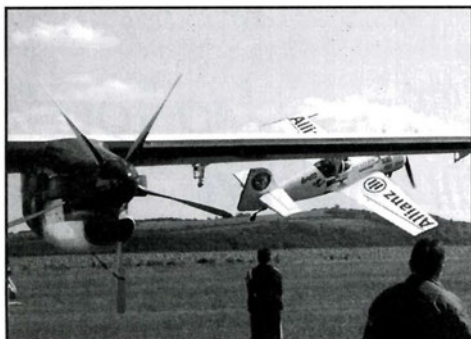
Complete details of the 2002 tour will be available in the July issue of FLAK NEWS. Meanwhile, those interested should call Barbara a 1-800-423-5454.

Because of the variety of QE-2 accommodations, plus the fact that airfare to England is usually included in the overall "cruise" price, each ticket must be handled on an individual basis. This includes travel information from home to the various British Air gateway cities.



THIS IS WHAT THE WOODMAN INN looks like today, or at least as it looked for the Memorial service there last June when some 110 398th members came to visit. It has had several new additions, including three bed-and-breakfast units, in more recent years. The large white building at the left was a temporary shelter for the overflow Memorial service crowd. The small dark building at the bottom right is the "loo," a temporary restroom. The 398th memorial, where the service was held, is indicated by the arrow. The original Woodman structure lies within the circle. It dates back to 1136.

PHOTO By Randy Stange



Crash Takes Life of Czech Pilot

Word has been received from our Czech Republic friends that Martin Stahalik, a world champion aerobatic pilot, was killed while flying a Russian-built SU-52 plane in Holland.

Stahalik will be remembered by 398th Bomb Group members who visited the Czech Republic following the England Tour in June, 2000. He came to Slany in another Russian-built aerobatic plane to perform for the U.S. visitors, and proceeded to give an incredible flying exhibition.

Stahalik was considered one of the best in the world, having won the world aerobatic championship in China. Among the sponsors of the plane he flew in Slany was the Skoda Works of Pilsen, remembered by 398th airmen as the Last Mission of World War II.

Jan Zdiarsky of Kovarska, who informed FLAK NEWS of Stahalik's demise said,

"He died as he lived- on the seat of an aerobatic plane."

St. Paul: One More Time For Memories

Continued from Page 1

about round and square eggs; time for radio hacks to do their "da dit" bit and swap stories about the infamous (or well loved) Colonel Berryhill.

There will be a Memory Room for registration at the Radisson City Center Hotel (not to be confused with the Radisson "Riverfront" Hotel).

The Memory Room will also house Joe and Rozanne Joseph's PX, always a busy place for shopping for squadron baseball caps, insignias, sweaters, T-shirts, etc.

Registration will be under the leadership of Sharon Krause of Plymouth, Michigan and her staff of helpers. Sharon is no late entry to things of the 398th, being the daughter of 602 pilot, Paul Roderick. She is the Reunion Chairman.

Some members may remember the year 1981, when the 398th met in St. Paul in conjunction with the Eighth Air Force Historical Society.

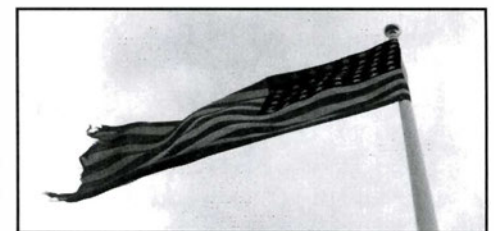
All the facts on the St. Paul Reunion are on Pages 2 and the Registration form on Page 3. Photocopies of the Registration form are acceptable. Mail the completed form to Sharon and she will return a photocopy to you (audited).

Flag Program At Station 131 Honors Veterans

The press continues to remind "us" that World War II veterans are dying at the rate of a thousand per month. And we bear witness to this fact as we gaze on the lengthening Taps list, published annually in FLAK NEWS each January.

This might serve as a reminder that the American flags of deceased 398th veterans may be "flown to destruction" as a family remembrance symbol at the "tall pole" at Nuthampstead.

Many family members have taken advantage of this opportunity and sent (or taken) flags to Station 131 for this purpose. Peggy



Wells of the Friends of the 398th monitors the flag program in Nuthampstead.

Secretary Harold Stallcup is in charge of the program for the 398th. For "flag in-formation" he can be contacted at Forest City, NC 28043-3728.

Even now, there are those contemplating the Year 2002 England tour who will hand carry their veteran's flag to be raised at the tall pole during the tour visit.



“Cancel SOS... We’re Coming Home”

“A Good Pilot and Excellent Radio Work”

CONFIDENTIAL

1st Combat Wing Headquarters

STATION 131

England, September 5, 1944

The following is the true story of a B-17 radio operator who guided his crippled bomber back 300 miles across the North Sea.

It is an excellent example of head-work and teamwork, and a neat rebuttal of the attitude that “radio operators just go along for the ride.”

The radio operator in this case is T/Sgt David Haight of the 601st Squadron, 398th Bomb Group. His aircraft was “565-M,” piloted by William A. McCarty.

The mission was to Kiel, Germany on August 30, 1944.

What Haight did on this day was accomplished “by means of a fix and 19 QDM’s, all from the MFD/F, Station CQ9, which is near the English East Coast.”

Shortly after “bombs away” at 1615 hours Flak knocked out No. 1 engine and set it on fire. Efforts by McCarty and co-pilot Charlie Weeks to feather the engine proved futile, so McCarty ordered his crew to “adjust your chutes and get ready for the bail-out bell.”

Darrell Argubright, the navigator, heard only snatches of the order on the intercom, and when the engine continued to spout flame he bailed out.

↖ SOS “Prop Windmilling, May Ditch”

Haight, who had been in the waist throwing out chaff, returned to his radio room and prepared for some serious work. He and the rest of the crew were over 350 miles from their home base and without a navigator. The weather was uncertain; they were losing altitude, and soon they were alone.

He ran out his trailing wire and tuned his radio up on “CQ9’s frequency at 158 turns.”

His first two calls went unanswered, but at 1700 hours, through bad interference, CQ9 was heard receipting for Haight’s “SOS,” so Haight sent an “O” (URGENT) message-

“May ditch, windmilling prop, navigator bailed out.”

This gave the English MFD/F operator a complete picture of the emergency, and at 1715 hours he transmitted the first of a long series of QDM’s- “Steer 250.”

At 1733, CQ9 radioed a fix - “5450 North, 0830 East.” This showed that the Fort was over the German coast 300 miles from England. Two other stations had joined in the “Quadrilateral Direction Monitor” to give Haight his exact position. He relayed this to the pilot on the intercom and McCarty

had a heading for England.

Haight’s first “SOS” had been heard in England from a distance of over 350 miles.

While the gunners jettisoned guns and ammunition, the crippled ship was led all the way across the North Sea, after which two P-47 fighters were dispatched to lead “565-M” to an emergency landing at a coastal airfield.

↖ QDM 245 “You have 87 Miles to go”

After the first series of QDM’s, CQ9 radioed “friends will meet you, keep going, steer 250.” At 1752 they were told they had 270 miles to go. By 1830, with 200 miles to go, the McCarty Fort was down to 4,000 feet and descending through a squall, which temporarily blacked out all radio contact. But the engine fire was out, and Haight radioed, “Cancel my SOS, we’re coming home.”

A hazardous ditching in the North Sea looked almost certain, but soon CQ9’s cheering chirps poured in again, urging them on, telling them how many miles they had clipped off every 10 or 15 minutes, and adjusting the QDM’s as head winds veered them to the right of the course.

Excerpts from the log -

TIME TO	FROM	
1919	RKWM CQ9	“QDM 245, 87 miles to go”
1927	RKWM CQ9	“QDM 243, 70 miles to go” (McCarty reports altitude of 800 feet)
1934	RKWM CQ9	“QDM 237 to _____ (British Field)
1950	RKWM CQ9	“QDM 230, 30 miles out” (Can you see the fighters?)

↖ QDM 230 “Can You See Fighters?”

The crew spotted two P-47’s up ahead, and gratefully, McCarty and Weeks fall in behind them.

“If No. 1 engine doesn’t blow up we’ll make it,” radioed Haight.

At 2006 they land safely at _____, which is on a bit of land sticking out into the North Sea.

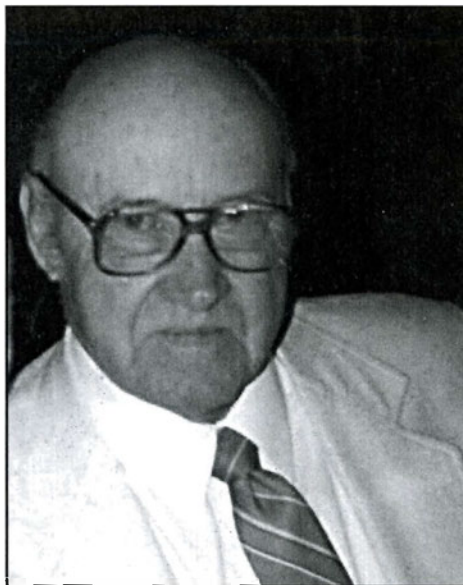
A good pilot and excellent air-ground radio work had once more saved a crew from the sea.

Argubright Buried In Luxembourg

Darrell Argubright, the navigator who jumped from the stricken McCarty Fortress, was found dead on the ground near the German coast. He is the only 398th member buried at the American cemetery in Luxembourg city.

In 1988, during the group tour, fellow crew members Ralph Hall (tail gunner) and Frank Yarmoski (togglier), laid flowers at his grave site. Others on the McCarty-Weeks crew at the time of the “SOS” mission on August 30, 1944 were Larry Ruth, engineer; Paul Adelman, ball turret; and Robert McMichael, waist gunner.

For his performance on the radio on that day, David Haight was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. It was presented by 601 commanding officer, Tracy Petersen.



DAVID HAIGHT
57 Years Later

WANT A B-17 RIDE? CALL NOW FOR YOUR RESERVATION

The Spring-Summer tour of the EAA’s Aluminum Overcast began in mid-March in Albuquerque and was scheduled to cover parts of Texas and then on to Arizona, California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah and Colorado. The schedule appeared in the January issue of FLAK NEWS.

What did not appear was the EAA telephone number to be called by those who wished to book flights. Information on these flights and locations may be obtained by calling Jill Goggins of the B-17 booking office in Oshkosh, WI - 1-800-359-6217.

“Sally B” Will Fly Again

Sally B, the UK's only airworthy Second World War B-17 flying fortress, will take to the air at The Imperial War Museum Duxford, England, on May 25 after being grounded for almost two years. The flight will also coincide with the launch of the newly registered “B-17 Charitable Trust” established to keep the historic aircraft in flying condition.

Ted Inman, museum director at Duxford, said *Sally B* will become the official flagship of the American Air Museum. Contribution to the Trust Fund may be sent to the Imperial War Museum, Duxford Cambridge CB2 4QR, England.

Sally B had been grounded for lack of operating funds since the loss of two engines while on tour on the continent in 1999.

The Fortress had been kept airborne through the hard work of her loyal band of supporters. Elly Sallingboe, operator of the aircraft, said, “It will be wonderful to see *Sally B* back in the air where she belongs. The aircraft is a flying memorial to the 79,000 allied airmen who lost their lives flying from British bases during the Second World War.”

Sally B has entertained crowds of cheering enthusiasts at air shows around the world and been the star of film and television, notably David Puttnam's classic movie “*Memphis Belle*.” *Sally B* is a popular sight with the hundreds of thousands of visitors that come to Duxford every year where she has been based for the last 25 years.

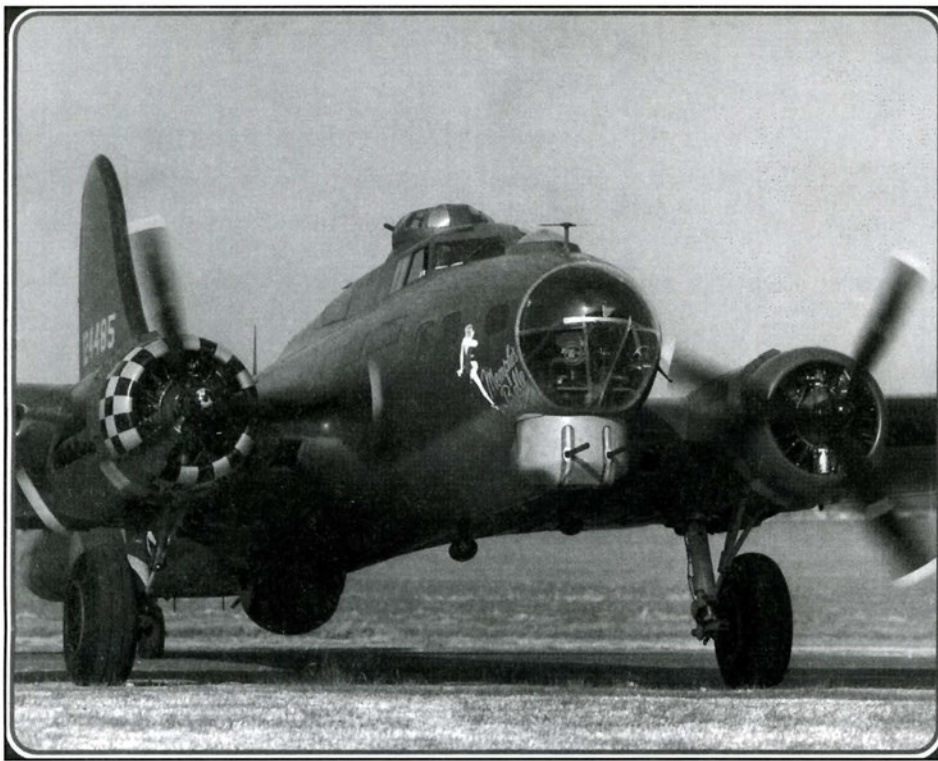
The 398th Will Be There

Duxford will be on the itinerary for the 398th Bomb Group England Tour in 2002. That date has already been determined by the Museum's Linda Mason.

“We'll be looking for you on Friday, June 7,” said Mason, “and the *Sally B* will give you all a super flypast.”

So Close!

JAN ZDIARSKY of Kovarska, Czech Republic, sent this card as greeting from his Air Battle Museum, which was visited by members of the Year 2000 tour party. The card, depicting a 602 Squadron formation, gives evidence of how close the B-17's flew on combat missions.



SALLY B, operating independently in England since 1982, will have the sponsorship of the American Air Museum at Duxford in the future. The B-17 is shown here with the nose art of *Memphis Belle*, which *Sally B* played in the movie version.

17 States Get Dues Notices

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

Dues envelopes are included in FLAK NEWS (only) for these states. However, Dues Manager James Haas will gladly accept all contributions, especially from those who forgot the last time around. Dues are \$20.00. Mail to James Haas, Perry, IA 50220-0163.

Remember, 2001 dues must be paid to attend the reunion October 3-6 in St. Paul, Minnesota.



"Lest We Forget" at Cornesbarrieu:

City In France Will Remember 398th Crew

The John Godwin crew of the 602nd Squadron was brought down by anti-aircraft fire on June 25, 1944 on a mission to Toulouse, France.

One crew member, bombardier Harold Gnesin, went down with his B-17, but eight others survived to log time in PW camps (and enjoy scenic Germany while on a 600-mile PW march).

The citizens of the city of Cornesbarrieu, France, where the Godwin plane came down, and where Gnesin perished, remembered the 1944 event last June, 2000, with a "Lest We Forget" ceremony.

"The party moved to the Cornesbarrieu cemetery to spend some moments in silence at the spot where 2d Lt. Gnesin rested for two years. Jeanine, now 70, came with a bouquet of flowers as she did 56 years ago."

And this coming June, 2001, there will be another ceremony, this time featuring two of the "still living" members of the Godwin crew.

This would include J. Herbert Wilson, the radio operator, along with his wife, June, plus daughter, Lt. Col. Lynn Henselman, son-in-law Col. Richard Dennis, both on active duty in the Air Force. Herb has been the "contact" man with the French officials planning the event.

Also due to attend will be Merrill Butikofer, the engineer-gunner, his son and daughter plus Merrill's brother and wife. Also a possibility is Edward Seward, the navigator.

William N. Freeman is the only other living member of the Godwin crew. Others were Chester Isdahl, Frank Jenkins and Herbert Brooks.



TOM DOUGHERTY is justifiably proud of his new Vectra motor home, and even more so of the Aluminum Overcast he had air brushed on the back end of his rig. Tom hails from Oregon, where he and his wife, Dawne, began their 9,000 mile journey that took them to Savannah for the 2000 reunion. Obviously, those travelling behind him enjoyed the B-17 "tail-gate" view. Will you "Vectra" to St. Paul for the 2001 reunion, Tom?

Letters, Letters



"I write to thank you for the copy of FLAK NEWS, which described the moving occasion of the unveiling of the memorial window at the Anstey church last June.

"And also for the 8th Air Force News pages that depicted the occasion in color photos.

"Roger duBoulay, at your request, sent those on to the Duke of Gloucester and I will of course make sure that he sees them on his return from abroad.

"With warm regards,"

Major Nicholas Barne LVO, Kensington Palace, London, England

"Thank you for the color copy of the 8th Air Force News featuring the Anstey window dedication. I have nobly sent it on to the Duke of Gloucester, as his photo is featured.

"I am delighted, but not surprised, that echoes from that great dedication service continue to reverberate. As you know, Rev. Drew is leaving us on retirement, but we have booked him already to come back on June 9, 2002 to take part in the memorial service at St. George's Church.

"He and his 603 Squadron baseball cap."

Roger duBoulay, Church Warden, St. George's Church, Anstey

"Thank you for the Anstey stained glass window banner, as well as your group's donation to the Mighty Eighth Museum of \$500. We all enjoyed having the 398th here last September and I was personally touched by the hospitality and welcome you folks showed me at dinner."

Rusty Bloxom, Mighty 8th Museum, PO Box 1992, Savannah, GA 31402

"Thank you for all the work you and the officers do to keep us informed through FLAK NEWS. I hope it can be kept in print. Don would have been 80 this year."

Margie Kenyon, Houston, TX 77035-5912

"I still think my book, 'The Youngest Crew,' represents the most accurate descriptions of a bomber crew's personal experiences that has yet appeared in print. To date we have sold 650 books no one has ever asked for his money back. The book costs \$19.95, postage paid."

Paul Wagner, Albuquerque, NM 87111-5758.

When your work on earth is done, and you've traveled where we've trod, you'll leave the land we left you, One Nation Under God.

— JUDGE RAY. S. MOORE

BRIEF-things

398th Bomb Group PX

Thanks to all the kind folks who called the FLAK NEWS editor wondering if he survived the earthquake in Seattle last February (just fine, thank you; he was in Hawaii at the time)...his B-17 model fell to the floor but it survived without a scratch (naturally)...**Willis Frazier** (who should know) reminds the editor that **Leo Killen** was the first 601 squadron CO, not **Tracy Petersen**...**Killen** "lost" his CO job when he was shot down six weeks into the action, following 603 CO **Judson Gray**...the authoritative newsletter of the B-17 Flying Fortress Association carried a story from Britain recently telling of how 170,000 American World War II dead, some 6,000 from England, were returned to the U.S. at a cost of \$164 million; many of these had been temporarily buried at Madingley by 398th chaplain **James Duvall**...Hawaii has its impressive Pearl Harbor Memorial (plus the battleship *Missouri*) but our 8th Air Force has its Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum in Savannah, plus dozens of "little" memorials in England with names like Nuthampstead, Podington, Thorpe Abbots, Bassingbourn, Ridgewell, Rattlesden, Seething, Great Ashfield, Old Bookenham, Rackheath, Eye, etc...the updated E-mail list on Page 10 comes through the courtesy of St. Paul reunion chairman **Sharon Krause**, one of those sharp young second generation "kids" who is as comfortable with her computer as your FLAK NEWS editor is with his telephone, stubby pencil and green eye shade...**Sharon** will soon be asking for volunteers to assist in the Registration process at St. Paul (you can do this now via E-mail)...among the likely English visitors to St. Paul will be London's **Suzanne Fosbrooke** (who sang for us at Savannah last year); she hopes to find the burial place near Canton, Ohio of her 398th father...members who were at the Memorial dedication in 1982 will remember it was *Sally B* that flew over to the cheers of the gathering (just before the high winds messed up the party)...RAF ace **Johnnie Johnson**, 85, passed away in January, one of the heroes of the Battle of Britain; 1994 England tour members will remember him for his guest appearance at Wildboarclough, where members honored the crew that perished on nearby Birchenough Hill...the St. Paul people agree that "October is a wonderful time to visit our city"...**Bertold Reinartz** was the mayor of Neuss, Germany when 1988 tour members came to visit (and see the place where **Col. Hunter's** plane crashed); the same **Reinartz** was a participant (and finisher) in the 2000 New York City Marathon...stateroom prices on the *QE2* are spread out liberally over four different decks, but don't even ask the price of one of the two Grand Suites on the Signal Deck...**Merwyn Hornshuh**, 601 pilot, came home from WWII to become a B-29 pilot instructor, and came within a whisker of being one of the two pilots to drop A-Bombs on Japan...a 1942 Aeroplane Spotter bulletin was sent to FLAK NEWS by **Kevin Whittaker** of Macclesfield, England, with the prime photo depicting three Fortresses "dropping their loads over a practice range in Seattle"...reunion chairman **Krause** (very computer literate) says to be sure to record your E-mail address on the Registration Form...and **Barbara Fish** reminds that there are three "Bed and Breakfast" units at the Woodman Inn that will be available to 398th England tour members next year...**Manfred König**, our friend from Neuss, Germany, who made all those wonderful tour arrangements on our continental tours, has been grounded with a serious eye ailment that will require major surgery...**König** and **Alfred Wilms** plan to meet up with their 398th friends at Nuthampstead and Anstey next year...the St. Paul Cathedral has not one, but two organs, and both have been played by **David Ruberg**, who also happens to be a church organist (in addition to doing the FLAK NEWS typesetting and layout)...at press time, St. Paul was hip-deep in snow, but not to worry, the weather will be gorgeous in October...our "organist in residence," **Phyllis Rahe**, will surely be on the "Cathedral Tour" as will be another professional organist member, **Sandra Averhart**...

Qty.	CLOTHING	Cost	Total
___	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		
___	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		
___	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	___
___	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	___
___	(Blue or White) M, L - B-17 on Front		
CD'S & VIDEOS			
___	CD Jack's Books	\$25.00 ea	___
___	CD FLAK NEWS	\$30.00 ea	___
___	Video Anstey Window Dedication	\$10.00 ea	___
JEWELRY			
___	Squadron Lapel Pins - 600, 601, 602, 603	\$5.00 ea	___
___	Group Lapel Pin (Hell from Heaven)	\$5.00 ea	___
___	Group Lapel Pin - Special Design	\$5.00 ea	___
___	B-17 Lapel Pin (Silver)	\$2.00 ea	___
___	B-17 Earrings (Silver - Pierced only)	\$5.00 ea	___
___	Bolo Ties - Group Logo	\$4.00 ea	___
LOGO PATCHES			
___	Squadron Patches - 600, 601, 602, 603	\$6.00 ea	___
___	Group Patch ("Hell from Heaven")	\$6.00 ea	___
___	Jacket Patch - Rectangle B-17	\$4.00 ea	___
___	8th Air Force	\$4.00 ea	___
MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS			
___	Folding Umbrellas	\$18.00 ea	___
___	Red with White B-17		
___	Note Paper with B-17 (Packet of 12)	\$4.00 pkt	___
___	Tote bag, Navy with White B-17	\$7.00 ea	___
___	B-17 Sun Catcher	\$10.00 ea	___
___	Beach Towel White with Black B-17	\$18.00 ea	___
___	Golf Towel, White w/Black B-17	\$7.00 ea	___
___	Christmas Ornament with B-17	\$6.00 ea	___
___	Ceramic Magnet with B-17	\$3.00 ea	___
___	Playing Cards with B-17		
___	Single Deck	\$7.00 ea	___
___	Double Deck	\$12.00 ea	___
___	Anstey Window Post Card	\$2.00 ea	___
___	Photo (Control Tower) Station 131	\$2.00 ea	___
___	Photo (398th Memorial) Post Card	\$2.00 ea	___
___	Photo (8X10 Aluminum Overcast)	\$2.00 ea	___
___	Bumper Sticker (398th Bomb Group)	\$1.00 ea	___
___	License Plate Holder (398th B.G.)	\$2.00 ea	___

Cost Of Items Ordered \$ _____
 Delivery And Handling Add \$4.00,
 or \$5.00 if Order is Over \$20.00. \$ _____
 Total \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____