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

VOL. 10 NO. 1

FLAK NEWS

JANUARY 1995

Planning Ahead With The 398th

PILSEN

A special trip, May 4-13, 1995, to the Czech Republic to celebrate the 50th anniversary of VE Day ... and the 398th's Last Mission. Now is the time to lay up your reservations. See accompanying story on this page.

CHARLESTON, SC

The next 398th reunion is scheduled for October 11-14, 1995, in Charleston, South Carolina. Plans are even now being laid for City Tours, Fort Sumter, The Citadel, and even a visit to the famous WW II carrier, Yorktown. All the details and official registration forms will be printed in the April issue of FLAK NEWS.

SPRINGFIELD/BRANSON, MO

Springfield and Branson, Missouri, will share the 398th reunion in 1996. We will headquarter in Springfield, but will make several forays to nearby Branson by bus to see some of the great shows on the entertainment strip. Dates have been set for September 20-23, 1996.

ENGLAND

A visit to England is on the docket for 1996. It will be another popular "home stay" arrangement featuring both a "short tour" of 10 days plus an "extended tour" of an additional eight days. Complete details in the April issue of FLAK NEWS.

SPOKANE, WA

The Northwest city of Spokane, Washington, will host the 398th reunion on July 16-19, 1997. The 398th has Washington state ties, having been stationed at both Fairchild AFB in Spokane and Ephrata.

Pilsen Tour Taking Shape:

STILL TIME TO JOIN 398th TOUR TO CZECH REPUBLIC

"In early May, 1945, World War II was nearing its end. Freedom was approaching Bohemia. The inhabitants of Pilsen could hear the sounds of the U.S. Army's tanks and the Air Force's bombers, the sounds symbolizing the end of six long years of misery, humiliation and oppression."

FOR THE FALLEN



THIS IS THE KIND and size of floral wreath that will be placed at a memorial at Pilsen, Czech Republic, next May in honor of the 398th men who were killed on the group's Last Mission, April 25, 1945. The ceremony will be held during the 398th tour to Pilsen, May 4-13, 1995. There is still time to join the special tour.

Those words, from Pilsen's "Anniversary of Liberty" document, describe the reason for the city's upcoming 50th anniversary VE day celebration.

And the reason the 398th Bomb Group is planning to join in the celebration with a special tour May 4-13, 1995.

The 398th made four trips on Nazi-dominated Czech targets in WW II, the final being a visit to the famed Skoda Works on the war's Last Mission on April 25, 1945.

At least a few of the tour members who have signed on thus far were members of this Last Mission -

Len Streitfeld, 600 bombardier on the Al Shimek crew.

Al Bischoff, 600 pilot.

Arnold Schneider, 603 copilot on the Norm Williams crew.

Robert Howard, 603 ball turret gunner on the George Donovan crew.

Charles Hough, 603 navigator on the Charles King crew.

Elliot Novek, radio operator on the 602 Nolan Thompson crew.

All admit that returning to Pilsen for the "second" time represents an emotional and nostalgic chapter of their lives.

Other 398th veterans on the tour include Lowell Culver and Keith Anderson. Several wives will be included in the party.

The tour will be led by Allen Ostrom as tour coordinator, who "scouted" Pilsen last summer in the company of Harry Mazer, who was a survivor on one of the two crews shot down on the Last Mission.

Continued on page 2



AMONG THOSE who will be journeying to Pilsen with the 398th Bomb Group in May are Al Bischoff and his wife, Olive. No motorcycle stunt, this. Al and Olive have been biking together for 58 years! A pilot with the 600th, Al still flies his own plane with the USAF Academy Aero Club in Colorado Springs. He was on the Last Mission to Pilsen on April 25, 1945.

Still Time To Join Tour

Continued from page 1

The tour is being arranged by Barbara Fish of Travel House, Inc., Seattle, who handled the last two tours to England.

"Several more people have expressed interest in the tour," she said. "We can take reservations until the first of April, but we would enjoy hearing from you as soon as possible."

For reservations and information, call toll free 1-800-423-5454.

The tour's principal "target" is Pilsen, there to participate in the city's VE Day festivities and 700-year birthday. The 398th will be the only 8th Air Force bomb group represented, but in the company

of a number of Army ground forces who liberated Pilsen in May of 1945.

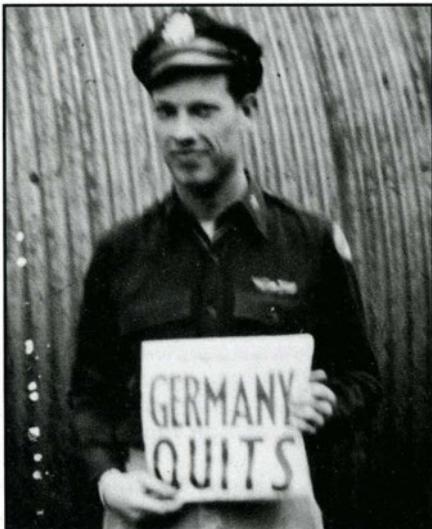
Other tour visits will be made to Prague, the spa city of Marienbad and the glass works city of Karlovy Vary. At the conclusion of the tour, the travel party will spend two days in Copenhagen before returning home.

One of the stops to be made in Prague will be the Old Jewish Cemetery. The Communists obliterated some 77,000 names of Jewish Czech citizens who were killed during the war. These names are now being re-inscribed at the cemetery.

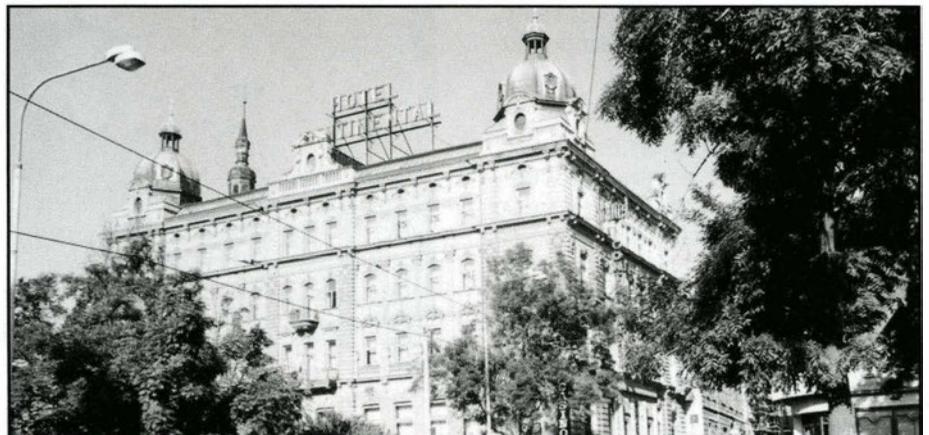
Cost of the tour is \$1995 from Newark, New Jersey, and \$2195 from Seattle, Washington. Travel arrangements to either city can be made with Travel House. Air travel is via scheduled SAS flights.



THIS IS THE AIRPORT at Prague, where the 398th tour group will land before moving on to Pilsen, Czech Republic, for 50th anniversary VE ceremonies and other Last Mission activities. A day tour of Prague is also on the May 4-13, 1995, itinerary.



ROBERT WALLINGFORD, 602 pilot, displays a copy of the Royston Crow published on VE Day, 50 years ago, or two weeks after he flew on The Last Mission.



HOTEL CONTINENTAL in Pilsen will be headquarters for members of the 398th Bomb Group tour during their visit to the Czech Republic, May 4-13. The sons of the hotel's original owners returned to claim ownership following 45 years under Communist rule.

Pilsen Tour Itinerary

May 4 (Thursday)—Depart USA via SAS from Seattle or Newark.

May 5 (Friday)—Arrive in Copenhagen and transfer to SAS flight to Prague. Coach to Intercontinental Hotel, Pilsen. Afternoon free. Welcome dinner at hotel.

May 6 (Saturday)—Tour of Moser Glass Factory in Karlovy Vary. Tour of Urquell Brewery in Pilsen. Breakfast and dinner at hotel.

May 7 (Sunday)—Tour of spa city of Marianski Lazne (Marienbad). Lunch at world famous Hotelova Skola (hotel school). Breakfast and dinner at hotel.

May 8 (Monday)—50th Anniversary of VE Day and liberation of Pilsen from Nazi rule. Pilsen's 700th anniversary activities. Breakfast and dinner at hotel.

May 9 (Tuesday)—Tour of Skoda Factory (Last Mission target April 25, 1945). Ceremonies at Litice honoring downed 398th combat crews. Breakfast and dinner at hotel.

May 10 (Wednesday)—City tour and shopping in Prague. Breakfast and dinner at hotel.

May 11 (Thursday)—Coach to Prague. SAS flight to Copenhagen. Evening free. Breakfast at hotel.

May 12 (Friday)—Free day in Copenhagen. Breakfast at hotel. Farewell dinner at Tivoli.

May 13 (Saturday)—Coach to Copenhagen airport. Fly home via SAS (or continue individual travel). Breakfast at hotel. Lunch on plane.



IS THERE a chance that this little English girl, who was about 10 years old at the time, is still living near Station 131? She used to bring fresh eggs to some of her 398th friends, in this case 602 navigator Harold Rosenzweig of the Rudrud crew.

Tour Extension Specials

From Copenhagen, the capitals of Europe (and Russia) are available for \$80. That is, at the conclusion of the 398th tour to Pilsen, Czech Republic, next May.

London, Rome, Moscow, Stockholm, Madrid, Warsaw, Amsterdam, Munich, Vienna, Budapest, Istanbul, Helsinki, Oslo, Dublin, and more.

How about Paris for \$80, then on to Venice via the Orient Express? It's all possible with the special SAS "Visit Europe Fare" promotion that will be in effect next summer.

Join the 398th "Last Mission Tour" to Pilsen, and then continue on with your once-in-a-lifetime extended tour to any of Europe's capitals. For more information, call toll-free 1-800-423-5454. Ask for Barbara Fish.



The 398th Wreath At The Memorial At Cambridge

BY NORMA ENGLE

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1994 – Today began with a visit to the American Military Cemetery at Madingly, near Cambridge. Our emotions were put to the test today, from deep sadness to profound gratitude to happy memories.

The cemetery is serene and beautiful, a proper resting place for the thousands of fallen comrades who spent their last moments in the violence of a terrible war. At the memorial just inside the entrance, we honored those who did not return. Two of our members placed a wreath at the base, and the rest of us saying, "we remember" as we stood there in silence.

We then walked quietly along the verdant grounds where a long, calm pool and myriads of brilliant flowers added to the sense of serenity here among the rows upon rows of crosses and Stars of David.

It was here that Bill's emotions poured forth, as did mine. Up to this point, he had managed to keep his tears in check when my own attempts to do so had been futile. But now, as we stood looking out over these pristine white crosses and stars rising up from the green grass, our emotions overflowed. We felt great sadness for those who were buried here. But suddenly we were faced with the fact that it could have been Bill in one of those spots. It could have been Bill and all our dreams – and end to all that we had talked about and planned for.

We wept for those who were unable to fulfill their dreams and we wept with enormous gratitude that we were able to fulfill ours ... to marry, have children, grandchildren, and have the wonderful happiness together until we have reach our Golden Anniversary. How fortunate we have been!

Bill and Norma Engle of Colorado Springs, Colorado, were among those who were on the 1994 398th Bomb Group tour to England last June. One of the stops, as is the case on every tour, was at the American Military Cemetery at Madingly, near Cambridge.

Both were deeply affected by the Madingly experience, as are most who visit there the first time. Norma, who

kept a detailed diary of each day's tour activity, wrote the foregoing words of their visit. This is but a brief segment of the 24-page report she wrote about the 18-day tour upon returning home. The Engles live at Colorado Spgs, CO 80919-1002.

Bill was a waist gunner on the William Shaffer crew of the 602nd.

398th Bomb Bombardment Group TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

WARNING: TELEPHONE MESSAGES ARE NOT SECRET

RESTRICTED	Defense Officer	Battle Hq Switchboard	Message Center Communications	11	Quartermaster	21
Adjutant - (Maj. Garland)	7	Dispensary	101	Mess, Officers	121	
Asst. Adjutant - (Capt. Nelson)	13			Mess, Combat	317	Radar - (Lt. Oeder & Lt. Shultz)
Administrative Inspector	9	Emergency Power	329	Mess, Consolidated	318	Radio Repair - (Capt. Mercer)
Air Corps Supply	33	Engineer Area - (Mr. Adams)	147	Mess, Engineers	319	Radio School - (Lt. Pfister)
Air Executive - (Maj. Simeral)	5	Engineer Electrical - (Mr. Willan)	148			Rail Transportation Office
Air Inspector - (Maj. Bradock)	109	Engineering Gp - (Capt. Cochran)	14 R-2	Navigation Office - (Capt. Brown)	28	Red Cross, American - (Mr. Duke)
American Red Cross Field Director	36	Engineering 600 - (Lt. Weir)	302			S-1 - (Capt. Hearn)
Aero Club	105	Engineering 601 - (Capt. White)	312	Officers Club	121	S-2 - (Maj. Jones)
Armament Gp - (Capt. Lenz)	14 R-2	Engineering 602 - (Lt. Foster)	322	Officers Quarter, Group	141	S-3 - (Capt. Miller)
600 Armament and Ordnance	300	Engineering 603 - (Capt. Hogrefe)	332	Operations, Group - (Capt. Miller)	3	S-4 - (Capt. Vogt)
601 Armament and Ordnance	310	Executive Officer - (Lt. Col. Berryhill)	13	Operations Duty Officer	32	Salvage
602 Armament and Ordnance	320	Equipment R.A.F.	114	Operations Statistical Officer	32	Sergeant Major
603 Armament and Ordnance	330			600 Operations - (Capt. Markley)	103	Signal Supply - (WO Nelson)
		Finance - (Lt. Turen)	18	601 Operations - (Capt. Frazier)	113	Special Services - (Lt. Holmes)
Bombardiers Office - (Capt. Strickrott)	26	Fire Station	45	602 Operations - (Capt. Walker)	123	Station Complement - (325th OrdRoom)
Bomb Sight Vault	327	Flight Control	30	603 Operations - (Capt. Davidson)	133	Statistical Control - (Lt. Campbell)
Bomb Dump	307	Flight Control	138	Ordnance, Group - (Capt. King)	8	Sub Depot Supply
		Gate M.P. No. 1	49	Ordnance, 1449th	108	Sub Depot Supply - (478th Engr. Officer)
Commanding Officer - (Col. Hunter)	26	Guard House	27	600 Orderly Room	301	Sub Depot Supply Warehouse
Col. Hunter's Quarters	106	Gunnery Officer	24	601 Orderly Room	311	Surgeon - (Maj. Zampetti)
Chemical Warfare	23	Hospital	16	602 Orderly Room	321	Technical Inspector
Chemical 860th Company	126	Intelligence Gp - (Maj. Jones)	2	603 Orderly Room	331	Transportation
Chemical Dump 860th Company	329	Intelligence - (W/P Office)	102	1142 M.P. Orderly Room	146	Utilities
Clerk of Works	50	Intelligence Duty Rm. (All Intell. Officers)	12	Parachute Repair	338	Weather - (Lt. Held)
Commissary	131	Laundry and Dry Cleaning	131 R-2	Photo Section - (Lt. Opperman)	31	
Chaplain - (Capt. Duvall)	19	Link Trainer	339	Post Office	20	
Communications Gp - (Capt. Cameron)	10			Provost Marshal	27	
Communications Message Center	11			Public Relations - (Lt. Hall)	34	
Crypto Security	150			Post Exchange	131	
Courts and Boards	17					

HEADQUARTERS 398th BOMB GROUP OFFICERS

NAME	RANK	OFFICE	PHONE	QTR's
HUNTER, Frank P.	Col.	Group CO	6	106
BERRYHILL, Earl J.	Lt. Col.	Gp Executive	13	136
GARLAND, Jack S.	Maj.	Gp Adjutant	7	136
JONES, Thomas C.	Maj.	Gp Intelligence	2	141
SIMERAL, Robert K.	Maj.	Air Executive	5	127
ZAMPETTI, Herman A.	Maj.	Gp Surgeon	16	16
BROWN, Harold L.	Capt.	Gp Navigator	28	301
CAMERON, Carl C.	Capt.	Gp Communicat	10	310
COCHRAN, Lyle	Capt.	Gp Engineer	14 R-2	141
LENZ, Adrian H.	Capt.	Gp Arm	14 R-2	141
MEYER, Matthew (NMI)	Capt.	Gp Photo	31	301
MILLER, Jean B.	Capt.	Gp Operations	3	127
OLES, Frederick W.	Capt.	Gp Dental	16 R-2	128
STRICKROTT, Carl J.	Capt.	Gp Bomb	26	331
VOGT, Carl J.	Capt.	Gp S-4	4	141
NELSON, Gene A.	Capt.	Gp Asst. Adj.	13	311
BINGHAM, Lafayette H.	1st Lt.	Gp Photo Inter	12	311
CAMPBELL, Wallis	1st Lt.	Gp Stat.	38	141
DUVALL, James T.	Capt.	Gp Chaplain	19	301
HELD, Shirley L.	1st Lt.	Gp Weather	39	141
HOLB, Andrew (NMI)	1st Lt.	Gp Opp Stat	32	141
HOLMES, William J.	1st Lt.	Gp Spec Service	37	301
KING, Alfred H.	Capt.	Gp Ordnance	108	141
WEBB, Henry C.	1st Lt.	Gp Spec Service	37	141
OPPERMAN, William F.	1st Lt.	Gp Photo	31	141
SCHULTZ, Charles Y.	2nd Lt.	Gp Radar Off	110	301
BRUCE, Walter	2nd Lt.	Gp Security	140	141
HINEBAUGH, Dan L.	2nd Lt.	Gp Gunnery	24	141
PFISTER, Eugene A.	2nd Lt.	Gp Radio Schl	140	331
GUSTAVES, Selmer (NMI)	Capt.	Gp Asst Opp	3	301
FAULK, Ray H.	WO(JG)	Gp Tech Inspec	14	141
OEDER, Robert M.	1st Lt.	Gp Radar	110	

600th BOMB SQUADRON

DAILY, Edwin B.	Maj.	Sqdn CO	113	311
ADAMS, Anthony M.	Capt.	Sqdn Navigator	113	311
KELLY, Robert F.	Capt.	Sqdn Flgt Sur	16	16
MARKLEY, William C.	Capt.	Sqdn Opp	113	311
MASSEY, Frank H.	Capt.	Sqdn Int	12	141
RICHMAN, Raymond L.	Capt.	Sqdn Adj	41	311
RICHMOND, Milton B.	Capt.	Sqdn Bomb	113	311

WALSH, James M.	Capt.	Sqdn Exec	41	311
PAPPAS, Venizelos G.	1st Lt.	Sqdn Asst Opp	113	311
HAMMER, Phillip	1st Lt.	Sqdn	114 R-2	311
THUL, Ralph N.	Capt.	Sqdn Comm	10	311
WIER, Joseph P.	Capt.	Sqdn Eng	115	311
WORKMAN, Wells S.	1st Lt.	Sqdn Asst Eng	115	311
MUELLER, Thomas O.	1st Lt.	Sqdn Arm	114 R-2	311
601st BOMB SQUADRON				
PETERSON, Tracy J.	Capt.	Sqdn CO	123	321
PRIESTLEY, William T.	Maj.	Sqdn Exec	321	
LEVY, David L.	Capt.	Sqdn Bomb	123	321
FRAZIER, Willis E.	Capt.	Sqdn Opp	123	311
SWEET, Robert D.	Capt.	Sqdn Surg	16	16
WHITE, Alton C.	Capt.	Sqdn Eng	125	128
ARLIN, Allan A.	1st Lt.	Sqdn Asst Opp	123	128
HOAK, William P.	1st Lt.	Sqdn Arm	124 R-2	311
KIACZ, Steve C.	1st Lt.	Sqdn Bomb	123	128
602nd BOMB SQUADRON				
BENNETT, Norville W.	Maj.	Sqdn Exec	43	321
ROONEY, Peter J.	Maj.	Sqdn CO	133	321
HEARN, Thomas G.	Capt.	Gp S-1	1	321
KAVANAUGH, William R.	Capt.	Sqdn Surg	16	16
WALKER, J.W., Jr.	Capt.	Sqdn Opp	133	321
COX, Henry H.	1st Lt.	Sqdn Arm	124 R-1	321
CUQUA, Lloyd M.	1st Lt.	Sqdn Asst Eng	135	321
FOSTER, Lewis E.	Capt.	Sqdn Eng	135	321
MACKIE, Henry L.	1st Lt.	Sqdn Bomb	133	321
MURPHY, Daniel J.	1st Lt.	Asst Sqdn Adj	321	321
ROLLER, Norman E.	1st Lt.	Sqdn Ord	124	321
RUSK, Verle E.	1st Lt.	Sqdn Asst Opp	133	321
STEVENS, John F.	1st Lt.	Sqdn Nav	133	321

603rd BOMB SQUADRON

WAGNER, Meyer C.	Capt.	Sqdn CO	143	331
SCHAPIRO, Joseph F.	Maj.	Sqdn Exec	44	331
HUNTER, Lewis B.	Capt.	Sqdn Surg	16	16
HOGREFFE, Carl H.	Capt.	Sqdn Eng	145	331
MOORE, Carlton C.	Capt.	Sqdn Bomb	143	331
SCHOLL, Howard J.	Capt.	Sqdn Arm	144	331
HABERMAN, Louis C.	1st Lt.	Sqdn Nav	143	331
RUSINAK, 1st Lt.	1st Lt.	Trans Officer	35	331
STANTON, George E.	1st Lt.	Sqdn Ord	141	331

1226th QUARTERMASTER COMPANY			
KAMINSKY, David A.	1st Lt.		121 308
BAYER, Milton (NMI)	2nd Lt.		21 308
328th STATION COMPLEMENT SQUADRON			
BRADDOCK, Heyward M. Maj.			308 308
ALEXANDER, John E. Maj.			101 101
STULL, William H. Capt.			30 308
HOWES, George P. 1st Lt.			23 308
HUSVAR, Joseph J. 1st Lt.			119 308
TAYLOR, James H. 1st Lt.			129 308
PINTEK, Joseph L. 1st Lt.			128 308
GOETZE, Arthur P. 2nd Lt.			30 308
WILLIAMS, Woodburn C. 2nd Lt.			129 308
1142nd M.P. COMPANY			
GUINER, Frank S. 1st Lt.			27 149
PACHTER, Lewis E. 1st Lt.			27 146
2964th FINANCE DET.			
TUREN, Nathan (NMI) 1st Lt.			18 146
860th CHEMICAL COMPANY			
WYAGENT, John C. Capt.			329 126
McCARTHY, James E. 2nd Lt.			329 126
1449th ORDNANCE S&M COMPANY			
BAILEY, Thomas C. 1st Lt.			25 108
VARN, John D., Jr. 1st Lt.			108 108
WILLIAMS, Glendon R. 1st Lt.			23 R-2 1-9
CASSIDY, Donald (NMI) 2nd Lt.			8 108
478th SUB-DEPOT			
COMMANDING OFFICER			146
ADJUTANT			146
ENGINEERING OFFICER			111
SUPPLY OFFICE			116
SUPPLY OFFICER			116 R-1
SUPPLY WAREHOUSE			33
ORDERLY ROOM			146

OFFICERS

CLAFFORD, Floyd P. Maj.			146 146
CORDER, Robert E. Capt.			111 146
PEACH, Thomas R. 1st Lt.			116 146
O'BRIEN, Robert W. 2nd Lt.			146 146
PLESCHNER, Roy A. 2nd Lt.			111 146
ROUPP, Howard C. 2nd Lt.			111 146
LONNING, Thurston G. WO			111 146



Thanks For The Memories

398th Flag Goes Down Again

It was 50 years ago (1945) when 398th Bomb Group was inactivated, completing two dramatic years of World War II training and combat.

In those two plus years the "young tigers" of the modern Air Force aligned themselves with the 398th vets of yesteryear. They joined not only in spirit, but in person. KC-135 crews flew to the Nashville, Buffalo and Tucson reunions to show off their aircraft. And to rub elbows with their B-17 counterparts.

The "Thanks For The Memories" in the above photo comes because the 398th

Operations Group is going "down" for the second time in 50 years.

Col. Andrew Miller, group commanding officer, has been charged with inactivating operations at Castle and will move his KC-135 Combat Crew Training School to Altus AFB, Oklahoma. There it will be operating under the mantle of the 97th Air Mobility Wing, which is under the 19th Air Force. The 398th Operations Support Squadron and 93rd Air Refueling Squadron also move to Altus and will become known as the 97th Operations Support Squadron and the 55th Air Refueling Squadron, respectively.

The 93rd Air Refueling Squadron will move to Fairchild AFB, Spokane.

During its tenure at Castle, the 398th flew over 43,000 hours and trained over 3,200 students. In 1993, two instructors earned the Air Education and Training Command Officer and Enlisted Instructor of the Year awards. The 93rd maintenance troops won the Air Force Maintenance Effectiveness Award.

In 1994, the group won seven of nine first places at the Airlift Rodeo, the annual Air Mobility Command flying competition, as well as the Air Education and Training Command Unit Quality Award. The 398th also won the Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards in 1993 and 1994.

A parting message from Col. Miller – "As we depart, the personnel of the 398th Operations Group and I are proud to have been a part of the 398th Bomb Group's distinctive heritage and bid you a fond farewell."

And as the late Col. Frank P. Hunter, Jr., used to tell his men before a mission – "Men, the cards are dealt. Good luck to you. And may there be enough luck for all of you."

"We'll Meet Again" Photo Story

When you turn to Pages 6 and 7 of FLAK NEWS, you will see a pictorial story entitled "American Airmen's Journey of Remembrance."

This is a reprint of the July 1, 1994, issue of the Royston (England) Crow. The writers and photographers of the Crow followed the activities of last June's 398th Return to Nuthampstead and presented their story in this graphic "double truck" layout. Reporter Gary Sutcliffe and Photographer Andrew Parsons combined to capture the emotions of both the returning Yanks and their British hosts.

The headline, "WE'LL MEET AGAIN," can describe both last summer's meeting ... and the tour planned for June of 1996.



NUMBER, PLEASE

The 398th Bomb Group had an extensive telephone system at Station 131, even if calling home to Mom was not permitted. This directory was salvaged from the old base by Yvonne King of Barkway, whose father, Stanley Willan, was station electrical engineer.

TOGETHER FOR THIS SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY

MEMBERS and friends of the 398th Bombardment Group, which was stationed at Nuthampstead during World War Two, have visited England from America every two years since 1982.

But this year's reunion visit, from June 24-29, was different - it marked the 50th anniversary of when the Americans first arrived in Nuthampstead.

In this Crow feature, we look at the history of the group at Nuthampstead, their return visit 50 years on, and speak to some of the returning American airmen.



□ STEPPING out in style... some of the old dances really brought back the memories



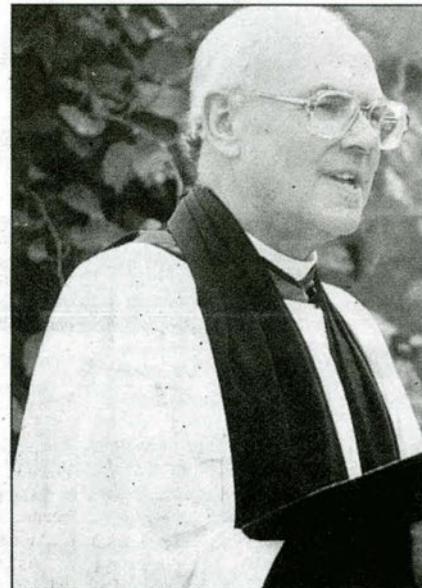
WE'LL MEET



□ LANCE CORPORAL Andrew Edis plays the Last Post



□ LAURA and Cathy Cohen lay flowers at the memorial service



□ REV GERALD DREW leads one



□ GETTING in the mood for I

Children lay flowers for fallen heroes

CHILDREN of Anstey and Barkway Schools laid flowers at the American Memorial site at the Woodman Inn, Nuthampstead, at a service of commemoration on Saturday morning.

The service at the inn, which the base was built around, was one of the main events of the reunion.

It was in memory of the men of the 398th who, flying from

Nuthampstead Airfield, lost their lives during World War Two.

Veterans, friends, and people from the community gathered around the permanent memorial at the inn for the outside service, which was taken by the Rev Gerald Drew, Priest in Charge of Anstey, Brent Pelham, Great and Little Hormead, Mcesden, and Wyddial.

Bugler Lance Corporal An-

drew Edis played the Last Post, and there was a minute's silence.

Colonel William B Comstock, President of the 398th Bombardment Group Memorial Association, addressed the congregation.

He said: "It is always a pleasure for us to come back to Nuthampstead."

"This most impressive service of commemoration has touched our hearts."

"If this one experience could be repeated throughout the nations of the world, it could truly become a place of peace and understanding."

He finished his address by quoting Winston Churchill who, at the time of the Battle of Britain, said: "Never has so much been owed by so many to so few."

Col Comstock said: "That is how we feel in the 398th Group about our friends in England."

RNEY OF REMEMBRANCE



Nearest Eighth Army bombers to London

The first 398th contingent moved into Nuthampstead on April 22, 1944, but work had begun in the area about a year earlier.

The 814th and 830th US Army Engineering battalions moved in to Baron Dimsdale's farm at Scales Park, Nuthampstead in late 1942 to build Station 131.

Situated five miles south of Royston and 35 miles from the centre of London, Nuthampstead became the site of the nearest Eighth Army Air Force bomber airfield to the capital.

It was also the highest, at 460 feet above sea level.

But the bombers were not the first to use

the air base.

The P-38 Lockheed Lightnings of the 55th Fighter Group were the first in.

But from April 1944 until the end of the war in May 1945, the 398th was the sole occupant of the airfield, operating heavy-duty Flying Fortress bombers in raids over occupied Europe.

The first 398th mission took place on May 6, 1944 and the last - its 195th - on April 25, 1945.

Among the four squadrons deployed at the base, 296 airmen lost their lives and 298 became prisoners of war.

Seventy aircraft were lost in combat, and another 50 abandoned after

forced landings.

And 15,780 tons of bombs were dropped by the 398th on enemy-occupied territory.

Station 131's Commanding Officer Colonel Frank Hunter was killed on one of these missions, when he led the 398th - as part of the 1st Combat Wing of the 1st Division, Eight Air Force - in a raid on rail yards at Neuss, Germany.

ET AGAIN



the services of remembrance

VILLAGERS - 'THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE'

MARK WOODS, a navigator in Lady Ella, one of the B-17 bombers which flew from Nuthampstead, was one of the Americans visiting the American cemetery at Madingley during the reunion visit.

Among the thousands of white crosses, he found one of his friend Wesley Hudson, who died aged 22.

"I played football with him, he was a great guy. He was a real leader," said Mark. "It chokes me up coming here."

'So friendly'

Speaking about his time in England, Mark said: "The English are so friendly. They were during the war and they are now."

"The people of Nuthampstead were wonderful during the war."

"They just took us in and took us to their hearts. They would come down in the morning and watch us take off."

"And they would be there again to count us back. They are beautiful people."

Airman Allen Ostrom spoke of the visit and Saturday's service.

"As I attended the service, I thought it represented the whole reason why we come back," he said.

"We come back to see the airfield, but also to feel the emotion, and to share those emotions with the community and people of Nuthampstead. If we try to emotionalise tarmac, we have nothing - it is the people who have come back, and the people who are here that make it. Images come to life."

The visiting Americans had a full programme of events for the 50th anniversary reunion, organised by the Friends of the 398th Group.

An army jeep escorted their coach to Barkway Village Hall on Thursday afternoon, before they met the host families they would be staying with in and around Nuthampstead.

On Friday they visited the American War cemetery at Madingley, near Cambridge, where many 398th members are buried.

In the afternoon they visited the Imperial War Museum at Duxford.

In the sweltering heat of Friday evening everyone stepped back in time with a 1940s dance and supper at High Hall in Anstey.

The band launched the evening with Glen Miller's 'In the Mood', and people danced the evening away.

After a service at the Woodman Inn on Saturday, the group made their way to the airfield for short flying trips and a barbecue.

On Sunday morning there was a service at St George's Church, in Anstey, to honour the men who died in a B-17 bomber crash in the village in October 1944.



KEITH ANDERSON pays his respects to fallen colleagues



special 'fortles' dance

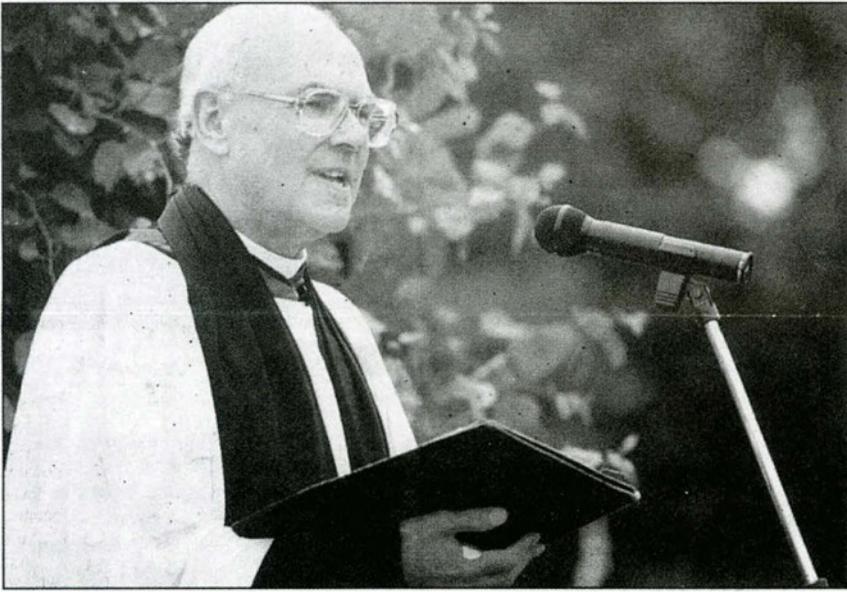


ALLEN OSTROM... 'The reason why we come back'



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□ REV GERALD DREW leads one of the services of remembrance



□ GETTING in the mood for the special 'forties' dance

Nearer, My God, To Thee, Nearer To Thee!

Adeleman, Milo	Briody, J.	Devlin, Steve	Hardenburg, Harry B.	Knight, George N.	Money, Arnold
Agnew, Harry	Brokaw, Rev. Raymond C.	Dexter, Robert L.	Hardy, Arnold	Kohut, Charles	Moore, Randolph
Agnew, Robert	Brown, E. Logan	Dickhart, Clarence	Harmon, Carl H.	Kolafa, John	Moore, Vincent
Alexander, Claude	Brown, James C.	Dierolf, Claude E.	Harrington, Cornelius	Kolb, Kenneth	Moretti, Raymond J.
Alves, Alfred	Brown, Lawrence	Dippel, Francis	Hart, Karl E.	Konic, Ernie	Morris, Jr., Stacey
Anderson, Emil	Brown, Samuel M.	Dixon, Gerald	Hartwell, George W.	Kotte, Norman E.	Morrison, Russell
Anderson, Ralph	Brown, Sidney	Douglas, Gene	Hatch, Dwight	Kramer, Harvey	Moss, Latrelle R.
Anderson, Roy L.	Brubaker, Wayne	Downing, Robert A.	Hatcher, Robert	Krause, John J.	Motsenbocker, H.D.
Anderson, Russell M.	Brunke, Earl	Dreyer, Charles G.	Hatten, Harold R.	Kroh, Charles H.	Motter, William F.
Anderson, William G.	Buck, Chester S.	Duncan, John W.	Haworth, William A.	Kuck, Homer R.	Mullins, John A.
Andrews, Kenneth E.	Buckley, Francis X.	Dunn, Richard J.	Hayward, Harold D.	LaCoste, Ernie	Mummert, William S.
Ariotta, Joseph	Burke, Al	Dunne, Bill	Hedeon, Melvin	Labat, Lionel L.	Namey, John
Arlin, Allen A.	Buscani, John P.	Durbin, Francis	Heitman, Paul F.	Lachman, Russell	Naragon, Daniel J.
Armstrong, Arthur	Bushle, Louis	Dutrow, Gordon P.	Hendrickson, William	Lamar, John W.	Nash, George N.
Armstrong, Sidney A.	Butler, John	Dwyer, Jr., William J.	Hennrikus, George	Land, Don	Neidringhaus, M.A. (Bud)
Armstrong, Walter G.	Buvinger, David	Edgell, Harry	Hentschel, Herbert G.	Lang, Fredrick	Nejaski, Leroy
Ashworth, Dean H.	Buzza, Kenneth	Edgington, Gilbert	Herbert, Earl	Langford, Ray	Nelson, Gene
Atkins, James R.	Byrne, Felix E.	Edwards, John H.	Herbert, Robert G.	Lanich, Edward R.	Nelson, J.C.
Audet, Paul E.	Callahan, Noel	Ehli, Edward	Herbst, Carl A.	Lassegard, Leroy	Nelson, Orville
Aukerman, John V.	Campbell, Tom	Ehret, Clarence	Hernden, Raymond A.	Latrenta, Peter	Newman, Elvis M.
Austad, Kermit	Campbell, Van B.	Eisele, Francis C.	Herrera, Pedro	Latson, Harvey	Noble, Earl
Baer, Howard F.	Carter, Nigel	Elsrod, Orville	Hesterly, Kenneth	LeDoux, Ray J.	Norby, William
Bagley, Bernard	Carter, Robert C.	Elwood, Kenneth	Hicinbothem, Franklin	Leemon, Don	Notorpole, Robert J.
Bailey, Ray E.	Cason, Alfred	Emmons, James W.	Hickey, Charles	Leonard, Gene	O'Brien, Robert J.
Baird, Harold	Castro, Edward	Engard, Robert	Hildreth, Robert	Levy, David L.	O'Connell, Danny
Baker, Albert A.	Charbonneau, Francis	Faber, Herbert G.	Hinkle, Dwight	Lewis, Frank	Offutt, Marion
Bancroft, Joseph (Dave)	Chase, Lewis D.	Farenthold, Francis L.	Hogrefe, Carl H.	Like, Waldean	Ongley, Bert
Baptist, Claude A.	Chesshir, Kenneth	Farley, Robert	Holloway, Edwin C.	Lindo, Fred	Osborn, John W.
Barkovich, Fred	Chimelewski, Raymond J.	Farmer, Edward	Holloway, James B.	Linke, Walter J.	Overton, Vernon
Barnes, Lynn W.	Christofer, George	Farnsworth, Dexter	Holmly, Lester	Long, Douglas	Overturf, Thomas V.
Barnhard, Joseph E.	Church, Fred M.	Farrell, William A.	Holstead, James	Loveless, Harold	Owens, Blaine
Bartimus, Neil R.	Churchill, Wesley H.	Faughn, Joe	Hopp, Frank J.	Lovely, Robert	Painschab, Joseph H.
Basco, John J.	Civitaresse, William A.	Ferguson, Reginald C.	Houchins, Harry	Lowe, Donald B.	Pappas, Venizelos G.
Bash, Claire C.	Clafford, Lloyd	Fernandez, Frank	Howard, Grant	Lowe, Lloyd F.	Parrish, Lewis E.
Basham, James	Clark, Benjamin L.	Fleming, Horace	Hreachmack, Joseph	Lundy, Charles M.	Parsons, B.H.
Bassman, Fred G.	Clark, Francis C.	Fletcher, Richard E.	Hudson, Herman D.	Lusk, Jr., Walter A.	Payne, Claude N.
Baughman, John	Clarke, Walter F.	Folger, Robert	Hunnicut, Elzie	Lutz, Joseph	Peach, Tom
Baxter, Richard	Clifton, Ernest	Folger, Kenneth H.	Hunsaker, Edwin F.	Lynch, Floyd	Peek, Kenneth R.
Beattie, Hugh Don	Cochran, Curtis	Foster, Paul	Hunter, Dr. Lewis G.	Madden, Edward F.	Perry, Arthur M.
Beatty, Oscar L.	Coene, William	Franceschini, Gino	Huntington, Sam	Maher, Jere L.	Peterson, Christian
Beavers, Cecil	Colantoni, George	Freel, Lawrence A.	Associate	Mahlum, Clayton	Peterson, Raymond
Becker, John J.	Colburn, Warren	Frew, George	Hutchinson, John L.	Mallory, Jack D.	Petska, Albert M.
Beckley, Robert J.	Cole, Harold	Fritog, Arthur	Hyland, Gervase (Gerry)	Mann, Douglas	Pierzchala, Benjamin J.
Belcher, Jess	Coleman, George F.	Fritz, Jack	Inman, Willie H.	Manzi, Jerry	Pintek, Joe
Bell, Marvin	Colvin, Charles E.	Froelich, James S.	Isdahl, Chester R.	Mapel, Donald E.	Poston, Brian A.
Bell, Robert	Colwell, John	Gagnon, Glen S.	Iwamoto, George	Marchbanks, Tom	Poston, Carl W.
Benefiel, Phillip L.	Coombs, William F.	Gallardo, Octavus	Jackson, Leroy K.	Marfilius, Elmer H.	Powell, Sam
Bennett, Norville	Coomes, Ralph E.	Garland, Jack S.	Jackson, Paul K.	Martin, George A.	Prettyman, William B.
Berggren, Cecil E.	Cooper, D.G. (Bud)	Gary, B.	Jarman, Gordon	Martorella, Angelo	Puthoff, Lewis A.
Bernier, Loyola A.	Coopet, Joseph L.	Gerber, Tom	Jellen, Anthony J.	Massey, Frank	Pyles, Robert F.
Berry, Kearie L.	Corcoran, Joseph W.	Gerloff, Harry	Jellison, Elwell S.	Masters, Marvert	Pysson, Albert
Berthoud, Charles	Corry, Fr. George	Gibb, Robert	Jendrezweski, Ray	Mates, Stanley	Quinn, Stephen R.
Bewley, James A.	Corsuti, Anthony	Gibson, Charles F.	Johnson, Gene	Matheson, Burton	Radnedge, William B.
Biancardi, Andrew	Cote, Arthur	Gillenwater, Joseph A.	Johnson, Warren	Matthews, Tom	Ramsbottom, Manson
Bingle, Henry	Coupard, Bernard	Ginsburg, Joseph	Jones, Andrew	May, John M.	Redican, Francis M.
Bird, John C.	Cowen, Harry	Gloor, John	Jones, Ira	Mayers, Joseph W.	Reid, Perry
Blancett, Marvin	Cowley, Jr., John J.	Godfrey, John	Jones, William H.	McCormack, Edward J.	Rex, John H.
Blanda, Guido	Cox, Howard W.	Goldbach, Ernest	Olympia	McCoy, Wayne	Riccio, Michael
Blankenship, G.W.	Cox, Norman	Goldman, Gil	Jordan, Edward	McCurdy, Robert G.	Rich, James T.
Bley, Winston	Crouch, James	Gonzales, Benito	Jordan, William F.	McDougall, Harry T.	Rickabaugh, Ronald
Bobbitt, James M.S.	Cubranich, Julius P.	Grant, Sam	Kaminski, Joseph	McGlaun, Raymond	Riley, Erwin J.
Bogdnanski, Edward J.	Cummings, D.L.	Green, Norbert	Kantor, Philip	McGovern, Raymond	Riley, Howard K.
Boltz, Phillip T.	Cutcher, James L.	Greenberg, Abraham	Kay, Allen	McLaughlin, Garvin	Roberts, Jack
Bonjani, Bruno	Dacon, Charles H.	Gregorie, Robert K.	Kearney, Earl	McLaughlin, Robert J.	Robinson, Robert
Bosshart, Herbert	Dalton, Hal	Gresh, Steve	Keene, Raymond	McLughlin, Ken E. (Bud)	Rockstroh, Kenneth J.
Bottoms, Millard S.	Dames, John J.	Griffo, Arthur	Kelly, Jerome F.	McMenamin, John A.	Rogers, Linn R.
Bourke, Joseph E.	Darner, Leroy	Grossman, M.	Kilby, William C.	McMurray, Quentin	Rolfes, George
Bowcock, Jr., H. Guy	David, Paul M.	Grothues, Al	Kimball, Dale	Melis, Charles	Rooney, Pete
Bowman, Leonard L.	Davidoff, Herman	Gruber, Fred	King, Charles E.	Melson, Rufus	Rose, Arthur
Boyes, Haskell	Davidson, Wm. H.	Gulledge, Thomas G.	Kiser, Kenneth	Merritt, Donald	Rosenzweig, Harold
Braddock, Heyward M.	Davis, Jack	Hafer, George C.	Klimasczfski, Victor	Meyers, Revel J.	Ross, Gaylord
Brady, Jack	Davis, John H.	Hager, Herman L.	(Klemens)	Meyers, Russ	Rossi, James H.
Breault, Al	Delbart, Raymond S.	Hakomaki, Floyd	Klingenhoffer, John	Miller, Lewis M.	Ruboski, John A.
Brewer, Darrell F.	Delorier, Joseph	Hall, Joe	Kneuer, Arthur	Miller, Paul	Rudrud, Norman V.
Breymeyer, Royal	Demander, John L.	Hancock, William C.	Knife, Percy	Mills, Richard (Rocker)	Ryan, James B.
Bridges, Clarence W.	Devan, Samuel	Hapgood, Alfred	Honorary Member	Mitchell, George	Ryan, Michael O.

Nearer, my God, to thee,
Nearer to Thee!
E'en though it be a cross
That raiseth me;
Still all my song shall be,
Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer to Thee!

Sachs, Stanley	Thompson, Oakley J.
Sawyer, Hiram N.	Thompson, Robert
Schallert, Maurice	Thompson, Williams H.
Schapiro, Joseph S.	Tillman, Wally
Schmidt, Richard H.	Tomaino, Antonio J.
Schneider, John	Tone, Emmett W.
Schoener, George W.	Townsley, Kenneth
Schofield, James	Tracey, Claude W.
Schwerer, George J.	Travers, John T.
Scott, Ernest D.	Triebwasser, Sidney
Scott, Jr., Talma A.	Troost, H.M.
Seaver, Warren	Trotter, Joseph H.
Seibert, Earl W.	Tryon, William V.
Selevan, Arthur	Tucker, Frank
Selgrath, John	Turner, Mark
Shadrui, Alfred	Unkel, Rudolph E.
Shaffer, W.A.	Upmeier, Tom
Shaw, Donald	Vale, William G.
Sheely, Roy M.	Vanderlick, William
Shields, William Louis	Vela, George E.
Shimek, Albert J.	Vernet, Jr., Waldemar
Shirk, Charles W.	Vicha, Raymond A.
Shott, Edwin E.	Vines, John H.
Sigsworth, John R.	Waarama, Arthur
Simeral, Robert	Waldbauer, Charles A.
Skarda, Joseph	Waldman, Benjamin I.
Skellinger, Walt.	Walkup, Jr., Charles A.
Slawson, Thomas	Wallrath, Raymond
Slawson, Thomas G.	Walter, R.N.
Smith, Clarence	Walthall, Ernest
Smith, Coy	Ward, John
Smith, Frank	Waring, Leonard H.
Smith, Harold	Warren, Alfred
Smith, Herbert E.	Wasserman, Charles
Smith, John E.	Watkins, Sam
Smith, Ralph D.	Weaver, Wayne
Snyder, Frank A.	Wells, Burton B.
Sorrell, Glenn M.	Wells, David
Southwick, Earl J.	Honorary Member
Spain, Edwin F.	White, Victor H.
Sponholtz, Milo	Whitehead, Fred A.
Stallings, Harold	Wickam, James E.
Stanbrough, Claude	Wickman, Walter
Stankiewicz, Charles	Wierney, Joseph
Staskiel, Stanley	Wight, Bill V.
Stephens, James	Wilde, George J.
Sternadel, Robert L.	Williams, Frank J.
Stetter, Paul J.	Williams, William C.
Stickel, Robert F.	Williamson, Delmar
Stombaugh, C.E.	Williamson, Rufus C.
Stone, Warren	Wilson, Claude
Stout, Plato	Wilson, William R.
Strickrott, Carl J.	Wineman, Edward C.
Stripling, Aaron M.	Withers, Horace
Strnad, Frank	Wolfe, Leonard
Strohschein, Wallace	Woodcock, William
Struckmeyer, Tom	Woodham, Warren
Studor, Howard P.	Woodham, Warren
Suggett, Walter	Woodmansee, D.A.
Sullivan, The Rev. Walter B.	Woodring, Dave
Catholic Chaplain	Woodruff, Clinton L.
Swan, Jr., Neil	Woodson, Harold
Sweet, Dr. Robert	Woodson, Woodrow
Taylor, Franklin	Wright, Ellsworth S.
Terbieten, Dr. Urban	Wymer, Kenneth M.
Terrion, Leo W.	Young, Donald R.
Thacker, Ike	Zagelow, Larry
Thomas, Henry	Zampetti, Dr. Herman

Bombardiers: Ceremony Held At Crash Site

Fifty years ago, in one of the Army Air Corps' worst noncombat tragedies, 28 bombardier cadets taking gunnery training were killed when their bus was struck by a train.

One man from this squadron survived. Because he had been sent home on emergency leave just days before.

The train crash occurred at Kingman, Arizona, in 1944, just off the Kingman Army Air Field flexible gunnery school training base.

The survivor, who went on to become a bombardier with the 600th Squadron of the 398th Bomb Group, was Len Streitfeld of the Al Shimek crew. The same person who has written of his 398th experiences in a book called, "Hell From Heaven," and also has produced a VHS video featuring color film he took during his missions.

Following the annual reunion in Tucson last September, Streitfeld paid a visit to Kingman, there to lay a wreath in memory of the 28 fellow students who perished in the crash.

Joining him in the ceremony were six members of the VFW Kingman Post No. 10386.

"Yes," said Streitfeld, "you can believe this was a very emotional and sad time for me. I would have been on that bus had it not been for my father's death. He died in my place."

Kingman Reunions

For those former gunnery trainees who schooled at Kingman, Arizona, here is the name of the person to contact for reunions, visits, or general information –

Rob Chilcoat, Kingman, AZ 86481.

THE DUES

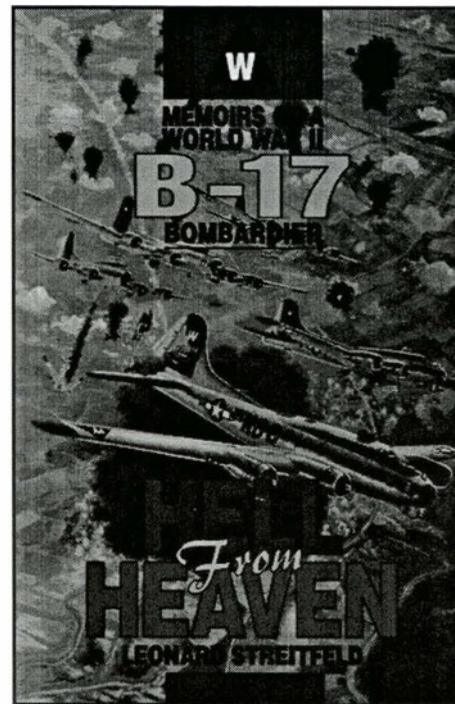
Another "zone" in the 398th's rotating dues system comes into play with this is-sue of FLAK NEWS.

As usual, the dues are but \$5.00, with options to add additional funds for the production of FLAK NEWS and the Memorial Fund. A special "In Memory Of ..." certificate will be mailed to all those who wish to remember a particular individual. Indicate the name on the dues slip.

Dues notices are included for the following states –

North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Arkansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

NOTE: Please include any changes of address.



THIS IS THE COVER of "Hell From Heaven," a new book written, edited and published by Len Streitfeld, a bombardier with the 600th Squadron. The book, in both soft- and hardcover, contains 228 pages of stories and photos of his 31-mission tour with the 398th. He was on the Al Shimek crew. The book is sure to be a blessing for the men who didn't keep detailed diaries, as Len did, or whose memories of their own Air Force careers may now have become faded and dim. Streitfeld recalls not only the combat missions, but also some of those long-forgotten episodes of life in the Air Force in general and at Station 131 in particular. Bruce Daily comments that "this book will bring back vivid memories and will take a treasured place in our collection of 398th Bomb Group collectibles." The hardcover sells for \$24.95 and the softcover for \$19.95, each, plus \$2.00 for shipping. Order from L&M Publishing Co., Hammonton, NJ 08037-5149.

CAF Midland Symposium

An unusual program called, "Pilots and Poster Girls" will be presented at Confederate Air Force's facility at Midland, Texas, on March 2-4, 1995.

Actor Van Johnson, many times seen in World War II military acting roles, and poster girl Margie Stewart, will share symposium roles along with a panel of international pilots, authors and historians.

BRIEF-things

Your FLAK NEWS editor and all the 398th Board officers join in saying "thank you" to all the folks who remembered them with Christmas and New Years greetings ... among the many 398th members serving on various B-17 related positions is **Frank Henning**, commander of the Emerald Coast Chapter of the American Ex-Prisoners of War in Gulf Breeze, Florida; he went down over Berlin with the 600 **Rohrer** crew ... treasurer **Ralph Hall** is not complaining, but he continues to receive periodic \$100 contributions from one of our paid up life members; the check comes with a note attached GOOD NEWS BAD NEWS ... on the dues card information side, where it asks how many missions the member flew, the tail gunner on the **Richard Ellis** crew, **Donald Pierson**, recorded "10 (almost)" ... he went down on March 14 over Osnabruk ... **Jim Spicer** of Hitchin sent over four UK "D-Day Commemorative" stamps, a gift to "any" 398th stamp collector; first one to contact the editor gets 'em ... our Friend from Britain, **Ralph Ambrose**, points out that Luftwaffe pilot **Erich Hartmann** (October FLAK NEWS) had 345 victories against the Russians, but also added seven American P-51's over Romania and Czechoslovakia near the war's end ... and **Vic Jenkins**, one of the original members of the "Nuthampstead Airfield Research Society" says his wife remembers getting dental work from **Capt. Fred Oles**; and **Vic**, in the RAF in the 50's, recalls using the dental facilities as living quarters ... the near-new Second Air Division Memorial Room Library lost over 3,500 books and other memorabilia in a tragic fire in Norwich, England ... we can be sure that **Col. Earl Berryhill** will be at the next 398th reunion; he retired as Associate Professor of Education at The Citadel, the military academy located near downtown Charleston, South Carolina ... navigator **Don Van Dyke** of the 600 **Nelson** crew claims he was the first 398th combat airman to finish his quota of missions (31), this by July 29, 1944 ... officers mess cook **Anthony Gomez** would like to learn more about deceased 602 CO **Pete Rooney**; can anyone help him? 4054 N Perlitz #7 Los Angeles, CA 90039; **Janet Sheely** is another life member who insists on paying her annual dues; we all say thank you ... be kind to treasurer **Ralph Hall** (for a while); he's crutching along with his second bionic knee ... **C.T. Graves** of the 602 **Erickson** crew remembers being told that he had the highest radio school test score ever recorded in the 398th, but he still got shot down over Bingen ... it took **Norbert Fleckenstein** 50 years to catch up with the 398th after losing all his military records and personal gear while loading the Queen Elizabeth for the trip home ... another "whoops!" We incorrectly tagged **Robert Downing** of the **Conrow** crew with assisting a crew member in bailing out over Magdeburg; it should have been **Charles Q. King** ... have you seen the new 29¢ commemorative stamp featuring the B-17 on a bomb run? ... last fall's TV story of the Dionne quintuplets prompted a look at a 60-year-old scrapbook (1935), there to discover that one of the newsmen covering the event was none other than **Ernie Pyle**, later to become known as a top WW II war correspondent (courtesy Mrs. FLAK NEWS editor) ... **Margo Petska**, widow of the irrepressible **Al Petska**, 602 pilot, finally found out first hand about those B-17's; she opted for a flight in the "909" when it visited Salem Oregon; **Al** had a tour in Africa as an engineer gunner before returning home for pilot training and another tour with the 398th ... **Bob Hart's** three children chipped in \$325 for Dad's flight on the Aluminum Overcast last September in Tucson; sadly, the "loading list" failed to record his name (no, **Ralph**, you do not need to refund his money; **Bob** has his flight credentials_ ... brotherhood in action - the annual dues for **Robert Templeton**, now in failing health, are paid by fellow Montanan **Willie Ivy**; latter made it through the Last Mission, but **Templeton** went down two weeks earlier, the lone survivor on the **William Wells** crew ... Talent Plus: **Bill Cole**, 603rd copilot, went on to become a leading Midwest surgeon, and then picked a law degree after his retirement from the medical field ...

Letters, Letters

"The July issue of FLAK NEWS, featuring Colonel Hunter, surely absorbed me into a land of memories. And then a call from David Swift, my friend and copilot, from out there in California. We talked of the deCleene crash up on Birchenough Hill and my heart once again became heavy. I saw that crash, or at least I saw the place where he hit the hill and exploded. I had flown several missions with him as his copilot.

"My crew was on that flight to Burtonwood to pick up new planes. I was spared but deCleene was not. God's ways are always so mysterious.

"I recalled the November 21, 1944, mission to Merseburg when the 603rd lost so many planes and men. I was Ken Buzza's copilot, but was replaced by Ken Hastings, who flew as squadron Command of Aircraft. He was among those killed that day.

"Later I hooked up with deCleene for a few missions and then I took over the Stravinsky crew as aircraft commander. Stravinsky was assigned to fly with deCleene to Burtonwood.

"I was dumbfounded when I saw that ball of fire that dark night in England. Once again, God had removed me from harm's way. But in seeing His hand in sparing me, I am also aware of the precious lives that were sacrificed and my heart grows heavy."

J. Gordon Blythe, Felton, DE 19943.

"Our plans worked out very well to visit Nuthampstead while attending an Elderhostel in London. Peggy Wells met us at Royston, took us to her home, out to the Station 131 runways, and finally to the Woodman Inn.

"Tim Wells and Robert Dimsdale joined us and raised my late husband Claude's flag at the Memorial. It was a wonderful experience and one I shall treasure always."

Shirley Dierolf, Allentown, PA 18104-3937.

"Thank you for sending me your FLAK NEWS newsletters. I do enjoy receiving them. At this time I would like to thank you and the 398th Association for all your kindness to myself, my brother Iain, and stepmother, Vivien, at the "Kennedy Night" presentation last June in Southampton. It was a most mean-ingful evening for us all.

"Please accept this \$40 donation for continued publication of the newsletter.

"I think I mentioned to you at the presentation that Northern Ireland has very strong associations with the World War II American veterans in so far as the first American troops to land in the United Kingdom landed at Londonderry and many were stationed around my home town of Coleraine.

"Should your Association decide to visit Ireland one day you would certainly be very welcome in County Londonderry. This is a beautiful part of Ireland."

Mrs. Alison Millar, Co. Londonderry, BT52 2LN, Ireland.

FOUND: The Missing Mission

The 398th Bomb Group was officially credited with 195 missions during its time at Station 131, but only 194 appear in the compilation of targets as published in REMEMBRANCES.

This discrepancy was discovered by Jack Lee while developing his own "calendar of missions" on his personal computer.

"According to documents submitted, a mission was made to NIEDERLAHNSTEIN on January 29, 1945."

So all of you folks who have a copy of REMEMBRANCES please insert the missing mission. And send a thank you note to Jack (and forgive the editor for the omission.)

Jack adds -

"While analyzing those documents I felt like I was looking at the Dead Sea Scrolls. Oh! The stories they are bursting to tell."

22 Last Mission First Pilots Still On Roster Of 398th

Of the 40 first pilots who flew on the 398th's Last Mission to Pilsen, Czech Republic, no less than 22 are on the current membership roster.

In addition, two of the four CA (Command of Aircraft) pilots are also still around – Michael Robinson of the 601st, who led the raid, and Jim Hanauer of the 603rd.

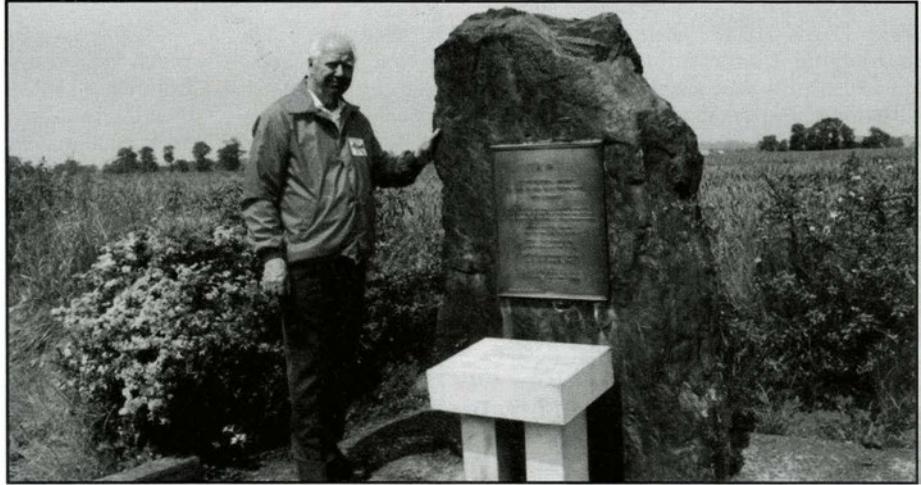
On the 600th Squadron roster are Robert Nolan, J. Dean Hill, Harry Hoelzel, Arthur Watson, Clarence Hultman, and Al Bischoff.

On the 601st roster are Ronald Mundhenke, LeRoy Roper, Robert Starkey, Robert Jauregui, and Michael Marchner.

On the 602nd roster are Nolan Thompson, Marvin Coffee, William Heathcote, and Sam Zins.

On the 603rd roster are Ken Beckstrom, Robert Gieryn, Paul Keenan, Williard Worley, Charles Lollar, Norman Williams, and George Leung.

The 398th sent up a total of 358 airmen on The Last Mission.



WILLIS FRAZIER and his wife, Ruby, made a nostalgic return to Normandy last summer, even locating the airfield at Tour-en-Bessen in France where he made a forced landing shortly after D-Day. The memorial stone was erected by Franco-American Association of Aerodromes in Normandy of the Ninth Air Force. The airfield, like the one at Nuthampstead in England, is once again a farm field. Willis is now the 398th historian.