

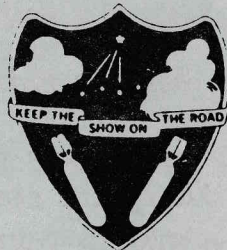
544th

COMING HOME

This window is dedicated before God in remembrance of those who gave their lives for freedom during World War II while serving at Grafton-Underwood 1942-1945 especially those members of the 384th Bombardment Group (Heavy) of the 8th United States Air Force



545th



This pamphlet furnished by members of 384th Bomb Group 8th Air Force

"KEEP THE SHOW ON THE ROAD"



546th



547th

"WINDOWS ACROSS THE SEAS"

Grafton-Underwood, England

Hill Air Force Base, Ogden, Utah

DEDICATION

Friday 8th September 1989



MEMORIAL STAINED GLASS WINDOW

WORLD WAR II CHAPEL

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, OGDEN, UTAH

The Memorial Stained Glass Window is Dedicated and a Tribute to:

THOSE MEN WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR FREEDOM DURING WORLD WAR II, AND TO THOSE WHO ARE NO LONGER WITH US. THE WINDOW WILL BE A PERMANENT MEMORIAL TO THE HERITAGE AND THE TRADITIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE MEN OF THE 384TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY), 8TH AIR FORCE, USAAF STATION 106, GRAFTON-UNDERWOOD, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, ENGLAND, 1943-1945.

The original window was placed in the Parish Church of St. James the Apostle, Grafton-Underwood, Northamptonshire, England on May 21, 1983. It is a permanent reminder of the efforts of the members of the 384th in World War II, and in particular the 1625 members lost in combat whilst flying from the airfield at Grafton-Underwood.

The duplicate window will be on permanent display and will stand as a permanent work of Military Aviation Art at the Historical World War II Chapel, United States Air Force Heritage Museum Complex, Hill Air Force Base, Ogden, Utah for the enjoyment of the multitudes that will pass that way.

The idea for the duplicate copy of the window was born on the viewing of pictures of the original Memorial Stained Glass Window installed in St. James the Apostle Church, Grafton-Underwood, England, by members of the Air Force Heritage Foundation. The location in the World War II Chapel at Hill Air Force Base is appropriate because during World War II, Hill Air Force Base played a dominate role in support of the B-17 training missions at the Wendover Facility. It is noteworthy that the 384th Bombardment Group was a part of that history during January-April 1943.

The theme for the design of the window was born of an idea by John Mach of Savannah, Georgia (related to a member of the Group), and has been provided by the veterans, families and friends of the 384th Bombardment Group (Heavy).

It was designed by Brian Thomas, O.B.E., who is a fellow of the British Society of Master Glass Painters, and has held distinguished office in many institutions associated with his craft. He has designed stained glass works for St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey, London and

Wellington Cathedral, New Zealand, as well as many memorials including those at Winchester Cathedral and St. George's Chapel, Windsor.

The craftsmen of Chapel Studio, Kings Langley, England, who designed and fabricated the original window were commissioned to make the duplicate copy of the window. The duplicate copy of the window is basically the same as the original, the major difference being that it is made in one piece rather than being broken into sections such as the window in St. James the Apostle Church.

The duplicate copy of the window was flown from Alconbury Air Base, England to Hill Air Force Base, Utah by a KC-135R of the reborn 384th Bombardment Wing (H), 8th Air Force, McConnell Air Force Base, Wichita, Kansas.

THE BLUE SKY represents the arena in which the 384th saw combat, and many members fought their last fight.

THE WHITE CLIFFS OF DOVER are symbolic in the sense that these were the first sight of England the aircrews had upon returning from combat over Europe.

THE CROSSED FLAGS signify the combined efforts of both countries in the defeat of a common enemy during World War II.

THE FOUR BADGES at the top of the window are of the 544th, 545th, 546th and 547th squadrons, and the shield below is of the 384th Bombardment Group (Heavy) itself. The motto "KEEP THE SHOW ON THE ROAD" came from the Deputy Group Commander Major Seiden McMillan whilst he was in a P.O.W. Camp after being shot down on one of the Group's early missions.

THE AIRCRAFT is the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress, which the group operated during its stay at Grafton-Underwood.

THE CELTIC CROSS and STAR OF DAVID represent the various religions of the members of the 384th.

These Memorial Stained Glass Windows have been made possible by the dedication and maximum efforts of the active members of the 384th Bombardment Group (H) Inc.