

# 380<sup>TH</sup> BOMB GROUP



HERKY-628, LIL BEAVER-529, BUGS BUNNY-530, DONALD DUCK-531 SQUADRONS

*Francis J. Johnson*

*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 person-  
nel to organize, succor, and guide the*

*380th Bombardment Group Association, Inc.*

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

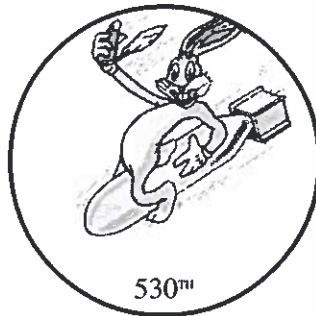
*Our everlasting thanks and love go out to them.*

**THE 380TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION  
5th AF - RAAF**

AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS

# The Flying Circus

208 CHIPPEWA ST.  
WEST LAFAYETTE IN 47906-2123



## NEWSLETTER #20

August 2004

Compatriots and Friends:

As you read this, it will not be long until we meet in the Boston Area for our 2004 Reunion. We are looking forward to seeing many of you again there.

At our Business Meeting there we have several important items to discuss, the most important of which is our future wishes for the Reunion itself. If you wish to continue beyond New Orleans next year, we must prepare a preference list so Pat Carnevale will have the information to make her future plans.

Please note also in this issue the information on our publishing costs for black and white vs. color; Ralph Henderson's memories at Topeka concerning when the flight element learned of our Australian assignments vs. England; and the information concerning the History Project. We look forward to discussing all of this with you.

Have an enjoyable trip to Boston and a very successful reunion.

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

Barbara J. Gotham  
Theodore J. (Ted) Williams

Phone: 765/494-7434  
Fax: 765/494-2351  
Email: [tjwil@ecn.purdue.edu](mailto:tjwil@ecn.purdue.edu)  
[http://www.ecn.purdue.edu/  
IIES/PLAIC/380/380.html](http://www.ecn.purdue.edu/IIES/PLAIC/380/380.html)



---

---

## **BOSTON REUNION INFORMATION**

---

---

The 380th Bomb Group Association Annual Reunion will be in the Boston area from September 29 to October 3, 2004. Lodging has been arranged at the Sheraton Braintree Hotel in Braintree, Mass., which is south of Boston. Hotel rates are \$99 (single or double occupancy) + 9.7% room tax (total \$108.60 per night).

Activities include the traditional welcome dinner on Wednesday evening, group tours of the Boston historical district and Quincy Market on Thursday, a tour of Lexington and Concord on Friday afternoon, and our Members Meeting on Saturday morning. Our Memorial Service will be at Hanscom Field on Friday morning, followed by lunch at the Officer's Club at Hanscom Field.

The planned schedule of events, hotel registration form, and event registration form are all included in this issue.

According to the Convention and Visitors Bureau, the average high temperature in Boston for September and October is between 62 and 72 degrees and the average low is between 46 and 56 degrees, so be sure and bring your 380th jacket for the cool evenings.

Please call Carnevale Travel if you would like to extend your trip to take in other sites in the Boston area or other parts of New England.

---

---

## **TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS AT THE BOSTON REUNION**

---

---

For those of you who plan to take photos at the Reunion for submission in the December 2004 issue of *THE FLYING CIRCUS*, please take note:

Because we must now print as many issues as possible in black and white rather than color, please remember to take pictures of individuals and/or groups outdoors or in bright light. Photos taken at the dinner/dance are usually dark and when printed in black/white, aren't as clear.

If you use a digital camera, you can send us JPG files (either by mail or by email). If you are able to get prints on a CD, those would be welcomed also (these last two methods don't involve scanning the actual photographs and are easier to manage). However, any print photos you send us are most welcomed!

You can send your photos to:

Barbara Gotham, 130 Colony Road, West Lafayette, IN 47906-1209 Email: [barb@purdue.edu](mailto:barb@purdue.edu)

Please get them to Barb before Thanksgiving, to allow her plenty of time to get them into the December 2004 issue (to be mailed out in early to mid December).

---

---

## **FUTURE REUNIONS**

---

---

The Association is scheduled to go to New Orleans next fall for the last reunion on our previously selected list of locations.

We must make plans in Boston for our future meetings if you wish them. Please send selections to Barb Gotham (at the address given on the next page) or to Ted Williams (address on the letterhead on the previous page), or bring them to Boston with you.

We look forward to a lively discussion.

---



---

## LOOK WHO'S SIGNED UP SO FAR FOR THE REUNION

---



---

Marie Anderson and Doris Mitchell  
 John Annesser and Marion Hritz  
 Paul and Barbara Beilstein  
 James and Sarah Bejoin  
 William Bever  
 Bill and Alma Brew  
     with guests Len and Joanne Slama  
 Harold Clapsaddle  
 Robert and Marie Daffer  
     with family members Robert Daffer Jr  
     and Marilyn Daffer, Kathie Turley and  
     Daniel Daffer  
 Joe Dally  
 Ann and Joann Debevec  
 Michele and William Foote  
 William and Sylvia Gordon  
 Barbara and Doug Gotham  
 Tom Hunt  
 Dave and Sherri Johnson  
 Calvin Killingsworth and Joan Pounsett  
 John and Helen Koller  
 Leonard and Jimmie Lou Kroes  
 Lou and Irene Lanners and guest Jean Cator  
 Samuel and Mickey Leiner

Russell and Verna McCrea  
 Cecilia and Scott Meade  
 Syl and Alice Nemcek  
 Bud and Kathleen Offerle  
     and guest Geoff Paddock  
 Viola Peterson and Gladys Brandt  
 Jim and Anna Belle Scalese  
 Brian, Nikki, Ozzie, Mary and Debbie  
     Schoenemann and Debbie's son  
     Klayton Barrows  
 Ralph and Audrey Sever  
 The Shultz clan - John Sr, Catherine Rein,  
     John Jr, Donna, John III, Andrea,  
     Mike and Lisa Shultz, Joe and Linda  
     Childers and Steve and Jen Galos  
 Lyle and Clara Sears  
 Lawrence and Martin Smith  
 Robert and Marjorie Smith  
 Clifton and Georgia Toepperwein  
 Diane Whetstone  
 Ted and Isabel Williams  
 Jim Wright  
 Richard and Maria Zapf

---



---

## PUBLISHING COSTS

---



---

Below is listed a break-out of the costs (printing and mailing) of Issue #19 of *THE FLYING CIRCUS*. Please note that the four colored pages of the WWII Veterans Memorial Dedication cost us \$164.00 each, while the black and white pages cost only \$10.20 each.

This is the basis for our request for clear, bright detailed photographs of the Reunion for the December issue. This is why last year's Reunion issue had to be in black and white. The previous one for Salt Lake City cost us over \$3,000 to print, hence our recent use of black and white only. Thank you very much.

<b>Newsletter #19 Cost Breakdown</b>	
Design, paper and folding	\$ 143.81
12 pages printed black ink	\$ 122.40
4 pages printed color	\$ 656.00
Insert in envelopes, address & sort	\$ 102.52
Bulk rate postage	\$ 60.99
Total	\$1085.72

---

---

**380th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION  
2004 REUNION INFORMATION**

---

---

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS  
September 29-October 3, 2004**

**Wednesday – September 29**

9:00 am - 1:00 pm	Registration in Hotel Lobby
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Optional Tours of Boston
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Hospitality Room Open
6:30 pm	Welcome Dinner - Madison Room
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Hospitality Room Open - Suite 1007 and 1008

**Thursday – September 30**

9:30 am	Buses depart hotel
10:00 - 3:30 pm	Tour of Boston Historical District & Quincy Market
4:00 pm	Buses return to hotel
3:30 pm - 10:00 pm	Hospitality Room Open - Suite 1007 and 1008
	Dinner on your own

**Friday – October 1**

10:00 am	Buses depart hotel
11:00 am	Memorial Service at Hanscom Field
12:15 pm	Lunch at Officer's Club - Hanscom Field
1:15- 3:00 pm	Tour of Lexington and Concord
4:00 pm	Buses return to hotel
4:00 - 10:00 pm	Hospitality Room Open - Suite 1007 and 1008
	Dinner on your own

**Saturday – October 2**

10:00 am	Meeting of Members - Madison Room
Noon	Tours on your own
Noon – 6:00 pm	Hospitality Room Open - Suite 1007 and 1008
6:30 pm	No-host cocktails - Madison Room
7:00 pm	Dinner Dance

**Sunday – October 3**

Departure day

---

---

---

**380th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION  
2004 REUNION INFORMATION**

---

---

**HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM  
Sheraton Braintree Hotel  
Braintree, MA**

**September 29 - October 3, 2004**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse or  
Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_ -- \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Rate: \$99 (single or double occupancy) + 9.7% room tax (Total \$108.60 per night)

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

Room type: S = one person, one bed; D = two people, one bed; D/D = two people, two 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Please print

Cancel policy for this event: 48 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  
e-mail: [carne@dakotacom.net](mailto:carne@dakotacom.net)

NOTE: Carnevale & Associates is a full service travel agency. Please call on our toll free number for assistance with your travel plans.





---

## **BLAZING BOMBARDIER WITH HIS 30 CAL. MACHINE GUN** **by Bill Bever, son of Everett D. Bever**

---

Little did 2nd Lt. Everett D. Bever, Bombardier on the “Heavenly Body” know that he would be attempting to shoot down his own B-24 out of the sky on his 15th mission. Lt. Bever was assigned with the 5th AAF, 380th Bomb Group, 528th Bomb Squadron at Fenton Field in Australia. It was on a Sunday, April 23, 1944, that the 528th Bomb Squadron was in formation with five planes heading for Noemfoor Island to bomb Number *AIS*. Lt. Bever upon approaching his target, released 15 120 pound clusters of frag bombs on Number *AIS*. As soon as the bomb run was completed their formation was intercepted by 20 or more Japanese (Oscar) fighters.

Lt. Bever writes in his diary that during the grim battle which lasted 59 minutes, two of the bombers in formation lost an engine and that his plane received 35 holes. He mentions he got in many good licks with his 30 cal. machine gun. What he does not mention was that in the heat of their air battle while manning the right side socket .30 cal. machine gun, a Japanese Oscar fighter was coming in at 9 o'clock on the left side so he moves the .30 cal. machine gun from the right side socket to the left side socket, but forgets to let go of the trigger, spraying the anti-glare panel up above with many holes. The pilot, seeing all the holes appear in the anti-glare panel, called down to the bombardier and nose gunner to make sure they were alright thinking they were injured. They both acknowledged they were okay.

After the 12 hour and 15 minute ride to and from the target, they returned to Fenton field with all five bombers shot up pretty badly. In the meantime, Lt. Bever keeps his silence about his blazing 30 cal. machine gun. The ground crew starts their endless patch work, repairing the many holes in the “Heavenly Body” when they discover that the holes in the anti-glare panel have been caused from inside the plane protruding out. An investigation finds an embarrassed Lt. Bever confessing that in the heat of battle he failed to let go of the trigger when transferring the .30 cal M.G. from the right socket window to the left side socket window. Lt. Bever received a lot of razing as his attempt to shoot down his own bomber failed, but all were safe and back to Fenton Field to get ready for their next mission to clear out a path of Japanese in support of helping General MacArthur's troops take New Guinea.

My Dad, “The Blazing Bombardier” passed away on March 13, 1996. I wanted to share one of his WWII experiences with the “Greatest Generation” that ever lived.



---

## 2005 HISTORIC CALENDARS

---

**Bomber Legends** has produced three separate 2005 historic calendars, one each for the B-24 Liberator, the B-17 Flying Fortress, and the B-26 Marauder. These calendars are packed with color and black & white photos, historical descriptions, and dates. They retail for \$9.95 (plus \$2 shipping). Additional calendars of any type to the same address are \$6, which includes shipping.

As special thanks to the 380th Bomb Group Association for promoting these calendars, **Bomber Legends** will reimburse our association \$1.00 for every copy of the calendar that is sold to members of our organization. These monies will go into our Research Fund.

See the ad below. When you order, please be sure to include that you are a member of the 380th BG Association.

Ted Williams is expecting to receive a complimentary copy when they are available, and he will bring it with him to the Reunion for those wishing to look at one before making a purchase.



**Order your copy today!**  
**\$9.95**  
plus \$2 p&h (\$11.95 total)

*Additional calendars of any type to same address \$6 each (includes p&h)*

Make your checks payable to:  
"Bomber Legends"

**These NEW 2005 calendars are packed with photos and historical information**

*Bomber Legends*  
**Bomber Legends (380BG)**  
1672 Main Street, Ste. E - 124  
Ramona, CA 92065-5257

As in the past, your organization will receive a portion of the sale of each calendar through Feb. 2005. We track sales by the special code in the ( ) following "Bomber Legends" to the left.  
[www.bomberlegends.com](http://www.bomberlegends.com)

---



---

## **OUR HISTORY PROJECT: "WE WENT TO WAR"**

---



---

Back while the Thompsons still managed the 380<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association, Barb Gotham and Ted Williams undertook a major history project on the 380<sup>th</sup>. This became an active project after a discussion Ted Williams had with Tom Hunt at the 531<sup>st</sup> camp site at Long Strip, NT, Australia, in 1996. We planned to collect and organize all the available documentation concerning the 380<sup>th</sup>'s part in WWII. It included 10 parts in our original planning.

- |     |           |   |            |
|-----|-----------|---|------------|
| 1.  | PART I    | OVERALL BOMB GROUP ROSTER<br>Published and Distributed to All Members - On 380 <sup>th</sup> Website  | 1 volume   |
| 2.  | PART II   | ROSTER OF FLYING PERSONNEL BY CREWS<br>Published and Distributed to All Members - On 380 <sup>th</sup> Website  | 1 volume   |
| 3.  | PART III  | ROSTER OF AUSTRALIAN PERSONNEL WITH US<br>Published and Distributed - On 380 <sup>th</sup> Website  | 1 volume   |
| 4.  | PART IV   | LISTING OF MOSs<br>Published and Distributed - On 380 <sup>th</sup> Website   | 1 volume   |
| 5.  | PART V    | AIRCRAFT OF THE AUSTRALIA-NEW GUINEA CAMPAIGN<br>Limited Edition – Soft Cover - On 380 <sup>th</sup> Website  | 4 volumes  |
| 6.  | PART VI   | AIRCRAFT OF THE PHILIPPINES CAMPAIGN<br>Limited Edition – Soft Cover - On 380 <sup>th</sup> Website   | 3 volumes  |
| 7.  | PART VIIA | KEEP THEM FLYING<br>Roster of Ground Crew Directly Working on Missions by MOS<br>Limited Edition – Soft Cover - To be placed on 380 <sup>th</sup> Website       | 1 volume   |
| 8.  | PART VIIB | THE INDISPENSABLE SERVICE STAFF by MOS<br>Being finalized, should have Limited Edition - Soft Cover before Reunion<br>To be placed on 380 <sup>th</sup> Website | 1 volume   |
| 9.  | PART VIII | MISSIONS OF THE AUSTRALIA-NEW GUINEA CAMPAIGN<br>Manuscript Draft Completed   | 15 volumes |
| 10. | PART IX   | MISSIONS OF THE PHILIPPINES CAMPAIGN<br>Manuscript Draft Completed  | 8 volumes  |
| 11. | PART XA   | WHY WERE WE THERE – AUSTRALIA<br>Manuscript Draft Completed   | 1 volume   |
| 12. | PART XB   | THE WAY TO THE PHILIPPINES<br>Manuscript in Preparation   | 1 volume   |

### OTHER LATER CONSIDERATIONS

13. PART XI    OUR OPPOSITION – THE CHANGING JAPANESE ORDER OF BATTLE

As noted above, much of this has now been completed and we will have those published and in manuscript form with us at the Boston Reunion for your inspection. Our goal of completeness has resulted in a great size of documentation, particularly for the aircraft and their missions. The problem is: How can this be made readily available to you, our members, and scholars interested in this period?

We hope we can have a discussion of these points at the coming Reunion.

---

---

## RECOLLECTIONS

---

---

Ralph Henderson, 530th Squadron, sent the following note with regards to the information contained in our March 2004 issue about why we went to Australia.

8-04-04

Ted

*Oh boy - what started as a note on the research projects and "war dept" documents ... got me started on all kinds of 380th memories-events, i.e., our various missions out of New Guinea, Port Moresby area, nite missions to Rabula, practice skip bombings on that world war I German ship in harbor, etc. Oh well! RAH*

*Ted Williams:*

*Slow in responding to our delights in the efforts of the history project staff that brought about the internal documents recounting our (380th) destination to (and pardon our recollection that it was to get us to "North Africa" area - not specifically England) we were in with the group at Forbes AFB Kansas - where we went thru all the various briefings, etc. that were to take us thru "Florida" area, Azures and into North Africa area. In fact all the 24s that were on hand for our departure were the "sand color."*

*Until the nite of final briefing, when we were stunned at opening of ceremony being changed to 5th AF Pacific area and orders had us taking off following and to Hamilton AFB, Cal (Bay area) and thence to Hawaii, etc. to Australia and lo & behold what did we have to take off flying were the "jungle green" B-24s all of which had been ferried in by the "WASPs" overnite taking back the "desert" equipment.*

*And why is all this so special in our life is well -- - at Forbes knowing of "Africa/England" we took our leave to home - Chicago for family priority rather than California, Bay area, where my fiancée to be "Rosemary" was at Mills College and got her ring to her via mail --*

*But nite at Forbes on switch to Australia along with usual "black out" rules of phones and calls - we ended up at Hamilton AFB, of course, but lo and behold there was Rosemary and others associated with various others on our flight stopover at Officers Club before departure that afternoon to Hawaii -- "our" angel for this "rendezvous" was result of our group navigator, Ron Hillman, got thru to his special one, who in turn got to Rosemary at Mills College, etc.*

*Rosemary said she also recalled seeing our take off "formation" over /thru Golden Gate/SF-Oakland Bay bridges that late afternoon from her balcony room up the hills of Oakland, Cal.*

*Your history projects, etc. - very welcome - keep it up with more.*

*Respectfully,*

*Ralph Henderson*

*P.S. Yes if we had gone to Africa it would have had the 380th to Palesti oil mission targets!!*

---

---

## ARTICLE CONTRIBUTIONS

---

---

As you can see, we included an article by Bill Bever in this issue with an interesting story from his father's service with the 380th as well as the recollections above from Ralph Henderson. Previous issues have also included stories, photos, and other articles like this. If any members have short stories, photos, memories, etc., like this that you would like to share with our membership, please send your contributions to Barbara Gotham (barb@purdue.edu) or Ted Williams (tjwil@ecn.purdue.edu), or you can send to us by regular mail:

Barb Gotham, 130 Colony Road, W. Lafayette, IN 47906-1209  
Ted Williams, 208 Chippewa St., W. Lafayette, IN 47906-2123

---

---

**380TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION  
2005 MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM**

---

---

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

\* *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. Please mail your registration form and check to:

**Carnevale & Associates  
P.O. Box 1230  
Sonoita AZ 85637**

---

*Membership runs from Reunion to Reunion.*

---

---



## 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



*529th Bill, Richard D., Gunner, Jeffery's  
Crew (54), DOD 06/11/2004, Chesterland,  
Ohio, reported by Werner Homuth*

*529th Gomer, Walter Kenneth, Radio  
Operator, Van Wormer's Crew (45),  
DOD 10/29/2000, Lantana, Florida,  
reported by his son, Ken Gomer*

*529th Raven, Robert D., Engineer/Gunner,  
Wehrley's Crew (41), DOD 08/14/2004,  
Dublin, California, reported by Joe Maloney*

Please send TAPS information to:  
Theodore J. Williams, 208 Chippewa St.,  
West Lafayette IN 47906-2123  
Phone: 765/494-7434, 765/463-7828

