



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

VOL. 34 NO. 1

FLAK NEWS

JANUARY 2019

## Our 35<sup>th</sup> Annual 398<sup>th</sup> BGMA Reunion, hosted by the 8<sup>th</sup> Airforce Historical Society, was a huge success!



**Bob Rowland, Harvey Ditchman and Lou Stoffer at the 398<sup>th</sup> BGMA Reunion**

*Photo courtesy of Marilyn Gibb-Rice*

Two of our honored veterans attended the 398<sup>th</sup> BGMA annual reunion last October. They were Bob Rowland, 602<sup>nd</sup> SQ Ball Turret Gunner and Lou Stoffer, 600<sup>th</sup> SQ Engineer / Top Turret Gunner. We also had a very special guest from England! Harvey Ditchman, Chairman of the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum joined us for a week of fun. This was Harvey's first Stateside 398<sup>th</sup> reunion and he had a ball meeting all of us. This was also very special for him as this trip was a birthday gift (because it was a BIG milestone birthday) from his family and friends in England. Happy birthday Harv! We enjoyed having you with us and sincerely hope you come back again in 2019.

**Please turn to page 2 for Melissa Ledlow's Reunion Recap and to page 10 for additional photos!**

## The 2018 398<sup>th</sup> BGMA DAYTON REUNION

By Mellisa Ledlow

The 35<sup>th</sup> 398<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Memorial Association Reunion, held in Dayton, Ohio, October 11-14, 2018, was once again a wonderful gathering of veterans, widows, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation members and friends. This reunion had a bit of a different experience, however, as it was the first time since 1983 the 398<sup>th</sup> met under the umbrella of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society Reunion. The 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society has coordinated many different WWII Bomb Groups and Fighter Groups to meet at a joint reunion location and this year's gathering had 459 in attendance. All organized activities and a Farewell Banquet included all the Bomb Groups, Fighter Groups and other veterans of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air force.

The 398<sup>th</sup> was given its own meeting room/hospitality room which was set up as our traditional Memory Room (including Jack's Books, 398<sup>th</sup> memorabilia, photos, B17 models, etc.) and the PX. Doors remained open a great deal of the time, so the Memory Room and PX had many visitors (and buyers for the PX)! Other Bomb Groups were organized in rooms around the hotel and also welcomed guests.



Our PX and 'Memory Room' were a big hit with our group and a huge draw for the other groups in attendance. Carolyn, seen in the back of this photo smiling and waving, reported record sales!

Thursday, October 11 began with a Dayton City Tour. Dayton, Ohio is home to Wright-Patterson AFB, National Cash Register Company and perhaps most famous for being the home of Orville and Wilbur Wright— inventors of the airplane. Upon returning from the tour, attendees could attend a seminar conducted by Uwe Benkel and Maj. Arie Kappert. Benkel and Kappert lead a research team in Germany for the purpose of locating missing German and Allied airmen at crash sites. They have recovered and identified 50 bodies and continue on their mission to return remains to the soldiers' families.

That evening, participants gathered for a Welcome Banquet and a World Premiere movie. Peter Hankoff, producer of the HBO documentary, *The Cold Blue*, introduced the film which features newly restored 4K footage and outtakes, shot by Oscar-winning director William Wyler (*The Best Years of Our Lives*, *Ben-Hur*) during the summer of 1943 for his 1944 documentary *The Memphis Belle: A Story of a Flying Fortress*. Wyler went to Europe to document the air war in progress and flew actual combat missions on B-17s. All of this raw color footage was recently discovered in the vaults of the National Archives. Present at the banquet were several WWII veterans who were interviewed and participated in the movie. The 398<sup>th</sup> BGMA's own Bob Rowland, ball turret gunner with the 602<sup>nd</sup> Sq. Boehme Crew, is a featured airman in the film. The documentary is poignant and at times difficult to watch, but veterans in attendance praised its authenticity.



Bob Rowland (center) discussing his part in the upcoming HBO documentary *The Cold Blue* with producer Peter Hankoff (left) while Duane Shively looks on. In the film Bob describes his experience as a ball turret gunner. Eight other veterans also gave commentary throughout the film regarding their positions on a B-17. The *Cold Blue* will debut on HBO in June 2019.

The next day started off with an organized tour of the National Museum of the United States Air Force. The museum is the oldest and largest aviation museum in the world, with more than 360 displays. These include the actual "Memphis Belle" B-17, the JFK Air Force One, the Valkyrie and the B29 "Bockscar" that bombed Nagasaki. The history of flight is well represented especially in exhibits pertaining to the Wright Brothers. The museum is a must-see for any history or aviation buff.

Upon return to the hotel, the 8<sup>th</sup> AF Historical Society held a Q&A with some of the WWII Veterans and then organized a Cash Bar Reception. Following the reception, the 398<sup>th</sup> BG broke away and enjoyed their own Rendezvous Banquet in the Memory Room. During the gathering, the group was privileged to hear comments from WWII Veteran, Lou Stoffer.

Lou was the engineer/top turret Gunner with the 600<sup>th</sup> Sq. Grinter crew. Lou shared several stories including his route from the U.S. through Iceland to Station 131 at Nuthampstead. He also recalled the October 1944 crash of a 398<sup>th</sup> B17 into the moat surrounding St. George's Church in nearby Anstey. And Lou also described the fateful crash of his own plane on Christmas Eve '44. That crash cost the lives of two of his crew. And while they were in the Dayton area, Lou, along with his grandson, Joey, was able to visit the grave of Lt. Franklin "Francis" D. Harrod, one of the airmen that died that day, as he was buried nearby. He's never been forgotten. Lou and his crew went through several harrowing missions including a mid-air collision and flak passing through the turret and burning his nose. Lou was most grateful that his final mission was a "milk run" and he could head home in 1945!

Lindhe Guarisco, a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation son of John Guarisco, Bombardier with the 601<sup>st</sup> Sq. J.H. Davis Crew, narrated a slide-show that chronicled his dad's early life growing up in New Orleans, his call to enlist in the Army Air Corps after busting out of Navy Flight School and his experiences flying 32 missions on a B17 during WWII. Captain Guarisco participated in two missions on D-Day trying to protect those landing on Juno Beach. Lindhe is continuing to gleen as many details about his dad's experiences and welcomed input and comments from the audience.

... Continued on Page 3

## Dayton Reunion – *continued from page 2*

Stressing the importance of studying and emphasizing history in all lives, Lee Bradley encouraged the audience to share stories, show pictures and visit memorials. Veterans, like those present —Lou Stoffer and Bob Rowland— paved the way for future peace and social justice. It is up to those of us who follow to repeat their stories and continue to educate others about not just World War II history but all history.

Saturday morning, October 13, was spent in meetings—the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society held their General Membership Meeting and the 398<sup>th</sup> BG followed that with their own General Membership Meeting. Board recommendations were made and the membership voted to donate \$5,000 to the Nuthampstead Air Field Museum Nissen Hut fund and \$5,000 for repairs to St. George's Church in Anstey, England (site of the 398<sup>th</sup> BGMA Memorial Window). See the President's Message for hut details and Page 12 for church donation details.

Later in the afternoon, a tour of the National Packard Museum was organized for all those interested. The Packard Museum helps recognize Packard's influence on transportation and industrial history. Carillon Historical Park was the next stop. Carillon Park is a 65-acre park and museum in Dayton, which contains historic buildings and exhibits concerning the history of technology and history of Dayton and its residents since 1796. Major sections include settlement, transportation, invention and industry and highlights the significant, inventive contributions of the people of Dayton and Ohio.



Chrysta Moore and Lisa Moore Trygar at the Packard Museum

A Gala Dinner was held Saturday night for all Reunion attendees and hosted by the 8<sup>th</sup> AF Historical Society. After the Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem and Invocation and warm words of welcome, Ben Jones, President of the 8<sup>th</sup> AF Historical Society, introduced Col. Edward Wexler, USAF, Ret. Col. Wexler conducted a traditional Candle Lighting Ceremony. Six candles were lit by individuals to honor several groups with a significant connection to the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force during WWII—Ground Crews, Flying Personnel, the 28,000 airmen/heroes lost, the 26,000 POW's and evaders, our British friends including the RAF and the courageous spirit of the civilians, and finally, today's 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force—a new generation of protectors of freedom and democracy.

The 398<sup>th</sup> BGMA was the second largest group in attendance at the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society Reunion (we were undoubtedly the most enthusiastic!). It turned out to be a great experience meeting other veterans and second-generation family members that are so like-minded in their resolve to honor those who served and sacrificed in WWII. We will be joining the 8<sup>th</sup> again at their Reunion in St. Louis October 16-20, 2019. Look for details in April's Flak News. For up to date info, check the 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS webpage often at: [www.8thafhs.org](http://www.8thafhs.org) and click on their reunion page. Please make plans to join us!

## A Message from the President:

BY MARILYN GIBB-RICE  
President, 398<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Memorial Association

Dear Members,

I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday, either a Merry Christmas or Happy Hanukkah and that your New Year is off to a great start!!!

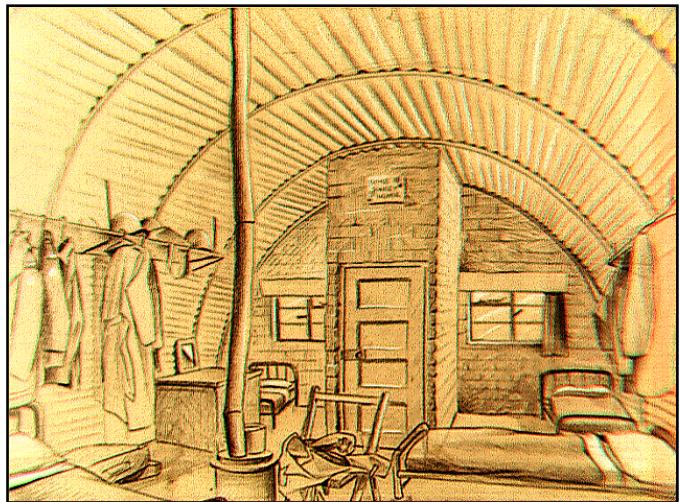
I am pleased to say that our reunion in October joining with the 8th Air Force Historical Society was a huge success. We were welcomed by many and our PX was a big hit with all who came into our "Memory Room." Please read all about it in Mellisa's article.

Our other BIG news is that Leo Croce, featured in our October issue along with his daughter and son-in-law, have decided to donate \$20,000 to the Nissen Hut Project at the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum. They will also match up to an additional \$10,000 given by other individuals to this project. These funds will allow the Trustees to have the final building of the museum constructed to make the museum complete.

We ask that anyone who would like to donate to this project to please mail your donation to our treasurer, Mellisa Ledlow, 16210 Breakwater Path Dr., Houston, TX 77044-1112. Please make your check payable to the 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association and make sure you indicate that it is for the Nissen Hut.

*Again, please make all Nuthampstead Airfield Museum donation checks payable to the 398th BGMA. All checks for the museum are deposited in a dedicated savings account set up by the 398th. We transfer money from that account to the museum on a regular basis.*

We thank Leo, Pam, John and all of the others who have already donated to this final project of the museum.



Home Sweet Home

The sketch above is courtesy of [www.nissenhut.com](http://www.nissenhut.com). This is similar as to how the museum's Nissen Hut will be outfitted to represent Station 131's living quarters during WWII.







***We fought for your future, and the right to remain free,  
For we saw what freedom meant to those not blessed with Liberty.***

Killen, Leo W.	LaCoste, Ernie	Lorenzo, Leo W.	Martone, August J. "Augie"	Medders, Fritz J.	Money, Arnold F.
Kimball, Dale	LaDue, James J.	Loret, Leon G.	Martorello, Angelo C.	Meden, Frank	Monson, Robert J.
King, Charles E.	Lake, William J.	Loss, Ralph H.	Maryott, Dana W.	Meeker, Charles M.	Montague, Leo E.
King, Charles Quentin	Lake, William S.	Loveland, Thomas C.	Masino, Louis	Meeker, Herbert S.	Moon, Andrew Nelson
King, Clarence H.	Lamar, John W.	Loveless, Harold P.	Maslyn, Paul R.	Meingast, Joe	Moon, Benjamin Homer
King, Donald	Lamb, Hal W.	Loveless, Lee Jay	Mason, Lonnie D.	Meinzen, Wilfred E.	Moon, Roland F.
Kinzie, O. Gale	Lamiell, James C.	Lovely, Robert	Massey, Frank H.	Meketa, George	Moore, Cecil R.
Kircher, Carl C.	Lancaster, Lionel G. "Bing"	Lowe, Jessup "Dave"	Masters, Marvert	Mellis, Charles J.	Moore, Darrell E.
Kirscher, John E.	Land, Donald Lee	Lowe, Lloyd F.	Matecki, John J.	Melson, Rufus "Buddy"	Moore, Randolph
Kiser, Kenneth	Landolfi, Gregory Anthony	Lowe, Jr., Donald B.	Mates, Stanley	Melville, Tudor A.	Moore, Jr., Vincent C.
Kite, Dallas E.	Landrie, William L.	Lowery, Clyde Donovan	Matheis, Melville J.	Melvin, Ernest C.	Moran, Jr., Pal Francis
Kitzrow, Vern C.	Landrum, Francis S.	Lucas, Wilbur F.	Matheson, Burton W.	Menard, Donald M.	Morauer, Richard C.
Klatte, Earl W.	Lang, Fredrick J.	Ludlam, Charles W.	Matthews, Thomas M.	Mendoza, Hilario G.	Moretti, Raymond J.
Klatzkin, Nathan	Langford, Ray F.	Luizzi, Sam	Mattila, Hugo A.	Menig, John	Morgan, David
Klimasczfski, Victor (Klemens)	Lanich, Edward R.	Lund, Richard J.	Mattson, George	Menzel, Arnold	Morgan, Delmar L.
Kling, Vern Harwood	LaRocca, Frank Piazza	Lundy, Douglas M.	Maudsley, Donald R.	Menzo, Vaughn "Eric"	Morgan, Jr., Berry
Klingerhoffer, John	Lassegard, Leroy S.	Lusk, Jr., Walter A. "Tom"	Maurer, Frederick A.	Merchant, Jr., Charles A.	Morneau, Edward T.
Klix, George A.	Latrenta, Peter	Lutz, Joseph H.	Maxfield, John F.	Merkin, Arthur	Morris, Benjamin Raymond
Kluck, Herman G.	Latson, Jr., Harvey H.	Luukinen, Albert L.	May, John M.	Mero, Hamilton A.	Morris, Jr., Stacey
Klutzke, Joseph J.	Laubernds, Lawrence H.	Lydic, Eugene "Pick"	May, Roy Truman	Merritt, Charles A.	Morrison, Donald L.
Kneuer, Arthur T.	Laufer, Marvin	Lyman, Derald R.	Mayers, Joseph W.	Merritt, Donald	Morrison, Frank
Knife, Percy (Honorary Member)	Laughlin, Arthur W.	Lynch, Floyd A.	Mayhall, James VanBuren	Mertz, Eugene R.	Morrison, Preston R.
Knight, George N.	Law, Charles H.	Lynn, George E.	Mazer, Harry L.	Messenger, Lee	Morrison, Robert B.
Knowles, Robert L.	Lawler, David F.	Lyons, Bill	Mazzanti, Eugene P.	Messina, Louis	Morrison, Russell James
Kohut, Charles	Lawrence, James A.	MacFerran, W. Sewall	McAdam, Frederick Lawrence	Metz, Jr., Charles D.	Moss, Donald D.
Kolafa, John F. "Curly"	LeDoux, Raymond Joseph	Mackey, Frank M.	McAllister, John G.	Meyer, Glen G.	Moss, Latrelle R.
Kolb, Kenneth E.	Lee, John J. "Jack"	Macklin, Roy D.	McCarty, William A.	Meyers, Francis Hart	Motsenbocker, Howell D.
Konie, Ernie	Leemon, Donald J.	MacPhail, Basil	McCormack, Edward J.	Meyers, Russell	Motter, William F.
Konopik, Milo Alvin "Mike"	Leonard, Gene F.	Macyda, Frank	McCormick, Cleavland J.	Miceli, Gaspero "Bob"	Moxey, Ross L.
Kotte, Norman E.	Lesco, John	Madden, Edward F.	McCormick, John R.	Michael, Charles A.	Mudge, Wesley R.
Kovacev, Steve	Leukhardt, Jr., Roy William	Madlung, Jack Raymond	McCoy, Wayne E.	Michael, Edsel G.	Mudloff, Arthur F.
Kowalczyk, Florence A.	Leung, George P.	Magnan, Mark W.	McCrae, Robert	Michael, Robert D.	Mueller, Thomas O.
Kozak, Stephen V.	Levy (601st), David L.	Magness, Byron	McCroskey, Klein L.	Michels, George	Mullaney, Justin P.
Kraft, Robert Arnold	Levy (603rd), David	Maher, Jere L.	McCurdy, Robert G.	Miesenholder, William S.	Mullin, Peter E.
Kram, Ralph B.	Lewis, David W.	Mahlum, Clayton	McDougal, Joyce Alonzo "Mac"	Migdal, Alvin I.	Mullins, John A.
Kramer, Harvey B.	Lewis, Frank E.	Mallory, Jack D.	McDougall, Harry T.	Mikulas, John E.	Mummert, William S.
Kramer, Martin	Lewis, Fred Eugene	Maloney, Clarence E.	McGeorge, George R.	Miles, Alex	Mundhenke, Roland D.
Kramer, Virgil F.	Lewis, Maynard E.	Mann, Clifford G.	McGinnis, William T.	Miller, Charles J.	Munoz, Domingo M.
Krause, John J.	Leyva, Daniel	Mann, Douglas W.	McGinty, Henry Joseph	Miller, Herbert E.	Muren, Edward H.
Krebs, Eugene F.	Libbey, Robert L.	Manos, Menelaus John	McGinty, Martin J.	Miller, Jean Baptiste	Murphy, Arthur B.
Krecklow, Carl W.	Libertucci, Peter	Mansell, Joe K.	McGlaun, Raymond	Miller, John H.	Murphy, Edward Henry
Kritchman, Archie G.	Licker, Herbert	Manske C., Fred C.	McGovern, Raymond	Miller, John J. "Jake"	Murphy, Francis P.
Krizan, Joseph M.	Like, Waldean H.	Manzi, Jerry A.	McHorse, Claud D.	Miller, Lester R.	Mutz, Joseph H.
Krizek, August Victor	Lindo, Frederick	Mapel, Donald E.	McIntyre, Donald B.	Miller, Lewis M.	Myers, Byron P.
Kroh, Charles H.	Lindomen, Edwin A.	Marabeas, Nickolas	McIntyre, Ralph H.	Miller, Lewis W.	Myers, Jr., Revel J.
Krueger, Kirkland C.	Lindsay, John B.	Marchbanks, Jr., Thomas E.	McIver, Lawrence	Miller, Michael C.	Nadel, Saul
Krup, Paul	Link, Alexander J.	Marchner, Michael R.	McLaughlin, Garvin	Miller, Paul J.	Naioti, John F.
Kuchta, Robert John	Link, Walter J.	Marfilius, Elmer H.	McLaughlin, Ken E. "Bud"	Miller, Samuel B.	Namey, John
Kuck, Homer R.	Linkowski, John David	Marias, Saul G.	McLaughlin, Robert J.	Miller, Walter F.	Nance, Leonard
Kuenneth, George W.	Locy, John J.	Markland, Clifford S.	McLaughlin, William A.	Mills, David W.	Naragon, Daniel J.
Kunkel, John J.	Loftus, Melvin F.	Markley, William C.	McMenamin, John A.	Mills, Leonard P.	Nash, George N.
Kurish, Rudolph J.	Logan, William G.	Markowitz, Dr. Fred	McMichael, Robert D.	Mills, Richard G. "Rocker"	Neal, Jr., Walter L.
Kuse, Bernard M.	Lollar, Charles L.	Marquez, Pasqual	McMichael, Robert F.	Minchoff, Eugene P.	Needham, Boyce Elverton
Kutchback, Jack E.	Long, Douglas J.	Marsh, Walter E.	McMillan, William J.	Mirell, Nathan	Neely, Jr., Payton T.
Kypta, Harold A.	Long, Emory	Marshall, Richard	McMillen, William Hale	Mitchell, George A.	Neidringhaus, M. A. "Bud"
Labat, Lionel L.	Long, Richard L.	Martens, Robert H.	McMurray, Quentin H. "Mac"	Mitchell, Vance F.	Neill, David S.
Labhart, William L.	Longmore, Loren L.	Martin, George A.	McNalley, Joseph F.	Mobley, Jack E.	Nejaski, Leroy J.
Lachman, Russell A.	Looker, Edward C.	Martin, Wallace W.	McNeil, Jr., Claude A.	Moeller, Linus J.	Nelles, Donald C.
	Lorence, Clarence R.	Martin, William W.	McQuity, Charles E.	Molesworth, Robert W.	Nelson, Gene
		Martinek, Emil J.	Meador, Olan E.	Monagin, Gerald W. "Jerry"	Nelson, J. C.





# CAUGHT ON CAMERA AT OUR DAYTON OHIO REUNION

*Reunion photos shown on this page and throughout this issue were contributed by  
Mellisa Ledlow, Marilyn Gibb-Rice, Lee Anne Bradley and Craig Dubishar - official photographer for the 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS*



Martha and Lindhe Guarisco



Joey Stoffer with his grandfather,  
Veteran Lou Stoffer



Trudy and Ken Howard with daughter Beth



Mike Macyda and our VP, Connie Novek



Geoff Rice -398<sup>th</sup> BG Photo Historian & NAM Trustee, Emily Charles -Curator American Air Museum-Imperial War Museum, Harvey Ditchman -Chairman of the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum and Ben Jones -President of the 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS



Craig Dubishar, 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS Photog and  
Carolyn Widmann our PX Manager



Teddie Nelson and Jim Ledlow



Linda and Laura Parnell



Willetta Mansell



Victoria Macyda, Martha Guarisco,  
Mellisa & Jim Ledlow.



John Howard and Ann Collins



Stripes amid a dizzying sea of plaid!  
Pete Krause, Sharon Krause and Geoff Rice

See our "Reunions & Tours" page at [www.398th.org](http://www.398th.org) for additional photos!

# BRIEF – things

**Our 36<sup>th</sup> Annual 398<sup>th</sup> BGMA Reunion will join the 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS Reunion in St. Louis, MO Oct. 16–20, 2019**

As of this Flak News printing, we only know the dates and that the reunion hotel will be the Sheraton Westport Chalet, 191 Westport Plaza, St. Louis, MO 63146. Please check the 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS website often for information regarding registration and events: [www.8thAFHS.org](http://www.8thAFHS.org)



Jim White with his son Jamie and Lou Stoffer at the WWII Museum in New Orleans during our 2015 reunion. Jim and Lou were on the 600<sup>th</sup> SQ Grinter Crew together. Their B-17 crashed on take-off Christmas Eve 1944.

## A Christmas Phone Call

The following came from Joey Stoffer, grandson of Lou Stoffer. Joey relayed a sweet story about his grandfather and Jim White (Jim passed away last March): *"I am sure he has told you (more than once) how for decades, him and Jim White call each other every Christmas Eve around 10am to reflect on their plane crash. This would have been the first year without a call, but he informed us at Christmas he received a call from Jim's son Jamie instead which I could tell was unexpected but greatly appreciated based on the smile on his face when he told us about it. I thought that was such a nice thing for him to do."*

## 2019 DUES are DUE!

If you have not already done so,  
please mail your \$20 Membership Dues  
(or a \$100 for lifetime membership)

Made payable to the 398<sup>th</sup> BGMA  
to:

Dawne Dougherty  
951 S 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Harrisburg, OR 97446-9585

Please help support your 398<sup>th</sup> BGMA

# 398th Bomb Group PX

## ORDER FORM *(The Second Generation)*

QTY	ITEM	UNIT COST	TOTAL
<b>CLOTHING</b>			
All shirts select size:			
	S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 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, <i>Clearing and Colder</i> on back	\$15.00	
	T-Shirt, white, with 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	\$25.00	
	Men's Golf Shirt, coastal blue, embroidered Triangle W	\$25.00	
<b>LAPEL PINS</b>			
	Squadron pin	\$7.00	
	select: <input type="checkbox"/> 600 <input type="checkbox"/> 601 <input type="checkbox"/> 602 <input type="checkbox"/> 603		
	Group pin Hell From Heaven	\$7.00	
	Group pin blue with B-17	\$7.00	
	8th Air Force pin	\$7.00	
	Silver B-17 pin	\$5.00	
	Cadet pin	\$5.00	
	Air Force 70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary pin – Rapid City	\$40.00	
	398 <sup>th</sup> "Hell From Heaven" B-17 square pin	\$4.00	
<b>PATCHES</b>			
	Squadron Patch 3"	\$7.00	
	select: <input type="checkbox"/> 600 <input type="checkbox"/> 601 <input type="checkbox"/> 602 <input type="checkbox"/> 603		
	B-17 Jacket Patch, 4"x3"	\$7.00	
	8th Air Force Patch, 3"	\$7.00	
	Group Patch Hell From Heaven, 2½"x3"	\$7.00	
<b>BOOKS, CDs &amp; DVDs Media (includes postage)</b>			
	Fortresses Over Nuthampstead (Bishop)	\$30.00	
	398th History (1946, photocopy)	\$20.00	
	C-Lager (Dorfmeier)	\$20.00	
	Mission Memories (Ibeling)	\$8.00	
	Return to Station 131- Memorial Dedication June 2000 - DVD	\$20.00	
	389 <sup>th</sup> BG Remembrances (Ostrom)	\$50.00	
<b>PHOTOGRAPHS &amp; PRINTS</b>			
	Clearing and Colder, 14"x17" canvas print	\$50.00	
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>			
	Bumper Sticker (red, white & black)	\$4.00	
	50 Caliber Bullet Pen (Group Logo)	\$40.00	
	B17 Scale Model (12.5 in x 9 in)	\$17.00	
	Blue Ballpoint Pen (398th imprint)	\$7.00	
	Coaster ( <i>Clearing and Colder</i> imprint)	\$6.00	
	Earrings – clip (Group Logo)	\$11.00	
	Earrings – pierced (Group Logo)	\$11.00	
	Notecards – B-17 Flying Fortress (set of 10)	\$11.00	
	<b>FLAK NEWS Flash Drive</b> Aug '86 to July '12	\$40.00	
Cost of All Items ordered			
Postage 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 & Email _____			
Mail completed order form and check to: Carolyn Widmann, 6420 Tuscan Road, Paducah, KY 42001-6135 Telephone: xxx-xxx-xxxx E-Mail: <a href="mailto:carolynwidmann@aol.com">carolynwidmann@aol.com</a>			

## 398th BOMB GROUP FLAK NEWS

**FLAK NEWS**  
C/O Lee A. Bradley, Editor  
14 Winding Way  
Andover, NJ 07821  
USA

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# The St. George's Church Restoration Project

There has been a long-standing relationship between the 398<sup>th</sup> BGMA and St. George's Church, Anstey, England. The village of Anstey sits at the very end of the main runway of Station 131 and back in October 1944, the very small community was in grave danger of being destroyed by a B-17. Upon take-off, the William C. Meyran crew of the 603rd Squadron immediately had engine trouble. Rather than crash into Anstey and St. George's, the plane nose-dived into an ancient moat right next to the church. The entire crew was killed, but the church and village were spared.

As a tribute to every 398<sup>th</sup> Airman who served and gave their lives in WWII, St. George's is the sight of a Memorial stained-glass window. Etched on the window, are the names of those lost in combat. St. George's also dedicates a service to the 398<sup>th</sup> at the Biennial Reunion of the 398<sup>th</sup> and welcomes all UK and US attendees. There are photos and details about the window on the 398<sup>th</sup> website: [www.398th.org](http://www.398th.org)

Recently, the Board of the 398<sup>th</sup> was contacted by the Anstey Parochial Parish Council—the governing body for St. George's. The Church is in dire need of repair. The ancient building has been standing for over 1,000 years. Costs for different phases of the restoration projects are estimated to be \$30,000 (US) and \$50,000 (US). At the 398<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion this past October, the Board and General Membership agreed to donate \$5,000 to the Church's maintenance and repair fund.

If anyone in the 398<sup>th</sup> is also interested in making a personal donation, please send a check made out to:

### **Anstey Parochial Church Council**

And mailed to: Dr. C. G. Goymour  
Treasurer, Anstey PCC  
Little Thatch, Anstey  
Buntingford, Herts, SG9 0BL  
England

If you have any questions,  
you may email Dr. Goymour: [goymour2@gmail.com](mailto:goymour2@gmail.com)

