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

VOL. 25 NO. 4

FLAK NEWS

OCTOBER 2010



A magnificent double rainbow honors Americans lying at Madingley Cemetery in England.

—Photo by Arthur Brooks



SILVER STAR



LEGION OF MERIT



DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS



AIR MEDAL



SOLDIER'S MEDAL



BRONZE STAR



PURPLE HEART



GOOD CONDUCT



AMERICAN DEFENSE



EUROPEAN CAMPAIGN



VICTORY MEDAL



PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

Awards And Decorations Won By Members Of The 398th During The Air Battles Of World War II

The President's Page:

It's Museum Time

BY MARILYN GIBB-RICE

President, 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association

Another exciting reunion was held last month in Denver. The weather was outstanding with lots of sunshine to keep everyone cheery! The hotel was one of the best we have ever had for a reunion and they held a special happy hour for us that turned out to be a huge success. People were able to eat, drink and mingle while shopping at the PX and browsing over Jack's Books and Jeff Eberle's (grandson of Ray Vicha) collection of 398th original patches and memorabilia. Our plans are to continue with this happy hour on the Friday night of future reunions.

The board and membership unanimously agreed to support the proposed Nuthampstead Airfield Museum and are asking for founding memberships and donations to kick off the fund-raising efforts.

There is a complete story on all aspects of the museum proposal to be found on Pages 5 and 8 in this issue.

Information will also be found on www.398th.org.

There will be only 131 "Founding Member" plaques available to members. Send your \$200.00 "plaque" check to:

**Mellisa Ledlow,
Houston, TX 77044-1112**

Remember to include "in memory of" or "in honor of" with your letter.

You may also purchase a 2011 calendar to help support the museum from the PX. They cost \$15.00.

At the reunion, we received a cloth helmet from Pep Petrocine and an original "398th Bomb Group Remembrances" book for the museum. If anyone has items to donate, contact Geoff Rice at photos@398th.org.

WANTED: Home movies! The historians of the 398th are aware of home movies taken of the 398th Bomb Group while in training and at Station 131 in Nuthampstead. Do any of you have movies in any format that you would like to share with the group? We have the ability to convert these movies into DVD's and therefore share them with others and display on our web site if you so choose. Contact Lee Anne Bradley, grouphistorian@398th.org or contact Geoff Rice, photos@398th.org

PLEASE log on to our website www.398th.org and check out our "What's New" section. Any items new or updated will be listed there. As always, Dave Jordan, our webmaster is always in need of help for our website. He would love to hear from you and your offer to help. Please contact Dave at webmaster@398th.org.

Dues Time For Westerners

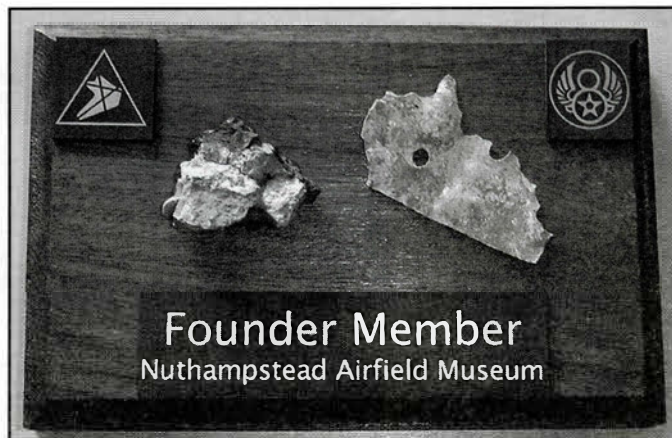
The folks "out west" get the starring role in the support of the 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association this quarter.

And Dues Manager Dawne Dougherty is among these, with her home not far from the Pacific Ocean in Harrisburg, Oregon.

The Association remains "just barely" in the black," thanks to the members who contribute \$20.00 each year, primarily in support of FLAK NEWS, which, by the way, really costs more than \$5.00 per copy (four per year). The difference is made up by those sending in contributions "over and above."

The members living in the following Western states should be receiving dues notices — Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Alaska and Hawaii.

If the envelope is missing, Dawne's address is Harrisburg, OR 97446-6120. Or you can e-mail duesmanager@398th.org for dues information, Taps notices and the like.



In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

This classic poem of World War I was written by Lt. Col. John McCrea, a Canadian medical doctor ministering to his unit near the Canal de l'Yser, France, in 1915.

Saddened by the death of his friend and former medical student, killed in action, Dr. McCrea penned the poem the day following his friend's funeral.

Dissatisfied, Dr. McCrea discarded the poem, but it was retrieved by a fellow officer, who sent it to a London newspaper. It was rejected by SPECTATOR, but later published by PUNCH.

FLAK NEWS blended the World War I poem with the Page 1 World War II American Military Cemetery at Madingley, near Cambridge, England — substituting "between the rainbows row on row."

Are You Ready For 2012?

The second generation is wasting no time in looking ahead to the 2012 398th Bomb Group Tour to England, even if the memories of last Summer's trip are still fresh.

Ken Howard is even now asking for prospective members to contact him with "ideas" for England.

Also ready to "do it again" is the 2010 leader Ann Collins.

“Aura of Reverence”

125 Gather In Denver

A most acceptable count of 125 was registered for the 27th annual reunion of the 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association, held last month in Denver, Colorado.

Of that number, 25 were veterans, or about one-quarter of the total count. That was also “acceptable,” according to reunion chair Sharon Krause, who has been witnessing an on-going decline in numbers since she took the reunion helm 10 years ago.

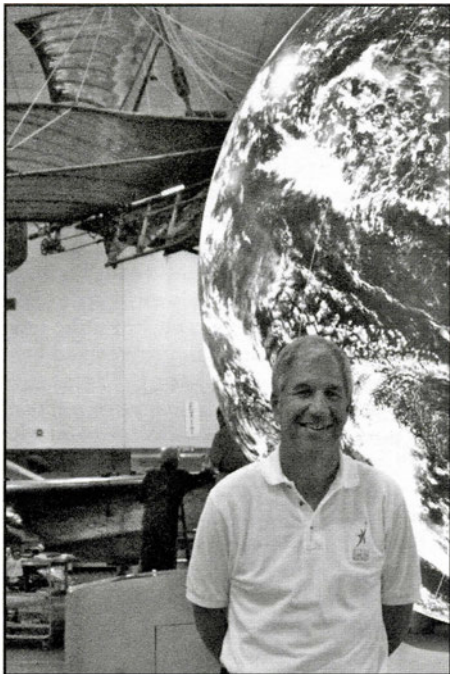
Long gone are the days of 500+, with the veterans still “hot to trot” and leading the action. Replaced by the “seconds and thirds” who not only came to assist the aging veterans, but to dominate the Association leadership.

Note that all four of the elected officers — president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer — are not only second generation, but also women. (See Page 9 for a list of all the 398th officers.)

The last vet among the officers to “give way” was Bob Bowen, who came to the reunion as vice-president, but also with the personal decision to “step aside” in favor of the younger generation.

Lee Anne Bradley, already on “overload” as Historian, volunteered to replace Bowen and was duly elected ... to fill both positions.

It was this generation that led the way



A BACKGROUND featuring the world and an “around the world” plane featured Greg Anderson, the CEO of Denver’s “Wings Over The Rockies Museum.” Anderson was a speaker at the 398th reunion.

toward the development of the Station 131 Museum, approved by the Board and membership at the reunion. (See Pages 2, 5 and 8 for this story.)

It was an “aura of reverence” that enveloped the Banquet crowd as the “seconds and thirds” led in the singing of *America* (all three verses). This gave assurance that the “young ’uns” are instilled with both love of country and love of the 398th.

There was also an “aura of reverence” throughout the four-day reunion in seeing



THE 398TH OFFICERS made for an all-girl act at the Denver reunion. Front row are Marilyn Gibb-Rice, president; and Lee Anne Bradley, vice-president. Back row are Karen Neff, secretary; and Mellisa Ledlow, treasurer. Three other women are among the group officers, plus nine men. See Page 9 for complete listing.

... and assisting ... the veterans who came and participated in the tours and activities despite the handicaps of wheel chairs, walkers and canes.

It was like, “you’re flying today!”

Many “flew today” on a very long coach trip to Colorado Springs, the Air Force Academy and Garden of the Gods. A taxing tour of eight-and-a-half hours ...

Bulletin

Hal Weekley, in whose honor the 398th markings of the Aluminum Overcast were painted in restoration, passed away on September 22, 2010. He was 89. Weekley was in the 601st Squadron when his plane was shot down. He bailed out and eventually evaded and returned to England. He went on to fly thousands of additional hours in post-war B-17's and was the “Last of The B-17 Combat Drivers,” the title of the book he wrote in recent years.

The Reunion Veterans

Keith Anderson
Cleo Bickford
Bob Bowen
Dale Brown
Lew Burke
Russ Currier
Don Dunn
Dallas Ebest
Vaughn Erickson
Jim Haas
Don Harvey
Dean Hill
Bernard Kuse

Joe Mansell
Herb Meeker
Ray Moore
Newt Moy
Allen Ostrom
Pep Petrocene
Ray Richman
Paul Roderick
Chuck Sasse
Arnie Schneider
Gerald Souder
Ray Talbott

or about the same as those long missions to Merseburg!

Thankfully, the Holiday Inn East saw fit to have a complimentary and most welcome meat ball, wine and cheese banquet table awaiting the tired travellers.

The day saw a tour of the Academy, reminiscent of 1986 when the 398th presented a Memorial Plaque.

This time there was a special Memorial Service at the Cadet Chapel, conducted by the chaplain.

“Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea.”

The sermon featured “The Greatest Generation” with many appropriate “Amen’s” along the way.

The tour continued with visits to the breathtaking sights of the “Garden of the Gods.” (No Pike’s Peak tour this time.)

The tour to Lowry Field was sentimental for the members who had passed

Continued on Page 4

Reunion Count Was “Acceptable”

(Continued from Page 3)

through there during World War II. It has changed dramatically since it was a training center for bombardiers, aerial photographers, gunners and others preparing for combat.

“Hanger One” is now “Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum,” dedicated to education, science, mathematics, and technology, and a home for many military aircraft, with some restorations in daily progress.

All this under the supervision of a 398th friend from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and the EAA — Greg Anderson. It was Anderson and the then president Bill Comstock who combined to spur the 398th to contribute some \$40,000 to refurbish the Aluminum Overcast, complete with 398th colors.

Anderson now leads the fast growing Rockies museum and is largely responsible, along with actor Harrison Ford, for producing the spectacular film that depicts Rocky Mountain aviation. Anderson was a popular guest speaker at the Welcome Banquet. He said —

“The 398th is privileged to have had such great leadership as Bill and Wally. And it continues with Marilyn.”

The “Rockies” visit was followed by a coach run to “Red Rocks Park,” another breathtaking sight not far out of Denver. It was once considered one of the “seven wonders of the world” with its awesome red sandstone formations.

The evening before the 398th visit saw a spectacular outdoor theater the scene of a (naturally) rock music concert.

The reunion festivities got under way for the “early birds” with a murder comedy mystery show and spaghetti/meat balls dinner at the nearby Adams Playhouse.

There was no representation from England this year, but the 398th created a pair of “thank you” plaques to send with Marilyn and Geoff, now “at home” in Bury St. Edmonds, Suffolk.

Recipients of these are Peter Brooke and Malcolm Osborn, both of whom were honored for their “tireless work on behalf of the 398th veterans, family members and friends.”

Both had decided to step away from official “Friends” responsibilities, “but we will always be available to welcome our Friends from across the pond.”

Wilfrid Dimsdale remains the “official” Friends officer in his capacity as 398th Board member, living near the old airfield at Meesden Bury. He also maintains the memorials on behalf of the American Battle Monuments Commission.

The 398th itself received its own “thank you” in the form of a proclamation from the 115th Fighter Wing of Wisconsin, represented by Col. Mark Richman, the group’s Flight Surgeon. (See Page 8.)

Col. Richman just happens to be the nephew of Ray Richman, 600 Squadron adjutant, who was there to relate some of his memories of Col. Frank P. Hunter, Jr., the group C.O. Don Menard also shared in the Hunter memories.

All the 398th leaders’ names were published in the Welcome Banquet program



ANN COLLINS, the 2010 tour leader, models the colorful hockey shirt sent by the Czech Republic tour sponsors to Allen Ostrom, who had made several previous visits to their country as tour leader. Ostrom was a former hockey player and sports writer, currently FLAK NEWS editor.



THE WIDOWS of the 398th were honored at the Denver reunion, noting both their presence and their financial faithfulness. Left to right, front row, are Jeanne Stange, Dawne Dougherty, Arline Reed and Ruthanna Doerstler. Back row are Rozanne Joseph, Helen Howard, Teedy Blackwell and Marilyn Clyne. Joining this group after the photo were Cena Marsh and Nora Brandstatter.

as per the “1944 Christmas Dinner Menu.”

Most airmen on the December 24, 1944, mission to Koblenz were diverted to other bases that day and missed the elegant Christmas Day dinner. It was at the time of the Battle of the Bulge.

The Farewell Banquet brought forth Ann Collins and Ken Howard, who had headed up the 2010 Czech Republic part of the England tour. They surprised Don Christensen, whose father’s B-17 was shot down over the Czech lands, with parts of the plane that had been dug up at the 1945 crash sight, including the cap from the plane’s flare gun. Thanks to Jaromir Kohout.

The Czechs sent along Czech RAF silver pilot wings for Christensen, Collins, Howard and the 398th president, Marilyn Gibb-Rice and oft-times tour leader Allen Ostrom.

Teedy Blackwell was recipient of a handmade bronze plaque of Wally Blackwell, courtesy Milan Spineta, the “impresario” of the fabled Slany Air Stars aviation show.

Both Collins and Howard have already

Continued on Page 10

Near Woodman, Memorials:

“FOUNDING” PLAN FOR MUSEUM

There will be a Museum at Station 131, Nuthampstead, and it will be located (naturally) near the Woodman Inn and the two memorials dedicated to 398th Bomb Group and 55th Fighter Group.

All this was assured at the Denver reunion as the Board met to hear the fine points of the proposal ... and endorse the project unanimously.

Before the meeting was over many checkbooks were out to kick off the “Founding Member” plan which includes 131 (naturally) commemorative plaques at a cost of US\$200 each. Similar “131” plaques are available to UK members at the same cost.

The “Founding Member” plaques may be purchased “in memory of” or “in honor of” a loved one or someone special. The plaques will come from England and will contain a small piece of the 131 runways and a piece of a B-17 recovered from the airfield. The plaques measure about six by eight inches in size.

Treasurer Mellisa Ledlow, daughter of radio operator Don Menard, is prepared to accept orders made out to “398th Bomb Group Museum” at Houston, TX 77044-1112.

The Museum Project, long envisioned by many, came to fruition through the efforts of president Marilyn Gibb-Rice, who had moved to England last year with husband Geoff Rice.

“I am totally dedicated to preserving the memory of our 398th heros and this museum will be the perfect format in which to do so.

“The museum will be there for the history to be told, a grand addition to the monuments, stained glass window, trees and plaques we have around the world.”

The Nuthampstead Airfield Museum is a legally formed trust with a Deed of Trust and Stated Objects. The formal binding documents uses a template endorsed by the UK’s Charities Commission. The Trustees are:

Chair — Andrew Grisbrooke, Vice Chair — Geoff Rice, Secretary — Marilyn Gibb-Rice, Curator — Russ Abbey, Treasurer — Christine Barry.

The building which will become the museum is already in place on the property owned by Grisbrooke (*See additional Grisbrooke story on Page 8.*) The property is located directly behind the Woodman. The present building measures about 24 by 42 feet and will undergo extensive reconstruction so as to be ready for its mission. The initial investment will

MISSION STATEMENT

“The mission of the NUTHAMPSTEAD AIRFIELD MUSEUM is to provide a facility for public education of the 8th Air Force 398th Bomb Group and the 55th Fighter Group and attached units and of these organizations activities and roles in the national defense. Our aims are to do this through programs of collection, exhibition, interpretation, conservation, restoration, education, research, reference and publication.”

be \$30,000 with an additional \$15,000 required for “fitting out.”

Russ Abbey, a young, but serious student of 398th and 55th history, will be the curator and responsible for the artifacts. These will come under “conditions of deposits and acquisitions.” Abbey is currently the assistant curator at the Tower Museum at Basingbourne, home of the 91st Bomb Group.

The museum will have a mutual working arrangement with the Woodman, as each will mutually benefit.

A museum web site is already in place — www.nuthampsteadairfieldmuseum.webs.com and www.nam131.org is under construction.



BALMORAL CASTLE

21st September 2010

Dear Mr. Ostrom

The Queen wishes me to write and thank you for the July issue of FLAK NEWS.

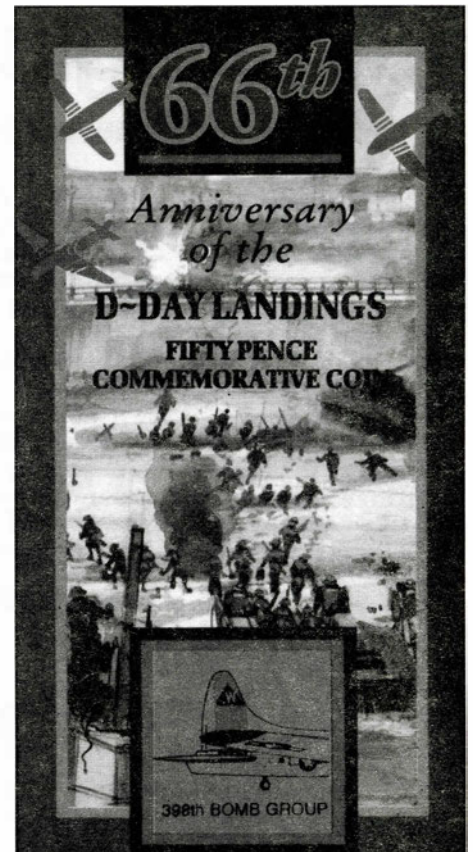
Her Majesty was sorry to hear that only two of your World War II Veterans were able to come to the 2010 reunion tour in England, but The Queen was pleased to know that 12 members of the second generation attended and have assured you of their continuing presence in the future.

I am to thank you once again very much for writing as you did.

Yours sincerely
Annabel Whitburn

Lady-in-Waiting

Mr A Ostrom



The greatest military invasion of all time took place 66 years ago — June 5, 1944.

The Allies’ monumental crusade to liberate Europe from Nazi domination had come down to one, final critical decision by the Supreme Commander — Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. And he said — “Okay, let’s go!”

With that order he unleashed an armada of 7,000 ships, 11,000 aircraft and three million men. Twelve different countries were involved — United States, Great Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Greece, Norway, Poland, and the Netherlands.

When France was finally freed at the end of August 1944, the cost to the Allied armies totaled 37,000 dead and 153,000 wounded. And the war was just beginning.

The magnitude of “Operation Overlord” is spelled out on Page 6 and 7, with the listing of all the American Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard units involved in the D-Day invasion.

Taps List Due In January

The annual listing of members’ names who have passed on since returning home from World War II will be published again in the January 2011 issue of FLAK NEWS.

For the names of those killed in action, and their positions on the stained glass window at St. George’s Church in Anstey, they are invited to visit PX “Photographs and Prints” on Page 11.

Original Invasion Orders

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS – ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force!

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory!

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory!

Good Luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.

–DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

United States Army Air Force Units

8th Air Force Order of Battle

1st Bomb Division

<u>1st Bomb Wing</u>	<u>41st Bomb Wing</u>
91st BG	303rd BG
381st BG	379th BG
398th BG	384th BG

<u>40th Bomb Wing</u>	<u>94th Bomb Wing</u>
92nd BG	351st BG
305th CG	401st BG
306th BG	457th BG

2nd Bomb Division

<u>2nd Bomb Wing</u>	<u>95th Bomb Wing</u>
389th BG	489th BG
445th BG	491st BG
453rd BG	

<u>14th Bomb Wing</u>	<u>96th Bomb Wing</u>
44th BG	458th BG
392nd BG	466th BG
492nd BG	467th BG

20th Bomb Wing
93rd BG
446th BG
448th BG

3rd Bomb Division

<u>4th Bomb Wing</u>	<u>92nd Bomb Wing</u>
94th BG	486th BG
385th BG	487th BG
447th BG	

<u>13th Bomb Wing</u>	<u>93rd Bomb Wing</u>
95th BG	34th BG
100th BG	490th BG
390th BG	493rd BG

45th Bomb Wing
96th BG
388th BG
452nd BG

VIII Fighter Command

65th Fighter Wing
4th FG 356th FG
56th FG 479th FG
355th FG

66th Fighter Wing
55th FG 353rd FG
78th FG 357th FG
339th FG

67th Fighter Wing
20th FG 361st FG
352nd FG 364th FG
359th FG

VIII Composite Command

801st BG (P)	803rd BS (P)
495th FTG	7th PG
496th FTG	802nd RG (P)

9th Air Force Order of Battle

IX Fighter Command

425th NFS	422nd NFS
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IX Tactical Air Command

67th TRG

70th Fighter Wing
48th FG 371st FG
367th FG 474th FG

71st Fighter Wing
366th FG 370th FG
368th FG

84th Fighter Wing
50th FG 404th FG
365th FG 405th FG

XIX Tactical Air Command

10th PG

100th Fighter Wing
354th FG 362nd FG
358th FG 363rd FG

303rd Fighter Wing
36th FG 406th FG
373rd FG

IX Bomber Command

1st PF SQN (P)

97th Combat Bomb Wing
409th BG 416th BG
410th BG

98th Combat Bomb Wing
323rd BG 394th BG
387th BG 397th BG

99th Combat Bomb Wing
322nd BG 386th BG
344th BG 391st BG

IX Troop Carrier Command

50th Troop Carrier Wing
439th TCG 441st TCG
440th TCG 442nd TCG

52nd Troop Carrier Wing
61st TCG 315th TCG
313th TCG 316th TCG
314th TCG

53rd Troop Carrier Wing
434th TCG 437th TCG
435th TCG 438th TCG
436th TCG

Continued on Page 7

United States Army Units

90th Infantry Division

357th Infantry Regiment
 358th Infantry Regiment
 359th Infantry Regiment
 90th Reconnaissance Troop
 315th Engineer Combat Battalion
 315th Medical Battalion
 343rd Field Artillery Battalion
 344th Field Artillery Battalion
 345th Field Artillery Battalion
 915th Field Artillery Battalion

82nd Airborne Division

504th Parachute Infantry Regiment
 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment
 325th Glider Infantry Regiment
 82nd Parachute Maintenance Battalion
 307th Airborne Engineer Battalion
 80th Airborne AA Battalion
 319th Glider Field Artillery Battalion
 320th Glider Field Artillery Battalion
 376th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion
 456th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion

Attachments

507th Parachute Infantry Regiment
 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment

101st Airborne Division

502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment
 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment
 327th Glider Infantry Regiment
 401st Glider Infantry Regiment
 101st Parachute Maintenance Battalion
 326th Airborne Engineer Battalion
 326th Airborne Medical Company
 81st Airborne AA Battalion
 321st Glider Field Artillery Battalion
 907th Glider Field Artillery Battalion
 377th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion
 463rd Parachute Field Artillery Battalion

Attachments

70th Tank Battalion
 65th Armored Field Artillery Battalion
 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment

1st Infantry Division

116th Infantry Regiment
 18th Infantry Regiment
 26th Infantry Regiment
 1st Reconnaissance Troop
 1st Engineer Combat Battalion
 5th Field Artillery Battalion
 7th Field Artillery Battalion
 32nd Field Artillery Battalion
 33rd Field Artillery Battalion

Attachments

745th Tank Battalion
 741st Tank Battalion
 746th Tank Battalion
 81st Chemical Battalion
 186th Field Artillery Battalion
 62nd Armored Field Artillery Battalion
 635th Tank Destroyer Battalion
 116th Combat Team
 111th Field Artillery Battalion
 115th Combat Team

4th Infantry Division

8th Infantry Regiment
 12th Infantry Regiment
 22nd Infantry Regiment
 4th Reconnaissance Troop
 4th Engineer Combat Battalion
 4th Medical Battalion
 20th Field Artillery Battalion
 29th Field Artillery Battalion
 42nd Field Artillery Battalion
 44th Field Artillery Battalion

Attachments

359th HCT
 13th Field Artillery Observation Battalion
 899th Tank Destroyer Battalion

29th Infantry Division

115th Infantry Regiment
 116th Infantry Regiment
 175th Infantry Regiment
 29th Reconnaissance Troop
 121st Engineer Combat Battalion
 104th Medical Battalion
 110th Field Artillery Battalion
 111th Field Artillery Battalion
 224th Field Artillery Battalion
 227th Field Artillery Battalion

Attachments

457th AAA Automatic Weapons Battalion
 743rd Tank Battalion
 747th Tank Battalion
 186th Field Artillery Battalion
 187th Field Artillery Battalion
 190th Field Artillery Battalion
 200th Field Artillery Battalion
 58th Armored Field Artillery Battalion
 26th Combat Team
 2nd Ranger Battalion
 5th Ranger Battalion
 635 Tank Destroyer Battalion
 803rd Tank Destroyer Battalion
 821st Tank Destroyer Battalion
 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion

United States Coast Guard

USS Charles Carroll
 USS Barnett
 USS Samuel Chase
 USS Joseph T. Dickman
 USS Bayfield (Force Flagship)
 US Coast Guard Rescue Flotilla One
 USCG-1 through USCG-60

LST-16	LCI(L)-90
LST-17	LCI(L)-91
LST-21	LCI(L)-92
LST-27	LCI(L)-93
LST-261	LCI(L)-94
LST-262	LCI(L)-95
LST-326	LCI(L)-96
LST-327	LCI(L)-319
LST-331	LCI(L)-320
LST-381	LCI(L)-321
LCI(L)-83	LCI(L)-322
LCI(L)-84	LCI(L)-323
LCI(L)-85	LCI(L)-324
LCI(L)-86	LCI(L)-325
LCI(L)-87	LCI(L)-326
LCI(L)-88	LCI(L)-349
LCI(L)-89	LCI(L)-350

United States Navy

Battleships

USS Arkansas USS Texas
 USS Nevada

Cruisers

USS Augusta USS Tuscaloosa
 USS Quincy

Destroyers

USS Baldwin
 USS Barton
 USS Butler
 USS Carnick
 USS Cherardi
 USS Corry
 USS Doyle
 USS Ellyson
 USS Endicott
 USS Fitch
 USS Forrest
 USS Frankford
 USS Glennon
 USS Hambleton
 USS Harding
 USS Herndon
 USS Hobson
 USS Jeffers
 USS Laffey
 USS McCook
 USS Meredith
 USS Murphy
 USS Nelson
 USS O'Brien
 USS Plunkett
 USS Rodman
 USS Satterlee
 USS Shubrick
 USS Thompson
 USS Walker

Headquarters Ship

USS Ancon

Frigates

USS Boram USS Maloy

Minesweepers

USS Auk	USS Staff
USS Broadbill	USS Swift
USS Chickadee	USS Threat
USS Nuthatch	USS Tide
USS Pheasant	

Patrol Craft

PT-484	PT-1176
PT-552	PT-1225
PT-564	PT-1232
PT-565	PT-1233
PT-567	PT-1252
PT-568	PT-1261
PT-617	PT-1262
PT-618	PT-1263
PT-619	

Other Vessels

4,126 Landing Ships/Craft
 736 Ancillary Ships/Craft
 864 Merchant Ships

Fortresses To Huskies On Station 131

BY ANDREW GRISBROOKE
Nuthampstead, England

Hi, we are Andrew and Christine and we live next to the Woodman Pub along with our pack of Siberian Huskies. Christine got into Siberians over 25 years ago and when I went to buy a puppy from her 12 years ago, I got more than I bargained for! We got married. Our aim now is to create one of the best Siberian Kennels in the UK. We have made up nine champion dogs from 82 championship wins and reserve tickets. We also race the dogs from end of November to the end of March each year and won the UK dual championship last year. We are getting there!

To make progress we need to put in lots of training and have the right bloodstock. Our lines come from a mixture of famous Alaska and Finnish kennels. In May 2002 we walked into a world



ANDREW GRISBROOKE and his Siberian "B-17's"

famous kennel in Wasilla, Alaska, and saw "Kathy." By the end of the morning we had bought her and were making arrangements to ship her home to the UK.

A trip to Lapland in August 2002 saw us coming home with a young male called "Tsilga." Both these acquisitions did well in the show ring and worked well, so when Kathy came into season in 2004 we decided to put them together and ended up with 4 pups. This proved to be one of the best matings we had ever done.

We train the dogs four times a week from late August, through the race season and finish sometime in May. We are lucky to be able to use the old runways and taxiways of Station 131. I can't think how many hours I have spent in the dark up there on the airfield being pulled by our dog teams. My mind often wanders to thoughts of the B-17's of some 60 odd years ago. For me it is a special place.

Tsilga and Kathy's pups were so good that I decided to do two very rare things. Firstly, a repeat mating and secondly to keep the whole litter. Both of these Christine did not agree with! So when Kathy came into season I did the mating. During the pregnancy we argued about me keeping the whole litter, and finally agreed that I could keep one girl and all the boys. In October 2006 Kathy had one girl and five boys! I had already thought that I wanted to name the pups from nose art of B-17's from the 398th and to make it more interesting, those that made it back to the US. I chose How Was It Well, Vonnie, Leapin Liz, Coffee Grinder, Maxine and Miazza Dragon. Day to day known as Howie, Vonnie, Liz, Grinder, Max and Dragon.

New pups start working around a year old and it was great to be out there on the airfield on the dark winter evenings of 2007/2008 watching my "B-17's" develop. They raced competitively during the 2009/2010 season.

Museum Near Woodman

Andrew Grisbrooke and his wife Christine are the owners of the property on which the new Station 131 Museum will be located, adjoining the Woodman Inn at Nuthampstead.

The museum will be created out of an existing building on the Grisbrooke property, near their Siberian facilities. See Museum stories on Pages 2 and 5.



9 September 2010

HISTORIAN
398th Bomb Group Reunion
Denver, Colorado

Dear 398th Members:

Please accept my best wishes as your organization celebrates its 27th reunion. We men and women of the 115th Fighter Wing stand in awe thinking of the example your group set over 66 years ago in England.

It is amazing to think how warfare technology has evolved between the days of your Army Air Corps and today's Air Force. A small number of F-16's deployed to a base anywhere around the world can now achieve a similar effect as an entire group of B-17's in WW II. However, I believe a very special human element developed by the likes of "Mighty 8th" air crew members remains unchanged. The bravery and loyalty displayed by your group operating out of Station 131 in Nuthampstead, England, set the highest standards for others to emulate. It is worth repeating that your generation helped save democracy and spread it around the world more than any other generation.

Freedom loving people in our great nation and around the world are forever indebted to your service. We are truly grateful.

Cordially,

JOSEPH J. BRANDEMEUHL, Brig Gen, WI ANG
Commander, 115th Fighter Wing
Madison, Wisconsin



Col. Mark Richman and Historian Lee Anne Bradley

Letters

The 398th Officers



“Dear Sandra — when we visited London last summer I realized how close we were to Anstey, so we drove there and saw the beautiful St. George’s Church. What a lovely building!

“The flowers of red, white and blue were still in place following the recent visit of the 398th reunion group.

“I wrote down the names of the 398th visitors and Dennis climbed a ladder to photograph your uncle’s name on the stained glass window (#22-25). It was an emotional visit and I sensed your closeness.

“I realize your uncle’s body was sent home, but we did visit the Madingley graves of pilots Hansard and Davis.”

Margaret and Dennis, Scotland

Ed’s Note — These were friends of Sandra Averhart of Florida, whose navigator uncle, William H. Baker, was killed along with the two pilots as their 600 B-17 crashed at Reed coming home from Merseburg.

“Thanks to you and FLAK NEWS, and for publishing (each January) the names of our members who have passed on. Sadly, I must add two more from the 1449th Ordnance — Maston Foster and Sam Hoekstra.

“I would like to have seen the Ordnance and other Service groups recognized on Page 1 along with the four Squadrons. Just a suggestion.”

Robert A. Daines, SMG USAF (Ret.), Statesville, North Carolina

Editor’s Note — It’s a little late for such a change after 25 years, but how about a listing below ... plus a sincere “thank you” from the Squadrons?

206th Finance, 244th Medical, 325th Station Complement, 1449th Ordnance, 478th Sub Depot, 860th Chemical Warfare, 18th Weather Squadron, 1142nd Military Police, 1226th Quartermaster, 426th Air Service Group.

It’s Branson

The 28th annual reunion for the 398th Bomb Group will be held in Branson, Missouri, on September 7-10, 2011, it was announced by reunion chair Sharon Krause at the recent Denver reunion.

The 398th visited Branson on a one-day tour from Springfield, Missouri, in 1996.

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What’s This?

Flying Cap and Earphones; Throat Mike and Flying Sun Goggles; Flight Jacket; Heavy-duty Flying Pants; Heavy-duty Flying Boots; Parachute Harness; Knife and Belt; Emergency Water Bottle; Emergency 30-day Food Package; Oxygen Mask; Warm Gloves; Walking Shoes if shot down; Emergency Cloth Map of Germany.

Answer: Equipment worn and modeled by Chuck Sasse, 602, at the Farewell Banquet in Denver.

Perils of Flight — Before and After the War

Much has been written about combat missions by the 398th BG in World War II, and rightly so, but the perils of flight didn't begin there or end there. Try this one by a 603 Squadron pilot.

Our flight to England began as it did for many other crews who ferried a new B-17G over the ocean. En route things were different.

We took off from Hunter Field, Georgia, on January 31, 1945. Our ordered route would take us to Dow Field, Maine, Philadelphia, Allentown, Newburg and Hartford. Alternate airports were listed as Fort Dix, Syracuse Army Air Base and Grenier Field, New Hampshire. An *inoperative air speed indicator and bad weather* forced an *emergency landing* at Grenier.

After the weather cleared, we proceeded to Goose Bay, Labrador, our jumping off point.

Blue West One, Greenland, was our next stop. This was a one runway airport of a 5° grade located next to a lake and surrounded on three sides by mountains rising to 13,000 feet. (See FLAK NEWS Vol. 19 No. 3.)

Our ordered time of take off from Goose Bay was late. When we approached the Greenland Coast, *deteriorating weather* forced us down to an altitude of 1,000 feet. We were unable to make a visual approach to the airport. I reversed course out of the waterway to open water and climbed above the cloud cover. Tracking the radio compass we passed back and forth over the tower. After several passes and *divine intervention*, a small opening in the clouds came exactly as we flew over the lake. Without hesitation, I rolled over and dove straight down that 13,000 feet, pulled out at 1,000 feet, made a 360 and landed. That was the only time I didn't call the tower for landing instructions.

The *storm* grounded us for two days. At 11:00 PM we were ordered out. A full moon gave us sufficient light to clear the mountains. Once on course we again entered the *storm* and flew the entire last leg to Blackpool on instruments ... and on to Station 131 and the war. Then finally, the Last Mission and orders back to the States.

To help with the movement of planes from England to the U.S., I was given the job of Weights and Balances Officer. I examined each plane for total weight and distribution of that weight. Finally, I got the only plane left — a war weary bird that had been retired from combat and used for fighter plane air to air gunnery practice.

Heading home our first stop was Valley,

Wales. On landing we noticed a *gasoline leak* coming from the wing tank. Repair of the gas tank *delayed* our departure. Our second stop was Reykjavik, Iceland. Here we were *grounded for excessive oil consumption*, and advised we could not safely make the long trip to Goose Bay, Labrador.

After two days on the ground and no prospect for getting passenger space on another plane, we decided to take our chances. We made it to Goose Bay, but *blew out a tire* on landing.

Replacement of the *tire, wheel* and *repair to an engine*, delayed us once more, and again we were advised not to attempt the final leg to Bradley Field, Windsor Locks, Connecticut. Half of the crew and 11 passengers we had with us thought we might have exhausted our luck. I told them we were going, and they came along.

At Bradley Field we were greeted with a great reception. Advice from the ground personnel came — the PLANE WOULD BE SCRAPPED!

Robert Gieryn
Southern Pines, NC 28387

www.398th.org

Over the last year, there were a number of major additions to the web site — www.398th.org.

1) Lee Bradley's contribution of all 66 398th MACR's in PDF format.

2) Keith Anderson's contribution of nine 398th Monthly Statistical Reports providing key details about end of month crews and other vital statistics.

3) The addition of over 30 more Timeless Voices interviews largely from 2006 and 2007.

4) Additional Timeless Voices transcriptions: Elliot Novek's interview by Karen Neff and Connie Novek; Pep Petrocene interview by Elaine Jurs; and Lew Burke's interview by Eddie Ebert.

Popular pages continue to be Crew Photos, Aircraft Photos, Nose Art Photos, Unidentified Crews Photos, Veteran Personal History, POW Lists and PX pages.

Denver Was Spectacular

(Continued from Page 4)

begun planning for the 2012 England tour.

Dr. Ken Peirce came to the Board meeting to offer assistance in updating some Association by-laws ... and came away being elected head of the new Memorial Committee.

He also donated the proceeds of the 2004 England-Normandy Tour DVD he had made available to the PX, resulting in sales of \$100.

Before he returned home to Edmonds, Washington, he learned that his home had been burglarized.

One of the "early on" recommendations for securing Association "memorial money" could be an opportunity for a member to "publish" one issue of FLAK NEWS (\$3,000) in memory of a loved one. Or two at \$1,500 each. (Dues alone are not covering expenses.)

Other memorial ideas will be on Peirce's agenda in the coming days.

FLAK NEWS editor Ostrom read a Farewell Banquet "Tour Memory" about Eunice Fox of Anstey, and a Roger Freeman poem called, "The Sky Was Never Still."

The whole affair ended with "Penelope Music" and the members "danced the night away."

"Return" Flag Program At Nuthampstead

Our British friends handling the "flag program" at Nuthampstead have come up with an innovation that may be of interest to the 398th families who are considering sending their loved one's casket flag to be flown on the Station 131 "tall pole."

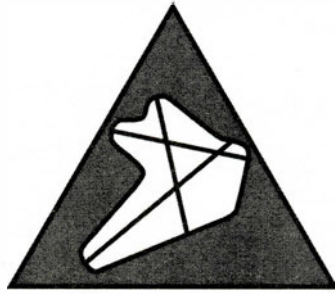
The "program" has been a Friends' feature for many years, with well over 50 casket flags already having been "flown to destruction" these past years.

Malcolm Osborn and Peter Brooke are now offering to fly members' flags for a period of three months, take it down, then return it to the family along with an engraved label indicating the period of the "flight."

Families may send their flags, complete with "destruction" or "return" instructions to 398th secretary Karen Neff, Lexington, VA 24450-6742. The first such "return" flag to be flown this year was that of Elliot Novek, whose widow, Connie, brought his flag to Nuthampstead on June 7.

BRIEF-things

Ken Akins could well be representative of many of our Taps members — “he dearly loved going to the reunions and seeing old friends; he was proud of the 398th and all his buddies; he made peace with God and was ready to go” ... did you know that the WASPS flew the biggest bomber of WW II, the B-29?; and did you know that one of the WASPS, **Anita Paul**, later became a Carmelite Nun, and became known as “Sister Teresa?” ... **Ann Collins** made a friend-for-life of **Ozzie Osborn** when she brought him a supply of Peet’s Coffee from California ... “Precious Cargo” was in the B-17 waist when 398th pilots took to altitude with the ice-cream making machine ... and one old B-17 was traded to a fighter group because they needed something bigger than their P-47 for loading up their scotch “orders” from Scotland ... the Legion of Merit medals on Page 1 do no include **Richard Holub’s** award, as he was not from the 398th, even if he did “Rocket” out a 602 plane that had landed short of the runway (FLAK NEWS Vol. 17 No. 3) ... one of the many additions to the Taps list coming out in January is **Bob Knowles**, the radio operator whose prized 602 cap with all his “bells and whistles” attached was snatched from his head by a youthful bike-riding thief in Oxford, England ... that early model B-17 lost in a New Guinea swamp in 1942 has turned up for “restoration” in Long Beach, California ... the June issue of *8th AF News* featured a great spread of **Bill Markham’s** 602 crew, with Bill holding up a 1945 Page 1 headline reading, GERMANY QUILTS ... **Bill Comstock** began and finished his 20 years in the 398th Association as president, but **Wally Blackwell** “climbed-the-ladder” with stints as Director, Secretary and Vice-president before taking the top spot in 1996 ... **Marilyn Gibb-Rice** was both treasurer and vice-president before “moving up” ... there have been a number of members who have served the 398th in the form of “Director,” like **Bill McLaughlin**, **Lou Stoffer**, **Keith Anderson**, **Arnie Schneider**, **Paul Roderick**, **Joe Mansell**, **Dale Brown**, **Bob Wiggins**, **Bill Jones**, **Dick Frazier**, **Hal Weekley**, **Len Streitfeld**, **Ben Core**, **Chuck Dreyer**, **Harry Gray**, **Ralph Hall** and ... **Wally Blackwell** ... the job of “contact officer” was a “private” assignment for **George Hilliard** even long before the association was formed in 1976 ... the **Ralph “Coomes”** in the Taps list last year should have been **Ralph Combs**, whose father was a WW I pilot and **Combs III** was a Korean vet ... the 2012 England Tour will come at the same time as the London Olympics ... **George Hershberger** had planned to bring some cases of his “Baron” brand wine to the reunion, but failing eyesight changed his plans ... now is a great time to order “Fortresses Over Nuthampstead” (**Carolyn** has ‘em in the PX on sale for \$30) ... the Vet Quiz after the Denver general meeting was well attended, but the pilots had trouble with the “tail wheel” question ... **Roger Harvey** admitted that he had his pilot’s license while still in high school ... it was hard to see all the wheel chairs and walkers at the reunion, but it is what it is ... **Greg Anderson** told of a rugged hike in the Rockies to view the wreckage of a 1944 B-17 crash site ... **Ray Richman**, then the Consolidated Mess Officer, says he took credit for making powdered (square) scrambled eggs edible (“I added milk to the mix”) ... **Harry Overbaugh** had to miss the reunion due to health, but he saw fit to send hand-made mementoes to his friends ... the logo for the Station 131 Museum is destined to become the rallying signal for future 398th members ... many eyes are watching for the developments, especially the “B-17 Huskies” ...



Nuthampstead Airfield Museum

398th Bomb Group PX

(The Second Generation)

ORDER FORM

QTY	ITEM	UNIT COST	TOTAL
CLOTHING			
___	T-Shirt, black, “398th BG Flying Fortress”	\$12.00	___
___	T-Shirt, navy, with B-17 front view	\$12.00	___
___	T-Shirt, gray, with with logo on back	\$12.00	___
___	T-Shirt, white, with Triangle W on front, Clearing & Colder on back	\$15.00	___
___	Denim Shirt, long sleeve, 398th logo (S, M, L, XL, XXL, please indicate size for the above)	\$28.00	___
___	Men’s Golf Shirt, light blue, embroidered Triangle W, 60% cotton, 40% poly mesh (S, M, L, XL, please indicate size)	\$25.00	___
___	Men’s Golf Shirt, navy blue, embroidered Triangle W, 65% poly, 35% cotton (S, M, L, XL, XXXL, please indicate size)	\$25.00	___
CAPS			
___	Black, with logo (indicate 600, 601, 602, 603)	\$8.00	___
JEWELRY			
___	Squadron lapel pins (indicate 600, 601, 602, 603)	\$6.00	___
___	Group lapel pin (Hell From Heaven)	\$6.00	___
___	Group pin (blue with B-17)	\$6.00	___
___	8th Air Force pin	\$6.00	___
LOGOS			
___	Squadron Patch 3" (indicate 600, 601, 602, 603)	\$6.00	___
___	B-17 Jacket Patch, 4"x3"	\$6.00	___
___	8th Air Force Patch	\$6.00	___
___	Group Patch (Hell From Heaven), 2½"x3"	\$6.00	___
BOOKS (books include postage/handling)			
___	<i>Fortresses Over Nuthampstead</i> (Bishop)	\$30.00	___
___	<i>398th History</i> (1946, photo copy)	\$20.00	___
___	<i>Remembrances</i> (Ostrom, 1989, photo copy)	\$30.00	___
___	<i>Bird of Prey</i> (Coffee)	\$19.95	___
___	<i>Hell From Heaven</i> (Streitfeld)	\$19.95	___
___	<i>Last of the B-17 Combat Drivers</i> (Weekley)	\$39.95	___
___	<i>The Youngest Crew</i> (Wagner)	\$19.95	___
___	<i>WW II Odyssey</i> (Frankhouser)	\$19.00	___
PHOTOGRAPHS & PRINTS			
___	<i>Clearing & Colder</i> , 14"x19"	\$30.00	___
___	<i>Clearing & Colder</i> , 14"x17", on canvas	\$40.00	___
___	<i>Anstey Stained Glass Window</i> booklet, 11"x17" (includes list of comrades Killed in Action)	\$10.00	___
___	<i>Sunset at Nuthampstead</i> , 8"x10"	\$7.00	___
MISCELLANEOUS			
___	Bumper Sticker (black)	\$3.00	___
___	Blue Ballpoint Pen (398th imprint)	\$5.00	___
___	License Plate Frame (398th imprint)	\$5.00	___
___	Book Marker	\$5.00	___
___	Tote Bag, 20"x15", (black with logo) ON SALE!	\$3.00	___
TIMELESS VOICES DVD's (DVD's include postage/handling)			
___	Member \$17.00 ea., Non-member \$22.00 ea. For information and titles, visit the “Timeless Voices” section at www.398th.org		___

Cost of items ordered \$ _____

Postage/handling add \$5.00, \$6.00 if order over \$20.00 \$ _____

Payment in US funds to “398th Bomb Group PX” Total \$ _____

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___ Mail completed order form and check to Carolyn Widmann, Noblesville, IN 46062-7150.

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