

25

380TH BOMB GROUP



Flying Circus



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

Francis Johnson

Francis 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.

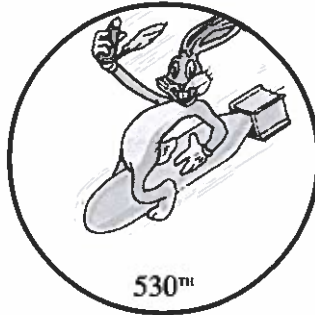
*our predecessor organization, for the past eighteen years
(1982-1999).*

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 #25

December 2005

Compatriots and Friends:

It looks like everyone had a grand time at the San Diego Reunion. Both Pat and we here have received more laudatory comments than ever before. These are certainly heartwarming to receive.

As noted elsewhere, our next Reunion will be in Washington, D.C., on October 11-15, 2006. We hope to be able to attend the dedication of the USAF Memorial scheduled for October 14-15. We don't know yet why two days are involved.

Even though this is written before Christmas, this *FLYING CIRCUS* will get to you after the holidays, due to printing and mailing, but nevertheless Barb and I both wish all of you will have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

We look forward to seeing you again in Washington, if not before!

To preserve the memory of the 380th.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ted".

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

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Email: tjwil@ecn.purdue.edu

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

2006 REUNION INFORMATION

At the San Diego Reunion in November, the membership present voted to have the 2006 Reunion in **Washington, D.C., October 11-15**. Pat Carnevale is looking into lodging in the Arlington-Alexandria, Virginia, area. These dates coincide with the dedication of the Air Force Memorial in Washington at that same time. We hope to be able to attend this dedication as a group during our Reunion, just like that for the B-24 Memorial in San Diego.

Updates on Reunion activities and scheduling will be forthcoming in the March, June, and August/September issues of *THE FLYING CIRCUS* and on our website at:

<http://ies.www.ecn.purdue.edu/IIES/PLAIC/380/REUNION/Reunion.html>

[The memorial association is still registering WWII veterans; their website is www.wwiimemorial.com]

FUTURE REUNIONS

As stated above, at the San Diego Reunion in November, the membership present voted to have the 2006 Reunion in **Washington, D.C., October 11-15**. They also voted to select the 2007 Reunion site in Washington during the 2006 Reunion. All Reunion locations beyond that will be decided at future reunions; therefore, all previously posted future reunion sites are no longer valid. Please let us know your preferences for consideration at Washington for 2007 and beyond.

2005 MEMORIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS

If you did not attend the Reunion but would like a copy of the Memorial Service Program, please contact Barb Gotham, 130 Colony Road, West Lafayette IN 47906 - Email: barb@purdue.edu

The names of those honored at our service can also be found on the 380th webpages at:
<http://fairway.ecn.purdue.edu/IIES/PLAIC/380/REUNION/2004Reunion/2005MemorialSvc.htm>

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Mrs. Alice P. Craig and her daughter, Martha, sent us a Memorial Contribution to the 380th Historical Research Fund in honor of Lt. Col. John B. Nash, navigator (1st Lt. with the 380th) on the crew of Mrs. Craig's husband, Captain Douglas S. Craig, of the 528th.

Ms. Cecelia Meade gave us a similar donation while at the San Diego Reunion, for Lt. Willis S. (Bill) Thrash, Navigator of the Hinman Crew of the 531st. Ms. Meade's father, Walter "Red" Morrison, was Bill Thrash's crewmate on this crew (Red was assistant flight engineer/gunner).

THANK YOU

I just want to take this opportunity to thank Marvin Gardner for suggesting and the members present at the Members Meeting on November 12th for agreeing that I receive the original history book, *THE FLYING CIRCUS*. It was donated to our group by James Krider of Clemson, SC, to be given to a "worthy" member of the 380th. I'm honored that the group thinks that I am such a person, and I am most humbled by this declaration. Thanks again!



MINIATURE FB-111A

Retired U.S. Air Force Col. Chris McWilliams, now Chief of Logistics for the Battle Management Systems Wing at Hanscom Air Force Base (Boston) has completely restored a model FB-111A to its original appearance.

McWilliams became acquainted with the model FB-111A while assigned as commander of the 509th Field Maintenance Squadron at Pease Air Force Base in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, from 1985 to 1989. About six years ago, he heard that the original model FB-111A that had been at Pease had been relocated. He found that it was still intact. The model was viewed this past summer at the FB-111A Reunion; however, the model's condition had deteriorated and required extensive body work and repainting; he also found that it still bore his original signature from 1987.

The NH Civil Air Patrol, who owns the model, repaired the body and replaced its fiberglass and sheet metal. The FB-111A Association (founded by McWilliams and his friends about 12 years ago) offered to repaint the plane on the condition that its original FB-111A paint scheme be restored (it then appeared as a USAF Thunderbird). McWilliams did the repainting himself, in his home garage. Nose art emblems on both sides of the fuselage pay homage to the WWII bomb group predecessors whose descendent wings flew the FB-111A. The right side represents the 509th Bomb Wing; the left side represents the 380th Bomb Wing from Plattsburgh AFB, which is the direct descendent of our 380th Bombardment Group (H). Its nose art proudly bears "The King of the Heavies" emblem and our associated bomb squadron patches just as they appeared on the actual FB-111A aircraft (S/N 68-0244).



SAN DIEGO REUNION PHOTOS



Holiday Inn Bayside



Panda at San Diego Zoo



Views from the Holiday Inn



Cabrillo National Monument



Aeronautical Museum
San Diego Bay



Pacific Ocean from Point Loma

Memorial Service, North Island Naval Air Station Chapel, November 10



Welcome Dinner, November 9



Lyle & Clara Sears Annabelle & Jim Scalese



Ron & Karen Scalese

Pat Carnevale

Russ & Verna McCrea



Color Guard



Chaplain Marks



Toepperwein & Chaplain Marks



Boarding the buses



Topper & Georgia Toepperwein

Photo Credits: Bill Bever, Jo Debevec, Barb Gotham, Scott Meade, Joe Wells, Diane Whetstone

SAN DIEGO REUNION PHOTOS

Luncheon at North Island Naval Base Officers Club



Bottom Row (L-R): Gus Cameron, Paul Beilstein, Carl Borgstrom, John Annesser, Lou Lanners, Jim Bejoian, Curt Chamberlain, Will Moran
 Second Row: Lyle Sears, Bill Brew (behind Gus and Paul)
 Third Row: John Carroll, Ted Williams, Loyd Oakes, Ozzie Schoenenmann, Jim Scalese, Bud Offerle, Gail Stephenson, John Koller, Marvin Gardner, Tom Hunt
 Top Row: Peter LaLena, Sam Failla, Topper Toepperwein, Phil Shaw, Ralph Henderson, Bill LaFlech, Richard Benson, Larry Farnum, Bob Smith, Bob Daffer, Milt Markowitz, Joe Wells



Joe Wells,
Diane Whetsine

Frank &
Janice Knafelc

SAN DIEGO REUNION PHOTOS

B-24 Memorial Dedication and Veterans Day Parade



Waiting for the program to begin



B-24 Memorial



B-24
Museum



Parade



Jo & Ann Debevec



Waiting to view the memorial



Parade



Marge Meyer, Joe Wells,
Marie LaLena

Hospitality Room Photos



Marvin
Gardner,
Bill Bever



Topper Toepperwein & Bill Moran



Isabel
Williams



Kiel Mystery
Art

Additional photos will be available in February on the 380th Website/Reunions/2005 Reunion

SAN DIEGO REUNION PHOTOS

Dinner Dance, November 12



Diane Whetstone, Cecelia
& Scott Meade, Bil Bever



Joe Wells, Marge Meyer



Loyd & Donna Oakes



Joe Wells, Ann Debevec



Pat & Pete Carnevale



George & Jessie Poy,
Marilyn & Gail Stephenson



John
Carroll



Ted & Isabel Williams



Lyle & Clara Sears



Milt & Natalie Markowitz



Sara & Jim Bejoian, Phil Shaw



Ozzie & Mary Schoenemann,
Debbie & Ken Campbell



John & Penny Carroll,
Judy Lynch, Gus Cameron



Terry & Terry Snyder



Loyd & Donna Oakes



Al & Paulette Jansen
George & Jessie Poy



Janice &
Frank Knafelc



Tom
Hunt



Sam & Mary Failla



Phil Shaw, Marie
Anderson, Doris Mitchell



Sharon & Bill LaFlech and guest

Jo & Ann Debevec



Members of the Beilstein Family



SAN DIEGO REUNION PHOTOS



Marvin Gardner



Joe Wells, Isabel & Ted Williams

Dinner Dance, November 12



Gladys Brandt & Viola Peterson



Tom Hunt



Richard & Claire Benson, Al & Paulette Jansen



Glenn Horton, Nick Lamicella, Cecelia Meade, Bill Moran, Norma Lamicella



Gwen & Glenn Horton



Tom Hunt Ted Williams



Bob & Marilyn Daffer



Curt Chamberlain & Bill Moran



Jim Bejoian Phil Shaw



Nick & Norma Lamicella



Jean Cator, Cheryl & Bill Randall

Daffer Family



Nick Lamicella, Bill Bever



Marie & Peter LaLena



Barb & Doug Gotham



Betty Swanson & Linda Donaldson



Robert & Martin Smith, Diane Wyman, Marjorie Smith



John Annesser, Marian Hritz, Russ & Verna McCrea



Bill Randall, Sharon Shapiro, Alissa & Jessica DeLanda



Lou & Irene Lanners



Terry & Terry Snyder, Carl Borgstrom, Linda Weeden



Bud & Kathleen Offerle, Sara & Jim Bejoian



Turley family: David, Brian, Dan, Kathy



Annabelle & Jim Scalese, Ron & Karen Scalese



Jim & Ron Scalese



Glenn Horton John Carroll



NEW BOOKS

Sent by email, Sat 12/10/2005 1:20 PM

Dear Barb,

I enjoyed learning about the 380th online and thought the following might be of interest. I'm a London-based author and spent the last few years helping one of America's greatest unsung heroes of WWII, William Ash, put together his wartime autobiography *UNDER THE WIRE*, which has just been published in USA and Canada.

Bill, who just celebrated his 88th birthday, is probably the greatest living US prisoner of war escape-artist of WWII. Born in Texas, he joined the RCAF in 1940 and flew Spitfires until shot down in 1942. He then became a serial escape artist, attempting 13 PoW-camp escapes - cutting through the barbed wire, climbing over it, or tunneling under it before finally escaping for good.

When the book came out in the UK a few months ago, it became an instant best-seller, but somehow it has been almost completely ignored so far by the media in North America. The only thing we can do to get Bill and his book the recognition they deserve in the US and Canada is to turn to the internet and people who care about WWII and the people who fought it for us. So I would be very grateful if you would forward this note to anyone who you think might like the book or help to spread the word that it is out there, available at most good bookshops or online at Amazon.

I have sent this note as a one-off to individual email addresses from my favorite WWII/aviation websites, forums and guestbooks, but would really appreciate it if you could spread the word to anyone who you know cares about WWII and keeping the spirit and history of the 'greatest generation' alive for future generations. It is in the bookshops now.

Sincere thanks,

Brendan Foley
londonwriter2001@yahoo.co.uk

Book website:

<http://www.bfoley.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/>

Book Details:

US/Canada edition: *UNDER THE WIRE* by William Ash and Brendan Foley
Published by Thomas Dunne Books (St Martin's Press) ISBN: 0312338325

Tony Cafarella, the Australian writer of humorous WWII and Outback books, has sent us another of his work, *"G'DAY MATE"! 'AVE YA 'ERD THIS ONE? Mk II*, a follow-on to his popular first one of the same title, and every bit as funny. The price is \$40.00 US, postage and handling paid.

Tony can be contacted as follows:

Antonio Cafarella
PO Box 24
Hawker, South Australia 5434
AUSTRALIA
Phone and fax: (08) 8648 4167

**380TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION
2006 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



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



Group Neil Owen Bolstad, Operations, Great Falls, Montana,
DOD October 16, 2005, reported by Roger Caputo

528th Joseph W. Guinane, Top Turret Gunner, Grindle's Crew,
Sayre, Pennsylvania, November 20, 2005, reported by his son,
Kevin Guinane

528th John B. Nash, Navigator, Craig's Crew (8), Palm Harbor,
Florida, DOD October 24, 2005; reported by Mrs. Alice Craig

529th Henry H. Day, Aircraft Commander, Day's Crew,
Portland, Oregon, DOD September 7, 2005, reported by his Bud
Offerle (letter from Deborah E. Sorensen)

530th Howard M. Thomason, Crew Chief, She'Asta,
Albuquerque, New Mexico, DOD April 5, 2005, reported by his
wife, Merle Thomason

531st William R. Burton, Co-Pilot, Fowler's Crew (96), Light
House Point, Florida, DOD February 1971, reported by his son,
Dale E. Burton

531st Martin L. Hock, Bombardier, Baptist's Crew (87), West
Sacramento, California, DOD November 30, 2005, reported by
his wife, Mary Hock

531st Clarence J. (Lindy) Lindenberg, Radio Operator/
Gunner, Hahn's Crew (31), DOD March 6, 1996, reported by his
son-in-law, Gerald Johnson

531st Franklin L. Peck, Radio Operator and Machine Gunner,
Purinton's Crew, DOD November 28, 1968, reported by his son,
David J. Peck

531st Myrl B. Sternke, Aircraft Commander and Operations
Officer, Sternke's Crew (103), Hannibal, Missouri, DOD May
30, 2005, reported by his wife, Mary Sternke

531st Saxon Thrash, wife of Willis S. Thrash, Fairhope,
Alabama, DOD August 4, 2005, reported by her husband, Bill
Thrash

531st Willis S. Thrash, Navigator, Hinman's Crew (84),
Fairhope, Alabama, DOD October 18, 2005, reported by his son,
Billy Thrash

