



DAVE SHAFER'S
*J*OURNEY TO *B*IBENHAM

Ah, yes the reason that I am in England in the first place.

The group left out early in the morning for Madingley Cemetery, then on to the AMERICAN AIR MUSEUM IN BRITAIN AT DUXFORD.

The Day was rather hot and humid, so it made a physically hard day for a few of the veterans.

Listening in on all the stories that are being shared between vets is a special treat. They welcome you in to their stories, to their memories...very powerful!

Just a reminder to some of my recipients of this email, these men were either shot down and became POW'S or their plane was so badly shot up that it had to make a crash landing...all on Sept. 27, 1944.

Some in Germany, some in Belgium others in France, only a few made it back to England.

35 planes went on the Kassel Raid, 29 shot down, 6 made it back to England, and of those not a single plane came back without hundreds of bullet holes inflicted by the Luftwaffe.





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This cemetery has well over 3000 combat Americans from WWII interred here. On the wall of honor, every American killed in the European Theater of operations name is inscribed.



Ceiling mosaic of the chapel.
Note: B-24 in the lead.



Billy Stephan and Ray Lemons
pass the wall of honor.



Herb Schwartz takes a breather





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Playing of taps



On the bus ride to Duxford Air Museum, Bill Dewey relates his crash landing on the coast of England at the emergency landing strip in Dover. Mr. Dewey was the pilot and on just his 8th mission. He went on to complete his 30-mission tour. Listening on is Ray Lemons; Mr. Lemons was a waist gunner, his plane "King Kong" was shot down. A POW till the end of the war. General Patton's 3rd Tank Battalion freed his Stalag.



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B-24 Liberator





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Herb Schwartz, a tail gunner tells me about his crew's crash landing in France. It was Herb's 21st mission. The crew all made it back to Tibenham and continued On to complete their 30 mission tour.



A B-17 bomber takes off from the grass strip at Duxford. Then makes a pass over the WWII vintage control tower.

