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

VOL. 15 NO. 1

FLAK NEWS

JANUARY 2000

FUND DRIVE A SUCCESS

\$27,145.20 Raised For Heritage Museum Memorial

The members and friends of the 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association made quick work of "The Final Project."

With one announcement in the October FLAK NEWS and one special mailing by fund chairman Lou Stoffer, the drive to raise money for a 398th memorial at the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum has gone "over the top."

The proposed monument, designed much like the group's beautiful memorial at Nuthampstead, will be "paid in full" this month according to the contrac-

tual arrangements with the DePue Monument Company in Savannah, Georgia.

The cost is \$27,145.20, which includes state sales taxes and Mighty Eighth Museum fee.

The memorial will be ready for dedication when the 398th visits Savannah September 20-23, 2000, for the 17th annual reunion.

Said 398th president Wally Blackwell "I am so very proud of our members: I just knew we couldn't fail. To think we

raised this sum in such a short time is a tribute to the kind of people we have in our association.

"And thanks to Lou Stoffer, who picked up on this project early on and saw it to a successful conclusion."

News that the project was a definite "go" came at the same time as the passing of James T. Duvall, chaplain of the 398th. He died November 11, 1999, at the age of 91. (See Page 2.)

The dedication of the memorial will be held in concert with the group visitation to the Heritage Museum on Friday, September 22, 2000. The 398th with an estimated 300+ members expected for the reunion, will "own" the museum from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Jack Burton, special events coordinator for the Museum, is working with president Blackwell in arranging for a special welcome for the 398th visitors. The dedication will take place in the Rotunda/Art Gallery, followed by the unveiling of the new memorial at its permanent location.

Among the 398th members having a "personal" interest in the Heritage Museum is Roy Hussey, navigator on the 603 Donovan crew. Hussey is a Savannah resident and volunteers as a docent.

Continued on Page 2.

"See You In Savannah," Says The President

I expect to see many of you in Savannah in September so we can enjoy the fruits of what we accomplished in the Heritage Memorial Fund drive.

It is such a joy to appreciate what we have done in what surely will be our Final Project.

We have a membership like no other.
-WALLY BLACKWELL



This Is The Place

398TH PRESIDENT Wally Blackwell and Ralph Ambrose hold up a sketch of the monument that will be placed at the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum next September in Savannah, GA. They are standing on the exact spot where the memorial will be placed.

FUND DRIVE A SUCCESS

Continued from Page 1.

The group visit on September 22 will originate at the downtown Marriott Hotel. The package tour ticket will include the nine-mile coach ride, Museum admission, and lunch.

Complete details on the reunion, which will include several local tours, will be published in the April FLAK NEWS.

There were over 400 individual contributors to the successful Heritage Memorial Fund, including several from off-shore countries.

The success of the campaign was reminiscent of previous drives to raise funds for 398th projects—

The Memorial at Nuthampstead.

The Memorial plaque at the Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs.

The plaque and memorial tree at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

The exterior renovation and painting of the EAA B-17, Aluminum Overcast, in 398th colors.

The interior corrosion control of Aluminum Overcast.

The assistance for renovation and repair of St. George's Church, Anstey, England.

The Scholarship Fund for Bill Comstock.

The tree planted in Neuss, Germany, in commemoration of the 398th tour visit in 1982.

The Group contribution to the American Air Museum, Duxford, England (many members contributed independently, also).

The Anstey stained glass window in memory of all 398th men killed in action during their stay at Nuthampstead in WWII.

Indeed, members of the 398th have been most generous and supportive of special projects. There are more than a few of the Heritage contributors who have had a hand in each and every of the aforementioned projects.

A complete list of Heritage contributors, as of January 2000 press time, appears on Page 8. Additional names will be added to the list in the April FLAK NEWS.

*"I officiated at the funerals of most of the 398th men buried in England. Whenever I hear the playing of "Taps," I see again in my mind the rows of white crosses and Stars of David at Cambridge. Emotions well up within me and I think of the brave young men who gave their lives that others might live in freedom."
— Chaplain James T. Duvall*

James T. Duvall, 398th Chaplain, Dead At 91.

He stood at the end of the runway at the beginning of every mission at Station 131 in 1944 and 1945.

"As I waved them off, there was always a prayer in my heart that God would give those young men the strength and courage to face whatever the day would bring."

Rev. James T. Duvall, 398th Bomb Group chaplain, died quietly and peacefully in Loveland, Colorado, on Veterans Day, November 11, 1999. He was 91.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Marguerite, and two daughters, Margaret Utter and Nancy Miller.

Among the many attending the services at All Saints Episcopal Church in Loveland were Charles Y. Shultz, group radar officer, Williamsburg, VA; Bruce Gillis, Littleton, CO, 603 lead radio operator; Andrew Fay, Loveland, CO, 601 toggler (Traeder); and Dave Doerfler, Englewood, CO, 603 waist gunner (Stevens).

Chaplain Duvall was known then, and remembered in subsequent years by 398th Association members, as the group's chaplain, a first lieutenant. He was the Protestant chaplain and Rev. Walter Sullivan the Catholic chaplain.

However, Chaplain Duvall retired from the United States Air Force as a Colonel, after serving 20 years.

In addition to his tour with the 398th, he served the Air Force in Louisiana, Puerto Rico, Nebraska and Washington DC (Pentagon).

Following his AF retirement Chaplain Duvall had pastorates in Spokane, WA, and Hamilton, MT. He also served in assistant capacities in San Pedro, CA and Loveland, CO.

His ministry began as a student at Texas Christian University and later as pastor in Ennis, TX.

GOD'S PEACE

Peace, peace, God's peace

Not as the world gives, give I unto you,
But peace in the darkness of your soul,
And peace through the valleys of life.

Be anxious for nothing my little one,
Cast your cares on me,

I care for the sparrows and the lily of the field,

How much more than will I care for you.

Peace, peace, God's peace.....

Not as the world gives, give I unto you,
But peace, peace, God's peace:

I am here, by your side, take my hand,
all is well.

— NANCY DUVALL MILLER



**Chaplain JAMES T. DUVALL
Dies Quietly, Peacefully**

East, Off-Shore Dues Time

All the members and friends of the 398th Bomb Group living on the East Coast have the opportunity this quarter to contribute to the livelihood of the Association.

This includes the following states -- Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware and Washington DC.

And this Dues Time also includes the 200-plus FLAK NEWS "subscribers" living in England, Scotland, Ireland, Channel Islands, Switzerland, Bahamas, Mexico, Canada and Australia.

Dues are still \$10 per year or \$100 lifetime. Use the enclosed mailing envelope and don't forget to make a notation of any new address or telephone number.

Also, please check the appropriate membership box. We now have only two categories: (1) Veteran, Widow, Spouse or Blood Relative and (2) Associate.

Time Nears For Tour

The planning began two years ago, but now the Adventure is but a few months away.

It's the Year 2000 Tour to England and the Czech Republic. More than 80 398th Bomb Group members are beginning to brush up on their English and trying to remember how many Dollars in a Pound (or is it the other way?)

And for those going on to the Czech Republic, suffice to say that there will be memories aplenty in Pilsen and all the other stops along the way in the country where the 398th flew its Last Mission.

The adjoining photos and story on Slany tell only a part of the activities being prepared for that part of the tour.

The world famous Hotelova Skola in Marianske Lazne, which prepares young students for positions in the hotel industry, will serve the 398th visitors a special lunch, with time left over to look for Czech glass bargains in the city.

There will be a return to Litice, the city which honored American airmen killed on Czech bombing raids, including members of the Allan Ferguson crew of the 602nd. They were shot down on April 25, 1945, along with the Paul Coville crew, on The Last Mission.

Jan Zdiarsky will welcome the tour group to Kovarska, where he and others, including Jaromir Kohout, have build a museum filled with air war memorabilia.

And, of course, a visit to Prague.

In England, the tour route rings with more familiar names – Nuthampstead, Anstey, Cambridge, Madingly, Duxford, Saffron Walden, Baldock, Hitchin, etc.

The BIG event will be the dedication of the stained glass window at Anstey on Sunday, June 11, 2000. The 600-year old church will be slightly overwhelmed with the 398th crowd, plus the American Ambassador, Bishop of St. Albans, local residents, visitors, etc.

Wilfrid Dimsdale, chairman of the Friends of the 398th, is coordinating the event in concert with Sir Roger duBoulay, Anstey church warden.

Space is still available for both the England Only or Full Tour packages. Contact Barbara Fish 1-800-423-5454. And there is a reminder that tour members must have a US passport AND that it must be valid six months after departure from Europe, which is Copenhagen on June 20, 2000.

The England Only members will be flying directly to London via British Air, mostly to Heathrow but some to Gatwick. All will meet at Heathrow for the hour-plus journey to Cambridge.

The Full Tour members will be flying to Copenhagen via SAS and then to Stansted, where the coach will bring them to the Holiday Inn in Cambridge.



LOADING LIST

ENGLAND ONLY – Wally & Teedy Blackwell; Robert & Jane Bowen; Conrad Samuelson and Nancy Cotter; Dick & Junice Frazier; Willis & Ruby Frazier and Douglas and William Frazier; Bob & Eloise Hart; John & Maryanne Hobbs; Robert & Helen Howard; Ted & Dorothy Johnston; Joe & Rozanne Joseph; Jean Madlung, Randy Madlung and Cherie Ross, Nancy Zeller; Joe & Willetta Mansell; Gertrude and Karen Anne Neff; Dottie Neuland and John & Carolyn Pierce; Elliot and Connie Novek; James & Jaunice Powell; Hank & Louise Rudow; Edmund & Louise Soule; Lou & Betty Stoffer; Charles Sutton; Howard & Jane Traeder and Bruce and Karen Guenther.

WHOLE TOUR – John & Rosemary Cosco and Mary Louise Capecelatro; Lowell Culver & Jo Anne Eppel; Bill & Fran Fisher; Gail Fisher & Mel Kessler; Charles Hough; William R. Cole; Robert & Elaine Knowles; Bill & Kathy McLaughlin; Hamilton & Mary Mero; David Mills; Ross Moxey; Russ & Millie Reed; Chuck Sasse & Reva Swanson; Arnold Schneider & Marie Bammer and Linda Hayes; Phil & Margaret Stahlman; Jeanne & Randy Stange; Allen & Geg Ostrom, tour coordinator; Barbara Fish, travel consultant.

Čest Vaší Památce

THIS WAS the scene in 1996 when the citizens of Slany, Czech Republic, dedicated this memorial to the 603 Squadron Donald Christensen crew that crashed near their city in 1945, taking the lives of eight crewmen. Another ceremony will be held there on June 17, 2000 when 398th tour members come to visit. Loosely translated, the Czech words, "Čest Vaší Památce" mean "In Grateful Memory."

*If you don't know
where you are going,
you will probably
end up someplace else.*

EULOGY FOR A FRIEND

Allison Stafford was the Sergeant Major of the 603rd Squadron, and was a witness to the crash of the lead 603rd Fortress when it went down on takeoff at Anstey on October 15, 1944, taking the lives of 10 men. One of those who perished was Mickey navigator John P. Baker, with whom Stafford had become friends. Upon returning to the United States after the war, Stafford was moved to write a letter to Baker's parents, then living in Bridgeport, CT, expressing his sorrow at the loss of their son and his friend. The letter was written from Stafford's

home in Red Creek, NY, and was mailed on 26 October, 1945. Others on that crew were Charles Hourie, Bill Meyran, William Vanderlick, Carlton Moore, William Tull, George Barton, Charles Kennedy, Victor Petrauskas and Melvin Brown. Stafford's sensitive letter, written 55 years ago, is printed in its entirety, along with a photo of Baker's temporary gravesite at Cambridge, England. Stafford, who went on to a long career with the Red Cross, lives in Norfolk, Virginia.

"I sat motionless in church that Sunday morning"

Red Creek New York
26 October 1945

My Dear Mr. and Mrs. Baker:

I find it difficult to go on with this letter – chiefly because we have never had an introduction and I doubt seriously if John had mentioned me in any of his letters to you before his untimely death.

I wanted so very much to write to you about John and the fatal accident, however, censorship regulations would not allow me to correspond with you until now.

John had only been with our Squadron (then the 603rd Bombardment Squadron) a short time. However, I met him the very day he reported to our organization and there was something about his character and manly make-up that caught my personal attention. From that point on John and I became excellent friends, though we never actually went places together since I was an enlisted man and he an officer. Then, too, I was so very busy that I seldom was able to leave the Base.

I shall always remember that misty, Sunday morning on the 15th day of October, for I was standing out in front of the office where I worked; it was just 0623 hours British War Double Time when I turned my eyes toward the field and carefully followed the mighty ship as it sped down the runway for the take-off.

It was purely coincidental that I should have even been up at such an early hour, however, it was my morning to arise early to relieve the charge of quarters at the office and it was only coincidental that I had stepped out from the washroom and in front of the office just in time to see the first ship of the scheduled mission speed down the runway for the take-off.

It was further coincidental that I should have stopped as I heard the plane speeding down the runway, and to watch it, but such was the circumstance. My eyes were fixed upon the ship as it lifted itself from the runway. I remember saying aloud to myself, "My God boy, you'll never make it!"

Scarcely had these words left my lips when I was frightened thoughtless as I



**BAKER'S BURIAL SITE
Cambridge, England, 1944**

saw the wings of the ship cutting off the tops of the trees in a wooded section beyond the end of the runway. Then in only a split second there was an explosion that illuminated the sky over a large area and could be seen for miles away. The things that I saw in the next few seconds and later, I can not begin to tell you here, but it was all over for John and the other members of the crew. I am sure none of them realized or none of them suffered the slightest pain.

I didn't know until about an hour later that the boys on the ship were of our Squadron, however, it was only a matter of seconds after knowing this before I was able to obtain the list of personnel aboard. Truly, I was speechless, it seemed unbelievable. I tried to catch hold of myself but there was a sudden weakness that passed over me and I returned to my bunk and rested for a few minutes as the tears rolled down my cheeks. Your lovely son was not the only member of the crew I had known, no, several others had been in our Squadron for a long time and two of them even trained with us in this country before going overseas with

us.

I went to church that Sunday morning, as usual, though was most uneasy. I tried to listen to the Service but my mind was elsewhere. It wasn't with John and other boys, for I knew they were all happy and peaceful now, now that God had taken them into his eternal Kingdom. No, my mind and prayers were not with John and the boys now. They were with you and the families of the other boys who were taken so suddenly from us.

I prayed that when the news reached you, God would comfort all of you and help you to understand that He needed your son and the other boys and that He was giving them Eternal Rest. Today as I think back, I like to feel and say the same of these boys, my close friends, as Mrs. Roosevelt said about our President after he had passed away. I don't recall her actual words, but its meaning was quite the same as this:

"That, Mr. Roosevelt had successfully fulfilled his duties here on earth and that our Heavenly Father chose to give rest to him and his body, and to give his soul eternal life."

To me, that seemed the most beautiful thought one could express.

As I sat motionless in church that Sunday morning, 15 October 1944, and just as our Holy Communion Service was coming to an end, the last of the five-hundred pound bombs from John's ship exploded in the distance, and to me it meant a most reverent salute to those who had that gorgeous Sunday morning, only a few hours ago given their lives that we and our great nation might live.

Mr. and Mrs. Baker, words can not reveal to you my sorrow in your great loss, and I am unable to tell you in words how very much I admired your faithful son. The only bit of comfort I can convey is to tell you how greatly proud you can be for giving such a beautiful young man, a body of your own blood and flesh to the greatest sacrament on earth and to Almighty God.

John and the other boys were given a beautiful military funeral service and were laid to rest in the Cambridge American Military Cemetery at Cambridge, England. I was unable to attend the fu-

Continued on Page 9.

Jack's Books For Czech Friend

Vladislav Kratky of Pilsen, Czech Republic is the director and historian of the Skoda Museum, which was visited by 398th tour members in 1995.

Skoda, of course, was the bombardiers' target represented on The Last Mission for the 398th — April 25, 1945.

"I should like to express hope that during your tour next June to Pilsen that I get an opportunity to meet many of you and thank you for maintaining friendly links with people in our country."

Kratky also put in an order for a CD ROM of "Jack's Books," now available from 398th historian Dallas Ebest, San Antonio, TX 78213-1561. Price is \$25. This can be viewed on all compatible computers and includes the hundreds of album pages compiled over the years by the late Jack Wintersteen.

(Ed's Note: Your CD ROM is on its way.)



398th BOMB GROUP

SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT
January 1, 1999 – December 17, 1999

Income:

FLAK NEWS Donations	\$3,108
Membership Dues	6,360
Memorial Fund	429
P.X. Sales	3,150
Reunion Profit	1,729
Contributions to Directory	7,133
"Memory Of" Fund	260
Miscellaneous Income	35
Total Income	\$22,204

Expenses:

FLAK NEWS Publication	\$11,170
Membership Recognition	361
P.X. Restocking	865
Postage and Delivery	626
Printing and Reproduction	366
Reunion Expenses	138
Directory Production	5,174
Supplies	355
Telephone	735
Miscellaneous Income	387
Bank Service Charges	90
Total Expenses	\$20,267

Net income \$1,937

Checkbook Balance as of

December 17, 1999 \$8,642

NUTHAMPSTEAD MONUMENT FUND

Portfolio Market Value as of

December 1999 \$64,993.07

Interest Income 1999 \$4,183.73

The Memorial Maintenance is paid through March 1, 2000.



Because the skies were washed clean after the battle, it was for the author and artist to recreate the images that were forever etched in the minds of those who were there.

So it was for Don Gaddo, a generation later, to glean from the history surrounding one such airman and one such crew to recreate the kind of drama made possible only in the tormented skies over Europe in World War II.

"The fly-over of the B-17's lasted forever," remembered Gaddo, then an 11-year-old as he held his father's hand at the post-war funeral of his cousin, one of those killed in a 398th Bomb Group bomber he was years later to identify as ANGEL.

ANGEL would become a fireball over Lechfeld, Germany and at the same time the theme of a romantic wartime interlude.

Romance and war are never far apart.

ANGEL: A MIGHTY FORTRESS, published last fall, is not only about one Fortress crew, but all those who came to England's East Anglia to form a giant aircraft carrier from which to lift off and destroy the Nazi menace.

ANGEL bridges the gap between the grim reality of the air war and that nagging question that arise occasionally in the minds of those who were there –

Did all that really happen to me?

ANGEL speaks to all those memories ... plus the emotions involving a locket found, a dream told, a play script opened, a window cracked ... and a tear drop that hadn't been there before.

The paperback book is available for \$17.95 (postpaid) from Don Gaddo, PO Box 773, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

Y2K Worries? Now Hear This

This little note for all the Y2K worriers, courtesy of the Houston Chronicle --

"The new millennium won't actually start until 2001 because our system doesn't account for a year zero. The Year 2000 is the last year of the old millennium.

"And for those who think the world is going to end with the return of Christ on the 2000th anniversary of his birth (although biblical texts claim no such thing), don't fret. That date came and went in 1996 or 1997, according to most Bible scholars.

"Anthropologists liken Y2K to the rolling over of the odometer on your car."

Carry on!

Still Time To Get A 1999 Roster

It has become apparent that some members and friends of the 398th Bomb Group did not receive their 1999 Membership Roster, mailed last October.

The PO does have a policy of giving the heave-ho to third class, non-profit mailings if it has an incorrect address, ZIP Code, Apartment number or if the recipient has moved.

Extra copies are available. Write to the FLAK NEWS editor, Seattle, WA 98107-3165.

And this should be a FLAK NEWS warning to those who move and fail to notify the editor.



MARILYN GIBB

Marilyn Gibb, currently supporting the 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association as Treasurer, is taking on yet another role.

Marilyn, daughter of Dorothy and the late Jim Crouch, will be the Reunion Chairman for the upcoming reunion in Savannah, Georgia September 20-23, 2000.

Thus, she joins Tom Bewley as another second generation member to do the reunion chores. Bewley headed up the 1998 meeting in Harrisburg, PA.

Registration forms and full program information will be published in the April issue of FLAK NEWS.

Lead On, O King Eternal

Adamak, Edward
 Adams, Eugene R.
 Adleman, Milo
 Agnew, Harry
 Agnew, Robert
 Alderson, Richard
 Alexander, Claude
 Allare, John
 Allen, George E.
 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.
 Ashton, Leonard C.
 Ashworth, Dean H.
 Atkins, James R.
 Atkinson, Herman
 Atkinson, Vernon C.
 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.
 Baptiste, Claude A.
 Barkovich, Fred
 Barnes, Lynn W.
 Barnhard, Joseph E.
 Barnshaw, Thomas J.
 Bartimus, Neil R.
 Bartusiak, Leonard J.
 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.
 Becker, Max
 Belcher, Jess
 Bell, Marvin
 Bell, Robert
 Benefiel, Phillip L.
 Bennett, Norville
 Benningfield, Harley O.
 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, Willard B.
 Bolthouse, Charles
 Bolton, Vencil
 Boltz, Phillip T.
 Bonanno, Salvatore
 Bonjani, Bruno
 Borchers, Doyle
 Bornstedt, John W.
 Bosshart, Herbert
 Bottoms, Millard S.
 Bourke, Joseph E.
 Bowcock, H. Guy
 Bowman, Leonard L.

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.
 Civitarese, William A.
 Clafford, Lloyd
 Clament, Jesse R.
 Clark, Benjamin L.
 Clark, Francis C.
 Clarke, Atwell S.
 Clarke, Walter F.
 Clifton, Ernest
 Cochran, Curtis
 Coene, William
 Colantoni, George
 Colburn, Warren

Desh, Herb
 Devan, Samuel
 Devlin, Steve
 Dexter, Robert L.
 Dezan, Burton H.
 Dick, Russell O.
 Dickhart, Clarence
 Dierolf, Claude E.
 Dimich, Peter M.
 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
 Durbine, Francis
 Dutrow, Gordon P.

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
 Giuliano, Pete
 Gloor, John
 Godfrey, John

Hatcher, Robert
 Hatten, Harold R.
 Haworth, William A.
 Haws, Thomas R.
 Haynes, James T.
 Hays, Nathan B.
 Hayward, Harold D.
 Hazlett, James R.
 Hearn, Thomas G.
 Heck, Paul V.
 Hedeem, 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
 Hovden, Roger
 Howard, Grant
 Hoyne, Earl K.
 Hreachmack, Joseph
 Hudson, Herman D.
 Huey, Elbert P.
 Hughes, Byron B.
 Hunnicutt, Elzie
 Hunsaker, Edwin F.
 Hunt, Mack
 Hunter, Charles F.
 Hunter, Dr. Lewis B.
 Huntington, Sam
 Huntzinger, Ed
 Hush, Robert
 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

Lead On, O King Eternal

Ernest W. Shurtleff

LANCASHIRE

Henry T. Smart

Boyes, Haskell
 Braddock, Heyward M.
 Bradley, Frederick C.
 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
 Burris, Thomas E.
 Burton, John
 Buscani, John P.
 Bushle, Louis
 Bussard, James L.
 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
 Catterson, Kenneth L.

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.
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 Wooten, Albert F.
 Wright, Parke
 Wright, William A.
 Yip, James S.
 Zeller, Louis
 Zinn, Katherine
 Zins, Samuel I.
 Zinter, Marshall E.
 Zoldy, Eugene

EULOGY

Continued from Page 4.

neral service, however, I took it upon myself to visit John's grave and the graves of two of the other boys regularly and on Christmas Day of last year I took flowers and wreaths and placed on their graves, for they had meant much to me and I wished to show my sincerest respect for their loyal companionship and great sacrifice.

Again on Memorial Day of this year I was unable to visit the graves of those who had met so very much to me. However, I asked an officer of our Squadron to go for me and with my camera, to take a photograph of John's grave and the other two boys who had been close to me. I left England unexpectedly by air for the United States before the exposures had been developed so I made arrangements for one of the boys in our office who was returning later by boat to bring them with him.

It was quite some time ago that I received them, however, I have had a great deal of difficulty in having some prints made. I am writing to you now because I know how very much the picture of John's grave will mean to you. Even yet, the enlargements have not arrived so I am holding this letter until the pictures reach me. There is no grass in the cemetery because the cemetery grew so rapidly that it was impossible to keep it seeded. Then too, at the time John was buried, the cemetery was only a temporary burying ground and to my knowledge it has not been made a permanent one. That also explains why the crosses are made of wood.

It is very evident that no parents could have had a finer son.

I trust this letter will be of some comfort to you, less I should regret it ever having been written.

A Faithful Friend,
ALLISON JOHN STAFFORD
Ex-Staff Sergeant
Air Corps

Join The 8AFHS; Help the 398th

Here is a reminder to all 398th members who have not joined the 8th Air Force Historical Society to do so now. And at the same time give the 398th treasury a lift.

The 8AFHS dues are \$10 per year, but by joining through the 398th half of those dollars can be retained by the 398th. So help the 398th (and the 8AFHS) by sending \$10 to treasurer Marilyn Gibb, Hudson, FL 34667-3922.

Marilyn will process your application and you will begin receiving 8th Air Force NEWS and other information.



KEITH ANDERSON AND "ORION"
at Seattle's Fisherman's Terminal

The Rocking Chair Can Wait: He's Heading For Alaska

Keith Anderson of Seattle has a set of golf clubs and a rocking chair, all primed and ready for those golden retirement years.

So what is he going to do?

He's going fishing in Alaska. Not just a weekend jaunt with some buddies and then come home to tell the usual fish story lies.

Keith had a 52-foot commercial fishing boat built to his specifications (complete with espresso machine) and he'll be heading his twin-diesel "Orion" north to southeast Alaska come next summer where he'll compete with the commercial pros in quest of the king salmon.

When he's not catching salmon he will operate as a "tender," using his new boat to buy fish from others and then returning to shore with his load. Orion can carry 30,000 pounds of fish.

This is some 22,000 pounds more than his 600 Squadron B-17 used to carry in the Bomb Bay when he and his Gene Douglas crew flew 398th leads from Station 131. Many times with Col. Frank P. Hunter, Jr., aboard.

With 600 gallons of fuel, Orion weighs in at 45,000 pounds. A single gallon of fuel churning through the twin 250 HP John Deere diesels will move Keith and his "retirement" boat one mile.

How much did Orion cost?

"A lot more that I thought it would."

A Zero Due At Duxford

The Imperial War Museum at Duxford near Cambridge is to acquire a rare World War II Japanese Zero fighter from a private owner in the U.S.

Director Ted Inman said that acquisition represented the most complete example of the aircraft anywhere in the UK or Europe.

"It is still in jungle-recovery condition and will be a major restoration project, but will be on display to visitors throughout that period."

More than 11,000 Zeros were made but only 36 complete originals remain.

The museum has also begun to take delivery in pieces of a newly-acquired B-24 Liberator.

Mr. Inman said: "In spring 1944 there were more B-24s operating from British bases than in any other theatre of operations, most in East Anglia."

"We have wanted one for years and will now be able to present a fitting tribute to those thousands of wartime crews."

The aircraft is coming from the US Air Force Museum in exchange for a Spitfire.

Ordnance Guys At Rapid City

Members of the 603rd Ordnance, along with their wives, held a reunion in Rapid City, S.D., September 29, through October 3, 1999.

They stayed in the historic Alex Johnson Hotel. This brought back fond memories to a couple of the group. As they had stayed there in January, 1944 with their new brides, after getting married while on furlough.

Included in the activities were trips to Mount Rushmore and to Deadwood, S.D.

A visit to the Rapid City Air Museum was very disappointing as there was no mention of the 398th in any of their displays.

Attending were Leonard Gergenti, William Carter, Loren Cosens, Charles Canter, John Webb, Robert Stachura, Arthur Zimnie, and Vincent Avello.

1947-Also At Rapid

RAPID CITY, S.D. NOV. 3, 1947 –

Their first post-war reunion in Rapid City over the weekend was “such a success” that former members of the 398th bomb group agreed Sunday to make the get-together an annual affair, James Basham, the organization’s business manager, reported today. The next meeting will be in Rapid City the second weekend in August, 1948.

City Attorney John Potter welcomed the ex-servicemen to Rapid City at the group’s opening session Saturday afternoon. Web Hill discussed “old times” when the 398th was based at the Rapid City army air field in 1943 and 1944.

W. R. McCain, acting secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, was principal speaker at the banquet Saturday evening.

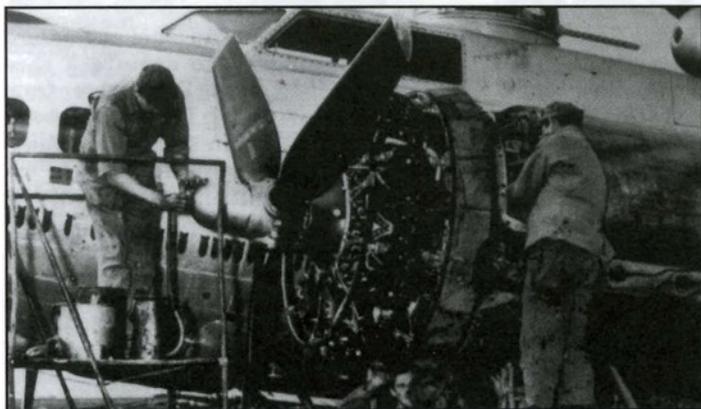
Official business was concluded at a breakfast Sunday morning.

In addition to the ex-airmen from several states who came to the reunion in Rapid City were some members who are still in the army.

Major H. J. Bestervelt and Capt. H. W. Woodson flew here from West Point. Major Luther Hough piloted a plane from Brooks Field, Tex., bringing with him StaffSgt. Cecil R. Moore of Roswell, N.M.

Capt. Carl Hogrefe and Lt. Lionel Lancaster flew a National Guard plane from Albuquerque, N.M.

(Eds note: there were several others at that reunion, including chairman Jim Basham.)



“I Beg Your Pardon”

“I beg your pardon,” was the response from Clarence Delph of Fort Walton Beach, FL upon reading in FLAK NEWS that no crew chief from the 600th Squadron had seen his B-17 complete 50 missions without a mechanical abortion.

“I crewed a B-17 from beginning to the end, completing 100 missions,” said Delph. “Not only that, but I received a Bronze Star from Col. Daily for 50 missions without a failure.”

FLAK NEWS humbly accepts the admonition, and promises to check out those “clerk-typist” reports more closely hereafter.

Combat Mess Memories

In his final article on his Combat Mess memories from Nuthampstead, Ray Rovinsky reveals the close relationships he had with several combat crew members, and also with his British friends in places like Hitchin, Baldock and Luton.

BY RAY ROVINSKY
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Now I will go into relations and personalities.

We were told not to get into any kind of friendly relations with combat crews, but we soon found out that was impossible. When someone wants to talk to you, you don’t ignore them and walk away.

We all had relationships with flying personnel. I don’t remember how it all started, but one of my best relationships was with Brooks Achison. He was just a small skinny kid but had a personality as big as all outdoors. I never knew what happened to him until I got my copy of Remembrances. There are so many times I think back to the times we spent together. I’ll never ever forget him. He’s a permanent fixture in my prayers.

Mel Brown was another close friend. Sgt. Paul Cifrese was kind enough to give me a couple of days off to pull myself together after October 15th. Mel and I were going to go to London together the next time he got a few days off. I didn’t go to London for a long time after that. Mel was killed with the 603 Meyran crew that crashed on takeoff at Anstey.

I was very friendly with Bob Mayfield but who couldn’t be? I had already left the 398th but I had heard he went down with Colonel Hunter but I didn’t find out about them till years later. I had gotten on friendly basis with a lot of crew members but the three closest ones were all lost.

I don’t remember very many last names but I do remember a lot of first names. There were two Kens’, a Walter, a few Jacks’ and a number of common first names. I remember Paul Crawford, and Shadroui I guess because of the oddity of the name.

Now to move on to off-base and the “natives” as I used to call them in retaliation for them referring to us as “colonists”. My off-base excursions usually took me to Hitchin, Luton, Dunstable, and naturally, London. Why did I go to those places? You’re right. Women! There was Jean, Kathleen, Edna, Doreen, and quite a few that I’ve completely forgotten. No, I don’t have any offspring over there.

I met a number of British servicemen in pubs and we ended up drinking buddies. It was very easy to make friends with my method. Since we were paid a lot more than they were, when I walked into a pub, I would put a pound note on the bar and say “drinks for everyone till its gone”. Sometimes I would back it up with another one but one usually would be enough.

Yes, most of us from the mess crew took gifts to our British friends. Bill and Betty Bradford in Luton were very close friends. Betty would make some delicious meals for us all when I would be there some times for a few days. Their two kids thought I was the greatest because they had candy (sweets) that their school chums never got (although I told them to share). We usually gave them butter, canned juices and fruit. Of course the super item was cigarettes. How did we get this stuff off base, you ask? Very easy! Brooks, Mel, and Bob would have a special gourmet dinner in our private dining room located in our stockroom courtesy of yours truly.

My combat friends had plenty of grapefruit juice to share with their crew members. You know where it came from. Out the back door. I did it because I appreciated what the combat guys were doing. Would “Thank you” have been sufficient? I don’t think so. Those guys will always be my heroes.

Santa Ana Cadets To Hold Reunion

The 25th annual reunion of the Santa Ana (CA) Army Air Base will be held on May 6, 2000 at the Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa, CA. Santa Ana was home to some 174,000 Aviation Cadets during WWII. Persons interested in the reunion should write to: “SAAAB Wing”, PO Box 1764, Costa Mesa, CA 92628-1764.

BRIEF-things

The 398th will deeply miss *Chaplain Duvall*, especially those members who assisted him at services; there was no Jewish rabbi on the base, but Duvall assisted the volunteer cantors and he became quite good at singing the songs as most came from the Book of Psalms (he sang in a quartet in his college days) ... the Czechs are "top of the line" when organizing civic celebrations, which the 398th tour party will discover when they journey to Slany June 17th "re-dedicate" the city's Christensen crew memorial (see Page) ... note that the dues envelopes now ask for a check as to whether the member is a (1) Veteran/Spouse/Widow/Blood Relative or (2) Associate ... also check for new ZIP or Area Codes ... a brief news bulletin last summer told of a bomb exploding in a cafe in Merseburg (memories, memories) ... *Wesley Mudge* wrote a very good Hamburg Mission story in the last FLAK NEWS, but the editor identified the High Group squadron as 601 rather than 602 (sorry 'bout that) ... the owner of Vanguard Press, where this is printed, is a Hamburg emigre and he read every word, including the mistake ... a flight from Seattle to Florida takes about 6 hours, but it took the Post Office 29 days to deliver the October FLAK NEWS ... if any of our deceased members left a copy of REMEMBRANCES to families who might wish to donate the book to an air museum in the US or abroad, please send it to the FLAK NEWS editor with instructions (the book is now out of print) ... the very popular *Mark Burton*, who led the 398th on several past tours to England and the continent, became a father June 6, 1999 (D-Day) ... his daughter is the 23rd great-granddaughter of that famous Scot, *Robert the Bruce* ... (Mark is no longer in the travel business) ... on a visit to Ephrata, WA your FLAK NEWS editor purchased a book called, "Certain Lands East of Ephrata," which tells about their little airport being turned into a heavy bomber training base in WWII; this included several of the early 398th crews ... the book has been sent to the Mighty Eighth Heritage library ... *Senator John McCain* was the guest speaker at the Air Force Gunners Association reunion last year in Dayton, welcoming 426 members; the 2000 AFGA meeting will be held in Rapid City ... our friends in the 92nd BG tell us that the median age of WWII vets is 75, and that one by one the various organizations are announcing that 2000 will be their last reunion (no such murmurings yet from anyone in the 398th) ... looking to the future, the 100th BG has formed a "Foundation, Inc." to perpetuate the memory of the 100th ... *Howard Traeder* is among those going on the England Tour in June, but he is also taking a side trip to Germany to show his wife and family where he crash-landed his B-17 after that infamous RDX mission ... *Derald Lyman* sent FLAK NEWS a Spokane news photo of how Geiger Field looked in the early 40's (B-17 E's with red-white-blue star decals) ... *Lyman* wasn't a 600 radio gunner in those days, but rather an Army 160th Infantryman ... it's still early 2000, but not too early to begin saving for the Savannah reunion in September; be advised that there will be some "sticker shock" prices involved in food, housing and touring; yes, there will be a "backup" hotel along with the HQ Marriott Riverfront ... our chaplain received a 21-gun salute at his funeral, delivered by airmen in full dress blues ... and a reminder to those going on the England-Czech Republic Tour in June - get your passport sooner, not later ... after all these years, your FLAK NEWS editor learned that, as "designated bread stealer" for his Johnson's crew he did not have to steal bread at Combat Mess (Ray Rovinsky said he would have delivered the bread to our Nissen hut (now he tells me) ... our German buddies, *Alfred Wilms* and *Manfred König*, have located two Paderborn citizens who will lead *Traeder* to his 1945 crash site; *Manfred* says 93-year-old Flak gunner *Johannes Everding* sends his greetings to the 398th, especially to *Col. Hunter's* widow, *Maria* ... speaking of "deliveries," the PO did deliver many Christmas cards and letters to the FLAK NEWS editor, for which he is supremely grateful; and that goes for all the other 398th officers ...

398th Bomb Group PX

Qty.	CLOTHING	Cost	Total
_____	Cap - Fits All Sizes 600, 601, 602, 603 Group	\$8.00 ea	_____
_____	Jackets - Navy, B-17 on Front S, M, L, XL, XXL	\$25.00 ea	_____
_____	T-Shirts - B-17 on Front Navy - White - S, M, L, XL, XXL	\$10.00 ea	_____
_____	Sweat Shirts - B-17 on Front Navy - White - S, M, L, XL, XXL	\$15.00 ea	_____
_____	Golf Shirts Group Logo on Front Navy or White - M, L, XL, XXL	\$20.00 ea	_____
_____	Turtle Neck Shirt - B-17 on Collar White - S, M, L, XL	\$20.00 ea	_____
_____	Children's T- Shirts (White) 6-8, 10-12, B-17 on Front	\$8.00 ea	_____
_____	Children's Sweatshirts (Blue or White) M, L - B-17 on Front	\$10.00 ea	_____
JEWELRY			
_____	Squadron Lapel Pins - 600, 601, 602, 603	\$5.00 ea	_____
_____	Group Lapel Pin (Hell from Heaven)	\$5.00 ea	_____
_____	Group Lapel Pin - Special Design	\$5.00 ea	_____
_____	B-17 Lapel Pin (Silver)	\$2.00 ea	_____
_____	B-17 Earrings (Silver - Pierced only)	\$5.00 ea	_____
_____	Bolo Ties - Group Logo	\$4.00 ea	_____
LOGO PATCHES			
_____	Squadron Patches - 600, 601, 602, 603	\$6.00 ea	_____
_____	Group Patch ("Hell from Heaven")	\$6.00 ea	_____
_____	Jacket Patch - Rectangle B-17	\$4.00 ea	_____
MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS			
_____	Folding Umbrellas Red with White B-17	\$18.00 ea	_____
_____	Note Paper with B-17 (Packet of 12)	\$4.00 pkt	_____
_____	Tote bag, Navy with White B-17	\$7.00 ea	_____
_____	Beach Towel White with Black B-17	\$18.00 ea	_____
_____	Golf Towel, White w/Black B-17	\$7.00 ea	_____
_____	9" Plate with B-17 (398th B.G. colors)	\$15.00 ea	_____
_____	Christmas Ornament with B-17	\$6.00 ea	_____
_____	Coffee Mug with B-17	\$7.00 ea	_____
_____	Ceramic Magnet with B-17	\$3.00 ea	_____
_____	Playing Cards with B-17		_____
	Single Deck	\$7.00 ea	_____
	Double Deck	\$12.00 ea	_____
_____	Photo (Control Tower) Station 131	\$2.00 ea	_____
_____	Photo (398th Memorial) Post Card	\$2.00 ea	_____
_____	Photo (8X10 Aluminum Overcast)	\$2.00 ea	_____
_____	Bumper Sticker (398th Bomb Group)	\$1.00 ea	_____
_____	License Plate Holder (398th B.G.)	\$2.00 ea	_____

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