

# 385th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) REUNION NEWSLETTER



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GREAT ASHFIELD RAF STATION 155  
SUFFOLK, ENGLAND. JUNE 1943 - JUNE 1945

Pres: Dr. Vincent Masters      V.P: Frank Marano  
Sec'y: John Ford      Treas: James Cooper

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Editor: John Ford

## 385th FLIGHT TO ENGLAND ALL SET

The England Trip Committee met in August past, drew up an itinerary best suited to our memberships desires, and our Trip Co-ordinator, Leo LeCasse, then submitted the itinerary to several travel agencies for bids. Bidders were given until 15 October to reply. The postcards from members expressing a desire to make the trip, were tallied with the following results: 13 has no preference; 15 requested travel in May; 1 requested June, July or August, while 42 selected September. On the basis of this tally, the period from 5 - 18 September 76 is believed to be the most desirable. The itinerary submitted for bid is:

DAY 1. Depart the USA approximately 2000 hour. Dinner, open bar and movie.

DAY 2. Arrive Heathrow Airport, London, England between 0700-0800 hours. Coaches (Bus) to take group to Ipswich with stop enroute for coffee. Afternoon tour of Bentwaters RAF Station - home of USAF's 81st TFW - or free for remainder of day.

DAY 3. Travel to All Saints Church, Great Ashfield, for Memorial Services and then to former Station 155 for a long look into the past. Luncheon with the Lord Mayor of Stowmarket and afternoon tour of Suffolk County. The evening will be free for dining in small groups or squadrons.

DAY 4. Travel to Cambridge via Bury St. Edmund and Newmarket. Afternoon free in Cambridge for visiting the

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## COL. GEORGE Y. JUMPER ISSUE



This issue of Newsletter is dedicated to Colonel George Y. Jumper, USAF, Ret., the second and last combat Commander of the 385th. Born in Sacramento, Cal., on 2 Nov 13, he later attended the U.S.

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## ENGLAND TRIP (Con'td)

University, Market Place, or for punt-in on the Cam. An evening dinner is planned with members of the "Friends of the Eighth", (FOTE). This is a group of English Aviation Historians who meet quarterly. This will be a great opportunity to meet new English friends and mingle over dinner and drinks while swapping tales of former years.

DAY 5. Visit Cambridge American Memorial Cemetary for services conducted by an Air Force Chaplain. Visit the site and several beautiful, architecturally perfect edificies honoring those KIA or MIA. The land for this Memorial was donated to the American people by the Cambridge University. Coaches will depart after lunch for Stratford-on-Avon. Upon arrival and registration at hotel, the balance of the day is free.

DAY 6. Morning coach tour of Stratford-on-Avon, including visit to Ann Hathaway's Cottage. Afternoon and evening is free. Those who wish can attend the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, or take off on a local pub crawl.

DAY 7. Depart for London via Windsor and Tour of castle. After hotel registration, time is your own. A suggestion has been made to have dinner at the Elizabethan Room, or request that tickets be reserved at a theatre of your choice.

DAY 8. Morning coach tour of London to include the "Changing of the Guard". The conducted tour ends after this and you are free for the next five days to remain in London, or travel as you please.

DAYS 9 THRU 13. For those who do not wish to stay in London, two tours are available at a very low supplemental price per person. Costs and tours will be listed later.

DAY 14. Coached to Heathrow Airport for return flight to the USA. Take-off is estimated at 1100 hour, with USA arrival estimated at 1400 hour.

\*\*\*The cost of the above described tour is approximately \$480 per person. All children, regardless of age, must pay the full fare. This price is forecasted against expected September 76 costs. Only a drastic change in oil prices or currency exchange rates will

cause an adjustment to be made. This is not foreseen at the present time. The price includes an exclusive charter of a TWA aircraft; includes all coach transportation from Day 2 thru Day 8; twelve nights in first class hotels with private bathrooms and twin beds and continental breakfast; taxes and service charges; lunch on Day 3; all entrance fees; Tour Couriers who will accompany the group from Day 2 thru 8; and Tour Wallets containing the Itinerary, Maps, Information Booklets and Baggage tags. It also includes all administrative handling costs. \*\*\*For those not wishing to remain in London, the following special tours are available at a supplemental cost.

### TOUR #1.

Coach trip to Stonehenge, Bath, Bristol, South Wales, the Lake District, Carlisle, Edinburgh, Nottingham, etc. Cost.....\$40 per person.

### TOUR #2.

DAY 9. Coach from London to Dover, (see White Cliffs) channel ferry to Calais, France. Arrive in Paris in late afternoon.

DAY 10. Morning tour of Paris by coach. Afternoon free.

DAY 11. Morning drive to Brussels, Belgium, with afternoon and evening free.

DAY 12. Morning free in Brussels and afternoon drive into Holland. Visit will be made to a cheese farm.

DAY 13. Morning free in Holland. In the afternoon, coaches will return to London via channel ferry. Arrival approximately 2330 hour for night in hotel. This will be a hectic and comprehensive tour, but the tours are the bargain of a lifetime.

Cost of Tour #2.....\$70 per person.

TOUR #1 ALSO SPANS FIVE DAYS.....

## WHOSE WHO?

That's the question everyone asks me when they write about the photographs taken at the last reunion. How about a helping hand? Send me the picture number, identify the persons from left to right, and from front to rear. Later issues of the Newsletter will provide full identification for each photo. By the way, the photographs, in color, are still available.

## JUMPER (Con'td)

Military Academy at West Point, graduating 12 June 1939. He was commissioned in the Cavalry as a 2nd Lt. He then attended flying school and earned his Pilot Wings at Kelly Field in June 1940. On 25 June 1940, he married his wife Anita, at Randolph Field. After holding various assignments in the Training Command's 2nd Air Force, he was assigned as Operations Officer to the 447th Bomb Group, 8AF, at Rattlesden, Suffolk, England. He later was named Executive Officer of the Group. Selected by the Eighth Air Force Hqs to replace Colonel Vandevanter who had finished his missions and was rotating to the 21, Colonel Jumper assumed command of the 385th on 28 August 1944. A battle tested veteran of the air war in Europe, he faced his greatest test in this assignment. It had been Col. "Pete" who had welded us into a tough, battle conditioned unit that had travelled many miles together and only the Lord knows (and new CO's) how groups like that tend to lock out new leaders assuming command. Happily for us, Col. Jumper "did it his way" in a quiet and steadfast manner that soon earned him the time honored Army sobriquet of "The Old Man". He had been accepted. Recently he wrote me and I quote from that letter:

"Although my largest command was a SAC Air Division, my most challenging assignment was as Commanding Officer of the 385th Bomb Group. From a later perspective, I realized that I didn't thoroughly understand all that I was trying to do. But you magnificent troops kept the show on the road gloriously. You were gallant, even valorous, examples of American dedication and esprit de corps which I sometimes fear is passing. Not a week passes that I don't think of all of you, with great pride, and with a deep sense of loss for those who didn't come home. May God be with you, John, and with all those living and dead who served with our truly glorious organization." End of quote.

How often do many of us stop to consider the grave and abiding responsi-

bilities that accompany command? Many of our flying personnel who served under Col. Vandevanter never knew Col. Jumper, while others who served under Col. Jumper never knew Col. Vandevanter!. These two groups never knew what a privilege was denied them. Those of us who were fortunate enough to know them both, will never be the worse for knowing and serving under their command.

Upon return to the 21 in June 1945, Col. Jumper served at the Pentagon, and then served tours with the Special Weapons Command, SAC, 5th AF in Japan, then back with SAC where he commanded several Wings before becoming the Commander of a SAC Air Division. Here his control spanned several Wings, 100 B47 bombers, 44 KC-97 tankers and various administrative type aircraft. He retired from the USAF at Lowry AFB on 31 October 1963. He then joined Aerojet Liquid Rocket Co., Sacramento, Cal., and is now Logistics Manager. The Jumper's have five children; two daughters and three sons. George Jr. (known as Mike) is a Major, while Eric is a Captain - both in the USAF. The youngest boy, Geoffrey, is a Cadet, USAF Academy, Class of 76, who plans to enter flying training upon graduation. Their second child, Anne, is married and has a three year old daughter, while the youngest child, Mary Ellen, resides at home with them at 7357 West Lane, Loomis, Cal., 95650. Thanksgiving or Christmas would be a great time to drop the Jumper's a card!

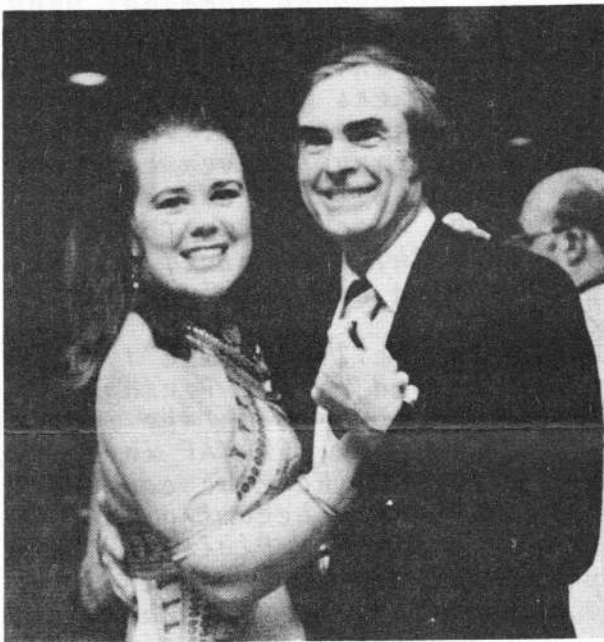
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## LOCATION OF FORMER MEMBERS

Members are urged to utilize local newspapers - daily or weeklies - in trying to locate former members of the 385th Bomb Group. Many editors use such notices as fillers when publishing. So far, our roster contains the names of 486 members, but every day brings new names and addresses sent in by crewmen and buddies.



## OUR NEW PREZ!



Dr. Vincent Masters and Wife Judy.

Vince Masters was one of the first pilots assigned to the 385th Bomb Gp when it was assigned aircraft. When he finished his combat tour with the Hqs and 551st Bomb Squadron in July 1944, he became Commanding Officer, 3rd Air Division Scout Forces. In May 1945, he was assigned as Deputy DC/OPS, 3rd Air Division, 8th Air Force. In July of that year, he was assigned to Bolling Field, Washington, DC, to organize a special Weather Recon unit for General LeMay's 20th Air Force. With the end of hostility, he left the Air Force as a Lt. Colonel and joined TWA in Los Angeles, California. That was in 1945. But the medical profession was calling and Vince left TWA and returned to premedical studies at Los Angeles City College. From September 1946 to June 1953, he studied at Stanford University and Medical School, graduating with AB and MD degrees. From July 1953 until July 1958, he completed Internship, Resident Physician and Special Training requirements. He then entered private practice in Obstetrics and Gynecology. In October 1973, he was appointed Gynecologist, University of Georgia Health Services. In August 1974, he was appointed Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology,

Medical College of Georgia, and in February 1975 he was appointed Director, Division of Gynecology, University of Georgia. In September 1975 he was given an additional appointment as Assistant Professor, School of Pharmacy, University of Georgia. He holds these positions at the present time. He is listed in three "Whose Who" - In the South, In the South and Southwest, and in Community Service. He is also listed in the Directory of International Biography and holds a Diploma from the American Board of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. He is a Fellow in the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and a Fellow in the American College of Surgeons. He is eminently qualified to conceive and give birth to new ideas for the 385th as President of the 1977 Reunion Committee. He is also capable of carving a new niche for himself in the history of our Group.

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## 385th GROUP HISTORY

Upon deactivation of the 385th, a group of Officers decided to use extra Officer/NCO Club Funds to publish a Group history. They sought the names and addresses of former members and mailed the books at a greatly reduced cost. Some members never received copies while others lost theirs in floods and fires. At the last reunion, several members indicated a desire for a reproduction of the book, since the original printing plates had been destroyed. Bill Wilson, who lives in San Angelo, Texas, where the book was originally published, stated he would check the cost of reproduction. Recently, Bill sent a proposal from the printing firm quoting a price for 100 copies, in standard cartons, FOB San Angelo. The price is \$1312. Shipping charges from San Angelo, repackaging each copy, and mailing will bring the price per book to \$18-\$20. Only 27 written requests have been received to date. Only a greater demand, accompanied by a 75% deposit, would justify going to print. Meanwhile, other bids are being sought for reproduction of the book in a cheaper paperback edition. This matter will be taken up at the next meeting of your Reunion Committee.

# NEW OR CHANGED NAMES AND/OR ADDRESSES

Breidenstein, K. R.	3376 Tands, Erland's Pt	Bremerton	WA	98310
Cragoe, Clarence R.	4254 19th St	Minneapolis	MN	55407
Crow, George H.	24 Lake Charles St	Waco	TX	76710
Dykstra, August	Box M	West Bend	IA	50597
Emmons, James	1649 Vin Torita	San Lorenzo	CA	94580
Fickley, Richard	159 Mary Ann Dr	Pittsburgh	PA	15200
Fordyce, Ray B.	874 Hunting Springs Dr	Miami Springs	FL	33166
Goldman, Norman R.	890 Field St	Denver	CO	80215
Gunn, Norman	3031 Rivieria Dr	Kelsey	CA	95451
Hambrook, John C.	601 Mixsell St	Easton	PA	18042
Hunter, Donald	11095 Wrightwood Lane	N. Hollywood	CA	91604
Koerner, John J.	40 Lawrence Ct	Closter	NJ	07624
Lahiff, William	2204 Newton Ave., So.	Minneapolis	MN	55405
Lancaster, O.V.	817 Suddeth Rd	Normal	IL	61761
McGuire, Robert Q.	116 So. West Gamble	Burleson	TX	76028
Marsura, John	2029 W. 16th	Port Angeles	WA	98362
Matuna, Joseph	3366 Mendocino	Santa Rosa	CA	95401
Mazo, Earl	5915 Nebraska Ave., NW	Washington	DC	20015
Morthorst, Harold	727 Milton	Fort Wayne	IN	46806
Norgard, Les	3612 Virginia Ave	Sioux City	IA	51104
O'Hara, John	11 Dorado Pl	Rolling Hills Estate	CA	90717
Percival, James	775 Jersey Ave	Denver	CO	80220
Peeples, Lamar	P.O. Box 403	Eugene	OR	97401
Radin, Norman L.	10812 Larkmead Lane	Patomac	MD	20854
St. John, E. E.	1126 No. Walnut St	Arlington Hts	IL	60004
Smith, Errol	519 Barnes	Alva	OK	73717
Sorrell, Louis	Box 595	Au Sable Forks	NY	12912
Torrence, K.L.	Cascade Ave	Lake Placid	NY	12946
Zavisho, John E.	The Mill Pond	New Canaan	CT	06840
Zombek, Walter	89-36 88th St	Woodhaven	NY	11421
Zorn, Howard	5720 Dayview Dr	Ft. Lauderdale	FL	33308

## POW HISTORY

Anyone who has ever researched the Archives of USAAF history at the Air University will understand the scarcity of information about individual WW II Groups. Among the information very difficult to attain, is a group history of POW's and Internees. Several 385th members have written me about gathering and compiling such information about 385th members who fall into this category. To accomplish this, the following information will be required: Individual's name, squadron, grade or rank, crew position, the aircraft name or tail number, the pilot's name, the date, time and mission, area where aircraft was shot down or involved in an air accident, what occurred immediately after the incident (such as bail out, blown out), or

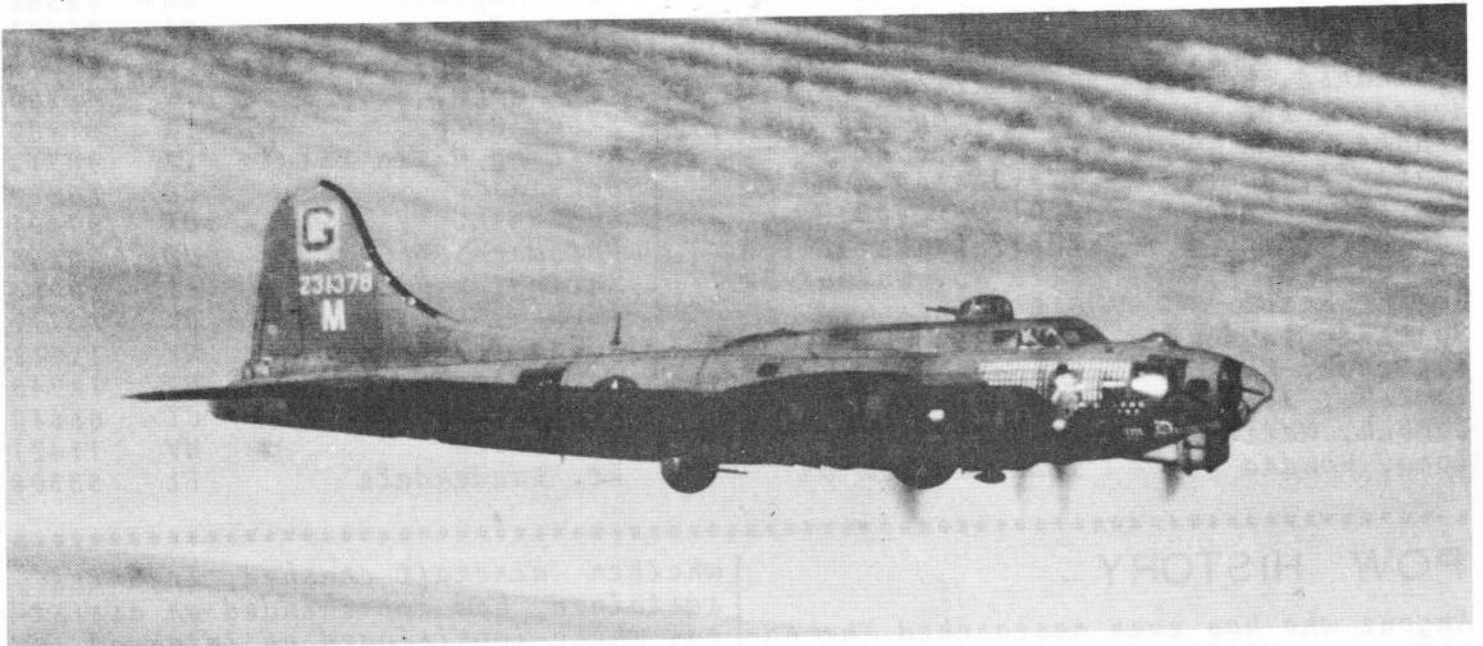
whether aircraft crashed, injuries sustained, how apprehended or assisted, where imprisoned or interned, escape information or how released, and any other interesting details they might recall. No information should be given that is felt to be classified. Accompany each outline with a then and present picture of yourself, if possible. The pictures will be copied and the originals will be returned to the individual. Your editor will undertake a compilation of the stories and have them published in booklet form for sale to all 385th members, adding to our historical knowledge of group events. Proceeds will go to the Reunion Group Treasury for defraying Newsletter printing and mailing costs. The booklet will be copyrighted and any use for other authors will require individuals personal authorization.

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

Our reunion committees have never asked for membership dues because your dues were earned by service. We have asked for contributions to the mailing and printing fund, but only on a volunteer basis if one could afford it. Since the last reunion, we tried to send complete follow-up information on actions taken at the convention and new planned actions. The cost of the last mailing that included pictures from the reunion, was \$300.47 plus and we have since received 23 donations totaling \$195. This six page issue of Newsletter will cost \$106.50 for half-tones (picture), printing, folding and stapling. With 486 members on our ros-

ter, stamp costs add another \$48.60. The same mailing in December will be \$63.18. Reducing the Newsletter to a four page issue will bring the printing cost to about \$82.00 per issue. Add the new mailing costs and on a bi-monthly basis, each issue will cost about \$145.18, or 30¢ per copy delivered. If members desire a bi-monthly Newsletter, the cost per year will be \$1.80, or \$3.50 for two years.

The money now in the 385th Reunion Group account is earmarked to defray printing and mailing costs for the 1977 Reunion in Las Vegas and not for bringing you interim news or other information. Your comments requested.



550th's "RUM DUM"

Crew Chief Forrest A. Keen

106 Missions w/o abort.

1977 REUNION COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER  
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED