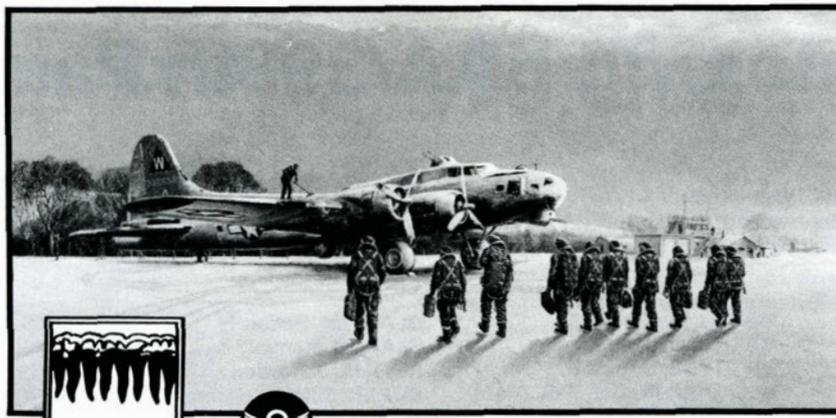




602



601



603



600

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

VOL. 4 NO. 2

FLAK NEWS

APRIL, 1989

“Remembrances”

Book Soon Ready

You can soon add your own personal 398th history book to your library. . . or give copies to your children and grandchildren! Orders are now being accepted for “398th Bomb Group Remembrances.”

The story telling about “Remembrances” appears on Page 4 of FLAK NEWS. Also included in your FLAK NEWS is a convenient order form. Only a limited number of books will be printed for our own membership and a few aviation book stores, so order your copy (or copies) today!

Reunion Time Soon Upon Us

Dayton In September

The next “gathering of the clan” will take place in September in the aviation city of Dayton, Ohio. Dates are Sept. 20-23. Headquarters will be at Stouffer’s Center Park Hotel in downtown Dayton. Information and registration forms appear on Page 5 and 6 of your FLAK NEWS. You can cut out the pages “along the dotted line” and send in with your payment. Early registrations are appreciated!

Story of the Searl Crew:

In July FLAK NEWS

A most dramatic letter has been received from our “Friends of the 398th” in Nuthampstead. It deals with the Charles J. Searl crew of the 600th who crashed near Bowingdon, England on August 12, 1944 with a loss of nine lives. Residents near to the crash site only recently discovered that the Searl aircraft came from Nuthampstead. They have done much research into the crash and their story will be told in its entirety in the July issue of FLAK NEWS.

Fund Raising Project Is Solid Success; 398th Colors Due On B-17

The Triangle W will fly again!

Thanks to a most interesting proposal from the Experimental Aviation Association (EAA) of Oshkosh, Wisconsin and an equally successful fund-raising campaign by the 398th Bomb Group, the colors of the 398th will soon adorn the EAA’s flying B-17.

The Aluminum Overcast, as their Fortress is called, had been scheduled for complete exterior cleaning, priming and painting. Would one of the many active B-17 association bomb groups be interested in underwriting the cost of this restoration? For which the EAA would paint the colors of that particular bomb group on the tail, fuselage and wing tips.

The request was forwarded to 398th president Bill Comstock by way of Harold Weekley, former 601 pilot and the man who has been flying the Aluminium Overcast at the air shows these past years for the EAA.

The attitude among the 398th leadership, according to Comstock, was “let’s go for it!” So at the business meeting last September in Richmond, the membership had an opportunity to listen, discuss, evaluate and vote.

“Let’s go for it!” was the vote, and a campaign was soon under way to raise the funds — \$21,695. Wally Blackwell was given the assignment to head up the Triangle W Committee, supported by Ralph Hall, Ted Johnston, Sarah Hunter Randolph, Weekley, Comstock and David Wells, the latter chairman of the “Friends of the 398th” at Nuthampstead, England.

The appeal reached the general membership in late December, 1988. In less than 10 weeks the necessary funds had been received! There were 335 individual contributions, including a \$2,000 grant from the Boeing Company of Seattle.

And the folks who call themselves “Friends of the 398th” . . . the men and women from Nuthampstead who keep the memory of Station 131 alive. . . contributed \$1,000. Another “Benefactor” contribution, given in memory of Chuck and Nadine Dreyer, came from the Comstocks.

Thus, the EAA has the go-ahead to proceed with their restoration plans, knowing that the 398th had done its part in assuring the project’s success.

Greg Anderson, vice-president for development with the EAA, announced that the Aluminum Overcast will be flown to Oklahoma City in mid-May, where it will undergo this phase of restoration.

Continued On Page 3

Contributors To EAA/398th Paint Fund

BENEFACTOR

THE BOEING COMPANY, Seattle, Washington
FRIENDS OF THE 398TH, Nuthampstead, England
COMSTOCK, Col. William G. (Ret.) in memory of
Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Dreyer

PATRON

ALHADEFF, Ike
DUVALL, Rev. James T.
HUNTER, Mrs. Frank P. Jr.
REED, Russell F.
SCHMIDT, Richard H.
STEELE, Bob
WIGGINS, Robert E. Jr.

SPONSOR

ANDERSON, Charles J.
ANDERSON, Emil R.
ARMOR, Ray H.
BACON, Adrian S.
BAFFARO, Louis
BAUHOFF, Christian
BLACKWELL, Wallace
BOSWELL, Lt. Gen. M.L. (Ret.)
BRASS, Ernest H. Jr.
BREIMAYER, Mrs. Bettie
BROCKMAN, James W.
BURKE, Lewis E.
CHAVEZ, Martin C.
COLE, William A.
CONRAD, John P.
CORE, Ben
CROUCH, James C.
CULLINAN, Lt. Col. Stephen (Ret.)
CURRIE, Warren
D'ADDIO, Philip P.
DAILY, Col. Bruce (Ret.)
DECARION, George H.
DELANCEY, Lawrence
DESH, Herbert E.
DIMICH, Peter M.
DITTMER, Robert W.
DOERSTLER, Wayne
EBBESON, Dr. Dalton
FAAS, William E.
FLETCHER, Maurice C.
FOSTER, Carl F.
FRAZIER, Willis E.
GARDIPEE, Francis J.
GIBSON, Morgan Shott, in
memory of father, Ned E. Shott
GILLIS, W. Bruce
GODSEY, James H. Jr.
GRAHAM, George, DD
GRIFFO, Mrs. Arthur
HAIGHT, David W.
HALL, Ralph W.
HART, Robert T.
HICKS, Lee J.
HOBBS, John O.
HOUSTON, Robert J.
HOVDEN, Roger A.
HUNTER, John W.
HURLEY, Daniel T.
JANS, Jerome T.
JOHNSTON, Ted J.
JONES, Edward D.
JOSEPH, Joe
KINZIE, O. Gale
KRAFT, Robert A. MD
LACOSTE, Ernie
LANDRUM, Francis
LEYVA, Daniel
LONGMORE, Loren L.

MARSH, Walter E.
MAXFIELD, John F.
McINTYRE, Donald B.
McLAUGHLIN, Col. W.A. (Ret.)
McQUITTY, Charles E.
MEKETA, George
MENARD, Donald M.
MILLER, Herbert E.
MILLS, Richard G.
MORAUER, Richard C.
NOVEK, Elliott
O'NEAL, Ellis H.
PETSKA, Albert M.
POLLA, George E.
PRATHER, Lynn
PRUGH, Jesse
RAHE, Max N.
RANDALL, Howard F.
REEVES, Eldon E.
RICHARDS, Albert J.
ROBERGE, Joseph P.
RYAN, Col. William J. (Ret.)
SCHATZ, George E.
SCHWAN, William J.
SHEELY, Roy M. Jr.
SKARDA, Joseph W.
SMITH, Frank
SORNEY, Hank
SPANGLER, Harold F.
STAHLMAN, Philip H.
STANGE, Raymond P.
STOFFER, Louis
SWED, Morris F.
SWJANTEK, Charles
TRAEDER, Howard F.
TURNEY, Albert D.
VELEY, Lester B.
WATSON, Arthur C. Jr. MD
WATSON, Leland H.
WELDER, Leo J.
WILCOX, Leo
WINTERSTEEN, W. Jack
YARMOSKI, Frank A.
YIP, Judge James S.
ZACHMAN, William W.
ZINTER, Marshall E.

DONOR

ABRESCH, Robert C.
ADAMS, William F.
ADKINS, Max E.
AKINS, Kenneth L.
ALWOOD, Joseph G.
AMBROSE, Ralph J.
ANAYA, Alfred
ANDERSON, Randolph D.
ARBOGAST, Fil E.
ARBUTHNOT, S. Edward
AUGUSTINE, Joseph J.
AUNE, Arnt M.
BANKERT, James W.
BAXTER, Morris
BECKER, Eugene
BENOE, William T.
BERNARD, John R.
BERRY, Mrs. Phyllis
BERRYHILL, Col. Earl J. (Ret.)
BINGER, Bruce L.

It Was A "Maximum Effort" In Support Of Project

BLACKER, Robert M.
BLANCO, Manuel
BLYTHE, J. Gordon
BODENHEIMER, Herman
BOHN, Jack L.
BOLAND, Walter E.
BONASCH, Robert W.
BORNSTEDT, John W.
BRANIGAN, William L.
BRITTON, John H.
BRODERICK, David J.
BROOKS, Henry A.
BRUNSBURG, Arnold N.
BURKART, Robert J.
CANTWELL, Robert H.
CASSUTO, Isadore
CELLA, William E.
CHAMRAD, Albert L.
CHRISTOS, Christy A.
CINGLE, Michael J.
CLACK, Bill S.
CLYNE, Harold J.
COFFEE, Donald J.
COLE, William R.
COOPER, George H.
CONROW, Russell C.
CURRIER, Russell C.
DAVIS, Jack
DAVIS, Jerald A.
DAVIS, John H.
DICKS, Mason L.
DIXON, Maj. Gerald E. (Ret.)
EICHMAN, Eugene M.
ELLIS, Joseph C.
ELTON, Leroy
ELWOOD, Mrs. Peggy C.
ERLER, Donald
ERXLEBEN, Jerry
EVANS, Clarence E.
FERRAIUOLO, Joseph
FLEMING, Bill
GAILEY, Sam A.
GONZALES, Dr. Federico
GRAY, Harry E.
GRIFFIN, Donald E.
GRINTER, Donald E.
GROTHUES, Mrs. Dorothy
GUILIANO, Peter
GULYAS, Theodore S.
HAAS, James R.
HAGER, Mrs. Virginia
HALE, Robert D.
HALL, Joe
HAWORTH, William A.
HAYNES, Irby
HEATHCOTE, William C.
HEEDEN, Melvin
HENDEE, F. Ward
HENTSCHEL, George E. Jr.
HERSHBERGER, George A.
HINEMAN, William
HOAG, Edward W. Jr.
HOLDEN, Robert A. Sr.
HOLMES, Blair L.
HOOD, Robert E.
HOTOP, Fred
HOUGH, Charles R.
HOUGH, Col. Luther W. Jr. (Ret.)
HYNDMAN, Staver J.

ILKO, George M.
JENNINGS, Howard E.
JENSEN, Robert J.
JEROMINSKI, Edward V.
JOHNSON, Lawrence G.
JONES, William H.
JONES, Floyd Jr. DDS
JORDON, David S.
KAVANAUGH, Dr. William R.
KIACZ, Steve C.
KIERNAN, Thomas J.
KILGORE, Edward J.
KING, Charles Q.
KITE, Dallas W.
KITZROW, Vern
KNOWLES, Robert L.
KOZAK, Maj. Stephen V. (Ret.)
KREMNEC, Frank J. Jr.
KRIZAN, Joseph M.
KUCHTA, Robert J.
LABHARD, William L.
LACHMAN, Russell A.
LAUGHLIN, Arthur W.
LAWRENCE, James A.
LEUKHARDT, Dr. Roy W.
LOFTUS, Melvin F.
LOOKER, Maj. Edward C. (Ret.)
LUSK, Walter A. Jr.
LUUKINEN, Albert
LYNCH, Floyd A.
MACDONALD, Sally E.
MADLUNG, Jack
MAGNAN, Col. Mark W. (Ret.)
MANN, Herbert
MARKLEY, Col. William C. (Ret.)
MASLYN, Paul
MASLYN, William
McCANN, John S.
McCORMICK, John R.
McMICHAEL, Robert D.
McMILLEN, William H.
MILES, Alex C.
MILES, Emil
MONAGIN, Gerald W.
MONEY, Arnold F.
MOORE, Raymond L.
MORETTI, Raymond J.
MORNEAU, Edward T.
MORRIS, Walter P.
MOY, Lt. Col. Newell (Ret.)
MUELLER, Thomas O.
NELSON, V.J.
NORTON, Lloyd G.
NOVAK, Jack
OSTROM, Allen
OVERBAUGH, Harry S.
PEIRCE, W. Burke
PETERSEN, Col. Tracy (Ret.)
PEZNER, Richard
PROCOPIO, Mario
PROCTOR, Reginald
QUINN, John P.
RAND, Robert
RANDOLPH, Sarah Gayle
RASMUSSEN, Robert J.
REBILLOT, Robert N.
REGELLO, Theophilo
RODERICK, Paul
ROGERS, Linn

Plane Will Carry Markings Of Weekley's Downed B-17

Continued From Page 1

"There is much more to be done beyond the painting," said Anderson. "We are still in the process of upgrading the interior and we are always looking for various parts."

After this phase of restoration, will the Aluminum Overcast be in acceptable flying condition to make an appearance at

ROSS, Dwight E.
 RUHRUD, Norman N.
 RUPP, Richard
 RUSH, Don E.
 RUSINAK, George E.
 SAMPSON, W.L.
 SAMUELSON, Conrad
 SASSE, Chuck
 SCHNEIDER, Arnold A.
 SCHWARTZ, Col. Haskell (Ret.)
 SCRIBNER, Frank B.
 SCZESNY, Chester J.
 SELGRATH, John F.
 SEVERSON, Lt. Col. Eldon B. (Ret.)
 SHAFER, John T.
 SHAW, Richard C.
 SHEARER, Robert J.
 SHIMEK, Mrs. Albert J.
 SCHUTZ, Col. C.Y. (Ret.)
 SIGSWORTH, Mrs. Margaret
 SISTEK, Anton A.
 SKINNER, William E.
 SLAVIN, Aaron
 SLEAMAN, Harry J.
 SMITH, John R.
 SPECHUILLI, Joseph
 SPONHOLTZ, Lt. Col. Milo (Ret.)
 STALLCUP, Mr. & Mrs. Harold
 STEELE, Kenneth H.
 STEELE, Ralph O.
 STILES, Jack L.
 STITZ, Thomas B.
 SZOTEK, Raymond P.
 SZUBKA, Sigmund S.
 TAYLOR, William A.
 TEAGUE, Herbert
 TEMPLEMAN, Robert B.
 THACKER, Ike H. Jr.
 THAXTON, John W.
 TRAVERS, Chet J.
 TRENKLE, Philip B.
 TROUT, Ralph D.
 TUELLER, Glenn W. MD
 ULSTAD, Duane E.
 WALLRATH, Raymond J.
 WALSTROM, Jack W.
 WEIDIG, Robert E.
 WEILER, Frank J.
 WEYMER, H.J.
 WHEELER, William J.
 WHITE, Bernard
 WHITMAN, Fred E.
 WILLIAMS, Claude
 WILSON, William C.
 WIMER, William C.
 WINDMUELLER, Richard R.
 WISMER, Col. Frederick C. (Ret.)
 WOOLF, James A.
 WOOSLEY, Harry Jr.
 WOOTEN, Albert F.
 WROE, Lester L. DVM
 ZINS, Samuel I.

Dayton, Ohio next September in time for the 398th reunion?

This is currently being pursued by president Comstock, who has posed the same question to EAA Foundation president, Thomas P. Poberenzy.

"I must tell you that I have never seen such excitement among our members as we publicized this effort. We only have so many years left, and it is our fondest hope to see our insignia flying again on the Aluminum Overcast," wrote Comstock.

"While not a part of our formal agreement for you to make the plane available at our reunion this September in Dayton, I hope that you will be able to do this. I have told Greg that we can underwrite the expenses for such an appearance."

Anderson, following a board of directors meeting in Oshkosh in late April, advised that another meeting in May would be held to finalize the plane's tour schedule.

Another "complication" involved in the schedule, aside from the extensive restoration project in Oklahoma City, is the by-pass heart surgery undergone by pilot Weekley last winter. Once there were thousands of qualified B-17 pilots available. Weekley, a longtime inspector for the FAA, is now one of a rare breed.

But Weekley also is a "rare breed" in another sense, other than being a currently licensed B-17 pilot and a former 601 combat pilot recovering from heart surgery.

President Comstock and fund chairman Blackwell, after several months of research and discussion involving the entire 398th board, jointly announced that the paint scheme of the Aluminum Overcast will carry the serial number "42-102516," the letter "H" and the squadron marking "30" representative of the 601st squadron.

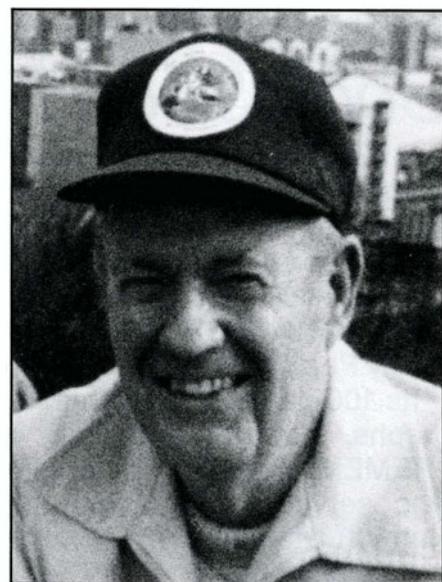
"This choice was based primarily on the fact that the unique opportunity presented the 398th came largely because of Weekley's special relationship with the EAA as its pilot," they said.

"These markings and identification reflect those of the 601 B-17 Weekley and his crew were flying when shot down on a mission to LeManoir, France on August 13, 1944. That plane was one of the original B-17's flown to England from Rapid City, SD. It was shot down on its 34th mission!!

A list of the crews that flew No. 42-102516 H while at Station 131 will be the subject of a future FLAK NEWS article.

Comstock and Blackwell revealed that their investigation had included no less than nine possible considerations before selecting the Weekley aircraft.

"It had to have typical and meaningful



WALLY BLACKWELL

398th markings," they said. "We did not feel that any kind of a composite marking should be attempted merely to force a representation of all the squadrons. The aircraft selected had to represent a meaningful event in the history of the 398th," they said.

Weekley and all but one member of his crew managed to evade and return to Nuthampstead.

Nuthampstead "Friends" Will Lay Wreath

In what is becoming a tradition, the 398th Bomb Group "Friends of the 398th" from Nuthampstead will again be at the American Military Cemetery at Madingly this year to present a wreath on behalf of the 398th men killed in action during World War II.

This year the ceremony will take place on May 21.

Honorary 398th vice president David Wells will again lead the Nuthampstead party, and there could well be some visiting Americans going along.

Wells reports that the Dick Fraziers and Larry Pauls are scheduled to be in England during the month of May. The Alex Cochrans and their grandchildren were to be there in April while the George Rusinaks were there in March.

Wells, forever promoting the 398th, had occasion to speak to the FOTE (Friends of the Eighth) last March, addressing a gathering of 150 at Lakenheath Air Base in Suffolk.

A meeting of the Nuthampstead "Friends" was held on April 17 at 4 Park Farm Lane, where visitors are to "report" unless they are sidetracked at the Woodman Inn.

398th Bomb Group "Remembrances"

Book Soon Ready

It has been in the "promising" stage for three years, in the "planning" stage for two years, and in the "production" stage for the past year.

And soon it will be off the press!

We are talking about the forthcoming book called "398th BOMB GROUP REMEMBRANCES," written by FLAK NEWS editor, Allen Ostrom.

Its 100 pages filled with mission stories, photographs, statistics and other historical material, "REMEMBRANCES" is a volume for every man who served in the 398th from Rapid City to Nuthampstead.

And not only for every veteran, be he of the ground or air crew variety, the book will touch the hearts of the children and grand children. And certainly the hearts of those who were left behind during those tumultuous days of World War II.

"REMEMBRANCES" tells about the B-17. Its configuration. Its personality. Its nose art. Its durability. Its life in the flak-filled skies. And yes, its death in those same skies.

The volume lists every man who gave his life in the struggle for freedom against Nazi Germany. It lists every prisoner of war and every wounded and evadee. Even those plucked from the waters of the Channel and North Sea.

There is a tribute to Colonel Frank P. Hunter, written by a college class mate. And there is a tribute to the "Mighty Fortress" we all serve, written by Chaplain James Duvall.

The book has been priced at \$17.00 each, with a \$3.00 charge for shipping and handling. Checks should be made out to "398th Bomb Group Book," c/o Ralph Hall, treasurer, New Bedford, MA 02740.

Use the mail order slip enclosed in FLAK NEWS. Shipments can be expected in early July.

Did You Serve In the "Army Air Corps," "Force" or "Forces?"

"Nothing can stop the Army Air Corps."
Or was it "Army Air Force?"

The "Corps" and the "Force" are intermixed frequently, not only in song, but in conversation. Which is correct?

According to World Book Encyclopedia—

July 2, 1926 — Congress established the "U.S. Army Air Corps." (Formerly part of the Army Signal Corps.)

June 20, 1941 — Congress set up the "Army Air Forces."

Sept. 18, 1947 — Congress established the "United States Air Force."

Thus, only those folks who were in the air "service" before June 20, 1941 were actually in the "Air Corps." Between June 20, 1941 and Sept. 18, 1947 they were part of the "Army Air Forces." After that, it was simply "Air Force."

Wasn't that exciting?

Special Air Arrangements Offered For Dayton Reunion

Two airlines and a prestigious travel agency have combined to offer the 398th Bomb Group special air travel arrangements for the reunion to be held in Dayton next September.

A "one call does it all" program has been set up by VIP Travel Agency of Alexandria, Virginia, who will coordinate travel arrangements with either Piedmont Airlines or US/Air.

Members looking for travel help to Dayton are encouraged to call Ellie Turner of VIP Travel on the following toll-free number 1-800-451-5439.

Miss Turner will coordinate travel requirements and will quote reduced fares on either of the two airlines.

VIP Travel is located at 100-North Royal St., Alexandria, VA 22314. In calling VIP, members should ask for Miss Turner and advise her of their affiliation with the 398th Bomb Group.

"Satellite" Motel HQ For Some

A "satellite" headquarters for the Dayton reunion... for members who prefer to "motel" it rather than "hotel" it... is developing at the Red Roof Motel south of downtown at Exit No. 44 off I-75.

The Red Roof is located near the Dayton Mall, along with several other motels such as Days, Knight's, and Motel 6.

For additional information, including locations of RV parks, call the reunion chairman, Bob Hart.

Sign Up For Volunteer Help

Reunion chairman Bob Hart is serious about needing some volunteer help at the registration desk and at the PX sales counter. This is not only fun volunteer duty, but also so critical as helping hands always make for a smoother and happier operation.

Especially For Small Town Folks

The "multi-media" presentation scheduled for the Reunion Farewell Banquet features a pair of 10 foot screens and a bank of slide projectors. It's called "Backroads of America," and is certain to appeal to the many folks who come from small towns across the nation.

"Shoo Shoo Shoo Baby" At Museum

Reunion participants coming to Dayton for the first time are sure to be overwhelmed by the air museum at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. It is simply breathtaking. Almost lost among the exhibits is the famous B-17, Shoo Shoo Shoo Baby. It is beautifully restored.



Located in the heart of downtown Dayton, with easy access from I-75, I-70, and I-675, 15 minutes from James Cox International Airport.

NEXT REUNION STOP: DAYTON, OHIO

“The Birthplace of Aviation”

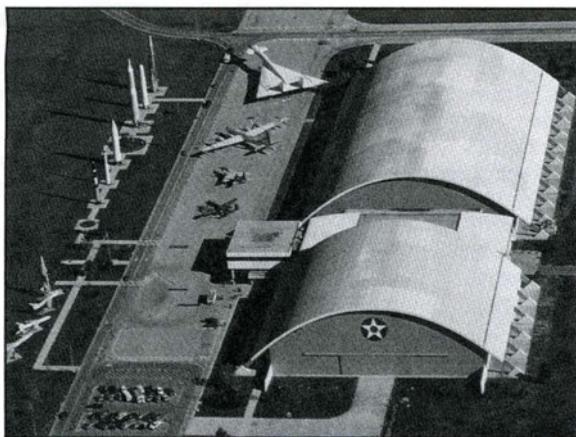


The sixth annual reunion of the 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association will be held in Dayton, Ohio on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, September 20-21-22-23, 1989.

Join us for another great meeting with the men you served with in the 398th! See the marvelous air museum at Wright-Patterson AFB. Thrill at the tree-planting and plaque dedication ceremony. See the many aviation sites that made Dayton famous. Share your memories in the Stouffer Hotel Memory Room. Applaud the music of the WPAFB Show Band. Enjoy the great meals planned for the hotel dinners and Officers Club luncheon. Thrill to the "Backroads of America" multi-media presentation. All this and more at the September reunion.



STOUFFER
Center Plaza Hotel
Reunion Headquarters



World famous Wright-Patterson Air Force Museum at Dayton.

**Registration form on back page.
Tear out along dotted line.
Use Stouffer reservation form.**

OUR HOSTS AT DAYTON
Reunion chairman Bob Hart and his wife Eloise have been working for months preparing for the 1989 gathering. They are looking for a record turnout. Let's give it to them!



OFFICIAL REGISTRATION FORM

398th Bomb Group Memorial Association Sixth Annual Reunion
DAYTON, OHIO SEPTEMBER 20-23, 1989

Deadline for Return:

July 31, 1989

NAME _____ WIFE _____ SQD: _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE (_____) _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NAMES OF OTHERS IN PARTY. PLEASE PRINT FOR NAME TAGS

Registration Fee (Per Person) \$10.00 x _____ \$ _____

WEDNESDAY, September 20:

Golf - Wright Patterson AFB -Military Course - Tee Time 7:30 AM Yes / No
 Registration 1 PM - 5 PM Beckel Room
 Memory Room 1 PM - 5 PM Beckel Room
 No organized group activities today. Dinner at a restaurant of your choice.

THURSDAY, September 21:

Registration 9 AM - 5 PM Beckel Room
 Memory Room 9 AM Beckel Room
 Ladies Activity 9:30 AM Assembly Area Yes / No
 Officers Meeting 10:00 AM Wilbur Wright Room
 Lunch on your own
 Vintage Style Show (Gentlemen Welcome) 2 PM Van Cleve II Yes / No
 398th Business Meeting 3 PM Van Cleve I
 "Cash" Cocktail Bar 6 PM - 7 PM Assembly Area
 Welcome Dinner 7 PM Van Cleve Ballroom \$22.00 x _____ \$ _____

FRIDAY, September 22:

"Cash" Continental Breakfast 7 AM - 8 AM Assembly Area
 Memory Room 7 AM Beckel Room
 USAF Museum Tour, Plaque Dedication, Group Photo & Lunch at WPAFB Officers Club.
 8:45 AM Buses at 5th St. Exit \$13.50 x _____ \$ _____
 "Cash" Cocktail Bar 6 PM - 7 PM Assembly Area
 Show Band Dinner 7 PM Van Cleve Ballroom \$25.00 x _____ \$ _____

SATURDAY, September 23:

"Cash" Continental Breakfast 7 AM - 8 AM Beckel Room
 Memory Room 7 AM Beckel Room
 Dayton Tour to include Carillon Historical Park. Lunch on your own at Dayton Mall.
 9:45-2:40 PM Buses at 5th St. Exit \$13.50 x _____ \$ _____
 Cash Cocktail Bar 6 PM - 7 PM Assembly Area
 Farewell Dinner 7 PM Van Cleve Ballroom \$28.00 x _____ \$ _____

SUNDAY, September 24:

Memory Room Open 9 AM - Noon
 Check-Out Time 1 PM

398th Memorial Association dues for 1989 (if applicable) \$5.00 \$ _____

I/We will arrive by: Auto - Air - Other. TOTAL \$ _____

I/We will work 2 hours in Memory Room if needed Yes / No

Please complete form and mail to:

398th Bomb Group Reunion
 Wilmington, OH 45177

Received \$ _____ Date _____ _____ Robert T. Hart A copy of this form will be mailed to registrants upon receipt of check or money order, payable to "398th Bomb Group Reunion."

We Get Letters

"The title of your forthcoming book, '398th Bomb Group Remembrances,' sounds most appropriate. I am sure that all our Association members will be anxious to get the book. As for me, I am eagerly awaiting the ordering instructions. You and the others who assisted you are to be commended."

**Earl Berryhill, Col. USAF (Ret.)
San Antonio, TX 78209**

"I found a pin recently while rummaging through my prisoner of war stuff. It is sterling silver and shows a parachute with a star in the blue field. The edging and parachute are silver. On the back side is the following inscription — 'Cole of California. Awarded to Harry Nelson 7-4-44. England. For emergency parachute jump.' I can't remember how I got this, but I will bring it to Dayton hoping others have similar pins so we can 'cross check' our information."

Harry Nelson, Lawrenceville, IL 62439.

"I sure hope this 5-pound note will help you with your fund towards the EAA B-17 paint project. I was only a small boy during the war when you guys were over here putting your lives on the line to help make this country free. Most people over here have forgotten what America did for England, but I will never forget."

**William F. Adams, London, England
E13ONL.**

"I would like to mention that I had a very good time at the reunion in Richmond last September, and look forward to meeting all of the fellows in Dayton, Ohio. The team working on these reunions do a great job. We don't always realize the work and planning behind these reunions, but we do appreciate it. Thanks to all of the people who contribute to their success."

**Frank Strnad,
Mt. Clemens, MI 48044.**

"I am writing a book on the lives of three brothers from Lyndhurst, NJ who were killed in World War II. One was with the 398th Bomb Group, William J. Lewandowski. He was a co-pilot on the Richard Ellis crew of the 603rd and was killed on March 14, 1945 with four others of the crew. There were four survivors, however, and I would greatly like to locate them. Can you help?"

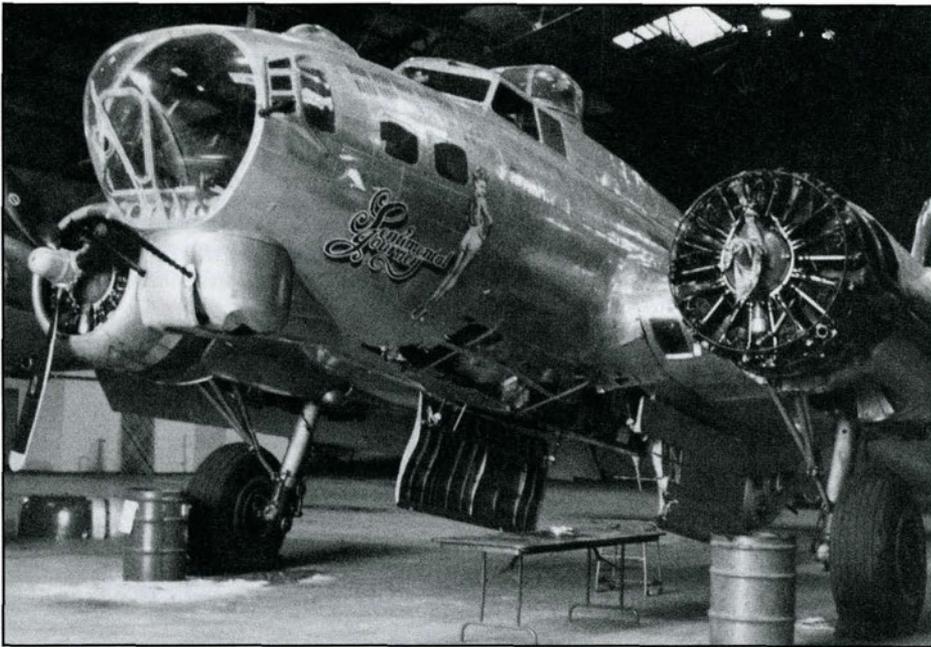
R.J. Rosamilia, Toms River, NJ 08753.

Ed's Note — The four survivors were Kenneth R. Peek, navigator; James G. Schofield, radio operator; Edward L. McCracken, waist gunner; and Donald G. Pierson, tail gunner. Peek is deceased. No information on the others. Perhaps a reader can be of help in locating these three. Meanwhile, the Missing Air Crew Report on the Ellis crew was forwarded to Mr. Rosamilia.

"Thank you for telling me about Roger Freeman's MIGHTY EIGHTH WAR DIARY. I found the photos on Page 299 that show the front half of my B-17 floating to the ground after being hit by flak on July 19, 1944. Also the picture of the rear half lying on the ground being studied by a number of Germans. Such vivid memories, I can assure you. The Missing Air Crew Report you sent me continues to stir my memories daily. We plan to conduct further research on this fateful mission when we visit Germany this fall."

Doyle Borchers, Temple, TX 76502.

Ed's Note — Borchers was the lone survivor on the 602 Dallas Hawkins crew. Freeman's book said all aboard perished, and Borchers is anxious to contact the English historian and make the correction. Additional stories from the Missing Air Crew Reports will appear in the upcoming 398th history book, "Remembrances."



SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY displays air show "battle damage"

CAF Flagship B-17 Suffers Crash Damage

"One of our aircraft is missing," was a statement well identified with the air war of World War II.

Today, we can join the Confederate Air Force in saying, "one of our aircraft has cracked up."

It's the Sentimental Journey, the flagship of the CAF and the Arizona Wing. And the B-17 which flew into Richmond last September for the benefit of the 398th Bomb Group at its reunion.

The Sentimental Journey, beautifully restored, took some serious lumps last fall when landing for an air show at Burbank Airport, north of Los Angeles, according to Col. George Robinson of the CAF's Southern California Wing.

"She lost her brakes on landing, ran through a fence and ripped her belly from the forward crew hatch to the bomb bay, ripped up the bomb bay door, the left wing aft of the rear spar from station 1 to 2 F. The left flaps also were destroyed and the chin turret was damaged."

Robinson added that a group of volunteers rebuilt and repaired the damage over a period of three months. She is expected to be back on the "circuit" in early June.

398th BOMB GROUP FLAK NEWS
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