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

VOL. 20 NO. 1

FLAK NEWS

January 2005

MISSION NO. 146

Dredsen, Germany February 14, 1945

Lead Squadron (602)

ENSIGN Van Opdorp

Brown, S.

MARKLEY Kunkel

Gray

Andreko Shappell Jacobs Shaffer Petska Brown A.

Saferite

Godfrey

High Squadron (603)

BISHOP Steele

Tarr

Branyon

Aniello

Hanauer

Thomas

Coleman Alwood Overton Moy

Pinner

Stevens

Low Squadron (601)

SCOFIELD Taylor, A.

Merritt

Palant

Andrews

Schoen

Mills

Lewis Marchner Bornstedt Traeder Hyndman Costanzo

Womeldurf

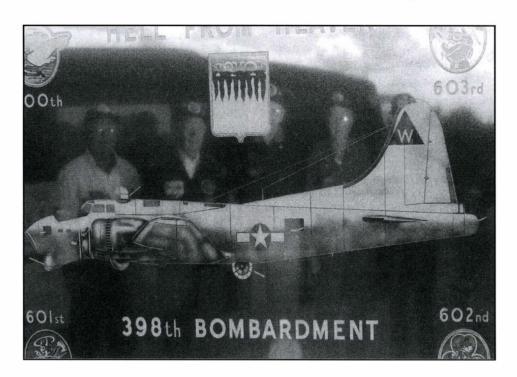
womelauri

The Dresden/Prague Story

The mission to Dresden on February 14, 1945 did not go down in 8th Air Force history as the 398th Bomb Group's "finest hour." On the contrary, it is one that probably should be forgotten.

FLAK NEWS has been "sitting" on the story for many years (choosing to forget it) until finally deciding "it was time." Thus, this issue is largely devoted to "fleshing out" the story on how the 398th missed Dresden by some 50 miles and mistakenly dropped on Prague, then known as Czechoslovakia.

Various Wing and Division reports have been examined, along with comments from "our own" members who were on the mission. See Pages 3-4-5-9-10.



THE 398TH MEMORIAL provided a "Reflections of the Past" photo for AIRMAN photographer John Laskey during the England Tour last year. Five tour members were caught in the hazy reflection, but coming out picture perfect was the memorial engraving of the group's "weapon of war" – the B-17 Flying Fortress.

The President's Desk:

Remembering "Friends" Who **Are Special**

BY WALLY BLACKWELL President, 398th Bomb Group **Memorial Association**

I began to identify 398ers that deserved recognition for outstanding contributions to our Association's success in the Flak News a few issues ago. It was time to do this. The idea of saying a "thank you" to our own has become a very appreciated idea. And the fact is, we have so many of these special people, I have no trouble continuing this process.

It is now time to proceed and to thank those good folks called the "Friends of the 398th. These are the ones that live in and about our old station 131 locality in England. The list does not include all of them, but let me recognize a few now as space provides.



WEBB

Greta and Tony Barker - Greta is just always there doing things when the need arises. Tony is the local historian who knows exactly "where it was and happened there" in those years 398th of the "occupation"

Nuthampstead.

Beryl and Tony Cark - Tony was the chairman of the Friends in the late 1980's when there was an urgent need due to the untimely death of Dave Wells, Beryl just tends to Tony being sure all his stories are correct.

Barry Tyler - Barry has always been involved in all phases of the 398 reunion returns. Whether it was arranging for airplane rides around the old field or providing the means for the reunion services and activities, he is always there

Eileen and Digger Webb – They were the Friends mainstay performing the many things necessary for our successful returns. Recently we lost Eileen. We will miss her warm smile and friendship. We know that Digger will be there for our next trip in 2006.

It is impossible for me to conceive how our always-successful reunion returns to Nuthampstead could ever have been possible without our UK Friends. Every two years they have given without limit of their precious time and talents to be sure that the "veterans" are properly

We are grateful that they pay their

That Was The Week That Was

I took my annual journey to Ye Olde Country (England) last fall to march before Her Majesty and other Royals down Whitehall (myself and 10,000 other ex-servicemen). The event honors all the fallen of past conflicts.

Other important destinations visited were Station 131/Woodman Inn; Wilfrid Dimsdale; Tally Ho Pub at Barkway; Duxford Air Museum/Linda Mason; RAF Museum Hendon; Buckingham Palace; Mayfair Hotel; Berkley Square; Lavenham/Gordon Aldridge; and Chertsey/Roger Bradley.

However, the top visit was to Elsenham, where Cliff Bishop the book publisher just received 1.000 copies of his "Fortress Over Nuthampstead." I was his very first customer for this book on the history of the 398th. It's a winner for

That Was The Week That Was! - RALPH AMBROSE Reporter At Large

East Coast Dues Time

It's Dues Time for the 398th folks living in several East Coast states. This January 2005 FLAK NEWS issue is "devoted" to members living in the following

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

The \$20 annual dues may be enclosed in the envelope provided only for those living in these states. If it happens to be missing, or there is a desire to lend added financial support for the 398th, one may always send their contributions directly to Jim Haas, Perry, IA 50220-0163.

Our Friends of the 398th are invited to send their £20 dues directly to Barry Tyler, Anstey, Buntingford, Herts SG9 ODE, England

respects to those combat forces of the 398th BG that "helped out" in WWII by being such devoted and meaningful Friends to its survivors.

"Fortresses" **Book A** Winner

"It has taken many years to get this book into print," admitted the author, Cliff Bishop of Elsenham, England.

And FLAK NEWS editor Allen Ostrom added -

"It was well worth the wait."

The subject book is called, "Fortresses Over Nuthampstead," and it is now available from the 398th Bomb Group PX Department.

The said "department" is in care of Carolyn Widdman, West Bloomfield,

MI. 48322-3286.

Carolyn, who took over the PX recently from Joe and Rozanne Joseph, said she is laying in a "modest" first-order supply from the English publisher.

The book is priced at \$63.00, postpaid, and will be shipped on a first-come, firstserved basis, according to Widdman.

Bishop's book on the Fortresses of the 398th, is a follow-up to his earlier (1968) master works called, "Fortresses of the Big Triangle First," a history of the 8th Air Forces' 1st Combat Wing before the 398th joined the other two groups, the 91st and 381st, in early 1944.

"The book is truly spectacular," said Ostrom, himself the author of "Remembrances," published in the late

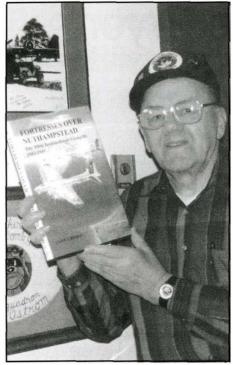
1980's.

"The Bishop book simply is a "must have" for anyone who served in the 398th," said Ostrom. "It's all there - the missions, the aircraft, the histories, the missing in action, killed in action, the crackups, the "War Wearies," the landed-on-the continent, abandoned-on-the continent, the rocket-assist takeoff, personnel, photos and so much more."

The hard-cover book contains 271 pages and is filled with thousands of names scattered throughout. Each name in the book however listed, is recorded in the "index to personnel." Not far from that list is a list of aircraft names from "Agony Wagon" to Zoomeriago" plus 86 more in between.

Of interest to those wanting to track "their" aircraft, each B-17 serial number carries a corresponding page number where that aircraft is mentioned in the book.

In addition to offering "Fortresses Over Nuthampstead," Widdman said copies of the 1945 398th history are also available. They will sell for \$20.00 each postpaid.



FLAK NEWS editor Allen Ostrom displays the new historical/pictorial book on the 398th, "Fortresses Over Nuthampstead," written and published by England's Cliff Bishop. See column on Page 2 for information on price and availability.

Prague Church May Be Seen On 398th Tour

A visit to the church in Prague that was inadvertently bombed by the 398th in World War II could well be possible during the planned Czech Republic tour this coming May.

The 398th tour to Pilsen to help that city celebrate the 60th anniversary of its liberation from Nazi rule is planned for May 3-12, 2005. Part of that celebration will include a trip to Prague, some 60 miles from Pilsen.

The tour will also include a stop in Achenkirch, the little Austrian town near to where a 600 Squadron plane came down following a raid on Munich in July, 1944. This time, the visit to Munich will be for a flight home (and possibly check out a beer garden).

The tour is priced at \$2249 (land only) plus individually priced flights to Prague from many US locations scheduled to arrive in Prague before noon on May 4.

Tour information may be requested from Barbara or Sara at 1-800-423-5454. E-mail – barbf@cascadelink.com.



THE CZECHS will celebrate their 60th liberation anniversary next May at the "Thank You America" memorial in downtown Pilsen. Members of the 398th, including some who were on the Last Mission to Pilsen, will be there to help the Czechs celebrate.

"Achenkirch Will Be A Good Ghost"

For tour guide Pär Nilhammer, the 398th tour to Pilsen and the little Austrian town of Achenkirch will be a "dream come true."

"For four years, since I first met Bob and Eloise Hart on the 2000 tour I have wanted to bring the 398th there to meet

Decision Time At Hand

At least 20 persons are required for the "Czech It Out" tour, and reservations must be received by January 31, according to Barbara Fish. "If you are considering this tour, please advise us as soon as possible," she added.

the people who remember the crash in the nearby mountains.

"Your visit will open up a good ghost," he added."

The tour is scheduled to visit Achenkirch on Monday, May 9 and 10, during which time some members may wish to visit the crash site or see the church burial site on the two crew members who perished – Dane Lovelace and Gerard Anataillia. And otherwise, enjoy the quiet, serene beauty of Achenkirch.

As of FLAK NEWS press time, this was the "loading list" for the May 2-12 tour –

Willie and Doris Ivy, Meridian, ID.
Dean & Virginia Hill, Bountiful, UT.
Ann Collins, Rocklin, CA.
Gertrude Neff, Lexington, VA.
Karen Neff, Lexington, VA.
John Mikulas, Modesto, CA.
Antionette Goss, Modesto, CA.
Elaine Tyler, England.
Richard Harris, England
Randy Stange, Fullerton, CA.

BREIF Things – Pilsen is over 700 years old, founded by Czech King Wenzel II...the city was liberated in 1945 by American Army ground forces assisted by an elite regiment of Belgian Sharpshooters (preceded by a 398th attack on the Skoda Works)...

Plan Ahead For Overland Park Reunion

It is not too early to begin thinking about . . . and making plans for . . . the 22^{nd} annual reunion of the 398^{th} Bomb Group Memorial Association. Reserve the dates today – September 7-8-9-10, 2005. The place – Marriott Hotel, Overland Park, Kansas.

All the specific information, including hotel reservation forms indicating the special 398th price of \$84.00, will appear in the April issue of FLAK NEWS. The "Middle America" location in Kansas should afford an attractive site for most travelers from across the nation be they coming by car, train or auto.

Even today there are those thinking even farther ahead than the 2005 reunion date, suggesting that the 398th is far from "shutting down," but rather "planning ahead."

(No, Marilyn, the 2006 reunion will not be held in Dutch Harbor, Alaska).

"Why Us?" Asked The Pryor

Dresden-Prague Mission Examined

"No need to apologize," he said, "our church building suffered more from 40 years of Russian occupation than from your bombs."

That kindly comment came from Pryor Englehardt of the Emauzy Monastery in Prague as he welcomed members of the 398th Bomb Group Tour to Prague in 2000.

Then, he mused with a distinct twinkle in his eye –

"But why us?"

This question, even in jest, was a distinct reference to the bomb run made on Prague by the 398th on February 14, 1945, resulting in considerable damage to the Monastery and other buildings in the Czech city, supposedly off limits to Allied bombing during World War II.

To correct that mistake, the 398th returned the following day – February 15, 1945 – to the proper target – Dresden.

At the time, and before entering the ministry, Pryor Englehardt had been a young anti-aircraft gunner in the German army. These days he sees to the re-building needs of his church, undoing the damage done by the bombs in 1945 and the Russian occupation from VE Day in 1945 to 1985.

"They used the church for a stable in those days," he added.

The Monastery today adjoins a major office building housing the Civic Institute of Prague, where four 398th members held a seminar in 2000 to discuss the WWII bombing error. This seminar included Dave Mills, John Cosco, Keith Anderson and Allen Ostrom.

The four, armed with Intelligence reports – plus eye witness accounts by Cosco and Mills – offered their "apologies" to Englehardt, the Civic Institute and the large gathering of interested patrons, television and press members.

In the end, the key issues centered around (1) weather (2) inoperable radar navigation (3) Dead Reckoning navigation errors on the part of the group leader, Colonel Lewis P. Ensign.

The 1st Division Combat Report included this narrative –

The 398th Group, which was to lead the Division, was forced to turn south at 5207 N – 0649 E by high clouds. At this point the GEE equipment in the lead and deputy lead became inoperative because of lack of range and enemyjamming. Near Munster the formation was forced to swing further to the right of course to avoid taking the whole Division through clouds that appeared too thick for the formation. In this area a constant course was not possible because of cloud cover and because the H2X equipment was unable to attain more than a 20-mile

range on the scope. At approximately 9°E the lead aircraft's H2X became completely inoperative and the lead was turned over to the deputy who contacted the scouting force and was told that the visual secondary target was overcast but that he might be able to reach the primary as briefed. Therefore, he started a run toward the secondary target which his H2X operator, working with equipment which was erratic, believed he had identified in the scope. On the run to the secondary target, clouds broke in what was thought to be the vicinity of primary target and a decision was made to attempt an H2X run on that target. About three minutes before bombs away the deputy H2X equipment went out completely. But the bombardier saw a large



1st Air Division participating groups – 398th (lead); 91st; 381st; 379th; 303rd; 384th; 305th; 92nd; 306th; 401th; 457th, 351st.

built up area through a break in the clouds to his right which, because of circumstances, he assumed to be the primary target. He turned and made a short, 30 to 40 second run on it with good results. This target turned out to be PRAGUE. After bombs away the turn off the target was to be the right and at approximately 10°E. The briefed course was intercepted and followed up. The original leader took over the lead of the Division after the turn off the target.

The 91st Group followed the 398th Group and bombed the same target except for the lead squadron which bombed an unidentified target of opportunity by H2X equipment. The lead and low squadrons of the 381st Group, realizing they were far off course, bombed BRUX, and the high squadron bombed a target of opportunity believed to be PILSEN.

The lead squadron of the 305th Group attacked BRUX and all other units attacked DRESDEN.

All this time several others in the 398th formation (and undoubtedly in the other groups, as well) had been having doubts about the mission – the cloud cover, the winds aloft, questions about

Continued on page 9

RALPH MCINTYRE

Lead Navigator, 601st Squadron

I was navigating in the lead plane of the lower squadron, led by Capt. Scofield on that day. After reaching altitude on the way to the target there was sufficient visibility to enable me to see the ground and obtain the wind direction and speed – keys to dead reckoning navigation. We did not have the H2S (Mickey) on board so dead reckoning was about all I could do to determine our position.

Shortly later the clouds filled in and the ground was no longer visible so I continued plotting our position based on the old wind, almost to the target. Meanwhile I received at least two calls from the lead plane (Col. Ensign) navigator asking my position data as the Mickey in both the lead & deputy lead planes were going on and off and they were having trouble obtaining a good reading. I advised that my record showed we were about 50 miles south of course but that my information was based on an "old" wind and might not be too reliable. Then shortly later the lead plane's navigator said that the Mickey was on again and that they had identified the target. Bombs were dropped visually as the clouds parted just before bomb drop, and we returned home as a group, everyone thinking that Dresden had been hit.

Apparently when the bomb drop photos had been processed it was discovered that we had hit Prague. The mistake was then explored and it turned out that we really were about 50 miles south of course and that the radar had picked up Pilsen and Prague rather then Chemnitz and Dresden, both pairs of cities being in the same relative position to each other.

This was a strange coincidence, particularly when it was noticed that the distances to Prague and Dresden were not that different.

I recalled that I looked at the ground when the bombs were dropped and compared what I saw with the strike photos given to us before the mission, that the river running through the city on the photo had a slightly different angle from north and this did raise a question in my mind of where we had dropped our bombs. But, on the other hand, except for this difference, both cities looked amazingly the same.

Given the rather crude state of the art of airborne radar at that time and the lack of sophisticated navigating aids that we have today, the reason for the error can be understood and would not have occurred but for the strange similarity of the locations of the two cities.

Book Identifies Lead Pilot As A Czech

The book, "Destruction of Dresden," written by an American, includes a chapter of a mission to Dresden that "went astrav" -

The 398th Bombardment Group lost its way flying through the cloud layers at its predetermined altitude, and when the B-17s emerged above the cloud layers the lead navigator was not too happy about the formation's position.

They should have picked up Torgau and headed south-east to the first big city with a river (the Flying Fortress' lead navigators were relying on APS. 15 radar

for their navigation).

The formation had been subjected to S-turns to lose time for an on-time arrival over the target. The Dead Reckoning navigation of the leader was apparently not as good as it should have been. The formation leader picked up and "identified" Torgau, and turned on a bearing which would take the bombers to Dresden.

Some time passed before the navigator of the Deputy Group Leader radioed the Group Commander and suggested that in fact they had picked up Freiberg instead of Torgau; he was overruled and reminded about the rules for radio silence over Germany. From time to time the bombardiers reported that they could see a river underneath. The "mickey-man" operating the AS.15 began to read off the sighting angles on his screen between the

aircraft and the city ahead.

Six sighting angles were read off and set on the lead bombardier's sighting angle index on the Norden bombsight. There was indeed a river snaking through the city ahead. The bombardier could see no detail of the city to warrant his taking over on a visual run and a blind attack was made by radar. As they were coming away again the navigator in the Deputy Group Lead again broke radio silence and insisted that they had in fact not bombed Dresden; the Group's lead navigator checked with the rest of the navigators and their views also conflicted with his. In fact the 40 bombers of the 398th Bombardment Group had delivered quite a heavy attack on PRAGUE. This was a bitter blow to the pilot of the group lead in the lead ship. He was a Czech citizen, born and bred in the city, who had fled to America when the National Socialists occupied the country. The pilot in the lead ship sitting beside the Group (and Division) leader Colonel Lewis Ensign was Harold Van Opdorp.

DON MAC PHERSON

Group Radar navigator, Lead Ship

Col. Ensign was the Command Pilot and Lt. Van Opdorp was the First Pilot.

Everything was normal until after we had crossed the Ruhr. But then my radar equipment started to black out and shortly thereafter the scope went blank.

I notified the pilots of this and it was decided that the deputy ship would have to take over. I believe that Lt. Dovle was the radar-navigator with the Deputy and that his set was working satisfactorily at the time.

From then on I was just a passenger. I remember being surprised at de-



briefing to learn that we had hit the wrong target.

That was the only mission I ever flew where I had a failure of the radar equipment. I know positively that a 65 mile error could never have happened if my scope had been working.

HAROLD **BROWN**

Group Navigator, Lead Squadron

As group navigator I flew about 25 leads - usually with Col. Hunter, Simeral, or Miller.

My only recollection of the Dresden mission is that is was screwed up from the go. Winds were unbelievable and the flight plan was useless. We lost use of RADAR early and missed most checkpoints. We recommended early on that lead be turned over to Deputy. This was done but then lead was given back to us prior to bomb drop.

I could not identify the target as it was off the strip map I was using. I did see a bridge at the edge of a large town and someone calling that we had a bomb pattern "all over the place".

On the way back - with headwinds we had ground speed checks of around 75 MPH and we had to land in France to

I was relieved as Group Navigator and flew my remaining missions with Deputy Leads.

NUNZIO ADDABBO

Navigator, Palant crew, 601st

I was the navigator on Samuel Palant's crew that day and my major regret is that I didn't keep my log to prove my story. The winds were about 100 miles per hour and I knew it. I also knew we were being blown off course to Dresden. Unfortunately, we were not the lead aircraft that day and had to play "follow the leader". I called our position to Sam and he radioed it to the lead. No action was taken and we bombed Prague instead of our primary target - Dresden. If memory serves me correctly, our 601 squadron dropped incendiaries. On our return to base at approximately 20,000 feet and 90 miles from that city, we could still see the fires and smoke pouring out of Prague.

During our usual de-briefing after each mission, I pointed out the bombing error and presented my log. It was not until the following day, after aerial photos were reviewed, that the error was quietly announced. I don't know if I was the only navigator to report the error. I do know that no top-brass ever thanked me for being right!

BILL COSTANZO

Pilot, 601st Squadron

I remember it being a SNAFU'd mission . . . climbing . . . trying to stay in formation at 30,000 feet . . . going thru "needless" flak, ... etc, etc, ... and then hearing some "chatter" and someone saying . . . "we are way off course" . . . "target is???? Degree that way", . . . After flying for a considerable amount of time we encountered some breaks in the clouds ... and once again a mattering of conversation came over the air. The voices sounded like familiar voices from the "lead" aircraft;...like:..." I know how to read a map". . . "I say our target, . . . Dresden is ahead . . . and . . . THAT is where we are going . . . "I imagined that . . . THOSE people up in the lead aircraft were getting so excited and "keyed-up" they were "punching" buttons and transmitting on "guard", other than "intercom". Hence a lot of "other people" were listening to. . . "strange conversations" too.

Stars and Stripes said we "dropped" leaflets. . . Those were sure "heavy 500 pound leaflets" to my recollection!

(See page 9)



When All Is S

Ehil, Edward

Abernathy, John R. Adamak, Edward Adams, Eugene R. Adelman, Paul Adleman, Milo Agnew, Harry Agnew, Robert Albro, Albert M. Alderson, Richard Alexander, Claude Alfano, John Allare, John Allen, George E. Allen, Stanley W. Altman, Frank Alves, Álfred Amer, Jerry Anaya, Alredo Anderson, Allen C. Anderson, Emil Anderson, Frank Anderson, Ralph Anderson, Roy L. Anderson, Russell M. Anderson, William G. 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. 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. Battaglia, Frank A. 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 Beecher, Edward B. Belcher, Jess Bell, Marvin Bell, Robert Benefiel, Phillip L. Bennett, John L. Bennett, Norville Benningfield, Harley O. Benoe, William I. Berggren, Cecil E. Bergsma, Norman E. Bernier, Loyola A. Berry, Kearie L. Berryhill, Col. Earl Berthoud, Charles Bestervelt, Harold J. Bewley, James A. Biancardi, Andrew Biette, Paul W. Bigda, Joseph Bingle, Henry Bird, John C. Bischoff, Albert J. Bistner, Walter Blancett, Marvin Blanda, Guido Blankenship, G.W. Blehm, Frederick W. Bley, Winston Blum, Lowell Blum, Lowell
Bobbitt, James M.S.
Boeger, Orv. W.
Boersma, Ted
Bogard, Williard B.
Bohn, Jack L.
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 L. Bowcock Jr., H. Guy Bowman, Leonard L. Bailey, Ray E.
Baird, Harold
Baker, Albert A.
Baker, Cova
Baker, Hermus C.
Baldwin, Mondo L.
Ballard, Charles W.
Ballard, Charles W.
Bancroft, Joseph (Dave)
Bangson, Barry D.
Bankert Lamps
Broingare Revel
Bankert Lamps
Bowman, Leonard L.
Clament, Jesse R.
Clark, Benjamin L.
Clark, Francis C.
Clark, Joyal O.
Clarke, Atwell S.
Clarke, Walter F.
Clifton, Ernest
Cochran, Curtis
Cochan, Curtis
Cochan, Peter Breimeyer, Royal Brewer, Darrell F. Bridges, Clarence W. Briody, James J. Britt, Thomas F. Brockman, James W. Coleman, George F. Brokaw, Rev. RaymondColeman, Thomas A. Brown, Arnold W. Coleman, Winsor Brown, E. Logan Colvin, Charles E. Brown, Hilyer (Pete) Colvin, William L. Brown, James C. Colwell, John 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. Bur, Nicholas J. 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., (Saferite crew) Carter, Robert C., (Watson Crew) Carwile, Allan P. Cason, Alfred Castro, Edward Catterson, Kenneth L. Cavalier, Vincent J. Charbonneau, Francis Chase, Lewis D. Chesshir, Kenneth Chimelewski, RaymondJ. 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. Cochran, Curtis Codan, Peter Coene, William Colantoni, George Colburn, Warren Cole, Harold 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 Courtenay, Gordon T. Coville, Paul A. 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 Cross, Albert B. Crouch, James Cubranich, Julius P. Cummings, D.L. Cundiff, Donald W. Cutcher, James L. Dacon, Charles H. Dailey, Donald Dailey, E. Bruce Dalton, Hollis Daly, William J. Dames, John J. Darcy, Lawrence Darner, Leroy David, Paul M. Davidoff, Herman Davidson, Wm. H. Davis, Jack Davis, Jerald A. 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 Dierolf, Claude E. DiGiuseppe, A. Gerard Franceschini, Gino Dimich, Peter M. Frantz, Landis Dippel, Francis Freel, Lawrence A. Dixon, Gerald Freeman, W. Noel Dixon, Roger E. French, Ozie Dobie, Richard
Doberstler, Wayne
Doles, Robert F.
Donahue, Clifford E.
Donelian, Thomas Donovan, George Dorfmeier, Donald D. Dougherty, A.L. Dougherty, Thomas E. Douglas, Gene Downing, Robert A. Drager, Kennth Dreyer, Charles G. Driscoll, John T Duncan, John W. Dunn, Richard J. Dunne, Bill Durbin, Francis Durtschi, William J. Dutrow, Gordon P. Duvall, Rev. James T., (Protestant Chaplain) Dwyer Jr., William J. Eberhart, Jay J. Echevarria, Jose Eck, Harold

Edgell, Harry

Costanzo, William E. Edgington, Gilbert

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. Erler, Donald J. Evans, Clarence E. Faber, Herbert G. Falkenbach, John S. Farenthold, Francis L. Farewell, Francis A. Farley, Robert Farmer, Edward Farmer, Jack D. Farmer, John M. Farnsworth, Dexter Farrell, William A. Faughn, Joe Fay, Andrew Fender, Keith C. Ferguson, Reginald C. Fernandez, Frank Fick, Herbert Fields, Jerome G. Figueria, Arthur L. Fisher, Clarence, Jr. Fleming, Horace Fletcher, Richard E. Flickinger, Charles R. Flipse, David Florin, Henry Floyd, Arch C. Folger, Robert Foraker, Kenneth H. Foster, Dean L. Foster, George E. Foster, Paul Fowler, Hannibal 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 Giardano, Joe Giardano, Joe Gibb, Robert Gibbons, Marion H. Gibeau, Raymond Gibson, Charles F. Gillenwater, Joseph A. Ginsburg, Joseph Giuliano, Pete

Gloor, John

Godfrey, John Godwin, John K. Goldbach, Ernest Goldman, Gil Edick, C. Kenneth Edmondson, Georgie Edwards, John H. Gonzales, Benito Gordon, Charles Gosse, Earl H. Gouveia, George Graff, Stephen J.

Hapgood, Al Harbit, John Hardenburg, Hardy, Arno Hardy, John Harmon, Ch Harrington, Harrington, F Harris, Arth



When the music fa When my days of l What will be remen I've gone When all is said an

Will they say I love That I was a faithful That I lived to tell c When all is said an

Grange, George Grant, Sam Gray, Harry E. Gray, Jay O. Green, Norbert Green, Sam B. Greenberg, Abraham Gregorie, Robert K. Gresh, Steve Griffo, Arthur Grinter, Don Grossman, M. Grothues, Al Gruber, Fred Guice, Thomas 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. Hamor, William T. Hanauer, James Hancock, William C. Hansen, Herman J.

Hart, Karl E Hart, Robert Hartman, Pa Hartsell, Wi Hartwell, G Hatch, Dwig Hatcher, Ro Hatten, Har Haworth, W Haws, Thon Hayes, Robe Haynes, Cha Haynes, Jar Hays, Natha Hayward, H Hazlitt, Jam Hearn, Tho Heck, Paul Hedeen, M Heintzelman H Heit**man**, Pa Henagan Jr. Hendrickson Henning, Fr. Hennrikus, Hentschel, H Herbert, Ea Herbert, Ro Herbst, Car Hereid. Sell Herman, Ja Hermden, Ra

Herrera, Pe

Hesterly, K

aid And Done



lfred ur S.

Hicinbothem, Franklin Isdahll, Chester R. Harry B. Hildreth, Robert Hall Hill, Jack R. Hineman, William rl H. Hinkle, Dwight Cornelius Hoag Jr., Edward Robert E. Hoak, William P.



ades into the past, life are through, nbered where

nd done?

ed my family, ul friend, of God's own son nd done? - GEOFF MOORE

aul J. bert old R. nas R. ert G. rles (Irby) nes T. an B. larold D. ies R. mas G.

ank

l A. by P.

dro

Hogrefe, Carl H. Holbrook, John T Holloway, Edwin C lliam S. Holloway, James B. eorge W. Holmes, Blair Holmes, William J. Holmly, Lester Holstead, James illiam A. Hopp, Frank J. Horton, Paul A. Houchins, Harry Hough,Luther Hovden, Roger Howard, Grant Howden, Ross I. Hoyne, Earl K. V. Hudson, Herman D.
Ivin Huey, Elbert P.
Ivin Hughes, Byron B.
If Hunnicutt, Elzie
Henry H. Hunsaker, Edwin F.
William Hunt, Mack Hreachmack, Joseph Hunter, Charles F Hunter, Dr. Lewis B. George erbert G. Huntington, Sam, rl (Honorary Member) bert G. Huntzinger, Ed Hush, Robert Hussey, Roy Hutchinson, John L. cob D. ymond A. Hyland, Gervase (Gerry) Ilko, George M. Inman, Willie H. enneth

Issenmann, Francis J. Jackson, Leroy K. Jackson, Paul K. Jarman, Gordon Jeffries, Kenneth V. Jellen, Anthony J. Jellison, Elwell S. Hoddesdon, S. Leathers Jendrezweski, Ray Jenkins, James Jennings, George W. Jerominski, Edward V. Jessop, Richard B. 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., (Florence AL) Jones, William H., (Olympia WA) Jordan, Edward Jordan, William F. Kaminski, Joseph Kantor, Philip Karnell, Peter J. Karner, Fred Kastner, Alfred E. Katz, Harry Kauffman, Kenyon G. Kautz, Albert Kautz, Robert Kavanaugh, DrWilliam R. Lovely, Robert Lowe, Donald B. Kay, Allen Kearney, Earl Keene, Raymond Kelly, Dr. Robert Kelly, Jerome F. Kenyon, Donald E. Keown, George E. Kerr, Walter H. Kershaw, Leon R. 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 Klimasczfski, Victor (Klemens) Klingenhoffer, John Klix, George A. Kneuer, Arthur T. 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.

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Landrum, Francis S.
Lang, Fredrick
Langford, Ray
Lanich, Edward R.
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Long, Richard L.
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Lorett, Leon G. Loveless, Harold 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 Marchbanks, 10m
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Martone, August J.
Martorella, Angelo
Maryott, Dana
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Merritt, Charles A.
Merritt, Donald
Mertz, Eugene R.
Mevers Russ Mertz, Eugene R.
Meyers, Russ
Miceli, Gaspera (Bob)
Michael, Robert D.
Miles, Alex
Miller, Charles J.
Miller, John H.
Miller, John J.
Miller, Lester R.
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Miller, Mike C.
Miller, Paul Miller, Paul
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Overton, Vernon
Overturf, Thomas V.
Owens, Blaine
Page, Albert E.
Painschab, Joseph H.
Palmer, Charles P.
Pappas, Venizelos G.
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Paugh, Thomas E.
Passon, Theodore E.
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Payne, Marshall M.
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Perkins, Guy
Perrou, Ed
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Powell, Sam
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Nash, George N.
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Neill, David S.
Nejaski, Leroy
Nelson, Gene
Nelson, Harry, Jr.
Nelson, Harry, Jr.
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Fugene W. Rau, Charles A. J.
Rayes, Charles J.
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Rhoten, Mack Hall
Riccio, Michael
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Schwerer, George J.
Scofield, Frank C.
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Scott, Ernest D.
Scott, Norman T.
Scott, R.F.
Scott, Roscoe H.
Scott, Tom B.
Seacord, John
Seal, Charles F. Seal, Charles F. Seaver, Warren Seibert, Earl W.

Continued on page 8

en All Is Said And Done

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Garry, B.
Gasbarro, John J.
Gaulke, Gerald G.
Gelwicks, Frank I.
Gerber, Tom
Gergenti, Leonard
Gerloff, Harry
Gerrain, Potor

Gerrain, Peter

Giardano, Joe Giardano, Joe

Gibb, Robert

Gloor, John

Gibbons, Marion H. Gibeau, Raymond Gibson, Charles F.

Gillenwater, Joseph A.

Ginsburg, Joseph Giuliano, Pete

Godfrey, John Godwin, John K. Goldbach, Ernest Goldman, Gil Gonzales, Benito Gordon, Charles Gosse, Earl H. Gouveia, George Graff, Stephen J.

Hapgood, Alfred
Harbit, John
Hardenburg, Harry B.
Hardy, Arnold
Hardy, John R.
Harmon, Carl H.
Harrington, Cornelius
Harrington, Robert E.
Hardesdon S. Leat
Hoddesdon S. Leat
Hardenburg, Harry B.
Hildreth, Robert
Hill, Jack
Hineman, William
Hinkle, Dwight
Hoddesdon S. Leat
Hinkle, Dwight
Hardenburgh
Hinkle, Dwight
Hardenburgh
Hinkle, Dwight
Hoddesdon S. Leat
Hoddesdon S. Leat
Hoddesdon S. Leat
Hoddesdon S. Leat
Hinkle, Dwight
Hardenburgh
Hinkle, Dwight
Hinkle, Dwight Harris, Arthur S.

Hicinbothem, Franklin Isdahll, Chester R. Hineman, William Hoddesdon, S. Leathers Jendrezweski, Ray



When the music fades into the past, When my days of life are through, What will be remembered where I've aone When all is said and done?

Will they say I loved my family, That I was a faithful friend, That I lived to tell of God's own son When all is said and done?

- GEOFF MOORE

Grange, George Grant, Sam Gray, Harry E. Gray, Jay O. Green, Norbert Green, Sam B. Greenberg, Abraham Gregorie, Robert K. Gresh, Steve Griffo, Arthur Grinter, Don Grossman, M. Grossman, M. Grothues, Al Gruber, Fred Guice, Thomas Guild, Herbert 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. Hale, Robert D. Hall, Joe Hall, Walter Haller, John A. Hamacher, Ross L. Hammill, Frank D. Hammontree, Jack C. Hamor, William T. Hanauer, James Hancock, William C. Hansen, Herman J.

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Hartman, Paul J.
Hartsell, William S.
Hartwell, George W.
Hatch, Dwight
Hatcher, Robert
Hatten, Harold R.
Hartman, Paul J.
Holloway, Edwin C.
Holloway, James B.
Holmes, William J.
Holmes, William J. Holbrook, John T Holloway, Edwin C. 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. Hedeen, Molvin
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Heintzelman, Paul F.
Henagan Jr. Henry H. Hunsaker, Edwin F.
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Hunt, Mack
Huntselman, Paul F.
Hendrickson, William
Hunt, Mack Hunt, Mack Hunter, Charles F Hunter, Dr. Lewis B. Henning, Frank
Hennrikus, George Hunter, Dr. Levis
Hentschel, Herbert G. Huntington, Sam,
(Honorary Member) Hush, Robert Hussey, Roy Hutchinson, John L. Hernden, Raymond A. Hyland, Gervase (Gerry) Ilko, George M. Inman, Willie H.

Jackson, Leroy K.
Jackson, Paul K.
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Jeffries, Kenneth V.
Jellen, Anthony J.
Jellison, Elwell S. Jenkins, James Jennings, George W. Jerominski, Edward V. Jessop, Richard B. 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., (Florence AL) Jones, William H., (Olympia WA) Jordan, Edward Jordan, William F. Kaminski, Joseph Kantor, Philip Karnell, Peter J. Karner, Fred Kastner, Alfred E. Katz, Harry Kauffman, Kenyon G. Kautz, Albert Kautz, Robert Kay, Allen Kearney, Earl Keene, Raymond Kelly, Dr. Robert Kelly, Jerome F. Kenyon, Donald E. Keown, George E. Kerr, Walter H. Kershaw Leon R Kershaw, Leon R. 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 Klimasczfski. Victor (Klemens) Victor (Klemens)
Klingenhoffer, John
Klix, George A.
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Knife, Percy,
(Honorary Member)
Knight, George N.
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Kolafa, John
Kolb, Kenneth
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Mallory, Jack D.
Maloney, Clarence E. Mann, Douglas
Manos, M. John
Manzi, Jerry
Mapel, Donald E.
Marabeas, Nick
Marchanks, Tom Marabeas, Nick
Marchbanks, Tom
Marfilius, Elmer H.
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Martinek, Emil J.
Martone, August J.
Martorella, Angelo
Marvott Dana Maryott, Dana Massey, Frank Masters, Marvert Mates, Stanley Matheis, Melville J. Matheson, Burton Matthews, Tom

When All Is Said And Done

Continued from Pages 6 and 7

Selevan, Arthur Self, Clifton L. Selgrath, John Sellers, Lyndell Severson, Eldon B. Shadroui, Alfred Shaffer, W.A. Sharp, Leland A. Shaw, Albert W. Shaw, Donald Sheely, Roy M. Sherrod, Fred Shields, William Louis Shimek, Albert J. Shirk, Charles W. Shoptow, George Shott, Ned E. Shreve, Eli Siegenthaler, Anthony F. Sighting, William M. Sigsworth, John R. Silk, James E.
Sillin, James C.
Simeral, Robert
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Sistek, Anton A. Skellinger, Walt. Skellinger, William G. Slawson, Thomas G. Slawson, Thomas G Sleaman, Harry Smerko, Joseph Smith Jr., Harry O. Smith, Clarence Smith, Coy Smith, Donald E. Smith, Frank Smith, Harold Smith, Herbert E. Smith, John E. Smith, Oscar J. 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 Stachura, Bob Stacy, Nick Staley, Edmund E. Stallings, Harold Stanbrough, Claude Stange, Raymond P. 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 Stewart, Edward S. Stickel, Robert F. Stickel, Robert F.
Stiles, Jack
Stitz, Thomas
Stockman, A.J.
Stombaugh, C.E.
Stone, Warren
Stout, Phern
Stout, Plato
Stovall, Lloyd
Strickntt Carl J. Strickrott, Carl J. Stripling, Aaron M. Strnad, Frank

The names appearing on Pages 6-7-8 are of those members of the 398th Bomb Group who have passed on since returning from overseas following World War II. The list is brought up to date annually as information is provided to FLAK NEWS.

Studor, Howard P. Suggett, Walter Sullivan, 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.
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Taylor, Emmett Lee
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Timm, Wilber D.
Tolbert, Joseph F. Tomaino, Antonio J. Tone, Emmett W. Tone, Emmett W.
Totter, Joseph H.
Townsend, Charles
Townsley, Kenneth
Tracey, Claude W.
Trask, Gerald E.
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Turner, Mark
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Walkup Jr., Charles A.
Wallrath, Raymond
Walter, R.N.
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Weymer, Horace(Hank)
Wheeler, William J. Wheeless, H.A. White, Victor H White, Victor H.
Whitehead, Fred A.
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Whorton, James H.
Wickam, James E.
Wickman, Walter
Wierney, Joseph
Wiggins, Robert E.
Wight, Bill V.
Wilde George J. Wilde, George J. Williams, Frank J. Williams, James R. Williams, William C. Williamson, Delmar Williamson, Rufus C. Wilson, Claude Wilson, J. Herbert 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 Woods, Mark
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Woodson, Woodrow
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Worrell, Floyd G.
Wralstad, George E.
Wright III, Parke Wright III, Parke
Wright, Ellsworth S.
Wright, Warren H.
Wright, William M.
Wymer, Kenneth M.
Young, Donald R.
Zackman, William W.
Zagelow, Larry
Zaiic, Raymond J. Zajic, Raymond J. Zampetti, Dr. Herman Zawatsky, Walter F. Zeller, Lou Zimmerman, Leland Zwaanstra, Williams P.

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This question was posed by James E. McInerney, Jr., Maj. Gen. USAF (Ret), representing the American Air Museum at Duxford, England, in explaining the museum's campaign to build a \$10 Million Endowment Fund to guarantee the museum's operation in perpetuity.

ity.
"But now we must build an Endowment
Fund so we will no longer need to depend on
member contributions," said Gen. McInerney.
"Remember, many of our visitors are children,
and they must see first hand that freedom is
not free. Lessons learned here will last a lifetime."

Send your contributions to American Air Museum, PO Box 97055, Washington, DC 20090-7055. Or to American Air Museum, Duxford, Cambs CB2 4OR England.

Team Takes Flak Leave

Back then, they used to call it "Flak Leave." A time to slip away from the stress of flying, flak and fighters. Those three "f's" are no longer with us, but the stress apparently remains. So the very busy team that coordinates the 398th web page (www.398th.org), the group E-mails, FAX's and phones decided to "shut down" last month for a bit of R & R.

But the "team" will be "up and running" beginning in January, 2005 – Wally Blackwell, David Jordan, Lee Anne Bradley, Geoff Rice, Randy Stange, Ozzie Osborn and PX leader Carolyn Widdman.

Come back strong and rested, team!

PX Upgrade Next Time

The "new look" for the revised 398th PX will be completed in time for the April issue of FLAK NEWS, said manager Carolyn Widdman. "We will have some new items along with some of the old," she said. "And it is quite possible that the PX will have a new mailing address. Watch for the next announcement," she said.

Strohschein, Wallace

Struckmeyer, Tom

Prague-Dresden:

Clouds Hid Target

Continued from page 1

the navigation, icing, "S" turns, radio comments, etc. (See various comments by 398th crewmen).

Additional 1st Division photo intelligence report on Prague –

Approximately 60 HE bursts are seen one mile southwest of the center of the city on business/residential areas, with part of the pattern extending to the Eastern edge of the Central marshalling yard. Later a heavy concentration of IB burst is seen in and beyond this area, while a small group of HE bursts is seen in a built-up area two miles Southwest of the center of the city. The three marshalling vards visible at the time of the attack are moderately to heavily loaded. Of the 414 HE bombs dropped, a total of approximately 160 bursts can be seen on cloud and smoke obscured photographs. (Note: a single burst seen on a photograph may well be the result of the explosion of more than one bomb).



An Intelligence Report directed to the American Consulate General in Prague –

Pertinent histories and documents in this Center of the US Eighth Air Force and component units show that on 14 February 1945, aircraft of the 398th and 91st Bombardment Groups of the Eighth's 1st Air Division, through navigational error, bombed Prague, Czechoslovakia, instead of the intended target - Dresden, Germany. Given the location in Prague of the Monastery of Emmaus, depending upon which part of Prague is considered to be its center, and considering the accuracy of the statement in the strike photo interpretation reports that some 80 high explosive bombs were seen bursting east and west of the river two miles south of the city's center (and from the study of the strike photos, in the general vicinity of the monastery), it could have been struck during the attack.

WENDELL SAFERITE

Pilot, 602 Squadron

Over Germany the group formation did a couple of wide "S" turns to avoid flak guns in the line of flight.

Windshield iced up so we had to open the side window in the cockpit in order to fly formation for a short time. The fluid in our compass on top of the instrument panel also froze up for a time – temp was –60 degrees.

By the time we had arrived over the target, we were flying at between 25,000 to 27,000 feet. Even though we did not encounter any fighters, the flak was still there

On our return trip, a request was made over the radio by a member of the group to drop out of formation because he had only ___ gallons of fuel left in his main tanks, ___ gallons in his wing tanks, and ___ gallons in his Tokyo tanks.

Remarks that follow were something like this –

Leader called back that he had only — gallons in main, wing, and To-kyo Tanks, which were less than the requester had. Over the airwaves came the Remark, "Tough s--- colonel" The Colonel replied, "Who said that?" Somebody joined in with the remark: "Who's DAT, who said DAT?" This remark was repeated two or three times, they were told to knock it off.

The group formation flew looser until we got to Brussels, Belgium for an emergency landing to refuel the group. While taxiing on the taxi strip, we were told to pull off and park on the dirt. Upon pulling off, the plane got stuck in the mud, but it could not be pulled out at that time.

Went to the mess tent to get something to eat, and all the English had were some green cheese. So the crew trucked into Brussels to chow down and see the sights. We ended up having a steak (horsemeat) dinner at a small café. We took in the sights for a short time and returned to the field. Took off the next day and returned to Nuthampstead.

After debriefing, went back to the hut and heated the stove poker and burned another mission hold in the wood chair in the hut.

Mission completed.

Memphis Belle To Dayton

The Memphis Belle, unquestionably the most famous of the B-17 Fortresses thanks to its "first to finish 25 missions" label and later the star of the movie of the same name, has been moved from its longtime berth in Memphis, Tennessee to the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio.

It had been "on lease" to the Memphis Belle Association all these years. The Belle's equally famous pilot, Col. Robert Morgan, passed away last year.

The Belle flew with the 91st Bomb Group, partners in the 1st Combat Wing with the 398th and 381st.

A Father's Legacy:

Propeller Blade Stirs A Memory

It has taken the better part of 60 years for Sandra Hansard Springer to learn even a little bit of the father she never

V.A. Hansard was a gifted pilot in the 600th squadron, flying on November 25, 1944 on a mission to Merseburg. He survived the long haul to that infamous Leuna factory target only to crash a few miles from home when his B-17 ran out of gas.

Hansard, whose real name was Vell Ardell, the son of a minister, left a widow and daughter at home in Hedley, Texas.

Her mother's re-marriage, many moves, her own adoption and life's normal ups and downs left little room for dwelling on a name she hardly recognized.

"Sadly, I was almost 18 before I really heard anything about my father," said Sandra. "Most of those who would have known are gone now, so there is so little opportunity for learning about him.

"The story of his plane's propeller blade coming back home is so exciting. It means so much to me."

Opportunities for "fleshing out" pilot Hansard for daughter Sandra could well come from any of those fellow 600 pilots or other crew members who might still be living today. Those pilots who flew with him on the November 25, 1944 mission were Venizelos Pappas, Herb Mann, Howard Riley Ray Amor, Roger Weum, Orrin Tolochko, Tom Johnson, Jim Runnion and Bill Dean.

Two members of Hansard's own crew who are current Association members are Willie Colclough, waist gunner and Ed Briskie, ball turret gunner.

Hansard and his co-pilot Bob Davis, died in the crash. Navigator William Baker, died when his chute didn't open in time when he bailed out at a very low altitude. Six crewmen survived.

Baker's niece, Sandra Averhart, was instrumental in arranging for the propeller blade to be returned to the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum, Savannah.

Sandra Springer's address is Memphis, Texas 79245. Sandra Avahart's address is Fort Meyers, FL 33903.

HOWARD PINNER

Pilot, 603rd Squadron

The mission was up and down all over Germany. The changing of altitude caused us to use more fuel than we would have normally used. The target was covered with clouds. We dropped our bombs. We were impressed by the absence of flak on the bomb run. This was rare. As we were returning to base, our fuel ran low. The gauges on all four engines showed empty. We landed at a P 47 base near St Tron, Belgium about 50 miles from the Allied lines.

Our crew stayed at this base for five days because of bad weather. During this time we saw a part of Brussels and used up all our money. The weather was still bad at our base in England, but after much pleading they granted permission to take off for the 398th.

Three P 47 pilots, who had completed all of their missions, flew back with us. They hoped to get a ride to the States quicker from England than from Belgium. One of the pilots stood rather anxiously between co-pilot Tebbs and me during this flight. It was so foggy over our base that the tower had to talk us down for a landing. Fortunately there were no other planes flying in the area at that time. On the first pass over the field we lined up with the runway. Then we made a rectangle pattern. This time we got the wheels on the runway, but were to far down the runway and had to go around another time. The third time we made a goodlanding. Those three P 47 pilots must have aged a lot during this landing and may have wondered whether they had made a mistake by flying with us. No fighter pilot liked flying with a bomber pilot. This was not unusual for us as we . had made similar landings before.

We did not know that we had bombed the wrong target until we were back at the 398th. We were told that Lt. Col. Ensign, did not like the way the lead navigator was doing on this mission and he took over the job of navigating. Because of this, we bombed the wrong target.

DAVID MILLS

Pilot, 601st Squadron

My notes on Dresden were as follows — Ten hour mission — Bombed approximately 70 miles from Russian lines — Caught heavy accurate flak about ½ hour before I.P.

My bombardier, told me at the time, "we were heading for the wrong target".



The 398th Bomb Group has scored a major "hit" in the new magazine devoted to telling the Bomber stories of World War II.

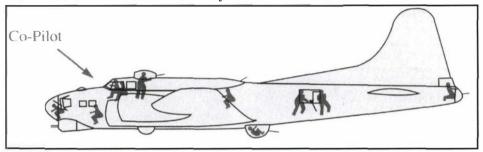
Called BOMBER LEGENDS, Vol. 1 No. 4 contains the 398th "Unit History," gleamed from the group's web site, www.398th.com. It includes many photos and items contributed by historian Lee Anne Bradley, president Wally Blackwell and others. The unit history

398th A Hit In Magazine

is appropriately called, "Hell From Heaven."

The quarterly magazine is available at Barnes & Noble Book Stores, or from Bomber Legends, 1672 Main St., Ramona, CA 92065-5257. Cost is \$6.99.

Also included in the issue is the story of Larry deLancey's incredible return from Cologne with the nose of his plane blown open. It was written by FLAK NEWS editor Allen Ostrom.



THE CO-PILOT

The Fortress, like other American heavy and medium bombers, was designed to carry two pilots. Other countries' air forces considered this a waste of skilled manpower, but the policy was thoroughly proven by the Americans in combat.

The rigors of close formation flying for long periods of time (10 hours to Merseburg) would place tremendous physical and mental strain on a single pilot. And on many occasions when one pilot became a battle casualty the presence of the second pilot saved the crew as well as the aircraft.

Upon the signal from the tower to start engines, the co-pilot would read the checklist, and upon completion he would prime and start each engine. The engines would be warmed up at 1,000 rpm and then each engine would be run up to test magnetos and turbos.

Once in their assigned taxi position, the co-pilot would release the parking brake and roll on to the taxiway. When their time came for take off, the pilot would line up the plane and the co-pilot would lock the tail wheel. At this critical stage the co-pilot had to keep his eyes on the instruments as the pilot advanced the throttles. The co-pilot followed through with the throttle controls, taking them over from the pilot as soon as maximum was reached.

After the take off, the pilot would call for wheels up and the co-pilot actuated the landing gear switch and applied the brakes to stop the wheels from spinning.

Once assembled in the formation the two pilots usually shared flying duties. The pilot at the controls had to have his eyes glued to the lead aircraft, even during flak and fighter attacks.

On the return to base, the co-pilot lowered the gear and flaps for touch down. Upon reaching the dispersal area the co-pilot would verify that all switches were off before leaving the aircraft.

This presentation is part of a living History created by the Arizona Wing of the Commemorative Air Force, Mesa, Arizona. Other similar crew positions will be presented in future issues. Special thanks to the CAF and the Sentimental Journey.

HALS Catalog Available

The Hertfordshire and Local Studies (HALS) facility in England has completed a catalog of all 398th Bomb Group related information that has been placed there in past years. The cache includes official records, personal histories, photos, news clippings, the first 10 years of FLAK NEWS, the book REMEMBRRANCES, and much more.

The catalog information may be found

on the 398th web site – 398th.org – under Home Page/Find Research section, then Research Sources for 398th History/398th Preservation Project for HALS, Catalog for 398th Material.

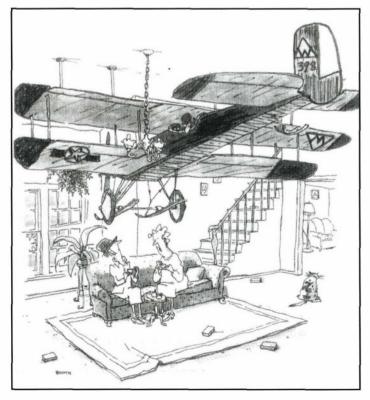
This will only produce the "catalog" of available information. At this time a visit to the HALS facility in Hertford, England is necessary to view the material.

BRIEF-things

Malcolm Osborn initiated a moving service last October 15 year when he and others from the Nuthampstead area floated a wreath in the Anstey moat in honor of the 603 lead crew that perished there on a mission takeoff; the names of all on board were read - Charles Khourie, Bill Meyran, Bill Vanderlick, John Baker, Carlton Moore, Bill Tull, George Barton, Charles Kennedy, Victor Petrauskas and Melvin Brown... congratulations are in order to the 457th Bomb Group, whose members dedicated a beautiful memorial last year near their old base at Glatton; it bears a striking resemblance to the 398th memorial, dedicated some 22 years earlier. . . our Friends at Nuthampstead lost one of their beloved last year in the passing of Eileen Webb; her father was the game keeper for Baron Dimsdale, owner of most of the land surrounding Station 131. .. the new director at Duxford Imperial War Museum is Richard Ashton, who also will be the executive vice president of the American Air Museum, prime Duxford gathering point for 398th tour members (2006?)... good 'ol Ralph Hall has been grounded for health reasons, but not so grounded that he couldn't earn his local Shrine Club's highest award for "above and beyond" service... one of the many new additions to the 2004 Taps list is Guy Quick, 601 co-pilot for Russ Morrison; Guy may be remembered for volunteering to fly a second tour as first pilot. . . for the umpteenth time, lifetime member Joe Roberge sent in a \$100 donation for FLAK NEWS, and newcomer Kenny Carlson sent in a like amount in memory of a loved one on the ill-fated **Doerr** crew. . . your local school or library is a good bet to accept veterans' personal diaries, records and photos... the 398th membership roster will receive a major boost after Dorothy Ahl finishes signing up her seven brothers and sisters, all products of Phil and Marge Stahlman (and she also made a special contribution in honor of her father, the 601 pilot). . . an editing "boot" in the October FLAK NEWS had pilots Robert Gieryn, Herb Miller and Neil McLean on the "missing" list so we are pleased to report all three are "alive and well"... and who can top the "first pilot" age of 89 reached last year by Ike Alhadeff of the 600th? . . . there was a monumental increase in roster changes this past quarter and as usual only a few "movers" bothered to advise FLAK NEWS, allowing the PO to charge for the service. . . the Air Force AIRMAN magazine containing the story of the 398th tour to Normandy and England last year is still available; send \$2.00 for mailing to FLAK NEWS... one of our German friends, Alfred Wilms, was a Nuthampstead visitor during the 2002 398th England Tour, and he writes, "to see the Anstey window, to have a beer at the Woodman, to feel the friendship of the citizens, meant more than a thousand words". . . and speaking of "friendship," the editor should not forget to thank those many readers who mailed in Christmas cards and notes of appreciation. . . the number "27" was big in Bill Costanzo's life; his obit from last year read "27" missions with the 601st, "27" in Korea, and "27" being the number of different aircraft he commanded in his 20-year AF career. . . and speaking of numbers, 2005 marks the 20th year the editor has been turning out FLAK NEWS (where have the years gone?)... There are many special events connected with Pilsen's Liberation Day ceremonies, but the one that really turns everyone on is the reenactment of the American ground troops racing up the tower stairs of St. Bartholemew's Church to silence the holdout German snipers... Americans (including the 398th airmen) are very special guests during this period in early May. . . at least one "Last Mission" pilot has signed on for the tour, Dean Hill of the 600th; he's from Bountiful, Utah, and he will discover a "bountiful" welcome in Pilsen. . . the new "Fortresses" book now available not only contains the 1944-45 historical records, but also some photos of 398th contributions to the Mighty Eighth Museum... also the original photo of the B-17 that ultimately became the logo for FLAK NEWS.

398th BOMB GROUP MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT January 2004 – December 2004

Income:	
Flak News Donations	\$2,695
Membership Dues	5,560
P.X. Sales	5,656
Reunion Profit	5,164
Timeless Voices	-1,330
Miscellaneous Income	8
Total Income	\$17,753
Expenses:	
Flak News Publication	\$12,083
P.X. Restocking	1,975
Postage and Delivery	419
Printing and Reproduction	1,250
Reunion Expenses	276
CD manufacture	42
Telephone	514
Web Site	108
Gifts	344
Total Expenses	\$17,011
Net Income	\$742
Assets	
A.G. Edwards Account	\$21,962
Fed Credit Union - Savings	\$1,852
Fed Credit Union - Check	\$10,314
Total	\$34,128
Nuthampatand Manument Fund	
Nuthampstead Monument Fund Portfolio Value as of Dec 2004	\$104,155
(includes the above \$21,962)	, , , , , , ,
Interest Income 2004	\$7,898
Mom. Maintenance paid to March 2005	, ,
•	



"Wally is very serious about his job."