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398TH BOMB. GROUP MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION • 8TH AIR FORCE • 1ST AIR DIVISION • NUTHAMPSTEAD, ENGLAND

VOL. 3 NO. 2

FLAK NEWS

APRIL 1988



THE SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY Up Close And Personal Opportunity for 398th

“Up close and personal” is a title used in Olympic Games television coverage. It will also apply to the members of the 398th Bomb Group next September when they gather in reunion at Richmond, Virginia.

The expected gathering of up to 500 will receive an “up close and personal” opportunity to view the most completely restored B-17 Flying Fortress in existence today—the Sentimental Journey, the bomber flagship of the Confederate Air Force.

The Sentimental Journey will fly into Richmond on Saturday, September 24, especially for the 398th reunion, and will be open exclusively to group members and friends all morning. It is expected that the Fort will make a special “cut the grass, baby” pass in honor of the 398th.

The annual reunion is scheduled for September 21-24 in the historic Virginia city.

See pages 5 and 6 for complete details.

Only Handful Of Fortresses Still Flying

The bomber stream could be seen for miles on end, B-17's by the hundreds churning through German skies sometimes sunny and beautiful. . . more oftentimes decorated with black puffs of death or criss-crossed with high-altitude contrails depicting silent stories of battle.

Once there were nearly 13,000 B-17 Flying Fortresses around the world, most of them calling “home” one of the dozens of airstrips carved out of the farmlands of England's East Anglia.

Today, some 45 years later, only a dozen are still around who can take to the air with that familiar deep roar of the Cyclones and can still send a thrill and chill up the spines of those who flew the Forts. And make wide the eyes of many in today's jet generation as they witness the grace and awesome beauty of this proud and historic airplane that surely changed the course of history during those days known as World War II.

Thankfully, those days of war are behind us. But, sorrowfully, most of those gloried battle wagons that did survive and come home were soon forgotten.

Their graves are not all in the jungles of the Pacific, deep in the waters of the English Channel or even buried and scattered in small pieces across the battlegrounds of the world from North America to Germany to the Aleutians.

Kingman, Arizona, where many of the Army and Air Force gunners trained for aerial combat, was to become a major bone yard for the forgotten Fortresses.

Here and there around the world there were those who laid claim to a few before being shuttled off to Kingman. England and France, so indebted to the B-17's for their very freedom, were able to keep a few. And some are still flying.

Around the U.S. some were grabbed by the Forest Service to serve for many years in

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Bomber Stream No More

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fighting forest fires. Others to spray insecticide. Others to deliver fish.

But sadly, only a few escaped the salvager's crusher to be given a home at museums around the country.

At one time, in 1945, there were 7,000 retired military planes parked on the six-mile long airfield at Kingman. Most of them B-17's.

The salvagers and speculators proceeded to "save the only thing of value" - the aviation gasoline in the tanks.

Of the nearly 13,000 built, some 3,000 were declared "missing in action," and another 1,700 were damaged beyond repair.

Beyond question, the "dreamers" who formed the Confederate Air Force at Harlingen, Texas, saw something beyond the gasoline in the Tokyo tanks and did save dozens of WW II combat aircraft. Including the Sentimental Journey, the flagship of all the surviving B-17's around the world.

The 398th became "COMBAT SPONSOR" by donating \$3500 to the CAF at the reunion last July, the sum earmarked expressly for the care and maintenance of the Sentimental Journey.

"This should be a source of considerable pride to you," the CAF said in a letter to the 398th. "As a Combat Sponsor, you should enjoy a portion of the credit for the CAF's success as an educational organization which teaches an important portion of American history."

On the CAF letterhead are these words:

**History is the prophet of our future.
Strength is the keeper of our peace.**

Another group dedicated to the preservation of the B-17 is headquartered in the home of Tommy Garcia at Alvin, Texas. A Civil Engineer by profession, Tommy is a B-17 fan by dedication. The group was formed in 1983 by Tommy, Gary Judkins and "Chuckie" Hospers, wife of



TOMMY GARCIA
Dedicated B-17 Fan

off. Only a rare few are still around, such as the 398th's own Harold Weekley of the 601st.

Overseas, the French took the lead in retaining some Forts. Several were acquired by the Institute Geographique Nationale at Criel, France. Another by the Musee de LAir LeBourget.

The "Lucky Lady," with combat time with both 351st and 305th, carried the IGN colors of the 381st (Ridgewell), but was recently sold to Jean Salis of Cerney, France.

Another IGN went to England, purchased by

Comstock to lead 54 to England

Fifty-four members of the 398th Bomb Group are poised for this summer's "Bomb Run" tour to England and Germany, there to re-live the drama of years gone by and create new memories via the nostalgic return to Nuthampstead . . . and perhaps not so nostalgic return to some cities on the Rhine!

The party will be led by Col. Bill Comstock, group president, who will accept on behalf of the Association, the title to the land under the Memorial at the Woodman Inn. Many other activities are planned, both in England and on the continent.

The tour is being conducted by Galaxy Tours, PO Box 234, Wayne, PA 19087. Mark Burton will be the tour guide.

The party:

Anderson, Charles J., Moorestown, NJ
Baffaro, Lou & Matea, Raleigh, NC
Bammer, Marie, Jerome, MI
Blacker, Bob, Lubbock, TX
Blackwell, Wally & Teedy, Rockville, MD
Brockman, James & Christine, Wills Point, TX
Comstock, Bill, Fairfax, VA
DeLancey, Larry, Morro Bay, CA
Fletcher, Maurice & Mary, Kernersville, NC
Giuliano, Peter & Rose, Springfield, PA
Gonzales, Fred & Anna, Evanston, IL
Graham, George & Margaret, Grosse Point Farm, MI
Hall, Ralph & Marjorie, New Bedford, PA
Hunter, Maria, Roanoke Rapids, NC
Ilko, George, St. Louis, MO
Jans, Jerry & Anna, Wilmetter, IL
Johanson, Dennis & Margaret, Moncks Corner, NC
Klix, George & Nadine, Bloomfield Hills, MI
Madlung, Jack & Anna, Monticello, IN
Markley, Bill & Ada, Carlsbad, CA
Moretti, Raymond, Hornell, NY
O'Beirne, Anna, Atlanta, GA
Ostrom, Allen & Geg, Seattle, WA
Reed, Russ & Louise, Stone Mountain, GA
Reed, Kelly, Stone Mountain, GA
Schneider, Arnold, Jerome, MI
Sigsworth, Margaret, No. Ridgeville, OH
Stange, Ray & Jean, Westchester, IL
Thacker, Ike & Anna, Beaumont, TX
Wiggins, Bob & Mildred, Richmond, VA
Wintersteen, Jack & Marqueen, Danville, PA
Yarmoski, Frank & Rosemary, Chicago, IL
Yip, James & Doris, Los Angeles, CA

Co-op Formed To Help Preserve The Fortresses

the owner of the B-17 by the same name, and Jim Peters of Sentimental Journey.

Tommy and Gary were co-restoration officers of the Texas Raiders during its 3½ years at Hobby Airport in Houston. Since Chuckie was being restored at the same time in Fort Worth, and were experiencing similar problems, the three camps decided to set up a liaison between them.

Soon the Co-op was born and others involved in B-17 restoration were invited. The growing group now meets twice annually.

While functioning as a source for fast-disappearing B-17 parts, the Co-op also is dedicated to devising methods for maintaining and acquiring the building knowledge of the aircraft. This includes drawing on "hands on" experience of veteran B-17 pilots and mechanics, another fast-disappearing commodity.

At the last Co-op meeting in Scottsdale, AZ, there was considerable discussion on what constitutes a "qualified" B-17 pilot. The world can no longer locate thousands of ex-pilots who can blithely step into the cockpit of a B-17 and take

Doug Arnold. But in 1987 it was sold to a group from the Lone Star Museum in Houston, Texas. The B-17 was flown across the Atlantic reminiscent of thousands of such trips when the war ended in 1945.

This aircraft is now called "Thunderbird" and carries the markings of the 303rd. Garcia is in charge of the restoration.

The "Sally B" is England's only airworthy B-17 at the moment and was the aircraft which did a fly-over at the 398th memorial ceremonies at Northampstead in 1982.

Other static Fortresses are at the museums at Hendon and Duxford.

Meanwhile, in the U.S., small pockets of intensely dedicated B-17 buffs continue their efforts to keep alive not only the memories, but the machines themselves.

The world-wide list of B-17 survivors numbers 44, albeit some of the "planes" are no more than parts, paperwork, and dreams. Additional Fortresses are known to exist in South America, Indonesia and other parts of the world. One day they could well surface and fly again.

Des Moines Site of 8th AFHS Reunion

The annual gathering of the 8th Air Force Historical Society will be held in Des Moines, Iowa October 12-15, 1988.

The 398th is always well represented at this meeting, which attracts well over a thousand former 8th Air Force veterans.

The meeting represents a source of income for the 398th, as our group receives a rebate for each member registered at the annual affair.

Surviving B-17's From Around The World

- 40-3097 B-17 D (BO) "Swoose"**
National Air & Space Museum, Silver Springs, MD
- 41-2446 B-17 E (BO) "Swamp Ghost"**
Aggiambo Swamp, Papua, New Guinea
Ken Fields, P.O. Box 662, Pampa, TX 79066
- 41-12595 B-17 E (BO) (No Name)**
Michael Kellner, 331 Van Buren St., Chrystal Lake, IL 60014
(815) 459-7315
- 41-24485 B-17 F 10 (BO) "Memphis Belle"**
Memphis Belle Memorial Association, Inc., c/o Harry Friedman,
626 Shady Grove Rd. S., Memphis, TN 38819 (901) 525-0691
- 42-3374 B-17 F 50 (BO) (No Name)**
Edward F. Beale Museum, Beale Air Force Base, CA S/Sgt.
Mark Barager
- 42-29782 B-17 F 70 (BO) "Museum of Flight" ★**
Bob Richardson,
Boeing Field, 9404 E. Marginal Way So., Seattle, WA 98108
- 42-32076 B-17 G 35 (BO) "Shoo Shoo Shoo Baby"**
USAF Museum, Dover, DE 19901
- 43-38635 B-17 G 90 (BO) "Virgin's Delight"**
Castle Air Museum, Castle Air Force Base, Merced, CA
Capt. Greg Russell
- 44-6393 B-17 G 50 (DL) "2nd Patches"**
March Field Museum, March Air Force Base, CA Maj.
John Freitas (Painted as No. 42-30092)
- 44-8543 B-17 G 70 (VE) "Chuckle" ★**
BC Vintage Flying Machines, Dr. Bill Hospers, P.O. Box 18099,
Fort Worth, TX 76180 (817) 282;3825
- 44-8846 B-17 G 85 (VE) "Lucky Lady" ★**
Jean Salis, Cerny, France
- 44-8889 B-17 G 85 (VE) (No Name)**
Musee De L'Air, LeBourget (Paris) France
- 44-83512 B-17 G 85 (DL) "Heaven's Above"**
Lackland Air Force Base History & Tradition Museum
San Antonio, TX. Ms. Nora Patteson
- 44-83514 B-17 G 85 (DL) "Sentimental Journey" ★**
Arizona Wing (Mesa, AZ) Confederate Air Force
P.O. Box CAF, Harlingen, TX 78550
- 44-83525 B-17 G 85 (DL) "Suzy Q" ★**
Weeks Air Museum, Tamiami Airport, 13908 SW 139 Ct.,
Miami, FL 33186 (305) 232-0141
- 44-83542 B-17 G 85 (DL) (No Name)**
Weeks Air Museum, Tamiami Airport,
13908 SW 139 Ct., Miami, FL 33186 (305) 232-0141 (Hulk only.)
- 44-83546 B-17 G 85 (DL) (No Name) ★**
Silvernill Museum, Chino, CA.
Dave Tallichet, Specialty Restaurants Corp.,
2099 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim, CA 92806 (417) 634-0300
- 44-83559 B-17 G 85 (DL) "King Bee"**
Strategic Air Command, Omaha, NE Jack Allen, 2510 Clay St.,
Bellevue, NE (Using No. 44-23474.)
- 44-83563 B-17 G 85 (DL) "Fuddy Duddy" ★**
National Warplanes Museum, P.O. Box 159, Geneseo, NY 14454
(716) 243-0690 Austin Wadsworth
- 44-83575 B-17 G 85 (DL) "909" ★**
Collings Foundation, Riverhill Farm, Stow, MA 16775
(617) 562-9182 (Using No. 42-31909.)
- 44-83624 B-17 G 90 (DL) (No Name)**
USAF Museum, Dayton, OH
- 44-83663 B-17 G 90 (DL) "Short Bier"**
Hill Air Force Base Museum, Utah Larry Yonnotti, (801) 777-8623
- 44-83864 B-17 G 90 (DL) "Picadilly Lilly"**
Planes of Fame Museum, Edward Maloney, P.O. Box 278,
Corona del Mar, CA 92625 (714) 597-3722
- 44-83690 B-17 G 95 (DL) "Miss Liberty Belle"**
Grissom Air Force Base Museum Foundation, Peru, IN 46971
Lt. Col. James Gabriel
- 44-83718 TB-17 H (DL) (No Name)**
Museu Aeroespacial, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 44-83728 B-17 G 95 (DL) (No Name)**
Assumed Musee de L'Air, LeBourget (Paris) France
- 44-83735 B-17 G 90 (DL) "Mary Alice"**
Imperial War Museum, Duxford, England
- 44-83785 B-17 G 95 (DL) (No Name) ★**
Evergreen Air of Mt., Inc., Pinal Airpark, Marana, AZ 85653
Sandy Ellis (602) 682-4181 (Restoring for Del Smith.)
- 44-83814 B-17 G 95 (DL) "Tanker O9"**
National Air & Space Museum, Dulles Airport, Washington, DC
- 44-83863 B-17 G 95 (DL) (No Name)**
USAF Armament Museum, Eglin Air Force Base, Eglin, FL
Howard Corns
- 44-83868 B-17 G 95 (DL) (No Name)**
RAF Bomber Command Museum, Hendon (London) England
- 44-83872 B-17 G 95 "Texas Raiders" ★**
Gulf Coast Wing, Confederate Air Force P.O. Box CAF,
Harlingen, TX 78550
- 44-83884 B-17 G 95 (DL) "Yankee Doodle II"**
8th Air Force Museum, Barksdale Air Force Base,
Bossier, City, LA 71112 Buck Riggs
- 44-85599 B-17 G 100 (DL) "Blackhawk"**
Texas Museum of Military History Dyess Air Force Base,
Abilene, TX Capt. Gates
- 44-85718 B-17 G 105 (VE) "Thunderbird" ★**
Lone Star Museum, Hobby Airport, 8910 Randolph St.,
Houston, TX 77061 Tommy Garcia, (713) 645-7709
- 44-85734 B-17 G 105 (VE) "Five Engine"**
New England Air Museum, Hartford, CT Tom Reilly, 500-No.
Airport Blvd., Kissimi, FL 32741 (305) 847-7477
- 44-85738 B-17 G 105 (VE) "Amvet"**
American Veterans Memorial, Tulare, CA
Gene Thomas, (209) 688-0660
- 44-85740 B-17 G 105 (VE) "Aluminum Overcast" ★**
EAA Warbirds of America, P.O. Box 229, Hales Corner
(Oshkosh) WI 53130 (414) 425-4860
- 44-85778 B-17 G 105 (VE) (No Name)**
Aero Nostalgia, Richard Dartanian, 7030 So. C.E. Dixon, Stockton,
CA 95206 Jim Ricketts restoring for Mr. Dartanian. (209) 983-0235
- 44-85784 B-17 G 105 (VE) "Sally B" ★**
B-17 Preservation, Ltd., P.O. Box 34, Horley, Surrey,
RH6 9RQ England
- 44-85790 B-17 G 105 (VE) (No Name)**
Art Lacey, Milwaukie, Oregon. Sits atop a gas station.
- 44-85825 B-17 G (VE) (No Name)**
Pima Air Museum, P.O. Box 15097, Tucson, AZ
- 44-85828 B-17 G 110 (VE) "I'll Be Around"**
390th Bomb Group Association Pima Air Museum, P.O. Box 15097,
Tucson, AZ Gen. Robert Waltz
- 44-85829 B-17 G 110 (VE) "Yankee Lady"**
Yankee Air Force, P.O. Box 1100, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

★ Flying condition; All others static.

Some Honored Dead Remain Overseas

Either buried beneath the sod at cemeteries on the Continent or England, or memorialized on Walls of the Missing, are 99 men of the 398th who gave their lives in service to their country.

While most of the bodies of the fallen were long-since returned to their home states for local burial by

their families, the bodies of 79 were left to be cared for by the American Battle Monuments Commission. Names of an additional 20 are inscribed on the Walls of the Missing, either at Cambridge or Ardennes in Belgium.

Col. Frank P. Hunter, 398th CO, lies at Ardennes, along with 45

others. Cemeteries at nearby Henri-Chapelle, The Netherlands and Luxembourg are "Home" to an additional 12.

Two are buried at Normandy and five at Brittany in France.

The 398th group tour next June will visit the cemeteries at Cambridge, Belgium, Luxembourg and Holland.

We Who Came Home Must Never Forget Those Who Did Not

NAME	RANK	UNIT	D. O. D.	CEMETERY	NAME	RANK	UNIT	D. O. D.	CEMETERY
Anderson, Vernon	2 Lt.	601	26 Nov. 44	Netherlands	Luna, James E.	2 Lt.	600	22 Feb. 45	Ardennes
Andrews, Joe T.	S/Sgt.	601	24 May 44	Ardennes	MacArthur, John S.	1 Lt.	603	4 Aug. 44	Ardennes
Argubright, Darrell	2 Lt.	601	30 Aug. 44	Luxembourg	Manos, Thomas	Flt. Off.	603	2 Jan. 45	Cambridge
Arnold, Charles	2 Lt.	603	8 Aug. 44	Brittany	McCain, Thomas	1 Lt.	601	8 July 44	Ardennes W/M
Bagley, Charles P.	1 Lt.	600	30 Nov. 44	Ardennes	McLean, Charles B.	S/Sgt.	603	16 July 44	Ardennes
Barton, George E.	T/Sgt.	603	15 Oct. 44	Cambridge	Mullendore, Edward L.	S/Sgt.	602	12 Sept. 44	Cambridge W/M
Bassora, Manuel M.	Pvt.	1226 QM	24 Sept. 44	Cambridge	Munroe, George C., Jr.	2 Lt.	600	8 Apr. 45	Ardennes
Beatovich, William J.	Capt.	603	23 Jan. 45	Ardennes	Papajohn, George C.	S/Sgt.	601	8 July 44	Cambridge W/M
Beatty, Hubert F.	1 Lt.	600	22 Feb. 45	Ardennes	Paxton, Max W.	S/Sgt.	600	10 Apr. 45	Ardennes
Bergant, Joe	S/Sgt.	602	30 Dec. 44	Cambridge W/M	Perry, Anthony J.	S/Sgt.	603	2 Nov. 44	Netherlands
Bergen, Norman E.	2 Lt.	601	24 May 44	Ardennes	Phelps, Bruce E.	2 Lt.	603	3 Feb. 45	Ardennes
Bisping, Harold A.	S/Sgt.	601	8 July 44	Ardennes W/M	Powell, Perry	1 Lt.	603	3 Feb. 45	Ardennes
Blackwell, Harold L.	Pvt.	478 SD	15 June 44	Cambridge	Romano, Michael A.	S/Sgt.	600	8 Aug. 44	Brittany
Brodin, Unite L.	Capt.	603	24 May 44	Ardennes	Rose, John D.	2 Lt.	601	24 May 44	Ardennes
Brown, Melvin P.	S/Sgt.	603	15 Oct. 44	Cambridge	Rosenblum, Charles N.	Sgt.	603	12 Sept. 44	Cambridge
Bryan, Clifford Z.	2 Lt.	603	13 July 44	Ardennes	Ross, Lowrey, O.	T/4	830 Eng.	4 Oct. 45	Cambridge
Bryan, William M.	2 Lt.	603	21 Nov. 44	Netherlands	Scales, William J., Jr.	2 Lt.	601	24 Dec. 44	Cambridge
Campbell, Robert G.	1 Lt.	601	2 Nov. 44	Netherlands	Schmidt, Arthur P.	S/Sgt.	601	26 Nov. 44	Netherlands
Carrado, Peter D.	S/Sgt.	603	24 May 44	Ardennes	Simons, Charles L.	Sgt.	601	8 Aug. 44	Normandy
Chandler, James E.	T/Sgt.	601	23 Oct. 44	Cambridge	Somers, James H.	Sgt.	602	12 Sept. 44	Cambridge W/M
Cline, Glen H.	S/Sgt.	603	1 Jan. 45	Cambridge W/M	Stravinski, Maynard	2 Lt.	603	2 Jan. 45	Cambridge
Comer, Roger D.	2 Lt.	600	19 May 44	Ardennes	Stritch, Joseph F.	T/Sgt.	602	3 Feb. 45	Ardennes
Coulson, James B.	Sgt.	601	26 Nov. 44	Ardennes	Teague, Giles L.	1 Lt.	602	30 Dec. 44	Henri-Chapelle W/M
Crowe, George R.	2 Lt.	602	28 Oct. 44	Ardennes	Thomas, Andrew	1 Lt.	603	15 Mar. 45	Ardennes
Daly, Francis A.	Sgt.	602	28 Oct. 44	Ardennes	Thornton, Raymond A.	2 Lt.	601	8 July 44	Ardennes W/M
Davis, Robert L.	2 Lt.	600	25 Nov. 44	Cambridge	Tichenor, Felix H.	Sgt.	600	10 Apr. 45	Ardennes
DeCleene, Donald J.	1 Lt.	603	2 Jan. 45	Cambridge	Tull, William S.	S/Sgt.	603	15 Oct. 44	Cambridge
Doerr, Lyle J.	1 Lt.	602	30 Dec. 44	Cambridge W/M	Van Luven, George N.	Sgt.	602	12 Sept. 44	Cambridge W/M
Earle, Hazen V.	S/Sgt.	602	30 Dec. 44	Ardennes W/M	Voehringer, Paul W.	1 Lt.	603	24 May 44	Ardennes
Ellis, Richard F.	2 Lt.	603	14 Mar. 45	Ardennes	Volkay, Arnold M.	2 Lt.	602	28 Oct. 44	Ardennes
Fautrot, Doyt W.	T/Sgt.	603	4 Aug. 44	Ardennes	Walker, John P.	1 Lt.	602	30 Dec. 44	Cambridge
Feathers, George A.	Sgt.	603	4 Aug. 44	Ardennes	Wallace, Edwin M.	M/Sgt.	601	10 Jan. 45	Cambridge
Flores, David V.	S/Sgt.	600	24 Dec. 44	Cambridge	White, Goodrich C., Jr.	2 Lt.	602	12 Sept. 44	Brittany
Frisbie, Victor	S/Sgt.	600	30 May 44	Henri-Chapelle W/M	Wickens, Bill	T/Sgt.	600	8 Apr. 45	Netherlands
Gaiser, Joseph R.	T/Sgt.	602	30 Dec. 44	Cambridge W/M	Wilson, William H.	S/Sgt.	600	8 Aug. 44	Brittany
Galetto, Clement Jr.	Sgt.	603	4 Aug. 44	Ardennes					
Gonser, Billy G.	1 Lt.	602	12 Sept. 44	Cambridge W/M					
Goodman, Richard S.	S/Sgt.	602	12 Sept. 44	Cambridge W/M					
Halter, Ralph L.	1 Lt.	601	18 June 44	Ardennes					
Hamilton, Marion B.	S/Sgt.	600	8 Apr. 44	Netherlands					
Hamrick, Jack	T/5	814 Eng.	18 Aug. 42	Cambridge					
Hansard, V.A., Jr.	1 Lt.	600	25 Nov. 44	Cambridge					
Hastings, Kenneth S.	1 Lt.	603	21 Nov. 44	Netherlands					
Helbig, Herbert A.	T/Sgt.	600	30 Nov. 44	Ardennes					
Hess, Ralph C.	S/Sgt.	601	8 July 44	Cambridge					
Hochadel, James F.	S/Sgt.	603	8 Aug. 44	Normandy					
Honaker, James R., Jr.	2 Lt.	600	22 Feb. 45	Ardennes					
Hopp, Raymond C.	2 Lt.	600	7 July 44	Ardennes					
Hunter, Frank P., Jr.	Col.	398th HQ	23 Jan. 45	Ardennes					
Ingram, John W.	1 Lt.	601	24 May 44	Ardennes					
Jones, Donald J.	2 Lt.	600	10 Apr. 45	Ardennes					
Kelley, Thomas D.	S/Sgt.	601	24 May 45	Ardennes					
King, Warren L.	2 Lt.	603	1 Jan. 45	Cambridge W/M					
Kiska, Joseph J.	T/Sgt.	602	30 Dec. 44	Cambridge W/M					
Klein, Sherman S.	S/Sgt.	600	8 Apr. 45	Netherlands					
Kline, Theodore A.	2 Lt.	601	13 Apr. 45	Ardennes					
Knight, Albert W.	S/Sgt.	600	12 Aug. 44	Cambridge					
Kravif, Harry	Capt.	601	18 June 44	Ardennes					
Kressenberg, John K.	1 Lt.	600	8 Aug. 44	Brittany					
Kruse, Walter J.	1 Lt.	601	8 July 44	Cambridge W/M					
Leach, Marvin F.	Sgt.	602	12 Sept. 44	Cambridge W/M					
Lehner, Robert W.	1 Lt.	603	21 Nov. 45	Ardennes					
Lentz, Ralph H., Jr.	1 Lt.	603	23 Jan. 45	Ardennes					
Lewandowski, William J.	2 Lt.	603	14 Mar. 45	Ardennes					

Kiernan Crew Crash Site To Get Historical Marker

The American Legion, South Dakota Department of Highways and the South Dakota State Historical Society will dedicate a historical marker one mile west of Martin, SD, on Monday, 10 a.m. May 30, 1988.

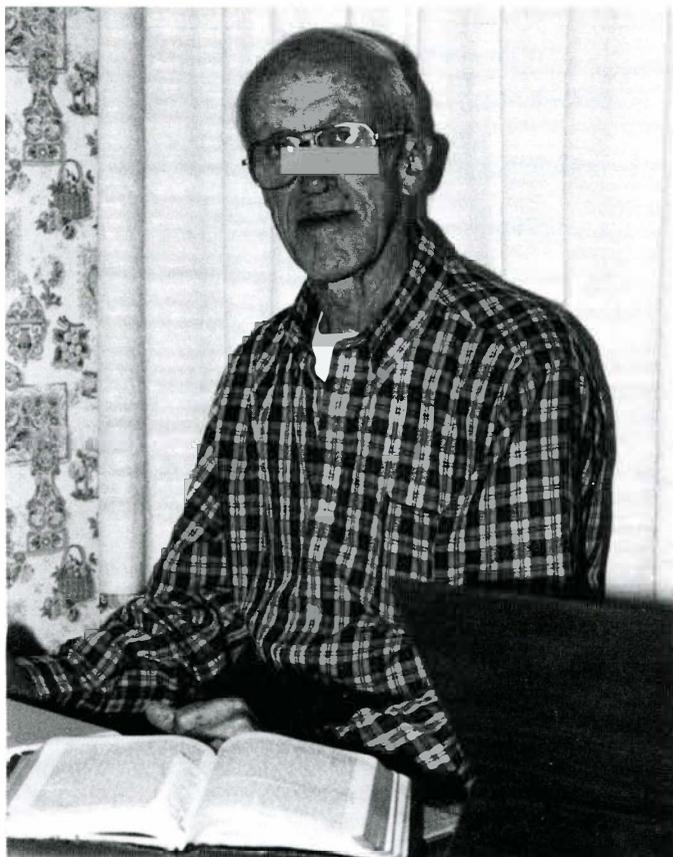
The act will commemorate the memory of a 603rd crew that perished in the crash of their B-17 at the site on January 17, 1944.

Jim Kiernan was the pilot of that aircraft; other crew members were Augustine Franzone, co-pilot; Peter Pagent, navigator; Carl James, bombardier; Casimer Klawinski, engineer; Elvin Pritchard, radio operator; and Ed Mizerski, gunner.

The ceremony was set into motion by Tom Kiernan, nephew of the deceased pilot and a current member of the 398th Memorial Association. Kiernan has long been active in researching the fatal crash and maintains an active interest in B-17 memorabilia. Tom lives in Suisun, California.

NEXT STOP: RICHMOND, VIRGINIA!

The fifth annual meeting of the 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association will be held in Richmond, Virginia Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, September 21-22-23-24, 1988.



CHAPLAIN JAMES DUVALL
Waved to Every Crew On Take-off

Remember this man? He was at the end of the runway on every mission flown by the 398th, waving to each crew as they lifted their B-17 into the air on take off.

And in most cases, his waving companion was the commanding officer, Co. Frank P. Hunter.

In those days, it was Chaplain Lt. James Duvall. Today it is Col. Duvall, USAF (Ret). He lives in San Pedro, California with his wife of 53 years, Marguerite.

"I was released from service in 1946, but recalled in 1948. I remained in the Air Force until 1966, retiring as a bird colonel.

"Thirteen of those years were with SAC. What an experience, especially at SAC Headquarters. Since retiring I have remained in church work and still do some teaching and preaching.

"We are looking forward to seeing our 398th friends in Richmond next September."

Use the back side of this page for your official registration form. A copy of your completed form will be mailed to you as your receipt.

RICHMOND MARRIOTT HOTEL

5th and Broad Streets, Richmond, VA 23219 (804) 643-3400

LOCATION:

In the center of downtown Richmond's revitalized area, 5 blocks from I-95 and directly accessible from I-64. Only 8 miles from Richmond International Airport.

TRANSPORTATION TO HOTEL:

City Limo and taxi service to and from Richmond International Airport.

400 GUEST ROOMS AND SUITES:

All guest rooms feature individual climate control, color TV, complimentary HBO, heat lamp, sophisticated fire protection and safety system. Suites offer many luxurious features. Concierge Level offers additional amenities.

RESTAURANTS AND LOUNGE:

Chardonnay's—continental cuisine served in elegant intimate surroundings • Court Plaza Cafe—charming restaurant serving a wide variety of moderately priced food for breakfast, lunch and dinner. (Children's menu) • Triplett's Lobby Lounge—relaxing atmosphere, cocktails, live entertainment and daily hungry hour.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES:

Indoor pool • hydrotherapy pool • sauna • exercise room. Golf, tennis and racquetball are nearby.

SHOPPING:

The Marriott Gift Shop. The hotel is directly adjacent to the 6th Street Marketplace offering more than 100 shops, featuring two major department stores Miller & Rhoads and Thalhimers.

SERVICES:

Free self-service parking • car rental phone • valet cleaning service • room service • concierge desk • coin-operated laundry facilities • babysitting (on request).

MEETING FACILITIES:

A total of 26 meeting rooms accommodating from 10 to 2200 people. 30,000 square feet of meeting space including a grand ballroom (15,100 sq. feet) and a junior ballroom (7,900 sq. feet). Attached to the Richmond Centre (150,000 gross sq. feet of exhibit space.)

RESERVATIONS:

Use the enclosed special mailer to make your reservations at the Marriott. For other hotels, motels and RV park information, call Reunion Chairman Bob Wiggins.

GOLFERS: Twenty-four starting times have been reserved for Thursday morning, Sept. 22, between 7 and 7:45 a.m. Only the first 24 names received will get starting times. Golfers meet at 8 p.m. Wednesday evening for starting times and car pool arrangements.

YES, I WANT TO PLAY GOLF!

OFFICIAL REGISTRATION FORM

398th Bomb Group Memorial Association Fifth Annual Reunion
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA SEPTEMBER 21-24, 1988

Deadline for Return:

August 6, 1988

NAME _____ WIFE _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE () _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NAMES OF OTHERS IN PARTY. PLEASE PRINT FOR NAME TAGS

Registration fee..... \$6.50 x _____ \$ _____

Wednesday, September 21:

Registration 1 p.m.-5 p.m., Lower Level by escalator
Memory Room (PX, video, memorabilia) 1 p.m., Salons 2 & 3, Lower Level
Officers' Luncheon Meeting 1 p.m., Commonwealth Room, Lower Level
No organized group activity. Time available for crew/squadron and other get-togethers, self guided walking tours, shopping, etc.
Dinner on own. See registration packet for restaurant suggestions.

Thursday, September 22:

Golf 7 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Registration 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Lower Level by escalator
Memory Room 9 a.m., Salons 2 & 3, Lower Level
Welcome Luncheon, 1 p.m. Salons E-F, Main Level \$15.00 x _____ \$ _____
Business Meeting 2:30 p.m., Salons 4 & 5, Lower Level
Women's Millinery Show 2:30 p.m. — Free — in hotel
Cash Bar Cocktail Hour 6 p.m., Foyer opposite Salons E-J, Main Level
Dinner and Program 7 p.m., Salons E-J, Main Level \$25.00 x _____ \$ _____

Friday, September 23:

Memory Room 9 a.m., Salons 2 & 3, Lower Level
Williamsburg Tour. Buses leave hotel at 9 a.m. and depart
Williamsburg 5 p.m. Price includes basic admission ticket to all
historic area except Governor's Palace. Lunch on own is not included. . \$20.00 x _____ \$ _____
No organized evening group activity. Dinner on own.

Saturday, September 24:

Memory Room, 9 a.m.
"Sentimental Journey" airport visit/ceremonies and picnic lunch
(Seafood Festival). Buses leave hotel at 9 a.m. and return at 3 p.m. . . . \$18.00 x _____ \$ _____
Cash Bar Cocktail Hour 6 p.m., Foyer opposite Salons A-F,
Main Level Banquet, program, and dancing
7 p.m. - Midnight, Salons A-F. \$29.00 x _____ \$ _____

Sunday, September 25:

Check-out 1 p.m. - Memory Room open 9 a.m. to 12 Noon

1988 398th Memorial Association dues (if applicable) \$5.00 \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Received \$ _____ Date _____

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

LETTERS, LETTERS....

"What a small world this is! My father, now 92, was an observer in balloons and planes in WW I. He now resides at the U.P. Home in Washington, Iowa. Recently, a man came to drive him to a medical facility 30 miles away, and mentioned that he had been a pilot in WW II. Well, can you believe this was Harold Spangler of the 603rd? I checked my records and sure enough, I flew three missions with him in February and March of 1945!"

W. Bruce Gillis, Jr.
Littleton, CO 80121

"I am a former lead bombardier (601) living in Germany, and I hope to join your tour in June. Perhaps I can be of help as a local tour guide, as my German language capability is pretty good and can help with translation. I flew most of my missions with Harold Stallings and Alan Arlin. I now operate a small business here featuring turquoise and silver jewelry made by American Indians."

Morris Baxter
Isernhagen 1, West Germany

"I am writing in regards to Ralph Hall's letter telling me of the meaningful activities of the 398th. And to thank him and Dick Mills for their efforts to explain the details of the England tour. How proud you all must be to think this dream will become a reality for all those whose lives united around a single cause. I am forwarding my father's flag to Mr. Hall. Perhaps I can come and see it displayed at the memorial at Nuthampstead. This would mean so much to him."

Elaine M. Moore
Shrewsbury, MA 01545
EDITOR'S NOTE: Elaine is the daughter of the late Vincent Moore, 603 pilot, whose flag will be flown over the memorial one day at Station 131.

"It is with sadness that I inform you that my husband, Steve Gresh (T/Sgt., 603) died on Sept. 8, 1987. We were married 43 years and loved every minute of it. He told me many times about flying his missions, so I feel I lived them with him. He enjoyed FLAK NEWS and liked to hear about the buddies he loved so much."

Mrs. Marie Gresh
Philadelphia, PA 19120
EDITOR'S NOTE: A most touching letter by a devoted wife. Mrs. Gresh, as with all 398th widows, may assume his membership in the 398th Memorial Association.

"I have enjoyed receiving and reading every issue of FLAK NEWS, but the January issue was especially meaningful. I could not help but read the name of my father, Dean Ashworth, on your Taps list. He was killed in a B-25 crash near Wright Patterson Field, Dayton, in 1952. He left a wife and three children. After all these years, I still miss him and getting to know who he was has been a piece of my "unfinished business" in my life. Can you help me locate anyone who knew him, flew with him, knew his character, his interests? Anything to "flesh out" the man. Many thanks for your assistance, and for editing a fine newsletter."

Allen Ashworth
San Jose, CA 95121

"Latest issue of FLAK NEWS was a revelation to those of us from the 601st. I had heard about the RDX mission, but never knew the full story as you and the others told it. Thankfully, I was on the Ile de France that day, heading for home. Mind how you go, mate!"

Ed Arbuthnot
Baltimore, MD 21234

"Many thanks for your warm-hearted letter and newsletter. Your 398th letterhead is very impressive. Looking at the B-17 in the snow and looking out at the snow here in Scotland, makes me feel part of the 398th."

"Most Yanks in WW II went to Edinburgh, very few of the combat crews coming down to Prestwick. It's a pity, for Ayrshire is the home of Scotland's National Poet, 'Rabbie' Burns, and is a beautiful place. It has "mair" history than Edinburgh."

"At the Burns supper, I met an American sailor. He was up from Holy Loch in Greenock. In the course of our conversation I mentioned the Mighty Eighth, but he didn't know what I was talking about. Never heard of it. It saddened me to think some Americans never knew of the valiant and heroic deeds of you lads in the Mighty Eighth. I think something should be done in your schools to tell the US generation just what you lads sacrificed. So until next time Aw Ra Best from Scotland."

John Fleming
Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, Scotland KA1 2NT
EDITOR'S NOTE: John is the Eighth Air Force contact in Scotland.



LT. GEN. JOHN SHAUD (left) presents the Distinguished Flying Cross and Captain's bars to Federico Gonzales in ceremony at San Antonio's Randolph Air Force Base.

Storybook Day For Gonzales

Federico Gonzales, a quiet, kindly man with the worst kind of WWII memories, was recipient of a story book party Feb. 22 at San Antonio, Texas.

The man who survived the crash of Col. Hunter's lead aircraft on Jan. 23, 1945 at Neuss received his captain's bars, retroactive 43 years, plus the Distinguished Flying Cross, in a special ceremony in honor of the former 398th pilot.

The awards were made by Lt. Gen. John Shaud, commander of the Air Training Command at Randolph Field, and witnessed by a variety of military personnel plus his wife, Anna, and some 80 relatives. Gonzales is a native of San Antonio, where his aging parents still reside.

The "forgotten hero" drama was put into motion by a number of former 398th people, including Earl Berryhill, Jean Miller, Bob Templeman and Lew Ensign. All contributed to the military paper work required to engineer such retroactive decorations in record time.

Also among the former 398th folks participating in the ceremony were Cecil Moore, Phil Eckman, Marshall Payne, Paul Pickett and Bob Simeral's brother, Pete.

Gonzales, who in 1986 retired from his position as professor of cell biology at Northwestern University, called the event "an incredible experience."

"Were it not for my personal loss in the abrupt ending of the lives of those bright and talented young men, my joy would be unbounded," said Gonzales.

All but Gonzales perished in the crash after being hit by anti-aircraft fire while on the bomb run toward the rail yards at Neuss, a small community near Dusseldorf on the Rhine River.

It is here that some 55 members of the 398th will visit while on a special tour to England and the Continent next June. German officials at Neuss are planning a special welcome, headed by several people who were at the crash scene on that day in 1945.

The Gonzales "dream" actually started last July at the 398th San Antonio reunion when Col. Miller, 603 CO, asked if he had received the promotion he (Miller) had initiated before the fatal flight. No, there was no promotion, he answered. It was hardly on his mind, what with survival, PW camp, a string of hospitals, long recovery period and ultimately, marriage, family, career, etc.

The promotion and decoration, apparently, had fallen through the cracks during the VE period that followed.

Col. Berryhill, Miller and others picked up on the 43-year-old oversight and gave the former lieutenant a day to remember.

Col. Berryhill, still playing the role of "398th Executive Officer," found occasion to praise those who assisted in working up the award in record time, including "a couple of very efficient sergeants at Randolph Air Force Base."



FINAL RESTING PLACE FOR GALLANT FORTRESSES

THE LAST MISSION flown by the venerable B-17, #42-107190, designated by the 601 code, 30 L, was at the scrap heap at Kingman, Arizona. It was the final resting place for the 97-mission "Maxine," flown by many crews in the 398th. Her crew chief was Richard

H. Schmidt of Whiting, NJ. "Maxine" and thousands of other Fortresses met their inglorious fate at the Arizona bone yard. She was one of only seven Forts to start and finish the 185-mission 398th tour in the Eighth Air Force in 1944-45.

398th BOMB GROUP FLAK NEWS

c/o Allen Ostrom
Seattle, WA 98177