

380TH BOMB GROUP



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

Francis Henshaw

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.

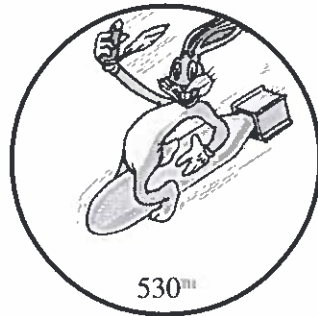
*our predecessor organization, for the past eighteen years
(1982-1999).*

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



NEWSLETTER #28

September 2006

Compatriots and Friends:

The Washington Reunion will be a very important meeting for us. Not only will we be taking part in the Dedication of the new Memorial for the USAF, but also we must make an important decision on the future of our 380th Bomb Group Association. The departure of Pat Carnevale as our Reunion Coordinator as of the end of Washington Reunion requires us to outline the future of the Association there.

To continue, we will probably need a new Coordinator, and our obvious limited future as the result of our members aging may make it difficult to entice an appropriate person for this task. It would be difficult for any of our members to take over here since we lack the experience and connections that such a person must have. Your thoughts, opinions, and suggestions concerning our Association's future are most welcome. Please send them to us and we will provide these at Registration so all can discuss this prior to and at our Business Meeting on Saturday morning of the Reunion.

Have a pleasant trip to Washington and a great time there!

To preserve the memory of the 380th.

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)

Sincerely,

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

Theodore J. (Ted) Williams

2006 REUNION INFORMATION

The 2006 380th Reunion will be held October 12-16, 2006, in the Washington, D.C., area. Pat Carnevale has booked the Holiday Inn in Rosslyn, Virginia. They quoted her \$109 + tax but can only do it if we arrive on Thursday and depart on Monday. Otherwise the Wednesday night would be at \$169 and the other nights at \$109. They also offer free parking which is hard to find in the DC area. The Washington subway is only a block away for those who want to use it; the terminal at Washington National (Reagan) Airport is only about 15 minutes away on the subway.

Thursday	Registration in morning/afternoon; welcome dinner in the evening
Friday	380th Memorial Service in the morning at Andrews AFB Chapel; lunch at Andrews AFB; WWII Memorial and Air & Space Museum in the afternoon
Saturday	Members meeting in the morning; USAF National Memorial Dedication in the afternoon; tour of Arlington Cemetery
Sunday	USAF National Memorial Service in the morning; C&CO Canal trip in the afternoon; 380th banquet in the evening
Monday	Departure

If you would like to visit Washington earlier than Thursday for extra sight-seeing or other reasons, arrivals at this Holiday Inn prior to the scheduled Thursday hotel check-in can be booked but would be at the \$169 rate.

The hotel and event registration forms are contained with this issue, and you will also be able to print them from our website at:

<http://fairway.ecn.purdue.edu/IIES/PLAIC/380/REUNION/2006Reunion/Reunion.html>

For the USAF Memorial activities, we've been guaranteed 125 seats for Saturday's events, and 100 at the Sunday activities.

From the Air Force Memorial Foundation's webpage (<http://www.airforcememorial.org/>):

Dedication Ceremony

The United States Air Force Memorial will be officially dedicated and presented to the nation at an on-site ceremony at 1:30 p.m., on Saturday, October 14, 2006. The new Memorial is located in Arlington, Virginia, directly across from the Pentagon.

The general public is cordially invited to view the ceremony from the South Pentagon Parking Lot in conjunction with the Air Force Open House via live simulcast broadcast. During the ceremony, guests at both locations will view an aerial review of historic and modern Air Force aircraft, including an appearance by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds.

Immediately following the dedication, the United States Air Force Band and one of country music's leading ladies, Lee Ann Womack, will perform a free concert on Saturday, October 14, 2006, in celebration of the dedication of the United States Air Force Memorial.

For those who wish to visit the Air Force Memorial site following the dedication, shuttles to and from the Memorial will be available.

Air Force Open House

Throughout the entire day, rain or shine, the United States Air Force will host an Open House featuring a variety of performances, including the United States Air Force Drill Team, interactive displays and exhibits of Air Force equipment, helicopters and aircraft. The Open House festivities begin at 9:00 a.m. It will be at the South Pentagon Parking Lot as above.

Security Advisory

No coolers or large bags/containers will be permitted. All guests and their possessions will be thoroughly checked.

2006 REUNION INFORMATION

380th Members Signed up for the 2006 Reunion as of September 5

Marie Anderson and Lyndsey Johnson
John Annesser and Marian Hritz
Dexter Baker and Jo Berrett, Dexter Baker Jr,
Gregory Baker
Jack Banks
Paul and Barbara Beilstein
Richard and Claire Benson
Bill Bever
William and Alma Brew, Caroline Deschenes, Leonard
and Joanne Slama
Joseph and Irma Brooks
Gus Cameron
Curt Chamberlain
Robert and Marie Daffer, Robert and Marie Daffer,
Marilyn Daffer, Daniel Daffer, Dan, Kathie and
Brian Turley
Joe Dally and Sharon Miller
Larry and Jeanne Farnum
Marvin Gardner, Marvin A Gardner and Martha Ann
Love, Roland and Janet Gardner, Lawrence and
Lana Gardner, Brian and Kathleen Clements
Lloyd Fry and Bettie Morrison
George and Chuck Gerards
Barb and Doug Gotham
Tom Hunt

Al and Paulette Jansen
Janice and Frank Knafelc, Christopher and Allison
Knafelc
William and Sharon LaFlech, Kelly LaFlech and
Kamri Nixon
Louis and Irene Lanners and Jeanie Cator
Sam and Miriam Leiner
John and Delore Lento
Milton Markowitz
Cecelia and Scott Meade
Will Moran
Lauraine Nash, Janice and Christopher Nash, Peter Nash
and Bruce Nash
Loyd Oakes and Bill Randall
Maurice Powers
George and Jessie Poy
Mike and Patrice Roth
Vincent and Annabelle Scalse
Ozzie and Mary Schoenemann
Lyle and Clara Sears
Phil Shaw, Phil Shaw III, Gail More and Kevin Shaw
Betty Swanson and Linda Donaldson
Edward and Barbara Walford
Isabel and Ted Williams

Carnevale & Associates Inc.

PO Box 1230

Sonoita AZ 85637 E-mail: carne@sunnacast.net

Need help with travel plans? Complete request below or phone (800) 659-8808

380th Bomb Group Association
2006 Reunion, Washington D.C. - October 12-16, 2006

Travel dates _____ Departure City _____
Aisle or Window seat (circle choice)
Preferred Airline _____ Frequent Flyer Number _____

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

(Note: a modest service fee applies to all airline tickets)

2006 REUNION INFORMATION

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 380TH BOMB GROUP REUNION ARLINGTON, VA OCTOBER 12-16, 2006

Thursday – October 12

12:00 – 6:00 pm

Registration in Hospitality Room (Shenandoah Room)

Free time to explore area on your own

6:00 pm

Welcome Dinner – Vantage Point Restaurant (top floor of the hotel)

8:00 – 10:00 pm

Hospitality Room Open (Shenandoah Room)

Sign up for table reservations at Banquet

Friday – October 13

9:00 am

Buses leave for Memorial Service

at Andrews Air Force Base

10:00 – 11:00 am

Memorial Service at Chapel

11:30 am

Lunch at The Club at Andrews AFB

12:30 pm

Depart for WWII Memorial and other DC sites

4:30 pm

Bus returns to hotel

5:00 – 10:00 pm

Hospitality Room Open (Shenandoah Room)

Dinner on your own

Saturday – October 14

9:00 am

Member's Meeting in Hospitality Room (Shenandoah Room)

11:30 am

Buses depart for USAF Memorial Dedication

(meet in lobby at 11:15 am) (2 buses)

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Dedication of USAF Memorial and Fly Over

2:00 – 3:00 pm

To hotel for lunch on own, then back on buses

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Tour of Arlington Cemetery by tram (can get on & off at sites)

5:30 pm

Buses return to hotel

5:30 – 10:00 pm

Hospitality Room Open (Shenandoah Room)

Dinner on your own

Sunday – October 15

9:00 am

Buses depart for USAF Memorial activities

and C&CO Canal trip (handicap accessible)

(lunch on own near canal) (2 buses)

12:00 – 5:00 pm

Hospitality Room Open (Shenandoah Room)

6:00 pm

No-host cocktails – Rosslyn Ballroom (2nd floor of hotel)

7:00 pm

Banquet – Rosslyn Ballroom

Monday – October 16

Departure day

380th BOMB GROUP EVENT REGISTRATION FORM

**Holiday Inn Rosslyn at Key Bridge
Arlington, VA**

E-mail: carne@sunncast.net

2006 REUNION - WASHINGTON, D.C.
October 12-16, 2006

HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM

Holiday Inn Rosslyn at Key Bridge -- Arlington, VA

Name _____

Spouse or Guest _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____ Priority Club# _____

Rate: \$109 (single or double occupancy) + 10.25% room tax (Total \$120.17 per night)

Please note: Group rate is only available for the 4 nights of the reunion. Other nights will be at a higher rate.
Please call for quotes.

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Room type: _____ Single (one person, one bed)
_____ Double (two persons, one bed)
_____ Double/Double (two persons, two beds)

Special Needs: _____ Handicap facilities _____ Non-smoking _____ Smoking

Guarantee by credit card # _____ exp date: _____

Signature _____

Name on card _____

Please print

Credit card will be used for guarantee only. Your card will not be charged until arrival or unless you fail to cancel on time. If making hotel deposit by check, please make check payable to *Holiday Inn Rosslyn* and include tax (\$120.17).

Cancel policy for this event: 48 hours prior to arrival to avoid penalty
Reservations made after **September 21st** are subject to availability and possible rate change.

Please mail or fax reservation form to: Carnevale & Associates, Inc.

P. O. Box 1230

Sonoita, AZ 85637 Phone: 800-659-8808

Fax: 520- 455-5866 E-mail: carne@sunnecast.net

As full service travel agents, we are also able to assist you with your travel arrangements. A modest service fee will be charged for airline tickets.

FUTURE OF THE 380TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

We received some disappointing news last week. As you can see from her letter on the next page, Pat Carnevale and her Carnevale & Associates has resigned as our Reunion Coordinator effective after the Washington Reunion. My response letter to her is also included here.

This requires us to make an important decision as to the future of the 380th Bomb Group Association. This decision is tempered also by the advancing ages of all of us. Do we continue our reunions beyond Washington or, since we have no other already scheduled, should Washington be our last one? Both decisions make it harder for us to recruit a new Reunion Coordinator. The return they would get is far lower than when Carnevale & Associates took over from Helen Thompson and the future is uncertain as well.

Much as I regret to have to say this, my own personal vote would have to be to stop at Washington. We must discuss this among ourselves during the Reunion and make a decision at the Business Meeting. I would ask that those who wish to continue would let us have any proposals they might have as to how this would be administered and where we should go.

If you would care to let me have your opinions and suggestions in advance, I would be happy to consolidate these together and pass them out at Registration so we may have talking points to discuss among ourselves during the Reunion to help our discussion at the Business Meeting.

Barb Gotham is willing to continue the newsletters as we have been (either on a quarterly or semi-annual basis), particularly if we have stories submitted to us by our members. Please let us know if you are still interested in receiving the newsletters also. We must acknowledge that there will be some charge for this (for printing and postage); we can discuss this also at the Business Meeting.

Whether we continue or not, thank you all for your support to Pat, Barb, and myself over these past seven years. I look forward to hearing from you and to seeing you all in Washington.

For the 380th.

Ted Williams

Note: Letters were sent to all paid members of the 380th Bomb Group Association on September 5th - this is being reprinted here for those who may not have received the personal letter.

FUTURE OF THE 380TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

CARNEVALE & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Db a Carnevale Travel

August 29, 2006

Mr. Ted Williams
208 Chippewa Street
West Lafayette, IN 47906-2123

Dear Ted:

I'm enclosing your confirmation for your hotel room and events for the 380th Reunion in Arlington, VA. It looks like you will have a good turnout for this event. As of today we have 106 people signed up. That's very close to what you had in San Diego. Lots of family members will be there and I think that's really great.

It is with a heavy heart that I must tell you that this year will be my last time to handle your annual reunion. I have promised Pete and myself too, that I will retire from reunion planning as soon as I have completed the six I have this Fall and the 4 on the books for 2007. It was a tough decision as I have really enjoyed meeting so many wonderful people and going to a lot of cities I would not otherwise get to visit. It is especially hard to say good-bye to your group since this will be my 7th reunion with you. I have gotten to know your people so well and they are all great. You and the others are like family to me.

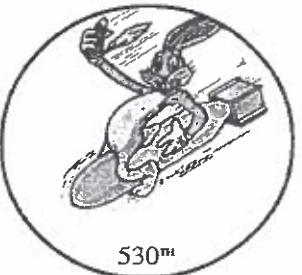
I will continue to do my Travel business, at least for another year or two. It does not take up as much time and I rather enjoy helping people plan their special vacations. I'm also hoping that Pete and I will be able to do some traveling together while we are still in good health.

I'm looking forward to seeing you and Isabel in Arlington on October 11th.



Pat Carnevale

FUTURE OF THE 380TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION



THE 380TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION 5th AF - RAAF

AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS

The Flying Circus

208 CHIPPEWA ST.
WEST LAFAYETTE IN 47906-2123

September 1, 2006

Ms. Pat Carnevale
Carnevale & Associates
PO Box 1230
Sonoita AZ 85637-1230

Dear Pat:

Your recent letter was a "blockbuster," but I fully understand your feelings and your family concerns. You have done a wonderful job for us over the past seven years and we are most grateful to you for that.

Tom and I had a long discussion about the future of the 380th Association in Ogden, Utah, after the recent plaque dedication at the Hill AFB Museum Chapel on August 15th. We had difficulty coming up with a worthwhile proposal for the future to give to the members at Washington. It looks like we have already done, with your wonderful help, all the great things we could do. In any case, we could only have gone on for a short time further considering the steadily increasing age of our veteran members and their consequent inability to participate. Thus you should feel no regret of leaving us stranded. Maybe it was a decision that was waiting to be made by one or the other of us.

We'll have a chance to say goodbye in Washington, but in the meantime, again our most heartfelt thanks for your great help to our organization and our members over these past years. Have fun planning your coming years of freedom from having to worry about us and your other clients.

Best of everything.

Most Sincerely,

Ted Williams

Copy: Tom Hunt

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

FROM OUR MEMBERS

Note from *Claude Bauguss, Ground Staff, 528th Squadron*, regarding the wartime memories submitted by our members:

"I would like to say at this time as to why we never hear about any enlisted ground men. I know, or did know, a lot of ground personnel that received injuries because of the war. I for one received injuries from shrapnel during a bomb raid at Fenton Field as well as others. One of the raids were when they hit the gasoline storage dump. Our tent where we lived was only about 150 yards from the gas dump. Six of us lived in the bomb dump until we were ready to move from Australia to Mindora. There is more to be told and I would like to hear from some of these ground men other than the pilots and co-pilots and their missions. Enlisted men were involved in these missions too."

Editor's note: We publish all stories that we get, regardless of rank. Roger Caputo's memoirs that began in the last issue and continue in this one are from the ground crew perspective. We look forward to receiving more war stories that we can print in future issues!

Ed Walford, Navigator, Sears' Crew, 531st Squadron, and his son flew to Tucson last May. His son rented a Cessna 180 which he flew and Ed navigated! He sent the following pictures from that trip from the Pima Museum. One is of Ed and one is a reincarnation of his Australian girlfriend (actually, a professional model who happened to be there on a WW2 photo shoot!). The tail insignia were hanging in the B-24 hangar. Ed questioned whether the 380th insignia is correct; it is, although it is an incorrect replica of our last tail insignia. The lion was to represent "King of the Heavies," our last motto. There was a series of rudder markings, one for each squadron, which are missing here.



LONE B-24 DELIVERS ITS RAIN OF TERROR

By Bill Bever, son of Everett D. Bever

On the 5th of March 1944, Crew #4 from the 5th AAF, 528th Bomb Squadron, 380th Bomb Group, lifted off from an airfield in Nadzab, New Guinea, with other bombers to bomb their primary target on Los Negros Island in support of the First Cavalry Division, which was ashore and pinned down by Japanese artillery fire.

Inclement weather prevented these planes from bombing Los Negros, so they headed for their secondary target on Manus Island in the Admiralty Islands. As soon as they were on course for the target, the weather continued to plague them. The flight engineer, Sgt. Robert Gjerstad, looked up from his top gun turret position and noticed B-24s were flying directly above them, a little too close for comfort, and notified the pilot, Lt. Johnny DiDomenico. The pilot immediately took evasive action and dropped down to 2700 feet. The bombardier, Lt. Everett Bever, notified the pilot that they were immediately on the bomb run even though the pilot said they were too low in altitude to be dropping eight 1000 pound bombs. As the bomb bay doors opened, the radio operator, Sgt. John Miller, saw the United States Navy Fleet below their plane. One of the navy ships was signaling to their bomber to find out if they were friend or foe, so Sgt. Miller frantically got the message to them, thinking the U.S. Navy was going to blow them out of the sky before they reached their target. In the meantime, they were closing in on the target. Sgt. Miller was holding on to the bomb bay door handle to keep the doors from closing before the bombs could be released. All of a sudden, Lt. Bever said, "Bombs Away," releasing all eight 1000 pound bombs on the target. The concussion from the bombs exploding blew Sgt. Miller's hat off, while still holding on to the bomb bay door handle as he and the rest of the crew were bounced up and down.

After Crew #4 returned to the airfield, the crew, rather shaken from their up and down moments when the bombs were dropped, took off their hats, walked up to Lt. Bever and smacked him in the head, saying they would appreciate it next time if he would drop his bombs from a higher altitude!

Editor's Note: To learn more, read Glenn Horton's description of this incident in THE BEST IN THE SOUTHWEST, pages 266-268.



Back Row: Lt.'s Norris, Bever, Reid and DiDomenico

Front Row Sgt.'s McKinney, Hester, Murray, Miller, Edwards and Gjerstad

INFO SOUGHT ON 380TH MEMBER

Seeking anyone of the 380th Bomb Group who knew T/SGT. ORAL E. ROGERS, who was a aircraft mechanic assigned to the 380th. He was originally from West Virginia, and went to the southern Pacific (New Guinea & Philippines) in November 1944 and returned from there in October 1945. Mr. Rogers was my great-uncle, and was killed in an automobile accident in April, 1946. I am writing a history of the Rogers family.

John J. Hood
PO Box 248
McDonald TN 37353-0248
TheTNHoods@cs.com

380TH PLAQUE DEDICATION - HILL AIR FORCE BASE MUSEUM, UTAH

August 15, 2006

PROGRAM

Welcome and Origin of the Plaque

Invocation and Dedication (Chaplain Maj. Carl Wright)

Moment of Silence

Unveiling of the Plaque (Mrs. Rader, Mrs. McPherson)

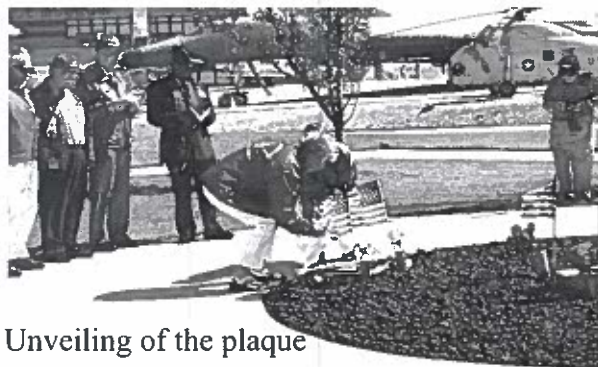
Taps

Benediction (Chaplain Maj. Carl Wright)

Retiring of Colors



Prior to unveiling of the plaque



Unveiling of the plaque



Posting of Colors



ORIGIN OF THE MEMORIAL

On September 20, 2002, we had our Memorial Service for our Salt Lake City Reunion here at this Chapel. We also visited their museum to specifically see their partially renovated B-24 Liberator.

Last year on September 2nd I again had business in Salt Lake City, and on that trip visited here to check up on progress on the Liberator. Unfortunately, there was none and the pessimism of the staff was very high.

I then visited the Chapel and met Jim Chastain and noted that since our last visit here the Chapel had been taken over by our 8th Air Force compatriots, as you can see when you visit it today.

Jim and I had a long talk about the 8th Air Force taking over and what we might do for the 5th. He stated he had a goal of establishing a 5th Air Force Memorial Grove in front of the Chapel and wanted to have memorials placed there from all of the 5th Air Force units. I promised that if he decided to do this the 380th would purchase the first spot.

Later last fall he called to say that they had decided to pursue this and wanted to know if we were still interested. I said we were and proposed the plaque before you as our contribution. We contracted with Mr. Robert Lindquist's Foundry to make it and it was delivered in March, installed by Jim and his associates in April and, as you know from THE FLYING CIRCUS quarterly, brightly decorated for Memorial Day by Jim.

I want to personally thank Mr. Curt Chamberlain and Mr. Thomas M. Hunt of the 380th Association for their generous donation of funds for this. I had previously intended to use some of our organizational funds for it, but their donations made this unnecessary. I want to thank Mr. Chastain and his associates most sincerely for their organization of the 5th Air Force Circle as it is now called and for taking care of our plaque installation. I also want to thank Mr. Lindquist for his workmanship on the memorial and all of our associates for being with us today.

Thank you all very much. Ted Williams

Color pictures will be available on the 380th Website

380TH PLAQUE DEDICATION - HILL AIR FORCE BASE MUSEUM, UTAH

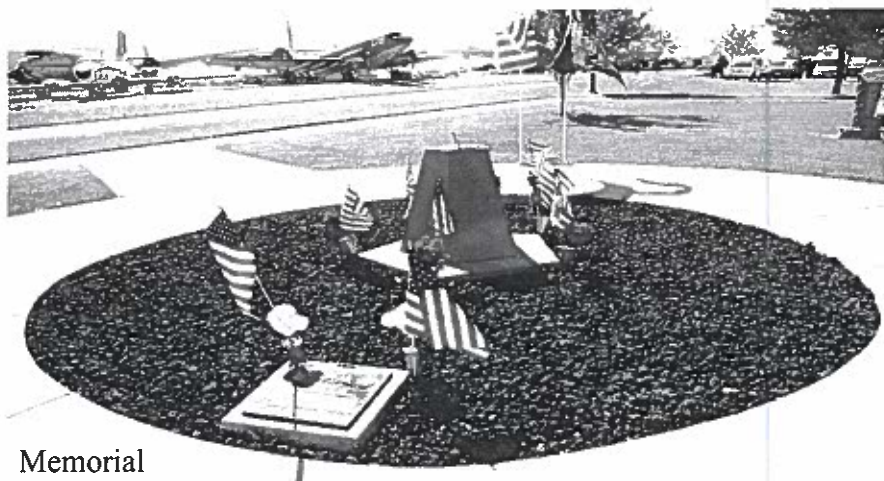
August 15, 2006



Chaplain
Wright dedicat-
ing the plaque,
addressing the
attendees



TAPS
bugler,
SA
Olsen



Memorial



Retiring of Colors



380th Members and Guests at Dedication

Left to right: Tom Hill, Marvin Gardner, John Rader, Curt Chamberlain, Tom Hunt, Ted Williams (reading address), Chaplain Major Carl Wright, Betty Rader, Elizabeth Williams McPherson



380th Plaque



Chaplain Wright & Jim Chastain

Curt Chamberlain, Tom Hunt, Ted
Williams, Marvin Gardner

Luncheon after Dedication: Curt Chamberlain, Ted Williams, Marvin Gardner, Jim Chastain

DREAM TIME - A WAR STORY

by Roger W. Caputo *Installment #2*

This is a story of Roger Caputo's experience in World War II; he was an NCO who was assigned to Group Headquarters, Administrative Section, in Intelligence. No claim is made that the story is one of a kind or especially unique, no more than each of us is some different from the other. Reproduced here by permission of the author. Because of the length of the manuscript, we will Roger's story in various installments, in succeeding issues of THE FLYING CIRCUS Quarterly, as page space permits. The first installment was printed in our June 2006 issue.

After having completed basic training at Scott Army Airforce Base and Army Infantry basic training at Camp Wolters, Texas, Roger was posted to Salt Lake City to the Army Airforce training school.

Upon arrival in Salt Lake City, we were ushered into a huge aircraft hangar carrying our duffel bags. There was nothing to do but sit around on the floor waiting to see what would happen next. As the day wore on, some of us were paged to report to a certain room for interviews and processing. I waited and waited, but I heard no call and I was beginning to wonder about the whole process. Finally, a clerk came strolling around the floor obviously looking for someone and as he approached our small group, he called my name, Roger W. Caputo 16073115! I replied, "here," and he turned to me with anger on his face. "Where the hell have you been?" was his question. "Right here all the time!" "Well, we've been looking all over for you and paging you over the speaker system." "Sorry I never heard it." "Well, get your butt up to the interview desk and be quick about it!" The large hangar was filled with hundreds of men and there was considerable noise, possibly drowning out the feeble speaker system, because I never heard my name called. I was upset to say the least and wondered if I'd miss the "big call from up yonder some day."

As I appeared before the interviewing clerk, he recited off my credentials, reading from the file; he stumbled across my IQ score and commented about its elevated value. He asked, "How would you like to go to Intelligence School?" I replied it sounded fine to me, but I didn't have the foggiest idea what it would be all about. At any rate, I was assigned to the Army Airforce Intelligence School after a security clearance was established. Secrets, you know! The school was right there on the base at Salt Lake City for four weeks, so I didn't have to move again. The housing was in tents, but they were fixed up with wooden floors and partial sides to shelter us from the Utah winter as now it was early October and the temperatures at the high elevation would drop to freezing overnight.

The operation of the Army Airforce was divided into four Sections and they were designated as: S-1, Personnel and Administration; S-2, Intelligence; S-3, Operations; and S-4, Maintenance and Stores. The four weeks of Intelligence School slipped by in a hurry. There were daytime classes of about 8 hours per day, but the evenings were free. It was interesting study and learning how intelligence gathers information, processes it, and makes an educated guess as to the enemy's strength and intentions. In practice, the Officers did the principal work, but the volume of data was often massive and enlisted men were required to help handle the paper shuffle.

After completing the Intelligence School, I was invited to attend the Photo-Interpreter's School and this work was still more interesting because we were looking at aerial photos taken of enemy targets before and after bombing. High flying fast aircraft were fitted with cameras that look straight down and as they made their photo runs the cameras were grinding away, taking a series of closely overlapping individual photos. After the photos were processed, adjoining pairs, being called stereo-pairs, when viewed with the aid of two magnifying lenses mounted on short wire legs and resting on the photos (one lens for each eye), showed the target in three dimensions. What magic! The photos often had to be adjusted left or right a bit, but when they were just right, the photos suddenly conveyed that valuable third dimension! Ships in harbors could easily be distinguished between loaded and unloaded by the depth they sat in the water. Buildings with roofs blown off gave up information about the interior damage; airplanes on an enemy airfield could be distinguished between damaged or undamaged by their tilt from the normal. Bomb craters in the runways had depth, some deeper than others. Or things hidden under trees or camouflage netting were often identifiable or at a minimum detectable. Nothing was hidden from the camera's prying eyes. Dummy decoy aircraft could be distinguished from the real thing! The principle trick in viewing stereo-pairs was to train each eye to look at separate photos simultaneously; thus the brain was recording two images simultaneously taken from slightly differing angles as the photo plane made its way along. In time

DREAM TIME (continued)

with practice, it was possible to view the pairs in stereo without the aid of the lenses, but the magnifying advantage was lost. The photo school lasted four weeks also and when it was completed, the time was then early December 1942 and I was ready to join any outfit training to go into combat.

It was a very pleasant and interesting eight weeks in Salt Lake City, the Mormon Capital of America. With the weekends free there was an opportunity to see all the sights including the mountains which surrounded the city on three sides, or appeared to. The USO held dances for the servicemen and they were well-conducted affairs. The Mormon influence was very much in evidence as there was a marked lack of the usual boisterousness and the soldiers behaved themselves. The girls were obviously people of character and culture, but not snobs. When a soldier walked up to one and politely asked for a dance, he did so in the most reserved manner possible so as not to give the impression of being loud or pushy. The girls had the clean look, not too heavy with the makeup, and wore conservative, but not dull, clothes. They looked every inch the female and you got the feeling they were about what you'd like to take home for keeps. The USO dances were not the most popular because of the close supervision, so they were not heavily attended. I know I went once, maybe twice, but no more because the girls I saw gave me a big heartache for home and one I left behind, Virginia, with no clear understanding between us as to the future.

Finally the day came to ship out. Personal choices of assignment were not involved. You went where they sent you, no questions asked!

I was assigned to the 380th Bombardment Group Heavy in their first phase of training at El Paso, Texas. It was early December 1942 and Salt Lake was getting snow, while El Paso was sunny and warm. We new additions to the Group reported in, a few at a time, over a period of several weeks. All the air crews were not in place and some of them were in the first phase of checking out in the 4-engine B-24 bomber. Compared to the B-17, the B-24 was a hot airplane with a high performance wing that demanded it be flown by the book. The B-24 was a faster airplane and had longer range. There were some accidents only two involved fatalities, not acceptable, but not uncommon during training.

For the office types like myself, there was less than nothing to do. The air crews used lots of maps in their training and the maps came in by the ton, all had to be folded, just so, and we folded them all!

Our Intelligence Section Officer, as best as I can remember, was a Captain Miller, not to be confused with the Group Commander. Our Captain looked old to me, but so does everyone that is senior in age to a 21-year-old soldier! The Captain, like so very many Intelligence Officers, had been an attorney in civilian life and had joined up for one reason or another to help out where they could. They were really past their prime as far as soldiering was concerned. However, they had wisdom and experience in dealing with people and were trustworthy. The Military was more than happy to have the benefit of their services to get things started. Only a very few ever saw foreign duty. Captain Miller was trying to sort things out such as we enlisted men serving under his command. Our Section Master Sergeant was named Mulholland from the State of Washington where he had been a Coca-Cola distributor. He was a good-natured bachelor, perhaps in his mid-30s and mature in every respect, but whose only talent appeared to be administration. "Mully," as we called him, took a lot of good-natured ribbing without anger, but we respected his authority and never questioned it.

At one point, shortly after joining the group, the call went out to all enlisted men, to try for Officer Candidate School (OCS). If accepted by a review board, the party would be sent to OCS and in 90 days, if the candidate survived the training, he would be commissioned an Officer and a Gentleman. I appeared before the Board, was well received and treated with respect, but I was not accepted ... no reason given. It was never clear exactly what qualities or talents they were looking for. My previously having learned to fly didn't apparently bear much weight. I had to finish out the War as an enlisted man, but did rise to the rank of T/Sgt (Technical Sergeant, two ranks below the top enlisted grade of First Sergeant, 3 stripes up and down with a diamond in the center). It was not a crushing blow, but I did come to some conclusions about politics and the like; a good experience for a 21 year old!

More to come in future issues- More training, this time in Denver; then finally on the way to Australia! Stay tuned!

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



528th, Allison, Lute P., Asst Flight Engineer/Gunner,
Vance Crew (2), Navran Crew (7), DOD August 9,
2006, Sheboygan, Wisconsin, reported by his grand-
daughter, Rebecca Norman (widow: Eleanor Allison)

528th, Miller, John H., Jr., Radio Operator,
DiDomenico's Crew (4), DOD August 30, 2006, Fort
Worth, Texas, reported by his widow, Lucille Miller
(phone call to Bill Bever)

528th, Smith, Richard J., Navigator, Stovell Crew (3),
DOD May 26, 2006, Stevens Point, Wisconsin,
reported by his daughter, Joni Smith

530th, Lutsey, Noel M., Sr., Aircraft Commander,
Lutsey Crew (87), DOD August 9 2006, Brooklyn
Center, Minnesota, reported by Gordon Goecke

531st, Cumming, Ruth, Wife of Alexander B.
Cumming, DOD October 10, 2004, Saco, Maine,
reported by her daughter, Janet Tucker

531st, Conley, Lester H., Radio Operator and
Machine Gunner, Brody Crew (90), DOD July 3, 2006,
Aurora, Illinois, reported by Jack Templeton, 5th Inf
Div Vet (WWII)

