



384th BOMB GROUP INC.

650 Snug Harbor Drive
Apt. G-402
Boynton Beach, Florida 33435

NOVEMBER 05

OUR LAST HURRAH MEMORIAL JUNKET X



Our recent trip back to England was a huge success and enjoyed by all who attended. There were a total of 73 who traveled from the States to attend this momentous gathering, in addition to our good English and Belgian friends. The numbers speak volumes about the camaraderie that has been solidified over the years and is still growing with each gathering. We had a couple of first timers and they were extremely pleased with the friendships and interaction they found in the Group.

Thursday, 8 Sept. was check-in and the electricity in the lobby seemed to increase with every arrival. Old friends and new were met with such warm and ecstatic greetings from all the early arrivals. Everyone knew at that time that this was going to be another great reunion . . . and it was, it really was!

Friday began with the Board meeting at 9:00 during which the site of the next reunion was decided. Unanimously, Washington,

DC was selected for many reasons, but mostly because of the WW II Memorial that many had expressed a desire to see. The date has not been decided, but the Air Force Memorial will be dedicated in Oct., so that may be the right time to be there. During the Board meeting Bill Harvey and Don Thompson interviewed live on a local radio station, providing their experiences from more than 60 years ago.

Friday evening was our first outing to Frankie & Benny's Restaurant for a sampling of their Italian cuisine and local beers and wines. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and we all (well perhaps not Quentin) laughed about getting "chips" instead of pasta with our main courses.

Saturday began for most of us with another sampling of the fine breakfast lay-out the hotel provided and another chance to chat and exchange stories with each other. There were plenty of choices for both eating and people to share memories with before departing for Duxford. Don and Irene Thompson were responsible for head counts on the trip and did a magnificent job of making sure that all were

(Continued on page 2)

*Please Consider The 384th In Your Will
(A Pittance Of Course) So We Can Keep Up Our Good Work!!*



544th



545th



546th



547th

Saturday began for most of us with another sampling of the fine breakfast lay-out the hotel provided and another chance to chat and exchange stories with each other. There were plenty of choices for both eating and people to share memories with before departing for Duxford. Don and Irene Thompson were responsible for head counts on the trip and did a magnificent job of making sure that all were accounted for. We only left two people behind at Duxford, but they both were at the banquet, so all was well.

Duxford was fabulous, even with the low ceiling and sporadic



English drizzle. Several of our guys were interviewed at the media tent on the airfield while some headed for the American Airpower Museum at the far end of the airfield. While in the AAM, of course the key display was the B-17 *Mary Alice* and some media photographers requested that we gather all our veterans for a photo. Being the gracious guys they are, our heroes invited Captains Hines and Swanson, current USAF from RAF Lakenheath, to join in for the



photo session. They were more than just media cameras flashing and clicking. Carol Alfer overheard an English lady speaking on her cell phone say, "I've got to go now, I have to take pictures of the Americans!" There must have been a dozen or more cameras taking in the spectacle that was the 384th Bomb Group in front a very well-preserved B17. . . . the guys were rather well preserved themselves.

The airshow followed the session in the AAM and the weather still had not improved, but those courageous (and lucky) pilots flew

a low show that was superb to say the least. They flew everything from P-51s, to L-39s, to an F-86, to Spitfires, to Hurricanes and the Rapide, but the queen of the show was *Sally B*, which had starred in the movie *Memphis Belle* and still had her starboard side painted as that famous B-17. As *Sally B* taxied by, one could sense the profound silence among the crowd, just so everyone there could hear every cylinder of all four engines as she glided past. The take-off and all the flybys she performed were exactly what we had been waiting for and we were definitely not disappointed. That throaty, but mellow sound is something that just becomes part of our hearts and we were so grateful that she flew that afternoon.

The nearly maximum capacity banquet was that evening in the hotel ballroom. Among our guests were 8 current day USAF officers, their wives, and a Chief from the 48th Fighter Wing and RAF Lakenheath. Among them were Col. Kent Laughbaum, Ops Gp commander and flight lead for the F-15E flyby the next day at Grafton Underwood, Capt. Bob Hines, who organized the flyby, and our own third generation was represented by 1 Lt. Emily Alfter. Lloyd Whitlow presented a 384th plaque and a print of *The Fightin' Hebe* to Col. Laughbaum for the 48th's support of our memorial on Sunday. Col. Laughbaum presented the group with an American flag that had been flown in an F-15E over Grafton Underwood on 8 September. The meal was most excellent and the camaraderie was so exceptional that they were rolling tables out the door and we were still in the ballroom not wanting to say goodnight.

Assembly and departure were as briefed and we were underway to Grafton Underwood at 0915 hours on Sunday. The coach took us to St. James first for a very warm reception and services by Vicar Daniel Foote. Bill Harvey read Eulogies for Barbara Bland and Annie Bagshaw who were both so involved with the Group in many ways including placing flowers at our monument. Roy Snyder read the eulogy for Howard Kaessner that moved all of us, and Don Thompson joined Vicar Foote in readings during the solemn service for the Group. This gathering at the Village church was filled with renewed friendships and lots of conversation before and after the services. The bus then departed for lunch in Corby and we got to see some of the airfield and lovely English countryside on the way.

Following the lengthy lunch, the bus returned us all to the Monument at the airfield for ceremonies that began at 3:30. Crowds of local citizens and interested people met us at the monument. The ceremonies went rather well and were supported by the British Legion of Desborough and the Hoor Guard from RAF Lakenheath. The American and British national anthems were recited by all followed by prayers and words before wreath laying by several individuals and organizations. The solemnity of the occasion cannot be oversatated and just when all of our hearts were in sync, there was the sound of the jet fighters overhead that could not be seen, but the effect was tremendous. Col. Laughbaum brought his fighters over the monument on time, but had to be saddened to not be able to descend below the extremely low cloud deck. The result was that almost to a person, it was very much like what our guys flew through to form up above the clouds before heading to Festung Europa with their lethal loads. In fact, Bill Wilkens said that the flyby put a lump in his throat. So, our deepest gratitude goes to the men and women of the 48th FW who made it possible to fly the mission as briefed that afternoon.

When the crowds thinned and the "troops" were back on the coach, a short tour of the airfield was provided, and then a stop at the Geddington pub, the "The Olde Three Cocks" for complimentary drinks was next. This was a famous Pub our members visited many times during their stay at Grafton and has a lot of history and memories for our members. A few years ago, when Fritz Nowosad was the Sec/Treasurer, we made a surprise visit to the Pub as Fritz had spent many an evening there. Fritz was kept on the coach until everyone had entered, and then was brought in. They had hung a banner say-

(Continued on page 3)

ing "Welcome Home Fritz"; he was very emotional and touched by this. As we headed back to the Marriott in Huntington, it was obvious to all that this had been a very memorable day and one not to be soon forgotten.

Monday morning saw everyone boarding the coach under the watchful eyes of Don and Irene again, as we departed for Madingly American Cemetery near Cambridge. This is a very beautiful, well maintained cemetery where some thirty of our own 384th members are interred. Don Thompson led us in prayer at the mausoleum, with Bill Harvey reading the 23rd Psalm, and Isabelle Engels providing a memorial she wrote to our departed heroes. Most of us had the privilege of placing a sprig of spruce and poppy at each 384th grave, which had been conveniently marked with American and British flags beforehand. The weather this day was absolutely brilliant and enhanced the appearance of this beautiful resting place for our fallen American soldiers, sailors and airmen.

The bus then took us to a wonderful lunch at Cambridge where we had time to relax and reflect on the previous events of this well-organized and executed reunion of 384th members and their families and friends. It was peaceful and warm that afternoon, unlike so very many days when our heroes suited up so early in the morning, climbed into their Fortresses, flew through cloud and fog to form the greatest armadas the world has ever seen, faced the fire and steel of the enemy over Europe, and returned shot up and barely flying only to have to use their superb airmanship skills to bring her home with as many men intact as possible. This was how it was 60-some years ago when the 384th Kept the Show on the Road.

The farewell dinner at the hotel Monday evening was the last gathering on the agenda for this Junket. Although no speeches were made, there were copious amounts of warm conversation and good English food and drinks to be had. It was an evening most of us wished could last days and not hours because we were so thrilled to see everyone again and just didn't want it to end with all of us going our separate ways again.

Tuesday morning saw many of us at breakfast, trying one last time to enjoy as much camaraderie as we could before everyone departed and everything fell silent at the Hotel. Most did not want to say good-bye, because it's really not a good-bye, but rather until we meet again. The 384th Bomb Group departed the English countryside once again... "as briefed."

Frank Alfter
24 Sept 05



A MONUMENT

*It was a moonlight summers evening
As I drove up the country lane
I stopped the car and listened for I heard an aeroplane.
It seemed the noise was coming from the flat land on my
right,
Then more engines started revving and ther were voices
i the night.
Suddenly in the moonlight it was almost as bright as
day,
I could see lined up the bombers as if they were on
display.
There was gangs of American airman doing what they
had to do,
And trucks bustling up the runway to fill the planes with
their crew.
Then each one roared down the runway and took off
into the night,
As I stood there the ground shook beneath me, it was a
magnificent sight.
I could sense their comradeship feeling as I stood there
transfixed all alone,
It was then I suddenly noticed a monumental stone.
I sorted out my flashlight to read what was inscribed,
It read this was an American airbase and from here
many brave men flew and died.
Then like a shadowy curtain the whole scene had faded
and gone.
And felt a deep sort of sadness as I drove home that
night all alone.
I feel that this strange encounter was meant for me that
night,
And I know those brave men are still out there, although
they are out of our sight.
So if your out in the country and see these monuments
tall,
Think of those brave young airmen for us they have
given their all.*

GR Fox 1988 NN14 3AH England

FROM OUR ENGLISH FRIENDS

Tony Blair and Prince Charles



KENSINGTON PALACE
LONDON W8 4PU
TEL 020-7937 6374 FAX 020-7376 0699

In this year, the 60th anniversary of the end of world war Two, I am pleased to have the opportunity to pay tribute to the veterans of the 384th Bombardment Group (H) who operated from Grafton air base during the War.

The contribution to the Allied war effort made by the 8th US Army Air Force - the Mighty Eighth - was considerable. Most of the airfields, including Grafton, have long since been handed over for other uses but the lasting legacy of these bases and the brave Americans who operated them lives on. Grafton Airfield, in particular, has a special place in the history of the 8th US Army Air Force as being the airfield from which US 8th Army Air Force Flying Fortresses flew their first and last bombing missions over occupied Europe.

The Flying Fortresses of the 384th Bombardment Group (H) flew over 9,000 sorties during their two years at Grafton. Their honours included two Divisional Unit Citations for Heroism and Dedication to Duty against Extreme Odds; and over 1,000 personnel received the Distinguished Flying Cross.

However, this heroism came at a price with nearly 1,600 Grafton Airfield personnel losing their lives, a significant part of the 40,000 American airmen who gave their lives in the final defeat of the Axis powers; fighting not just to defend their own homeland but to protect the values of freedom and democracy, and to help liberate Europe. Without this sacrifice, Western Europe would not have been liberated and the free, democratic societies that so many of us take for granted today may never have taken root.

On behalf of the British people I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude for their contribution and for the ultimate sacrifice made by so many. May their sacrifice never be forgotten.

Tony Blair
June 2005



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

KENSINGTON PALACE
LONDON

My late mother who died last year at the age of 102 was very much aware of the presence of the 384th Bombe Group at Grafton during the war, not only because it became a neighbour to her childhood home at Boughton, but also because the base at Polebrook was next door to our home at Barnwell.

The comfort of finding the support of all of you thousands of young men equipped with your splendred aeroplanes to help us in the dark times was immeasurable. But witnessing the reality of these modern warriors commuting after breakfast for the Battle in the hope that they would be the lucky ones returning in time for dinner and trying to forget the horror in between. All this revealed to her what a huge sacrifice was made by those who came such a long distance to help us and make us all more aware of our common ambitions rather than the differences of nationality that became irrelevant.

I hope the anniversary of this event is sufficiently acknowledged by the beneficiaries of your activities.



CHURCH IN ENGLAND

MATTINGLY AMERICAN CEMETARY



Carol Alfter



Bill Harvey



Mattingly Cemetery American



Gene Goodrick & Daughter, Christy Lehenbauer



Wall of Missing Men at Mattingly Cemetery



Frank Alfter

At Grafton Underwood Chapel



Don Thompson & Rev. Foote



384th Members at Church Service



384th Members at Church Service



Church in Grafton Underwood



Ted & Rev. Foote



*Stained Glass Window at Chapel
in Grafton Underwood England 384 Base*

DEDICATION AT 384TH MEMORIAL, GRAFTON UNDERWOOD



Quentin Bland & Flag Ceremony



Dave Lustin, Gene Goodrick, Don Thompson, Ted Rothschild, Bill Harvey at the Monument



The invisible Fly-by - 384th Memorial Wreath Laying



The Monument

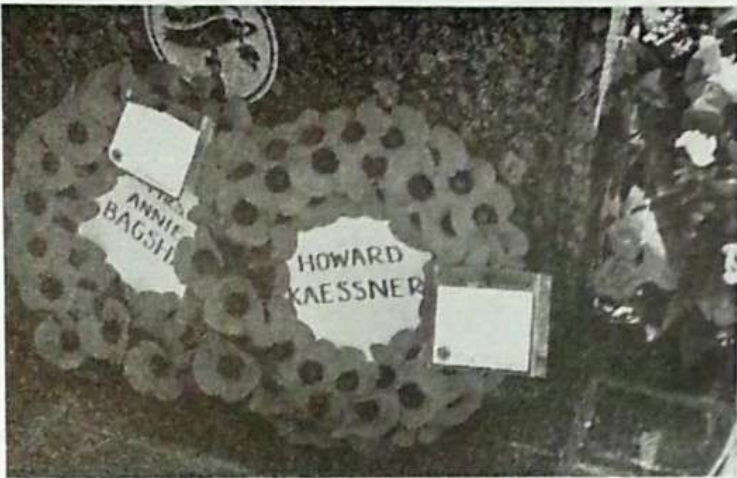


Quentin and the Mayor



Victor Daniel Foote at the Memorial in Grafton

GRAFTON UNDERWOOD MEMORIAL



Wreaths for Annie Bagshaw & Howard Kaessner



Memorial at Grafton



Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony



David Lustig, Gene Goodrick with Flat at Memorial



Dave Lustig, Gene Goodrick at Memorial



Don Thompson - Wreath's at Memorial in Grafton Underwood, Eng.

MEMBERS AT FUNCTIONS



Enjoying Some Comaraderie



384th Together



Enjoying Some Comaraderie



Cocktail Party



*William Wilkens, Jack Goetz, Fred Preller,
Quentin Bland & other 384th Members*



*384th Members at Dinner in Italian
Restaurant*

MEMBERS AT FUNCTIONS



Betty & Bill Harvey, Dick Cruishanck



Bill Harvey & Ed Ledbetter



Margaret Cruishank, Lloyd & Donna Whitlow



*Lloyd Whitlow, Pres.,
Quentin Bland, Historian*



*Don & Irene Thompson, Standing
Spence & Kay Porter, Seated*



*Meehl Brothers Having
Group Attention*

MEMBERS AT FUNCTIONS



Group at Dinner



More of our 384th Members



Carlton Phillips, Beverly Ledbetter, Gladys Phillips, Hedy Lustig, Stella Snyder



Quentin Bland, William Silkens, Fred Preller



Margaret Rothschild, Margaret Cruischank, Dick Cruickshank, Lloyd & Donna Whitlow



Audrey & Warren Tessmer, Beverly Ledbetter

MEMBERS AT FUNCTIONS



Lloyd, Nancy Braines, Quentin



Frank, Emily, Carol Alfter



Joseph Zink, Don Thompson



Frank, Quentin, Carol



Donald & Dolly Brooks, Don Thompson & Rene, Spencer Porter

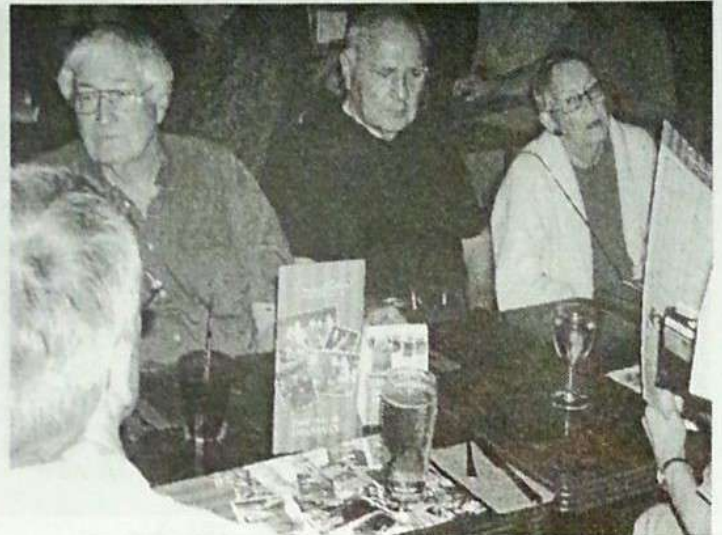


Jean Guilmet, Linda & Vic Fayers-Hallin

MEMBERS AT FUNCTIONS



Jean Guilmet, Audrey Tessmer & Warren



Ledbetter, Roy Snyder & Stella



G'ene Goldrick at Church



Harry & Robert Swift, W. Davidson, Linda Rawley, Vern Arnold



Gladys Phillips, Sherry Wheeler, Col. Frink, Carlton Phillips



Gladys Phillips, Ted & Margaret, Carlton Phillips

GET TOGETHER'S AT "LAST HURRAH"



384th Members at Ducford Museum



Betty & Bill Harvey, Dick Cruickshank



384th Members at Memorial



384th Members



*Betty & Bill Harvey - 61st Anniversary
Opening Champagne on Bus*



384th Members & B17 at Ducford

SOME MORE MEMORIES



*Village of Grafton Underwood, England
Sept. 2005 No change in 60 Years*



Capt. Bob Hines & Lloyd



*Gladys Phillips, Ted & Margaret Rothschild,
Carlton Phillips, Col. Frink & Sherry*



Street scene in Grafton Underwood, Eng.



Lt. Emily & Carol Alfter



Gene Goodrick & Daughter Christy

"THE LAST HURRAH"



Gene Goodrick



384th at Memorial in Grafton



Col. Horace Frink



Ted & Margaret Rothschild



Chapel at American Cemetery-Cambridge



384th Members

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

MEMORIAL JUNKET X

OUR LAST HURRAH



*Quentin Bland, Lloyd Whitlow,
Ted Rothschild*

Memorial Junket X is now History. Those that attended all agreed that the Junket was a huge success. This is reflected in Frank Alfter's Journal covering Memorial Junket X, that is included in this Newsletter.

We want to thank those people that help to make the Junket such a success. Especially Quentin Bland, his hard work and the arrangements he made were what made the Junket such a success. Don and Irene Thompson for doing such a wonderful in making sure everyone was o the coach. Frank Alfter for his work with the Air Force in making the arrangements for the Honor Guard, F-15 Flight, and making sure their members attended our Banquet on Saturday. Bill Harvey for his eulogy on Barbara Bland and Annie Bagshaw. Roy Snyder for his eulogy for Howard Kaessner. We also want to thank those members that took part in the Sunday Wreath Laying Ceremony. On Monday those that held the Service and the members that placed flowers on the Grave Sites of the 384th Men, at the American Cemetery in Madingly near Cambridge.

There was a very small group of people that attended, just one 73 passenger coach load. We hope that for the next Reunion in 2006 the attendance is much larger. The Site is much

easier and much cheaper to get to than England.

At the Membership Business Meeting the Site for the Reunion in 2006 was voted on. The City that won the vote was: Washington, D.C. As you can see it is much easier to get to!!

In the very near future we will make a trip to Washington take care of the Hotel and other arrangements for the Reunion. As we have done for our past Reunions, the dates will be after school starts, late September or early October. We get much better hotel room rates during this part of the year.

We have some excellent ideas for the Reunion and the next Newsletter will have complete details covering the reunion, the Hotel, Program, Tours, and other Activities. The Newsletter will be mailed during the early part of 2006.

SO! Start saving your money and plan to attend the 384th Bomb Group Reunion for 2006 in Washington, D.C. This will NOT be a "Last Hurrah."

Lloyd W. Whitlow, President

MEMORIAL JUNKET X

VETERANS AND OTHERS THAT ATTENDED

VETERANS & WIVES

Lloyd & Donna Whitlow
 Ted & Margaret Rothschild
 Bill & Betty Harvey
 Donald & Irene Thompson
 Wallace Davidson
 Warren & Audrey Tessmer
 Jack & Celia Goetz
 Donald & Dolly Brooks
 Roy & Stella Snyder
 Carlton & Gladys Phillips
 David & Hedwig Lastig
 Spencer & Kathleen Porter
 Edwin & Beverly Ledbetter
 Lambert Muller-Thym
 Harry Swift
 Vern Arnold
 Horace Frink
 Gene Goodrick
 Joseph Zink
 Gerald Johnson
 William Wilkens
 Dick & Margaret Bruickshank
 (Veteran 90th Bomb Group)

HONORARY MEMBERS* & GUESTS FROM ENGLAND

Quentin Bland*
 Michael & Nora Gibson*
 Nancy Braines*, Richard & Dennis
 Braines
 Brain & Susan Goodman*
 Matt & Jennie Smith*
 Daniel Foote
 Gerald Helliker
 Vic-Fayers- & Linda Fayers-Hillin
 Isabelle Engels (Belgium)

MILITARY GUESTS

Colonel Kent & Mary Laughbaum
 Lt. Colonel Bo & Christy Bruce
 Maj. Matt & Melissa Kenton
 Maj. Chris & Penny Craige
 Cap. Bob & Kelli Hines
 Capt. Mathew Swanson
 1st. Lt. Steve Truka
 CM/Sgt. David Jans

FAMILY MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Jean Guilmet
 Vickie Huff
 Richard Harvey
 Susan Ray
 Tom & Linda Rowley
 Frank, Carol & Lt. Emily Alfter
 Robert Swift
 Dick Arnold
 Sherry Wheeler
 Billie, Mark, Janet & Jerry Meehl
 Fred Preller
 Christy Lehenhauer
 Michael Hamburg
 Caroline Irizary
 Monte & Mark Johnson

INFORMATION

During World War I, American volunteers from all parts of the country filled the newly formed flying squadrons. Some were wealthy scions attending colleges such as Yale and Harvard who quit in mid-



Bill Wilkens & Quentin show their 384th Coins

term to join the war. In one squadron a wealthy lieutenant ordered medallions struck in solid bronze carrying the squadron emblem for every member of his squadron. He himself carried his medallion in small leather pouch around his neck.

Shortly after acquiring the med-

dallions, the pilot's aircraft was severely damaged by ground fire. He was forced to land behind enemy lines and was immediately captured by a German patrol. In order to discourage his escape, the Germans took all of his personal identification except for the small leather pouch around his neck. In the meantime, he was taken to a small French town near the front. Take advantage of a bombardment that night, he escaped. However, he was without personal identification.

He succeeded in avoiding German patrols and reached the front lines. With great difficulty, he crossed no-man's land. Eventually, he stumbled onto a French outpost. Unfortunately, the French in this sector had been plagued by saboteurs. They sometimes masqueraded as civilians and wore civilian clothes. Not recognizing the young pilot's American accent, the French thought him a saboteur and made ready to execute him. Just in time, he remembered his leather pouch containing the medallion. He showed the medallion to his would-be executioners. His French captors recognized the squadron insignia on the medallion and delayed long enough for him to confirm his identity. Instead of shooting him, they gave him a bottle of wine.

Back at his squadron, it became a tradition to ensure that all members carried their medallion or coin at all times. This was accomplished through a challenge in the following manner: a challenger would ask to see the coin. If the challenged could not produce his coin, he was required to buy a drink of choice for the member who challenged him. If the challenged member produced his coin, the challenging member was required to pay for the drink. This tradition continued throughout the war and for many years after while surviving members of the squadron were still alive. The fighting men and women of the 48th Intelligence Squadron proudly continue this tradition.

TREASURER'S REPORT ON OUR "LAST HURRAH"

I am glad to report we ended up in the black, with our "Last Hurrah" in England. We were able to pay all our bills, which is the main thing. Everyone that made the trip stated, they had a good time. There only was one complaint, which was that everything was so expensive in England. (Gas \$6.00 a gallon).

The reason it seemed so expensive to us, if you had a meal for \$15.00 on the menu, you paid it with 15 pounds, that you had, thinking \$15.00 was the price, but when you convert 15.00 pounds to US Dollar, you paid \$15.00 x 1.80 - you paid \$27.00 US Dollar). So at the end when you paid for your room and what food or drinks you had, it was quite expensive. (But we all had a good time).

One of our members Carlton Phillips and wife Gladys (545th Squad) were with us. At the time we were in England, their son Dr. John L. Phillips retired Navy Officer, is an astronaut on the Russian Space Ship circling the earth with the Russian's expected to return to earth in late October or November.

I am not going to write any more on the reunion, as there are other members who wrote. Their letters are in the newsletter. All I will say - we paid all our bills for the group while we were in England.

See you all in Washington, DC 2006.

I want to thank everyone who sent photo's and contributed to making this newsletter.

Thank ye' all.

Ted Rothschild, Executive V.P.



Dr. John L. Phillips



FROM 48TH FIGHTER WING

GRAFTON UNDERWOOD, United Kingdom - While most Americans around the globe paused Sunday to remember and honor the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, a group of American veterans in the U.K. gathered to commemorate all fallen heroes past and present. The 384th Bomb Group concluded their weekend-long reunion with a memorial service here complete with two RAF.

Lakenheath F-15Es flying over and the 48th Fighter Wing Honor Guard rendering a solemn salute.

Retired Col. Frank Alfter helped coordinate the reunion, in honor of his father who was a tailgunner in the 384th BG and was shown down on the group's 23rd mission into Europe. "This is the last reunion of the 384th, since most of the men are 80 or 90 years old," said Colonel Alfter. "Only 15 of the original veterans are here this weekend. On my dad's crew, only two guys are left."

The colonel's daughter, 1st Lt. Emily Alfter, was recently assigned to the 48th Equipment Maintenance Squadron's fabrication flight at RAF Lakenheath. Lieutenant Alfter, along with Capt. Bob Hines of the 494th Fighter Squadron, laid a memorial wreath from the Liberty Wing in honor of the members of the 384th BG. The 48th FW helped with the planning of the 384th BG reunion, to include the F-15 flyby, said Captain Hines, who was the project officer for the event. "We also worked with the historian in the town of Grafton Underwood, who is also the 384th Bomb Group historian."

The history of the 384th BG dates back to December 1942 when it was activated at Gowen Field, Idaho. According to the 384th BG Website, after a few months of training, the group, along with brand-new B-17 Flying Fortress aircraft, arrived in the U.K. May 25, 1943. The 384th flew its first operational mission a month later, culminating in 314 missions flown, 9,348 sorties launched, 22,415 tons of bombs dropped, and 159 aircraft lost by the end of World War II.

Mr. Harry Swift, a 384th veteran who flew on the very first mission out of Grafton Underwood on June 21, 1943, and was shot down, attended the reunion weekend events. "It's my first time back to England since June 1943," said the Champagne, IL native. "Two other of my crewmembers are here, too. Bill Wilkins - he flew the last mission of the 384th out of here in 1944 and dropped the 1st bomb - he's here this weekend, as well."

Mr. Harry Swift, 384th Bombardment Group veteran, honors a fallen comrade at the 384th BG Memorial Sunday in Grafton Underwood while the 48th Fighter Wing Honor Guard pays tribute. The ceremony was part of a weekend of reunion events for 384th veterans and family members. Mr. Swift flew on the 384th's first combat mission into Europe in June 1943. The plane was shot down on that same mission, but two of his original crewmembers also joined him for the 384th BG reunion last weekend.

384th BG remembers fallen comrades when the war ended, the group helped transport U.S. soldiers back to the states as soon as possible. After being deactivated in 1946, the 384th took on many roles throughout the past

century, including a Reserve unit, an air refueling wing and a bombardment wing, before being inactivated again in 1994.

For retired Col. Carlton Phillips, a bombardier with the 384 BG, the reunion was a pay to pay tribute to his fallen comrades and bring his wife back to visit England. "The trip has gone very well," Colonel Phillips said.

"And the English people are so nice," added the colonel's wife, who also said their son, Mr. John Phillips, has carried on the flying tradition in their family, currently serving as a U.S. astronaut on the international space station.

Reunion events included a tour of the Duxford Imperial War Museum, attending the Battle of Britain 65th Anniversary air show, a bomb group reunion banquet, a Sunday church service, luncheon and closing ceremonies with the memorial service here.

For more information on the 384th BG, visit the organization's Web site at www.384thbombgroup.com <<http://www.384thbombgroup.com>>

THE BIG REUNION

*It's really quite depressing,
How the 384th's valiant ranks have thinned.
With no replacement crews to fill the blanks,
We have a right to feel chagrined.*

*Those of us still hanging on
Have breached three score and ten,
And U.S. statistics make it clear
That's about the limit for mortal men.*

*Of course we could all take issue,
With stats that seems so insane.
For despite aches, pains, and infirmities,
We feel we could do it all again!*

*So let's try to glean some encouragement,
From those who are no longer here.
Fred's guiding hand, Pop's comforting smile,
And Ed and others we hold so dear.*

*They flew their mission as they were briefed,
An example of their can-do attitude.
It made our next step easier to take,
And for that they've won our gratitude.*

*'Til now the path we chose
Was paved by courageous others.
Our next big step will be taken alone,
Without support from our squadron brothers.*

*And yet they've made it easier for us,
To face a course which has no known bending,
For we know they've paved the way one last time,
To the 384th reunion without ending.*

JAPS as of 6/20/05

ALLES, WILLIAM

BAYE, DOUGLAS

CLOFELTER, OTIS

DOLAN, WALTER

GALLOWAY, LEONARD

KAESSNER, HOWARD

ROWLAND, CHARGLES

DES PLAINS, IL

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FL

LILBURN, GA

COOPERSTOWN, NY

LEESBURG, FL

KLAMATH FALLS, OR

GRAPEVIEW, WA.

This newsletter, writing and printing
was delayed by hurricane "WILMA," that hit our area very heavy.

Editor
Ted Rothschild

"Keep the Show on the Road" ...

RETURNSERVICEREQUESTED



384th BOMB GROUP INC.
EIGHTH AIR FORCE
650 Snug Harbor Drive
Apt. G-402
Boynton Beach, Florida 33435

First Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
West Palm Beach, FL
Permit No. 2161

384th BOMB GROUP, INC.
EIGHTH AIR FORCE

HEADQUARTERS MARRIOTT HOTEL
KINGFISHER WAY,
HUNTINGDON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE,
ENGLAND

*Last Visit of
384th*

MEMORIAL JUNKET X
PROGRAM

THURSDAY, SEPT. 8TH

Check In	Marriott Hotel Lobby	All Day
Welcome Cocktail Party	Conference Foyer Bar (Host Bar)	6:00 PM
Briefing	Cambridge Suite	7:00 PM

FRIDAY, SEPT. 9th

Board of Directors Meeting	Conference Room	9:00 AM
Business Meeting	Conference Room	11:00 AM
Assemble	Marriott Hotel Lobby	5:45 PM
Coaches Depart	Marriott Hotel Entrance	6:00 PM
Dinner	Frankie & Benny's	6:30 PM

SATURDAY, SEPT. 10th

Assemble	Marriott Hotel Lobby	9:00 AM
Coaches Depart	Marriott Hotel Entrance	10:00 AM
Tour of Museum	Duxford Air Museum	11:00 AM
Air Show	Duxford Air Museum	2:00 PM
Coaches Depart	Duxford Air Museum	5:10 PM
Cocktail Party	Conference Foyer (No Host Bar)	7:00 PM
Banquet	Brookes Restaurant	8:00 PM

SUNDAY, SEPT. 11th

Assemble	Marriott Hotel Lobby	8:45 AM
Coaches Depart	Marriott Hotel Entrance	9:00 AM
Church Service	Grafton Underwood Church	10:00 AM
Coaches Depart	Grafton Underwood Church	11:30 AM
Lunch	Willow Arts Center	12:00 Noon
Coaches Depart	Willow Arts Center	1:30 PM
Memorial Service	Memorial Monument	2:00 PM
Coaches Depart	Tour of Base	3:30 PM
Coaches Depart	Grafton Underwood	4:30 PM
Evening Open	On Your Own	

MONDAY, SEPT. 12th

Assemble	Marriott Hotel Lobby	9:30 AM
Coaches Depart	Marriott Hotel Entrance	10:00 AM
Service	Medingley America Cemetery	10:45 AM
Lunch	Cambridge Center	12:00 Noon
Coaches Depart	Cambridge Center	1:30 PM
Cocktail Party	Conference Foyer Bar (No Host Bar)	6:00 PM
Gala Farewell Dinner Dance	Cambridge Suite	7:00 PM

TUESDAY, SEPT. 13th

Check Out	Marriott Hotel Lobby	All Day
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Gene Goodrick

Horace Frink

Don Thompson

Ted Rothschild

Bill Harvey

Gerald Johnson

Jack Goetz

Lloyd Whitlow

Bill Wilkens

Harry Swift

Vern Arnold

Warren Tessler

Roy Snyder

Joe Zink