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

VOL. 27 NO. 4

FLAK NEWS

OCTOBER 2012

THE 398th BGMA's 29th ANNUAL REUNION *Philadelphia Sure Was Stimulating!*

The numbers may have been the lowest, but the enthusiasm was still with us at this year's Twenty-Ninth Annual 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association Reunion held in Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania, just outside of Philadelphia. One hundred and six attended, including seventeen vets.

The highly charged general business meeting was one not to be missed. "One of the craziest business meetings ever held at a Reunion," quoting Jim White, one of the Veterans. Emotions ran high during the meeting, but the end result proved positive as always. Those present re-elected the current officers via "acclamation". The officers are – Marilyn Gibb-Rice, President; Lee Bradley, Vice President; Karen Neff, Secretary and Mellisa Ledlow, Treasurer. The Directors re-elected were Arnie Schneider, Joe Mansell and Keith Anderson. Ray Richman was elected to replace Lew Burke, who resigned last year. The appointed managers for the upcoming year are: Sharon Krause, Unit Contact and E-Mail Manager; Ken Howard, Reunion Chair; Dawne Dougherty, Dues Manager; Carolyn Widmann, PX Manager; Geoff Rice, Photo Researcher; Lee Bradley, Historian and Data Coordinator; Tim Trautman, Webmaster; Allen Ostrom, FLAK NEWS Editor. Newly appointed to the Board was John Blackwell.

Business matters dealt with at the Reunion included reporting that the application to the IRS to change our group's non-profit status from a 501(c)19 to a 501(c)3 has been mailed. Veteran and Director Keith Anderson was the driving force behind getting the application completed and submitted before the Reunion. The \$850 fee for filing the form was kindly funded by Dawne Dougherty, widow of Tom Dougherty. The discussion on the changes to the By-Laws was tabled until next year, due to the lateness of submissions for consideration. Also, since changes are to be made to the current By-Laws, it was determined to extend the offer to the general membership to submit their ideas. If you have suggestions, please send those to our Vice President Lee Bradley.

Also tabled until more research can be conducted, is the issue of selling the Flash Drives with Jack's Books' information. Several of these issues were presented in the July 2012 FLAK NEWS.

Four Veterans present at this year's reunion were interviewed by Marilyn Gibb-Rice for the Timeless Voices project. They were Joseph Tarr, Richard Fox, George Hentschel and Joe Hauldren. Joe's sister Ellen Alexander was also included in his interview since she was his crew's pin-up girl when they left the US and were stationed at Nuthampstead.

Thursday night's banquet began with Ray Moore leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by Keith Anderson and the invocation. Geoff Rice gave a Power Point presentation of the construction of the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum in England showing that the first of three buildings is almost complete. Following Geoff's presentation, Jim Ledlow, husband of Treasurer Mellisa Ledlow, read pages from Pep Petrocine's "Under-the-Sheets" war time dairy that told of his last two missions. David Loss, son of Ralph Loss, 601st Squadron had prepared his Power Point presentation showcasing his visit to Nuthampstead and Station 131, but the hotel's equipment was not compatible with his computer. Even after mechanical difficulties, his speech about his father and his trip was enjoyed by all. – *story continued on Page 12* -



Four of the Stahlman sisters, Kathy Zinn, Ginny Loggins, Dorothy Ahl and Elaine Jurs presenting their father's uniform and crew photo to Geoff Rice, Trustee for the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum.

The President's Message:

BY MARILYN GIBB-RICE
President, 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association

As of September 22, 2012, Allen Ostrom, FLAK NEWS Editor, resigned from the position he held for 27 years. The 398th membership, at the Philadelphia Reunion, approved the formation of an Editorial Board to oversee the cost of publication and content of the FLAK NEWS. Allen cited "insurmountable differences" with President, Marilyn Gibb-Rice and the new Editorial Board.

The 398th BGMA appreciates Allen's tremendous contribution to the Group as Editor of the FLAK NEWS. The Association would not be as strong as it is today without his tireless efforts in producing the highly regarded FLAK NEWS.



Bruce Kelly (right) of Aviation High, receives five volumes of FLAK NEWS from former Editor Allen Ostrom.

Allen Ostrom, former Flak News editor felt "compelled" to leave a hometown legacy of his B-17 air war time in World War II. Seattle was where he lived and where the B-17 was born and where he wanted to honor that legacy.

Last July, 91 year old Allen delivered to Aviation High School of Seattle, five volumes of the 398th Bomb Group Newsletters, a total of 27 years of publication begun in 1986. "It's a perfect repository for young people dedicated to aviation and space" he said.

Changes To FLAK NEWS

An Editorial Board consisting of Ray Richman, Mellisa Ledlow and Lee Bradley was formed at the board meeting to determine ways to reduce costs of producing and mailing of the FLAK NEWS.

Quotes have been received to continue the FLAK NEWS at half the current costs. The last four issues of FLAK NEWS cost the group \$12,522.70. Under the new plan, costs could be reduced to as little as \$5,579.00 for four issues.

Many members, including Wiletta Mansell wife of Joe Mansell who donated \$10,000 last year for FLAK NEWS, voiced their concerns over the future of FLAK NEWS at the board and/or general business meeting. Members want to continue to receive the newsletter, but at a cost that can be maintained through regular dues and not by pleas for additional funds. The future of FLAK NEWS will be determined by the Editorial Board.



What Does An American Veteran Mean To Me?

By Dereck Frankhouser

American Veterans are role models to me. They make me proud of my country. They fill me with reverence. They are a source of inspiration to me. An American veteran sets an honorable example for me to follow.

A veteran creates in me pride for my country. I am proud to be a part of a country that someone would respect enough to willingly endanger their life to protect its values. These brave persons committed themselves to preserving the ideals of our country. Simply knowing of a veteran's dedication leads me to consider how meaningful the values of our country truly are. As I come to respect these American values as much as they have, I begin to appreciate them more clearly. This appreciation for my country's values makes me proud to be a part of it.

A veteran spurs me to have reverence. Whether they know it or not, veterans have positively affected me. Without their sacrifice, the world I know may have been drastically changed. Veterans were prepared to die for their cause. Many witnessed terrible things and endured incredibly strenuous situations. All veterans and especially the honorable persons that do not remain with us today have paid in full the high price for freedom and the life we all know in America. Considering the enormity of what veterans have accomplished brings me to greatly appreciate and admire them.

A veteran inspires me. In their days of duty, they were motivated to fight for things they held in the utmost importance. Today, I am in wonder of the dedication veterans held for their cause. This feeling of wonder drives me to apply their attitude toward their obligations to my way of life. This attitude is to work hard and to not be hindered by doing what I believe is right and true.

I consider veterans to be of the highest quality of role models. Veterans encourage me to love my country. They fill me with great respect for them. And finally, veterans inspire me to live a life dedicated to the things I believe to be right.

The Amvets organization in Pennsylvania encouraged school students to write essays about American military veterans. The essay above won the first prize of \$100 at Amvets Post 19 in Lancaster, PA. It was written by Derek Frankhouser, who at the time was a high school sophomore at Lancaster Christian School in that community. Derek is the grandson of Bill Frankhouser of our 603rd Squadron.

A Flight Never To Be Forgotten

By Newell (Newt) Moy, Pilot, 603rd Squadron

In January 1945, on a flight from Dow Field in Maine to Goose Bay, Labrador, we had a malfunction of the fuel valve on the outer right wing fuel tank (Tokyo). The valve was not repairable at Goose Bay, which resulted in our inability to take on a full fuel load for a non-stop flight to Iceland. As a result we had to make shorter flights to Greenland, Iceland, and Scotland.

When we were briefed on our flight to Greenland, we were shown photos of the entrance to three fjords. The center fjord would lead us 50 miles into the mountains where the airfield (Bluie West 1) was located. This was in January when there were only a couple of hours of daylight, so we had to arrive at the entrance to the fjord at sunup for a visual flight into the fjord to the airfield.

On our flight from Goose Bay, over the Davis Strait to Greenland, we were over an under cast and could not see the Greenland coastline for a visual fix on the entrance to the proper fjord. At this time, Charlie Berthoud, our navigator advised he had lost contact with the radio beacon (BW-3) at the entrance to the fjord. At this point, our visibility was limited and we had to make a quick decision on what to do because we had no way of knowing how far we were from the coastline as the clouds below us blended right into the ice and snow on the mountains. I contacted BW-1 traffic control for the status of the radio beacon at BW-3 and was advised the beacon had suddenly gone off the air with no chance of immediate repair. There were no other navigational aids available and our only choice was to return to Goose Bay, our pre-planned alternate (No one wanted to return to Goose Bay with temperatures of 30 to 40 degrees below zero).

As I was about to get a flight clearance back to Goose Bay, BW-1 traffic control advised that a C-54 transport plane had just departed the airfield and should be rising through the under cast in our vicinity and to contact the pilot for advise on weather conditions in the fjords. At that moment, Archie Kritchman (co-pilot) saw the C-54 raising out of the clouds below. I contacted the pilot and he advised the ceiling was high enough for CFR (contact flight rules) with good lateral visibility. Since we were fairly close to the coastline he advised we could descend through the undercast away from the coastline to reach CFR conditions.

We entered a fjord and thanks for the photographic memory of Ken McLaughlin (bombardier) and Charlie; we realized we had entered the fjord which was to the left of the one we should have entered. At this point, the width of the fjord was too narrow to allow us to turn around and the ceiling was too low to allow us to climb out because of the high mountains on both sides. Our only choice was to continue flying up the fjord hoping we would not miss seeing a channel that crossed over to the fjord leading us to BW-1.



The Moy Crew – 603rd SQ

Standing L-R: 2LT Charles E. Berthoud- Nav, 2LT Kenneth E. McLaughlin-Bombardier, 2LT Archie D. Kritchman-Co-Pilot, 2LT Newell D. Moy-Pilot.

Kneeling L-R: CPL Benny Braica- Ball Turret, CPL Bill V. Wight-Tail Gunner, CPL Homer C. Rhodes-Waist Gunner, CPL Robert J. Notorpole-Radio, S/SGT Joe Joseph-Engineer

The ceiling was continuing to close down on us and it was just like flying in a tunnel, with rocks on both sides. I flew as close as possible to the left side of the fjord because I had to make a full 90-degree turn as soon as we reached the cross-over channel. That was the sweetest 90-degree turn I ever made in a B-17.

As we entered the correct fjord, we recognized a positive fix, which was about 25 miles from the airfield. As we got a little closer to the airfield, we came into radio contact with the tower. The operator advised us to abort the approach as the weather was below minimum.

At that moment we flew over a positive fix, a sunken ship in the fjord, and we advised that we were proceeding to the base. At that point we had no safe way out.

Shortly after we landed and parked the aircraft, the visibility was zero-zero. The other crew members on the flight were: Joe Joseph, Homer Roades, Benny Bracia, Bill Wight and Robert Notarpole.

I attribute our success to the ability of the flight crew to recall the briefing we had at Goose Bay and specifically the photos we were shown of the fjords leading to the airfield. I might add that seeking the advice of another aircrew was an acceptable procedure in the WWII era.

In June 1945 (after VE Day) I returned to the States via Greenland and BW-1. I had a clear view of the fjords from 13,000 feet (minimum altitude over the icecap) and the thought that I had been flying in the fjords under a 500-foot ceiling to BW-1, etched a memory in my mind that will never be forgotten.

LEARN FROM MY LESSON ABOUT VA BENEFITS

By
Sharon Krause

My parents finally relented and agreed to go to a retirement community. They sold the Florida house & down-sized from a 3 bedroom, 2 bath to a 1 bedroom 1 bath. It was very hard for them to do that. So now they had 2 meals a day....and no pool or lawn to take care of anymore. BUT...after spending some time with them I realized that the Florida facility was not "our" answer.

My mother has macular degeneration, and with that comes other issues. My Dad needs help and support from family. And of course we're "ALL" in Michigan. So I sent out an email to a facility near my home. The first thing that comes back is the question "is my Dad a "Veteran"?? The Florida facility **never** mentioned that there were VA benefits for independent and assisted living Veterans. The Veterans benefits are as follows:

Single Wartime Veterans - up to \$1,703 per month

Surviving Spouse of a Veteran - up to \$1,094 per month

Spouse of a Living Veteran - up to \$1,338 per month

Married Veteran and Spouse – up to \$2,019 per month

Veterans married to another Veteran - \$2,631 per month

There's a lot of paper work so if you don't have this VA benefit and are entitled to it... start now. You can contact your regional VA office.

To locate the closest one to near you visit the VA web site:
<http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp?isflash=1>

There's more information at this website: WWW.usbaus.org.

I recommend getting an advocate to help with the paperwork, which can be a bit much. The facility where your Veteran is living will be able to recommend someone. The process takes about five to seven months, but is retroactive from the time you first file.

So do it soon!



Paul and Marge Roderick with daughter Sharon Krause



The McCarty Crew

Standing L-R: Sgt. Paul Adelman - Waist Gunner, Lt. Darrel Argubright, Lt. William McCarty - Pilot, Unknown- possibly original Nav, Sgt. Larry Ruth- Engineer
Kneeling I-R: Sgt. Robert McMichael- Ball Turret, Sgt. **Ralph Hall** - Tail Gunner, Lt. Charles Weeks - Co-Pilot, Sgt. David Haight – Radio Op

Parachutes Are Not Only For Jumping

Written February 2003

By Ralph Hall, Tail Gunner, 601st Squadron

On my 29th mission [10 January 1945] as a spare on a strange crew that I had never flown with before, we had the misfortune of being shot down in Eindhoven, Holland, in an apple orchard. Not knowing which side of the lines we were on in the British Sector, the rest of the crew took off like jack rabbits thinking it might be enemy territory. Having a piece of shrapnel in my hip, I could not walk and they left me under some bushes. They scattered and headed south. One of the crew came onto a Canadian fighter base. He told them there was a man in the bushes that was wounded and could not walk. Two Canadian ground crew and the American came back and got me with a truck. I think that lorry had square wheels, the way it felt.

For some reason, one of the Canadians picked up my parachute and threw it in the truck. I was taken to the 8th British Liberation Hospital in Antwerp, Belgium. When they unloaded me they also left the chute. A couple of days later after surgery a British sister (nurse) asked me if she could have the parachute. I said sure, as I was not about to use it. I didn't know what she had in mind. Later the sister came over and whispered in my ear that they were wonderful. They had not seen nylon in many years and with an old sewing machine they were making ladies underwear. Very much better than the scratchy knickers that they were issued. A 28-foot chute would make a lot of nylon knickers.

One of the main items of their meal ticket was beef barley soup and to this day I love it. It was a good trade. I got beef barley soup by the bucket full. The U.S. Government was missing one parachute. They could charge it to Lend Lease, but not me. Don't tell the U.S. Government I traded it for good soup.

In the never ending pursuit of crew identification we present...

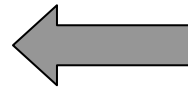
DO YOU KNOW THESE MEN?



Unknown crew
602nd SQ.

This training photo is dated
September 29, 1943.

DO YOU KNOW THESE MEN? WE
NEED YOUR HELP!!



WOODMANSEE CREW
600th SQ

Photo Date April 10, 1945

Loading list for mission flown on Apr
9, 1945:

2LT D.A. Woodmansee, Pilot
LT E.S. Brace, Co-Pilot
LT T. Donelian, Navigator.
T/SGT H. Benningfield, Engineer
S/SGT J.D. Derrick, Radio Op
S/SGT A. Kris, Ball Turret
S/SGT M.W. Paxton, Waist Gunner
S/SGT R.J. Zajio, Tail Gunner

CAN YOU MATCH THESE NAMES TO
THE MEN IN THE PHOTO?



CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE MEN?

If so, please contact **Geoff Rice** ASAP!
E-Mail: crewpictures@398th.org

NUTHAMPSTEAD AIRFIELD MUSEUM

398th & 55th Memorial Day

*Article reprinted by kind permission of the
Nuthampstead Airfield Museum*

Museum Media Archivist Nathan Howland addressed the Memorial Service Gathering. We are pleased to share a transcript of his speech.

"Thank you all for braving the English weather and showing your support for this biennial memorial service. It is an honour to be able to address you all on behalf of Russ Abbey, particularly our special guests from across the Atlantic, who have made such a long journey to be with us today. Thank you for that extraordinary effort!

The Friends of the 398th made a promise and commitment many years ago to continue to hold these services even when there came a point where no veterans were able to attend. It is a vehement promise that the current Friends Committee is determined to uphold, and it is wonderful to see so many of you attending today's event in the spirit of that commitment.

We are truly blessed with a local community who are so willing to do whatever they can to show their respect and admiration for the young Americans that travelled here during wartime and stood alongside our English and Commonwealth servicemen, to fight the threat of Nazi Germany tyranny.



Veteran's families, members of the local community and personnel from the 95th Reconnaissance SQ RAF Mildenhall and the United States Air Force gather for the Memorial Day service honoring the 398th BG & 55 FG.

We often get asked by our American friends, why it is that the English should put all this effort into remembering the Americans from 70 years ago? The answer is very simple, that we all owe them a HUGE vote of thanks not only for their sacrifices, but for the legacy that has seen them become such an indelible part of our local history here. There have been long lasting friendships forged between veterans and the local people over the decades since the Americans first arrived in this sleepy rural village, and we all hope these friendships will continue to grow with the new generations that are to come.

We have a number of special visitors today, and they will be become apparent as our service unfolds, but I would like to draw your attention to, and make a special mention of, the brave men and women of the modern United States Air Force, who have willingly volunteered to attend with us today and who proudly display the insignia and badges of their 55th Fighter Group forebears. It is extremely poignant that they stand here today and remember the 55th heritage and those that paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Therefore, I would be grateful if you would all join me in showing your appreciation to Major Anthony Shafer and Captain Kelsey Bryant from the 95th Reconnaissance Squadron RAF Mildenhall and the fine men and women of their unit! Thank you; it is a pleasure and honour to have you all here today!

Ex-Chairman of the 'Friends of the 398th', Wilfrid Dimsdale, was impressed with the recent memorial day. Wilfrid had organised many previous biennial services and was complimentary on the organization of this year's events. He told the Museum's Russ Abbey, "The service was very good, very well done".



Military vehicles at Memorial Day

In what must be the largest collection of WW2 vehicles to have assembled at Nuthampstead since the War, the memorial service and museum opening day were enhanced by the massed ranks of vintage vehicles. The jeeps proved extremely popular when Airfield Tours were offered and the taxiways and runways were alive again with the sounds and smells of WW2. The organizers would like to say a special thank you to Gerald Morris, Vernon Crisp, Tom Webster, Alistair Forbes and all the other owners and drivers for their amazing support.

Memorial Day Ceremony at Madingley May 28, 2012

By Jeff Bickford

The wife and I had been planning a trip to the UK for a few years. One mandatory destination was to visit Nuthampsted where my father, Cleo Bickford, served in the 398th BG, 600th Squadron. We eventually joined some friends on a trip to Scotland. After our excursion in the Highlands we planned to conclude with a stay at the Woodman Inn on our way to London. After I contacted Geoff Rice to coordinate our visit, he and Marilyn noted that our visit coincided with Memorial Day and asked if I would like to participate in the memorial ceremony at the Cambridge American Cemetery in Madingley. What an honor!

Geoff met Linda and I at the Woodman Monday morning and proceeded to the cemetery. As we arrived, we were met by a large crowd of servicemen, veterans, and family. The 500 foot long memorial wall along the south end of the decorative ponds illustrated the unfortunate price of freedom with its engravings of the names of servicemen that paid the ultimate price. The ceremony began with the posting of colors by the RAF Mildenhall Honor Guard and national anthems of Britain and the USA performed by USAF in Europe Band.

The fine airmen from the 100th Air Refueling Wing at RAF Mildenhall provided support throughout the ceremony as commentary was provided by Lt. Col. David Harris, Maj. Kristina Coppinger, Lord-Lieutenant Hugh Duberly, and Rear Admiral Mark Montgomery. After a moment of silence, over 100 floral wreaths representing as many service units were carried out by the airmen. I had the privilege of accepting the blue and yellow wreath carried by A1C Crisp for presentation at the memorial in honor of the 398th BG. SSgt Williams did the same the red and yellow arrangement presented in honor of the 55th FG.

The ceremony concluded with words from Chaplain Capt. Phillip Kaim, the playing of Taps, and a flyover of a MC-130, KC-135, and four F-15s. Unfortunately, the B-17G Sally B based at Duxford was not allowed to fly over as part of the ceremony, but the owner felt so strongly the appropriate nature of this tribute that it did perform a fly-by after the ceremony. Linda, Geoff, and I returned to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford just as she landed. What a sight to see one of these elegant birds aloft.



Jeff Bickford presenting a wreath during Memorial Day services at Madingley Cemetery in honor of the 398th BG

I cannot express how much of an honor it was to be asked to participate in this Memorial Day ceremony. As a retired veteran (Linda, SFC, Army) and AF brat (me), we wish to offer our thanks to all of the US service men and women, and our allied forces for their past and continued dedication to ensuring the freedoms that so many take for granted these days. (A special thanks goes out to Geoff Rice for driving us around so I could limit my exposure to the wrong side of the road.)



The following description of the Reflecting Pools and Tablets Of The Missing is found on the Madingley American Cemetery website.

"Between the Visitors Building and the Memorial Building stretches the centerpiece Great Mall within which and parallel to the Tablets Of The Missing lay two giant reflecting pools. Either side of the pools the walkways are bordered with flower beds containing Polyantha roses and bounded on the north side by a row of single double-pink hawthorn trees. The Tablets contain the details of five thousand one hundred and twenty six missing in action, lost or buried at sea, including unidentified service personnel."

Remembering the Newman Crash of 26 July 1944



Left Photo:

The crew of the 2015th on the scene at the Newman crash site. The ill-fated Fortress was B-17 serial number 42-102553. The 2015th Engine Aviation Firefighters were assigned duty at Nuthampstead.

By Bill Ahern - Fire Fighter, 2015th Engine

I was at the scene that day although not in the pictures. As one of the two outboard members on the crash truck that day it was my first duty to help evacuate the crew from the plane. By the time I reached the crash site the crew had in fact all exited the plane and were scattered, crouching in the wheat field surrounding the downed plane. The plane was a mass of flames and the ammunition was exploding furiously. It was not hard to be apprehensive that some of those exploding bullets might be coming out of the barrel of a gun. The reason for everyone crouching, and I can recall scurrying about in a crouch myself. I led some of the crew back to the ambulance and transportation to the medical site. I don't recall whether or not I returned to help fight the fire.

The following day Lt. Herb Newman, pilot of the downed plane, and a member of his crew appeared at fire headquarters, shook hands with and thanked all who participated in the rescue effort at the crash site. Our role was really minimal but he was very gracious with his praise and thanks. We chatted about home towns, families and all of that kind of soldier talk. He was a very personable guy and immediately gained the admiration and respect of the guys of the 2015th who were present. In the following days, weeks and months whenever our paths crossed the greetings were always warm and friendly.

A few months later word filtered down to the 2015th that Lt. Newman's plane had been lost on a mission over Germany. No details-no further word. The hope was of course that Lt. Newman and his crew was able to bail out and was in a POW camp awaiting the end of the war. Eventually the war did end and we all went home to civilian life.

Over the years whenever I reflected on those days at Nuthampstead I often wondered whether or not Herb Newman had ever made it home to Little Rock, Arkansas. Recently I read Bill Frankhauser book "World War II Odyssey" where I learned of the fate of Herb Newman at the hands of his captors that day in November 1944. I had heard stories and read in books of executions of downed flyers by their civilian captors but never did I imagine that happening to anyone I was acquainted with.

Thank God for the character and the courage of Herb Newman and the combat crews of the 398th who really made a difference in the war. No wonder the generation was known as the greatest.



Bill Ahern of the 2015th

The 398th Officers



Dear Marilyn,

You can't imagine how eager and happy I am to celebrate you and your fellow beloved Daughters deserved final certification of how much we owe the very *continued existence* of the 398th Memorial Association!

If it isn't done sooner, I hope by the next Reunion you girls will receive some actual emblem of honor for that heart-felt, loving service, instead of an unappreciated, self-aggrandizing, outside criticism! Hurrah!!!

Love and deep THANKS!

George Schatz,
Bombardier, Ken Elwood Crew
600th SQ

To all of you in your Association,

My deepest appreciation for an awesome website. I'm a WW2 history "nut", and being too young for WW2, I became a "Cold War" Air Force Veteran (1957-1961) as a reciprocating engine mechanic.

To those who served, thank you for helping make this country what it is and for your sacrifice. Thank you for sharing.

Harold B. Bachman
Adrian, Michigan

It's SACRAMENTO!

The 30th Annual Reunion for the 398th BGMA will be held in Sacramento, California on September 4 - 7, 2013, as announced by Reunion Chair, Ken Howard, at the recent Philadelphia Reunion.

President

Marilyn Gibb-Rice
Bury St. Edmunds Suffolk
IP28 8HS England
President@398th.org

Vice President

Lee Anne Bradley
Andover, NJ 07821-4034
Vp@398th.org

Secretary

Karen Neff
Lexington, VA 24450-6742
Secretary@398th.org

Treasurer

Mellisa Ledlow
Houston, TX 77044-1112
Treasurer@398th.org

Board of Directors

Keith Anderson
Issaquah, WA 98027-8508
DirectorKeith@398th.org

Joe K. Mansell
Kingwood, TX 77339-3337
DirectorJoe@398th.org

Ray Richman
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-2900
DirectorRay@398th.org

Arnold Schneider
Jerome, MI 49249-9759
DirectorArnie@398th.org

Dues / Membership Manager

Dawne Dougherty
Harrisburg, OR 97446-9585
DuesManager@398th.org

Board Member

John Blackwell
Lovettsville, VA 20180-1768
Blackwellsinva@gmail.com

Unit Contact Manager

Sharon Krause
Plymouth, MI 48170-2870
UnitManager@398th.org

Reunion Chair

Ken Howard
Elmwood, IL 61529-9122
Reunion@398th.org

PX Manager

Carolyn Widmann
Noblesville, IN 46062-7150

Webmaster

Tim Trautman
Webmaster@398th.org

Flag Coordinator

Karen Neff
Lexington, VA 24450-6742
FlagCoordinator@398th.org

Group Historian / Data Coordinator FLAK NEWS Address Corrections

Lee Anne Bradley
Andover, NJ 07821-4034
GroupHistorian@398th.org

Photo Historian / Researcher

Geoff Rice
Bury St. Edmunds
Suffolk IP28 8HS England

Photos@398th.org



600th SQ B-17 42-9729 N8 P
"How Was It? Well?"



Ralph McIntyre's flag flew over Station 131 on Father's Day, 2011

The 398th BGMA Flag Program *"Keep 'em flying"*

The 398th BGMA's Flag Program is a wonderful way to honor your beloved Veteran, now at 30,000 feet.

Our Flag Coordinator, Karen Neff, will receive flags from our deceased Veteran's families and ship them overseas to the Flag Coordinator for the Friends of the 398th BGMA. The flags will be flown over the old Nuthampstead Station 131 Airfield in accordance with the wishes of the Veteran's family.

You may contact Karen at her address listed on Page 9 for additional information.

**THE PX IS NOW OPEN!
OUR ORDER FORM IS ON THE NEXT PAGE**

Did you know that...

E-MAIL IS AN OPTIONAL WAY TO RECEIVE YOUR FLAK NEWS

By
Marilyn Gibb Rice

As you have read in recent issues, the costs associated with producing our quarterly newsletters far exceed the necessary income. Because of the recent generous donations, we have been able to continue with production of the Flak News. However, we still need to find ways to reduce the high costs of production.

We have decided to offer you the option of receiving your copy of Flak News via e-mail instead of the paper copy if you wish to receive it in this manner. Our hope is that enough people will agree to receive the newsletter via e-mail in order to help reduce our costs.

If you are a current paid member and would like to receive your Flak News electronically, please send your member name and e-mail address to me at president@398th.org.

If you are not a member, but would like to join in order to receive the Flak News, please send \$20.00 for an annual membership (\$100.00 for lifetime membership) to our dues manager, Dawne Dougherty, Harrisburg, OR 97446-9585. (Please make checks payable to 398th Bomb Group Association.)

We greatly appreciate your continued support of the 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association. If you have any questions, concerns, ideas, please send me a message at the following email address:
president@398th.org.

ANNUAL DUES ANNOUNCEMENT!

In efforts to be more fiscally efficient, it has been decided to bill annual dues at the start of the new year. Beginning in 2013, all annual dues will be billed in January.

Please note that we will no longer provide a self-addressed envelope, however, we will provide all of the necessary information for mailing.

It is our hope that this will give us a better idea as to our income for the year and help us to budget that income more efficiently. If you need any assistance, you are always welcome to contact me.

Dawne Dougherty, Dues Mgr.

BRIEF - things

Lew Burke tells us that if you go back and look on page 13 of the March 2011 issue of the 8th Air Force News, you will see a picture and article about **Larry Delancey's** plane. "Too bad he isn't here any longer so he could also see it. Also if you look on page 36 you will see a column about the Virginia Chapter. Guess who belongs to the Virginia Chapter? PS: If you do not get the 8th AF News, you should arrange to do it".... **Harry Overbaugh**, 602nd SQ **Coville crew**, mentioned he has a "Winged Boot" patch. This was given to aircrew members who went down in enemy territory and evaded back to England. Harry calls it his "Fly-in-walk-back" patch. Do any of you other guys have this patch?.... **S/Sgt F.A. Kowalczyk** was a gunner on the **Captain Steve Cullian crew**, 603rd Squadron. His footlocker was very kindly donated to the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum by his daughter, **Mary Kinsey**... Please remember, if you have an item you would like to donate to the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum, contact **Marilyn and Geoff Rice**. They will insure that your item will be taken care of and displayed properly in the museum. Their contact information is listed on page 9 of this issue of FLAK NEWS... The FLAK NEWS needs your stories! This is YOUR newsletter and we would like to feature as many of your experiences and photos as possible. Please send your stories via e-mail to; grouphistorian@398th.org or snail-mail to **Lee Bradley**, her address is on Page 9.... Hey, do any of you guys remember the Red Cross Donut Wagon? I bet that was a good place for a quick snack and a cup of joe between missions. I'm sure it beat the chow in the mess hall too! Speaking of mess, how many of you guys had to slog through the mud going to breakfast? The place wasn't nicknamed 'Mudhampstead' for nothing!.... **Joe Reveman**, Radio Operator on the **Howard Traeder** crew 601st squadron has presented the 398th BGMA and the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum with a special DVD. His grand nephew is in the film business and put together a wonderful little documentary of Joe's time in the 398th BG. It is a very professional production and Joe is very proud of his grand nephew. Thanks for sharing your DVD and your 398th experiences with us Joe! ... Is everyone current with their dues? The 398th BG Association is one of the few WWII Veteran organizations still actively operating. Most of the other Groups have closed shop but we will persevere with your help. The 398th will always be the BEST of them all. " Keep 'em Flying" as **Wally Blackwell** used to say! We will, Wally.



398th Bomb Group PX

ORDER FORM

(The Second Generation)

QTY	ITEM	UNIT COST	TOTAL
CLOTHING			
All shirts select size:			
	___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL		
___	T-Shirt, black, "398th BG Flying Fortress"	\$15.00	___
___	T-Shirt, navy, with B-17 front view	\$15.00	___
___	T-Shirt, white, with Triangle W on front, Clearing & Colder on back	\$15.00	___
___	T-Shirt, white, with Group logo on front, Squadron logo on back select: ___600 ___601 ___602 ___603	\$25.00	___
___	Men's Denim Shirt, long sleeve, 398th logo	\$25.00	___
___	Men's Golf Shirt, blue, embroidered TriangleW	\$25.00	___
CAPS			
___	Black, with Squadron logo select: ___600 ___601 ___602 ___603	\$15.00	___
LAPEL PINS			
___	Squadron pin select: ___600 ___601 ___602 ___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: ___600 ___601 ___602 ___603	\$6.00	___
___	B-17 Jacket Patch, 4"x3"	\$6.00	___
___	8th Air Force Patch, 3"	\$6.00	___
___	Group Patch Hell From Heaven, 2 1/2"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	___
___	<i>The Last Mission</i> (Mazur) – audio CD's	\$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"	\$10.00	___
___	<i>Sunset at Nuthampstead</i> , 8"x10"	\$7.00	___
MISCELLANEOUS			
___	Bumper Sticker (red, white & black)	\$3.00	___
___	50 Caliber Bullet Pen (Group Logo)	\$40.00	___
___	Blue Ballpoint Pen (398th imprint)	\$5.00	___
___	Challenge Coin (B-17)	\$20.00	___
___	Coaster (Clearing & Colder imprint)	\$5.00	___
___	Earrings – clip (Group Logo)	\$10.00	___
___	Earrings – pierced (Group Logo)	\$10.00	___
TIMELESS VOICES DVD's (DVD's include postage/handling)			
		Member \$17.00 ea., Non- member \$22.00 ea. For information and titles, visit the "Timeless Voices" section at www.398th.org	

A good place to go for a cup of joe...

Do you remember the Red Cross Donut Wagon?



Cost of Items ordered \$ _____

Postage/handling add \$7.00, \$9.00 if order over \$20.00 \$ _____

Payment in US funds to "398th Bomb Group PX" Total \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone & E-Mail _____

Mail completed order form and check to:
Carolyn Widmann, Noblesville, IN 46062-7150

FLAK NEWS
C/O Lee A. Bradley
Andover, NJ 07821
USA

398th BGMA's 29th ANNUAL REUNION - Continued from page 1 -

Music was certainly the focal point of Saturday night's banquet. It began with Scott Welty, son of Bob Welty leading the group in two verses of "American the Beautiful," including the words "O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife. Who more than self their country loved and mercy more than life!" which were very fitting for the 398th's heroes. Lee Bradley read George Schatz's story "A Bombardier Remembers." George was navigator on Joe Elwood's crew in the 600th squadron. George planned to attend the reunion, but determined traveling was not conducive at the time. However, George strongly supports his "Daughter's," the 398th officers on the board!

Many reunion attendees will remember Phil and Marge Stahlman since they attended numerous reunions over the years. Phil was co-pilot on the famous DeLancey flight where the plane returned to base with the nose badly damaged by Flak. This year, four of their daughters, Dorothy Ahl, Elaine Jurs, Ginny Loggins and Kathy Zinn were present to honor Phil and to make very generous donations to Geoff Rice, trustee for the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum.

Each daughter spoke giving a lovely tribute to their father followed by singing "We'll Meet Again." The band "Cheers" kindly performed accompaniment and everyone joined in the singing. Ken Howard followed with information regarding the 2013 reunion in Sacramento. Ken announced the 2013 reunion will be the 30th since the group began meeting on their own and the 70th year since the 398th Bomb Group was formed. Not only does he have major shoes to fill following Sharon Krause, but the additional pressure to make the next reunion a remarkable one! The evening ended with the group being entertained by the dance band "Cheers".



Twelve Incredible Years!!

After twelve years being our reunion chairperson, Sharon has retired! For the past twelve reunions Sharon has done an outstanding job and Ken Howard has huge shoes to fill. Even though Sharon requested no gifts, it was determined that she had to have a parting token of the 398th BGMA's appreciation. Teedy and John Blackwell purchased the gift for Sharon and in following tradition, Teedy presented Sharon with a Waterford Crystal pitcher.

Thank you, Sharon!!