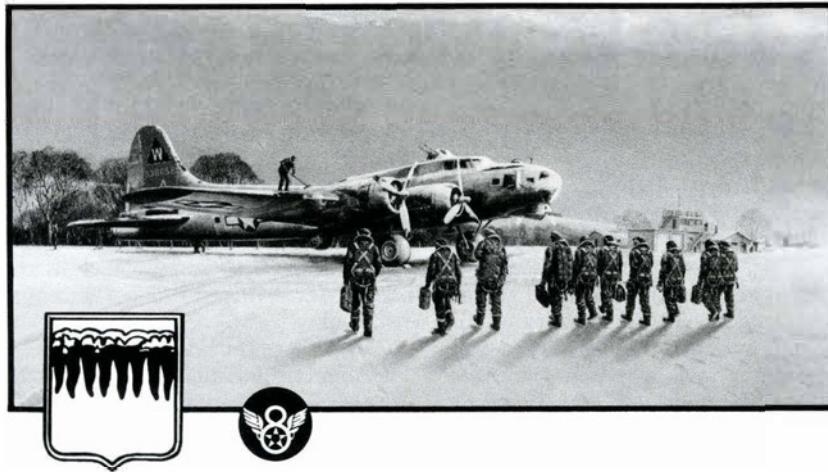




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398TH BOMB. GROUP MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION • 8TH AIR FORCE • 1ST AIR DIVISION • NUTHAMPSTEAD, ENGLAND

VOL. 12 NO. 1

FLAK NEWS

JANUARY 1997

July Meeting In Spokane

398th Bomb Group members will have to start rethinking their annual "fall" reunion plans this year as the 1997 meeting will be a "summertime" affair.

Spokane, Washington, where the group had its origins, will be the host city July 16-17-18-19, 1997. Many members will recall their 1943 stay at Geiger Field, and also at nearby Ephrata, WA, before moving on to Rapid City, SD.

As usual, the Registration Form for the July meeting will be published in the April issue of FLAK NEWS, which will be delivered in most parts of the country in early May. Needless to say, planning for travel to Spokane should begin even now.

Chairman of the Spokane reunion will be Louis Stoffer, who paid his dues with the 398th as the engineer-gunner on the Don Grinter crew of the 600th. He has been to most of the previous reunions and was one of the first to return to Nuthampstead (1971 and 1976).

His co-chairman will be his wife, Betty. Members of his Grinter crew will be on hand to assist in registration.

The story of the Grinter crew's December 24, 1944, crash on takeoff appeared in FLAK NEWS Vol. 4 No. 4.

Members wishing information on the post reunion tour to the Canadian Rockies should call Group Coordinators (509) 455-4354. More information will appear in the April FLAK NEWS.

New FLAK NEWS Address, Phone

Your FLAK NEWS editor, Allen Ostrom, has made the big jump from house to condominium.

Subscribers can now reach the editor at Seattle, WA 98107-3164.



The Ground War At Nuthampstead

Envelope For 398th Dues

A new look in the dues process begins in this issue of FLAK NEWS. A pre-addressed mailing envelope has been inserted between the pages. It will accommodate the annual \$5.00 dues (or \$50.00 lifetime), plus additional contributions for FLAK NEWS and "In Memory Of."

This January dues issue, however, contains envelopes only for those members living in the U.S. eastern states, including, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, and Washington BC.

Also included are dues for members living offshore and other "Friends of the 398th."

Remembering Winter Of 1944-45

The 398th Bomb Group began the war during the balmy spring days of 1944. And ended it during the summer of 1945.

But in between there was the winter of 1944-45.

And Station 131 at Nuthampstead just happened to be located in England. The winters there are not to be confused with the English gardens, castles, and rolling countryside depicted in the travel brochures. Always photographed in the height of summer.

Continued on Page 3.

A Tale Of Two Daughters

Visits To Nuthampstead Stir Young Emotions

By Elaine (Stahlman) Jurs

Last year my husband, Peter, and I returned from a trip to England which included a visit to Cambridge. My father, Philip Stahlman, a second lieutenant with the 398th Bomb Group, 601st Squadron, was stationed near there, at Nuthampstead.

As part of our trip, we arranged to meet members of the Friends of the Eighth with whom my parents had stayed during a tour a few years ago. I could not have known how affected I would be by this visit and also by my stop at the American Military Cemetery outside Cambridge.

As Nick and Jane Eve, our kind hosts, drove us around the abandoned air base, I could only imagine what it must have been like for my father and the thousands of other young men who risked their lives far from home for freedom. Dad rarely talked about his wartime experiences, but when we were old enough to ask and to understand, we learned that he very nearly did not return from his last flight.

It was 1944 and he was flying a “make-up” mission, having missed a previously scheduled flight due to illness. Dad was flying copilot with a crew he had never flown with before. Over Germany, his B-17 was hit by enemy fire and the nose of the plane was gone. That the remaining crew members were able to land subsequently (after hours of flying) safely back at Nuthampstead is a tale that still inspires awe and disbelief. Yet here I am, along with seven sisters and brothers, to tell that tale, which I’ll wager many of you have heard before. Of course, I would not be here if my dad had not made it back. At that time, he was half my present age, and as young as one of our sons now.

Our hosts then took us to the Woodman Pub on the edge of Nuthampstead, where the airmen met to relax between flights. It’s still very much a working pub, and very much dedicated to the 398th Bomb Group, as the monument outside attests. I was not prepared, however, to see on the wall of the pub a photo of dad’s plane with its nose shot off. Another photo of dad himself, from a recent reunion, smiled back at me from the wall, though my vision was obscured momentarily by tears. He was identified in the photo only as “Second Pilot.” As I drank my Pimms, I leafed through the visitor’s book and found dad and mom’s signatures from their visit a few years ago. Peter and I added ours, and felt we were among excellent company.

Dad later told me a story about the dedication of the pub’s monument to the 398th in 1982. In the middle of the prayer service, a terrible wind and driving rain suddenly whipped up. The Friends of the Eighth did not move. They were steadfast and remained unflinching (though drenched) until the end of the service. Sandwiches and table service all blew away. When the sun came out, new sandwiches and refreshments appeared magically out of nowhere.

Nick and Jane Eve provided some insight as to this attitude of deep respect and gratitude on the part of the British toward the American military in WW II. “Without their help,” Nick said quietly, “England might have been a very different country today. How do we ever repay that?” The Eves, both in their forties, were not even born at the time the first Americans flew from Nuthampstead and hundreds of other air bases in the Cambridge area. Yet here we were, two second-generation couples who had never met before that day, brought together by their love and respect for these airmen, one in particular.

My visit to the American Military Cemetery later that week was similarly moving. One is first struck by the order and tranquility of the place. The pristine grounds, including the beautiful rose garden, are so lovingly attended. White marble crosses and Stars of David, as well as the wall of the names of the missing, bear witness to the sacrifice of those who gave their lives so that others might be free. I was unprepared, however,

Continued on Page 8.

By Sharon (Roderick) Krause

Last year one of my lifelong friends asked me to go to England with her, in celebration of our 50th birthdays. As it turned out, I went with two girlfriends and we made the trip in June. It started with six days of touring the countryside and on the sixth day we were in Cambridge.

We waited for a taxicab to arrive to take us to the train station for our ride to London. When the taxi came I knew I had to make up my mind as to whether or not I would visit Nuthampstead. It was now or never!

I asked the driver how far Nuthampstead was from there. His reply was “I’ve never heard of it.” I thought, “Maybe this isn’t such a good idea.” But I had heard about the war and my dad’s stories my whole life and I was always very interested. My dad, Paul Roderick of the 602nd, was a pilot. I’m sure he is part of the reason that my son, Tim, has always had the flying bug, and the reason that he joined the Air Force. So I got out my map and we hunted for Nuthampstead. The driver was not very encouraging about getting there, and he couldn’t tell how much it was going to cost either. He “thought” maybe “40 quid.”

After a short discussion with my friends, I said, “I can’t come all this way, be this close, and *not* go to see this.” So we were off! It was about a 45 minute drive through lovely countryside, we did not get lost, and, boom, all of a sudden we were there!



Sharon Krause At Nuthampstead Memorial

In front of us was a beautiful stone monument with wreaths and flowers all around it. I was not ready for the overwhelming feeling of nostalgia, pride, respect, and love that totally took my breath away. I am an emotional person anyway, but this was such a surprise. To see the fresh flowers all around the monument was more than I could handle. I was a blubbing daughter, who was so proud of her dad at that moment, that I couldn’t talk. I have never been overly religious, but I felt as if I was on sacred ground, and said a prayer for all of those young men who did not make it back, and a thank you for helping my dad to come home. I wish my brother could have been there.

The Woodman Pub is very near the monument and the taxi driver asked the owner, Ian Johnson, if it would be all right if we looked around the pub. It was 10 o’clock on Sunday morning and he was cleaning up after the Americans – we found out later. So this very nice Englishman unlocked the doors for us.

He let these three teary-eyed, Americans browse, cry, and look at all the memorabilia in this wonderful thatched roof pub. The pictures that cover the walls of some of the 398th crews and planes are heartwarming. Ian was so nice to us and gave

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Pintek Was Ready

Continued from Page 1.

Veterans returning to Nuthampstead on previous June visits have always enjoyed near-perfect weather in summer.

Many air crews had come and gone before the 1944 snows came, and others arrived after the thaw in 1945. But indeed there was snow, and cold, and icy wind, which the ground crews who were there for the duration can attest.

Yank sojourners of that era still use the word, "capricious" in describing the English weather.

Photos appearing in FLAK NEWS (Page 1 and 3) are published to remind those 398th "sojourners" that there was winter in England in 1944-45.

And there also was a threat of German commando attacks on the airfields of the 8th Air Force. Station 131, under the command of Col. Frank P. Hunter, Jr., and his ground executive, Col. Earl Berryhill, were well prepared for such an incursion. Col. Hunter, an artillery graduate of West Point (prior to his transfer to the Army Air Corps) selected an Infantry officer to defend the base.

He was Lt. Joe Pintek, late of the 2nd Infantry Division, but detoured to the 398th for medical reasons. "He was quite a talker," remembered Col. Berryhill, "but a solid officer." He was named "Defense Officer" for the group.

Pintek took his assignment quite seriously, enrolling all ground personnel in his defense plan.

Hundreds of carbine rifles were procured and training was given to the officers and men on the range and via mock battles around the airfield, particularly around the B-17 hardstands.

Some of his "troops" manned 30 caliber water-cooled Browning machine guns, as seen in the photo on Page 1. The unidentified gunner probably was not prepared for the "capricious" English winter as he readied himself for the enemy.

Pintek did such a good job as Defense Officer he was promoted to captain and also took over as Provost Marshal.

Gen. William Gross, commanding the 1st Air Division, inspected the group's defense efforts one day. On Pintek's signal, a pair of Jeeps with whistles hooked up to the exhaust system, raced around the base to signal an attack. Ground personnel, carbines in hand, raced to their assigned areas.

"That was a good job," Gen. Gross told Pintek.

As Provost Marshal, the base's police officer, Pintek had an interesting experience. He "lost" his job for two weeks. It seems one of the group's ranking flying officers (who shall remain unnamed) had

Continued on Page 7.



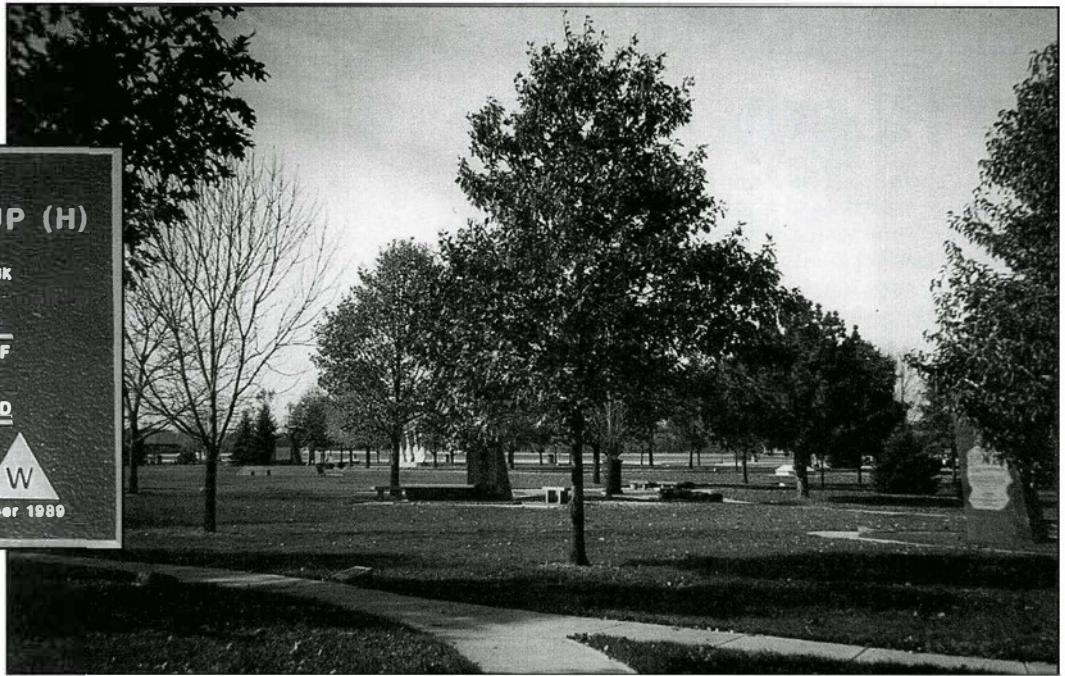
Yes, It Did Snow In England In 1944-45



Servicing Snow-Bound Fortresses



All The Comforts Of Home



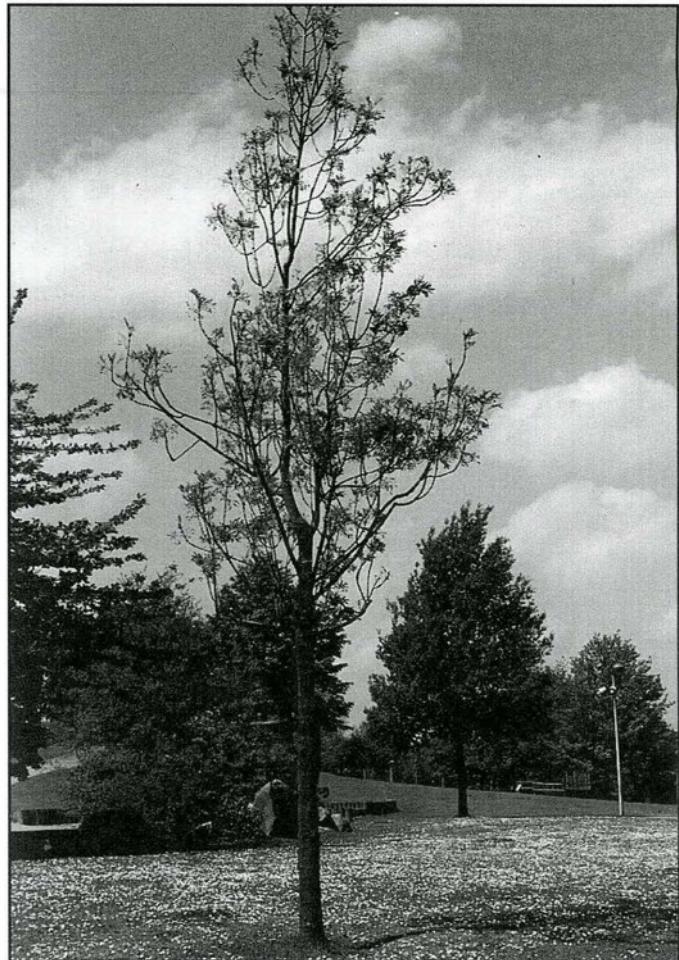
Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio, 1989

Photo by Bob Hart, Wilmington, Ohio



Merseburg, Germany, 1992

Photo by Michael George, Merseburg, Germany



Neuss, Germany, 1992

Photo by Alfred Wilms, Heerdt, Germany

The Trees Of The 398th: A LEGACY

The World War II legacy left by the 398th Bomb Group can be traced in any number of journals, books, and records. It can be traced by the veterans themselves, who to this day a half-century later still gather to tell and retell the narratives of the air war.

But as the ever-lengthening Taps list (Pages 6-7) testifies, the number of "storytellers" diminishes each year.

One day there will be no "first-person" interviews with those who were there. Those who knew the sounds, the smells, the noise, the terror of aerial warfare. Who will remind the coming generations that these things really happened? What will cause them to wonder of these things ... and hopefully seek out the historical documents that will tell them what happened?

Can a tree do this? Can four trees do this?

The 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association thinks so, witness the trees that have been planted in the United States and overseas as memorials to the 398th in general, and to the 398th men killed in action in particular.

It was a program begun in 1986, when a 398th tour party returned to Station 131, there to plant a pair of trees beside the beautiful memorial that had been dedicated in 1982.



Nuthampstead, England, 1986

Photo by Tony Clark, Saffron Walden, England

Willis Frazier, who was to become the group's historical officer 10 years later, had the honor of representing the group in the planting of an oak tree. At the same time, Ozzie Osborn dedicated an aspen on behalf of the Friends of the 398th. It was Osborn, along with Vic Jenkins, who had led the UK drive to construct the memorial.

In 1989 the tree scene shifted to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. During a memorable visit to the base, the 398th set down an oak tree and a bronze plaque, joining dozens of other Air Force groups and squadrons with similar memorials at the famous AF base. Bill Comstock led the dedication, along with Mrs. Frank P. Hunter, Jr, and Chaplain James Duvall.

The year 1992 saw two more trees set down in Europe, both in Germany. Both in cities ringing with memories of WW II.

Merseburg ... dreaded Merseburg. The city of the synthetic oil targets, hundreds of Flak guns and ... the death scene of many 398th airmen.

This time, however, the 398th tour group was met by civic, social, and educational leaders of the city. They joined Dick Frazier and his fellow 398th travellers in planting a tree at the entrance to Merseburg Castle.

"We know it was hell for Merseburg residents when we came over," said Frazier, "But it was hell for us, too, as we knew your Foche Wulf pilots and Flak gunners."

Also on that tour agenda was a stop at Neuss and a tree-planting at a civic park not far from the very spot where Col. Hunter's plane went down, killing all aboard except pilot Fred Gonzales. Every member of the tour group took a hand at dropping a spade full of soil at the base of the tree.

As Comstock said on an earlier visit to Neuss —

"We came in our youthful years to wage war; we return in our elder years to share the peace."

We remember ... and may the trees planted by the 398th help the coming generations to remember, also.

1998 Tour Set For England And Germany

There will be a "Return To Station 131" in 1998. And it will be coupled with a "tourist" visit to Germany.

The dates are set — June 3-16, 1998, with the 3rd-11th period devoted to the German tour and the 12th-16th to "home stay" visits with our Friends of the 398th at Nuthampstead.

The 14-day package will be with British Air from the US to Munich via London, and then via a Destination Europe coach to such places as Garmich and Zugspitze in the Alps, Würzburg, Trier, Luxembourg, and Dusseldorf. Then on to England via British Air.

A complete itinerary and tour prices will be published in an upcoming issue of FLAK NEWS.

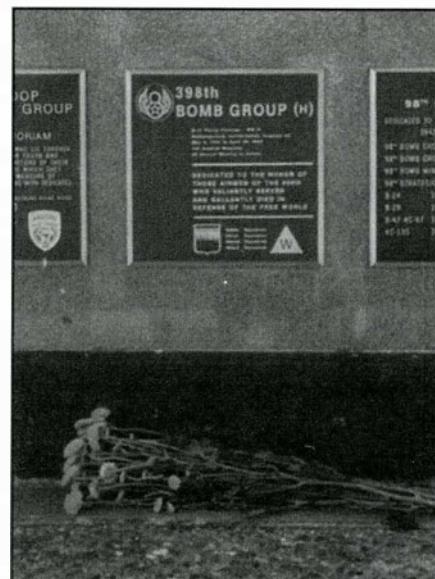
Tour arrangements will be by Travel House, Inc., Seattle. Contact Barbara Fish, 1-800-423-5454.

Queen Will Open Duxford Museum

Queen Elizabeth will officially open the American Museum in Duxford, England, on August 1, 1997.

Under planning and construction for several years, the building will house most of Duxford's WW II 8th Air Force airplanes, including the B-17, Mary Alice, a favorite photo subject of returning air crew veterans.

The 398th contributed to the building fund, as did many individual members as well as the Friends, who recently gave £500 towards the project.



**398th PLAQUE
Air Force Academy**

Beyond The Sunset When Day Is Done

Adleman, Milo
Agnew, Harry
Agnew, Robert
Alexander, Claude
Allare, John
Alves, Alfred
Amer, Jerry
Anderson, Emil
Anderson, Ralph
Anderson, Roy L.
Anderson, Russell M.
Anderson, William G.
Andrews, Kenneth E.
Ariotta, Joseph
Arlin, Allen A.
Armstrong, Arthur
Armstrong, Sidney A.
Armstrong, Walter G.
Ashworth, Dean H.
Atkins, James R.
Atkinson, Herman
Audet, Paul E.
Aukerman, John V.
Austad, Kermit
Baer, Howard F.
Bagley, Bernard
Bahling, John W.
Bailey, Ray E.
Baird, Harold
Baker, Albert A.
Baker, Hermus C.
Bancroft, Joseph (Dave)
Baptist, Claude A.
Barkovich, Fred
Barnes, Lynn W.
Barnhard, Joseph E.
Bartimus, Neil R.
Bartusis, Anthony J.
Basco, John J.
Bash, Claire C.
Basham, James
Bassman, Fred G.
Baughman, John
Bawduniak, John
Baxter, Richard
Beattie, Hugh Don
Beatty, Oscar L.
Beavers, Cecil
Beck, Charles M.
Becker, John J.
Beckley, Robert J.
Belcher, Jess
Bell, Marvin
Bell, Robert
Benefiel, Phillip L.
Bennett, Norville
Berggren, Cecil E.
Bernier, Loyola A.
Berry, Kearie L.
Berthoud, Charles
Bewley, James A.
Biancardi, Andrew
Bingle, Henry
Bird, John C.
Bittner, Walter
Blancett, Marvin
Blanda, Guido
Blankenship, G.W.
Bley, Winston
Bobbitt, James M.S.
Boeger, Orv. W.
Bogdnanski, Edward J.
Boitz, Phillip T.
Bonanno, Salvatore
Bonjani, Bruno
Bosshart, Herbert
Bottoms, Millard S.
Bourke, Joseph E.
Bowcock, Jr., H. Guy
Bowman, Leonard L.
Boyes, Haskell
Braddock, Heyward M.
Brady, Jack
Breault, Al
Breimeyer, Royal
Brewer, Darrell F.
Bridges, Clarence W.
Briody, J.
Briody, James J.
Britt, Thomas F.
Brokaw, Rev. Raymond C.
Brown, E. Logan
Brown, James C.
Brown, Lawrence
Brown, Robert E.
Brown, Samuel M.
Brown, Sidney
Brubaker, Wayne
Brunke, Earl
Brunke, Earl H.
Buck, Chester S.
Buckingham, James S.
Buckley, Francis X.
Burke, Al
Burton, John
Buscani, John P.
Bushle, Louis
Butler, John
Buvinger, David
Buzza, Kenneth
Byrne, Felix E.
Callahan, Noel
Campbell, Tom
Campbell, Van B.
Campdon, Alfred
Carlton, Donald P.
Carter, Nigel
Cason, Alfred
Castro, Edward
Charbonneau, Francis
Chase, Lewis D.
Chesshir, Kenneth
Chimelewski, Raymond J.
Chorba, Robert T.
Christofer, George
Christopher, Arthur C.
Church, Fred M.
Churchill, Wesley H.
Civitaese, William A.
Clafford, Lloyd
Clamente, Jesse
Clark, Benjamin L.
Clark, Francis C.
Clarke, Atwell S.
Clarke, Walter F.
Clifton, Ernest
Cochran, Curtis
Coene, William
Colantoni, George
Colburn, Warren
Cole, Harold
Coleman, George F.
Coleman, Thomas A.
Coleman, Winsor
Colvin, Charles E.
Colwell, John
Comstock, William G.
Coombs, William F.
Coomes, Ralph E.
Cooper, D.G. (Bud)
Cooper, Joseph D.
Coopet, Joseph L.
Corcoran, Joseph W.
Corry, Fr. George
Corsuti, Anthony
Cote, Arthur
Coupert, Bernard
Cowen, Harry
Cowley, Jr., John J.
Cox, Howard W.
Cox, Norman
Cron, Robert
Crouch, James
Cubranich, Julius P.
Cummings, D.L.
Cutcher, James L.
Dacon, Charles H.
Dailey, Donald
Dalton, Hal
Daly, William J.
Dames, John J.
Darner, Leroy
David, Paul M.
Davidoff, Herman
Davidson, Wm. H.
Davis, Jack
Davis, John H.
Delancey, Lawrence
Delbart, Raymond S.
Delorier, Joseph
Delorimier, John B.
Demander, John L.
Desh, Herb
Devan, Samuel
Devlin, Steve
Dexter, Robert L.
Dick, Russell O.
Dickhart, Clarence
Dierolf, Claude E.
Dippel, Francis
Dixon, Gerald
Donovan, George
Dougherty, A.L.
Douglas, Gene
Downing, Robert A.
Dreyer, Charles G.
Duncan, John W.
Dunn, Richard J.
Dunne, Bill
Durbin, Francis
Dutrow, Gordon P.
Dwyer, Jr., William J.
Edgell, Harry
Edgington, Gilbert
Edwards, John H.
Ehli, Edward
Ehret, Clarence
Eisele, Francis C.
Elrod, Orville
Elwood, Kenneth
Emmons, James W.
Engard, Robert
Erickson, Edward H.
Erler, Donald J.
Faber, Herbert G.
Falkenbach, John S.
Farenthold, Francis L.
Farewell, Francis A.
Farley, Robert
Farmer, Edward
Farnsworth, Dexter
Farrell, William A.
Faughn, Joe
Ferguson, Reginald C.
Fernandez, Frank
Fleming, Horace
Fletcher, Richard E.
Flickinger, Charles R.
Folger, Robert
Foraker, Kenneth H.
Foster, Paul
Fowler, Hannibal
Franceschini, Gino
Freel, Lawrence A.
French, Ozie
Frew, George
Fritog, Arthur
Fritz, Jack
Froelich, James S.
Gagnon, Glen S.
Gallardo, Octavus
Garland, Jack S.
Gary, B.
Gerber, Tom
Gerloff, Harry
Gibb, Robert
Gibeau, Raymond
Gibson, Charles F.
Gillenwater, Joseph A.
Ginsburg, Joseph
Gloor, John
Godfrey, John
Godwin, John K.
Goldbach, Ernest
Goldman, Gil
Gonzales, Benito
Gordon, Charles
Goveia, George
Grant, Sam
Gray, Jay O.
Green, Norbert
Greenberg, Abraham
Gregorie, Robert K.
Gresh, Steve
Griffo, Arthur
Grossman, M.
Grothues, Al
Gruber, Fred
Gulledge, Thomas G.
Hafer, George C.
Hager, Herman L.
Hakomaki, Floyd
Hale, Robert D.
Hall, Joe
Haller, John A.
Hamacher, Ross L.
Hancock, William C.
Hapgood, Alfred
Hardenburg, Harry B.
Hardy, Arnold
Harmon, Carl H.
Harrington, Cornelius
Hart, Karl E.
Hartwell, George W.
Hatch, Dwight
Hatcher, Robert
Hatten, Harold R.
Haworth, William A.
Hayward, Harold D.
Hedeen, Melvin
Heitman, Paul F.
Henagan, Jr., Henry H.
Hendrickson, William
Henrikus, George
Hentschel, Herbert G.
Herbert, Earl
Herbert, Robert G.
Herbst, Carl A.
Hereid, Selby P.
Hernden, Raymond A.
Herrera, Pedro
Hesterly, Kenneth
Hicinbothem, Franklin
Hickey, Charles
Hildreth, Robert
Hinkle, Dwight
Hoag, Jr., Edward
Hoddesdon, S. Leathers
Hogrefe, Carl H.
Holloway, Edwin C.
Holloway, James B.
Holmes, Blair
Holmes, William J.
Holmly, Lester
Holstead, James
Hopp, Frank J.
Horton, Paul A.
Houchins, Harry
Howard, Grant
Hoynes, Earl K.
Hreachmack, Joseph
Hudson, Herman D.
Hunnicut, Elzie
Hunsaker, Edwin F.
Hunter, Dr. Lewis G.
Huntington, Sam, *Associate*
Hutchinson, John L.
Hyland, Gervase (Gerry)
Inman, Willie H.
Isdahl, Chester R.
Iwamoto, George
Jackson, Leroy K.
Jackson, Paul K.
Jarman, Gordon
Jeffries, Kenneth V.
Jellen, Anthony J.
Jellison, Elwell S.
Jendrezweski, Ray
Jennings, George W.
Johnson, A.G.
Johnson, Gene
Johnson, Warren
Jones, Andrew
Jones, Ira
Jones, William H., *Olympia WA*
Jones, William H., *Florence AL*
Jordan, Edward
Jordan, William F.
Kaminski, Joseph
Kantor, Philip
Katz, Harry
Kavanaugh, Dr. William R.
Kay, Allen
Kearney, Earl
Keene, Raymond
Kelly, Jerome F.
Kilby, William C.
Kimball, Dale
King, Charles E.
Kiser, Kenneth
Kite, Dallas E.
Klimasczski, Victor (Klemens)
Klingenhoffer, John
Klix, George A.
Kneuer, Arthur T.
Knife, Percy, *Honorary Member*
Knight, George N.
Kohut, Charles
Kolafa, John
Kolb, Kenneth
Konie, Ernie
Kotte, Norman E.
Kramer, Harvey
Krause, John J.
Krebs, Eugene F.
Kroh, Charles H.
Kuck, Homer R.
Labat, Lionel L.
Lachman, Russell
LaCoste, Ernie
Lamar, John W.
Lamiell, James C.
Land, Don
Lang, Fredrick
Langford, Ray
Lanich, Edward R.
Lassegard, Leroy
Latrenta, Peter
Latson, Harvey
LeDoux, Ray J.
Leemon, Don
Leonard, Gene
Levy, David
Levy, David L.
Libertucci, Peter
Like, Waldean
Lindo, Fred
Lindomen, Edwin
Loynes, Walter J.
Locy, John
Long, Douglas
Loveless, Harold
Lovely, Robert
Lowe, Donald B.
Lowe, Lloyd F.
Lundy, Douglas M.
Lusk, Jr., Walter A.
Lutz, Joseph
Lynch, Floyd
Mackey, Frank
Madden, Edward F.
Magnan, Mark
Maher, Jere L.
Mahlum, Clayton
Mallory, Jack D.
Mann, Douglas
Manzi, Jerry
Mapel, Donald E.
Marchbanks, Tom
Marfilius, Elmer H.
Martin, George A.
Martinek, Emil J.
Martone, August J.
Martorella, Angelo
Massey, Frank
Masters, Marvert
Mates, Stanley
Matheson, Burton
Matthews, Tom
May, John M.
Mayers, Joseph W.
Mazzanti, Eugene P.
McCormack, Edward J.
McCoy, Wayne
McCurdy, Robert G.
McDougall, Harry T.
McGlaun, Raymond
McGovern, Raymond
McIver, Lawrence
McLaughlin, Garvin
McLaughlin, Robert J.
McLughlin, Ken E. (Bud)
McMenamin, John A.
McMurray, Quentin
McNalley, J.F.
McNeil, Jr., Claude A.
Melis, Charles
Melson, Rufus
Merritt, Donald
Meyers, Revel J.
Meyers, Russ
Miceli, Gaspera (Bob)
Miller, Lewis M.
Miller, Paul
Miller, Sam
Mills, Leonard P.
Mills, Richard (Rocker)
Mitchell, George
Molesworth, Robert W.
Money, Arnold
Moore, Randolph
Moore, Vincent
Moretti, Raymond J.
Morneau, Edward T.
Morris, Jr., Stacey
Morrison, Preston R.
Morrison, Russell
Moss, Latrelle R.
Motsenbocker, H.D.
Mottter, William F.
Mudloff, Arthur F.
Mullins, John A.
Mummert, William S.
Mundhenke, Roland D.
Naioti, John F.
Namey, John
Naragon, Daniel J.
Nash, George N.
Neidringhaus, M.A. (Bud)
Neill, David S.
Nejaski, Leroy
Nelson, Gene
Nelson, J.C.
Nelson, Orville
Newman, Elvis M.
Noble, Earl
Norby, William
Notorpole, Robert J.
O'Brien, Robert J.
O'Connell, Danny
Offutt, Marion
Ongley, Bert
Osborn, John W.
Overton, Vernon

Overturf, Thomas V.
 Owens, Blaine
 Painschab, Joseph H.
 Pappas, Venizelos G.
 Paris, Archie
 Parrish, Lewis E.
 Parsons, B.H.
 Payne, Claude N.
 Payne, Marshall M.
 Peach, Tom
 Peek, Kenneth R.
 Penland, Joe
 Perrou, Ed
 Perry, Arthur M.
 Petersen, Tracy
 Peterson, Christian
 Peterson, Raymond
 Petska, Albert M.
 Pierzchala, Benjamin J.

Ryan, Michael O.
 Sachs, Stanley
 Saglin, Carl O.
 Sawyer, Hiram N.
 Schallert, Maurice
 Schapiro, Joseph S.
 Schmidt, Richard H.
 Schneider, John
 Schoen, Ernest A.
 Schoener, George W.
 Schofield, James
 Schultz, William P.
 Schumacher, Alpha H.
 Schweyer, George J.
 Scott, Ernest D.
 Scott, R.F.
 Scott, Jr., Talma A.

Stankiewicz, Charles
 Starkey, Robert P.
 Staskiel, Stanley
 Steinberger, Edwin
 Stephens, James
 Sternadel, Robert L.
 Stetter, Paul J.
 Stickel, Robert F.
 Stockman, A.J.
 Stombaugh, C.E.
 Stone, Warren
 Stout, Plato
 Strickrott, Carl J.
 Stripling, Aaron M.
 Strnad, Frank

Vines, John H.
 Waaramaa, Arthur
 Waldbauer, Charles A.
 Waldman, Benjamin I.
 Walker, Robert L.
 Walkup, Jr., Charles A.
 Wallrath, Raymond
 Walter, R.N.
 Walthall, Ernest
 Ward, John
 Waring, Leonard H.
 Warren, Alfred
 Wasserman, Charles
 Watkins, Sam

44-45 Winter Was Tough On B-17 Mechanics

Continued from Page 3.

once complained of the Provost "inefficiency" to Col. Hunter. The wise and seasoned Hunter reviewed the complaint and announced his decision — The "complainer" would assume command of the Provost department for two weeks!

Hence, this unnamed officer became known as the "Flying Provost Marshal."

The ground crews, during the winter of 1944-45, had what had to be the most miserable job in the Air Force. B-17's needing engine changes, flak holes plugged, tires changed, superchargers repaired, etc., etc., didn't have convenient, heated, readily available hangers in which to do their work.

It was done on the line, in the cold, in the snow. The photo tells the story of the winter of 1944-45.

The Nissen hut photo also bears witness to the wintry weather, as does the photo of the pyramidal tent and the snow-covered trees in the background.

Beyond the Sunset

Blanche Kerr Brock

Virgil P. Brock



Pintek, Joe
 Poston, Brian A.
 Poston, Carl W.
 Powell, John
 Powell, Sam
 Prettyman, William B.
 Pricer, Jene L.
 Priestley, William T.
 Procopio, Mario
 Puthoff, Lewis A.
 Pyles, Robert F.
 Pysson, Albert
 Quinn, Stephen R.
 Radnedge, William B.
 Ramsbottom, Manson
 Redican, Francis M.
 Rehme, Howard W.
 Reid, Perry
 Rex, John H.
 Riccio, Michael
 Rich, James T.
 Rickabaugh, Ronald
 Riley, Erwin J.
 Riley, Howard K.
 Roberts, Jack
 Robinson, Robert
 Rockstroh, Kenneth J.
 Rogers, Linn R.
 Rolfes, George
 Roller, Norman
 Rooney, Pete
 Rose, Arthur
 Rosenberg (Ross), Robert S.
 Rosenzweig, Harold
 Ross, Gaylord
 Rossi, James H.
 Ruboski, John A.
 Rudrud, Norman V.
 Rush, Donald E.
 Ryan, James B.

Seal, Charles F.
 Seaver, Warren
 Seibert, Earl W.
 Selevan, Arthur
 Self, Clifton L.
 Selgrath, John
 Sellers, Lyndell
 Shadroui, Alfred
 Shaffer, W.A.
 Shaw, Donald
 Sheely, Roy M.
 Shields, William Louis
 Shimek, Albert J.
 Shirk, Charles W.
 Shott, Edwin E.
 Shott, Ned
 Shreve, Eli
 Sighting, William M.
 Sigsworth, John R.
 Simeral, Robert
 Sirota, Ben
 Sistek, Anton A.
 Skarda, Joseph
 Skellinger, Walt
 Slawson, Thomas G.
 Sleaman, Harry
 Smith, Clarence
 Smith, Coy
 Smith, Frank
 Smith, Harold
 Smith, Herbert E.
 Smith, John E.
 Smith, Ralph D.
 Snyder, Frank A.
 Sorrell, Glenn M.
 Southwick, Earl J.
 Spain, Edwin F.
 Spear, Charles F.
 Sponholtz, Milo
 Stallings, Harold
 Stanbrough, Claude
 Stange, Raymond P.

Strohschein, Wallace
 Struckmeyer, Tom
 Studor, Howard P.
 Suggett, Walter
 Sullivan, The Rev. Walter B.,
Catholic Chaplain
 Swan, Jr., Neil
 Sweet, Dr. Robert
 Szubka, Sigmund
 Tacker, Laurence J.
 Tatchio, Orrin R.
 Taylor, Franklin
 Terbieten, Dr. Urban
 Terrion, Leo W.
 Thacker, Ike
 Thomas, Henry
 Thompson, Oakley J.
 Thompson, Robert
 Thompson, Williams H.
 Tilden, George I.
 Tillman, Wally
 Tillotson, Albert
 Timm, Wilber D.
 Tomaino, Antonio J.
 Tone, Emmett W.
 Townsend, Charles
 Townsley, Kenneth
 Tracey, Claude W.
 Travers, John T.
 Triebwasser, Sidney
 Troost, H.M.
 Trotter, Joseph H.
 Tryon, William V.
 Tucker, Frank
 Turner, Mark
 Unkel, Rudolph E.
 Upmeier, Tom
 Vale, William G.
 Vanderlick, William
 Veech, Evert M.
 Vela, George E.
 Vernet, Jr., Waldemar
 Vicha, Raymond A.

Watson, Leland A.
 Weatherwax, C.D.
 Weaver, Wayne
 Welder, Leo J.
 Wells, Burton B.
 Wells, David, *Honorary Member*
 Wheeler, William J.
 White, Victor H.
 Whitehead, Fred A.
 Whitman, Fred
 Wickam, James E.
 Wickman, Walter
 Wierney, Joseph
 Wiggins, Robert E.
 Wight, Bill V.
 Wilde, George J.
 Williams, Frank J.
 Williams, William C.
 Williamson, Delmar
 Williamson, Rufus C.
 Wilson, Claude
 Wilson, William C.
 Wilson, William R.
 Wineman, Edward C.
 Withers, Horace
 Wolfe, Leonard
 Woodcock, William
 Woodham, Warren
 Woodmansee, D.A.
 Woodring, Dave
 Woodruff, Clinton L.
 Woods, Mark
 Woodson, Harold
 Woodson, Woodrow
 Woosley, Harry
 Wright, Ellsworth S.
 Wright, Warren H.
 Wymer, Kenneth M.
 Young, Donald R.
 Zackman, William W.
 Zagelow, Larry
 Zajic, Raymond J.
 Zampetti, Dr. Herman

Master Sergeants Survived Winter In Pyramidal Tent

This tent just happened to "belong" to three master sergeant airplane mechanics — Durward D. Stegall, Leland Watson, and George Hilliard. They lived in that tent during their entire sojourn at Station 131 — summer and winter.

A second pyramidal tent nearby was occupied by Anthony Vitelli, Henry Phillips, Houston Boothe, and Karl Walker.

Hilliard admitted that their abode was "not like the Hilton, but a good shelter from the elements. And we made a bicycle-built-for-three to take us to the mess hall."

As for keeping warm during that winter, the three mechanics used their skills to create this special arrangement —

"We heated our tent with a secret mixture of old engine oil and 100 octane gasoline. The supply tank was an old water alcohol tank from the salvage yard and the supply line was a 1/4 inch copper tube. It ran into a 28 inch high instrument can sitting on a stack of bricks in the middle of the tent. The oil-gas mixture dripped onto the bricks and gave us a beautiful flame. It was quite comfortable as long as the flaps were closed.

"At times the flame created quite a roar, but all we had to do was close the supply valve a little. The floor was bare English soil, but was soon hardened by the heat. Yes, we were quite comfortable.

"Except during those engine changes out on the line."

The English winter of 1944-45 at Nuthampstead.

These names represent the men of the 398th Bomb Group who passed on since returning home from World War II. The list does not necessarily include everyone, but only those names which have been made known to FLAK NEWS through contact officer George Hilliard and others. The Killed in Action list will be published again in a future issue.

Thank you, Dad

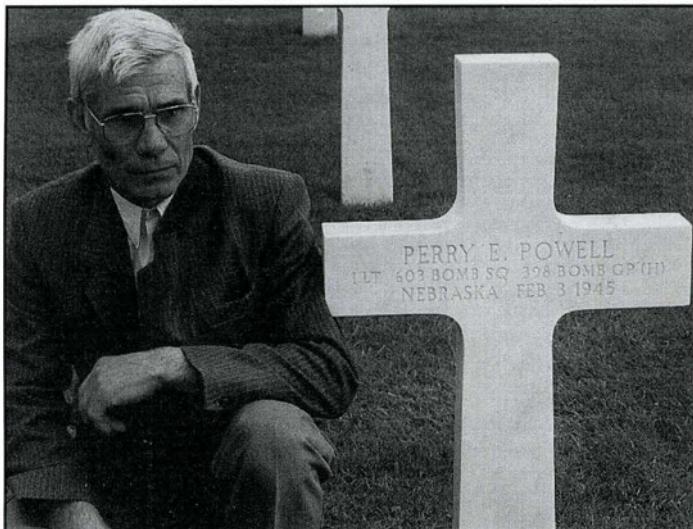
Continued from Page 2.

for the emotions that welled up within as I stepped into the Chapel dedicated to the U.S. Airmen, a stunning mosaic of angels, blue sky, and golden airplanes line the chapel walls and entire ceiling. Windows bear the seals of every state in the Union. This surely is the translation of the emotions of an artist who understood what had happened here. The words of the tribute around the perimeter of the mosaic ceiling say so beautifully and fittingly what is felt by so many. Humbled, I gazed upward and read: "In proud and grateful memory of those men of the U.S. Army Air Force who from these friendly skies flew their final flight and met their God. They knew not the hour, the day, nor the matter of their passing, when far from home they were called to join that heroic band of airmen who had gone before. May they rest in peace."

Since my return to America, I have talked with my father about my trip, which I now feel to have been a pilgrimage. He now shares with me as an adult some of the details about his war experiences that I never would have understood or appreciated before. But there are many details that I'm sure can only be shared with those who have a collective memory of what took place from 1942 to 1945 from air bases all over East Anglia. Part of the great value of the Air Force reunions my parents attend is that they are gathered together with the only people who can ever really understand. Those who flew their missions and worked with them and the spouses and partners who have shared their lives. The British also understand, at least that generation, and to a lesser extent some of the younger (my) generation.

It must not end there. The British have their Friends of the Eighth, a wonderful, dedicated group. But who will keep the spirit and the appreciation alive here at home for the work that was done 50 years ago by this outstanding collection of young men and women? It must be us, the friends and family of the Eighth Air Force, who continue to educate and remind present and future generations what they did to secure the freedoms we so easily take for granted today.

Thank you, Dad, with gratitude and love.



Still On Watch

MARCEL JANSSENS of Belgium was a small boy in Berlare when the B-17 piloted by Perry Powell of the 603rd made a crash landing near his home (FLAK NEWS Vol. 8, No. 3). This was a major event in Marcel's life and he has been a "Friend of the 398th" ever since. Powell was killed on a later mission and buried at Ardennes. Marcel found time to visit the American cemetery recently, as have many other Belgians, Dutch, and Germans who live nearby. Col. Frank P. Hunter's grave site is visited annually by residents of Neuss, Germany, where he was shot down.

Letters, Letters

"Your thoughtfulness, calls, remembrances, love and prayers have meant so much to our family since Bill's departure and have really helped us through very difficult times.

"All of you know how very much Bill enjoyed being with each of you in the states and in England, reminiscing the war stories over and over. We miss his big smile as a good friend, loving husband, great dad and proud grandfather. As Bill would say — may God bless you."

Evelyn Comstock, Fairfax, VA 22031-2625.

"Enclosed is the financial report for the 13th annual reunion at Springfield, Missouri, September 25-28, 1996, including a check for \$2,045.57. It was certainly a great experience for Polly and me. Our rewards are still coming in with kind words and congratulations from everyone."

Jerry & Polly Monagin, Florissant, MO 63033-5601.

"My name was on the FLAK NEWS Taps List last year. By mistake, I hope!"

Stanley W. Gabriel, Lovell, WY 82430-0272. "It was sure a surprise when Harold Clyne came to our front door last October holding two bottles of VAT 69. He had brought them from the reunion in Springfield after others had carried them back from England last June. They went to a lot of trouble, but those of us on the Rice crew who flew that "VAT 69" B-17 over to England really thank you all. Especially for not breaking them in all that travel."

Leo Lorenzo, Jacksonville, FL 32244-2119.

"I know that Bill Comstock is missed by the 398th, but Wally Blackwell, Ted Johnson, and the rest of the group's members will keep your organization strong and vibrant. Your Willis Frazier has done a superb job in pushing for our support for which we are grateful. We now have 3,800 members, but need many more to keep us growing. I hope many 398th members will join this coming year."

Lt. Gen. E.G. (Buck) Shuler, Chairman and CEO, Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum, PO Box 1992, Savannah, GA 31402-1992.

"The October FLAK NEWS article about 398th BG's mission to Poznan on May 29, 1944, is fantastic. Using my own words is great honor for me. Thank you. Story of Lt. Pinner's mission to Poland and Russia was interesting reading. I have never heard about any Fortress in Kutno, Poland. Please send me serial number of Pinner's Big-Bird. It could be repaired by So-viets or reassembled by them for parts.

"I have formed a group of amateur researchers, as a favorite subject of mine is USAF aircraft MIA over Poland in WW II. We will look for Pinner's plane.

"Joyous greetings for Merry Christmas and a bright New Year!"

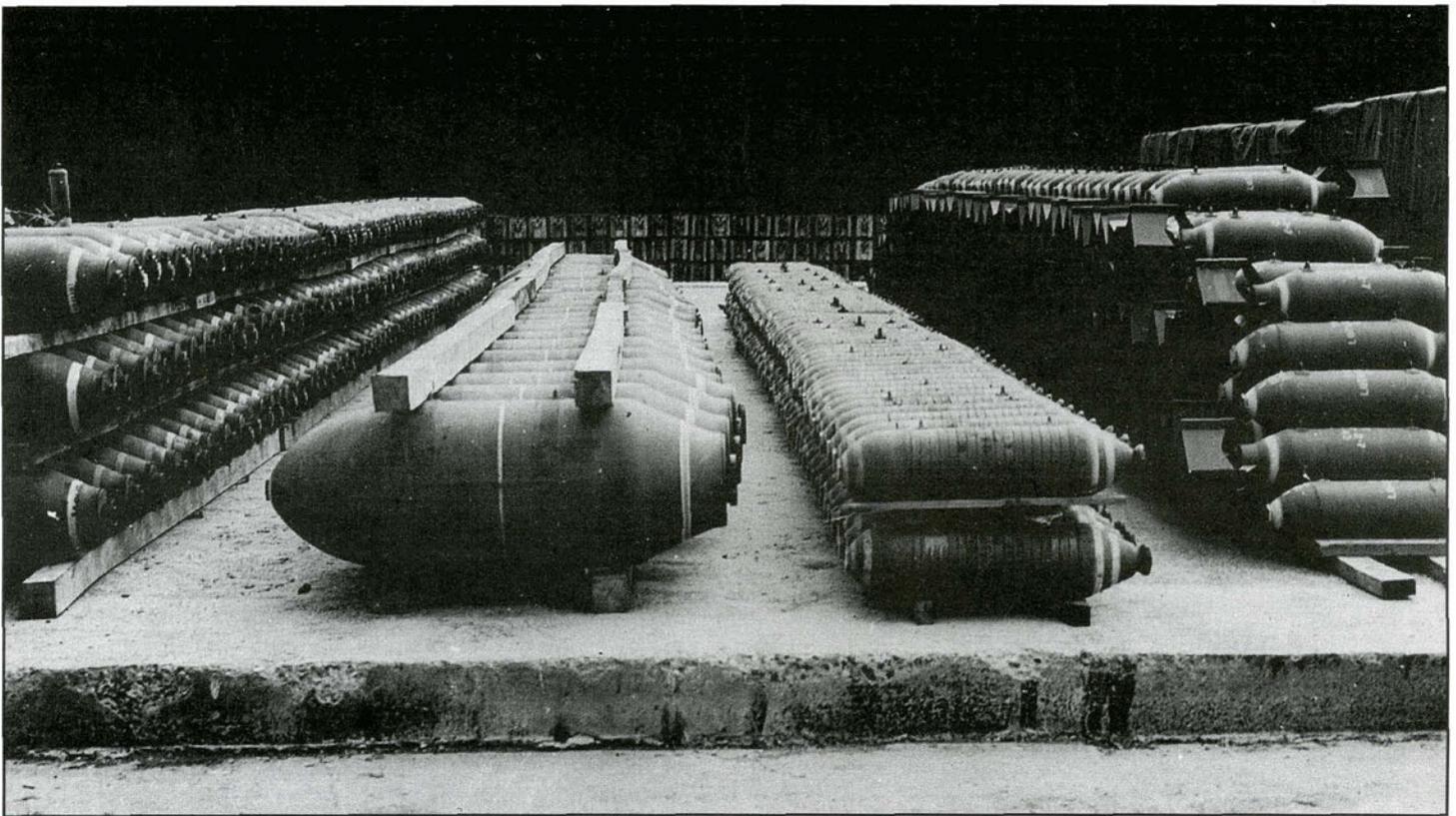
Michal Mucha, Al. Poznan, Poland.

"I'm not sure why, but as I grow older the B-17G appears to be even more beautiful and imposing. The experiences I shared with those exceptional brave and committed young men back then also has increased in value, and I am humbled by my constant awareness of still astonishing survival. This imposes a responsibility to keep the memory of those who offered and gave their lives for decency and freedom are never forgotten."

George Schatz, Highland Park, IL 60035-5207.

The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith;
the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety.

GEORGE MUELLER



THE BOMB DUMP, hidden away in the woods of Scales Park, was the only reason the 398th came to Nuthampstead, and Station 131, 53 years ago. It was the group's purpose to deliver these to selected targets in Nazi Germany. The area has

long since been cleared and new growth has taken the place of the bombs. But nevertheless, vestiges of the old storage areas can still be seen by those who return to the old base for a nostalgic visit, as will be the case in 1998.

The Best Souvenir

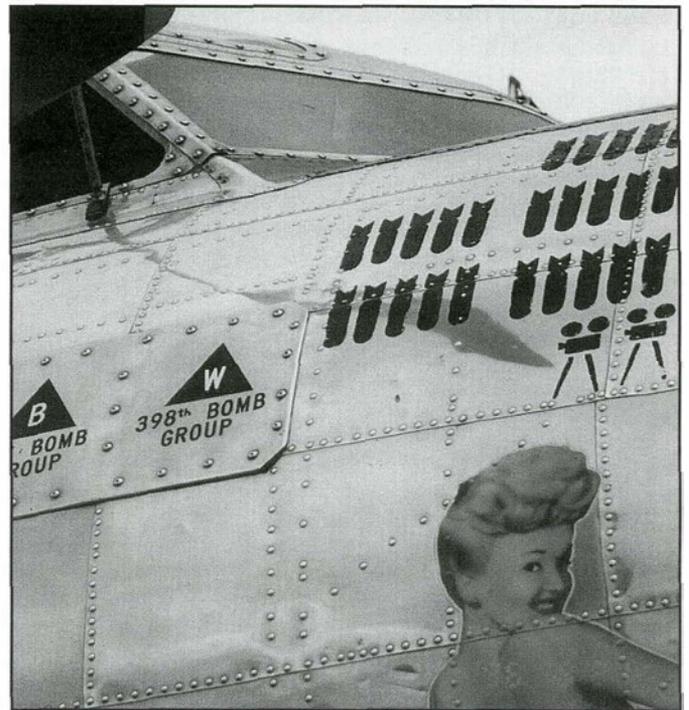
Continued from Page 2.

me some coasters and bar towels from the pub as a keepsake. After taking a whole roll of film of the monument and the pub, to try and capture the moment, we headed back to Cambridge.

I cannot begin to express how much it meant to me. We even had the taxi driver misty eyed. So now I had to get to a phone and call my dad! Because it was June 16th — Father's Day — what a perfect day for my visit, and I could *not* wait to tell him where I had just been. I almost couldn't talk to him I was still so choked up. But I have never been more proud of my father than I was that day. It's like seeing the monument and the pictures in the pub made it very real for me.

In September I went with my husband, Pete, to the 398th reunion in Springfield. We met my parents there. Seeing all of these men at the reunion meant so much more to me, because I have seen the monument and the pictures in the pub, and the war is more real for me now. The pride that was in the young faces in the pictures on the pub walls is still in the older faces of these men. The camaraderie and friendship that I saw are hard to duplicate. I cannot say enough about going to Nuthampstead and seeing it, and I think that I have finally persuaded my parents to go in 1998.

I learned that the 398th had a memorial service the day before we got there. That's why there were flowers and wreaths on the monument. They were put there by the people of the village, and a lot of the flowers were put there by children. That would have been way too emotional for me to see! By the way, the taxicab fare was £50 or about \$80, and it was the best \$80 I have ever spent! Going to Nuthampstead was the best souvenir that I brought back with me, and I didn't even have to pay duty on it. So, my advice is — if you ever get the chance to visit England — please make sure you take a map and get to Nuthampstead!



THE SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY, flagship of the Confederate Air Force's Arizona Wing, displays the triangle W of the 398th Bomb Group beneath the copilot's window. This is in recognition of the contribution made to the CAF a few years ago. Photo was taken by Herb Mann of the 600th on a visit to Oklahoma City. The artwork also reveals 25 missions, two movie cameras, and ... Betty Grable.

398th BOMB GROUP

Summary Financial Report — 1996

Checkbook Balance, January 1, 1996 1,882.87

INCOME:

Membership Contributions —

Annual Dues 3,490.00
 FLAK NEWS 3,507.50
 Memorial Fund 1,757.00
 "In Memory Of" Fund 735.00
 Directory Fund 35.00
 Transfer from Investment Account ... 8,000.00
 PX Sales 5,319.25
 8th AF Association Rebate 306.00
 Reunion Advance 2,000.00
 Springfield Reunion Net 2,380.07
 Interest 18.66
Total Income 27,548.47

EXPENSES:

PX Inventory 3,824.23
 Comstock Scholarship 1,000.00
 Printing 7,028.45
 Postage & Freight 3,363.93
 Telephone 1,282.28
 Office Supplies 469.64
 Misc. Plaques & Flowers 661.25
 Springfield Reunion Advance 2,000.00
 Tax Preparation 50.00
 1997 Reunion Expense 453.72
 Transfer to Investment Account 7,920.57
Total Expenses 28,054.07

Checkbook Balance, January 1, 1997 1,377.27

Investment Account 7,461.72

Book Fund 669.05

Total All Funds 9,508.04

— RALPH HALL, Treasurer

Monument Fund Summary Report

The Monument Fund was created in 1982 for the perpetual care of the memorial at Nuthampstead, England. The fund is administered by a 398th Bomb Group committee, which issues funds to the American Battle Monuments Commission for the actual care and maintenance.

The monies are held in a "Working Capital Management Account" opened in 1993 with the Merrill Lynch brokerage firm and are invested in long-term corporate bonds yielding 8% annually.

1996 Interest Income (Nov. 30, 1996) \$6,883.00

Annual broker's fee 80.00

1996 maintenance fee (not yet received)

Account Market Value (Nov. 30, 1996) ... 57,030.00

— W.A. McLAUGHLIN, Chairman

Haas, Gibb On Committee

One new member and an "associate" have been added to the 398th Bomb Group Memorial Fund committee, it was announced by president Wally Blackwell.

Jim Haas, a bombardier on the 603 Harry Sleamon crew, was named to replace Bob Wiggins, who died last year. Marilyn Gibb, daughter of the late 601 gunner, Jim Crouch, was named to a "Deputy" position on the committee that administers the group's monument fund. Marilyn has visited the Memorial in England and has been to a number of 398th reunions.

\$6,000 In Comstock Scholarship

The scholarship set up to honor the memory of Bill Comstock, 398th president for 20 years, has now reached over \$6,000, according to his widow, Evelyn.

The fund will remain open "for a time," she said. "We are still in the process of deciding how the scholarship funds will be administered."

Aluminum Overcast Set For Spring / Summer Tour

The Aluminum Overcast, adorned with the colors of the 398th Bomb Group, is poised for a 29-city tour this spring and summer, it was announced by Greg Anderson of the sponsoring EAA of Oshkosh.

"We had hoped to come to the West Coast in 1997," he said, "but because of FAA 'clarifications', coupled with an unexpected engine change and bad weather, we had to cancel several eastern visits last fall. We will make up those cancellations this year."

While the schedule is firm as of late January, minor changes could be made. For answers to schedule questions call the EAA, 1-800-359-6217.

Aluminum Overcast Spring-Summer Tour

Tulsa OK	April 11-13	Winchester VA	May 29-June 1
Longview TX	April 13-15	Richmond VA	June 1-3
Jackson MS	April 15-17	Roanoke VA	June 3-5
Birmingham AL	April 17-20	Greensboro NC	June 5-8
Columbus GA	April 22 (only)	Asheville NC	June 8-10
Columbia SC	April 22-24	Knoxville TN	June 10-12
Gwinnett Co. GA	April 24-27	Lebanon TN	June 12-15
Huntsville AL	April 27-29	<i>To Oshkosh for maintenance</i>	
Memphis TN	April 29-May 1	Quincy IL	June 24-26
Little Rock AR	May 1-4	Peoria IL	June 26-29
<i>To Oshkosh for maintenance</i>		Decatur IL	June 29-July 1
St. Louis MO	May 15-18	Kankakee IL	July 1-3
Evansville IN	May 18-20	Lafayette IN	July 3-6
Terre Haute IN	May 20-22	Ft Wayne IN	July 6-8
Indianapolis IN	May 22-25	South Bend IN	July 8-13
Cincinnati OH	May 25-27	<i>To Oshkosh for maintenance and convention</i>	
Huntington WV	May 27-29		

"Holiday Hero" A 398th Man

In Montana, they call him a "Holiday Hero" — *Beryl C. Cooper of Hamilton, Montana.*

Not because he was a radio operator on the lead Norm Rudrud crew of the 602nd, but because of the huge Christmas star he built on his property "on a ridge over the Bitterroot River near Lost Horse Hill."

The giant Christmas star was part of some of the 9,000 lights used in his "Holiday Hero" display.

"Every day is a good day if you get up and enjoy it," said Cooper. "That's what we're doing — enjoying ourselves."

And as fellow Montanan Bill Ivy said —

"If you are looking for some very nice people, try the 398th."

"Pappy's War" Book Available

At the urging of his family, John Paris wrote a book about his World War II adventures with the 398th Bomb Group. This would include being shot down on July 7, 1944, over Leipzig, time is a German PW camp and subsequent escape.

Friends and family then urged Paris to make his book available to others, particularly to members of his Robert Folger 600 crew and members of the 398th in general.

This book is called, "Pappy's War," 100 pages, and can be purchased for \$11.50 a copy, postage included. Order from Paris at Lakeland, FL 33809-2458.

Editor's Note: It's a good one!

BRIEF-things

Your FLAK NEWS editor needs to write, "sorry about that" for reporting in the last issue that the 398th paid for the land under the memorial at Nuthampstead; it was deeded free of charge to the Association by **Robert Dimsdale** ... the title search for the property only dated back to 1513 ... with the passing recently of Dr. **Bill Kavanaugh** of the 602nd, we are now left with only one living flight surgeon, Dr. **Robert Kelly** of the 600th; already deceased are Dr. **Robert Sweet** of the 601st and Dr. **Lewis Hunter** of the 603rd; plus group flight surgeon Dr. **Herman Zampetti**... an interesting article in the November 8th AF News on how they armed the P-51 and P-47 fighters should remind 601 armorer **Merwyn (Johnny) Johnson** of the time he thought he was being transferred to the Battle of the Bulge as an infantryman, but wound up at 8th Fighter Command showing 'em how to bomb load the fighters ... and thanks to **Jim Hill** of the News for running the FLAK NEWS feature on the 8th group missions and losses ... **Frank Kurtz**, an Air Force hero on two fronts, passed on recently; he should be recognized as the pilot of the B-17 "Swoose" from the early days in the Pacific, and 60 missions with the 8th; he earned three Silver Stars, three DFC's, three Air Medals, five presidential citations, and the Croix de Guerre ... to the many folks out there looking for personal responses from the FLAK NEWS editor, please be patient as he has been "up to his eyeballs" moving out of his home of 45 years and into a condo (note his new address and phone) ... he will soon be 88, but Chaplain **James Duvall** is making plans on being at the July reunion in Spokane ... research on the "Georgia Peach" story has been put on hold due to the condo move ... **Walter Small** apologized for being late with his 1996 dues, but his fellow 603 crew members remember when he navigated his **Joe Tarr** crew home all alone from Merseburg, and was only 15 minutes late ... and **Bob Blacker** doesn't need to apologize to treasurer Ralph Hall for his "over and above" dues contribution ... our dear English research specialist, **Johanna Sienkiewicz**, had been helping an Oxford group rebuild a Spitfire fighter, but lack of facilities forced them to sell it to a New Orleans (USA) museum; she is now looking for a new project (preferably a B-17) ... many thanks to our FLAK NEWS subscribers for their many Christmas greetings and words of encouragement, including those from friends in England, Germany, Belgium, Poland, and Czech Republic bearing names like Steve, Les, Bill, Wilfrid, Roger, Jean, Marcel, Alfred, Jitka, Jaromir, Renata, Lesley, Rose, Linda, Ron, Elaine, Geoff, Peter, Kevin, Ladislav, and Michal ... 602 navigator **Dick Hall's** "little girl," **Carol**, now an Air Force major, is flying a computer and desk at Hickam in Hawaii after 12 years' duty in the cockpit; she now helps get Air Force planes through the Pacific with air refuelings ... **Paul Wagner**, the ex-600 B-17 pilot, is navigating through publishing houses trying to get his book into print; it's called, "Youngest To Finish" ... all on his crew were teenagers ... England's Sally B, stationed at Duxford, made another long haul to the continent last June with a 5 1/2 hour flight to Forli in northern Italy; the B-17 was the star of the air show and many Italians opted to tour inside the Fort during those hot days, which made it like "being inside a dark colored tin can with no air movement" ... the Sally B also visited Zoersel, Belgium, last summer ... 1996 took a heavy Taps toll on the 398th membership, which included well-loved 601 CO **Tracy Petersen** ... our friends in Merseburg wanted us to come and visit again during the 1998 tour to Germany, but there were just not enough days; same for our many friends in Pilsen, Czech Republic ... our tree at the Merseburg Castle, is doing just fine and is destined to become a "majestic" tree ... the American Battle Monuments Commission is so impressed with the 398th monument program they may invite our Fund officers to Washington to explain how they do it ...

398th Bomb Group PX



	Qty.	Enter Total Cost
Cap - Fits All Sizes	_____	\$8.00 each _____
(Specify Squadron or Group)		
Jackets - Navy Blue	_____	\$25.00 each _____
(S, M, L, XL, XXL, B-17 on Front)		
Golf Shirts - White or Navy Blue	_____	\$20.00 each _____
(M, L, XL, XXL)		
T-Shirts - Red, White, Navy Blue	_____	\$10.00 each _____
(S, M, L, XL, XXL, B-17 on Front)		
T-Shirts - White, Pink, Blue	_____	\$8.00 each _____
(Children Sizes 2-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14-16)		
Sweat Shirts - Red, White, Navy Blue	_____	\$15.00 each _____
(S, M, L, XL, XXL, B-17 on Front)		
Sweat Shirts - White, Light Blue	_____	\$10.00 each _____
(Children Sizes M & L, B-17 on Front)		
Squadron Patches - Specify Squadron	_____	\$7.00 each _____
Group Patch - "Hell From Heaven"	_____	\$6.00 each _____
Jacket Patch - Rectangle B-17	_____	\$4.00 each _____
Squadron Lapel Pins - Specify Squadron	_____	\$5.00 each _____
Group Lapel Pin	_____	\$5.00 each _____
Group Lapel Pin - Special Design	_____	\$5.00 each _____
Bumper Sticker - 398th Bomb Group	_____	\$1.00 each _____
China Plate with B-17 - 9"	_____	\$6.00 each _____
Glass (9 oz.) with B-17	_____	\$6.00 each _____
Membership Plaque -	_____	\$25.00 each _____
(Specify Regular or Lifetime)		
B-17 Lapel Pin - Specify Silver or Gold	_____	\$5.00 each _____
B-17 Earrings - Specify Silver or Gold	_____	\$9.00 pair _____
(For pierced ears only)		
Photo (Control Tower) - Station #131	_____	\$2.00 each _____
Photo (398th Memorial) - Post Card Size	_____	\$2.00 each _____
Photo (Aluminum Overcast) - 8"x10"	_____	\$12.00 each _____
(Latest photo)		
Bolo Ties - Group Logo	_____	\$4.00 each _____
Golf Towels - Group Logo	_____	\$4.00 each _____
Neck Tie - American Flag	_____	\$22.00 each _____
Folding Umbrella - Red with White B-17	_____	\$18.00 each _____
Beach Towel - White with Black B-17	_____	\$18.00 each _____
Barrel Bag with picture of B-17	_____	\$17.00 each _____
Cost of Items Ordered	_____	\$ _____
Delivery And Handing Add \$3.00, or \$4.00 if Order is Over \$20.00.	_____	\$ _____
Total	_____	\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Make checks payable to 398th Bomb Group Association PX (US funds).
Mail to: Joe Joseph, Defiance, OH 43512-8854

(Orders cannot be filled between November 1 and April 1.)