



544th



545th



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547th

384th BOMB GROUP INC.

EIGHTH AIR FORCE

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"DECEMBER NEW'S LETTER" 1998

First I want to wish every one a **HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON...**and that we all stay in Good Health for the coming year..

This is the end of the year New's Letter, which is sent every year with a due's return envelope..For your due's are now due for 1999..Our due's run from 1st of January to the 31st of December

Please send it in early ..for it makes book keeping a lot easier and we have so many other things to keep us busy...

ON TRIP TO ENGLAND:

As you know from the last new's letter, a flyer went out to all, to see if their were any interest to make one last Junket to England while we still had our health to do same.(like a last Harrah)

The response was an over all approval for a trip to England (3 to 1 infavor of same)..So we are putting it all together..We have contacted a Hotel in England for room's..

Lloyd Whitlow has been over to England and with Quentin Bland has been looking at Hotel's and other arraignments for **JUNKET #9....** As you all know Lloyd will do a good job and pick the right Hotel at the best price for us all:

All information and priceing will be coming to you in the next regular New's Letter..included in this trip will be a visit to Duxford American Air Museum..where they are planning a air show..all the dignitaries will be there..384th will be there too..arrangements are being made for same..

HOW WE GOT THE "P" ON OUR TAIL:

The thirty-six aircraft of the 384th Bomb Group were assigned to USAAF Station 106 near the Village of Grafton-Underwood England..and arrived there in the summer of 1943..The tail of each of the unit's B-17 aircraft was emblazoned with the "Triangle P" insignia, that letter chosen to honor the first 384th commander.. Colonel Budd J. Peaslee..They flew their first combat mission as a group on 22nd June 1943

The above from Mike Mazer:



A church in backwater Britain

During World War II, Grafton-Underwood, a small village in the English Midlands, was home to the U.S. 384th Bombardment Group.

Our base was located on land belonging to the Duke of Buccleuch, a peer who had close ties to the royal family. He also had close ties to the German aristocracy and, in the late '30s, had openly admired the accomplishments of Adolph Hitler. But that is another story.

When the war ended and the Yanks left, the base returned to the duke's estate, and the village resumed its sleepy prewar existence. The only signs of our ever having been there were the remains of a runway and a few crumbling buildings, marks repeated all through that part of England where once had been assembled the largest air force in history.

UNIQUE bonds, however, were formed between the American airmen and the British during World War II. In London's Grosvenor Square, there is a handsome monument to the Eagle Squadron, that band of American pilots who,



T. R. Milton

unable to wait for the United States to respond to Hitler, joined the R.A.F. and made a historic contribution to the Battle of Britain.

In the northern Midlands, there are other commemorations of the years when we were in England. The beautiful American cemetery near Cambridge is perhaps the most moving of these, but there are others, if simpler, memorials.

In Grafton-Underwood, for instance, the aging veterans of the 384th commissioned a small monument in remembrance of our presence there. A more ambitious memorial took the form of a stained glass window in the ancient village church. The window depicts a descending B-17 and bears the inscription, "Com-

ing Home." The residents of the Northamptonshire backwater have been visibly touched by this long-lasting friendship and extend a warm welcome to any old survivor of the 384th who happens by.

A FEW months ago, the Church of England decided in the interests of economy to close the vicarage at Grafton-Underwood. The thought of abandoning the stained glass window and the memories it guards to dusty oblivion was too much for the old warriors. They convinced the hierarchy not only to postpone closing the church but to repair it and keep it open, providing the Americans raised a portion of the necessary funds. It is a foregone conclusion that they will.

Whether it makes any sense to try to preserve a sparsely attended chapel in the far-off English village is beside the point.

It made no real sense to expend all that money and effort to save the two grey whales, but somehow, we were better off for having done so.

T.R. Milton is a retired Air Force general who lives in Colorado Springs.

"Good Humor" ★

LEMON SQUEEZER

The local bar was so sure that its bartender was the strongest man around that they offered a standing \$1,000 bet. The bartender would squeeze a lemon until all the juice ran into a glass and hand the lemon to a patron. Anyone who could squeeze one more drop of juice out would win the money. Many people had tried over time (weightlifters, etc.) but nobody could do it. One day this scrawny little man came in wearing thick glasses and a polyester suit, and said in a tiny, squeaky voice, "I'd like to try the bet."

After the laughter had died down the bartender said OK, grabbed a lemon and squeezed away. Then he handed the wrinkled remains of the rind to the little man. But the crowd's laughter turned to total silence as the man clenched his fist around the lemon and six drops fell into the glass. As the crowd cheered, the bartender paid the \$1,000 and asked the little man, "What do you do for a living? Are you a lumberjack, a weightlifter, or what?"

The man replied, "I work for the IRS."

courtesy of Oregon Chapter's FLIGHT LINE



We wish you a
Joyful Holiday Season
and a
Prosperous New Year



The Historical Society Memorial Chapel Fund

We are nearing our goal to build the Memorial Chapel at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum in Savannah. Construction of the Chapel can begin when the Historical Society reaches its goal of \$300,000 and we are getting close. It will take all of us to make the Memorial Chapel a reality.

This edifice will be a very special location for memorials and remembrances to those who did not return from war and for others who have gone before. The Memorial Chapel will be a most special addition to our permanent home for the Eighth. It will stand in the northern portion of the Memorial Gardens of the Heritage Museum and will feature many special tributes, landscaping, and features to honor those who served in the 8th Air Force.

The time is now to complete the funding for this special Historical Society project so that chapel construction may begin this summer. All funds donated to construct the memorial chapel are being held in a special Historical

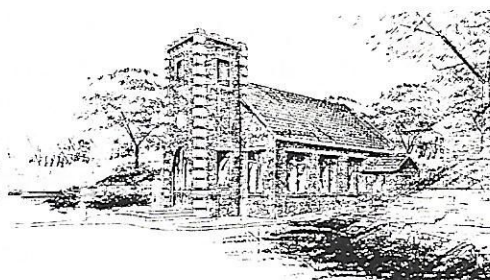
Society account to be used specifically for the completion of the building. Donations are considered to be charitable deductions for records purposes.

All those who contribute an amount to the Historical Society Chapel Memorial Fund Drive will be recorded in a special donor book to be placed on permanent display in the

To date, we have received
\$238,000
on the way to our
goal of \$300,000!

sanctuary. This volume will be presented during the opening dedication ceremony of the chapel.

Be one of those included and send your donation in to meet our fund drive goal. If we all take part, together we can make the 8th AF Historical Society Memorial Chapel a reality.



As you all know we of the 384th Bomb Group are in line to put a stain glass window in this Chapel.(Same as we have in England and Hill Air Force Heritage Chapel) ...We are also putting a 384th Memorial Monument at Hill Air Force Heritage Museum(Same as the one in the Memorial Gardens at the Heritage Museum in Savannah GA..and the one we have in England) we have most of the money for both projects, but we are cutting it very close...it will make supporting our trips,(England) and future reunion's very tight.(advances for Hotel Deposit..bus's,Duxford etc)

The stain Glass window will still cost us (At least this is what the 8th Air Force Histical Museum Wants) \$25,000;..I am asking all who can,please send a donation to help with same..it is tax deductable and it sure would help our 384th Bomb Group..I will list all who donated in our New's Letter,...So-please help if you can..

DECEASED MEMBER:

Since our last New's Letter;
Edward J. O'Leary of Lakeworth, Florida

++++ IN ENGLAND++++



IN ENGLAND++++++



"THIS IS OUR CHAPEL"

The Original Hill Field Chapel

Overlooking the northwest entrance to Hill Air Force Base, the original base Chapel building is the centerpiece of Hill Aerospace Museum's Memorial Park. This beautiful Chapel and surrounding park are dedicated to the memory of the men and women of the United States military who served our country in war and in peacetime, at Hill Air Force Base and elsewhere around the world.

The Chapel was originally built in late 1942, renovated in 1945 following a major fire, and again remodeled in 1948. It was replaced by a new base Chapel in 1964, but continued to serve as an education building and additional office space until it was declared excess and scheduled for demolition in 1984. Rather than see the old Chapel destroyed, the Air Force Heritage Foundation of Utah agreed to fund the relocation of the Chapel to the museum grounds and to restore the structure back to its World War II configuration and appearance. When the renovated Chapel was rededicated in 1989 it became a permanent part of the museum's Memorial Park.

Today the Chapel houses the 384th Bomb Group Memorial Stained Glass Window, an exact duplicate of a memorial stained glass window donated by the 384th Bomb Group to the Parish Church of St. James the Apostle in the village of Grafton Underwood, near Kettering, England. (Hill Field was the parent base of Wendover Army Air Field in western Utah, where the 384th trained in 1943 in Boeing B-17 Flying Fortresses for action in Europe in World War II. Grafton Underwood was near USAAF Station 106, home base of the 384th in the European theater of operations during the war.) The Chapel belfry also contains an inscribed bronze bell, an exact duplicate of which hangs in the Parish Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul in Kettering, England. Both bells were donated to their respective sanctuaries by the 384th Bomb Group, Inc. The Air Force Heritage Foundation of Utah also maintains commemorative plaques, located on the ends and tops of the Chapel's pews, as permanent memorials to individuals, groups, or organizations.

Today the original Hill Field Chapel stands majestically on the museum grounds, retired from "active duty" as a religious facility, but still serving proudly. The building is open to museum visitors for tours, and to base personnel for weddings, meetings, social functions, and other special ceremonies. The museum's *Plane Talk* lectures are sometimes presented in the Chapel sanctuary and certain official base functions are periodically held there.

"WE WILL ADD TO THE ABOVE WITH OUR MEMORIAL MONUMENT"

"LET'S KEEP THE SHOW ON THE ROAD"