

380TH BOMB GROUP



HERKY-528.LIL BEAVER-529.BUGS BUNNY-530.DONALD DUCK-531 SQUADRONS

Francis Penot

This Newsletter is Dedicated to:

*Forrest E. (Tommy) Thompson, Lt. Col. USAF (Ret.)
and
Helen H. Thompson*

They had the foresight, perseverance, and love of the 380th Bombardment Group (H) and its history, traditions, and personnel to organize, succor, and guide the

380th Bombardment Group Association, Inc.

*our predecessor organization, for the past eighteen years
(1982-1999).*

Our everlasting thanks and love go out to them.

THE 380TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION 5th AF - RAAF

AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS

The Flying Circus

208 CHIPPEWA ST.
WEST LAFAYETTE IN 47906-2123



528TH



529TH



530TH



531ST

NEWSLETTER #2

March 2000

Compatriots and Friends,

Welcome again to our continuation of this voice of the spirit of the 380th Bomb Group (H). We are overjoyed by your responses to our call to rejoin and continue the mutual friendships generated in our days in Australia and the Philippines and continued through the last eighteen years of our earlier veterans' organization. We hope and believe that you will all enjoy our continued association and remembrance of the experiences of our youth as long as we, as an ever-aging group, can manage to get together and reminisce and dream the dreams of old warriors.

We have worked up a tentative program for the reunion, which is presented here by Pat Carnevale. If you have any strong objections, please let us know. We will provide adequate help for those who are physically handicapped at all of the functions. Pat has included a list of those who are already registered to be with us at San Antonio on November 8-11, 2000. We hope you will also be able to be with us then. We will publish updates to this list in our June and September issues as the year proceeds.

We want to thank our Australian friends, Bob Alford and Colin Grey, for their reports and Dot and Dave Sieber for their Minutes of their Liberator Reunion. We appreciate the news from Australia.

Note the slightly revised Reunion Reservation blank and the Membership Reservation form, which will give us more of the information we need.

Please be sure to send me your address changes, Taps, and other pertinent Society news to be published in these quarterly newsletters.

To preserve the memory of the 380th.

Sincerely,



Theodore J. (Ted) Williams

HISTORIANS

Glenn R. Horton, Jr.
Gary L. Horton

HISTORIAN, AUSTRALIA

Bob Alford

EDITORS, HISTORY PROJECTS AND QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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[IIES/PLAIC/380/380.html](http://www.ecn.purdue.edu/IIES/PLAIC/380/380.html)

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February 22, 2000

Dear Flying Circus Members,

In 1998 we had 341 paid dues. 1999 saw an increase to 406 paid memberships in our former association.

With this background information, I was surprised when, recently, Ted Williams told me that Carnevalle and Associates have 210 people on their roster and, of these, 33 have signed up for the reunion to be held in San Antonio in November of 2000.

It is encouraging that so many of you are saying that you want to stay in touch for a few more years. I must remind you that for the continuation of meaningful newsletters you must furnish information to Ted Williams to be incorporated in the newsletters. In other words, get behind Ted and Pat Carnevalle so they can do a good job for you.

Sincerely,


Tom Hunt

TH/dlw

CARNEVALE & ASSOCIATES, INC.

P.O. Box 1230, Sonoita, AZ 85637

(800) 659-8808

380th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION REUNION

MENGER HOTEL -- SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

November 8 - 12, 2000

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday & Wednesday
November 7 & 8

Golf -- please call if interested (800) 659-8808
Courses and fees to be determined

Wednesday - Nov. 8

Official Check-in -- Hospitality Room

Thursday - Nov. 9

Optional tours of San Antonio
Be sure to visit The Alamo and Riverwalk
6:00 pm -- Welcome dinner at hotel

Friday - Nov. 10

9 am -- Lackland AFB parade and Lackland Museum
2 pm -- Men's Meeting at the hotel

Saturday - Nov. 11

10:00 am -- Memorial Service at Randolph AFB
VETERAN'S DAY!!
11:30 am -- Lunch at the Officer's Club
6:00 pm -- Cocktail Hour - Cash Bar
7:00 pm -- Dinner/Dance at hotel

Sunday - Nov. 12

Continental Breakfast -- departure day

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SPECIAL NOTES: As of February 22, 2000 -- 219 members have registered with Carnevale & Associates and 45 rooms in our block of 150 have been reserved at the Menger Hotel for the November reunion. It's going to be a GREAT REUNION!!!

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ROOM RESERVATIONS ALREADY MADE

380TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION REUNION

MENGER HOTEL

SAN ANTONIO, TX

Page : 1
Report Date : 2/22/00
Reservations : 45

Name	Share	Arrival	Departure
LILLIE ANDERSON		11/8/00	11/19/00
DEXTER K BAKER	GREGORY BAKER	11/6/00	11/12/00
M/M DEXTER J BAKER		11/6/00	11/12/00
JAMES BEJOIAN		11/6/00	
RICHARD E BENSON	CLAIRE BENSON	11/8/00	11/13/00
CARL L BORGSTROM	HELEN BORGSTROM	11/8/00	11/12/00
FRANK BOUDREAU		11/8/00	11/12/00
JOSEPH P BROOKS	IRMA BROOKS	11/8/00	11/12/00
RUSS BROOKS	TINY BROOKS	11/8/00	11/12/00
ELMER T BRYANT	BONNIE C BRYANT	11/7/00	11/13/00
E. CURTIS CHAMBERLAIN	BEVERLY CHAMBERLAIN	11/8/00	11/12/00
JOSEPH D CHUTICH	MARLYS CHUTICH	11/8/00	11/12/00
Z.B. CRUTHERS	NORMA CRUTHERS	11/9/00	11/12/00
JOHN A CUTT	MARIA CUTT	11/8/00	11/13/00
ROBERT A DAPPER	MARIE DAPPER	11/6/00	11/12/00
WILLIAM E EDWARDS	STELLA EDWARDS	11/8/00	11/12/00
ROBERT ENGLISH		11/5/00	11/12/00
SAM G FAILLA JR		11/10/00	11/12/00
LARRY FARNUM	JEANNE FARNUM	11/8/00	11/12/00
RALPH A FIGUEROA	EVELYN FIGUEROA	11/8/00	11/12/00
TROY FRENCH	KELLY FRENCH	11/8/00	11/12/00
L A FRY	MARIAN ROBINSON	11/10/00	11/12/00
WILLARD H GEHMAN		11/9/00	11/13/00
A DELBERT HAGGAS	GENE LYSAKER	11/7/00	11/12/00
RALPH A HENDERSON	ROSEMARY HENDERSON	11/6/00	11/12/00
WERNER C HOMUTH	RUTH HOMUTH	11/8/00	11/12/00
THOMAS M. HUNT		11/8/00	11/12/00
CALVIN C KILLINGSWORTH	JOAN POUNSETT	11/8/00	11/12/00
CHRISTOPHER LENTO		11/8/00	11/13/00
JOHN F LENTO	DOLORES LENTO	11/8/00	11/13/00
JOSEPH W MALONEY	BETTY MALONEY	11/8/00	11/12/00
CHARLES MASON	EILEEN MASON	11/8/00	11/12/00
JIM T MEREDITH	JEANNE MEREDITH	11/7/00	11/13/00
RAYMOND OETH	JANIE OETH	11/8/00	11/12/00
CARL S OFFERLE		11/8/00	11/12/00
JOHN W OTTO JR	MARGARET OTTO	11/6/00	
HENRY A PARCHERT	ANNE PARCHERT	11/8/00	11/12/00
BRIAN SCHOENEMANN	NIKKI SCHOENEMANN	11/8/00	11/12/00
DEBRA SCHOENEMANN	KLAYTON BARROWS	11/8/00	11/12/00
O M SCHOENEMANN	MARY SCHOENEMANN	11/8/00	11/12/00
PHIL SHAW		11/8/00	11/12/00
JAMES E SMITH	DEE SMITH	11/8/00	11/12/00
TERRY SNYDER	T SNYDER	11/8/00	11/12/00
HOWARD M THOMASON		11/8/00	11/12/00
BOB WATSON	ANN WATSON	11/8/00	11/12/00

CARNEVALE & ASSOCIATES, INC.

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**380th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION
REUNION REGISTRATION**

The Menger Hotel
San Antonio - Texas
November 8 - 12, 2000

Name _____

Spouse or Guest _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Rate: \$100 (single or double occupancy) + 16.75% room tax

Arrival: _____ Departure: _____

Room Type: S=one person, one bed, D=two people, one bed; D/D=two people, twin beds
(Circle choice)

Special Needs: H=Handicap facilities; N/S=non-smoking; S=smoking; K=king bed
(Circle choice)

Guarantee by credit card # _____ exp date _____

Name on card _____

Signature _____

Cancel policy for this event: 24 hours prior to arrival to avoid penalty.

Please mail or fax reservation form to: Carnevale & Associates, Inc.
P O Box 1230
Sonoita AZ 85637
Fax (520) 455-5866 Phone (800) 659-8808

As full service travel agents, we are also able to assist you with your travel arrangements including air and rental cars. This would include any destinations you may have in 2000 in addition to this reunion.

"ONE PHONE CALL DOES IT ALL!"

(800) 659-8808 ask for Pat, Sue or Laura

CARNEVALE & ASSOCIATES, INC.

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**380th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

Your Name _____

Squadron _____ 380th Duty _____

Please check if you are a * Regular Member _____ or an **Associate Member _____

**Associates: 380th Veteran's Name: _____

Relationship: _____ Sqdn: _____

Your Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

* *Regular member* means an original member of the 380th Bomb Group.

***Associate member* means a family member (or other affiliation) of an original member. If you are an Associate, please give the name of the original member, your relationship to that person, and his squadron number.

Annual payment of \$20 payable to **Carnevale & Associates** will help defray costs of mailings throughout the year. The mailing address for Carnevale & Associates is:

Carnevale & Associates, Inc.
PO Box 1230
Sonoita AZ 85637
Phone: (800) 659-8808
Fax: (520) 455-5866

Thanks to all of you who have already made your annual payment!!

REQUESTS AND RESPONSES

Joe Dally has written us recently regarding the identify of the several A-20 crews which were sent to the 380th in about September 1943 for conversion to B-24s for their combat tours. This was due to a lack of A-20 aircraft in the South-West Pacific because of the massive allocations to Russia. Our work with Joe on this showed that Joe and his compatriots were scattered throughout the existing bomb groups in this theatre. However, existing 380th Bomb Group records do not solve the identity of all those assigned to the 380th. Anyone who might have information on this question is urged to contact Joe at:

Joseph W. Dally

Graeme Thomas (address below) is interested in corresponding with anyone from the 380th Bomb Group who knew his father, Sgt. Edward G. McDonald, 37184712, who was a mechanic on BATTLE WEARY in the 529th Squadron, under Master Sergeant Edward V. Gaudet. Graeme was at the San Diego and Tucson Reunions and also attended the Adelaide portion of our 1992 Return to Australia. Please write Graeme Thomas at:

Graeme Thomas

Tony Caferella has recently sent me copies of his other two books which are companions to the one we discussed in the last Newsletter. They are entitled MY BROOME and A TOWN CALLED ONSLOW and are priced at \$10.00 each. Like the previously listed *Corunna Downs*, *The Invisible Airfield*, they relate Caferella's experiences in the Australian Army in West Australia during WWII. While not directly B-24 related, they do present vivid descriptions of Army life in the Western desert to which we can relate. Please contact Mr. Caferella at:

Mr. T. Antonio Caferella

WE WENT TO WAR, PART V

The Aircraft We Flew

A Report on the Status of Our Continuing Project on the History of the 380th Bomb Group (H) in WWII

As I have mentioned to many of you in our conversations and letters, our goals for developing more detail of the History of the 380th in WWII beyond that which the Horton Brothers could put in their magnificent books does not end with the Rosters which we produced last year. As you know, that which is already published includes four parts:

- PART I The Group Personnel Roster by Individuals
- PART II The Flight Crews by Individual Crews
- PART III An Extract of PARTS I and II presenting only the Australian and other Commonwealth personnel, for use in Australia
- PART IV A Listing of the Military Occupational Specialties (MOSs) Necessary in an Isolated Group like the 380th. This material also is an extract from PARTS I-III.

We promised to continue our work with (at present planning) three further PARTS as follows:

- PART V The Aircraft We Flew
- PART VI The Missions of the 380th Bomb Group (H) Out of Australia and New Guinea
- PART VII The Missions of the 380th Bomb Group (H) Out of The Philippines and Okinawa

Despite the size of the Roster volumes, these three could well be much larger because of the massive amount of detail required for an adequate explanation in each case. For example, we have already found 215 separate aircraft. The listings made by the Hortons in their books are obviously a major input to this for which we are eternally grateful. However, we wish to include the early history of each plane, each mission in which it participated and the crew involved, the ground crew to the extent possible, noseart used, etc.

The 380th flew at least 1,200 separate missions because of the very high proportion of small reconnaissance, photo mapping, and search missions involved. This compares to the 400 range for most European groups, but, of course theirs were of a much different nature from ours.

For each mission (or group of similar missions), we would hope to develop a map of the mission track to the target and back; track over the target; a summary of the results achieved; and a summary of mission performance in terms of mechanical aborts, weather problems, etc. Of course, a discussion of any mission losses, damage, etc., would be important.

Manuscripts the size of those of the rosters would be possible if we can average about three pages each for each separate aircraft for PART V, and about one page each on average for the missions. This latter would be possible because of the very repetitive nature of our recce missions and the lonely, no sightings nature of most of them. Thus detailed explanations would only have to be made for one of a group of repetitive missions such as the various shipping searches.

It is doubtful if we would be able to publish these manuscripts in hardbound form as we did for the Rosters. However, our Web Site would prove an excellent solution to this problem and allow us to tell the 380th's story to the world.

We have been fortunate to be able to obtain the help of Mr. Allen G. Blue, considered by many to be the world's authority on the B-24, to supply the early history data on all of our airplanes manufactured by Consolidate (the vast majority). He has also given us leads to do the same for the Ford aircraft (the Ls and part of the Ms).

As you may know, I have the mission planning documentation for all of our missions, which includes the crew manifests and aircraft assignments for each of them. We are approximately one-third finished in abstracting this information for PART V. It will be necessary to go back into the microfilm tapes used for the Roster Project to develop ground crew assignments, aircraft on-hand data, engineering reports, and intelligence summaries of mission results.

We therefore expect to have worthwhile material for all of you to review at the San Antonio Reunion as we had at Panama City and at San Diego for the Roster Project.

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

Bob Alford, our Australian Historian, reports as follows:

I am presently preparing interpretive signage for the Douglas region here, which will include a sign at the entry to Fenton and one at the remote radio section, about three miles south of Fenton — No 5 American Army Airways System were there from 1944 to the transfer of the 380th to Darwin.

I was recently in Melbourne and visited the B-24 restoration. They have made a great deal of progress with the wings fitted and the outboard wing sections almost ready. Engine mounts are also fitted and the major components have been restored ready for incorporation. The workmanship is excellent and the finished product will be a very significant addition to Australia's aviation and wartime heritage.

The B-24 Restoration Group has also commenced sending out invitations to the planned August 15, 2000 rollout of the aircraft. It looks like it will be a very well attended event and should receive national coverage. A painting of a RAAF B-24 by a well-known artist is also underway and a number of former B-24 group and squadron commanders are being contacted with a view to signing the original — prints will then be available.

Colin Grey, Secretary of the B-24 Memorial Restoration Project and leader of the Restoration Crew, has the following to add to Bob's report above:

We have been working with Air New Zealand to gain the best advantage in pricing the airfare to Australia. There is a group in Los Angeles called "Inta Aussi." They are specialists in travel to Australia out of North America. They can also help with internal travel arrangements in both countries. The number and person to call at Inta Aussi is Johanne, the district sales manager, and her number is 800-531-9222. I understand that she can also include any information you would like re: the 380th on their web site.

The invitation and information about the B-24 Liberator Memorial Restoration Fund Dedication and Roll Out, to be held on 15 August 2000, in Werribee, Victoria, Australia, can be found in our previous issue, Newsletter #1, dated December 1999.

RAAF ASSOCIATION (WESTERN AUSTRALIA BRANCH) B-24 LIBERATOR ANNUAL REUNION 1999

It was called the "Special Sixtieth" — the sixtieth anniversary of the first flight of the B24 Liberator. Ninety-three (93) people sat down to lunch in the club of the RAAF Association, Bull Creek, Western Australia.

All were welcomed and apologies from twenty-two (22) people were read out. It was noted that at least two of last year's attendees had folded their wings. We received donations from Jim and Ruth Harris and Ray Borchert. Thanks were extended to a number of people and the Department of Veterans Affairs, with particular reference to Pauline Weeding of the West Australia offices of Veterans Affairs.

A display of photographs and other memorabilia was viewed with great interest by many people attending.

Prior to the meal the following people laid floral tributes to all who were connected with Liberators, and those who failed to return from missions.

Air Vice-Marshal Peter Nicholson — Guest speaker,
Mrs Eileen Southern — President, RAAF Association (WA Division),
Mrs Nancy Fleay — representing ground crew,
Mr Keith Shilling — representing air crew.

The floral tribute consisted of a rose for all connected with the Liberator and a sprig of rosemary for those who had folded their wings.

All present sang the National Anthem and Mr Galliot of the Salvation Army said Grace before the meal began.

The guest-of-honour and speaker was Air Vice Marshal Peter Nicholson who gave an extremely interesting talk. He compared the work of the B24 Liberator with the current strike bomber of the R.A.A.F., the F111. The talk was illustrated with many projected photographs of the B24 and of course of the F111 and its strike weapons and capacity. It was interesting that the equipment that AVM Nicholson used allowed still and moving images to be projected. AVM Nicholson was inundated with questions and people going up to chat with him.

Mrs Eileen Southern, RAAF Association (WA Division) President, moved a vote of thanks to the speaker and this was supported most enthusiastically with acclamation.

At the end of the meal a roll call of squadrons represented was called. The following resulted:

RAAF:	12, 21, 23, 24, 25, 99 and 102. Flights 200 and 201. 4 R+SU, R+SU Nadzab, 1 Com, 820 BU, 7 OTU, Qantas, Z Force, Pacific Ferry.
RAF:	8, 34, 37, 53, 70, 86, 159, 178, 358, 462, 481, 614, 69, 148, 215, 160 SEC, 111 OTU, 205 Group, 102, 850 BU, 215.
USAAF:	380 HB Group Sqdns, 528th, 529th, 530th, 531st; Halversons Group, Associated: 12 Air Force, 90th HB Group, 12 HB Group.
RSAF:	34, 40

There were 11 people from states other than Western Australia. Six stayed at the RAAF Assn (WA) motel units. Jim Badgely from Canada specifically asked to be remembered to those who knew him.

The date for the next year's reunion is 24 October 2000.
Thanks to all for a great reunion.

DOT AND DAVE SIEBER

TAPS

*Day is done, gone the sun, from the lake from the hill
from the sky. All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.*

*Thanks and praise for our days 'neath the sun, 'neath
the stars, 'neath the sky. As we go, this we know
God is nigh.*



LEST WE FORGET



- 528th **Casey**, Mrs. Thomas L., El Paso, TX, DOD 11/98, reported by William W. Casselberry
- 528th **English**, Mrs. Minnie (wife of Robert English), Akron, OH, DOD 12/29/99, by Bob English
- 528th **Ostrander**, Philip G. (co-pilot on Boeshaar's Crew), Baltimore, MD, DOD 12/27/99, by Dave Lehigh
- 528th **Schmitz**, Mrs. Ruthie (wife of Robert Schmitz), Hampstead, NC, DOD 11/99, by Bill Sloane
- 530th **Warren**, Curtis L. (gunner, Morris' Crew; POW; Executive Board member since 1984), Oceanside, CA, DOD 2/4/00, by Mrs. Frances Warren
- 531st **McCabe**, James (radio operator, Smolek's Crew), Johnson City, NY, DOD 5/23/99, by George Gerards
- 531st **Schlitter**, Ray (gunner, Forrsell's Crew), Hays, KS, DOD 12/5/99, by Mrs. Schlitter

