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REUNION:

Philadelphia Sure To Be Stimulating

The 29th annual reunion of the 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association is scheduled for September 5-6-7-8, 2012, in Philadelphia.

The Registration Form for Philadelphia was published in the April issue of FLAK NEWS and may be downloaded from www.398th.org.

The reunion chair is Sharon Krause. There are tours scheduled for September 6-7-8 plus a dinner cruise on Wednesday, September 5. Banquet dinners are on Thursday and Saturday nights.

The annual group business meeting is set for Thursday, September 6, at 2:00 pm, at which time several issues will be aired under the presidency of Marilyn Gibb-Rice. (See Pages 2 and 3.)

Editor Missing

Because of his recent "heart issue" and the long haul flight between Seattle and Philadelphia, FLAK NEWS editor Allen Ostrom will miss the annual reunion.

He had been to every reunion since the group began meeting independently from the Mighty Eighty Historical Association, that in Rapid City, S.D., in 1984.

The early 398th members began meeting in 1976, at which time Bill Comstock was elected president.

"The upcoming meeting will be somewhat different from others," said Ostrom, "considering the number of significant and controversial issues facing the elected Board and the general membership."

A Crash Course In 8th History: "Greatest Armada" Had Gradual Beginning

BY MARK NICHOLLS
FlyPast Magazine, Stamford, England

World War Two was full of heroes, often quiet men and women, many of whom made the ultimate sacrifice so that the world would not be overtaken by the oppressive regimes of Hitler, Mussolini and the Japanese Empire.

Whether numbered amongst the 'Few' of the Battle of Britain, the resistance fighters in occupied Europe, the seamen of the Merchant and Royal Navies, the defenders of Malta, the infantrymen of the Allied armies or the countless other individuals, both in military and civilian life, each made a valuable contribution to securing victory for democracy and freedom during those dark days of the 1940s.

There were also the men whose daily job it was to climb aboard a four-engined bomber and fly deep into enemy airspace in the freezing cold of high altitude. RAF Bomber Command learnt from its own bitter experiences and also the blow RAF Fighter Command had dealt the Luftwaffe in 1940, that bombing in daylight was a hazardous undertaking. Consequently, it confined its operations to the relative safety of the night, although even

then, losses were considerable.

Once America entered the war on December 7, 1941, the defeat of Nazi Germany was made the number one priority and to this end a massive strategic bombing offensive was planned — in daylight.

Thus the wheels were set in motion for the creation of the greatest single aerial strike force the world has ever witnessed — the Eighth Air Force. At dozens of airfields across Eastern England men and machines were assembled for what was to be a long and bloody campaign. The ultimate cost in lives was a high one, but in combination with the RAF's night offensive, the defeat of the U-boat menace and the 1944 invasion of occupied Europe, it was to prove decisive.

The United States Army Air Force began to arrive in the UK during mid-

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QUEEN ELIZABETH II celebrates her 60th year on the British throne this year.

Winston Churchill was her first prime minister (1952) and the current prime minister, David Cameron, was not yet born.

Among the 3.5 million bits of correspondence she answers each year are letters via her "Lady in Waiting" to the FLAK NEWS editor on behalf of the 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association.

She saw the B-17 "up close" as a princess teenager while accompanying her late father and mother, the king and queen, on visits to 8th Air Force bases during World War II.

More News From Across The Pond

Another newsletter, telling of the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum in England, has emerged from England, citing the progress being made with the Museum.

The "Land Grab" promotion, as explained in the adjoining FLAK NEWS column, is covered in the Museum newsletter by Marilyn Gibb-Rice, 398th president, who says —

"We appreciate the support from the 398th membership and look forward to our continued progress in this endeavor."

Also, encouragement to send donations and other items to the curator, Russ Abbey.

Member Wants Fresh Look

Dr. Ken Peirce has "taken aim" at the 398th leadership. It comes under the heading of "governance," dealing with those who control and direct policy. (See next page.)

The retired neurosurgeon has specific experience in the field of non-profit endeavors and finance. Many of these acquired during his administrative years in Rotary, church and food bank leadership.

Peirce was "caught up" in the 398th World War II atmosphere when he accompanied the 2004 England Tour on their visit to Normandy ... and Nuthampstead.

He later produced a video of the entire tour and sent copies to all interested members of the tour.

Museum In England:

"LAND GRAB" AT \$100 TO BUY PROPERTY

The Nuthampstead Airfield Museum (NAM) has introduced a property purchase plan called "Land Grab." It's for the outright purchase of the property on which the NAM has already begun operation.

This in part to the \$30,000 already contributed toward the establishment of a Station 131 Museum through the "Founding" campaign.

And "some" additional money received from the Stansted Airport Community Trust Fund. NAM asked for, and received money for "enhancing the social, economic and environmental well-being of the community."

Nuthampstead lies within their required 10-mile radius of Stansted Airport.

An introduction to "Land Grab" took place on June 16, 2012, following the Station 131 Commemoration services at the Memorial. (See Page 8.)

The original (temporary) NAM building on the museum site was torn down and a new building and fence constructed as one of three that will ultimately make up the museum site, which includes a Nissen hut and memorial garden.

The NAM trustees conceived the "Land Grab" as a means of claiming ownership of the land in addition to the Museum buildings.

The land site, to the rear of the Woodman Inn, is about 5,000 square feet. It is former Woodman Inn property but now owned by the chairman of the NAM trustees, **Andrew Grisbrooke**. The other officers are **Geoff Rice**, **Marilyn Gibb-Rice**, **Christine Barry-Grisbrooke** and **Russ Abbey**. The later is the curator and responsible for the museum's contents.

The "Land Grab" promotion was created by dividing the site into 594 plots each measuring a square yard and to be sold for \$100 each, hence the target of \$59,400.

Since they say that the NAM is a Charitable Trust, an Executive Trustee apparently has been named to legally hold the land for the NAM, according to **Abbey**.

Abbey has made it clear that the "Nuthampstead Airfield Museum," the "398th Association" and the "Friends of the 398th" are three completely separate organizations.

Marilyn, president of the 398th and a NAM trustee, has previously stated, "I am not a member of the Friends." She and Geoff live in England.

Abbey, a NAM trustee, is also the Friends chairman and voted by the 398th Board as U.K. Director.

In their recent newsletter they requested that checks are to be made out

NAM Now Open

A pair of widows, both intimately involved with the 398th Bomb Group and Station 131, officially opened the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum on June 16, 2012, in a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Teedy Blackwell and Sue Webb did the ribbon cutting, assisted by a hundred or more Friends of the 398th following the Service of Commemoration at the Memorial.

Teedy, widow of the former 398th president, and Sue, the museum's Friend and biggest fund raiser, shared the honors in the introductory museum program.

to "NAM, c/o Nuthampstead, Royston, SG8 8NB, England." It should be noted that U.S. citizens are not allowed to deduct such donations from their personal income tax. IRS Special Agent for non-profits, Ryan Johansen, has clearly stated, "Money donated directly to foreign charities is not deductible from one's personal income tax in the U.S." He has previously affirmed that to qualify for IRS deductions such funds must be made out to 398th BGMA, who will forward it to the NAM.

It can be expected that all this will be aired before the membership at Philadelphia.

Wilfrid Dimsdale, longtime 131 Friend and maintainer of the Memorial for ABMC has asked, "What is the position of the 398th BGMA itself in relations to fund-raising on this scale?"

Dimsdale reported that the North Herts District Council Planning at Stevenage is "looking kindly on the museum project because it would help retain a pub." (Woodman)

Ian and Sandy Johnson, who have operated the Woodman for many years, have passed it on to their son, **Stuart**. They are pleased to have NAM as a neighbor.

Where the battle rages the loyalty of the soldier is proved; and to be steady on all the battle-field besides is mere flight and disgrace to him if he flinches at that one point.

— *Elizabeth Rundle Charles*

Member Seeking Changes In 398th Governance

BY KEN PEIRCE
Lifetime Member, 398th BGMA

Our 398th BGMA is at a crossroad. Dedicated veterans and their families have accomplished a great deal in our first 31 years. The camaraderie of the group persists, but I believe we need more than that to build on our success. Good governance is the key to perpetuating our Mission.

I have prepared a Draft Bylaws Revision and I call on the Board and Membership to consider it at our Reunion in Philadelphia. Our Bylaws are in serious need of revision and we need member input and voting to make vital and necessary changes in order to:

- 1) Transition from a 501(c)(19) to a 501(c)(3) IRS exempt organization, and
- 2) Update our governance structure to succeed on into the future.

Historical Review

Our 1981 Articles of Incorporation remain solid and acceptable thanks to our founding veterans' excellent beginning. The Articles actually state that the intention of the Group is to become an IRS 501(c)(3) tax-exempt and tax-deductible approved organization.

Somewhere in the IRS application process, we instead became a special veteran's IRS 501(c)(19) category, with almost identical rules except *individual veterans* could personally benefit from donations and income. An example would have been running a social business like a VFW hall, or providing individual insurance benefits. In retrospect his special category benefit has actually never been used by the 398th and it is now a significant problem.

The 501(c)(19) designation requires that a high percent of the members are actual veterans of any service or time period. Over the years these percentages were tracked as the number of veterans became fewer. In 2003 the IRS eased its rules to also accept direct descendants of veterans, which helped us temporarily, and we changed our Bylaws to try to adjust by making a separate category of members who were not veterans in order to keep the percentage high enough to qualify as a (c)(19). At the same time provisions were made for turning over the Memorial to the ABMC.

In 2006 the Bylaws were changed again to add an additional (UK) Director position.

By the 2010 Denver Reunion it became clear that again we would soon not qualify by veteran's percentages and VP Lee Anne Bradley asked me to help figure out what could be done. Even with my non-profit governance experience in other groups, this was a very different situation.

Investigation of the Problem

I found out that the 2003 membership category changes of non-veteran members required that non-veteran's designation required that they become an official Auxiliary and they must

The Next 398th Reunion
September 5-6-7-8, 2012
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
www.398th.org for registration form

Peirce Guest Columnist

Ken Peirce is one and the same person who created the 50 calibre pen for PX sale (Page 12). And one and the same person who elevated Jack's Books into a computer friendly "Flash Drive" only to see the Board red line the sale because of perceived "privacy" questions. (See Letters.)



KEN PEIRCE

and contributed this column as FLAK NEWS guest writer.

Peirce is also the one and the same "Memorial Chairman" who was asked to research the 398th by-laws and corporate IRS position ... until "unappointed" by president Marilyn Gibb-Rice.

Despite the setbacks, Peirce, has continued his pursuit of 398th "governance"

and contributed this column as FLAK NEWS guest writer.

apply to the IRS for their own "separate but related" 501(c)(3) status. This was apparently not known at the time and not done.

In addition, the Alabama and IRS requirements were not fulfilled. They say, "Nonprofits in Alabama must register annually with the Alabama Secretary of State ... You must submit any changes to your articles of incorporation and bylaws to the SOS. By filing your IRS Form 990 every year, you must disclose any changes to your articles and bylaws so the IRS keeps track of everything from that."

So both the 2003 and 2006 Bylaws Revisions should have been submitted to the State of Alabama and the IRS for approval. After extensive research, reading of IRS rules, review of our situation with a non-profit lawyer, and many conversations and e-mails with an IRS Non-Profit Special Agent, it was clear that our choices were two:

- 1) Become a 501(c)(3) exempt organization (a new application with new Bylaws would be required but everything else would remain the same except the members did not have to be veterans); or
- 2) Become a 501(c)(4) organization, still non-profit and exempt from paying taxes, but donations to the 398th would *not* be tax-deductible to the donors.

At the 2011 Branson Reunion I presented all of this to the Board and Membership and they decided they would still like to have donations be tax-deductible, especially with the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum in the works, and therefore they decided to apply for 501(c)(3) status and this was approved by the Membership.

Soon after that meeting, Keith Dollar who lives in Alabama where our corporation is registered, responded to the prior request and agreed to be the State resident-required Registered Agent, replacing the long deceased William H. Jones.

This still left the 2006 Bylaws being "sub-par" as analyzed by the non-profit specialty lawyer here in Seattle. I also compared our Bylaws to those of the 446th Bomb Group who had made this same IRS transition successfully. There are many additional elements now required in Non-profit Bylaws to be approved by the state and the IRS. (For anyone interested, they can be seen here: http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-tege/governance_practices.pdf.)

In Progress

In January, the Board again decided to apply for 501(c)(3) status using these deficient and un-reported Bylaws and President Marilyn and Director Keith are currently doing this. Even if the IRS approves this application, I believe that our Bylaws need changing in order to be successful into the future.

My personal opinion is that this should and will be rejected by

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British Writer Tells Of 8th Air Force History

(Continued from Page 1)

1942, initially with aircraft such as the A-20 Boston/Havoc and the B-26 Marauder. It was not until later that year that the B-17 Flying Fortress started to arrive in any numbers. The scale of what the planners had in mind was breathtaking — a huge force of 60 heavy bomb groups and 25 fighter groups — so it was obvious that these numbers could not be achieved over night. A massive training programme was instigated in the USA and as the various groups were deemed combat ready they were sent across the Atlantic — the fighters usually coming by sea, while the bombers would fly via either a northern or southern route to their new bases in England.

The establishment of a command structure in the UK saw the 1st and 2nd Bomb Wings (BW) established under the control of VIII Bomber Command.

The 3rd and 4th BWs were also set up but the 4th was eventually dissolved with its assets allocated mostly to the 3rd BW. Late in 1944, the BW title was replaced by the Air Division (AD).

The first heavy bomber group to arrive in the UK was the 97th BG which was initially based at Grafton Underwood and Polebrook, and it was this unit that carried out the first B-17 raid against the railway yards at Rouen, France, on

August 17, 1942. Among the 12 Fortresses that made the attack was Yankee Doodle which had aboard General Ira Eaker, the commander of VIII Bomber Command. Much was made of the fact that all the aircraft returned safely and that the high-altitude attack had caused significant damage to the marshalling yards. At this stage of the war, visual bombing by daylight, aided by the very accurate Norden bomb sight, was clearly more accurate than that possible at night.

Yet the target chosen was within range of friendly fighter cover and the Germans were not expecting it (the Fortresses were wrongly identified as Lancasters) — within a few months, the situation was to become very different.

The vagaries of the British and north European weather were to plague American planners and aircrew throughout the Eighth's tenancy in the UK. Cloudy skies hampered assembly of formations over the UK and obscured the target, often leading to an abort but not without sustaining losses of aircraft and crews to enemy fighters or flak.

January 27, 1943, witnessed the Eighth's first attack on a target in Germany — the docks at Wilhelmshaven (actually the secondary target — the primary at Vegesack was covered by

cloud). The raid was successful and cost 'only' three bombers in exchange for seven enemy fighters shot down.

It was not until the number of groups increased and operations were extended to targets deeper into enemy territory that the Americans realized the seriousness of the threat posed by the German fighters and anti-aircraft defences. During these early forays into the Reich homeland, the fighter units based in Germany had seen relatively little action compared with those based in France, Belgium and Holland which put up fierce opposition to the bomber formations. But throughout 1943, as the Germans learnt of the range limits of the escorting P-47 Thunderbolts and British Spitfires, they delayed their attacks on the bomber formations until they were unescorted.

The Luftwaffe fighters soon discovered that frontal attack on the formations was the most effective tactic as the bombers' forward defences were weak.

It was an ongoing game of cat and mouse — each trying new tactics to defeat the other. The bombers went through a series of formation evolutions as different ideas were tried to maximise firepower and offer cover to neighboring aircraft.

Losses continued to mount as more

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Where Were You On Christmas Day 1944?

British WREN Remembers Hitchin & More

"After searching through my war years memorabilia, I found this 1944 Christmas menu, signed for me by Lyle and his crew."

So wrote Ellen (Nell) Kennedy in 1992 to Sylvia Law, the sister to Lyle Doerr, whose 602 crew perished in the English Channel on December 30, 1944.

The Christmas menu brought back the years to Ellen, married to Richard Fox of Boulder, Colorado, from 1946 to 1996. Fox was not a Doerr crew member, but rather the navigator on the 602 Francis Clark crew, also attending a 1944 Christmas dinner along with a B-25 pilot, Richard Austin, and 602 executive Royal Breimayer at the 398th Officers Mess.

Navigator John Walker and co-pilot Giles Teague also were at the gathering, the crew being stood down this day.

The party actually began at Hitchin, a popular 398th gathering place for off-duty personnel.

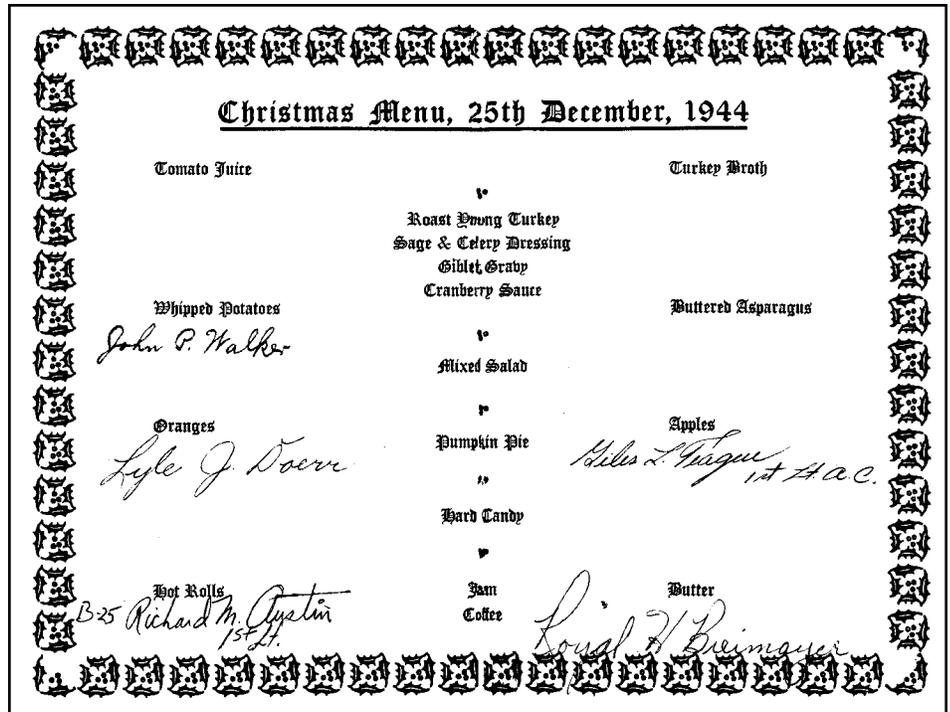
On that Christmas morning Nell, who was a British WREN (actually Women's Royal Naval Service) in London, was visiting relatives in Hitchin with her London girl friend. There they encountered two young 398th pilots, Doerr and Teague, who invited the girls to Christmas dinner at Station 131.

Time For Big States And The Dues

Every year along about this time (July) comes the news that the 398th "Big" States must bring forth one quarter of the annual dues needed to keep the Association afloat.

Dues are still \$20 per year, and this time it is for members living in Texas, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ohio, Illinois and Indiana to fill the mail box of Dues Manager Dawne Dougherty with loads of envelopes containing their \$20 checks. She will gladly accept more for any special remembrance.

Dawne Dougherty, Harrisburg, OR 97446-9585. Also, send her any change of address or notice of a member passing on. The next Taps listing will be in January 2013 (and it could well be the last of the five-page listings).



Five days later Doerr, Teague, Walker and their crew went down in the Channel while heading for a German target.

Many years later (1992) Nell and Fox, their romance having begun on that Christmas Day, met Doerr's sister at the 398th reunion in Tucson in 1994.

There were memories and tears then.

And a long forgotten Christmas menu from Nuthampstead brought them on again.

To call Nell a "cryptographer" would not do justice to the work she did for the British (and Allies) during World War II. She was one of some 500 women recruited for the supremely secret "code breakers" dealing with the German Enigma cipher messages.

Nell worked in secret for three years at Bletchley Park, London, where she and the others worked on "bombs" to unravel wheel-settings for the Enigma ciphers thought by the Germans to be unbreakable.

The WRENs were honored by Winston Churchill, who thanked "the chickens for laying so well without clucking."

The Enigma project remained secret for many years, long after the end of WW II.

Good Friends

NELL KENNEDY, a British WREN cryptographer, made friends with the pigeons on a London street during World War II. This WREN ultimately married a 398th navigator, Richard Fox, following her Christmas Day luncheon at Station 131.



Ski Troop "Escape" Led To B-17 Pilot

He "escaped" from the Army Ski Troops in mid-1942 by way of the Aviation Cadets.

"I loved to ski," said Ike Alhadeff, "but this Army mountain climbing was not for me."

He responded to a Cadet offer and, at the age of 27, just barely under the maximum age limit for the program.

Eighteen months later Ike Alhadeff is a B-17 airplane commander and in the beginning stages of training for combat duty with the 398th Bomb Group at Rapid City, South Dakota.

Like all other new pilots, Alhadeff needed to display his flight skills before a seasoned pilot. In this case it was Gene Douglas of the 600th Squadron.

Alhadeff had four sessions with Douglas observing from the right seat, watching and keeping notes on the prescribed flight sessions. These were held on January 2, 3, 7 and 10, 1944.

The accompanying notes from his "first phase night check" were found recently by Douglas' niece and given to Keith Anderson, who flew co-pilot for Douglas, until the latter was shot down and became a prisoner of war.

The following "Night Checks" are gleaned from the faded and sometimes scribbled notes made by Douglas.

Lt. Ike Alhadeff made 22 missions with the 600th Squadron before being shot down on his 23rd over Berlin. He was a prisoner of war for a year.

He passed away last year at the age of 96.



**IKE
ALHADEFF**

GENERALLY SPEAKING

"I look upon the spiritual life of the soldier as even more important than his physical equipment. The soldier's heart, the soldier's spirit, the soldier's soul sustains him; if not he cannot be relied upon and he will fail himself, his commander, and his country in the end. It's morale and I mean spiritual morale, which wins the victory ultimately. And that type of morale can only come out of a soldier who knows God and who has the spirit of religious fervor in his soul.

General George C. Marshall, Chief Military Adviser to President Roosevelt, WW II.

Check Ride For Ike

January 2, 1944

Landing OK.

Has tendency to undershoot the runway.

Keeps hands on throttles too much.

Never seems to set throttles.

Instrument knowledge OK.

Never heard of "aural null."

Going to be a damn good pilot.

January 3, 1944

Take off OK.

Landing — smoothing out good.

Made perfect three-engine landing.

Made formation takeoff.

Demonstrated dual formation take off and landing with Lt. Markley and his "first phase" crew.

Didn't know use of 522-274 switch.

Failed to recognize trouble with instruments with inverter fuse out.

Exhibited nervousness when cut two engines on take off.

Made two demonstrations on a two-engine go-around.

Pilot above average first phase pilot.

January 7, 1944

Instrument take off. Good!

Aural null — needs practice

Let down — fair.

Corrections — too big.

Patterns — OK.

Landing — good.

Basic instruments — good.

Pilot does good work.

January 10, 1944

Three night landings — good.

Instrument approach.

Smooth on controls.

Taxi good.

Safe for night flying.

— CAPT. GENE DOUGLAS

Answer Here On The Tail Wheel

The question in the last FLAK NEWS was: "What kept the air flow from the B-17 tail wheel opening from 'blowing over' the tail gunner?"

The answer: a heavy duty canvas that covered the entire tail wheel housing and wheel where it recessed into the fuselage.

The wheel could not be seen in the fuselage when recessed, being covered by the canvas. Nor could the rushing air reach the tail gunner, positioned only eight feet behind the opening.

Letters

"I saw the article in the April FLAK NEWS about the flash drives containing 'Jack's Books' and I wanted to answer the call in the affirmative in support you in your efforts to sell them in the PX. I bet many people would be interested in having the Books in such a convenient format. It will be a valuable service to veterans and their families, and perhaps some modest but needed funds to our organization. I would also suggest you consider selling some as blank drives; they could become a collector's item! Or maybe using some as door prizes or gifts at the next reunion."

John Blackwell, Lovettsville, Virginia

"It was a great disappointment that there were no veterans this year at Nuthampstead. I hope that the current political situation has not contributed to this state of affairs, as the BGMA exists to further the memory of those who served at Station 131 and those who did serve should always be encouraged to come and feel welcome whatever the feelings of individuals."

Wilfrid Dimsdale, England

"I do not remember that privacy was a concern to the 398th or the members when Joe and I sold 'Jack's Books' on CD.

The quality was not good but everyone was aware of this. I feel the USB flash drives will be a great new item for the PX."

Rozanne Joseph, New Smyrna Beach, Florida

"Another FLAK NEWS received, read and digested. Good show!

"I'm sorry that not one veteran was at the 398th BG Memorial at Nuthampstead on June 16, 2012. This RAF veteran was there, however, and I saluted the missing in silent remembrance.

"I took a few items over with me for the museum including an 8th AF forage (side cap), a WW II style flashlight, you may remember the type L shape, and a snapshot taken by an aunt of mine of a group of B-17's flying over Hare Street in 1944. She was pretty good with her Kodak box camera.

"I visited Madingley during my visit to catch up with Ozzie Osborn whilst he was on duty there. Keep up the good work, Allen, and be well."

Ralph Ambrose, Burke, Virginia

"In the last edition of FLAK NEWS there was mention of 'Jack's Books' on a USB flash drive. As a member, I would be pleased if the Board would reconsider and ... in a general thought and common good to all ... could make a favorable decision."

Karl Issel, San Francisco, California

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Crash Course On 131 Memorial

40-Year Odyssey Begun By Ozzie, Vic

BY MALCOLM OSBORN
Cambridge, England

The stories of the two Groups who served so proudly from Nuthampstead have been and indeed still are being actively researched and recorded. The histories of the 55th Fighter Group and 398th Bombardment Group are becoming well known now, but it wasn't always like that.

It was back in the early 1970's when two 8th Air Force enthusiasts, Steve Gotts and Charlie Gallagher, invited those of us with an interest in the "Mighty 8th" to go along to a meeting of like minded individuals. So it was that a small group assembled at The Angel Hotel at Bury St Edmunds and "Friends of The Eighth" (FOTE) was born.

That small group soon grew as word spread and we needed to find bigger premises to hold our quarterly meetings. RAF (USAF) Lakenheath and Alconbury graciously allowed us to use their Officers Clubs and now 150-200 enthusiasts would arrive from all over the UK. Also, 8th AF Veterans came along and told us their stories, modestly and often after much persuasion.

One such Veteran was John Woolnough a B-24 Pilot, who was amazed at the sheer warmth of his welcome and the dedication and commitment of FOTE members. Woolnough went back to the USA and subsequently formed the 8th Air Force Historical Society (8th AFHS), for which he always credited FOTE as the catalyst.

For those of today's "Techno-Geek" generation it behoves me to ask you to try and imagine a world without photocopiers, PC's of either lap or desk top variety, Internet access, mobile phones, or even easy Transatlantic telephone communications. Thus we used things called typewriters, not word processors, with no "spell checkers" even.

Letters would be typed and sent airmail, replies often took many days or weeks and progress could be somewhat slow. FOTE members took all this in their stride of course, because the aforementioned "gadgets" had not yet been invented!

Back in 1971/72 I had met Vic Jenkins and we quickly became close friends. Vic had been posted to Nuthampstead post-war with the RAF and knew it like the back of his hand. Vic was such a quiet, shy person, but that never shielded a great sense of humour and a real love for Nuthampstead and all things "8th" and "398th." One October day in 1972 we climbed Anstey Castle mound, together with a colleague from work. All we knew was Vic's information that a B-17G Flying Fortress had crashed into the mound

shortly after taking off from Nuthampstead, with the loss of all onboard.

Up on the mound this grey October day, my colleague, John Knight, suddenly called out "look what I have found." It was the case of a wrist watch, no glass, hands or strap. John wet his finger and



OZZIE AND VIC were on hand at Station 131 in 1978 to greet the visiting Lewis Ensign, who replaced Col. Frank P. Hunter as 398th commanding officer when Hunter was killed on a bombing mission in 1945.

rubbed the back of the case and we saw the name "William L. Meyran" engraved on the back. That made the hairs go up on the back of my neck, suddenly this all became extremely emotional, it truly brought home the fact that 10 young American airmen had perished on this spot. Who were they? What were their names? Where were they headed for that day? Why did they crash? There were so many questions, but nowhere or nobody to turn to for answers.

My colleague kept that watch and took it with him when he emigrated to Australia a year later.

I decided then and there that I would not rest until I found out all I could about Nuthampstead, the Bomb Group known

"Friends" Began Before Days Of "Techno-Geek"

as the 398th, its four Squadrons and these young men who gave their lives on that Medieval Castle Mound. So I came up with the name "Nuthampstead Airfield Research Society" (NARS). How original. A society with only two members. Well, why not?

So we set out on a road that would culminate in many reunion activities back to the base. Sadly Vic Jenkins is no longer with us, nor indeed are many of the wonderful folks we met along the way.

In 1972 we began our research quest. By chance (honestly) we went into The Woodman Inn one night and stood sipping a pint of beer each. I happened to look at one of the old beams above the bar and noticed lots of business cards. As I looked closer I realised they were all American and were all ex-55th Fighter Group or 398th Bomb Group. Wow! This was amazing stuff. We noted all the names and addresses and took half each to write to immediately. So began the air-mailing to the USA and the moment when we came home from work and asked our wives, "Anything from the States, love?"

I had written to a place called "Maxwell Air Force Base" in Alabama and to my astonishment, some six weeks later, got a listing from them of all the crew who died on Anstey Mound. Sadly, no photograph to enable us to put faces to names, but it was a start. Then the replies started coming from across the Atlantic and we never looked back after that. I wrote lots of letters to Maxwell AFB getting more specific with each request. Suddenly they wrote and told me they were prepared to put the 398th records on a thing called "micro-film" but there would be a cost for this service.

This all sounded remarkably "James Bond" and it transpired that I was only the second person offered this service. The other was Roger Freeman, the great 8th historian.

So Vic and I started saving our pennies and eventually I sent off for our first reels of film. "Anything from the States, love?" was met with a real treat the night

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P-51 Solo Flight Stirs Memories At 398th Service

A P-51 Mustang fighter, to the intense surprise and wonder of all, created a surreal environment at the Commemoration Service for the 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association last June 16 at Nuthampstead.

It was a daring solo display by pilot/owner Maurice Hammond, coming at the conclusion of an emotional service that included —

“They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old.”

That bit of classic poetry honoring the war’s fallen had been recited by Nathan Howland in introducing the program that was begun 30 years earlier at the installation of the 398th Memorial.

The 2012 version, in which not a single 398th veteran was able to attend, attracted some 150 Friends and neighbors to the Woodman Inn site, including a greeting from Queen Elizabeth II by the Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Hertfordshire, Air Vice Marshall Alan Merriman.

The 2012 version also included two ladies who were part of that first reunion in 1982 — Greta Barker and Peggy Wells.



THE Assistant Superintendent and the Horticultural Foreman from ABMC went to Nuthampstead recently for the annual inspection of site and memorials, where they met with Wilfrid Dimsdale, and other than the 398th memorial needing a little work by a stonemason, it all received a 100% clean bill of health.



“Events like this still bring together people with their own memories of World War II,” said one member, the Reverend John Walker, a retired minister who led the Commemoration Service.

The Reverend Walker, as a child living in the nearby village of Sandon, in 1944, had memories of the sound of the B-17 engines of the 398th flying over his home (68 years ago).

The children of Anstey and Barkway schools, as has been the custom in past reunions, laid flowers (gathered from the old airfield) at the memorial to the 55th Fighter Group, located near the 131 Memorial.

The American Air Force came with members from USAF Alconbury and Mildenhall. This included bugler TSgt. Chris Ackeomch, who played Taps “flawlessly.”

Terry White of the Standon branch of the Royal British Legion closed the service with “Reveille,” preceded by two minutes of silence.

Marilyn Gibb-Rice, president of the 398th BGMA, reminded those present of the enormous cost paid by the American forces in WW II, including that paid by the 398th and 55th.

Ralph Ambrose, the transplant from “Hare Street” and London, now living in Burke, Virginia, laid the wreath at the Memorial in memory of the 296 members of the 398th killed in action. (See Letters.)

He said it was very disappointing to be part of a very sparse gathering at the Anstey church service, remembering the “no standing room” services in years gone by, especially at the 2000 dedication of the stained glass window.

Blackwells Busy In England

Teedy Blackwell and her son, John, were kept busy as they represented the 398th BGMA at the reunion activities in England in June.

Teedy cut the ribbon at the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum, along with Sue Webb (Page 2) following the Station 131 service.

John was there to assist, following his contribution at the Commemoration Service, where he read passages from the books of Revelation and Micah.

The following day, Sunday, the Blackwells were at St. George’s Church with Ralph Ambrose for the Service of Remembrance. They were joined by Friends Daphne & Keith Bailey, Jean Mustoe, Greta Barker, Peggy Wells, Mike Graty and Wilfrid Dimsdale to hear the message of the Venerable Trevor Jones, Archdeacon.

On Monday, June 18, Teedy and John, along with Malcolm Osborn, Joyce Bend, Peggy Wells and Bert Davies, plus Mike Green, the superintendent, presented a wreath at the American cemetery at Madingley in memory of Wally Blackwell.



JOHN AND TEEDY BLACKWELL

Changes Coming In Taps Listing

After more than 20 years of printing all the names of the 398th veterans who have passed on since returning home, the final “big list” will be published in the January 2013 issue of FLAK NEWS.

The presentation will encompass over five full pages of names.

After January, only the names of those who has passed in the preceding year will be published.

Eighth Air Force Had A Rough Start

(Continued from Page 4)

aircraft and groups were committed and targets deeper into enemy territory were selected. The idea that heavily armed, but unescorted bombers, could safely fight their way to a target and back was finally discredited with the raids on the Messerschmitt factory at Regensburg and ball-bearing factories at Schweinfurt on August 17, 1943. The 4th BW was tasked with attacking Regensburg and was then to fly on to bases in North Africa — the first and only shuttle mission. The 1st BW was to send its bombers to Schweinfurt and both were to be given fighter cover by P-47s for part of their journeys. However, fog in East Anglia upset the departure schedule, causing the Schweinfurt bombers to leave late, although with fighter escort. This gave the German fighters time to refuel and rearm between the passage of the two bomber formations.

The Regensburg formation suffered almost continuous fighter attacks all the way to the target with the loss of 17 Flying Fortresses, fortunately the plan to fly on to North Africa spared them after the target. However, the same could not be said for the Schweinfurt raid. Some 230 B-17s were sent to Schweinfurt, 36 failed to make it back. Together with aircraft that ran out of fuel on the way to Africa, some 60 bombers were lost.

The Messerschmitt works was badly damaged but Schweinfurt was less badly hit, necessitating another costly raid in October with another 60 bombers lost.

The Americans and the Germans both learnt difficult lessons as the strategic bombing offensive progressed. The Germans promptly devised new fighter tactics and employed radar direction finding for their flak guns, using the Würzburg radar. Counter-measures were developed by the Allies, including the use of 'Carpet' jamming equipment and the release of chaff (the American name for 'Window'). Bomber armament was also improved with the addition of the chin turret on the B-17 and a powered gun turret in the nose of the B-24 Liberator. The P-38 Lightning was able to escort the bombers further than the P-47, but was not available in large numbers.

It was the arrival of the long-range P-51 Mustang that at last guaranteed the vulnerable bombers the protection they needed. From early 1944 onwards the Germans were faced with an agile fighter that could reach Berlin. Special escort tactics were developed to ensure that the bomber stream was completely protected and losses to enemy fighters dropped significantly. But the Germans had not given up and new versions of the Focke Wulf 190 were an added menace to deal with.

The arrival of the Messerschmitt Me

262 jet fighter and the rocket-propelled Me 163 Comet were startling but their limited numbers and late arrival on the scene meant they did not have any significant impact on the strategic bombing offensive.

Following the invasion at Normandy on June 6, 1944, the Allies soon established fighter bases in northern France, and ground attacks against German airfields increased significantly. Strategic bombing was intensified against targets in Germany with formations now numbering well into the hundreds. Against such odds, and with resources and experienced pilots diminishing, Germany eventually succumbed.

A legacy remains from those days, six decades ago, that still provides an insight into the lives of those brave airmen — the airfields they flew from. Of the hundreds of airfields in southeast England, 58 were used for offensive Eighth Air Force operations against enemy targets. Although some of these airfields are still in use

today, the majority have been reclaimed for agriculture, however evidence of their existence can still be found, maybe a section of runway or taxiway, a hard stand, a Nissen hut or even a control tower. Stand on one of these forgotten bases and one cannot help but wonder just what life was like there all those years ago.

The impact that thousands of American servicemen had on the small rural communities was profound. Yet they were warmly welcomed by the local English people, who also felt their loss when aircraft failed to return.

A large number of memorials have sprung up around these airfields in tribute to the bomber and fighter groups that helped free Europe and the world from tyranny. Whatever their size or grandeur they enable veterans, local people and the wider world to remember and honour the sacrifices made by those thousands of young men.

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Forget-Me-Not

Forget-me-not

*When you're lost in thought
As you make it through the day*

Forget-me-not

*I am one who fought
And was scarred along the way*

Forget-me-not

*For the freedom bought
With the lives one can't repay*

Forget-me-not

*When your child is taught
To remember yesterday*

Forget-me-not

*When the day is hot
And you bend your knees to pray*

Forget-me-not

*Yes, I heard the shot
But I did not run away*

Forget-me-not

*I'm a patriot
And I need your help today*

— DISABLED AMERICAN
VETERANS (DAV)

Letters

(Continued from Page 6)

"As one of the group's early historians, I can see no problem with putting 'Jack's Books' on a flash drive, especially since they have already been available on CD's."

Dalles Ebest, San Antonio, Texas

"I enjoyed your 'Battle of Los Angeles' in FLAK NEWS. I was born and raised in Long Beach and witnessed the flak bursts. When the firing began we had air raid sirens going off and we all got up and ran to the windows. Next day in the papers, remember no TV, we read all about what they thought happened. It always seemed to be a mystery and no one was sure they were telling us the truth about a false alarm. My father always said they had to be shooting at planes. But this article explained it all. Thank you.

"I married a man who was a navigator with the 398th 602nd and so here is my connection also. I was there in L.A. (1942)."

Charlotte Smith, Los Alamitos, California

"Thank you, again, for the continuing publication of the 398th Bomb Group newsletter. Thank you to all the wonderful people out here and their donations that the newsletter goes on."

Diane Jennings Graham, Quensel, B.C., Canada

www.398th.org

Changes Sought In 398th Governance

(Continued from Page 3)

the IRS and we must spend the time and energy now to modernize and correct these documents.

The Secretary of State of Alabama says the 2003 and 2006 Bylaws must be submitted and approved before any new ones are submitted to them. Then the 501(c)(3) application can be submitted to the IRS.

IRS Requirements and Recommendations

In the last decade the IRS has taken increased interest in non-profits. Their focus is on increased transparency (annual questions about most of the Board's activities), compliance (legal requirements), and ethics (stressing avoidance of conflicts of interest and personal benefit). We must address these areas.

Here is a brief summary of changes I believe are needed to our Bylaws to be compliant with the State and the IRS, and to function in the years ahead.

Restate the **membership requirements**.

Clarify the various roles, responsibilities and relationships between the **Members** (who have the final vote on all things, including items approved by the Board), the responsibilities of the **Directors** (who have some specific duties that sometimes may over-ride the rest of the Board), the **Officers**, and the **Appointee** positions. These would help the 398th Board be effective and run smoothly.

The Bylaws need to contain provisions for **resignations and removal of any members or positions**. The State of Alabama requires this procedure be specified.

We are missing many newly enforced IRS requirements like a written **Code of Ethics**, "**Whistle-blower**" protection, a **Conflict of Interest** Bylaw, better **Audit** procedures, a **Proxy** Policy, and a **Document Retention** Policy.

In My Opinion

The **nomination process** needs expanding to make sure the BGMA has creative ideas and fresh talent to help keep our group moving successfully into the future.

We need **active Directors**, maybe the 398th's most important

position. Since the Veterans who have served well and have been honored by this position are diminishing, I suggest that the next source of this important leadership position might come from the **Veteran's widows**, many of whom have already had an important support role and plenty of experience in promoting the Veteran's wishes over the years.

Separate from the Bylaws we also need written **Policies** to further detail the duties and responsibilities of each Board position so they can function freely. Policies are easier to change than Bylaws so can be adapted to the changing requirements over the years.

We also could use some creative new ideas for action to fulfill our Mission. We need members to step up to volunteer for leadership positions, to fill vacancies, to assist Board members, and to avoid currently having a few people filling more than one Board position resulting in burn out. Volunteers need to be encouraged not discouraged by over-work.

My Call to the Board and Members

Ultimately the reason for excellent Bylaws is to keep this corporation itself going. Bylaws and Policies will allow transitions for new Board Members to bypass the long learning curve. The BGMA was formed to preserve the memories of WW II and to educate the next generations. A lot has been accomplished, but I believe we have recently been retreating into "tried and true" and "saving money," instead of forging ahead to fulfill our ultimate Mission.

Please join us in Philadelphia to contribute your ideas on my proposed **Bylaws** and **Operating Policies** for each position and to **vote** on this important matter on the preservation of our Bomb Group Memorial Association.

Bylaws 2003; http://398th.org/Association/398th_ByLaws.html You can obtain a digital or printed copy of both our Articles of Incorporation and our current 2006 Revised Bylaws by asking Secretary Karen Neff at secretary@398th.org.

Ozzie & Vic: They Started It All At Station 131

(Continued from Page 7)

I discovered they had arrived. There was just one tiny problem; we had no means of reading the micro-film. Thus I started taking leave from my work and scrounging time on readers wherever I could find them, laboriously writing it all down into a note-book.

As our researches progressed, our collection of photographs increased, also. By now I realised the level of interest within the local population. So we put our collection onto black & white transparencies and nervously showed them at Pubs and Village Halls.

We put a poster up at The Woodman Inn advertising a slide-show and come the night, they could not get everybody in. There was interest, indeed! This was the gradual beginnings of what would eventually become "The Friends of the 398th BG."

In 1976 the 8th AFHS organised the first ever English reunion of the whole 8th Air Force since the end of WWII.

FOTE provided guides for every single Bomber and Fighter base, we were so proud to be able to manage that. Vic and I welcomed our own little party of Veterans to Nuthampstead and that became the very first of so many wonderful reunions here — Phil & Marge Stahlman, Lou & Betty Stoffer, Heyward & Minnie Brad-dock, Jim & Dorothy Crouch, and Earl Berryhill.

In the mid 1970's we explored the idea of a stained glass memorial window in St. George's Church Anstey. I attended a meeting of the Anstey Parochial Church Council where we discussed the possibility of Mr John Piper, the famous artist, being contacted about the design. Unfortunately the 398th Veterans were not organised into any form of Association in those days, so we could not realistically meet the projected costs, thus regretfully postponed the idea.

Eventually the Veterans decided to form their own Association and this they

did in 1981, when the 398th Bombardment Group (Heavy) Memorial Association was born.

Soon it was decided, with some persuasion, to raise funds for a Stone Memorial to be erected in memory of all who served with the 398th, including it's Support Units, but especially those who had paid the supreme sacrifice in the fight for freedom. Thanks to Robert Dimsdale and the Dimsdale Estate, the land on which both Memorials now sit is owned by the 398th BGA and is forever a little corner of America in an English field. So it was that on September 21, 1982, 30 Veterans along with their Family members stood in the rain and watched as their Memorial was unveiled and Dedicated. A sudden storm struck us immediately after the service and for a little while we had some "Hell from Heaven." So after years of dreams and one year of planning, a Memorial to the 398th BG stood at Nuthampstead for all to share.

BRIEF-things

Jeff Bickford, the son of a 600 Squadron radio operator, had the honor of representing the 398th at the Memorial Day ceremony at England's Madingley Cemetery last May; his wife, **Linda**, a retired army SFC, represented the 55th Fighter Group ... **James Powell** helped his VFW Post 8904 honor his fellow veterans in a ceremony in Shelbyville, Texas ... REMEMBRANCES, the 398th history book by the FLAK NEWS editor, came out 23 years ago and cost \$20.00; today, if you look real good, you can find a copy on the internet for about \$90.00 (plus \$4.85) for shipping) ... also on the internet you can find **Tommy Garcia's** marvelous "At the B-17 Co-op" at www.airspacemag.com/military-aviation/At-the-B-17-Co-op.html (it's worth the effort) ... one of **Ken Peirce's** 50-calibre pens found its way to the Czech Republic and into the hands of **Milan Spineta**, who runs Slany's Air Stars Show ... on the subject of books, 601 navigator **Nunzio Addabbo** has a book out titled, "TARGET *JFK*"; try www.target-jfk.com ... it's a "re-write" of the JFK assassination ... another "perfect addition" to any WW II book collection is **Don Hayes' "Splendor of the Skies"** ... **Tom Spraker** (finally) wanted to contact his old 602 **Richard Cady** crew and discovered most have passed on; he did remember the flak vest that tail gunner **Florian Wierdak** sat on while flying over Pilsen ... and it saved his life ... not all the B-17 names were printed on the nose; some were simply penciled on the interior, or on a gun, or any convenient space ... in these days of preserving our WW II war birds, it was hard to learn that a dozen or more P-38's were buried in the Philippines to deny the invading Japanese; and that crates of new Spitfires were buried by the British in Singapore for the same reason ... **Lee Anne Bradley** gets all the 398th questions the rest of us can't answer; the latest from pilot **George Leung** of San Francisco: "I flew 34 missions as a 2nd Lt.; can you get me the 1st Lt. promotion that the 603rd brass forgot?" ... feel for FLAK NEWS typesetter **David Ruberg**, who is hobbling around with bone spurs from gout in his foot and a stinger in his shoulder ... **Merrill Butikofer** of Idaho was pleased to learn that the veteran group that was caught short-changing the vets was not the respected Disabled American Veterans (DAV) ... **Merrill** was on the **Godwin** crew that did PW time early in the going ... **Ann Collins** made her umteenth visit to the "Overcast" while it was in California, and even No. 50 sun block didn't prevent another sunburn ... there are "some" on the Board who would cut FLAK NEWS expenses by printing only three issues per year, or eight pages instead of 12, but tell that to the 50+ members who pitched in \$19K to keep the newsletter like it is; add them to the dozens who chipped in \$20 each; in 27 years not one person has volunteered to edit FLAK NEWS (maybe because 398th photos and stories are not available at Walmart) ... that \$19K note was of interest to *Air Force News*, who reprinted the FLAK NEWS windfall support; the *News* also announced that their lifetime members will be asked to pay annual dues because of falling membership (they got that idea from FLAK NEWS, plus the "tail wheel" item on Page 6) ...



LEE ANNE BRADLEY

Delay In PX Shipments

"The 398th BGMA is in the process of changing its IRS non-profit status. We do not expect this process to be completed until September. When the process is completed, the PX will re-open and I will notify you when I can ship your order. Many thanks for your support."

— Carolyn Widmann

398th Bomb Group PX

This form can be downloaded and filled in from www.398th.org.

ORDER FORM (The Second Generation)

QTY	ITEM	UNIT COST	TOTAL
CLOTHING			
All shirts select size: <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL			
_____	T-Shirt, black, 398th BG Flying Fortress	\$12.00	_____
_____	T-Shirt, navy, with B-17 front view	\$12.00	_____
_____	T-Shirt, white, with Triangle W on front Clearing & Colder on back	\$15.00	_____
_____	T-Shirt, white Group logo on front, Squadron logo on back Select: <input type="checkbox"/> 600 <input type="checkbox"/> 601 <input type="checkbox"/> 602 <input type="checkbox"/> 603	\$25.00	_____
_____	Men's Denim Shirt, long sleeve, 398th logo	\$28.00	_____
_____	Men's Golf Shirt, blue, embroidered Triangle W	\$25.00	_____
CAPS			
_____	Black, with Squadron logo Select: <input type="checkbox"/> 600 <input type="checkbox"/> 601 <input type="checkbox"/> 602 <input type="checkbox"/> 603	\$8.00	_____
LAPEL PINS			
_____	Squadron pin Select: <input type="checkbox"/> 600 <input type="checkbox"/> 601 <input type="checkbox"/> 602 <input type="checkbox"/> 603	\$6.00	_____
_____	Group pin Hell From Heaven	\$6.00	_____
_____	Group pin blue with B-17	\$6.00	_____
_____	8th Air Force pin	\$6.00	_____
PATCHES			
_____	Squadron Patch 3" Select: <input type="checkbox"/> 600 <input type="checkbox"/> 601 <input type="checkbox"/> 602 <input type="checkbox"/> 603	\$6.00	_____
_____	B-17 Jacket Patch, 4"x3"	\$6.00	_____
_____	8th Air Force Patch	\$6.00	_____
_____	Group Patch Hell From Heaven, 2½"x3"	\$6.00	_____
BOOKS (books include postage)			
_____	<i>Fortresses Over Nuthampstead</i> (Bishop)	\$30.00	_____
_____	<i>398th History</i> (1946, photo copy)	\$20.00	_____
_____	<i>Remembrances</i> (Ostrom, 1989, photo copy)	\$30.00	_____
PHOTOGRAPHS & PRINTS			
_____	<i>Clearing & Colder</i> , 14"x19"	\$30.00	_____
_____	<i>Clearing & Colder</i> , 14"x17", on canvas	\$40.00	_____
_____	<i>Anstey Stained Glass Window</i> booklet, 11"x17" (includes list of comrades Killed in Action)	\$10.00	_____
_____	<i>Sunset at Nuthampstead</i> , 8"x10"	\$7.00	_____
MISCELLANEOUS			
_____	Bumper Sticker (red, white & blue)	\$3.00	_____
_____	50 Calibre Bullet Pen	\$40.00	_____
_____	Blue Ballpoint Pen (398th imprint)	\$5.00	_____
_____	Book Marker	\$5.00	_____
TIMELESS VOICES DVD's (DVD's include postage)			
_____	Member \$17.00 ea., Non-member \$22.00 ea. For information and titles, visit the "Timeless Voices" section at www.398th.org		_____
NUTHAMPSTEAD AIRFIELD MUSEUM			
_____	2011 Calendar	\$8.00	_____
_____	2012 Calendar (price includes shipping)	\$20.00	_____
Cost of Items ordered		\$	_____
Postage add \$5.00, \$6.00 if order over \$20.00		\$	_____
Payment in US funds to "398th Bomb Group PX"		Total \$	_____
Name _____			
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City _____		State _____	ZIP _____
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Mail completed order form and check to: Carolyn Widmann, Westfield, IN 46062-7150.			

398th BOMB GROUP FLAK NEWS

c/o Allen Ostrom
Seattle WA 98125-6324



IT'S A PEN!

It looks like a 50 calibre bullet, like those fired by B-17 gunners, but this is actually a modern pen, complete with "Hell From Heaven" insignia and engraved with "398th Bombardment Group (H); Station 131 Nuthampstead; England, 1944-1945."

It's a spent shell casing but houses a modern pen mechanism whose tip is turned from pine retrieved by Malcolm Osborn from a Nissen hut at Station 131.

Cost is \$40 each and will be available at the Philadelphia reunion PX. It is also available through the FLAK NEWS PX on Page 11.

The pen idea is a creation of Ken Peirce.

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