



384th BOMB GROUP INC.

NEWSLETTER
August, 1983

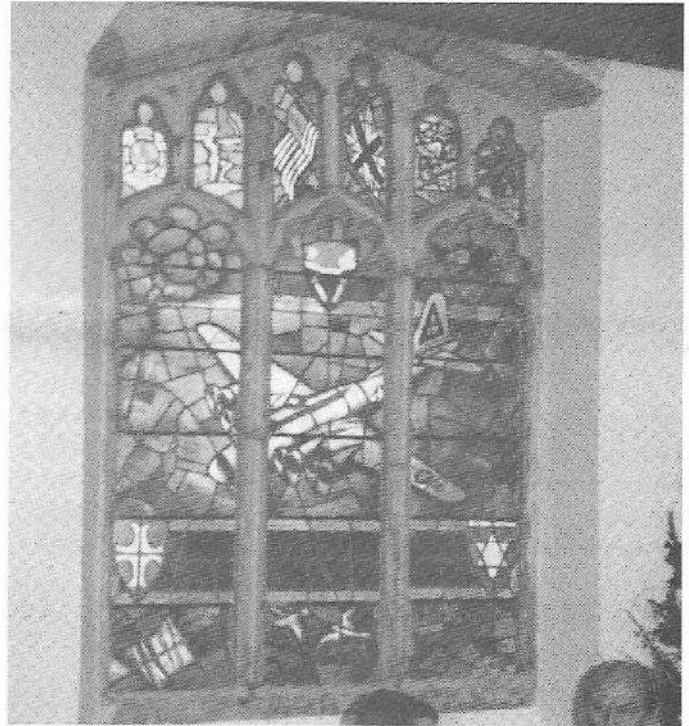
P.O. Box 1021-A
Rahway, NJ 07065

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As you all know we have just ended one of the most wonderful memorial junkets that we have ever had. You know the excellent way it was put on, the efficient way in which it was run, and the wonderful things that we did, heard and saw ourselves. The Bomb Group owes a debt of thanks to: Quintin Brand, Lloyd Whitlow and their Committees, and every other person who had a hand in it. No matter how small or big a part you played — thank you. Of course this was a job well done. From the day of registration, to the last day of our dinner-dance, all the trips, the sightseeing, the bus rides, the thrill of dedicating the stained-glass window (and that is some beautiful sight) — going back to our memorial and rededicating that, seeing the B-17 fly over head — I am sure, must have brought tears to your eyes, as it did to mine. It was nice to see "The Lady" in the air again. In this and future newsletters we are going to list where all the memorials can be found. They will be listed so that anyone visiting England will be able to find them — our children, their children, ourselves, our friends. Each and every one of the memorials are beautiful remembrances of our being over there — of what we did in England — for England. I for one will not forget the experiences I had on the junket. Again, thank you to everyone who had a hand in making Junket IV a most rewarding experience — what a great way to show how much the 384th means to us all.

"We flew our mission as briefed — WE ARE keeping the show on the road."

Theodore Rothschild
President



OUR LAST HURRAH... It was a weekend of Remembrance for more than 160 members of the 384th Bomb Group, their wives and guests as they gathered at Grafton Underwood, Northamptonshire, England to pay tribute to their colleagues who were lost during World War II. The Veterans came from all over the United States for what is expected to be the last official visit of the Group. They were joined by huge crowds who lived in and about the Grafton Underwood area and by many more from neighboring areas for whom the exploits of the Group are now legendary.

The weekend of Remembrance officially began on Saturday afternoon, May 21, at 3:00 p.m. with the Dedication of the Stained Glass Window in the Parish Church of St. James the Apostle in Grafton Underwood in a crowded private service by the Lord Bishop of Peterborough, the Rt. Rev. Douglas Feaver in the presence of Her Royal Highness Princess Alice of Gloucester. Because of the large crowd expected, attendance at the Service was by invitation only. Rev.



544th



545th



546th



547th

Daniel Foot was the Officiate of the Service. Father Billy (NY) and Tom Hunt (TX) read the Lessons.

The Window was donated by the members and wives of the 384th Bomb Group and many friends. It was placed in the 400 year old church, the Parish of St. James the Apostle as a permanent reminder of the efforts of the 384th Bomb Group in World War II and in particular the 1579 members lost in combat while flying from the Airbase, Station 106, Grafton Underwood. The Window depicts a B17 of the 384th Bomb Group flying over the White Cliffs of Dover as it returns from a combat mission. It is inscribed "Coming Home"...

The ceremony and service drew huge crowds who had to walk nearly two miles from the nearest parking areas. A tight police security was spread around the Church and Grafton Underwood, which is on the estate of the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch. No one was permitted beyond the security ring without an invitation.

After the Dedication Service, a garden party with light refreshments was held at the Manor House, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Minney. Princess Alice of Gloucester also attended. Members of the Group were presented to Her Royal Highness at the affair.

A tired but excited Group then returned to the Holiday Inn in Leicester where the 384th was staying. A Cocktail Hour was held and most everyone relaxed with their favorite beverage. A most enjoyable Dinner Dance followed...

SUNDAY, MAY 22, 1983...It was a beautiful morning as the Group boarded the buses to attend the Memorial Mass at St. Edward's Church in Kettering. The Mass was celebrated by Father Method C. Billy (NY) who was our Chaplain at the base in Grafton Underwood during the War. Fritz Nowosad (NJ) and John Kelly (PA) assisted with the readings. A Choir sang during the Mass and received many plaudits.

The Mass is now a Foundation Mass whereby all 384thers, both living and deceased, along with all who supported the 384th Bomb Group during the War, such as the Royal Air Force of England, will be remembered and prayed for every year during May as long as the Parish of St. Edward's Church exists.

The beautiful Silver Chalice, donated by the Dolan Family (William "Pop" Dolan, NJ) was used during the Mass as it will always be. After the Mass, the Chalice was on view. Father Billy (NY) also pointed out the fine wood carving Statue of St. Christopher. The Statue is also a permanent Memorial given to the Church by members of the 384th Bomb Group who attended the Masses at St. Edwards 40 years ago. A Statue of St. Christopher also exists in the Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Kettering and serves the same purpose...plaques were given to both Churches on one of the Junkets to identify them and what their purpose was...



THE ROYAL HOTEL IN KETTERING... Luncheon was next on the agenda for the Group. However, the skies above had darkened and again it had begun to rain. But, the spirits were high and everyone felt it was merely a shower and after lunch, it would be clear. The Royal Hotel Pub was open and quite a few pints of bitter and lager were consumed along with other favorite beverages. The Group enjoyed a most delicious luncheon, accompanied by wine...

RE-DEDICATION OF THE MEMORIAL MONUMENT... The crowds were huge and were everywhere as the 384thers, their wives and guests arrived at Grafton Underwood for the Sunday afternoon ceremony which was to be the most somber and moving of all the weekend's events. The skies appeared to be trying to clear but dark clouds hung about the Airbase and refused to go away. The parade commander eager to start the parade, shouted commands and everything seemed to fall in place...The wives and guests proceeded by bus to the Memorial where the ceremonies were to take place...



More than 80 members of the 384th Bomb Group lined up to march from Grafton to the airfield from which so many missions were flown from 1943 to 1945. The Group felt proud as they marched (no one out of step), led by Jerry Sammons (IL) and Joe Carnes (TX) who were carrying the 384th Bomb Group Banner. The parade was accompanied by an RAF Band, representatives of the Air Training Corps, the British Legion and a Group from Alconbury, which included the Color Bearers.

Hundreds of local people made their way to the site to show their respect for the veterans and the men of the 384th Bomb Group who marched proudly as cheers rent the air...

Arriving at the Memorial, the rains came. The Service led by Canon Frank Pearce, The Rector of Kettering, began. The drizzling rain turned into a heavy downpour, but the Rededication of the Memorial



Monument continued. Father Billy (NY) read the Benediction. Canon Pearce then called Fred Nowosad (NJ) to conduct the wreath laying ceremony. As the names were called, those representing the Group Squadrons and other Units laid their respective wreaths at the Base of the Memorial. The Color Guard from the Base of Alconbury sounded the last Post and Reveille. As the sound echoed over the now quiet and desolate field, where once the mighty Flying Fortress, the B-17 roared, the crowd bowed their heads in remembrance...the supreme sacrifice that was made for freedom...

Immediately after the ceremony, a Spitfire Aircraft from the RAF raced towards the Group that was gathered about the Memorial and performed a flyby, swooping down and around the Memorial. Later a B-17, the Sally B, the last Flying Fortress still active in the European Theater, thrilled the crowd as it also flew over and around the Group. The crowd watched the Fortress in silence and awe as it performed. There were not too many dry eyes as the Fort flew over and over the Memorial...

A Motor Vehicle Unit, consisting of World War II vehicles stood by for those interested in touring the old Airbase. The Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch appeared to pay their respects and offered refreshments to those who had been chilled by the inclement weather.

Former Combat Group Intelligence Officer Col. William "Pop" Dolan (NJ) unperturbed by the miserable weather that had dampened the ceremony told the Newspaper and Television people in an interview... "If the Sun was shining, it would not be the England we all remember. But, in spite of the rain, just look how many people came out to pay their respect. It seems that they will never forget us. They are just wonderful people"...





The Rededication of the Memorial Monument was also to mark the 40th Anniversary of the 384th Bomb Group's arrival at the Airbase, Station 106, in Grafton Underwood...many said that it also rained that day.

A damp, but happy Group returned to their buses and headed back to Leicester where again a warm Hospitality Room was awaiting their arrival...A free evening was welcomed by all...

NOTE...Our appreciation and thanks go to Col. Lehman, Base Commander of Alconbury, the members of the U.S. Air Force and Color Guard... The Royal British Legion...The Royal Naval Association...The Kettering Fire Service...The Kettering Training Corps...The Kettering Sea Scouts and the RAF Volunteer Association...The Motor Vehicle Unit, who supplied the transportation for the Parade and the Base tour. Last but not least, that fine bunch of 384th Bomb Group Veterans who marched so well and Jerry Sammons (IL) and Joe "Pappy" Carnes (TX) who carried the 384th Bomb Group so nobly in spite of the rain...

PROGRAM...A well planned and active program was enjoyed by everyone who attended the Memorial Junket IV. The summary of the program was as follows:...

Thursday, May 19...Check in and registration at the Holiday Inn, Leicester...Hospitality Room open all day...Free time...

Friday, May 20...Free time...Bus tour to the Boughton House (Residence of the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch)...Return to Holiday Inn, Leicester for Cocktail Hour...Buffet dinner...Business meeting...

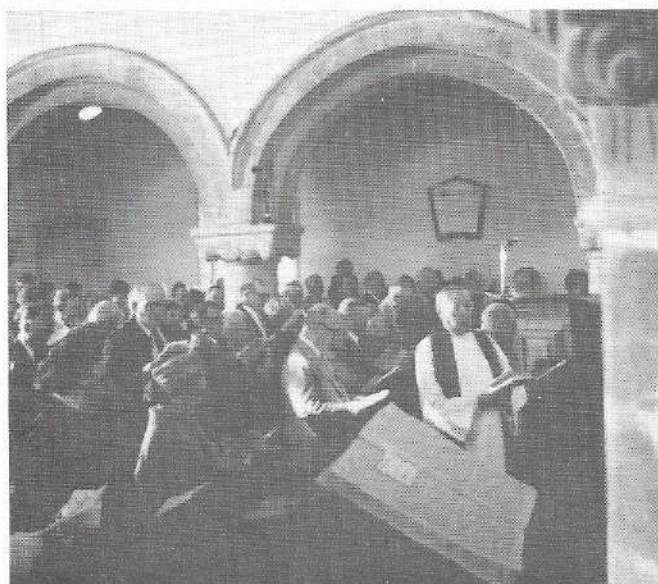
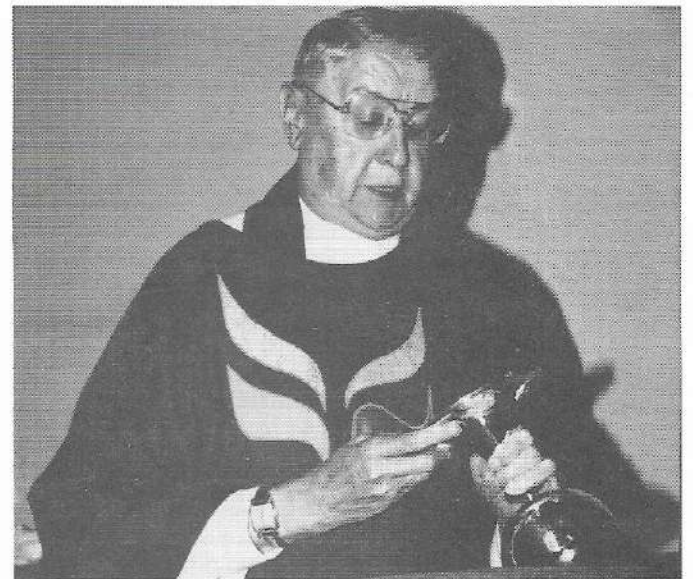
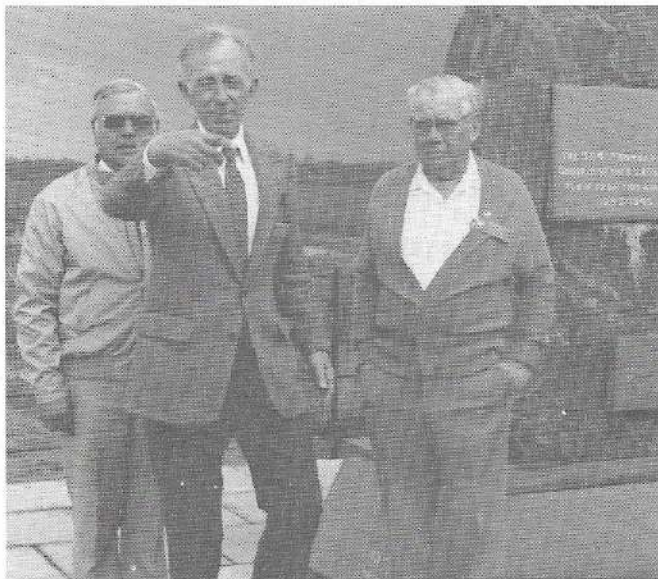
Saturday, May 21...Bus tour of area...Lunch and Pub time at the Bridge Hotel in Thrapston...Dedication of the Stained Glass Window in the Parish Church of St. James the Apostle, Grafton Underwood...Refreshments and Garden party at the Manor House in Grafton Underwood...Return to Holiday Inn, Leicester for Cocktail Hour...Dinner Dance...

Sunday, May 22...Buses leave Holiday Inn for 384th Bomb Group Memorial Mass at St. Edwards Parish Church in Kettering...Lunch and Pub time at Royal Hotel in Kettering...Parade and Rededication of Memorial Monument...Return to Holiday Inn, Leicester for Hospitality Room...Free Time...

Monday, May 23...Bus tour to Althorp House (Home of Earl of Spencer, Princess Diane's father)...Lunch at Althorp House...Surprise visit to Memorial Monument to see 384th Air Refueling Wing Aircraft, the KC-135 perform a flyby over the Monument...tour of Rockingham Castle...Return to Holiday Inn for Cocktail Hour...Farewell Dinner Dance...

Tuesday, May 24...Check out...







MEMORIAL JUNKET IV FINANCIAL REPORT

RECEIPTS

Stained Glass Window	
Contributions	\$ 7,285.00
Monies Collected in England	19,457.00
Central Independent Television (England)	
(Documentary Contribution)	1,545.00
Total Receipts	\$28,287.00

EXPENDITURES

Stained Glass Window	\$ 7,625.00
Holiday Inn, Leicester	
(Functions, etc)	9,726.00
Althorp House (Tour & Luncheon) ...	3,312.00
Boughton House (Tour)	200.00
Bridge Hotel, Thrapston (Luncheon) .	1,400.00
Rockingham Castle (Tour)	238.00
Coaches (Buses)	2,032.00
Royal Hotel, Kettering (Luncheon) ...	1,080.00
B-17 Models (Gift)	208.00
B-17 Flypast over Memorial	1,600.00
Orchestra for Farewell	
Dinner Dance	432.00
Envelope Packages (Gift)	480.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,146.00
Junket IV Pictures	343.00
Total Expenditures	\$29,822.00
Expenditures over Receipts	\$(-1535.00)

Note...Stained Glass Window Contributions

Dayton Reunion	\$2,100.00
General Contributions	5,185.00
Total	\$7,285.00

Note...Conversion of the English Pound (Sterling) was made with the value of the pound being worth \$1.60 in US Dollars...

DUES...DUES...DUES...The following 384thrs have sent in their dues since the issue of the February Newsletter. Dues are still in order and still only \$12.00 per year. The fiscal year starts in July. If you are not sure if you have paid your dues, drop us a line and we will be only too happy to let you know. Remember that dues are still tax deductible as we are a non-profit organization. So, if you haven't sent your dues in lately, please do so...

Lorenzo Abrusci (CA)
Arthur W. Adams (PA)
Arthur E. Allen (MA)
William W. Anstead (IN)
Irving M. Appelton (GA)
Samuel Arauz (NY)
Lloyd Armstrong (MI)

Milo W. Matousek (KS)
Stanley Mazarka (WI)
Walter Mazur (MI)
Maj. James C. McClanahan (GA)
Clyde W. McGee, Sr. (CA)
Francis P. McKeon (FL)
John W. McKinnon (TX)
Alfred Meyer (NC)

Joseph A. Bagatti (MO)
Joseph W. Baggs (PA)
Gilbert S. Bailer (PA)
Clyde Bailey (MS)
William A. Barnett (GA)
Arthur P. Beese (CA)
Charles W. Bishop (CA)
Keith Blackburn (CO)
Jack Block (IN)
Arthur H. Blohm (CA)
Dana C. Bohnsack (LA)
Alwin J. Bremer (MN)
Denzel A. Brown (LA)
John J. Burke (NJ)
John A. Butler (LA)*

E. Clarke Campbell (MI)
Harold F. Castor (OH)
Paul R. Charlton (NY)
Kenneth P. Christian, Sr. (KS)
Deston K. Cleland (CA)
Daniel C. Conley (MA)
Robert L. Coleman (CT)
Raymond D. Cook (PA)
Roy H. Cook (OH)
Clarence S. Culligan (WI)

Rex J. Dahms (WI)
John W. Davidson (MD)
John C. Dudley (IL)

Alvaro Fernandez (FL)
Lewis R. Fifer (WA)
Walter Fillippi (CA)
Francis N. Finch (TX)*
Philip J. Fink (NY)
Robert J. Fisher (TX)
Roland Flynn (MT)
James R. Foster (TN)

Leonard Galloway (TX)
James E. Geary (AZ)*
Jack K. Goetz (PA)
Lt.Col. R.H. Goldsborough (MD)*
Arthur E. Guilmet (WA)*

Mrs. Shirley Haskell (TX)*
Merle E. Haynes (KY)
F. O. Heffley (TX)
Clay Hesse (TX)
Noah C. Hickman (IL)
Morgan V. Himmelstein (CT)
Dennis M. Hoffman (PA)
Leo C. Hotis (NY)
Fritz Holzbaur (NC)
A. T. Humbles (NC)
Harry B. Hunt (OH)

W. J. Iredale, Jr. (GA)

Win Jackson (OH)
Edwin A. Jerome (VA)
Col. Merle Johnson (WY)
Col. William T. Johnson (TX)

Carl A. Keyser (PA)
John E. Kriedler (CO)

Jules S. Levison (MO)*
James Lysaght (CA)*

Jack C. Maloney (W VA)
Patrick V. Mangun (MT)
Donald L. Manus (NC)

Harvey S. Miller (KY)
Jack M. Miller (CA)
L. Corwin Miller (CA)
Walter Miller (MI)
Robert M. Mitchell (AL)
E. Mittendorf, Jr. (GA)
C. R. Molder (IN)
Emil Moucka (TX)
William C. Murphy (MD)
Leonard Nealis (OK)*
Harold Nelson, Jr. (CT)
Marion A. Nelson (NY)
Harold Ness (SC)
William P. Newton (IN)

Irvan G. O'Hara (KY)*
Clinton H. O'rean (NM)

Warren L. Palmgren (IL)
Albert M. Payne (CT)
Ralph L. Peel (AZ)*
Norbert Philippi (TX)
William L. Pitts (CA)
Charles B. Porter (MA)
John B. Pratt (NY)
William R. Price (CA)

Joe Ragen (MT)
William C. Ralston (PA)
Harrison W. Roach, Jr. (SC)*
Amos S. Roberts (GA)
Theodore Rothschild (NY)

Wade W. Saunders (NC)
George E. Schmittke (WA)
George W. Schock (NE)
Jack Shattuck (LA)
Robert E. Sheahan (FL)
George E. Sheehan (NB)
John K. Shelley (FL)
Henry H. Showers (PA)
Thomas H. Simmons (GA)*
William A. Singer (IA)
James Smith (WI)
George Spangler (NJ)
Emor D. Stephens (PA)
Gilman C. Stewart (IN)*
Kenneth L. Stolte (WA)

James A. Taff (AZ)
Al Tajkowski (IN)
Paul W. Thompson (OH)
Phillo R. Tozer (CA)
Sam G. Tuck (MO)
Howard Turlington (MO)
Ralph Twiford (PA)

Theodore H. Ulrich (IL)
Fred Ussery (TX)

Lawrence J. Vallo (NM)
Albert R. Valcour (CA)
Frank P. Vallone (NJ)
Dr. Donald E. Vivian (IN)*

Reed M. Weaver (NY)
Delton Wheat (LA)
Drewry F. Wofford, Jr. (NY)
W. W. Wright, Jr. (VA)

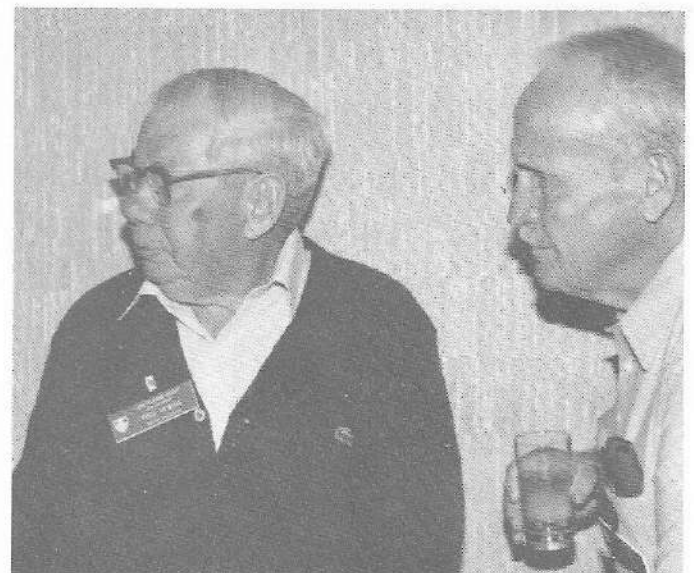
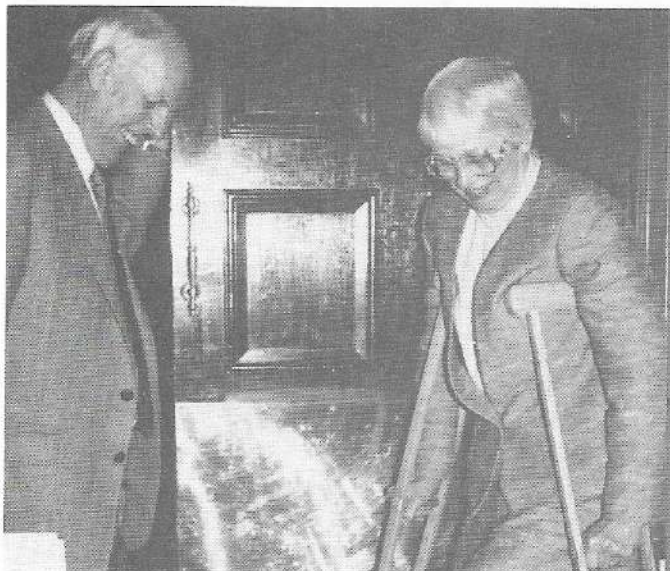
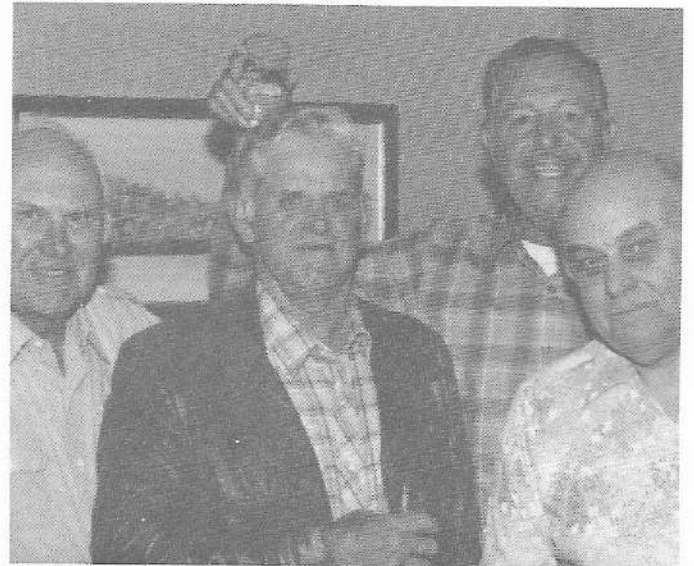
Wilbert Y. K. Yee (HI)

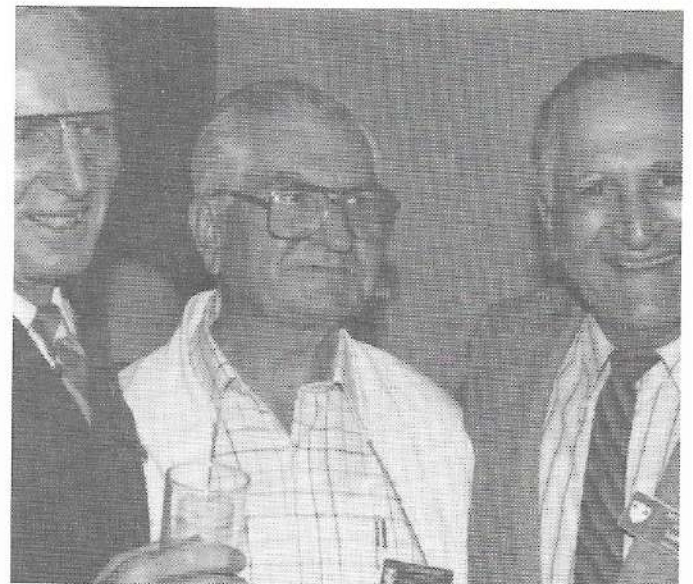
Donald A. Zager (WI)
Bernard F. Zyglowicz (IL)

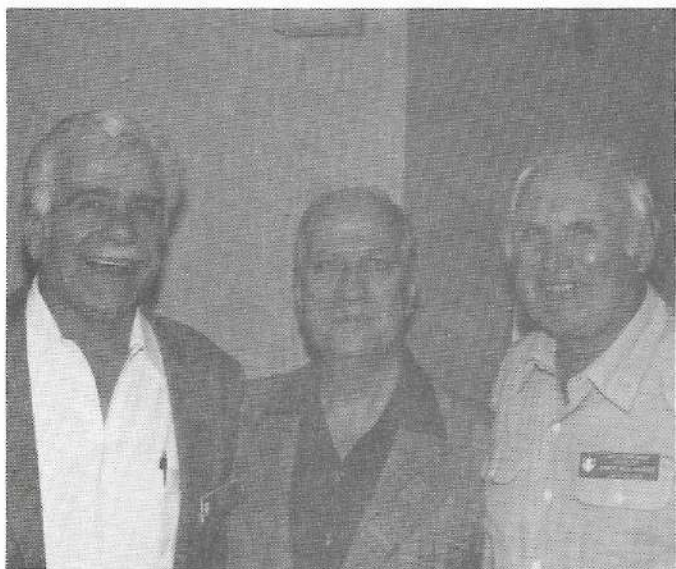
*Denotes a new member

Note...If you have sent in your dues and are not listed, please let us know and we will acknowledge it.









NEW MEMBERS...We welcome the following new members to the 384th Bomb Group.

Francis N. Finch
415 Evans
San Antonio, TX 78209

Edwin A. Jerome
8101 Ellet Road
Springfield, VA 22151

James H. Lysaght
6311 Rosemary Drive
Cypress, CA 90630

James E. Geary
P.O. Box 360
Sedona, AZ 86636

Jules S. Levison
39 Meadowbrook Street
Country Club Estates
Mallwin, MO 63011

Dr. Donald E. Vivian
RR 4 P.O. Box 6
New Castle, IN 47362

Thomas H. Simmons
4542 Ruby Road
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

Leonard Nealis
5700 SE Cornell
Bartlesville, OK 74003

Irvan G. O'Hara
118 Woodside Place
Ft. Thomas, KY 41075

Arthur E. Guilmet
210 Old Blyn Hwy.
Sequim, Washington 98382

John A. Butler
P.O. Box 3010
Arcadia, LA 71001

Gilman C. Stewart
RR #8 P.O. Box 226
Greensburg, IN 47240

Harrison W. Roach, Jr.
710 Anne Street
North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582

Ralph L. Peel
2402 W. Morningside Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85023

Lt. Col. Richard H. Goldsborough
6412 Pinehurst Road
Baltimore, MD 21212

Mrs. Paula Sanborn
2614 Laurel
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Mrs. Shirley Haskell
11636 Sasonqua Lane
Dallas, TX 75218

NEW MEMBERSHIP ROSTER...When we send out a Newsletter, we do get changes of addresses and new members. Immediately after this Newsletter has completed its cycle and we have received the changes of addresses that usually come in, along with the new members, we will then go into the printing of the new membership roster. Because of the many changes of addresses and new members, the old Membership Directory, dated Fall, 1981 is out of date. We hope to have the new directory along with new membership cards about the later part of September. So please bear with us until then.

LAST MISSION...The 384th Bomb Group offers its deepest sympathy to the families of the following departed members...

Donald L. Crawford*
231 Cardinal Lane
Wichita, KS 67230

Louis Henigen
44 College Street
Woodland, CA 95695

Vito Benincasa
8112 Rowland Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19136

Col. Budd J. Peaslee
22471 Estoque Place
Toro Park Estates
Salinas, CA 93901

Joseph F. Ulmer*
282 Cabrini Blvd.
New York, NY 10040

John J. Murray
1044 Stanton Way
Stockton, CA 95207

*The listed 384th Bomb Group member will be removed from our active mailing files as per request of the respected families...

COL. BUDD J. PEASLEE...Col. Budd, as we affectionately knew him passed away in April, 1983. He was 80. Col. Budd was a native of Salinas, California. He died while in the Silas B. Hays Army Hospital at Fort Ord following a brief illness.

It isn't possible to cover the long interesting career of this remarkable man who was the First Commanding Officer of the 384th Bomb Group in such a brief amount of space. However we can summarize his career from the fly leaf cover of "Heritage of Valor," his book about the 8th Air Force in World War II, a book about us...

Col. Budd J. Peaslee...was born in upper New York State and grew up in California's Salinas Valley. He attended the Salinas schools at the same time as John Steinbeck, who was a very close friend. He studied at the University of Nevada, enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a Flying Cadet and received his regular commission in 1928. He flew with the Roosevelt Flying Service carrying the New York Times to Montreal, with the 18th and 8th Pursuit Groups and the Army Air Mail Service before he was assigned, in 1940, to command the first bomber squadron to Alaska. During the early days of the war, he served with the Fourth Bomber Command, charged with the air defenses of the West Coast, and later he was reassigned to the Second Air Force and the training of the combat bomber crews.

Col. Budd loved the 384th Bomb Group. He never missed a Reunion and attended them with his wife Evelyn until she passed away. He was also with us in England when we dedicated the Memorial Monument in Grafton Underwood.

The Group will miss Col. Budd J. Peaslee. He was an inspiration to all of us. We feel it only proper and fitting to write the following which is from his book "Heritage of Valor"...

"The tumult and the shouting have died away. The B-17s and B-24s will never again assemble into strike formation in the bitter cold of the embattled skies. Never again will the musical thunder of their passage cause the very earth to tremble, the source of sound lost in infinity and seeming to emanate from all things, visible and invisible. The great deep throated engines are forever silent, replaced by the flat, toneless roar of the jets and the rockets. But, on bleak and loney winter nights, ghost squadrons tale off silently in the swirling mist of the North Sea from the ancient week-choked runways and wing away towards the east, never to return. On other nights the deserted woodlands ring with unheard laughter and gay voices of young men and women who once passed that way. Recollections of all these fade a little with each passing year until at last there will finally remain only the indelible records of the all-seeing Master of the Universe to recall the deeds of valor excelled by no other nation, arm, or service. These sacred scrolls will forever remain the heritage of the free and untrampled people of this earth"...
Col. Budd J. Peaslee



On January 1, 1943, he began training the 384th Bombardment Group, accompanied them to England in June 1943, and for the next twenty months was engaged with them in Combat. He participated in 37 air battles as task force commander and formation leader. His war decorations include the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Croix de Guerre, three Distinguished Flying Crosses, five Air Medals, service and campaign medals and a Presidential Distinguished Citation.

Col. Budd organized the first Air Force scouting force, flying unarmed P-51 Mustangs ahead of the bomber strike force to scout weather conditions and bombing targets in Europe. He founded the screening force that dropped aluminum chaff ahead of the bombers to counteract Nazi radar. He was Air Commander of "Black Thursday," the Schweinfurt raid that has been acknowledged as one of the great air battles in history.

After the War, Col. Peaslee headed the Air Force weather program in Washington, DC...was senior air instructor for the California National Guard and served tours of duty in the Philippines and Formosa. He retired in 1953 after 28 years of service.

Arthur Blohm (CA) who was a high school friend of Col. Budd's said..."Col. Budd was a respected citizen in this area of Salinas, California. He had an enviable military record and career. He kept the 'Show on the Road' to his final days"... (Art is a 384ther)

REUNION NEWS... The next Reunion of the 384th Bomb Group will be held in San Antonio, Texas during October 10-14, 1984. Our headquarters will be the Marriott Hotel. So start your planning now. Details will be sent out later in the year...see you all there...



OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER... An article written by Maj. Gen. Dale O. Smith will be presented. Gen. Smith was our Third Group Commander. He will tell of the status of the 384th Bomb Group at the time of his arrival and how under his command we became one of the top performing Bomb Groups in the U.S. 8th Air Force. He also tells how under his command, the Group received two Distinguished Unit Citations...among them being the famous Oberpfaffenhofen raid...

We will also present a listing of all 384thers and friends who contributed so generously to make the Stained Glass Window possible.

There will also be our usual articles and mail call which we could not carry this issue because of space limitations. There will also be more info on the next Reunion...so until then "Keep the Show on the Road"...

