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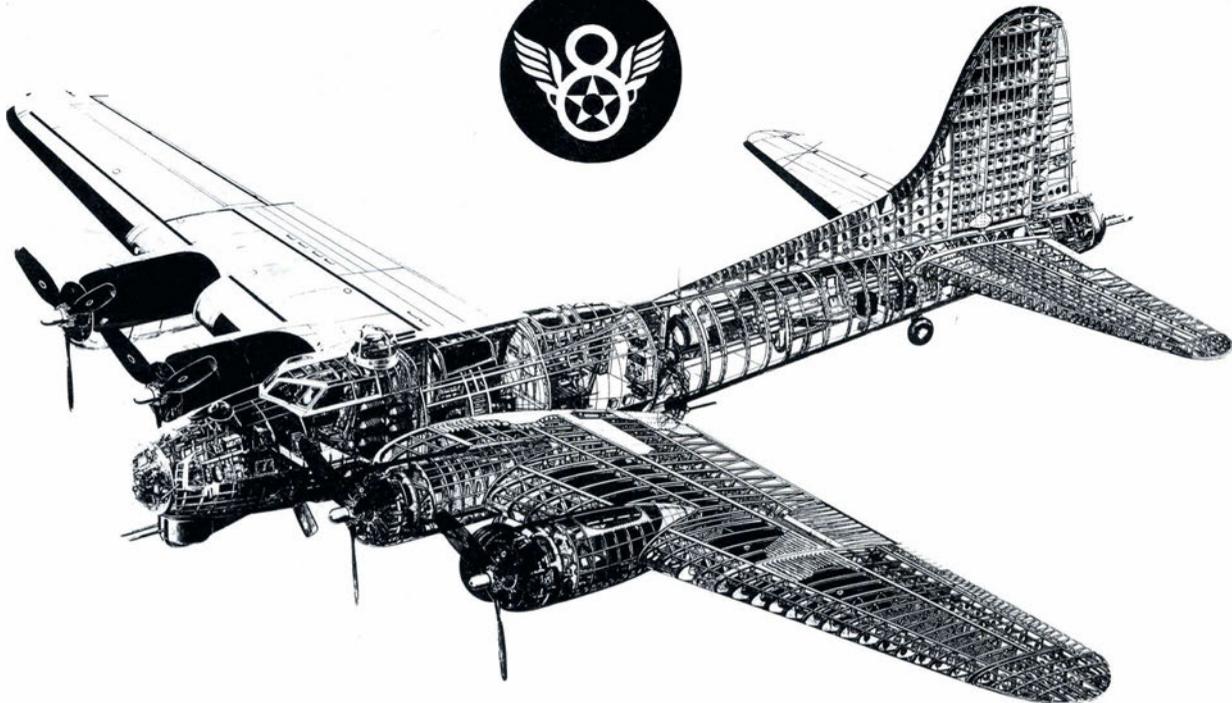
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398TH BOMB. GROUP MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION • 8TH AIR FORCE • 1ST AIR DIVISION • NUTHAMPSTEAD, ENGLAND
VOL. 7 NO. 2 FLAK NEWS APRIL 1992

B-17 FLYING FORTRESS



HERITAGE OF VALOR

The tumult and the shouting have died away. The B-17's and B-24's will never again assemble into strike formation in the bitter cold of embattled skies. Never again will the musical thunder of their passage cause the very earth to tremble, the source of sound lost in infinity and seeming to emanate from all things, visible and invisible. The great deep-throated engines are forever silent, replaced by the flat, toneless roar of the jets and the rockets. But, on bleak and lonely winter nights in the English Midlands, ghost squadrons take off silently in the swirling mist of the North Sea from the ancient weed-choked runways, and wing away toward the east, never to return. On other nights the deserted woodlands ring with unheard laughter and gay voices of young men and young women who once passed that way. Recollections of all these fade a little with each passing year until at last there will finally remain only the indelible records of the all-seeing Master of the Universe to recall the deeds of valor excelled by no other nation, arm, or service. These sacred scrolls will forever remain the heritage of the free and untrampled people of this earth.

Col. Budd J. Peaslee, Colonel, C.O.
384th Bomb Group

The Fiddler of Anstey



The Anstey mound where the old castle once sat is still there. And so is the moat. And also the trees just east of the property that still bear the scars where a 398th B-17 struck violently before crashing, burning and exploding.

The bodies of 10 young men were pulled from the moat as the flickering beams of daylight began to reveal the horror and carnage.

This would be the lead crew of the 603rd as it took off for a mission to Cologne on October 15, 1944. These men will be remembered once again when the 398th group tour party joins the community for a special service at St. George's Church at Anstey on Sunday, June 28.

Anstey was known to the men who served at Station 131 as a "suburb" of Nuthampstead. They may well remember flying over the little town as it lay directly beneath the flight path on take off to the southwest on the main runway.

But Anstey was there long before Station 131 and World War II. Long before the "colonies" became the United States of America.

Long enough to have had a castle dominate the community. Long enough to have nurtured a story that conceivably could have impact with someone from the 398th Bomb Group.

Long enough to have spawned a great yarn known as "The Fiddler of Anstey."

Local folks know all about "The Fiddler of Anstey" but others discovered it in a book by Doris Jones-Baker called, the "Tales of Old Hertfordshire."

Where does the 398th fit in this centuries old legend? The answer comes in the form of a note and question from Elaine Tyler, secretary of the Friends of the 398th —

"Several of us attended a talk one evening about the Castle/Moat at Anstey. There is supposed to be an underground tunnel here leading to another entrance some distance away. It has long since been löst but is now the subject of some excavations.

"Could it be that one of the lads working on the crash site that morning might have seen this heavy door or gate and could still pinpoint the location?"

So think hard, you men who were on the crash scene that morning.

The "Fiddler of Anstey" could still be in the tunnel awaiting your directions.

It seems that this fiddler, known as "Blind George," had become "quarrelsome and pot-valiant" during the evening's sojourn at "THE CHEQUERS." So much so that he accepted the challenge of venturing into the tunnel near the ancient chalk pit. Despite the legend that it had never been explored and that anyone venturing inside would never come out alive.

The tunnel supposedly led to the dungeons beneath Anstey Castle, more than a mile away.

George took his fiddle and dog and plunged into the entrance of the cave. Led by his dog, George began fiddling and the villagers were able to follow his path as they listened to an "uncanny and unknown" fiddle tune from under the ground beneath their feet.

"Suddenly, the scrape of the fiddle rose to a shriek. And then came only silence. They raced back to the tunnel entrance, there to see



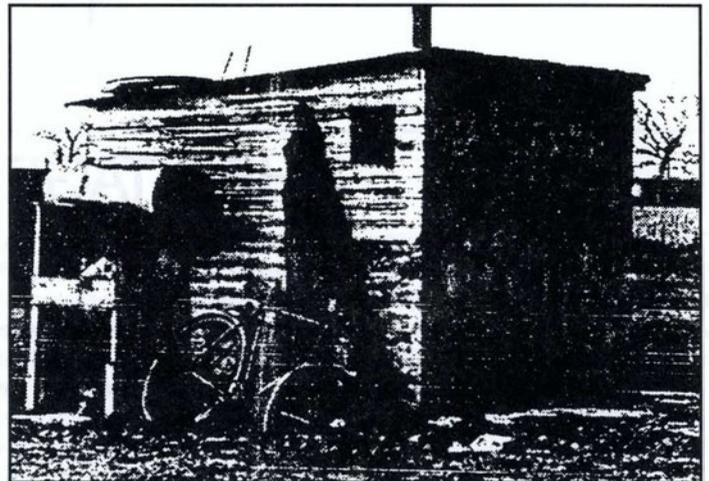
George's dog come running out as twenty devils were behind him. He was tail-less and his hair singed off. He ran off into the night and was never seen again."

The entrance was then sealed and no one since has ever tried to find out what ever happened to "The Fiddler of Anstey."

The "CHEQUERS" is still there. Maybe the tunnel, too, awaiting word from one of the "lads" from the 398th.

Among the locals waiting for word is Jean Mustoe, who was kind enough to send along the book, "Tales of Old Hertfordshire."

"If we find the tunnel, Jean, will you lead the way?"



OLD PACKING CASES, a stove, discarded engine sump oil and some ground crew ingenuity was turned into home sweet home out on the line by the owners of this shack at Station 131 in 1944-45.

NEXT MISSION: NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, September 17-18-19-20, 1992



The 398th Bomb Group will go "Country Western" at its ninth annual reunion. So start gettin' used to such names as General Jackson, Grand Ole Opry, Hermitage, Minnie Pearl, Music City, Opryland Hotel, and all that other talk that connects you with the "Country Music Capitol of the World" — NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.

The 398th will be headquartered at the Marriott Hotel, not far from the Nashville Airport and not far from the above attractions and others being arranged by reunion chairman Dewey Cook.

Dewey and wife, Effie, have been "on the job" for almost a year, the reunion assignment interrupting a retirement period that followed a 25-year Air Force career, first as a 600 squadron B-17 engineer turret gunner and later as crew chief on a variety of AF bombers and transports.

Dewey's accumulated air time reached over 13,000 hours!

The Marriott is located on a hill just north of I-40 and off Briley Parkway, a few miles east of downtown Nashville. (See map). This being the first reunion for the 398th to be held in the southeast part of the U.S., and in close proximity to many of our members, it is expected that it will attract record numbers.

The record is currently held by Oshkosh, WI, where 530 members gathered in 1990.

The hotel registration form is enclosed. Return it to the hotel as soon as possible (as opposed to the last minute) so the chairman and the hotel folks are not kept guessing.

The Official Registration Form is on Page 4. You may clip it out or make a photo copy. A copy of your submitted form, receipted by Dewey Cook, will be returned to you.

The Red Roof Inn, located nearby, has been designated as the "back up" motel. It is located at 510 Claridge Dr., Nashville, TN 37214. Telephone (toll free) 1-800-THE ROOF. Special rates may be secured by mentioning the 398th and No. 206 ZZ 92271.

Chairman Cook points out that 300 tickets are available on a first come, first serve basis for the Dinner Cruise Show on Saturday night, September 19, and only 40 for the Lunch Cruise Show on Sunday, September 20.

Note that the four-day reunion concludes on Sunday night instead of Saturday. This concession for a better Marriott hotel rate.

Only 100 tickets will be available for the Grand Ole Opry Show, 90 for the Nashville bus tour.

The group's dedicated golfers, who usually number 12 to 16, will be at the nearby Two Rivers Gold Club on Thursday and Friday mornings.

Attention, those of you who will come at the last minute without a reservation —

Most assuredly, you will be welcome. BUT, please know that you must register before you can "join the party." AND, that it will be (as usual) "first come, first served" for tickets to the various functions being prepared.

And for the benefit of those who ALWAYS come early and sometimes have to do a mad dash for their banquet seat, there WILL be a reservation plan in place for both the Friday and Sunday night banquets at the Marriott Hotel.

The special Bar-B-Que at the Marriott Hotel on Sunday will be an outdoor affair under a colorful canopy. It will also be Country Western in flavor, both in menu and entertainment.

For those requiring travel assistance, you are invited to contact VIP Travel, 100 N. Royal St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Telephone toll free 1-800-451-5439. Ask for Ellie Turner.

— BULLETIN —

Just before press time this message was received from Bill Comstock, president of the 398th Bomb Group —

"Members coming to the annual reunion in Nashville next September will be treated to something very special. Prepare FLAK NEWS for an exciting story."



OFFICIAL REGISTRATION FORM

398th Bomb Group Memorial Association Ninth Annual Reunion
Nashville, Tennessee September 17-18-19-20, 1992

PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN AUGUST 15, 1992

NAME _____ WIFE _____ SQD: _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE (_____) _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NAMES OF OTHERS IN PARTY. PLEASE PRINT FOR NAME TAGS

THURSDAY, September 17:

Golf	6:30 AM	Meet in Lobby	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Registration	1 PM - 5 PM	Capitol I Room	
Memory Room	1 PM - 5 PM	Capitol I Room	

No organized activities today. Dinner at the restaurant of your choice.

FRIDAY, September 18:

Golf	6:30 AM	Meet in Lobby	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Registration	9 AM - 5 PM	Capitol I Room	
Memory Room	9 AM - 5 PM	Capitol I Room	
Officers Meeting	10 AM	Comstock Room	
Group Business Meeting	2 PM	Nashville Ballroom	
Womens' Opryland Hotel Tour	2 PM - 5 PM	Gray Line Shuttle	FREE
Cash Bar	6 PM	Assembly Corridor	
Welcome Banquet	7 PM	Nashville Ballroom	\$25.00 x _____ \$ _____

SATURDAY, September 19:

Registration	9 AM - 5 PM	Capitol I Room	
Memory Room	9 AM - 5 PM	Capitol I Room	
Bus Tour, Nashville #1	9 AM - 12 NOON		\$7.00 x _____ \$ _____
Grand Ole Opry Show	3 PM - 5 PM		\$18.00 x _____ \$ _____
Gen. Jackson Dinner Show	6 PM - 10 PM		\$47.00 x _____ \$ _____

SUNDAY, September 20:

Registration	9 AM - 12 NOON	Capitol I Room	
Memory Room	9 AM - 5 PM	Capitol I Room	
Gen. Jackson Lunch Cruise	11 AM - 2 PM	Gen. Jackson	\$27.00 x _____ \$ _____
Bar-B-Q Lunch	12 NOON - 2 PM	Marriott Hotel	\$12.00 x _____ \$ _____
Cash Bar	6 PM	Assembly Corridor	
Farewell Banquet	7 PM	Nashville Ballroom	\$26.00 x _____ \$ _____

Registration Fee (Per Person, 2 Maximum Per Family) \$10.00 x _____ \$ _____

1992 Memorial Association dues (if applicable) \$5.00 x _____ \$ _____

Check payable to: *398th Bomb Group Reunion* TOTAL \$ _____

I/We will work two hours in Memory Room if needed Yes

Please complete form and mail to:

Dewey Cook
398th Bomb Group Reunion
Fairview, TN 37062

Received \$ _____ Date _____ <div style="text-align: center; border-top: 1px solid black; padding-top: 5px;"> Dewey Cook A copy of this form will be mailed to registrants upon receipt of check or money order, payable to 398th Bomb Group Reunion. </div>
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Do You Remember “The Wash”?

Brits Looking For Stories About Gunnery School

It may have been a half-century ago, but the folks up in East Anglia of Great Britain have not forgotten the contributions made by the Gunner-Yanks of the 8th Air Force. And in concert with those remembrances they want to do a “documented history” of a long forgotten AF facility that played a key part in the training of American aerial gunners.

It was known as “The Wash” to the new men who arrived in England to learn about combat with the Luftwaffe. Actually, it was Station 172, known as 1st Close Combat Gunnery School (1CCGS).

The closest community was Snettisham and the closest “big town” was King’s Lynn, one of the Royal family’s summer residences.

New gunners destined for residences at such interesting places as Glatton, Kimbolton, Poddington, Denethorpe, Molesworth, Polebrook, Thurleigh, Ridgewell, Grafton-Underwood, Chelveston, Bassingbourne and, of course, Nuthampstead, all had their first taste of combat training at The Wash. Then off for the real thing at these 1st Combat Division stations.

The Wash was soon forgotten by the gun-

ners as they settled in at their respective new homes. And with the first enemy fighter pass and first puff of Flak.

Now, all these years later, the folks who live at Snettisham and other communities around The Wash are re-discovering “1CCGS” in the form of concrete gun mountings, target rails, kitchen chimney and many other bits and pieces of history that stir thoughts of young Yanks descending on their otherwise calm and serene countryside.

“How good it would be to have all this confirmed both verbally and pictorially by those who were actually there,” wrote one of the “joint compilers” of the proposed history.

“Diglea, where the tents were housed, still has a mysterious air of 1942-45 about it,” wrote Brian Clipston of Mundesley located on the English Channel coast south of The Wash.

“We have been told that the Guard House was located at Diglea. The old cookhouse chimney still stands erect, there is a solitary concrete gun mounting about 30 yards from the entrance which speaks of Diglea’s former use,” he added.

But the “compilers” want more than merely locating these old bits and pieces. They are looking for help from the men who were actually stationed there, especially the instructors who were there for a period of time.

“We would like to receive personal accounts from the gunners. Their impressions of the station, their experiences, photographs, thoughts, memories. And especially, recollections from their first mission in a B-17.”

Your FLAK NEWS editor offered a small contribution —

“August 28, 1944. Sent by train from Stone to Gunnery School at Snettisham on The Wash. Went through 10 days of instructions on combat missions. It rained most of the time we were there. Everyone was glad to leave the place. I bought a \$25 War Bond to get a pass to King’s Lynn. While walking down the street an MP drove by and motioned for me to take my hands out of my pockets.”

Perhaps others will have more positive remembrances of their stay. They are invited to send their stories and photographs to —

**Brian Clipston
Norfolk NR 11 8AS
ENGLAND**

And one more thing: The “compilers” of

this proposed history about “The Wash” gunnery school are proceeding on a course that will one day see the establishment of a museum at Snettisham.

“We would like to develop a proper Memorial to ensure that the gunnery school is not forgotten.”

80 Members Poised For June Tour To Germany & England

Eighty members of the 398th Bomb Group, the largest contingent of any previous trip, are poised and ready for a nostalgic return to Germany and England from June 17 to July 2.

Nuthampstead, Woodman Inn, Anstey, Madingley, Royston, Cambridge, Hendon, Duxford, St. Paul’s, Tower Bridge, London and literally dozens of other names linked to 1944-45 will be on the agenda as the group returns with thousands of other airmen to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the 8th Air Force in England.

While other groups and organizations go their separate ways to the East Anglia airfields of World War II, and to a variety of 8th AF celebrations, the men and women of the 398th will enter into their own special events as planned by the U.K. “Friends of the 398th.” Chairman Wilfred Dimsdale and his officers have been working for many months preparing for such activities as the special service at the Memorial, the airplane rides over the old field, the 40’s dance at Anstey, the Service of Remembrance at St. George’s Church, a visit to the Cambridge American Military Cemetery at Madingley, the visit to Duxford Airfield and Museum and so much more.

All to conclude with a visit to the marvelous WW II museum at Hendon, St. Paul’s American Memorial and, of course, London.

But before all these things come to pass, the 80 tourists will already have spent a week in Germany seeing from ground level such sites as the Leuna petro chemical plant near Merseburg, easily the best remembered of the group’s “target for today.” And the Dusseldorf suburb of

Neuss, remembered as the target city where Col. Frank P. Hunter and eight others lost their lives.

The only survivor, Federico Gonzales, will be among the tour members, as will Maria Hunter.

On the way to Oostende, Belgium, to catch the ferry to England, the group will stop at the Ardennes and Margraten cemeteries where many men from the 398th lie beneath the turf or have their names inscribed on the Walls of the Missing.

Even Napoleon’s battlefield at Waterloo, Belgium, will be among the scheduled stops.

A personal stop for Hank Rudow will be at Duffel, Belgium, there to see the very spot that he crash-landed his B-17. And for Phil Arbogast and Ben Core there will be a visit to Mucheln, Germany to see the site where their pilot, Robert Campbell, died in the crash of his Fortress.

For Joe Mansell there will also be a personal remembrance as the tour party crosses the English Channel. Joe and four others on the 602 Lyle Doerr crew had finished up their respective tours late in December, 1944. Doerr and four other needed one more mission, that coming on December 30.

Those five, plus four spare crewmen, crashed in the Channel with the loss of all nine lives. As the ferry approaches Dover, Mansell will cast a flower bouquet into the water in the direction of nearby Beachy Head as a memorial to his former crew mates.

Memories? Nostalgia? Tears? Drama? Yes, the 1992 tour to Germany and England will have them all.

And more.

THEY PAID IT ALL

195 Missions Took Their Toll

NAME	RANK	UNIT	D.O.D.	NAME	RANK	UNIT	DOD.
Aaron, Floyd	T/Sgt	601	04-13-45	DeLafayette, Stanley	2/Lt	603	11-21-44
Abbott, George E.	S/Sgt	601	10-15-44	Deuel, Merritt A.	2/Lt	600	05-19-44
Aleksyn, Albert J.	S/Sgt	603	02-03-45	Dion, Albert L.	2/Lt	600	08-12-44
Anataillia, Gerard C.	S/Sgt	600	07-16-44	Doerr, Lyle J.	1/Lt	602	12-30-44
Anderson, Vernon	2/Lt	601	11-26-44	Doglio, Joseph D.	2/Lt	602	07-19-44
Andrews, Joe T.	S/Sgt	601	05-24-44	Doyle, Paul E.	2/Lt	601	11-26-44
Argubright, Darrell	2/Lt	601	08-30-44	Dudley, Robert W.	Sgt	603	03-02-45
Arnold, Charles	2/Lt	603	08-08-44	Earle, Hazen V.	S/Sgt	602	12-30-44
Atkinson, Brooks	S/Sgt	603	11-21-44	Edington, Stephen L.	Sgt	603	08-04-44
Ault, James J. Jr.	S/Sgt	603	11-21-44	Ellis, Richard F.	2/Lt	603	03-14-45
Ayres, Howard F.	T/Sgt	603	01-02-45	Engeman, Ernest F.	2/Lt	603	08-04-44
Bagley, Charles P.	1/Lt	600	11-30-44	Englehardt, William H.	Sgt	603	07-07-44
Bait, John C., Jr.	S/Sgt	602	04-11-45	Erickson, Roger J.	2/Lt	602	10-28-44
Baker, John M.	Capt	600	08-08-44	Ervin, Milton C.	S/Sgt	602	04-11-45
Baker, John P.	1/Lt	603	10-15-44	Farren, Gerald F.	Sgt	600	05-19-44
Baker, William H.	2/Lt	600	11-25-44	Faurot, Doyt W.	T/Sgt	603	08-04-44
Barton, George E.	T/Sgt	603	10-15-44	Feathers, George A.	Sgt	603	08-04-44
Barzano, Joseph G.	Pfc	600	05-19-44	Feinstein, William	1/Lt	603	02-03-45
Bassora, Manuel M.	Pvt	1226QM	09-24-44	Feldman, Howard V.	2/Lt	602	04-25-45
Bayless, Leroy K.	Sgt	603	10-15-44	Ference, Henry	2/Lt	603	11-21-44
Beatovich, William J.	Capt	603	01-23-45	Ferguson, Allen H.	2/Lt	602	04-25-45
Beaty, James A.	T/Sgt	600	08-12-44	Fields, James S.	2/Lt	602	09-12-44
Beatty, Hubert F.	1/Lt	600	02-22-45	Flores, David V.	S/Sgt	600	12-24-44
Bergant, Joe	S/Sgt	602	12-30-44	Fontana, Louis	Sgt	600	09-10-44
Bergen, Norman E.	2/Lt	601	05-24-44	Foster, Thomas K.	1/Lt	603	07-13-44
Beyer, Nelson R.	Sgt	601	01-20-45	Fox, Thomas H.	S/Sgt	602	12-30-44
Bisping, Harold A.	S/Sgt	601	07-08-44	Franzone, Augustine S.	1/Lt	603	01-17-44
Blackwell, Harold L.	Pvt	478SD	06-15-44	Frisbie, Victor	S/Sgt	600	05-30-44
Borden, Charles A.	Sgt	603	08-04-44	Fuller, Virgil	Sgt	602	10-28-44
Bowles, Thomas C.	1/Lt	603	09-26-44	Furrow, John E., Jr.	S/Sgt	603	01-01-45
Boyd, Harvey J.	2/Lt	603	08-04-44	Gaiser, Joseph R.	T/Sgt	602	12-30-44
Brennan, Michael J.	T/Sgt	602	04-25-45	Galetto, Clement Jr.	Sgt	603	08-04-44
Bringle, Ray D.	T/Sgt	603	07-13-44	Galliotto, Carlo	T/Sgt	601	07-08-44
Brodin, Unite L.	Capt	603	05-24-44	Gamba, Eugene	Sgt	601	09-08-44
Brown, Loren C.	S/Sgt	603	07-13-44	Garcia, Reynaldo	S/Sgt	602	02-03-45
Brown, Melvin P.	S/Sgt	603	10-15-44	Garner, William F.	S/Sgt	602	02-03-45
Brusseau, Phil	1/Lt	603	10-21-44	Garrett, Thomas D.	S/Sgt	602	07-19-44
Bryan, Clifford Z.	2/Lt	603	07-13-44	Garry, Frank E., Jr.	T/Sgt	603	01-02-45
Bryan, William M.	2/Lt	603	11-21-44	Gaynor, Robert	2/Lt	603	11-21-44
Buddes, Anthony	T/Sgt	603	03-15-45	Glancy, Ralph	S/Sgt	603	11-21-44
Bueffel, Alfred	S/Sgt	600	08-12-44	Gnesin, Harold M.	2/Lt	602	06-25-44
Bunning, Paul	T/Sgt	602	07-19-44	Goesel, Edward B.	T/Sgt	601	06-18-44
Burns, John D.	S/Sgt	601	06-18-44	Gonser, Billy G.	1/Lt	602	09-12-44
Burns, Wilbert Y.	Sgt	601	09-08-44	Gooden, Marvin L.	T/Sgt	603	02-03-45
Butters, William	1/Lt	603	01-23-45	Goodman, Richard S.	S/Sgt	602	09-12-44
Byrne, Felix	S/Sgt	600	11-30-44	Gray, Frank	T/Sgt	603	01-02-45
Campbell, Robert G.	1/Lt	601	11-02-44	Gray, Judson	Maj	603	05-24-44
Campbell, William	Capt	603	01-23-45	Groncki, Gregory G.	S/Sgt	602	07-19-44
Carlisle, Albert S. Jr.	Sgt	603	03-02-45	Gruette, Gerald O.	T/Sgt	603	07-13-44
Carrado, Peter D.	S/Sgt	603	05-24-44	Gurba, Elmer G.	Sgt	603	03-02-45
Chandler, James E.	T/Sgt	601	10-23-44	Gustafson, John V.	2/Lt	603	03-02-45
Christensen, Donald R.	2/Lt	603	03-02-45	Haberman, Louis	1/Lt	603	05-24-44
Christensen, Donald	T/Sgt	601	05-24-44	Halbert, John	F/O	602	04-25-45
Clark, Marvin	S/Sgt	603	11-21-44	Halter, Ralph L.	1/Lt	601	06-18-44
Clark, Thomas A.	1/Lt	600	04-08-45	Hamilton, Marion B.	S/Sgt	600	04-08-44
Clifton, Clinton B.	2/Lt	600	09-10-44	Hansard, V.A. Jr.	1/Lt	600	11-25-44
Cline, Glen H.	S/Sgt	603	01-01-45	Harper, Clarence H.	T/Sgt	603	02-03-45
Clinesmith, Gene F.	2/Lt	602	03-09-45	Hart, Earl	2/Lt	602	07-19-44
Cohn, Melvin	T/Sgt	603	11-02-44	Harrison, Leonard D.	S/Sgt	600	08-08-44
Colbert, Donald	Cpl	603	09-08-44	Harrod, Franklin D.	2/Lt	600	12-24-44
Cole, Fred	S/Sgt	603	11-21-44	Hastings, Kenneth S.	1/Lt	603	11-21-44
Coleman, Lamar Q.	Sgt	600	04-08-44	Hawkins, Dallas A.	2/Lt	602	07-19-44
Colgan, Robert H.	T/Sgt	603	02-03-45	Helbig, Herbert A.	T/Sgt	600	11-30-44
Comer, Roger D.	2/Lt	600	05-19-44	Hess, Ralph C.	S/Sgt	601	07-08-44
Cone, Frederick B.	T/Sgt	600	05-19-44	Heustess, Joe	T/Sgt	602	04-25-45
Connolly, Harry J.	2/Lt	602	10-28-44	Hochadel, James F.	S/Sgt	603	08-08-44
Coulson, James B.	Sgt	601	11-26-44	Hoffman, William H.	2/Lt	601	05-24-44
Cranston, Lyman N., Jr.	2/Lt	602	09-12-44	Honaker, James R. Jr.	2/Lt	600	02-22-45
Cropp, Charles E.	S/Sgt	603	07-13-44	Hopp, Raymond C.	2/Lt	600	07-07-44
Crowe, George R.	2/Lt	602	10-28-44	Howell, Charles	1/Lt	603	11-21-44
Daly, Francis A.	Sgt	602	10-28-44	Hunter, Frank P. Jr.	Col	398HQ	01-23-45
Davidson, Gordon F.	Capt	603	05-24-44	Iaconis, Frank	S/Sgt	601	11-26-44
Davis, Robert L.	2/Lt	600	11-25-44	Ingram, John W.	1/Lt	601	05-24-44
DeCleene, Donald J.	1/Lt	603	01-02-45	James, Earl C.	1/Lt	603	01-17-44

“Mine Have The



EACH YEAR someone from the 398th at Nuthampstead...
 398th'' at Nuthampstead...
 brance in the ceremonies...
 Military Cemetery at Mad...
 from the 398th Bomb Gro...
 ll action. Last year it was...
 chairman. Similar ceremc...
 military cemeteries all c...
 those in Belgium, Hollan...
 398th men are buried or h...
 on Walls of the Missing.

398TH HONORED DEAD

296 From Group Still Remembered

Eyes Seen Glory"



om the "Friends of the
carries a floral remem-
at Cambridge American
ngley in honor of the men
p who died in World War
ilfred Dimsdale, Friends
ies are held at American
er the world, including
and France, where many
ve their names inscribed

NAME	RANK	UNIT	D.O.D.	NAME	RANK	UNIT	DOD.
Jenkins, Robert W.	Sgt	600	05-19-44	Register, Virgil	S/Sgt	603	11-21-44
Johnson, Clib L.	T/Sgt	603	11-21-44	Rich, Paul H., Jr.	1/Lt	603	11-21-44
Johnson, Roy	T/Sgt	600	08-08-44	Rimmer, Richard	S/Sgt	601	11-26-44
Jones, Donald J.	2/Lt	600	04-10-45	Roby, George T.	T/Sgt	602	10-28-44
Jones, William G.	Sgt	603	11-03-44	Rogers, Howard	T/Sgt	603	01-23-45
Kasch, Wallace E.	S/Sgt	600	04-08-45	Rolfe, Benjamin G.	2/Lt	601	11-26-44
Kelly, Thomas D.	S/Sgt	601	05-24-45	Romano, Michael A.	S/Sgt	600	08-08-44
Kempner, Saul J.	2/Lt	600	08-12-44	Rose, John D.	2/Lt	601	05-24-44
Kennedy, Cecil E.	T/Sgt	600	08-12-44	Rosenblum, Charles N.	Sgt	601	09-12-44
Kennedy, Charles R.	S/Sgt	603	10-15-44	Roth, Burton H.	2/Lt	600	05-10-45
Khoury, Charles L.	1/Lt	603	10-15-44	Rouch, Jack E.	Sgt	600	04-08-45
Kiernan, James P.	1/Lt	603	01-17-44	Sauer, John D.	2/Lt	603	09-08-44
King, Warren L.	2/Lt	603	01-01-45	Scales, William J., Jr.	2/Lt	601	12-24-44
Kiska, Joseph J.	T/Sgt	602	12-30-44	Schaupp, Dale J.	Sgt	600	05-19-44
Klawinski, Casimer P.	S/Sgt	603	01-17-44	Schmidt, Arthur P.	S/Sgt	601	11-26-44
Klein, Sherman S.	S/Sgt	600	04-08-45	Schultz, Murray J.	2/Lt	603	08-04-44
Kline, Theodore A.	2/Lt	601	04-13-45	Searl, Charles J.	1/Lt	600	08-12-44
Knight, Albert W.	S/Sgt	600	08-12-44	Seltzler, Phillip A.	2/Lt	602	10-28-44
Kravif, Harry	Capt	601	06-18-44	Shafer, Harry	Cpl	602	05-08-44
Kressenberg, John K.	1/Lt	600	08-08-44	Shumate, William	S/Sgt	603	01-23-45
Kruse, Walter J.	1/Lt	601	07-08-44	Simons, Charles L.	Sgt	601	08-08-44
Kucharski, LeRoy	S/Sgt	603	11-02-44	Slade, Lewis G.	2/Lt	602	10-28-44
Leach, Marvin F.	Sgt	602	09-12-44	Snyder, Leonard W.	2/Lt	603	03-14-45
Lehner, Robert W.	1/Lt	603	11-21-45	Somers, James H.	Sgt	602	09-12-44
Lentz, Ralph H. Jr.	1/Lt	603	01-23-45	Stegell, William R.E.	S/Sgt	600	03-18-45
Lescale, Clement A.	S/Sgt	600	04-08-45	Stein, Charles H.	S/Sgt	600	11-30-44
L'Estrange, Thomas A. Jr.	S/Sgt	603	02-03-45	Stewart, Robert A.	S/Sgt	602	12-30-44
Letts, Charles	1/Lt	603	01-23-45	Stizzo, Sidor P.	S/Sgt	603	05-24-44
Lewandowski, William J.	2/Lt	603	03-14-45	Stravinski, Maynard	2/Lt	603	01-02-45
Leydon, John	1/Lt	603	11-21-44	Stritch, Joseph F.	T/Sgt	602	02-03-45
Liby, Loren S.	Cpl	600	09-10-44	Stuart, Robert R.	2/Lt	603	11-21-44
Logan, William G.	S/Sgt	603	02-03-45	Sudborough, Gordon	T/Sgt	602	07-19-44
Loomis, John A. Jr.	1/Lt	602	07-19-44	Teague, Giles L.	1/Lt	602	12-30-44
Love, William H.	2/Lt	603	03-02-45	Thomas, Andrew R.	1/Lt	603	03-15-45
Lovelace, Curtis D.	1/Lt	600	07-16-44	Thompson, Thomas L.	1/Lt	600	05-30-44
Loveland, Clinton L.	T/Sgt	601	06-18-44	Thornton, Raymond A.	2/Lt	601	07-08-44
Lovingfoss, Norman K.	2/Lt	602	11-10-44	Tichenor, Felix H.	Sgt	600	04-10-45
Luckie, Marvin Y. Jr.	S/Sgt	603	02-03-45	Trantham, Richard S.	Sgt	600	09-10-44
Luna, James E.	2/Lt	600	02-22-45	Tull, William S.	T/Sgt	603	10-15-44
MacArthur, John S.	1/Lt	603	08-04-44	Tuttle, Francis E.	S/Sgt	603	07-13-44
Manos, Thomas	F/O	603	01-02-45	Vanderick, William J.	1/Lt	603	10-15-44
Mayfield, Robert	T/Sgt	603	01-23-45	Van Luven, George N.	Sgt	602	09-12-44
McAfee, James W.	2/Lt	600	05-10-45	Voehringer, Paul W.	1/Lt	603	05-24-44
McCain, Paul	1/Lt	601	07-08-44	Volkay, Arnold M.	2/Lt	602	10-28-44
McCorkindale, Donald J.	2/Lt	603	11-21-44	Wade, Warren J.	2/Lt	601	09-08-44
McLean, Charles B.	S/Sgt	603	07-16-44	Wadleigh, Thomas D.	Sgt	600	09-10-44
Meyran, William C.	1/Lt	603	10-15-44	Wagner, Charles F.	Sgt	602	04-11-45
Miller, Walter E.	S/Sgt	603	11-21-44	Walker, Charles	S/Sgt	602	04-25-45
Mitchell, James R.	2/Lt	601	01-20-45	Walker, John P.	1/Lt	602	12-30-44
Mizerski, Edward J.	S/Sgt	603	01-17-44	Walker, Samuel T., Jr.	2/Lt	603	02-03-45
Moore, Carlton C. Jr.	Capt	603	10-15-44	Wallace, Edwin M.	M/Sgt	602	01-10-45
Morales, Uvaldo G.	S/Sgt	601	05-24-44	Wallace, Raymond A.	2/Lt	603	07-13-44
Mullendore, Edward L.	S/Sgt	602	09-12-44	Walsh, Lee C.	2/Lt	600	08-12-44
Munroe, George C. Jr.	2/Lt	600	04-08-45	Warkentin, R.C.	S/Sgt	603	07-17-44
Nachtwey, Paul A.	2/Lt	602	12-29-44	Weibel, John G.	Maj	398HQ	06-18-44
Newman, Herbert H.	1/Lt	603	11-02-44	Wells, William E.	1/Lt	600	04-08-45
O'Neal, Ira L.	2/Lt	600	05-19-44	West, Theodore	2/Lt	603	07-13-44
Osteen, Richard T.	1/Lt	600	08-08-44	Weurm, Roger J.	1/Lt	600	11-30-44
Ostrow, Harry	2/Lt	603	03-02-45	White, Goodrich C., Jr.	2/Lt	602	09-12-44
Paget, Peter L.	2/Lt	603	01-17-44	White, Rufus	S/Sgt	603	03-14-45
Papajohn, George C.	S/Sgt	601	07-08-44	Wickens, Bill	T/Sgt	600	04-08-45
Parr, Leo R., Jr.	Sgt	603	03-14-45	Willis, Luther	T/Sgt	601	05-24-44
Passmore, Milton	S/Sgt	603	11-21-44	Wilson, George E., Jr.	2/Lt	601	07-08-44
Paxton, Max W.	S/Sgt	600	04-10-45	Wilson, Orville M.	S/Sgt	600	08-12-44
Pennell, Ernest L.	S/Sgt	600	05-30-44	Wilson, William H.	S/Sgt	600	08-08-44
Petrauskas, Victor C.	S/Sgt	603	10-15-44	Wilson, William J.	Sgt	603	07-07-44
Perry, Anthony J.	S/Sgt	603	11-02-44	Windeler, Frederick C.	Sgt	602	04-11-45
Phelps, Bruce E.	2/Lt	603	02-03-45	Withrow, Jack B.	S/Sgt	602	02-03-45
Pinson, Milford	S/Sgt	602	10-28-44	Woltman, Ray R.	1/Lt	603	02-03-45
Plantz, Kenneth J.	Sgt	603	03-02-45	Woodward, Marlin	S/Sgt	603	05-24-44
Powell, Perry E.	1/Lt	603	02-03-45	Young, Byron O.	S/Sgt	602	04-25-45
Pozder, Thomas S.	S/Sgt	601	11-26-44	Zasa, John L.	S/Sgt	600	11-30-44
Price, Joseph M.	T/Sgt	601	11-26-44	Zook, Urie H.	S/Sgt	600	02-22-45
Pritchard, Elvin R.	S/Sgt	603	01-17-44				

B-17's Of The Eighth Air Force

Tail Markings And Group Stations In England

FIRST DIVISION

1st Combat Wing



91st BOMB GROUP
Bassingbourn



381st BOMB GROUP
Ridgewell



398th BOMB GROUP
Nuthampstead

40th Combat Wing



92nd BOMB GROUP
Podington



306th BOMB GROUP
Thurleigh



305th BOMB GROUP
Chelveston

41st Combat Wing



303rd BOMB GROUP
Molesworth



379th BOMB GROUP
Kimbolton



384th BOMB GROUP
Grafton Underwood

94th Combat Wing



351st BOMB GROUP
Polebrook



401st BOMB GROUP
Deenthorpe



457th BOMB GROUP
Glatton

THIRD DIVISION

45th Combat Wing



96th BOMB GROUP
Shetterton Heath



388th BOMB GROUP
Knettishal



452nd BOMB GROUP
Deopham Green

13th Combat Wing



95th BOMB GROUP
Horham



100th BOMB GROUP
Thorpe Abbots



390th BOMB GROUP
Framlingham

4th Combat Wing



94th BOMB GROUP
Bury St. Edmonds



447th BOMB GROUP
Rattlesden



486th BOMB GROUP
Sudbury



487th BOMB GROUP
Lavenham

93rd Combat Wing



385th BOMB GROUP
Great Ashfield



34th BOMB GROUP
Mendelsham



490th BOMB GROUP
Eye



493rd BOMB GROUP
Debach

*Former Markings

“Our two countries, parted long ago by war, were brought together again by war in a unity and understanding such as we had never known.

“Through long years of endeavour and endurance we shared all things, and though we lost so much we found a lasting friendship. We shall never forget those gallant American soldiers, sailors and airmen who fought with us, some in our own ranks, countless others from our shores.

“To those who did not return the best memorial is the fellowship of our two countries, which by their valour they created and by their sacrifice they have preserved.”

—WINSTON CHURCHILL

The 486th and 487th, former B-24 groups from the 92nd Combat Wing, joined the 94th and 447th to form the 4th Combat Wing after converting to B-17's in mid-1944. The 34th, 490th, and 493rd also converted to B-17's in mid-1944 to form the 93rd Combat Wing. They were joined by the B-17 385th in early 1945. The 482nd (below) flew some missions in both B-17's and B-24's, but was essentially a training and experimental bombing unit at Alconbury. See additional comment on Page 11.



482nd BOMB GROUP
Alconbury

Group markings courtesy Peter M. Bowers, Boeing Co.; and Museum of Flight, Seattle, Washington.

RETURN TO ENGLAND 1992



The 398th Bomb Group is not the only 8th Air Force organization travelling to England in 1992, this year being the 50th anniversary of the arrival in the UK of the 8th AF. Many celebrations have been planned in East Anglia and, in fact, throughout the English countryside where American bombers and fighters were stationed under the 8th and 9th AF during WW II.

While most of the groups will come in numbers ranging from just a few to over 100, it will be the men of the twin-engined B-26 who will collectively show their strength. The "Marauder Society" will return to England with over 1,000 members.

In addition to the incredible number of planes and personnel represented by the dots on the accompanying map, add the thousands more of the Royal Air Force. One giant aircraft carrier!



"The B-17: An Intergalactic Starship It Was Not"

Megan Flaherty, a reporter for the Tucson Citizen, was invited to take a hop in a B-17 at last fall's air show at Pinal Air Park, Arizona. In her 10-minute flight over the Arizona desert, she "gained a lifetime of respect for the crews of the B-17."

By MEGAN FLAHERTY
Citizen Staff Writer

The "Star Wars" theme song playing on the loudspeaker seemed inappropriate as I boarded the B-17 bomber at Pinal Air Park.

The 46-year-old plane, part of an ensemble of vintage planes featured Saturday at Evergreen Air Center's second annual open house, looked anything but high-tech.

An intergalactic starship, it was not. Needless to say, I was a little nervous.

All I knew of B-17s was what I'd seen in the 1990 movie "Memphis Belle," starring Matthew Modine and John Lithgow.

In the movie, the crew of Memphis Belle was attempting to make World War II history by completing 25 missions. If successful, they could go home.

Our pilot, Penn Stohr of Evergreen International Aviation in Oregon, said that was one of the few aspects of the movie that was accurate.

I was going up in one of the dozen or so B-17's still active today.

The interior of this plane, "Seventh Wonder," looked exactly like the interior of the "Memphis

Belle," minus 10 heavily armed airmen. But I was amazed at the size of the guns and the amount of ammunition carried on board.

The moment the engines began to roar I could no longer talk to the other passengers, Casa Grande residents Carol Hooper and daughter Lisa, 11. The noise was deafening.

Carol's husband, state Rep. Roger Hooper, sat in the bombardier position in the nose of the plane, exactly where his father sat during World War II when he was shot down and kept as a POW for 14 months.

We rumbled down the runway. We were sweating as the shaking plane finally picked up speed.

My stomach was doing flip-flops as the four-engine plane battled its way upward.

Then we were airborne.

We unbuckled our belts to look out the window.

Although there was no quiet, there was peace. Avra Valley, with its sandy earth and clumps of green bushes, looked tranquil. There was nothing for this warplane to bomb below and no fighter planes shooting at us. The clear blue sky

was perfect for flying.

Yet even without enemies or bad weather, it was all I could do to keep both feet on the floor of the plane. We were flying at 140 mph and I could not control the big gun I was grasping at to keep my balance. It was whipping me around.

I wondered, how could the airmen control these things at all, let alone under enemy fire and in the freezing air of higher altitudes?

I thought of the men in the recent movie, joking and trying to stay calm while avoiding danger and finding their target.

During my 10-minute ride in the B-17, I gained a lifetime of respect for the crews of the B-17s.

"It was unbelievable," Roger Hooper said after the plane ride. "The new jets are great, but you can't imagine the rush of the B-17."

After the flight, we all felt a bit of the drama of a war that ended 46 years ago. We caught a glimpse into the courage it took to fly back then.

"It was neat to have a perspective of what it might've been like," Carol Hooper said.

As we stepped out of the B-17, the "Seventh Wonder" looked triumphant and noble. The "Star Wars" theme was fitting after all.

THEN

STATION 131

NOW



The Years Have Brought Changes To Station 131

THE CONTROL TOWER was the most prominent structure at Station 131 during WW II. Life (and death) seemed to emanate from here via the orders transmitted by the tower personnel. It was torn down many years ago as the airfield once again became a farm. Crash scenes like above did happen occasionally, this time a B-17 coming home from a practice flight took out a farmer's tractor and cart. The Herb Newman crew survived the crash but went down over Merseburg shortly afterwards. Col. Frank Hunter initiated the replacement of the tractor before he himself was lost. A "10-20 International" was delivered to farmer Welch a year later.

THE OLD FIREHOUSE is one of the few buildings still standing at Station 131. It is located near the control tower and not far from the new flag pole erected by the "Friends of the 398th." Ralph Hall appears to be holding up the building, but in fact it is still quite sturdy, albeit somewhat derelict. The Nissen huts are all that remain from the ordnance areas, now rather completely overgrown. This area was known as Scales Park before it became the bomb dump and at times had as much as 3½ thousand tons of bombs in the scattered bunkers. Frank & Frances Weiler photographed the area on a visit to Station 131 a few years ago.

BRIEF—things

There is no accounting for the action of some of our guys, like the paid-up Life Member who sends in \$100 with orders to "use it as the Group needs it" ... just another reason why we are such a "good outfit" ... and here is the answer to the member who asked FLAK NEWS for the squadron radio call signals: 600 (*Maple*); 601 (*Kenway*); 602 (*Enclasp*); and 603 (*Adorn*) ... sound familiar? want the squadron codes, too? ... 600 (N8); 601 (30); 602 (K8); and 603 (N7) ... another of our members has authored a book on his personal experiences in the 398th; it is called "Above and Behind The Wire" ... most of *Harry Nelson's* writings cover his time in German PW camps; they are vivid, stark and descriptive ... write to *Harry* for a copy or the FLAK NEWS editor can loan you his ... the 398th had one Chinese navigator, *James Yip* of the 602nd, and recently we found among our "lost souls" a Chinese pilot, *George Leung* of the 603rd ... FLAK NEWS does get around among the other bomb groups, one of them choosing no less than three of our recent articles for their own newsletter ... German Flak gunner *Johannes Schultz Everding*, now 85, wrote recently to remind us that his experiences in 1988 with the 398th tour party in Neuss "belong to the highlights in my life and are like a dream for me" ... he hopes to be at Neuss again for the upcoming tour, along with some of the others who helped make the 1988 visit such a success ... speaking of gunners, apologies are in order from his ol' ex-Army anti-aircraft gunner who mistakenly printed in the last issue that the Germans had 88's and 120's; should have read 88's and 105's; the error was caught by a former waist gunner who just happened to have experience in the Coast Artillery ... one of our associate members, *Mary Wiley*, reminds us that she has had flights on two B-17's in recent years and describes them as "fantastik!" ... the sons of the late 603 pilot *Vincent Moore*, *Vincent Jr.* and *Robert*, reminded us "you will never realize how much the children of your Bomb Group appreciate receiving information about their parents and want to learn more about their places in history during those hard times. God Bless the 398th" ... it was simply "Merseburg" to us back then, but when the folks on the summer tour arrive in Germany they will find that the real pronunciation is "MARE-si-bourg" ... friends of *Chaplain Jim Duvall* will be pleased to know that the "Padre" is doing OK now after being grounded after the San Diego reunion with no less than three ruptured discs ... shape up, Mr. Editor! *Russ Strong* of the 306th Bomb Group (who reads FLAK NEWS) advises that their *Dellon Bumgardner* is the pilot of CAF's Texas Raiders, meaning our *Hal Weekley* is not the only WW II vet still at the controls of a Fortress ... can anyone out there recall an Irish lady named "*Mrs. Corrigan*" who arranged the dances for 398th folks at the Barkway village hall? Our Friends over there would appreciate any old photographs or information pertaining to the dances, particularly of "*Mrs. Corrigan*," who just happened to have only one leg ... for the benefit of those traveling to Tennessee and have time to visit an ol' buddy, here are the names and hometowns of those ol' buddies living in the state — *Dewey Cook* (Fairview), *R.J. Kuchta* (Madison), *Dwight Hinkle* (Madison), *Harold Eck* (Old Hickory), *Mrs. Ruth Melson* (Shelbyville), *Blake Henderson* (Nashville), *Jessup D. (Dave) Lowe* (Belvidere), *Everett Parks* (Cleveland), *William Bruno* (Tullahoma), *Boyce Needham* (Knoxville), *Ray Winkler* (Cordova), *Stanley Allen* (La Grange), *Robert Hood* (Memphis), *Bobby Allen* (Memphis), *Howard Dallas* (Memphis), *William Freeman* (Savannah), *Joseph Buehler* (Germantown), and *Ray Langford* (Cookeville) ... the 482nd Bomb Group, listed on Page 8 among the B-17 groups but without a special tail marking, was the only 8th AF group "born" in the UK; in its short operational history, the group led all three Divisions with their Pathfinder (PFF) planes before dispersing their B-17's and B-24's among other groups; the 482nd then went on to conduct training at Alconbury of radar navigators and crews in the use of radar.

398th Bomb Group PX

CAPS—\$7.00. Specify squadron.
JACKETS—\$30.00. White, Navy, Royal Blue, Lite Blue. XL, L, M, S.
T-SHIRTS—\$10.00. White, Lite Blue, Royal Blue. XL, L, M, S. (B-17 on front.)
T-SHIRTS—\$7.00. (Childrens) White only. 6-8, 10-12, 14-16. (B-17 on front.)
SWEAT SHIRTS—\$15.00. White, Lite Blue. XL, L, M, S. (B-17 on front.)
SQUADRON PATCHES—\$5.00. Specify squadron.
GROUP PATCH—\$5.00. (Hell From Heaven.)
JACKET PATCHES—\$4.00. (Special Design.)
SQUADRON LAPEL PINS—\$5.00. Specify squadron.
LAPEL PINS—\$6.00. Special group design.
BUMPER STICKERS—\$2.00.
ALUMINUM LICENSE PLATE—\$4.00. (398th logo.)
CANVAS TOTE BAG—\$5.00. Group logo.
VISORS—\$4.00. White. Group logo.
BOOK—\$20.00. "398th Bomb Group Remembrances."
MEMBERSHIP PLAQUE—\$25.00. Specify regular or lifetime membership.
BELT BUCKLE—\$14.00. Group logo.
LAPEL PINS—\$6.00. B-17. Specify gold or silver.
EAR RINGS—\$9.00. Specify gold or silver.
COFFEE MUGS—\$6.00. 8th AF & Group logos.
PHOTO—\$2.00. Station 131 Control Tower.

Note: Not all colors and sizes are available in the jackets, T-shirts and sweat shirts. Submit second choices. Include your phone number with your order.

Send your orders to:

**398th Bomb Group PX
c/o Jack Wintersteen
Danville, PA 17821**

A-2 Jackets "In" With AF, Civilians

Have you noticed the current clothing craze featuring "Bomber Jackets"? Not only has the Air Force re-adapted the ol' A-2 jacket, but they are now the "in" thing for civilian jacket wear.

The 398th PX does not stock these, but for the benefit of those who are interested, FLAK NEWS will offer the names and addresses of three companies specializing in A-2 jacket manufacturer. Members are invited to contact these firms for sizes and pricing—

BRADLEY ASSOCIATES, 3713 Everest Dr., Montgomery, AL 36105. (205) 270-3271.

FLIGHT APPAREL INDUSTRIES, P.O. Box 166, Hammonton, NJ 08037. (609) 561-9200.

WILLABEE & WARD, 47 Richards Ave., Norwalk, CT 06857. 1-800-848-1473.

An associate member of the 398th Bomb Group specializes in hand painting "Squadron Art" on jackets. He is James Brusch, Long Beach, CA 90803.

"QUOTABLE QUOTES"

"You overwhelmed me with your kindness at San Diego. Long live the spirit of the 398th."

—*JOHANNA SIENKIEWICZ, Oxford, England*

"The sound of 60 Fortresses overhead is quite something."

—*RON SETTER, High Wycombe, England*

"I would like to remind everyone that the 398th would not have been able to shoot anything or drop any bombs on our enemy without the proper supplier."

—*MASTON FOSTER, 1449th Ordnance*

"There is tension sitting on a picket fence"

—*LAW OF LIFE*

"Every evening I turn my worries over to God. He's going to be up all night, anyway."

—*CHAPLAIN JIM DUVALL*