

# GOODBYE



# PICCADILLY

*Part of the proceeds from the tour benefit the East Anglia Air War Project*



**East Anglia Air War Project**

## 10-Day/9-Night Tour Itinerary *Goodbye Piccadilly*

A FAREWELL TOUR OF THE AIRFIELDS  
OF THE MIGHTY EIGHTH

DATE	SCHEDULE
Day 1—May 25, 2008 Sunday	<p>Everyone arrives in London on Sunday morning flights. Make your way to Cambridge. Transfers are not included in the tour price. Information on British ground transportation will be provided upon request.</p> <p>Free time in the afternoon after arrival in Cambridge at the Holiday Inn.</p> <p>Reception at 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>Dinner on your own.</p> <p>We are indeed fortunate to be in Cambridge on the eve of Memorial Day. In the morning we will attend the magnificent memorial service at Maddingly American Cemetery. It will be a moving ceremony as we begin our tour of the Eighth Air Force and the East Anglia air war campaign. In these rural villages and towns, a dramatic chapter in the wartime history played out. It will be here, in these isolated and rural places, that you will travel back in time and experience wartime England up close and personal.</p> <p>Spend the night at the Holiday Inn in Cambridge.</p>

<p>Day 2—May 26, 2008 Monday</p>	<p>Complimentary breakfast at the hotel.</p> <p>We will depart the hotel for the American Maddingly Cemetery just to the northwest of Cambridge. We will tour the chapel and cemetery grounds while we wait for the Memorial Day ceremonies to begin. The U.S. Air Force in England and the American Embassy will present a moving service and memorial with hundreds of wreaths placed in memory of those who were lost or missing during the war. Many British representatives will also participate in this moving tribute.</p> <p>Lunch on your own.</p> <p>The afternoon will be reserved for free time in Cambridge, touring or shopping on your own.</p> <p>Dinner on your own.</p> <p>Spend the night at the Holiday Inn in Cambridge.</p>
<p>Day 3—May 27, 2008 Tuesday</p>	<p>Complimentary breakfast at the hotel.</p> <p>Today we board our bus to visit the first of many airfields—Thurleigh, the home to the 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group during World War II. Today the site is home to the 306<sup>th</sup> BG Memorial Museum, directed by Ralph and Daphne Franklin, who were children during the war.</p> <p>We will take part in a special ceremony where Ralph and Daphne Franklin will each receive the George Bledsoe Award—presented by the East Anglia Air War Project for their single handed efforts to save and preserve the history of the 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group in England. You will see and be inspired at the results of their labors in the Thurleigh Museum.</p> <p>See the world premiere of the new film about the 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, Thurleigh, and the British families who lived nearby—<i>Thurleigh at War</i>.</p> <p>Tour the Thurleigh Museum.</p> <p>Lunch on your own at a local wartime pub. There will be a short program following lunch. Today is the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of two missions flown by the 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group on 27 May 1944. The missions were to Mannheim, Germany and to Fecamp on the Normandy coast. 28 aircraft sorteed in support of the coming invasion on D-Day, just days away.</p>

	<p>Depart the Thurleigh area for Molesworth, the home of the 303<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group (the Hell's Angels) during the war. There will be stops at selected base site ruins during the rest of the afternoon. These will be drawn from Kimbolton, Chelveston, Podington, Polebrook, Deenethorpe, and Grafton Underwood. At many of these stops, local wartime children will speak with us about their experiences.</p> <p>Dinner on your own at local restaurant in Bedford. Brief evening program on Bedfordshire at War. Dr. Williams will lead a program that will include a 10-minute video on wartime Bedford, Glen Miller, and the Americans and Bedford during the war.</p> <p>A local historian will talk about Bedford during the war and introduce some local veterans who served with the British Land Army near Bedford and the American bases just north of town. These Land Army girls, many of whom dated the Yanks and attended Glen Miller's first concert in England (held at Thurleigh) will be available after the program for conversation and questions as tour participants mingle with the Land Army girls, the local historian, and Dr. Williams.</p> <p>Spend the night at the Holiday Inn in Cambridge.</p>
<p>Day 4—May 28, 2008 Wednesday</p>	<p>Complimentary breakfast at the hotel.</p> <p>We will travel this morning to Ridgewell, the WWII home of the 381<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group. We will visit some of the base buildings still standing and view some restoration efforts in this agricultural community. The 381<sup>st</sup> Memorial near the old hospital buildings is particularly inspiring and poignant. Nearby we will visit the 381<sup>st</sup> Memorial Museum housed in one of the hospital buildings. Dr. Williams and his students were here at this base in 2002 doing some archaeological site survey work on the very structures you will see today. One of these buildings is the gymnasium and chapel where Chaplain Brown conducted services during the war. At last check Chaplain Brown is still living and is 102 years old and still able to wear his uniform. The chapel will be a reminder of Chaplain Brown and the men who found his services so important as they prepared to fly missions into harm's way.</p> <p>After departing Ridgewell for the short journey to the village of Shalford, we will arrive at the Shalford Church for a program dedicating a new memorial to the crew of the B-17 Dry Gulcher. The plane crashed on 4 August 1944 with much of the wreckage coming down on the church and other buildings and fields nearby. Nine crewmen safely parachuted into the village area but the tail gunner, S/SGT Harold Norris died in the crash. He was found in the wreckage not far from the</p>

	<p>memorial site.</p> <p>After the dedication program is completed, we will load up in the bus for the short trip up the hill to the village hall. Here the people of Shalford will host us to a luncheon buffet.</p> <p>After lunch Dr. Williams will open the photographic exhibit in the Village Hall titled: “The Dry Gulcher and Shalford at War,” a series of 30 oversize, mounted photographs positioned around the village hall walls. This exhibit was produced by student interns in the East Anglia Air War Project at Abilene Christian University and is gifted to the village for use in educational programming in the future.</p> <p>A special presentation of the Williams’ World War II film library on DVD will be made to the Shalford School.</p> <p>The Shalford citizens will join the tour group in the village hall for the showing of the world premiere of the documentary: <i>Dry Gulcher Down: A B-17’s Fiery End Over Shalford Village</i>.</p> <p>After the lunch and program, we will mingle with the Shalford citizens and/or go on a walking tour of the village. Take your camera for the many picturesque scenes and Dry Gulcher crash site locations. Dr. Williams will guide us in this lovely end to a momentous day.</p> <p>At 4:30 p.m. we will board the bus for the short trip back to Cambridge.</p> <p>Dinner on your own.</p> <p>Spend the night at the Holiday Inn in Cambridge.</p>
<p>Day 5—May 29, 2008 Thursday</p>	<p>Complimentary breakfast at the hotel.</p> <p>We will be leaving Cambridge bound for Norwich with some exciting stops and activities along the way. Our first venue comes at Bury St. Edmunds. We will tour the grounds of the old Abby with Dr. Williams’ giving commentary about Sgt. John Appleby and his experiences in wartime England as he traveled on his bicycle, visiting churches in the area and his legacy to the famous Rose Garden in Bury St. Edmunds.</p> <p>We will travel out to the edge of town for an early lunch on our own at the Flying Fortress Pub.</p> <p>After lunch our bus takes us to Snetterton Heath, the home of the 96<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group during the war. We will stop first at the 96<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Museum and meet several of the men who were young boys at Snetterton Heath during the war. Tour the exhibits. The nearby New Eccles Hall School is housed in the original base hospital buildings. A</p>

	<p>special presentation of the Williams’ World War II film library on DVD will be made to the school children at New Eccles Hall School.</p> <p>The tour continues with a stop at the nearby Quidenham Church and the extraordinary and moving stained glass windows dedicated to the air crews that flew from this place. We will conclude our time at Snetterton Heath at the breathtaking memorial near the old runways.</p> <p>We leave Snetterton Heath for the brief road trip to Deopham Green for another journey into the past. The 452<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Group flew from this pleasant place, nestled in between four small agricultural villages. We will start at the 452<sup>nd</sup> Memorial where parts of the runways are still visible. It is a quiet and reflective place now but over 60 years ago, the sound of war could be heard everywhere--day and night.</p> <p>Our tour continues to particular 452<sup>nd</sup> buildings and civilian homes that were located on the base proper. Examples include: Hill House Farm and the B-17 hardstand (the boy who lived in this house during the war will host this stop), the Red Cross buildings and the Disney art still visible on the walls, and other buildings that are part of the gradually disappearing landscape at Deopham Green.</p> <p>For dinner we move to the Little Ellingham Village Hall where the community awaits us with a buffet dinner and program.</p> <p>After dinner Dr. Williams will open the photographic exhibit in the Village Hall titled: “World War II Deopham Green,” a series of 30 oversized, mounted photographs positioned around the village hall walls. Like the exhibit at Shalford, this exhibit was produced by student interns in the East Anglia Air War Project at Abilene Christian University and is gifted to the village for use in educational programming in the future.</p> <p>A special presentation of the Williams’ World War II film library on DVD will be made to the Great Ellingham School.</p> <p>The evening will close with the showing of the world premiere of the documentary: <i>Deopham at War: the Anglo-American Experience in Wartime Norfolk, 1939-1945</i>.</p> <p>We bid our new friends at Deopham Green farewell as we board our bus for the 20-minute ride to our new hotel in Norwich.</p> <p>Spend the night at the Ramada in Norwich.</p>
<p>Day 6—May 30, 2008 Friday</p>	<p>Complimentary breakfast at the hotel.</p> <p>At last a leisurely day of touring and free time! There is a bus tour</p>

	<p>available for those who wish to pursue that option. For those on foot, there is much to see in the city center.</p> <p>Lunch on your own.</p> <p>Free afternoon with shopping and self tours. There is much to see in Norwich. Norwich was a major R&amp;R city for the many bases in the surrounding countryside. In addition to the WWII venues, Norwich is an old city, tied to hundreds of years of English history. Enjoy!</p> <p>Dinner on your own.</p> <p>Spend the night at the Ramada in Norwich.</p>
<p>Day 7—May 31, 2008 Saturday</p>	<p>Complimentary breakfast at the hotel.</p> <p>The Jimmy Stewart Tour—to the three bases where he served and flew missions during WWII.</p> <p>The first site we visit today is Tibenham, home of the 445<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group—our first B-24 unit. Jimmy Stewart arrived here as a squadron commander and already a proven leader of men and a master pilot. His combat missions did nothing to dispel these early impressions of his leadership. Stewart flew 20 combat missions during the war. None were easy missions, he chose the difficult and dangerous missions and placed himself out in front where he led by example. It was clear to the men who served under him that he was no movie star publicity hound. Stewart was there to take the war to the enemy and as a consequence, there was no hesitation by his men in following him through the flak, fighter-infested skies over German-held Europe.</p> <p>The runway at Tibenham is still there but not much is left of the base where Stewart first touched down. Perhaps we will glimpse a vision of what Stewart saw there when he last visited Tibenham in the 1990s. He never returned to England.</p> <p>Old Buckenham—453<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group, we will visit the runway, the memorial, and see some of the original base buildings. We will be met by one of the school boys who grew up nearby in the midst of war. His memories of Old Buckenham will touch your heart.</p> <p>Lunch on your own in Attleborough.</p> <p>Our final stop today will be Hethel and the Ketteringham Headquarters estate. Here you will meet Fred Squires who dreams the dreams of the impossible and makes it happen anyway. Fred and his group of British volunteers keep the history alive at Hethel. His enthusiasm is infectious. The museum here is just beginning. The old 389<sup>th</sup> Bomb</p>

	<p>Group chapel is getting the tender, loving care it deserves and we will see the exhibits and hear about the dreams for tomorrow.</p> <p>Dinner on your own in Norwich.</p> <p>Spend the night in the Ramada in Norwich.</p>
<p>Day 8—June 1, 2008 Sunday</p>	<p>Complimentary breakfast at the hotel.</p> <p>We are once again on the airfield trail as we travel to Seething, the home of the 458<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group during the war. Today the old control tower has been turned into a wonderful museum, lovingly cared for by British children of the war—now adults who are committed to preserving the history of the 458<sup>th</sup>. We will meet several of these wartime school boys and girls who will tell us something of their experiences living around Seething airfield and their memories of the Yanks who befriended them. Their memories live on as the years have faded into history.</p> <p>We will tour the museum and the local church where many Americans married British girls from the area. Neaby the runways still accommodate aircraft during these modern days as the Waveney Flying Group operates a flying school and air operations not far from the Tower Museum.</p> <p>Lunch on your own in a neighboring town.</p> <p>After lunch we will travel to Hardwick where the 93<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group flew missions during the war. The 93<sup>rd</sup> was the first B-24 bomb group to arrive in England. Representatives of the British 93<sup>rd</sup> support group will be on hand to show us the museum located in some of the original buildings on the old airfield. Today the land is part of an agricultural operation but many of the buildings are still there. In and around the museum you will see many large artifacts excavated from crash sites throughout England. A most unusual museum with much to see.</p> <p>From Hardwick we travel to the nearby Thorpe Abbots airfield to tour the museum and restored control tower. Home to the famed “Bloody One Hundred,” the 100<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group flew B-17 flying fortresses from this base.</p> <p>Dinner on your own in Norwich.</p> <p>Spend the night at the Ramada in Norwich.</p>
<p>Day 9—June 2, 2008</p>	<p>Complimentary breakfast at the hotel.</p>

<p>Monday</p>	<p>We say a final farewell to Norwich as we load up and travel for our last full day to be spent at Duxford, a WWII fighter base and now host to one of the world's greatest collection of air museums. We will spend the day at Duxford.</p> <p>You will be able to see engineers and technicians at work on aircraft restorations. There are a number of separate museums to see, perhaps the most dramatic is the American Air Museum—a lasting memorial to those who played such a significant role in the victory in WWII.</p> <p>There are bookstores and cafes for your shopping pleasure and a trolley makes regular runs up and down the tarmac, taking you where you want to go.</p> <p>Lunch on your own on the grounds.</p> <p>You can choose to take a flight in one of the vintage aircraft on site.</p> <p>It will be a full day and a suitable conclusion for our farewell tour of the American airfields.</p> <p>We will depart for London about 3 p.m. and travel back to Gatwick Airport .</p> <p>We will gather together for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.</p> <p>Spend the night in the Moat House Hotel in London, next to Gatwick Airport.</p>
<p>Day 10—June 3, 2008 Tuesday</p>	<p>Complimentary breakfast at the hotel.</p> <p>Depart for Gatwick or Heathrow and the flight to the United States.</p>

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