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

VOL. 20 NO. 2

FLAK NEWS

April 2005

“Rocket Assist Resurrection”:

HOLUB GETS HIS MEDAL

Richard Holub did something in 1945 that no one else had done. He took a 398th B-17 that was mired in a barley field near Station 131 and flew it out.

With 12 5 inch rockets under the wings, no less.

And for that epic performance he deserved a medal, no less.

And indeed he did get it, a Legion of Merit, no less. Only to see it snatched from him in what has to be a colossal case of a post-war citation “falling through the cracks.”

It happened a lot in “those days,” which more than a few would-be medal recipients would agree.

The Legion of Merit is the highest award available for non-combat achievement. One better than the Distinguished Flying Cross, which was sought for Holub by FLAK NEWS following the presentation of the story three years ago.

Forgotten all these years, the “Rocket Assist” story brought to light the amazing effort put forth by Holub in conceiving the rocket possibility, the selling of the idea, the procuring of the required rockets, the testing of the system, and finally flying the B-17 out of its mired location (and saving the government the cost of a near new B-17). See FLAK NEWS July 2002.

The process of seeking a medal for Holub began with Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper. The documentation drifted to the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis and on to the military records office in San Antonio (and



THE LEGION OF MERIT

probably a few offices in between).

A form finally came back saying politely that “Captain Holub did not receive the DFC. He received the Legion of Merit for his meritorious conduct as a test pilot in 1945.”

Holub, who had gone on to an illustrious career in the Air Force, retiring after 30 years, was shocked at hearing the latest version of the Legion of Merit award.

“Sure, I remember the medal. I got it in 1952, delivered by some guy at the Pentagon, where I was assigned at the time. But some days later they told me the whole thing had been rescinded. I gave it back to them and proceeded to forget it.”

Unaware of the “rescinded” award,

All Aboard For Reunion In Kansas

September 7-8-9-10, 2005

The 398th Bomb Group Reunion – the 22nd consecutive meeting since “going it alone” in 1984 – is scheduled for September 7-10, 2005 in Overland Park, Kansas (suburb of Kansas City KS and Kansas City, MO).

According to the calendar, that’s still some five months down the road. But be not fooled; it will arrive all too soon. And to help our members to get into the “reunion mood,” the Registration form and Tour information contain all that’s needed to make preparation.

See Pages 2 and 3 for “all the news.”

Meanwhile, members are free to do all the “remembering” and “recalling” they desire in looking back on the previous reunions beginning in Rapid City, ND in 1984. Since that “inaugural” meeting held outside the auspices of the 8th Air Force Historical Society the group has “held fourth” in no less than 21 different cities.

Retreating further, the 398th did meet for the first time in Dayton, OH (8AFHS) in 1976, at which time they elected Bill Comstock as president, a position he held for 20 years until his passing in 1996. Wally Blackwell has held the title since then.

The meeting in Overland Park, KS will mark the fifth consecutive year that Sharon Krause will have functioned as

Reunion Chair. And speaking of

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THE OVERLAND PARK REUNION

September 7-8-9-10, 2005

Reunion Facts

REUNION CHAIR – Sharon Krause, Plymouth, MI, 48170-2870.

HEADQUARTERS HOTEL – Overland Park (KS) Marriott Hotel, 10800 Metcalf Avenue, Overland Park, Kansas, 66210. Telephone – (913) 451-8000. Situated in a business community at I-435, the main thoroughfare around Kansas City. Special 398th Bomb Group \$84 per day. Plus current applicable taxes. Free parking.

RESERVATIONS – Reserve your Marriott Hotel room by calling toll free – 1-800-228-9290. Indicate “398th” room rate. Reservations may also be made through the group’s web page – 398th.org – click on “Hyper Link. No “mail-in” forms will be used.

REGISTRATIONS – Use the Official Registration Form (or a copy) on Page 3. Fill in completely, recording the cost of each special event, tour and banquet. Tabulate the Total Cost at the bottom. Be sure to include the appropriate Registration fee and 2005 dues (if applicable). Send the Form and covering check to Sharon Krause. She will return a copy of the Form, indicating receipt of your funds.

TOURS – All tours during the reunion will be conducted by Blue Ribbon Tours, 5200 W. 94th Terrace #109, Prairie Village, Kansas. Telephone (800) 490-8687. Norma J. Cordes, Manager. Tickets will be collected by the driver or guide upon entering the coaches.

BANQUETS – The Welcome and Farewell Banquets will be held at the Marriott Hotel ballrooms on Thursday, September 8, and Saturday, September 10, respectively. Make table reservations when picking up your Registration Packet in the Memory Room. Tour tickets also will be in the Reservation Packets.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From KC Airport – Take I-29 South to I-635 South to I-35 South. U.S. Highway 69 South to I-435 East. Exit U.S. Highway 169 (Metcalf Ave./Exit #79). Hotel is located on the right.

From The North – Take I-35 South to I-435 South to 435 West. Exit U.S. Highway 169 (Metcalf Ave./Exit #79). Turn left onto Metcalf Avenue. The hotel is located on the right. Or I-29 South to I-435 South to I-435 East. Exit U.S. Highway 169 (Metcalf Ave./Exit #79). Turn right onto Metcalf Ave. The hotel is located on the right.

From The South – 71 Highway to I-435 West. Exit U.S. Highway 169 (Metcalf Ave./ Exit #79). Turn right onto Metcalf Avenue. The hotel is on the right. Or I-35 North to I-435 East. Exit U.S. Highway 169 (Metcalf Ave./Exit #79). Turn right onto Metcalf Ave. The hotel is located on the right.

From The East – I-70 West to I-435 South to I-435 West. Exit U.S. Highway 169 (Metcalf Ave./Exit #79). Turn left onto Metcalf Ave. The hotel is under the bridge on the right.

From The West – I-70 East to I-435 South to I-435 East. Exit U.S. Highway 169 (Metcalf Ave./Exit #79). Turn right onto Metcalf Ave. The hotel is located on the right.

Reunion Tours

Wednesday, September 7 – 5:30 – 10 PM, via Coach – NEW THEATER RESTAURANT –

A gala “opening night” for the 398th Reunion! It will feature a coach ride to suburban Overland Park and the New Theater Restaurant, one of the elite dinner/theater operations in the United States. The production will be “*Good Night Gracie*” in the theater’s 600-seat venue . . . and not a bad seat in the house. That will come following a buffet dinner featuring full tables of beef, fowl, seafood and “the whole nine yards.” A very special night!

Note: Because of the theater’s early reservation deadline, the 398th must commit to numbers by July 15. It will be “first come, first served” for tickets.

Thursday, September 8 – 11am – 3pm Via Coach – HALLMARK CENTER & COUNTRY CLUB PLAZA –

This one is especially for the ladies while the men are conducting their annual business meeting at the hotel (2-4PM). The four-hour coach tour will include the Hallmark Visitors Center in Kansas City, where they turn out 11 million greeting cards every day. See how they do it, and how they create birthday greetings in a dozen languages. Afterwards, a tour of Kansas City’s famous Country Club Plaza to check out the upscale shops, boutiques, etc. in the outdoor setting. Including time for lunch (on your own) in one of the many restaurants. The tour will also include a brief stop at the magnificent Rose Garden.

Friday, September 9 – 9:30 AM – 3 PM, via coach – KANSAS CITY HIGHLIGHTS TOUR (including lunch and the Steamboat Arabia Museum).

If you want to be “up to date in Kansas City,” then this tour fits the bill. See Kansas City (MO) at its finest, including the modern downtown, the squares, the skyscrapers, the boulevards and, for a spectacular view, a stop at the Lewis & Clark Point for a vista of the Missouri and Kansas Rivers. And there’s much more, including a stop at the Steamboat Arabia Museum, featuring relics from the sinking (and raising) of the pre-Civil War paddle wheeler, *Arabia*. Amazing stuff. And if you enjoy eating, a stop at Ryan’s Family Restaurant for a bountiful buffet. And more – a tour of Ward Parkway – featuring homes and estates of the city’s most prominent citizens.

Saturday, September 10 – 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM, via coach – A DAY WITH THE PRESIDENT (Including lunch) –

This will be a five-hour coach tour to the nearby city of Independence, MO, home of President Truman, his Library and Museum. The newly renovated library features many exhibits from the Truman presidential years including some of the restored personal cars of the late president. Lunch will be at Stephenson’s Apple Farm Restaurant, noted for their smoked meats and fresh apple delights.

NOTE: See the Official Registration Form on Page 3 for Tour and other Reunion costs.

www.398th.org

OFFICIAL REGISTRATION FORM

398th Bomb Group Memorial Association 22nd Annual Reunion
Overland Park, Kansas September 7-8-9-10, 2005

PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THEN JULY 31, 2005

NAME _____ WIFE _____ SQD. _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE (_____) _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP+4 _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

NAMES OF OTHERS IN PARTY, PLEASE PRINT FOR NAME TAGS.

Wednesday September 7 –

Registration	9 AM to 4 PM	Memory Room		
New Theater Restaurant	5:30 PM	Via Coach	\$67.00 x _____	\$ _____

Thursday, September 8 –

Registration	8:30 AM to 4 PM	Memory Room		
Board Officers Meeting	9 AM to 12 Noon	Quail Creek I		
Hallmark Visitors Center	11 AM to 3 PM	Via Coach	\$32.00 x _____	\$ _____
GROUP BUSINESS MEETING	2 PM to 4 PM	Ballroom		
No Host Bar	6-7 PM	Ballroom		
Welcome Banquet	7:00 PM	Ballroom	\$35.00 x _____	\$ _____

(Table Reservation Required)

Friday, September 9 –

Registration	8:30 AM to 4 PM	Memory Room		
Kansas City Highlights Tour	9:30 AM to 3 PM	Via Coach	\$51.00 x _____	\$ _____

Including Steamboat Arabia Museum

Saturday, September 10 –

Registration	8:30 AM to 12 Noon	Memory Room		
A Day With The President Tour	9:30 AM to 2:30 PM	Via Coach	\$52.00 x _____	\$ _____
No Host Bar	6-7:00 PM	Ballroom		
Farewell Banquet	7:00 PM	Ballroom	\$39.00 x _____	\$ _____

(Table Reservation Required)

Registration Fee (per person, 2 maximum per family)	\$10.00 x _____	\$ _____
2005 Dues (if applicable)	\$20.00 x _____	\$ _____

TOTAL _____ \$ _____

I/We will be staying at the Marriott Hotel Other _____

Please complete form, enclose check, and mail to:

Sharon Krause
Plymouth, MI 48170-2870

Received \$ _____ Date _____

Sharon Krause

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

Kansas Awaits The 398th

Continued from page 1

Sharon, other second generation “kids” on the Board include Marilyn Gibb-Rice, treasurer; Lee Anne Bradley, historian/data coordinator; Dave Jordan, web master (398^{th.org}) and Carolyn Widmann, “PX-The Second Generation” manager (See Page 11).

Krause also functions as Unit Contact and E-mail manager.

Past reunion chairmen include Dale Brown ('86), Dallas Ebest ('87), *Bob Wiggins ('88), *Bob Hart ('89), *Morris Swed ('90), Bob Hopkins ('91), Dewey Cook ('92), Larry Paul ('93), Clyde Sebastian ('94), Harold Stallcup ('95), *Gerald Monagin ('96), Lou Stoffer ('97), Tom Bewley ('98), Dick Frazier ('99), and Marilyn Gibb-Rice ('00). The (*) indicates deceased.

Blackwell has been asked by other groups to explain how the 398th continues to hold successful reunions (while some groups are disbanding). For instance, the Falls Church, VA reunion last year attracted 363 members, friends, associates, second and third generation attendees.

Capsulized, his comments boiled down to –

“Good location, good hotel, good tours, good food, good fellowship.”

In September, the “good” location is mid-America Kansas; the good hotel is the Overland Park Marriott; the good tours will be conducted by professional Norma Cordes of Blue Ribbon Tours; the good food guaranteed by Marriott’s Vanesa Masucci and the good fellowship by ourselves.

Members are urged to send in their Registration Forms by July 31. And even before that if they wish to be assured of tickets for the September 7 “New Theater Restaurant”. (See Tour information on Page 2).

CZECH TOUR CANCELLED

The proposed 398th Bomb Group tour in May to the Czech Republic, Achenkirch and Munich has been cancelled, it was announced by tour leader Allen Ostrom and consultant Barbara Fish.

“We had planned for 20 participants,” said Barbara. “But when the sign-on list dropped to 12 because of last minute health issues and other circumstances we had no choice but to cancel.”

“We are sorry to disappoint those who were primed and ready,” said Ostrom, who has led 14 tours back to the Station 131 and the continent since 1986. Including the 50th anniversary “Liberation of Pilsen” in 1995 that included a 398th remembrance of The Last Mission.

“At this point I would urge those who might wish to look ahead to “England 2006” to indicate their interest by contacting Barbara at 1-800-423-5454 or E-mail barbf@cascadelink.com.

“Next year will be here all too soon,” he warned.

Will 2006 Become “One More Peek?”

The tours back to England have been known by a number of titles, such as “One Last Look” for the 2004 visit. It had been 60 years since that first arrival in 1944 and the odds looked pretty good with the “One Last Look” feature.

Before then, we had “Lest We Forget,” “Bomb Run Tour,” and lesser identities featuring The Wash, The London Eye, House of Lords, Macclesfield, Penn, Merseburg, The Bulge, Normandy, Scotland, etc.

Now comes the possibility that some folks may want to look ahead to 2006, prompting travel consultant Barbara Fish to say –

“I am retired, but I will be happy to un-retire if the 398th wants to go again” “One More Peek” next year?

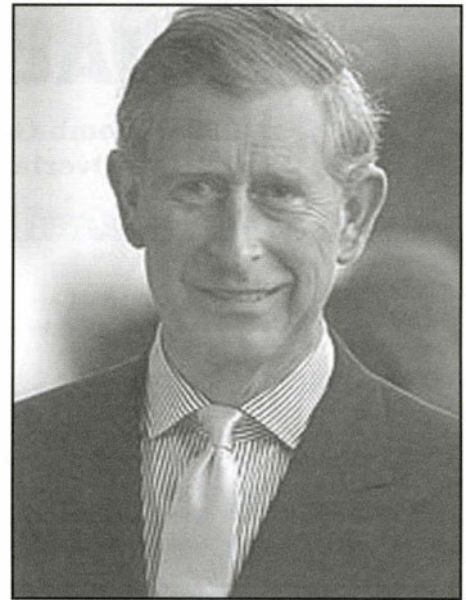


THE HOUSE OF LORDS

10 April, 1995

“We look forward to the visit of your 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association in June of next year, 1996. You will be given a grand tour around the Palace of Westminster, including the House of Lords. There will also be a reception at the Terrace Restaurant on the Thames.”
VICOUNT RICHARD LONG CBE
House of Lords
Lord-in-waiting to The Queen

www.398th.org



HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
The Prince of Wales

11 March, 1986

“Having been informed of your visit to this country and your return to the base at Nuthampstead, I wanted to send you all a message of welcome.

“It is always good to see old friends from across the Atlantic and I do hope that you will rediscover acquaintances and friends that you knew 40 years ago.

“I also hope that you will enjoy every moment of your stay in this country. I am sure you will receive the warmest hospitality.”

CHARLES



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

9 October, 2000

“I am commanded by The Queen to thank you for your letter and for sending Her Majesty the audio tape called, “Grandmother’s Wish” by Mr. Don Gaddo concerning his feelings about his first visit to England in the company of World War II airmen.

“The Queen was most interested to hear from you and to know that Mr. Gaddo’s grandmother was born in England. Her Majesty thought it was kind of you to write at this time and I am to thank you again.”

Yours sincerely,
KATHRYN INGDALE
Lady-in-Waiting

The Royal Family And The 398th



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

5 October, 2004

"Thank you for your letter of 24 September, 2004, in which you asked if The Duke of York might join you in the summer of 2006 for a 398th Bomb Group Association reunion event.

"His Royal Highness much appreciated your invitation, and it will be submitted at the diary planning in October, 2005, when the diary for the subsequent four/six months will be considered.

"Either the Private Secretary, the Assistant Private Secretary, the Equerry or I shall be in touch again thereafter."

Yours sincerely,
AMANDA THIRSK
Office Manager to The Duke of York



ST JAMES PALACE

6 February, 1990

"Thank you for your letter of 29 January, 1990 in which you asked whether The Prince of Wales would be able to attend your Service of Remembrance in Penn on 1 July, 1990.

"His Royal Highness has carefully considered the invitation but has concluded that he is unable to accept it as his diary for the first 10 months of this year has been finalised and his programme is now fully committed on that date.

"I am sorry to send such a disappointing reply but His Royal Highness much appreciated your kind thought in asking him."

Yours sincerely,
DAVID WRIGHT
The Deputy Private Secretary to H.R.H. The Prince of Wales



**HER ROYAL HIGHNESS
Queen Elizabeth II**

The 398th Bomb Group has not been shy in corresponding with England's Royal Family. And in turn, they have been most gracious in answering the Association's letters and requests.

Dating back almost 20 years, The Queen and other family members have responded most kindly to queries from "across the pond."

Reprints of these letters, dating back to 1986 when the 398th began "returning to the old base," are printed in this issue of FLAK NEWS.

"The 398th is proud of this relationship," said president Wally Blackwell. "And at the same time, humble that The Queen, her staff and family would take the time to encourage us in this manner."



KENSINGTON PALACE

20 November, 1988

"Thank you very much for your letter concerning the unveiling of the new stained glass window at St. George's Church At Anstey.

"The Duke of Gloucester has asked me to thank you for this very kind invitation and to say that he is happy to accept for Sunday, 11th June, 2000.

"Thank you so much again and I look forward to hearing from you in due course."

Yours Sincerely,
MAJOR NICHOLAS BARNE LVO
Kensington Palace



BALMORAL CASTLE

5 August, 2003

"The Queen wishes me to write and thank you for your letter and the enclosed copies of "Flak News", the newsletter of the 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association.

"Her Majesty was interested to know that Sir Roger duBoulay has had a long connection with the 398th, and was interested to read the article he wrote in the July, 2003 issue of "Flak News."

"I am to thank you very much for kind thought in writing."

Yours sincerely,
SUSAN HUSSEY
Lady-in-Waiting



KENSINGTON PALACE

"The United States Air Force invited some very ordinary men to do some very extraordinary things, not just once, but time and again. And they indeed were not invited to count the cost.

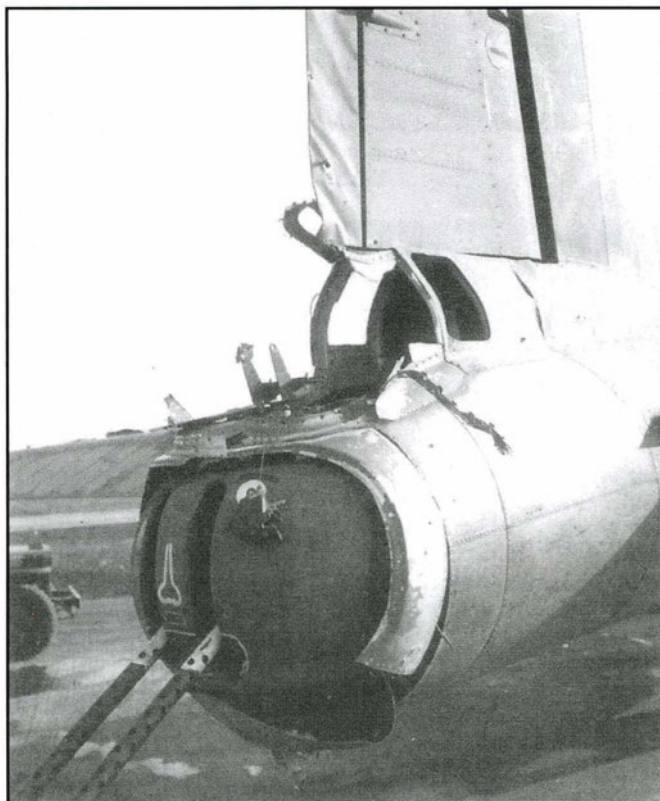
"I think it was very appropriate that the Friends of your 398th Bomb Group should wish to record your contribution to the victory in 1945 by creating this wonderful stained glass window in this church which itself witnessed so closely the path that you flew.

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

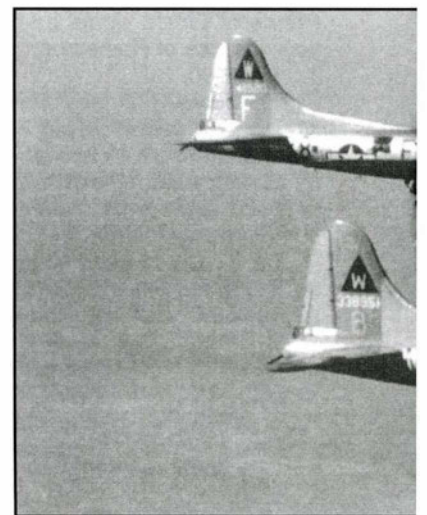
"I hope that all who see it will ponder its significance."

THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER
11 June, 2000

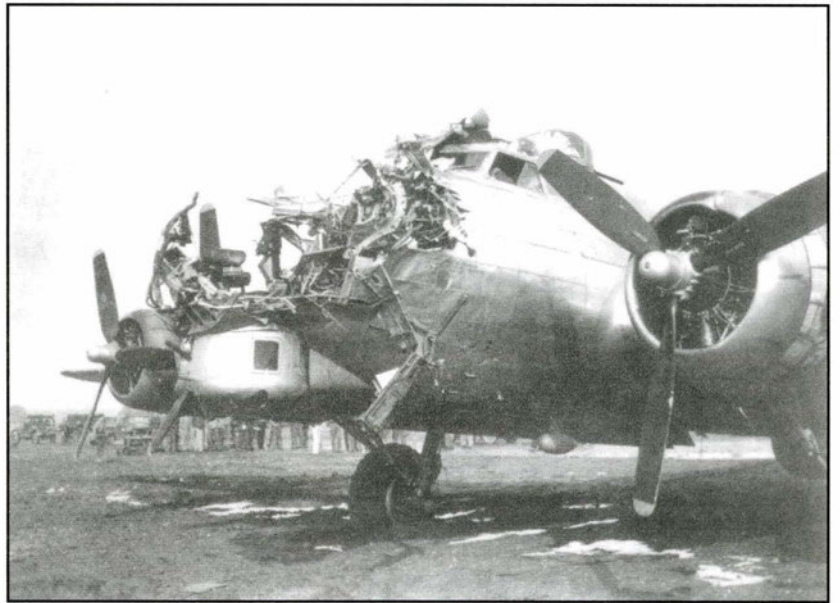
Enjoying The Beauty



Lest the future generations of
Fortresses – like the Aluminum
there was only beauty and nos
aircraft, let them also rememb
These pages not only display
but also the cost in achieving



Counting The Cost

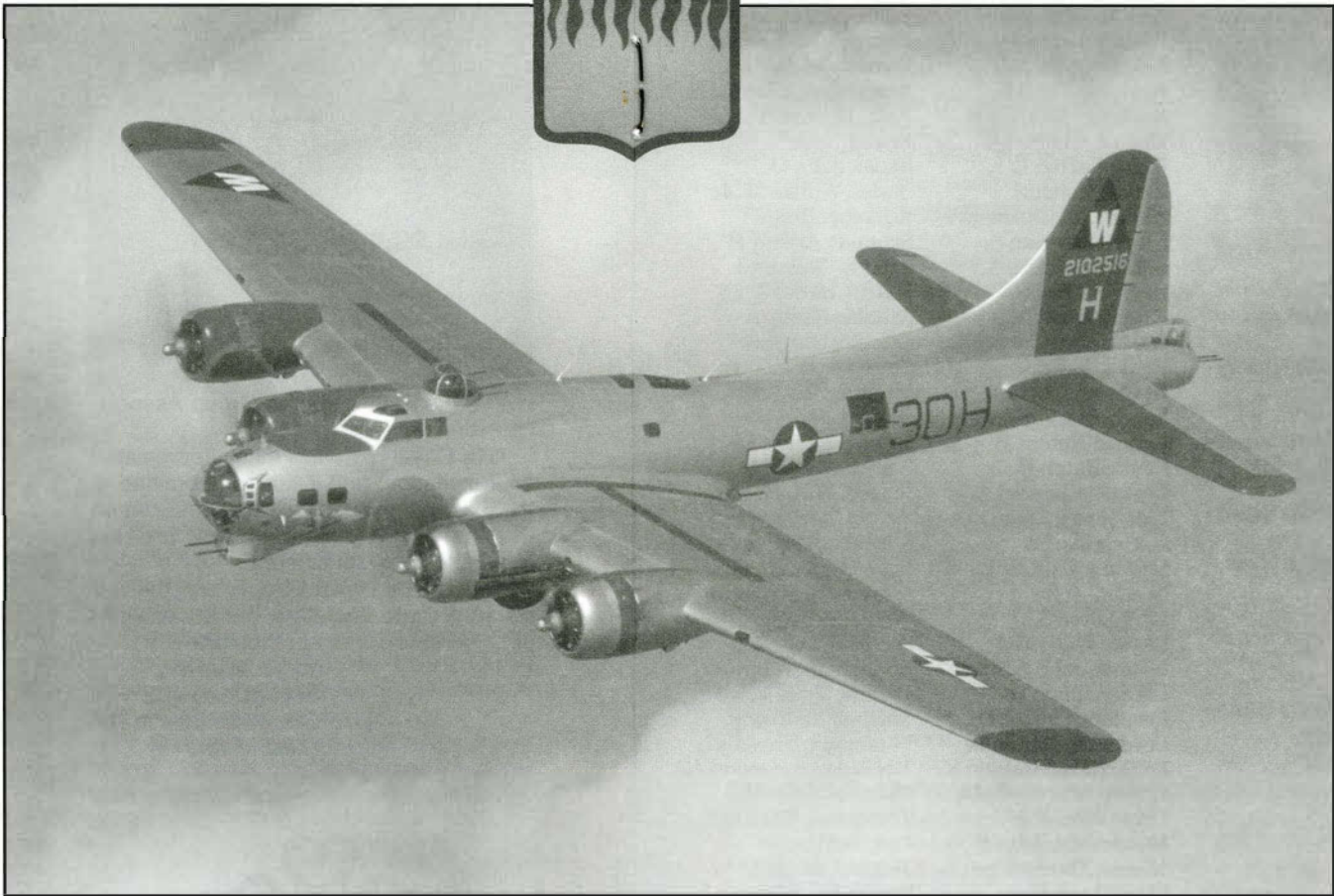
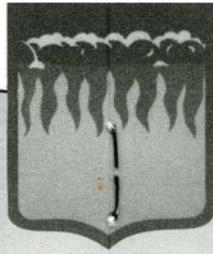


s who view the still-flying B-17
num Overcast – come to believe
nostalgia associated with this great
mber the B-17 was a “war” plane.
lay the elegance of the Fortress
ng this historical aura.



Beauty

Counting



Lest the future generations who view the still-flying B-17 Fortresses – like the Aluminum Overcast – come to believe there was only beauty and nostalgia associated with this great aircraft, let them also remember the B-17 was a “war” plane. These pages not only display the elegance of the Fortress but also the cost in achieving this historical aura.



The Price of War

Aaron, Floyd
Abbott, George E.
Aleksyn, Albert J.
Anataillia, Gerard C.
Anderson, Vernon
Andrews, Joe T.
Argubright, Darrell
Arnold, Charles
Atkinson, Brooks
Ault, James J. Jr.
Ayres, Howard F.
Bagley, Charles P.
Bait, John C., Jr.
Baker, John M.
Baker, John P.
Baker, William H.
Barton, George E.
Barzano, Joseph G.
Bayless, Leroy K.
Beatovich, William J.
Beatty, James A.
Beatty, Hubert F.
Bergant, Joe
Bergen, Norman E.
Beyer, Nelson R.
Bisping, Harold A.
Borden, Charles A.
Bowles, Thomas C.
Boyd, Harvey J.
Brennan, Michael J.
Brangle, Ray D.
Brodin, Unite L.
Brown, Loren C.
Brown, Melvin P.
Brusseau, Phil
Bryan, Clifford Z.
Bryan, William M.
Buddes, Anthony
Bueffel, Alfred
Bunning, Paul
Burns, John D.
Burns, Wilbert Y.
Butters, William
Byrne, Felix
Campbell, Robert G.
Campbell, William
Carlisle, Albert S. Jr.
Carado, Peter D.
Chandler, James E.
Christensen, Donald R.
Christensen, Donald
Clark, Marvin
Clark, Thomas A.
Clifton, Clinton B.
Cline, Glen H.
Clinesmith, Gene F.
Cohn, Melvin
Colbert, Donald
Cole, Fred
Coleman, Lamar Q.
Colgan, Robert H.
Comer, Roger D.
Cone, Frederick B.
Connolly, Harry J.
Coulson, James B.
Cranston, Lyman N., Jr.
Cropp, Charles E.
Crowe, George R.
Daly, Francis A.
Davidson, Gordon F.
Davis, Robert L.
DeCleene, Donald J.
DeLafayette, Stanley

Deuel, Merritt A.
Dion, Albert L.
Doerr, Lyle J.
Doglio, Joseph D.
Doyle, Paul E.
Dudley, Robert W.
Earle, Hazen V.
Edington, Stephen L.
Ellis, Richard F.
Engeman, Ernest F.
Englehardt, William H.
Erickson, Roger J.
Evin, Milton C.
Farren, Gerald F.
Faurot, Doyt W.
Feathers, George A.
Feinstein, William
Feldman, Howard V.
FERENCE, Henry
Ferguson, Allen H.
Fields, James S.
Flores, David V.
Fontana, Louis
Foster, Thomas K.
Fox, Thomas H.
Franzone, Augustine S.
Frisbie, Victor
Fuller, Virgil
Furrow, John E., Jr.
Gaiser, Joseph R.
Galletto, Carlo
Gamba, Eugene
Garcia, Reynaldo
Garner, William F.
Garrett, Thomas D.
Garry, Frank E., Jr.
Gaynor, Robert
Glancy, Ralph
Gnesin, Harold M.
Goesel, Edward B.
Gonser, Billy G.
Gooden, Marvin L.
Goodman, Richard S.
Gray, Frank
Gray, Judson
Groncki, Gregory G.
Gruette, Gerald O.
Gurba, Elmer G.
Gustafson, John V.
Haberman, Louis
Halbert, John
Halter, Ralph L.
Hamilton, Marion B.
Hansard, V.A. Jr.
Harper, Clarence H.
Hart, Earl
Harrison, Leonard D.
Harrod, Franklin D.
Hastings, Kenneth S.
Hawkins, Dallas A.
Helbig, Herbert A.
Hess, Ralph C.
Heustess, Joe
Hochadel, James F.
Hoffman, William H.
Honaker, James R. Jr.
Hopp, Raymond C.
Howell, Charles
Hunter, Frank P. Jr.
Laconis, Frank
Ingram, John W.
James, Earl C.
Jenkins, Robert W.

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*Two Hundred,
Two Hundred Ninety Two*

BY TONY WESTON
Nuthampstead, England

Let us take them all in to the room of our hearts,
Let us tear down the blackout
And let in the sun
Two hundred, two hundred and ninety two

Let us take them all in to the room of our hearts,
These gum-chewing, wise-cracking, jitterbug-boys,
Let the dancing begin
Two hundred, two hundred and ninety two

Soon Time, that considers us less than the grass
Or the parachute down of poplar trees, will take
The last survivor apart
Two hundred, two hundred and ninety two

It isn't their money, their style, their looks,
But their hopes and dreams and their gifted lives
We gladly seized and sadly took
Two hundred, two hundred and ninety two
A pillar of smoke, a pillar of fire, a Hell
From Heaven, a turning for home, wind
Icing through and the spluttering roar
Two hundred, two hundred and ninety two

The blood round island of glass on the floor:
Oh, show me their faces, sing me their names
Write them in flames,
Two hundred, two hundred and ninety two

How much did it cost them, how much was it worth,
This damp little, damm little jewel of green
Pushing up under the starboard wing?
Two hundred, two hundred and ninety two

The ploughing thud of the landing gear,
The engines cut and, those who can,
Come back to an earth where small birds sing.
Two hundred, two hundred and ninety two

Let us take them all in to the room of our hearts,
These unsung young men,
Two hundred, two hundred and ninety two
May we never need their like again.

They Paid It All

Johnson, Clib L.
Johnson, Roy
Jones, Donald J.
Jones, William G.
Kasch, Wallace E.
Kelly, Thomas D.
Kempner, Saul J.
Kennedy, Cecil E.
Kennedy, Charles R.
Khouri, Charles L.
King, Warren L.
Kiska, Joseph J.
Klawinski, Casimer P.
Klein, Sherman S.
Kline, Theodore A.
Knight, Albert W.
Kravif, Harry
Kressenberg, John K.
Kruse, Walter J.
Kucharski, LeRoy
Leach, Marvin F.
Lehner, Robert W.
Lentz, Ralph H. Jr.
Lescale, Clement A.
L'Estrange, Thomas A. Jr.
Lents, Charles
Lewandowski, William J.
Leydon, John
Liby, Loren S.
Logan, William G.
Loomis, John A. Jr.
Love, William H.
Lovelace, Curtis, D.
Loveland, Clinton L.
Lovingfoss, Norman K.
Luckie, Marvin Y. Jr.
Luna, James E.
MacArthur, John S.
Manos, Thomas
Mayfield, Robert
McAfee, James W.
McCain, Paul
McCorkindale, Donald J.
McLean, Charles B.
Meyran, William C.
Miller, Walter E.
Mitchell, James R.
Mizerski, Edward J.
Moore, Carlton C. Jr.
Morales, Uvaldo G.
Mullendore, Edward L.
Munroe, George C. Jr.
Nachtwey, Paul A.
Newman, Herbert H.
O'Neal, Ira L.
Osteen, Richard T.
Ostrow, Harry
Paget, Peter L.
Papajohn, George C.
Parr, Leo R., Jr.
Passmore, Milton
Paxton, Max W.
Pennell, Earnest L.
Petrauskas, Victor C.
Perry, Anthony J.
Phelps, Bruce E.
Pison, Milford
Plantz, Kenneth J.
Powell, Perry E.
Pozder, Thomas S.
Price, Joseph M.
Pritchard, Elvin R.
Register, Virgil

Rich, Paul H., Jr.
Rimmer, Richard
Roby, George T.
Rogers, Howard
Rolfé, Benjamin G.
Romano, Michael A.
Rose, John D.
Rosenblum, Charles N.
Roth, Burton H.
Rouch, Jack E.
Sauer, John D.
Scales, William J., Jr.
Schaupp, Dale J.
Schmidt, Arthur P.
Schultz, Murray J.
Searl, Charles J.
Seltzer, Phillip A.
Schafer, Harry
Shumate, William
Simons, Charles L.
Slade, Lewis G.
Snyder, Leonard W.
Somers, James H.
Stegell, William R.E.
Stein, Charles H.
Stewart, Robert A.
Stizzo, Sidor P.
Stravinski, Maynard
Stritch, Joseph F.
Stuart Robert R.
Sudborough, Gordon
Teague, Gilles L.
Thomas Andrew R.
Thompson, Thomas L.
Thornton, Raymond A.
Tichenor, Felix H.
Trantham, Richard S.
Tull, William S.
Tuttle, Francis E.
Vanderlick, William J.
Van Luven, George N.
Voehringer, Paul W.
Volkay, Arnold M.
Wade, Warren J.
Wadleigh, Thomas D.
Wagner, Charles F.
Walker, Charles
Walker, John P.
Walker, Samuel T., Jr.
Wallace, Edwin M.
Wallace, Raymond A.
Walsh, Lee C.
Warkentin, R. C.
Weibel, John G.
Wells, William E.
West, Theodore
Weum, Roger J.
White, Goodrich C., Jr.
White, Rufus
Wickens, Bill
Willis, Luther
Wilson, George E., Jr.
Wilson, Orville M.
Wilson, William H.
Wilson, William J.
Windeler, Frederick C.
Withrow, Jack B.
Woltman, Ray R.
Woodward, Marlin
Young, Byron O.
Zasa, John L.
Zook, Urie H.

A Commentary On Berryhill

BY MALCOLM OSBORN
Cambridge, England

I had the wonderful pleasure of spending several days in the company of Col. Earl Berryhill in 1976. He was among those very few who had returned to the old base 30-something years after the end of WW II.

At first, I found the man somewhat uptight in his bearings and attitudes (perhaps like many airmen did in those days). However, after three days of persuasion he thawed completely and he bent over backwards to help me and even provided masses of documentation in the form of two large cardboard boxes, delivered later to my home.

I admit that he "chafed a bit" until they were all returned, but otherwise he was of great help.

I learned that Col. Earl J. Berryhill knew that he would never win a popularity contest with the 398th, either back in the states or at Station 131.

He was there to carry out a tough assignment – take the weight of all the ground responsibilities and leave Col. Frank P. Hunter, Jr. free to concentrate on getting the combat missions organized.

He was indeed a true "SOB" when required, he admitted to me. He explained this by talking about you men who were "citizen soldiers" – there to fly and fight, hopefully survive, and return home.

They indulged in many pranks, he recalled –

Let off signal flares in the dispersed living areas; raided the coal stores; hid young women in the tents and huts; and let off steam in so many other ways. However, he remembered, there was a war to be attended to and he had to keep as much discipline on base as possible.

The fact that he was so disliked by so many really proves just how well he succeeded in that sometimes onerous task set for him by Colonel Hunter. The veterans have always confirmed their dislike for him, describing him as a "cold fish."

However, he was quite approachable in 1976 he really let his hair down and talked to just about everybody. (I admit his "loosening up" might have been attributed to a few pints of bitter at the Woodman).

Colonel Berryhill stayed on after that 1976 tour and we spent three delightful days together, touring the English countryside whilst he regaled us with tales from the annals of 398th history. I really do treasure those special memories.

Prague-Dresden: Yes, Magness Was There

"The Magness crew was on the Dresden/Prague mission," wrote navigator Ed Arbuthnot, commenting on the January FLAK NEWS story.

And FLAK NEWS has to agree, apologizing for "dropping" the pilot's name from the 601 Squadron formation in the low element. Magness was in the "slot" with Hyndman and Womeldurf trailing in the unusual six-plane element formation.

Arbuthnot also added –
"Great presentation. Thank you."

Sally B Has Spots For Autographs

Want your name on the fuselage of the only B-17 still flying in England?

The Sally B will have a Roll of Honor inscribed on its body for a two-year period, with each name carrying a tab of £360. (You do the math). The monies collected will assist in keeping Sally B in the air, which on several occasions has flown over the 398th Memorial at Nuthampstead. There are other "perks" associated with the contribution.

For more information write B-17 Charitable Trust, PO Box 92, Bury St. Edmonds, Suffolk, IP28 8RR, England. Or E-mail <sallyb@B-17preservation.demon.co.uk.> Or www.sallyb.org.uk.

DOING THE DUES

The joy of sending \$20 checks to the 398th Bomb Group Dues Chairman fall to the members living in the southeast and parts of the mid-west.

Dues envelopes have been enclosed in this quarter's FLAK NEWS for those living in the following states –

North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, South Dakota, North Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas.

If the self-addressed envelope is missing, simply mail your check (or additional contribution) to James Haas, Perry, IA 50220-0163.

The 398th Association is "alive and well" thanks to the dues and special contributions.



RICHARD HOLUB
One Better Than The DFC

Flight of 398th B-17 Noted In Medal Award

Continued From Page 1

FLAK NEWS pressed on for the DFC award. Finally, word came back from St. Louis under the name of Patrick W. Hayman, Archives Technician –

"And a new Legion of Merit medal will be forwarded to Holub from Randolph AFB."

What had "fallen through the cracks" had been brought back to life. The Legion of Merit, given for "exceptionally meritorious conduct," is now in the hands of the man who earned it, lost it, and re-gained it in a span of 60 years.

Oddly, a Bronze Star had been awarded to one of the enlisted Air Force mechanics who had a part in hooking up the rocket assembly beneath the wings. But no mention at the time for recognizing Holub nor his Master Sergeant copilot, Raymond Kirkpatrick, or any of the Strategic Air Depot or Boeing engineers who played major roles in the first-of-its-kind rocket take-off.

Holub, who lives in Grass Valley, CA, is 87.

Carl Krafft, a major player with the Boeing Tech Rep team at the time, is now 92 and lives in Seattle. He was instrumental in recording the event for Boeing and still retains most of the historical records and photographs. Even today, Krafft is active in trying to locate the motion picture film of the take-off, even though he suspects it too, may have "fallen through the cracks."

www.398th.org

Letters, Letters

"I do so much appreciate receiving FLAK NEWS, even after my husband, Vencil, passed away seven years ago. Believe it or not, I have kept every issue since that first one in 1986. I read every one, cover to cover."

Mrs. Bernie Bolton, Denver, CO.

"Our Holiday Greetings this year to our many friends just had to include sweet memories from our 398th tour to Normandy last June. The French greeted us with hospitality and hugs. And we had the honor of being included in a photo with the Chief of Naval Operations of Her Majesty's Royal Navy. We also walked among the crosses at Omaha Beach, a solemn reminder of the war's cost"

Russ & Millie Reed, Port Ludlow, WA.

"I wish to thank you very much indeed for the FLAK NEWS which you send me for years. It is very stimulating in keeping the memories on the meetings with friends from the 398th during their visits to Pilsen.

"If you come this year in May for the 60th anniversary of our liberation I shall be very happy to meet you once again."

Vladislav Kratky, director, Skoda Museum, Pilsen, Czech Republic

Ed's Note: Sorry, the tour was cancelled.

"It has been 60 years since your boss, Col. Frank P. Hunter, Jr., and eight members of the crew died here. Only Federico Gonzales survived the crash. I enclose a photo of the place where the plane crashed and where your members have twice visited. The tree our members planted along with yourselves in 1988 still reminds us of our friendship. We had some snow here just like that day 60 years ago. Even though nearly a lifetime has passed the remembrance has never faded."

Alfred Wilms, Neuss, Germany

"My grandfather was Edward Steele, waist gunner on the Martinek crew shot down April 13, 1945. I have hundreds of photos of him, including some from his PW camp. I am preparing to put them on disc to send to the 398th web site (398th.org). You have a wonderful site, a great tribute to a brave group of men."

Michael Keck, Battle Creek, MI

"Shot a 39 1/2 " rack moose and a black bear this year. Having a snowy winter."

Chuck Stankiewicz, Fairbanks, Alaska

(Son of 603 Engineer-gunner, Johnson's Crew.)

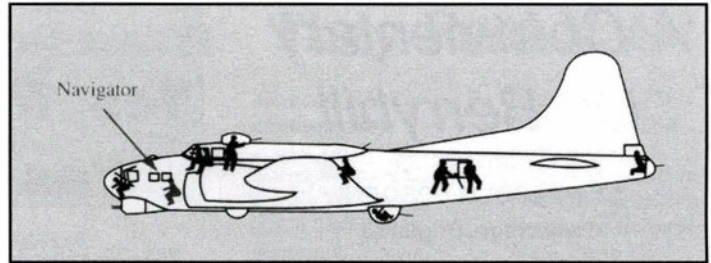
A Well-funded Collection

Some people may recognize Paul Allen as one of the wealthiest men in the world, but few know that the Seattle co-founder of Microsoft also has an intense interest in vintage aviation.

He has established the "Flying Heritage Collection" at Arlington, WA, dedicated to restoring (and flying) vintage aircraft, one of which is a B-17 E, currently under a three-year restoration program.

His Collection, which numbers 61 aircraft, currently has several in flying condition, including a P-51, P-40, ME 109, Zero, Spitfire, Jenny, Storch and others.

Among the "Collection" volunteer tour guides is a 50-mission B-17 veteran from the 301st Bomb Group out of Italy. He's waiting to show off the vintage Fortress.



The Navigator

Air navigation is simply defined as determining the position of an aircraft in relation to the earth. A task far from simple in practice, navigation is a highly exacting art demanding a quick mind and a knowledge of mathematical calculations. A navigator had to know the position of his aircraft at all times, even when guided by others, for in war, situations could change rapidly and a crew couldn't afford not to know where they were over enemy territory.

Navigation was the key to avoiding heavily defended areas, reaching the target and returning to base. The pilots flew the plane, but the navigator supplied the course they must fly. Navigation could be by pilotage (visual reference to the ground), dead reckoning (using true airspeed, winds aloft, heading and time to calculate new position from last known) radio, celestial, or any combination of these four.

The navigator's table was fixed at the rear of the nose compartment, against the left side, behind the bombardier's station. Above the table were mounted two vital instruments: the gyromagnetic compass and to its right, the radio compass. The radio compass was linked to a rotating loop antenna inside a



tear-shaped housing located just forward of the bomb bay and to a fixed sense antenna, along the bottom of the nose. The signal received by these antennas was presented visually on the compass face as a relative bearing to a radio station. On the opposite side from the table was the drift meter. This was used to determine the angle between the heading of the aircraft and its track over the ground. The amount of drift was essential in the calculation of the winds aloft element of dead reckoning.

Throughout the mission the navigator would inform the pilot of their position and time estimates to various check points. When the initial point was reached for the bomb run the navigator would then inform the pilot.

The navigator operated the two cheek guns in the nose when not at his regular duties.

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.

BRIEF-things

The new "Bomber Legends" Magazine continues to turn out "great stories from our unsung heroes of WW II", the latest featuring 398th pilot Newt Moy and his "Flight Never To Be Forgotten," picked up from a recent issue of FLAK NEWS. (See Barnes & Noble Books). . . Some folks have asked about putting the many key stories from 20 years of FLAK NEWS into a hard cover book. . . the answer: great idea, but we need about \$30,000 up front (any volunteers?). . . there is a very fine DVD called, "Bomber Legends" available, displaying all the still-flying Fortresses from about the country, and one of the veterans starring in the production is our own 602 co-pilot, **Lee Test** of Baldwin Park, CA. . . **Bob Kraft**, the 602 lead navigator, has promised to have a story ready for the July FLAK NEWS explaining how our group got 36 airplanes into the air and assembled for a bombing mission. . . **John Volz**, a 398th radio repairman, was honored in his hometown of Olean, NY last year for his many post-war years serving veterans organizations; "his commitment to service should inspire all Americans," said the mayor (thanks to **Henry Stebich** for that nice bit of news). . . and here's another reminder that those very special Glenn Miller CD's (4) are still available for loan from the FLAK NEWS editor. . . most of us were lucky to get a year out of our B-17, but the team keeping Sally B airworthy in England sent their favorite Fort out on "display" for the 29th straight year (thanks to the crew headed by Peter Brown). . . our good friend from Germany, **Manfred Konig**, who arranged two 398th tour visits to Neuss to visit **Colonel Hunter's** crash site, has been grounded from the effects of a heart operation. . . Since you asked, Kansas City (MO) has a population of 441,545; Kansas City (KS) 146,866 and Overland Park (KS) 14,908. . . **Paulette Wasserman** has offered to send her late husband's 603 A-2 jacket to the Woodman Inn at Nuthampstead ("I will NOT sell it"). . . be it known that the Dresden/Prague story of last January generated as much interest as any story in 20 years; it seems there are a lot of men still around who remember that mission all too well. . . . among the projects being undertaken by two of our second generation people, **Ted Brass** and **Lee Anne Bradley**, is the development of a "spread sheet" that will display the crew loading lists for all of the group's 195 missions. . . **Dave Mills** found his name on Page 156 of "Fortresses"; it seems he took up a "War Weary" B-17 for a post-war ride, inviting a half dozen cooks and bakers for a well-earned aerial look-see; upon returning to Station 131 he got as far as the taxi strip and the landing gear collapsed. . . Duxford plans to unveil "Air Space" in their Hanger No.1 in 2006 (hopefully in time for the proposed 398th tour). . . among the disappointed people resulting from the cancellation of the Czech tour are the three combat crew members who flew The Last Mission to Pilsen - **Willie Ivy**, **Terence St. Louis** and **Dean Hill**. . . reunion chair **Sharon Krause** is toughing it out the winter in Florida, but she is in constant touch with the planning and will have things neat and tidy come September 7-10 in Kansas. . . Dutch Harbor, Alaska, failed to make the "cut" for the 2006 reunion site, but **Percy Paget** is hot-to-trot for Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where he has lived aboard his boat for many years. . . the Aluminum Ovecast, grounded since last year, is scheduled to fly again at the Oshkosh Fly-In in July; the "Fuddy Duddy" replaced the 'Cast on the tour when its landing gear collapsed in California. . . our Czech friend, **Jan Zdiarsky**, is organizing an aviation exhibition in Prague related to the Air War over the Czech Lands; his presentation will include the stories of two 398th crews that perished there - **Ferguson** and **Christensen**. . . the land-locked Czechs love to say, "the air is our sea: . . The Prague newspaper, PRAVO, translated and printed the entire FLAK NEWS Prague/Dresden story, adding their own bomb damage photos of the mission.

398th Bomb Group PX

. . . *the Second Generation*

398th Bomb Group Memorial Association

The 398th PX, guided so expertly all these past years by Joe and Rozanne Joseph, is gradually moving into another phase to include a new manager, new products, new "hometown" and even a new name.

Now we will call it -

"PX - The Second Generation."

Carolyn Widmann is the "second generation", being the daughter of Jim Crouch, 601 waist gunner.

She is also not only taking over the PX, but is also "retiring," moving her home (including husband) from Michigan to Indiana, hence the need to ease into re-establishing the PX supplies.

At the moment, only two items are being made available to our members - Cliff Bishop's magnificent book called, "Fortresses Over Nuthampstead," a 398th treasure at \$65.00 postpaid.

Also, the vintage history book edited by Col. Earl Berryhill in the waning months following the end of World War II. This is a copy version costing \$20.00, postpaid.

Additional items - some old, some new - will be added to the inventory in the coming months.



CAROLYN WIDMANN

398th Bomb Group PX

. . . *the Second Generation*

ORDER FORM

Qty	Item	Unit Cost	Total
_____	Fortresses Over Nuthampstead	\$65.00	_____
_____	398th History (Copy)	\$20.00	_____
	Total Cost		_____

**Make Checks Payable to "398th Bomb Group P.X.
Mail completed form to Carolyn Widmann, Noblesville, IN 46062.**

Publisher Has "Fortresses"

"Fortresses Over Nuthampstead", the 398th historical book recently made available through the PX, may also be purchased directly from the publisher in England.

For those using E-mail, contact sales@eastangliabooks.com. Telephone 011-44-127-981-3791. Ask for Cliff Bishop.

www.398th.org