

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

 VOL. 24 NO. 1

 FLAK NEWS

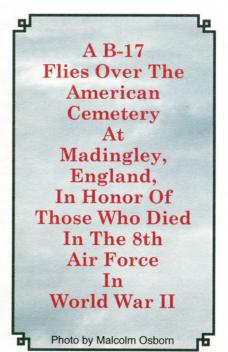
 JANUARY 2009





BULLETIN Wally Blackwell, president of the 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association, passed away Wednesday morning, January 14, 2009. He had served the Association as Director and Secretary before being elected

president in 1996.



The President's Page: "I Remember Him"

BY WALLY BLACKWELL President, 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association

You will see that this issue of FLAK NEWS includes a list of deceased 398th veterans. This "TAPS" list is published in every January issue and contains the names of all deceased 398th veterans that we have information on. As this list grows longer

and longer with each passing year, I believe it is important that once a year we pause to remember all those who have "gone on."

I know that each one of these names means very much to someone who searches the list. And there are so many of them. Some of their experiences are intertwined with my own.

This list contains many names of those you may have known, perhaps as a buddy, or a comrade in combat. I can recall so many of them myself! I always take time to go down



WALLY BLACKWELL

the list carefully, column by column, pausing at familiar names. After a thought or two I can usually recall their faces. At this time I say, "I remember him" to myself. It is my way of being sure that he is remembered by someone at this time. Perhaps it is time for others to do this also.

I receive many good reports from many sources about the uniqueness and success of the 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association activities. We do have an Association full of energy and ideas. I know that this is primarily due to our second generation members. As the TAPS list continues to grow it will be important for them to pause and remember the faces and exploits of all those gone on. I know that the Association will prosper long after the veterans are departed. I hope you will take time to review the list carefully as each name is deserving of a "I remember him." Thanks for your understanding of what 398th membership is all about.

Changes of Address For Some Vintage B-17's

The U.S. Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio, currently has the B-17's Memphis Belle and Shoo Shoo Baby. Shoo Shoo Baby is now slated to be transferred to the Smithsonian's Udvar-Hazy Center in northern Virginia.

In return the Smithsonian will give the Air Force Museum the B-17 Swoose which has been in the Smithsonian's storage facility for the past 30 years. The experience that the Air Force Museum gained during their restoration of Memphis Belle will now be put to use in restoring Swoose.

Swoose is the oldest surviving B-17 and the only surviving "Shark Fin" B-17D. It was originally named Ole Betsy and it participated in the first combat mission in the Philippines after Pearl Harbor.

-CAF, Arizona Wing



Many Job Titles

On December 31, 1944, there were 3,043 men stationed in and around the airfield at Nuthampstead, roughly split between ground and flying personnel.

The four squadrons -600, 601, 602and 603 — were joined by the following units — 1226 Quartermaster; 206 Finance; 478 Sub Depot; 1449 Ordnance; 18 Weather; 344 Medical; 1142 Military Police: 860 Chemical: 325 Station Complement; and 426 Air Service.

Col. Frank P. Hunter, Jr., was the "supreme" commander of the 398th dealing primarily with the flying aspect. Col. Earl Berryhill "ruled" all things on the ground.



COL. HUNTER

In all this, a multitude of men and a multitude of skilled or trained people were involved. Thus, a list of these "job titles" has been drawn up to give a measure of "remembrance" to all those who worked, toiled, acted, fought, trained, prayed, waited, served, etc. for the 398th ... and their country ... in World War II -

Adjutant, airplane mechanic, armament specialist, armorer, baker, ball turret gunner, barber, bomb loader, bomb sight specialist,

bombardier, carpenter, chaplain, chaplain's assistant, chauffeur, chemical specialist, communications specialist, cook, co-pilot, cryptographer.

Dentist, dish washer, doctor, electrician, electronic specialist, engine mechanic, engineer gunner, engineering officer, finance specialist, fireman, flight surgeon, gun mechanic, instrument specialist, intelligence specialist, link trainer.

Mailman, medical specialist, mess officer, meteorologist, military police, motor pool mechanic, musician, navigator,

operations specialist, ordnance specialist, painter, parachute specialist, photographer, pilot, plumber, PR specialist, propeller mechanic.

Radio operator, sheet metal mechanic, skeet instructor, special services, supply specialist, tail gunner, tin smith, togglier, transportation specialist, truck driver, truck mechanic, typist, waist gunner.

Remembering Some Interesting Facts on 8th AF Bases

At its peak in 1944 -200,000 Personnel 2,800 Heavy Bombers and 1,400 Fighter Planes 40 Bombardment Groups and 15 Fighter Groups

> Constructing a Typical New Base 18,000 tons of dry cement 90,000 tons of aggregate 3,000,000 square feet of concrete One main 6,000 foot runway Two 4,200 foot short runways 54,000 feet of taxiing space 32,000 square yards of tarmac 400,000 cubic yards of excavated soil 20 miles of drain 10 miles of conduit 6 miles of water main 4 miles of sewer 10 miles of road 4,500,000 bricks

Total cost of £1,000,000 (\$4,000,000) at 1942 prices A new airfield was started every three days in 1942 -Ozzie Osborn

"I WANT TO REMEMBER" Silent Homage Paid At Anstey

BY MALCOLM OSBORN Cambridge, England

Today I stood alone by the moat at Anstey Castle Mound. The fish were biting on the surface of the brown water, the wind was blowing through the leaves which are now dry and ready to fall into the waters below. There was quiet bird song, a passing crow, the sudden flapping of the wings of a wood pigeon leaving the tree in front of me.

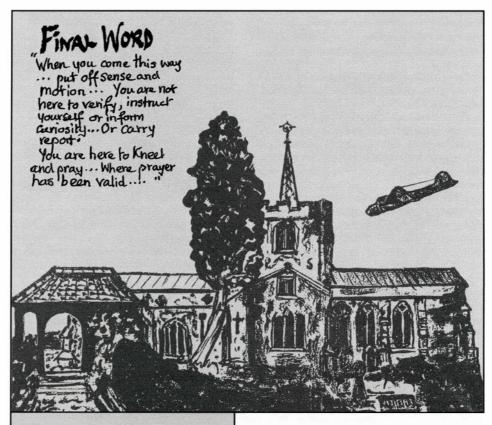
But there was also a silence, an opportunity to stand alone and pay silent homage to the memory of 10 young Americans who had paid the ultimate sacrifice at this very spot 65 years ago. Standing there today, it was so hard to imagine the carnage, the fires, the initial explosion as the big bird came to earth full of fuel and bombs, that moment when young lives were taken so many thousands of miles from their homes.

It was October 15, 2008, a grey damp October day. I wanted to be on my own this day. I wanted to remember that October 15th day in 1944 when the B-17G piloted by William L. Meyran and Charles Khourie, crashed shortly after taking off from runway 23 at Nuthampstead.

It was Bill Meyran's 25th birthday on October 15, 1944. He had inherited a \$100,000 bequest from his Grandfather and the first \$25,000 was payable on Bill Meyran's 25th birthday. When he was woken up that day he had climbed from his bed and excitedly promised his buddies that there would be one heck of a party that night. Meyran was being assessed as deputy lead pilot, thus his normal co-pilot, Navigator and Bombardier were stood down that day. It saved their young lives. Just a few hours later Meyran would lie dead on this ancient castle mound along with nine other young American aircrew.

Later that same day, over the flak ridden skies of Cologne, George Abbott was killed instantly when the nose of his B-17G was blown off whilst he was preparing to release it's bomb load as the crew's Togglier. Pilots Delancey and Stahlman would bring that ship back to Nuthampstead with a feat of airmanship that still amazes anybody who studies the photographs of that B-17G with most of it's nose missing.

I walked into St. George's church and stood by the 398th BG memorial window. I looked at the names engraved into the wings of the butterflies. I thought of all the services that have taken place here since



"Early that Sunday morning everything went blue and orange. As children, we were hustled under the stairs. Our parents knew the plane would be loaded with bombs. As the plane was going over it seemed to be off course, farther to the left than the others. The first thing it hit was the walnut tree at the back of the milk farm. Then it ploughed its way through the trees on the mound behind the church, to end up a burning and exploding wreck.

"The force of the impact was such that the bombs pitched forward and into the moat. This probably saved the church and surrounding houses from a terrible blasting. From the area around the moat one can still see the route the plane took through the trees.

"The emergency services were soon at the scene. The moat had to be pumped out to help recover the bombs. There were no civilians allowed at the scene and armed guards were put on duty. Some people say there were limbs and clothing and even some jewelry hanging from the trees.

"There were bullets strewn about, a long way from the wreckage, even as far as Anstey Hall in the region of the small mound." October 15, 1944, all the services since a church was first built here, how amazing that it still stands, for had the stricken aircraft's bombs exploded the church itself would have been destroyed.

Then I drove to The Woodman Inn and the 398th Memorial, where I stood alone and remembered George Abbott.

Of course, I then went inside The Woodman for a couple of beers, some lunch, accompanied by the usual excellent conversation with the regulars and Sandy and Ian.

After the rain stopped, having got wet inside rather than outside, I left The Woodman Inn, pausing to take some photos of the memorial in it's fall setting, before leaving for home. I want to remember those who died on this day 65 years ago, plus all those who died flying from AAF Station 131.

Where To Find Them

The names of all 398th men killed in action may be found in the "Anstey Stained Glass Booklet" that is available in the PX. See "Photographs and Prints" on Page 12.

The names of the 398th veterans who have passed on since returning home appear on Pages 6-7-8-9 of this issue.

The B-17 "Rendezvous"

It was 70 years ago and the "Army Air Corps" was still trying to find a place for itself somewhere in the military between the Army and Navy, whose leaders had not yet come to grips with air power.

Even Billy Mitchell's sinking of an old German battleship in 1921 had failed to convince the proud Navy brass.

Thus, in 1938, the Air Corps used the most extensive "maneuvers" in its history to prove that aircraft could be used to intercept a potential invader. Heretofore, this role had been reserved exclusively for the Navy.

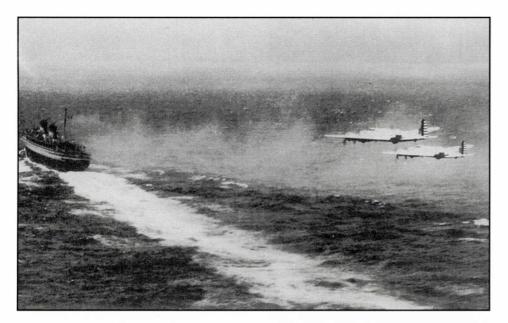
With no American naval vessels available at the time, Maj. Gen. Frank Andrews (later of 8th Air Force fame) contrived with others (Ira Eaker and Curtis LeMay) to send out three B-17's in an attempt to intercept an "invader" at sea. This turned out to be the Italian passenger liner, Rex, whose owners were happy for the anticipated publicity.

Both the Army and Navy were incensed at being shown up with such an outlandish caper. The entire episode was broadcast live via short wave radio over NBC. And covered by New York reporters aboard the planes. Two B-17's flew past the Rex at deck level while the third photographed the action from above.

Both the Navy and War Department fumed about the intercept, and in 1939 the Secretary of War cancelled the Air Corps plans to purchase more B-17's. That was overridden by President Franklin Roosevelt's call for 20,000 airplanes.

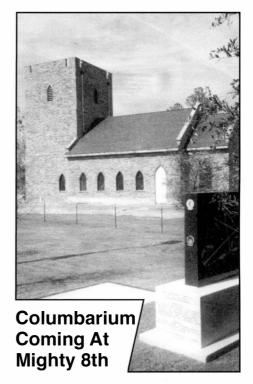
All of which became useful after Pearl Harbor in 1941.

(From "Rendezvous With the *Rex*" — John Correll, AFA)



- Photo courtesy Air Force Association

THE ITALIAN LINER Rex was 750 miles off the American coast in 1938 when three early model B-17's upstaged the Naval coastal command and located the passenger liner in a simulated "invasion" intercept.



It will be called, "The Garden of the Folded Wings," and will be located just north of the "Chapel of the Fallen Eagles," at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum in Savannah, Georgia.

And, for the 398th, very close to the group's beautiful Memorial and several individual and crew Memorials.

The "Folded Wings" pertains to the new Columbarium at the Mighty Eighth, scheduled for completion in January 2009. It is a non-denominational Columbarium, built to provide niches for permanent storage of cremains in a "tasteful, secure setting," according to the museum's Henry Skipper.

The niches are available to the public, according to Skipper, but preference will be given to veterans and immediate family members of the 8th Air Force. The niches are double sized and will hold two urns. The face stone for each niche will be made of granite and engraved with the name of the occupant, plus an additional line of text.

The Chapel will be available for services in connection with the Columbarium.

For more information, contact the museum at 912-748-8888. E-mail — *skipper@mightyeighth.org.*

Many States in the East Asked to Respond to Dues

The 14 states in the East that make up about one-fourth of the 398th membership get the call this quarter to help and uphold the financial stability of the Association.

At the same time, our Friends in England also will be called on to help in the form of supporting FONA (Friends of Nuthampstead Airfield).

This part of the 398th support is

handled by Malcolm Osborn in his role as FONA secretary-treasurer.

Other "off-shore" members receiving FLAK NEWS come from Belgium, Holland, Scotland, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Poland, Czech Republic and Sweden. They are invited to contribute directly through the 398th Dues Chairman, Dawne Dougherty, Harrisburg, OR 97446-9585. The "Eastern" states are made up of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, and Washington DC.

If the "Dues Notice" is missing from FLAK NEWS, members may still send the \$20.00 to Dougherty, including all proper information, like address changes, *etc*.

Bail Out Memories Recalled:

ALL WAS SILENT AT 25,000 FEET

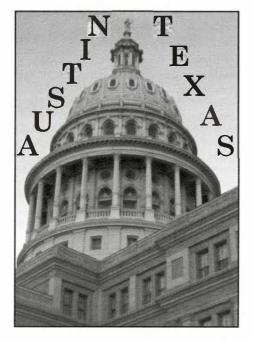
Along with one of the many "obits" received annually by FLAK NEWS came a story printed several years ago by the Ogden, Utah, *Standard-Examiner*. It was about Adolph (Bud) Huesgen and his WW II adventure with the 398th Bomb Group on a mission to Bingen on December 29, 1944. It was the first group mission since the start of the German offensive called the Battle of the Bulge at Christmas time.

Huesgen died at 84 in August 2008, but he left a chilling description of the moments that followed his bail out over Germany. He was co-pilot on the Mahlon Erickson crew of the 602nd, victimized by German flak. Huesgen's description should be a reminder to others who experienced similar World War II bail outs. He writes —

"I jumped at 25,000 feet. Even though I have an abnormal dread of being at great heights, at that moment in the forward hatch I felt a strange, sudden calmness come over me.

"I remember falling head first, pulling the rip cord and having the 'chute billow out from between my legs. Drifting down, I thought of inconsequential things like my cap left behind in the plane. Then I pondered on the likelihood of my becoming a prisoner of war.

"Everything was silent, except for the slight whistling of air. As I got closer to the ground, I could see vehicles moving and people running. Suddenly I heard a projectile whisking past my head. I was being shot at by troops on the ground!





"As soon as I landed and got out of my harness, I started running, not knowing which direction to run to evade capture. Then I heard a harsh command in German and immediately put my hands in the air.

"Several rifles were pointing at me, and as I drew nearer, one of the men said, "Where is your 38?" It was then I realized that they were American troops, and that I had landed in no man's land.

"With a name like Huesgen and captured so near the front lines I had a tough time convincing the guys that I was not a German infiltrator dressed in a U.S. flying uniform.

"Eventually, I returned to Station 131, only to find that all my personal things had been distributed by the other guys in the hut. They thought we'd all been killed.

"One was killed, two were hospitalized and five became prisoners. I went 'back to work' and flew 10 more missions."

THE 2009 REUNION

The next reunion for the 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association — the 26th annual — will be held in Austin, Texas, on September 9-10-11-12, 2009, it was announced by reunion chair Sharon Krause.

It will mark the second time around in Texas for the group's annual gathering. San Antonio was the first, back in 1987.

Registration forms, tours, hotel and all necessary reunion information will appear in the April issue of FLAK NEWS.

The state's capitol, Austin, lies in "central Texas," south of Dallas, west of Houston and north of San Antonio. The city's population is about 570,000.

Mighty Eighth Museum Gets A B-17G

A B-17G in need of "some restoration" is even now on its way to the Mighty Eighth Museum in Savannah, Georgia, and will become a part of the Museum's Combat Gallery.

It has been a 12-year journey for the Mighty Eighth in acquiring the B-17, which will become a part of the Educational Tours that will include the actual restoration progress in the coming months (and years). An active funding program is planned to enlist member groups and individuals for the acquisition/ restoration support.

For support information write the Museum at PO Box 1992, Savannah, GA 31402. Or *www.mightyeighth.org*. Or 912-748-8888.

No. 44-83814 began life at the Douglas plant in Long Beach, California in 1945, not early enough to see combat service. The plane escaped the chopping block at Altus, Oklahoma, and found its way to a school district in Hazen, North Dakota. It was sold in 1941 to Owen Williams of St. Petersburg, Florida, for work on his California-Atlantic Airways. It then went to a Canadian firm in 1953, where it was used in survey work for some 18 years in the Canadian Arctic and around the world.

It was then sold to Black Hills Aviation, South Dakota, for 10 years of tanker work. The ownership then went to the Air & Space Museum for display at the Pima Museum in Arizona. Ultimately it went into storage at Dulles, where work began in January to prepare it for trucking to Savannah.



Senate Approves Vets' Hand Salute

Last year there was a little known change in federal law that authorized vets and active duty military not in uniform to render the military hand salute during the raising, lowering, or passing of the flag but it didn't address the national anthem.

A bill was introduced in the Senate to correct and add this to the authorization. Veterans and active duty military not in uniform can now render the military style hand salute during both the flag raising and the playing of the national anthem. — Arizona Wing, CAF

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Higher Ground

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 Arnold, Robert W. 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. Bagan, Wesley Bagley, Bernard Bahling, John W. Bailey, Adrian (Bud) Bailey, Ray E. Baird, Harold Baker, Albert A. Baker, Cova Baker, Hermus C. Baldiga, Edward M. 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. Barnum, George Bartimus, Neil R. Bartusiak, Leonard J. Bartusis, Anthony J. Basco, John J. Bash, Claire C. Basham, James Bassman, Fred G. Batayias, Peter K. Battaglia, Frank A. Baughman, John Bawduniak. John Baxter, Richard Bearden, Edgar Beattie, Hugh Don Beatty, Oscar L. Beavers, Cecil Beck, Charles M. Beck, John W. Becker, John J. Becker, Max Beckley, Robert J. 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. Bernard, John R. Bernier, Lovola A. Berguist, Carl G. 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. Bisson, Albert Bittner, Walter Blackwell, Jr., Wallace H. (Wally) Blancett, Marvin Blanda, Guido Blankenship, G.W. Blehm, Frederick W. Bley, Winston Blum, Lowell

Bobbitt, James M.S. Boeger, Orv. W. Boehme, Alfred H. (Herb) 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. Borts, Donald E. 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 Brandstatter, John D. (Jack) 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, E. Logan Brown, Hilyer (Pete) Brown, James C. Brown, Joe E. 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 Brvant, 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 Bushle, Louis Bussard, James L. Butler, John Buvinger, David Buzza, Kenneth Callahan, Noel Cameron, Carl C. Campbell, Edward A. Campbell, Roger W. Campbell, Tom Campbell, Van B. Campbell, Wallis L. Campdon, Alfred Cantrell, Floyd Cantwell, Robert H. Capen, George H. Carlson, Kenneth G. Carlton, Donald P. Carter, Nigel Carter, Richard J. Carter, Robert C. (Saferite crew) Carter, Robert C. (Watson crew) Carwile, Allan P. Cason, Alfred Cassel, Arnold Castro, Edward Catterson, Kenneth L. Cavalier, Vincent J. Charbonneau, Francis Chase, Lewis D. Chavez, Martin C. 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, Weslev H. Cifrese, Paul Civitarese, William A. Clafford, Lloyd Clament, Jesse R. Clark, Benjamin L. Clark, Francis C. Clark, Joyal O. Clarke, Atwell S. Clarke, Walter F. Clements, Jerauld Clifton, Ernest Clisham, Raymond J. 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. Cooper, Beryl C.

Cox, Paul E. Coxey, John T. Crawford, Paul 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

On Behalf Of A



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 Courneen, John R. Courtenay, Gordon T. Coville, Paul A. Cowen, Harry Cowley Jr., John J. Cox, Howard W. Cox, Norman

Dailey, E. Bruce Dalton, Hollis Daly, William J. Dames, John J. Darcy, Lawrence Darner, Leroy David, Paul M. Davidoff. Herman Davidson, Warren Davidson, Wm. H. Davis, Elwood B. Davis, Jack Davis, Jerald A. Davis, John H. Decker, Gerald Delancey, Lawrence Delbart, Raymond S. Delcamp, Clarence E. Delorey, William J.

Beyond The Sunset

Delorier, Joseph Delorimier, John B. Demander, John L. Desh, Herb Devan, Samuel Devlin, Steve Dexter, Robert L. Dezan, Burton H. Dick, Russell O. Dickhart, Clarence Dierolf, Claude E. DiGiuseppe, A. Gerard Dimich, Peter M. Dimino, Charles A. Dippel, Francis Dixon, Gerald Dixon, Roger E.

Duncombe, David M.

Dunlap, Fred M.

Dunn, Richard J.

Durbin, Francis

Dutra, Edwin

Durtschi, William J.

Dutrow, Gordon P.

Dwyer, Wilbur S.

Earley, Robert J.

Eberhart, Jay J.

Echevarria, Jose

Eck, Harold

Edgell, Harry

Duvall, Rev. James T.

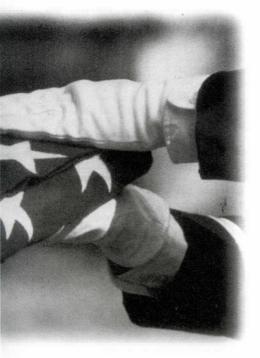
Dwyer Jr., William J.

Ebbeson, Dr. E. Dalton

(Protestant Chaplain)

Dunne, Bill

Grateful Nation



Dobie, Richard Doerfler, David J. Doerstler, Wayne Doles, Robert F. Dollar, James D. Donahue, Clifford E. Donelian. Thomas Donovan, George Doran, Robert E. (Red) Dorfmeier, Donald D. Dougherty, A.L. Dougherty, Thomas E. Douglas, Gene Dover, Harry J. Downing, Robert A. Drager, Kenneth Dreyer, Charles G. Driscoll, John T. Duncan, John W.

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

Evans, Donald Faber, Herbert G. Falkenbach, John S. Farenthold, Francis L. Farewell, Francis A. Farley, Robert Farmer, Edward Farmer, Jack D. Farmer, John M. Farnsworth, Dexter Farrell, William A. Faughn, Joe Fay, Andrew Fedder, Gordon E. Fellows, Charles 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. Flickinger, Charles R. Flipse, David Flood, George M. Florin, Henry Floyd, Arch C. Folger, Robert Foraker, Kenneth H. Foster, Carl F. Foster, Dean L. Foster, George E. Foster, Paul Fowler, Hannibal Fowler, James Franceschini, Gino Frantz, Landis Frazier, W.R. (Dick) Frazier, Willis Freel, Lawrence A. Freeman, W. Noel French, Ozie Frew, George Fritog, Arthur Fritz, Jack Froelich, James S. Gabriel, Frank E. Gagnon, Glen S. Gallardo, Octavus Galloway, Robert C. Galloway, Robert F. 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 Gerlt, Larry E.

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. Guarisco, John Guild, Herbert Gulledge, Thomas G. Gulvas, Theodore S. Gurney Jr., Julius Guy, Chester L. Haakenson, Selmer Hafer, George C. Hagedorn, Forrest (Hank) Hager, Herman L. Hakomaki, Flovd 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. 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. Hartshorn, Glenn Hartwell, George W. Hatch, Dwight Hatcher, Robert Hatten, Harold R. Haworth, William A. Haws, Thomas R. Hayes, Robert G. Haynes, Charles (Irby) Havnes, 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 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, Charles R. Hough, Luther Houston, Robert J. Hovden, Roger Howard, Grant Howard, Robert L. Howden, Ross I. Howell, William A. Hoyne, Earl K. Hreachmack, Joseph Hudson, Herman D. Huesgen, Adolph H. 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, Rav 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, Ira Jones, William H. (Florence AL) Jones, William H. (Olympia WA) Jordan, Edward C. Jordan, William F. Jorgenson, Chilton H. Joseph, Joe

Continued on Page 8

And Soon There

Morris Jr., Stacey

Morrison, Donald L.

Morrison, Preston R.

Morrison, Robert B.

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. Krizek, August V. Kroh, Charles H. Kuck, Homer R. 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 Loftus, Melvin F. 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, Llovd 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 Lvons, Bill Mackey, Frank Macklin, Roy D. MacPhail, Basil Macyda, Frank Madden, Edward F. Madlung, Jack Magnan, Mark Magness, Byron Maher, Jere L. Mahlum, Clayton Mallory, Jack D. Maloney, Clarence E.

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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 Merchant, Charles A. Merritt, Charles A. Merritt, Donald Mertz, Eugene R. Metz Jr., Charles D. Mevers, Russ Miceli, Gaspera (Bob) Michael, Robert D. Miles, Alex

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Nuthampstead, England

April 1944 - May 194

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Weymer, Horace (Hank)

Triebwasser, Sidney

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Our Air Force As seen by the Air Force Association Jimmy Doolittle



James H. Doolittle made his mark in half a dozen roles — aviator, engineer, war hero, military leader, industry executive — and his achievements in any one of them would have been sufficient to earn him a place in history. Hollywood made several attempts at depicting him on the screen but with limited success.

He won his wings in the Army Signal Corps in 1918 and he was one of the most famous pilots of the 1920's. He won air races, set aviation records, and developed aeronautical capabilities and equipment. In 1929, he took off, flew, and landed completely on instruments with a hood over his cockpit. He resigned his regular commission in 1930 to become a Shell Oil company executive. He remained in the Army Reserve and returned to active duty as a lieutenant colonel in 1940.

In the days following Pearl Harbor, Japan seemed invincible and the United States needed a victory. An Army B-25 bomber, normally based on land, could take off from a carrier deck. On April 18, 1942, USS *Hornet* drew within 650 miles of Japan with Jimmy Doolittle and sixteen B-25's aboard. From there, Doolittle led the aircraft off the pitching deck. Taking the Japanese by surprise, the raiders bombed Tokyo.



A B-25 takes off from USS Hornet.

Several of them were subsequently killed or captured, but most of them made it to China and returned home. Doolittle was promoted to brigadier general — skipping the grade of colonel — and awarded the Medal of Honor.

He commanded Twelfth Air Force in North Africa and Fifteenth Air Force in the Mediterranean theater. In 1944, promoted to lieutenant general, he took command of Eighth Air Force in England and directed the strategic bombing offensive against Germany. He was the highest-ranking reserve officer to serve during World War II.

In 1946, Doolittle returned to his job at Shell. He was first president of the Air Force Association, 1946-47, and AFA Chairman of the Board, 1947-49. He retired from the Air Force reserve as a lieutenant general in 1959, but was advanced to four-star rank on the retired list by Congress in 1985. He died in 1993.



Carl Spaatz

Carl Spaatz was the first Chief of Staff of the Air Force as a separate military service. He was an officer of extraordinary effectiveness and ability and was said to be the only person that Hap Arnold trusted completely. Eisenhower said that Omar Bradley and Spaatz were the two officers most responsible for victory in Europe.

He was born "Spatz" but added the second "a" in 1937 in hopes that his name would be pronounced correctly, as "Spots" rather than "Spats." His friends called him "Tooey," after a West Point upperclassman he resembled.

He was commissioned in the infantry but became a pilot in 1916 and flew with Benny Foulois and the 1st Aero Division in pursuit of Pancho Villa in Mexico. He was in combat for the last three weeks of World War I, time enough for him to shoot down three German airplanes. In 1929, he was commander of *Question Mark*, a Fokker C-2A, when it set an airborne endurance record. *Question Mark*, refueling from a hose extending from another airplane, remained in the air for more than 150 hours.



QUESTION MARK takes fuel over Burbank, California.

At the beginning of World War II, Brigadier General Spaatz was the chief planner for the Air Corps. He advanced through a series of combat commands in Europe and North Africa and in 1944 became commander of U.S. Strategic Air Forces in Europe. As the war in Europe ended in 1945, Spaatz got his fourth star and was named commander of U.S. Strategic Air Forces in the Pacific. In that capacity, he oversaw the conclusion of the air campaign against Japan, including the atomic bomb missions against Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He was present at the surrender of both Germany and Japan.

When Arnold retired in 1946, Spaatz became the last Commanding General of the Army Air Forces. In 1947, he was named the first Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force and saw the new service through its first formative year before retiring in 1948. His retirement activities included a tour as Chairman of the Board of the Air Force Association in 1950-51. Spaatz died in 1974.

BRIEF-things

It was a mere coincidence that president **Blackwell** chose "I Remember Him" as the title of his column on Page 2 and that Ozzie Osborn chose "I Want To Remember" for his story on Page 3, beautifully coinciding with the Taps columns on Pages 6-7-8-9 and another "memory" feature on Page 2 ... our "Hell From Heaven" motto has long been identified with the emblem. and was incorporated into the Station 131 Memorial by Ozzie, but the motto might have been pinched from a 1943 bombardiers' class book (according to Brit Russ Abbey) ... one of our members recently bid \$75 on eBay for an original 601 Squadron patch, to see it sell for \$566! (current squadron patches sell for \$6.00 in our PX) ... Jack Novak was one of 52 398th members added to the Taps list this year; he was one of 16 pilots in the group who graduated from West Point; Col. Hunter, the CO, graduated in 1933 as an artillery officer, but quickly switched to the Army Air Corps ... every 8th airman knows that not every bomb hit its target, and that some failed to explode, so a German engineer named Staude has been hard at work finding the "UXB's" by studying RAF and 8th strike photos to determine where they may still be lurking (before builders begin building) ... with fewer and fewer members (see Taps) it should come as no surprise that the "rest of us" have to step up with extra funds to keep the Association alive ... Since You Asked: only two West Pointers are still "with us" - Bill Scott of McLean, Virginia, and Don Griffin of Kaneohe, Hawaii; Frank Hunter and John Baker were killed in action; Kearie Berry and Ernest Scott were killed in aircraft accidents: the others have "passed on" - Jim Bestervelt, Selmar Gustaves, Harry Heintzelman, Luther Hough, Harvey Latson, J.D. (Jessup) Lowe, Frank Schofield, Franklin Taylor, Harold Woodson and Jack Novak ... "30,000 Feet" is the title of the late Steve Quinn's wonderful poem, and is the lead item in Don Hayes' B-17 newsletter, "Splendor in the Skies" ... with so many "lifetime" and "widow" members on the roster who are exempt from paying annual dues, perhaps the answer lies in more "special" contributions to keep the Association in the black, which prompts "thank yous" to Robert Dittmer, Richard Fox and Pat Herron, the latter in memory of Carl F. Foster ... a year's "subscription" to FLAK NEWS alone cost over \$12 ... our favorite museum, the Mighty Eighth in Savannah, Georgia, reminds us all that their Memory Garden and Wall of Valor contain over 7,000 names and "there is room for more" ... also, reminding that 2,000 veterans die each day, and that the average age of the veteran is now 85 ... also, that the Museum plays host to 15,000 school children annually ... also, that they have six new exhibits under development, in addition to the work on the Chapel of Fallen Eagles and the new Columbarium (Page 4) ... Museum leaders suggest a visit this summer if that overseas trip is deemed a luxury ... call 'em at 912-748-8888 or e-mail at www.mightyeighth.org ... Sonia Gifkins and our friends at the Wash in England report that the local East Anglia newspapers gave excellent coverage to the 398th tour last summer; also, that some of the WW II airfields are now dotted with those huge wind turbines (65 years ago the natives had to put up with the "Fortress Cyclones") ... Gifkins also said that some of the old bomber bases still echo of ghosts of the past (hear any strains of Glenn Miller's "In the Mood?") ... pilot John Blythe was touched by the Gibson Girl story in the October 2008 issue of FLAK NEWS (which he says brings a lump in his throat every quarter) ... Bill Frankhauser gets emotional when he sees how the Dutch honor Americans killed in action and buried at their Margraten Cemetery ... the 398th has 16 buried there (or on the Wall of the Missing) and each has a Dutch sponsor ... the Christmas/New Year celebrations have come and gone, but not before the editor relays special thanks to all the folks who sent special greetings to the 398th BGMA officers; the editor loved those Brit B-17 cards from Les Dear and Kevin Whitaker; the sledding Santas from Ladislav Kohout of Pilsen; saddened by the accompanying death notice of Ladislav Piskacek; gladdened by the "no bombers, no fighters" card from Marcel Janssens of Belgium; and enchanted by the "Merry Christmas" card in Czech from Milan Spineta (Air Stars) of Slany.

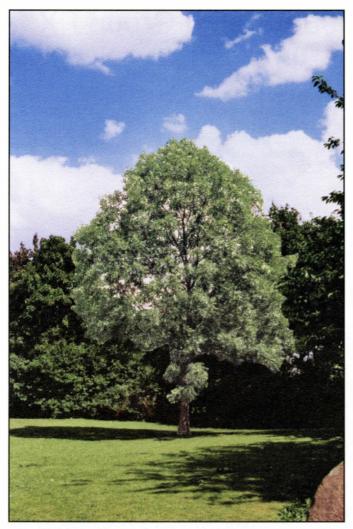
FLAK NEWS – Vol. 24 No. 1

398th Bomb Group PX

ORDER FORM (The Second Generation)

γτς	ITEM	UNIT COST	TOTAL
	CLOTHING		
	T-Shirt, black, "398th BG Flying Fortress"	\$12.00	
	T-Shirt, navy, with B-17 front view		
	T-Shirt, gray, with with logo on back	\$12.00	
	T-Shirt, olive, with Triangle W	\$12.00	
	Denim Shirt, long sleeve, 398th logo	\$28.00	
-	(S, M, L, XL XXL, please indicate size)	φ20.00	
	Golf Shirts, embroidered Triangle W, 60% cotto	on /10% n	oly mae
	Mens, light blue or white, S-XL	\$25.00	
	Ladies, light blue, S-XL	\$25.00	
	(please indicate size & color)	φ20.00	
	CAPS Black, with logo (indicate 600, 601, 602, 603)	\$8.00	
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	"WW II Odyssey" (Frankhouser)	\$19.00	
	JEWELRY		
	Squadron lapel pins	\$5.00	
	(indicate 600, 601, 602, 603)	Q 0.00	
	Group lapel pin (Hell From Heaven)	\$5.00	
	LOGOS	\$0.00	
		¢6.00	
	Squadron Patch (indicate 600, 601, 602, 603)		
	B-17 Jacket Patch (rectangular)		
2	8th Air Force Patch	\$6.00	
	PHOTOGRAPHS & PRINTS		
	"Clearing & Colder" (8x10)	\$10.00	
	"Clearing & Colder" (14x17)	\$30.00	
	Anstey Stained Glass Window booklet	\$10.00	
	(11x17 includes list of comrades Killed in Ac	ction)	
_	Aluminum Overcast (8x10)		
	"Sunset at Nuthampstead" (8x10)	\$7.00	
	MISCELLANEOUS		
	Bumper Sticker (black)	¢2 00	
	Blue Ink Pen (398th imprints)		
	License Plate Frame (398th imprints)	φ <u>5.00</u>	
-	Book Marker	\$5.00	
	WW II Coloring Book (with crayons)		
	Tote Bag (20x15, black, with logo)	\$8.00	
ost o	f Items ordered	\$	
elive	ry and Handling add \$4.00	•	
	5.00 if order is over \$20.00	\$	
	То	tal \$	
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	ss State Z		

Make check payable to "398th Bomb Group PX." Mail completed order form and check to Carolyn Widmann, Noblesville, IN 46062-7150,



THE TREE in Neuss, Germany, that commemorates the several visits of the 398th Bomb Group to this city is growing tall and healthy, as this photo indicates. It was planted in 1988 jointly by German citizens and 398th tour members. The tree was re-visited by the 398th in 1992 and 1998. It was on the Neuss bomb run in 1945 that the B-17 piloted by Col. Frank P. Hunter and Federico Gonzales was shot down, with only Gonzales surviving. The tree honors the nine crew members killed.

398th BOMB GROUP FLAK NEWS

c/o Allen Ostrom Lynnwood WA 98036-4555

