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

VOL. 30 NO. 4

FLAK NEWS

OCTOBER 2015



Pictured above are ten of the eleven veterans who attended the 398th BGMA's 32nd Annual Reunion in New Orleans this past August. During the Farewell Dinner, they received a thundering round of applause from a very appreciative membership!

Left to Right: Newt Moy, Fred Parker, Lou Stoffer, Jim White, Ray Richman, Dick Martin, Keith Anderson, Don Menard, Don "Red" Ibeling and Lew Burke. Missing from the photo is Jack Dodson

THE BIG EASY!

By Mellisa Ledlow

Laissez les bon temps rouler! Let the good times roll! That comment is heard frequently in New Orleans, LA—the site of the 32nd annual 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association Reunion. Veterans, wives, widows, sons, daughters, grandchildren and even some 4th generation great-grandchildren and various other friends, gathered on the banks of the Mississippi River August 12-15, 2015. Eleven 398th BGMA veterans were in attendance for most of the weekend including Lew Burke, Keith Anderson, Ray Richman, Fred Parker, Jack Dodson, Don Menard, Newt Moy, Jim White, Lou Stoffer, Red Ibeling and Dick Martin. New Orleans drew a great interest with 102 in total attendance to pay tribute and honor our 398th veterans, all the while allowing for time and opportunity to explore the historical "Big Easy."

Story and photos continue on the next 6 pages!

The 398th BGMA's 32nd Annual Reunion

"The Big Easy" New Orleans Reunion Continued..

By Mellisa Ledlow

Kudos to the 398th Reunion Chairman, Ken Howard, for selecting the Westin Hotel at Canal Place as headquarters for the Group. The Westin was perched on the banks of the Mississippi River right in the heart of the French Quarter. The hotel lobby, restaurant and bar were all on the 11th floor overlooking the river. It was certainly enjoyable and unique to be able to watch the river traffic from above—barges, tug boats, ships, steamboats, etc. were all visible from the hotel's common area and also from many of the guest's hotel rooms. The hotel was also within easy walking distance to points of interest, restaurants and other historic sites in the French Quarter. Its location allowed for great options for those that wanted to explore the area on their own or participate in one of the pre-arranged group tours.

Appropriately, the reunion kicked off Wednesday evening with the Steamboat Natchez Riverboat Dinner Cruise. The historic Natchez departed from its dock across from Jackson Square and began its southern journey down the Mississippi River. Guests on the boat were treated to a New Orleans-style buffet including fried catfish and bread pudding. After dinner, a narrated tour and description of the New Orleans riverbank began. Some of the sights pointed out included the history and settlement of the French Quarter, the national significance of the Port of New Orleans, the site of the War of 1812 Battle of New Orleans and the area of New Orleans most devastated by Hurricane Katrina—the Historic 9th Ward. At twilight, the "Dukes of Dixieland" jazz band entertained guests on the boat. Many in the group sat and enjoyed the music, while others toured the Engine Room and observed the mechanics of an actual paddleboat. The food was great, the music was even better and there was a lovely breeze on the river—it was a wonderful introduction to New Orleans.

Thursday morning, Dawne Dougherty hosted the 2nd Annual Widow's Breakfast at the hotel. Those in attendance included Dawne, Ruthanna Doerstler, Willetta Mansell, Connie Novak, Chrysta Moore, Teedy Blackwell, Jeanne Stange, and Helen Howard. These ladies have such a special bond and always enjoy catching up and reminiscing. It's wonderful they have all remained friends for so many years.

Also on Thursday, those interested hopped on a Historian-Guided Tour of the City of New Orleans. The group travelled through the French Quarter, an area that's a National Historic Landmark and learned of the Spanish and French settlement in the area—forever influencing the architecture, food and culture. The tour also pointed out Bourbon Street, a very famous "strip" known for its nightlife. Ironically, Bourbon Street grew and thrived with the huge influx of servicemen in the area during WWII. The tour also drove through the Garden District (still serviced by trolleys) and other famous New Orleans sights. After lunching on typical south Louisiana po-boy sandwiches, the famous Mardi Gras warehouses were visited. Mardi Gras parades and celebrations occur in the springtime, but a tremendous amount of behind-the-scenes work happens all year round. The tour visited a location that designs, builds and repairs Mardi Gras floats. They also maintain a supply of Mardi Gras costumes—and were happy to allow some "trying on!" (see *photos on page 12*). Tourism is a huge industry for New Orleans and some nine million (!) people visit the city every year, many coming to experience Mardi Gras.

While some of the 398th reunion participants were sightseeing on Thursday, the 398th Officers and Board members held their annual Board Meeting.

...Continued next page



Our Incredible Reunion Team!

Ken Howard, 398th BGMA Reunion Chairman, with his daughters Beth and Brandy Howard pictured here on the deck of the steamboat Natchez during our Wednesday night jazz / dinner cruise on the Mississippi River.

Thank you Ken, Beth and Brandy for another fantastic reunion!

"The Big Easy" New Orleans Reunion

Continued from previous page

The information and discussions held during the Board Meeting were then presented at the 398th General Meeting. The election of Officers and Directors was held and the results are as follows: Marilyn Gibb-Rice, President; Connie Novak, Vice-President; Karen Neff, Secretary; Mellisa Ledlow, Treasurer; Sharon Krause, Contact Officer; Keith Anderson, Fred Parker, Ray Richman and Jim White, Directors.

On to the Welcome Banquet to finish off a busy Thursday! Marilyn Gibb-Rice, President, recognized veterans, widows, families and guests. David Moore said the Invocation after Connie Novak led the Pledge of Allegiance. Willetta Mansell was presented with a plaque for her husband's (Joe) long-time service on the 398th Board of Directors. Lew Burke also made a presentation acknowledging Arnie Schnieder's time on the Board. Jim White and Lou Stoffer were recognized as being members of the same crew. The gathering was privileged to have a guest speaker from the National World War II Museum, Keith Huxen, PHD. Dr. Huxen gave a warm welcome to the audience and a special thank you to the veterans of the 398th Bomb Group. He presented a slide show of the newest building and displays at the museum. His information was very helpful for those visiting the museum the next day.

And in keeping with tradition, all of the veterans were invited to the front of the banquet room for a Q&A Session. Some of the questions that led to comments or stories from the vets were about any experiences where they had being injured, shot down, parachuted, etc. It was learned that many of the vets that had to parachute out of their B17, did so for the very first time under quite stressful conditions. No time to train for that in the rush to get men into a crew and up in the air! Others spoke of enlistment time—often with classmates, friends and family members. It's always an honor to hear any stories and memories from the veterans. —and they always have a captive and respectful audience. (Special thanks to Lou Stoffer for his fun socks! - see *Reunion Photos*, page 6)

Friday in New Orleans was again, a beautiful day. The majority of reunion attendants loaded buses and paid a daylong visit to the National World War II Museum.



Enjoying the WWII Museum together are (left to right) Jim White, Joey Stoffer and Lou Stoffer. Joey is Lou's grandson. Jim (Co-Pilot) and Lou (Engineer) were both members of the Grinter crew, 600th Squadron.

The museum is split between several buildings, including the Boeing Hangar which houses a B17, B25 and a P51 Mustang hanging in the air with cables. Catwalks around the planes allow an eye-level and up-close view of the Flying Fortress and other planes. The hangar also housed war-era tanks, vehicles and trucks. Another building of interest held the new "Road to Berlin" exhibit. Authentic scenes of the war in Europe from the early days in North Africa and Italy, the Normandy Invasion and the Battle of the Bulge were some of the events depicted. The 398th airmen appreciated the view of life on the ground during the war. Most of the rest of the museum displays involved D-Days in Normandy and the Pacific. 398th crews provided significant air support for the campaign through France and Western Europe. The museum has many, many exhibits and almost requires two to three days to see all of the displays—it is a "must-see" for anyone interested in World War II.

After wrapping up a wonderful visit to the museum, vets and families gathered in one of the Westin Hotel restaurants for a lovely cocktail hour courtesy of the hotel.

... Continued on page 4



Keith Huxen, PHD, was our guest speaker from the WWII Museum. Dr. Huxen and his wife Mary were our special guests at the Welcome Dinner.

"The Big Easy" New Orleans Reunion

Continued from page 3



Jack Dodson was one of the 11 Veterans who attended our New Orleans Reunion. Jack flew as Tail Gunner with the Sam Watkins' Crew, 601st SQ

Lots of great food, an open bar and a beautiful evening on the balcony overlooking the Mississippi River provided a perfect environment to visit, meet a few first time 398th family members and relax. Thank you, Westin!

A terrific guided tour was organized for Saturday morning. A visit to two area plantation homes, Oak Alley and Laura, introduced the group to a glimpse of life on a plantation in very southern Louisiana back in the 1800's. These particular homes have been renovated and returned to much of their original beauty and are open for tours and also rented out for special occasions. Plantations were extremely important to the entire United States for many years, as they were key to providing many agricultural goods to the country.

Later on Saturday, the entire reunion group gathered for the traditional Farewell Banquet. This was a time to issue many thanks to people who have served the 398th. Marilyn recognized Ken Howard and his never-tiring daughters, Brandy and Beth, for all their hard work in making the New Orleans reunion exceptional. It's hard to realize the work required prior to a reunion and then the troubleshooting/problem-solving that goes on behind the scenes. Their tireless efforts truly paid off as this was a really fun and interesting experience. Great job!

Also recognized—a person who wears SO many hats—Lee Anne Bradley. Lee had held the job of Vice-President of the 398th Bomb Group since 2011, while also selflessly holding the jobs of Group Historian/Data Coordinator, and heading up the Group Website Team and the Flak News Editorial Team. To help relieve some of Lee's duties, Connie Novek graciously stepped up last year as Vice-President. Marilyn acknowledged Lee's hard work as VP and appreciation for her dedication to the 398th.

Thanks to a terrific band, "The Doc Holliday Band," many attendees of all ages took a spin on the dance floor (including Ray and Wilma Richman, of course!). There was also lots of toe tapping, clapping and singing along as well.

Saturday night's Farewell Banquet is always bittersweet. It wraps up several days of sightseeing, vacationing, shopping, but mostly time spent renewing very old friendships, making new friends and making promises to keep in touch, send pictures, addresses, phone numbers, etc. Time in the Memory Room always leads to a discovery of a never-before-seen photo, video or article. One can pour through Jack's Books over and over and still discover some connection between veterans never known before. Some of the best memories made at a 398th Reunion are at a table face-to-face, sharing a cup of coffee or a drink and recalling old stories and adventures both before and after being stationed at Station 131 in Nuthampstead, England. Reunions like this remind all of us of the importance of gathering every year and honoring the men of the 398th Bomb Group, who sacrificed so much for our freedom. Thank you again.

See you all next year in Norfolk!

A Message from the President

BY MARILYN GIBB-RICE

President, 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association

We just had another GREAT reunion with 11 veterans in attendance! Even though it was very hot and humid in New Orleans, the group persevered and enjoyed the tours and events held over the four day event. Huge thanks to Ken Howard and his daughters Beth and Brandy for all of their hard work coordinating the reunion. Next year's reunion will be held in Norfolk, Virginia and we hope to see you there.

We would like to welcome Jim White and Fred Parker as new directors to the board, replacing Arnold Schneider and Joe Mansell.

The plans for the opening of the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum and 2016 Tour & Reunion to Nuthampstead, England are under way. The firm dates will be May 28 service at the Memorials and museum opening, May 29 service at St George's Church, Anstey and May 30 attending the Memorial Day service at Cambridge American Cemetery, Madingley. Other trips, events will be added and details will be available in the January Flak News. We also hope that the new display in the American Air Museum at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford will be completed in time for our visit. If you think you might be able to join the trip, please let me know so we can add you to the list and get the information to you as we have it. E-mail me at president@398th.org

THE HONOR FLIGHT NETWORK

The Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing veterans with honor and closure. They fly veterans to Washington D.C. to visit memorials built to honor their service to the nation. They have local hubs all over the country where one can arrange a flight for their favorite veteran. Go to www.honorflight.org for additional information about this program and to locate your closest hub.

A very fun and touching part of the Honor Flight program occurs on the flight home and it is called "Mail Call". In the service, especially while stationed overseas, mail call was a highlight of the serviceman's day. So, too, the Honor Flight "Mail Call" is a highlight of the Honor Flight day.

Our own Jim White, Co-Pilot of the Grinter Crew 602nd SQ, was a lucky passenger onboard an Honor Flight jet out of California. The Honor Flight organizers asked Jim's family if they would write letters to Jim for the "Mail Call" element of the flight. Jim's son, Jamie, wrote a wonderful letter with a very clever twist! Jamie gave us all a real treat at the New Orleans Reunion Farewell Dinner and read his letter to a very captivated audience. You could hear a pin drop!

Jamie began; *"My siblings and I were asked to write dad a letter – for him to open during the Mail Call section of the flight. It was after the visit to the WWII Memorial in Washington D.C. and on their return flight home.*

I thought it would be nice for my Dad to receive a letter from the future... from his future namesake."

And here is Jamie's letter!

Mail Call - Sometime in October 1944

Nuthampstead, Station 131

ETO

Dear Dad,

This letter may be a little premature since I haven't been conceived yet, but there are some things I want you to know as you fly over war torn Europe and risk your life for me and the millions of other unborn sons. I will never know the trepidation or pure adrenaline you experience every time you fly through flak and with seeing the winking along a German fighters wing root as it sends hot lead towards you. Even though I will never know those things, I will always be grateful and proud of your courage and sacrifices during the war. I thought this letter may be a way for me to tell you there are two handsome sons and a beautiful daughter waiting to meet you in the future.

First of all, I'm in no rush to get here. I think that growing up in the 1960's and 70's sounds like a great time to be an adolescent – so you have time. Having me around is going to be really exciting for you and I can tell you now that I am going to be a lot of work. Your life won't be over when I arrive, but it's going to be harder and way more different than the flyboy lifestyle you are now living.



Jamie White with his Dad, Jim White, at the New Orleans Reunion Farewell Dinner

I'm going to cost a lot of money – and just wait until my younger brother and sister arrive! I'm not just talking about the useless toys I am going to want you to buy me, I'm talking about dentists and doctors, food, clothes, camping trips, little league and everything else I'll need to live a normal childhood – oh, and a bb gun. I will not want to be a financial burden, but I will be until I can fend for myself...probably around the age of 30 or so, but hopefully much less. Anyway, I will always be grateful for the treasure you spend on me, both in your time and coin. I know you will be a great dad!

...Continued on page 8

THE NEW ORLEANS REUNION IN PICTURES

Photos of the reunion shown on this page and throughout this issue were contributed by John Blackwell, Brandy Howard, Mellisa Ledlow, Marilyn Gibb-Rice, Geoff Rice, Jamie White & Lee Anne Bradley



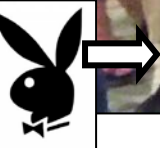
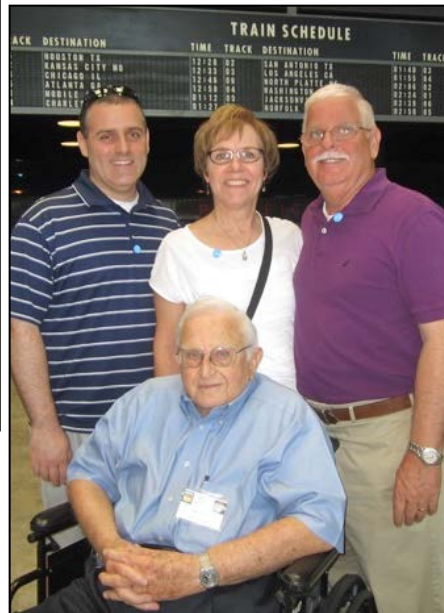
Right:
Barry Lewis with
John Lindhe Guarisco
& wife Martha
Guarisco



*Left: President
Marilyn Gibb-Rice
poses a question to
Lou Stoffer during the
Veteran's Q & A
session.*

*Seriously Lou, do
you think we
wouldn't notice your
Playboy socks?!*

*Below: L to R: Bobbi Mier, Lou Stoffer, Loretta
Smith and Ray Richman having a laugh at the
Farewell Dinner*



*Right: Don Menard (seated) with his
grandson, Craig Menard, daughter-in-
law Susan and son Mark Menard at the
WWII Museum.*



*Left: Enjoying
the band at the
Farewell
Dinner are
Caron Maclane
and her Dad,
Keith
Anderson.*

*Right: L to R:
Gail Bell,
Lora Stizzo,
Lisa Trygar
and David
Moore at the
Farewell
Dinner.*



MORE REUNION PHOTOS!

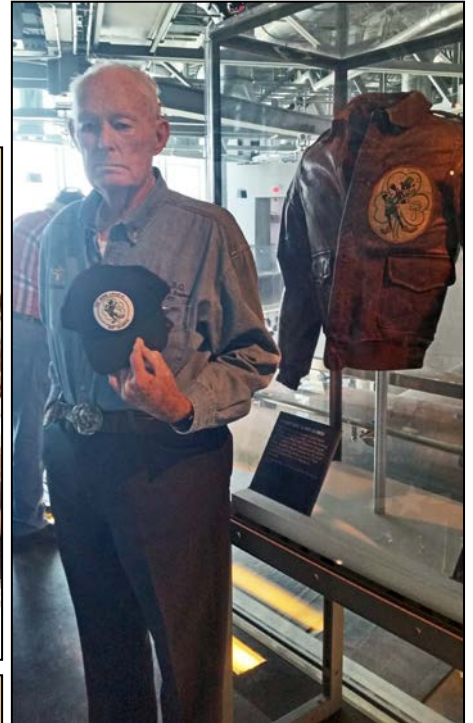
“SEE YOU ALL NEXT YEAR IN NORFOLK, VA!”



Above:
David and Karen Clement



Below: L to R: Scott Welty, VP Connie Novek and Connie's grandkids, Brett LeGrow and Emily Morrison.



Above: Don Ibeling holds his 602nd SQ hat next to a 602nd A2 jacket on display at the WWII Museum.



Above: L to R: Chrysta Moore, Eliot Murray and Alexis Murray relaxing at the Friday night Happy Hour.



Above: Dick & Wilma Martin with Marilyn Gibb-Rice.



Left: John Lewis, Ann Lewis and Don Lewis



Right:
At the WWII Museum, Jeanne Stange (standing, right) with granddaughter-in-law Ashley Clement and 2 great grandchildren, Hallie and Will. 4th Generation 398'ers!

Mail Call - Sometime in October 1944

"A Letter From the Future" written by Jamie White to his Dad

Continued from Page 5

I have some requests when it comes to my Mom however. First let me say that I appreciate your efforts in not having any children we know about yet. So far so good. This is a really important decision and I'd rather not leave it up to chance. Choosing my Mom is the most important decision of my life, remember that while you are shopping around. If you do the work now and find the most beautiful, caring, and loving woman, both of our lives will be a lot easier. Mothers can do an awesome job raising kids by themselves but I want a Dad too, especially since I'll want other male influences in my life, so be careful flying through the flak and fighters. As for my Mom, I want a Mother who is kind but strong. Not strong as in she can beat up or intimidate people, but strong in her heart and steadfast in her love for me. I know Grandma Mimi taught you the power of conviction and steadfastness. It's so important. I also would love it if Mom understands that as guys, you and I are going to need some father-son time, and not just once a year on a camping trip. There are a lot of man-skills I need to learn and Mom isn't going to be able to teach me those things. Sometimes you're going to know what's best for me, and I want her to trust you enough to make that decision as my Dad. I know all of this sounds daunting and intimidating, but it does all work out.

Writing this letter as a 56 year man back in time to you as your unborn son, I have appreciation for all the sacrifices you made for me and my siblings. I know many of those sacrifices you and Mom kept from us so as not to worry us or make us feel insecure in what life held for us. I want to tell you that you and the Mom you found for us did a great job raising three fantastic kids – kids whom love you and Mom from the bottom of our hearts. And when you get old, I'll be there for you no matter what, even if you're grouchy or wearing adult diapers. Being a Dad is a tough job, and without you, I wouldn't have a chance.

Love,
James L White III



Grinter's Crew 600th SQ

Photo date: July 1944
Location: Kansas City

Back Row (L-R):

Cpl. Louis J. Stoffer, Engineer
2nd Lt. Harry Agnew, Navigator
2nd Lt. Donald Grinter, Pilot
Cpl. William Davidson, Ball Turret
2nd Lt. James White, Co-Pilot
Sgt. Harold Johnson, Radio Op

Front Row (L-R):

Cpl. John Contento, Tail Gunner
2nd Lt. Francis Harrod, Bombardier
Cpl. Kenneth Kiser, Togglier
Cpl. David Flores, Waist Gunner

Ranks are as of the date of the photo. Additional info about this photo can be found on www.398th.org

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE POND

The American Air Museum Summer Residency

by Emily Charles, Research Officer
American Air Museum, IWM Duxford

The American Air Museum Summer Residency is a professional development opportunity run by IWM Duxford. It brings together teachers from the USA and UK for two weeks to collaborate on creating learning resources inspired by the AAM and the Second World War air story. 2015 is the fourth year the program has taken place, bringing 16 teachers, 13 from the US and 3 from the UK together for 2 weeks. (The rest of our party at Nuthampstead were IWM staff and volunteers working on the AAM project).

The teachers who participate in the program either come from history or social studies backgrounds, or teach aviation-based STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Participants are recruited directly in the UK. In the USA, we recruit teachers with the assistance of partner museums. These currently include the Smithsonian, the Museum of Flight in Seattle, the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, the Museum of Pacific Aviation in Hawaii, the Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force in

Georgia, the Western Museum of Flight in California and the National Museum of the US Air Force in Ohio.

Over the two weeks the teachers were presented with primary sources from the Museum's collection and given talks and tours. Which included:

- Tours of IWM Churchill War Rooms, IWM Duxford and IWM London with experts
- Workshops with Duxford's Department of Learning
- Tours of Madingley American Cemetery, Dover Castle, Bletchley Park and Chislehurst Caves (a wartime shelter complex)
- Discussions on the wider themes of the Second World War led by Cambridge historians.
- Tours of past and present US bases, RAF Lakenheath and **Nuthampstead Airfield Museum**.

Inspired by this material, they work in groups to devise learning activities that they can use in lessons back home.



IWM Staff Lucy May Maxwell (kneeling, viewer's left of memorial) and Emily Charles (standing, viewers far right) and volunteers Rod Finn, Chairman of the 'Friends of the 398th' (standing far left) and Geoff Rice, a Trustee of the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum (next to Rod), along with teachers from the US and UK gather at the 398th BG Memorial while visiting the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum this past summer.

Remember the old saying,
"There's safety in numbers"?

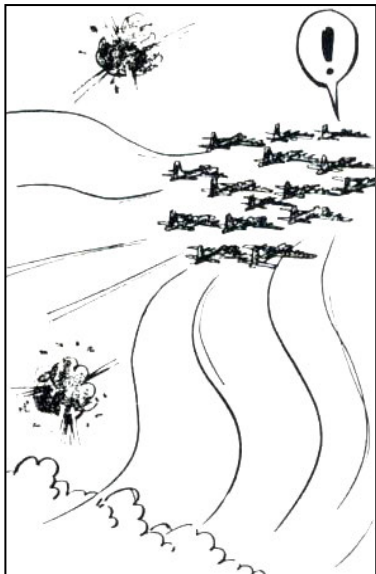
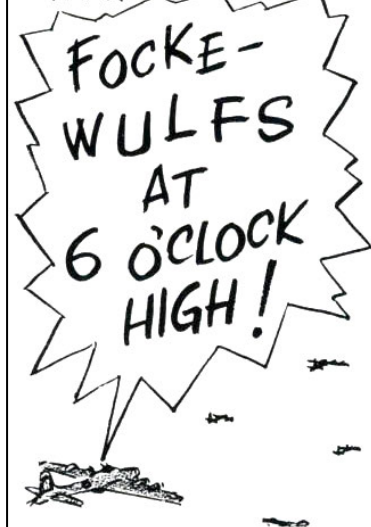
The 398th Officers

SCENE: A B-17 FORMATION
OVER "FESTUNG EUROPA" -

THIS IS RED LEADER --
AWRIGHT, FOR THE 10TH
TIME, CLOSE UP THE FORM-
ATION! CLOSE IT UP! CL--



THEN, FROM THE REAR
RANK -



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The Bob Stevens cartoon at left is reprinted with permission from his widow Barbara Stevens.

In January 1964 Bob's "THERE I WAS..." series was launched as a regular cartoon feature in Air Force Magazine. This reprint is one of many comics from that series.

Col. Stevens drew from his own experiences. He flew fighters during and after World War II, and was Deputy Commander of SAC's first operational missile unit.

**398th Bomb Group Memorial Association
Treasurer's Report
9/01/2014 - 7/31/2015**

09/01/14	BEGINNING BALANCE:	21,788.14
CASH RECEIPTS		
DUES TRANSFER		7,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS		500.00
MEMORIAL DONATIONS		470.00
FLAK NEWS DONATIONS		100.00
AMAZONE SMILE		9.72
NET RECEIPTS		8,079.72
CASH EXPENDITURES		
POSTAGE		217.29
FLAK NEWS PRINTING		4,204.51
AWARDS/GIFTS		111.01
WEB PAGE		150.87
TIMELESS VOICES		20.76
State of AL Tax-Exempt Applications		367.98
SALES (PX)		(100.85)
		4,971.57
07/31/15	ENDING BALANCE:	24,896.29
Checking Account Balance		24,896.29
Savings Acct. Balance (Museum Funds)		1,736.54
Wells Fargo Balance		48,273.03

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!!

May 28, 2016
Memorial Service at Nuthampstead
Nuthampstead Airfield Museum OPENING

May 29, 2016
Service at St George's Church, Anstey

May 30, 2016
Memorial Day Service,
Cambridge American Cemetery, Madingley
For more information, see Prez Message

August 10-14, 2016
Annual reunion, Norfolk, Virginia

398th Bomb Group PX

ORDER FORM

(The Second Generation)

QTY	ITEM	UNIT COST	TOTAL
CLOTHING			
All shirts select size:			
	<u> </u> S <u> </u> M <u> </u> L <u> </u> XL <u> </u> XXL		
<u> </u>	T-Shirt, black, "398th BG Flying Fortress"	\$15.00	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	T-Shirt, navy, with B-17 front view	\$20.00	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	T-Shirt, grey, WWII	\$25.00	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	T-Shirt, white, with Triangle W on front, Clearing & Colder on back	\$15.00	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	T-Shirt, white, with Group logo on front, Squadron logo on back select: <u> </u> 600 <u> </u> 601 <u> </u> 602 <u> </u> 603	\$25.00	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	Men's Denim Shirt, long sleeve, 398th logo	\$25.00	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	Men's Golf Shirt, blue, embroidered Triangle W	\$25.00	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	Men's Pullover French Terry Sweatshirt – Air Force blue, embroidered Triangle W	\$40.00	<u> </u>
SQUADRON CAPS			
<u> </u>	Select: <u> </u> 600 <u> </u> 601 <u> </u> 602 <u> </u> 603	\$20.00	<u> </u>
LAPEL PINS			
<u> </u>	Squadron pin select: <u> </u> 600 <u> </u> 601 <u> </u> 602 <u> </u> 603	\$7.00	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	Group pin Hell From Heaven	\$7.00	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	Group pin blue with B-17	\$7.00	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	8th Air Force pin	\$7.00	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	Silver B-17 pin	\$5.00	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	Cadet pin	\$5.00	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	Air Force 70 th Anniversary pin – Rapid City	\$40.00	<u> </u>
PATCHES			
<u> </u>	Squadron Patch 3" select: <u> </u> 600 <u> </u> 601 <u> </u> 602 <u> </u> 603	\$7.00	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	B-17 Jacket Patch, 4"x3"	\$7.00	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	8th Air Force Patch, 3"	\$7.00	<u> </u>
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All Decked Out and Ready for Mardi Gras!

Those who went on the Mardi Gras Warehouse Tour during our New Orleans Reunion had a lot of fun trying on different costumes. Lillie Burke (left), wife of Lew Burke, 603rd SQ, Keith Anderson (center), 600th SQ (Keith, we love the feathers and beads!), and Teedy Blackwell (right), Widow of past 398th BGMA President Wally Blackwell, 601st SQ, were among several who went wild in the costume department.

Photos courtesy of Teedy's son, John Blackwell