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

VOL. 31 NO. 2

FLAK NEWS

APRIL 2016

## Well Deserved Recognition



**Jim White was presented with a "Certificate of Special Recognition" on Veteran's Day 2015**

During the November 2015 Veteran's Day weekend in San Pedro, California, the battleship USS Iowa hosted their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Veterans Appreciation Festival honoring US veterans and the men and women serving in the United States Armed Forces. Our own Jim White (co-pilot with the 600<sup>th</sup> SQ Grinter Crew) was one of the well deserving recipients of a "Certificate of Special Recognition" from the U.S House of Representatives, signed by local Congresswoman Janice Hahn. The event was held in front of the USS Iowa which is now permanently docked in San Pedro. Congratulations Jim and a big thank you to your son Jeff for sharing his photos and story with us!



### **2016 NORFOLK REUNION INFORMATION!**

**See Page 4 for Hotel and Tour Details  
And Page 5 for our 2016 Official Registration Form**

## A Message from the President:

BY MARILYN GIBB-RICE

President, 398<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Memorial Association

So much excitement this year - including the Service of Commemoration and the opening of the Hunter Building of the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum taking place in May in Nuthampstead, England, and our 33rd annual reunion being held in Norfolk, Virginia in August. We would love to see many 398th supporters at both events.

A reminder to all - please do not throw away any historical 398<sup>th</sup> items. Unfortunately, as veterans and widows pass, important World War II documents, photos, books, etc. get thrown away by family members as they do not understand the importance of these items. They are crucial for the research of our Bomb Group and what our veterans' role was in the war. These items can be brought to the reunions for Geoff and I to take back to the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum or please contact us to see how to get the items shipped to the UK. Our museum will be a great resource for all things related to the 398th and the 55th Fighter Group for many years to come.

## ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE!

Just a reminder to all who may have forgotten, the 398<sup>th</sup> BGMA 2016 Annual Dues were due last January. To all who have paid their dues, thank you.

Membership dues help support our great organization and it is important to keep your membership current. Dues are *still* just \$20.00 per year or \$100.00 for a Lifetime Membership. Membership entitles you to receive our quarterly newsletter, the Flak News.

In addition to helping the 398<sup>th</sup> BGMA financially, it's important to us that we hear from you. Please drop us a line if you are changing address so we may update our mailing roster. If you would like to submit a story about you or your favorite 398<sup>th</sup> BG veteran's service, please pass it along as well. And as always, if you come across WWII photos we would truly appreciate copies for our records.

Please mail your \$20.00 (or \$100 Lifetime) check, made out to the 398<sup>th</sup> BGMA, to:

**Dawne Dougherty, Dues Mgr.**  
**951 S. 9<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Harrisburg, OR 97446-9585**

*Let's all continue to support the 398<sup>th</sup> BGMA  
Our veterans are an important part of WWII history.  
Let's not ever forget them.*

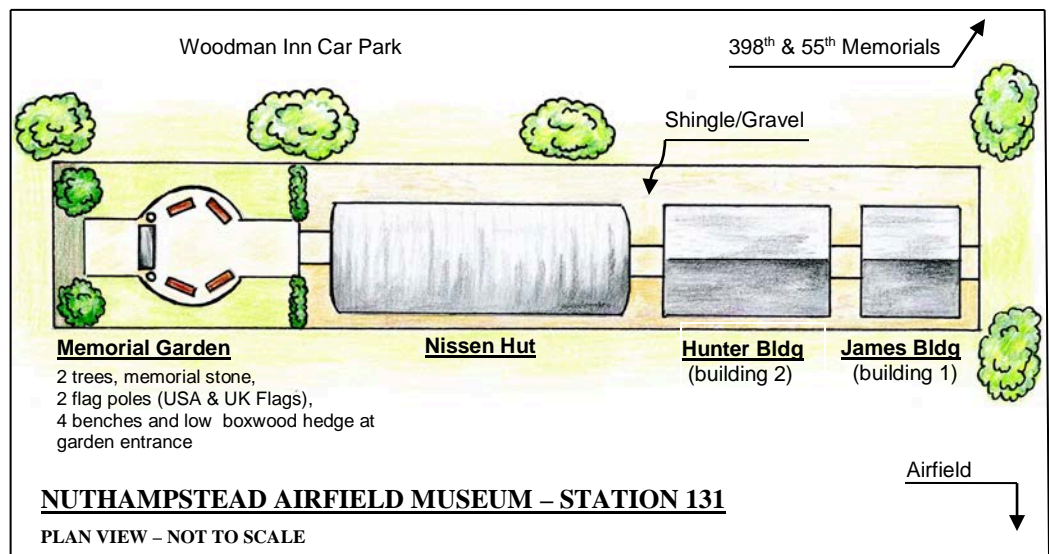
## Business News

At the board meeting of the 398th BGMA in New Orleans a discussion was held about the bomb group donating money from the Memorial Fund for the Memorial Garden at the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum. It was suggested that details of costs be gathered and presented to the board via e-mail.

After much investigation of what would need to be done, it was determined that the ground work for the Nissen hut would need to be completed before the Memorial Garden could be started. The costs of the ground works, concrete for the base of the Nissen hut, all pathways and the base for the memorial; along with the memorial stone and brick work, flag poles, flags, plants, tree, grass, etc. came to £15,020.00 (British pounds) or approximately \$22,530.00 (U.S. dollars).

These costs were approved by the majority of the Board and we will be in the process of getting this work started once the funds are securely in the UK, in the hope of having it completed by the May 28th opening of the Hunter Building.

To the right is a sketch of the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum showing the now completed James and Hunter Buildings (named for 55<sup>th</sup> FG Commander Lt. Col. Frank B. James and 398<sup>th</sup> BG Commander Lt. Col. Frank P. Hunter), the planned Nissen hut location and the proposed layout for the Memorial Garden.



# **OOPS AND A BIG THANK YOU TO THE WIDOWS!**

Have you heard the old saying: "If you don't make an occasional mistake, you aren't doing much work?" In accordance with this, please know we are all working diligently on your behalf. Also in this light, we must apologize to our 398<sup>th</sup> Widows and especially Dawne Dougherty. They sponsored the January issue of Flak News and we failed to acknowledge their generosity. Please know, ladies, that we all appreciate your support in this endeavor and we promise to be more attentive in 2017.

Having the widows sponsor the January edition of Flak News seemed appropriate to Dawne since their husband's names are traditionally listed in that issue. Contributions ranged from \$10 to \$200 from the ones listed below. We do have widows that continue to donate every year and they may not be on this list - these are only the ones that responded to Dawne's letter.

Several widows sent notes along with their donation saying it was a nice way to honor their husbands. Dawne's favorite was from Eleanor Tillotson who said: "Thank you for giving us the opportunity to help in some way - and the privilege of honoring the dear memories of our husbands."

***Our sincere thanks to Dawne and the widows who continue to support the 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association.***

<b>WIDOW</b>	<b>HUSBAND</b>	<b>SQUADRON</b>
Annette Anderson	Charles J. Anderson	600
Teedy Blackwell	Wallace "Wally" Blackwell	601
Dorothea E. Borchers	Doyle J. Borchers	602
Grayce Briody	James J. Briody	603
Effie L. Cook	Dewey B. Cook, Jr.	600
Marilyn Gibb-Rice <i>on behalf of her mom</i> Dorothy Crouch	James C. Crouch	601
Ruthanna Doerstler	Wayne Doerstler	602
Dawne Dougherty	Tom Dougherty	602
Mickey Dutrow	Gordon P. Dutrow	HQ
Doris Ellison	Condee A. Ellison	600
Frances E. Fisher	Wilbur G. "Bill" Fisher	603
Jean M. Flatt	Arthur W. Flatt	603
June Gardipee	Francis J. Gardipee	601
Electra Gerber	Thomas W. Gerber	602
Viola Hagedorn	Forrest L. "Hank" Hagedorn	602
Edith Hansen	Herman J. Hansen	602
Marilyn K. Harvey	Roger M. Harvey	602
Juanita B. Haynes	Irby Charles Haynes	601
Rozanne Joseph	Joe Joseph	603
Marcella Kay	Florence X. "Flo" (Kowalczyk) Kay	603
Alice Lee	John J. "Jack" Lee	603
Willetta Mansell	Joe Mansell	602
Marion Matecki	John J. Matecki	602
Phyllis McCormick	John R. McCormick	602
Kathryn McLaughlin	William A. McLaughlin	600
Bine McLaughlin	Robert J. McLaughlin	603
Mary Mero	Hamilton A. Mero	600
Marjorie Nelson-Mullin	Peter E. Mullin	602
Constance Novek	Elliot Novek	602
Louise Overturf	Thomas V. Overturf	HQ
Jane Perlstein	Justin S. Perlstein	602
Arline Reed	Z.T. Reed	603
Barbara Regello	Theophilo E. Regello	602
Nancy Rovinsky	Raymond R. Rovinsky	603
Alta M. Shaw	Donald J. Shaw	602
Kathleen Shultz	Charles Y. Shultz	HQ
Charlotte C. Smith	Paul W. Smith	602
Ann E. Sorensen	Phillip G. Sorensen	602
Jeannine Struckmeyer	Tom Struckmeyer	602
Eleanor Tillotson	Albert Ray Tillotson	600
Elva Vanner	Thomas B. Vanner	602
Paulette Wasserman	Charles I. Wasserman	603
Margaret Wimer	William C. Wimer	600
Doris Yip	James S. "Jimmy" Yip	602



# THE NORFOLK, VIRGINIA REUNION

August 10-11-12-13, 2016

## Facts

### REUNION CHAIR -

Kenneth Howard, 105 S Knox St, Elmwood, IL 61529-9702.  
Home Telephone 309-742-8546. Cell Phone 815-238-3691.  
E-mail [398bgmareunion@gmail.com](mailto:398bgmareunion@gmail.com) subject: "398<sup>th</sup> Reunion".

### HEADQUARTERS HOTEL -

The Holiday Inn Norfolk Airport Hotel  
1570 N Military Highway  
Norfolk, VA 23502

Telephone **757-213-2231**

The hotel is centrally located to I-64, I-264 which connects to every city in Hampton Roads to include Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Portsmouth, Hampton and the Eastern Shore. Nearby government facilities are comprised of Little Creek Amphibious Base, NAS Oceana, Fort Story Naval Station and the Norfolk Naval Station Shipyard. Other attractions within close proximity of the hotel are Nauticus, MacArthur Center and Norfolk Botanical Gardens. For complete hotel information go to:

<http://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/norfolk/orfva/hotel/detail>

The hotel offers 24 hour complimentary shuttle service to and from Norfolk International Airport (ORF). **Contact the hotel at 757-213-2231 for additional information and to arrange your ride.** The hotel is approximately 1.4 miles from the airport. Free self-parking is also available at the hotel.

### HOTEL RESERVATIONS -

No mail-in reservations are required. Telephone the hotel at the above number. Ask for the *398<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group* rate of \$99.00 (+14% tax & \$2.00 occupancy tax per night). There is a 72 hour cancellation notice policy.



### REGISTRATION -

Use the Official Registration Form on page 5. Fill in completely, itemizing the cost of each tour selected, banquet meals, registration fee of \$10 or \$20, and the yearly dues (if applicable). Send the form, with your covering check to Ken Howard. He will return a copy of your form, with accompanying receipt of your funds.

### BANQUETS -

The Welcome and Farewell banquets will be held in the hotel ballroom on Thursday, August 11 and Saturday August 13, respectively. Make your table reservations when picking up your Registration Packet.

## Tours

### WEDNESDAY, August 10, 2016 -

#### The *Spirit of Norfolk* Dinner Cruise

**6:00 PM - 9:30 PM**

We begin our reunion with a fun *Spirit of Norfolk* Dinner Cruise. Our Spirit Cruise departs from The Waterside Festival Marketplace in Downtown Norfolk. Our excursion will cover the Elizabeth River waterfront with spectacular skyline views of the mighty ships of the Navy's Atlantic Fleet. The Dinner Cruise is a fine-dining, dinner party atmosphere and Spirit Cruises asks we dress accordingly (no jeans or t-shirts). The buffet - style dinner menu includes a variety of salads, roast salmon and tilapia, chicken parmesan meatballs, beef short ribs, baked ziti and roast broccoli. Don't forget dessert! Enjoy a mini pastry, cookie, brownie or fruit after your meal.

### THURSDAY, August 11, 2016 -

#### Naval Station Norfolk Tour including Nauticus and the Battleship Wisconsin

**9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

The **Naval Station Norfolk** is the largest naval installation in the world. Home port to 78 ships, ranging in size from aircraft carriers to submarines, 133 aircraft and HQ of the Atlantic Fleet, this naval complex occupies over 8,000 acres of land and is home to more than 100,000 military personnel. After lunch we will visit **Nauticus, The National Maritime Center** and Norfolk's premier waterfront attraction. This maritime-themed science center and museum explores the economic, naval and natural powers of the sea. A true highlight of our visit to Nauticus will be a tour of the **Battleship Wisconsin**, one of the famous low-class ships. "Wiskey" is one of the largest and last battle ships ever built by the U.S. Navy. This great ship saw action in WWII, the Korean War and most recently the Persian Gulf War.

### FRIDAY, August 12, 2016 -

#### Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown Settlement

**8:30 AM - 5:00 PM**

**Colonial Williamsburg** is set in the period around the 1770's and the start of the Revolutionary War. It is a large living museum of early American life. It has 88 original buildings and dozens of restored and recreated buildings and reenactors. Our next stop will be the **Jamestown Settlement**. The first permanent English settlement in the New World was established at Jamestown in 1607. Here we will see a reconstructed Native American Village, a colonial fort and replica ships. Lunch on your own.

### SATURDAY, August 13, 2016 -

#### MacArthur Memorial, Glass Blowing Demo at The Chrysler Museum, Norfolk Riding City Tour

**10:00 AM - 3:30 PM**

We will be visiting the **MacArthur Memorial**, a museum dedicated to the life of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur. After lunch on our own at the MacArthur Center, we head to the **Chrysler Museum of Art** for a glass blowing demonstration, then on to our **Riding Norfolk City Tour** where we will take in downtown Norfolk and learn about this seaport city's colorful 325 year history while riding through the lovely historic district and restored areas.

**Please be advised the Tour Co. will charge a late fee for on-site, last minute tour bookings!**

# OFFICIAL REGISTRATION FORM

398th Bomb Group Memorial Association 33rd Annual Reunion  
Norfolk, Virginia • August 10-13, 2016

**PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2016**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_ SQUADRON \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP+4 \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

NAMES OF OTHERS IN PARTY,  
PLEASE PRINT FOR NAME TAGS \_\_\_\_\_

**WEDNESDAY, August 10 —**

Registration	12:00 pm to 4:00 pm	Memory Room		
Board Officers Meeting	2:30 pm to 5:00 pm			
Dinner Cruise aboard the <i>Spirit of Norfolk</i>	6:00 pm to 9:30 pm	Via coach	\$105.00 x _____	\$ _____

**THURSDAY, August 11 —**

Widow's Breakfast hosted by Dawne Dougherty	7:30 am to 8:30 am	Hotel Restaurant - <i>pay there.</i>		
Registration	8:45 am to 4:00 pm	Memory Room		
Naval Station Norfolk Tour	9:00 am to 2:00 pm	Via coach	\$85.00 x _____	\$ _____
Lunch & bottled water included on base				
Nauticus/Battleship Wisconsin tour after lunch				
Group Business Meeting - <b>All are welcome!</b>	3:00 pm to 4:00 pm			
No Host Bar	6:00 pm to 7:00 pm			
Welcome Banquet - Table reservations required	7:00 pm		\$35.00 x _____	\$ _____

**FRIDAY, August 12 —**

Registration	8:45 am to 4:00 pm	Memory Room		
Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown Settlement	8:30 am to 5:00 pm	Via coach	\$80.00 x _____	\$ _____
Lunch on own				
Happy Hour - Appetizers included.	6:00 pm		\$10.00 x _____	\$ _____
Beer & Wine will be available for \$3-\$5 per drink				

**SATURDAY, August 13 —**

Registration	8:45 am to 4:00 pm	Memory Room		
MacArthur Memorial, Glass Blowing Demo at	10:00 am to 3:30 pm	Via coach	\$99.00 x _____	\$ _____
The Chrysler Museum, Norfolk Riding City Tour				
Lunch on own at MacArthur Center				
No Host Bar	6:00 pm to 7:00 pm			
Farewell Banquet - Table reservations required	7:00 pm		\$40.00 x _____	\$ _____
Music by 'SKYLARK'				

**Registration Fee**  per person \$10.00,  two or more persons \$20.00 (max) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**2016 Dues** (if applicable) \$20.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***A late fee will be charged by the tour co. for ON-SITE tour sign-ups!!*** **TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Holiday Inn Norfolk Airport Hotel reservations MUST be made by July 4, 2016.**

*Complementary shuttle service available to and from Airport. Free self-parking*

I / We will be staying at the:  Holiday Inn Norfolk Airport Hotel  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Check boxes & write requirements on separate sheet of paper:  **Special Dietary Needs**  **Mobility Assistance Needed**

Please check all that apply:

- 398th Veteran  
 Widow  
 Relative  
 Associate

Please complete form, enclose check, and mail to:

**398th Bomb Group Reunion**  
**Kenneth Howard**  
**105 S. Knox Street**  
**Elmwood, IL 61529**

309-742-8546 (home), 815-238-3691 (cell)  
E-mail: [398bgmareunion@gmail.com](mailto:398bgmareunion@gmail.com)

Received \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Kenneth Howard**

A copy of this form will be mailed to registrant upon receipt of check or money order, payable to:

**398th Bomb Group Reunion.**

# A Tale of Two Jacks

By

Daniel Farnum, grandson of Jack Dodson, as told to him on November 13, 2015

As the decades have passed since the Allied victory it is still amazing to learn of the stories revealed through the brave aviators still alive today. This is the story told to me from my grandfather, Jack.

The crew was returning from the Chemnitz bombing mission over Germany. In the cold and unforgiving winter on February 6, 1945 a young tail gunner named Jack would find himself arm-in-arm with his fellow crewmembers as the pilot helped to land their fuel depleted B-17 "Flying Fortress" in the middle of a Belgian countryside. All the crewmembers survived this harrowing experience and eventually found themselves safely returned to the air base to fly another day.

As with most stories during World War II, you would think this story could stand alone as another example of the bravery and fortitude, but this isn't where it ends.



Photo above:  
Jack Rude shows off  
his model B-17  
"Miss Green Bay".



Photo at Right:  
Jack Rude on  
December 26, 1944.  
Jack was with the  
493<sup>rd</sup> BG, 863<sup>rd</sup> SQ  
Bud Harris Crew  
based at Station 152  
Debach Air Field,  
England.



## Sam Watkins' Crew – 601st SQ – February 20, 1945

Standing L-R: Glen Tueillier, Waist Gunner / Gene Pricer, Togglier / Jerry Manzi, Engineer / **Jack Dodson, Tail Gunner** / Lloyd Paris, Radio Op.

Kneeling L-R: Francis Piha, Ball Turret / Sam Watkins, Pilot / Haskell Schwartz, Navigator / Claude Wilson, Co-Pilot.



Jack Dodson at the WWII Museum, New Orleans, August 2015

Sixty-eight years after this fateful day on a typical Monday morning, Jack sat in his chair sipping his coffee and reading the Amarillo Daily News. A story jumped off the page of an aviation buff and former tail gunner who had survived a crash landing in Belgium on February 6, 1945 also named Jack.

Jack Dodson of the 398<sup>th</sup> bomb group couldn't believe what he was reading. Less than five miles away from where he lived, there was Jack Rude of the 493<sup>rd</sup> bomb group that had an eerily similar experience.

Not only had both men survived the February 6 crash landing in Belgium and lived to fly another day, both men were tail gunners of the B-17 "Flying Fortress". Both men were part of the raid to Nuremberg, Germany on February 21, 1945 and once again to Oranienburg, Germany on March 15, 1945. Triumphantly, both had flown with over 2,000+ planes during the air raid on Christmas Eve of 1944 to support General George S. Patton in the **Battle of the Bulge**.

Over these last few years both men have fostered a relationship to share coffee, stories and comradery of a life well lived. Sixty-eight years after their fateful day in Belgium and finally meeting one last twist of irony, the crash sites (Jack Dodson crash landed in Erquelinnes and Jack Rude in Ypres) were roughly 68 miles apart.



# William D. Whitaker talks about how he parachuted *into* a POW Camp

**Bombardier William D. "Dean" Whittaker recalls the dramatic moments as he found himself jumping out of his B-17 after it was hit, parachuting right into a Prisoner of War camp.**

Thanks to Bart Verstraeten of Argunners Magazine for this article and to "Hometown Heroes" who recorded the audio interview.

<http://www.argunners.com/>, is an online independent war history magazine.

On November 2nd 1944, the target would be the heavily defended synthetic oil plant in Merseberg Germany, it was his 20th mission and it would prove to be his last.

When I looked ahead and saw the flak which is the black explosion of 88 millimeter shells going off I thought my god we're going to be lucky to get through this and we got through it fine and we were hit a few times and you can always tell when you're hit because we could smell the burning hot flak metal going through the ship and we got out of that fine and as soon as we were out of that the Luftwaffe attacked us.

The first attack, they always attacked from the tail because their 20 millimeter cannon would go further than our .50 caliber machine gun. The tail gunner was pretty busy on that first mission and I think he shot down one of the planes and one of the fellows said "you got one" over the intercom. So on the second attack we were hit really bad the tail gunner was shot bad and the waist gunner went back to check on him he did he said "he's dead". About that time we were hit real bad and the plane was out of control.

The pilot gave the word to bail out and me being the navigator right by the nose escape patch I was the first one out. Before I could go out I had to release, I wore what they called a flak suit, an armor, a vest, there's an escape tag on that, that you pull and it's supposed to be released well it didn't release and I was fighting that trying to get that off and I said man I gotta get out of here and you know I had a voice kind of – my father

had passed away about 8 months before I went into service and I thought I heard his voice say 'you get out of there now'. So I did, when I jumped out I said 'I can't wait any longer', I jumped out of the escape patch in the nose and as soon as I hit the slip stream it tore the flak suit off but my parachute was only fastened on one side because I couldn't fasten the other side when the flak suit was on.

So here I was fighting all the way down trying to fasten the other side and at 28,000 feet you have no strength, you're just about ready to pass out and I started entering some clouds at three thousand feet and I thought well I better pull this now whether its fastened or not and I pulled it and I was floating down and I could hear shots coming up at me and the Germans were shooting at me as I was coming down.

**And this was fire from their aircraft or from the ground?**

That was from the ground it was civilians on the ground they were shooting, they all had guns and the odd thing about this when I was, before I hit the ground I could hear cheering and I thought who the heck is cheering in the middle of Germany and I just about landed in a German Prisoner of War camp that held English prisoners and luckily a guard from this camp come running out of the camp and made the civilians stop shooting me. They had their rifles all ready to aim at me so they stopped shooting and the guard guttered me up and took me into the camp and the English Prisoners of War gave us tea and crumpets, it was really something.

## NEWMAN'S CREW 603<sup>rd</sup> SQ

Photo Date: August 15, 1944

### Back Row (viewer's left to right):

S/Sgt. Norman Bergsma, Radio Op.  
S/Sgt. Leroy D. Kucharski, Gunner  
T/Sgt. Cornelius P. Harrington, Engineer  
S/Sgt. Arnold Money, Gunner  
S/Sgt. Steve Kernitz, Gunner

### Front Row (viewer's left to right):

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. William D. Whitaker, Bombardier  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Herbert H. Newman, Pilot  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. William L. Frankhouser, Navigator  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Paul G. Deininger, Co-Pilot

**Note:** On the Nov. 2, 1944 mission to Merseberg, Germany, Herb Newman and 4 of his assigned crew were KIA:  
Melvin Cohn, Radio Op  
William J. Jones, Tail Gunner  
Leroy D. Kucharski, L. Waist Gunner  
Anthony J. Perry, BT Gunner



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

## DO YOU KNOW THESE MEN?



### Latson's Crew with Colonel Frank P. Hunter as Command Pilot – 603<sup>rd</sup> SQ

Photo date August 13, 1944

#### **Back Row (L-R):**

Probably Capt. H.H. Latson Jr., Pilot / Co-Pilot  
Capt. Carl J. Strickrott, Bombardier  
Col. Frank P. Hunter, Commander  
Capt. Harold L. Brown, Navigator  
1<sup>st</sup> LT. Anthony J. Jellen, Navigator

#### **Front Row (L-R):**

Rank, Man 1, position  
Rank, Man 2, position  
Rank, Man 3, position  
T/Sgt. Donald A. Vredenburg, Engineer  
Rank, Man 5, position

#### **The Loading List for August 13, 1944:**

Col. Frank P. Hunter, Commander  
Capt. H.H. Latson Jr., Pilot / Co-Pilot  
Capt. Harold L. Brown, Navigator  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Anthony J. Jellen, Navigator  
Capt. Carl J. Strickrott, Bombardier  
T/Sgt. Donald A. Vredenburg, Engineer  
T/Sgt. Clarence J. Fummeler, Radio Op  
S/Sgt. Angelo C. Martorello, Ball Turret  
S/Sgt. Joseph L. Bourke, Waist Gunner  
S/Sgt. John W. Harbit, Tail Gunner

Can you match the names above to the unknown men in the photo?

## CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE MEN?

If so, please contact **Geoff Rice** ASAP!

E-Mail: [crewpictures@398th.org](mailto:crewpictures@398th.org) Or Snail Mail: 12 The Presidents, Beck Row, Bury St Edmunds, IP28 8HS, UK



# NUTHAMPSTEAD AIRFIELD MUSEUM

## News from the Trustees

### Our Latest Memorabilia Donation; The Doerstler Collection

Prior to her passing in March, one of Ruthanna Doerstler's last wishes was to donate her late husband's WWII items to the museum. One week before she passed away Wayne's AAF trunk arrived packed with a fine array of things such as his leather A-2 Jacket with all 30 of his missions painted on front, 602<sup>nd</sup> SQ patches, garrison caps, campaign ribbons, aviator glasses, uniform shirts, slacks and jacket, a B-4 bag, photos, paperwork and so much more!

*The Museum is very grateful for Ruthanna's very generous donation. We will all miss her.*



**T/Sgt. Wayne Doerstler  
602<sup>nd</sup> SQ - R.A. Griffin Crew**

**Clockwise from top left:**  
Wayne's WWII trunk, uniform shirt, A-2 jacket, B-4 bag, various caps, patches, medals, aviator glasses, etc.



### Would YOU Like To Donate Items? Here's How!

If you wish to donate items to the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum, please bring it to the reunion in Norfolk, VA for Geoff & Marilyn Rice to take back to England with them. We welcome any donations whether it is paperwork, books, photos, clothing, hats, bags, etc. If you are not attending the reunion, but have something to donate, please contact Marilyn at [president@398th.org](mailto:president@398th.org) and arrangements can be made.



# Noted Author and Historian Cliff Bishop Passes

The Following Tribute and Photos are from the East Anglia Books Website

[www.eastangliabooks.com](http://www.eastangliabooks.com)



Cliff Bishop at an East Anglia Books signing event.

Cliff passed away 19 December 2015. He will be missed by many of us who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Cliff will be remembered for his extensive knowledge of the 8<sup>th</sup> Airforce and especially by the 398<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Memorial Association for his book *“Fortresses Over Nuthampstead”* which is about all of the aircraft that flew with the 398<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group when stationed in the UK.

East Anglia Books was formed by Cliff Bishop and has now been trading for over 30 years. As a boy Cliff enjoyed watching the 8th Air Force operations around his home in Suffolk and from this, stemmed a lifelong interest in aviation history.

During those years in WWII, he was surrounded by airfields occupied by the 8th Air Force and used to spend his days watching formations of B-17's and B-24's heading off to war, some sadly, never to return. Later while serving in the RAF, he worked on the Washington, the RAF's name for the B-29 Superfortress. Following his RAF service he went on to train as a Design Engineer and spent many years in the Civil Aviation industry working on many different types of aircraft. Cliff has spent many years researching the history of the 8th Air Force, involving trips overseas to Museums and Record Centers: His books *“Fortresses of the Big Triangle First”* and *“Fortresses Over Nuthampstead”* have proved very successful and he has also published many books on behalf of other Authors.

In 2014, Cliff visited Normandy for the 70th Anniversary of D-Day and then to Krakow, Poland where he visited Auschwitz and in September, a memorable trip with his daughter Marilyn to Arnhem for the 70th Anniversary commemorations.

East Anglia Books has now grown to include an extensive stock of aviation and military related titles covering all aspects from WWI to the present, in particular one of the largest stocks of USAAF Unit Histories, plus a wide range of second-hand titles, many now out-of-print and difficult to obtain. Some of their customers have been with them for over thirty years and have become firm friends. They strive to provide a friendly and knowledgeable service and hope to continue trading for many years to come.

Daughter Marilyn Bishop intends to continue her father's business.



Brothers Stan Bishop (left) & Cliff Bishop (Right) in a field near Crettingham, Suffolk, which as boys they had visited in March 1945 as the crash-site of a B-17 from the 34th Bomb Group based at Mendlesham involved in a mid-air collision.

Note the poppy growing between the two, a touching symbol of remembrance. RIP Cliff.

# BRIEF – things

On Friday March 18, 2016 **Geoff Rice** and **Marilyn Gibb-Rice** were invited to IWM Duxford to attend a ceremony for the reopening of the newly redeveloped American Air Museum. See page 12 for details about the ceremony.

One reason why they were invited was because they have Marilyn's father's uniform, his bio and other items on display as shown in the photo below. Marilyn told us, "Needless to say - it was very emotional for me and an incredible honor to have his items on display in such a fantastic museum."

Marilyn's dad was S/Sgt. **James C. Crouch**, waist gunner with the 601<sup>st</sup> SQ. His memorabilia is on loan from Marilyn and will be on display at the American Air Museum at Imperial War Museum (IWM) Duxford for the next 5 years.



**PLEASE, DO NOT THROW OUT  
YOUR WWII MEMORABILIA!!!**

**Instead, consider donating your  
398<sup>th</sup> BG items to the  
Nuthampstead Airfield Museum  
where it will be well taken care of and  
on display for future generations  
to see and appreciate.**

**Keep the 398<sup>th</sup> BG history alive.**

**We Want Your Stuff!!**

*Email Marilyn Gibb-Rice at  
[president@398th.org](mailto:president@398th.org) for details on how to  
donate your items to the museum.*

# 398th Bomb Group PX

## ORDER FORM

(The Second Generation)

QTY	ITEM	UNIT COST	TOTAL
<b>CLOTHING</b>			
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>
<b>SQUADRON CAPS</b>			
<u>    </u>	Select: <u>    </u> 600 <u>    </u> 601 <u>    </u> 602 <u>    </u> 603	\$20.00	<u>    </u>
<b>LAPEL PINS</b>			
<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 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary pin – Rapid City	\$40.00	<u>    </u>
<b>PATCHES</b>			
<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>
<u>    </u>	Group Patch Hell From Heaven, 2½"x3"	\$7.00	<u>    </u>
<b>BOOKS, CDs &amp; DVDs Media (includes postage)</b>			
<u>    </u>	<i>Fortresses Over Nuthampstead</i> (Bishop)	\$30.00	<u>    </u>
<u>    </u>	<i>398th History</i> (1946, photo copy)	\$20.00	<u>    </u>
<u>    </u>	<i>Remembrances</i> (Ostrom, 1989, photo copy)	\$30.00	<u>    </u>
<u>    </u>	<i>Mission Memories</i> (lbeling)	\$8.00	<u>    </u>
<u>    </u>	<i>Return to Station 131- Memorial Dedication</i> June 2000 - DVD	\$20.00	<u>    </u>
<b>PHOTOGRAPHS &amp; PRINTS</b>			
<u>    </u>	<i>Clearing &amp; Colder</i> , 14"x17", on canvas	\$50.00	<u>    </u>
<u>    </u>	<i>Sunset at Nuthampstead</i> , 8"x10"	\$7.00	<u>    </u>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>			
<u>    </u>	Bumper Sticker (red, white & black)	\$4.00	<u>    </u>
<u>    </u>	50 Caliber Bullet Pen (Group Logo)	\$40.00	<u>    </u>
<u>    </u>	B17 Scale Model (12.5 in x 9 in)	\$17.00	<u>    </u>
<u>    </u>	Blue Ballpoint Pen (398th imprint)	\$7.00	<u>    </u>
<u>    </u>	Challenge Coin (B-17)	\$21.00	<u>    </u>
<u>    </u>	Coaster ( <i>Clearing &amp; Colder</i> imprint)	\$6.00	<u>    </u>
<u>    </u>	Earrings – clip (Group Logo)	\$11.00	<u>    </u>
<u>    </u>	Earrings – pierced (Group Logo)	\$11.00	<u>    </u>
<u>    </u>	Notecards – B-17 Flying Fortress (set of 10)	\$11.00	<u>    </u>
<u>    </u>	<b>FLAK NEWS Flash Drive</b> Aug '86 to July '12	\$40.00	<u>    </u>

Cost of All Items ordered \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Postage add \$7.00, \$9.00 if order over \$20.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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USA

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### **The Nuthampstead Airfield Museum acknowledged at the Reopening of the American Air Museum at IWM Duxford**

Imperial War Museum Duxford's transformed *American Air Museum*, containing the best collection of American aircraft on display outside North America, opened to the public on Saturday March 19, 2016 after a major redevelopment.

The newly-transformed *American Air Museum* tells the story of Anglo-American collaboration in twentieth and twenty-first century conflict, as seen through the eyes of the people linked with the aircraft and objects on display. From Private to President, the *American Air Museum* tells the personal stories of 85 people whose lives have shaped or been shaped by their experiences of conflict. It focuses on the key role played by American air power, in conflicts from 1918 to the present day, with dramatic displays of historic and contemporary aircraft.

As mentioned in "Brief Things" on page 11, on Friday March 18th Geoff Rice and Marilyn Gibb-Rice were invited to IWM Duxford to attend the reopening of the American Air Museum. There was a ceremony with guest speakers and then (pre-determined) eight people from various important groups around the world came up to light candles representing their countries. Geoff was introduced as follows; "*We invite Geoff Rice, of the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum, to light a candle in memory of the British people who befriended the airmen and women and who remember them still.*" Geoff was extremely honored to have been asked. The photo above shows Geoff (5<sup>th</sup> from the right) lighting his candle during the ceremony.