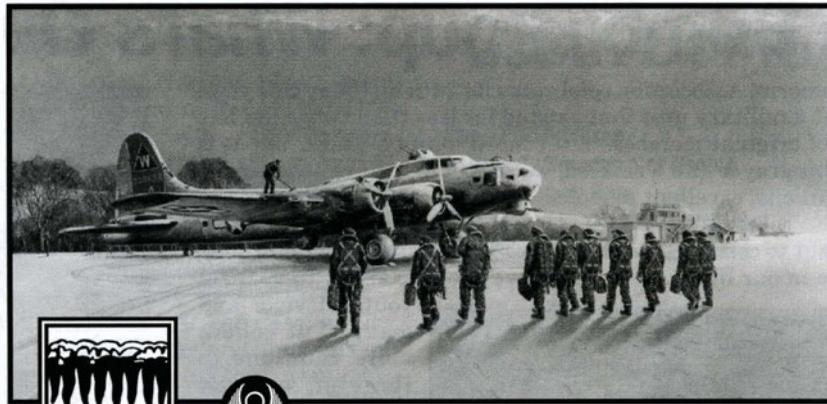




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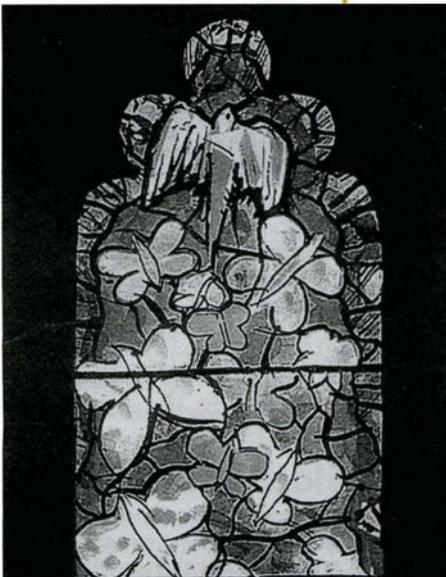
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398th BOMB GROUP MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION • 8th AIR FORCE • 1st AIR DIVISION • NUTHAMPSTEAD, ENGLAND

VOL. 14 NO. 1

FLAK NEWS

JANUARY 1999



June 2000:

The Anstey window dedication — June 2000 — has elicited a tremendous response from our members to join in on the group tour going to England and the continent, still some 17 months away.

Responses have been received from over 80 who wish to revisit Station 131 and then be a part of the ceremony at nearby Anstey for the dedication of the Memorial Window, honoring all from the 398th who died while serving at Nuthampstead in World War II.

This will make it the most successful of all the tours dating back to the original Memorial dedication back in 1982.

Read more about this big event on Pages 3 and 5.

The Ball Turret:

A special photo display dedicated to all ball turret gunners can be found on Page 8.

The Taps List:

FLAK NEWS' annual presentation of the names of all 398th men who have passed on since returning home can be found on Pages 6-7.



“An American Maiden at Nuthampstead”

Since first I saw her on the tarmac.
Some camouflaged, some silver clad,
A generation change, Improved upon.
A ladies cosmetic fad.

She was that picture perfect.
Viewed as some phantom of delight.
Her graces all became her.
She was envy in my sight.

Regal as she sat waiting missions,
Frustrated awaiting engine change,
She pouted as her engines billowed,
Her nose aloof 'til out of range.

Year of the B-24:

Our Liberator friends from the 2nd Air Division have declared 1999 to be the Year of the B-24. See the photo and story on Page 9.

She was proud yet quite forgiving,
Foster children she loved them all,
Like the goddess that she was resolute
And valiant to her mission call.

Yes, I still see that shapely form
Her memory cast upon my mind
As she taxis off for takeoff
Tips her wings to those left behind.

That triangulated “W”
An emblem she proudly wore
I still see on wing and stabilizer
Of each B-17 on tour.

—WESLEY EATCHEL

What's Ahead:

Tell president Wally Blackwell what you consider to be the future of the 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association. Page 2.

The 398th Bomb Group: *What's Our Future?*

The 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association celebrates its 24th birthday this year. It does seem remarkable that a military unit that existed for less than two years has such a devoted Association of original members after more than 55 years. But it is true, and although we are a bit grayer and wrinkled, we continue to have substantial attendance at our annual reunions, excellent responses to tours, and continuing crew and friend networks.

It truly appears that we want to continue to enjoy that proud feeling of having done something well, at least once in our lives. As we know, we average about 75 years of age despite all our vitality. I am sure we have several look forward to face up to the problems to the 398th reunion at some point.

Our defined character organization in-out veterans of the preserving 398th taining memorials. reason is also to ships and do some toric events in our we are doing an ex-pects of that

All decisions re-uties of the Asso-seem under control cial Board. There agendas that I know of, the nature of our reunions are very friendly and we have a newsletter (FLAK NEWS) above reproach in its value to us all.

But, I believe that it is not too early for each of us to do some serious thinking about the future of our 398th Memorial Association. I am really interested in your comments and ideas on this subject. This request especially includes wives, widows, descendants and friends. I do wish those with a serious concern about the future of the 398th Association would take time to express your thoughts on this subject to me in writing.

Please include other comments as you wish, such as cost and location of future reunions as well as your intentions for attending them.

Hopefully I will hear from you and we will have a proposal or two to discuss on this subject at our Oklahoma City 1999 Reunion.

Wally Blackwell, President
398th Bomb Group Memorial Association
Rockville, MD 20850-3067

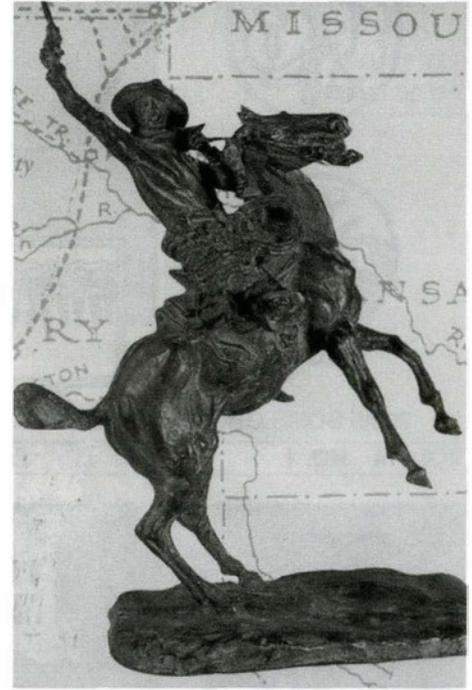


WALLY BLACKWELL

youthful vigor and many of us believe more reunions to However, we must lem of what hap-Memorial Associa-in the future.

ter for existing as cluded searching 398th Bomb Group, history and main-Of course, a prime maintain friend-reliving of the his-past. It is apparent cellent job on all charter right now.

garding the various ciation operation by the 398th Offi-are no conflicting



398th REUNION

August 25-28, 1999

Registration Forms, Hotel Reservations, Tour and General Information will be published in the April 1999 issue of FLAK NEWS.

'44 Yule Remembered

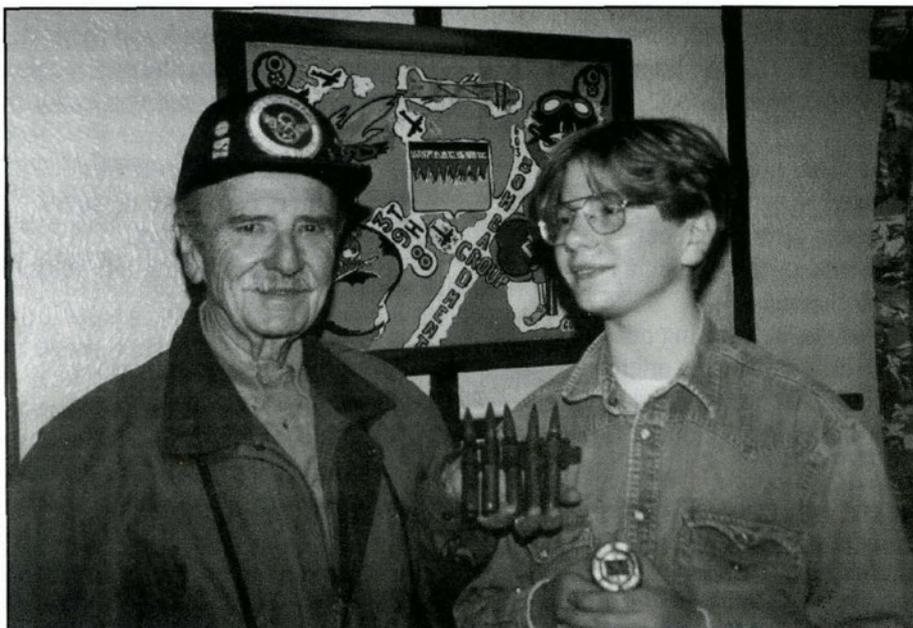
Eighth Air Force News editor Walt Brown is turning out an excellent product in his new position as chief scribe for the Historical Society's magazine.

Witness the December 1998 issues — colorful, newsy and most readable. Also a "MERRY CHRISTMAS" greeting and NEW YEAR'S message for 1999 coupled with the 1944 Christmas experienced by the 398th Bomb Group. How could we forget those two crashes on takeoff, the all-out, four-squadron attack on targets during the Bulge offensive?

And being diverted to other bases coming home and missing a scrumptious Christmas dinner. Well, at least there were turkey sandwiches.

CRASH MEMENTO

JIM WHITE (left) met an interesting young man at the Woodman Inn last summer. Dominic Pike, 15, of Nuthampstead, showed White a clip of five 50 calibre cartridges that he had uncovered in the area where White and his 600 Squadron Don Grinter crew had crashed while trying to take off on December 24, 1944. White was seriously injured in the crack-up and two crew members were killed. Dominic said he had also found bits and pieces from the V.A. Hansard B-17 that crashed November 25, 1944, at nearby Reed.



2000 TOUR ALREADY DECLARED A WINNER

The Year 2000 Tour to England and the continent — still 17 months away — can already be labeled a winner.

It became obvious as soon as the Anstey Window project was announced (even before the fund raising drive was declared a success) that 398th members were ready to go.

At press time, no less than 80 had called in to say “count me in.” This is not to say that the “loading list” is complete at this point. But such an early outpouring of enthusiasm gives hint that the 2000 tour will be the biggest of all time.

Dates of the tour are June 7-20, 2000, with the first six days devoted to Nuthampstead and environs. The tour will headquarter at the new Holiday Inn in Cambridge.

Some folks will opt for an “England Only” segment, while the majority will continue on to the Czech Republic for five days, with headquarters in Pilsen. The final two days will be spent in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Flights from the United States will originate from either Seattle, Washington, or Newark, New Jersey. Complete

travel arrangements are still being formulated, as are the fares.

All flights will be via scheduled air lines. The coach transportation will be handled by Destination Europe of Luxembourg.

Cost of the 14-day tour will be in the neighborhood of \$3,000 per person, similar to the 1998 tour to England and Germany. A formalized tour package will be available early this spring from Associate Member Barbara Fish, 1-800-423-5454.

Following are the members (not counting additional family members) who have indicated they will be on the tour —

Russ Reed, Lowell Culver, Keith Anderson, Bill Fisher, Hamilton Mero, Hank Rudow, Ben Core, Arthur Flatt, Walter Wolff, Paul Roderick, Joe Roberge, Merwyn Hornshuh, Bill Markham, Joe Mansell, Harry Overbaugh, Bob Knowles, Harold Clyne, Dewey Cook, Arnie Schneider, Gertrude Neff, Bob Hart, David Mills, Bill Engle, Ted Gulyas, Maurice Fletcher, Homer Campbell, Eliot Novak, Jan Kolb, Wally Blackwell, Bill Dean, Joe Joseph, Jeanne Stange, Bill McLaughlin, George Hilliard, Phil Swan, Charles Hough, Bill Cole, John Cosco, and Lou Stoffer.

They Remember

WHEN LAST SUMMER'S tour group visited Neuss, Germany, where Col. Frank P. Hunter, Jr., was shot down in 1945, they saw this floral wreath. It was at the base of the tree jointly planted in 1988 by the German Friends and the 398th. The Germans also make a yearly trip to Ardennes Cemetery in Belgium to decorate Col. Hunter's grave.

Photo by Alfred Wilms
Dusseldorf-Herrdt



He Kept Up The Albums To The Very Last

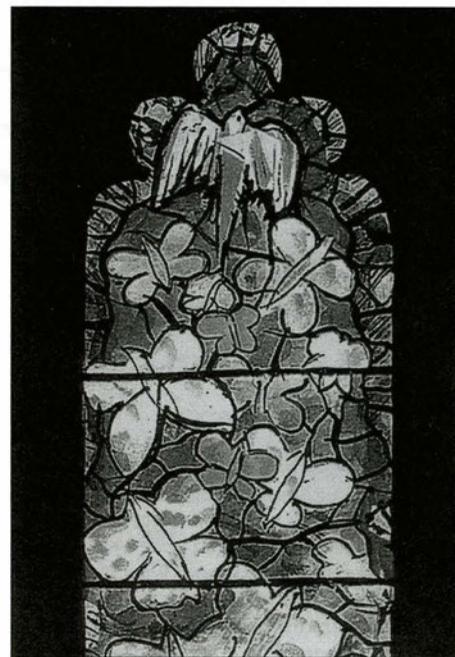
He had been collecting 398th personnel records for many years, including photos of the members as they appeared in recent years and also in World War II.

He took his six big albums to most of the reunions, most recently to Harrisburg, Pa. There he turned them over to president Wally Blackwell with the suggestion that it was time to get them to the 8th Air Force Museum in Savannah, Georgia.

Jack Wintersteen had been named 398th historian by Bill Comstock when the Association was formed in 1976. He gave up his historian role some years ago when his health began failing, but he continued to add to his albums to the very last.

The very last came on November 25, 1998.

His name has been added to the annual Taps list, which appears on Pages 6 and 7.



From The President:

To The 398th Membership

“Just like the butterflies on the Anstey Memorial Window, I knew that the 398th Bomb Group membership would rise to the occasion.

“Our project with the Friends of the 398th in England has been an overwhelming success. The noted British architect Patrick Reyntiens is already at work and we are assured that the window will be in place for the dedication on June 11, 2000.

“You did the 398th proud, so this message of gratitude is pure happiness. It was a monumental display of respect for our fallen comrades. Let me say THANK YOU in capital letters to our membership. And the same for our UK Friends.

— WALLY BLACKWELL

Dues Time For East, Offshore Membership

Dues notices for members living on the East Coast, plus 15 foreign countries, have been inserted in this issue of FLAK NEWS.

Dues are \$10, with voluntary provisions to contribute to FLAK NEWS and a new membership roster.

The following are this quarter's dues states — Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, and Washington DC.

Foreign countries include — England, Ireland, Scotland, Channel Islands, Switzerland, Poland, Czech Republic, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Bahamas, Mexico, Canada, and Australia.

This Story Is For All The Airplane Mechanics Who Changed B-17 Engines

Sally B Crew Members Bring Back Memories

by Paul Littleton

Crew Member, Sally B, England

Steve Carter and I have been responsible for all engine maintenance on *Sally B*, from carrying out the routine checks, to cylinder changes, right up to a complete engine change.

The old no. 2 engine had reached the end of its serviceable life, and had been giving us problems over the last few years. The new engine had arrived in the summer of 1997 and was placed into storage. With the engine, an order was made of 18 new rubber mounts, which connect the engine sub-frame to the engine (there are nine per engine). We already had a new sub-frame, and a gill ring, so we were ready to start our second new engine build.

Chief engineer Peter Brown had decided that Steve and I were to concentrate on the new engine, with Rob Friar and my brother Dave carrying the rest of the engine checks.

Sally B was in the T2 hangar at Duxford by mid October so we had time on our side already. The engines were decowled, and Steve and I started to check no. 2's filters, remove the propeller and disconnect everything at the bulkhead. All the old oil was drained from the main tank and engine into a drum. Then we slacked the four main bearer nuts and pulled the engine away, lowering and fitting it in our turnover stand.

We then started to unbolt, clean, inspect, strip, repaint and label everything. All fittings, hydraulic and fuel pressure pipes, fuel and oil lines, exhaust systems, starter motor, generator, vacuum pump, fuel pump and tachometer. Then carburetor, constant speed unit, engine sub-frame, gill ring and air seal, until all that was left was a bare engine. The four main engine bearer bolts were removed, and with the nine dynafocal mounting bolts, were sent for crack testing and checking.

Then came the difficult part, to remove the new engine from its shipping container and swap it with the old engine onto our stand, and with the use of only a single crane. It's useful how an old main wheel tire is for this type of problem.

By December we had started to build up the engine. The first to be fitted is the air seal. This is two half pieces of circular stainless steel, designed to fill any gaps between engine and sub-frame. Next was the sub-frame which was lowered onto the back of the engine. The sub-frame and engine are connected by the Lord dynafocal engine suspension, a clever system that is necessary to give some flexing between the two parts. It consists of nine rubber mounts, the link

assembly, and the bracket assembly, in total, 23 separate parts. They are all connected through 18 roller bearings, nine cup washers and 27 bolts, each one torqued and split pinned.

Once this lengthy process was finally completed we started to reconnect the starter motor, tachometer, generator, vacuum pump and CSU. Then moving on to carburetor, fuel pump, exhaust system, and any fittings and small pipes at the rear of the engine. Some of the parts we removed were found to require replacement. The CSU, tachometer and vacuum pump were all replaced.

The new year started with us lifting the engine upright, into the flight position on the stand, and fitting all the oil, vacuum and main fuel lines again. The fuel and hydraulic pressure pipes were sent away for testing and replaced with new. We renew any pressure line as part of our routine maintenance procedure, or one that is more than six years old from new. These were about due so were refitted and connected back onto the carburetor.

We continued to reconnect any remaining equipment, and by early February we started to fit and adjust the gill ring assembly. With this completed the engine was now ready to hang back on the aircraft.

On February 15, we finally unbolted and lifted the engine clear of the stand, winching it up to the bulkhead, and slowly pushed it into position. With it now located onto the four main bearer bolts, we fitted the washers, nuts and torqued it all down. We now started reconnecting everything back to the bulkhead. This part would take slightly longer to complete and would also show if the pipe layouts we did while the engine was in the stand, went in the right direction.

The fuel, oil, hydraulic lines, electrical connections and engine controls, etc., were all slowly reconnected. By the end of February all that remained was the front nose ring, final adjustment to the gill ring, a few minor pipes and fittings, and endless amounts of wire-locking.

Throughout the whole of this operation we were continually filling in work sheets ensuring all the paperwork was up-to-date and enduring 'on the spot' inspections by Peter Brown who requires our work to be of the highest standard. The aircraft was due to be repainted. A date of March 8 had been set which meant we had to get out of the hangar by then. We would not be able to do much more until we were ready to carry out the first

Continued on Page 10

VA Health Care Rules Updated

There is a new health-care eligibility law requiring that veterans wishing to receive VA health care apply for enrollment into new health-care priority categories. The law became effective Oct. 1, 1998. The new system will enable veterans to apply simply and quickly for enrollment at any VA medical center.

The new enrollment process will begin with the veteran filling out a one-page application at his or her local VA medical center. The new one-sheet application form replaces 11 pages of forms currently used to determine eligibility for care.

The application goes to the Health Eligibility Center in Atlanta, which certifies the information against VA records and assigns it to one of the seven priority categories. That certified application is then assessed by VHA Medical Administration Service for final approval based on its eligibility category and the ability of the VHA budget to provide health care to the number of veterans in that category.

VHA is now in the midst of "auto-enrolling" some 4 million veterans documented as having received VA health-care services between Oct. 1, 1996, and Sept. 30, 1997.

Misinformation about the nature of the transition of pre-enrollment application processing swept the nation via Internet in March and April of 1998. In fact, veterans interested in obtaining VA health care after Oct. 1, 1998, are being asked to apply in advance so that the VHA can develop its enrollment databases and project how many enrolled veterans it can expect; but they could apply anytime before or after Oct. 1, 1998, and still receive care.

Once enrolled, veterans will have equal eligibility for health-care services offered by VA in the benefits package, whether provided on the inpatient or outpatient basis. That "uniform benefits package" will encompass the comprehensive inpatient, ambulatory, and rehabilitative care services traditionally provided by VA, along with preventive care services, drugs and prosthetics.

A hot-line has been established to provide details on enrollment, enrollment forms, and additional information. The hot-line, which is staffed from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Saturday, is 1-877-222-8387.

EAA Tour Schedule

Members wishing to check on the Aluminum Overcast's spring tour schedule are invited to call 1-800-359-6127 or visit their Web Site at www.eaa.org.

The summer schedule, and possibly the EAA schedule for the rest of the year, will be published in the April issue of FLAK NEWS.



The Church That Was Spared

St. George's Church at Anstey, England, is where a Memorial Window will be dedicated in memory of the 398th men who were killed while serving at Station 131, Nuthampstead. This photo presents a view of the 12th century church from the nearby moat, into which a 603 Fortress crashed on takeoff, taking the lives of 10 crew members.

The dedication will take place on June 11, 2000, during the first part of a 14-day group tour that will also include the Czech Republic and Copenhagen, Denmark.

Members of that ill-fated lead crew that crashed into the Anstey moat were Bill Meyran, pilot; Charles Khourie, CA; Bill Vanderlick, navigator; John Baker, Mickey navigator; Carlton Moore, bombardier; Bill Tull, engineer; George Barton, radio operator; Charles Kennedy, ball turret gunner; Victor Petrauskas, waist gunner; and Melvin Brown, tail gunner.

Members of the original Meyran crew who were not aboard that day include Larry Paul, co-pilot; Warren Davidson, navigator; and Bernie White, bombardier. All are current members of the Association.

FLAK NEWS Appeal

It seems that there is always a need for FLAK NEWS to appeal to the membership to keep the Editor informed of address changes. We don't want to lose a single member, but it happens too often.

Most recent losses are Peter Mullin, Frank Henning, Richard Cousineau, Charles Lollar, and Robert Templeton.

Another request is for family members of one deceased but still receiving FLAK NEWS to make this known to the Editor.

More 398th Members With E-mail Addresses

EAA Aviation Foundation	Oshkosh, WI	Web Site <www.eaa.org>
B-17 Combat Crewmen & Wingmen	South Gate, CA	
Bill Clacker	Plano, TX	
Wilfrid Dimsdale	England	
Dallas Ebest	San Antonio, TX	
Harold Flynt	Jacksonville, FL	
Harold Flynt	Jacksonville, FL	
Imperial War Museum	Duxford, Eng. . .	<106250.1736@compuserve.com>
Eileen Moore	Kent, WA	
Howard Pinner	Black Mountain, NC	
Russ Reed	Port Ludlow, WA	
Phillip R. Swan	Orlando, FL	
David E. Swift	Los Angeles, CA	
Paul Wagner	Albuquerque, NM	
Jan Zdiarsky	Czech Republic	

B-17 Related Web Sites On The Internet

398th Bomb Group	Cincinnati, OH	<http://www.398th.org>
Aluminum Overcast	Oshkosh, WI	<www.eaa.org>
B-17 Combat Crewmen	South Gate, CA	<www.b-17combatcrewmen.org>
B-17 Vet	South Gate, CA	<www.i-networks.com/memories>
Mighty 8th Museum	Savannah, GA	<www.mighty8thmuseum.com>

A Toast To Absent Friends

© 1997 Cate Ludlum

To absent friends
 whose faces we hold close
 in dog-eared snapshots
 well-worn frames
 and hearts that sometimes ache
 to hear that voice once more
 your footstep at the door
 and memory swings wide
 and senses all awake
 and all the life and joy
 come flooding back inside

We toast you now
 you bless our gathering here
 in gifts you gave to each
 we all now share
 your smile that flashed
 across the room is there
 your merry eyes
 your feet that danced
 your hands we'll feel in ours
 as in a ring we sing the song
 the path from heart to heart
 is board, but never long

We gather bright bouquets
 of memories tonight
 and lay them at your feet
 Oh friendship!

What a blessing, so complete
 it reaches over fences, over borders
 over politics and social orders
 over color, gender, age
 through space and time
 and like a golden thread
 binds heart to heart
 and lets us know, together or apart
 there is no separation in our love
 from those on earth
 or those with God above

Cate Ludlum, daughter of the late Charles Ludlum, read this poem in Cambridge last summer while on the England tour. It is printed here in memory of the men of the 398th who passed on since returning home from WW II. The list appears on Pages 5 and 6. The list of members Killed In Action will appear in a forthcoming issue of FLAK NEWS.

Is Your Name Spelled Correctly?

Every person who contributed to the Memorial Window at Anstey, England, will have their name inscribed in a Book of Remembrances to be kept at the church. The Friends of the 398th are anxious that each contributor ascertain that their name is correctly spelled, and to advise them of any error. Contact Wilfrid Dimsdale, Buntingford, Herts SG9 0AY, England.

Abide With Me — Fast Falls The Eventide

Adamak, Edward
 Adams, Eugene R.
 Adleman, Milo
 Agnew, Harry
 Agnew, Robert
 Alexander, Claude
 Allare, John
 Alves, Alfred
 Amer, Jerry
 Anderson, Emil
 Anderson, Frank
 Anderson, Ralph
 Anderson, Roy L.
 Anderson, Russell M.
 Anderson, William G.
 Andreko, Andrew
 Andrews, Kenneth E.
 Arbogast, F.E. (Phil)
 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.
 Aune, Arnt M.
 Austad, Kermit
 Axson, Jason M.
 Baer, Howard F.
 Bagley, Bernard
 Bahling, John W.
 Bailey, Ray E.
 Baird, Harold
 Baker, Albert A.
 Baker, Cova
 Baker, Hermus C.
 Baldwin, Mondo L.
 Ballard, Charles W.
 Bancroft, Joseph (Dave)
 Bangert, James
 Bangson, Barry D.
 Baptist, Claude A.
 Barkovich, Fred
 Barnes, Lynn W.
 Barnhard, Joseph E.
 Barnshaw, Thomas J.
 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.
 Beck, John W.
 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.
 Berryhill, Col. Earl
 Berthoud, Charles
 Bewley, James A.
 Biancardi, Andrew
 Biette, Paul W.
 Bigda, Joseph

Bingle, Henry
 Bird, John C.
 Bittner, Walter
 Blancett, Marvin
 Blanda, Guido
 Blankenship, G.W.
 Blehm, Frederick W.
 Bley, Winston
 Blum, Lowell
 Bobbitt, James M.S.
 Boeger, Orv. W.
 Boersma, Ted
 Bogard, Williard B.
 Bolthouse, Charles
 Bolton, Vencil
 Boltz, Phillip T.
 Bonanno, Salvatore
 Bonjani, Bruno
 Bornstedt, John W.
 Bosshart, Herbert
 Bottoms, Millard S.
 Bourke, Joseph E.
 Bowcock, H. Guy
 Bowman, Leonard L.
 Boyes, Haskell
 Braddock, Heyward M.
 Brady, Jack
 Breault, Al
 Breimeyer, Royal
 Brewer, Darrell F.
 Bridges, Clarence W.
 Briody, James J.
 Britt, Thomas F.
 Brockman, James W.
 Brokaw, Rev. Raymond C.
 Brown, E. Logan
 Brown, James C.
 Brown, Lawrence
 Brown, Orland D.
 Brown, Paul
 Brown, Robert E.
 Brown, Samuel M.
 Brown, Sidney
 Brubaker, Wayne
 Brunke, Earl H.
 Bryant, Edward M.
 Buck, Chester S.
 Buck, Herman J.
 Buckingham, James S.
 Buckley, Francis X.
 Burke, Al
 Burton, John
 Buscani, John P.
 Bushle, Louis
 Butler, John
 Buvinger, David
 Buzza, Kenneth
 Callahan, Noel
 Campbell, Tom
 Campbell, Van B.
 Campdon, Alfred
 Carlton, Donald P.
 Carter, Nigel
 Carter, Robert C., *Watson
 Crew*
 Cason, Alfred
 Castro, Edward
 Charbonneau, Francis
 Chase, Lewis D.
 Chesshir, Kenneth
 Chimelewski, Raymond J.
 Chorba, Robert T.
 Chrisman, Estil L.
 Christofer, George
 Christopher, Arthur C.
 Church, Fred M.
 Church, Harold M.
 Churchill, Wesley H.
 Civitaresse, William A.

Clafford, Lloyd
 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.
 Colvin, William L.
 Colwell, John
 Comstock, William G.
 Coombs, William F.
 Coomes, Ralph S.
 Cooper, D.G. (Bud)
 Cooper, Joseph D.
 Coopet, Joseph L.
 Corcoran, Joseph W.
 Corry, Fr. George
 Corsuti, Anthony
 Cote, Arthur
 Coupert, Bernard
 Coville, Paul A.
 Cowen, Harry
 Cowley, John J.
 Cox, Howard W.
 Cox, Norman
 Crawford, Paul
 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.
 Darcy, Lawrence
 Darner, Leroy
 David, Paul M.
 Davidoff, Herman
 Davidson, Wm. H.
 Davis, Jack
 Davis, John H.
 Delancey, Lawrence
 Delbart, Raymond S.
 Delcamp, Clarence E.
 Delorier, Joseph
 Delorimier, John B.
 Demander, John L.
 Desh, Herb
 Devan, Samuel
 Devlin, Steve
 Dexter, Robert L.
 Dezan, Burton H.
 Dick, Russell O.
 Dickhart, Clarence
 Dierolf, Claude E.
 Dippel, Francis
 Dixon, Gerald
 Doles, Robert F.
 Donovan, George
 Dougherty, A.L.
 Douglas, Gene
 Downing, Robert A.
 Dreyer, Charles G.
 Driscoll, John T.
 Duncan, John W.
 Dunn, Richard J.
 Dunne, Bill
 Durbin, Francis
 Dutrow, Gordon P.

Dwyer, William J.
 Edgell, Harry
 Edgington, Gilbert
 Edick, C. Kenneth
 Edwards, John H.
 Ehil, Edward
 Ehret, Clarence
 Eisele, Francis C.
 Elsrud, Orville
 Elwood, Kenneth
 Emmons, James W.
 Engard, Robert
 Erickson, Edward H.
 Erickson, Mahlon
 Erickson, Paul W.
 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
 Fender, Maj. Keith C.
 Ferguson, Reginald C.
 Fernandez, Frank
 Fields, Jerome G.
 Fleming, Horace
 Fletcher, Richard E.
 Flickinger, Charles R.
 Folger, Robert
 Foraker, Kenneth H.
 Foster, Dean L.
 Foster, George E.
 Foster, Paul
 Fowler, Hannibal
 Franceschini, Gino
 Freel, Lawrence A.
 French, Ozie
 Frew, George
 Fritog, Arthur
 Fritz, Jack
 Froelich, James S.
 Gabriel, Frank E.
 Gagnon, Glen S.
 Gallardo, Octavus
 Galloway, Robert C.
 Galloway, Robert F.
 Garland, Jack S.
 Gary, B.
 Gasbarro, John J.
 Gaulke, Gerald G.
 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
 Gosse, Earl H.
 Gouveia, George
 Graff, Stephen J.
 Grange, George
 Grant, Sam
 Gray, Jay O.
 Green, Norbert
 Green, Sam B.
 Greenberg, Abraham
 Gregorie, Robert K.
 Gresh, Steve

Griffo, Arthur
 Grossman, M.
 Grothues, Al
 Gruber, Fred
 Guild, Herbert
 Gulledge, Thomas G.
 Gurney, Julius
 Guy, Chester L.
 Hafer, George C.
 Hager, Herman L.
 Hakomaki, Floyd
 Hale, Robert D.
 Hall, Joe
 Haller, John A.
 Hamacher, Ross L.
 Hanauer, James
 Hancock, William C.
 Hapgood, Alfred
 Hardenburg, Harry B.
 Hardy, Arnold
 Harmon, Carl H.
 Harrington, Cornelius
 Harrington, Robert E.
 Hart, Karl E.
 Hartsell, William S.
 Hartwell, George W.
 Hatch, Dwight
 Hatcher, Robert
 Hatten, Harold R.
 Haworth, William A.
 Hayward, Harold D.
 Hazlitt, James R.
 Hedeon, Melvin
 Heitman, Paul F.
 Henagan, Henry H.
 Hendrickson, William
 Henning, Frank
 Hennrikus, 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
 Hineman, William
 Hinkle, Dwight
 Hoag, Edward
 Hoak, William P.
 Hoddesdon, S. Leathers
 Hogrefe, Carl H.
 Holbrook, John T.
 Holloway, Edwin C.
 Holloway, James B.
 Holmes, Blair
 Holmes, William J.
 Holmly, Lester
 Holstead, James
 Hopp, Frank J.
 Horton, Paul A.
 Houchins, Harry
 Howard, Roger
 Howard, Grant
 Hoyne, Earl K.
 Hreachmack, Joseph
 Hudson, Herman D.
 Hughes, Byron B.
 Hunnicutt, Elzie
 Hunsaker, Edwin F.
 Hunt, Mack
 Hunter, Charles F.
 Hunter, Dr. Lewis B.
 Huntington, Sam, *Associate*
 Huntzinger, Ed
 Hutchinson, John L.

Hyland, Gervase (Gerry)
 Inman, Willie H.
 Isdahl, Chester R.
 Jackson, Leroy K.
 Jackson, Paul K.
 Jarman, Gordon
 Jeffries, Kenneth V.
 Jellen, Anthony J.
 Jellison, Elwell S.
 Jendrezweski, Ray
 Jenkins, James
 Jennings, George W.
 Johanson, Dennis
 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
 Karnell, Peter J.
 Katz, Harry
 Kauffman, Kenyon G.
 Kavanaugh, Dr. William R.
 Kay, Allen
 Kearney, Earl
 Keene, Raymond
 Kelly, Jerome F.
 Kelly, Dr. Robert
 Kenyon, Donald E.
 Keyes, Frank T.
 Kilby, William C.
 Kimball, Dale
 King, Charles E.
 King, Donald
 Kirscher, John E.
 Kiser, Kenneth
 Kite, Dallas E.
 Klimaszewski, 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.
 Kozak, Stephen V.
 Kramer, Harvey
 Kramer, Virgil F.
 Krause, John J.
 Krebs, Eugene F.
 Kroh, Charles H.
 Kuck, Homer R.
 Kuenneth, George W.
 Kypta, Harold A.
 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
 Libertucci, Peter
 Licker, Herbert
 Like, Waldean
 Lindo, Fred
 Lindomen, Edwin
 Linke, Walter J.
 Locy, John

Long, Douglas
 Loveless, Harold
 Lovely, Robert
 Lowe, Donald B.
 Lowe, Lloyd F.
 Lucas, Wilbur F.
 Ludlam, Charles W.
 Lundy, Douglas M.
 Lusk, Walter A.
 Lutz, Joseph
 Luukinen, Albert L.
 Lynch, Floyd
 Mac Phail, Basil
 Mackey, Frank
 Madden, Edward F.
 Madlung, Jack
 Magnan, Mark
 Maher, Jere L.
 Mahlum, Clayton
 Mallory, Jack D.
 Maloney, Clarence E.
 Mann, Douglas
 Manzi, Jerry
 Mapel, Donald E.
 Marchbanks, Tom
 Marfilius, Elmer H.
 Martin, George A.
 Martinek, Emil J.
 Martone, August J.
 Martorella, Angelo

Miceli, Gaspera (Bob)
 Michael, Robert D.
 Miller, John H.
 Miller, Lewis M.
 Miller, Mike C.
 Miller, Paul
 Miller, Samuel B.
 Mills, Leonard P.
 Mills, Richard (Rocker)
 Mitchell, George
 Molesworth, Robert W.
 Money, Arnold
 Moore, Randolph
 Moore, Vincent
 Morauer, Richard
 Moretti, Raymond J.
 Morneau, Edward T.
 Morris, Stacey
 Morrison, Donald L.
 Morrison, Preston R.
 Morrison, Russell
 Moss, Latrelle R.
 Motsenbocker, H.D.
 Motter, William F.
 Mudloff, Arthur F.
 Mullins, John A.
 Mummert, William S.
 Mundhenke, Roland D.
 Myers, Reuel Jr.
 Naioti, John F.

Paxson, Theodore E.
 Payne, Claude N.
 Payne, Marshall M.
 Peach, Tom
 Peek, Kenneth R.
 Penland, Joe
 Perrou, Ed
 Perry, Arthur M.
 Petersen, Tracy J.
 Peterson, Christian
 Peterson, Raymond
 Petska, Albert M.
 Pfeiffer, Robert
 Pierzchala, Benjamin J.
 Pinteck, 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
 Rayes, Charles J.

Schapiro, Joseph S.
 Schmidt, Richard H.
 Schneider, John
 Schoen, Ernest A.
 Schoener, George W.
 Schofield, James
 Schultz, William P.
 Schumacher, Alpha H.
 Schwerer, George J.
 Scott, Ernest D.
 Scott, Norman T.
 Scott, R. F.
 Scott, Talma A.
 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.
 Shirck, Charles W.
 Shott, Edwin E.
 Shreve, Eli
 Siegenthaler, Anthony F

Stelmach, Walter
 Stephens, James
 Sternadel, Robert L.
 Stetter, Paul J.
 Stickle, Robert F.
 Stiles, Jack
 Stockman, A.J.
 Stombaugh, C.E.
 Stone, Warren
 Stout, Plato
 Strickrott, Carl J.
 Stripling, Aaron M.
 Strnad, Frank
 Strohschein, Wallace
 Struckmeyer, Tom
 Studor, Howard P.
 Suggest, Walter
 Sullivan, The Rev. Walter B.,
Catholic Chaplain
 Sutton, Barney M.
 Swan, Neil
 Sweet, Dr. Robert
 Szubka, Sigmund
 Tacker, Laurence J.
 Tatchio, Orrin R.
 Taylor, Franklin
 Teague, Herbert
 Terbieten, Dr. Urban
 Terrion, Leo W.
 Thacker, Ike

Waldbauer, Charles A.
 Waldman, Benjamin I.
 Walker, Robert L.
 Walkup, Charles A.
 Walrath, Raymond
 Walter, R.N.
 Walthall, Ernest
 Ward, John
 Waring, Leonard H.
 Warren, Alfred
 Wasserman, Charles
 Watkins, Sam
 Watson, Leland A.
 Weatherax, C.D.
 Weaver, Wayne
 Webb, Henry
 Welder, Leo J.
 Welence, Edmund W.
 Wells, Burton B.
 Wells, David, *Honorary Member*
 Wheeler, William J.
 Wheelless, H.A.
 White, Victor H.
 Whitehead, Fred A.
 Whitman, Fred
 Wickam, James E.
 Wickman, Walter
 Wierney, Joseph
 Wiggins, Robert E.

Abide With Me

And now, . . . abide in Him, that when He shall appear we may have confidence,
 and not be ashamed . . . — I John 2:28

EVENTIDE
 William H. Monk

Henry F. Lyte

I A - bide with me - fast falls the e - ven - tide; The dark-ness deep-ens -

Massey, Frank
 Masters, Marvert
 Mates, Stanley
 Matheson, Burton
 Matthews, Tom
 Mattson, George
 Maudsley, Donald R.
 May, John M.
 Mayers, Joseph W.
 Mayhall, James
 Mazzanti, Eugene P.
 McAllister, John G.
 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, Claude A.
 Melis, Charles
 Melson, Rufus
 Merchant, Charles A.
 Merritt, Charles A.
 Merritt, Donald
 Mertz, Eugene R.
 Meyers, Russ

Namey, John
 Naragon, Daniel J.
 Nash, George N.
 Neidringhaus, M.A. (Bud)
 Neill, David S.
 Nejkaski, Leroy
 Nelson, Gene
 Nelson, J.C.
 Nelson, Orville
 Newman, Elvis M.
 Noble, Earl
 Norby, William
 Notorpole, Robert J.
 O'Brien, John W.
 O'Brien, Robert A.
 O'Brien, Robert J.
 O'Connell, Danny
 Oeder, Robert M.
 Offutt, Marion
 Olson, Otto
 Ongley, Bert
 Osborn, John W.
 Oswalt, D. Stewart
 Otto, William M.
 Overton, Vernon
 Overturf, Thomas V.
 Owens, Blaine
 Painschab, Joseph H.
 Pappas, Venizelos G.
 Paris, Archie
 Parrish, Lewis E.
 Parsons, B.H.
 Paugh, Thomas E.

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, Dwight E.
 Ross, Gaylord
 Rossi, James H.
 Ruboski, John A.
 Rudrud, Norman V.
 Rush, Donald E.
 Ryan, James B.
 Ryan, Michael O.
 Ryle, Raymond S.
 Sachs, Stanley
 Saglin, Carl O.
 Sawyer, Hiram N.
 Schallert, Maurice
 Schantzbach, John H.

Sighting, William M.
 Sigsworth, John R.
 Sillin, James C.
 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, Paul W.
 Smith, Ralph D.
 Snyder, Frank A.
 Sorrell, Glenn M.
 Southwick, Earl J.
 Spain, Edwin F.
 Spaw, Elmer
 Spear, Charles F.
 Sponholtz, Milo
 Staley, Edmund E.
 Stallings, Harold
 Stanbrough, Claude
 Stange, Raymond P.
 Stankiewicz, Charles
 Starkey, Robert P.
 Staskiel, Stanley
 Steinberger, Edwin

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.
 Totter, Joseph H.
 Townsend, Charles
 Townsley, Kenneth
 Tracey, Claude W.
 Trask, Gerald E.
 Travers, John T.
 Treff, Lee M.
 Triebwasser, Sidney
 Troost, H.M.
 Tryon, William V.
 Tucker, Frank
 Turner, Mark
 Unkel, Rudolph E.
 Upmeier, Tom
 Vale, William G.
 Vanderlick, William
 Veech, Evert M.
 Vela, George E.
 Veley, Les
 Vernet, Waldemar
 Vicha, Raymond A.
 Vines, John H.
 Waaramaa, Arthur

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.
 Winkler, Raymond A.
 Wintersteen, Jack
 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
 Zawatsky, Walter F.
 Zimmerman, Leland

THE BALL TURRET

The ball turret was a crowded place,
About forty inches.
It hung below the bomber,
A gunner flew inside.

And we won't forget that gunner,
But I guess we'll never know.
How alone he really was,
The guy who flew below.

Not only was it crowded,
But it was lonely too.
The man who had to fly there,
Was the man who really knew.

Now there are only memories,
For those who did come back.
We won't forget those fighters,
We won't forget that flak.

He had a pair of "fifties,"
One on either side.
The way he manned those "fifties,"
Filled us all with pride.

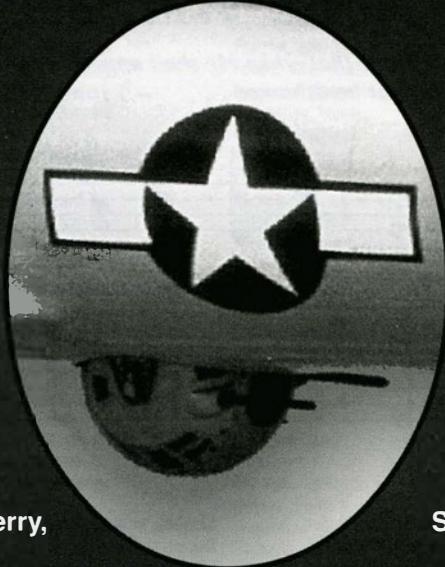
He could be attacked by fighters,
Or he could be hit by flak.
That's why there were so many,
Who never made it back.

He'd line up those guns,
By swinging left and right.
He'd keep working with that Sperry,
'Til his target was in sight

That gunner fought a lonely fight,
As he hung there down below.
Some things happened up above,
That he didn't even know.

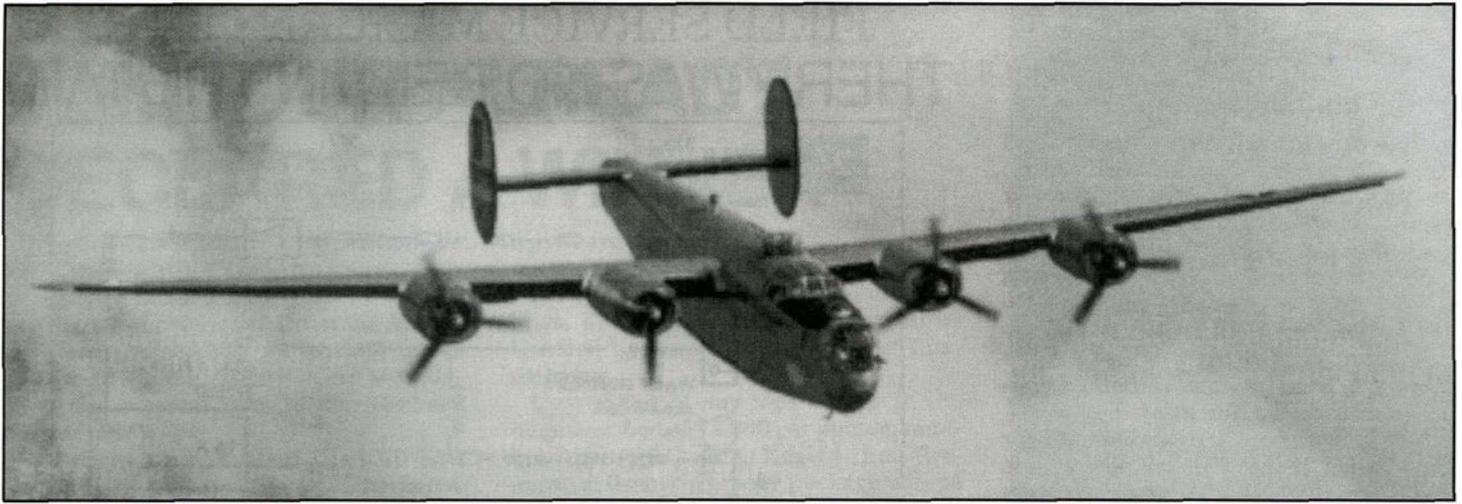
Then you'd hear those fifties chatter,
You'd feel the bomber shake.
We were depending on that gunner,
Our lives were all at stake.

He flew all his missions,
Beneath the bomber, on his back.
As he fought off those fighters,
He was alone in all that flak.



GUNNER

THANKS TO R.V. MILLER
306th Bomb Group



“1999 — The Year Of The B-24”

The B-17 Flying Fortress had its Big Year in 1985 — the 50th anniversary year since its development. Many thousands of B-17 types came to Seattle to pay their respects, including several hundred from the 398th to participate in the group’s second annual reunion.

This year our friends who flew “that other bomber” will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Consolidated B-24 — The Liberator. They are calling it, “The Year Of The B-24.”

While the B-17 fraternity has a number of flying Forts, including our “own” EAA “Aluminum Overcast,” the Liberator folks are down to one — the Collings

Foundation’s “All American.”

They are now calling it an “endangered species.”

This, despite the fact that the B-24 represents the most produced American aircraft (military and civilian) of all time.

A total of 18,479 Liberators were built between 1939 and 1945. This compared to 12,731 Fortresses.

The B-24 was built in five different factories, principally at the Ford plant in Willow Run, Michigan.

Lyle Niswander of the Air Force Association observed, “If there were an endangered species for aircraft the B-24 would be at the top of the list.

“Imagine the positive support and reaction if there were only 10 bald eagles left in the world, and only one was in healthy flying condition.

“I believe the B-24 had a more direct impact on more Americans and on our

freedom than any of those magnificent eagles,” he added.

The B-24 was designed to the specifications of the Army Air Corps — speed 300, range 3,000 miles, altitude 30,000 feet, bomb load 8,000 pounds. At the peak of production one Liberator was “hatched” every 55 minutes.

It first flew in December 1939. During World War II it flew more missions and dropped more bombs than any other aircraft. It served the Air Force in every theater of operations and flew for 15 nations.

The Liberator was flown by crews in the 2nd Air Division of the Eighth Air Force. The 1st and 3rd Divisions had B-17’s.

The 60th anniversary of the B-24 will be celebrated in May 1999 at the reunion of the 2nd Air Division Association in Austin, Texas.

2nd Air Division 8th Air Force

2nd Combat Wing:

- © 389th Bomb Group Hethel
- Ⓣ 445th Bomb Group Tibenham
- Ⓢ 453rd Bomb Group Old Buckenham

14th Combat Wing:

- Ⓐ 44th Bomb Group Shipdham
- Ⓢ 392nd Bomb Group Wendling
- Ⓢ 492nd Bomb Group No. Pickenham

20th Combat Wing:

- Ⓢ 93rd Bomb Group Hardwick
- Ⓣ 446th Bomb Group Bungay
- Ⓢ 448th Bomb Group Seething

96th Combat Wing

- Ⓢ 458th Bomb Group Horsham St. Faith
- Ⓢ 466th Bomb Group Attlebridge
- Ⓣ 467th Bomb Group Rackheath

95th Combat Wing:

- Ⓢ 489th Bomb Group Halesworth
To 20th Combat Wing after Aug. 15, 1944
- Ⓢ 491st Bomb Group Metfield
To 14th Bomb Group after Aug. 15, 1944

Liberators At Willow Run



Sally B

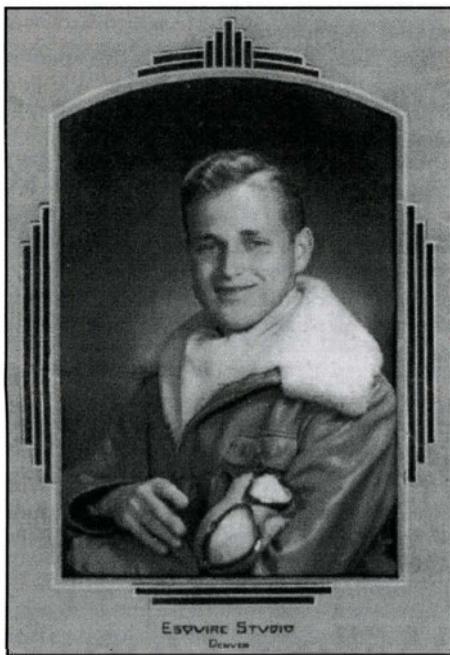
Continued from Page 4.

ground runs in early May, so as the final weeks in the hangar arrived we fitted the cowlings back on and carried out any last minute connections and adjustments that we could.

Sally B left the hangar by midday on the 8th, and was towed to outside hangar 5 where we would remove the ailerons and outer wings, enabling the aircraft to fit in the smaller Belfast hangar in preparation for spraying.

All the work we have carried out over the last few months on the new engine installation should give us many years of trouble free servicability.

The foregoing article appeared in the Spring issue of SALLY B NEWS, B-17 Preservation, Suffolk, England.



Who Knows Him?

THE ESQUIRE STUDIO of Denver made this framed photo of a soon to be 398th gunner, probably in 1943. The photo was found recently in England, tucked in a copy of the 1946 group history book. Can someone out there solve this little mystery. Contact the FLAK NEWS editor.

“SOP” Document To 8th Museum

A copy of the 398th Bomb Group booklet, “SOP” has been sent to the 8th Air Force Museum library in Savannah, GA. The original was given to the Hertfordshire record Center, Hertford, England, in 1996.

“SOP” stands for Standard Operating Procedure and deals with every aspect of operating a 398th B-17 in combat in WW II. It was written by Bruce Daily, who served as operations officer and CO of the 600th Squadron, and also as Group operations Officer

FIELD SERVICE MANUAL • B-17G THERE WAS NO BELL IN THE TAIL!

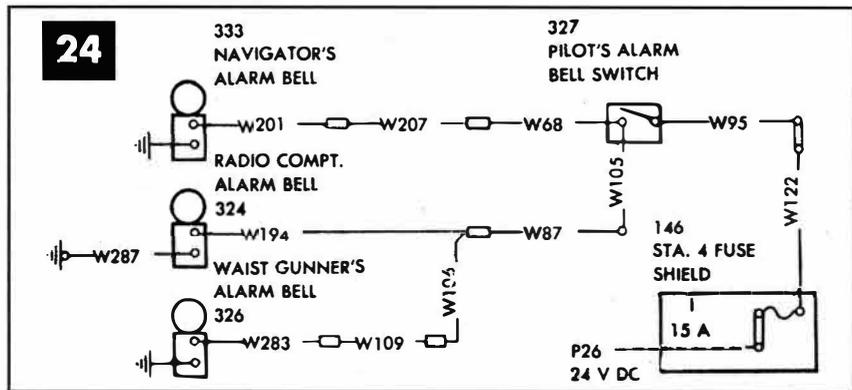


FIGURE 16 – ALARM BELL CIRCUIT

For all these years since April 25, 1945, Charles Rawlings has wondered why he never got any warning of the impending demise of his B-17.

It was over Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, and his pilot, Paul Coville of the 602nd Squadron, had just made a 360 over the Skoda munitions target. The next thing he knew he was floating towards earth and he had just enough time to pull the D-ring.

If his navigator, Neil Bartimus, had enough time to return to his table and retrieve his favorite yellow pencil (FLAK NEWS Vol. 12, No. 3) why did he get no warning back in the tail?

This question haunted him for 53 years

until he happened to mention it to a fishing buddy (who just happened to have been an electrical engineer working on B-17's during the war).

“Of course you didn't get a warning,” said the buddy. “There was no bail-out bell in the tail.” Later, the buddy produced a copy of the Alarm Bell Circuit (see above): Pilot's Alarm Bell Switch, Navigator's Alarm Bell, Waist Gunners Alarm Bell.

But no alarm bell in the tail.

Now Rawlings (and other tail gunners who had similar near-misses) can sit back and say —

“Now I know.”

Past Meeting Site Date Correction

The artistic, computer-enhanced display of the past meeting sites of the 398th that appeared so nicely in the October issue of FLAK NEWS did contain an error. Thanks to all who took notice —

The SPRINGFIELD, MO, location was correct, but the date should have read 1996. Rapid City, SD, (1984) was the place of the first all-398th reunion.

And for those who remember previous reunions held in conjunction with the 8th Air Force Historical Society, here is where and when they were held —

Dayton, OH, 1976; St. Louis, MO, 1977; Washington, DC, 1978; Phoenix, AZ, 1979; Orlando, FL, 1980; Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN, 1981; Cincinnati, OH, 1982; Houston, TX, 1983.

The first gathering, in 1976, saw 30 members chip in \$1.00 each to form the 398th Association. Bill Comstock was elected president and remained in that position until his death in 1996.

The current 398th membership is 2,148.

PS - The FLAK NEWS editor was also reminded that Dr. Robert Kelly was the flight surgeon with the 600th Squadron and Dr. Robert Sweet with the 601st. The squadrons were transposed in the last BRIEF-things.

The Kids Just Love His Stories

“We read all the FLAK NEWS from cover to cover and then share them with young people in our family and their friends.

“Bill is in great shape and he goes to the various schools in our community on Veterans Day (at the request of the teachers) and shares with the boys and girls, usually numbering 250 to 300.

“He tells them about the Battle of Britain and the teachers tell him that all their library books on B-17's and World War II are always taken out.

“The teachers tell him, ‘Bill, the kids just love you and your stories.’

“It is important to tell the stories.”

— CAROLINE MIESENHELDER

Editor's note: FLAK NEWS congratulates Bill Miesenhelder of Robinson, Ill., for his willingness to share his WW II experiences with the younger generation. And thanks to his wife, who obviously shares his enthusiasm. Bill was the ball turret gunner on the John Shafer crew of the 602nd Squadron.

BRIEF-Things

A fabulous display of the Aluminum Overcast, plus a great historical story on the B-17, can be found in the August 1998 issue of the aviation magazine, AIR CLASSICS ... **Bill Tordoff**, 601 armorer, visited Station 131 last year and stayed over at the Woodman Inn's new bed & breakfast (Bill admits to throwing rocks on **Col. Berryhill's** Nissen hut at 3 a.m.) ... **Ed Stewart's** latest 398th roster count has the 603rd with the highest number (395), followed by the 601st (375), 600th (360) and 602 (380); sadly, over 320 do not show any Unit affiliation ... **Wally & Teedy Blackwell** plan on taking in the Passion Play at Oberammergau, Germany, before the England Tour in 2000 ... ex-600 pilot **Art Watson**, after finishing his tour, went on to become an MD and Air Force flight surgeon ... **Sir Roger duBoulay**, the guiding force behind the Anstey window project (he's the church warden) paid his WW II dues in RAF Hurricanes and Mitchells (B-25's) ... among those who contributed to Anstey on behalf of the nine men killed on the **Charles Searl** crew was a relative, who added, "They Gave Up Their Tomorrows For Our Today's" ... ex-603 navigator **Roy Hussey** has been president Blackwell's "point man" on the proposal to build a 398th memorial at Savannah ... original 398th treasurer **Harry Gray** finally found out why he had slowed to a crawl (five by-passes!) ... **Bill North** and **Rod Crowder** are two more "good guys" who continue to help the 398th treasury despite being paid-up lifetime members ... in addition to Savannah "point man" **Hussey**, new Board members **Keith Anderson** and **Lou Stoffer** also have been assigned by prexy **Wally** to gear up for the group's proposed memorial project next year ... **Frank Weiler's** VFW post veterans in Yelm, Wash., provide honor guards at military funerals, but the buglers playing Taps are teenagers from a local school ... **Larry Eschen**, group communications officer, wound up with the 9th AF in Belgium and recalls "his" B-17's flying overhead everyday ... "beautiful," he says ... his "recall" came when visiting the Aluminum Overcast in Gainesville, Ga. ... your FLAK NEWS editor shared some B-17 combat stories with a junior high class recently, joined by a daughter of a 100th BG pilot (she is really proud of her dad) ... **Eliot** and **Connie Novek** joined **Len Streitfeld** at a Czech Republic reception in New York; both had been on the Last Mission to Pilsen; it was the 80th anniversary of the founding of the independent Czech state ... they met **Vladimir Galuska**, the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations Ambassador, and **Henry Kissinger** ... **Linda Mason** of the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, England, says she is already looking forward to welcoming the 398th in 2000, but is inviting any of our members coming to the UK independently to call on her for an "extra Special" touch for their visit, especially to the American Air Museum ... thanks to all members and friends who sent Christmas greetings to FLAK NEWS, including those wonderful cards from foreign countries ... several poems dealing with our group in particular and B-17's in general have been published in the newsletter during the past 13 years, and in the days ahead there will be others submitted by **Leo S. Coombs** of the 603rd Ordnance and **Judie Timm**, widow of **Wilbur Timm**, engineer on the 603 **Farenthold** crew ... 601 navigator **Bill Schwan** is high on the Anstey project; four fellow officers from his Nissen hut will have their names on the memorial window — **Ray Thornton**, **Paul McCain**, **Walt Kruse** and **Robert Campbell** ... the "no bell in the tail" story should recall the plight of **Dave Bancroft**, who was in the tail of his **Perry Powell** B-17 when it collided with **John McCormick's** on the way to Berlin; a bell wouldn't have helped as his whole tail section was severed and he had to pry his way out (he was the only survivor on his Fort) ... **Selmar Haakenson** of the **Don Christensen** crew and **Frank Gnasdowski** of the **John Ingram** crew were two other "lone survivor" tail gunners; **Haakenson** came down in the Czech Republic, not far from Prague ... The Anstey window dedication will really put the little 12th century church on the map, as it will attract the leading church officer of the area, the Bishop of St. Albans ...

398th Bomb Group PX

	<u>Qty.</u>	<u>Enter Total Cost</u>
Cap - Fits All Sizes (Specify Squadron or Group)	_____	\$8.00 each _____
Jackets - Navy Blue (S, M, L, XL, XXL, B-17 on Front)	_____	\$25.00 each _____
Golf Shirts - White or Navy Blue (M, L, XL, XXL)	_____	\$20.00 each _____
T-Shirts - White, Navy Blue (S, M, L, XL, XXL, B-17 on Front)	_____	\$10.00 each _____
T-Shirts - White (Children Sizes 2-4, 6-8, 10-12)	_____	\$8.00 each _____
Sweat Shirts - White, Navy Blue (S, M, L, XL, XXL, B-17 on Front)	_____	\$15.00 each _____
Sweat Shirts - White, Light Blue (Children Sizes M & L, B-17 on Front)	_____	\$10.00 each _____
Squadron Patches - Specify Squadron	_____	\$6.00 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"	_____	\$15.00 each _____
Glass (9 oz.) with B-17	_____	\$6.00 each _____
B-17 Lapel Pin - Specify Silver or Gold	_____	\$5.00 each _____
Photo (Control Tower) - Station #131	_____	\$2.00 each _____
Photo (398th Memorial) - Post Card Size	_____	\$2.00 each _____
Photo (Aluminum Overcast) - 8"x10" (Latest photo)	_____	\$2.00 each _____
Bolo Ties - 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 _____
B-17 Christmas Ornament	_____	\$6.00 each _____
B-17 Playing Cards (single)	_____	\$7.00 each _____
B-17 Playing Cards (double)	_____	\$12.00 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**
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168-6168

There would be no need for a rating system if the entertainment purveyors would stop taking the easy route of substituting obscene language, graphic sexuality and mind-numbing violence for creative characterization and plot, sparking and thoughtful dialogue and lyrics and imaginative visual presentation.
—CHAPLAIN THURSTON MALLARD
(Former B-36 Aircraft Commander)