





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

VOL. 18 NO. 1

FLAK NEWS

JANUARY 2003

"The Day Billy Mitchell Dreamed Of"



LIFE BEGAN AT 40

This presentation was taken from the September, 1947 issue of AIR FORCE, official journal of the Air Force Association. At the time, James H. Doolittle was the Association president.

To The End, Unification Was Not Easy

With World War II's bitter but valuable experience safely behind, there seemed little excuse for any further procrastination. But procrastination there wasnearly two years of it during which time the "pros" and the "cons" argued back in forth in debate that to the oldsters must have been shamefully reminiscent of the Billy Mitchell days. Some comments-

GEN. GEORGE MARSHALL told Congress security could "not be provided for...piecemeal...

GEN. DWIGHT EISENHOWER testified "one of the most important and least understood factors in modern war is that it is essentially a matter of perfect teamwork—regardless of color of design of the uniforms our men may be wearing."

ADM. ERNEST J. KING contended that "the net result of the consolidation proposed would be further separation." He proposed, "consolidation of diplomatic, civilian, industrial and manpower efforts in security council."

GEN. JACOB DEVERS. Army Ground Forces commanding General, told Con-

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For thirty years the US Army Air Service aviators had argued before Congress for equal rank with the Army and Navy. The airplane, air officers said, had interjected a third dimension into the old two dimensional concept of ground and sea warfare. Such an air force, they argued, could not be denied equality without prejudice to national security.

Significant Dates

1907—(August 1)—The Army set up an Aeronautical Division in the Office of the Chief Signal Officer.

1914—(July 18)—The Aviation Section of the Signal Corps took charge of the aviation operation and training.

1916—(March 15)—The First Aero Squadron began operations with the American Punitive Expedition on the Mexican border.

1917—(September 3)—The First Aero Squadron arrived in France during World

1918—(May 15)—The Air Service pilots began the first continuous air-mail service, flying between New York City, Philadelphia and Washington, DC.

1924—(September 28)—Air Service flyers completed the first around-the-world flight.

1926—(July 2)—Congress established the U.S. Army Air Corps.

1941—(June 20)—Congress set up the U.S. Army Air Forces.

1947-(July 26)-The U.S. Air Force was created as a separate department by President Harry S. Truman.

(From World Book Encyclopedia)

But the Congress of the United States was hard to convince. Over the long years the Congressional Record became ponderous and dull with testimony-not all of it relevant—both for and against the proposal. Names like Wilbur, Daniels, Morrow, Leahy, Mitchell, Andrews, Arnold, Forrestal and Marshall moved across the pages of the Record as first one man and then his successor picked up the torch for the side he thought right.

This year, 1947, as the Eightieth Congress was about to adjourn for the summer, the argument seemed to many no nearer conclusion than it had been on at least a half-dozen other occasions. Supporters of both contingents had already begun to withdraw to reform their battle lines for another offensive next year. Then, on the very eve of the fortieth birthday of the AAF Congress took action. Senate approval came first. Then on July 25th the House of Representatives sent the National Security Act of 1947 to the President without contest and by voice vote.

Some of the more publicity-conscious AAF representatives hurried to suggest

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www.398th.org

JORDAN WEB MASTER

BY WALLY BLACKWELL President, 398th Bomb Group

The 398th Bomb Group Web Page is here and ready for viewing.

And David Jordan is our Web Master, the son of the late Edward Jordan, who flew co-pilot on the Bob Hopkins crew in the 603rd Squadron.

Last year Dave began a personal web page that focused on his father's combat career and I discovered that much of his material had interest for the entire 398th. Realizing Dave's computer background and web page activity and experience, I prevailed on him to expand his efforts to include the whole group.

Having a comprehensive web page adds to the Association's efforts to preserve our history. It also provides for presenting out many activities to both members and the general public. Computer skills and technical know-how are the major requirements for a successful web page creator, and we have one such individual in Daye Jordan.

Our membership is urged to help in this endeavor by providing appropriate historical data and personal stories.

Geoff Rice of our UK Friends and Lee Anne Bradley, our historian, will join me in as a committee in working with web master Jordan.

The web page is a welcome addition to the many activities we already enjoy. Let's plan to continue our prosperity.

398th BOMB GROUP

Summary Financial Report January 2002 - December 2002

Income:	
Flak News Donations	\$4,534
Membership Dues	13,800
P.X. Sales	4,800
Reunion Profit	2.316
Miscellaneous Income	34
Total Income	\$25,484

Expenses:	
Flak News Publication	\$11,657
P.X. Restocking	3,062
Postage and Delivery	422
Printing and Reproduction	348
Reunion Expenses	24
Supplies	299
Telephone	274
Web Site	108
Gifts	60
Total Expenses	\$16,282

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Total Expenses	\$16,282
Net Income	\$9,202
Assets:	φυ,ΞυΞ
A.G. Edwards Account	\$10,000
Federal Credit Union - Savings	5,758
Federal Credit Union - Checking	6,874
Total	\$32,632

Nuthampstead Monument Fund	
Portfolio Market Value as of	
December 2002	\$79,223
Interest Income 2002	\$5,305
The Memorial Maintenance is paid through March 1	, 2003





From The 398th

PX MANAGER Joe Joseph (right) was the courier of a special \$5,000 gift from the 398th Bomb Group to the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum. Joe and Rozanne made the trip to Savannah from their home in Florida to present the check to Heritage Museum CEO and President C.J. Roberts. The 398th contribution to the Mighty Eighth was voted on by the membership at the reunion in Portland in September.

Chaplain Remembered

The Air Force clerical stoll of the late 398th Bomb Group chaplain, Rev. James T. Duvall, was given by his widow, Marguerite Duvall, to their friend, Andy Fay, to pass along to the Mighty Eighth Heritage

The first exchange took place at the Portland reunion last September, being received by president Wally Blackwell. The next exchange will be at the Savannah museum, to be delivered along with a special plaque honoring Rev. Duvall shown wearing the clerical piece while waving to departing bomber crews.

Fay was a member of the Howard Traeder 601 crew. He and historian Lee Anne Bradley (whose father also was on the same crew) worked together in arranging for the "stoll story."

Lee Anne requests that similar "Remembrance" stories be sent to her at Andover NJ 07821-4034. Other Remembrance stories appear from time to time in FLAK NEWS, including this issue.

"It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."

—President George Washington



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that the President withhold his signature until Air Force Day six days hence. But Mr. Truman, who had waited impatiently for nearly two years for this opportunity, didn't wait. He signed it the very next morning in the cabin of the "Sacred Cow" just before taking off for the bedside of his dving mother. It was to become law sixty days later, or at such other time as the new Secretary of Defense took office, whichever was earlier. Thus, a week before it had become age forty, life had really begun for the United States Air Force. As Air Force Association President Jimmy Doolittle commented, "This is the day Billy Mitchell dreamed of."

Brigadier General William Mitchell had been commander of the Air Service in France in World War I. In the fall of 1919 he returned to this country with a chest full of decorations from four different countries and a notebook full of new ideas about air power. The decorations he tucked in the nearest bureau drawer, the notes on air power he tucked in the laps of both House and Senate Military Affairs Committees. From his wartime experience Mitchell was convinced that the influence of air power on the ability of one nation to impress its will on another would be decisive in subsequent conflicts. As he put it, "Aviation is the first of our arms that will enter into combat, and it is upon a favorable air decision that the whole fate of war may depend." Disgusted with the lopsided emphasis the US was then placing on a strong Navy, Mitchell also asserted that an airplane could sink any battlehsip afloat and that if the US continued to regard its fleet as "the first line of defense" without also building a strong air force, it would be at the mercy of any enemy with more planes and foresight.

To this the Navy took exception, and so it was that while it could hardly be considered germaine to the subject, the whole argument for an independent air force suddenly focused on the question of whether or not an airplane could sink a battleship. There were many tests. The Alabama and the Indiana were attacked in Chesapeake Bay in 1920; the cruiser Frankfurt and the Östfriesland went down off the Virginia Capes in the summer of 1921. The New Jersey and the Virginia were destroyed off Cape Hatteras in 1923. And there were others. But unfortunately no conclusions were drawn. Instead, the argument became a battle of personalities. The impatient and vituperative Mitchell decried naval officers as stubborn "mossbacks." The Navy, in angry sarcasm, called Mitchell

Court Martial Was Billy Mitchell Reward

a would-be "admiral." With forced decorum the Navy General Board reported to President Coolidge in 1922 that "latest battleships can withstand any probable attack from aircraft or submarines. The airship has some valuable characteristics, but due to great vulnerability is of doubtful value in war...airplanes cannot occupy territory, nor can they exercise control of the sea. The battleship of the future can be designed as to distribution of her armor and as to interior subdivision that she will not be subject to fatal damage from the air. Of the weapons of today, the gun, the air bomb, the torpedo and the mine, the gun is considered the most important."

Mitchell was enraged. Having already sunk three battleships, he offered to sink as many more as necessary to prove again his still disputed claims. Finally, because of his "intemperate" charges, he was relieved as Assistant Chief of the Army Air Service and reduced from Brigadier to his permanent rank of Colonel. But even this had little effect. Mitchell took



GEN. BILLY MITCHELL

The crusade for a separate air arm was launched by Brigadier General Billy Mitchell the moment he came back from France in 1919. To the distress of those who regarded the Navy as the nation's first line of defense, Mitchell attacked the battleship—literally and figuratively—in his attempt to prove the potency of warfare's new "third dimension."

Between 1920 and 1923 he sank the battleships Alabama, Indiana, New Jersey and Virginia, plus the German battleship Östfriesland and others.

And yet, no conclusions were drawn. Except that in 1925 Mitchell was court-martialed and "suspended" from the Army for five years. He died in 1936. His crusade for a separate air arm came true in 1947—40 years since the Army set up an Aeronautical Division within the Signal Corps in 1907.

his campaign to the public through the press. He warned of our vulnerability from the Arctic—an admonition we are just now beginning to fully comprehend. He prophesied that the airplane would one day send the Navy below the surface in submarines—a program which the Navy itself is now emphasizing. And always he decried the "mossbacks."

In September 1925, after the dirigible Shenandoah had gone to pieces in an electric storm in Ohio, Mitchell accused both Army and Navy air officers of "almost criminal negligence." He was immediately called to Washington to face courts-martial under the 96th Article of War. Within three months he was convicted and dropped from active duty for five years. But rather than remain "under wraps" Mitchell resigned his commision and carried on the crusade as a civilian until his death from a heart ailment in 1936. With him died the spark that had kept the flame for an independent air force alive as a public issue for more than a decade. Followers of Billy Mitchell continued the fight behind the scenes, but the next American battleship to be sunk was at Pearl Harbor.

Willing or unwilling, the exigencies of World War II forced the Army, Navy and AAF into a "shotgun wedding" sort of unification. The lack of coordination which made Pearl Harbor possible proved what Mitchell never could. In Washington a presidential order created the Joint Chiefs of Staff to meet and discuss common problems at regular intervals. In the field, supreme command was given to the ranking officer of whichever service was primarlily involved. But even this was not completely satisfactory. The Joint Chiefs of Staff could take action only by unanimous consent, and more than once precious time was sacrificed in haggling. In several instances questions were actually referred to the President "without recommendation."

The field system had its weak spots too. In the Pacific, for example, Navy and Army spheres merged as the war drew close to the Japanese home islands. Cocommands and divided authority, with the attendant confusion, were the inevitable result. There was only one answer: To make the military "marriage" legal.

But a long tune was to be played on Capitol Hill before the participants reached the altar. And, as it turned out, the melody was nearly as dissonant with pro and con arguments as the Billy Mitchell hearings had been twenty-five years earlier. On October 18, 1945, Army Chief of Staff Marshall appeared before

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TRUMAN SIGNS

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the Senate Military Affairs Committee on behalf of a unified command. "The national security is a single problem and it cannot be provided for on a piecemeal basis," he said. Citing the need for a combination of land, sea and air forces, he argued that without it there was "little hope that we will be able to maintain through the years a military posture that will secure for us a lasting peace." Twenty-one months of debate followed. Finally the vows were pronounced on July 26, 1947.

No one pretends that the National Security Act is a panacea. It is a compromise and an experiment. Time will undoubtedly dictate many changes and amendments. If the law is to be successful, it must create a military establishment that is modern, mobile, well coordinated, and possessed of clearly defined authority. Still to be decided is the irritating question of where naval air authority ends and Air Force responsibility begins. Still to be provided for is a system of cooperation



PRESIDENT HARRY TRUMAN

between the three services at the operating level as well as the top. Still to come are the increased economies which can only be achieved through the avoidance of duplication, multiple use of equipment, and a combined training program—and the even greater economies which will be realized only when it is possible to draw on one air force for the requirements of all other services.

But first things come first. With all of its delinquencies the new law is far and away the most important piece of military legislation since the Navy was separated from the War Department in 1798. For the first time in history the "third dimension" has assumed equal stature with the other two. In that respect, at least, Billy Mitchell's dream has come true.

Not All Brass Agreeable To Unification

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gress his experience led to the conclusion that "unification is the only way to secure maximum cooperation necessary for national security."

ADM. WILLIAM F. HALSEY JR. denounced the bill as a "wild-cat scheme." He preferred the wartime SOP, testifying that "despite occasional delays, coordination was achieved most satisfactorily through Joint Chiefs of Staff."

ROBERT PATTERSON, War Secretary, brought up topic of research: "There must be ample funds for technological development. But (we can't) take from those funds merely to perpetuate wasteful practices of separate army and navy."

GEN. HAP ARNOLD told Congress, "With all the earnestness at my command, I say, the security of this country and the maintenance of peace demand our military establishment include a co-equal air arm."

GEN. BREHON SOMMERVELLE, Service Forces Chief, pointed out, "combined procurement (in war) would have eliminated situations where Navy bought towels while the army had an excess."

JAMES V. FORRESTAL, Navy Secretary was cautious. He reminded Congress, "It poses a drastic reorganization of a system for 'common defense' under provisions of our constitution which we have developed over a period of many years."

MARINE GEN. VANDEGRIFT would have none of it. "I feel the question of a separate air force is one that confronts the army. If the army desires to separate its air arm from its ground arm that is within its own province."

FLEET ADM. CHESTER NIMITZ, Naval Operations Chief, suggested, "somehow this country appears to have sensed the need of competition and friction of ideas." Unification, he felt. would destroy incentive.

GEN. JIMMY DOOLITTLE said bluntly, "We must not permit pride or misplaced confidence in any outdated weapon to interfere with this nation's future welfare. Every dollar...must give greatest possible return in security."

ADM. WILLIAM LEAHY thought it was "questionable to say the least whether the Army General Staff organization and the Navy counterpart can be reconciled into one without detriment to both." So the debate went on until...

July 26, 1947, "the day Gen. Billy Mitchell dreamed of."

(From AIR FORCE, Sept. 1947)

Fort 'Descendent' Will Be Ready For Big Show



The Boeing 307 "Stratoliner," a commercial design descendent of the Flying Fortress, will be at "center stage" at the opening of the National Air & Space's new museum now under construction adjacent to Dulles International Airport in Washington DC.

The museum's Stephen F. Udvar-Hazy Center is scheduled to open in December, 2003, the 100th anniversary of the Wright Brothers' first powered flight.

(Coincidentally, the 398th Bomb Group is considering the D.C. area for its 2004 reunion).

The Stratoliner, only one of its type in existence, had long been promised for the 2003 Center opening and was being test flown by Boeing pilots when it crashed into shallow salt water off Seattle in March of 2002, setting back six years of meticulous restoration.

Boeing vowed to re-start the restoration and have it ready to fly by mid-summer. And then on to Chicago and Dayton before "starring" in the NASM's Center opening in December.

(And then be available to the 398th reunion members in September 2004?)

Along with the Stratoliner and 187 other aircraft to be housed there will be the B-29 Enola Gay of A-bomb fame and Swoose, an early model B-17 of South Pacific fame.

Remembrance:

Great Fun For 12-Year-Old

During the London Blitz they sent many of us kids out of the city, to live with friends or relatives. I came to Hare Street, not far from Nuthampstead and close enough to get on the base now and again. During this time a V-2 fell on my uncle's field at Dassels, a small village not far from the base.

I can remember recovering what was left of it with members of the 398th. Great fun for sure for a 12-year-old kid from London.

—RALPH AMBROSE, Burke, VA 22015



Take My Hand, Preciou

Falkenbach, John S.

Farewell, Francis A.

Farley, Robert

Farenthold, Francis L.

Abernathy, John R. Adamak, Edward Adams, Eugene R. Adelman, Paul Adleman, Milo Agnew, Harry Agnew, Robert Alderson, Richard Alexander, Claude Allare, John Allen, George E. Altman, Frank Alves, Alfred Amer, Jerry Anaya, Alredo Anderson, Allen C. Anderson, Emil Anderson, Frank Anderson, Ralph Anderson, Roy L. Anderson, Russell M. Anderson, William G. Andreko, Andrew Andrews, Kenneth E. Arbogast, F.E. (Phil) Ariotta, Joseph Arlin, Allen A. Armstrong, Arthur Armstrong, Sidney A. Armstrong, Walter G. Arndell, James Ashton Jr., Leonard C. Ashworth, Dean H. Atkins, James R. Atkinson, Herman Atkinson, Vernon C. Audet, Paul E. Aukerman, John V. Aune, Arnt M. Austad, Kermit Axson, Jason M. Bacon, Adrian Bacon, James C. Baer, Howard F-Bagley, Bernard Bahling, John W. Bailey, Ray E. Baird, Harold Baker, Albert A. Baker, Cova Baker, Hermus C. Baldwin, Mondo L. Ballard, Charles W. Bancroft, Joseph (Dave) Bangson, Barry D. Bankert, James Baptist, Claude A. Barkovich, Fred Barnes, Lynn W. Barnhard, Joseph E. Barnshaw, Thomas J. Bartimus, Neil R. Bartusiak, Leonard J. Bartusis, Anthony J. Basco, John J. Bash, Claire C. Basham, James Bassman, Fred G. Baughman, John Bawduniak, John Baxter, Richard Bearden, Edgar Beattie, Hugh Don Beatty, Oscar L. Beavers, Cecil Beck, Charles M. Beck, John W. Becker, John J. Becker, Max Belcher, Jess Bell, Marvin

Bell, Robert Benefiel, Phillip L. Bennett, Norville Benningfield, Harley O. Benoe, William I. Berggren, Cecil E. Bernier, Loyola A. Berry, Kearie L. Berryhill, Col. Earl Berthoud, Charles Bewley, James A. Biancardi, Andrew Biette, Paul W. Bioda, Joseph Bingle, Henry Bird, John C. Bischoff, Albert J. Bittner, Walter Blancett, Marvin Blanda, Guido Blankenship, G.W. Blehm, Frederick W. Bley, Winston Blum, Lowell Bobbitt, James M.S. Boeger, Orv. W. Boersma, Ted Bogard, Williard B. Bolthouse, Charles Bolton, Vencil Boltz, Phillip T Bonanno, Salvatore Bonjani, Bruno Borchers, Doyle Bornstedt, John W. Bosshart, Herbert Boswell, Marion L. Bottoms, Millard S. Bourke, Joseph E. Bourlon, Billy ? Bowcock Jr., H. Guy Bowman, Leonard L. Boyes, Haskell Braddock, Heyward M. Bradley, Frederick C. Brady, Jack Breault, Al Breimeyer, Roval Brewer, Darrell F. Bridges, Clarence W. Briody, James J. Britt, Thomas F. Brockman, James W. Brokaw, Rev. Raymond C. Brown, Arnold W. Brown, E. Logan Brown, Hilyer (Pete) Brown, James C. Brown, Lawrence Brown, Orland D. Brown, Paul Brown, Robert E. Brown, Samuel M. Brown, Sidney Brozena, John M Brubaker, Franklin P. Brubaker, Wayne Brunke, Earl H. Brunsberg, Arnold Bryant, Edward M. Buchsbaum, Louis Buck, Chester S. Buck, Herman J. Buckingham, James S. Buckley, Francis X. Burke, Al Burris Jr., Thomas E. Burton, John Buscani, John P. Buschbaum, Louis Bushle, Louis

Bussard, James L. Butler, John Buvinger, David Buzza, Kenneth Callahan, Noel Cameron, Carl C. Campbell, Edward A. Campbell, Tom Campbell, Van B. Campbell, Wallis L. Campdon, Alfred Cantrell, Floyd Capen, George H. Carlton, Donald P. Carter, Nigel Carter, Robert C., Watson Crew Carter, Robert C., (Saferite crew) Cason, Alfred Castro, Edward Catterson, Kenneth L. Cavalier, Vincent J. Charbonneau, Francis Chase, Lewis D. Chesshir, Kenneth Chimelewski, Raymond J. Chorba, Robert T. Chrisman, Estil L. Christofer, George Christopher, Arthur C. Church, Fred M. Church, Harold M. Churchill, Wesley H. Cifrese, Paul Civitarese, William A. Clafford, Lloyd Clament, Jesse R. Clark, Benjamin L. Clark, Francis C. Clark, Joyal O. Clarke, Atwell S. Clarke, Walter F-Clements, Jerauld Clifton, Ernest Cochran, Curtis Codan, Peter Coene, William Colantoni, George Colburn, Warren Cole, Harold Coleman, George F. Coleman, Thomas A. Coleman, Winsor Colvin, Charles E. Colvin, William L. Colwell, John Comstock, William G. Contento, John D. Coombs, William F. Coomes, Ralph S. Cooper, Beryl C. Cooper, D.G. (Bud) Cooper, Joseph D. Coopet, Joseph L Corcoran, Joseph W. Cornett, Earl M. Corry, Fr. George Corsuti, Anthony Cote, Arthur Coupart, Bernard Coville, Paul A. Courtenay, Gordon T. Cowen, Harry Cowley Jr., John J. Cox, Howard W. Cox, Norman Cox, Paul E. Coxey, John T.

Crawford, Paul

Crenshaw, Billy W.

Crocker, Lawrence Cron, Robert Crouch, James Cubranich, Julius P. Cummings, D.L. Cutcher, James L. Dacon, Charles H. Dailey, Donald Dalton, Hollis Daly, William J. Dames, John J. Darcy, Lawrence Darner, Leroy David, Paul M. Davidoff, Herman Davidson, Wm. H. Davis, Jack Davis, John H. Delancey, Lawrence Delbart, Raymond S. Delcamp, Clarence E Delorey, William J. Delorier, Joseph Delorimier, John B. Demander, John L. Desh, Herb Devan, Samuel Devlin, Steve Dexter, Robert L. Dezan, Burton H. Dick, Russell O. Dickhart, Clarence DiGiuseppe, A. Gerard Dierolf, Claude E. Dimich, Peter M. Dippel, Francis Dixon, Gerald Dixon, Roger E. Dobie, Richard Doerstler, Wayne Doles, Robert F. Donovan, George Dorfmeier, Donald D. Dougherty, A.L. Dougherty, Thomas E. Douglas, Gene Downing, Robert A. Dreyer, Charles G. Driscoll, John T. Duncan, John W. Dunn, Richard J. Dunne, Bill Durbin, Francis Dutrow, Gordon P. Duvall, Rev. James T., Protestant Chaplain Dwyer Jr., William J. Eberhart, Jay J. Echevarria, Jose Eck, Harold Edgell, Harry Edgington, Gilbert Edick, C. Kenneth Edmondson, Georgie Edwards, John H. Ehil, Edward Ehret, Clarence Eichman, Eugene M. Eisele, Francis C. Elsrod, Orville Elwood, Kenneth Emmons, James W. Engard, Robert Engle, George W. (Bill) Ensign, Col. Lewis Erickson, Edward H. Erickson, Mahlon

Erickson, Paul W.

Evans, Clarence E.

Faber, Herbert G.

Erler, Donald J.

Fick. Herbert Fields, Jerome G. Figueria, Arthur L. Fleming, Horace Fletcher, Richard E. Flipse, David Floyd, Arch C. Folger, Robert Foraker, Kenneth H. Foster, Dean L. Foster, George E. Foster, Paul Fowler, Hannibal Franceschini, Gino Frantz, Landis Freel, Lawrence A. Freeman, W. Noel French, Ozie Frew, George Fritog, Arthur Fritz, Jack Froelich, James S. Gabriel, Frank E. Gagnon, Glen S. Gallardo, Octavus Galloway, Robert C. Galloway, Robert F Garland, Jack S. Gary, B. Gasbarro, John J. Gaulke, Gerald G. Gelwicks, Frank I. Gerber, Tom Gergenti, Leonard Gerloff, Harry Gerrain, Peter Gibb, Robert Gibbons, Marion H. Gibeau, Raymond Gibson, Charles F. Ginsburg, Joseph Giardano, Joe Giuliano, Pete Gloor, John Godfrey, John Godwin, John K. Goldbach, Ernest Goldman, Gil Gonzales, Benito Gordon, Charles Gosse, Earl H. Gouveia, George Graff, Stephen J. Grange, George Grant, Sam Gray, Jay O. Green, Norbert Green, Sam B. Greenberg, Abraham Gregorie, Robert K. Gresh, Steve Griffo, Arthur Grossman, M. Grothues, Al Gruber, Fred Guice, Thomas

Farmer, Edward Farmer, Jack D. Farmer, John M. Farnsworth, Dexter Farrell, William A. Faughn, Joe Fender, Maj. Keith C. Ferguson, Reginald C. Fernandez, Frank Flickinger, Charles R. Gillenwater, Joseph A.



Guild, Herbert Gulledge, Thomas G. Gurney Jr., Julius Guy, Chester L. Hafer, George C. Hagedorn, Forrest (Hank) Hager, Herman L. Hakomaki, Floyd Hale, Robert D. Hall, Joe Hall, Walter Haller, John A. Hamacher, Ross L. Hammill, Frank D. Hammontree, Jack C. Hanauer, James Hancock, William C. Hansen, Herman J. Hapgood, Alfred Harbit, John Hardenburg, Harry B. Hardy, Arnold Hardy, John R. Harmon, Carl H. Harrington, Cornelius Harrington, Robert E. Hart, Karl E. Hartman, Paul J. Hartsell, William S. Hartwell, George W. Hatch, Dwight Hatcher, Robert Hatten, Harold R. Haworth, William A. Haws, Thomas R. Havnes, Charles (Irbv) Haynes, James T.

Hays, Nathan Hayward, Har Hazlitt, James Hearn, Thom Heck, Paul V. Hedeen, Melv Heitman, Paul Henagan Jr,1 Hendrickson, Henning, Fran Hennrikus, & Hentschel, He Herbert, Earl Herbert, Robe Herbst, Carl Hereid, Selby Herman, Jaco Hernden, Ray Herrera, Pedr Hesterly, Kem Hicinbothem Hickey, Char Hildreth, Rob Hill, Jack Hineman, W Hinkle, Dwig Hoag Jr., Edi Hoak, Willian Hoddesdon. Hogrefe, Car Holbrook, Ja Holloway, Ed Holloway, Jan Holmes, Blair Holmes, William

Holmly, Leste

Holstead, Jan

us Lord, Lead Me Home





Harold D. nes R. omas G. lelvin Paul F. r., Henry H. on, William rank , George Herbert G. obert G. rl A. lby P. acob D. Raymond A.

tobert Wi i John T Edwin C James B. lilliam J. ster

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m, Franklin

Hopp, Frank J. Horton, Paul A Houchins, Harry Hough, Luther Hovden, Roger Howard, Grant Howden, Ross I. Hoyne, Earl K. Hreachmack, Joseph Hudson, Herman D. Huey, Elbert P. Hughes, Byron B. Hunnicutt, Elzie Hunsaker, Edwin F. Hunt, Mack Hunter, Charles F Hunter, Dr. Lewis B. Member

Huntington, Sam, Honorary Huntzinger, Ed Hush, Robert Hussey, Roy Hutchinson, John L. Hyland, Gervase (Gerry) Inman, Willie H. igh Isdahll, Chester I dyard Issenmann, Fran iarl P. Jackson, Leroy k n, S. Leathers Jackson, Paul K. arl H. Jarman, Gordon Isdahll, Chester R. Issenmann, Francis J. Jackson, Leroy K. Jeffries, Kenneth V. Jellen, Anthony J. Jellison, Elwell S. Jendrezweski, Ray Jenkins, James Jennings, George W. Johanson, Dennis

Johnson, A.G. Johnson, Gene Johnson, Harold D. Johnson, Warren Jones, Andrew Jones, Charles T. Jones, George D. Jones, Ira Jones, William H., Olympia ΑI

Jones, William H., Florence Jordan, Edward Jordan, William F. Kaminski, Joseph Kantor, Philip Karnell, Peter J. Katz, Harry Kauffman, Kenyon G. Kautz, Albert Kautz, Robert Kavanaugh, Dr. William R. Kay, Allen Kearney, Earl Keene, Raymond Kelly, Jerome F. Kelly, Dr. Robert Kenyon, Donald E. Keown, George E. Kerr, Walter H. Keves, Frank T. Kilby, William C. Kimball, Dale King, Charles E. King, Donald Kirscher, John E. Kiser, Kenneth Kite, Dallas E. Klatte, Earl W.

Klimasczfski, Victor (Klemens) Klingenhoffer, John Klix, George A. Kneuer, Arthur T.

Klatzkin, Nathan

Knife, Percy, Honorary Member Knight, George N. Kohut, Charles Kolafa, John Kolb, Kenneth Konie, Ernie Kotte, Norman E. Kozak, Stephen V. Kramer, Harvey Kramer, Virgil F. Krause, John J. Krebs, Eugene F. Kritchman, Archie Krizan, Joseph M. Kroh, Charles H. Kuck, Homer R. Kuenneth, George W. Kunkel, John Kypta, Harold A. Labat, Lionel L. Lachman, Russell LaCoste, Ernie Lake, William J. Lamar, John W. Lamiell, James C. Land, Don Landrie, William H. Landrum, Francis S. Lang, Fredrick Langford, Ray Lanich, Edward R. Lassegard, Leroy Latrenta, Peter Latson, Harvey LeDoux, Ray J.

Leemon, Don Leonard, Gene Leukharot, Rov Levy, David Libertucci, Peter Licker, Herbert Like, Waldean Lindo, Fred Lindomen, Edwin Linke, Walter J. Locy, John Long, Douglas Long, Richard L. Lorence, Clarence R. Lorenzo, Leo Lorett, Leon G. Loveless, Harold Lovely, Robert Lowe, Donald B. Lowe, Jessup (Dave) Lowe, Lloyd F. Lucas, Wilbur F. Ludlam, Charles W. Luizzi, Sam Lundy, Douglas M. Lusk Jr., Walter A. Lutz, Joseph Luukinen, Albert L. Lydic, Eugene (Pick) Lynch, Floyd Lyons, Bill Mac Phail, Basil Mackey, Frank Macklin, Roy D. Macyda, Frank Madden, Edward F. Madlung, Jack Magnan, Mark Maher, Jere L. Mahlum, Clayton Mallory, Jack D. Maloney, Clarence E. Mann, Douglas Manos, M. John Manzi, Jerry Mapel, Donald E. Marabeas, Nick Marchbanks, Tom Marfilius, Elmer H. Marsh, Walter E. Martin, George A. Martinek, Emil J. Martone, August J. Martorella, Angelo Massey, Frank Masters, Marvert Mates, Stanley Matheis, Melville J. Matheson, Burton Matthews, Tom Mattson, George Maudsley, Donald R. Maxfield, John F. May, John M. Mayers, Joseph W. Mayhall, James Mazzanti, Eugene P. McAllister, John G. McCormack, Edward J. McCoy, Wayne McCurdy, Robert G. McDougall, Harry T. McGinty, Henry McGlaun, Raymond McGovern, Raymond McIver, Lawrence McLaughlin, Garvin McLaughlin, Ken E. (Bud) McLaughlin, Robert J. McLaughlin, William A.

McMenamin, John A.

McMichael, Robert D. McMichael, Robert F McMillan, Billy J. McMurray, Quentin McNalley, J.F. McNeil Jr., Claude A. McQuitty, Charles Meden, Frank Meingast, Joe Mellis, Charles J. Melson, Rufus Melvin, Ernest C. Menzel, Arnold Merchant, Charles A. Merritt, Charles A. Merritt, Donald Mertz, Eugene R. Meyers, Russ Miceli, Gaspera (Bob) Michael, Robert D. Miles, Alex Miller, Charles J. Miller, John H. Miller, Lester R. Miller, Lewis M. Miller, Mike C. Miller, Paul Miller, Samuel B. Mills, Leonard P. Mills, Richard (Rocker) Mitchell, George Molesworth, Robert W. Money, Arnold Moon, Andrew N Moore, Randolph Moore, Vincent Morauer, Richard Moretti, Raymond J. Morneau, Edward T. Morris Jr., Stacey Morrison, Donald L Morrison, Preston R. Morrison, Russell Moss, Latrelle R. Motsenbocker, H.D. Motter, William F Mudloff, Arthur F. Mullaney, Justin P. Mullin, Peter Mullins, John A. Mummert, William S. Mundhenke, Roland D. Murphy, Arthur B. Mutz, J.H. Myers, Reuel Jr. Nadel, Saul Naioti, John F. Namey, John Naragon, Daniel J. Nash, George N. Neidringhaus, M.A. (Bud) Neill, David S. Nejaski, Leroy Nelson, Gene Nelson, J.C. Nelson, Orville Nemer, Marshall Newbrough, Kenneth Newman, Elvis M. Noble, Earl Norby, William Notorpole, Robert J. Nulf, Larry Nungesser, Arthur H. O'Brien, John W. O'Brien, Robert A. O'Brien, Robert J. O'Connell, Danny

O'Doherty, James S.

Oeder, Robert M.

Offutt, Marion

Oliver, James Olson, Otto Ongley, Bert Osborn, John W. Oswalt, D. Stewart Otto, William M. Ottum, Howard W. Overton, James B. Overton, Vernon Overturf, Thomas V. Owens, Blaine Page, Albert E. Painschab, Joseph H. Palmer, Charles P. Pappas, Venizelos G. Paris, Archie Parrish, Lewis E. Parsons, B.H. Paugh, Thomas E. Paxson, Theodore E. Payne, Claude N. Payne, Marshall M. Peach, Tom Peek, Kenneth R. Penders, Robert Pendleton, Charles B. Penland, Joe Perrou, Ed Perry, Arthur M. Petersen, Tracy J. Peterson, Christian Peterson, Raymond Petska, Albert M. Pfeiffer, Robert Pichette, Albert W. Pierzchala, Benjamin J. Pilarcik, Andrew Pintek, Joe Poston, Brian A. Poston, Carl W. Powell, John Powell, Olin H. Powell, Sam Prettyman, William B. Pricer, Jene L. Priestley, William T. Procopio, Mario Pryor, Gailliard S. Puthoff, Lewis A. Pyles, Robert F. Pysson, Albert Quinn, John A. Quinn, Stephen R. Radnedge, William B. Rammer, Robert E. Ramsbottom, Manson Rayes, Charles J. Redican, Francis M Rehme, Howard W. Reid, Perry Rex, John H. Rhoten, Mack Hall Riccio, Michael Rich, James T. Richardson, Robert A. Rickabaugh, Ronald Riley, Erwin J. Riley, Howard K. Ritter, Robert Robb, William F. Roberts, Herman Roberts, Jack Robins, Charles W. Robinson, Hal D. Robinson, Robert Rockstroh, Kenneth J. Rogers, Linn R. Rohrback, William A. Rohrer, Richard L. (Rip) Rolfes, George Roller, Norman

Rooney, Pete Rose, Arthur Rosenberg (Ross), Rob't S. Rosenzwieg, Harold Ross. Dwight E. Ross, Gaylord Rossi, James H. Ruboski, John A. Rudrud, Norman V. Rush, Donald E. Russell, Houston R. Ryan, James B. Ryan, Dr. John P. Ryan, Michael O. Ryle, Raymond S. Sachs, Stanley Saglin, Carl O Sass, Samuel Sawyer, Hiram N. Schaal, Arthur H. Schallert, Maurice Schantzbach, John H. Schapiro, Joseph S. Schmalz, Karl W. Schmidt, Richard H. Schneider, John Schoen, Ernest A. Schoener, George W. Schofield, James Schroeder, Allyn Schultz, William P. Schumacher, Alphia H. Schwerer, George J. Scott, Ernest D. Scott, Norman T. Scott, R.F. Scott, Roscoe H. Scott Jr., Talma A. Scott, Tom B. Seacord, John Seal, Charles F. Seaver, Warren Seibert, Earl W. Selevan, Arthur Self, Clifton L. Selgrath, John Sellers, Lyndell Shadroui, Alfred Shaffer, W.A. Shaw, Donald Sheely, Roy M. Sherrod, Fred Shields, William Louis Shimek, Albert J. Shirk, Charles W. Shoptow, George Shott, Edwin E. Shreve, Eli Siegenthaler, Anthony F. Sighting, William M. Sigsworth, John R. Sillin, James C. Silk, James E. Simeral, Robert Sirota, Ben Sistek, Anton A. Skarda, Joseph Skellinger, Walt. Slawson, Thomas G. Sleaman, Harry Smerko, Joseph Smith, Clarence Smith, Coy Smith, Donald E. Smith, Frank Smith, Harold Smith Jr., Harry O. Smith, Herbert E. Smith, John E. Smith, Oscar J.

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Crocker, Lawrence Cron, Robert Crouch, James Cubranich, Julius P. Cummings, D.L. Cutcher, James L. Dacon, Charles H. Dailey, Donald Dalton, Hollis Daly, William J Dames, John J. Darcy, Lawrence Darner, Lerov David, Paul M. Davidoff, Herman Davidson, Wm. H. Davis, Jack Davis, John H. Delancey, Lawrence Delbart, Raymond S. Delcamp, Clarence E Delorey, William J. Delorier, Joseph Delorimier, John B. Demander, John L. Desh, Herb Devan, Samuel Devlin, Steve Dexter, Robert L. Dezan, Burton H. Dick Russell O. Dickhart, Clarence DiGiuseppe, A. Gerard Dierolf, Claude E. Dimich, Peter M. Dippel, Francis Dixon, Gerald Dixon, Roger E. Dobie, Richard Doerstler, Wayne Doles, Robert F. Donovan, George Dorfmeier, Donald D. Dougherty, A.L. Dougherty, Thomas E. Douglas, Gene Downing, Robert A. Dreyer, Charles G. Driscoll, John T. Duncan, John W. Dunn, Richard J. Dunne, Bill Durbin, Francis Dutrow, Gordon P. Duvall, Rev. James T.,

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Falkenbach, John S.

Farewell, Francis A.

Farley, Robert

Farmer, Edward

Farmer, Jack D.

Farmer, John M.

Farnsworth, Dexter

Faughn, Joe Fender, Maj. Keith C.

Ferguson, Reginald C.

Farrell, William A.

Fernandez, Frank

Farenthold, Francis L.



Guild, Herbert Gulledge, Thomas G. Gurney Jr., Julius Guy, Chester L. Hafer, George C. Hagedorn, Forrest (Hank) Hager, Herman L. Hakomaki, Floyd Hale, Robert D. Hall, Joe Hall, Walter Haller, John A. Hamacher, Ross L. Hammill, Frank D. Hammontree, Jack C. Hanauer, James Hancock, William C. Hansen, Herman J. Hapgood, Alfred Harbit, John Hardenburg, Harry B. Hardy, Arnold Hardy, John R. Harmon, Carl H. Harrington, Cornelius Harrington, Robert E. Hart, Karl E. Hartman, Paul J. Hartsell, William S. Hartwell, George W. Hatch, Dwight Hatcher, Robert Hatten, Harold R. Haworth, William A. Haws, Thomas R. Havnes, Charles (Irbv)

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Johanson, Dennis

Johnson, A.G.
Johnson, Gene
Johnson, Harold D.
Johnson, Warren
Jones, Andrew
Jones, Charles T.
Jones, George D.
Jones, Ira
Jones, William H., Olympia
WA

Jones, William H., Florence Jordan, Edward Jordan, William F. Kaminski, Joseph Kantor, Philip Karnell, Peter J. Katz, Harry Kauffman, Kenyon G. Kautz, Albert Kautz, Robert Kavanaugh, Dr. William R. Kay, Allen Kearney, Earl Keene, Raymond Kelly, Jerome F. Kelly, Dr. Robert Kenyon, Donald E. Keown, George E. Kerr, Walter H. Keyes, Frank T. Kilby, William C. Kimball, Dale King, Charles E. King, Donald Kirscher, John E. Kiser, Kenneth Kite, Dallas E. Klatte, Earl W. Klatzkin, Nathan

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LeDoux, Ray J.

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Haynes, James T.

MARION (BOZ) BOSWELL

602 Squadron Pilot

Marion L. (Boz) Boswell began his 38-year Air Force career in the right seat cockpit with Roy Leukhardt of the 602nd Squadron. He later moved to the left side with his own crew and continued on to a 35-mission career with the 398th Bomb Group.

When he died on June 9, 2002 his Air Force history revealed he had attained the highest rank of all officers who served in the 398th—the three stars of a lieutenant general.

And he had accumulated no less than three Distinguished Service Medals, two Legions of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses; a Joint Service Commendation; two Air Force Commendation Medals; and





MARION (BOZ) BOSWELL Gained Highest Rank

U.S. AIR FORCE

Lieutenant General

no less than 20 Air Medals!

He had retired in 1981 as Air Force Assistant Vice Chief of Staff. He was 78.

In addition to his 602 Squadron service, Boswell served in Alaska during the Korean War; was director of military studies at the Air Force Academy; served in Germany and Viet Nam, where he was vice commander of the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing, flying F4D Phantom jets.

He was also with the 4th Tactical Fighter Wing; commander of the Alaskan Air Command and the Alaskan North American air defense region; and chief of staff of the Pacific Command.

Boswell's 398th squadron commander was Lt.Col. Pete Rooney.

Take My Hand, Precious Lord, Lead Me Home

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Smith, Paul W. Smith, Ralph D. Snyder, Frank A. Sorrell, Glenn M. Southwick, Earl J. Spain, Edwin F. Spaw, Elmer Spear, Charles F. Sponholtz, Milo Stacy, Nick Staley, Edmund E. Stallings, Harold Stanbrough, Claude Stange, Raymond P. Stankiewicz, Charles Starkey, Robert P. Staskiel, Stanley Steele, Charles H. Steele, Kenneth M. Steinberger, Edwin Stelmach, Walter Stephens, James Sternadel, Robert L. Stetter, Paul J. Stewart, Edward S. Stickel, Robert F. Stiles, Jack Stitz, Thomas Stockman, A.J. Stombaugh, C.E. Stone, Warren

Stout, Phern Stout, Plato Stovall, Lloyd Strickrott, Carl J. Stripling, Aaron M. Strnad, Frank Strohschein, Wallace Struckmeyer, Tom Studor, Howard P. Suggett, Walter Sullivan, The Rev. Walter B., Catholic Chaplain Sundheim, Lloyd Sutton, Barney M. Swan Jr., Neil Sweet, Dr. Robert Swift, David Szubka, Sigmund Tacker, Laurence J. Tangney, James W. Tatchio, Orrin R. Taylor, Franklin Teague, Herbert Templeton, Robert A. Terbieten, Dr. Urban Terrion, Leo W. Thacker, Ike Thomas, Henry

Thomas, Howard

Thompson, Lowell

Thompson, Oakley J.

Thompson, Robert Thompson, Williams H. Thorne, James M. Thorsen, C. Edward Tilden, George I. Tillman, Wally Tillotson, Albert Timm, Wilber D. Tolbert, Joseph F. Tomaino, Antonio J. Tone, Emmett W. Totter, Joseph H. Townsend, Charles Townsley, Kenneth Tracey, Claude W. Trask, Gerald E. Travers, John T. Treff, Lee M. Triebwasser, Sidney Troost, H.M. Tryon, William V. Tucker, Frank Turner, Mark Tynes, Thomas C. Uhl, Robert G. Ullman, Robert A. Ullom, Robert E. Ulstad, Duane E. Unkel, Rudolph E. Unverzagt, Daniel

Upmeier, Tom

Vale, William G Vanderlick, William VanDyke, Donald J. VanPelt, Richard J. Veech, Evart M. Vela, George E. Veley, Les Vernet Jr., Waldemar Vicha, Raymond A. Vincent, Robert W. Vines, John H. Vredenburg, Donald A. Waaramaa, Arthur Waldbauer, Charles A. Waldman, Benjamin 1. Walker, Robert L. Walkup Jr., Charles A. Wallrath, Raymond Walter, R.N. Walthall, Ernest Ward, John Waring, Leonard H. Warren, Alfred Wasserman, Charles Watkins, Sam Watson, Leland A. Weatherwax, C.D. Weaver, Wayne Webb, Henry Weeks, Charles Weiler, Frank

Welder, Leo J. Welence, Edmund W. Wells, Burton B. Wells, David, Honorary Member Wernecke, Vonnerlin Wheeler, William J. Wheeless, H.A. White, Victor H. Whitehead, Fred A. Whitman, Fred Whorton, James H. Wickam, James E. Wickman, Walter Wierney, Joseph Wiggins, Robert E. Wight, Bill V. Wilde, George J. Williams, Frank J. Williams, James R. Williams, William C. Williamson, Delmar Williamson, Rufus C. Wilson, Claude Wilson, William C. Wilson, William R. Wineman, Edward C. Winkler, Raymond A. Winslow, Raymond L. Wintersteen, Jack Withers, Horace

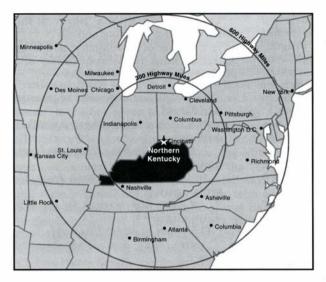
Wohleber, John M. Wolfe, Leonard Woodcock, William Woodham, Warren Woodmansee, D.A. Woodring, Dave Woodruff, Clinton L. Woods, Mark Woodson, Harold Woodson, Woodrow Woosley, Harry Worrell, Floyd G. Wralstad, George E Wright, Ellsworth S. Wright III, Parke Wright, Warren H. Wright, William M Wymer, Kenneth M. Young, Donald R. Zackman, William W. Zagelow, Larry Zajic, Raymond J. Zampetti, Dr. Herman Zawatsky, Walter F. Zeller, Lou Zimmerman, Leland Zwaanstra, Williams P.

TIMELY TIP FOR OUR TIME

"Duty and prudence alike command first that germ-centers of hatred and revenge should be constantly and vigilantly surveyed and treated in good time, and, secondly, that an adequate organization should be set up to make sure that the pestilence can be controlled at its earliest beginnings before it spreads and rages throughout the world."

—WINSTON CHURCHILL Before the Congress of the United States, 1941.

NEXT 398th REUNION



COVINGTON KENTUCKY

SEPTEMBER 10-11-12-13, 2003

RADISSON RIVERFRONT HOTEL

Registration, Details In April 2003 FLAK NEWS

How Were You Tested In Cadets?

What were some of the "unusual" methods used by Air Force trainers in determining the "skill potential" of incoming Cadets (not including written IQ and other academic tests).

What method, for instance, was used to determine a candidate's reflex or reaction time to some situation? What were some of the tests used to promote a Cadet? To

disqualify him? How did one get picked for a bomber rather than a fighter?

This is not meant to resurrect a grudge for a 60-year-old "wash out" but rather to inform other airmen how scientific (or stupid) these tests were.

Address your thoughts to FLAK NEWS, c/o Allen Ostrom, Seattle, WA 98107.

Dues Time For "Easterners"

The 398th dues, ever so necessary in keeping the group together, are due from our Eastern sector members this quarter. If you live in the following states, respond with your dues notice (and \$20) and mail to dues manager Jim Haas, Perry, IA, 50220-0163.

Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington DC.

Also included are those members living "off shore," even if the dues notice is not included in FLAK NEWS.

Our Friends of the 398th in the UK are invited to send their dues (£ 10) to Barry Tyler, Buntingford, Herts, SG9 OBN, England. He will forward to the U.S.

And remember, it's the once-a-year dues of \$20 that keeps FLAK NEWS in business...and coming your way.

New E-mail Address Procedure

The policy of publishing a complete list of known 398th membership E-mail addresses in the FLAK NEWS has been abandoned. A current listing of all available 398th E-mail addresses can be obtained by E-mail request from the 398th E-mail Manager,

Sharon Krause. The complete list will be sent by E-mail attachment. Remember to send Sharon your E-mail address changes promptly so this official 398th list is always correct.

Call The Editor For Glenn Miller Tapes

If there are any serious Glenn Miller fans out there in 398th land who are interested in hearing the Miller CD's that were made available by Richard Holub in

October's FLAK NEWS they are invited to call the editor, Allen Ostrom.

"From Your Children"

BY CATE LUDLAM

To living heroes, boys, who carried high, with pride, the torch of freedom then.

You bore the weight of the fears and the hopes of the whole world, and you became men, putting your own dreams aside.

Then, silence.
Decades of silence...

You could not give voice to the story. And we, your children, could not hear it.

We were born, and grew, unaware of your glory and your spirit.

Survivors guilt?

You saw your comrades die, but still you live;

and each of you had so much more to give.

If you had not survived, we would not be.

You gave us life, you raised us, we were free.

And 'til you broke your silence could not know

the sacrifice you made so we could grow with liberty.

Be confident we understand you now.

The tales you've told: the why, the where, the how,

the terror and the anger and the pain...

and now you are in England once again.

Your hair is white, you are no longer boys.

You've lived through other sorrows, other joys, since then...

those terrible and wonderful years, when you became men.

Pass on the torch, we hold your banner high:

398th! "Hell from Heaven" in the sky!

Dedicated to the men of the 398th Bomb Group (H) who served at Station 131, Nuthampstead, England 1944-45 and returned home. Written in the hope that their organization will not be disbanded, but continue to exist, the ranks filled with present and future generations, grateful and proud.

-CATE LUDLAM
East Norwich, NY 11732

It Was A "Leap Into Yesterday"

Bob Sandford is 83 years old, a father, grandfather, great-grandfather, AND great-great-grandfather.

And at that age and experience, he should have known better.

But yet he went ahead and did it.

"And it was wonderful."

What was so wonderful?

A parachute jump with a tandem instructor near his home town north of Dallas, Texas, on April 22, 2002.

As a local reporter wrote in covering the event-

"It was a six-minute, 13,500 foot leap into vesterday."

An odd description for some to understand, but not for Sandford's family and friends, because they all knew about another April and another jump-

It came on April 13, 1945 (the infamous RDX Mission) when his 601st Squadron was decimated and many aircraft were lost. Sandford, riding as spare tail gunner on the Sam Palant crew, saved his life by bailing out.

Fifty-seven years later, he took a "leap into yesterday."

A jubilant Sandford and relieved wife, Barbara, celebrated with champagne, and then he said-

"This may leave my kids something of Grandpa to remember.

Sandford lives Dallas, TX 75251-2319.

"We Are The People Of Lidice:"

Among the many activities associated with the 398th Bomb Group tour in the Czech Republic in 2000, the coach had occasion to drive through the little town of Lidice, located a few miles from Prague.

leader Allen Ostrom read a poem to the members, also explaining the reason for including Lidice before journeying on to

"In 1942, during the German occupation of Czechoslovakia, a ruthless Nazi called Reinhard Heydrich ruled the country from Prague with an iron hand. His reputation won for him the name-Heydrich the Hangman.

"It is said that some men from Lidice were involved in his execution, possibly in cooperation with British intelligence.

"The Germans came to Lidice and

Naturally, He Would Remember The Girl

I didn't keep a diary in England, so Station 131 memories are thin these days, except for those long, cold engine-change days (and nights). I was in the 603rd.

I do remember an English girl—Ednafrom Luton. We toured London sites along with her sister and my friend, George. Edna worked in a Spitfire factory. Our first date was at a carnival, and I struck up a conversation with her when a buzz bomb went over.

I also remember donating blood-O plus-which was much in demand. The incentive was a shot of whiskey.

Earl Hofert, Brownsburg, IN 46112-1855

During the brief drive-through, tour

the tour hotel in Pilsen-

THESE MEN were on hand to pose for the cameraman in front of the B-17 at Evergreen Aviation Museum in Portland last September. Left to right are Howard Traeder, Andy Fay, Bob Howard, Allen Ostrom, Joe Alwood, Cecil Moore, Merwyn Hornshuh, Elliot Novek, Max Rahe, Wally Blackwell, Harry Generaux, and Ed Jones. (Photo by Tom Philo, Portland).

posted a reward of 200,000 crowns for the capture of his killers.

"The Nazis called him 'Hevdrich the Good, protector of young and old'.

"A portion of a lengthy poem by American Edna St. Vincent Millay sets the stage for what was to follow-

Last night in the ground he groaned and cursed.

And I heard him say he was parched with thirst.

But Heydrich the Hangman howls tonight

And scratches the earth from his

grave away.

I hear him scratch in the late moon's light-

O Mother, he comes this way!

He lopes and lopes toward Lidice.

Father, I hear a German speak, A Prussian officer, jaunty and

smart:

A saber-cut on his cheek he bears. And tailored well are the clothes he wears:

His uniform is dapper and smart;

His voice is harsh and his words are false.

He turns away and he whistles a

Ah, Anna my wife, we shall all pay dear

That Hitler ever sent Heydrich here.

"On June 10, 1942 the Germans proudly and formally announced to the world that they had razed the tiny village of Lidice, Czechoslovakia, to the ground; destroyed every structure including the ancient church of St. Margaret's; killed every man, including the priest, and 52 women. Other women were sent to concentration camps and the children to German educational institutions.

"This deed because of an unproven suspicion that the village had harbored the executioners of Heydrich the Hangman.

"The poet continues—"

Good people all, from our graves we call to you,

So happy and free.

Whether ye live in a village small or in a city

With buildings tall.

Or on the sandy lonesome beach of the sea.

Or the woody hills, or the flat prai-

Hear us speak, O hear what we

We are the people of Lidice.

BRIEF-things

This January issue of FLAK NEWS is only the second in 17 years to appear with color pictures, the other coming in April, 2000 when the Killed in Action names appeared with the Anstey memorial window; that double page is now available in poster form in the PX...another large photo suitable for framing, "Clearer & Colder," the 398th logo, will be available soon via Joe Joseph's PX; watch for it in the April issue when the Covington, Kentucky Registration information is printed...the President Bush quote on "freedom's home and defender" that appeared in the last newsletter is from a special "United We Stand" medallion given to the 398th by Maj. Carol Coleman at the Portland reunion...Lou Baffaro loaned his July FLAK NEWS to a friend, who promptly lost it; "and I've got every issue since 1986" he moaned; it's OK, Lou, the editor will send you a new one...among the 2,000 on hand for the "re-dedication" of the American Air Museum at Duxford last fall were Prince Charles and former president George Bush, who saw a Grumman Avenger suspended from the ceiling, just like the one he flew for the Navy in WW II...did you know that the very first "Air Force One" was a converted B-24 built for *President Roosevelt*?: he never used it, but sent wife *Eleanor* all over the world in it... Charlotte Smith wishes to inform our computer fraternity that there is a "very lovely" painting of a 602 Fortress to be seen (and for sale) on www.rggallery.com/wp586.php...who else but the FLAK NEWS editor would save a copy of a 1947 issue of AIR FORCE and then use the story 56 years later? (Page 1)...our reunion chair (and E-mail Manager) Sharon Krause and her husband, Pete, took a Normandy tour last November via French taxi, saying the personal all-day tour cost less than the advertised 4-hour coach Tour price; Pete was a former 101st Airborne in Viet Nam so you can guess how he felt on seeing the church at St. Mere Eglise...contributors to the new Smithsonian Air & Space Center in DC can have their names inscribed on the Wall of Honor, flanking the promenade leading to the main buildings (or the names of some deserving 398th airman)...Correction: the 398th gave the Sentimental Journey a \$3500 sponsorship, not \$1000 as reported in the last FLAK NEWS; the 1K went to the South Dakota Air & Space Museum...the "from the heart" poem on Page 9 by Cate Ludlam was read to the 2000 England Tour members at the Cambridge farewell banquet; Cate used to work for New Yorker magazine, in case you wonder how she can write so beautifully...our UK Friend, Ron Setter, sends word that the parishioners at Holy Trinity Church in Penn once again honored the members of the Searl crew at their Day of Remembrance, an on-going practice since 1946... George Hilliard reminds us that the 2003 reunion of the 8AFHS will be held in Colorado Springs October 14-19; and the 2004 reunion in Kansas City October 5-10...the 398th 2004 England Tour is still "in the process," but already the "count me in" list has reached 15, headed by 398th officers Lee Anne Bradley, Bob Bowen and prexy Wally Blackwell...the 398th Catholic chaplain, Fr. Walter Sullivan, drowned in a swimming accident many years ago; the occasional Jewish chaplain was **Norman Fierman**, recruited for special services from the 8th Fighter Command; when Fierman was not available, the Protestant chaplain, James Duvall, conducted the services and they say he was "very good"; (are any of those volunteer cantors still with us?)...many of our veterans have "signed on" their kids as blood relative members, giving the 398th a "leg up" in maintaining a young, active membership, but "kid" Sharon Krause did one better-she signed on her three sons (Paul Roderick's grandkids)... our VP, Al Turney, did some research and found that veterans comprise 75.1% of our membership, just within the number dictated by the IRS for nonprofit status...too old to learn? Consider Bill Cole, 603 co-pilot who, after a 35-year career as a heart surgeon, took a degree in law and now works part time for a firm in Dallas specializing in medical malpractice (he commutes weekly from his home in Missouri in his own twin-engine Cessna)...

398th Bomb Group PX

Please circle squadron, size and/or color choices.

	Please circle squadron, size and/or co	ior choices.	
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	0 40.00	
	T-Shirts - B-17 on Front	\$10.00 ea	
	Navy - White - S, M, L, XL, XXL	C45 00	
	Sweat Shirts - B-17 on Front	\$15.00 ea	
	Navy - White - S, M, L, XL, XXL	¢20.00.00	
	Golf Shirts Group Logo on Front Navy or White - M, L, XL, XXL	\$20.00 ea	
	Turtle Neck Shirt - B-17 on Collar	\$20.00 ea	
	White - S, M, L, XL; Navy - S, M; Black - L, XL		
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	CD'S & VIDEOS		
18	CD Jack's Books	\$25.00 ea	
	CD FLAK NEWS	\$30.00 ea	
	Video Anstey Window Dedication	\$10.00 ea	
	Video Return to Station 131 Memorial	\$10.00 ea	
	and Anstey Window Dedication (video)		
	(CD-ROM) Statistical History of 398th B.G.	\$55.00 set	
	Set of 2		
	IEWEL DV		
	JEWELRY	Φ Γ 00	
	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) B-17 Earrings (Silver - Pierced only)	\$2.00 ea \$5.00 ea	
	B-17 Earnings (Sliver - Pierced Only)	\$5.00 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		
	Photo (11x17) Anstey Window	\$4.00 ea	
	with list of 398th Fallen Comrades		
	Round Coaster with B-17 Aluminum Overcast in color		
	Folding Umbrellas - Red with White B-17	\$18.00 ea	
	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	-
	Golf Towel, White w/Black B-17	\$7.00 ea	
	Ceramic Magnet with B-17	\$3.00 ea	_
	Anstey Window Post Card	\$2.00 ea	
	Photo (Control Tower) Station 131 Photo (398th Memorial) Post Card	\$2.00 ea \$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	
	U.S.A.F. B-17 Key Ring	\$5.00 ea	
	U.S.A.I. B-17 Rey hing	ф3.00 еа	
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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