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

VOL. 23 NO. 1 **FLAK NEWS JANUARY 2008**



Photo by Tim Wells

RALPH HALL'S FLAG FLIES OVER THE STATION 131 MEMORIAL

"On Behalf Of A Grateful Nation"

It all began in 1986 — the year of the very first FLAK NEWS. A modest list of 70 members of the 398th Bomb Group who were known to have passed on since returning home from World War II in 1945. It was compiled by George Hilliard, the original "contact officer." Now, in January 2008, the annual "Taps" list is published again, and when one scans the names on Pages 6-7-8-9, one can't help but connect with the commonly held statement -

"A thousand World War II veterans pass away every day."

The year 2007 was particularly revealing for the 398th with the addition of 81 new names, some of whom passed on very recently, like Ralph Hall, who served as a 601 tail gunner in WW II and the rest of his days serving as group treasurer and/or memorial fund chairman.

It was he who paved the way in transferring the land under the memorial from the Dimsdale family to the 398th. And it was Ralph again who saw that the land and memorial was transferred from the 398th to the American Battle Monuments Commission. It was for these achievements that president Wally Blackwell told him, "Well done."

And it was also for these accomplishments that his casket flag was flown over the Station 131 Memorial recently by Peggy and Tim Wells (Page 1). Later, Hall's flag will be flown on the "tall pole" located near the 398th tower.

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No Reunion Let Down! 185 Gather

Just when it was beginning to look like we might be in for a downward slide in reunion attendance, up jumped a most pleasant surprise at Phoenix.

The 2007 reunion — 24th annual — was held in the Phoenix suburb of Ahwatukee on November 28-29-30 and December 1.

"I expected about a hundred or so," said reunion chair Sharon Krause, citing declining numbers the past two years.

"Would you believe we welcomed 185 this time?," was the cheery report of the delighted Krause.

The thought of winter warmth and sunshine must have made an impression on some (who came only to find cloudy days climaxed by "gully jumper" rains made more for boats than auto and bus).

Of the final count, 41 were veterans, meaning —

1. The veterans are quickly and quietly passing from the scene. And —

2. The second and third generations of the 398th are stepping up.

President Wally Blackwell, who for many years has been quietly (and effectively) bringing the second and third generation "kids" on board for important roles, said he could not be more pleased with the reunion turnout.

"We now have more of 'them' than 'us', said Wally, pointing out that of the 17 Board officers, eight are from the veteran corps and nine from the second generation. "I couldn't be happier," he added.

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The President's Page:

Words Of Thanks And Praise ... And Of Concern

By WALLY BLACKWELL
President, 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association

Perhaps it was my wish of a lifetime that I was physically able to attend the Phoenix reunion last November.

Forget the chemo! It was time and surely good therapy for me to be with my 398th friends. It seemed to me that this reunion was the best ever for what I always have called the 398th BGMA Spirit. We must be very thankful that Sharon Krause and Allen Ostrom continue to use their talents to make these 398th reunions so splendidly possible, and this thanks includes having a well stocked 398th PX operation by Carolyn Widmann, daughter of Jim Crouch, a 601 Squadron togglier.

However, we did attend to business. Marilyn Gibb-Rice was elected 398th Vice President. Marilyn is also a Crouch daughter. Marilyn replaces Al Turney as our VP. We thank Al for his long-time devotion to the 398th. Mellisa Ledlow, daughter of Don Menard, 603 radio operator, has become our new 398th Treasurer. She and husband Jim have been devoted and long-time 398'ers. Paul Roderick, 602 Pilot, and father of Sharon Krause, was elected as a Director. Paul replaces resigning Lou Stoffer. Lou is also thanked for his contribution to past 398th successes.

A fifth 398th Director received 398th By-Laws approval. The "UK 398th Director" will provide official 398th guidance to the American Battle Monuments Commission as it accomplishes our Nuthampstead monument maintenance program. This Director will also act at the direction of the President as necessary in conducting other 398th UK responsibilities. Wilfrid Dimsdale has agreed to act in this position.

And there was good news from the past year activities to discuss. The acceptance for a perpetual maintenance program by the ABMC for the Nuthampstead property by Ralph Hall. The well accepted color in FLAK NEWS issues by Allen and packaging of 20-year volumes of FLAK NEWS to the Mighty 8th and HALS.

The roaring success of the 398th web site by Dave Jordan. Hundreds of "hits" each day from all over the world! A significant information source for many, but we often receive much previously unknown 398th information in return, among these, Geoff Rice's continued gathering of 398th crew pictures. The reissue of the Anstey Church Window mapping booklet with additional pictures and data, and the placing of all 398th

missing aircraft reports to CD, by our historian Lee Anne Bradley. And, we must not forget our Timeless Voices Program, well underway by Marilyn and Geoff Rice. The interview processing now underway exceeds 60. About one half of these are up on the 398th web site for your viewing. And these are just the highlights of activities being conducted by all these good 398'ers!

However, a bit of concern is in the wind. A close look at the dues reporting statistics supplied by Dawne Dougherty, our dues manager, needs to be discussed. In previous years the annual dues collec-



MELLISA LEDLOW Our New Treasurer

tion plus FLAK NEWS donations covered the publishing and distribution of FLAK NEWS.

At this time the cost is about \$15,000 per year or at least \$3.00 per copy delivered stateside. About 720 veterans receive FLAK NEWS but only about 250 pay dues. Most of this difference is our lifetime membership situation. Recently two long-time lifetime members knowingly paid for another life membership, doing their part of assuring the future of FLAK NEWS. I believe more of this attitude is needed and I hope for a good response from this idea. About 65 of the 165 blood relative members pay annual dues. Those that receive FLAK NEWS in the UK can pay dues as defined on www.398th.org.

Well, I've said my piece. I thank all of you that continually show concern for my health situation. So, I'll go on for a while longer. Wishing all a Happy New Year!

— Wally

Easterners Get Their Chance

Members living in the 14 states that make up the "Eastern" sector of the quarterly FLAK NEWS Dues Appeal get the honor of "paying up" this time around. January has been their "time" since the dues were split into quarterly sections.

Thus, the folks living in the following states are asked to send in their \$20 annual dues in the enclosed self-addressed envelope —

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

Should the envelope be missing and you are up for payment, you can always sendyour \$20 (or more) to Dawne Doughtery, Harrisburg, OR 97446-9585.

www.398th.org

Grateful Nation

(Continued from Page 1)

A flag has flown there continuously — day and night — for many years beginning with the flag donated by Maria Hunter, widow of the 398th commanding officer Col. Frank P. Hunter, Jr.

Eighty-two seems to be the current age of the youngest living member, assuming they had served at the age of 18. And many such young men grew up very quickly at this age. (See Paul Wagner's "Youngest Crew" in the PX book section on Page 11.)

And on the other end of the spectrum there is the 2007 passing of Warren Currie, who was a 602 Squadron crew chief. He sent his B-17 out on 55 missions without an abort.

Currie died at 96.

Some additional names may be found in the PX section. A photo of the Anstey stained glass window features the names of all the 398th men killed in action, plus the location of each name.

St. George's Church will hold a Thanksgiving service on Sunday, June 15, 2008, in memory of the 292 men from Station 131 who perished in WW II. This has been the church's semi-annual custom since 1986.

Medallions Were A Smash Hit

(Continued from Page 1)

Wally, recipient of an attractive plaque (page 5) depicting his many activities with the Association, came to the reunion with some "trepidation" considering his ongoing and persistent battle with cancer. He turned some of the prexy chores over to director Lew Burke.

It was Burke who reveled in the task of introducing British guest Malcolm (Ozzie) Osborn. The Burke humor brought gaiety to his banquet audiences as he chided not only Ozzie but also English Friend Elaine Tyler, who came to Phoenix hoping for a ride on Sentimental Journey, the CAF B-17 stationed at nearby Falcon Field.

Not so, she discovered. It was not on "flight status" so she and the many others who opted for the Falcon Field Museum tour, had to be satisfied with "walk through" tours (concluded just before the rains came).

The "other" coach, carrying an assortment of tourists bent on "seeing Arizona," did just that with a journey to Sedona. They left the Ahwatukee hotel at 8 AM for an eight-hour adventure of sightseeing, shopping, dining, etc. They returned to the hotel just in time for the Farewell banquet. Two hours late.

The Sedona highway was very much awash with water as the coach "cruised" on its way back to the hotel with its 398th tourists. All present and accounted for.

Osborn was to be accompanied to Phoenix by Peter Brooke of Anstey, who had been named chairman of the Friends



OZZIE OSBORN A Reunion Hit

Timeless Voices Interviews

Twenty more names were added to the list of Timeless Voices interviews at the Phoenix reunion, joining the 41 announced in the October issue.

The plan is that every interviewee will receive a complimentary DVD, with additional copies to be available through the PX and web site. Eventually, all interviews will be on the web site (398th.org) in video form.

The list from Phoenix included Ray Richman, Terrance St. Louis, Roy Test, Jim White, Frank Yarmoski, Dean Hill, Nunzio Addabbo, Bob Armstrong, Bob Beckley, Russ Currier, Dallas Ebest, Vaughn Erickson, Sam Gailey, Ted Johnston, Phil Jones, Vern Kling, Ray Moore, Bob Nelson, Norm Petrocine, and William Parker.

"You Are Our Heroes"

of the 398th in England. But the health of his father and other business commitments kept Brooke at home. Thus, Osborn did double duty. First, he joined with Brandy Howard, a 398th grand-daughter, in urging our membership to visit Nuthampstead in June 2008.

The Friends' every-other-year commitment for a Station 131 Memorial Service and St. George's Church (Anstey) Service of Thanksgiving will beheld June 14 and 15, respectively.

Brandy has offered to "coordinate" this tour with interested persons. Only these two "specifics" have been settled on, although more activities can be arranged depending on the numbers. She had over

42 on her "interest" list after the Phoenix reunion.

Contact Brandy Howard, Freeport, IL 61032-2330.

*Note New Address.

The "smash hit" of the reunion came very quickly at the Welcome Banquet. Before Blackwell could mount the platform for his "welcome and introductions," the girls (Sharon Krause, Marilyn Gibb-Rice, Carolyn Widmann and Lee Anne Bradley) commandeered the stage and "commanded" all the veterans to come forward and receive a special medallion with accompanying red-white-blue ribbon

Continued on Page 4



WILL MAYHALL admires PAUL RODERICK'S special medallion while posing in front of the Sentimental Journey's propeller during a visit to Falcon field near Phoenix. All 41 veterans received similar medallions while at the reunion. It was a surprise presentation, generated by Sharon Krause,

Marilyn Gibb-Rice, Carolyn Widmann and Lee Anne Bradley, all second generation Association officers. Mayhall, son of a 603 Squadron navigator, recently presented the 398th with a \$5,000 gift in support of the group's Timeless Voices program.



"Jack's Books"

LEE ANNE BRADLEY poses with "Jack's Books," a five-volume collection of 398th history. It was begun years ago by the late Jack Wintersteen and they contain records and photos of many hundreds of personnel. Lee Anne, the group historian, keeps the books updated and brings them to every reunion for the benefit of all.

185 Enjoy Reunion In Phoenix

(Continued from Page 3)

to adorn their necks.

"You are our heroes," was their reasoning as they basked in upstaging the program chairman's planned program. (He didn't complain as he was one of the recipients.)

Frank Bertziel, the P-38 pilot who had bonded with Blackwell these past two years, had high praise for the 398th and its leadership.

"Yes, we flew out of Nuthampstead before you came," he recalled. "But now, all these years later, we have you to thank for providing our 55th Fighter Group with a memorial along side yours. We thank you."

Barb Fish, with eight "Travel Consultant" tours to Nuthampstead (plus the Continent) had a hard time deciding on which was her "favorite." She recited a few high points, like the visit to the House of Lords, but finally admitted, "I loved them all."

Elaine Tyler, who has been in and around the Nuthampstead contingent since the beginning, echoed Barb's memories and urged her listeners to "come again in 2008.'

Two other speakers had "stories to tell."

Bill Parker, the navigator who brought 14 family members to the Farewell

Banquet, told of being hut mates with 10 other fellow officers only to find that in the end (after all the Merseburg missions) he was the only survivor. And he almost got his ticket when a V-2 hit close by while on leave in London.

Warren Wade of the 601st was among those of his crew who did not survive the "Shady Lady" mission (REMEM-BRANCES) but his daughter, Ann Addison, come to regale the audience about her trip to the very area where "Shady Lady" came down in France. And where she found loving welcomes among those who still remember the fateful day of September 8, 1944.

"At every place where my father and his crew had an experience we had a special ceremony. They even found some parts from his plane for Ted and me."

(Ted Prevost, the co-pilot, accompanied Ann on the tour.)

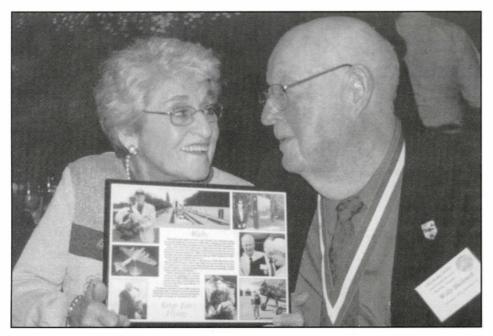
Ozzie was at his finest as he pulled together a sheaf of stories about his affection for the 398th. An affection that had begun early on and all but culminated following the 1982 Memorial dedication. It was Ozzie who put the final touches on the Memorial and its dedication.

The resulting storm that day, plus demands on his time from work and family, sidelined him for several years. He returned in 2004 for the group's "One Last Tour" and has been a vital Station 131 cog ever since.

His intimate knowledge of the old base (and other 8th bomber bases) has made him an invaluable source of information for visitors and members as well.



THE PHOENIX REUNION had a distinct British flavor with Elaine Tyler (left) of England offering a Brit greeting for the 398th to visit again in 2008. Barb Fish, although not British, offered comments on her "favorite" English tour (she was Travel Consultant on eight 398th visits). She admitted that every visit was her favorite.



WALLY BLACKWELL and wife Teedy were both surprised and pleased when the officers of the 398th presented Wally with this plaque for his many years of devoted service to the Association. The plaque depicted the president in many of his roles, featuring his motto, "Keep 'Em Flying."

(Continued from Page 4)

He did a survey last summer on FLAK NEWS' East Anglia bomber base story, and elicited much local (English) disbelief as he told of 1,500 four-engine bombers being in the air at the same time over their countryside. "That many?" "You must be joking!"

And more Ozzie stores that can't be remembered

He did praise Brandy ("It takes a lot of courage") for volunteering to coordinate the proposed June 2008 tour.

2008 Cocoa Beach FLORIDA

Yes indeed! It will happen again next September 2008. The 25th reunion will be held in Cocoa Beach, Florida. The Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront will be a grand venue. It's beautiful and affordable. And, like the name indicates, it's right on the ocean.

I chose the area because of the Kennedy Space Center. There will be a Space Center tour set up that should be very interesting. There will also be a Warbird Museum tour. And, once again, we will have a river boat dinner cruise. I'm looking forward to next year and hope everyone else will, too.

Mark your calendar for September 3-4-5-6, 2008.

— SHARON KRAUSE Reunion Chair

2007 Reunion Veterans

Nunzio Addabbo Ken Akins Keith Anderson **Bob Armstrona Bob Beckley** Cleo Bickford Wally Blackwell Bob Bowen Dale Brown Lew Burke Russ Currier Dallas Ebest Vaughn Erickson Sam Gailey George Graham Roger Harvey George Hershberger Dean Hill Phil Jones Ted Johnston Vern Klina

Joe Mansell John Matecki Herb Meeker Dave Mills Cecil Moore Ray Moore Elliot Novek Allen Ostrom Bill Parker Norman Petrocine Russ Reed Rav Richman Paul Roderick Arnie Schneider Dick Scribner Terrence St. Louis Darrell Thorpe Roy Test Jim White Frank Yarmoski

Taps List Has Grown

There are four pages featuring the names of 398th Bomb Group members who have passed on since the end of World War II. The list was last published in January 2007. With the addition of 81 names, the list has now grown to 1,347. The compilation of this list by FLAK NEWS is dependent on information from friends and loved ones.

A book with the names of those killed in action, with a photo of where their names appear in the Anstey stained glass window, is available in the PX on Page 11.

Letters

"Thank you all for being so sweet to my mother. You 'found' her in time for the 1987 reunion in San Antonio and she loved that reunion and the others she was able to attend. It helped her to become a new person in the last years of her life."

Sarah Gayle (Hunter) Randolph, Irvington, Virginia

"Thank you for the offer of the Air Force aircraft lithographs. Unfortunately, they do not fit in our collecting mission."

National Museum Curator, Wright-Patterson AFB

Ed's Comment — These will be presented in coming issues of FLAK NEWS.

"I am glad to know that the 398th is coming to England this coming summer. Will we see you at HALS?"

Susan Flood, HALS County Archivist, Hertford, England

Ed's Note — Everyone is trying their best to form up a tour for June, especially "our" Brandy Howard and "your" Peter Brooke. Stay tuned.

"My father was part of the 398th and he is listed in the POW 398th.org web pages. Words cannot express the feeling I have as I look through those pages. The best way is to say "thank you" and that my father, Frank Henning, would have been touched at seeing his name in the site that honors his group."

Amy S. Goll, Miami, Florida

www.398th.org

The web site and web team are bringing 398th History to a very wide audience both here in the USA and around the world. We thank all those who have contributed stories and copies of diaries, photos and more to its repository for the enlightenment and enjoyment of many.

Web Stats —

Averaging over 300 visits per day; over 100,000 visits in 2007.

Over 315,000 visits since January 2003.

Over 500 views of "We Fly at Dawn" in just over a month.

Consistent top views: 398th Crew Photos, 398th POW list, Wally's two articles on 398th Combat Formations and Identifying B-17's, KIA lists, the Diaries, and Beez's photos of 2004 "One Last Look" reunion tour.

All Timeless Voices videos being viewed.

Many referral visits from Wikipedia articles: Wally's Combat Box and our diaries and info on the 14 Feb 1945 mistaken "Bombing of Prague."

The price of the web site holds at \$108.24 a year. Quite a bargain.

— Dave Jordan



O___ say! canyou see

Adam, Walter H. Adamak, Edward Adams, Eugene R. Adelman, Paul Adleman, Milo Agnew, Harry Agnew, Robert Albert, Dwyer D. Albro, Albert M. Alderson, Richard Alexander, Claude Alfano, John Allare, John Allen, George E. Allen, Stanley W. Alpert, Stanley Altman, Frank Alves, Alfred Alwood, Joe Amer, Jerry Anaya, Alredo Anderson, Allen C. Anderson, Emil Anderson, Frank Anderson, Norman R. Anderson, Ralph Anderson, Roy L. Anderson, Russell M. Anderson, William G. Andreko, Andrew Andrews, Kenneth E. Arbogast, F.E. (Phil) Ariotta, Joseph Arlin, Allen A. Armstrong, Arthur Armstrong, Sidney A. Armstrong, Walter G. Arndell, James Arndell, James Ashour, Martin D. Ashton Jr., Leonard C. Ashworth, Dean H. Atkins, James R. Atkinson, Herman Atkinson, Vernon C. Atwood, Doyle Audet, Paul E. Augustine, Joseph J. 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, Adrian (Bud) Bailey, Ray E. Baird, Harold Baker, Albert A. Baker, Cova Baker, Hermus C. Baldwin, Mondo L. Ballard, Charles W.

Bancroft, Joseph (Dave) Bangson, Barry D. Bankert, James Baptist, Claude A. Barkovich, Fred Barnes, Lynn W. Barnes, Mike K. 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 Bawdun iak, 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 Bendixon, Donald L. 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. Bittner, Walter Blancett, Marvin Blanda, Guido Blankenship, G.W. Blehm, Frederick W. Bley, Winston Blum, Lowell Bobbitt, James M.S. Boeger, Orv. W. Boersma, Ted Bogard, Willard B. Bogdanski, Edward J.

Bohn, Jack L.

Bolthouse, Charles Bolton, Vencil Boltz, Phillip T. Bonanno, Salvatore Bonjani, Bruno Borchers, Doyle Bordonaro, Vincent L. Bornstedt, John W. Borys, Raymond Bosshart, Herbert Boswell, Marion L. Bottoms, Millard S. Bourke, Joseph E. Bourlon, Billy L. Bowcock Jr., H. Guy Bowman, Leonard L. Boyes, Haskell Braddock, Heyward M. Bradford, Oliver W. Bradley, Frederick C. Brady, Jack Braica, Benny Brass, Ernest H. Bream, Burt D. Breault, Al Breimeyer, Royal Brewer, Darrell F. Bridges, Clarence W. Briody, James J. Briskie, Edward F. Britt. Thomas F. Brockman, James W. Brokaw, Rev. Raymond Brooks, Harrison F. Brooks, Henry A. Brown, Arnold W. Brown, Clyde R. Brown, Joe E. Brown, E. Logan Brown, Hilver (Pete) Brown, James C. Brown, Lawrence Brown, Orland D. Brown, Paul Brown, Robert E. Brown, Samuel M. Brown, Sidney Brozena, John M. Brubaker, Franklin P. Brubaker, Wayne Brunke, Earl H. Brunsberg, Arnold Bryant, Edward M. Buchsbaum, Louis Buck, Chester S. Buck, Herman J. Buckingham, James S. Buckley, Francis X. Bur, Nicholas J. Burke, Al Burris Jr., Thomas E. Burroughs, Kirby Burton, John

Buscani, John P.

Buschbaum, Louis

On Behalf Of A

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 Cantwell, Robert H. Capen, George H. Carlton, Donald P. Carter, Nigel Carter, Richard J. Carter, Robert C. (Saferite Carter, Robert C. (Watson crew) Carwile, Allan P. Cason, Alfred Cassel, Arnold Castro, Edward Catterson, Kenneth L. Cavalier, Vincent J. Charbon neau, Francis Chase, Lewis D. Chesshir, Kenneth Chimelewski, Raymond J. Chorba, Robert T. Chrisman, Estil L. Christofer, George Christopher, Arthur C. Christos, Christy A. Church, Fred M. Church, Harold M. Churchill, Wesley H. Cifrese, Paul Civitarese, William A. Clafford, Lloyd Clament, Jesse R. Clark, Benjamin L. Clark, Francis C. Clark, Joval O. Clarke, Atwell S. Clarke, Walter F. Clements, Jerauld Clifton, Ernest Clyne, Harold J. Cochran, Curtis Codan, Peter Coe, Dewey Coene, William Colantoni, George Colburn, Warren Cole, Harold Coleman, George F. Coleman, Thomas A. Coleman, Winsor Collins, Philip D. Colvin, Charles E. Colvin, William L. Colwell, John Comstock, William G. Conrad, John P. Contento, John D. Cook, Eugene I. Coombs, William F.

Coomes, Ralph S.

Bushle, Louis

Cooper, Beryl C. Cooper, D.G. (Bud) Cooper, Joseph D. Coopet, Joseph L. Corcoran, Joseph W. Cornett, Earl M. Corr, Orville (Ben) Corrigan, James Corry, Fr. George Corsuti, Anthony Costanzo, William H. 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

Davidson, Warren Davidson, Wm. H. Davis, Elwood B. Davis, Jack Davis, Jerald A. Davis, John H. Deaton, Floyd L. Decker, Gerald 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



Crenshaw, Billy W. Crocker, Lawrence Cron, Robert Cross, Albert B. Crouch, James Cubranich, Julius P. Cullinan, Stephen P. Cummings, D.L. Cundiff, Donald W. Currie, Warren H. Curtis, Glenn 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

Dierolf, Claude E. DiGiuseppe, A. Gerard Dimich, Peter M. Dimino, Charles A. Dippel, Francis Dixon, Gerald Dixon, Roger E. Dobie, Richard Doerfler, David J. Doerstler, Wayne Doles, Robert F. Dollar, James D. Donahue, Clifford E. Donelian, Thomas Donovan, George Dorfmeier, Donald D. Dougherty, A.L. Dougherty, Thomas E. Douglas, Gene Dover, Harry J. Downing, Robert A. Drager, Kenneth

Grateful Nation

Dreyer, Charles G.
Driscoll, John T.
Duncan, John W.
Duncombe, David M.
Dunlap, Fred M.
Dunn, Richard J.
Dunne, Bill
Durbin, Francis
Durtschi, William J.
Dutra, Edwin
Dutrow, Gordon P.
Duvall, Rev. James T.

(Protestant Chaplain) Dwyer, Wilbur S. Dwyer Jr., William J. Earley, Robert J. Ebbeson, Dr. E. Dalton Eberhart, Jay J. Echevarria, Jose Eck, Harold Edgell, Harry Edgington, Gilbert

Farewell, Francis A. Farley, Robert Farmer, Edward Farmer, Jack D. Farmer, John M. Farnsworth, Dexter Farrell, William A. Faughn, Joe Fay, Andrew Fedder, Gordon E. Fender, Keith C. Ferguson, Reginald C. Fernandez, Frank Ferrante, William J. Fick, Herbert Fields, Jerome G. Figueria, Arthur L. Fisher Jr., Clarence Fisher, Wilbur G. Fleckenstein, Norbert J. Fleming, Horace Fletcher, Richard E.



Edick, C. Kenneth Edmondson, Georgie Edwards, John H. Ehil, Edward Ehret, Clarence Eichman, Eugene M. Eisele, Francis C. Elsrod, Orville Elwood, Kenneth Emmons, James W. Engard, Robert Engle, George W. (Bill) Ensign, Col. Lewis Erickson, Edward H. Erickson, Mahlon Erickson, Paul W. Erler, Donald J. Evans, Clarence E. Evans, Donald Faber, Herbert G. Falkenbach, John S.

Farenthold, Francis L.

Flickinger, Charles R. Flipse, David Flood, George M. Florin, Henry Floyd, Arch C. Folger, Robert Foraker, Kenneth H. Foster, Dean L. Foster, George E. Foster, Paul Fowler, Hannibal Fowler, James Franceschini, Gino Frantz, Landis Frazier, Willis Freel, Lawrence A. Freeman, W. Noel French, Ozie Frew, George Fritog, Arthur Fritz, Jack Froelich, James S.

Galloway, Robert C. Galloway, Robert F. Gardipee, Francis J. Garland, Jack S. Gary, B. Gasbarro, John J. Gates, Robert N. Gaulke, Gerald G. Gelwicks, Frank I. Gerber, Tom Gergenti, Leonard Gerloff, Harry Gerrain, Peter 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 Gonzales, Benito Gonzales, Federico (Fred) Gordon, Charles Gosse, Earl H. Gouveia, George Graff, Stephen J. Grange, George Grant, Sam Gray, Charles F. Gray, Harry E. Gray, Jay O. Green, Norbert Green, Sam B. Greenberg, Abraham Greene, Richard G. Gregorie, Robert K. Gresh, Steve Griffin, Richard A. Griffo, Arthur Grinter, Don Grossman, M. Grothues, Al Gruber, Fred Gruber, Robert V. Guice, Thomas Guild, Herbert Gulledge, Thomas G. Gurney Jr., Julius Guy, Chester L. Haakenson, Selmer Hafer, George C. Hagedorn, Forrest (Hank) Hager, Herman L. Hakomaki, Floyd Hale, Robert D. Hall, Joe Hall, Ralph M. Hall, Richard H. Hall, Walter Haller, John A. Hamacher, Ross L.

Hammer, Philip M.

Hammill, Frank D.

Gabriel, Frank E.

Gallardo, Octavus

Gagnon, Glen S.



by the dawn's ear-ly light,

Hammontree, Jack C. Hamor, William T. Hanauer, James Hancock, William C. Hansen, Herman J. Hapgood, Alfred Harbit, John Hardenburg, Harry B. Hardy, Arnold Hardy, John R. Harmon, Carl H. Harrington, Cornelius Harrington, Robert E. Harris, Arthur S. Hart, Karl E. Hart, Robert T. Hartman, Paul J. Hartsell, William S. Hartwell, George W. Hatch, Dwight Hatcher, Robert Hatten, Harold R. Haworth, William A. Haws, Thomas R. Hayes, Robert G. Haynes, Charles (Irby) Haynes, James T. Hays, Nathan B. Hayward, Harold D. Hazlitt, James R. Hearn, Thomas G. Heathcote, William C. Heck, Paul V. Hedeen, Melvin Heintzelman III, Harry L. Heitman, Paul F. Helms, Vernon S. Henagan Jr., Henry H. Hendrickson, William Henning, Frank Hennrikus, George Hentschel, Herbert G. Herbert, Earl Herbert, Robert G. Herbst, Carl A. Hereid, Selby P. Herman, Jacob D. Hernden, Raymond A. Herrera, Pedro Hesterly, Kenneth Hicinbothem, Franklin Hickey, Charles Hicks, Lee J. Hildreth, Robert Hill, Jack Hilliard, George R. Hineman, William Hines, Joseph A. Hinkle, Dwight Hippard, Frank M. Hoag Jr., Edward Hoak, William P. Hobbs, John O.

Hoddesdon, S. Leathers

Jones, Ira

Hogrefe, Carl H.

Holbrook, John T. Holloway, Edwin C. Holloway, James B. Holmes, Blair Holmes, William J. Holmly, Lester Holstead, James Hopp, Frank J. Horton, Paul A. Horvath, Steve Houchins, Harry Hough, Luther Houston, Robert J. Hovden, Roger Howard, Grant Howden, Ross I. Howell, William A. Hoyne, Earl K. Hreachmack, Joseph Hudson, Herman D. Huesman, Henry A. Huey, Elbert P. Hughes, Byron B. Hunnicutt, Elzie Hunsaker, Edwin F. Hunt, Mack Hunter, Charles F. Hunter, Dr. Lewis B. Huntington, Sam (Honorary Member) Huntzinger, Ed Hush, Robert Hussey, Roy Hutchinson, John L. Hyland, Gervase (Gerry) Idso, Irwin R. Ilko, George M. Inman, Willie H. Isdahll, Chester R. Issenmann, Francis J. Jackson, Leroy K. Jackson, Paul K. Jakovak, Joseph Jans, Jerome T. Jarman, Gordon Jeffers, Clinton E. Jeffries, Kenneth V. Jellen, Anthony J. Jellison, Elwell S. Jendrezweski, Ray Jenkins, James Jennings, George W. Jerominski, Edward V. Jessop, Richard B. Johanson, Dennis Johnson, A.G. Johnson, Floyd E. Johnson, Gene Johnson, Harold D. Johnson, Warren Jones, Andrew Jones, Charles T. Jones, Dr. Floyd Jones, George D.

Jones, William H. (Florence AL) Jones, William H. (Olympia WA) Jordan, Edward C. Jordan, William F. Jorgenson, Chilton H. Kaminski, Joseph Kantor, Philip Karnell, Peter J. Karner, Fred Kastner, Alfred E. Katz, Harry Kauffman, Kenyon G. Kautz, Albert Kautz, Robert Kavanaugh, Dr. William R. Kay, Allen Kearney, Earl Keene, Raymond Kellogg, Asahel Kelly, Jerome F. Kelly, Dr. Robert Kenyon, Donald E. Keown, George E. Kerr, Walter H. Kershaw, Leon R. Keyes, Frank T. Kidd, Donald W. Kilby, William C. Kimball, Dale King, Charles E. King, Donald Kircher, Carl Kirscher, John E. Kiser, Kenneth Kite, Dallas E. Kitzrow, Vern C. 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 Konopik, Milo A. (Mike) Kotte, Norman E. Kozak, Stephen V. Kram, Ralph Kramer, Harvey Kramer, Virgil F. Krause, John J. Krebs, Eugene F. Kritchman, Archie Krizan, Joseph M. Kroh, Charles H. Kuck, Homer R.

Continued on Page 8

And Soon There Will Be

Continued from Page 7)

Kuenneth, George W. Kunkel, John Kurish, Rudolph J. Kypta, Harold A. Labat, Lionel L. Lachman, Russell LaCoste, Ernie Lake, William J. Lake, William S. Lamar, John W. Lamiell, James C. Land, Don Landolfi, Gregory A. Landrie, William H. Landrum, Francis S. Lang, Fredrick Langford, Ray Lanich, Edward R. Lassegard, Leroy Latrenta, Peter Latson, Harvey Laubernds, Lawrence Laufer, Marvin Law, Charles H. LeDoux, Ray J. Lee, John J. Leemon, Don Leonard, Gene Leukhardt, Roy Levy, David Lewis, David W. Leyva, Daniel Libertucci, Peter Licker, Herbert Like, Waldean Lindo, Fred Lindomen, Edwin Linke, Walter J. Locy, John Long, Douglas Long, Emory Long, Richard L. Lorence, Clarence R. Lorenz, Leo Lorett, Leon G. Loss, Ralph H. Loveless, Harold Lovely, Robert Lowe, Donald B. Lowe, Jessup (Dave) Lowe, Lloyd F. Lucas, Wilbur F. Ludlam, Charles W. Luizzi, Sam Lund, Richard J. Lundy, Douglas M. Lusk Jr., Walter A. Lutz, Joseph Luukinen, Albert L. Lydic, Eugene (Pick) Lynch, Floyd Lyons, Bill Mackey, Frank Macklin, Roy D. MacPhail, Basil Macyda, Frank Madden, Edward F. Madlung, Jack Magnan, Mark Maher, Jere L. Mahlum, Clayton

Maloney, Clarence E. Mann, Douglas Manos, M. John Manzi, Jerry Mapel, Donald E. Marabeas, Nick Marchbanks, Tom Marfilius, Elmer H. Markley Jr., William C. Marsh, Walter E. Marshall, Richard Martin, George A. Martinek, Emil J. Martone, August J. Martorella, Angelo Maryott, Dana Masino, Louis Massey, Frank Masters, Marvert Mates, Stanley Matheis, Melville J. Matheson, Burton Matthews, Tom Mattson, George Maudsley, Donald R. Maxfield, John F. May, John M. Mayers, Joseph W. Mayhall, James Mazzanti, Eugene P. McAllister, John G. McCormack, Edward J. McCormick, Cleveland McCoy, Wayne McCrae, Robert McCurdy, Robert G. McDougall, Harry T. McGeorge, George R. McGinty, Henry McGlaun, Raymond McGovern, Raymond McIntvre, Donald B. McIver, Lawrence McLaughlin, Garvin McLaughlin, Ken E. (Bud) McLaughlin, Robert J. McLaughlin, William A. McMenamin, John A. McMichael, Robert D. McMichael, Robert F. McMillan, Billy J. McMurray, Quentin McNalley, J.F. McNeil Jr., Claude A. McQuitty, Charles Meador, Olan E. Medders, Fritz J. Meden, Frank Meingast, Joe Mellis, Charles J. Melson, Rufus Melville, Tudor Melvin, Ernest C.

Menzel, Arnold

Merritt, Donald

Meyers, Russ

Mertz, Eugene R.

Metz Jr., Charles D.

Michael, Robert D.

Miceli, Gaspera (Bob)

Merchant, Charles A.

Merritt, Charles A.

Miles, Alex Miller, Charles J. Miller, Col. Jean B. Miller, John H. Miller, John J. Miller, Lester R. Miller, Lewis M. Miller, Mike C. Miller, Paul Miller, Samuel B. Miller, Walter F. Miller, Walter F. Mills, Leonard P. Mills, Richard (Rocker) Mitchell, George Molesworth, Robert W. Monagin, Gerald W. Money, Arnold Moon, Andrew Moon, Roland F. Moore, Randolph Moore, Vincent Morauer, Richard Moretti, Raymond J. Morneau, Edward T. Morris Jr., Stacey Morrison, Donald L. Morrison, Preston R. Morrison, Robert B. Morrison, Russell Moss, Latrelle R. Motsenbocker, H.D. Motter, William F. Mudloff, Arthur F. Mullaney, Justin P. Mullin, Peter Mullins, John A. Mummert, William S. Mundhenke, Roland D. Murphy, Arthur B. Mutz, J.H. Myers Jr., Reuel Nadel, Saul Naioti, John F. Namey, John Naragon, Daniel J. Nash, George N. Neidringhaus, M.A. (Bud) Neill, David S. Nejaski, Leroy Nelson, Gene Nelson Jr., Harry Nelson, J.C. Nelson, Orville Nemer, Marshall Newbrough, Kenneth Newman, Elvis M. Newsom, Grady G. Nichols, James J. Nilles, Donald C. Noble, Earl Nolan, Robert Norby, William Notorpole, Robert J. Nulf, Larry Nungesser, Arthur H. O'Brien, John W.

O'Brien, Robert A.

O'Brien, Robert J.

O'Connell, Danny

Oeder, Robert M.

O'Doherty, James S.

Offutt, Marion Oliver, James Olson, Otto Ongley, Bert Osborn, John W. Ostroff, Earl C. Oswalt, D. Stewart Otto, William M. Ottum, Howard W. Overton, James B. Overton, Vernon Overturf, Thomas V. Owens, Blaine Page, Albert E. Painschab, Joseph H. Palant, Samuel Palmer, Charles P. Pappas, Venizelos G. Paris, Archie Paris, John J. Parrish, Lewis E. Parsons, B.H. Passmore, Joseph Paugh, Thomas E. Paxson, Theodore E. Payne, Claude N. Payne, Marshall M. Peach, Tom Peek, Kenneth R. Penders, Robert Pendleton, Charles B. Penland, Joe Perkins, Guy Perrou, Ed Perry, Arthur M. Petersen, Tracy J. Peterson, Christian Peterson, Paul M. Peterson, Raymond Petska, Albert M. Pfeiffer, Robert Pichette, Albert W. Pierson, Donald Pierzchala, Benjamin J. Pilarcik, Andrew Pintek, Joe Poole, Edward O. Poole Jr., Walter W. Poston, Brian A. Poston, Carl W. Potashkin, Herbert Powell, John Powell, Olin H. Powell, San Prettyman, William B. Pricer, Jene L. Priestley, William T. Procopio, Mario Proctor, Reginald L. Pryor, Gailliard S. Puthoff, Lewis A. Pyles, Robert F. Pysson, Albert Quick, Guy C. Quinn, John A. Quinn, Stephen R. Radnedge, William B. Rammer, Robert E. Ramsbottom, Manson Randol, Frank J. Rau, Charles A.J.

Rawlins, Charles F.

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Schumacher, Alphia H. Schwerer, George J. Scofield, Frank C. Scott, Ernest D. Scott, Norman T. Scott, R.F. Scott, Roscoe H. Scott Jr., Talma A. Scott, Tom B. Seacord, John Seal, Charles F. Seaver, Warren Sebastian, Clyde Seibert, Earl W. Selevan, Arthur Self, Clifton L. Selgrath, John Sellers, Lyndell Severson, Eldon B. Shadroui, Alfred Shaffer, W.A. Sharp, Leland A. Sharpe, Milton C. 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 Sirota, Ben Sistek, Anton A. Sitler, William A. Skarda, Joseph Skellinger, Walt Skinner, William G. Skjod, Delbert J. Slavin, Aaron Slawson, Thomas G. Sleaman, Harry Smerko, Joseph Smith, Clarence Smith, Coy Smith, Donald E. Smith, Forest C. Smith, Frank Smith, Harold Smith Jr., Harry O. Smith, Herbert E. Smith, John E. Smith, John R. Smith, Oscar J. Smith, Paul W. Smith, Ralph D. Snyder, Frank A. Sorensen, Philip G. Sorrell, Glenn M. Southwick, Earl J. Sowby, Lindsay W. Spain, Edwin F. Spangler, Harold F. Spaw, Elmer

Mallory, Jack D.

Spear, Charles F.

None Left

Spechulli, Joseph Sponholtz, Milo Stachura, Bob Stack, Henry C. Stacy, Nick Stafford III, Allison J. Stahlman, Philip H. Staley, Edmund E. Stallings, Harold Stanbrough, Claude Stange, Raymond P. Stankiewicz, Charles Starkey, Robert P. Staskiel, Stanley Steele, Charles H. Steele, Kenneth M. Steele, Robert E. (Bob) Steen, Leo W. Steinberger, Edwin Stelmach, Walter Stephens, James Sternadel, Robert L. Stetter, Paul J. Stevens, John F. Stewart, Edward S. Stickel, Robert F. Stiles, Jack Stitz, Thomas Stockman, A.J. Stoll, Victor K. Stombaugh, C.E. Stone, Warren Stout, Phern Stout, Plato Stovall, Lloyd Strickrott, Carl J. Stripling, Aaron M. Strnad, Frank Strohschein, Wallace Struckmeyer, Tom Studor, Howard P. Suggett, Walter Sullivan, Horace Sullivan, Lewis E.

Sullivan, Rev. Walter B. (Catholic Chaplain) Sundheim, Lloyd Sutton, Barney M. Sutton, Charles (Ken) Swan Jr., Neil Swed, Morris F. Sweet, Dr. Robert Swift, David Szubka, Sigmund Tacker, Laurence J. Tangney, James W. Tatchio, Orrin R. Taylor, Arthur R. Taylor, Emmett Lee Taylor, Franklin Teague, Herbert Templeton, Robert A. Terbieten, Dr. Urban Terrion, Leo W. Thacker, Ike Thibault, Roland Thomas, Henry Thomas, Howard Thompson, Lowell Thompson, Nolan J.

Thompson, Oakley J.

Thompson, Robert

Thompson, Williams H. Thomson Jr., Frank M. Thorne, James M. Thorsen, C. Edward Thumbler, Walter L. Tilden, George I. Tillman, Wally Tillotson, Albert Timm, Wilber D. Tolbert, Joseph F. Tomaino, Antonio J. Tomsho, John E. Tone, Emmett W. Totter, Joseph H. Townsend, Charles Townsley, Kenneth Tracey, Claude W. Trask, Gerald E. Travers, John T. Treff, Lee M. Triebwasser, Sidney Trigher, Sidney K. Troost, H.M. Tryon, William V. Tucker, Frank Turner, Mark Tynes, Thomas C. Uhl, Robert G. Ullman, Robert A. Ullom, Robert E. Ulstad, Duane E. Unkel, Rudolph E. Unverzagt, Daniel Upmeier, Tom Vale, William G. Vanderlick, William VanDvke, Donald J. VanPelt, Richard J. Veech, Evart M. Vela, George E. Veley, Les Vernet Jr., Waldemar Vicha, Raymond A. Vincent, Robert W. Vines, John H. Volz, John K. Vredenburg, Donald A. Waaramaa, Authur Wagner, M.C. (Buddy) Waldbauer, Charles A. Waldman, Benjamin I. Walker, Robert L. Walkup Jr., Charles A. Wallrath, Raymond Walter, R.N. Walthall, Ernest Ward, Art Ward, John Waring, Leonard H. Warner, John S. Warren, Alfred Warren, Gene L. Warren, Sanford Lee Wasserman, Charles Watkins, Sam Watson, Leland A. Weatherwax, C.D. Weaver, Wayne Webb, John J. Weckerle, Frank F. Weeks, Charles

Welder, Leo J. Welence, Edmund W. Wells, Burton B. Wells, David (Honorary Member) Wernecke, Vonnerlin Weymer, Horace (Hank) Wheeler, William J. Wheeless, H.A. White, Victor H. Whitehead, Fred A. Whitman, Fred Whorton, James H. Wickam, James E. Wickman, Walter Wierney, Joseph Wiggins, Robert E. Wight, Bill V. Wilbur, Charles R. 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. Wimer, William C. Wineman, Edward C. Winkler, Raymond A. Winslow, Raymond L. Winters, Raymond W. Wintersteen, Jack Withers, Horace Woelflin, Leslie E. Wohleber, John M. Wolf, Melvin A. Wolfe, Leonard Wood, Marvin J. Woodcock, William Woodham, Warren Woodmansee, D.A. Woodring, Dave Woodruff, Clinton L. Woods, Mark Woodson, Harold Woodson, Woodrow Woolf, James A. Woolley, Robert A. Woosley, Harry Worrell, Floyd G. Wralstad, George E. Wright, Ellsworth S. Wright III, Parke Wright, Warren H. Wright, William L. Wright, William M. Wymer, Kenneth M. Yip, Judge James S. Young, Donald R. Zackman, William W. Zagelow, Larry Zajic, Raymond J. Zampetti, Dr. Herman Zawatsky, Walter F. Zeller, Lou Zimmerman, Leland

Zins, Samuel I.

Zoldy Jr., Eugene

Zwaanstra, Williams P.

Bury Me

With Soldiers

I've played a lot of roles in life,
I've met a lot of men.
I've done a lot of things I'd like to think
I wouldn't do again.

And though I'm young, I'm old enough
To know someday I'll die.
To think about what lies beyond,
And beside whom I would lie.

Perhaps it doesn't matter much, Still, if I had my choice, I'd want a grave amongst soldiers When at last death quells my voice.

I'm sick of the hypocrisy
Of lectures of the wise.
I'll take the man, with all the flaws,
Who goes, though scared, and dies.

The troops I knew were commonplace, They didn't want the war, They fought because their fathers had, And their fathers had before.

They cursed and killed and wept.
God knows they're easy to deride.
But buy me with men like these,
They faced the guns and died.

It's funny when you think of it,
The way we got along.
We'd come from different worlds
To live in one where no one belongs.

I didn't even like them all; I'm sure they'd all agree. Yet, I would give my life for them, I know some did for me.

So, bury me with soldiers, please, Though much maligned they be. Yes, bury me with soldiers, For I miss their company.

We'll not soon see their likes again;
If we've had our fill of war,
So bury me with men like them
I cannot ask for more.

— Author unknown

Weiler, Frank

Vintage B-17 Crash Took 40 Lives

The hours are sometimes long and tedious when recovering from surgery. But sometimes they yield unexpected crops of information that might otherwise have gone unnoticed.

Such was the case in mid-August when the FLAK NEWS editor encountered a fellow patient and the two began talking B-17's. The editor, of course, was right On a previous flight Palmer had experienced some anxious moments when the B-17 lost two engines over the ocean approaching Port Moresby.

Just like the Channel jettison days experienced by 8th Air Force folks, the R&R guys "tossed out everything not nailed down."

That was a bad omen, and on the

Palmer knew —

"They just lined us up and shoved us in. We sat anyplace there was a space."

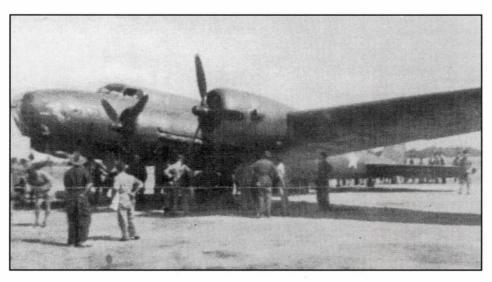
Cutler's book prompted action by the Australians and in 1992 they erected a memorial in memory of the 40 who perished. In 2003 a group of Air Force veterans added a bronze B-17 to the memorial.

Over the years, despite the early "hush" of the incident, 36 of the 41 families who were involved in the accident, have been notified.

Cutler's book, "Mackay's Flying Fortress," was published in Australia, but the author is currently trying to have it made available in the U.S.

There is also a memorial to the deadly crash located in Washington, DC, on the grounds of the Australian Embassy.

Cutler and other backers hope to have the memorial moved to Arlington National Cemetery by mid-2008.



THIS IS THE B-17 C that crashed in Australia in 1943 with the loss of 40 men. Note the "lineup" of personnel waiting to board the plane. It was on an "R&R" run between Australia and Port Moresby in New Guinea when it crashed on takeoff.

there up front with his 398th T-shirt so B-17 talk came easily and quickly.

The "other fellow" had a much different slant on the conversation and he proceeded with a story that had the editor admitting —

"I didn't know that."

Bob Palmer, also from Seattle, had been a member of the 8th Fighter Group, 5th Air Force, Australia, in 1943. He was a communications specialist at the time (when they used teletypes). The group flew P-39's, P-40's, P-38's and P-47's.

The squadron was part of the American counter offensive against the Japanese in New Guinea.

Meanwhile, there was a great deal of non-combat traffic between that island (Port Moresby) and Queensland in northern Australia.

Most of this was handled by the 46th Troop Carrier Squadron, using C-47's and ...

One B-17 C (VH-CBA).

This aircraft had been a favorite of the troops heading for R&R in Australia at Bakers Creek, with the closest airport being at nearby Mackay Airdrome.

very next trip to Port Moresby from Mackay the dreaded happened. Forty-one men, including six crewmen, crashed on takeoff, leaving one survivor.

For years, it remained America's worst air disaster.

The vintage B-17 C, a survivor from the early battles in the Philippines, was popular with the Troop Carrier guys and had been somewhat "assigned" to the Bakers Creek run.

What apparently had not been "assigned" to the old "C" was regular and proper maintenance. Not unusual, considering the shortage of just about everything in those early-day war years.

For over 50 years, news of this tragedy had been "hushed up." In 1943 the Pacific War still had more than two years to run before VJ Day and the loss of 40 men on an R&R run would not have been pleasing to the American public.

A book by Bob Cutler brought the event to light. He had come upon the story in researching his father's military career.

How could 41 men be "shoe-horned" into a B-17, was the question he and many had asked.

B-17 'Belle Soon Off On Mission

An ambitious, yet fascinating "mission" has been planned by the folks who sponsor the B-17, "Liberty Belle."

The 'Belle carries the colors and markings of the 390th Bomb Group of the 8th's 3rd Division and flew out of Framlingham in East Anglia.

Later this year the "Liberty Belle" will return to England and participate in many ceremonies commemorating the history as provided by the 8th in World War II.

The 'Belle, under the auspices of the Liberty Foundation of Tulsa, Oklahoma, will fly to England following the traditional flight paths of the WW II bombers. From its home base in Georgia she will fly 971 miles to Bangor, Maine; then 608 miles to Goose Bay, Canada; then 670 miles to Greenland; then 720 miles to Reykjavik, Iceland; then to Scotland before touching down at Framlingham. A total distance of 7,800 miles.

The organization is seeking funds for the 2008 tour. For more information telephone 918-340-0243. E-mail smaher@libertyfoundation.org.

BRIEF-things

He's been a lifetime member since the beginning of the 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association, but navigator Joe Roberge continues "over and above" support for FLAK NEWS ... his latest coming in the form of a \$100 check ... it's sad, but we lose a lot of members because they move and forget to send us a new address; please think of FLAK NEWS when you contemplate a move (or when you have a Taps notice to report) ... seen in an AF newsletter — "I need a longer runway just to get off the ground, but I'm a human DC-3, and look! I'm still around" ... the Editor is eternally grateful for the many remembrances on the passing of his wife ... Lew Burke, the director who sends out "past due" notices to our forgetful members, receives more than a few "thank you's" from guys who might otherwise not be receiving their FLAK NEWS ... pity the poor airline employees who have to handle Lee Anne Bradley's five-volume set of Jack's Books ... lots of folks admire our "Clearing & Colder" logo, the latest to ask permission to use it being the North Texas chapter of the 8th AF Historical Society ... Ozzie Osborn said he was most fortunate in procuring tickets for the Miami-New York NFL game in London, adding that "the Dolphin cheerleaders were most attractive" ... Bob Kraft had the B-17 ride of his life last year, treating his family to a flight over San Francisco (much nicer than those tense "bunching up" days over East Anglia) ... those seniors who winter in Sun City, Arizona, and call themselves The Melodaires were the ones who entertained at the Phoenix reunion dance ... the Grace Inn at Ahwatukee was a nice venue, even if some "head knocking" had to be effected to get things "right" for the Banquets and Memory Room (but their banquet meals were excellent) ... no one was available to sing "America" at the reunion so 16 young people descended on the podium and did a bang-up job ... look for many additional special FLAK NEWS reports from England in the days ahead, by-lined by "Ozzie" ... also look for Geoff *Rice's* contribution in telling the story of the group's B-17's ... Bob Welty's color photo in the October FLAK NEWS was well-received, with others wanting permission to reproduce it in their journals ... Rice pleads with the families of departed 398'ers not to "throw out" photos and documents ("send them to me") ... Buck Buchanan was the Falcon Field tour guide showing our 398th reunion members through the Sentimental Journey ... Ann Collins went all out in advertising her 601st (it's tattooed on her left shoulder) ... the 398th has friends the world over, witness the \$33.00 (cash) worth of squadron and group patches, plus a Hell From Heaven pin ordered from the PX by Alan Koukol of Plzen, Czech Republic ... our B-17 friends with the Sentimental Journey publish an excellent newsletter for their CAF Wing and they gave the 398th a full page coverage on the group's visit to Falcon Field, including a photo of our party gathered under the wing when the rains came ... it's a long story on how the plane got to Falcon Field, but the long and short of it is that an Alaskan operator bought this DC-6 that had been on display there for \$100,000, removed the engines and landing gear, and then scrapped the rest of the plane ... among the many members who will be looking forward to the next reunion in Florida is Director Joe Joseph, who lives but 40 miles from Cocoa Beach (**Joe** is doing just fine following a quad bypass) ... the "possible" England tour list is still not finalized, but one US/Brit friend who WILL be there is **Ralph Ambrose** (he'll also take in the RAF reunion) ... the very popular poem featured on 398th.org was written by John Contento of the Grinter crew.

GRAND ESSENTIALS FOR HAPPINESS

Something to do
Something to love
Something to hope for

- Allan J. Chalmers

398th Bomb Group PX

ORDER FORM (The Second Generation)

ITEM	UNIT	TOTAL
	COST	TUTAL
.OTHING		
Shirt, black, "398th BG Flying Fortress"	\$12.00	
Shirt, navy, with B-17 front view	\$12.00	
Shirt, gray, with with logo on back	\$12.00	
Shirt, olive, with Triangle W	\$12.00	
enim Shirt, long sleeve, 398th logo	\$28.00	
(S, M, L, XL XXL, please indicate size)		
olf Shirts, embroidered Triangle W, 60% co	otton, 40% p	oly mes
ens, light blue or white, S-XL		
idies, light blue, S-XL	\$25.00	
(please indicate size & color)		
APS		
ack, with logo (indicate 600, 601, 602, 603	3) \$8.00	-
DOKS (All books postpaid)		
rtresses Over Nuthampstead (Bishop)	\$65.00	
98th History (1946, photo copy)	\$20.00	
Remembrances" (1989, photo copy, Ostron	n) \$30.00	
Gird of Prey" (Coffee)		
lell From Heaven" (Streitfeld)		
ast of the B-17 Combat Drivers" (Weekley		
he Youngest Crew" (Wagner)	,	
VW II Odyssey" (Frankhouser)		
WELRY	ψ10.00	
quadron lapel pins	\$5.00	
(indicate 600, 601, 602, 603)	ψ0.00	
oup lapel pin (Hell From Heaven)	\$5.00	
	ψ5.00	
IGOS	۸۵ ۵۵	
quadron Patch (indicate 600, 601, 602, 603		
17 Jacket Patch (rectangular)		
h Air Force Patch	\$6.00	
IOTOGRAPHS & PRINTS		
learing & Colder" (8x10)	\$10.00	
learing & Colder" (14x17)	\$30.00	
nstey Stained Glass Window booklet	\$10.00	
(11x17 includes list of comrades Killed in	Action)	
uminum Overcast (8x10)		
unset at Nuthampstead" (8x10)	\$7.00	
ISCELLANEOUS		
ımper Sticker (black)	\$3.00	
ue Ink Pen (398th imprints)	,	
cense Plate Frame (398th imprints)		
ook Marker		
W II Coloring Book (with crayons)		
te Bag (20x15, black, with logo)		
te bag (20x13, black, with logo)	ψ0.00	
ems ordered	\$	
and Handling add \$4.00		
0 if order is over \$20.00	\$	
	Total \$	
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This is a fond memory of the several tours taken by the 398th Bomb Group to the Czech Republic. "Dukla" represents a part of the Czech Army devoted to special projects, which includes servicing the many memorials erected in the Czech lands where American servicemen perished in WW II.

398th BOMB GROUP FLAK NEWS

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