



602



601



603



600

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

VOL. 16 NO. 1

FLAK NEWS

JANUARY 2001

“TROOPSHIP TOUR” NEXT YEAR

Return Home From England Visit Aboard The Queen Elizabeth 2



The QE-2
“What a Marvelous Idea”

It was almost 57 years ago when the USS Wakefield gathered up the ground echelon of the 398th Bomb Group at Boston and carried them to Liverpool, England. And the war (see *The Wakefield Watch* p10).

And some 15 months later the same troops, along with the airmen who did not fly home on the B-17's, returned home aboard the Queen Mary. Earlier, many air crews who had concluded their combat tours, came home aboard a variety of ships courtesy the Merchant Marine or Navy.

In the Year 2002, it will be another “Troopship Tour,” but this time no zig-zagging to avoid the German U-Boats, no long chow lines, and no six-tier bunks. It will be state room accommodations and world class dining.

On the way home from the June, 2002 tour to England, members will have the option of coming home by air, or returning to New York from Southampton via the Queen Elizabeth 2.

“It’s a marvelous idea,” said president Wally Blackwell.

The six-day voyage home would cap the 15-day “QE2” 2002 tour, which would begin on June 6 and end on June 20. Or a nine-day alternate tour that would end on June 14 for those wishing to fly home.

No specifics on either option is available as yet. Complete details should be available in time for the April FLAK NEWS, or you can “touch base” now by calling 1-800-423-5454. Meanwhile, now is the time to plan ahead.

The 2002 tour could well be the Last Hurrah.

Don’t Look Past St. Paul Reunion

While it will be very normal to be “carried away” with the prospect of being a part of the “Troopship Tour” in 2002, we should not forget that THIS year (2001) will see the 398th converging on St. Paul, Minnesota for the Association’s 18th Annual Reunion. The dates are October 3-4-5-6, 2001 and the gathering will take place in the Radisson City Center Hotel.

Sharon Krause of Plymouth, Michigan, daughter of 602 Squadron pilot Paul Roderick, will be the Reunion Chairman. Complete details will be published in the April issue of FLAK NEWS.

398th OFFICERS

President

Wallace (Wally) Blackwell, Rockville, MD 20850-3067

Vice President

Al Turney, Vallejo, CA 94591-6640

Secretary

Harold Stallcup, Forest City, NC 28043-3728

Treasurer

Marilyn Gibb, Colorado Springs, CO 80918-1577

Unit Contact

George Hilliard, Cincinnati, OH 45236-2313

Dues Manager

James Haas, Perry, IA 50220-0163

Group Historian

Dallas Ebest, San Antonio, TX 78213-1561

PX Officer

Joe Joseph, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168-6168

Board of Directors

Lewis E. Burke, Centreville, VA 20120-1759

Louis J. Stoffer, Centralia, WA 98531-4529

Arnold Schneider, Jerome, MI 49249-9759

Keith Anderson, Issaquah, WA 98027-8508

Public Relations

Allen Ostrom, Seattle, WA 98107-3165

Monument Fund

Ralph Hall, Chairman, New Bedford, MA 02740-1915

Ike Alhadef, Seattle, WA 98109-1435

Robert T. Bowen, Jr., Athens, GA 30606-4002

Word From The President:

Here we are in another year, and the continuation of the spirit of the 398th BGMA is still a major concern for so many of our members!

Although the 398th activities of the past year can hardly be matched again, I receive frequent indications that we are still filled with enthusiasm for the future of our organization. I see no difficulty proceeding with future plans for annual reunions and other events now that we hopefully have our operating fund plan in place. Indications are that the increase in annual dues to \$20 per year, as approved at the Savannah Reunion, will be successfully accepted.

We will still plan to pare down our Flak News mailing list as necessary to assure our financial stability.

We have **400 or more of us members who have never paid or are seriously delinquent** in dues, that are getting Flak News.

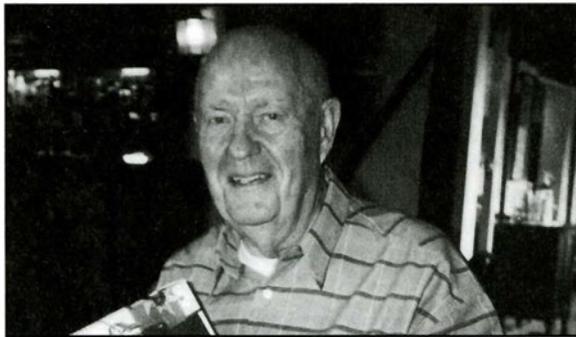
I can say we have a good gang of about 500 - 600 members who carry the load, and we can count on them to come through as faithful 398ers.

A major 398th joy of recent months has been the work of Lee Bradley in recovering Ed Stewart's valuable data base. Lee is the daughter of Fred Bradley, the engineer on the 601 Squadron Traeder crew. However, Lee has already gone way beyond just updating previously available 398th data, and is consolidating and expanding information from many sources, including research done by our English friends Les Dear and Goeff Rice. This data base will be routinely updated and will be the new basis for creation of membership directories; records for dues received; identification of members, spouse, blood relative or associate; historical data preservation; etc.

I cannot overemphasize the gigantic task and the computer work that Lee, our designated "398th BG Data Coordinator" is doing for us. Lee, you are doing your Dad's memory proud.

I have had questions about when we should fold the tent. My answer is that we will talk about it in great detail at St. Paul in 2001 (October 3-4-5-6).

**WALLY BLACKWELL, President
398th Bomb Group Association**



WALLY BLACKWELL

398th President Recovering

It was more than a bit of a scare, but 398th president Wally Blackwell is in a recovery mode following a lung operation last December.

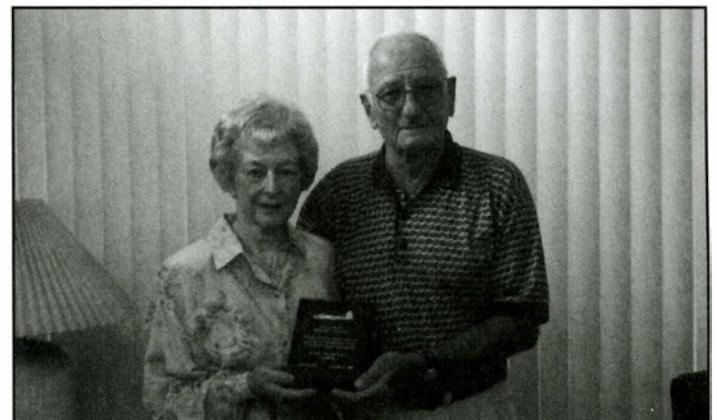
Alerted to a possible "asbestos problem" as a result of his work at a Suitland, MD office building, a "spot" did appear on a test X-ray. The "spot" was not from asbestos, but it was malignant and his physician successfully removed it.

"It kinda' reminded me of having to bail out over France. It was scary until I found my way over to our own lines."

Dues Time For East & Off-Shore

This quarter it is Dues Time for members living in the following states — Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware and Washington DC. Dues envelopes should be included in FLAK NEWS for these states.

Also for members and Friends living off-shore. UK members may send their dues (£10) to Barry Tyler, Colts Foot Farm, Anstey, Buntingford, Herts SG9 0BN, England. Tyler will forward the English dues to the U.S.



A PLAQUE honoring the late Ed Stewart for his many years of labor in maintaining a 398th special roster was presented to Peggy Stewart by PX manager Joe Joseph. The presentation took place in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

THE SAVANNAH REUNION

2nd Generation Stepping Up

As Seen Through The Eyes Of A Grandson

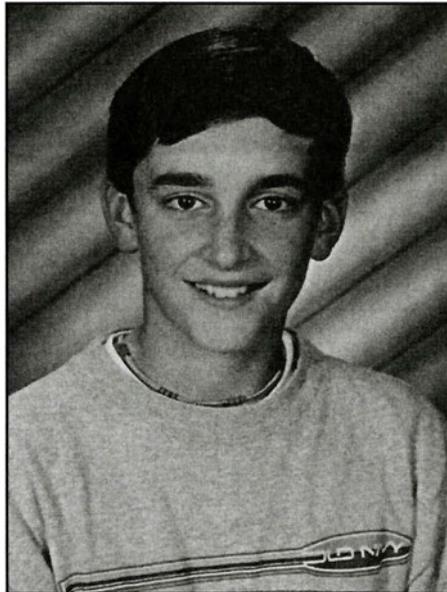
BY RYAN WHITE

Grandson Of Benny Braica
603 Squadron Ball Turret Gunner

The trip I took to Savannah, Georgia was very exciting and educational. Since my grandfather had been a ball-turret gunner on a B-17 in W.W. II, we had taken my grandparents down for the annual 398th Bomb Group Reunion. We arrived on Friday the 22nd and returned home on Sunday the 24th. I did many things while I was in Savannah and some I will never forget.

The first thing we did when we got down there was to find our hotel. It doesn't sound like much, but when you don't know where it is, it can be quite tricky. When we arrived at our hotel we met up with two guys that were on my grandfather's crew in the war. The first guy we met was Joe Joseph. He was the top turret gunner of the crew and was one of the coordinators for the reunion. The second man we met was Newt Moy, the pilot. I had the most fun around him because he could tell stories better than anyone in the whole crew. On that first night we were also introduced to another member of the crew named Homer Rhoades, the waist gunner.

Later that night my mom, dad and I went strolling on the River Walk that runs right by the Savannah River. It was right outside our hotel, and one of the first historical monuments we saw was on of Hernando de Soto who was an early Spanish explorer who explored the southeastern United States and Gulf of Mexico. We then veered off and took a walk on the shop-filled sidewalks of River Street. The unique thing about River Street is that the whole street is made of original cobblestone from back in the 1700's. When the ships came into port



BY RYAN WHITE

Grandson Of Benny Braica
603 Squadron Ball Turret Gunner

they were loaded with stones for ballast, and they dropped those stones into the river as they took on cargo. Those stones were recovered from the river and used to build the cobblestone streets.

On Saturday we took a trolley tour of the Historic District of Savannah. The interesting thing about the Historic District is that it is divided into squares which was originally designed to be a help in the war, but now the squares are filled with gardens and monuments. The squares are still in the original design that James Oglethorpe, the first governor of Georgia, brought with him from England. Of the original 24 squares, 21 still remain. Georgia was founded as a penal colony, and Governor Oglethorpe

Continued on Page 21

“He had his goals on the sky and he wanted to achieve those goals,” she said, clutching her son’s commendations. “He was just starting to live his life.”

The words of a mother, back in 1944, upon hearing that her son had been killed over Germany?

Not really. Those were the words of a mother of a sailor on the USS Cole, the American destroyer hit by a terrorist bomb in Aden, Yemen, last October.

With a loss of 17 lives, it was remindful of the cost of young life when a pair of B-17's were shot from the skies in World War II. It was “war” then. What do we call it now?

Signs of the times are with us again. Another second generation 398th member has stepped forward to take on a position of responsibility for the 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association.

This time it's Sharon Krause, who will be the reunion chairman at St. Paul, Minnesota for the October 3-4-5-6, 2001 meeting. She is the daughter of Paul Roderick, 602 pilot.

Last year it was Marilyn Gibb, daughter of the late 601 gunner, Jim Crouch, of the Willis Frazier crew who handled the reunion at Savannah (along with her other duties as 398th treasurer).

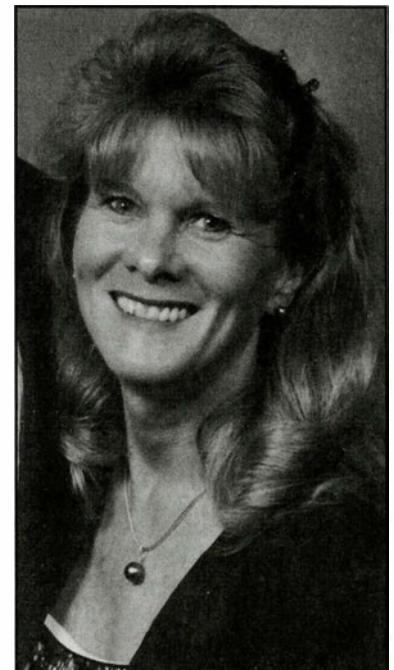
In 1998, Tom Bewley, son of 600 navigator on the Lew Chase crew, was in charge at the Harrisburg, PA reunion.

And another who has stepped forward to help out is Lee Bradley, daughter of engineer/gunner Frederick Bradley of the 601 Howard Traeder crew.

Lee has been given the title of “Data Coordinator” by president Wally Blackwell. Lee is currently updating the membership roster developed by the late Ed Stewart, and at the same time studying the printed 398th roster with an eye toward bringing all information into the computer age.

In her present position, Lee is classified as “Manager – News, Financial & Technical” for a television station in New Jersey.

As the growing Taps list (Pages 6-7) would indicate, a continuing number of “second generation” men and women will be surfacing in the coming years.



SHARON KRAUSE

St. Paul Reunion Chairman

GRANDSON

Continued from Page 3

was a very colorful character. Oglethorpe Street in Savannah is named for him.

Most all of the houses in the Historic District have balconies, one from which the Marquis de Lafayette made a speech during the American Revolution. The guide showed us one house that General Sherman stayed in during the Civil War after capturing Savannah. It is said that he offered Savannah to General Grant as a Christmas present.

We also passed a Vietnam War memorial, the Mercer house, the birthplace of Juliette Gordon Low who founded the Girl Scouts of America, a Confederate War Memorial, two cannons named George and Martha that were stolen by General George Washington from the British and given to the city of Savannah during the Revolutionary War.

Of course, we visited the 8th Air Force Heritage Museum and saw the monument that was dedicated to the museum in honor of the 398th. Inside the museum there was much to see. I saw a P.O.W. exhibit and many replicas of bomb raids on different targets. I also saw a replica bomb, the top turret of a B-17 and the middle of a bomber where the waist guns were. There were long winding cases filled with different war paraphernalia such as clothes, weapons and other items that were used in the war. I then went on a real eight-hour bombing mission in

A Start-to-Finish Mission Experience

the Mission Experience special effects theater that had been condensed into eight minutes. There I saw a replica briefing room and actual footage from the mission on large movie screens. The movie included everything about the mission from the briefing to the maintenance crew, from the loading of the bombs to the actual takeoff and the conflicts of the mission itself. When the bomb bay doors opened, you could actually feel the wind.

The last night we accompanied my grandparents to a large banquet that included all the squadrons from the whole 398th Bomb Group. There were people there from all over the United States.

I had a really great time in Savannah. In fact, my family had so much fun that we are thinking of maybe going back next summer as an entire family vacation. It was amazing to see and hear about what these brave men went through to preserve the freedom we now have in this country. When you think about it, some of the men in the 398th were only three or four years older than me when they were seeing combat over Europe. It was a great experience, and I will remember it for a long, long time.

THEY ALSO WAITED AT HOME

Heartbreak Wasn't Limited To FLAK-filled Skies



The agonies and heartbreak of war were not at all limited to the storied scenes of battle high in flak-filled skies...or in the seemingly hopelessness of prison camp.

They also waited at home. Longing, praying for word that their loved one was safe. For some, the news came quickly. For others, like Mrs. Frank P. Hunter and the others on his crew that went down on January 23, 1945, the wait seemed endless.

It was six months before the "missing in action" became "killed in action." And it was around Maria Hunter that the others rallied during this agonizing wait for news.

Lulu Campbell, wife of William Campbell, shared one of the many letters with the wife of the 398th CO –

"...and I know to the very depths of your heart how you are suffering. May God bless you and keep you, just as I have asked the Lord for so many things on behalf of all of us left behind."

And from Phyllis Lentz, wife of Charles Lentz –

"That was my husband's 25th mission, and it happened on his 23rd birthday. It's been so hard getting back all his birthday boxes. He never did get one of them. It is good to know that others are hoping and praying with us. We just can't fail!"

"Howard was our youngest son. He has a wife and little daughter. My dear, you don't know how we appreciate you writing to us. You know how we feel as you have the same heartache. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness and kindness. I will always be grateful to you."

Those tender words written by Mrs. Minnie Rogers, mother of Howard Rogers.

"I have a three-year old son to help me wait. Often he makes it more difficult, but ever so much more often he makes it less difficult and some ways helps to assure me that we will all be together again one day."

Those sentiments from Leone Butters, wife of Tom Butters.

And so it went for several months until word finally came that all but one crew member on Col. Hunter's lead aircraft had perished in the crash at Neuss. The pilot, Federico Gonzales, was the lone survivor. His mother and father also shared in the waiting.

But only they came to hear the wonderful words, "he's alive."

– Reprinted from REMEMBRANCES

"Stained Glass Window" Book Available

Don Gaddo's sequel to "Angel, A Mighty Fortress," is off the press and available to 398th readers.

The new book is called, "The Stained Glass Window," a continuation of the story that told of the 602 Dallas Hawkins crew and particularly of the writer's cousin, Joseph Doglio.

"Stained Glass Window" is a short story that brings to life characters who survived a war and continue to fight it through their memories.

The book costs \$18.95 postage paid. Order from Don Gaddo, Chapel Hill, NC 27514-0773.

A Highway Shall Be There, And It Shall Be Called The Holy Way.

-Isaiah 35:8

"It is absolutely right that we are here today...to give thanks for those who have gone before us. To try in our own way to do something for society and freedom. To try through art and music, through prayer and silence, to draw close to God.

"But in the end, all of the vast and liberating and infinite things we have tried to express, find their summation and their focus in one man, sweat-stained walking the narrow path.

"For it is in Him, and receiving from Him the gift of wounded salvation, that we shall be taken by the grace of God into Heaven.

"And there, all the polarities of war and peace, of suffering and of joy, of beauty and of horror, will be taken up unto Him, resolved and made whole."

— RT. REV. CHRISTOPHER WILLIAM HERBERT
The Bishop of St. Albans, England

The bishop was an imposing figure on the high, ancient pulpit at St. George's Church, Anstey, the day the 398th Bomb Group Memorial window was dedicated. After his address he moved to the window with other officials and dedicated the window to the glory of God.

The above paragraphs were among the closing remarks of Bishop Christopher Herbert's sermon on Sunday morning, June 11, 2000.

There were others —
"How can I begin, with the awkward and gracious things that are words are, to try to get near truth?"

"I have, you will realize, moved from the individual to the communal, from the communal to the eternal. But I want now to bring us back, to root all that I have said, in this particular place on this particular day, to this very name of Anstey."

The Bishop's exquisite use of the English language, intermixed with poetry, scripture and quotes from 398th airmen, provided an eloquence rarely heard by either the visiting Yanks or their UK friends.

With so many having asked for copies of the Bishop's sermon, FLAK NEWS is making them available for \$1.00 each. Send requests to Allen Ostrom, Seattle, WA 98107-3165.

"A Highway Shall Be There..."

398th MONUMENT FUND

Portfolio Market Value as of December 25, 2000 66,587.00
Interest Income for 2000 5,408.00
The annual maintenance fee is paid through March 1, 2001



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

9th October, 2000

Dear Mr. Ostrom.

I am commanded by The Queen to thank you for your letter and for sending Her Majesty the tape recording called "Grandmother's Wish" by Mr. Don Gaddo concerning his feelings about his first visit to England in the company of World War II airmen.

The Queen was most interested to hear from you and to know that Mr. Gaddo's grandmother was born in England. Her Majesty thought it was kind of you to write to her at this time and I am to thank you again.

I am returning the tape recording as you may wish to have it back.

Yours sincerely,

Katey Ingham

Lady-in-Waiting

398th Bomb Group Memorial Association

PROFIT and LOSS

January 1 through December 25, 2000

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income	
"Memory of" Fund	50.00
8th Air Force Dues	90.00
CD Sales	599.94
Flak News	5,711.33
Membership Dues	12,415.20
Memorial Fund	100.00
Miscellaneous Income	1,066.15
P.X. Sales	7,000.00
Reunion	2,399.48
Roster	205.00
Total Income	29,637.10
Expense	
Bank Service Charges	65.00
Flak News Expense	13,469.94
Gifts	169.42
Miscellaneous	109.08
P.X. Restocking	7,459.38
Postage and Delivery	1,006.11
Printing and Reproduction	135.93
Reunion Expenses	0.00
Supplies	482.62
Telephone	478.66
Total Expense	23,376.14
Net Ordinary Income	6,260.96

BALANCE SHEET

As of December 25, 2000

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Ent Federal Credit Union - Savings	37.02
Ent Federal Credit Union - Checking	15,101.82
Total Checking/Savings	15,138.84
Total Current Assets	15,138.84
TOTAL ASSETS	15,138.84

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity	6,705.53
Opening Bal Equity	2,172.35
Retained Earnings	6,260.96
Net Income	6,260.96
Total Equity	15,138.84

Abemathy, John R.
Adamak, Edward
Adams, Eugene R.
Adleman, Milo
Agnew, Harry
Agnew, Robert
Alderson, Richard
Alexander, Claude
Allare, John
Allen, George E.
Altman, Frank
Alves, Alfred
Amer, Jerry
Anaya, Alredo
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.
Bacon, James C.
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)
Bangson, Barry D.
Bankert, James
Baptist, 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
Bearden, Edgar
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, Keanie 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
Borchers, Doyle
Bornstedt, John W.
Bossart, Herbert
Bottoms, Millard S.
Bourke, Joseph E.
Bowcock, H. Guy
Bowman, Leonard L.
Bowman, Haskell
Braddock, Heyward M.
Bradley, Frederick C.
Brady, Jack
Breault, Al
Breimeyer, Royal
Brewer, Darrell F.
Bridges, Clarence W.
Brody, James J.
Britt, Thomas F.
Brockman, James W.
Brokaw, Rev. Raymond C.
Brown, Arnold W.
Brown, E. Logan
Brown, Hilyer (Pete)
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.
Buchsbaum, Louis
Buck, Chester S.
Buck, Herman J.
Buckingham, James S.
Buckley, Francis X.
Burke, Al
Burriss, Thomas E.
Burton, John
Buscanti, John P.
Buschbaum, Louis
Bushle, Louis
Bussard, James L.
Butler, John
Buvinger, David
Buzza, Kenneth
Callahan, Noel
Campbell, Edward A.
Campbell, Tom
Campbell, Van B.
Campbell, Wallis L.
Campdon, Alfred
Carlton, Donald P.
Carter, Nigel
Carter, Robert C., *Watson Crew*
Carter, Robert C., *(Saterite crew)*
Cason, Alfred
Castro, Edward
Catterson, Kenneth 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.
Clements, Jerauld
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
Corstui, Anthony
Cote, Arthur
Coupert, Bernard
Coville, Paul A.
Cowan, Harry
Cowley, John J.
Cox, Howard W.
Cox, Norman
Cox, Paul E.
Coxey, John T.
Crawford, Paul
Crocker, Lawrence
Cron, Robert
Crouch, James
Cubranich, Julius P.
Cummings, D.L.
Cutcher, James L.
Dacon, Charles H.
Dailley, Donald
Dalton, Hollis
Daly, William J.
Dames, John J.
Darcy, Lawrence
Damer, 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.
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
Durbur, Francis
Dutrow, Gordon P.

Duvall, Rev. James T.,
Protestant Chaplain
Dwyer, William J.
Eberhart, Jay J.
Echevarria, Jose
Eck, Harold
Edgell, Harry
Edgington, Gilbert
Edick, C. Kenneth
Edwards, John H.
Ehil, Edward
Ehret, Clarence
Eisele, Francis C.
Elsrod, Orville
Elwood, Kenneth
Emmons, James W.
Engard, Robert
Ensign, Col. Lewis
Erickson, Edward H.
Erickson, Mahlon
Erickson, Paul W.
Erler, Donald J.
Evans, Clarence E.
Faber, Herbert G.
Falkenbach, John S.
Farenthold, Francis L.
Farewell, Francis A.
Farley, Robert
Farmer, Edward
Farmer, Jack D.
Farnsworth, Dexter
Farrell, William A.
Faughn, Joe
Fender, Maj. Keith C.
Ferguson, Reginald C.
Fernandez, Frank
Fick, Herbert
Fields, Jerome G.
Fleming, Horace
Fletcher, Richard E.
Flickinger, Charles R.
Flipse, David
Floyd, Arch C.
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
Gerrain, Peter
Gibb, Robert
Gibbons, Marion H.
Gibeau, Raymond
Gibson, Charles F.
Gillenwater, Joseph A.
Ginsburg, Joseph
Giuliano, Pete
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

O Lord, support u

Green, Sam B.
Greenberg, Abraham
Gregorie, Robert K.
Gresh, Steve
Griffo, Arthur
Grossman, M.
Grothues, Al
Gruber, Fred
Guice, Thomas
Guild, Herbert
Gulledge, Thomas G.
Gurney, Julius
Guy, Chester L.
Hafer, George C.
Hager, Herman L.
Hakomaki, Floyd
Hale, Robert D.
Hall, Joe
Hall, Walter
Haller, John A.
Hamacher, Ross L.
Hammill, Frank D.
Hammontree, Jack C.
Hanauer, James
Hancock, William C.
Hapgood, Alfred
Hardenburg, Harry B.
Hardy, Arnold
Hardy, John R.
Harmon, Carl H.
Harrington, Cornelius
Harrington, Robert E.
Hart, Karl E.
Hartman, Paul J.
Hartsell, William S.
Hartwell, George W.
Hatch, Dwight
Hatcher, Robert
Hatten, Harold R.
Haworth, William A.
Haws, Thomas R.
Haynes, Charles (Irby)
Haynes, James T.
Hays, Nathan B.
Hayward, Harold D.
Hazlitt, James R.
Hearn, Thomas G.
Heck, Paul V.
Hedeem, Melvin
Heitman, Paul F.
Henagan, Henry H.
Hendrickson, William
Henning, Frank
Hennikus, George
Hentschel, Herbert G.
Herbert, Earl
Herbert, Robert G.
Herbst, Carl A.
Hereid, Selby P.
Herman, Jacob D.
Hemden, Raymond A.
Herrera, Pedro
Hesterly, Kenneth
Hicinbothem, Franklin
Hickey, Charles
Hildreth, Robert
Hill, Jack
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

Hoynes, Earl K.
Hreachmack, Joseph
Hudson, Herman D.
Huey, Elbert P.
Hughes, Byron B.
Hunnicut, Elzie
Hunsaker, Edwin F.
Hunt, Mack
Hunter, Charles F.
Hunter, Dr. Lewis B.
Huntington, Sam, *Associate*
Huntzinger, Ed
Hush, Robert
Hussey, Roy
Hutchinson, John L.
Hyland, Gervase (Gerry)
Inman, Willie H.
Isdahl, Chester R.
Issenmann, Francis J.
Jackson, Leroy K.
Jackson, Paul K.
Jarman, Gordon
Jeffries, Kenneth V.
Jellen, Anthony J.
Jellison, Elwell S.
Jendrezweski, Ray
Jenkins, James

*O Lord, support
Until the sha
And our u
Then in thy
A safe
And peace*

Jennings, George W.
Johanson, Dennis
Johnson, A.G.
Johnson, Gene
Johnson, Warren
Jones, Andrew
Jones, Charles T.
Jones, George D.
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.
Kautl, Albert
Kautz, Robert
Kavanaugh, Dr. William R.
Kay, Allen
Kearney, Earl
Keene, Raymond
Kelly, Jerome F.
Kelly, Dr. Robert
Kenyon, Donald E.
Keown, George E.
Kerr, Walter H.
Keyes, Frank T.
Kilby, William C.
Kimball, Dale
King, Charles E.
King, Donald
Kirscher, John E.

s all the day long

Kiser, Kenneth
Kite, Dallas E.
Klimasczski, Victor
(Klemens)
Klingenhoffer, John
Klix, George A.
Kneuer, Arthur T.
Knife, Percy, *Honorary Member*
Knight, George N.
Kohut, Charles
Kolafa, John
Kolb, Kenneth
Konie, Ernie
Kotte, Norman E.
Kozak, Stephen V.
Kramer, Harvey
Kramer, Virgil F.
Krause, John J.
Krebs, Eugene F.
Kroh, Charles H.
Kuck, Homer R.
Kuenneth, George W.
Kunkel, John
Kypta, Harold A.
Labat, Lionel L.
Lachman, Russell

Luukinen, Albert L.
Lynch, Floyd
Mac Phail, Basil
Mackey, Frank
MacKlin, Roy D.
Macyda, Frank
Madden, Edward F.
Madlung, Jack
Magnan, Mark
Maheer, Jere L.
Mahlum, Clayton
Mallory, Jack D.
Maloney, Clarence E.
Mann, Douglas
Manos, M. John
Manzi, Jerry
Mapel, Donald E.
Marabeas, Nick
Marchbanks, Tom
Marfilius, Elmer H.
Martin, George A.
Martinek, Emil J.
Martone, August J.
Martorella, Angelo
Massey, Frank
Masters, Marvert
Mates, Stanley
Matheis, Melville J.
Matheson, Burton
Matthews, Tom
Mattson, George
Maudsley, Donald R.
Maxfield, John F.
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, Ken E. (Bud)
McLaughlin, Robert J.
McMenamin, John A.
McMichael, Robert D.
McMillan, Billy J.
McMurray, Quentin
McNalley, J.F.
McNeil, Claude A.
McQuitty, Charles
Meingast, Joe
Melis, Charles
Melson, Rufus
Melvin, Ernest C.
Menzel, Arnold
Merchant, Charles A.
Merritt, Charles A.
Merritt, Donald
Mertz, Eugene R.
Meyers, Russ
Miceli, Gaspera (Bob)
Michael, Robert D.
Miles, Alex
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
Moon, Andrew N.
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.
Mottter, William F.
Mudloff, Arthur F.
Mullaney, Justin P.
Mullin, Peter
Mullins, John A.
Mummert, William S.
Mundhenke, Roland D.
Mutz, J.H.
Myers, Reuel Jr.
Nadel, Saul
Naioti, John F.
Namey, John
Naragon, Daniel J.
Nash, George N.
Neidringhaus, M.A. (Bud)
Neill, David S.
Nejaski, Leroy
Nelson, Gene
Nelson, J.C.
Nelson, Orville
Newman, Elvis M.
Noble, Earl
Norby, William
Notropole, Robert J.
Nulf, Larry
Nungesser, Arthur H.
O'Brien, John W.
O'Brien, Robert A.
O'Brien, Robert J.
O'Connell, Danny
O'Doherty, James S.
Oeder, Robert M.
Offutt, Marion
Oliver, James
Olson, Otto
Ongley, Bert
Osborn, John W.
Oswald, D. Stewart
Otto, William M.
Ottum, Howard W.
Overton, James B.
Overton, Vernon
Overturf, Thomas V.
Owens, Blaine
Painschab, Joseph H.
Palmer, Charles P.
Pappas, Venizelos G.
Paris, Archie
Parrish, Lewis E.
Parsons, B.H.
Paugh, Thomas E.
Paxson, Theodore E.
Payne, Claude N.
Payne, Marshall M.
Peach, Tom
Peek, Kenneth R.
Penders, Robert
Pendleton, Charles B.
Penland, Joe
Perrou, Ed
Perry, Arthur M.
Petersen, Tracy J.
Peterson, Christian
Peterson, Raymond
Petska, Albert M.
Pfeiffer, Robert
Pichette, Albert W.
Pierzchala, Benjamin J.
Pilarcik, Andrew
Pintek, Joe
Poston, Brian A.
Poston, Carl W.
Powell, John
Powell, Sam
Prettyman, William B.
Pricer, Jene L.
Priestley, William T.
Procopio, Mario
Pryor, Gailliard S.
Puthoff, Lewis A.
Pyles, Robert F.
Pysson, Albert
Quinn, John A.
Quinn, Stephen R.

Radnedge, William B.
Rammer, Robert E.
Ramsbottom, Manson
Rayes, Charles J.
Redican, Francis M.
Rehme, Howard W.
Reid, Perry
Rex, John H.
Riccio, Michael
Rich, James T.
Richardson, Robert A.
Rickabaugh, Ronald
Riley, Erwin J.
Riley, Howard K.
Ritter, Robert
Roberts, Herman
Roberts, Jack
Robinson, Hal D.
Robinson, Robert
Rockstroh, Kenneth J.
Rogers, Linn R.
Rohrer, Richard L. (Rip)
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.
Russel, Houston R.
Ryan, James B.
Ryan, Michael O.
Ryle, Raymond S.
Sachs, Stanley
Saglin, Carl O.
Sawyer, Hiram N.
Schaal, Arthur H.
Schallert, Maurice
Schantzbach, John H.
Schapiro, Joseph S.
Schmaiz, Karl W.
Schmidt, Richard H.
Schneider, John
Schoen, Ernest A.
Schoener, George W.
Schofield, James
Schroeder, Allyn
Schultz, William P.
Schumacher, Alpha H.
Schwerer, George J.
Scott, Ernest D.
Scott, Norman T.
Scott, R.F.
Scott, Roscoe H.
Scott, Talma A.
Seal, Charles F.
Seaver, Warren
Secord, John
Seibert, Earl W.
Selevan, Arthur
Self, Clifton L.
Selgrath, John
Sellers, Lyndell
Shadroui, Alfred
Shaffer, W.A.
Shaw, Donald
Sheely, Roy M.
Sherrrod, Fred
Shields, William Louis
Shimek, Albert J.
Shirk, Charles W.
Shott, Edwin E.
Shreve, Eli
Siegenthaler, Anthony F.
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
Smerko, Joseph
Smith, Clarence
Smith, Coy
Smith, Frank
Smith, Harold
Smith, Herbert E.
Smith, John E.
Smith, Oscar J.
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
Stacy, Nick
Staley, Edmund E.
Stallings, Harold
Stanbrough, Claude
Strange, Raymond P.
Stankiewicz, Charles
Starkey, Robert P.
Staskiel, Stanley
Steele, Charles H.
Steele, Kenneth M.
Steinberger, Edwin
Stelmach, Walter
Stephens, James
Sternadel, Robert L.
Stetter, Paul J.
Stewart, Edward S.
Stickel, Robert F.
Stiles, Jack
Stitz, Thomas
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.
Suggett, Walter
Sullivan, The Rev. Walter B.,
Catholic Chaplain
Sundheim, Lloyd
Sutton, Barney M.
Swan, Neil
Sweet, Dr. Robert
Szubka, Sigmund
Tacker, Laurence J.
Tatchio, Orrin R.
Taylor, Franklin
Teague, Herbert
Templeton, Robert A.
Terbieten, Dr. Urban
Terrion, Leo W.
Thacker, Ike
Thomas, Henry
Thompson, Lowell
Thompson, Oakley J.
Thompson, Robert
Thompson, Williams H.
Tilden, George I.
Tillman, Wally
Tillotson, Albert
Timm, Wilber D.
Tolbert, Joseph F.
Tomaino, Antonio J.
Tone, Emmett W.
Totter, Joseph H.
Townsend, Charles
Townsend, 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
Uhl, Robert G.
Ullman, Robert A.

Unkel, Rudolph E.
Unverzagt, Daniel
Upmeier, Tom
Vale, William G.
Vanderlick, William
VanDyke, Donald J.
VanPelt, Richard J.
Veech, Ewart M.
Vela, George E.
Veley, Les
Vernet, Waldemar
Vicha, Raymond A.
Vincent, Robert W.
Vines, John H.
Waaramaa, Arthur
Waldbauer, Charles A.
Waldman, Benjamin I.
Walker, Robert L.
Walkup, Charles A.
Wallrath, Raymond
Walter, R.N.
Walthall, Ernest
Ward, John
Waring, Leonard H.
Warren, Alfred
Wasserman, Charles
Watkins, Sam
Watson, Leland A.
Weatherwax, C.D.
Weaver, Wayne
Webb, Henry
Weiler, Frank
Welder, Leo J.
Welence, Edmund W.
Wells, Burton B.
Wells, David, *Honorary Member*
Wernecke, Vonnerlin
Wheeler, William J.
Wheless, H.A.
White, Victor H.
Whitehead, Fred A.
Whitman, Fred
Whorton, James H.
Wickam, James E.
Wickman, Walter
Wierney, Joseph
Wiggins, Robert E.
Wight, Bill V.
Wilde, George J.
Williams, Frank J.
Williams, James R.
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
Worrell, Floyd G.
Wright, Ellsworth S.
Wright, Warren H.
Wright, William M.
Wymer, Kenneth M.
Young, Donald R.
Zackman, William W.
Zagelow, Larry
Zajic, Raymond J.
Zampetti, Dr. Herman
Zawatsky, Walter F.
Zimmerman, Leland
Zwaanstra, Williams P.

s all the day long
ows lengthen
rk is done.
ercy grant us
aming
at the last.

LaCoste, Ernie
Lake, William J.
Lamar, John W.
Lamiell, James C.
Land, Don
Landrie, William H.
Lang, Fredrick
Langford, Ray
Lanich, Edward R.
Lassegard, Leroy
Latrenta, Peter
Latson, Harvey
LeDoux, Ray J.
Leemon, Don
Leonard, Gene
Leukharot, Roy
Levy, David
Libertucci, Peter
Licker, Herbert
Like, Waldean
Lindo, Fred
Lindomen, Edwin
Linke, Walter J.
Locy, John
Long, Douglas
Lorence, Clarence R.
Loveless, Harold
Lovely, Robert
Lowe, Donald B.
Lowe, Jessup (Dave)
Lowe, Lloyd F.
Lucas, Wilbur F.
Ludlam, Charles W.
Luizzi, Sam
Lundy, Douglas M.
Lusk, Walter A.
Lutz, Joseph

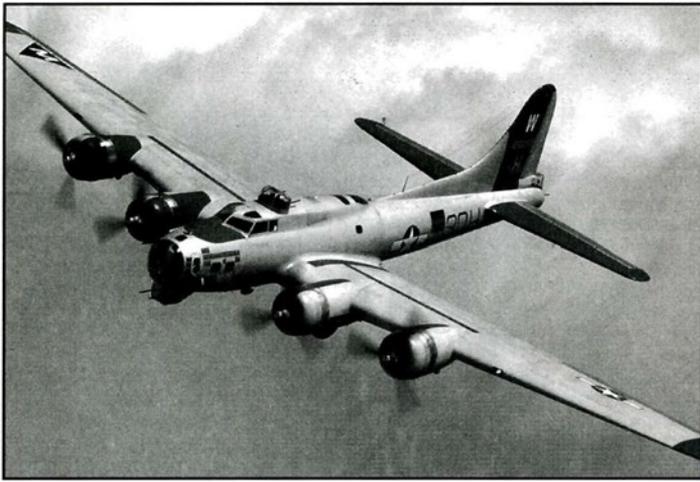


Photo By Mike Steineke

“A Tribute to the 398th”

BY SANDRA AVERHART

While I was yet a gleam
in my dear father's eye,
you left to go and fight the war,
your aircraft soon to fill the sky.

On fire for freedom, you valiantly fought,
courage and honor you humbly wore.
To end the tyranny of evil men,
war's atrocities you bravely bore.

You were so young and so very eager
to fight for the country you loved.
Ground crew and airmen selflessly served
with help from our God above.

Still...I was not born...I could not know
the sacrifice you made;
But now I'm grown and know so well
how much you dearly paid.

You went to war – some never returned,
you fought for freedom's cause.
The pride I feel when Old Glory waves
makes a lump in my throat, and I pause.

I gaze at dog-eared photos
of the loved-one I'll never see.
If only I could have known him,
but it wasn't meant to be.

I weep for one I never met;
his plane went down in '44.
I love him and the many others
who perished in the war.

Through the years, on countless graves
sweet flowers have been laid,
but to all still living and those gone on,
our debt to you can NEVER be paid.

So to each of you, we say thank-you
and though we've never met,
the 398th is dear to our hearts.
We are all forever in your debt.

This very sensitive poem, “A Tribute to the 398th,” was written by Sandra M. Averhart of Fort Myers, Florida. It was presented to FLAK NEWS at the Savannah reunion last September, some hours following her visit to the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum and the dedication of the 398th Memorial.

Sandra is the niece of William H. Baker, 600 Squadron navigator who was killed when his plane crashed at Reed (near Nuthampstead) upon returning from a mission to Merseburg on November 25, 1944. Also killed at the time were pilot V.A. Hansard and co-pilot Robert L. Davis. Surviving via bail-outs were Ken Hesterly, William Lake, Ed Briskie, William Colclough, James Fowler and Robert Cantwell. (See FLAK NEWS Vol. 8, No. 1).

Got some very special “troopship memories” from 1944-45, either going or coming? Share them with the FLAK NEWS editor as members look forward to the England “Troopship Tour” in 2002 on the return trip from Southampton to New York.

Aluminum Overcast: Spring-Summer Tour

March 14-19	Albuquerque, NM
March 19-22	El Paso, TX
March 22-29	Tucson, AZ
March 29-April 2	Deer Valley, AZ
April 2-9	Palm Springs, CA
April 9-12	Long Beach, CA
April 12-16	San Diego, Ca
April 16-19	San Bernardino, CA
April 19-23	Van Nuys, CA
April 23-26	Santa Barbara, CA
April 26-30	Paso Robles, CA
April 30-May 3	Fresno, CA
May 3-7	Visalia, CA
May 7-10	San Jose, CA
May 10-13	Sacramento, CA
May 13-18	San Francisco (120-hr check)
May 18-21	Carson City, NV
May 21-24	Oroville, CA
May 24-28	Medford, OR
May 28-31	Eugene, OR
May 31-June 5	Portland, OR
June 5-11	Seattle, WA
June 11-14	Spokane, WA
June 14-18	Boise ID
June 18-21	Idaho Falls, ID
June 21-25	Salt Lake City, UT
June 25-28	Grand Junction, CO
June 28-July 5	Denver, CO
June 28-July 5	Colorado Springs, CO
July 5-9	Madison, WI

Do You Have a “No Such Number?”

More than a few FLAK NEWS this past year have been returned for “No Such Number” and many more for “No Forwarding Address.” And many, many more FLAK NEWS have been forwarded by the Post Office to new addresses at considerable expense to the 398th.

So, please check your mailing label just to be certain that your address is EXACTLY the way the Post Office wants it. And if you are contemplating a move, please let FLAK NEWS know about it BEFORE you move.

And, if you will, if the addressee happens to be deceased, please advise FLAK NEWS so we can place his name on the Taps list (and replace his name with a son, daughter or other associate).

“After All These Years” Bail Out Memories Are Not Forgotten

Bob Hart's life is becoming more storied by the day.

During one period in 1944 he experienced not only one, but two life-threatening events in the span of a few days.

Consider a successful bail-out from his B-17 over England (coming home from Humieres, France) and then another B-17 jump a week later on July 16 (after a Flak-attack over Munich, Germany).

Either one would qualify for a top-of-line “war story.”

Mix in some PW time, 27 years in the business world and a career with the Air Force Reserve that gave him an LC and his life would have been more or less complete.

Finally, time for family and hobbying with his cherished antique and late model cars.

(Plug in a year as 398th Bomb Group reunion chairman in Dayton, Ohio in 1989.

And now, “after all these years,” Bob's story could well be surfacing next fall as part of a Public Broadcast Service television production featuring a youth choral group and world famous organist.

All this involves a Catholic nun, a 90-year old priest, a Pennsylvania choir director, a Luxembourg tour company...and a Swedish tour guide.

Not to mention an English Friend of the 398th, an artist and an aviation archeologist. (See separate story covering the bail-out over England).

Back to Munich (where the second bail-out occurred) –

Hart was riding co-pilot with Curtis (Dane) Lovelace and his 600 Squadron crew consisting of Bob Uhl, navigator; Alton Andrews, bombardier; Robert Rees, ETG; Charles Weatherwax, Radio; Sam Miller, ball turret; Donald Land, waist; and Gerard Anatillia, tail gunner.

German Flak bursts over Munich set the Lovelace port wing on fire and the pilot gave the “bail out” order. All did so successfully except for Lovelace and Anatillia, who were ultimately found dead at the crash site.

The crash site was in a mountainous area near the Austrian city of Achenkirk, 30 miles southeast of Munich and east of Innsbruck. Hart managed to remain free for two days, but was captured near the Catholic church in Achenkirk, where soon after the bodies of Lovelace and Anatillia were buried after being retrieved from the crash site. The others who bailed out successfully were also soon captured and sent to PW camps.

Ten months of PW time and finally

home to begin the aforementioned civilian/Reserve careers.

Enter Pär Nilhammer, the Swedish tour guide working for Destination Europe of Luxembourg. Nilhammer guided the 398th tour to England and Germany in 1998 and also to England and the Czech Republic in 2000. He was forever asking the 398th veterans about their World War II experiences, not only because of his personal interest, but also for his professional tour knowledge.

Hart supplied him with his Munich experience, and Pär took note that Achenkirk was near the Innsbruck-Salzburg highway he had used many times before in “tour guiding” an American musical group from Pennsylvania.

Would the church nun (Sofie) be interested in having an American choral group sing at her church? And would the choir leader (Barbara Spiri) be interested in singing at the Achenkirk church (and perhaps honor the men killed on the Lovelace crew who had been buried there in 1944?)

Everyone said “yes” and the “Eastern Area Youth Choir” did perform and they did lay a wreath at the altar.

Nilhammer, the following day, found a 90-year-old priest and man who had brought the two bodies down from the mountain in 1944 and they all drove to an area overlooking the crash site.

“If Bob comes on our Choir tour next summer I will lead him to the crash site,” said Nilhammer.

(Bob and Eloise are already making such plans).

Meanwhile, Nilhammer returned once again to the area in early December, 2000. Same choir director (Spiri) but in the accompany of Diane Bish, an organist with monumental musical credits...and all in the accompany of a U.S. public television crew and journalist.

The group sang and Diane Bish played, and the TV crew has promised a nationwide viewing in the fall.

All because Hart jumped and history...and Nilhammer...wouldn't forget.

“Here's to your ability
To maintain your agility
And keep your virility
Well into your senility”

(Thanks to Juanice Powell, Shelbyville, Texas)

Brits ‘Gang Up’ on Bob Hart

Geoff Rice and his buddy Les Dear are the 398th's resident historians in England. Their on-going research on personnel and B-17 serial numbers represent classic examples of interest, respect and determination.

One of Rice's contribution's to 398th Fortress history concerns the search for the B-17 that pilots Dane Lovelace and Bob Hart and their crew jumped from before it crashed into the English countryside while trying to make it home from a mission to France. This was on July 8, 1944 and the plane was No. 42-97380.

Hart, one of the three members of the crew still living (two died on the July 16 mission to Munich), provided as much information as he could on the location of the July 8 crash site. Under the emergency (“Get ready to bail out!”) conditions that existed at the time, his memory's



“margin of error” of the exact location was “plus or minus 40 miles.”

It proved to be near Bildeston, north-east of Nuthampstead, said Rice.

Meanwhile, Hart met aviation artist Andrew Robertson at Madingly in 1998 and invited him to join in the search. He, in turn, contacted aviation archeologist Ian Pinder and soon the remains of No. 42-97380 were found.

This past year during the England Tour, Rice, Robertson and Pinder joined forces to “gang up” on Hart and his wife. Artist Robertson presented Hart with a painting on “N8 R” in full flight. But with two engines feathered and two pilots bailing out.

Pinder, in rumaging at the crash site, found enough battery terminal lead to create a backdrop plate for a B-17 profile with 8th, Group and Squadron logos.

Hart, all choked up with the gifts, resumed the emotional scene by taking his British Friends to dinner in Cambridge.

It was 57 long years ago, but the memories linger.

The Wakefield Watch.

Vol. I, No. 12

Of, by and for men of the USS WAKEFIELD

16 April, 1944

AROUND THE GLOBE - NEWS IN BRIEF

MOSCOW--The Victory Guns in the Kremlin boomed in salute last night as Soviet-troops, supported by heavy Red air fleets, were driving the German-Rumanian forces steadily out of the Crimean peninsula. An estimated 100,000 Nazis were attempting to evacuate by any available boat or ship. By Friday morning, 3/4 of the Crimea was in Russian hands, with one Russian army pushing toward Sevastopol via the Southern Crimean railroad. The United Press said that there was "evidently little Nazi resistance." The Red Army newspaper Pravda also said that the reason for the easy Russian successes was that the Reds concentrated their main offensive forces on major military objectives, and let the secondary objectives fall of their own accord. Typical of the rate of the Red advance was the Russian tank division, which advanced over 90 miles in 36 hours. The Crimean capital, Feodostya, and Simferopol have fallen to the Russians, along with over 200,000 Nazi prisoners. The Reds also have taken the town of Ovidopol, at the mouth of the Dneis-ter River, west of Odessa.

ANKARA--Unconfirmed Turkish sources said a Rumanian peace group is en route to Moscow.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC--American 5thAF airmen dumped 322 tons of bombs on Hollandia, Jap base, damaging 10 enemy ships. Other bombers hit at Jap bases in the Bismarck Archipelago and dropped 150 tons on Rabaul, New Britain. Further raids were made on Truk and Penape.

NAPLES--American torpedo boats have sunk 11 German ships off the Dalmatian coast in the last eight days.

ZAGREB--Gen. Tito's Yugoslav patriots went into blazing action today against their rival forces, cutting a railroad at Kalpin, 58 miles from here. German forces have taken Gilamac, 33 miles from Gibenik. Other German-Bulgarian offensives continued in Serbia.

STOCKHOLM--Several Swedish sources indicated that among the Finnish working classes is a common desire for peace with Russia. Heretofore, the masses have been unable to express an opinion. The Diet and the government have refused all Russian peace proposals so far.

INDIA--There was no change on the Indian front today, with the exception of patrol activity. Lord Louis Mountbatten visited his troops at the front, paying tribute to his hard-fighting Indian 17th Division.

NAPLES--Allied airmen provided the news on the Italian front by hitting at German communication and supply centers near Cassino. Light bombers attacked Nazi field batteries and troop installations as ground fighting continued slowly.

STOCKHOLM--U.S. Minister to Sweden Johnson gave the Swedish government Secretary Hull's note to "stop trading with aggressor nations."

HOW ABOUT some items for THE WATCH? Drop 'em in the metal box just outside the library door, C Deck, forward...This is YOUR paper!

LONDON--The British reported that a few German bombers were over the Essex region late last night, with some of them reaching London to inflict some damage. Two of the Nazi planes were shot down.

LONDON--RAF Mosquito bombers raided Berlin Thursday night in a follow-up attack of the day's raids on the German capital by American heavy bombers. 138 German fighters were shot down by Allied bombers. Between 500 and 750 bombers took part in the raid, attacking the Messerschmitt plants in Schweinfurt, the ball-bearing factories in Augsburg and the airplane hangars and assembly plants in Oberpfaffenhauon. Allied pilots reported a new type Messerschmitt in action, more streamlined and maneuverable.

WASHINGTON--Secretary of War Stimson said that for the last two weeks the Nazi war machine has felt the full force of combined American-British airforces. This, he said, was for a three-fold purpose: To support the Russians in their Black Sea drive, hit hard at Nazi production and disrupt the German communications system.

NORTH PACIFIC--U.S. heavy bombers hit at Jap-held Kurile Islands for the 9th time in 3 days, inflicting heavy damage on enemy installations. The Kurile Group is only 1,000 miles from Tokyo.

WASHINGTON--SecNavy Knox said more than 200 enemy subs were sunk in the Atlantic and Pacific last year, reducing the undersea menace to a minimum.

Remembrances, FLAK NEWS CD'S Now At PX

In an effort to consolidate all PX transactions, Joe Joseph has now taken over the distribution of the two CD Roms that deal with 398th history.

This had previously been handled by Dallas Ebest, group historian, who will continue in that capacity.

Jack's Books, the six-album photo/documentary assembled by the late Jack Wintersteen, has been placed on one CD Rom and is available for \$25 from the PX, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168-6168.

Another "package deal" contains the first 10 years of FLAK NEWS (1986-1996) on one disc. A second disc contains FLAK NEWS issues between 1997 through January 2000 plus the entire 100-page history book, Remembrances. The pair cost \$30.00.

See Joe Joseph's PX order sheet on Page 11.

Window Postcards Available

PX manager Joe Joseph has received from our Friends of the 398th in England 250 ready-to-mail 4 x 6 post cards depicting the stained glass window at Anstey. The caption describes the history of the window, the dedication and unveiling. Cost per each is \$2.00. See accompanying order sheet.

One Of Our Aircraft Is Missing (And A Whole Lot More)

A fascinating newsletter from England's "2 & 3 Wireless Observer Units," now known as "Burma Star," came to FLAK NEWS from Wally Noble, the editor (and Friend of the 398th).

Included among the many stories of England's WWII war in Burma, was the question, "What country has lost this military posture since 1992?"

*709,000 regular service personnel
293,000 reserve personnel
Eight standing Army divisions
2,000 AF & Navy combat aircraft
232 Strategic bombers
Four aircraft carriers*

All the support bases, shipyards and logistical assets needed to sustain such a force.

The answer: America (Since Bill Clinton became president eight years ago).

Courtesy Charles Church (602), Jacksonville, FL

BRIEF-things

All the 398th officers join the FLAK NEWS editor in saying "thanks" for all the Christmas and New Year's greetings sent by members and friends, both from home and off-shore...it is hard to believe that FLAK NEWS has now begun its 16th year; it all began with a Paris hotel lobby conversation in 1986 between **Ralph Hall**, who ultimately became treasurer, and **Allen Ostrom**, who became the newsletter editor...**Prexy Wally** had a great theme at the Mighty 8th dedication at Savannah (Last Gem in the 398th Crown) which includes the Station 131 memorial; "our own" B-17, the Aluminum Overcast; the Anstey window; the memorial tree planted at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio; the trees of friendship planted in Neuss and Merseburg, Germany; and the plaque dedicated at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs...**Karl Issel**, a German emigre now living in San Francisco, was moved to tears by the audio tape, "The Other Side of the War," delivered at the Spokane reunion by **Fred Gonzales**, **John McCormick** and **Dean Whitaker**; **Issel** says he will share the tape with his friends in Germany...the late 601 pilot, **Mack Hunt**, has a son, **Greg**, recently promoted to Brigadier General in the Air Force Reserve...**Ralph Hall** was in Fortress heaven last October when the Aluminum Overcast came to New Bedford, MA and he was there doing promo work, for which he got a ride...**Charles Church**, the 602 crew chief who sent in the copy of the Wakefield Watch, but also receiving the Bronze Star from **Pete Rooney** for keeping his Fort in top condition... your FLAK NEWS editor had the privilege of addressing a large church congregation on Veterans Day last November, and he proudly presented the poem, "Thirty Thousand Feet" by the late 603 navigator, **Steve Quinn** of the **Ross Howden** crew...the enthusiasm registered by **Ryan White** (page 3) should be a reminder that second and third generation members are not only welcome at the reunions, but also at the reunion business meetings...a rare disease called "Guillian-barra" had ex-600 CO **Bill Markley** on the ropes last year, but he is out-running the flak and hopes to be at St. Paul in October...**Bill** is the last surviving member of the original Group and Squadron CO's; **Col. Frank P. Hunter** and 603's **Judson Gray** were lost in combat, while **Pete Rooney** (602) died several years ago and **Tracy Peterson** (601) two years ago...**Markley** said the disease had sapped the strength from his hands and that he "probably" would not be able to man-handle those B-17 throttles as in years gone by...asked about the late **Col. Lewis Ensign**, **Markley** recalls the day he came to the 398th and announced "you people have to start climbing the ladder", igniting immediate resentment...he picked up many decorations along the way in his AF career, but the late 603 pilot **Jim Overton** also went on to some fame as a singer, even performing "Holy City" with the **Billy Graham** Crusade in Viet Nam; your FLAK NEWS editor remembers flying tail turret for him on his first mission (he was a good pilot then, and finished up with Command wings)...if the Taps list looks longer, it is because 68 names were added this past year...PX manager **Joe Joseph**, no lover of boats of any size, says he'll fly to and from England next year, but consultant **Barbara Fish** is all smiles at the prospect of six days on the QE2...another who termed the cruise proposal a "great idea" was UK Friends chairman **Wilfrid Dimsdale**, who saw the crossing as an ideal "second honeymoon"...**Wendell Weisend** of the 601 **Hornshuh** crew commanded almost two full news pages to tell his Veterans Day Hamburg mission story in the Richmand (VA) Times-Dispatch last November; **Weisend** is a former sports information director at Virginia Tech University (in addition to being an ex-waist gunner); he wrote home about his Purple Heart mission, at which time he admitted that he missed the US sports broadcasts, a hint of his future employment...Brooklynite **Zam Zins** picked up the **Selmer Haakenson** story (Vol. 15 No. 3) and got it placed in the New York Harbor Watch, a military community paper...

398th Bomb Group PX

Qty.	CLOTHING	Cost	Total
___	Cap - Fits All Sizes	\$8.00 ea	___
___	600, 601, 602, 603 Group		
___	Jackets - Navy, B-17 on Front	\$25.00 ea	___
___	S, M, L, XL, XXL		
___	T-Shirts - B-17 on Front	\$10.00 ea	___
___	Navy - White - S, M, L, XL, XXL		
___	Sweat Shirts - B-17 on Front	\$15.00 ea	___
___	Navy - White - S, M, L, XL, XXL		
___	Golf Shirts Group Logo on Front	\$20.00 ea	___
___	Navy or White - M, L, XL, XXL		
___	Turtle Neck Shirt - B-17 on Collar	\$20.00 ea	___
___	White - S, M, L, XL		
___	Children's T- Shirts (White)	\$8.00 ea	___
___	6-8, 10-12, B-17 on Front		
___	Children's Sweatshirts	\$10.00 ea	___
___	(Blue or White) M, L - B-17 on Front		
CD'S & VIDEOS			
___	CD Jack's Books	\$25.00 ea	___
___	CD FLAK NEWS	\$30.00 ea	___
___	Video Anstey Window Dedication	\$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	___
___	8th Air Force	\$4.00 ea	___
MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS			
___	Folding Umbrellas	\$18.00 ea	___
___	Red with White B-17		
___	Note Paper with B-17 (Packet of 12)	\$4.00 pkt	___
___	Tote bag, Navy with White B-17	\$7.00 ea	___
___	B-17 Sun Catcher	\$10.00 ea	___
___	Beach Towel White with Black B-17	\$18.00 ea	___
___	Golf Towel, White w/Black B-17	\$7.00 ea	___
___	Christmas Ornament with B-17	\$6.00 ea	___
___	Ceramic Magnet with B-17	\$3.00 ea	___
___	Playing Cards with B-17		
___	Single Deck	\$7.00 ea	___
___	Double Deck	\$12.00 ea	___
___	Anstey Window Post Card	\$2.00 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 \$4.00,
 or \$5.00 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