

NEWSLETTER #29

December 2006

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, from 1982-1999

and to

Theodore J. Williams

for his dedication to preserving the 380th's history and for continuing the work of the Thompsons in guiding our current organization

The 380th Bomb Group Association
5th AF - RAAF

from 1999-2006

Our everlasting thanks and love go out to them all.









HISTORIANS
Bob Alford
Glenn R. Horton, Jr.
Gary L. Horton

HISTORY PROJECT Theodore J. Williams Barbara J. Gotham

REUNION COORDINATOR
Martin Smith

NEWSLETTERS -WEBPAGES - FINANCIAL Barbara J. Gotham Phone: 765/494-7037 (days) 765/463-5390 (evenings)

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THE 380TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION 5th AF - RAAF

AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS



NEWSLETTER #29

December 2006

Compatriots and Friends:

As you all know, our Reunion this year took place in conjunction with the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the Establishment of the United States Air Force. As a result, many more of the younger members of our Association attended, a most welcome happening.

This has an unforeseen but also welcome result. When the discussion arose during our business meeting about the future of Reunions and the 380th Bomb Group Association, our younger members took a very active part with the results that our leadership next year will be from this generation.

Our congratulations to

Barbara J. Gotham and Martin P. Smith.

We look forward to seeing you all again in Dayton, Ohio.

To preserve the memory of the 380th.

Sincerely,

Theodore J. (Ted) Williams

380th MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

As reported to our members in a letter dated November 1, 2006, due to the resignations of Pat Carnevale and Ted Williams from their 380th duties effective after the October Reunion, the organization of the 380th has been slightly changed.

The 380th Bomb Group Association will continue as in the past, but under new leadership, with Barb Gotham assuming Ted Williams' responsibilities and also collecting membership fees, and Marty Smith taking over the Reunion arrangements.

Please use the membership form in this issue to submit your dues for 2007 to Barb Gotham. If you are unsure of your payment status, please send her a letter or email with your inquiry.

MEMORIALS

In memory of

James W. Boyan, Sr. Sea Girt, New Jersey

deceased November 1, 2006

Proud member USAAF 380th BG, 529th BS serving from 1942 til 1945-46 Aircraft Engine Maintenace Technician

The Boyan Family

Our sincere thanks to Colin Campbell for his recent contribution to the 380th History Research Account.

FUTURE REUNIONS INFORMATION

Following discussions about sites for the 2007 and 2008 Reunions at the October Reunion, the membership present voted to hold the 2007 Reunion in Dayton, Ohio, in September 2007 (dates yet to be determined), and the 2008 Reunion in Tucson, Arizona.

Joe Wells and Bill Widdows will assist Marty Smith with the arrangements for Dayton and at the Wright Patterson AFB. Larry Farnum offered his assistance in making arrangements for Tucson.

More information on the Dayton Reunion will be given in the March 2007 issue of this newsletter.

MAIL CALL



George Gerards sent in a cross-stitch pattern of a B-24 that Helen Thompson received some years ago. If anyone feels ambitious enough to make one, please send Barb Gotham a note, so she can send you the pattern - it is too large to reproduce in our newsletter. Approximate stitched area is 22-1/2 x 6-1/2 (14 count Aida).

Pictured here with a finished picture is George's sister, Marjorie.

MAIL CALL

Here is an excerpt from the August 31, 2006, letter we received from Neville Eastlake,

mil + I-tualia

Dear Ted and Members of the 380th Bomb Group Association,

I hope your reunion in Washington is a happy one and please pass on my wife Mary's and my own regards and only wish we could be with you. We still have fond memories of the hospitality extended to us at the Tucson reunion and of course will never forget the sacrifice the members of the 380th Bomb Group made to save Australia from invasion so that we can enjoy life as it is today.

May you all continue with good health. God Bless you all.

Kind regards, Neville Eastlake

Lest we Forget.

)

Also an excerpt, from a letter from Tony A. Cafarella

South Australia, dated September 26, 2006

Dear Ted.

While I unfortunately have not been able to participate in any way for very obvious reasons, I have always looked forward to receiving your news letter, a great and continuing reminder of my days (and nights) spent at Corunna Downs. Even while serving there as Radio Telegraphist in the R.A.A.F., while your group was staging out of there, the closest I ever got to being associated with any of your members was when we were eating in the same mess.

I shall never forget the first day of the arrival of the 380th. I was spine bashing (lying on my bunk) after nightshift when all hell broke loose with the sound of gunshots, a most unfamiliar sound in that area.

My first thought was that the Japs., who constantly sort us out because they were very upset at the way the 380th kept bombing the hell out of them, had arrived.

I must say I was greatly relieved to be told "The Yanks have arrived" because I don't think my ancient .303mm Lee Enfield had been cleaned for many months. I believe a group of them had wandered over to the creek and were potshotting at anything that moved. Having no desire to die of lead poisoning, I remained recumbent and thanked God. I'm sure that the memories will always live on with the entire crew.

May God bless you all.

Yours faithfully,

Tony

From: Arvid J. Olson.

September 29, 2006

Dear Editors:

I meant to write a couple of months ago when I first rejoined the group keeping alive the memories and achievements of the Flying Circus -- 380th Bomb Group.

When I read the remarks of Claude Baugass, one of the 529th ground personnel, I realized I should write if only to thank him and his fellow mechanics, armorers, clerks, etc., for their dedication and skills.

The crew with which I flew as radio operator (Spencer's Crew, 528th) flew from Fenton Field and Mindoro our full tour of long and often lonely missions and had only one engine shutdown in all that time. That shutdown was a pilot shutdown because we had been hit by flak and had gas pouring out behind #3 engine. Lt. Spencer wisely shut down #3 to prevent an explosion or fire while T/SGT Roger Grieve, our flight engineer, transferred fuel from the ruptured wing tank cell, while I shut down the radios in the waist.

It still amazes me that during that war the U.S. Army could take kids, mostly draftees, 17 to 20 years old and in a few months train them to repair engines, operate radios, handle explosives, cook meals and countless other tasks -- all things they had no idea they were capable of doing. Congratulations to all of us!

It's good to look back on a very exciting time of our lives. Things aren't as exciting now. And my travels aren't 10 to 12 hours over a quiet ocean, but instead they are, as my friend said — "trips to the doctor and to the bathroom."

Sincerely yours,

T/SGT Ret. Arvid J. Olson

MAIL CALL

Bill Bever forwarded this email he received in October:

If any of you folks are interested in the period from 1939-1946, the Wright Museum is for you. It is located in Wolfboro, New Hampshire, in the Lakes area. Here is a good site: http://wrightmuseum.org

One of the things they have is the last operating tank that crossed the Rhine River - they saved it from Otis AFB when it was going to be used for target practice. There is also a display of the same kitchen my mom had when I was a kid!

Bob Comey Korat65-66

Life Member VFW Post 10217, Korat, Life Member American Legion Post 2, Manchester NH, TLCB Brotherhood 224 dogbone45@hotmail.com

From: Chris Harper [mailto:harper66@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2006 2:53 AM

To: Gotham, Barbara J.; harper66@gmail.com; harper66@bellsouth.net

Subject: 380th

Barbara,

I just want to thank you and all those responsible for the site you have created on the 380th. I won't take a whole lot of your time, but I thought I had to share with someone the joy this site has given me.

My name is Chris Harper. I'm a missionary kid who's father served as a southern Baptist missionary physician in Kediri, Indonesia from 1972-1982. While a child in Kediri, we had a fascinating guest in our home by the name of Ais Pormes. He was a pastor who originated from the island of Seroea in the Banda Sea. I remember him telling me a harrowing tale about when he was a young man during WWII. He and several other villagers had helped to rescue the survivors of a US bomber that had been shot down by Japanese fighters and forced to crash land just off the coast of Seroea, across from Mr. Pormes village, deep in enemy held territory on 1/19/1944. When the downed crew were later picked up by a PBY Catalina crew, several villagers, including Mr. Pormes, flew back to Darwin with them to give intelligence reports on Japanese movements in and around their island.

I was recently telling some old friends from my childhood about Mr. Pormes' 'keep you on the edge of your seat WWII stories' when I got curious as to whether or not the web would yield any information on the incident. I called my parents to get the correct spelling of Mr. Pormes name and then typed it into my browser just for fun. Up popped several listings! One of the listings took me to a site that was written up by 11 Squadron, RAAF members and I couldn't believe my eyes when up popped two accounts of the crash/rescue that Mr. Pormes had been a party to. One was from the point of view of American Deane Lees, the Navigator of the B24 'Doodlebug', and the other from Aussie Sgt. Keith Hamilton, crew member on Catalina A24-32, sent to rescue Doodlebug's survivors. From their written records, I discovered that the Doodlebug had been part of the 531st wing of the 380th heavy bomber group, the "King of the Heavies." So, I typed 380th and Doodlebug into my browser and that's when I came upon your site. To my sheer delight, I could even view the bomber prior to flying, with a close up of the nose art, look at pictures of it crashing at sea, find the crew on board at the time of the crash, the mission target, etc.!

For the first time in my life I felt the high of being a historical investigator. I'm currently trying to get more information, if possible, on the details of that raid on Ambon that cost this crew their friend's lives. If there is an account somewhere about the raid and exactly what happened when the Doodlebug was set upon by Japanese fighters, etc., I hope to find it, and your site has given me a head start on it.

Thank you so much for everything you and others have done to make this resource available to the public, in honor of those brave men who fought over there.

Chris Harper, MD

2006 REUNION - WASHINGTON, D.C.

WWII Memorial, October 13th









Jessie Poy & Xavier Henes



Elizabeth McPherson & **Ted Williams**



Chaplain, Capt. Mark В. McKellen

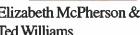














Chuck & George Gerards



Ted Williams, Jack Banks, John Annesser





Cecelia Meade, Diane Whetstine, Dolores & John Lento



Kathy Turley & Marie Daffer

Photo credits to: Barbara Beilstein, Al Busedu, Larry Farnum, George Gerards, Barb Gotham, Elizabeth McPherson, Scott Meade. Photos will be available to view on the 380th webpage by January 29, 2007.



















Pete LaLena and sons



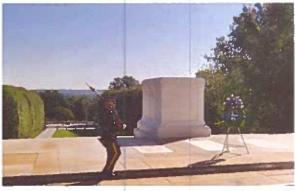


Night view from Al Busedu's hotel room of the USAF Memorial



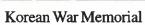
Arlington Cemetery











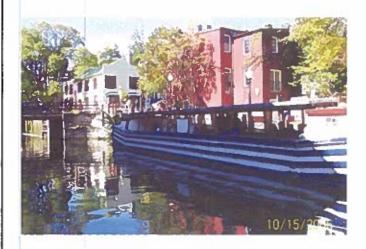






Vietnam War Memorial





Canal Boat



Al Busedu



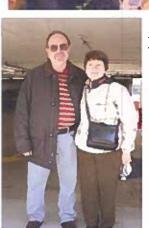
Lyle & Clara Sears



Pete, Chris, Lauraine Nash, Maurice Powers, Janice & Peter Nash



Marvin Gardner (Jr)





Ralph Henderson



Sharon Miller &

Joe Dally

Marvin Gardner



Ron Henderson, Lawrence Gardner



Larry Farnum



Jim Scalese



Tom Hunt

Topper & Georgia Toepperwein





Jean Cator & Lou Lanners



Dorothy & Emil Smolek, George Gerards, Sandra Auner, Mike, Velma & Shirley Grambling



Paul Beilstein, Tom Beilstein, Lou Lanners



Sharon & Bill LaFlech



Loyd Oakes & Pete LaLena





Joe Wells



Dexter Baker & Jo Berrett Barb Gotham &



Jim and Sara Bejoian



George Gerards & Paul Beilstein





Isabel Williams and Gus Cameron (playing a version of "name that tune")



Gus Cameron

Bob & Anne Dee Watson, Sara & Jim Bejoian



Marjorie & Bob Smith



Jessie & George Poy - Claire & Richard Benson



Jack Banks

Al





Gil & Helen Koller



Milt Markowitz



Geoff Paddock, Kathleen & Bud Offerle







380th Members present at the Banquet on October 15th. Since it was such a large group, there are several pictures here to get everyone one!





Bill Widdows, Ted, Isabel, Scott Meade

The inscription on the plaque reads:

THE FLAG
OF THE
UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

Ted and Isabel Williams received a special gift in honor of their 60th anniversary (July 18, 2006). Their good friend (and Ted's crewmate on the Magee Crew), Joe Wells, arranged to have a U.S. flag flown over the U.S. Capitol on their anniversary. They were presented with this flag and a plaque during the Banquet at this year's Reunion, on October 15, 2006. Congratulations, Ted and Isabel, on 60 wonderful years of marriage!



Barb Gotham, Elizabeth McPherson, Ted, Isabel, Joe Wells, Scott Meade

This is to certify that the accompanying flag was flown over the United States Capitol on July 18, 2006, at the request of the Honorable Deborah Pryce, Member of Congress.

This flag was flown in recognition of Isabel and Ted Williams' 60th wedding aniversary.

Signed Alan M. Hantman, FAIA Architect of the Capitol







Thanks, Ted and Isabel, for all you've done for the 380th over the years! We wouldn't be where we are now without you!

MAIL CALL

From: Don Jack

Although he is physically unable to attend Group meetings, he is pleased to hear that others will be doing so!

He sent this photo of his B-24 crew.

Don and Nancy Jack



My B-24 Bomber crew in the Pacific during WW2 We were members of the 531st. Bomb Squadron, of the 380th. Bomb Group

I am the blond kid, teaning with his hand on the plane.
We had a 10 man bomber crew. Two crew members are not in the picture (one person is asing the camera and the other guy is still in the plane).

Hey, we sure didn't dress like they depicted it in the movies.

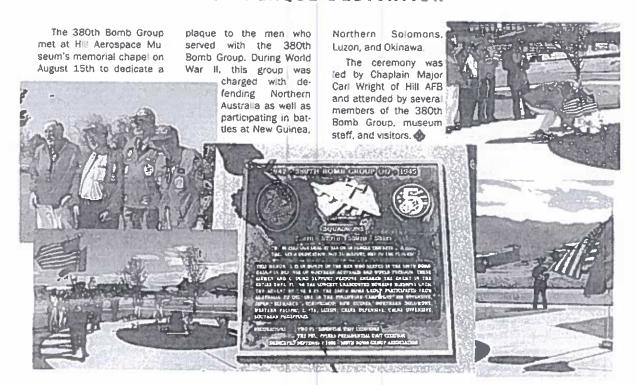
Only two of us are still living, me and Mark Daugherty. Mark is standing, last in line at the right.

Pilot Tom Cook is 4th, from the left, leaning on the plane.

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380TH BOMB GROUP PLAQUE DEDICATION



380th MEMBER REQUEST



- 9. Muccic, Joe
- 10. Dziak, Nick
- 11. Williams, Robert (Cheety)
- 12. ?
- 13. Phanauf, Lucien (Rudy)
- 14. Hammond,
- 15. Federoff, John (Big Chief)

(Hap)

- 16. Peacock, George
- 17. Norton, James
- 18. Hicks, Robert

- 1. Myers;
- 2. Olin, Warren
- Mekins, Alex
- Daiber, Conrad
- Orlando, Frank
- 6. Ruck, Frank
- 7. Helms, (Cotton)
- 8. Shine, Frank
 - 19. Snyder, Jimmy
 - 20. ?

Patricia Hicks, daughter of Robert T. Hicks, sent in two pictures of the armor personnel of the 530th. Mr. Hicks was an airplane armorer, who passed away last year (03/22/2005).

Pat numbered each man pictured, and sent the photos to Conrad (Connie) Daiber (no. 4 on the photos) for identification. He was able to identify all but two of the men (#12, #19).

If anyone can identify these men, please let us know.

Pat couldn't identify Frank Ruck (#6) or Cotton Helms (#7) from our roster. If anyone has more information on these men, please let us know that also. Thanks!

- 1. Myers,
- 2. Olin, Warren
- 3. Meekins, Alex
- 4. Daiber, Conrad
- 5. Orlando, Frank
- 6. Ruck, Frank
- 7. Helms, (Cotton)
- 8. Shine, Frank
- 19. ?
- 20. Federoff, John (Big Chief)

The dog's name was Freddie.



- 9. Muccia, Joseph
- 10. Dziak, Nick
- 11. Williams, Robert (Cheety)
- 12. ?
- 13. Phanauf, Lucien (Rudy)

- 14. Hammond
- 15. Peacock, George
- 16. Norton, James
- 17. Hicks, Robert
- 18. Snyder, Jimmy

380TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION 2007 MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

	Date
Your Name	
Squadron380th Duty	
Please check if you are a * Regular Member **Associates: 380th Veteran's Name:	
	Sqdn:
Your Address —	
City	State Zip
Phone E-ma	uil
Spouse's Name	
* Regular member means an original member	of the 380th Bomb Group or 380th Bomb Wing.
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	or other affiliation) of an original member. If you iginal member, your relationship to that person,
Annual payment of \$20 payable to 380th Bor of mailings throughout the year. Please mail you	mb Group Association will help defray costs ur registration form and check to:

Barbara J Gotham 130 Colony Road West Lafayette IN 47906-1209

FOLDED WINGS (TAPS)

The following TAPS for our RAAF members were found in past issues of the B-24 LIBERATOR SQUADRONS OF AUSTRALIA Newsletters:

Name	Sqdn	380th Assignment	Place of Death	Date of Death
Ashcroft, Gordon	528th	Flt Engr, Hawkesford (19)	Bribie Island, Queensland, Australia	1999
Baker, Selwyn James ("Sel")530th		Bombardier, Cupper (70A)	Melbourne Australia	09/16/1996
Cupper, Ray	530th	A/C Cmdr, Cupper (70A)	Robinvale, Victoria, Australia	08/22/2002
Demmery, John G ("Jack")	530th	Radio Opr, Cupper (70A)	Orange, Australia	11/1998
Evans, Arthur	528th	Ground Staff, Crew Chief (one of the first, if not the first Australian with the 380th)	North Shore, Australia	11/12/1996
Flood, Colin R.	530th	Gunner, Hirst (72)	Kelmscott, WA, Australia	1999
Gillespie, Adam Forsyth	531st	A/C Cmdr, Gillespie (94)	Pymble, NSW, Australia	08/10/2005
Grimm, Lindsay C.	531st	Flt Engr, Eriksen (77)	Australia	10/19/1998
Hensel, Rhodes Edgar ("Dusty")	528th	Gunner, Dunne (21)	Broadview, South Australia	Early 2003
Kearney, Frank	531st	Tail Gunner, Finlayson (82)	Toowoomba, Australia	04/08/1998
Kingwell, Deryck William	529th	A/C Cmdr, Kingwell (42)	Brisbane, Australia	05/31/2002
Mackay, John Bernard ("Jack")	528th	Gunnery Leader, Bell (19)	Brighton-le-Sands, Australia	07/21/1992
Mathias, Francis Jeffrey Douglas ("Frank")	531st	Flt Engr, Halliday (88)	Chatswood, Australia	12/20/2005
Moore, Eldin	531st	A/C Cmdr, Moore (91)	East S. Kilda, Australia	05/18/2002
Portway, Colin	529th	A/C Cmdr, Portway (46)	Australia	Early 1998
Price, William George	528th	Radio Opr, Miller (20)	Queensland, Australia	Early 2000
Pusey, Richard G.	530th	Flt Eng, Carrigan (67)	Australia	07/22/1995
Roots, George C.	528th	Ball Turret Gunner, Miller (20)	Ballina, NSW, Australia	08/25/2004
Smith, Donald Fraser	531st	Wireless Air Gunner, Moore (91)	Young, Australia	07/20/2004
Southgate, Edward S.	529th	Radio Opr, MacKeller (43)	West Pennant Hills, Australia	06/2005
Sullivan, Rex	530th	Gunner, Blunck (71A)	Somerset Park, SA, Australia	09/10/2000
Titmarsh, Donald Alexande	er528th	Pilot, Gairn (22)	Queensland, Australia	07/02/1999
Treweeke, F. Hamlyn ("Ham")	529th	Bombardier, Hockings (42)	Coolangatta, Queensland, Australia	2000-2001
Wilkshire, John	528th	Asst Flt Engr/Gunner, Gray (19)	Port Lincoln, South Australia	01/29/2003
Atkinson, Helen Dakeyne, Val	s-528th s-530th	Wife of Ted Atkinson Wife of Dick Dakeyne	Queanbeyan, NSW, Australia Emerald Beach, NSW, Australia	03/03/2000 08/12/2005

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.



528th, Henricksen, William J. (Jack), Gunner, Hartley Crew (6), DOD October 21, 2006, El Reno, Oklahoma, reported by Jim Cernick

528th, *Henricksen*, *Wanda Lee*, Wife of William J. Henricksen, DOD August 21, 1999, El Reno, Oklahoma, reported by Jim Cernick

528th, Hineline, Arthur B., Co-pilot, Bisson Crew (27), DOD June 16, 2006, Lady Lake, Florida, reported by his son, Michael Hineline

528th, Hill, Lois, Wife of Walter Hill, DOD May 9, 2006, Somerville, Texas, reported by their daughter, Judy Hill

528th, *McMillan*, *Gloria*, Wife of Clinton McMillan Jr., DOD October 5, 200, Tampa, Florida, reported by their son, Bradley R. McMillan

529th, *Brotherton*, *James R.*, Navigator, Daffer Crew (27), DOD March 24, 2006, Jacksonville, Florida, reported by Keith Baker

529th, *Boyan*, *Sr.*, *James W.*, Aircraft Engine Maintenance Technician, DOD November 1, 2006, Sea Girt, New Jersey, reported by The Boyan Family

529th, *Pickens*, *Samuel W.*, Asst Radio Operator/Gunner, Ivey Crew (40), Wells Crew (37), Thornton Crew (19), DOD November 25, 2006, Waco, Texas, reported by his son, Cody Pickens, and his brother, Joseph Pickens



530th/531st, *Cunningham*, *Betty J.*, Wife of Cletus A. Cunningham, DOD May 12, 1990, Tempe, Arizona, reported by her daughter, Sue Acuff

530th, *McLarry Joe R.*, Flight Engineer, Gardner Crew (78) and Ground Staff, Crew Chief, DOD July 31, 2002, Trenton, Texas, reported by Keith Baker and Marvin Gardner

530th, *Smith, James E.*, Bombardier, Engen Crew (76), DOD August 31, 2006, Tupelo, Mississippi, reported by his widow, Dee

531st, *Palmer*, *Joseph H.*, Ground Staff, Armorer, DOD September 8, 2006, Lincoln, Rhode Island, reported by his widow, Margaret

HQ, Koeck, Lawrence M., Ground Staff, Administrative NCO, DOD February 4, 2002, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, reported by his son, Christopher L. Koeck

Please send TAPS information to: Barbara Gotham, 130 Colony Road West Lafayette IN 47906-1209 Phone: 765/494-7037, 765/463-5390 barb@purdue.edu

NEW BOOK

Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2006 11:18 AM

Subject: Re: Book on 5th AAF

I wrote a book concerning the 5th AAF in WW II that I am sure some of your members will find the book fascinating. The story is from letters he wrote home to his mother - I found them in 2002 - they had not been touched for over 50 years.

My father, Capt. George F. Frederick - a glider pilot - was transferred to the South Pacific in April 1943 with a contingent of 52 glider pilots and mechanics - it was the result of desperate plea by General Kenney for pilots - "Send me the WACS - it will free up some of my staff so they can fly planes!" - He was stationed in Port Moresby, NG - and was placed in charge of the 6th Air Liaison Party - their C-47 crash landed in the taking of Lae at Nadzab on Sept. 6th, 1943. According to the Historical Records at Maxwell AFB it took them 3 hours to unload their jeep but were on the air for 26 straight hours broadcasting for the bombing.



Later Captain Frederick was assigned to the 7th Australian Infantry Division for operations in Ramu and Markham valleys - there he flew 75 missions in a light plane - located the landing strip at Dumpu, and was in the battle at Shaggy Ridge - for these missions and others he received the DFC and Air Medal -

He returned to Nadzab and was placed in charge of coordinating the Air Liaison Parties - (he didn't like it since he didn't get to fly very often) - On Feb. 26, 1944 he was placed in charge of the 12th ALP for invasion of the Admiralty Islands. Gen. MacArthur didn't make the decision to advance the date until just a day or two before. There he landed on Los Negros Island in the 1st wave with the 1st Cavalry Division and was broadcasting from the beach directing the bombing and strafing within 20 minutes. He kept a day by day diary (morning report that I obtained from Maxwell AFB) where he was involved in the battle for the Admiralties for all of March 1944. For the bombing the entire bomber force was ordered to be utilized, supplemented by three fighter squadrons. For this effort he was awarded the Legion of Merit.

For the Admiralty Islands my father was assigned to Headquarters - according to one of his letters his boss was General Whitehead. Previously I believe he was with the 309th Bomb Wing.

Clint Frederick 480 502 1617 702 524 4528 URL: www.onesoldiersjourney.com Email: clintfrederick@msn.com

